

INTERROGATION REPORT
134TH INF REGT
IPW TEAM 60

4 March 45

The following units were identified :

190 Inf Div, 1224 Regt: 3d, 13th, 14th, Cos, and 1st BN Hq.
" 1226 Regt: 14th Co, 2nd Bn Hq.
" 1190 Field Rep. Bn: 1st, 2nd, 4th and 8th Co and
Bn Hq.
" 1190 Eng Bn: 1st Co
" 1224 Security Bn O
" 2nd Para Regt (atcd 190 Div): 1st and 13th Co, Hq Co.
" 1521 Hvy Fortress Arty Bn (atcd 190 Div): 5th btry.
" 1506 Fortress Arty Bn (atcd 190 Div); 2nd Btry
7th Para Division, 20th Para Regt: Eng Co
" 7th Para Field Repl. Bn.
30 Inf Div, 890 Arty Regt, 6th Btry
86th Army Corps, Security Co
6th Inf. Div, 37th Regt, 1st Co (PW home here on leave)
Fortress Construction Task Force
74th Fortress AT Co
5th Fortress AT Co
Brockmann Bn.

1224th Regt, 13th Co: Had position at 917354 until two days ago at which time they were ordered to withdraw to a point 1 km west of GELDERN. The company and its trains were supposed to meet here. Ultimate objective of withdrawal unknown. Regiment consists of two bns. CO is Lt Col Hainmueller. It was originally intended to join the 20th Inf Div on the east front but was thrown into line here in Sept 44 when the British threatened NIJMEGEN. CO of 13th Co is Lt Mueller: strength is 130 men.

The 13th Co has 3 120mm mortars and 3 75mm inf cannon. These were motorized, but because of lack of fuel for the vehicles they are being drawn by horses.

1226th Regt, 2nd Bn Hq: Bn CP and all companies were in WEMPT until evening of 2 March 45. At this time entire regiment was ordered to withdraw towards MOERS (toward RHINE). They were intercepted by our forces in SEVELEN (O94226). The 2nd Bn was ordered to cover the withdrawal of the rest of the regiment towards GELDERN.

CO of Bn is Capt Goebel.

1190 Field Rep. Bn: The bn has eight companies, each with a strength of about 50 men. The 8th Co, instead of being a HW company, is a convalescent company where men are sent to recover from minor injuries or diseases. The battalion had two infantry cannon at least one of which was defective and would not fire. The bn was sent forward about 8 days ago from LOBBERICH (98C2) to HERUNGEN on the MAAS R. They started their withdrawal at 0300 3 March, and were headed toward GELDERN. The Bn has no mortars. Each Co has from one to four HMG and several LMG.

Lt Puettuenger is Bn Co, and Lt Bacheran executive off. The two officers are famous for leaving their men in the lurch, and in this case left a day ahead of the rest of the battalion.

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2nd Para Regt: (attached to 190 Div): Evening of 2 March unit was ordered to withdraw to ISSUM - ALPON with the ultimate intention of the withdrawal being to cross the RHINE by ferry just south of WESEL.

Hq Co of the Regt has 9 cargo trucks, 3 personnel carriers. The company consists of a Bicycle Platoon and a Signal Platoon with a total strength together of 150 men. These were used only for CP security.

The 13th Co has 140 men, six 120mm mortars, 11 mg. The company itself is committed farther north against the English, but the trains were at TWISTERN in this vicinity. Because of the English advance the trains were ordered back (toward us) to POMT. They have 150 rounds of mortar ammunition and in addition to this 90 rounds at the trains. The last ammo received was 500 rounds in Dec.; none has come forward since then. The ammunition is used very sparingly because the soldiers know that once the ammo is spent they will be used as riflemen. PW says that two batteries of 150mm howitzers of another unit were ordered to a position vic 931302 with the express mission of securing the withdrawal of troops.

CO of 13th Co is Lt. Holzmeier. CO of 1st Bn is Capt Roeder. CO of Regt is Col Meier-Sachs, about whom there is a rumor that he is to be replaced because of cowardice.

The 2nd Para Regt is normally part of the 1st Para Div which is now committed farther to the north on this front.

1521 Heavy Fortress Arty Bn: Consisted of five batteries which were all in the STRALEN area until a week ago when they moved towards GELDERN - GOCH area, except for the 5th Btry which went to MUEHLENSTEG (002192) two days ago. All five batteries each have four 122mm Russian horse drawn howitzers which they received in October. A few days ago each btry received 150 rounds of ammo, some of which was left behind upon withdrawing; this was left E of RR tracks at 978162. Unit attached to 190 Div.

