

1 December 1944

3201

335

21

- 1240 - CO notified to report to Div CP at 1500 for commanders conference.
- 1400 - CO departed to visit Div CP.
- 1600 - Col Renfroe called and directed that one Bn be alerted for movement and stated that 25 trucks are on the way to PONTPIERRE. Lt O'Brien is on the way with detailed orders. (CO 3d Bn notified to alert the Bn and send officer representative to Div Hq)
- 1630 - Radio msg from G-3 - This name may influence your choice of units - KAPPELKINGER.
- 1635 - CO and S-3 returned to CP from Div CP. Tentative plans are being formulated for movement of regt to assembly area and eventual employment in sector of 6 Armd Div.
- 1730 - Lt O'Brien reported to CP with following verbal order - Bn moves as soon as possible, motorized, to vicinity KAPPELKINGER. Move by route - GROS TENQUIN - FRANCAITROFF - LENING - INSMING. Check back before unit actually crosses IP with G-3 using word CHICAGO which will mean Bn ready to move. If answer is OK - means to start on route. Bn will not be holding front. 26 Ren Tr out in front. Contact 26 Ren Tr. Assemble in area to be used if needed. Also contact CCB 6 Armd Div at MORSEBRONN. To be employed on own initiative. Sector will be MORSEBRONN (excl) to HAZEMBOURG (incl). Trucks to be released upon closing.
- 1950 - CO 3d Bn reported to CP and stated Bn would begin movement at 2145. CO will call at Div CP enroute for further instructions. 3d Bn under Div control.
- 2000 - CO disseminated to assembled Bn and special unit comdrs the following information concerning Div plan for impending operation - Information indicates only few ground troops in area of employment. Hvy enemy arty fire falls throughout the area. Approx 021000 Dec 44 it is expected that a trk company will be atchd and the regt will move to assembly area in rear of a LD extending from PUTTELANGE SE to vic HALVING. Units will reconnoiter and will probably relieve units in that zone during night of Dec 2-3. Dec 3 will be given to reconnaissance and patrolling and it is expected that regt will atk Dec 4 or at maximum Dec 5. A decided water barrier exists just E of LD and aerial photos have been requested of the area.

335-1NF(320)-07

Spur file - 35-44

320 Inf

Dec 1944

- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf remained in assembly area as follows - 2d Bn and Cn at PONTPIERRE; Hq Co, Ser Co, AT Co at PONTPIERRE; control enroute from PONTPIERRE to KAPPELKINGER.

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
 BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
 DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

301200 A Nov 44 to 011200A Dec

320 Inf - Continued training in assault of pillboxes and firing of organic weapons.

Martin

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NND 735017

Extract from G-3 Report
011200A Dec 44 to 021200A Dec

320 Inf - Continued training in assault of pillboxes and firing of weapons. Started move from present assembly area to relieve elements of 6 Armd Div in new Regtl sector during night 2-3 Dec. 3d Bn moved to vic KAPPELKINGER during night 1-2 Dec closing 020100A.

SECRET

1 Dec 44

COLONEL JOHNSON

BRIEFING NOTES

21st Army Group

The strikes in BRUGNUM, which have existed for the past 2 weeks, are now settled. The trains have begun to operate in BRUGNUM cities, and telephone service has been resumed. The 21st Army Group front was relatively inactive during the day, with the exception of the 11th Arm Div. The 11th Arm Div (VIII Corps) was fighting at BRUCKMANN, attempting to reduce the German bridgehead on the west bank of the MAUSE River. The 15th Div of the VIII Corps had moved to the south, taking over the zone of the 19th Div of the XII Corps. The 15th Div now passes to XII Corps command. The 19th Div was moving to the north, to the II Cdn Corps zone, to relieve the 50th Br Div, which now becomes Army Group reserve.

12th Army Group

9th Army: The 8th Div of the XIII Corps jumped off yesterday morning, supported by the U S 7th Arm Div. A gain of 1 mile was reported, with the 8th Div pushing to the northeast, capturing SANDERH. Little activity was reported on the XII Corps front. The Cav of the XII Corps was relieving the 30th Div along the Ind River. The bridge at ALTDORF, which was captured intact when ALTDORF fell to the 30th Div yesterday, was damaged by enemy arty fire during the day. The 29th Div was patrolling along the ROHR River. During the present operation by the 9th Army, 126 German tanks were destroyed on the front of the XII Corps, 9th Army.

1st Army: VII Corps: The 10th Div advanced 1,500 yards yesterday along its entire front, and during the day, the Div captured IBERG, JUNGESDORF, and LAUBSDORF. The 4th Div captured GROSSEAU, and advanced 1,000 yards to the east. 2 heavy enemy counterattacks were repulsed yesterday in this sector. In the V Corps sector, COB of the 5th Arm Div passed through the 121st Inf of the 5th Div, and captured KLEINHAU, taking 100 P's. Fighting on the entire 1st Army front is described by a correspondent as: "new tactics, night fighting, and surprise attacks. The country here is composed of small towns, very numerous, with a continuous trench barrier tying these towns together, supported by arty fire from the SIEGELIED LINE--each town has to be taken house by house...."

3rd Army: IX Corps: COB of the 10th Arm Div, which was yesterday concentrating at KONDORF for maintenance, pushed forward this morning at 0800 in the 10th Arm Div sector, to the SAAL River, gaining 2 miles to capture SAAL. A slight gain was made by COB of the 10th Arm Div also on the west bank of the SAAL. In the south portion of the Corps sector, the entire 10th Inf of the 5th Div has now been attached to the 95th Div, and is occupying the southern portion of the zone, within 1 mile of the German border. Army G-2 reports that there are an estimated 180 German tanks on the front of the 3rd Army sector.

6th Army Group

7th Army: XV Corps: The 79th Div advanced 1 mile to the northeast yesterday, and was fighting in the vicinity of HAGELAU. The 45th Div advanced 4 miles along a 2 mile front, captured ROTHEBACH, and was fighting just south of OFFENHART. The 48th Div advanced 1 mile to the northeast, following the fall of TIEFENBACH to this Div. The 103rd Div of the VI Corps had closed in the XV Corps zone, northwest of STAS BUND. Heavy air activity was reported to be heavy for the third consecutive day in the Corps zone.

VI Corps: The Corps CP moved to MUTZEL, about 2 miles west of STASBRUNG. The 2nd Fr Arm Div, pushing to the southwest, parallel to the MAIN River, reported a gain of 5 miles against heavy opposition, capturing OCHSBERG, GOSMANN, and BRUNNEN. The 36th Div advanced 2 miles to the east, and was fighting 2 miles west of ST. PITT.

1st Fr Army: In the south part of the sector, the elements of the encircled German Div were reported captured or killed during the day, and the pocket was eliminated.

During the past week, 6th Army Group troops have liberated more than 7,000 square kilometers of French soil, and freed 1110 towns and villages.

G-2 of higher Hq reports that the entire German strategic reserve is now west of the SAAR River. The composition of this reserve is: 4 Inf Divs, 6 Pz Divs, and 4 Para Divs.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

320

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
2 December 1944

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

- 0050 - Lt O'Brien reported to CP and delivered the following information and Div FO 29, dated 012300A Dec 44. Regtl CO 134 and 320 report condition of Le MADERBACH RIVER in their zone and report recommended crossing points. Same commanders recommend time for H Hour. Above reports to Div Hq by 021700 Dec. Armor has priority on roads but regt can use them.
- 0100 - 3d Bn closed in vic KAPPELKINGER (under Div control).
- 0700 - G-2 Report night of Dec 1-2. All units in Div report negative. Corps reports SAAR UNION (Q5238) was heavily shelled by enemy and Corps believes not all enemy troops have been pulled out of the town. 80th Div reports enemy out of FAREBERSVILLER (Q3657) and that estimated one company holds FARSCHVILLER (Q3855). 13 PW's through cage since 1600.
- 1145 - 2d Bn moved from GUESSLING - HEMERING to new assembly area.
- 1215 - 1st Bn moved from VAHL to new assembly area (INSMING).
- 1335 - 1st Bn closed in new assembly area vic INSMING. Route - VAHL, GUESSLING, VILLER, HARPRICH, BERG VINTRAGE, BERTRING, GROS TENQUIN, LENS DORF, VIRMING, FRANCAITROFF, LENING, RENING, INSMING.
- 1400 - 2d Bn closed in new assembly area (HILSPRICH). Route - GUESSLING, HEMERING, LELLING, LEXING, LENING, MAXSTADT, ALTRIPPE, LEYVILLER, ST JEAN ROHRBACH, HILSPRICH.
- 1440 - CP began displacement from PONTPIERRE to UBERKINGER. Distance of displacement - 29 miles.
- 1515 - Lt O'Brien reported to CP and was instructed by CO to inform Div that an artillery preparation is not desired immediately prior to attack. Hvy arty is requested but not a preparation. Plan to employ 3d Bn on right, 2d Bn on left. 1st Bn in reserve.
- 1610 - CP opened at UBERKINGER.
- 1630 - Telephone msg from CO Cn Co - Departed old area vic GUESSLING - HEMERING at 1300 and arrived in new area vic MORSBRONN at 1500.
- 1710 - CO Co C 654 TD Bn and one plat ldr directed to report to CP tonight for instructions.
- 1920 - S-2, 134 Inf called to advise that patrols are being sent out to stream (4149). 2d Bn 320 Inf notified and directed to attempt to establish contact by our own patrols.
- 2330 - 3d Bn completed relief of 26 Rcn Tr and 44 Armd Inf Bn within zone. Outposts established at GUBELANGE and HINSING. Patrols sent out to SCHWEIX.
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - 2d Bn at HILSPRICH and in process of relieving units of 44 Armd Inf Bn and 50th Armd Inf Bn in zone. 3d Bn at KAPPELKINGER effected relief of 44 Armd Inf Bn in zone. Both Bns outposted LD for operation 040400 Dec 44 and patrolled in zone. 1st Bn remained at INSMING in Regtl Res.

SECRET

2 Dec 44

COLONEL JOHNSON

BRIEFING NOTES

RUSSIAN SITUATION: In LATVIA, 33 German Infantry Divs and 3 German Arm Divs are reported to be surrounded by Russian troops. Further to the south, along the border of PRUSSIA and in POLAND as far south as WARSAW for the past 60 days, the enemy has been unable to contain the Russian forces and in fact has made limited advances through counterattacks. To the south of WARSAW, approximately 50 miles to the north and 80 miles to the south of BUDAPEST what appear to be 2 major offensives have gotten under way in the past week. North of BUDAPEST along a 90 mile front in eastern CZECHOSLOVAKIA, Russian troops advanced 30 miles capturing HUMENNÉ, a large rail center on the main line between POLAND and HUNGARY. 80 miles south of BUDAPEST the 2d and main effort is also under way. Russian forces have crossed over the DANUBE R on a 90 mile front advancing 35 miles. They have captured FELS, the leading coal center of HUNGARY. They are now only 50 miles SE of LAKE BALOTAN where General Indendorff in World War I declared that an enemy victory in the vicinity would open the path to GERMANY. 2/3 of HUNGARY is now occupied by Russian forces and the Germans have drawn on their reserves for 4 additional divisions to contain this threat. The Russians are now in the outskirts of BUDAPEST where heavy fighting is reported. In YUGOSLAVIA 3/4 of the territory is occupied by TITO'S partisan forces. German forces pushed north out of GREECE are encountering heavy resistance by TITO'S forces in their attempts to fight their way northward. The only part of YUGOSLAVIA controlled by the Germans is the SAVA R valley. Marshall TITO with his Partisan Army is not only tying up 20 German divs, but has also contributed a YUGOSLAV corps to the Russian drive which has been able to shift to the north because of the effectiveness of Partisan operations in the south.

21st Army Group: In the II Cdn Corps, the 2d Cdn Inf Div yesterday sent patrols 3 miles across the German border in the REICHSWALD, without meeting heavy resistance. With the exception of the VIII Corps sector little activity took place in the eastern portion of the 21st Army Group zone. However, the 3d Div and the 11th Arm Div succeeded in isolating the GHEISTERN CASTLE in the vicinity of BROCKHUIZEN where German paratroopers and officers candidates are holding out in a fanatical stand. This group is now completely cut off and their surrender is expected hourly.

12th Army Group: **9th Army:** **XIII Corps:** The 8th Div jumped off at 0630 yesterday morning and made a substantial gain. For the 2d time BEEK was captured by our forces. BEEK has been taken before by our troops (10 days ago), but was retaken by the enemy in a counterattack. LIDEN, further to the east, also fell to the attack of the 8th Div. The 102d Div jumped off at 1030 yesterday and had advanced 1000 yards by 1600. In the XIX Corps sector the 2d Arm Div and the 29th Div were patrolling along the ROER R. The 17th Cav Sq was relieving elements of the 30th Div on the line. XIX Corps reports the capture of 7,000 PW's in the last two weeks.

1st Army: In the VII Corps, 104th Div sector, heavy fighting continued in the town of ENNEN where the town is divided by the REUSE R. The Germans control the eastern portion of the city and have blown the bridge connecting the east and west portions of the city. In the 1st Div heavy fighting was reported at MERODE where 2 cos of the div are cut off and surrounded by enemy forces. Efforts are being made to relieve these cos at the present time. COR 5th Arm Div after seizing KLEINHAU pushed on to the east 500 yards and took their objective - the high ground east of KLEINHAU. In the VIII Corps zone the 83d Div was moving to the north to relieve elements of the 4th Div in the VII Corps zone. The dam at SCHMIDT was blown yesterday by our air. IX TAC reports knocking out 31 enemy tanks in front of the 1st Army yesterday.

3d Army: In the IX Corps zone the 10th Arm Div advanced to the east in its sector and now holds the entire west bank of the SAAR R having cleared out the enemy bridgehead and captured BALENN. The enemy blew the bridge at MERZIG at 0420 yesterday morning. The 359th Inf of the 90th Div pushed 1 mile to the east to the SAAR R capturing FREYENDORF while the 357th Inf in their sector pushed 2 miles to the SAAR R capturing SIEBENDORF and BUREN. In the 95th Div sector a substantial gain was made over the entire front - 1 mile in the 377th Inf sector and 1/2 miles in the zone of F-BELL. The towns of FELSBERG and CARLUM were taken. The 6th Cav Gp and the 5th Ranger Bn have now been attached to the 5th Division with their CP at POESCHLSTE.

6th Army Group: **7th Army:** **IV Corps:** A gain of approximately 2 miles is reported along the entire corps front. The 79th Div night before last repelled a counterattack consisting of a co of German Inf, two tanks, and led by a cow with a red light attached to her neck used as a guide during the hours of darkness. This odd formation was spotted by an arty OP and was dispersed by arty fire. The 79th Div yesterday captured SCHWIG-HANSEN and OH BUNGEN after a gain of 3 miles over a 6 mile front. To the west the 45th Div pushed to the northeast taking MITSCHHAM and ROEBACH. The 44th Div straightened their lines capturing WESSLINGENHOF.

VI Corps: In STRASSBOURG the enemy has destroyed the power plant on the 1 island in the eastern part of the city. An attempt to reinforce the German holdings in the city using boats to cross the RHINE R was detected and annihilated by arty and mortar fire. The 2d Fr Arm Div advanced slowly to the south gained 1 mile and captured MATZMHEIM. The 103d Div made the largest gain in the VI Corps sector pushing 4 miles to the east capturing S-PH. The 36th Div seized SOIN LAURENCE.

1st French Army: 1st Fr Army troops advanced 1/2 miles northwest of BELFORT and took BOUREBACH. A counterattack at MURHAUSEN was repulsed yesterday with heavy losses to the enemy.

G-2 of higher HQ reports that the enemy being contained by the 94th Div in the BRITANNY PENINSULA consists of 2,000 Germans at L'ORIENT and 30,000 at ST. NAZAIRE.

3 December 1944

- 0020 - CO 2d Bn reports Co G completed relief of elements 44 Armd Inf Bn and 50th Armd Inf Bn in zone as of 022200 Nov. LD from 408494 to 425473 outposted. Patrols sent to RJ at 427488 and to vic GRUNDEVILLER and edge FORET de PUTTELANGE.
- 0030 - Msg from Dapt Waters, 60 Engr - 1st bridge E and N from UBERKINGER will be in before dawn. There is a crater in vic of 431448 which will be filled during early morning. There is another crater on the same road a little farther North which will have to be bridged. This will be done morning of 3 Dec or during hours of darkness 3-4 Dec as CO 320 desires.
- 0800 - G-3 called - 26 Inf Div wishes to know if the TD platoon which holds right of sector has been relieved.
- 0930 - Ex O called G-3 and informed him that relief of entire sector has now been completed and that TD plat can now withdraw. No troops will physically relieve that platoon.
- 1000 - CO oriented assembled Bn and Special Unit comdrs on the plan of atk for operation beginning 040400 Dec 44.
- 1400 - CO directed that FO #31 Hq 320 Inf dated 021800 Dec 44 be distributed to all unit commanders. FO 31 follows - Hq 320 Inf APO 35 US Armt 021800 Dec 44. FO 31 Maps: GSGS 4471, EASTERN FRANCE, Scale: 1:50,000, Sheets 35/13, 35/14, 36/13, 36/14.
 1. a. See G-2 Periodic Reports. b. 35 Inf Div atks to NE 040400 Dec 44 to sieze Div obj. 134 Inf operates on left and 26 Inf Div on right of 320 Inf. 35 Rcn to maintain contact w/26 Inf Div. 137 Inf - Div Res. Following units will support 320 Inf (1) 216 FA Bn (reinf by one L and one M Bn 182 FA Gp). (2) Co C, 60 Engr Bn, (3) Co C, 654 TD Bn (SP), (4) Co C, 110 Med Bn.
 2. 320 Inf (reinf) atks 040400 Dec 44 in Z siezes portion of Div Obj, prepared to continue atk E on Div O to sieze crossings over SAAR R. Protect Div right (S) flank. Overlay.
 3. a) 3d Bn, w/1 plat AT Co, and 1 plat Co C, 654 TD Bn in direct support, atk w/in Z at 040400 Dec, establish bridgehead E side of MADERBACK R., continue atk and sieze portion of Regt Obj in Z. Protect Regtl right (S) flank. b) 2d Bn, w/1 plat AT Co and 1 plat 654 TD Bn in direct support, atk w/in Z 040400 Dec, establish bridgehead E side MADERBACH R., continue atk and sieze portion Regtl Obj in Z. Maintain contact w/134 Inf on left (N). Overlay. c) 1st Bn - Regtl Res. Prepared to follow left atkg Bn by bounds on Regtl O. Overlay. d) AT Co - Place one plat in direct support each atkg Bn. One plat mobile res vic HILSPRICH. Overlay. e) Cn Co - Support adv of Regt by fires from present position. Overlay. f) I&R Plat - Establish and maintain contact w/134 Inf on left (N) and 26 Inf Div on right (S). g) Co C, 60 Engr Bn - Facilitate adv of Regt. Priority of work: (1) Bridge repair and installation; (2) Road repair and mine clearance; furnish rcn det w/each assault Bn. h) Co C, 654 TD Bn - Place one plat direct support each atkg Bn; one plat mobile res vic HILSPRICH. Overlay. x) (1) EEI: a) Determine movement of enemy armor into area GRUNDEVILLER (Q440497) - RICHELIN (Q434481). b) Report locations of mine fields, road blocks, destroyed bridges in Regt Z. (2) Daylight - darkness data for 4 Dec: Twilight (AM) 0740, Sunrise (0818), Moonrise (3 Dec) 2004, Moonset (4 Dec) 1202. Full moon, entering last quarter phase.

4. a. Field Train: VIRMING (2339); b. Water Point: NELLING (366409);
c. Gas DP: VIRMING (2339); d. Ammo DP: RERING (353398); e. Coll
Co: INSMING (3747).
5. a. Index to SOI: 1-32. Coordinate Code Word: REPUBLICAN.
b. CP's: Overlay.
OFFICIAL: McELROY

BYRNE

- 1530 - 1st Bn (res) began movement by marching and shuttling from INSMING to new reserve position vic HILSPRICH (3744) and (4044). CP in HILSPRICH.
- 1940 - CO 3d Bn reports one plat has been dispatched to DIDERFING as security for Engr ops between DIDERFING and BETTING.
- 2030 - Capt Waters, Co C 60 Engrs reports no foot bridges are required in 2d Bn sector. Ample engr supplies and railroad iron has been found in REMERING, to construct a span where the gap is only about 12 ft. With ample materials at hand a bridge may be constructed which will carry TD's across even before Baileys are completed.
- 2100 - CO 3d Bn reports K Co patrol unable to enter DIDERFING due to enemy small arms fire. Will attempt to enter later tonight.
- 2305 - Green flare reported 600 yds E of 2d Bn CP.
- 2330 - 2d Bn patrol received small arms and MG fire vic crossroads 300 yds E of REMERING.
- 2400 - At end of period 1st Bn enroute from INSMING to vic HILSPRICH - (3744) - (4044). 2d Bn concentrated vic REMERING and along LD, continued active patrolling for crossing sites in Bn zone of action. Main elements of 3d Bn concentrated vic HIRBACH patrolled to DIDERFING and reconnoitered for further crossings of MADERBACH R in zone. All units prepared to execute FO 31 Hq 320 Inf dated 021800 Dec 44.

Extract from G-3 Report
021200A Dec 44 to 031200A Dec

320 Inf - 1st Bn moved from VAHL to new assembly area vic INSMING, closing 021335A. 2d Bn moved from GUESSLING - HEMERING to new assembly area vic HILSPRICH, closing 021400A. Bn completed relief of elements of 6 Armd Div in its sector by 030020A, outposted LD, and sent patrols to RJ at (Q427488) GRUNDEVILLER and woods N of town. 3d Bn completed relief of 26 Rcn Tr and elements of 6 Armd Div in its sector by 022330A, outposted LD, and sent patrols to SCHWEIX. Regtl CP moved from PONTPIERRE to UBERKINGER, closing 021610A.

BRIEFING NOTESCOL JOHNSON3 Dec 1944

21st Army Group: In the II Cdn Corps, the 50th Div, which had just recently been relieved, and passed to Army Group reserve, held a celebration and a parade in the vicinity of Hilsen bridge across the Rhine River. This 50th Br Div was the first Br Inf Div in Africa in 1942, the first Br Div to land in France, the first Br Div in Belgium, Holland, and in Germany. They have been fighting continuously since 1942. The 2d Cdn Div sent patrols into Germany in the Reichswald Forest. Further to the south in the VIII Corps, the 3d Br and 11th Armd Div had captured the fanatical OCS and paratroopers that had been holding out on the west bank of the Maas river. BRUCKHUIZEN has also been captured and the enemy bridgehead in this vicinity has been eliminated. The Germans still hold their bridgehead in the vicinity of VENLO.

12th Army Group: Ninth Army: The 8th Div of the XIII Corps repulsed a heavy counter-attack in the vicinity of LINDERN, which they captured the previous day. The 102d Div advanced 1,000 yds just north of LINDERN. In the XIX Corps the 28th and 2d Armd Div were patrolling along the Roer River. Radio reports that they have crossed the Roer and are fighting in JULICH. However, no official report on this has been received.

First Army: VII Corps: Heavy fighting between our 10th Div and the enemy at INDEN where the Germans still hold the eastern portion of the city. The 1st Div was fighting in the outskirts of HENONS. The two companies of the 1st Div which entered the city two days ago and were cut off, are now considered lost. The 4th Div completed the clearing of the Hurtgen Forest, advancing one mile, and were fighting on the outskirts of GEY. The fighting in the Hurtgen Forest has been very bitter for the past six weeks. It is reported to surpass the fighting in the Argonne Forest in World War I. In the V Corps sector, CCR of the 5th Armd Div, which had passed through the 8th Div was fighting in the vicinity of BRANDENBERG, after having advanced 1,000 yds. Patrolling along the entire VIII Corps front continues. The greatest offensive on enemy oil centers and rail communications of the war has been conducted in the past forty-eight hours. 50,000 allied airmen have taken part in this attack.

Third Army: XX Corps: 10th Armd troops, and troops of the 90th Div are now along the Saar River. In the 95th Div sector, the 379th Inf Regt is now commanded by Col. Bacon. Col. Bacon, was the former commander of Task Force Bacon, which made outstanding gains in the drive on METZ. The 379th Regt passed through the 377th advancing three miles, and was last night fighting in SAARLOUIS, a large city on the Saar River. The 378th Regt had also advanced two miles to the east reporting the capture of PIKARD, NEU-FORMELER, and ALT-FORMELER. The 5th Div had advanced two miles along the German border against heavy resistance. They were fighting in GRUTZWALD, and HOPITAL. The three forts of METZ were shelled twenty-four hours, and were given an opportunity to surrender yesterday. At Ft. Briant, where they are existing on horse meat, only two horses remain. The former commanding officer of St Privat states that American phosphorous grenades were more destructive than any other type of ammunition used against the fort.

Sixth Army Group: Seventh Army: XV Corps: A general gain of one to one and a half miles were made along the entire front to the north. The 71st Regt, of the 4th Div moved two miles to the north taking over MACKWELER, which had been captured by our own 4th Armd Div. The 45th Div advanced one mile to the northeast, and were fighting in ZINSVILLER. The 79th reported a small advance and were fighting in the vicinity of HAGEMAN, where heavy German reinforcements were reported to have arrived. The 12th Armd Div, a new division, arrived yesterday in the XV Corps area, and were at LUNEVILLE. VI Corps: The 117th Cavalry had pushed north from STRASBOURG six miles along the Rhine River. It was reported that the three bridges across the Rhine at STRASBOURG were blown by the enemy yesterday. The 3d Div, now in STRASBOURG, was fighting in the vicinity of the KELL bridge at the time it was blown. The 2d French Armd Div pushed six miles further to the south and again captured BANFELD, which had been formerly captured by the 14th Armd Div and retaken by enemy counterattacks. The 103d Div, and the 36th, in a coordinated attack were fighting in the outskirts of SELESTAT. The 36th also reported the capture of BONNEBIE, after advancing four miles.

First French Army: A gain of one mile to the northeast was reported by the 1st French Corps. The 1st Moroccan Div, which was part of the II French Corps has been relieved and commenced moving to the BORDAUX area, where 15,000 Germans are contained by the FFI. The Six Army Group, operating to our south has taken 25,000 prisoners in the recent operations, commencing November 13th.

RUSSIAN SITUATION: On the Russian front, in the drive to the south of BUDAPEST, where Russian troops have swarmed over the Danube, a further gain of twenty-five miles was reported, capturing KAPUSVAR, and DOMBOVAR. They are now only ninety miles from the Austrian border, and thirty-five miles from Lake Balaton.

- 0145 - CO 2d Bn reports that no further attempt to cross due E of REMERING will be made because of enemy detection of our patrol movement at 2330. Patrol crossed river N of REMERING and reached main road without detection. Main crossing of Bn will be made at that point.
- 0415 - 3d Bn reports K Co surrounds DIDERFING. Bn will cross N of DIDERFING at 0500. Bridge N of HIRBACH in at 0300.
- 0500 - CO 2d Bn reports - Two companies across foot bridge have reached main road. Receiving small arms and automatic fire from front along power line and from across road at cemetery.
- 0545 - CO 2d Bn reports - Strong opposition along Metz Hwy E REMERING w/enemy along road. Enemy positions near CR at 427489 include tactical wire. Bailey Bridge group of Engineers instructed to move crane and heavy equipment that cannot be protected or hidden in woods W town to be brought fwd on call.
- 0610 - CO 3d Bn reports - Engineers bridging now between DIDERFING and ^{point} BETTRING. DIDERFING wholly secured by Co K who will cross there.
- 0645 - Arty shoot arranged on METZ HWY., CR, and road running NE.
- 0715 - 3d Bn Arty Ln reports - K Co in DIDERFING receiving MG fire from 438472.
- 0720 - CO 3d Bn reports - Moving from DIDERFING to BETTRING. No opposition in DIDERFING. 3d Bn at 435468 meeting no resistance. Signed 0705 I&R.
- 0745 - 1st Bn reports closed in area at 0340.
- 0755 - Lt Parish dispatched to 3d Bn to find out situation.
- 0810 - CO 3d Bn reports one (1) company in BETTRING, one (1) crossing. Resistance light, some prisoners taken.
- 0930 - CO 3d Bn reports BETTRING now clear and Bn proceeding to S to HALVING. Some enemy groups can be seen withdrawing from HALVING to high ground S and E of HALVING. Patrols are being sent to BALLERING.
- 1000 - 2d Bn reports resistance along PUTTALANGE-RICHELING ROAD continues. Some observed targets are being taken under fire from TD's in position in REMERING. One enemy MG has been knocked out by direct fire. One half track knocked out at 430490.
- 1015 - CO alerted 1st Bn to begin movement at once from vic HILSPRICH via MORSEBRONN to woods at 4245. Bn to infiltrate from 4245 to HIRBACH and eventually to cross when situation at HALVING clears.
- 1025 - CO 3d Bn reports HALVING in our hands w/slight enemy resistance remaining. CO ordered him to go into holding positions to N and E in order to give 1st Bn which will pass through 3d Bn an LD.
- 1045 - Arty Ln Plane reports considerable enemy armor and infantry in ERNESTVILLER.

