

INTERROGATION REPORT
134TH INF REGT
IFW 6C

13 Jan 45

REPORT 2C74

1 PW from Hq, 339 Regt, 167 VC Div.

Order was received 11 Jan for the 331 Regt to defend line between road BRAS - BASTOGNE at 635557 and SCHLEIF: for the 339 Regt to defend BRAS. Deference should be to the last drop of blood, by personal order of General Hoecker, Div CG.

Arty positions at approx 600560, on hill NW of GRUMERSCHIEDT, have probably been withdrawn. New positions unknown.
Trains of 339 Regt, and units of 167 Div and 5 Para Div, formerly at GRUMERSCHIEDT now probably at DERNBACH.
CP of 339 Regt in NIEDERWAMPACH or nearby woods since 11 Jan.
7 Tiger Regt tanks were seen at day time in woods NE of SCHLEIF RR station 5 days ago.

Personalities:

CO of 339 Regt: Lt Col Hofman who has risen from the ranks to his present position in 7 years. He was overheard to have said while the present military situation is bad, the overall picture is bright. His adjutant is Capt Bethge who discussed recently what kind of food he would have in our PW cage.
CO 167 Div: Gen Hoecker who was distinguished with the Ritterkrenz because of his stand between BOLBEC and LE HARVE where he sacrificed 17th Luftwaffe Replacement Div. His men say that he is going to receive the oakleaf cluster now that he has sacrificed a second Div. Gen Hoecker came personally to inspect positions of Regt in woods some days ago. He also ordered, against Lt Col Hofman's objections, the commitment of the Eng Plat and Bicycle Plat of Hq Co 339 Regt as rifleman. Gen Hoecker's adjutant is Court Finkelstein supposed to sympathize with the July clique.

Propaganda:

PW states that Gen Eisenhower's proclamation to the German population was ill received because many expected the Americans to come as liberators and not as conquerors. German propaganda excerpts of this proclamation emphasized our dissolution of such organizations as Mutterhilfe. (aid for Mothers) PW believes that there should be much more propaganda leaflets over German cities. The leaflets should be dropped during day time. Those dropped at night are picked up before daybreak by SS troops and destroyed. Leaflets dropped in the front lines should make concrete suggestions as to ways and means of deserting. There are many more German soldiers who want to desert and the German soldier, lacking initiative, wants to be told how and what to do. PW has seen only two of our propaganda newspapers, one containing Fieldmarshall Paulus' speech
PW corroborates previous statements that Allied air raids affect the people more against their own government than against the Allies.

Miscellaneous:

PW has heard from eye witnesses of atrocities committed in Poland by the SS against the Jews. (1) They had to dig their own graves and were shot in a way so that they would fall into their self-dug graves. (2) They had to dig mass graves and were then machine gunned. (3) They were gassed with cyanide in railway cars. All this is done by Security Service men (Sicherheits Dienst), SS key men who have their own SS executive organs.

PW reports the institution of Lebensbornheims (Spring of Life Homes) for married and unmarried women who want to become mothers. SS men selected according to Aryan eugenic standards, fertilise them. This is done without the parties involved ever being permitted to see each other or to talk to each other.

Story of capture:

When Regt1 CP was moved from woods to NIEDERWAMPACH, PW, following the sleigh, stayed back (0200 night before last), hid in dugout during following day. Later in the evening he followed a telephone line of ours which he hoped would lead him to an arty position. He marched 8 hours through the woods passing by our men who though afraid of him and called for help to a near by dug-out, were in the end persuaded to accept his surrender