

TACTICAL INTERROGATION REPORT
IPW TEAM 60-B, 134th INF

18 July 44
1130

Report: 56

Josef Zakowski , Pvt, Polish, Deserter.
6th Co, 2nd Bn, 897th Regt. FPN ~~51884C~~ Co. Cdr: Capt. Mayer.
Captured by Co G, 2nd Bn. 59084C

PW states there were about 50 men left in his Co, 14 men in his platoon. Their unit was in line for a week and last night the Bn retreated to St-Lo where the companies are now lying in the gardens and meadows around the church directly north of the town, about a 1000 yards from the center of St-Lo.

PW states that the Germans kept a close eye on the Polish soldiers and in the front line put them between themselves to have control over the Polish. Nevertheless, the Polish soldiers if ordered to shoot, shot in the air. Before the invasion this battalion was a labor battalion which was moved from place to place digging shallow holes a few inches deep to give the impression to the Allied airplanes that there were fortifications there.

PW had a sheet of signals on him which were used to identify friendly planes. During the night the German planes would shoot light signals to identify themselves. Every night another set of signals is chosen. Here are seven signals from which the enemy picks one every day:

1. 1 white and 3 red flares
2. 1 red and 3 white
3. 4 white
4. 4 red
5. 6 white
6. 6 red
7. 3 white and 3 red.

TACTICAL INTERROGATION REPORT
IPW TEAM 60-B
134th Regt

18 Jul 44

1430

Report: 58

Rentsch, Walter, Ober-Gefr, 41 years old,
1st Co, 343d Engr Bn, FPN 44506B
Captured by 2nd BN, 360th Regt.

PW was a messenger in his unit. The Engr unit fought as infantry and at this particular location did not build defenses except individual holes. He states his is a Labor Engr outfit. PW got lost as he went to chow and walked into American hands.

Tactical Interrogation Report
#59, 60

PW Taken by 2nd Bn., 320 Inf, in area 134th Inf.

Johann Sesselman	11 Co	898 Gren Regt.	59285 D
Robert Walch	" "	" " "	" "

First PW was supposed to withdraw with his unit last night. Got lost in retreating and was separated from his platoon. Company has been in line for eight days. Does not know destination of withdrawal nor company strength, but believes that there are more than 50 men in the company.

Second PW was wounded (head) and when he recovered consciousness there were American soldiers nearby to whom he called for help.

TACTICAL INTERROGATION REPORT

IPW TEAM 60-B, 134th INF

18 July 44
1800

Report: 63, 64.

Wilhelm Richardt, Ober-Gefr, German, Hq Co 915th Regt, FPN 41126A.
Johann Hitz, Ober-Gefr, German, " " " "
Captured by AT Co, 134th Inf.

This unit is composed of dispersed soldiers who were thrown together ~~XXXX~~ into a combat group "Floboese", mainly from the 914th, 915th, and 918th Regiments. Originally there were 500 men, but today not more than 200 men are left. They were in line ten days, suffering heavily, with nothing but promises of relief. The CO, Lt Col Meier has been killed.

The morale is very low, and PW state that given a chance, all of their comrades would desert. The unit is in retreat to St-Lo.

PW who has been in Russia states that our infantry does not follow fast enough after our arty has plastered the enemy position to exploit the situation. The Germans are dazed and disorganized, but our soldiers are still a mile away and let the Germans retreat, reorganize, and dig in again. The Russian infantry always followed immediately after the arty barrage and succeeded in pursuing the enemy for miles.

TACTICAL INTERROGATION REPORT
IPW TEAM 60-B, 134 INF

18 July 44
1900

Report: 65

Franz Ruf, Cpl, German, 5th Co, 914th Regt, APO 48128B
Captured by 2nd Bn.

PW is a company medic. He says that originally there was one medic with each squad and one medical officer to a Co. German medics carry the Red Cross insigna only on their arm. They are armed with a pistol to defend themselves in case where they would attend a casualty and they were attacked; PW states experience in Russia resulted in arming of medics. Now the number of casualties has mounted in such a way that there is a shortage of medical personnel, medical supplies, stretchers, ambulances, and the wounded were today carried back by stretcher to St. Lo.