- 1050 - CG visited CP.
- 1110 - CO 3d Bn reports one company (Co L) now in HALVING and mopping up. Town has been outposted to East. Believe it now safe to start bridging operations. Capt Waters, Co C, 60 Engr Bn, notified to immediately start putting in Inf Assault Bridge at HALVING.
- 1120 - 1st Bn has passed through MORSEBRONN and is now at woods at 4245. Woods found to be booby trapped.
- 1235 - Ex O 1st Bn reports 1st Bn now approaching HIRBACH. 3d Bn is sending guides to assist 1st Bn to crossing sites.
- 1400 - 1st Bn CO reports unit now in HIRBACH. Approx 30 rounds enemy arty fire just fell in the town. Believe enemy may have obsn and have detected movement. Movement will be continued to BALLERING thence NW to RICHELING.
- 1515 - Div C of S reports that enemy is reportedly withdrawing E from GRUNDEVILLER and ERNESTVILLER.
- 1530 - CO AT Co reports bridge at 432453 has been damaged by enemy arty fire. (Engrs immediately arranged for repair).
- 1610 - CG visited CP.
- 1615 - TD 's directed to move into position where fire can be brought upon fort located at 463448 which controls enemy arty fire.
- 1630 - CO 3d Bn reports patrols from Co L have been sent to high ground E of HALVING and at 443458 to attempt to take out known enemy position on reverse slope.
- 1700 - S-3, 2d Bn reports patrols are being sent out to attempt to cross PUTTELANGE - RICHELING RD to try to outflank enemy positions from both N and S as soon as it is dark enough to move without obsn.
- 1710 - Msg from G-3. Unit may stop operations any time commander desires.
- 1715 - CO 1st Bn reports A Co patrol left about ten (10) minutes ago to proceed to BALLERING to determine enemy strength. Bn is moving slowly. Arty is falling all along route of advance at short intervals.
- 1850 - CO 1st Bn reports foot bridge between DIDERFING and BETTRING has been knocked out by arty fire. An estimated half the Bn is now across. No report from patrol sent to BALLERING.
- 1855 - A Co reports being shelled from N and NE.
- 1920 - CO 1st Bn reports Bn patrol on outskirts of BALLERING. Enemy talking and motors idling within town. Requested arty fire and informed us of plan to jump town sometime after shoot. (Arty fire arranged)
- 2050 - Lt O'Brien reported to CP w/following order - 35 Inf Div 041900A
Dec 44 Scale: 1:50,000.

1. 134 Inf continue atk in Z at 050800A Dec, making main effort on right, and advancing rapidly to SAAR R. 2. 320 Inf continue atk in Z at 050800, making main effort on left. Contain enemy to front with as small a force as practicable, advance to NE and sieze high ground E of GRUNDEVILLER. Then continue advance rapidly to SAAR R. Protect Div right (S) flank.

OFFICIAL: RENFROE

BAADE

Lt O'Brien informed of CO's plan of atk for 5 Dec 44.

- 2100 - 2d Bn reports patrols vic PUTTELANGE - RICHELING HWY observed enemy activity on the highway prohibiting a crossing.
- 2300 - Engrs report Inf support bridge in 3d Bn sector now in operation.
- 2355 - 1st Bn reports Co A sent a second patrol to BALLERING. Reports town quiet. Co A to move into town approx 050030.
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - 3d Bn (res) continued to hold HALVING, BETTRING and DIDERFING and protected bridging operations of MADERBACH RIVER. 2d Bn held line extending from 420490 to 425485, held up at this point by enemy forces W of PUTTELANGE - RICHELING ROAD. 1st Bn moving to atk BALLERING and RICHELING in order.

Extract from G-3 Report
031200A Dec 44 to 041200A

320 Inf - 1st Bn moved by marching from INSMING to assembly area vic HILSPRICH, closing 040340A. 2d Bn atkd on left of Regtl sector 040400A, crossed stream N of REMERING, receiving hvy MG and small arms fire from dug-in positions vic CR at (Q428488). 3d Bn atkd on right at 040400A, siezing DIDERFING at 040610A and entered BETTRING at 040810A. Bn cleared BETTRING and entered HALVING; at end of period, was clearing HALVING w/one (1) Co and moving toward BALLERING w/remainder of Bn.

SECRET

BRIEFING NOTES

COL JOHNSON

4 December 1944

21st Army Group: The only activity in the 21st Army Group sector took place in the XII British Corps sector where the 15th Scottish Div supported by the 31st Tk Bde opened their attack against VENLO. Progress was reported as good against heavy minefields and strong resistance. The G-2 of the 21st Army Group reports that there is one German Corps of 4 Divisions holding the area north of the ROER R.

12th Army Group: Ninth Army: In XIII Corps the 84th Div advanced 2 miles and took the high ground south of BRACHLEN and also reached WENES which had been lost to German counterattack. Our troops were last reported fighting in the city. The 102d Div also advanced 1 mile capturing RORDEUF. Heavy fighting continues in LISBACH where the 102d Div now holds 2/3 of the town. The 29th Div of XIX Corps supported by the 2d Armd Div cleared the German pocket west of the ROER R just across from JULICH.

First Army: The VII Corps continues its fight for the road from AACHEN to COLOGNE. The 104th Div advanced 500 yds to the east and reached the outskirts of LUCHEBERG. The fighting at DUESSE still goes on. The 1st Div made local advances cleaning out pockets and straightening their lines. They sent patrols into LUCHEN who reported back that the town was clear of enemy. They are continuing the fighting just west of MELUDE. The 4th Div made the best gain of the day - advancing 2000 yards to the east. They now hold high ground overlooking GEY from north and south. The 8th Div of V Corps continued their attack on BRANDENBURG against increasing resistance. CGR of the 5th Armd Div continued their advance to the south but were slowed down by mine fields and long range AT fire. V Corps reports that heavy mine fields are the greatest obstacle in their path. It is reported that 10 German Divisions have been destroyed or routed by the First Army during their recent operation.

Third Army: XX Corps: At 0545 yesterday morning the first elements of the 1st Bn 379th Inf crossed the SAAR by assault boat just north of SAARLOUIS. They threw in an infantry support bridge in that vicinity and the remainder of the battalion crossed. Early in the day they succeeded in sieging intact a heavy concrete bridge on the north side of SAARLOUIS. At last reports the bridge had been cleared of mines and was ready for use. So far only the 1st Bn 379th is across the river. On this side of the river the 2d Bn 379th Inf and 3d Bn 378th Inf have cleared SAARLOUIS. In the northern portion of the XX Corps zone the 3d Cav reports that the Germans are up to their old trick of using a flag of truce to lure our troops into the open and then opening fire on them. The 10th Armd Div continued their demonstration throughout the day. They have also pushed to the northeast taking DREISBACH. The 90th Div CP moved into Germany yesterday to the town of KESPRICH. This is the first Third Army division to open its CP on German soil. The 95th Div in addition to crossing the SAAR and capturing SAARLOUIS gained 1 mile along the front of the 377th Inf and reached the SAAR taking WALLERFANGEN. 5th Div troops cleared GRUTZWALD and the 5th Ranger Bn of IF FICKEIT advanced 1 mile reaching LAUTERBACH.

6th Army Group: Seventh Army: XV Corps - Resistance along the Corps front continues to be strong with the greatest resistance in front of the 79th Div in the vicinity of HAGENAU. The 79th Div is concentrating its forces near HAGENAU and continues the attack on that city. Only small gains were reported. The 45th Div gained 1/2 mile and entered the town of ZINSVILLER. The 100th Div has been committed between the 44th and 45th Divisions. They gained 2 miles with the 397th taking WINGEN from the east while the 398th advanced on it from the south. The 44th Div advancing in two columns captured WALDHAMBACH and advanced beyond it. German air activity has stepped up in the zone east of the mountains. XV Corps AA reports the destruction of 4 German planes.

VI Corps: The 3d Div has cleared the island at STRASBOURG between the canal and the RHINE. The 2d Fr Armd Div has advanced 3 2 miles slowed down by blown bridges and mines and taken the town of BOUFERSHEIM. The 103d Div continues the attack on SEIESTAT from the north. The 36th Div has reduced one fort in the southern part of SEIESTAT. In the southern portion of the 36th Div zone they advanced 3 miles on a 5 mile front reaching ZELLENBISCH. In MUTZIG where the VI Corps CP is located one German fort garrisoned by 200 troops still holds out. Attempts to resupply them by air failed. Elements of the 3d Div are now sapping the fort preparatory to destroying it by demolitions.

First French Army: Reinforcements are being brought west of the RHINE to supplement the estimated equivalent of two German divisions in the pocket between VI Corps and the First French Army. A counterattack against the 2d Moroccan Div forced them back 2 miles, but supported by the 5th Armd (Fr) Div they regained the lost ground and are now within 4 miles of THANN.

For the 4th time in ten days our B-29's have bombed TOKYO. Fires were reported to be raging when the planes completed their mission.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
5 December 1944

- 0045 - Engr O with 2d Bn reports all men of patrol recrossed to REMERING via assault boats.
- 0110 - Capt Kullmar, 1st Bn, reports A Co now occupying and laying mines in BALLERING on possible tank approaches. Enemy tanks can be heard N of BALLERING.
- 0115 - 1st Bn reports water still rising on foot bridge. Water about one foot over bridge now.
- 0120 - Civilians report that prior to occupation of BALLERING by A Co enemy tanks and tracked vehicles moved SE out of town down the main highway.
- 0140 - 2d Bn reports patrol crossed PUTTALANGE-RICHELING HWY. No enemy troops observed. G Co moving up across highway immediately to pick up stragglers. At 0400 F Co will move up as planned, followed by E Co, towards GRUNDEVILLER. Will move in on CO's order. Requests engr bridge on supply route from PUTTELANGE - SE be put in as soon as possible.
- 0200 - Capt Trossen, 3d Bn, reports that they believe bridge SE of HIRBACH can stand two ft rise of water. Enemy arty landing in 3d Bn area, but still all going over bridge. Bn out of contact w/K Co; no report from combat patrol yet.
- 0225 - 1st Bn reports that at 0200 an enemy tank and several half-tracks came SE down the RICHELING - BALLERING HWY. First vehicle, a half-track, hit one of our mines. Tank fired several rounds into BALLERING. Tank and remaining vehicles withdrew towards RICHELING.
- 0230 - 2d Bn reports that at 0200 enemy MG fired 50 rounds towards CR (427489) from knoll at (439494). Several enemy vehicles moved down road from GRUNDEVILLER towards CR (427489), reached stream vic (430491), turned around and returned.
- 0330 - 1st Bn reports water 8 inches above planking on Inf foot bridge in their sector.
- 0415 - Capt Trossen, 3d Bn, reports 3d Bn combat patrol found S edge of HALVING to be clear. Bridge E of HIRBACH will be completed in 1/2 hour as reported by engr. As soon as bridge is ready 3d Bn AT will move across.
- 0515 - Capt Trossen, 3d Bn, reports Engrs missed small culvert on far side of bridge #2 and now have to obtain additional material. 3d Bn will move AT around on N bridge.
- 0545 - 1st Bn reports water unchanged.
- 0630 - 3d Bn reports no success in getting AT across lower bridge. Will attempt to use bulldozer and weasel to pull trucks across.
- 0815 - 1st Bn reports C Co in S edge of RICHELING. Enemy force occupies town.

- 0830 - 2d Bn reports F Co N end of GRUNDEVILLER, G Co W end of GRUNDEVILLER. No opposition as yet.
- 0840 - CO 2d Bn reports two companies now in GRUNDEVILLER. Some prisoners captured. No offensive action by the enemy.
- 0920 - F Co and G Co in GRUNDEVILLER. E Co approaching town.
- 1010 - CG visited CP.
- 1015 - Lt O'Brien reported to CP w/overlay of new objective and instructions as follows - 134 and 320 sieze indicated objectives. Sieze and hold all bridges over SAAR R which are intact.
- 1055 - 2d Bn reports Bn ovvupying HECKENRANSBACH. Plan to jump off towards E at 1400, to HAMBACH preceded by I&R platoon.
- 1130 - 2d bridge vic HALVING at (433459) is now open.
- 1135 - CO, after visit to 3d Bn, at HALVING, started Bn to move from HALVING via RICHELING and GRUNDEVILLER to HECKENRANSBACH, following 2d Bn. Elements left at HALVING to protect bridges until relieved by 35 Rcn Tr.
- 1310 - Regtl MP Plat dispatched to HALVING and REMERING to effect traffic control in those towns until 1800.
- 1315 - 1st Bn moving E from RICHELING. No progress report. (Route of advance - RICHELING to 459491 thence SE to 469487 thence NE to road and RR at 486499. Send patrol from 469487 SE to investigate and report enemy strength in WILLERWALD).
- 1400 - From Brown, I&R - Road clear to 475517.
- 1410 - Bridge at REMERING now in.
- 1415 - Msg from Div - Div fwd CP closes station at 051345A and opens same time at ST JEAN ROHRBACH (378377) signed 1345.
- 1430 - Following report to Div - Patrol from 134 entered town of HAMBACH and indicates town is clear of enemy. 2d Bn proceeding to that town. 1st Bn approaching 469486. 3d Bn following 2d Bn. No opposition reported.
- 1445 - Msg sent to 2d Bn - Neighbors (134) report your town(HAMBACH) clear.
- 1500 - 1st Bn reached road at 486486 and 486499.
- 1530 - CP began displacement from UBERKINGER to HECKENRANSBACH. Route: UBERKINGER, HILSPRICH, ST JEAN ROHRBACH, PUTTELANGE, ERNESTVILLER, HECKENRANSBACH.
- 1520 - CP opened at HECKENRANSBACH. Distance of displacement: 11.7 miles.
- 1702 - Msg sent to 1st Bn - Retain present general position and secure and occupy town at 488478 (Willerwald). Patrol to woods your front (E).

(Operations Journal Dec 44 contd)

- 1710 - From Brown, I&R - Road clear to 487513.
- 1715 - Msg From Brown, I&R - Bridge out at 488513 (HAMBACH). Signed 1700.
- 1730 - 2d Bn occupied HAMBACH and continued advance to E to occupy SILTZHEIM. Co F left at HAMBACH initially will continue to SILTZHEIM immediately. Engr works are required in HAMBACH in order to bring transport fwd. Believe Bailey will be required.
- 1805 - From CO 1st Bn - Are there any friendly troops in SARRALBE.
- 1859 - 3d Bn closed into res position at HAMBACH.
- 1950 - Lt O'Brien reported to CP w/overlay showing new Div Obj and following order - 35 Inf Div, 051800A Dec 44.
1. 134 Inf and 320 Inf send patrols to SAAR R w/in Z tonight. Reconnoiter for crossings. Sieze any crossing found intact.
2. 134 and 320 continue advance to SAAR R at 060700A. 320 Inf sieze and hold indicated objectives. Both regts feel out river, follow up closely and secure a bridgehead E of SAAR R at any point w/in Z where advance elements can sieze a crossing.
- 2010 - Msg sent to 1st Bn - Send patrols to sieze bridge vic 523466 (HERBITZHEIM). Report results by 060300.
- 2030 - Co L and elements of Co K dispatched from HAMBACH to SILTZHEIM and from there dispatch patrols to ZETTING and WITTRING. Sieze bridge if one is found where crossing can be effected. Report results prior to 060300.
- 2102 - Msg from 1st Bn - Road from 488514 to 466489 cleared. Bridge out 486500. When will it be in. Signed 2055.
- 2335 - Msg from 1st Bn - Have received two different versions of your msg #5. Strong patrol is now on way to sieze bridge vic 523466 (HERBITZHEIM). Is that what you wanted? Request answer immediately Signed 2315. (Reply - You are on correct mission).
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - 1st Bn occupied positions along road extending from 486486 to 486499, and dispatched patrol to HERBITZHEIM. 2d Bn occupied SILTZHEIM. 3d Bn (-) occupied HAMBACH. Co L and elements of Co K patrolled from SILTZHEIM to WITTRING and ZETTING respectively.

Extract from G-3 Report
041200A D_c 44 to 051200A

320 Inf - 1st Bn moved from HIRBACH NE, crossed MADERBACH R at 041850A, advanced towards BALLERING, SIEZING TOWN AT ~~XXXXXX~~ 050110. Bn continued atk NE prior to daylight 5 Dec, siezed RICHELING and continued adv to E. 2d Bn continued atk against strong resistance E of REMERING, moving fwd during night 4-5 Dec when enemy started to withdraw and reached GRUNDEVILLE by 050540A. Bn moved on to HECKENRANSBACH, 3d Bn moved to RICHELING leaving small forces in HALVING to protect bridging operations.

SUMMARY NOTES

COL JOHNSON

5 Dec 44

21st Army Group:

In the 21st Army Group sector it is reported that German Army Pioneers have blown the dikes of the MIEDER RHINE R just W of ARIEM. The land between the MIEDER RHINE R and the WAAL R is now flooding. This general area was being held by one brigade of the 51st Highland Division. As a result of the flooding all but one battalion of this brigade has been withdrawn S of the WAAL R generally W of NEJMEGEN. In the British XII Corps sector the 15th Scottish Div continues its attack against the German bridgehead W of VENLO. They have succeeded in crossing a 25 foot AT ditch and took 100 PWs in bitterly contested fighting.

12th Army Group:

Ninth US Army: In the XIII Corps zone the 84th Div continued fighting in JURIS and on the high ground S of BRACHLEN while the 102d Div completed clearing LIENICH. The XIX Corps is patrolling the west bank of the ROER R with elements of the 2d Armd and 29th Inf Divs and the 17th Cav. They reported that there had been more than 100 German fighter planes over the corps sector during the day.

First US Army: The 104th Div crossed the INDE R at midnight the night before last and yesterday succeeded in driving the Germans out of the eastern portion of INDEN where they had been stubbornly holding out. They also captured LUCHERBERG in bitter hand to hand fighting. Only 61 PWs were taken, enemy casualties from our hand grenades and bayonets were heavy. The 1st Div which had previously sent patrols to LUCHELI and found it clear of enemy yesterday moved troops into the town and occupied it. Fighting at LERODE continues. The 4th Div has consolidated the high ground commanding GEY. The 330th Inf of the 83d Div, attached to the 4th Div, has relieved the 22d Inf of the 4th Div. CCR of the 5th Armd Div supported by elements of the 8th Div has captured BRANDENBURG and advanced slightly to the east.

PWs taken by the 28th Div report that the Germans have adopted the Russian tactic of infiltrating small patrols at night for several nights until a sizeable force is built up in the rendezvous areas and then, coordinated with a frontal assault, disrupting communications and attacking from the rear.

Third US Army: In the bridgehead which had been established at SAARLOUIS, the 379th Inf now has both the 1st and 3d Bns across the river together with some TDs. Despite heavy enemy artillery fire the bridge which had been sited intact remains that way. Fighting is at present going on in FRAULAUFERN on the far bank of the SAAR. Other elements of the 95th Division have completely mopped up SAARLOUIS and have taken LISDORF, just to the south. A new boundary became effective yesterday at noon between the 95th and 90th Divs which is generally an east-west line running just N of WALLERFANGEN. In the 5th Div zone the 10th Inf advanced 3 miles to the NE of GRUTZWALD about halfway through the woods. The 5th Ranger Bn has completely cleared LAUFERBACH.

Sixth Army Group: Sixth Army Group TAC has moved from VITTEL to SAVERNE.

Seventh Army: Seventh Army CP has moved from EPIVAL to SARREBOURG.

XV Corps: The 79th Div is still fighting against strong enemy resistance at HAGENAU. The 45th Div has advanced 2 miles along its entire front and has captured ZIESVILLER. The 100th Div after a slight advance was fighting in SOUCHT at last reports. The 44th Div yesterday began the assault on VOLMSBERG which it has flanked on the west. XV Corps again reports that enemy aircraft were active east of the mountains.

A new boundary has been agreed upon between the XV and VI Corps effective at midnight last night. This boundary is not yet available. The 12th Armd Div yesterday moved to the vicinity of ESCHMILLER and the 14th Armd Div moved to the vicinity of HOCHFLIEDEN. The 103d Div was relieved yesterday and moved to an assembly area in the rear of the 79th Div.

VI Corps: The VI Corps CP moved yesterday from NUTZIG to SAVERNE. The 36th Div gained 2 miles along their front capturing ST PILT. Heavy fighting continues in SLISTAT where German troops have counterattacked in vain. The 2d Fr Armd Div advanced 2 miles to the south taking FRIEDENHILL. They have been assigned to the II Fr Corps of the 1st French Army.

First French Army: The 3d Algerian Div made a gain of 5 miles yesterday taking ST MARIN.

Due to street riots between opposing factions in GREECE, the Greek Government yesterday declared martial law.

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
6 December 1944

- 0010 - Treadway bridge at HECKENRANSBACH in at 2400.
- 0135 - 3d Bn reports enemy tank firing on Co K from vic 495539 (G-2 notified)
- 0145 - Msg from 1st Bn - Request time bridge at 486500 will be in. Bridge at 487482 cratered. Passable for jeeps only. Signed 0135.
- 0150 - Msg sent to Engr - Bridge at 487482 cratered. Passable for jeeps only. Request check and repair in the morning.
- 0200 - Msg to 1st Bn - Bridge at 486500 due to be in by 1000. 3d Bn reports fire from enemy tank has ceased. No news from patrols.
- 0530 - 1st Bn reports (by radio) - Bridge over canal vic 518470 blown, will report more later. (G-2 notified)
- 0615 - 3d Bn reported patrol left 0100. 4 man patrol. Co K patrol went through woods vic 556534 (ZETTING). Heard enemy digging E and NE of RR tracks. (Div notified)
- 0705 - 1st Bn reports all bridges vic 523466 (HERBITZHEIM) blown out. Patrol reports town clear of enemy. Request information whether patrol is to stay or return. (Div notified)
- 0720 - 1st Bn informed that patrol (see 0705 entry) in question may return.
- 0820 - Col Alexander, 3d Bn, reports that patrol (Co L) ^{returned} ~~revealed~~ at 0715. RR bridge out at WITTRING. Enemy and one tank observed in town. Continuing to feel out town. CO ordered Col Alexander to reconnoiter all routes to ZETTING and WITTRING to determine usability and any engineering requirements.
- 0905 - Msg sent to 1st Bn - Secure road 522480 to 530500 clearing woods enroute. Outpost E edge woods. Make contact w/our troops now at 530515 (SILTZHEIM). Conceal action.
- 1100 - I&R reports Cos B and C occupy WILLERWALD and have outposted the town. Co A holds woods edge 484499 to 484490.
- 1330 - CP displaced from HECKENRANSBACH to HAMBACH. Distance of displacement - 3.7 miles.
- 1345 - Msg from I&R - Bridge out at 497475, but jeep traffic possible.
- 1410 - Capt Kullmar, Ex O 1st Bn, reported to CP and stated Bn has now moved through woods and now are approaching road 529510 S to 522480.
- 1425 - 2d Bn (Sgt Quested) reports Co F now moving to ZETTING.
- 1450 - CG visited CP.
- 1500 - 1st Bn reports Co A on objective. Have reason to believe that Co B is there also. (Obj - Road from 529510 S to 522480). Outposts have been sent out as directed to E edge of woods (5450) (5349) (5248).

- 1525 - CO 2d Bn reports Co F at woods and high ground at (5553). Believe bridge at ZETTING is in. If bridge is in troops will wait until dark and attempt to seize it intact. If not in, troops will clear the town at once.
- 1645 - Arty Ln plane reports all bridges in 320 sector blown. Continue to check and verify.
- 1652 - 3d Bn (Capt Kurtz) reports Co L now on obj (WITTRING). Town occupied without opposition. Four prisoners taken. Two bridges out. Enemy armor (1 tank, 3 half-tracks) on far bank has been dispersed by fire.
- 1835 - CO 2d Bn reports town of ZETTING has been taken by Co F. Some prisoners were taken. Believe a foot bridge over canal has been captured intact. Bridges over river blown. Civilians indicate Germans withdrew.
- 1940 - Lt O'Brien reported to CP with following instructions from Div - 134 and 320 continue patrolling and ren of SARRE R and plans for crossing ^{Do not execute river crossing} 7 Dec 44. Orders for crossing 8 Dec will be issued tomorrow.
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - 3d Bn (-) at SILTZHEIM. Co L at WITTRING. 2d Bn (-) at SILTZHEIM. Co F occupied ZETTING. 1st Bn completed clearing operations and assembled in woods vic 5350 and outposted woods edge vic 5450 and 5349. 1st Bn sent out patrols to SAAR R at 5451 thence E to vic WITTRING.

Extract from G-3 Report
051200A Dec 44 to 061200A

320 Inf - 1st Bn continued advance to E and SE to road and RR at (Q486499) securing road to vic WILLERWALD at 051500A. Bn continued adv to E 060700A to secure road from (Q522430) to (Q530500), clearing woods enroute. 2d Bn advanced from HECKENRANSBACH at 051400A to HAMBACH, then to SILTZHEIM securing town. 3d Bn, in Regtl Res, followed 2d Bn in left of Z, closing in to assembly area vic HAMBACH 051900A. All Bns conducted active patrolling to SARRE R during night 5-6 Dec.

21st Army Group: The flood waters caused by the enemy blowing of the dam on the Neder River has risen to a height of three feet south of ARREBIL, and was reported rising at the rate of one inch per hour. The high waters are threatening to cut the island south of ARREBIL in two parts. The 51st Br Div has moved from the flooded area southwest to the vic of HERTOGHEBOSCH. In the XII Br Corps sector, the 15th Scottish Div has destroyed the last enemy bridgehead west of the Meuse River in the vic of VENLO. The suburb of VENLO, known as BLERICK, on the west bank was captured and 225 PW's were taken.

12th Army Group: Ninth Army: The 34th Div continued fighting in the vic of WURN, and south of BRACHLEN. In the XIX Corps, the 2d Armd Div and the 29th Inf Div continued patrolling on the west bank of the Roer River. No attempt has been made to cross the Roer and capture JULICH, as reported by radio. Ninth Army reports that since Nov 16th they have captured 8,235 PW's.

First Army: The 10th Div was still mopping up in the vic of INDEN. A class 40 bridge has been put over the Inden River. The 1st Div advanced 1,000 yards and has cut the road between AACHEN and DUREN. They were fighting in the vic of GURZENICH. Other elements were still fighting in the vic of LERODE. In the V Corps, GCR of the 5th Armd Div reported a gain of 2,000 yards and were fighting in BERGSTEIN. Elements of the 9th Div were moving north and were relieving elements of the 1st Div. The 121st Inf of the 8th Div gained 1,000 yards, pushing south of SCHLIDT. During the past two days the enemy has employed a number of fighter planes on strafing missions behind the First Army lines. DUREN was particularly hit hard by bombs. It was reported that AA defences in the V and VII Corps during the past two days has brought down 41 enemy fighters.

Third Army: XI Corps: The 379th Regt of the 95th Div was mopping up in FRAU-LAUTERN, where it was meeting heavy resistance. Further to the south the 378th Regt succeeded in making a second crossing in the vic of LISDORF, and an assault bridge has been thrown over the river. The 1st and 3d bns of the 378th were reported crossing at this point. The 5th Div CP has moved from LETZ to just north of GREATZWALD. The 11th Regt of the 5th Div made a substantial gain in the southern portion of the IX Corps, advancing five miles into Germany, capturing LUDWILER, ST. NICHOLAS, and MERLEBACH. Elements of our own 2d Cavalry were across the German border in the XX Corps sector at CARLSBURN. On Dec 4th III Corps became operational. Their CP is at ETAIN. The III Corps is taking over the three enemy forts still holding out in the vic of LETZ. Elements of the 87th Div began arriving in the III Corps sector, and have been attached to the III Corps. The CP of the 87th Div will be at JARNY.

Sixth Army Group: Seventh Army: The XV Corps now has a new boundary. The Corps is composed of the following divisions: 44th Inf Div, 100th Inf Div, and the 12th Armd Div. The 44th Div reported a gain of two miles capturing RETZMILLER and VOKSBERG. The 100th Div continued fighting in SOCHT. The 12th Armd Div was concentrated in the vic of RSCHWEILER. In the VI Corps sector the Corps CP moved from SAVERN to DETTWILLER. The VI Corps is now composed of the 45th Inf Div, 103d Inf Div, 3d Inf Div, 79th Inf Div, and the 11th Armd Div. The 45th Div pushed two miles to the northeast and were fighting in HEDERBROHN. The 79th Div was still fighting in the vic of HAGENAU, while the 11th Armd was assembled in the vic of HOCHFELDEN. The 36th Div reported the capture of SELSTAT.

First French Army: In the First French Army sector, the 2d French Armd Div pushed two miles to the south along the Rhine River. The enemy counterattack, which was repulsed by our forces, was made just northeast of BELFORT.

Yesterday, 80 enemy planes were destroyed when 550 American bombers plus 800 fighters raided BERLIN.

- L-353
- 0200 - 1st Bn Patrol patrolled to WITTRING. All bridges found to be blown. 1st Bn 2d Patrol patrolled from KREMRICH FME, patrolled to river, found no crossing in area. Flares observed vic DIEDING (552515)
- 1235 - Lt O'Brien reported to CP w/overlay showing boundary and the following order - 35 Inf Div 071100 Dec 44 Opns Memo #2, Map: Eastern France, Scale 1:50,000. Sheets 36/12, 36/13, 37/12, 37/13.
1. 134 Inf and 320 Inf continue atk at 080500A Dec 44, crossing SARRE R w/in Z. Sieze initial objectives, prepared to adv to final obj on Div O.
2. 134 Inf maintain contact w/6 Armd Div. Protect Div left flank.
3. 320 Inf maintain contact with 26 Div and w/134 Inf. Protect Div right flank.
4. 60 Engr (C) Bn support crossings of SARRE R (supported by 1135 Engr (C) Gp)
OFFICIAL: BAADE
RENFROE
- 1250 - Msg from Div - Old CP closed 071245. New CP opens same time at WOUSTVILLER 469531. Signed CG 35 Div.
- 1400 - CO issued overlay of plan of atk and following order and overlay to assembled Bn comdrs, separate unit commanders and attached unit commanders - 3d Bn atks on right (S) crossing SARRE R at WITTRING. 2d Bn atks on left (N) crossing SARRE R at ZETTING. 1st Bn atks in center of Z vic (5451) crossing SARRE R to vic DIEDING. No arty preparation prior to H Hour (0500). Call fires during night 7-8 Dec and after H Hour 8 Dec. Adv beyond initial obj only on Div order. 1 TD plat in direct support each Bn. Engr bridge and floating equipment will be allotted and provided as follows: 1st Bn assault boats, one Inf foot bridge. 2d Bn - two inf support bridges (1 over canal and one over river) (No 2 priority) Assault boats at two sites (N and S of ZETTING). Inf foot bridge (S of ZETTING). 3d Bn - One Bailey over canal and one Bailey over RR prior to H Hour. Assault boats, Inf foot bridge, Bailey over river when bridgehead is established (No priority).
- 2100 - CP (fwd) displaced to SILTZHEIM from HAMBACH. Distance of displacement - 4 miles.
- 2400 - 320 Inf continued reconnaissance for crossing sites and approaches to SAAR R in preparation for atk 080500. Engr trains were brought fwd and bridging materials and assault boats were dumped in respective Bn zones of action. 2d Bn assembled vic ZETTING. 1st Bn assembled in woods at 5350 and 5450. 3d Bn assembled at WITTRING. Reserve company (Co I) 3d Bn assisted supporting engineer units to move assault boats over RR cut and canal in 3d Bn sector while bridging operations continued and were yet unfinished. No engineer bridge sites were complete at end of period.

