

INTERROGATION REPORT  
134TH INF REGT  
IPW TEAM 6C

31 Mar 45

6th Btry, 643 Hvy AA Bn, 4th AA Div:

Had four 128 mm immobile guns. Attached to btry were two 20mm AA and three 9mm multiple (4 barrel) mg 17, three mg, two French mg. Btry was equipped with two types of radar devices, one called "FUMG" and the other "Mannheim Apparatus". The first type is supposed to be a new, rare device. The multiple barrel machine gun is a new weapon and is thought to be a peer one by PW because it has many stoppages and cannot fire tracers.

All weapons which could not be carried from their position were supposed to be destroyed at 0305 this morning but they were still heard firing at 0500. Although hiding nearby PW heard no explosion which would indicate that the guns had been destroyed, but he did overhear a conversation of his battery CO in which instructions were given to booby-trap the large pieces. PW believes that only the 128mm guns, which are fired electrically, were to be booby trapped. The booby trap was of such a nature that if any one attempted to fire the gun the round would explode in the breach.

Btry consisted of 180 men. CO is Capt Paas. Bn CO is Maj Vieegge. Position of battery was on PASCHENBERG, vic HERTEN. Mission of btry was to fire at bombers attacking SCHOLVEN or loaded bombers flying by. They were not supposed to attack empty bombers on their return trips. This was because of ammunition shortage. The guns are electrically controlled and have gasoline powered generators as part of the equipment. Because of an acute gasoline shortage the electrical devices had to be supplied by storage batteries in many instances.

Btry has shot down 8 planes since last August. Most of these were Lancasters.

Another btry of this battalion occupied a dummy battery position at BUERRESSE. Both batteries received an order to withdraw to an assembly area for the entire 4th AA Div at barracks at WILHELMS HOEHE near CASTROP-RAUXEL. From there they were supposed to go to TEUTOBERGER FOREST and take position on west side of WESER RIVER where the new MLR was to be established: the source of this information was the bn CO.

Until three days ago there had been a mobile FA btry of 150's on PASCHENBERG, but these were withdrawn at that time. Last German unit seen in this area by PW was an armored car evacuating wounded at 1630 yesterday afternoon: no other German troops were seen thereafter.

There had been an order issued that all Volksturm men of this area were to go by foot to PADERBORN. Failure to comply with order punished by death. Believed that Volksturm was intended to man new MLR at WESER R.

The Bn CO was overheard to say that there was an escape gap of 70 Km width between HAMM and DORTMUND four days ago, and that all troops in this area were to get through that gap as fast as possible. The major left, but told his battery that their mission was to cover the withdrawal of other units and that they should fight to the last. Route of retreat was HERTEN - WANNEBIKEL - CASTROP-RAUXEL.

AA personnel is to be made up of anyone too young or of subnormal intelligence: others are to go to infantry.

From the hill PASCHENBERG in the direction of OSNABRUCK the launching of V-1 rockets can be seen about three times a day.



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(CONT)

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CP of 6th Air Corps is in large barracks in GUETERSLOH.

Central headquarters of the Secret Message Service in barracks in LIPPSTADT (vic GUETERSLOH).

Headquarters for the German Eastern Theater (Russian Front) is in the City Hall of SPANDAU.

Main ammunition depot for all AA units is on road MUESTER - HAMM 2 Km south of EMS CANAL in woods on west side of road. Just opposite the ammo dump is a single searchlight on this road.

A subterranean factory of jet-propelled airplanes is in GEBELSBERG (vic HAGEN).

Jander Airplane factory in Hammerstrasse, MUESTER has been recently producing pursuit planes.

A week ago a direct order from Hitler was read to troops: "Whoever becomes separated from his unit and does not report to the nearest officer will be shot. Mobile military courts will be established for this purpose." The need for this order was because of the great amount of desertions in the German army, and the ease with which a German deserter could explain to an MP that he had lost his unit. According to PW the new order has produced the desired effect and cut down the number of stragglers.

Each battery in the arty bn had one Gestapo or SS man. In the 6th Btry this was Cpl Grau, who caused several men to be shot. All the SS and Gestapo men were under a staff officer of the bn, Lt Heidt(?) or Teyk(?), 22 yrs old. His duties were to visit the various batteries and make speeches to the effect that Americans had to be forced on the boats to the ETO at pistol point, that the Americans and English were as tired of the war as the Germans, and that the Germans should hold out as long as possible by putting their brave hearts against our tanks and wait for the development of secret weapons. Rumor was spreading that yesterday Hitler had made another speech asking for a last all-out effort and promising that the new V-weapon would be out in 75 hours.