

INTERROGATION REPORT
134th INF REGT
IPW TEAM 60

28 Feb 45

176
3d Co, 1219 Regt, ~~176~~ VG Div.

Co had a strongpoint on W side of Reer R near HERGENBOSCH until four days ago. At this time they were rushed to the vicinity of ERKELENZ to stop a breakthrough at this point, and were supposed to be relieved on their bridgehead by elements of the 1218 Regt. The relief had not yet appeared at the time they left for ERKELENZ however. PW remained behind with the intention of deserting. He was picked up by an unknown infantry howitzer outfit at ROTHENBACH (phon), which had four 150mm inf ex in position there this morning. At 0500 they left for DALHEIM (914846).

CO of 3d Co is Lt Hartmann. CO of 1219 Regt is Maj Beiss.

13th Co, 1218 Regt, 176 VG Div.

Company was equipped with two 150mm inf cannon and four moveable 120mm mortars. They also manned ten casemated 120mm mortars in this area. The weapons are horse drawn, but there were only sufficient horses to provide two for each piece instead of the full quota of six. There was also a sound and flash team attached to this company, but the manner of their employment is not known.

Until yesterday afternoon the inf cannon were located in ELSUM and the CP of the company was at CR 883813. They were supposed to withdraw to DAHLHEIM (914846) last night.

The cannon did not fire yesterday since they had no more ammunition. The last ammo they received was 100 rounds 14 days ago. They had a small amount of ammunition left for the 120mm mortars.

Four of the casemated mortars are at 894809 (only two of which have been fired); there are four more at approximately 870824 (never fired); and two in the vicinity of MYHL (never fired). The mortars not fired were in disuse because of ammo shortage.

Co is under Lt Schmahel. Strength is 120 men. Trains were last in KLINKUM (nr WEGBERG).

Fortress Anti Tank Co 7C-X: PW joined unit four days ago and was part of crew of two 88mm AT guns in pill boxes in WASSENBERG. Believes there are also some 75mm AT guns in company, location unknown, and estimates company strength at 140 men. CO is Capt Rueling.

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5th and 7th Co, 1218 Regt, 167 VG Div: Strength of 5th Co was about 60 men and of 7th about 45 men. This includes 15 to 25 men recently assigned to each company as replacements from an instruction camp. These were men who were taking a three weeks' infantry course after having been transferred to the infantry from the air corps. Because of the urgent need for men they were sent to the front after four days of school. Both companies were in the ORSEBECK - WASSENBERG area.

CO of 5th Co is Lt Koblow; of 7th Co, Lt Kuhlmann. Bn CO is Capt Eggert. Regtl CO is Maj Schmidt. The trains of the 5th Co were in ASBECK (27 Feb) and there is also a small arms repair shop there.

The 6th Co was not in line but was engaged in training as an assault troop. CO is Lt Richter and strength about 60 men.

8th Co, 1218 Regt, 167 VG Div: The company consists of three platoons, one with 80mm mortars (4), one with hmg, and one with 2 75mm infantry howitzers. The company had been located at ORSEBECK where the mortars and 100 rounds of ammunition were abandoned yesterday when they were ordered to withdraw to WASSENBERG. CO of Co is Lt Kleff.

14th Co, 1218 Regt: 7 men of 14th Co with three bazookas were attached to 7th Co in WASSENBERG. CO of Co is Lt Besser.

19-X Fortress Anti-tank Co: (same unit as 8-XII) AT Co). Company originally had 8 76.2 mm Russian AT guns and 4 76.2mm Russian infantry cannons, and two similar AT guns attached from 20-X AT Co. Strength of Co was 90 men. Six guns were sent to GOLKRATH night of 24 Feb. Three were abandoned between HUECKELHOFEN and MILLICH. Two were left bet BUSCH and SCHAUFFENBERG. The abandoned guns are not destroyed or booby-trapped. The three remaining pieces were covering the RR track approach to WASSENBERG from the S. These pieces were generally moved by the men (manually) except when they had to move long distances in which case they borrowed tractors from other units. The company is used for regional defense and has been in this area since 9 Nov 44. Each gun has a crew of 5. The crews are not well trained and all say the guns have not been fired. Both AP and HE ammo were available.

PW were told (probably to boost morale) that there was a German arm'd div vic GOLKRATH.

CO of Co is Capt Waschellek.

CO of Co 20-X is Capt Voss. He requested of General Lange, Div CO of 183 Div, that his AT guns be moved back to behind the foremost lines, since they are moved with difficulty and since their purpose is to be used in the event of a breakthrough. The general sent for him the next day to punish him for making such a request, but in the meantime the captain had been killed by a direct arty hit on his CP in HUECKELHOVEN.

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(cont)

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1176 Eng Bn: The bn had five companies of which the fifth is now a separate unit under the name Unit Liegl (after Capt Liegl, the CO). The CO of 2nd Co is Lt Benelmann. The CP and trains are at GLINKUM. Bn CO is Capt Loxler. The engineers have been used only for digging AT ditches in the vicinity of HEINZBERG. All are elderly men and are not trained in regular engineer work. The detached company of the bn has about 250 men who were all used as pill box janitors. They were distributed, one man to a pill box and had the job of cleaning it before and after occupancy by troops, keeping the fires burning, etc. The company was armed with rifles and had no automatic weapons.

General: A carload of mines was abandoned on the RATHEIM - SCHWANNENBERG road near RATHEIM.

One man who cycled to his home at GIESENKIRCHEN (bet RHEYDT and NEUSS) four days ago saw nothing of military significance there or en route.