Extract from G-3 Report
061200A Dec 44 to 071200A

320 Inf - 1st Bn occupied and outposted E edge of woods at (Q5450) and (Q5349). Co F was sent to sieze crossings vic ZETTING and at 061835A, the town was occupied. Co L moved to WITTRING and occupied town at 061650A, receiving fire from high ground E of SARRE R. Regt continued active pa-

(Operations Journal Dec 44 contd)

trolling along SARRE R in Z. Regtl CP displaced from HECKENRANSBACH to HAMBACH at 061330A.

BRIEFING NOTES

COL JOHNSON

7 Dec 44

21st Army Group: In the 21st Army Group sector the flooded areas between the NIEDER RHINE and the WAAL Rivers have doubled since yesterday. At present the II Cdn Corps is occupied with reorganization of its forces to meet the new situation. German troops once again used the Red Cross in an attempted infiltration in the vicinity of HALDEREN and BEMMEL, just South of the flooded area. Troops of the German 6th Para Div carrying stretchers and wearing Red Cross armbands tried to infiltrate through the Canadian lines. The trick backfired and the stretchers were needed to carry their own casualties - 50 dead. In addition 110 were taken prisoner. The 15th Div is engaged in an artillery duel at VENLO. British artillery is firing from BLERICK, the suburb of VENLO west of the MAAS, against VENLO itself and German artillery is reacting strongly.

12th Army Group:

Ninth Army - Troops of the Ninth Army continue to consolidate their positions. The 84th Div continues its operations in the vicinity of WURM and BRACHELEN. In the XIX Corps sector the 29th Div fought to clear small pockets of resistance remaining in HUSENFELD and SPORTPLATZE, west of the ROER R.

First Army - The 104th Div pushed out 300 yards and made firm its position in INDEN. At LUCHERBERG just to the south the enemy counterattacked three times with infantry supported by tanks. The 104th Div repulsed all three counterattacks destroying 5 tanks. The 4th Div still maintains the commanding terrain north and south of GEY and were mopping up enemy patrols who had infiltrated through their lines during the previous night. The 9th Div is concentrating in the vicinity of ESCHWEILER where an advance CP has been established and have begun the relief of elements of the 1st Div. The 83d Div was assembling just South of STOLBERG and continued the relief of elements of the 4th Div. In the V Corps sector the 121st Inf of the 8th Div advanced 300 yards to the southeast south of SCHMIDT.

Yesterday 4,000 allied planes dropped 12,000 tons of bombs on 8 enemy cities in the RUHR area.

Third Army - XX Corps - In the northern portion of the corps zone the 43d Cav Sq of the 3d Cav Gp has taken over the 10th Armd Div area. The 10th Armd Div is concentrating in an area centered about OUDRENIÉ. In the 90th Div sector the bridgehead established yesterday morning at 0430 at PACHTEN has been expanded to 8 square miles. PACHTEN has been captured and fighting goes on in DILLINGEN where our forces hold the western half of the city. Troops of the 358th and 357th Infs who established this bridgehead passed by pillboxes manned by Germans on the west bank of the SAAR under cover of darkness. During the day the bridgehead received fire from these pillboxes. In the 95th Div sector mopping up continues at FRAULAUTERN. During the day enemy artillery was reported falling in the city at the rate of 240 rounds per hour in all calibers up to 210mm. The third bridgehead where the 1st and 3d Bns 378th Inf are across the SAAR was also enlarged. Fighting is now going on in ENSDORF. Further to the south the 5th Div had crossed the ROSELLE R and was last reported fighting in PETITE ROSELLE. The 104th Inf of the 5th Div still back in the METZ area captured FT ST QUENTIN yesterday morning taking 22 officers and 571 enlisted personnel prisoner. It is now estimated that about 1500 enemy troops are still holding out in the remaining forts west of METZ.

III Corps - The Corps CP moved yesterday to METZ from ETAIN. The 87th Div CP is also being established in METZ where elements of the division continue to arrive.

Sixth Army Group:

Seventh Army - XV Corps - A general advance of 1/2 miles on the corps front is reported. The 44th Div advanced on HILBERS from the south

5th Army Group:

Seventh Army - XV Corps - A general advance of 4 miles along the corps front is reported. The 14th Div is advancing on LEMBERG from the southwest while the 100th Div advances on LEMBERG from the south. The 106 Cav has advanced 4 miles north reaching LUTERHOUSE. Elements of the 12th Armd Div are moving north from ESCHMILLER.

VI Corps - The 45th Div advanced 1 mile to the northeast taking WERTZMILLER and are fighting in REICHSTOTEN. The 94th Cav Sq screening the corps east flank have advanced 8 miles north of STRASBOURG and entered GAIBSHEIM from which the enemy had withdrawn. The 36th Div formerly assigned to VI Corps and now temporarily attached to the II Fr Corps has pushed 2 miles to the southeast taking RAPPOLTSWILLER, 7 miles north of COLLAR. The enemy held fort at MUTZIG surrendered yesterday. This was attacked by loading a German halftrack with 7,000 lbs of high explosive and driving it into the fort area. A German major, the mayor of MUTZIG, and 82 enlisted men surrendered.

First French Army - II Fr Corps - The 3d Algerian Div reported a gain of 2 miles to the east.

I Fr Corps - Two counterattacks in the southwest portion of the pocket northeast of LUTERHOUSE were repulsed.

Lt Gen LUCIAN TRASCOTT, former commander of VI Corps, has now been placed in command of 5th Army in Italy according to radio reports.

- 2 -
S E C R E T

355

- 0040 - Lt Ermelbauer, 3d Bn, reported to CP and stated that Engr Officer at bridge site in WITTRING stated that Bailey Bridge over RR would not be completed before 2000. Col Skehan will report to CO full details later.
- 0150 - Col Skehan visited CP. Bridge No 1 will be in by daylight. Bridge No 2 by 1000. Col Byrne requested one Inf assault raft on the canal and one on river, to facilitate supply. Engrs will also arrange for boats for crossing of personnel. 3d Bn notified.
- 0500 - Col Skehan reported to CP. 5 Engr trucks w/60 ft double single Bailey stuck in mud; require replacement to construct second bridge (over canal). Col Byrne reported to G-3. 1st and 2d Bns report no difficulty yet, but require immediate release 60 ft Bailey. Col Skehan called CO Egr Gp (Col Keller), obtained release. Col Skehan hopes for 1st Bailey (over RR) complete 0700 and arrival 2d Bailey same time as best possible expectation.
- 0603 - Capt Smith, Ex O 2d Bn, reports G Co crossing found to be too steep. Plan changed so that G Co will follow F Co at its site. One Plat F Co succeeded in crossing by boat after foot bridge was found to be inadequate. Boats which carried the plat across were lost down stream. Thus far, no opposition. Engrs are attempting to get additional foot bridge.
- 0615 - CO called 1st Bn - No progress report as yet. CO instructed Lt Miller that 1st Bn is to be prepared to spread to right to cover a portion of 3d Bn sector and thereby protect tardy bridging in their sector.
- 0630 - CO 1st Bn reports Co B crossing slowly but satisfactorily. Co A crossing site between canal and river drew some small arms fire. Boats are being moved down stream to a more suitable crossing.
- 0646 - Col Skehan reports Bailey over RR will be in at 0900. Sufficient bridging is now up for second bridge. 3 trucks which were stuck have been pulled out (see 0500 entry). Maj Fuller reports from Col Alexander that Engr O was challenged to halt from E bank of river and a track laying vehicle was heard moving along the E bank. Arty fire has been placed in vic.
- 0658 - Lt Peterson, 1st Bn S-2, reports that Co C is across. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the company is in DIEDING. The remainder is grouping preparing to enter the town.
- 0700 - Capt Smith reports treadway over canal now under construction at ZETTING.
- 0710 - Capt Smith reports Co F receiving MG fire from high ground E of ZETTING.
- 0725 - Sgt O'Kelly, 2d Bn, reports all of F Co now on far bank and advancing. G Co preparing to cross. MG fire (see 0710 entry) has subsided somewhat.
- 0745 - CO made complete report of operations to Div C of S (up to 0745)

- 0750 - CO 1st Bn reports that Co C has taken 6 prisoners from DIEDING. Fighting continues in the town. Co A attempted crossing at RR bridge at (557512) found resistance, moved left and crossed behind C Co and now has about $\frac{1}{2}$ the company into DIEDING assisting Co C. Remainder of company will cross and atk E along river to take out resistance to crossing. Co B is having difficulty with boats, but some elements are across.
- 0752 - CO directed 2d Bn to secure most commanding ground in sector, protect left of 1st Bn and secure bridgehead.
- 0820 - Full report of operations to time of this entry made to CG by CO.
- 0827 - 654 TD Bn reports tanks firing into ZETTING. (TD's notified).
- 0830 - 2d Bn reports mortar fire on their positions on high ground E of river. (Arty requested to get observation plane up immediately and to bring fire upon town of WEISVILLER).
- 0900 - One tank at 570533 firing at F Co. Arty firing on tank now.
- 1015 - Col Alexander reports engrsr driven from bridging sites and construction has been suspended. Bn engaged in a fire fight with enemy on E bank of river. Believes fire coming from pillbox. Assault boats are at crossing site. Two enemy half track vehicles destroyed by our fire.
- 1020 - Cn Co reports five direct hits on pillbox at 563515.
- 1025 - CO reported situation to Div.
- 1032 - Col Alexander reported coordinates of enemy pillbox firing on 3d Bn as 577512.
- 1055 - Air obsn reports two enemy tanks at 556555. Arty fire is believed to have knocked out one tank.
- 1100 - CG and ADC visited CP.
- 1135 - Sgt O'Kelly, 2d Bn, reports that 2d Bn OP observes approx 30 men moving from 553553 SE toward woods at 5654. (2d Bn directed to get arty clearance and fire upon the personnel.)
- 1210 - CO 1st Bn reports major part of DIEDING in our hands. Co B moving to N of town is now moving to sieze objective A (Hill 311 at 5751) and then hold to protect 3d Bn crossing and bridging.
- 1230 - S-1, 1st Bn reports Cos A and B moving E and now occupy line 5651 to 5652 and are moving fwd. Co C is mopping up in DIEDING.
- 1235 - 3d Bn (Sgt Manning) reports continued small arms fire in WITTING. Engr work is in progress. TD's were employed and knocked out a pillbox on far bank from which they received fire.
- 1325 - CO 2d Bn reports that Bn has advanced to occupy 50 yds into S edge of woods at 567540 and line extending S along ridge 568530. Enemy is being assaulted in their trench system and prisoners are being taken. Two enemy flak half-tracks were observed at 569529. Bazooka

(Operations Journal Dec 44 contd)

teams are moving in to attempt to knock them out.

- 1430 - CO 3d Bn reports enemy pillbox at 572504. Arty directed to secure clearance from 26 Div and fire WP.
- 1515 - Co B reports enemy tanks and vehicles along road from 567524, N to WIESVILLER withdrawing as result of arty fire. (Reported to Div and requested air strike on the tanks. Div advises air on the way to the target.)
- 1614 - Sgt Manning, 3d Bn, reports troops on Hill 311 (575518). Friendly(?) TD's observed in woods at 577501. (Troops later identified as enemy. TD was friendly vehicle of 26 Inf Div.)
- 1630 - Col Alexander reports Inf foot bridges going in across the river NW of WITTRING and expects to cross rifle companies beginning immediately after darkness.
- 1645 - 1st Bn reports time fire placed on enemy positions on Hill 311 followed by two rounds of propaganda leaflets caused 8 prisoners to surrender themselves.
- 1647 - CG visited CP.
- 1658 - Lt Cooper, 654 TD, reports enemy tank destroyed at 568524. Another tank in same vic reported firing on 1st Bn.
- 1715 - Sgt O'Kelly, 2d Bn, reports 2d Bn positions to be as follows - Line from 563538 E to 569538 thence S and W to 563523 and NW to 559526. Mines have been placed across roads and all approaches into their positions. An Inf support bridge or assault raft is being put in and AT guns will be first priority crossing.
- 1920 - Msg from Div - Guard against infiltration tonight. Resume atk 090800 Dec.
- 2115 - 1st Bn will dispatch an outpost to RJ 563518 in order to meet 3d Bn troops when they cross river.
- 2120 - From Div G-2 - There will be friendly night fighters up tonight. All Bns notified.
- 2135 - Capt Smith, 2d Bn, informed us that they have a few prisoners which they will send back. No other changes.
- 2315 - Col Alexander reports that 2d bridge is expected to be in at midnight.
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - 2d Bn along high ground 400 yards E of ZETTING and extending from 569538 to 563523. 1st Bn positions extended from 559519 to 560513. 3d Bn continued to assist supporting Engrs and during the night constructed foot bridges and began crossing to NW of WITTRING.

Extract from G-3 Report
071200A Dec 44 to 081200A

320 Inf - 1st Bn began crossing SARRE R at 080500A vic (Q5451); mopped

(Contd Operations Journal 8 Dec 44)

up town of DIEDING and secured positions to N and E of town. Leading elements of 2d Bn crossed at 080600A, Cos F and G completing crossing by about 080745A. Bn siezed high ground at (Q5753) SE of ZETTING, receiving MG and mortar fire. Crossing of 3d Bn was held up by hvy direct fire from E bank of SARRE R, and Bn became engaged in a fire fight with enemy on E bank of R. Regtl CP moved from HAMBACH to SILTZHEIM, closing 072100A.

- 0030 - Col Skehan reports that it is almost impossible to put Bailey Bridge across river. He expects to make further trials and report later. CO ordered him to search for unorthodox means and to investigate RR bridge for tank and TD route, also consider hvy pontoon
- 0045 - 1st Bn reports three PW's from 11th Panzer Div captured.
- 0050 - CO reported present status of Bridging to Div.
- 0110 - 328 Inf (26 Div) inquired if we had elements on Hill 311. We reported that our troops were in position to the West.
- 0200 - Col Botchen (60 Engr) reported that he is waiting for a new daylight reconnaissance before doing anything further on the bridge.
- 0245 - Capt Ebright (G-3) reported permission granted to cross at SARRALBE and use road through 328 Inf sector. We must notify the 328th when we clear SARRALBE so they can clear the roads. The 328th also wants us to notify them when we occupy objective A (Hill 311).
- 0330 - 2d Bn reports our patrol advanced towards the fwd edge of woods (vic 5754) towards WIESVILLER. They could hear foot movement at fwd edge of woods. Enemy troops (not many) moving towards the town. Because of these troops on the road our patrol could not advance further. Patrol returned at 0130.
- 0345 - PW's identified from 3d Co, 11 Rcn Bn, 11th Panzer Div. Their company is in position in zigzag trenches on the high ground at 5652 in the little forest. 2d Co in position to the right of the 3d Co. G-2, 2d, 3d Bns notified.
- 0700 - Called 3d Bn and found out that their foot troops are across the river. They have not contacted 1st Bn yet. Capt Ebright (G-3) wants report on 2d ferrying of AT guns and time our TD's leave here. G-2 Summary - 134 bridge sites 1 and 2 each received more than 100 rds of arty throughout the night. Patrol to MUNKIRCH (529581) did not contact enemy in that town but civilians report that enemy with tanks were in that vicinity during afternoon. Earlier in the evening vehicles could be heard vic 5356. OP reports about one white flare every 15 minutes since 2400 last night. XII Corps reports quiet in the entire sector last night. 78 PW's since 1600.
- 0715 - Situation reported to CG.
- 0720 - Requested information from 2d Bn on vehicle ferrying.
- 0730 - 2d Bn reports two 1½ ton vehicles and guns, no jeeps across river. Received small arms fire, some intermittent mortar fire on ZETTING last night. (Div notified)
- 0750 - Col Botchen (Engr) given above report.
- 0820 - 134 requests permission to smoke Hill 273.
- 0825 - S-3, 216 FA Bn requests permission to fire on S edge woods 5555. Granted.

- 0827 - Permission granted 134 to smoke Hill 273.
- 0835 - 134 notified us that they have troops in vicinity of Hill 271 (552552) moving NW and want our troops and arty notified.
- 0845 - Ex O 2d Bn notified of above information and told to inform FA.
- 0850 - CO gave mine sweeping instructions to Capt Hare to relay to Lt Botton.
- 0900 - Lt Botton, AT, given mine sweeping instructions to clear E of R near WITTRING by CO - Clear road from RJ at (570510) S around bend of river until point where it has already been cleared. Clear road from RJ at (570510) W along R to DIEDING (551515), then N to RR at 562528. Clear road from RJ at (556525) E when mine clearing operations are possible. Be prepared to clear road from RJ at (570515) N towards town of WIESVILLER (584537).
- 0945 - 3d Bn reports they are on Hill 311 and are in contact with Bn on left (1st Bn). (Div notified by Ex O).
- 1002 - 3d Bn reports that they have now established contact with Bn of 328 Inf on right and are now preparing to move N towards WIESVILLER.
- 1005 - 1 Plat 654 TD Bn dispatched to cross at SARRALBE.
- 1030 - Authority received from Div to cross all vehicles necessary to E bank via crossing at SARRALBE.
- 1105 - AT Co dispatched two plats to cross at SARRALBE and take up positions on far bank.
- 1130 - Lt Botton reports right section of road net in WITTRING area clear, now working in left sector towards WEISVILLER.
- 1200 - Div notified us not to send any more of our traffic through SARRALBE. (Bns notified)
- 1250 - CO called Col Penfroe, Div G-3, and again requested that permission be granted to establish a control point at SARRALBE and from there dispatch notto exceed 20 vehicles per hour N toward WITTRING. Further requested that the TD plat and two AT plats already dispatched be cleared and allowed to proceed N without further delay.
- 1255 - Lt Cooper reported to CO that TD platoon which crossed at SARRALBE has now reached WEIDESHEIM and rcn is being sent fwd to locate positions E of WITTRING.
- 1320 - Msg from 1st Bn - 1st Bn now occupies E and W line 200 yds N of road leading from ZETTING to WEISVILLER. 3d Bn is on right and along same general line. Friendly TD's (26 Div) can be observed in WIESVILLER. Receiving some small arms fire from front and mortar fire is falling in woods in rear and vic 567526. (Reported to C of S)
- 1340 - CO 1st Bn reports 20 mm fire coming from N into road and RR crossing 555515.

(Operations Journal 9 Dec 44 contd)

- 1343 - CO 2d Bn reports tank fire from 555549 SE into 2d Bn positions.
- 1355 - CO AT Co reports Col Mott, Ex O 328 Inf (26 Div) stopped AT platoons at WEIDESHEIM, turned them around, and sent them back across the SARRALBE Bridge stating that priority was to vehicles of 328 Inf. (Full report made by Ex O to CG)
- 1455 - Lt Cooper returned from OP near ZETTING and stated that tank at 555549 is still firing in 2d Bn sector but no observed fire can be brought upon it.
- 1527 - Msg received from Div that twenty vehicles are now permitted to cross at SARRALBE. (3d Bn notified to send ten vehicles and Lt Cooper directed to send another platoon of TD's)
- 1545 - CG XII Corps visited CP and by telephone made arrangements for 320 Inf to use road from WITTRING N to WEISVILLER. XII Corps C of S directed to change boundary if necessary to put the road in 35 Div sector.
- 1745 - Lt O'Brien reported to CP with following Div Order - 35 Inf Div
O91640A Dec 44
1. 137 Inf cross SARRE R 100500A Dec.
2. 134, 137, and 320 Inf atk 100730A D c , seize initial objectives, prepared to advance to objectives on Div O.
3. No other changes.
OFFICIAL: RENFROE BAADE
- 2020 - Maj Fuller reports that bridge will open at 2200.
- 2230 - Maj Fuller reports 3d bridge (over SARRE R) in operation officially for traffic at 2217. Request MP's be posted as soon as possible.
- 2235 - Maj McElroy informed Maj Fuller that Capt Cleeve, MP, should be in WITTRING and that he has instructions to post MP's on the bridge.
- 2240 - 1st, 2d, and 3d Bns and 216 FA Bn informed that bridge #3 at WITTRING was officially open for traffic at 2217 and that they may now send supply or evacuation vehicles across at any time in accordance with their own needs.
- 2255 - Capt Thompson, G-2, called. Lt Silverman reported sporadic arty fire in our fwd areas. No hvy concentrations reported.
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied and held positions as follows -
2d Bn - woods edge NE of ZETTING from 565539 to 569539. 1st Bn 200 yds N of ZETTING - WEISVILLER ROAD from 575535 to 578537. 3d Bn 578537 E to and including the town of WEISVILLER. 1st Bn sent patrols to establish contact with 2d Bn on left preparatory to effecting coordinated atk 10 Dec 44 to clear woods at 5654 and 5754.

Extract from G-3 Report
O81200A Dec 44 to O91200A

320 Inf - 1st Bn continued atk E from DIEDING meeting strong resistance, and reaching positions E of RR in Z. 2d Bn continued atk against hvy resistance, assaulted enemy positions in woods at (Q567539) and high ground to S, and reached positions approx 400 meters E of ZETTING. 3d Bn assisted Engr during afternoon 8 Dec, and during night 8-9 Dec, all foot elements crossed on foot bridges at NW edge of WITTRING. Bn continued atk to NE 050800A, taking Hill 311 (Q5751), and made contact w/1st Bn on left and 328 Inf (26 Inf Div) on right.

320 inf

21st Army Group: The 4th Cdn Armd Div relieved the 52d Br Div along the south bank of the Meuse river. The 52d Div has now moved down and became part of the XII Corps. The flooded area, just south of ARNHEM, now covers 50 square miles. Last night the water level was reported to have fallen four inches. The 49th Div, of the II Cdn Corps, is the only division holding the bridgehead north of the canal. Artillery duels between the British and Germans in the vicinity of VENLO continued yesterday.

12th Army Group: Ninth Army: In the XIX Corps sector, the 29th Div continued the attack on HUSSEL and SPONTIATZ. Our air force gave valuable aid in this attack, however, although gains were made, HUSSEL and SPONTIATZ remained in German hands.

First Army: The 10th Div of the VII Corps jumped off yesterday morning in a limited attack to the east and patrols had advanced two miles from INDEU, and were fighting in the vicinity of PIFF. 100 P.O.'s were taken. V Corps: CGR of the 5th Armd Div, supported by the 3th Div repulsed four counterattacks in the vicinity of BERGHEIM during the morning. In the afternoon the 2d Ranger Bn, now attached to the V Corps made an attack and pushed 600 yds SE of BERG-STALL. Beliefs of the 1st and 4th Divisions continues. VIII Corps: Active patrolling continues along the entire front. New divisions have been assigned to both the Ninth and First Armies. The 78th and 100th Div, which trained under the XIX Corps, were assigned several days ago to the Ninth Army. These divisions have now been relieved from the Ninth Army and assigned to the First Army. The 78th Div goes to the V Corps, and the 100th Div goes to the VIII Corps. Effective today, the 75th Div is assigned to the Ninth Army.

Third Army: X Corps: In the 90th Div sector of the XX Corps, a gain of one mile was made by the 357th Regt, pushing NE of BILLINGEN. Heavy enemy resistance, including pillboxes and arty was encountered. The 95th Div at FLAUFELDEN, repulsed two counterattacks throughout the day. Largest gain in the XI Corps was made by the 5th Div which pushed two miles to the west bank of the Saar river at DURING, LADERSCH, HESSELBACH, and WABELN. Very heavy enemy arty was encountered during the day. Other elements of the 5th Div during the last two days have captured the 12th Div three forts remaining in enemy hands W of METZ. On Thursday, Ft. Flappeville surrendered and 14 officers and 239 GIs were taken. Ft. Briant, where it was reported that the enemy was existing on horse meat, surrendered yesterday. 670 P.O.'s were taken. Ft. Briant, was the fort which the 5th Div had suffered numerous casualties in their attempt to capture it two months ago. Only one fort remains in possession of the enemy west of METZ.

Sixth Army Group: In the XV Corps sector on Thursday a gain of approx. four miles was made on the entire Corps front. The towns of MONTBACH, ST. LOUIS, and BOUTEVILLE being captured. Yesterday, the 100th Cav advanced four mi. along the boundary between the XV and VI Corps and were fighting in BARTHENHAI. A slight gain was also made by the 329th Regt of the 100th Div advancing one mile and are now within one mile of LA BUISSE. The XV Corps CG has moved from SAARMOUS to W. LINGEN. In the VI Corps sector the 103d Div took over the sector held by the 45th Div. Prior to its relief the 45th Div advanced one mile and was fighting in the vicinity of WIGSHAM. The 79th Div repulsed a counterattack in the vicinity of METZEL. P.O.'s recently taken in the VI Corps sector state that their arty is now using a device for the complete suppression of gunflashes. This has been used since the middle of August.

First French Army: The 30th US Div, now attached to the First French Army, gained two miles along a six mile front and they are now within five miles of COLMAR. They captured GELM, SPTAL, and BERNHAR. The 3d Algerian Div pushing one mile to the east, was fighting in the vicinity of VALPIN. Later in the day it successfully repulsed an enemy counterattack in this area. Sixth Army Group estimates that there are 10,700 enemy troops in contact with the First French Army in the COLMAR pocket.

The eighth unsuccessful attempt by the Japs to reinforce their garrison on IWOJIMA resulted in the destruction of 4,000 Japs and 13 of their ships.



DECLASSIFIED Authority NND 735017

Master

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
10 December 1944

- 0525 - 2d Bn reports patrols heard voices and other indications of presence of enemy in the woods vic 560548. (G-2 notified)
- 0705 - G-2 Report - 134 reports sporadic arty fire vic SAARGUEMINES and bridge site #2 during the night. Corps reports quiet during the night 35 PW since 1600.
- 0800 - G-3 inquired if it is possible for 328 Inf wire patrol to service wire along our NE road out of WITTRING which they had laid prior to the road being designated as ours. Permission granted. (Capt Cleeves, MP, informed)
- 0835 - 2d Bn on line approx 560548 to 573548 in thick part of woods. G Co on left, E Co on right. Resistance light.
- 0840 - 2d Bn reports mortar falling at 555553. Sgt Quasted informed that 134 Inf in SW corner of woods (5555) and that mortar fire is probably friendly.
- 0845 - Maj Allen (G-2) relayed a request from 26 Div to send approx one battery of arty at a time up road from WITTRING to WIESVILLER. CO requested that they stay off road. 1st and 3d Bns advancing N of WIESVILLER - ZETTING ROAD and have advanced to a general line 570548 - 582545.
- 0850 - CO reported situation to CG.
- 0900 - 2d Bn reports enemy gun at 568555. They are sending patrols to that point.
- 0935 - 2d Bn requests position of 134. Lt Silverman called and found out that they are still in SW edge of woods. (2d Bn informed)
- 0955 - 2d Bn reports enemy in G Co area at 564550. They have taken some prisoners and are attempting to force the remainder to surrender.
- 1007 - Msg from CO - Neighbor unit recently discussed already solid on our route without clearance from me.
- 1025 - Capt Trossen reports L Co receiving tank fire and 120 mm mortar from CR 589559.
- 1030 - Capt Trossen reports 3d Bn on line approx 579550 - 585550. Reports 1st Bn reported clear of woods (5455).
- 1045 - Cn Co displacing to vic WIESVILLER.
- 1110 - 2d Bn and 1st Bn have reached N edge of woods (5655) and (5755) and are receiving small arms fire from PT VIESING FME. 3d Bn has reached line 580558 to 587557, receiving fire on left flank from PT VIESING FME and from woods to East (5955) and North (5856). Further report one TD knocked out by SP gun fire. Hvy mortar and MG fire.
- 1137 - 3d Bn reported concentration of personnel at 593558 and requested arty fire on that point. (Ln O 216 FA Bn notified)

(Operations Journal Dec 44 contd)

- 1415 - CO called from fwd CP and requested that a plane adjust 3" arty fire on three tanks reported at 588558 by 3d Bn.
- 1435 - Div C of S reported 134 across road and going well. Told us to push 1st Bn. Conform to ground for air strike. 3d Bn not to pull back because of reported air strike in 26 Div sector.
- 1450 - Plane could not find any tanks around house in front of 3d Bn.
- 1455 - 1st Bn has reached PT VIEDING FME (571561) and observe 5 tracked vehicles to N at GR VIESING FME (572563) and small wood immediately to E.
- 1515 - Ex O called Div and requested that a tank co be sent to 320 through sector of 134 on left in view of the numerous groups of enemy armor seen and reported. (Request denied because of time required to get them there)
- 1516 - S-3 called and directed that 2d Bn send one company to patrol into woods at (563557) on left boundary. CO 2d Bn reports that patrolling is already in progress by Co G.
- 1527 - CO called from fwd and directed that arty be placed on BLIESBRUCK and that the road leading to the S be interdicted.
- 1532 - 2d Bn directed to move to and occupy NE portion of woods (5755) and then be prepared to repel any counteratk from N and E and be in position to assist in 1st or 3d Bn sectors.
- 1540 - Lt O'Brien delivered overlay of new boundary between 137 and 134 explaining that boundary might affect 320 future operations. Instructions delivered w/overlay are as follows - New bdry, as shown on overlay, effective at once.
- 1550 - CG visited CP.
- 1610 - CP displaced from SILTZHEIM via WITTRING to WIESVILLER. Distance of displacement - 6.1 miles.
- 1656 - CO told CO, Co C, 737 Tk Bn to reconnoiter road from 134 river crossing (542542) to woods edge at (551555) for possible route to bring up tanks. A patrol from 1st Bn will be instructed to meet him at 0700. Col Northam was instructed to have AT mine platoon sweep the road through the woods from (551555) to (560560).
- 1700 - Patrol of 1st Bn to be at woods edge (551555) at 0600 to meet tanks at about 0700. Patrol not to be sent until given OK from this Hq.
- 1705 - CO instructed Lt Cooper, 654 TD, to have 1 plat of TD's come up with the company of tanks.
- 1815 - Msg from Div - Continue atk 110800. Co C Tks now atchd.
- 2010 - 3d Bn reports that two strong combat patrols went to CR at (588558) and have ~~mined~~ ^{MINED} the three approaches (from NW, NE, and SE) to the CR. 1st Bn reports several Germans in woods and farm at 573563 and are firing to the W to try to shoot up the enemy concentration at that point.

