

INTERROGATION REPORT
134TH INF REGT
IF TEAM 6C

3 March 45

The following information was obtained from PW taken by both 134th and 320th Regts and processed at 134th PWE.

Units identified:

- 176 Inf Div, 1218 Regt, 6th Co
- " " " , 1219 " , 1st and 2nd Co
- " " " ; 1176 Arty Regt, 5th and 8th Btry
- " " " , Placement Co
- " " " , Unit Liegl (pillbox janitors)
- 406 " " , 416 Regt, 1st, 2nd, 3d Co, and Eng Plat of Regtl Hq Co.
- 190 " " , 1225 Regt, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, Hq Co and Regtl Aid Station
- 555 Artillery Bn (GHQ), 3d Btry
- Prcht Tng Gp II (Prcht General Hq), 2nd Co

1218th Regt: Had a front of about 10 Km along ROER R. centering at about ORSBECK. The last known direction of withdrawal was toward DALHEIM. Units of the 6th and 7th Co, under Lt Kuhlmann, are still at large in woods N of Station VOLLROF and are attempting to join the German lines by going toward the NE. The strength of the group attempting this escape is about 30 men.

The 13th Co of the regt, location unknown, is equipped with two 120mm mortars and two 150mm inf cannon under command of Lt Henning. The 6th Co is under command of Lt Richter.

1219th Regt: Supposed to have been relieved by a parachute unit between MELICK and HERGENBOSC. Parachute unit is Prcht Training Group II, which had previously held the sector to the right and was now expanding its front to include both sectors. The relief was not accomplished.

The 1219th was last known to be withdrawing in the direction of NIEDER-KRUECHTEN. This regiment consisted largely of physically limited men. One company (2nd) had a total strength of 21 men all of whom had very recently come from hospitals or training centers.

1176 Arty Regt: Until January the regiment had three firing battalions. At this time one gun was taken from each battery of the first two battalions to form another battlien. In addition to this the new battlien received Russian 122mm howitzers. The first two battalions have 105s and the fourth has 150s. The pieces are all horse drawn. The 1st bn had been firing in the HEINZBERG sector, the 2nd had the area around ROTHBACH and the third near WEGBERG. All batteries except the 5th had drawn accurate counterbattery fire from us: the fifth was in position close behind a RR embankment and believes that they drew no c/btry fire because the embankment diffused the flash too much to define the gun position.

CO of 8th Btry is Lt Steuer.

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1225th Regt, 190 Div: Regiment has two battalions and had been holding a front from ROERMUND to VENLO. The 2nd Bn had the left half-sector with the 7th Co in the center and the 5th and 6th on the right and left respectively. Direction of withdrawal was toward STRAELEN.

Strengths as follows: 6th Co, 70 men; 8th Co, 78 men. Rifle companies had 9 mg per Co many of which were abandoned. 8th Co had 8 mg and 6 80mm mortars (916082 and 919097). CO of 6th Co is Capt Freda; of 8th Co, Lt Kessler; of 2nd Bn, Capt Bruckmann; of regt, Lt Col Ohlendorf; of division, Gen Hammer.

Engineer platoon of Hq Co whose function was digging and laying barbed wire. This group did not engage in mine laying (done by Eng Bns).

13th Co equipped with 4 75mm inf cannon and two 120mm mortars. CO is Lt Better.

The regiment has no 14th (Anti-tank) company.

416th Regt, 406 Div: This regiment was formerly in the 476 Div, was taken out of this and assigned to 406 Div. The regiment consists of three replacement ~~companies~~ battalions of about 250 men each and was formed in January. They arrived on this front 28 Feb as prcht unit (not the same prcht unit mentioned above). The parachute unit is believed to have been moved further north to the vicinity of GOCH. Units of the 416th Regt were spread very thinly along the MAAS R. (e.g., 1st Co had a 3.5 Km front).

Eng Plat, Hq Co: Has 71 men divided into 6 squads. Their mission was to blow up roads at AT ditches in the VENLO area as tank obstacles. Some squads were captured because they remained in their sectors waiting for orders to blow out the roads and the orders never arrived.

At 887021 and at 903052 are unexploded demolition charges under the road. There is a fenced-in mine field at 884023. Trees at 903052 have explosives tied to them to blow them down on the road as a road block.

Regt CO is Capt Rehler.

555 Artillery Bn: This is a GHQ unit in support of the prcht unit which previously held the sector around TEGELEN - VENLO. The Bn is equipped with eight 122mm Russian howitzers and four 76.2mm Russian howitzers. The CB was in SCHWALM. The pieces are all towed by half-tracks. PW say there is sufficient ammo for the guns because they have never been fired. The prcht unit to which they were attached was supposed to have gone in the vicinity of GOCH about ten days ago. CO of unit is Capt Paschke.

2nd Co, Training Group II, FAOK (Prcht Gen Hq): The unit consists of three companies each with a strength of about 150 men (including trains). Each Co has 18 mg. The unit was in general in the positions ROERMUND - MELICK - GERDENBOSCH, and was withdrawn about five days ago toward ELMPT. The unit which was supposed to replace them in their previous position did not appear. The unit consists of fresh recruits with about 5 months service (mostly training). Although classed as parachutists they are actually plain infantry.

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Mine Fields: PW report the following locations as being mined:

- a. All foot path intersections in woods and likely entrances to woods W of HERGENBOSCH.
- b. RR crossings between HERGENBOSCH and DALHEIM: also the tracks, embankments, and adjacent fields between these two towns.
- c. The bank and fields on the E bank of the ROER between HERGENBOSCH and MELICK are mined.
- d. There are mined areas at the following points:
85628590 85478590 85408475 83898570
85708592 869838 (around house at curve in road
BURGELIN -HERKENBOSCH.
- e. The N tip of the BRACHT forest is mined.

Miscellaneous:

1. The 1st Co, 416th Regt was captured intact by a Dutch civilian. This was done by the civilian's going to the various squads of the company which were distributed along a 3.5 Km front and telling them that their company commander had surrendered and urged them to surrender also. They threw away their weapons and accompanied the civilian to a house where they were surrounded by Dutch Maquis. The civilian then went to the CO and told him that all his men had surrendered, whereupon the CO gave himself up also. The civilian was described as a short man, no eye glasses, name of G..Smeets and home in VENLO where he has a small manufacturing business: since he was seen only at night the PW cannot accurately describe him. The CO also related the following: areas in front of his MLR were mined, and he had taken over a plan of the mine fields at the time he took over the area. At this time he was told by the relieved unit that the mine plans were not accurate. When he mentioned this later to Mr Smeets the later told him that he knew the official plans were incorrect, but that he (Smeets) had the correct plan.
2. Some soldiers have no identifying photographs in their pay books. In place of this there is a notice saying that the photo is missing because of a shortage of necessary materials.
3. Soldiers from widely separated units report a rumor that in a speech about 10 days ago Hitler promised a new secret weapon to be ready for use in about six weeks.