

INTERROGATION REPORT  
134TH INF REGT  
IPW 60

30 Dec 44

2 PW from 5th Co, 2nd Armd Inf Regt, 1st SS Armd Div (Adolf Hitler)

This division came here last night after having been in action last at LAGLAISE. This action was about ten days ago. Both the 1st and 2nd Armd Inf Regts and the armored regt were encircled here and the division suffered heavy losses. 26 tanks were left there after they had broken out of the circle because of lack of gas. The 1st Regt had the highest casualties because it had had the mission of breaking out. Company strengths in the 2nd Regt, which is the stronger of the two, run about 60 men per company. After breaking out of the circle the division went to a rest area about 30 Km to the east. By travelling at night with four trucks per company they made the trip to the assembly area (probably NIEDERWAMPACH) in two days. Because of our air they could not travel in daytime. The rest of their trip to their position in line was by foot. The 2nd Regt had a position centering at about 570520, attacking in a westerly direction. To their left (South) was the 1st Regt. To their right (North) was the VG division. The 3d Bn of the 2nd Regt had been equipped with armored half-tracks but had lost them all in previous engagements: it was the weakest of the three battalions. The first bn was at about full strength and at the right (North) of the regimental sector. The 2nd had the south half of the sector. The position of the 3d Bn, if present, is not known. The 2nd Bn attacked in a wedge formation, the 7th Co leading and the 5th to the right rear and the 6th to the left rear. Two platoons of the fifth company penetrated to edge of woods at about 557517 and became separated from their other units which were not able to advance that far. The remainder of the two platoons ~~xxx~~ withdrew or were liquidated.

CO of 5th Co is Capt Schrenk. Bn CO was a casualty in LAGLAISE and the new one is not known. The CO of the regt is Lt Col Sander.

PW state that attacking in waves of wedges is a new principle of attack in which they have been trained for the last two months. Each wedge is formed by three companies and the company itself is deployed in wedge form.

Purpose of attack was to reseal the circle around BASTOGNE. They were told that they would thus encircle two US divisions. They also believe that there is another German thrust being made from the west.

Morale of the SS troops was not very high because they had not expected to be taken from their rest area and recommitted after having lost all their equipment.

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4 PW from 7th Co, 331 Regt, 167 VG Div.

This regiment was in position to the right (North) of the SS troops, centering at approximately 569534. They jumped off this morning at 0500 with the mission of taking LUTREBOIS, clearing the woods to the west of the town, securing the BASTOGNE HWAY and clearing the woods to the west of this road. The regiment attacked in column of battalions, first bn leading. This battalion went through LUTREBOIS and entered the woods to the west. The 6th Co followed. When the 7th Co attempted this a US machine gun in one of the most easterly houses of the village pinned them down for an hour and a half, forced them to change the direction of their attack to the north and to lose contact with the rest of their battalion. The 7th Co then approached the woods at about 559530 where they were driven back or taken prisoner. This unit formed the right flank of the attacking forces.

Strength of the 7th Co is 60 men equipped with 3 mgs. There are many machine pistols in the outfit. The 8th Co is a HW Co equipped with 80mm mortars. Staff sgt PW with 6 years army experience complained that his company received no support from mortars and attributed this to inexperienced, young, officers. This was the first commitment of the regiment. Strength of the other companies is believed to be about the same even though it is a newly formed organization. PW states that there are two battalions in the regiment, three regiments in the division.

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*File*

30 Dec 44

The following information was obtained from a captured enemy map:

Intended location for CP, 331 Regt at ~~ARLONCOURT~~ ARLONCOURT (618-806)

Intended location of Bn CP at AL HEZ (633812).

Intended location for Regimental CP at MOMET (647824)

The following were actual positions of the regiment in assembly area at time positions were plotted on map:

Regimental CP at ALSTER

2nd Bn CP at OUDLER (near BURG REULAND)

5th and 8th Co at DUERLER

6th and 7th Co at ESPELER

The following is either the route of advance or the supply route for the unit:

HABSCHEID (Germany) via ~~WINTERSPELT~~ WINTERSPELT or  
GROSSKAMPENBURG to BURG REULAND to TROIS VIERGES to  
ASSELBORN to LONGVILLY to NOVILLE.

