

15 Dec 44
0800

Identity: 4th Co, Bn Lehmann

4 PWs

Pt of capture: 594578 by A Co.

Report: The 4 men were left behind when the 4th Co retreated on 14 December at 1000 towards Reinheim. They surrendered after hearing our PA system.

Identity: Horse Troop, 292nd Inf Div

1 PW

Pt of capture: 594578 by 1st Bn

Report: PW is a deserter from the Russian front. He left his unit at Nowa Wiest (eastern Poland) on a furlough on 11 December. Instead of returning to his native Sarreguemines the PW crossed our lines at point of capture.

Armor: PW saw one assault gun camouflaged under a tree at 603595 manned by SS troops in the afternoon of 14 December. PW passed Reinheim at 1700 and found it deserted of troops.

Total:

5 PWs

Miscellaneous information:

Mines: There are some A/T mines near the RR underpass outside Elisbruck.

IPW Team 68

INTERROGATION REPORT
134TH INF REGT
IPW 60

15 Dec 44

2 PW from 2nd Co , 17 Recon Bn, 17 SS Div
3 PW from 1st Co, LEHMANN Bn.

PW from Recon Bn are an officer platoon leader (1st plat) and his striker. The strength of the company is 65 men, CO is 1st Lt Beckmann, and the co has six 1915 model airplane type machine guns. 120 men arrived here on the morning 11 Dec having left HECKENDALHEIM in the Siegfried line the day before, travelling at night. The 120 men were divided among units of the Recon Bn and Kampfgruppe Krenke (37th Regt). The men came in trucks via NIEDERWUERZBACH, WITTERSHEIM, BEBELSHEIM. They saw no tanks on the way. They heard heavy German arty fire. The road was at not time denied to them by our own arty. Men came from the Field Replacement Bn of the 17 SS Div.

The men took up position in line centering at 568590. The unit to the right was unknown to PW. To the left was an engineer Co extending to about 578583. The engineer company changed its position to one centering at 575585 to provide flank security. According to PW the engineer company found themselves surrounded this morning and all except three were taken prisoner.

The 2nd Co received orders to withdraw at 0500 today. The officer believed that the withdrawal was to BEBELSHEIM. They were subjected to heavy small arms fire in woods at 567596. The company dispersed completely, most men running down to the brook MANDELBACH. The two taken prisoner attempted to withdraw over hill at 570598 where they were captured.

The officer has been with the SS for six years as a band master. He was given infantry training recently and this is his first commitment as a line officer.

PW from Lehmann Bn were taken prisoner this morning in the insane asylum at SARREGUEMINES. They had been hiding out in the loft of one of the buildings believing that the war was almost over and that they could then go home instead of going to a PW camp in Canada. The PW believe it is too cold in Canada. They had been four in hiding altogether. Of these three have been captured and the fourth is wandering around in SARREGUEMINES looking for food to bring his buddies. He is in civilian clothes or at least partially so.

INTERROGATION REPORT
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PW taken from the following units:

- 1,2,3,4,9th Co, 38th Regt, 17SS Div
- 1, 9th Co, 37th Regt, 17 SS Div
- 5th Co, Reserve Squad, 2nd Bn 165th Regt, 36 Inf Div
- 3,4th Co, Recon Bn, 17 SS Div.

The units listed were occupying the heights at 557624 to 579582. This morning those units SE of the MANDELBACH brook received an order to withdraw to the edges of the woods 579603. Those units on the other side of the brook received no withdrawal order. Troops on both sides of the brook believed themselves to be surrounded however. The general direction of the withdrawal seems to be towards WITTERSHEIM.

9th Co, 37th Regt: This company consists of about 5 men and a lt. Attached to it was a platoon of engineers fighting as infantry. The 9th Co in turn is attached to the third Co of the Recon Bn. Their position had been at 575586. To their left SE was the Bn Lehmann. To the right was the 3d Co of the Recon Bn which extended to HABKIRCHEN. The 2nd Co (Recon) was also in position here. This whole flank received an order to withdraw at 0500 today, followed the valley of the MANDELBACH toward 580600 where they were intercepted by our troops. They then scattered in various directions.

2nd Bn, 165th Regt: PW state that 4 or 5 men are left of the 5th Co which made the attack on HABKIRCHEN yesterday. The Reserve Squad of Bn Hq consists of 7 riflemen who were with the 5th Co. PW state that no 7th Co exists. They had been in position at 564612. To their left was an undetermined SS unit, and before them on Hill 330 was a MG nest of apparently unattached SS men. PW saw three tanks and two assault guns at BLIESMENGEN: the assault guns were in firing position.

3d Bn, 38th Regt. The Bn consists of 44 men. The 9th Co has 14 men. CO of Co is Lt Scharlein. The Bn CO is wounded: his successor was also wounded. The 10th and 11th Co, also in this vicinity, operate as one unit. The Bn CP was at WITTERSHEIM. The trains are at RITTERSMUEHLE near ST INGBERT.

The general character of the PW is below normal. There are many Hungarians and Rumanians among them who are recent replacements.