

INTERROGATION REPORT
134TH INF REGT
IPW TEAM 60

5 Mar 45

Units identified:

Hq, 7th Para Div.
Hq, 1613 Fortress Arty Bn
902 Assault Boat Company, Army Eng Hq
Hq Btry, 4th Bn, 890 Arty Regt, 190 Div.
2nd Co, 1224 Regt, 190 Div
Hq CO, 1st Bn, 1224 Regt, 190 Div
1st Co 1190 Field Rep. Bn, 190 Div
6th Co, 22 Para Regt, 8th Para Div.
3d Btry, 165th Met. AA Regt
54th Field Replacement Bn, 16 Pz Div. (Div is
on East front: PW taken while on leave).

Hq, 7 Para Div: Last known location of Div CO was at WISSEM about ten days ago. Since this time PW has been at a farm near GELDERN in order to avoid proximity to the front. The component regiments are 19th, 20th and 21st: all have been committed on this front since January, before which time they were fighting in Alsace. Their sector here had been together with the 8th Para div in the vic of COCH.

1513th Fortress Arty Bn: subordinate unit to 1521 Arty Bn (previously reported) and attached to 190th Div.

902 Assault Boat Co, Army Eng Hq, 1st (?) Army: Company had a total strength of 82 assault boats and 300 men. There are 15 such companies in the German army. This company was distributed in units of 3 to 6 boats each at points along MAAS R. and had the mission of ferrying patrols back and forth to the British side of the river. Each boat has a capacity of eight including a crew of two: propulsion is by paddling. The boats are carried on trailers, but the company no longer has its own prime movers: these are borrowed from other units when the boats are moved. Several of the boats were destroyed by crews at the MAAS because of the lack of towing vehicles.

The company has been on this front for 4 months. Before this it was on the Russian front near MEMEL. All men in the unit are southern Germans or Austrians.

Hq Btry, 4th Bn, 890 Arty Regt, 190 Div. : Bn has three firing batteries (10th, 11th, and 12th) each with four 150mm howitzers. Entire battalion was at BRUECKHUSEN 2 Mar 45. From there they went to PONT, where PW became separated from his unit, and left PONT at 2230 same date in direction of HOMBERG. The guns and trains are motorized, some drawn by tractors and others by diesel or wood-burning trucks. While at PONT the bn took a hasty position and fired a few rounds in the direction of STRAELEN. At this time they had about 200 rounds left. Former Bn CO was Col Buch: because he was not an ardent Nazi he was replaced by Capt Friling.

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6th Co, 22 Para Regt, 8th Para Div: The 7th and 8th Para Div have been operating in the same general area in Vic GOCH. The 22nd Regt has three bns commanded by Capts Lorenz, Wolf, and Wittstock. The 2nd Bn (Wolf) has combat strength of 30 men, and the other bns are believed by PW to be equal strength. Capt Wittstock's bn withdrew toward HOMBERG on 1 March; two days later the other bns followed. The three had been together at 990343 previous to withdrawal. The regtl CO is Col Schellmann.

PW recently made an excursion from WESEL to HOMBERG travelling down the east side of the RHINE. He reports that a damaged RR bridge at WESEL is still usable by foot troops, and that the bridge at HOMBERG is usable by all traffic. He saw no fixed defenses or preparations for defense on the far side of the RHINE, except for infantry trenches. He observed no pill-boxes, gun emplacements, etc. Around WESEL the river is protected by barrage balloons and AA batteries. PW noticed groups of refugees going from E to W across the HOMBERG bridge, and believes them to be people who had evacuated towns which are now in our hands. The people had been in towns in central and eastern Germany which are now threatened by the Russians, and prefer the western dangers to those of the east. No traffic of military importance was observed. No troops were occupying the trenches when observed, and no armor or SS units were seen on either side of the river. PW made this trip on 1 March. (Name and address: Fldwbl Heinz Gellings, Krefeld - Beckum, Lueneberger Way #4.)

3d Btry, 165 Mot AA Regt; Battery had two 60 cm searchlights,, 4 88mm and unknown number of 20mm AA guns. Last known location was in FERNUM which they left two weeks ago. The searchlights and crew were left behind and the guns removed. The searchlight crews were told that trucks would come back to pick them up, but these never arrived.