

INTERROGATION REPORT
134th Inf Regt
IPW 60

14 Dec 44

This report is based on 58 PW all except 5 of which were captured 24 to 48 hours ago. Units represented are as follows:

Security Co, 17 SS Div (captured today)
5th Co, 165th Regt, 36 Inf Div
7, 8 Co, 37th Regt, 17SS Div
4, 9 Co, 38th Regt, 17 SS Div

Security Co: Three men from the Security Co were picked up as stragglers in BEBELSHEIM (580630) and sent forward this morning to join a unit. Their car was intercepted at about 574607, the driver wounded, the car turned over and the others captured. The PW described having seen the following in BEBELSHEIM: 5 or 6 assault guns three days ago; the guns moved forward toward the front. Yesterday he saw 3 or 4 assault guns in the town again but he does not know whether they were the same ones or not. One of the first houses on the E side of the road entering the town from the S is the CP of the 37th Regt (yesterday); there had been no visible preparation for moving the CP. There was a road block of fallen trees at approximately 579627. The CP of the Security Co is in REINSHEIM (595600); the balance of the company is supposed to be deployed on the heights around the town. One PW states that he used the bridge at REINSHEIM yesterday at 1800; previous reports had mentioned this bridge as having been destroyed by our own arty. PW was told at his CP to keep in the ditch to the left of the road (south is left) REINSHEIM -HABKIRCHEN near ~~HABKIRCHEN~~ REINSHEIM because the road is mined. No tanks were seen in REINSHEIM. Most men from the Security Co are men previously wounded or otherwise unfit for line service.

5th Co, 165th Regt: The 2nd Bn of the 165th came to this area from the vicinity of FORBACH leaving there at 1800, 12 Dec 44. The battalion consists of three companies, there being no 7th Co. The battalion was transported in 6 to 8 trucks and buses and arrived at BLIESRANSBACH at 2300. Here they dismounted and the various companies separated for their assigned areas. The 6th Co stayed in the vicinity of BLIESMENGEN ~~(545610)~~. The 8th Co took up positions on the high ground approximately at ~~555610~~ 555610 supporting the fifth co. The 5th Co joined by a group of 12 engineers from the 17th SS, proceeded towards HABKIRCHEN with the mission of reducing our bridgehead and blowing up the bridge by which they thought we had crossed the river. They deployed for the attack at about 0300. For weapons the attackers had 4 mg, ~~1/2~~ about 20 small bazookas, and for support the 80mm mortars of the 8th Co; no armor was used in the attack. The strength of the company was about 60 men and PW believed that they suffered heavy casualties in the attack. Casualties were not from arty but from mg and small arms fire from the houses in the vicinity of the bridge in HABKIRCHEN. CO, Lt Kersting, was wounded yesterday.

Other units of SS mentioned above had nothing to add to previous reports. They were taken in HABKIRCHEN the first day of the bridging operation.

INTERROGATION REPORT
18TH INF REGT
IPW 60

14 Dec 44

1 PW from Fusilier Co, 36 Inf Div (Volksgranadier).

This division formerly had a Fusilier Battalion. It now has only a company with a strength 50 men. The equipment is 6 mg, 5 small bazookas and rifles. The CO is 1st Lt Sennhalder. The company came here from the vicinity of FORBACH on foot independently of any other unit. They left FORBACH the night of 7 Dec and went to ALSTING where they spent the night. They then went into position at west edge of woods at 485595 relieving an SS unit which had been there. They were later joined here by the 5th and 6th Co of the 165 Regt, the 6th being on the S flank and the 5th on the N flank. While they were in this position they heard our loudspeakers and received safe conduct passes fired by arty. No 7th Co is known to the PW: it is believed that the 8th Co was somewhere to the rear in support. According to PW there are only two battalions per regiment and three companies per battalion in this regiment. The Fusilier Co left position at 485595 in the morning 11 Dec, the 5th and 6th Co taking over their sector; they then stayed at WINTRINGERHOF (315640) where at this time was located the fire direction center for the 268 Arty Regt (36 Div Arty). Two days later they marched through BLIESRANSBACH (529631) where the following was observed: the CP of an SS regiment was there; the town was empty of civilians; there were no tanks. They here received orders to attack HABKIRCHEN yesterday and were assigned 15 houses as their objective. They sent a patrol out which determined that these houses were not occupied by Americans, and considering their mission completed, retired to BLIESMENGEN (545611) to a recently built settlement of cottages. They received heavy arty fire here and were forced to move to two stone houses on lower ground. Their losses under the fire were only one man wounded. Also in this same settlement was another company on security duty. They then heard that the 5th Co had made an attack on HABKIRCHEN (morning of 13 Dec) and had been repulsed with heavy losses. The Fusilier Co was then ordered to make the same attack today. This attack was completely broken up by artillery fire this morning. For support during the attack this company had two assault guns and unspecified arty.

In yesterday's attack the Bn CO of 2nd Bn of 165th was wounded. Was replaced by a 1st Lt.

During the attack the assault guns were located at 568609. These have the habit of firing during the day and retiring at night.

It is believed that the remnants of the Fusilier Company may have returned to their original position at BLIESMENGEN.