(Operations Journal 10 Dec 44 contd)

- 2015 - 1st Bn reports the farm at (572563) is partly surrounded and on fire and plan to shoot and burn the enemy out of the place.
- 2210 - 1st Bn reports they now have the farm at 572563 and are sending in some prisoners.
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - 2d Bn reverted to regtl res and secured N portion of woods at 5755 prepared to repel counteratk from N or E or to assist in 1st or 3d Bn zones of action. 1st Bn occupied GR VIESING FME 572563 and outposted the road immediately North. 3d Bn occupied line from 580556 to 585553 and patrolled to and mined the East, West and North approaches to CR at 589559.

Extract from G-3 Report
091200A Dec 44 to 101200A

320 Inf - 1st Bn continued atk to N in conjunction w/3d Bn against light resistance, reaching positions 300 yds N of ZETTING - WIESVILLER road by dark. 2d Bn atkd to E clearing woods at (Q568525) and then atkd to N, reaching S edge of woods (Q5654) by dark. 3d Bn continued atk to N against light resistance, securing WIESVILLER at dark. All Bns atkd 100730A; 1st and 2d Bns clearing woods (Q5654) and 3d Bn advancing to positions shown (overlay) by end of period.

320

af

21st Army Group

With the exception of artillery fire in the vicinity of VENLO and active patrolling along the west bank of the MAAS, there was little activity in the 21st Army Group sector. The 15th Scottish Div formerly under the British XII Corps is now under the VIII Corps. The 52d Div has moved from the south bank of the MAAS and taken a position on the line between the 7th Armd and 43d Divs of the XXX Corps. It is reported that the floodwaters south of ARNHEM which now cover 50 square miles continue to recede.

12th Army Group

Ninth Army: The XVI Corps has been assigned to Ninth Army. XVI Corps Hq has arrived yesterday at TONGRES, southwest of MAASTRICHT. In the XIX Corps sector elements of the 29th Div continued their attack against two strongpoints still held by the enemy west of the ROER at HUSENFELD and SPORTPLATZE. Elements of the 29th Div are fighting in SPORTPLATZE. The air force assisted the XIX Corps in this vicinity. 20 direct hits by 500 lb bombs on the swimming pool at the SPORTPLATZE was followed by a shower of German arms, heads, and legs. 55 enemy planes were over the Ninth Army sector yesterday.

First Army: In the VII Corps sector the enemy made two counterattacks at LUCHERBERG which is held by our troops. Hand to hand and bayonet fighting took place before the enemy was driven off. When the enemy withdrew, 200 Germans killed by bayonet and small arms fire lay in the streets. The 104th Div pushed on then 300 yards beyond the city. The 9th Div is in the line having relieved the 1st Div. The 83d Div has completed the relief of the 85d Div. During the day the 83d Div gained 1/2 mile southeast of GEY. Elements of the 78th Div began arriving in the VII Corps sector and are now concentrated east of EUPEN. The 1st Div upon relief by the 9th Div has concentrated in the rear of the corps sector at AUBEL. In the VIII Corps sector the 2d Ranger Bn continued its attack to the southeast pushing 1/2 mile east of BERGSTEIN. In the VIII Corps sector the 4th Div has occupied the former sector of the 83d Div.

Our air force was active in front of the 12th and 21st Army Groups hitting numerous oil and rail targets.

Third Army: XX Corps - In the 90th Div sector the 359th Inf which began crossing the SAAR the night before last completed crossing yesterday morning. All the foot elements of the 90th Div are now across the river. They are encountering very heavy resistance including pillboxes, mortar, and artillery fire. During the day AT guns and light vehicles were ferried across the river. No artillery or TDs have been brought east of the river in this bridgehead. The 95th Div has also crossed the SAAR with all its foot elements. In addition they have brought one company of TDs across on LVTs. East of the river they have repulsed two counterattacks in the heavy fighting for FRAULAUTERN. The only bridge in the XX Corps sector is the stone bridge captured intact at SAARLOUIS by the 379th Inf. In the southern portion of the corps zone the 6th Cav has relieved the 5th Div in the line.

6th Army Group

Seventh Army: The Army CP has moved from SARREBOURG to SAVERNE.
XV Corps: For the 3d consecutive day the 100th Div has made a gain of 2 1/2 miles. Yesterday after capturing LEMBERG, a key city which has slowed down their advance, they went on to take the heights 1 1/2 miles northeast of town. The 44th Div in a one mile thrust took the city of ENCHENBERG. The 12th Armd Div took BINING and coordinated with the 26th Div in the capture of SINGLING. PWs taken in the VI Corps sector state that the MIGINOT fortifications in front of XV Corps near BITCHE are manned by 2000 Germans.
VI Corps: The 103d Div pushed 2 1/2 miles to the northeast taking NIEDERBRONN while the 79th Div went one mile east taking BISCHWEILER.

First French Army: Although the 36th Div and the 2d Fr Armd Div are being held up by demolitions and floodings, a gain of 2 miles on a 7 mile front including the capture of THANN in the southwest corner of the pocket continues to press the Germans caught in the COLMAR pocket.

Yesterday Generalissimo Franco, head of the Spanish Government, resigned.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
11 September 1944

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

- 0500 - 1st Bn inquired if road from 545557 NE through woods has been cleared of mines. (Informed them that it had been cleared)
- 0820 - 1st Bn CO reported that they had captured several ammunition carts and harnessed trains of horses on the VIESING FME.
- 0825 - 3d Bn CO reports no progress of units reported as yet.
- 0830 - 3d Bn reports anti-personnel mines in woods (5955). Capt Wilson told to send mine plat fwd to clear area. Rear CP also called and help from engrsr requested to clear area.
- 0915 - I Co advancing without opposition. They are along the RR treadway and have only met one anti-personnel mine.
- 0925 - Arty observer with 1st Bn reports elements have reached 575568.
- 0930 - CO Co C, 737 Tk Bn reported to CP and stated that 14 trees are felled across the route the tanks were to take through woods 552555 NE to 560561.
- 1310 - 3d Bn reports Co K now on high ground at 597566 and moving fwd to next high ground to NE of Hill 325 and to E of BLIESBRUCK. 1st Bn sending patrols to BLIES R to reconnoiter for crossing sites.
- 1315 - CO 2d Bn directed to move from res area in wood 5755 to woods vic CR 589559 and to be prepared to move on order to BLIESBRUCK to clear the town if any enemy is reported there by 3d Bn, passing to the E of the town.
- 1415 - Capt Kurtz reports tank or SP fire on 3d Bn and coming from BLIESBRUCK.
- 1416 - Lt Regis, 60th Engr Co C reports arty or mortar fire falling in vic CR 589559 wounded two engr EM engaged in clearing operations. Lt Shamhart and two EM who went to their assistance and had started carrying them back struck S mines seriously wounding the men already wounded and the O and EM trying to assist them.
- 1430 - S-3 made report to G-3 via 193 radio.
- 1445 - Msg sent to 2d Bn - Change destination to 583564. See me as soon as possible. Signed CO 320 Inf (cleared 1452) (Assembly area for us changed by above msg - see 1315 entry)
- 1502 - CO 1st Bn reports patrols reached woods at 577576, there encountering an enemy patrol or outpost. Considerable activity was observed on N side of BLIES R and small arms fire was directed at the patrols. Even more enemy activity could be observed in sector in front of 134 Inf.
- 1511 - Msg sent to 2d Bn - If you have not started moving stay put and contact me. Signed Co 320.
- 1530 - 2d Bn contacted by telephone and movement had not begun. CO directed to remain at old positions in NW portion of woods (5755).
- 1615 - Further information received from Ex O 2d Bn indicates that 2d Bn

proceeded on original order and reached new assembly area in woods at 583564.

- 1640 - Upon request of CO CG 35 Div authorized res Bn to be moved to ZETTING for the night, no immediate employment being foreseen.
- 1642 - Authority received from CO 134 Inf to fire arty in wood on 134 - 320 bdry and at 577580.
- 1700 - By request of 3d Bn, 328 Inf, arrangements were made w/ 3d Bn 320 Inf to have a contact patrol meet their patrol at road and RR crossing at 591561.
- 2125 - CO 2d Bn reports 2d Bn closed in at ZETTING. CO received telephone msg from Div indicating that mission, boundary and final objective is unchanged. Time of atk 120500 Dec 44. CO 60 Engr Bn reports 50 assault boats and 174 ft of foot bridges is now on transportation and is in WEISVILLER. S-3 3d Bn and CO 1st Bn having previously reported to CP received the following instructions and plan: 3d Bn move at 0430 or 0500 at discretion of CO with initial objective of siezing that portion of BLIESBRUCK E of BLIES R and securing it, continuing on Regtl C to final Obj. 2d Bn (res) move from ZETTING beginning 0500 to reoccupy res area in NE portion of woods at 5755. 1st Bn move at 0500 to cross BLIES R by assault boat or Inf foot bridge or by any other expeditious means found as result of reconnaissance, and sieze that portion of BLIESBRUCK W of BLIES R and the commanding ground 5858.
- 2152 - CO 3d Bn reports that patrol left 0800 and returned 2130 and report that they reached a point 100 yds short of 1st house in BLIESBRUCK. Heard no movement on E side of river. Heard one tank moving in that part of town on W side of river.
- 2210 - Msg from Div - Atk in Z 120500. 134 crosses same time.
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - 2d Bn (res) in assembly area at ZETTING. 3d Bn occupied positions along RR vic 592561 and high ground at 597565, and sent patrols to BLIESBRUCK. 1st Bn occupied positions along RR from 578569 to 590566, outposted woods edge and patrolled along S bank of BLIES R and woods at 578580.

Extract from G-3 Report
101200A Dec 44 to 111200A

320 Inf - (w/Co C, 737 Tk Bn atchd) - 1st Bn continued advance to N from woods (Q5755) siezing PETIT VIESING FME at 101455A and GRANDE VIESING FME at 102210A. 2d Bn extended positions to E to include whole N edge of woods (Q5655) and held these positions against possible counteratk from N or E. 3d Bn advanced to N from WIESVILLER encountering hvy resistance from enemy positions in S edge of woods (Q5855), and reached positions SE of CR at (Q585553) by dark. 1st and 3d Bns resumed atk at 110800A, reaching positions along RR (Q5857) - (Q5956) by end of period. Co C, 737 Tk Bn atchd 101830A. Regtl CP moved to WIESVILLER, closing 101720A.

BRIEFING NOTES

COL JOHNSON

S E C R E T

11 Dec 44

21st Army Group

In the 21st Army Group sector the flooded areas and 6 inches of snow have impeded operations. Patrols are being maintained along the entire British-Canadian front.

12th Army Group

Ninth Army: After a week of hard fighting supported by air force strikes the 29th Div has finally cleared the last two German strongpoints west of the ROER at HUSENFELD and SPORPLATZE. The 11th Cav Gp is arriving in the XIII Corps zone. The XIII Corps zone reports that the Germans are drafting women over 18 years of age into a women's auxiliary and training them in rifle marksmanship.

First Army: The VII Corps yesterday launched a coordinated attack. The 104th Div and CCR of the 3d Armd Div just to their south jumped off at 0745 while the 83d Div jumped off at 0630. Progress has been reported as very slow. The boundary between the VII and V Corps has been altered slightly to make the V Corps responsible for a small wooded area.

In the V Corps zone two regiments of the 78th Div have now closed. The 8th Div has relieved the 2d Ranger Bn and elements of the 13th Inf have gained 100 yards in the vicinity of BERGSTEIN.

One regiment of the 106th Div has closed in the VIII Corps zone in the vicinity of ST VITH.

It is reported that 6 inches of snow have fallen in the First Army zone.

Third Army: The XX Corps continues the bitter struggle to enlarge its bridgeheads across the SAAR. The 90th Div was counterattacked twice yesterday in the PACHTEN bridgehead losing a few pillboxes. In addition to the foot elements of the div they now have 17 57mm AT guns, 5 tanks, and a platoon of TDs across the river. However, all the ferries have now been knocked out by enemy artillery. At FRAUENBERG the city has been converted into a fortress with cellars reinforced with steel and concrete and tanks concealed in the houses. The 377th Inf fighting against increasing resistance yesterday took 1 hotel, 1 fortified house, 2 other houses, and knocked out 1 tank concealed in a house. The 378th and 379th Infs made no progress. They did withstand 4 counterattacks successfully despite the lack of heavy equipment. TF FICKETT continues to patrol the southern portion of the corps zone. The 5th Div has assembled in the vicinity of ~~REUTZHEIM~~. There are still no bridges across the SAAR except the one captured in the initial assault. The SAAR began rising two days ago and is now 500 to 700 feet wide in some parts of the corps zone.

Felsberg

III Corps reports that they have picked up 14 PWs from FT JEANNE D'ARC who have stated that their CO has given them the opportunity to escape and attempt to infiltrate back to the German lines so that when surrender does come only the old and useless will be left. Two of these PWs were picked up by our troops out of one of their own minefields where they had been wounded by their own mines.

6th Army Group

Seventh Army: In the XV Corps zone CCA of the 12th Armd Div attacked ROHRBACH with two task forces while a third moved against GUIRING. A gain of two miles was reported. The 14th Div made a gain of about 1 mile along a 3 mile front north of ENCHENBERG which they took two days ago. The 399th Inf of the 100th Div blocked German attempts to infiltrate troops back into LEMBERG. The 397th gained another mile north of MOUTERHOUSE. The 106th Cav took BAERENTHAL and pushed 2 miles north of the city. G-2 of XV Corps estimates that there are only 1600 enemy troops facing XV Corps.

The 15th Div of VI Corps has established two small bridgeheads over LA ZINTZEL R in the vicinity of GUNDERSHOFFEN and is meeting stiff resistance in the city. The 103d Div captured GRIESBACH. The 79th Div took MARIENTHAL between BISCHWEILER and HAGENAU and latest reports stated that troops of the 79th Div were fighting in the southwest portion of HAGENAU. Armd Inf of the 14th Armd Div had gained 1 1/2 miles along the railroad northeast of GAMBSHEIM.

First French Army: Elements of the 5th Fr Armd Div have been attached to the 36th Div and have pushed 4 miles to the southeast reaching ORBEY. The 4th Mountain Div took LUTTERBACH, northwest of MULHOUSE. It is now reported that the Germans are using a bridge at BRISACH and are slowly withdrawing east of the RHINE.

SHAEFF has announced that in the 22 days following Nov 8th when XII Corps initiated the drive along the Western Front 152,000 casualties have been inflicted on Germany on this front - an average of almost 7,000 troops each day.

Yesterday France and Russia signed a mutual assistance pact.

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
12 December 1944

- 0045 - 1st Bn reports B Co patrol got as far as the RR tracks (583575). They passed a four man patrol moving S. While listening at the RR tracks they heard a tank on the other side of the river. C Co went to RR tracks (578579). Saw and heard no enemy.. Observed two lights in the town to their right, one light in the woods and to their immediate left near the RR tracks, probably two units signalling to each other.
- 0600 - Maj Allen, G-3, inquired about the progress of the atk. Ex O informed him that the units jumped off on time, but that we had no further reports.
- 0725 - L and K Co on outskirts of BLIESBRUCK meeting MG and tank fire from within the town.
- 0730 - 1 TD section ordered towards BLIESBRUCK meeting 3d Bn to reinforce them.
- 0750 - 134 given permission to smoke 585585.
- 0805 - 1 Plat Tks ordered towards BLIESBRUCK to atk town.
- 0815 - 1st Bn reports hand carry of engr equipment to be more than a mile and that progress is exceedingly slow. Receiving arty fire throughout Bn Z.
- 0910 - CO directed one plat tanks covered by one plat TD's move to position S of BLIESBRUCK to support action of 3d Bn.
- 0939 - Msg sent to Div - No troops across at 0900. Boats hand carried reaching crossing site. Assault troops at RR vic 583577. Enemy on far bank. Right Bn atkg town 595575 with tanks. Enemy defending with small arms and tank fire.
- 1100 - Maj Leach called and stated that Ln O from 26 Div had called at 3d Bn CP and had requested that smoke be lifted from hill area at 6158 since air strike was expected in the area as soon as planes could get off the ground. CO advised that smoke was being employed to mask observation of movement of tanks th and TD's and that if 26 Div will advise time of air strike, smoke will be lifted. Ln O also invited to call at Regt CP to effect further coordination between units.
- 1120 - 3d Bn reports at least one tank and one 88 mm gun in E side of BLIESBRUCK. Request air strike from W to E or E to W so long as it is N of RR.
- 1125 - S-3 requested Div arrange an air strike on BLIESBRUCK.
- 1140 - Div approved air strike as soon as another mission in 134 sector is completed.
- 1145 - Msg from 1st Bn - Receiving arty and mortar fire. Cannot move because of extremely exposed position. Two tanks vic 589583. Enemy dug in 585577 along hedgerow.
- 1155 - CG visited CP.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

(Operations Journal 1 Dec 44 contd)

- 1220 - Air strike is on way. We are to help guard the bridges at WITTRING in addition to Div MP's.
- 1245 - 2d Bn notified to send a platoon of res co, incase of Bn employment, to guard bridges vic WITTRING. Col Hannum informed us of plan to send all of " Co to guard bridges because company strength is low.
- 1312 - Air Squadron Hq reports town of BLIESBRUCK was hit. Arty Ln plane reports a tank was observed withdrawing to the N and it was bombed and strafed by the fighters. No results noted.
- 1445 - 3d Bn reports 1 plat tanks have maneuvered into position and are now firing on BLIESBRUCK. Request one additional platoon be sent fwd immediately.
- 1500 - Lt Cooper, Co C 654 TD Bn, reports 75 rounds of TD ammunition have been fired into town of BLIESBRUCK.
- 1620 - Enemy vehicles reported moving NW at 605595. TD's directed to bring fire on it immediately.
- 1645 - CO 1st Bn reported that at 1430 hours S/Sgt Elvin C Hammons, Co B, and S/Sgt James W. Johnson, Co B, waded the BLIES R to cross the International Boundary into GERMANY.
- 1650 - Lt O'Brien reported to CP with overlay and following order - 35 Inf Div 121550A Dec 44
 1. 134 and 320 Inf continue adv within Regt Z 130500A Dec 44.
 2. 137 Inf - One (1) Bn cross BLIES R 130500A Dec, sieze and hold Hill 330 (Overlay). 137 (-) continue present mission, protect Div left.
 3. 60 Engr (C) Bn support crossings all regts. Construct bridge over BLIES R at FRAUENBERG when site is free of hostiles small arms fire.
- 2125 - CO 3d Bn reports patrol reached RR S of BLIESBRUCK and heard considerable enemy activity in the town. Signs of preparation for withdrawal (talking, gravel crunching under wagon wheels, etc). Request arty TOT on town and informed S-3 of plan to attempt to take the town tonight after arty shoot, providing situation permits such action.
- 2145 - 216 FA Bn reported time on above target arranged for 2200. One Bn to shoot all WP.
- 2230 - 3d Bn sending another patrol to BLIESBRUCK.
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - 2d Bn (res) in assembly area in woods at 5755. 1st Bn occupied positions along RR line from 578579 SE to approx 585574 and moved foot bridging equipment fwd preparatory to crossing BLIES R. 3d Bn occupied positions S of RR at BLIESBRUCK, patrolled to the town preparatory to resuming atk 130500 Dec 44.

Extract from G-3 Report
 111200A Dec 44 to 121200A

320 Inf - (w/Co C, 737 Tk Bn atchd) 1st Bn advanced from GRANDE VIESING FME cleared woods (Q5856) and secured positions along RR from (Q578569) to

(Operations Journal 12 Dec 44 contd)

to (Q590566) by dark. At 120500A, Bn cleared W bank of BLIES R of enemy and began moving assault boats and foot bridges fwd to bank of R. 2d Bn in Regtl Res moved to temporary assembly area vic ZETTING 112125A, and returned to assembly area in NE portion of woods at (Q5755) during morning 12 Dec. 3d Bn advanced to RR vic (Q592563), receiving MG and tk fire on these positions. Bn resumed atk 120500A toward BLIESBRUCK encountering heavy MG and tk fire from town.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

BRIEFING NOTES - COL. JOHNSON

* S E C R E T *

12 Dec 44

Military activity in the 21st Army Group consisted of active patrolling, while in the Ninth Army patrolling along the Roer river continued.

12th Army Group: First Army: In the VII Corps sector the coordinated attack of the 10th, 3d Armd, 9th, and 83d Divisions made small gains along the entire Corps front against heavy resistance. The 10th Div advanced 250 yds and was last night fighting in the outskirts of PIER. The 9th Div, with GCR of the 3d Armd attached, pushed forward 1000 yds from LANGERHEIM, while the 83d Div advanced 1000 yds, and was reported fighting at STRASS. In the V Corps sector, the 8th Div made a slight gain of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in its drive SE of BERGSTEIN. The 78th Div has now closed in the northern portion of the V Corps sector, while the 106th Div has closed in the VIII Corps sector. PW's captured in the VIII Corps sector report that German reinforcements in front of the VIII Corps have arrived recently in anticipation of an attack by our forces.

Third Army: XX Corps: In the 90th Div sector, house to house fighting continues in DILLINGEN. Heavy resistance continues and it is reported that pillboxes in DILLINGEN are camouflaged to resemble ticket offices, filling stations, and other ordinary types of buildings. In the 95th Div sector, the 377th gained approx. 5 blocks in FRAULAUFEN. The 3d bn of the 378th gained approx. 300 yds to the NE through the residential district of EISDORF, while a gain of approx. one block was made by the 2d bn of the 378th. Long range arty was active in the XX Corps sector during the night. Heavy arty, after firing six projectiles reported to be larger than 280 mm, succeeded in knocking out a bridge over the Nied river. These projectiles are reported to leave a crater of 10 ft deep and 40 feet in width. During the day, two explosive charges were discovered under culverts in the Corps sector. One of these, with time fuse attached, contained 1500 lbs of dynamite. At SAARLAUTERN, two counterattacks were repulsed throughout the day. One of these counterattacks included enemy personnel of 85 men and two tanks. The group appeared to be fanatics. The attack was very fierce and they shouted "Heil Hitler" throughout the attack. The entire group was killed. It was reported that between 2300 and 2400 on the night of Dec 10th, the bridgehead in the northern portion of the XX Corps received more arty fire in one hour than it had received in any 24 hour period during operations along the Moselle river.

Sixth Army Group: Seventh Army: In the XV Corps sector, the 12th Armd gained approx. 2 miles during the day, capturing ROERBACH, and were reported last night fighting in GUIBIAI and PETIT-RODRICHING. The 4th Div made a gain of 2 miles along its entire front, while the 100th Div advanced one mile and was last night within two miles of BITCHEL. In the VI Corps sector, the 45th Div crossed the Zintzel river and was fighting in JEH-LEL and REICHENOFEN. The 103d Div also crossed the Zintzel river north west of HAGELU. The 79th Div, pushing one mile to the southeast of HAGELU, reported the capture of KALTENHOUSE.

First French Army: The 1st Para Regt has now been attached to the 2d Fr Armd Div. The 36th Div, which was attacking to the south along both banks of the Iller river, was forced to continue their attack on the west bank only, due to heavily flooded areas. A gain of one mile to the south was made capturing BEHNLEH. The COL AR pocket was further reduced by the 1st French Corps, pushing one mile to the east and capturing RODEN.

It was reported that the government of Hungary has fled BUDAPEST, and that the city is now in flames.

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
13 December 1944

- 0040 - G-3 called to inform us that 134 reports enemy tanks and Inf counteratk in town N of river in their sector. (3d Bn notified 0045, 1st Bn 0100)
- 0100 - 3d Bn reports patrol proceeded to RR track, met enemy patrol on ridge to left of road. Noticed flare and activity in town, signalling w/flashlights in front of RR. Heard fire fight on left. Patrol believes town still occupied by enemy. (g-2 and 3 notified)
- 0245 - 134 reports that between 2400 and 0100, enemy tanks and inf (or assault guns) atks Bn of 134 in HABKIRCHEN N of river. Foot bridge across river was hit by arty and communication is out with that Bn. (1st and 3d Bns notified at 0300)
- 0600 - Maj Walton reports that part of B Co is across R, rest crossing.
- 0640 - 1st Bn S-3 reports two companies across river. They crossed on foot bridges. The nine assault boats that had previously been carried to the R were not used. At daylight enemy group who had detected and were watching the boats were destroyed by mortar fire by troops already across.
- 0830 - CO and Capt Zerman went fwd to 3d Bn to work out plan for atk on town (BLIESBRUCK).
- 0915 - CO returned to CP. Tentative plan for 3d Bn to atk BLIESBRUCK following arty TOT at tentative time 1030.
- 0945 - Msg from 1st Bn - One company enemy moving W from BLIESBRUCK at 0930.
- 1007 - Msg sent to 1st Bn - Reference msg time signal 0945. Which side of river was enemy moving on. (Ans - N side)
- 1045 - 1st Bn reports the two assault companies successfully crossed without enemy detection and have now occupied positions at 585583 to 583588 and is holding there. Res co will be brought across when it can be done without detection. Some fire has been received on right flank from that portion of BLIESBRUCK N and W of the river. Receiving a little mortar fire also.
- 1120 - C of S and Div G-3 visited CP.
- 1235 - 3d Bn reports troops about 300 yds from BLIESBRUCK and receiving some small arms fire and innacurate arty fire.
- 1250 - 3d Bn troops in BLIESBRUCK and L Co is in as far as the church. There is some resistance but they are going to try to clear out the entire town today. CO ordered CO 3d Bn to patrol to the N also to look for a suitable bridge site.
- 1305 - CO reported information contained in 1250 entry to CG.
- 1535 - CO 3d Bn reports all that portion of BLIESBRUCK S and E of the R is now in their hands. Tanks are now being moved to give town all around protection. Bridge to that portion of town N and W of the R has been knocked out. Having previously been prepared for demolition by the Germans, friendly arty detonated the explosives.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

- 1550 - Lt Silverman was dispatched to CP 347 Inf 87 Div on right to obtain clearance to fire into their sector on an enemy gun position at 601721 which 3d Bn previously reported was firing into BLIESBRUCK. Permission was denied, the 347 Inf having occupied that area with their I Co. They will send patrols from Co I to attempt to locate source of the enemy fire.
- 1600 - 3d Bn receiving tank or SP fire from vic REINHEIM in the town of BLIESBRUCK. TD's will fire on the positions but guns must fire at extreme range.
- 1635 - 1st Bn reports 50 rounds of 105 fell in vic of footbridge. No damage done.
- 1637 - Lt O'Brien reported that time of atk for 14 Dec will be 0600. Div approves regimental plan to send 2d Bn to right of 3d Bn to continue to final objective - NIEDER GAILBACH. By mutual agreement between 134 and 320, 2d Bn 134 plans to cross their troops over bridge used by 1st Bn 320. Supporting engr's w/134 will provide additional footbridges in the event 1st Bn 320 bridge is knocked out.
- 1715 - Mag from Div - 347 Inf plans to atk 140700 through woods, coordinates 6158 and then around to E. (347 Inf Staff - CO - Col S R Tupper; Ex O - Lt Col Pickhardt; S-2 - Capt Griffith; S-3 - Capt Lundy; S-1 - Capt Churchill)
- 1800 - CO Co C 60 Engr Bn directed to fill all craters in road leading from CR at 589559 to BLIESBRUCK and to move sufficient treadway bridge sections fwd to place a bridge across BLIES R from S part of town to N part of town prior to daylight 14 Dec. 3d Bn reports that they believe the N portion of town to be unoccupied.
- 2100 - Capt Walton, 60 Engr Bn, directed to secure Bailey Bridge to cross RR at 595573 if treadway cannot be more advantageously employed.
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - 3d Bn occupied that portion of BLIESBRUCK S and E of BLIES R. 1st Bn occupied Hill 312 (5358) and during darkness brought res co across BLIES R. 2d Bn remained in res in NE portion of woods (5755). Engrs continued for bridge sites and routes leading into BLIESBRUCK.

Extract from G-3 Report
121200A Dec 44 to 131200A

320 Inf - (w/Co C, 737 Tk Bn atchd) During 12 Dec 1st Bn prepared to make crossing of BLIES R, moving Engr equipment fwd to R bank, while assault Cos established positions along RR protecting this movement of equipment. At 130300A, Bn crossed R in assault boats and atkd ridge NW of BLIESBRUCK. 3d Bn, supported by TD's, continued atk on BLIESBRUCK against strong resistance and heavy fire and made slight gains. At approx 131030A, Bn resumed atk on town following TOT by arty. 2d Bn remained in Regtl Res in NE portion of woods (Q5755).

