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INTERROGATION REPORT
IPW 60
134TH INF REGT.

4 Dec. 44

36 PW from 1st and 2nd Co, 38th Regt
7 th Co 37th Regt.

17th SS Division

The 1st Co had replaced the 7th Co on the hill NW of PUTTELANGE and at the same time had maintained their previous defensive position along the edge of the town between the brook (MODERBACH and the STRASSBURG - METZ highway). The 7th Co was to occupy a new position 6 to 8 km to the SE of PUTTELANGE and they were in the process of moving when our attack came. The 7th Co consisted of two platoons, one of which escaped and the other of which was taken prisoner while at the SE end of PUTTELANGE.

1st Co: Strength is 60 men. Weapons include 5 lmg, 2 80 mm mortars and 10 small bazookas. The CO is 1st Sgt Volkmar replacing 2nd Lt Dietrich who is now battalion CO. The regimental CO was Capt Schutzek who was killed in Metz. The former battalion commander was killed in PUTTELANGE two or three days ago when the battalion CP suffered a direct hit during an air strike. The division commander is General von Ostendorf. The company CP was in barracks 412509. The battalion CP which was bombed two days ago was in the PUTTELANGE city hall.

Wednesday 25 engineers came to Putelange from GUEBENHAUSEN (421533) to complete the demolition of the bridge here. None of the PW were aware of any mines or booby-traps that the engineers may have laid. The PW had no orders restricting their movements to particular areas of the town because of mines having been laid.

1 AT gun was seen withdrawing to GUEBENHAUSEN several days ago. No other heavy pieces or tanks were seen in the town.

2nd Co: Strength is about 60 men. Were in position at approximately 410506. Company has been in defensive position in this town for about ten days. This is a newly reorganized company, most of the men having come from a replacement battalio in Bohemia via Kaiserslautern.

7th Co: Company strength was 60 to 70 men. CO was 1st Lt Beckman. Company consisted of two platoons (no heavy platoon) and weapons were rifles, 6 lmg and 4 small bazookas. Since there was no heavy platoon the company had no more mortars. While in position to the NW of PUTTELANGE this company received constant artillery fire from us. In the last three days there were 3 dead and 5 or 6 casualties.

PW gave the following significance to flares: White - "Here we are"
Red - "Tanks attack"
~~Blue~~ Green - "Arty falling short"
PW also state that meanings of flare signals change at unspecified intervals.

All PW state that this morning's attack was completely unexpected and that they were caught off guard.

In general the morale is not high. Several PW's would have surrendered earlier had they had the opportunity. Most have read the leaflets which have been dropped on their positions by plane and arty; the latest ones tell of the apparent disappearance of Hitler and Goering.

No PW knew of any prepared positions to which they were supposed to fall back in case of a withdrawal. They received no order to withdraw.

*The trains for the 7th Co, 37th Regt are in
GROSS BLIEDERSDORF, about 5 Km N of Sarreguemines*

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3 PW from 1st Co, Eng BN, 17 SS Div.

The battalion has four companies. The first is used as an engineer company; the others were committed in unknown parts as infantry. The 1st co consisted of four platoons: two of these platoons were also committed as infantry and the other two did engineer work. One of the platoons working as engineers did only bridge demolitions. PW believe that most of the other actual engineer platoon was also engaged in this type of work, but some of them may have been active in mine laying.

Bridges over AT ditches at the following points are prepared for demolition but have not so far been destroyed. They are not mined. The charge at each bridge is exploded by lighting a fuse at the bridge. Locations are at 421527, 402534, and 405526.

The CP of the 1st Engineer Co is at a house next to the church in IPPLING (466567).--House #10. The platoon CP is in GUEBENHAUSEN.

The engineers do not know of mines laid in this area. They do not know of any delayed action explosive devices left in evacuated places in this area.

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1 PW from 13th Co 37th Regt 17 SS Div.

Strength of co 75 men. Located in ERNSTWEILER (434521). The armament of this company consists of four 150 mm infantry howitzers. These are located between houses on both sides of the road at approximately 436524. The guns are about 50 yds apart from each other. Ammunition is inside the houses about 50 yds further east on the same road. The CP is in the parish house just west of the church in town.

The guns are truck drawn. The automotive equipment of the company consists of three small cars and four trucks (2 Opals and 2 Ford V-8's).

Regimental trains are in SARREGUEMINES in the NW section of town.

This man was engaged as forward observer and was the only one for the battery. He states that there was no limitation in the consumption of ammunition for the battery. Whenever ammo was low the trucks went to a depot in the woods east of SARREGUEMINES to get more: this occurred every third or fourth day. He was connected to his battery only by radio, and radio communication was destroyed last night by an artillery hit on the radio apparatus. This man could only adjust the fire of his own battery: he could not adjust the fire of the supporting artillery, which he believed lay 2 or 3 km behind ERNSTWEILER.

Our counterbattery fire did not destroy any of the enemy pieces or ammo. Yesterday three personnel were wounded. Use of the main street was largely denied during the day time. No house had been hit so that the cellar was affected.

There are no road blocks in ERNSTWEILER and no mines are laid in the town.

PW battery never fires at night .

CO of battery is Lt Pitzer. Regtl CO is Capt Launer.

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1 PW Bn HQ 1st Bn, 38th Regt 17 SS Div

There were 40 men in battalion headquarters. Of these 37 were either killed or severely wounded by a direct bomb hit two days ago: this included the battalion CO and all the officers except three em who were in a different cellar at the time.

The HQ had five small cars of which at least one was destroyed in the bombing.

The battalion has three companies of which the first and second were committed here: the third company is newly activated and is committed in area unknown to PW.

They have had no communication with any other HW since last evening at 2200.

In case of withdrawal the direction was to have been toward Sarreguemines.

PW says that the 2nd Bn is supposed to be assembled in the GUEBENHAUSEN sector.

The regimental CP is believed to be in GUEBENHAUSEN. The CO is Capt Fick.

The division CP is given as GROSS BLIEDERSDORF.