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G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

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Init:
Date: 04 May 1945

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

Authority NND 735017

By Lewis [initials] NARS, Date 7-28-78

From: 032100
To : 042100
35th Inf Div
042100 May 1945

NO. 281

Maps: Germany 1/100,000. Sheet Nos. P-3, P-4, N-3 and N-4.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD:

Division was not in contact with enemy during the period.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD:

The units of the Division continued to assemble and evacuate thru PW channels members of the enemy armed forces and individuals who had been classified as security threats.

Beginning early in the period many unescorted vehicles filled with enemy soldiers came into our area, and these soldiers were escorted to the Army PWE.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. Prisoners - 928 PWs passed thru Div cage during the period. Total for this operation 3,167. Grand total 30,057.

b. Miscellaneous - Recent River Scenes:- Strange and interesting things happened when the Russian steamroller chased the Germans against the ELBE. Scenes like these are just snapshots of the action. Assault guns rolled up to the water's edge, occupants stream out, pour gas on the vehicles, set them afire and crews dash for the river to find a way across. A Fraulein dashes up to the water, strips down to her birthday suit and dives in. Doughboys of 1st Bn, 333d have a grandstand seat as the mermaid emerges, "dripping and shivering in the morning sun", "covering her nakedness with fluttering hands." Further details not available. One Kraut swimming over seemed to be clinging to a couple of the floating logs except that upon reaching the bank he pulled on one of the logs which turned out to be a wooden leg - tucked the other spare leg and hobbled away on his one good and one wooden leg. (See: 84th Inf Div G-2 IR #167, 3 May 45)

At approximately 0400 hours, 30 April, a booby-trapped window cost a soldier from the 116th Inf the loss of one of his hands. This soldier, needing a piece of wire, found a length dangling invitingly from a window in a barn, that has been occupied in the past week by our troops. In his attempt to pull the wire from the window an explosion was caused. (See: 29th Inf Div G-2 Rpt #320)

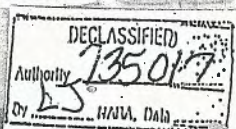
c. Weather - Cloudy during the day tomorrow with scattered showers in the afternoon and little change in temperature.

d. Password - WHALE reply FISH from 051200 to 061200 May 1945.

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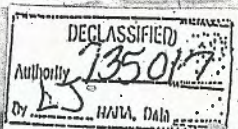
(See Annex No. 1 Attached)

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XIII Corps	3	G-3	1	134th	4
CIC	1	G-4	1	137th	5
OB	1	MG	1	320th	4
IPW 60	1	CWO-Ord	1	QM Co	1
PI	1	Surg-Chap	1	Med Bn	2
"II	1	Sig Off	1	Ord Co	2
Engr Off	1	Hq Comdt	1	Sig Co	1
Div Arty	5	Hq Co	1	654 TD	1
Div ATO	1	PRO (Forward)	1	448 AAA	1
C/S	1	War Room	1	AG	1
G-1	1	RO (Rear)	1	PM	1
G-2	4	Ren Trp	1	Engr Bn	1
		784 Tk Bn	1		

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(Based on intelligence obtained from various sources within Ninth U. S. Army, a preliminary report has been prepared describing the reactions of the German people to Allied occupation. The following highlights are extracted from the report and published for interest and information.)

1. Thanks to the able efforts of Dr. Goebbels, the people have been so propagandized as to the savagery "potential" of the Allies, that they stand in fear or walk in haste when Allied wishes so dictate. The non-fraternization policy has aided considerably in preserving this attitude.

Many DPs are confused that their liberators refuse to recognize their signs of friendliness. In their attitude toward the Germans they feel revenge and are willing to loot and rob any target of opportunity.

German people especially in towns that were subjected to bombing, are relieved that the war has passed by. They are anxious to return to work. They are accustomed to discipline and will in general carry out instructions given by Allies.

(a) No difficulty has been experienced over requisitions. Naturally, there is deep regret when homes and personal effects must be given up.

(b) Reaction to Military Government has been excellent.

(c) No deliberate policy to curry favor with Allies exists.

2. Germans are returning to work and helping to clean up war damage in towns. This is a huge task in many badly damaged towns, made more difficult by lack of gasoline, motors and special implements. Plowing is in progress. However, seed shortage exists in certain regions and manpower shortage is great due to loss of foreign laborers and absence of men of military age. Public services are being restored under Allied direction.

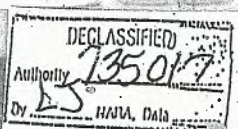
3. Nazi scorched earth policy was almost a complete failure.

4. The impression gained in dealing with German ecclesiastical personnel is that the influence of churches has proved to be a stabilizing factor, especially since the fear of Gestapo reprisals and the closing of religious institutions no longer exists. Also, the vestiges of Christianity, anti-dating the Nazi regime are asserting themselves as a form of living sanely once more. The administration and relief program, in which churches can participate, have been limited. Many church organizations were dissolved during the Nazi rule. Pending resumption of such activities, churches have been aiding and assisting in relief programs as far as limitations allow. A committee of clergy is assisting the de-Nazification program in Landkreis Coesfeld.

5. In most regions the Nazi Party is held responsible for the destruction of their cities and homes, rather than the Allies. Many cases are known where local population desired to surrender their towns without resistance. In some cases, they succeeded while in others, Party officials forced a defense of the town with resultant destruction of life and property. Many bitterly blame the Party for their misfortunes, a feeling that seems to be increasing. In several places, groups of anti-Nazis have volunteered to act as informants against the local Nazis.

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Very few Nazi Party high administrators remained. Nearly all withdrew before Allied arrival.

There seems to be no feeling against German generals or Army hierarchy. Most Germans feel that the generals were victims like themselves of the Party.

6. Feeling as to Germany's future is mostly one of despair. All agree that it is dark. Fear of starvation is felt. There is little talk of a separate Rhineland.

7. There is no appreciable redirection of thought to pre-1934 political parties.

8. One vehicle belonging to a XIX Corps Medical unit was booby trapped. No other sabotage incidents reported. There have been no deliberate destruction of German property after MG was established.

9. One murder and one warning attributed to Werewolf have been reported. The only reported reluctance to serve in office came from Lippstadt before the Ruhr pocket had been eliminated, at which time people thought the Nazis might break out in their direction. No further tangible results on willingness of German officials to serve have resulted from the assassination of the mayor of Aachen. There is no widespread fear of the Gestapo or Nazi working underground. There is some fear in towns where raiding soldiers or SS men still remain in the vicinity. In such towns fanatic and reckless youths are on occasion encouraged to lawless acts.

10. Strongly Nazi, hence relatively Anti-Allied populations have been reported in Hexter, Halberstadt, Lehrte, Stadtkreis and Landkreis Stendal. No demonstrations reported.

(Source: Ninth US Army G-2 Periodic Report No. 239)

ANNEX NO. 1 to G-2 Periodic Report No. 281

-2-

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