

INTERROGATION REPORT
134th INF REGT
IPW 60

10 Dec 44

1 PW from 5th Co, 37th Regt, 17 SS Div.

PW with his company, about 80 men in combat strength, came into position about 2100 on 7th Dec. They came from a position 2 Km north of SARREGUE-MINES along the river. On the march between the two positions they did not observe any military activity. The 5th Co came alone from this previous position, but PW believes that two other companies are in position alongside of them at their present location. The 5th Co has the region about the porcelain factory (518567); the 3d company has a front along the river extending further towards the city; the 2nd Co has a front extending along the river from the factory towards the RR bridge.

The PW gave the following locations at which he says there were heavy mg.

On 1:50,000 map:	519566	On Photo Mosaic #3:	000481
" " "	: 520564	" " "	: 008453
" " "	: 517568	" " "	: F68487
" " "	: 517567	" " "	: F70515

The company is supposed to have between 14 and 20 mg in total. At the last position they occupied there were two 80mm mortars attached and it is probable that these are still with the company. The CO of the company is Lt Siesteck. Regt CO is Col Lauzer.

The mission of the company as known to PW was purely defensive. They merely occupied their present ~~old~~ position, and not only did not take part in the counterattack yesterday but were not even aware of it. From their position they have direct observation on the RR bridge; when asked why they did not fire at troops they observed crossing the bridge yesterday PW replied that the range was too great, and "it would not have done any good anyway".

PW did not have any tanks or combat vehicles attached to his company. During the night he heard heavy vehicles of some sort moving at an estimated 2 km to the rear. He is unable to estimate direction or number.

PW was captured in the following manner. A man on patrol from our 2nd Bn became separated from the rest of his patrol and in attempting to get back to our lines went near the porcelain factory. The PW saw him here and seized the opportunity to desert by taking the American soldier back to our lines. None of the other Germans in the area saw the incident. PW did not report that the morale of others in his unit was equally low; he however was sick to his stomach and sick of the last two weeks spent in the mud.

PW came up with the last group of replacements to arrive at his unit which was 14 days ago.

File

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PW from Bn HQ and 3d Co, LEHMANN battalion.

PW added the following information to previous reports on their unit:

1. Battalion Lehmann is attached to one of the regiments of the 17th SS Div: it is also under the command of the First German Army.
2. One battery of 88 mm AA guns is attached to the battalion as artillery support.
3. Location of CP at GRAND VIESING FARM at 572564 is confirmed.
4. Mission was to hold position at any price.
5. The battalion suffered 260 men killed, wounded or missing yesterday. The combat strength is now 120. Most losses were through capture: next through artillery and mortar fire.
6. PW heard that there are a few tanks in farm at 570561.

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PW represent the following units:

3d and 4th Co, 17 Recon Bn, 17 SS Div.
3d Co, 37th Regt, 17 SS Div.
9th and 10th Co, 38th Regt, 17 SS Div.
1, 2, 3, and 4th Co, Battalion LEHMANN

Recon Bn: The 3d and 4th Co were committed in this sector as infantry. The 3d Co received the order to counterattack in FOLPERSVILLER yesterday morning: at 1800 they came into position at 537557 in woods, but did not attack and dug in. In the morning they were forced to withdraw with the new mission of holding the RR track at 547573. The strength of the third Co is 120 men; they have 16 machine guns of the 1915 model formerly used in airplanes. PW from this unit had seen two infantry cannon at FOLPERSVILLER. The fourth Co had a strength of 60 men, had 6 mg and two mortars. Their CP was at 540567/ at a RR watchmans house. They withdrew to this CP this morning from their position which was to the north of the RR track in woods at 533564. PW from this unit had seen in FRAUENBERG two AT guns and 6 or 7 150 mm infantry cannon day before yesterday evening. The first company of this battalion is supposed to have been pulled back to the Siegfried Line. The 5th (heavy) company has not been heard of recently by PW. Trains of battalion were at ST IMBERT. The CP is at FOLPERSVILLER, and Bn CO is Capt Lind.

3d Co, 37th Regt: PW reports strength of this company as 120 men. Position was to the flank of the German line at approximately 528564. Withdrew this morning in direction of SARREGUEMINES saving only one mg. Before this they had had four mg.

9th and 10th Co: Combined strength of 30 men with 4 mg. CO is Lt Henschel. 11th Co had been in position at 533564; the ninth and tenth companies had also formerly occupied this position but were relieved by the fourth co of the recon bn last evening. The bn CP is in the same RR watchmans house at 540567. PW heard 5 or 6 assault guns yesterday at 1400 at 540566 as they were moving by.