Briefing Notes

Col. Johnson

S E C R E T

13 December 1944

21st Army Group

In the 21st Army Group sector the flooded area south of ARHEM has reached a new high having risen 6 inches yesterday. About 60 square miles are now under water. Blowing of dikes by British troops has forced the Germans in their turn to evacuate some of their positions and withdraw to high ground. Active patrolling continues along the entire 21st Army Group front.

12th Army Group

9th Army: Troops of the 29th and 30th Div of the XIX Corps patrolled the ROER R throughout the day.

1st Army: The drive of VII Corps continues with limited gains reported along the entire front. The 104th Div for the second consecutive day gained 2000 yards to the east and were fighting in LARKEN about 1 1/2 miles from DUREN. The 9th Div also gained 2000 yards and had cleared LERODE and SCHLICH and were fighting in KONTZEN-DORF. The 5th Armd Div less CGR passed through the 83d Div which was mopping up STRASS. The 3d Armd Div gained 1500 yards capturing OBBERGICH.

The 8th Div continued pushing south of BERGSTADEN and made 200 yards.

In the VIII Corps sector the 100th Div is relieving the 2d Div in the northern portion of the corps zone.

Our air force was very active behind the enemy lines yesterday. 1700 bombers screened by 800 fighters hit the three great rail centers of GEISSEN, HANAU, and FRANKFURT.

3d Army: The 90th Div of XI Corps repelled three counterattacks during the day. They reported the capture of several pillboxes taking 35 prisoners. The 90th Div has at the present time 27 tanks and 3 TDs across the river. Three ferries are in operation after having been put out of action by enemy artillery. Elements of the 95th Division gained 2 blocks north of the railroad and also pushed 800 yards to the south. Elements of the 5th Div are moving to relieve the battalion of the 95th Div which is guarding the stone bridge in SARRILOUIS. Long range artillery was again active, hitting in the vicinity of BOUZONVILLE. It is reported that the projectile is a 380mm.

6th Army Group

Seventh Army: The 12th Armd Div and the 44th Div of the XV Corps gained 1 mile along their fronts. The 12th Armd Div had captured GUIRING and were fighting in BETTVILLER. PETIT LEDRONGING was cleared by elements of the 44th Div. A gain of 1/2 mile by the 2d Bn 98th Inf was reported by the 100th Div which placed them within 2 miles of BITCH.

Large gains were made in the VI Corps sector. The 103d Div moved out 6 miles to the northeast taking WORN and were reported fighting in GARBURG. The 79th Div cleared MAGNUS and pushed out 6 miles to the east to SOUFFLEHEIM. The 94th Hon gained 6 miles towards the RHINE capturing ROHWITZER and DRUSHEIM. 3 US bombers crashed in the 45th Div sector yesterday. No reason for the crashes is known.

1st French Army: The 36th Div moved 1 mile closer to COGNAC and are now within 3 miles of the city. The 2d Moroccan Div gained 3 miles on a 2 mile front northeast of BELFORT.

Higher Headquarters now stated that there are 66 Allied divisions on the Western Front 47 of which are in the front lines. Opposing them the enemy has the equivalent of 28 divisions in their front lines.

General Patton was decorated with the Oak Leaf Cluster to his Distinguished Service Medal.

- 0310 - Col Alexander reported that bridge will not be in by daylight.
- 0350 - 1st Bn S-2 reports 2 PW's on way to regt CP. Situation quiet.
- 0430 - Capt Trossen, 3d Bn, reports information from civilians reveals that 11-18 Americans (prisoners) were in the town two days ago. (Capt Trossen believes they are from L Co)
- 0650 - CO informed 1st Bn S-2 that 134 Inf 2d Bn is reported to have successfully crossed last night and has joined our units.
- 0720 - CO informed 1st Bn that 134 has another foot bridge in at the site of our foot bridge now.
- 0730 - CO called 134 and learned that they are now at 582592.
- 0935 - Msg from 3d Bn - Send TD's to me by new route (river road)
- 0940 - 2d Bn began movement 0500 to NE and is now atkg in conjunction with 347 Inf 87 Inf Div on the right. Bn is echeloned to left of 347 Inf units and most advanced elements have now reached 603576 (approx)
- 1010 - 3d Bn reports Bn advancing in column of companies Co I leading. Have advanced to a point approx 598587 with scattered opposition. Co K remains in BLIESBRUCK as holding force.
- 1045 - Maj Walton reports 1st Bn patrol sent to graveyard vic 591578 after hearing MG fire. Patrol has taken one MG position and the other is waving a white flag.
- 1050 - Verbal directive received from Div C of S that change of bdry to include REINHEIM in sector 320 Inf is effective at once.
- 1115 - CO 3d Bn requests clearance from 1st Bn to fire on pillbox at 593583.
- 1140 - CG visited CP.
- 1220 - Co E is now at front edge of woods 610588.
- 1245 - Lt O'Brien reported to CP with overlay showing new bdry extending to the N and bearing following instructions - New bdry between 320 and 134 now in effect. 35 Inf Div 141130 Dec 44.
- 1435 - S-3, 3d Bn reports high velocity fire in S sector of BLIESBRUCK believed to be coming down the valley from REINHEIM.
- 1500 - TD's directed to bring direct fire upon that portion of BLIESBRUCK N and W of the river. When the fire is lifted the res co 1st Bn is prepared to move in and clear the town. Cn Co also directed fire propaganda leaflets into the town immediately following the fire of the TD's.
- 1540 - 1st Bn CO reports A Co now in western edge of BLIESBRUCK.
- 1555 - CO 1st Bn reports Co A held up at west edge BLIESBRUCK by small arms fire.

- 1620 - Capt Wilson called and reported that Lt Botton and AT mine plat had cleared up to this time a total of 27 "S" mines from the fields vic intersection at 589559.
- 1622 - Psychological Warfare team from Div reported to CP and were dispatched to RR at S approach to BLIESBRUCK with instructions to broadcast to Germans troops in W portion of town N of BLIES River asking that they surrender while the troops which surround them withhold fire.
- 1705 - Maj McElroy asked 134 Inf to have a patrol to meet our patrol from 1st Bn between 1730 - 1800 at point approx 580601.
- 1710 - Engr construct bridge FRAUENBERG and BLIESBRUCK. 134 and 320 continue adv in Z 0800. 137 hold left of bridgehead, protect Div left - Msg from Div.
- 1810 - Capt Trossen, 3d Bn, reports receiving arty fire from 583598.
- 1815 - A Co has first six houses in their portion of BLIESBRUCK and have 21 prisoners. Maj Walton plans to patrol approaches to the town and cut the enemy off to prevent the enemy from escaping and to prevent replacements from reinforcing the enemy garrison tonight. He does not plan to try to take town until morning.
- 2217 - CO 1st Bn reports enemy shelling N end of BLIESBRUCK. They now have five (5) more PW's.
- 2355 - B Co patrol reported failure to contact 134 patrol after waiting approx fifteen (15) minutes. Reports all quiet.
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - 1st Bn (-Co A) on Hill 312 (5858). Co A occupying W edge of BLIESBRUCK N of BLIES R. 3d Bn (-Co K) at approx 598587. Co K in BLIESBRUCK. 2d Bn occupied NW portion of woods vic of 600588 and patrolled to NIEDER GAILBACH, GERMANY.

Extract from G-3 Report
131200A Dec 44 to 141200A

320 Inf - (w/Co C 737 Tk Bn atchd) 1st Bn established defensive positions on SW slope of Hill 312 (Q5858) to protect crossing of BLIES R. During morning 14 Dec, Bn moved further up slope to positions commanding town of REINHEIM. 2d Bn remained in Regtl Res in woods (Q5755). At 140500A, 2d Bn moved to NE atkg in conjunction w/347 Inf (87 Inf Div) along W slope of high ground at (Q6057) - (Q6058), and reached positions at (Q605577) by end of period. 3d Bn, supported by tks and TD's, continued atk on BLIESBRUCK, receiving heavy small arms and arty fire, and succeeded in clearing portion of town S of BLIES R by 131535A. Bn resumed atk to N at 140600A, advancing in column of Cos against scattered resistance, and reached positions at (Q598587) by end of period.

320th Inf

SECRET

Col Johnson

24 December 1944

CHANGING NOTES

21st Army Group: Military activity in the 21st Army Group sector again consisted of patroling along the SAAR R.

12th Army Group: Fifth Army: Artillery and mortar duels across the SAAR R were the only activity in this sector yesterday.

First Army: The VII Corps continued their drive to the ROER R making a gain over the corps front of about 1 mile. HONN was captured by the 3d Armd Div while the 10th Div captured HONN less than 1 mile west of HONN. The 9th Div advanced 1 mile sieging HONN. The 83d Div continued fighting in the vicinity of STASS. It was reported that the enemy has blown one of the bridges over the ROER R in the vicinity of HONN. The 2d Div has now moved from the VIII Corps and taken up a position in the line in the V Corps zone. An attack by the V Corps jumped off yesterday morning, however no report of its progress has been received as yet.

The order of battle of the 1st US Army is now as follows:

VII Corps:

10th Inf Div	(There are 6 divisions all of which are in the line with the exception of the 1st Div which is concentrated in the vicinity of ADEL.)
9th Inf Div	
83d Inf Div	
1st Inf Div	
3d Armd Div	
5th Armd Div (less CG)	

V Corps:

8th Inf Div	(There are 4 divisions plus one armid combat command)
78th Inf Div	
2d Inf Div	
99th Inf Div	
5th Armd Div CGR	

VIII Corps:

106th Inf Div
26th Inf Div
4th Div
9th Armd Div

Third Army: In the northern portion of the XI Corps sector now occupied by the 3d Cav Gp, 2 enemy groups were intercepted attempting to cross the SAAR R from west to east by cavalry patrols. These enemy troops are believed to have escaped from FT JANNE D'ARC several days ago. In the 90th Div sector 29 tanks and 35 TDs have now been ferried across the river into the bridgehead. The counterattacks of German infantry supported by tanks were repulsed by our artillery during the day. Since the 6th of Dec over 200 pillboxes have been destroyed in this area. In the 95th Div sector house to house fighting continues in HALLAU. The 377th Inf gained about 500 yards to the south in the direction of HEDD. The 378th Inf reported heavy resistance throughout the day. Enemy artillery fire in both the 90th and 95th Div sectors decreased markedly during the past 24 hours.

The 26th Div, formerly with the III Corps, is now attached to the III Corps and has established its CP in HETZ. At 1145 yesterday the last enemy fort west of HETZ - FT JANNE D'ARC - surrendered and 550 prisoners were taken.

Sixth Army Group: Seventh Army: The 12th Armd Div of XV Corps completed the clearing of HOTTVILLE and HOSLICH. The 14th Div reported a gain of one mile along its front and is now within 1 mile of HOTTVILLE. The 398th Inf of the 100th Div gained 2 miles to the north while other elements of the division pushed forward one mile. They are now within 1 mile of HIRN on the south and west having captured the town of HIRN.

For the 2d consecutive day the largest gains on the front were made in the VI Corps zone. The 15th Div advanced 2 miles capturing GENSBERG while the 103d Div advanced 7 miles over a 4 mile front capturing HEBBERG. The 79th Div passing around the eastern edge of the HAGENAU FOREST advanced 6 miles capturing SEITZ and HEBBERG on the RHINE R. The 79th Div is now only 13 miles from KARLSRUHE. The 117th Cav cleared a section of 8 miles along the west bank of the RHINE. TDs attached to the 3d Div were firing across the RHINE on German pillboxes on the east bank.

1st French Army: In their push to the south one company of the 36th Div has lost contact with the remainder of the division. The enemy made a heavy counterattack against the 2d Moroccan Div in the SW corner of the COLMAR pocket and were repulsed. POC taken in this area stated that HENRIK NISSER recently visited the pocket and ordered all CO's to hold their present positions at all costs.

Russian troops are now within 4 miles of BUDAPEST on the north and 8 miles on the E.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
15 December 1944

- 0040 - 2d Bn reports all quiet. Patrol did not get into town because of heavy friendly arty there. They report several fires in town.
- 0200 - Lt Peterson, 1st Bn, reports 1 PW surrendered and is being sent back. REINHEIM clear of enemy troops. (3d Bn notified)
- 0202 - 1st Bn reports second patrol still unable to contact 134. All OK.
- 0725 - CG called and requested a report on the situation and on the progress of bridge at BLIESBRUCK. Capt Faubus informed him that all is fairly quiet with slackening arty fire during the night. The bridge at BLIESBRUCK is not yet in but the engr's estimate it to be completed in a few hours as the equipment is already there.
- 0900 - CO directed one (1) plat TD's to proceed at once to cross BLIES R in sector of 134 Inf E of FOLPERSVILLER and join 1st Bn 320 Inf W of REIMHEIM along the road at approx 585595.
- 1015 - CO 2d Bn reports smoke W of 595587, also enemy arty on that spot.
- 1017 - Capt Smith, 2d Bn, reports that patrols have succeeded in entering NIEDER GAILBACH and report the town to be unoccupied. Co E is preparing to enter but believe friendly fire is falling in the town.
- 1040 - CO 2d Bn reports Co E entering NIEDER GAILBACH and requests TD support as Co E has no mines with them and unit on right has not taken OBER-GAILBACH. (Capt Berry, CO Co C 654 TD Bn directed to intercept the plat originally dispatched to 1st Bn sector have them move through BLIESBRUCK and join 2d Bn by movement across country. One plat now receiving maintenance at WIESVILLER move immediately through 134 sector and join 1st Bn W of REINHEIM.)
- 1245 - 1st Bn now in position about 1 1/2 kilometers W of REINHEIM and in contact with 134. Will attack REINHEIM when 134 moves to N into woods at 5860.
- 1335 - CO 2d Bn reports Co E is in NIEDER GAILBACH with all rifle plats. Co G is covering the town from woods edge at 612588. No resistance in the town now but some enemy were previously driven from the town. Co E is outposting and mining approaches to the town.
- 1340 - CO 3d Bn reported to CP and stated that Co I is now being moved fwd to high ground at 6059 and E of the RR tracks.
- 1335 - Clearance obtained from 1st Bn to allow 3d Bn to fire on all observed targets vic REINHEIM until 1500 hours. One enemy group now observed W of REINHEIM will be taken under fire of TD's.
- 1530 - Inf support bridge at BLIESBRUCK open for traffic.
- 1555 - CO called 134 and determined that Bn on right is now moving through wood at 5860 and have taken some prisoners. CO gave the above information to 1st Bn and directed they move at once to atk REINHEIM.
- 1600 - 3d Bn (Sgt Manning) reports Co I in position E of RR tracks and on high ground at 6059.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

- 1620 - CO 3d Bn reports an enemy AA gun located at 590609. TD's have the gun under observation and will take it under fire.
- 1625 - CO 1st Bn reports patrol entered REINHEIM and drew enemy fire. One German was killed by the patrol. Co A is now approaching town from South. Co B followed by Co C is approaching town from W. in column.
- 1630 - Msg from Div - Resume atk 0800. Ln C on way.
- 1725 - CO directed Cn Co to fire five (5) minute concentration of WP from 1745 - 1750 on town of REINHEIM. At same time arty will fire eight (8) Bns on the town, lift and wait 5 minutes and again fire 8 Bns. Fires thereafter will be on call of 1st Bn.
- 1850 - CO 2d Bn reports entire Bn and supporting TD's Plat now occupy and have outposted the town of NIEDER GAILBACH.
- 1920 - CO 1st Bn reports unit still S and W of REINHEIM and yet unable to enter because of enemy infantry dug in around the town.
- 2100 - CO ordered 3d Bn (-I Co) to move back starting at 0600 to cross BLIES R at BLIESBRUCK and then N to a line of departure 586610 E to REINHEIM, then jump off at 0800 to take objective high ground E of GERSHEIM (Hill 252) while 1st Bn completes mopping up of REINHEIM. (Div and 2d Bn notified)
- 2105 - CO approved 134 Inf plan to send their Tank Co to REINHEIM to support their atk on the woods at 590613 from there.
- 2110 - CO AT Co ordered to place guards of two men on each end of the bridge at BLIESBRUCK as security, also to inform guard of enemy patrol reported coming S from along river bank.
- 2140 - 3d Bn requested permission to fire mortars to vic 594587. They are receiving some MG fire from there believed to be from enemy patrol 594587. Granted. (To 1st Bn)
- 2200 - 1st Bn reported they had units close enough to REINHEIM where they were hand grenaded and MG'd from the town. They also received MG fire from the high ground N of the town and from across the river to the E.
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows. 2d Bn occupied and outposted and mined approaches to NIEDER GAILBACH. 3d Bn (-Co I) occupied positions vic 597588 sending Co I to positions on high ground at 6059. 1st Bn occupied positions to S and W of REINHEIM and continued to atk the town.

Extract from G-3 Report
141200A Dec 44 to 151200A

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

320 Inf - (w/Co C, 737 Tk Bn atchd) 1st Bn continued to hold ridge NW of BLIESBRUCK, sending Co A to clean out portion of BLIESBRUCK N of BLIES R. During morning 15 Dec, Co A continued to clean out portion of BLIESBRUCK N of R while remainder of 1st Bn moved to secure positions W of REINHEIM. One (1) Plat TDs moving through Z of 134 Inf to meet 1st Bn in new position. 2d and 3d Bns continued atk to N, E of BLIES R; 2d Bn preparing to atk NIEDER GAILBACH from positions in NW edge of woods (Q610587), while 3d Bn was prepared to assist 1st Bn from SE in atk on REINHEIM at end of period.

21st Army Group: The XIX Ar Corps was engaged in giving a demonstration of the tactics which they had found to be successful in the reduction of mutually supporting defended towns. Otherwise patrolling continued along the SAAR R.

12th Army Group: Ninth Army: In the XIX Corps zone the 30th Div pushing to the south 2 miles south of JUCHEN made a gain of 1,000 yards along the SAAR R. Advance elements of the 75th Div began to arrive in the Ninth Army sector.

First Army: The 10th Div of the VII Corps advanced 1,500 yards capturing SCHROFEN and had patrols pushed forward to the SOHM R. The 9th Div made a gain of 1,000 yards capturing BRICKENHILF while the 83d Div captured GAN and were fighting in GURZENISH.

The coordinated attack in the V Corps made by the 2d, 78th, and 99th Divs resulted again in a gain of over 1 mile along the Corps front. The 78th Div pushed 3,000 yards forward capturing HALLSBRUGH and were fighting in SBAUER St. The 2d and 99th Divs pushed forward 1 mile in their sector.

Patrolling continued along the front of the VIII Corps.

Our forces are reported to hold the west bank of the SOHM R from LIMICH opposite the VIII Corps of Ninth Army to SCHROFEN in front of the 10th Div of the VII Corps of First Army - a stretch of about 10 miles.

Third Army: In the sector of the 90th Div of IX Corps 2 enemy counterattacks were dispersed by our artillery fire. 39 tanks and 35 TMs are now across the river in support of the 90th Div bridgehead. The approaches to the bridge site are now prepared but the bridge itself has not been completed. The 95th Div gained 150 yards in the fierce fighting in FRAUENSTADT. The taken from pill boxes southeast of FRAUENSTADT have been identified as members of the 1st POLAR BATT Bn. These prisoners state that the men of this bn averaged approximately 55 years of age and that their training consisted of the firing of 4 rounds of ammunition with the old model French rifle. There are no WCOs and the oldest man present takes command of the group in the absence of an officer. Between 0800 and 1200, 792 rounds of enemy artillery fire fell in the 95th Div sector; 10 more rounds of long range 380mm arty fire fell in the vicinity of BUNZOVILLE. The loss of the SAAR Valley has resulted in a cut of 25% in the German production of iron ore.

6th Army Group: Seventh Army: In the IV Corps sector a gain of 1 mile was made in the 11th Div zone by the 321st Inf pushing northeast of HOTTVILLE. The 106th Cav has relieved the 397th Inf of the 100th Div and the 397th has gone into Corps reserve. In the 106th Cav zone the cavalry forces were forced to push on on foot because all roads were clogged by fallen trees, mined and detonated by the enemy. The 398th Inf of the 100th Div pushed forward 1 1/2 miles along a 2 mile front southeast of HOTTVILLE.

In the VI Corps zone the Corps CP moved north to SESSBACH. In the 15th Div sector our forces continued their push to the north gaining 2 miles along a 2 mile front capturing LEBACH. They are now within 2 miles of the German border. The 103d Div also gained 2 miles to their front capturing SULTZ while the 11th Armd Div gained 7 miles pushing to the east across the corps front capturing STUNDWILER and HOLLWILER. The 79th Div made a gain of 2 miles capturing EBREACH.

1st French Army: In the COLMAR sector a heavy counterattack by the enemy resulted in their entry into SALSSTAT in 2 company strength. Later in the day the 36th Div recaptured and cleared the town. The company of the 36th Div which had been cut off from the rest of the battalion and division for the past two days is now considered lost. In the southern part of the zone the 1st Fr Div of the I Fr Corps has established a bridgehead in the vicinity of LUTZBACH and fighting was going on within the city. French troops in this area were fighting waist deep in water.

The 77th Div, activated at FT JACKSON, yesterday completed the mopping-up of ORMOG, the last port available to the 25,000 Japs trapped on LSITZ.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

OPERATIONS JOURNAL

7 December 1944

- 0020 - Reported to G-2 that 1st Bn was receiving MG fire from vic REINHEIM and high ground to the N.
- 0030 - 1st Bn reported that they have two squads in REINHEIM and believe enemy situation will shortly clear up. (2d and 3d Bns notified)
- 0310 - Lt Miller, 1st Bn S-3, reported approx $\frac{1}{2}$ A Co in buildings in REINHEIM. A mortar FO reported seeing an enemy soldier toss at least four hand grenades in one of the buildings occupied at A Co. Lt Miller has spoken to Co A AC by radio since that time. CO Co A is in the town with his radio in one of the basements. No casualties reported by CO Co A.
- 0610 - CO 3d Bn given 1st Bn situation.
- 0630 - Call to 1st Bn revealed that part of A Co and part of B Co is in REINHEIM.
- 0725 - CO informed 2d Bn of situation.
- 0800 - 1st Bn requested that we send TD's to position covering approaches to REINHEIM. (To CO Co C, 654 TD)
- 0830 - CO released I Co from present mission to rejoin 3d Bn. L Co is now leading followed by K Co.
- 0900 - CO 2d Bn directed to send patrols from res company W from NIEDER GAILBACH to REINHEIM along S bank of river to assist engr reconnaissance and completely clear S bank of enemy.
- 0920 - CO 3d Bn reports L Co now on high ground at 600612, K Co following.
- 0940 - Co C 737 Tk Bn directed to proceed without delay via bridge in sector of 134 Inf to assembly area W of REINHEIM, keeping this hq informed as to progress of movement.
- 1035 - One TD Plat dispatched along road to S of BLIESBRUCK and BLIES R W to cross in sector of 134 Inf and join and support action of 3d Bn on left.
- 1055 - CG visited CP.
- 1200 - Arty FO reports leading elements at 601611. Report heavy arty fire falling on the positions.
- 1201 - 2d Bn reports two strong combat patrols have reached 618603 and from there can observe a tank firing from 617609.
- 1205 - Engrs report road clear from BLIESBRUCK to N to bridge site S of REINHEIM. 2d Bn reports a 20 to 25 ft crater E of NIEDER GAILBACH.
- 1240 - 134 notified not to fire in vic 603612 as L Co now occupies this position.
- 1400 - From 2d Bn - At 1230 patrol received fire from HT and a tank from vic 618609. Approx 30 enemy inf moved NE towards WALSHEIM (6361) followed by the tank and HT. Patrol also observed a tank at 608617 and a HT and 2 tanks on Hill 222, just N of GERSHEIM firing S.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 735017

- 1410 - CP displaced from WIESVILLER to BLIESBRUCK. Distance of displacement - 3.2 miles.
- 1430 - Capt Zerman reports entire tank co now closed into REINHEIM. Lt Cooper reports 6 TD's have now closed into REINHEIM.
- 1435 - CO 1st Bn directed to displace one company (Co A) as soon as practicable to FME at 603613 to take up positions and protect rear of 3d Bn during atk on GERSHEIM.
- 1500 - S-3 notified 2d Bn CO that 3d Bn supported by Tk Co plans to atk GERSHEIM approx 1545 (actual time will be announced later). 2d Bn to move as soon as practicable in concert with plan of 3d Bn and secure that portion of GERSHEIM E of the BLIES R.
- 1605 - CO 1st Bn directed to send another company to join Co A at Fme 603613 and from there take up defensive positions to N and E and also establish contact with 134 Inf on left and 3d Bn 320 Inf on right (vic GERSHEIM).
- 1612 - Lt O'Brien reported to CP showing bdry changes and the following order - Hq 35 Inf Div APO 35 161500A Dec 44
1. New bdry between 35 Div - 87 Div, between 137 - 134 Infs, and between III Corps - XII Corps, effective at once.
 2. 134 Inf atch one (1) leading Bn to 137 Inf at once. This Bn reverts to 134 Inf control 171800A Dec. Regt (-) assemble Div Res in area: HABKIRCHEN - FRAUENBERG - FOLPERSVILLER.
 3. 137 Inf (w/one (1) Bn 134 Inf atchd) sieze and hold "Obj Line" 17 Dec. Establish contact w/320 Inf.
 4. 320 Inf hold on "Obj Line" (overlay). Right (E) Bn maintain contact w/87 Div, adv as adjacent unit of 87 Div advances 17 Dec.
 5. 2d Cav Gp reconnoiter aggressively in salient S of BLIES R. Occupy salient if enemy withdraws.
- OFFICIAL: BAADE
RENFROE
- 1645 - 2d Bn reports advance elements now working in S edge of GERSHEIM E of BLIES R.
- 1715 - CO 2d Bn reports Co F and Co G has entered GERSHEIM and have found the bridge to W part of town damaged. 3d Bn informed and directed to push their atk from the W of the town.
- 1740 - 1st Bn S-3 ordered to send a contact patrol led by an officer to arrive at 593614 at 1900 and make contact w/O led contact patrol from 2d Bn 134 at that point. Both patrol leaders are to exchange information of mutual interest and arrange meeting time for future contact patrols during the entire night. Warn patrol of booby traps in woods at that point.
- 1755 - Lt Stracken reported that he didn't think the floating bridge vic REINHEIM would be started tonight. CO called C of S and requested that engrs be started on bridge tonight. C of S informed CO that he will get engrs started tonight.
- 1817 - Maj Allen (G-3) reported that engrs will start on bridge at REINHEIM tonight.
- 1850 - CO 3d Bn reports Bn now in GERSHEIM and continuing to clear town.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

- 1855 - S-3, 1st Bn, reports contact patrol will not be able to reach 134 Inf at 1900 as previously arranged as the two companies are now engaged in a fire fight with an enemy group in small wood just S of Fme 603613. Enemy has automatic weapons and some mortar.
- 2020 - Capt Rennis, 60 Engr, reports foot bridge in at REINHEIM. Expect big bridge in at NIEDER GAILBACH to be in by morning (Ex O 1st Bn notified and told to place guards on bridge)
- 2035 - CO 3d Bn reports K and L Cos in GERSHEIM. All quiet. 4 PW's on way back.
- 2040 - S-3 reported situation to G-3. A and B Cos on high ground 602612. 3d Bn had K and L Cos in GERSHEIM; town clear and all quiet. 2d Bn in GERSHEIM E of river. Bridge at GERSHEIM intact.
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - 2d Bn occupied and outposted that portion of GERSHEIM E of BLIES R. 3d Bn occupied and continued to clear that portion of GERSHEIM W of BLIES R. 1st Bn continued to hold REINHEIM and two companies contained enemy in woods vic of FME at 603613. Supporting Engrs continued bridging operations at REINHEIM.

Extract from G-3 Report
151200A Dec 44 to 161200A

320 Inf - (w/Co C 737 Tk Bn atchd) 1st Bn advanced to positions astride road W of REINHEIM and atkd town against stubborn resistance, following heavy arty preparations at 151745A. After getting elements into town by 152400A, Bn resumed atk prior to daylight 16 Dec w/two (2) Cos entering town. At end of period, Bn was cleaning out town. 2d Bn atkd NIEDER GAILSBACH from woods (Q6158) and siezed town by 151850A. At 160800A, Bn advanced to N along E bank of BLIES R to atk GERSHEIM. 3d Bn supported atk of 1st Bn on REINHEIM by fire during night 15-16 Dec. Prior to daylight 16 Dec, 3d Bn moved via BLIESBRUCK to positions at (Q586610) and atkd to N in column of Cos 160800A. Bn moved along Regtl left bdry reaching positions shown by end of period.

320th

Col Johnson

16 December 1944

MAILING NOTES

21st Army Group: The British XII Corps has assumed command of the 13d and 52d Inf Divs and the Guards and the 7th Arm Div. The Corps CP has moved to BARK. Patrolling continues along the MAAS R.

12th Army Group: Ninth Army: Elements of the 75th Div continue to arrive in the Ninth Army zone. The 30th Div cleared a small area between the IJDE and RUSCH RIVERS without suffering any casualties. Artillery observers reported that enemy armor was moving into the woods just SE of JULICH. Patrolling along the RUSCH R was continued throughout the day.

First Army: The attack of VII Corps continues. The 104th Div which had captured SCHOP-NOVEN continued mopping up the city and also captured a strongly fortified castle south of the city. 104th Div patrols are on the west bank of the RUSCH R. The 9th Div consolidated its gains of the previous day and captured a fortified factory north of GURZENICH. The 83d Div pushed 1/2 mile to the east capturing GURZENICH and BINGEL. The 5th Arm Div less CGA also pushed east 1/2 mile capturing HORN and reaching KIFFBACH where they were last reported fighting.