Only units of the 2nd Bn of the regt and regtl Hq were shown on map.

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1 PW from 7th Co 339 Regt, 167th VG Div.

PW's battalion left Czechoslovakia two weeks ago by train, stayed for two days in a small village in the Eifel Mts, marched for six days and went into assembly in the woods about 5 Km SE of BASTOGNE. PW does not know anything about the other bns of his regiment and does not know their whereabouts. He also says that the 5th Co of his Bn is not here, the only ones committed in this area being the 6th, 7th, and 8th. They advanced west from 573527. His company advanced apparently without expecting to meet any enemy. They went in small groups not taking normal precautions of cover and concealment. When crossing a fence at about 568526 they met our mg fire and were largely wiped out. The CO of the Co, Lt Flor, was killed immediately and other casualties were heavy. A few managed to escape by running back in the direction from which they had come.

About three weeks ago all the men of the company were issued machine pistols. This involved quite a ceremony in which all had to shake hands with the company commander and promise never to relinquish the weapons. The machine pistols, except for a few, were all collected two days ago. Some were issued rifles and rifle grenade launchers. Some few had no arms at all. Others had small bazookas and hand grenades which they had picked up.

PW states that there are quite a few Yugoslavs and Alsations in the unit. Morale is high, and the men believe we are being forced back to the beaches.

PW gave the same significance to flares as previously reported:  
Red - enemy attacks  
Green - arty is falling short  
White - here we are

Bn CO is Maj Hoecker.

CO of 7th Co, 2nd Regt, 1st SS Armd Div is Lt Sommerfeld  
CO of "nd Bn " " " " " is 1st Lt Keil  
CO of 2nd Regt is Lt Col Sandig (not Sander as previously reported)



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1 PW from 14th Co, 331 Regt, 167 VG Div.

1 PW from 1st Co, 331 Regt, 167 VG Div.

One platoon of the 14th Co and one platoon of the 13th Co was attached to the 1st Bn of this Regt. The first bn was in attack this morning with the purpose of re-sealing the encirclement of our troops at BASTOGNE. The 13th Co is an AT Co, each platoon of which is equipped with 18 large bazookas: it has no AT guns. The 13th Co has two or three infantry cannon, 50mm, in general support. There are also six Mark IV tanks supporting the attack of this battalion. The battalion went into position along the edge of the woods NE of LUTREBOIS last night and received the order to attack at 0400 this morning. The 1st Co advanced directly into the village, the 2nd Co was to the left (NW), and the 3d Co at some distance to the right (SE). After the 1st Co advanced through the town they met heavy small arms fire from the edge of the woods on the W side of the town and had to withdraw back into it. Up to the time of capture of PW the German tanks had not been employed. The 1st Bn including the 15th Co of the 14th Pz Regt, which had been forced out of the town yesterday, was relieved by this unit, and the parachutists had withdrawn through the new unit.

This is the first commitment of the new division. At least one regiment of the division came from Czechoslovakia about 15 Dec. They remained behind the Siegfried Line until about 25 Dec and then marched to present position. They encountered no resistance en route except one attack by planes at which time two of the companies suffered small losses. PW say they saw a great many knocked out German vehicles on their approach march. The location of the other two bns of the 331 Regt is somewhere in this vicinity: the location of the other two regiments is not known, PW having seen no evidence of the other regiments since leaving Czechoslovakia. The VG division is made up of about two thirds Poles and one third Germans. One PW believes that there were two regiments in the division: the other believes there were three. The strength of the 1st Co is about 120 men with 2 heavy and 2 light mg. The CP of the 1st Bn is at a CR in the forest at 590542 in a dugout. Last night the battalion received heavy casualties due to arty fire at their position at the edge of the woods.