

INTERROGATION REPORT
134th INF REGT
IPW TEAM 60

26 Mar 45

PW taken from the following organizations:
(figure in parenthesis indicates number of PW)

116th Armd (or Mot) Div.
116th Armd Recon Bn
2nd Co (11)
3d Co (65, incl 1 officer)
60th Regt
2nd Co (2)
6th Co (6)

180th Inf Div.
588th Inf Regt
Regt Hq (1)
Hq 2nd Bn (1)
5th Co (1)
14th Co (1)
880 Arty Regt
1st Btry, 4th Bn (1)

4th Antiaircraft Div
3d Btry 305 AA Bn (1)
3d Btry 581 AA Bn (Searchlight) (2)
2nd Btry 881 1st AA Bn (3)

1st Btry 880 Army Arty Bn (attd 116 Div) (1)
14th Co, 959 Regt, 363 Div (1) - capt on furlough
10th Co, 7th Regt, 7th Armd Div (1) - capt on furlough

116th Armd Recon Bn: The 116th Mot Div had been one of the units holding the German bridgehead on the west side of the Rhine at WESSEL. As the bridgehead collapsed they were withdrawn across the RR bridge at WESSEL and sent north into Holland (vic DOEMTINGHEM) for a rest period which lasted until they were committed here yesterday. The division, and particularly the Recon Bn, received reinforcements while at rest. These were sufficient to bring the rifle companies of the Recon Bn up to strength, but those of the regiments were still at about half-strength. The whole division is now committed in this general area. All PW except one say that their mission is purely defensive and that they are not to give ground: the dissenting one says that they are supposed to attack and drive us back to the RR line DINSLAKEN-WALDTEICH.

PW are in general well clothed and rested, but because of German reverses the morale is low. Many come from areas which are already in our hands.

The Recon Bn consists of four companies of which the 1st is an armored car Co, the 2nd and 3d are rifle companies and the fourth a heavy weapons company.

Bn CO is Maj Teppel.

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2nd Co, 116 Armd Recon Bn: Received 50 replacements when in Holland, and strength (combat) today estimated at about 70. The replacements were mostly young men of 17-18 years. Of the 50 that arrived 20 had a contagious skindisease which a medic PW says is caused by filth: most of the cases cleared up in a few days. The disease did not incapacitate those ill. Medic states that all medical supplies except bandages are of good quality and sufficient quantity; there is a shortage of bandages.

Co had been in position centering at about 368322. The CP had been at 364323 until last night when it was withdrawn to 366321. The company had a front of about two Km to defend. PW say that they were a 3d line of defense; they knew of a 1st and 2nd line, but no 4th line. Some PW say that their mission was to establish a new WLR along the present line.

The young replacements received were not thought to be of a high quality. Many of them cried when ordered to the front.

PW know of no mines or fixed defenses in the area. Two SP assault guns were seen at 1000 today withdrawing to the east from 366321.

3d Co, 116 Armd Recon Bn: Strength including trains about 140 men. Company had 5 mg's, 5 small bazookas: only other arms were rifles and machine pistols. Neither this nor the 2nd Co is aware of any support they were supposed to receive from artillery or mortars. The bn has a heavy weapons co armed with three short-barrel SP 75's, mortars, and two 20mm multiple mounts each with three guns. PW were captured in general area 3634. This company received 30 replacements while in Holland.

Route of Bn from Holland to present location was BUCHHOLZ, SCHEPPECK, DORSTEN, and KIRCHHEILEN.

PW state that the division has a tank battalion with about 50 tanks: these have not been seen (even while division was at rest in Holland) but are believed to be in this area. The two infantry regiments of the division are the 60th and 156th.

Co is commanded by Lt Iber. Div CO is Gen Wallenburg.

2nd Co, 60th Rest, 116th Armd Div: The company has a strength of 60-70 men and consists of one platoon which is divided into six squads each with one lmg. Had been in area of LOHBERG but withdrew to to unknown area last night.

6th Co, 60th Rest, 116th Armd Div: Strength yesterday was 40 men armed with 4 mg. This company received only 6 replacements while in Ho; and. The companies in the rifle regiments are transported in trucks (2 or 3 per Co) and those of the Recon Bn in half-trucks (15 per Co). As usual there were complaints about gas shortage.

Hq 588 Inf Rest, 180 Inf Div: PW was driver for rest 1 CO, Maj Schroeder. The regiment was virtually destroyed during the last 3 days. They had occupied the area around DINSIAKEN. The CO was overheard to say that one battalion was captured practically intact and the other badly depleted, and that Hq personnel suffered severe losses.

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This Hq. had been in DINSLAKEN during the heavy bombing before the river crossing. (While our planes were flying over during this bombing the regimental staff were trembling in the cellar, and the CO, pointing up toward the sky said "There goes Adolf Hitler's new secret weapon.") The major was relieved of his command because he was unable to "hold the battalions together". The regiment had consisted of two battalions, and had been formed about a month ago. Several of the men in the regiment had previously been sailors.

14th Co. 588th Regt, 180th. Div.: PW from this unit were stragglers. They had previously had the mission of guarding the regimental CP, but when this withdrew from WPPINGHOVEN about 10 days ago the guards were left behind. They joined part of the 116th Armd Rcn Bn and were captured with them. The 14th Co consists of three platoons, each armed with large bazookas, and their location has not been known for the last 10 days.

Arty Regt. 880:

1st. Btry. had three 105's and one prime mover four days ago. The 2nd. Btry. had two 105's and no prime movers. Last known location of batteries was at 333299 and 324307 respectively. Although the fourth bn of an arty regt is generally a heavy bn the four batteries of this bn all had 105 howitzers. Bn CP and Regt CP had been in WIESFELD until 4 days ago. There was a shortage of ammo, and four days ago each battery had about 20 rounds left and no prospect of getting more.

There was a straggler coll. Pt. at STERVADE (3628) yesterday. PW saw 5 or 6 assault guns vic LOHBERG yesterday. CO of Btry is Capt Lehmann. CO of Bn is Maj. Sekl.

3d Btry, 581 AA Searchlight Bn: Bn had four batteries each with three platoons, each platoon with four lights. Each platoon had 14 men, 1mg and 6 small bazookas. All AA units received the order to fight to the last round of AA ammo: if their pieces could not then be withdrawn they were to join the nearest infantry unit. This searchlight bn arrived here a short time ago replacing a women's battalion doing the same work.

PW (a Lt.) told of the following fourfold order he had received: (a) military courtesy and saluting were becoming lax and should be enforced (b) men should not be allowed to eat their iron rations without permission of an officer (c) AA lights are to be used only for lighting the terrain ahead of the infantry and not against aircraft (d) there is to be no withdrawal.

The searchlights were not used because of lack of gas to run the generators.

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CO of Bn is Capt Schneider, of Regt Col Roehmer, and of 4th AA Div Col Hecht.

The CO of the Arty Regt 880 (Col Eichenbroak (?)) called General Kloster-Kemper of the 180th Div to say that the arty situation was bad in that they had no ammunition and no prime movers. He asked permission to have his pieces withdrawn but was refused.

881 AA Bn, 4th AA Div: Bn consists of 5 batteries of which the 1st and 2nd were each armed with twelve 37mm guns and the others with 20mm guns. Each btry had four platoons and PW knows that three of these in 2nd Btry had no guns left: he does not know remaining armament in other batteries. Were ordered to withdraw pieces if possible, but if horses were not available to destroy them and fight as infantry.

Btry CO, 2nd Btry is Lt Fischer: of Bn, Maj Tiltmann. CP of Bn in KIRCHHELLEN.