In the V Corps zone the 78th Div advanced 1000 yards to the east and were fighting in KOSTENICH. The 2d and 99th Divs reported gains of 400 yards in their sectors.

VIII Corps continued patrolling along the corps front.

First Army has elements 20 miles inside Germany and, in the vicinity of GURZENICH, are only 2 1/2 miles from the RHINE R.

Third Army: Enemy artillery was very active in the IX Corps zone. In the 90th Div the bridge is still not in at the DILLIKEN bridgehead. However, 50 tanks and 50 Tls are across in the bridgehead. At 140530 50 rounds of artillery were received in 5 minutes in the vicinity of the bridge site. During the day 300 yards were gained on a 900 yard front and 70 buildings were taken in house to house fighting in DILLIKEN. It was reported that a small group of enemy attempting to surrender to the 358th Inf were annihilated by their own troops. In the 95th Div sector 4 more blocks were taken in FRAULAUFEN. Enemy artillery was especially heavy in the 95th Div sector - 3000 rounds falling in 2 1/2 hours. Loudspeakers and propaganda leaflets were employed by the enemy in this area. Over 50% of the prisoners taken in the IX Corps zone were GAF personnel committed as infantry.

XI Corps consisting of the 26th and 6th Arm Divs and II PICKETT took command of a sector between XI and XII Corps as indicated by the boundaries on the map.

6th Army Group: Seventh Army: The 14th Div has run into a heavily fortified sector of the SARTHE LINE. One of the fortifications in front of the 71st Inf consists of 15 pillboxes. Pillboxes with disappearing turrets similar to those found at FT BELFORT have been found here. 8" and 90mm guns fired on these positions yesterday without effect. Further east the 100th Div occupies the high ground west and north of BILLY. Patrols to BILLY reported no enemy contact. The 106th Cav is making slow progress on the heavily mined eastern flank of the Corps.

VI Corps again made the largest gain of the day reaching the German border and sending patrols into Germany. The 15th Div captured WINGEN while the 103d Div captured CLEEBURG. The 11th Arm Div advanced 1/2 miles capturing SALMBACH. The 79th Div has advanced to the easternmost portion of France and were within 10 miles of SARLÉVILLE. NIEDERLAUTERBACH was captured and fighting was going on in LAUTERBERG.

First French Army: In the COLMAR pocket the 2d Fr Arm Div pushed south 2 miles on a 4 mile front capturing WITTENHEIM. Counterattacks against BILLY yesterday resulted in heavy fighting in the SE portion of the city where both the Germans and ourselves had troops last night. It is reported that the enemy has reinforced the pocket with 20 new battalions.

Allied forces hold 55 miles along the west bank of the RHINE R from LAUTERBURG to WITTEM REIM and 12 miles from the Swiss border north - a total of 67 miles of the west bank of the RHINE R in allied hands.

General MacArthur announced yesterday that a new landing had been made. MICHAMOND ISLAND, south of LUZON, was the point of the new invasion.

619611

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
17 December 1944

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

- 0325 - Supporting engrs report treadway bridge (48' - class 40) at NIEDER GAILBACH in operation 0200. (All Bns and Div notified)
- 0330 - Msg from S-3 1st Bn - B Co patrol contacted unit on left at 0300. (G-2 notified 0340)
- 0610 - G-2 called requesting report. (All quiet w/ slight arty fire vic Regt CP)
- 0825 - Bridge at REINHEIM in and ready for traffic.
- 1000 - S-3 1st Bn reported to CP and CO directed that 737 Tk Bn be placed in support and that Bn continue w/mission of clearing woods S & W of FME 603613 and continue to obj line (602624 - 615612) and establish contact w/134 at 603623.
- 1055 - 2d Bn (Sgt Questad) reports elements of 2d Bn in factory area N of GERSHEIM and have taken about 6 prisoners. Clearing continues. Prisoners state approx 800 soldiers were in the area the night before last.
- 1100 - Msg from Div - Div fwd CP closes station 171000A and opens same time at SARREINSMING (545545). Signed 171000A.
- 1300 - Five rounds enemy arty fell vic Regtl CP at BLIESBRUCK. One round was a dud. No known casualties.
- 1330 - 2d Bn reports factory area N of GERSHEIM has been entirely cleared and patrols have been sent to a point approx 500 yds S of HERBITZHEIM where two SP guns were observed vic of the town and approx 30 enemy Infantrymen were observed moving from high ground N of the town into the town.
- 1710 - Msg from Div - Resume atk 180800. No change in mission.
- 1950 - CO 1st Bn reports Fme at 603613 is now surrounded on 3 sides. Co C is approx 300 yds S of the Fme. CO 3d Bn reports a column of vehicles moving NE from BLIESDALHEIM to BREITFURT and displaying lights. An occasional single vehicle is observed travelling to rear of the column. (216 FA Bn directed to fire heavy concentration on BREITFURT and interdict the road to S. 3d Bn FO to fire and adjust on the column.)
- 2035 - Col Alexander called to say that his patrol (to finger of woods - 605622) - was going out between 0001 and 0200. (To 1st Bn)
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - 1st Bn vic 603613 continued to atk Fme and woods immediately S. Action of the Bn throughout the day was supported by hvy weapons of 2d and 3d Bns. Extremely hvy arty, mortar and automatic weapons fire fell in 1st Bn sector throughout the period. 2d Bn cleared factory area of GERSHEIM and outposted the area and maintained physical contact with 347 Inf on right by strong combat patrols. 3d Bn continued to occupy GERSHEIM and sent strong combat patrols to NW into sector of 1st Bn to determine the strength and for presence of the enemy in woods at approx 605622.

(Operations Journal 17 Dec 44 contd)

Extract from G-3 Report
161200A Dec 44 to 171200A

320 Inf - (w/Co C 737 Tk Bn atchd) - 1st Bn moved to Hill 352 (Q6061) at 161435A to relieve 3d Bn and to maintain contact w/3d Bn on right and 2d Bn 134 Inf on left. Bn atkd to N, supported by tks, morning 17 Dec to clear woods S of FME (Q603613), and to reach Obj Line (overlay). 2d Bn continued atk on GERSHEIM, occupying portion of town E of BLIES R by 161715A. Bn atkd N from GERSHEIM morning 17 Dec into factory area N of town. 3d Bn, supported by tks and arty, atkd GERSHEIM from W, and siezed town by 161850A. Bn patrolled to N during morning 17 Dec. Regtl CP moved to BLIESBRUCK, closing 161410A.

370th

SECRET

REPORTING NOTES

Col Johnson

17 Dec 44

21st Army Group: British and Canadian forces, while refitting and regrouping, continued to patrol the MAAS R in their respective sectors.

12th Army Group: There were 11 enemy counter-attacks reported in the 12th Army Group Sector throughout the day. The first counter-attack reported was at 0400 in the 9th Army sector in the vicinity of LINDICH. Last night it was reported that this counter-attack had been contained. Elements of the 75th Div continued to close in the vicinity of HEER. Rotation of front-line units and normal patrolling continued.

The 104th and 9th Divs of the VII Corps of the 1st Army were patrolling along the MOER R and consolidating their gains of the 2 previous days. The 83d Div continued its attack to the east gaining 500 yards and capturing a strong-point near BURZBURG while the 5th Armd Div continued mopping-up in KUFFERATH. It was reported that German troops are moving south to the area of KRAUTHAUSEN, where they hold the last remaining bridges over the MOER R south of DUREN.

Very slight gains were made in V Corps. The 78th Div pushed 1,000 yards against heavy resistance capturing RISTERNICH and moving 200 yards further to the east. The 2d and 99th Divs encountered very heavy resistance and made no gains.

In the VIII Corps sector and the southern portion of the V Corps sector, heavy enemy arty fire was encountered and 10 enemy counter-attacks took place during the day. The enemy succeeded in crossing the OUR R and last night was reported to have 2 companies across the river on French soil in the vicinity of VIANDEN. The numerous counter-attacks consisted of enemy forces of less than battalion strength, supported by tanks.

Three new enemy Divs are reported on the 1st Army front: The 560 Volksgrenadier Div which has arrived from NORWAY, the 62d Inf Div which was previously reported in ITALY, and the 276th Inf Div, which has been reconstituted.

In the sector of the 90th Div of the XX Corps there is still no bridge across the SAAR. Arty fire was heavy throughout the day. The bridge approaches have been destroyed by this fire. A gain of 500 yards was made in DELLINGEN. In the northern portion of the Corps sector, 100 rounds of arty fire fell in 4 minutes at FREMERDORF at 1500. The bridgehead is still being supplied by ferries and the supply situation is considered satisfactory. In FRAULAUTERN, a gain of 1 block was reported yesterday. The fighting in this sector is still very bitter.

At HERNKIRCHEN and HOMBURG it was reported at 2045 that 2 enemy columns each ten miles long were moving south when observed by our night fighters, who worked over these columns. Final reports on the success of the air attacks on the columns have not as yet been received, although preliminary reports indicate good results.

In the III Corps, TF Fickett was conducting aggressive patrolling in the northern portion of the Corps sector, while in the southern portion, the 6th Armd Div continued to maintain contact with the enemy. The 26th Div still in the vicinity of METZ, is engaged in assimilating and training its numerous replacements.

6th Army Group: 7th Army: The 44th Div of the IV Corps is still being held up by fortified positions at SIMSROFF and SCHLESSECK. 222 rounds of 240mm How were fired on these forts with 31 direct hits. The forts, however, were not affected by this shelling. The 100th Div reported a gain of 1 mile east of BITCHE, which carried them to the high ground just south of CAMP DE BITCHE. The 106th Cav Gp, on the Corps' east flank, has cleared ten square miles of heavily mined terrain.

The VI Corps reported a general gain of 1 1/2 miles along the Corps front. Every Div of the VI Corps now has troops across the German border. Heavy enemy resistance was encountered across the border, including numerous pill-boxes, mortar and arty fire. The 79th Div was last night still fighting in LAUTERBERG. The 103d Div captured ROTT, while the 45th Div was fighting in BOBENTHAL, inside Germany. The 11th Armd Div and 103d Divs were fighting in the fringes of WISSEMBOURG, reported to be the last strong-hold in France in the VI Corps zone.

1st French Army: In the 1st French Army zone, the 2d Fr Armd Div has made a gain of two miles south of WITTEHEIM, while the 36th Div reported a gain of 2 miles on a 3 mile front. Fighting is now going on in KAYSERBERG. Elements of the 3d Div have begun the relief of the 36th Div.

With the exception of the COLMAR pocket, there are less than 100 square miles of France in possession of the enemy, while the Allies hold more than 700 square miles of Germany.

It was erroneously reported yesterday morning that Gen. MACARTHUR'S forces had made their second landing in the PHILIPPINES at MINDANAO. The second landing was made in the vicinity of ST. JOSE on MINDORO island, northwest of LAYTE approximately 150 miles from MANILA.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

✓-35

- 0010 - 1st Bn reported arty fire falling on S side of CP at REINHEIM; one or two rounds at a time; began at 1145, still going on. Arty Ln O believes it is howitzer, not high velocity.
- 0110 - 3d Bn reports patrol to finger of woods (605622) found that sector clear. Patrol heard automatic rifle fire to SW. Voices and loud talking heard to NE.
- 0635 - Relayed msg from CO to 3d Bn ExO to move Co I as planned towards finger of woods (605622). Co to be cautious in not getting out on an island.
- 0725 - CO Co C, 60 Engr Bn reported that Bailey Bridge opened at GERSHEIM at 0230.
- 0915 - CO called G-3 and informed Maj Allen that patrol from 3d Bn to finger of woods (605622) had surprised an enemy outpost, possibly taking two MG's and 5 or 6 prisoners.
- 1130 - Inf foot bridge at REINHEIM removed by Engrs at 1030.
- 1320 - CO 1st Bn reports A Co in position due W of the farm (603613) and Co C is due S of the farm at edge of woods. Tanks are being brought to position near Co A and a coordinated atk on the farm will begin at 1400.
- 1325 - CO 3d Bn reports approx 5 Germans moved toward Co I positions in point of woods at 607620 firing automatic weapons. Two were killed and three captured. Enemy activity can be observed in RUBENHEIM.
- 1500 - CO 3d Bn reports Co I receiving hvy mortar fire in woods vic 607620.
- 1510 - CG visited CP and left instructions for 2d Bn to patrol fwd and establish contact with leading Bn 347 Inf on right.
- 1520 - CO 1st Bn reports Fme at 603613 has now been occupied.
- 1525 - 320 Inf relieved of responsibility for guarding the 3 bridges at WITTRING, effective at once.
- 1550 - CO issued instructions to CO 2d Bn and 3d Bn as follows - 2d Bn move one reinf plat N from GERSHEIM to a point approx 621624 establishing contact with leading Bn 347 Inf. Block the road during hours of darkness and pull into positions of 347 during daylight, leaving small patrol vic of road or RR. 3d Bn send one reinf plat to take up positions on high ground between two streams and at coordinates 612623. Establish OP and patrol to Co I in woods (607620) on left. Each Bn send out security elements to N of most advanced elements.
- 1810 - Msg from Div - Halt adv. Hold and consolidate on most favorable ground vic of present front lines. Submit overlay of positions by 191200.
- 1845 - No fire line W for Cn Co is N-S grid line 595.
- 2105 - Maj McElroy got clearance from G-3 to fire small arms, rifle grenades

and rockets vic DIEDING (551515) tomorrow. (New replacements will be doing the firing)

- 2240 - L Co in position on Hill 272 (612622) N of GERSHEIM as of 0930.
- 2245 - TD Plat to 1st Bn in position w/1st Bn as of 2230.
- 2355 - Report from K Co patrol - Patrol went out towards HERBITZHEIM, heard enemy digging in at 618629, enemy caughing vic river 623627, hvy enemy vehicle moving in HERBITZHEIM, enemy tank in RUBENHEIM firing in unknown direction. While returning, they met enemy patrol moving SW towards our L Co vic 613625. Patrol returned through L Co lines approx 2335. L Co outpost also heard enemy patrol and was preparing to ambush it. (To G-2, 1st, 2d Bn)
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - 1st Bn (-Co B) occupied and outposted Fme at 603613. Co B (res) remained at REINHEIM. 3d Bn (-Co I and one plat Co L) remained in GERSHEIM W of BLIES R. Co I and one plat Co L occupied positions in point of woods at 607620, Co I on left, Co L on right. 2d Bn continued to occupy that portion of GERSHEIM E of BLIES R, the factory area to the North and by one reinf company maintained physical contact with 347 Inf 87 Inf Div on right. All units conducted active patrolling night of 18-19 Dec 44.

Extract from G-3 Report
171200A Dec 44 to 181200A

320 Inf - (w/Co G 737 Tk Bn atchd) - 1st Bn supported by tks, continued atk on farm at (603613), meeting very stubborn resistance from enemy in and around farm. Bn had farm surrounded on three sides by dark, and continued atk during morning 18 Dec, supported by hvy wons of 2d and 3d Bns. 2d Bn captured factory area N of GERSHEIM, outposted to N and maintained contact w/347 Inf (87 Inf Div) by strong combat patrols. Elements of 3d Bn moved to NW to envelope left of enemy and assist movement fwd of 1st Bn.

00320

=====
Col Johnson

18 Dec 44

BRIEFING NOTES:

21st Army Group: The 1st Cdn Army continued the relief and rotation of front line units. During the day, the 13th Para Div was identified on the front of the II Cdn Corps. In the VIII Br Corps of the 2d Br Army, the 11th Armd Div dispersed a small enemy group in the vicinity of the MAAS R, and pursued them by fire to the east. In the XII Br Corps sector, the 52d Div was relieving the 43d Div, and the 43d Div was moving to the south to a position within the XIII Corps sector, in the 9th U.S. Army zone.

12th Army Group: 9th Army: In the XIII Corps sector, the 84th Div repulsed a heavy counter-attack of two battalion strength, while the 102d Div was repulsing a one company strength counter-attack. XII Corps units continued to patrol the ROER R to their front.

1st Army: In the VII Corps sector, the only gain was made by the 83d Div, which after capturing a strong-point in the vic of BERZELIE, cleared the town and also captured BE-GEL. German arty fire was falling into the vicinity of the Hurtgen Forest at the rate of 100 rounds per minute. Paratroops are reported to have landed in small numbers at GURZENICH, WAIHEIM, and WEISWELLER, in the VII Corps sector during the night.

V Corps: The enemy launched a heavy attack yesterday on the south half of the V Corps front. In the 78th Div sector, the enemy forced our forces out of HULLEBRUCH and re-entered KESTERICH, but the penetration was contained west of KESTERICH by committing the 2d Ranger Bn, and 1 additional Regt of the 78th Div. In the 2d Div sector, a gain of 1,000 yds was made through a gap in the Honscheu Forest, which was discovered during the day. In the 99th Div zone a heavy enemy attack was launched on the front but the attack of the infantry was contained, however 30 tanks pushed to the west as far as HULLANGS where heavy fighting was going on. Small numbers of paratroopers were reported to have landed at four different points in the V Corps area during the night, and one report stated that the V Corps CP was surrounded by enemy paratroopers.

VIII Corps: The enemy launched a heavy attack yesterday along the entire VIII Corps front, on the boundary between the 28th and 106th Divs, and extending north to the Corps left flank. Heavy arty fire preceded the attack, which resulted in penetrations of our positions up to 5,000 yds. In the 106th Div sector the enemy forced the 4th Cav Gr, which was later reinforced by elements of the 9th Armd Div, to withdraw to positions 6,000 yds to the west where positions were being reorganized and consolidated. The pressure continued strong along the 28th Div front during the day with slight penetrations on the Div north flank. During the night, the enemy penetrated 5,000 yds at three different points, but the enemy elements were contained when the reserve of the 2d Bn, 110th Inf was committed. During the night the 112th Inf reduced the enemy penetrations and restored former positions. In the 4th Div zone, the enemy made several penetrations on the Div north flank, and now hold a strip 2 miles deep by 12 miles broad in the vicinity of HERTSNACHT and BRUDOFF, where isolated elements of the 12th Inf, 4th Div are fighting. Troops of the VIII Corps now are: The 106th Div, the 4th Div, 28th Div, 9th Armd Div, 7th Armd Div from the 9th Army, and the 10th Armd Div from the 3d Army. Higher Hq estimates that there are now 16 Divs on the VIII Corps front with 12 new identifications, and 18 Divs along the remainder of the 1st and 9th Army fronts.

3rd Army: IX Corps: There is still no supply bridge reported in the IX Corps sector, to service either of the 90th or 95th Div bridgeheads. The 90th Div cleared the southern part of DILLINGEN with a one mile gain along the Frise River, in the town, and continued to mop-up fortifications on its flanks and in the rear. The 90th Div has successfully supplied its needs by ferry throughout the operations and now has across the river: a 155mm gun, 5 105mm hows, 60 tanks, 50 TD's, 48 trucks, and 63 jeeps, along with such other heavy equipment. The 95th Div broke through the main defenses of

ENSDORF and gained 400 yds along a 250 yd front. The 2d and 11th CT's of the 5th Div have now relieved the 278th and 379th CT's of the 95th Div in the line. 2,000 rounds of German arty fire were received in the northern part of the Corps zone yesterday, where 6,000 rounds were received the preceding day. G-2, IX Corps estimates that there are 15,500 enemy troops on the Corps front, including the SEIGFRIED LINE garrison, which numbers 4,000.

6th Army Group: 7th Army: The 4th Div continues to be held up by the two main fortifications, SIMSERHOFF, and SCHIESSECK. These forts received 4 hits on 18 Dec from the attacks of the 11th Div yesterday, but no report on the results. Though these forts are well garrisoned, having from 100m to 150m pieces in their turrets, they are manned by inferior quality personnel, according to reports. They are reported to have 90% of their personnel in limited service classifications, and 10% are convalescent cases from battle wounds and illness. The 32nd Inf of the 11th Div sent a patrol to HOTWALD yesterday which reported the town clear of enemy. The 11th Div attacked to the north yesterday and reached the southern outskirts of PI-UM. Though the city itself is not fortified, it is defended by a series of block-houses, with 6-8 foot thick cement walls. BITCHE was heavily bombarded by our arty during the day. CLAUDE BELLES, just to the west, was also bombarded. CLAUDE BELLES was used by the Germans as a deception post for our arty.

VI Corps: VII Div of the XI Corps has reported heavy fighting in the area of PI-UM and BITCHE during the day. The 11th Div is reported to have captured PI-UM and BITCHE during the day. The 11th Div is reported to have captured PI-UM and BITCHE during the day. The 11th Div is reported to have captured PI-UM and BITCHE during the day.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
19 December 1944

- 0315 - Maj Leach, 3d Bn, reported that L Co patrol moving out to designated position, 612623, sent runner back w/information of enemy digging in approx 150-200 yds from that point. Requests permission to bring this group back to more suitable location and shoot some arty on enemy position. They will inform us of particulars as soon as this is accomplished. Permission granted by Maj McElroy.
- 0317 - Maj Leach reported one round arty falling approx every half hour in GERSHEIM. Believed to be 150 mm.
- 0340 - Maj Leach reported L Co moving back from positions vic 612623 to right flank of I Co vic 610619. As soon as this is accomplished and runner returns they will put arty on enemy digging in vic 618629.
- 0510 - 137 Inf B Co reports enemy tanks and infantry at 576620. Our arty is firing on them.
- 0716 - 3d Bn reports 22 rds 105 mm enemy arty in their sector from 0710-0715. Fired from several guns. More now falling on outskirts of GERSHEIM. (To G-2 and 216 FA Bn)
- 0745 - Capt Renis, 60 Engr, reported he is moving a plat up to NIEDER GAILBACH so that they will be close up for emergency or future operations.
- 0815 - Capt Kurtz, 3d Bn, reported civilians are starting to flock back from cave. Request MP guards be sent up so that none will return towards enemy lines.
- 1405 - 1st and 3d Bns notified that arty will fire on quarry vic 611615 at 1500. The fire will be TOT and propaganda.
- 1445 - The fire mentioned in 1405 entry cancelled. Cn Co and mortars will fire mission. 216 FA will fire propaganda.
- 1920 - Msg from Div - No change in orders.
- 2130 - 1st Bn reports A Co patrol contacted 134 Inf at (593615) at 1800.
- 2400 - Positions of units of 320 Inf at end of period unchanged (see 2400 entry 18 Dec 44). During the day all units continued to consolidate and further improve their positions and to establish more suitable contacts with units on right and left.

Extract from G-3 Report
191200A Dec 44 to 191200A

320 Inf - (w/Co C 737 Tk Bn atchd) - At 181400A, 1st Bn, supported by tks, atk farm at (Q603613), receiving heavy fire of all calibres, and succeeded in taking farm by 181520A. 2d Bn continued to hold factory area N of GERSHEIM and maintained contact w/347 Inf (87 Inf Div) on right. 3d Bn remained in GERSHEIM, sending Co L to occupy positions in woods (Q6061) on right of Co I.

SECRET

Col. Johnson

19 Dec 1944

BRIEFING NOTES

21st Army Group: The XXX British Corps, which was recently in the sector just north of the US 9th Army, has been assigned to the 1st Canadian Army, and was moving to the north.

12th Army Group: 9th Army: The XIII and XII Corps mopped up paratroopers that had been dropped in the 9th Army sector during the past 48 hours. The 29th Div, in the XII Corps zone, had taken over the sector formerly held by the 30th Div. The 30th Div had moved to the south and was last night reported in the vicinity of HUPPIN, in the northern portion of the V Corps zone. Enemy air was extremely active over the 9th Army zone during the day.

1st Army: VII Corps:

The 10th and 9th Divs continued to patrol the RUMER R. The 83d Div advanced 1,000 yards, capturing LEIDERSDORF, and had pushed patrols east to the RUMER R. The 1st Div, which was in Corps reserve, at AUBEL, moved to the south yesterday, with 1 CT remaining at HUPPIN, while the remainder of the Div moved further to the south. The 17th Inf of the 9th Div also commenced moving to the south. The VII Corps was also collecting paratroops dropped in the Corps zone at WILDHEIM, GURSENICH, and WILDEWILLER. In the V Corps zone, the 326th German Div made a counter-attack in the 78th Div sector, penetrating 2 miles along a 4 mile front. In the 99th Div sector, where the enemy yesterday had penetrated our lines 4 miles, the Germans pushed forward 10 additional miles for a total penetration of 14 miles, and reached WAINES, 5 miles from MALMEDY. This push by the enemy over-ran the CP of the 39th Inf of the 99th Div. At BURGENBACH, which was yesterday captured by the enemy, the 1st and 12th SS Pz Divs were identified. It was reported that 10 planes dropped 100 paratroopers on the main cross-road midway between MALMEDY and HUPPIN. Pz's taken from this group stated that they had been given the mission of holding this cross-road until Pz troops arrived. Phantom reported enemy tanks observed at STAVINOT, southwest of MALMEDY. In the northern portion of the VIII Corps sector, where it was reported yesterday that the enemy had forced our 4th Cav back 6,000 yards, the Germans have now pushed on an additional 10 miles for a total penetration of 15 miles, reaching BORN, and over-running several batteries of the VIII Corps artillery. The 122d Inf of the 106th Div was isolated from the rest of the Div by this drive. The 7th Armd Div, which had moved south from the 9th Army sector, has now been committed in the north part of the VIII Corps, in support of the 106th Div. The 7th Armd Div reports that US 1/2 ton trucks, half-tracks, and TD's are being used by the enemy in their zone. The 28th Div's lines were also penetrated yesterday, where the Germans pushed west 8 miles, capturing ESSELDOEN in the north, and CONSTHEM in the south. "King Tiger" tanks were reported in the vicinity of CONSTHEM. In the 4th Div sector, where yesterday it was reported that the enemy had penetrated the lines 2 miles on a 12 mile front, the penetration has now increased 2 miles, reaching GILSDORF and CONSDORF, however later reports have some of our lost ground gained back once more. The 12th Inf of the 4th Div, in the southern part of the Corps sector which was reported to have lost contact with Div Hq during the day regained contact, and continued to hold ESSELSDORF. The 10th Armd Div, which had moved north from the 3rd Army zone had closed in LUKENBURG, and CCA was committed in support of the 4th Div of the VIII Corps. Higher Hq reports that the enemy has 17 Divs on the combined V and VIII Corps fronts, against our 11 Divs. The strongest German Air Force observed over the front since D-Day appeared over the 1st Army yesterday, when the Germans flew 550 sorties. 120 German planes were shot down during the day.

3d Army: IX Corps:

In the 90th Div sector, heavy enemy resistance continued. It is reported however, that the 90th Div has passed through the first band of the SIEGFRIED LINE defenses. The 95th Div was nearly through this first band when it was relieved in the bridgehead by the 5th Div, CG, 5th Div assuming command of the sector at 0600 yesterday morning. German aircraft were active in the IX Corps zone during the day, with GRIFFAUBEN in the 90th Div sector, and ITTERSBERG in the 5th Div sector, receiving bombings.

6th Army Group: 7th Army: IV Corps: The 14th Div continued to meet heavy enemy resistance in the forts of the SIEGFRIED LINE, however, some gains were made against FT. SIEGERSHOF and FT. SCHNIBBERN. 2 pill-boxes were captured at SIEGERSHOF, while 9 of the 10 fortifications at SCHNIBBERN were taken. The 100th Div had advanced on BITCHE, and had captured the COLLEGE DE BITCHE, a strong-point on the south of the city. 18 fighter-bombers assisted the IV Corps during their operations yesterday. In the VI Corps sector, the 15th Div struck heavy opposition at the LAUTER R. The 103d Div was in contact with pill-boxes and "dragon's teeth" in the SIEGFRIED LINE. The 14th Armd Div withdrew to the German border, in order that the area to their front might be bombed by our Air Force. The 79th Div was in full contact with the main defenses of the SIEGFRIED LINE, hitting "dragon's teeth", and both wooden and concrete pill-boxes. A 7th Army supply column was strafed yesterday in the vicinity of BLANCK, by 4 ME-109's, but escaped serious damage and was able to complete it's trip.

1st French Army: Enemy resistance continued stiff in the COLMAR pocket. The 2d French Armd Div succeeded in pushing forward 1 mile to the south, re-entering HERSKIRCH. The 5th Fr Armd Div is relieving the 2d Fr Armd Div in its zone north of COLMAR. In a heavy counter-attack against the 36th Div, the enemy recaptured KAYSERSBERG.

