

INTERROGATION REPORT
134TH INF REGT
IFW 35

12 Dec 44

1 PW from 1st Co, 17 Eng Bn, 17 SS Div.

PW captured in BLIES-EBERSING at 1900 yesterday.

PW believes that the engineer battalion still has three more companies which are either in reserve or with other parts of the division. The 1st Co was attached to the 37th Regt. Of the first company the platoons alternate assignments: there is always one committed as infantry, one in reserve and two doing engineer work. There only mission as engineers has been the destruction of bridges: usually these bridges are prepared for demolition by others, but occasionally these engineers also prepare the charges. They have laid no mines anywhere in this vicinity. They know nothing about delayed action booby-traps or bombs. The strength of the 1st Co 3 days ago was 50 -60 men: since then it has suffered losses thru artillery fire (e.g. in PW's platoon 8 men out of 19 were wounded by artillery). The former CO of 1st Co was Capt Schleicher who was wounded at Puttelange: replaced by Lt Brautigam. The equipment in this platoon includes only rifles, they having given up their machine guns to ordnance three days ago: they have also thrown away their small bazookas and gas masks. CO of Eng Bn was Capt Muller. Three days ago the battalion had been in rest at BLIES-BOLCHEN. The engineer company has no trucks: transportation has been provided by two trucks from bn Hq when required.

PW was captured at BLIES-EBERSING yesterday at 1830. His mission was to take a message to engineers at the bridge at BLIESBRUCK (594576) to blow it up. The bridge was already prepared. He started from HABKIRCHEN with two others: directly after they crossed the stone bridge at HABKIRCHEN - FRAUENBERG this was blown. A third bridge for which his platoon is responsible and which is not yet blown is at REINHEIM (Reinheim - 597597). The foot bridge over the Blies at 559596 is flooded over because of high water. The two engineers with whom PW started were killed by arty.

PW states that Bn Lehmann was supposed to have occupied heights about 5759: the 37th Regt is also supposed to have gone into position here last night. PW heard or saw no tanks yesterday: day before however he heard the noise of tanks which he believed were withdrawing..

PW says that organic engineers of a division do not build bridges. This work is done by units attached from higher echelons.

PW knows of no organization of German civilians other than Volkssturm. The civilians are not evacuated, are not given weapons, and are not organized for harrasing us.