Morale in the unit is poor and has been affected by our loudspeakers and leaflets which caused several desertions at their previous position. Fear of drawing our artillery fire has led civilians in German towns to suggest to the soldiers that they lay down their arms.

A few days ago a new order was issued that gas masks be carried at all times. The order is partially disobeyed by line troops, but train personnel all carry their masks.

Three days ago an order from Adolf Hitler was read stating that in case of a ~~withdrawal~~ withdrawal to the Siegfried Line the fighting would be done before the bunkers and not in them; that fleeing men will be shot; that if the CO thinks the position is untenable that man who believes the position can be held will take over command. The reason for this order to fight before the bunkers was believed to be to prevent mass surrender in the pill boxes.

PW states that about 2 months ago 20,000 civilians were killed in 40 minutes by an air raid over DARMSTADT. He says that the reaction of the people is directed as much or more against the Nazis as against the attackers.

PW knows nothing of an organized Maquis movement in Germany and knows nothing of any new weapons using liquid oxygen.

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Addition to previous report:

The facts concerning the 5th and 6th Co of the 165th Regt being in location at 485595 on 8 Dec do not correspond with what a PW from the 5th Co related earlier today. The PW from the Fusilier Co was told of these locations by his CO but did not actually see any troops of the 5th or 6th Co at this time, so he knows of their locations only by hearsay. Probably the correct version of the movement of the 5th and 6th Co from FORBACH is the one in the previous report of the PW from the 5th Co.

This PW does not know of any OP's used in this vicinity. He has previously seen both trees and church steeples used.

IPW Report #210

14 Dec 44
1100

To: 320th Infantry Regt, Attn S-2

Identity: 1st Bn Hq, 110th Pz Gren Regt, 11th Pz Div
(1 O and 1 EM)

2 PWs

Pt of capture: RR Station in Eliesbruck (598580)

Report: Both PWs were captured while on reconnaissance to Eliesbruck and to take up connections with remnants of the 2nd Gp, 110th Regt, which were supposed to be still in Eliesbruck.

Location: 2nd or 3rd Co CP in Obergailbach (622578). Bn CP in forest 4 km SW of Medelsheim (659608). Regtl CP in Medelsheim. SV Co in Rimsweiler (7469) and Regtl Repair Shop in Schmalenberg (behind Zweibruecken)

The 1st Bn is on the right flank of the 11th Pz Div.

Personalities: 1st Bn CO: Captain Wolff
Regtl CO: Major Thiele

Misc.: The 110th Regt has about 10 American jeeps in use.

IPW Team 68

IPW Report #213

14 Dec 44
2040

Identity: 1st Co, 37th SS Regt } 4 PWs
 11th Co, 37th SS Regt } Bn Lehmann 2 PWs
 4th Btry, 17th SS AA Bn } 4 PWs

Pt of capture: 594578 by A Co.

Report: 1 platoon of the 1st Co, 37th SS Regt was attached to the Bn Lehmann about 6 days ago. The men from the 11th Co, 37th SS Regt were attached previously to the 1st Co when the 3rd Bn was dissolved in the Metz sector on 9 November. About 26 men from the 4th Btry 17th AA Bn including Lt Schweigert were attached to Bn Lehmann about 6 days ago. The above mentioned units were under the command of Lt Schweigert.

Strength: About 50 men were holding out in Eliesbruck this evening. 20 men surrendered and several were wounded.

Retreat: The men had orders to retreat under cover of darkness tonight.

Misc.: 30 men of the 17th SS AA Bn were to reenforce the Bn Lehmann today in Reinheim

Identity: 1st Co, Bn Lehmann . 2 PWs
 2nd Co, Bn Lehmann 6 PWs

Pt of capture: 594573 by A Co.

Report: The 8 men were left behind when their units retreated towards Reinheim last night. They had orders to follow up today but could not retreat beyond the cemetery where they were cut off by our troops

IPW Team 68

IPW Report #211

14 Dec 44
1145

Identity: 9th Co, 38th SS Regt, 17th SS Div 1 PW
Security Co, 17th SS Div 1 PW

Pt of capture: 593583 by 1st Bn

Mission: The Security Co was to retake its previous positions on the forward slope of hill NE of Blies-Ebersing (5758) during the night of 13-14 December.

Locations: The CP of the remnants of the 3rd Bn Cos, 38th SS Regt, is located in the ravine at 579593. The lines of the 3rd Bn extend approx 1 km to the E of the ravine, about 800m to the W of the ravine. Elements of the 17th Recon Bn to the right, elements of the Bn Lehmann to the left of the 3rd Bn, 38th SS regt,

Strength: 9th Co about 10-15 men. PW claims the strength of the entire Bn to be not more than 40-50 men.

Personalities: CO of 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Cos: Lt. Ahrens
Former 3rd Bn CO, Capt Burzloff, wounded.

Identity: 2nd Co, Bn "Lehmann" 2 PWs

Pt of capture: 593583 by 1st Bn

Mission: ~~XX~~ The two PWs brought rations to Bliesbruck this morning at 0630. On the way back they were captured.

Strength: This morning at 0630 there were 7 men of the 2nd Co in Bliesbruck and about 30 SS men which took part in the local counterattack last night.

Location: Bn Lehmann is at Reinheim and also about 40 SS men of an unidentified unit.

4 PWs

IPW Team 68