

INTERROGATION REPORT  
134TH INF REGT  
IPW 60

16 Dec 44

26 PW from following units: 12 Co, 37th Regt, 17 SS Div  
2nd Bn, 17 Arty Regt, 17 SS Div  
Recon Bn, 17 SS, Div.

Recon Bn: All the elements of the Recon Bn have been formed together under one command instead of having separate companies. The new unit contains elements of the 2nd, 3d, and 4th Co: it is possible that the 5th Co is also included for support (heavy weapons). The strength of the new unit is about 150 men armed with rifles and about 15 mg. The unit was in position centering about 565611. Among recent reinforcements to the recon bn are several men who were formerly in the division artillery who were superfluous because of lost guns or because of their reserve status in the artillery. Recon also includes men from 37th Regt.

PW located mine field in young pine forest at 569613 (confirmation of previous report). The mines are AP of "bouncing Betty" type. Extent of mine field is unknown. It is unmarked by warnings. It was laid early yesterday. Two to five Germans were killed on their own mine fields (or wounded).

17th Arty Regt: The regiment consists of 3 Bns each having 3 firing batteries. There is also a battalion of 88mm AA attached to the regt which fires at both ground and air targets. The 1st and 2nd bns are 105mm and have four guns per bn. The 3d (medium) bn has two batteries of 150mm and one battery of 105mm rifles. The AA bn has three batteries each with 6 88mm pieces. The exact losses of pieces in the arty regt through counterbattery fire is not known but is not great. Each piece had a tractor-type prime mover: some of these have been destroyed and there are fewer tractors than guns now. PW complained of gasoline shortage. There is no ammo rationing as such but permission must be secured from arty regt Hq before firing at a target. Each battery has a strength of about 100 men which includes 20 men per company train. The 105's have a six man crew, the 150's an eight man crew: the same crew is on each gun all the time, 24 hours per day. The CO of the Arty Regt is Maj Klappbecher.

The following observation system is used. An observer with radio equipment is forward with a rifle company. Further to the rear, generally on a hill where observation is also good is another observer, usually an officer. The two OP's are in communication by short range radio. The officer has communication with his battery by phone.

When asked which type of fire of ours was feared most the PW thought it was the interdiction of roads, etc. He also has a great respect for time fire and TOT's.

16 Dec 44

1100

217

320 Inf Regt S-2

Identity : 1st Co 38th SS Regt

2 PW

Pt of capt.: 5960 by "K" Co

Report.: The 1st Co 38th SS Regt retreated yesterday from HABKIRCHEN into the woods where the 2 PWs were capt. There they found already units of the Recon. Bn .

Strength : The 1st Co was about 110 men, but they suffered heavy losses during yesterday's art. barrage. 93 men arrived on 4th Dec from Paderborn as replacements, and were distributed in the Div.

Mines : There are several mine fields around the forrest where the PWs were capt. 3 of their own men got into it and were killed. Then the Eng removed part of the mines.

Retreat : The men left in the forrest retreated last night under cover of darkness, probably towards N. The 2 PWs which are Russians stayed behind.

IPW Team 68