1st Army reports that yesterday SS troops, after capturing 200 American soldiers, searched them, and then machine-gunned the group.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

- 1015 - G-3 reports 134 Inf counteratk'd by enemy inf and tks and forced to withdraw from woods (5962).
- 1040 - 1st Bn alerted to send patrol to NW of REINHEIM along the road to establish road block including mines and be so placed that tank company can cover the road block by fire. Tanks in position at Fme are to be alerted and be especially watchful. Establish physical contact with unit on left if possible.
- 1445 - Gen Sebree and Col Murray visited CP.
- 1530 - Gen Baade, Gen Sebree, Col Murray and Col Byrne met in private at CP to discuss operations.
- 1600 - 2d Bn directed to alert one company to march on order of this hq to REINHEIM to reinforce 1st Bn. 1st Bn will move Co B to positions vic Fme 603613 to further reinforce Co A and Co C. Extreme vigilance will be exercised by all units and local security will be strengthened.
- 1630 - Written order concerning Bridge Demolition issued to 1st, 2d, 3d Bns, CO 60 Engr Bn, and CO Co C 60 Engr Bn. Hq 320 Inf, APO 35, US Army, 20 Dec 44.
1. Explosive charges for bridge demolition within the regimental sector will be emplaced by engineer personnel only upon instructions from this headquarters.
 2. Charges will be set off by engineer personnel and only: a. Upon written, messenger, telephonic, or radio instructions from this hq or b. Upon approach of enemy personnel to within threatening distance of the bridge site and no rapid communication with this hq is available. The Inf. n CO in the immediate vicinity will be responsible for the blowing of the bridge, and will issue the necessary orders to engr personnel at the bridge.
 3. In the event action under 2b is necessary, responsibility for bridge demolition is as follows - a. CO 1st Bn: Floating treadway bridge at REINHEIM. b. CO 2d Bn: Treadway bridge in NIEDER GAILBACH, BAILEY BRIDGE on N-S road at GERSHEIM. c. CO 3d Bn: Bailey Bridge over-BLIESER at GERSHEIM.
- By order of Colonel BYRNE: THOMAS P McELROY
- 1920 - Div notified CO that 1st Bn 134 Inf, w/atchmts, will now be atch'd to 320 Inf effective 1900.
- 1930 - E Co closed in at REINHEIM to reinforce 1st Bn.
- 2000 - B Co closed in position vic Fme vic 603613.
- 2200 - 1st Bn 134 atch'd 320. 2d Bn 134 atch'd 137. Co A Tk Bn atch'd 320. Bdry between 137 and 320 is (580580) - (584590) - (585602) - (587607) (591613) - (598617) - (603623). All TD Plats now in 320 Zone direct support 320. (Msg from Div)
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - 2d Bn (*Co E) continued to occupy E portion of GERSHEIM and outpost factory area immediately N. Co E occupied positions in REINHEIM to serve as a res for and to further reinforce 1st Bn 320 Inf. 1st Bn (including res co) occupied positions at Fme vic 603613 and maintained contact with 1st Bn 134 Inf on left (atch'd 320 Inf). 3d Bn continued to occupy

(Operations Journal 20 44 contd)

GERSHEIM W of BLIES R with companies I and L in point of woods at 608620. Co I on left and Co L on right. All units continued to conduct active patrolling to front and to flanks.

Extract from G-3 Report
191200A Dec 44 to 201200A

320 Inf - (w/Co C, 737 Tk Bn atchd) - Continued to hold and improve positions shown (overlay)

BRIEFING NOTES

Col Johnson

20 December 1944

21st Army Group: In the 21st Army Group sector where patrolling along the MAAS R continued, enemy air was very active bombing the British sector between VENLO and NIJMEGEN.

12th Army Group: Ninth Army: The XIII Corps commenced an attack to the east in the 84th Div zone which gained 3 miles on a 3 mile front resulting in the capture of WURM and MULLEN-DURF. In the XIX Corps zone, the 30th Div which was formerly attached to the XIX Corps has now been assigned to the V Corps and is now in the vicinity of STAVELOT.

First Army: The 83d Div of VII Corps continued mopping up in the vicinity of LENDERSDORF and had pushed strong forces to the west bank of the RUER R where it found the bridge across the river intact. The bridge, however, is still in German hands.

In the V Corps sector the 78th Div repulsed 2 counterattacks in the vicinity of KESTERHICH and elements of the 99th Div supported by the 47th Inf of the 9th Div repulsed a counterattack in the vicinity of HUFEN. These three counterattacks were all contained without loss of ground. In the 99th Div sector where the enemy in the past two days had penetrated 1 1/2 miles, he pushed on an additional 10 miles. However, in the afternoon elements of the 99th Div reinforced by the 26th Inf of the 1st Div and elements of the 30th Div counterattacked and regained 1/2 miles of this penetration. At the end of the day after heavy fighting the enemy was still in possession of STAVELOT. Other elements of the 99th Div reinforced by the 16th Inf of the 1st Div counterattacked against the base of the penetration. These troops advanced 1 1/2 miles and recaptured KRINKELT and BUTTENBACH, threatening to seal off this penetration. The 82d A/B Div which had been in the vicinity of REIMS re-fitting has now moved up to the northern portion of the V Corps zone in the vicinity south of LIEGE. Phantom reports that some enemy patrols had been observed in MARCHE, 40 miles across the German border. The paratroops who had been reported in the vicinity of the V Corps CP are now reported to have been eliminated.

In the northern portion of the VIII Corps zone where in the past 2 days enemy panzer units had penetrated to a depth of 15 miles, the enemy pushed on another 6 miles to the southwest, making a total penetration of 21 miles. They have cut off the 422d and 423d Regts of the 106th Div. These regiments, however, were in contact with the Div CP by radio and were pushing to the west in an endeavor to regain physical contact with the division. CCB of the 9th Armd Div is also operating in this sector. The 28th Div sector which the Germans had penetrated 8 miles was penetrated an additional 6 miles. At this point the 28th Div reinforced by elements of the 9th Armd Div took numerous prisoners. The panzer column turned to the southeast and was last reported at WILTZ. The 9th Armd Div reported the capture of 900 prisoners. In the 4th Div sector the 12th Inf repulsed 2 counterattacks during the day. The 12th Inf is now in contact with its division and is being supplied and reinforced by the division. VIII Corps CP Main has moved from BASTOGNE to NEUFCHATEAU.

Third Army: XI Corps reported a considerable increase in enemy artillery fire. In the 90th Div sector with the exception of factories in the southeastern portion of DILLINGEN, the town is in our hands. Ferries are still being used to supply the bridge head. A footbridge has been constructed and is in use. The 5th Div reported a gain of 200 yards on a 1,000 yard front in SAARLAUTERN-RODEN which is now almost completely in our hands. It was reported that in the 5th Div zone the enemy was supplying pillboxes by carrying litter-loads of supplies covered with Red Cross flags.

The area formerly occupied by the III Corps has now been taken over by our own XII Corps.

6th Army Group: Seventh Army: The 44th Div of the XV Corps made substantial gains including the capture of HOTVILLER and the reduction of FORT SIMERSHOFF. The 100th Div is still meeting resistance at FORT SCHIESSECK where it was reported yesterday that 9 of the 10 sub-forts had been taken. The last remaining fort was so located that our troops had to evacuate one of the pillboxes which they had taken so that fire could be brought against the pillbox still in German hands. However, immediately upon its evacuation by our troops the pillbox which we had held was reoccupied by German forces. Last night it was therefore reported that the enemy held 2 of the 10 forts of FORT SCHIESSECK. A gain was also made by the 100th Div in the attack on BITCHE which placed them in the western and southern outskirts of town.

Gains were reported generally throughout the VI Corps. The 45th Div succeeded in putting one battalion across the LAUTER R and had elements fighting in SUNDENTHAL. The 14th Armd Div advanced 2 miles to the northeast capturing KAPSWEYER. The 79th Div advanced 1 mile along the division front and were fighting in BUTTELBERG.

1st French Army: The COGNAC pocket continues to resist our forces very strongly. A counter-attack was reported by both the 2d Fr Armd Div and the 36th Div. The 3d Algerian Div reported a gain of 2 miles on a 3 mile front placing them 1/2 miles north of MUNSTER.

Our air force reports that the front of VIII Corps is like the FAUSAISE gap where thousands of German troops were killed and hundreds of his vehicles destroyed. Yesterday morning alone they report the destruction of 95 tanks.

SECRET

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
21 December 1944

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

- 0200 - Msg from CO, 347 Inf - Have CO 2d Bn 320 Inf report to 347 Inf 3d Bn CP immediately. (Msg rechecked, verified, and Col Hannum notified)
- 0215 - 2d Bn reports 3 or 4 tanks heard moving to N vic HERBITZHEIM. 1st and 3d Bns negative.
- 0400 - 2d Bn reports Col Hannum departed for 3d Bn 347 Inf CP.
- 0435 - 3d Bn reports enemy CP outpost located 612624. 2d outpost 615623. Located flash high velocity gun (SP or tank) (two guns) vic 604635. Both guns firing direction 1st Bn (1st Bn 134, 1st and 2d Bns 320 notified. 1st Bn 320 believes the two guns were those chased out of the woods by arty late this afternoon. However, firing has not effected them)
- 0550 - Col Hannum reports that 2d Bn has been relieved and is in an assembly area. He indicated that elements of 87 Div took over his sector and that 3d Bn will be relieved tomorrow or some time today.
- 0600 - Maj Leach replrts a few bursts of MG fire from vic 615612 towards 1st Bn sector.
- 0603 - 134 1st Bn reports enemy armor heard in heart of woods (5962).
- 0620 - S-1, 346 Inf, 87 Div, reported to CP w/orders to relieve 320 Inf in sector. Requested guides for foot troops which follow.
- 0640 - CO called C of S and was told to stand relief, but remain in sector. CO told C of S of tentative plan to have 1st Bn assemble in REINHEIM, 2d Bn assemble in NIEDER GAILBACH, 3d Bn assemble in BLIESBRUCK. 1st Bn 134 to remain in position.
- 0645 - CO called Col Walton and instructed him that 3d Bn 346 Inf will relieve 1st Bn some time today, relief to take place at Col Walton's discretion with utmost stealth. 1st Bn to provide guides.
- 0655 - CO gave S-1 346 Inf instructions to infiltrate his foot troops and vehicles through BLIESBRUCK and up to REINHEIM.
- 1000 - Overlay from Div brought to CP by Lt O'Brien w/following order: 35 Inf Div, 211000A Dec 44.
1. 3d Bn 137 Inf and 3d Bn 134 Inf start move prior to 211200A Dec. Routes, assy areas, CP's: overlay.
2. Regts notify G-4 as to times and places trks are desired, and no of trks desired.
3. As Bns are relieved, move them to new area by prescribed route as expeditiously as possible.
4. As regts are relieved, units now atchd and in direct support revert to parent unit. Form in new assy area by CT (SOP).
OFFICIAL: REAFROE BAADE
- 1200 - AT Co began movement from BLIESBRUCK to HALVING.
- 1210 - Msg from Div to CO 320 Inf - You remain in comd of your sector until relieving comdr is satisfied and ready to assume comd. Upon notification of above, this hq will order the hour for passing of command responsibility.
CG 35 Inf Div 1200

- 1400 - 3d Bn (-Co K) (relieved by 1st Bn 346 Inf) moved from GERSHEIM to UBERKINGER.
- 1515 - Cannon Co began movement from BLIESBRUCK to HALVING. Div Comm O notified this unit that radio silence is to be observed upon departure from fwd areas (all units notified).
- 1530 - 2d Bn began movement from vic GERSHEIM to BETTRING.
- 1600 - AT Co closed into HALVING.
- 1630 - 1st Bn began movement from vic REINHEIM to HIRBACH.
- 1730 - CO 346 Inf (Col Wheeler) assumed responsibility of sector 320 Inf after a mutual agreement between CG 87 Div and CG 35 Div.
- 1830 - 2d Bn closed into BETTRING.
- 1845 - Msg from G-3 - Permission granted to billet 3d Bn in UBERKINGER.
- 1850 - Cannon Co closed into HALVING.
- 2145 - 1st Bn closed into HIRBACH.
- 2150 - CP displaced from BLIESBRUCK to HALVING. Route: BLIESBRUCK, WEISVILLER, WITTRING, SILTZHEIM, HERBITZHEIM, WILLERWALD, SARRALBE, BETTRING, HALVING. Distance of displacement - 20 miles.
- 2155 - Co K, upon being relieved, closed in at GERSHEIM, there to await transportation to UBERKINGER.
- 2300 - 3d Bn (-Co K) closed into UBERKINGER.
- 2400 - At end of period CT 320 (-Co K 320 Inf and 216 FA Bn) closed into and occupied assembly area as follows: 1st Bn in HIRBACH; 2d Bn in BETTRING; 3d Bn (-Co K) in UBERKINGER; Ser Co and 1st Plat Co C, 60 Engr Bn in HINSING; Co C 110 Med Bn and fwd echelon 216 FA Bn in STEINBACH; Cn Co, AT Co, Regtl Hq Co occupied HALVING. 216 FA Bn remained in position in vic of BLIESBRUCK in support of 346 Inf Regt, 87 Inf Div. Co K remained in assembly area at GERSHEIM awaiting transportation to UBERKINGER to join 3d Bn.

Extract from G-3 Report
201200A Dec 44 to 211200A

320 Inf - (w/1st Bn 134 Inf and Cos A and C 737 Tk Bn atchd) - Continued to hold and improve positions shown (Overlay). 346 Inf (87 Div) began relief of Regt early morning 21 Dec in Z. 1st Bn 134 Inf and Co A, 737 Tk Bn atchd 201830A Dec.

21st Army Group: Military activity in the 21st Army Group sector consisted of patrolling along the SAAR R., and relief of front line brigades. US and British aircraft based in the 21st Army Group zone were active on the front of the 1st US Army.

12th Army Group: 9th Army: Elements of the XIII and XIX Corps continued to patrol the west bank of the SAAR R.

1st Army: The 1st Army CP closed in the vicinity of LINDSE. The 3d Arm'd Div of the VII Corps had moved south to the vicinity of STAVELT, and now is assigned to the XVIII A/B Corps. The 60th Inf of the 9th Div was attached to the 10th Div while the remainder of the 9th Div moved to the south to the vicinity of STAVELT, and is now attached to the V Corps. A boundary change between the V and VII Corps places the 9th and 78th Divs as well as CCA of the 5th Arm'd Div under VII Corps command. Arty CP's advised of considerable enemy activity to the front of the 78th Div. In the V Corps sector, small groups of German paratroopers were dropped during the day just north of SPA in the vicinity of HILUX, and southwest of SPA in the vicinity of AMAN. The 99th Div has now been attached to the 2nd Div. The enemy attacked in 40 tank strength near HANKLEST, but were repulsed and 6 German tanks were knocked out. The penetration on the lower portion of the V Corps sector, where the offensive of the enemy had penetrated 21 miles, was contained by forces of the 30th and 1st Divs. Elements of the 1st Div, driving to the south, recaptured SALLS, which the Germans had taken on the previous day. Heavy fighting continued in the vicinity of STAVELT. The XVIII A/B Corps is now operational in the rear of the V Corps sector. The 82nd A/B Div, the 3rd Arm'd Div, and the 30th Div are now attached to this Corps. In the north portion of the VIII Corps sector, where the enemy had penetrated 21 miles during the past 3 days, they pushed on an additional 7 miles yesterday reaching SART. During the latter part of the day, however, CCA of the 7th Arm'd Div, attacking to the northeast, drove the enemy column back 7 miles and seized PSAT Hill. In the center of the VIII Corps zone, where the enemy had penetrated through the 28th Div for 11 miles, the Germans pushed forward in 2 columns, each column advancing 4 miles, capturing REVILLE and MAGERAT. Elements of the 9th Arm'd Div later recaptured these 2 towns. The enemy penetration in this sector has now reached a depth of 18 miles. The 101st A/B Div arrived yesterday, with its CP at BASTOGNE. They were immediately committed in support of the 28th Div. The 112th Inf of the 28th Div is now reported cut off from Div Hq. In the 4th Div sector, it was reported that the Div, reinforced by CCA of the 10th Arm'd Div, had pushed the enemy forces to the east 4 miles on a 12 mile front to the German border.

Third Army: III Corps CP opened at MISH. The 4th Arm'd Div and the 8th Div were assembled near HUNNY, while the 26th Div was assembling east of AMIAN. In the IX Corps sector, the 90th Div was occupied throughout the day moving to the west bank of the SAAR R. In the lower portion of the XI Corps zone the 95th Div was relieving elements of the 5th Div. The 10th Inf of the 5th Div was moving to the north. A late report states that the 2nd Inf of the 5th Div had made a breakthrough at SAARLAUTEREN and was advancing with no resistance.

6th Army Group: In the XV Corps sector, the 14th Div reported a gain of 500 yards on a 1 mile front. The 2 remaining sub-forts in the SCHEISSBACH fortification remain in German hands. The 100th Div made a gain of 500 yards south of BILCHE. Elements of the 12th Arm'd Div had taken over the sector of the 25th Cav of the 4th Arm'd Div. In the VI Corps zone, the 15th Div reported the destruction of 5 enemy pillboxes, and NIEDERSCHLATTENBACH was taken. Fighting continued in SUNDENHALL. The 103rd Div was meeting heavy resistance, however, this Div destroyed 11 German pillboxes. The 79th Div was still fighting at BUNNENBURG. It is reported that there are approximately 8,500 troops on the front of the VI Corps. The 3rd Div, at STRASBURG, reported numerous PW's from German patrols attempting to cross the RHINE near the city.

1st French Army: In the COLMAR pocket, where the enemy is estimated to have 15,000 troops, the 30th US Div retook KAYSERSBERG, capturing 500 prisoners. It is reported that HANSMANN HINDLER has taken personal command of the enemy troops in the COLMAR pocket.

Our Air Force is reported to have destroyed 46 enemy planes and 100 enemy vehicles in the 1st Army sector throughout the day.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
22 December 1944

1000 - Co K closed in at UBERKINGER to rejoin 3d Bn. Msg received from Div - Send quartering party to PUTTELANGE to arrive not later than 1330 hours. Party not to exceed 5 vehicles.

1440 - Following warning order received from G-3: Be prepared for motor movement to North 230100 Dec 44.

1730 - Lt O'Brien delivered following order from Div - Hq 35 Inf Div APO 35 221500A Dec 44 OPNS MEMO #5 Motor March to METZ Area
1. All Div units (less 654 TD Bn and 737 Tk Bn - already dispatched) will move by motor to METZ area in accordance with following schedule:

Unit	IP	Time	Date
CT 320*	PUTTELANGE*	0100*	23 Dec 44

*Times given are for planning purposes. IP time may be delayed, depending on availability of QM Trk Co. Confirmation will be given these units by telephone.

2. Route: N56 and N3. PUTTELANGE, ST AVOLD, METZ. Units whose IP is present location move by shortest route to intersection with above prescribed route.

3. Units furnish own route to markers. Div MP's will control traffic.

4. Vehicles use bright headlights from PUTTELANGE to METZ, both incl.

5. Adv parties will meet units on arrival in METZ. CT ceases at that point.

6. Rations for 23 Dec. Res rations now on hand.

7. Transportation for Inf units to be furnished by QM Trk Cos. Unit S-4 contact G-4.

OFFICIAL:

RENFROE

BAADE

1800 - CO issued following order to representatives to CT 320 - Hq 320 Inf APO 35, 221800A Dec 44. OPNS MEMO #1 Motor Move to METZ Area

1. CT 320 moves by motor 23 Dec to METZ area. Route: IP - overlay

Unit	QM Trks	IP
3d Bn	17	0100
1st Bn	17	0115
2d Bn	17	0130
Hq Co	2	0145
AT Co	0	0150
Cn Co	0	0155
Ser Co w/Engr Plat	25	0200
Co C 110 Med Bn	0	0215
216 FA Bn	0	0230

2. Route N 56 and N3 will be marked by 320th MP's. Div MP's furnish traffic control.

3. Vehicles use bright headlights from PUTTELANGE to METZ incl.

4. Advance parties will meet on arrival at METZ. CT ceases at that location.

5. Ration for 23 Dec: Res ration now on hand.

6. Release atchd QM trucks immediately upon arrival at METZ area.

7. Distance between vehicles at all times: 100 yds. Max vehicular speed: 20 mph

8. Radio silence still in effect.

OFFICIAL:

McELROY

BYRNE

2000 - Maj Hughes received following change in route from G-4. Route: HALVING, PUTTELANGE, ST AVOLD, BOULAY MOSELLE, LES ETANGS, LAUVAILLERE METZ.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 935017

- 2130 - Verbal orders received from Div C of S that route has again been changed as follows - IP: RJ at 442473 - SARRALBE, SAARE UNION, FENE-TRENGE, DIEUZE, MORHANGE, BRULANGE, REMILLY, METZ. Blackout regulations will be observed during entire journey. All AA guns will be manned. Night fighters will be over the area. AA gunners will fire only if the column is attacked. (All units comdrs notified of above msg. CO allocated one 40 mm and one multiple cal .50 to be placed at the head and tail of each Bn march unit from 448th AAA AW Bn atchd to 216 FA Bn)
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf remained in assembly area (see 2400 entry 21 Dec). During the day Co K closed in at UBERKINGER and 216 FA Bn closed in at Steinbach.

Extract from G-3 Report
211200A Dec 44 to 221200A

320 Inf - Relief of Regt by elms of 87 Inf Div completed by 211730A. 1st Bn moved to assembly area vic HIRBACH, closing 212145A. 2d Bn moved to assembly area vic BETRING, closing 211830A. 3d Bn (-Co K) moved to assembly area vic UBERKINGER, closing 212300A. Co K moved to assembly area vic UBERKINGER, closing 221000. Regtl CP moved to HALVING, closing 212135A. 1st Bn 134 Inf relieved from atchmt 211730A. Cos A and C, 737 Tk Bn relieved from atchmt morning 22 Dec.

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
23 December 1944

- 0100 - Leading elements CT 320 (3d Bn) began crossing IP RJ at 442473 NW of SARRALBE.
Actual route followed by CT 320 follows - SAARALBE, SARRE UNION, FENETRANGE, DIEUZE, MOYENVIC, CHATEAU SALINS, BARONVILLE, BRULANGE, REMELLY, METZ. Distance - 86.2 miles.
- 1115 - CT 320 closed into assembly area in city of METZ. CT 320 ceased effective upon closing.
- 1615 - Msg from Div - Command meeting, War Room Fwd Ech at 1000A Time 24 Dec
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf remained in assembly area in city of METZ. No units in contact with the enemy.

Extract from G-3 Report
221200A Dec 44 to 231200A

320 Inf - CT moved by motor from assembly area vic UBERKINGER - HIRBACH to new assembly area in METZ, closing 231115A. CT ceased upon arrival.

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
4 December 1944

- 1000 - CO attended Comdrs conference at War Room Div CP.
- 1140 - Msg from Div - This Div now asgnd to XX Corps. Signed Lt Col B H Oliver.
- 1245 - Lt O'Brien delivered following verbal warning order - Notify CT 320 they are alerted for possible movement tomorrow morning 25 Dec. Definite notification by noon 25 Dec. If movement is not made 25 Dec unit will undoubtedly move 26 Dec. III Corps CP now located at ARLON. (All units notified by Ln O)
- 1630 - CO gave orientation lecture to assembled Bn and separate unit comdrs concerning progress of war and German counteroffensive. Directed that men be further schooled in march discipline and that all men be completely clothed during the time the unit remained in METZ. All gas masks are to be checked and units made aware that shells containing particles of glass are being used against personnel for which the gas mask is the only protection.
- 1635 - C of S called and stated that unit definitely would not move on 25 Dec 44.
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf remained in assembly area in city of METZ. No troops in contact.

Extract from G-3 Report
231200A Dec 44 to 231200A

320 Inf - Conducted training and rehabilitation during period.

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
5 December 1944

2400 - 320 Inf remained in assembly area in city of METZ. All units alerted for movement to vicinity of ARLON, BELGIUM.

Extract from G-3 Report
241200A Dec 44 to 251200A

320 Inf - Continued training and rehabilitation during period.

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
26 December 1944

0100 - Following Operations Memo issued to all CT Unit Comdrs - Hq 320 Inf
260100A Dec 44 Opns Memo #2
Maps: Europe Road Map 1/200,000, 4 and 57
France and Belgium 1/50,000 Sheets 136 and 137

1. CT 320 moves by motor from present area to new assembly area NW of ARLON. Overlay. Route: N3 to GRAVELOTTE, N390 to CONFLANS, IC15 to LANDRES, N381 to DAZAILLES, IC 252 to REHON, IC 18 to LONHWY, M18 to AUBANGE, thence MESSANCY NW to MEIX le TIGE - CHATILLON, thence NE to STOCKEND and assembly area. March Order:

UNIT	QM TRKS	IP	TIME
3d Bn	23	Sv Co CP	1015
2d Bn	23	Sv Co CP	1030
1st Bn	23	Sv Co CP	1045
Hq Co	2	Sv Co CP	1100
AT Co	0	Sv Co CP	1105
Cn Co	0	Sv Co CP	1110
Ser Co w/Engr Plat	14	Sv Co CP	1115
Co C 110 Med Bn	0	Sv Co CP	1125
216 FA Bn	0	Sv Co CP	1130

2. Gas masks will be carried by all personnel.
3. Speed: 25 mph; distance between vehicles: 100 yds
4. 448 AAA AW Bn atch one 40 mm gun and one cal .50 (multiple) MG to each Inf Bn and Ser Co prior to IP time. All AA guns will be manned at all times; all tops on personnel carriers will be down. Fire on hostile aircraft only if attacked.
5. Quarters parties from each unit report to Capt Ginsburg at 260800 Dec. Regtl MP's will mark route.
6. Each unit establish road blocks (Daisy chain mines) and security posts immediately upon arrival in new area. Place AT mines on all approaches to area.
7. Use password 24 hours a day.
8. Hold atchd QM trks in new assembly area until called for by S-4.
9. Thermite grenades will be readily available in each vehicle for destruction purposes in case capture should become imminent.
10. a. Radio silence
b. All available cerise panels will be displayed.
c. CP: overlay. On march w/3d Bn. Bns: Report

OFFICIAL:

McELROY

BYRNE

- 1015 - Leading elements CT 320 began movement from METZ to assembly area NW of ARLON, BELGIUM.
- 1730 - CP opened at BERG (649306) LUXEMBOURG. Distance of displacement - 80.1 miles
- 2010 - Msg from 1st Bn - Closed 1945. Request information concerning situation. (Assembled in NAGEM)
- 2015 - Lt O'Brien reported to CP to deliver FO #30 262000 Dec 44 (Atk Order)
- 2030 - CO 2d Bn reported to CP. Bn now entirely closed in. (Assembled in LANNEN)
- 2200 - CO 3d Bn reported to CP. Bn now entirely closed in. (Assembled in ROODT les ELL)
- 2230 - CO issued following fragmentary atk order. 320 Inf atks N in Z 270800 from LD along LA SURE RIVER. 3d Bn on left, 2d Bn on right. 1st Bn

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

in reserve. One TD plat in direct support of each assault Bn. Co C 60 Engr Bn in direct support of regt for crossing of LA SURE RIVER. Assault Bns will move from present assembly area at 270500 in order to reach prescribed LD prior to time of atk.

2400 - 320 Inf occupied assembly area disposed as follows - 1st Bn in NAGEN; 2d Bn in LANNEN; 3d Bn in ROODT les ELL; Hq Co, AT Co and Cn Co in BERG and ELL. All units alerted and prepared to atk 270800 Dec 44.

Extract from G-3 Report
251200A Dec 44 to 261200A

320 Inf - CT formation effective 252330A. CT enroute to new area (overlay) vic ARLON, BELGIUM per Opns Memo #6, this Hq, at close of period.

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
27 December 1944

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

- 0100 - Msg from Div G-2 - 6th Cav Sqdn reports hasty enemy defenses S of town of BOULAIDE (6144). Road at (6143) not passable to vehicles. An estimated company of enemy troops in woods at river bend vic (604442). Vehicular activity reported in HARLANGE (6049). Only unit contacted so far German 5th Paratroop Div.
- 0125 - Msg from 35th Div Arty for relay to 216 FA Bn - No fire line 6344 to 6499 to 6750. Arty fire to be kept W of this line to protect 26th Div on right.
- 0300 - Lt Cooper, Co C 654 TD Bn reported to CP with information that platoons are now enroute to join assault Bns.
- 0605 - Regtl CP began displacement from BERG to RAMBROUCH. Distance of displacement - 7.7 miles.
- 0805 - 3d Bn (left) reports due to impassable roads boats could not be brought fwd. Two platoons will wade stream at crossing site. As soon as far bank is secure a foot bridge will be hand carried fwd and placed across.
- 0855 - 2d Bn (right) reports Co F and Co G are patrolling to right and left of road bridge site (633430). No crossing has been effected yet. Receiving hvy MG fire from high ground N of river. Exact location of enemy guns undetermined.
- 0900 - Lt Peterson S-2 1st Bn reports 1st Bn moving from NAGEM to new assembly area at RAMBROUCH is now closing in.
- 1030 - S-3 after consulting Ex O 2d Bn gave approval for Troop C 6th Cav Sqdn to move out, 2d Bn having assumed full responsibility for right sector of regtl zone of action.
- 1045 - Msg from Div - Div fwd closes station at 270930A and opens same time at PERLE (5836). Signed CG 271000A.
- 1047 - Div G-3 reports 137 Inf elements now in town of SURRE.
- 1050 - Lt Remley, 3d Bn reports one plat Co I has succeeded in crossing LA SURE RIVER by wading through water 5' in depth. Foot bridge is now being constructed at 607433. Enemy resistance sporadic and light. Only small arms fire.
- 1115 - 1st Bn directed to reconnoiter route to BIGONVILLE and alert command for movement by motors to that town within next hour.
- 1125 - Reported to Div that one plat Co I is across LA SURE R and that 1st Bn has been alerted for movement to BEGONVILLE and will cross following 3d Bn.
- 1135 - Msg from 137 - G Co now in SURRE. Request location of your left flank. Signed CO 137 1125A (Lt Parish sent to 137 to explain situation)
- 1220 - CG called and directed CO and S-3 report to Div CP at PERLE (5836) at once.
- 1238 - CO 2d Bn reports patrol from Co G succeeded in crossing over road bridge site (633430) without getting into the water or without being fired upon.

