

INTERROGATION REPORT  
134TH INF REGT  
IPW 60

5 Dec 44

4 PW from 5th Co, Kampfgruppe Krenke, 37th Regt 17 SS Div.

PW were captured at approximately 1600. They were in position at approximately 505566. Strength of unit in position here is about 60 men consisting of the remnants of the 5th and 7th Cos. They are in old emplacements which were newly improved by them upon coming into position this morning. The emplacements are on both sides of the road extending for a possible 400 meters on each side and lie before an AT ditch. The weapons include rifles and possibly as many as 12 machine guns, a few small bazookas, no mortars or heavier weapons. Their mission is to defend the approach to SARREGUEMINES: this group is the first one which did not have the order to cross the bridges over the SAAR before noon today.

The unit was in combat between PUTTELANGE and their present position and suffered heavy losses.

The 4 PW deserted to one of our 2nd Bn medics.

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PW represent the following units:

Kampfgruppe Maurer            37th Regt 17th SS Div  
HQ, 37th Regt  
Luftwaffe Engineer Co 16  
1st and 2nd Cos, 38th Regt, 17 SS Div.

PW disclosed the ~~following~~ following information:

Kampfgruppe Maurer: This unit consists of three companies which was approximately half of the strength of the 37th Regt. The rest of the regiment was organized as Kampfgruppe Krenke. Kpge Maurer was formed four weeks ago in MERLEBACH and was first committed at VALETTE a week ago: here they had very heavy losses in the first company because they were observed on the march by a liaison plane and had artillery fire directed against them. The Kampfgruppe had the mission of defending FORCHVILLER (which is north of our sector). After a battle in this area the PW wandered down to our sector thru the woods and was picked up by our first battalion. PW located the following artillery pieces which he had observed: 2 105 infantry howitzers at CR 434565; an AA gun used against ground targets at cemetery at 453566; one AT gun on bridge at 487622; 2 20mm AA guns on road GROSS-BLITERSDORF - KLEIN BLITERSDORF east of CR 486622.

HQ, 37th Regt: Location of the CP at least until 1400 yesterday was 453546. The CP of the 17th SS Division is in quarry at ~~477267~~ 493603; this is a quarry which has been dug out to form sheltered caves. The division trains are no longer in GROSS BLITERSDORF, having moved Sunday to a point east of SAARBRUECKEN. There were three batteries of 105's, six pieces per battery at approx 455548. PW also saw two assault guns and 14 Mark IV tanks go into the woods at 453554 at 1600 yesterday: when asked why these tanks had not been committed PW thought that they did not have sufficient fuel.

PW believes that the 37th and 38th regiments are being reformed into Kampfgruppe, each one of less than battalion strength. The two Kampfgruppe of the 37th Regt are Maurer and Krenke; the two of the 38th regiment Dietrich and an unknown. Col. Launer commands the 37th and Col Fick the 38th.

Luftwaffe Engineer Co: This is part of a battalion of 60 men which consists of two companies (1st and 3d). The first company is used for igniting the demolitions of bridges which have previously been set by other units: this company does not set the charges, but only ignites them. The Co CP of the 1st Co was in the schoolhouse in HAMBACH (487515) and since yesterday is in SILTZHEIM (530517). The battalion CP had also been in HAMBACH. The company has a strength of 20 men: CO is Lt. Steinert.

~~240~~ PN

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