

INTERROGATION REPORT
134TH INF REGT
IPW 60

29 Dec 44

1 PW from 3d Bn, 14 Prcht Regt, 5th Prcht Div.

PW had been a KP for the Bn Hq kitchen. The kitchen had been a truck independent of the bn trains which consisted of our horse-drawn wagons. The kitchen started from ERDORF (in Eifel Mts) keeping about 5 Km in back of Bn Hq during the advance. It was destroyed at CHAUMONT, the farthest point of advance, on 22 or 23 Dec by arty fire. PW was then sent to trains at HARLANGE. Half of the wagons of the trains were destroyed on 25 Dec by arty fire. He was then sent to front along with about 30 others as line replacements, and these were distributed among all three battalions. Because of losses no separate companies existed in the 3d Bn, but all were together as one unit. This is probably true of the other two bns also. PW could not locate any present CP's or give any further indication as to strength of his unit. The 3d Bn was in position at approximately 5752. In this position the unit received arty fire yesterday afternoon which fell about 200 yds long and caused only one casualty. PW was captured when he went forward from his position to get some bread from an abandoned German vehicle since he and others in the unit had not eaten for several days. Although all soldiers were supposed to have gas masks there were several who had none. PW had never heard of use of powdered glass as a weapon. BN CO is Maj Ebel. The CO of the Regt is Lt Col Schimmel. The Div CO is Col Heilmann.

2 PW from 15th Co, 14th Prcht Regt, 5th Prcht Div.

The 15th Co is an engineer co but has no engineer equipment except mine detectors and two pole charges. The company had been attached to the rifle companies earlier for the purpose of laying and detecting mines, but their mines never arrived because of supply difficulties. PW said this was also true about the mortars for the mortar platoon of his company. PW were told that the supply difficulties were due to the intentional slowing down of bridge construction in the rear areas as an act of sabotage; that this may have been caused by our planes was not mentioned. Because of lack of equipment they have been continuously employed as infantry.

Two days ago the PW along with a total of ten others from his company were attached to the 7th Co. This along with the rest of the 2nd Bn suffered heavy losses and were forced out of HOLLANGE. One assault gun had been with them at HOLLANGE and withdrew. The PW then rejoined the 15th Co which now totaled about 30 men, and this was committed together with the 1st Bn in a total strength of 116 men. Their position was from 565531 to 569520 in the woods with the mission of securing the road to their west. From HOLLANGE they had gone to SALVACOURT and then to the chateau at 555516 where they remained until midnight last night. The Bn CP was at 566525 in a dugout. There was another unidentified army (not prcht) unit in the woods to the east. PW says his unit withdrew to Hill 540, but he does not believe they stayed there because he heard no fire from there. All men had gas masks but not for any special purpose. There are general complaints of supply difficulties and lack of heavy weapons. CO of 15th Co is 1st Lt Hoscheck.

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1 PW from Eng Plat, HQ Co , 39th Regt, 26 VG Div.

PW was captured at 0700 this morning by I Co. The engineers have been committed as infantry, do not do any engineer work and have no engineer equipment. They had been trained for building small foot bridges, but have not done any of this work. Their weapons consisted only of rifles. Until this morning the platoon strength had been 45 men and one officer. 12 of the platoon were sent out as advance guards (including the officer) and all were killed, wounded or taken prisoner. The remainder of the platoon (33 men) was about 100 yds further to the rear in a village the PW was unable to identify. PW believes they withdrew at the time the advance post was attacked.

Engineer platoon had been in assembly in vicinity of REHBUSCH (in Eifel Mts) and left there about 12 Dec for BASTOGNE. They advanced behind the German tank thrust. They were underway for two days, and except for a short ride in a bus marched the whole distance on foot. They took position near BASTOGNE and found themselves almost surrounded by US troops. They broke out of the ~~encirclement~~ encirclement 23 Dec night before being completely surrounded and were given three days rest at a village behind the lines. They were then committed again ~~at~~ this morning S of BASTOGNE. PW was told that there were troops to both his flanks here but says he ~~did~~ did not know of any communication between them. The platoon did not know they were in the front line until about 0500 this morning, at which time they established outposts. Regt is commanded by Capt Seidel.

1 PW 15th Co, 14th Prcht Regt, 5th Prcht Div.

PW had been a tailor in company trains until 9 days ago. At this time because of losses he was taken out of trains and given duty of guarding a bridge at KAUTERBACH. He stayed here for three days and then was sent to front along with two platoons of stragglers. PW believes that one platoon of the 15th Co, and one platoon of the 13th Co were attached to 1st Bn of his regiment and were defending in our 3d Bn area. They arrived in this area night before last with the mission of defending it. The 15th Co is an engineer company, of which one platoon is here, has 140 men, 9 mg and a heavy mortar platoon. PW believes that there are about 80 men left in the unit which was here in the defensive position commanded by a 1st Lt. There is one Pole in each squad and the rest are Germans.

PW is a paratrooper but has had no prcht training. Previously he had been in the air corps ground forces and was transferred two months ago.