

File
INTERROGATION REPORT
134TH INF REGT
IPW TEAM 60

22 April 45

1 Civilian arrested at about 1000 this morning by F Co in ~~HEINRICH~~ HEINRICHSBERG at 734158. States that he was discharged from the German army in January because of illness. Had been in BERLIN which he left two days ago arriving in BURG last night at 2130, travelling by bicycle. He slept there in a house with civilians, noticing no military activity or sentries on duty in the town, itself. Sentries were stationed at the edges of the town, but made no move to stop him. He left BURG at 0545 this morning and rode to NIEGRIPP (747150) in which town he saw no activity at all. The only item he observed on the road between the towns was a sign reading "Road under enemy observation: move only at night." He then went to ferry site at 738154, found the ferry knocked out by artillery fire. At this time he drew rifle fire from the W bank of the river and raised his hands high upon which the fire stopped. He then found a damaged boat half full of water near the ferry site, and, floating downstream about 200 yds, almost reached the W shore before the boat sank. He waded in the rest of the way, walked to HEINRICHSBERG and gave himself up to the first soldier he saw.

At the time this boy left BERLIN the Russian artillery was already scoring hits in the center of the city, and the inhabitants were in a state approaching panic. There were many German deserters who had run back from the lines and told of the hordes of Russian tanks bearing down on the city. In addition to the military situation, a sense of panic is caused by the food shortage: this has existed for some time, and the present influx of both soldiers and civilians from the east has increased it.

The prisoner has no papers to establish his identity and it is believed that he is probably a deserter and fugitive from the Russian front.

I INTERROGATION REPORT
134th INF REGT
IPR TEAM 68

22 Apr, 45

Unit "Mahr":

This unit is now known to consist of several companies - probably four or five. A large proportion of the members are officer candidates. All companies received some training in close AT combat at the War College in POTSDAM, and after a short stay there were committed at scattered points generally along the Elbe line. All companies were originally equipped with a bicycle, a machine pistol and a Panzerfaust for each man. Each company has six squads of 15 men each with an officer and an NCO.

The companies did not all leave POTSDAM at the same time. One company was committed in the BURG area and sent out its squads into the RAMSTEDTER FOREST area. Another (3d Co) was sent to TANGERMUNDE on 12 April. The latter unit was scattered there, abandoned their bicycles and Panzerfaust, and were advised by their commander to make their way back to the east side of the Elbe in small groups, and having been successful in this to report back to the school at POTSDAM. They were advised to go south from TANGERMUNDE instead of crossing the Elbe directly so as to take advantage of the concealment afforded by the woods, and as a result of this they appeared in our sector. This company had suffered about 20 casualties at TANGERMUNDE and the remainder had never completely assembled.

The Mahr unit also has an engineer platoon with a strength of 43 men. One squad of this platoon (12 men and an officer) were sent on a patrol last night to reconnoiter the area KERNERT-BERTINGEN. The patrol assembled at the BLUMMENTHAL -2 brickyard at 786219 and crossed the river directly north of there in a boat operated by a civilian at 1000. The boat was to return for them at 0200. Weapons of the patrol included rifles, hand grenades and one mg. PW, who deserted as soon as he reached this shore, says that no engineering equipment was brought along by the patrol, and that the remainder of the platoon which is in BURG has no engineer equipment except shovels.

Five stragglers armed with pistols and one MP are in woods at 716222 (20 yds west and 300 yds south of CR 716223). Yesterday morning a group of 9 men and an officer of an AT commando and armed with MP's and Panzerfaust accidentally met this group. The AT commando had crossed the Elbe the previous night and were on a mission leading from 716222 in a 327° azimuth saying that they would be back at 716222 probably Sunday night or at the latest Monday night. They would then all return to other side of Elbe. PW captured by 161 FA at approx 701239 at about 1500.