

TACTICAL INTERROGATION REPORT
IPW TEAM 60-B, 134TH INFANTRY

31 Oct 44

Franz Steeger, Pvt, 7th Co, 1125th Regt. Austrian, age 38.
Karl Tatsch, Cpl, 8th Co, 1125th Regt, German, age 30.

PW captured early this morning by American patrol SW of FRESNES.

PW give the following information:

Moved into this position three weeks ago. Strength of 7th Co is 90 men. Suffered casualties while coming into this position from artillery fire vic Juree woods resulting into the destruction of the 3rd platoon. About 30 men from the 8th Co also in and around Fresnes. Total strength in vic Fresnes estimated 150.

CP of 7th Co is in the cellar of a house next to and north of the church at Fresnes. The 6th Co is in the Juree woods, exact strength unknown.

In the first house entering Fresnes from Jallaucourt on the north side of the road are a few mines and personnel to cover this approach to the town. The mines are in readiness to be placed in the street. The guards sleep in the cellar of this house if they are relieved. House received a direct hit by mortar fire yesterday causing no damage.

No supporting tanks are known to be here but are supposed to be with the 17th SS Armd Div 30 km to the rear.

The MLR is not continuous but a series of defended positions. Points of commanding terrain between Fresnes and Juree woods and Jallaucourt are each held by a few men with machine gun. Exact location of these strong points are not known.

One heavy machine gun located 040277 approx. Two 80mm mortars located near the northern edge of town, exact location unknown.

The 7th Co has three outposts at approx the following locations: 044274; 038275; and 046270 (the area between here and Fresnes is covered by machine guns). Posts are manned by one man and they have no communication with other points. Alarm must be given by the guard himself going to the rear. Flares are not used for this purpose. Guards recognize patrols by password which changes daily at 1800 (Pass word until 1800 tonight is Fink, reply: Star.) PW do not know any recognition signals by flashlights; patrol leaders carry flares and these may be used for recognition.

Warm food is brought forward once daily at various times between darkness and midnight. It is brought partly by wagon and the last part of the trip by foot, route unknown. PW state that traffic between Fresnes and Jallaucourt is wagons carrying wood and straw to improve fox holes. Ammunition and mail are brought daily with the food. Ammunition supply adequate for all weapons.

CO of 5th Co is 2nd Lt Baumhauer.

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One PW states that in his basic training he learned that flares had the following significance:
White - location of own troops; green - enemy tanks attack; red - we attack. He believes that new meanings are given to signals for different operations.

It is the belief of the PW that the mission of his unit is to continue to defend and that they have no intention to attack.

(Interrogation report, 31 Oct, Cont'd)

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