1506 Fortress Arty Bn (attached to 190 Div): Bn has three batteries of four 105mm howitzers each. In the third btry one piece was destroyed by a tank two days ago, two destroyed by their crews and the fourth prepared for demolition. The order to destroy the pieces was received at 1600 on 2 March. The crew was not given a withdrawal order and was supposed to fight on as infantry. The gun which was not yet destroyed is at 023168. CO of 3d Btry was Capt Erben. Bn CO was Maj Mueller.

Eng. Co, 20 Para Regt, 7th Para Div: The company had a total strength of 2 men plus trains. Until recently it had a platoon of about 60 men, but these went out on a mine laying mission and never returned. The entire regt is believed to have a strength of 180 men. PW states that a few days ago reinforcements to bring the regiment up to strength were expected, but none have ever arrived. Most of the men left belong to the 14th Co which is equipped with AT guns. Until 2 March the trains had been in GELDERN but on this date were ordered to withdraw to NEUKIRCH. The regt is commanded by Maj Grassel and the division by Gen Erdmann.

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36th Div, 890 Arty Regt, 6th Btry: Various infantry units of this division were seen in flight along the road VENLO - STRAELEN on 1 March. The 6th Btry moved into the GOCH area, 26 Feb from WESTERBÖRCECK (nr STRAELEN). The btry consisted of three 105's drawn by tractors. It had been formed two weeks ago by drawing fifty men and two pieces from the 4th and 5th btry. Btry CO is Cact Schult. Bn CO is Capt (?) Bensth.

Security Co, 86th Army Corps: The CP of the Corps until five days ago was in or near KAPELLEN. Place of withdrawal is unknown. Corps CO is Gen Schaube (phon). The Security Co was sent into position five days ago. The company consisted of two platoons - one AA platoon of 20 men with 3 20mm guns, and one infantry platoon of 80 men. The AA guns went into position at 981248 where they were still located yesterday morning waiting for gas and orders to leave. The infantry component was committed somewhere to the west of the AA location but the two units lost contact with each other. CO of Security Co is Lt Dahmen. The company is ordinarily used for Corps CP protection.

Fortress Construction Task Force: This is a unit of engineer specialists directly subordinate to army GHQ. It is divided into three smaller task forces one operating on the each of the three German fronts (west, east, and south). The whole task force consists of about 500 men. The men captured had just finished mounting 20 AT guns on casemated bases in this area. The guns were mounted with the traverse limited to 60°, and were intended to defend against an attack coming from the direction of the MAAS R. Because of the limited travers they were unable to fire against our troops or armor coming from an unexpected direction. The engineer says that he believes the guns were casemated because of the shortage of vehicles, gasoline, and rubber needed for towing them, but he cannot understand why he was directed to install them with a 60° traverse. The guns were installed very recently, and the concrete mounts were finished only a short time ago. Another group of engineers was responsible for the concrete mounts. PW says that this group mounted the iron bases of the guns one day after they had poured the concrete instead of waiting the required four weeks for the concrete to set. They hurried the job because they did not wish to remain this close to the front where they were exposed to British artillery fire. As a result of there haste many of the guns do not have true mounts, and in many cases the concrete has cracked.

74th Fortress AT Co: This unit was subordinate to Fortress Engineer Hq 51 with the CP in Veert, west of Geldern. The company consisted of 110 men divided into four platoons. They had 20 75mm casemated AT guns with 60° traverse, 12 large and 120 small bazookas. The pieces were received one week ago. At the same time each weapon was given 75 rounds of HE and 25 AT rounds. At midnight (2 - 3 March) they were ordered to destroy all the guns: this order was probably carried out. CO of the Co is Lt Erichsen and Eng Hq CO is Major Dieck.

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Breckmann Battalion: This is a battalion of 60 men consisting of all the personnel at the reception camp for the 7th Para Division. Normally the men would have become replacements for the 7th Para, and most of them had formerly been with that unit. This division is at present committed farther to the north in the vicinity of GOCH. In the present emergency they were committed as a separate unit in two pill boxes just north of VENLO. Just after arriving here they were ordered to withdraw to a castle at 006167, but 16 men stayed behind in the pill boxes to surrender. Yesterday the group withdrew further, crossing the NIERS R, with the exception of 8 men who stayed behind to give up. The retreating party left all their weapons in the pill boxes and castle except rifles: some of the men are completely unarmed.

Miscellaneous:

1. Between FORST and SEVELEN at 084227 in a farm are two cars, one a staff car and the other containing radio equipment. These were abandoned yesterday.
2. An AT ditch crosses the road at 941295
3. There are prepared infantry trenches at WEMB at 923323.
4. Three weeks ago a V-1 fell in VANKUM (in this area. Two weeks ago one fell in LUBBERICH (at that time behind German lines) and is rumored to have killed 200 persons.