(Operations Journal 27 Dec 44 contd)

- 1330 - 3d Bn reports footbridge in at 1315. One company now crossing. Second company in column prepared to cross.
- 1335 - CO 2d Bn reports all of Co G is now across river.
- 1350 - 1st Bn orders cancelled on move by motor from RAMBROUGH to BEGONVILLE. Unit directed to proceed by foot marching to BILSDORF and be prepared to cross in 2d Bn (right) sector.
- 1425 - 1st Bn will begin marching from RAMBROUGH to BILSDORF at 1430.
- 1550 - CO 2d Bn reports a patrol has reached BOULAIDE and found town unoccupied by the enemy.
- 1630 - CP displaced from RAMBROUGH to ARSDORF. Distance of displacement - 3 miles.
- 1635 - CO 3d Bn reports Co K now at 612455. Co L in BOULAIDE. Patrols have been sent to BASCHLEIDEN. 2d Bn has also sent patrols to BASCHLEIDEN.
- 1730 - CO 2d Bn reports atchd plat of TD's crossed LA SURRE R over a ford 100 yards E of road bridge site at 633 430. Road bridge was repaired by A&P Platoon and three supply jeeps were able to cross. CO directed that reserve plat of TD's be dispatched to cross on ford and join and support 3d Bn. Platoon now in support of 3d Bn return to ARSDORF tonight for maintenance.
- 1800 - Msg from Div - Halt advance not later than 2000. Resume 280600.
- 2000 - CO 2d Bn reported to CP. Final positions of companies are as follows: Co F and Co G in BOULAIDE. Co E reached BASCHLEIDEN. In BOULAIDE Co G captured approx 20 prisoners and some American vehicles were recaptured. Some prisoners were found to be wearing captured American shoes.
- 2130 - Capt Trossen, 3d Bn, reports Bn final positions as follows - Co L in BOULAIDE (res). Co K and Co I based in settlement of FLEBOUR (6146) and outposting high ground at 6146 and patrols have been sent to mine main CR at 617472.
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - Co F and Co G occupied BOULAIDE. Co E occupied and outposted BASCHLEIDEN. Co K and Co I occupied FLEBOUR and outposted high ground vic 6146 and placed mine road block at CR 617472. 1st Bn (res) occupied BILSDORF. During the 32 hour period from 261015 to 271815 CT 320 moved approx 86 miles through 3 countries (FRANCE, BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG), attacked across a swift flowing stream with no existing bridges, advanced four kilometers captured three towns, captured 35 prisoners, all without a casualty among our own troops.

Extract from G-3 Report
 261200A Dec 44 to 271200A

320 Inf - CT completed motor move to assembly area vic ELL (P6431), closing 262200A. CT ceased on arrival. Regt moved fwd in Z during night 26-27 Dec; 2d and 3d Bns stkd to N 270800A w/2d Bn on right, encountering strong resistance from high ground N of R. Elms of 3d Bn waded across SURE R and advanced to positions shown at end of period.

~~SECRET~~

CO
320th Inf

27 December - Briefing Notes III Corps

Elements of CCR, 4th Arm Div, established contact with the 101st Airborne Div yesterday afternoon at ASSENOIS when one company of infantry from the 53d Arm Div plus elements of 37th Tank Bn contacted an infantry company of the 101st Airborne Div. Last night the other two companies of the 53d Inf Bn were moved to the woods northwest of ASSENOIS and one tank company was sent to escort 40 vehicles belonging to the Airborne Div loaded with medical supplies and ammunition to the inner circle. An overlay of the area held by the airborne division was brought back by a pilot flying a liaison plane, who had landed a doctor at BASTOGNE.

CCA of the 4th Arm Div had advanced to HEMPHRE and CGA, which was receiving heavy fire also in the vicinity of HOLLANGE, made very little progress.

Last night the 35th Div closed in the Corps area and attacked this morning in the zone previously held by the 6 Cav Bn, which has now reverted to control of the 6 Cav Gp and will operate with the group in the Corps west flank.

Yesterday, the 101st Inf of the 26th Div relieved the 328th, which was assembled in Division Reserve. The 101st yesterday evening crossed the SURE RIVER at two places and this morning three companies of 3d Bn and two companies of 1st Bn were across. The crossings were made to the southwest and southeast of LIEFRANGE, which was later captured. A ponton bridge north of BONNAL was scheduled for completion between 0600-0800 this morning.

80th Div: The 80th Div yesterday advanced to the south banks of the SURE RIVER, and last night at 2000 passed to control of the III Corps. The east boundary of the 26th Div is now the east boundary of III Corps.

CCA of the 9th Arm Div yesterday was attached to the 4th Arm Div and moved last night to an assembly area to the northeast of NEUFCHAteau and early this morning was advancing on BASTOGNE astride the NEUFCHAteau-BASTOGNE highway. Its objective is the high ground NW of the city of BASTOGNE.

6th Cav Gp continued to screen the Corps west flank, maintaining contact with CCR of the 4th Arm Div on the east and ranging as far west as ST HERBERT.

III Corps

CCA, 6th Arm Div, relieved CC 10th Arm Div last night. Entire 6th Arm Div relieving the 10th Arm and 109 Inf.

5th Inf Div - Many gas ins made yesterday toward the river, with enemy retreating yesterday afternoon. 200 Germans swimming across river were fired on by artillery employing a ir bursts. Bridge vicinity WENNERBACH being hurriedly repaired by Germans.

~~SECRET~~

- 0013 - 1st Bn directed to send guard detail to bridge at (632430). Bridge to be in at 0100.
- 0030- 145 Engr Bn reports that bridge at 632430 will be open at 0100. Engrs will leave $\frac{1}{2}$ squad maintenance crew there w/our elements.
- 0445 - 3d Bn Ex O reported friendly vehicular activity. Inquired whether bridge was being put in in his sector. He was informed that bridge will be in by 0800.
- 0745 - 1st Bn began movement from BILSDORF to new area (res assy area) at BOULAIDE.
- 0800 - Bailey Bridge at 632430 opened at 0045 and one at 611431 opened at 0320. (From Div)
- 0807 - AT Co is all across river and in positions.
- 0835 - Guarded radio msg received from CO 3d Bn stating that large unidentified group in woods vic 620475. 3d Bn maneuvering to envelop the group.
- 1100 - 3d Bn received MG fire from enemy positions located in wooded area vic 625475. Co K moved to right and Co I moved left enveloping and clearing the resistance and are now prepared to move fwd astride road leading to HARLANGE.
- 1155 - 1st Bn closed new reserve assembly area in BOULAIDE.
- 1205 - Regtl CP displaced from ARSDORF to BOULAIDE. Distance of displacement 4.4 miles.
- 1215 - 2d Bn moved to left of 3d Bn to attack on W of FLEBOUR - HARLANGE ROAD. 3d Bn continue atk w/left flank on FLEBOUR - HARLANGE ROAD with forces E of the road and abreast of 2d Bn.
- 1230 - One company 1st Bn, Co C, plus one AT plat dispatched to BASCHLEIDEN to garrison the town and prevent infiltration from E and NE and release Co E now holding that position to join 2d Bn in atk on left of 3d Bn.
- 1300 - 3d Bn reports they are now receiving some SP gun fire, mortar fire, and small arms fire from N of stream vic 6148 - 6248. Most advance elements now occupy line extending from 617472 along road to NE to 624477.
- 1420 - Gen Sebree visited CP.
- 1500 - 2d Bn moving in column of companies, Co E leading, has advanced to high ground vic 613465 where extremely heavy enemy small arms and automatic fire from woods immediately N prevented further movement fwd.
- 1610 - CG and ADC visited CP.
- 1615 - CO 3d Bn reports continued heavy enemy fire in left of sector on positions held by Co I. All fires appear to be coming from NW and in vic 613473. TD's are being brought fwd to positions from which direct fire can be placed into woods from which enemy fire is coming.

1810 - Msg from Div - Halt advance for night. Resume atk 290800.

2000 - Lt O'Brien reported to CP and delivered overlay indicating change of boundary and the following order - Hq 35 Inf Div 281815A Dec 44 OPNS MEMO #7

1. 35 Inf Div continue atk 290800A Dec.
2. New bdries between Regts and new Div left bdry effective at once.
3. 134 Inf atk initially in clm of Bns.
4. Co A, 654 TD Bn, Co A, 60 Engr Bn, 161 FA Bn - direct support 134 Inf, effective at once.

OFFICIAL:

BAADE

RENFROE

2005 - 1st Bn sent out security groups to fully outpost town of BOULAIDE and thereby provide protection against infiltration or counterattack upon command installations.

2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - 1st Bn (-CoC) outposted town of BOULAIDE and furnished protection for command installations. Co C occupied and outposted BASCHLEIDEN. 3d Bn (right) occupied line along road extending from 617472 NE to 624477. 2d Bn advanced to high ground vic 613465 but further advance was prevented by large volume of automatic fire from woods to North. Upon halting operations for the night all roads and approaches into positions were mined and all units remained alert throughout the night for signs of enemy counterattack.

Extract from G-3 Report
271200A Dec 44 to 281200A

320 Inf - 1st Bn, in Regtl Res, moved to new assembly area vic BILSDORF (P6241) during ~~afternoon~~ ^{AFTERNOON} 27 Dec; moved to assembly area vic BOULAIDE (P6144) during morning 28 Dec. 2d Bn crossed SURE R at 271335A, continued advance to BOULAIDE without opposition, and occupied town by dark; Co E continued advance to BASCHLEIDEN (P6245) and occupied town after dark. Bn followed 3d Bn in atk at 280600A and, at end of period, was preparing to move to left flank of 3d Bn. 3d Bn completed crossing SURE R on footbridge constructed by Engrs, and continued advance to N without resistance; occupied FLEBOUR (P6146), outposted high ground to NW, and placed mined road block at CR (P617472). Bn atkd to N from CR (P6147) at 280600A, cleaning out enemy in woods in that vic.

CO
320th In

III CORPS BRIEFING NOTES - 28 December

26 Inf Div: 101st Inf on left has three battalions across SURE RIVER and deepened its bridgehead approximately 3500 meters, widened it from BAVIGNE to EINHORF, and at last report was 200 yards south of NOTHUM (VP672507). 104th on right crossed river vicinity ESCH-LA-SURE and contacted 101st on left flank. Now has 1st and 2d Bns across. Treadway bridges in at VP672468 and 706474.

35 Inf Div: 320 Inf on right with 3d and 2d Bns abreast advanced north SURE RIVER relieving 6 Cav Sq in zone. Advanced 3500 meters and captured BOULAIDE and BASCHLEIDEN. 137th on left of Division advanced with 1st and 2d Bns abreast and captured SPINA. 3d Bn went through 4 Armd Div zone advancing northeast towards VILLERS-LA-DONNE-EAU.

4 Armd Div: CGA advanced through SAINLEZ and ab cut 2000 meters north of that town. CCB fought north abreast CCR to widen corridor to BASTOGNE. CCR guarded corridor. Small arms fire, but not artillery, has been eliminated from road. CGA, 9 Armd Div, attached 4 Armd Div advanced towards BASTOGNE and turned north fighting in town of SIBRET and JODENVILLE.

6 Cav Gp: 6 Cav Sq and Co of 3 Cml Bn arrived in area late yesterday afternoon. Units of 28 Sq fought north gaining from 1-3000 meters. Resistance mostly road blocks and mine fields guarded by fire of small forces.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
29 December 1944

- 0130 - Lt Zielasko called to inform us that C Co had not made contact with 26 Div on road to BAVIGNE. C Co instructed by Lt Parish to send outposts out further in order to make physical contact with 26 Div. They suggested that K Co, which is nearer 26 Div outpost on BAVIGNE ROAD, might be able to make contact faster and with less difficulty. S-3 informed Lt Parish that K Co is supposed to make contact, not C Co. Called 3d Bn and Sgt Manning informed us that they only have a screening force at outpost and contact will be difficult.
- 0155 - 3d Bn reported plan to send K Co to contact 26 Div as soon as possible.
- 0515 - All Bns negative. No report from K Co patrol to contact 26 Div.
- 0645 - Patrol from K Co never reached 26 Rcn at BAVIGNE to establish contact. 3d Bn will send another patrol.
- 0955 - CO informed G-3 of plan to send reinf plat to block road at 632481. 1 AT plat (from Regtl AT Co) will accompany plat. Capt Wilson, AT, notified.
- 1005 - 1st Bn CO notified to send one reinf plat from C Co to 632481. Remainder of Co C make rcn with view to building on the plat at road block.
- 1010 - CO notified AT Co to send part of mine plat with AT plat to road at 632481, to mine approaches to that vicinity.
- 1020 - 2d Bn (Sgt Quested) reports Bn is advancing in column of companies, Co G leading, F Co following. Co E in reserve at BASCHLEIDEN. No resistance reported except some arty fire in sector. Leading elements now at 613474.
- 1030 - CO 3d Bn reports Co K and Co L moved E from starting positions of 0800 along road towards BAVIGNE, turned N to cross stream immediately N of the road and at this report have reached the road beyond the stream at coordinates 628488. Units are now atkg W along the road toward HARLANGE.
- 1120 - 2d Bn, Sgt Quested, reports adv elements 2d Bn (Co G) now at 610486 and are receiving automatic fire from FME FUHRMAN (613493). Co I (res) 3d Bn is on right and generally abreast although there is no physical contact.
- 1145 - 2d Bn, Sgt Quested, states that Co G is now at 612490. Co F is now sending patrol towards HARLANGE. Co E is being moved to vic 6148. Continuing to receive fire from 613493.
- 1147 - 3d Bn reports adv elements now at 622487 and receiving fire from 620488 and 623489. Ten (10) prisoners and one (1) MG have been captured.
- 1325 - 2d Bn reported a knocked out enemy tracked vehicle at 613487. Request engrs to remove it from road. (Engrs notified)
- 1326 - CO AT Co reports road from (616472) to (630479) being interdicted by 88 fire. AT trucks, enroute to C Co road block at 633483, held up until fire subsides.
- 1335 - CG visited CP.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

- 1345 - 2d Bn, Sgt Quested, reports Co F now S of HARLANGE and receiving small arms fire from the town.
- 1400 - 3d Bn reports large enemy column moving East vic 624500. Spotted by Co K ground observer. Arty directed to fire immediately.
- 1411 - Msg from Div - Div fwd CP closes station as of 291245A and opens same time at ARSDORF (6442) - Signed 291200.
- 1440 - Gen Sebree visited CP. Brought information that DAS REICH DIV reported to N and E of BASTOGNE and there is a possibility of a large atk S against our positions.
- 1455 - 1st Bn reports C Co plat road block now in position at 632481.
- 1502 - 3d Bn reports small groups of enemy withdrawing to N and E along entire 3d Bn front. Fwd observers can see them and are directing arty fire upon them.
- 1505 - 3 planes flying N to S strafed cross road at 617472, continued S, strafed vic Regtl CP at BOULAIDE. Identification unconfirmed but reports indicate that planes were American P47 with cowling and tail repainted yellow or red. 2 Engr EM were killed and 1 EM seriously wounded approx 200 yds N of BOULAIDE. One vehicle belonging to Co C 654 TD Bn was reported by CO AT Co to be knocked out at CR at FLEBOUR. CO 1st Bn reports one EM Co A killed in BOULAIDE.
- 1540 - CO 3d Bn reports Co K has now advanced to 620488. Numerous enemy groups who appear very much disorganized attempting to withdraw to N and E.
- 1605 - Sgt Quested, 2d Bn, reports Co F now in point of woods at 604495. Co E is now being moved to covering positions vic 602489.
- 1610 - Msg from Div - Halt adv 1800 tonight. Continue adv in zone 300800 Dec. Mine and road block all roads leading into area. Road blocks in depth. Keep 1st Bn assembled. Make plans for its use as counter-attacking force in case of enemy atk. Patrol vigorously throughout night. Div Arty will step up interdiction during night. CG 35 Inf Div 1545
- 1640 - G-3 reports 2d Bn 137 is now out to N edge of woods overlooking HARLANGE (595490). Sgt Quested, 2d Bn, reports Co F has withdrawn to positions vic 605492 in order to have cover of Co E moving into position at 602489.
- 1645 - I&R reports friendly mines at 632482 and 630483. Road heavily travelled. All units in position.
- 1845 - CO AT Co reports road block at 632481 consists of 25 mines, a road crater and a burned out American tank. Road cannot be travelled or bypassed. Block is covered by 3 bazooka teams.
- 1915 - CO 2d Bn reports Co E and Co F now in position S of HARLANGE and have sent patrols into the town. A number of Germans were found to be occupying the first houses in the South part of town which may be taken without too much difficulty.
- 2000 - Clearance granted 2d Bn 137 to fire arty on HARLANGE. All fires

- restricted to W of N-S 60 grid line.
- 2030 - 1st Bn S-3 reports that platoon sent to CR at 617472 is now in position.
- 2335 - CO 2d Bn reported G Co receiving fire from an individual enemy tank intermittently. They have not been able to locate it as yet.
- 2340 - CO 2d Bn reported one enemy plane strafing vic of BASCHLEIDEN (622460). Believe some damage may have been done in Cannon Co area.
- 2342 - Cannon Co reported enemy plane did no damage with strafing in vic.
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - 1st Bn (res) (-Co C) remained at BOULAIDE and provided protection for command installations and two Bailey bridges over LA SURE R. Co C outposted town of BASCHLEIDEN and furnished covering force for road blocks at 617492 and 632481. 2d Bn with companies disposed from left to right Co E, Co F, Co G occupied positions as follows - Co E and Co F - N portion of woods immediately S of HARLANGE (6049). Co G - SW of FME FUHRMAN and at coordinates 610490. Co I 3rd Bn SW of FME FUHRMAN at approx 615489. Co K and Co L occupied positions S of clearing in woods at approx 623487. Enemy positions around town of HARLANGE and SE along road to and including FME FUHRMAN limited advances throughout the day. MG fire was described by bns as the heaviest encountered thus far in the war. Arty and mortar fire fell throughout the regimental zone of action.

Extract from G-3 Report
281200A Dec 44 to 291200A

320 Inf - 1st Bn remained in Regt 1 Res vic BOULAIDE; Co C sent one (1) reinf plat w/one plat AT Co to establish road block at (P632481). 2d Bn moved fwd at 281215A to high ground vic (P613465), receiving heavy small arms fire and automatic fire; resumed atk 290800A, advancing through woods to positions shown (overlay). 3d Bn continued atk to N receiving heavy small arms, automatic and mortar fire, and secured road from (P617472) to (P624477); continued atk 290800A against light resistance advancing to positions shown.

OPERATIONS JOURNAL
30 December 1944

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

- 0425 - 2d Bn Ex O reports patrol reported enemy still occupying MG positions on S edge of HARLANGE and on hill. 2d Bn continuing to shoot arty on the town.
- 0500 - Div reports 3d Bn 134 receiving counteratk. Size and strength undetermined. Bns warned to be on the alert for indications of atk in our sector.
- 0645 - 2d Bn Ex O reports 2d Bn starting to push again.
- 0650 - Div reports counteratk in 134 3d Bn sector seems to have been local. Enemy retook NE edge of LUTREBOIS (5653).
- 0840 - CO directed 3d Bn to move in a wide encircling movement through the woods to the E and attempt to come down on HARLANGE from the NE.
- 0905 - Sgt Quested, 2d Bn, reported a considerable amount of German armor in HARLANGE.
- 0920 - Sgt Quested, 2d Bn, reported an increase in amount of armor in HARLANGE, apparently moving from E-W. G Co is receiving direct fire from tank. 2d Bn moving TD's into position.
- 0925 - 2d Bn informed that P47's are now working on enemy armor in HARLANGE.
- 0955 - 1st Bn alerted for movement and instructed to reduce bridge guard to a minimum.
- 1005 - Bns alerted because of counteratk building up along the front. 1st Bn S-3 was instructed to have his unit move as quickly as possible to occupy line along high ground approx (600462) to (628468) and to be prepared in case of counteratk. A left, C right, B in BASCHLEIDEN.
- 1140 - 1st Bn and AT Co in position on high ground (600462) to (628468).
- 1150 - CO 1st Bn given change of orders and directed to assemble Bn in res in S portion of woods vic 6047. Security post to left at BASCHLEIDEN, at road block at 632481 and at each of the Bailey bridges over LA SURE R.
- 1155 - Several rounds heavy arty fell in vic regtl CP in BOULAIDE.
- 1245 - CO 1st Bn reports heavy arty fire over entire area in which the Bn is assembling vic 6047. Request new area be designated. Div requested by S-3 to permit 1st Bn to assemble further S and in vic 6045. Permission granted by Div and 1st Bn notified to move to new area at once and send patrol to 598473 to watch for and protect against infiltration.
- 1345 - Cn Co reports arty fire fell in rear of their positions. Believed to be 105 or 150 mm. One round fell directly in the position but no casualties were inflicted.
- 1450 - 2d Bn reports FME FUHRMAN set on fire by mortars firing WP. Germans fleeing from the house ran into MG range of Co G MG's and a number were killed.

(Operations Journal 30 Dec 44 contd)

- 1615 - 3d Bn reports Germans who have been dug in in clearing and woods edge at 622489 and have prevented Co K and Co L from advancing far enough W to establish physical contact w/Co I are now moving around noticeable and have been taken under arty and MG fire. Believe organization of the ground has now been broken or enemy is withdrawing to new positions.
- 1800 - 1st Bn placed road blocks at the following points. One (1) squad A Co at 602466, one (1) plat B Co at CR 617472 and one (1) plat C Co at 632481. One (1) 57 mm AT gun at 618460 facing N along road and one (1) at 622464 facing along road NW.
- 1820 - Msg from Div - Consolidate for night. Reconstitute a reserve. Block roads. Orders later.
A Co OP reports 24 rounds arty fell about 1½ miles NW of SURRE from vic N of HARLANGE.
- 2100 - Lt O'Brien reported to CP w/overlay showing new bdrys and continue atk 310800 Dec 44. Opns Memo #8 follows - Hq 35 Inf Div, APO 35, 301915A Dec 44, OPNS MEMO #8, Maps - GSGS 4040, Scale 1:50,000, Sheets 121, 122, 92, 93.
1. III Corps atkd 31 Dec 44. 4 Armd Div passes to XII Corps control on Army order.
 2. 134, 137, and 320 Infs atk 31 Dec 44. Time: To be announced later. New bdrys effective at once. 134 Inf maintain contact w/6 Armd Div; 320 Inf (initially) and 137 Inf maintain contact w/26 Inf Div.
 3. Regts atk w/Bns disposed in depth. When centers of resistance are met, leading unit by-pass and continue advance. Clean up resistance w/reserves.
 4. Co C, 3d Cml Bn, atchd 134 Inf at once. Other atchmts and supporting units: nochange. 179 FA Bn (155 mm How) atchd Div Arty at once.
 5. All vehicles display cerise panels. Vehicles will be dispersed. Park vehicles in shadows whenever possible.
 6. Destroy ammunition, gasoline, vehicles and weapons, if necessary, to prevent capture by enemy.
- 2400 - After making only limited gains and in some instances occupying more advantageous positions 320 Inf occupied positions as follows - Co F and Co G occupied line extending from 605489 to 612491. Co E originally on left flank of Co F was moved to 607485, there being reconstituted as Bn res and counterattacking force. Co I occupied positions at 615490. Co K and Co L occupied positions along S edge of clearing extending from 618486 to 624488. During the day's action the 60mm Mortar Section, Weapons Plat, Co G, fired 600 rds of ammunition in support of the company's operations. 1st Bn (res) provided road blocks at following locations - One squad Co A at 602466; one plat Co B at CR 617472 and one plat Co C at 632481; Co A (-) at 600458; Co B (-) at BOULAIDE; Co C (-) at 610450. Patrols were sent out from Co C and Co K to contact 26 Inf Div on right.

Extract from G-3 Report
291200A Dec 44 to 301200A

320 Inf - 1st Bn remained in Regtl Res vic BASCHLEIDEN, moving to assembly area on high ground SE of SURRE during morning 30 Dec, prepared to assist either 2d or 3d Bns. 2d Bn continued advance to N, encountering strong resistance from farm at (P613492) and reached positions S of HARLANGE; atk of Bn at

(Operations Journal 30 Dec 44 contd)

300800A met very strong enemy resistance from HARLANGE. 3d Bn continued advance to N and W toward farm at (P613492), receiving heavy fire from that vic; Bn made little progress in atk at 300800A in attempt to reach positions NE of HARLANGE.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

- 0030 - 3d Bn reports patrol from L Co established listening post at 634494 from 302200 to 310030. Nothing heard. No enemy contact in that vicinity.
- 0323 - 2d Bn reports G Co patrol reported inf dug in along road in front of their position (approx 609491). Heard tracked vehicle in woods N of them. Patrol only went 100 yds in front of position and could hear activity. F Co patrol went within 300 yds of HARLANGE. Heard tracked vehicle and a number of trucks. Did not contact any enemy forces outside of the town.
- 0330 - A Co OP reports tanks some distance away, estimated 1 mile N of SURRE.
- 0545 - 2d Bn reports E Co patrol went 500 - 600 yds to left front of F Co position (608491). Could hear enemy talking around a mortar position which fired one of the mortars while patrol was near. Trucks heard in HARLANGE early in the evening. Tracked vehicles heard there at 0400.
- 0700 - 2d Bn reports they can still hear activity in 137 sector.
- 0710 - F Co reports hearing tank movement vic HARLANGE. More than one tank. Soem arty, but no small arms at present.
- 0735 - 3d Bn reports K Co patrol found enemy still in position. Could hear sounds of activity. Returned without being fired upon.
- 1025 - I&R reports 2d and 3d Bns receiving light sporadic mortar fire.
- 1110 - CO 2d Bn reports that Co E now disposed in depth behind companies F and G is sending one squad to 603488 to establish an obsn post and furnish further left flank protection for Co F.
- 1150 - I&R 3d Bn reports no fire since 1025. L Co has begun to move.
- 1410 - L Co leading elements vic 618491 - 620493. K Co is moving around Western edge of clearing at 618486 and intending to proceed N between I Co and L Co.
- 1430 - Co of 4.2" chemical mortars (Co D, 3d Cml Bn) attached to 137 Inf have been loaned to us for use by arrangements made w/Col Murray, CO 137 Inf. They are located vic SURRE (595466). Code name SATIRE DOG.
- 1620 - L Co now held up by rifle and MG fire vic 618491 - 620493.
- 1645 - Cml O reports mision fired on HARLANGE.
- 1655 - Maj Allen reports CCA 6 Armd Div at high ground S of WARDIN.
- 1715 - Msg from Div - Div in for night 311700. Continue operations 010800, no change in mission. Patrol to immediate front, put mines on roads leading into position.
- 1800 - 2d Bn S-2 reports 8-10 JU 88's overhead, dropping bombs.
- 1812 - Div confirmed report that JU 88's are overhead. They only know of two, however.

- 1820 - Capt Kullmar reports B Co now in position outposting BOULAIDE.
- 1915 - Enemy planes again reported overhead dropping bombs in front of 26 Div sector.
- 2240 - Msg from Div - Division defends 1 Jan. Organize defensive position in depth. Dig in. Use maximum number of mines. Be prepared to atk if enemy withdraws.
- 2400 - At end of period 320 Inf occupied relatively the same positions as indicated in 2400 entry 30 Dec 44. During the day one squad Co E was moved to vic 603488 to furnish left flank protection for Co F. Units continued atk throughout the day making only very local gains and securing more advantageous positions. Co L gained some ground, securing positions extending from 618491 to 620493. At end of period all units consolidated positions, mined approaches into positions, remaining especially alert to repel a reported enemy counterattack forming to N of HARLANGE.

Extract from G-3 Report
301200A Dec 44 to 311200A

320 Inf - 1st Bn closed into assembly area SE of SURRE afternoon 30 Dec, and remained in Regt1 Res. 2d Bn continued atk against strongly defended positions extending SE from HARLANGE to farm at (P613492), and made slight gains. 3d Bn continued atk to N and W against stubborn resistance vic farm at (P613492), and succeeded in making local gains; continued atk 310600A to secure positions NE of HARLANGE from which to atk town.

32th

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS III CORPS
Liaison Section

31 December 1944

BRIEFING NOTES FOR 310845 DEC 44

FIRST CANADIAN ARMY: Nothing to report.

SECOND BRITISH ARMY: XXX Corps: On left flank of the Corps, elements of 53 Inf Div and of 6 AB Div are relieving elements of 83rd Inf Div and 7 Armd Div (VII Corps). Relief will be completed by night 31 December. XXX Corps left boundary P1295 - 1790 - 2286 - 2581 - 2779 (NAHUR - CINEY 6 km SW MARCHÉ). XII Corps: Small enemy penetrations K8767 (N GILENKIRCHEN) had been thrust back by 300930A.

FIFTH U S ARMY : Some enemy patrolling activity during night.

FIRST U S ARMY : V Corps: Moderate artillery received.

XVIII Corps: Enemy Force estimated strength 200 Inf attacked 301830A and made slight local penetration P4789 (NE MARCHÉ).

VII Corps: Relief of VII Corps elements W of XXI-VII Corps boundary continuing.

SEVENTH ARMY: Nothing to report.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY: II French Corps: 1 DMI is returning from BOHNEAUX area; it is expected this division will be used in II Corps as a replacement for 2 DB, and that 2 DB will be assigned to Seventh Army.

MISCELLANEOUS: As of 29 Dec, G-2 Twelfth Army Group estimates enemy had lost 565 tanks since current counter offensive started.

GIMORE STOTT,
Captain, Inf
In Section

BRIEFING NOTES

III CORPS

31 December 1944

At 0600 yesterday morning the 35 Div reported that it was receiving a small counter-attack NE of LUTHERVILLE. By mid-morning this small attack had developed into a large scale action, and the fighting continued during the day. CGA and GCB of the 4 Armd Div became engaged and GCB was moved south to the vicinity of CHAUMONT to guard against an attack in that vicinity. This morning the fighting had been stabilized, with no major enemy breakthrough effected.

The 26 Div resumed its attack early yesterday morning, but was able to make little or no progress. Last night the 1st Bn, 101 Inf, was approximately 1000 meters southeast of BIELE. 6 Armd Div remained in assembly area yesterday and this morning moved out to attack in its zone. No reports on progress of attack at this time.

6 Cav Gp - relieved by 87 Div and 11 Armd Div - now in Assembly area via HABAY-LA-VIEILLE.

VIII CORPS:

11 Armd Div attacked yesterday in zone and last night had reached general line REMAGNE (exclusive) - SIERET.

XII CORPS:

No change.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017