

File.

INTERROGATION REPORT
134TH INFANTRY REGT
IPW TEAM 60

13 Apr 45

(previously reported by telephone)

5 PW of 15th Co, 536 Tng Regt, Combat Group Kaiser:

About 20 men of this Co (one platoon) were in our 1st Bn area. 6 of these armed with one lge bazooka and four small were in cellars along road near sports ground at 603138. In this same vicinity were about 20 men from an unknown parachute unit.

At 607131 is a road block consisting of felled trees. PW do not believe this area is mined. Until early afternoon of 12 Apr this road block was protected by about 15 men of the 15th Co armed with one lge and four or five small bazookas, one machine pistol and one mg. Early in the afternoon a messenger came from this position to the more forward one and announced that the men who had been securing the road block had withdrawn toward the bridge over the RUHR. It is not known whether or not they crossed the river. Shortly after this the paratroopers withdrew from the vic of the sports ground leaving the 6 men of the 15th Co there.

PW heard nebelwerfer fire coming from general area of NIEDER WEMGREN (585120) once yesterday and once the day before.

The platoon of the 15th Co has been here for two days having left their parent unit in KUPFERDREH (near ESSEN) three days ago. The regiment which at that time was almost completely liquidated was also in vic ESSEN. Since coming to this area the men of the 15th Co received no issued food, but took food from the houses. The paratroopers were issued food and liquor, and PW believe that some were slightly drunk.

In the forward position near the sport grounds the paratroopers had an estimated three mg and the remainder rifles. Nebelwerfer fire was unobserved, and PW do not know of any heavy weapons in their support.

1 PW of 3d Co, 2nd Para Field Replacement Bn, 2nd Para Div:

PW deserted to 3d Bn. His company consists of about 40 men who are distributed as follows:

- 1 lmg at 61291326
- 1 " " 61371372
- 1 lmg and one lge bazooka at 61841372.
- 1 lmg at 61391354
- 1 " " 61731361

Riflemen are distributed between these points. OBERNBAAK RD, a sunken road approaching the east end of this sector from the north was defended yesterday by two riflemen, and PW believes this the best approach to the position.

There is a tank obstacle at 61361359: secured with one lge and several small bazookas. Have 5 rounds of ammo for each lge bazooka.

Co CP is probably in school at 61501366. Had been in house at 61331350 but was expected to move to school because of direct hit on former CP (3 casualties).

In addition to above weapons men have 2 or 3 old type machine pistols and 2 new type (44) models.

About 15 or 20 tracked vehicles were heard to withdraw from factory building at 6215 1280 two days ago. These were in various stages of repair and not believed ready for duty.

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(Cont)

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One Volksturm man taken PW earlier complained that after he had been knocked out by the concussion of an artillery shell which had exploded nearby, he was left lying there by his companions, and that while he was unconscious German passersby rebbed him of all he had in his peckets.

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4th Co, 2nd Para Repl Bn, 2nd Para Div:

Co has two platoons totalling 40 to 60 men (a total of 35 PW from this company have been taken). Armament consists of 2 hvy mg, 2 lmg, 10 machine pistols, and 8 small bazookas. CO, Lt Stumpl, had CP in house at 60001323.

Bridge at 591138 believed still intact last night.

One btry of arty in support of unit (estimated 150mm) located somewhere vic 572144.

Order to withdraw to HATTINGEN came about 2100 last evening. Route of withdrawal over partially destroyed RR bridge at 600115; bridge is still passable by foot troops. Arty and mortar fire forced many to remain in cellars rather than to attempt withdrawal.

"Flying" Infantry Co Westbrech: Unit formed about 3 weeks ago of men discharged from hospitals in ESSEN area. Was committed in ESSEN and the 20 survivors were marched here night of 11 April to be attached to a unit already here. Because of confusion no regular attachment was made, and no specific sector or mission was assigned.

All PW are aware that Ruhr Valley is completely surrounded and that there is no hope for their escape. The stock answer to the question, "Why do you continue fighting in a hopeless situation?" is "I am only a little man and have no choice but to do what I am told. Although I see no hope or purpose in it, I have to do what the platoon leader says". This same answer is to be expected from any rank almost up to Chancellor of the Reich.