Battalion LEHMANN: PW captured 24 to 48 hours ago; confirm previous reports.

PW are continuing to be careless in gas discipline. Many do not carry gas masks at all. Some recent arrivals do not have steel helmets.

10 Dec 44
1200

Identity: 3rd Co, Lehmann Bn

17 PWs

Pt of capture: 563550 by 2nd Bn

Location: 3rd Co CP at Gr. Viessing Fme. (572565), Bn CP at Pt. Viessing Fme (570561). 20 men, remnants of the 2nd Co, in front of the Bn CP as security. 2 HMGs on high ground in bushes at 5655. Two 80mm mortars believed to be in the vicinity of the Gr. Viessing Fme.

Mission: To secure the Saar Line and to retreat if attacked into the ravine around the Bn CP.

Strength: 2nd platoon - 33 men, as of 0800 10 December. 3rd platoon to its right with 20 men along the NW edge of the Lehwald. 1st platoon as said to have been wiped out previously.

Other units: Unidentified SS engineer unit was said to take up positions along the E and S edge of the Lehwald in the morning of 10 December.

Weapons: 3 LMGs with each platoon, 9 A/T rocket grenades (Faustpatronen)

Misc.: The Lehmann Bn is attached to the 17th SS Div since one week for the purpose to fill a gap in its lines. The Lehmann Bn consists mostly of very young marines. It left Sarreguemines for the present combat area on 5 December.

Personalities: Bn CO: 1st Lt. Lehmann
3rd Co CO: Lt. Moses

Identity: 5th Co, 37th SS Regt, 17th SS Div

3 PWs

Pt of capture: 526561

Report: The 5th Co, strength 30 men, was situated in a porcelain factory at 519559 until the early morning hours of 10 December. It moved up 500 yds to the E to take up positions along the edge of the Jungwald (5256). Company has two platoons with 2 LMGs each. About 250 men replacements arrived for the 37th Regt two weeks ago. These replacements were part of a replacement transport of 1500 men coming from Frankfurt a/Oder to Sarrelouis. The APO number 35272B is no longer valid. No other number has been given.

Total:

20 PWs

IPW Team 68
320th Infantry

10 Dec 44
1500

Identity: 17th AA bn, 17th SS Div 5 PWs
 Pt of capture: 5755 by 1st Bn
 Report: Three squads were formed from the AA Bn and attached
 as infantry to the Bn "Lehmann"
 Location: AA Bn CP was at Balchen (5561) on 8 December
 AA Bn Rear was at Ommerheim (5869) on 8 December.

Identity: 3rd Co, 17th Eng Bn, 17th SS Div 1 PW
 Pt of capture: 5755 by 1st Bn
 Report: 12 men from the 3rd Co were placed in line as infantry
 last evening at S edge of Lehwald forest. (5754).
 10 men were killed by arty fire within 5 mi.
 Location: Eng Bn CP was at Ormesheim (5766) on 6 December.

Identity: 3rd Co Bn "Lehmann" 5 PWs
 2nd Co Bn "Lehmann" 1 PW

Report: See report #202

Identity: 209 Eng Bn, 11th Pz Div (Hq Co) 1 PW
 Pt of capture: 585535 by 3rd Bn
 Report: PW was captured on 9 December. He stayed behind to
 surrender when his Bn moved to Petit Rederching (685510).
 PW overheard officers mentioning that the Siegfried Line
 is formidable enough to stop us. The German Army is slowly
 retreating towards it.

Identity: SV Co 17th Pz Bn 17th SS Div 1 PW
 Pt of capture: 586555 by L Co.
 Report: 1 Co of the Pz Bn (The 2nd or 3rd) with 6 assault guns
 reinforced by 1 platoon of infantry drawn fr Hq Co and SV
 Co of the Pz Bn were in line on both sides of RJ 589559.
 Their line of retreat on rd towards NE to Eliesbrueck.

IPW Team 68
 320th Infantry

R e s t r i c t e d

IPW Report #205

13Y INF S-2

10 Dec 44
2230

Identity: 3rd Co, Bn "Lehmann"
4th Co, Bn "Lehmann"

1 PW
5 PWs

Pt of capture: 570561 by "A" Co.

Report: The men of the 4th Co were left behind with the vehicles when the company retreated this morning along the railroad at 574569 and East.

Strength: The 4th Co has about 80 men; the 3rd Co is completely wiped out and has only about 7-10 men left. The 1st and 2nd Co's are said to be out down below any effectiveness.

Personalities: 4th Co CO: Lt. Sander

Identity: One deserter in civilian cloths

1 PW

Pt of capture: 570561 by 1st Bn

IPW Team 68
320th Infantry

R e s t r i c t e d