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HEADQUARTERS XX CORPS

APO 340

U. S. ARMY

FEBRUARY 1945



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REPORT OF OPERATIONS

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HEADQUARTERS XX CORPS
APO 340 U. S. ARMY

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SUBJECT: Report of Combat Operations, 1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

THRU : Commanding General, Third US Army, APO 403, US Army.

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SECTION I - NARRATIVE

This report of combat operation in Germany of XX Corps, Third US Army, for the period 01 Feb to 28 Feb 1945 (inclusive) is submitted in accordance with provisions of paragraph 10 (Change #4) AR 345-105.

1. At the beginning of the initial period, (1-18 Feb incl) the front line units of XX Corps were in position along approximately a 25 mile front. The 94th Inf Div on the left or north flank confronted the base of the terrain triangle formed by the convergence of the SAAR-MOSELLE Rivers. TASK FORCE POLK (3rd Cav Gp reinf) in the central portion of XX Corps sector held the SAAR River line facing MERZIG and the 26th Inf Div (5th Ranger Bn attached) occupied the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead and patrolled the SAAR River line on the southern flank of XX Corps. Concurrent with aggressive patrolling by TASK FORCE POLK and probing thrusts by the 26th Inf Div the 94th Inf Div in the north conducted a series of offensive actions. These limited objective attacks of the 94th Inf Div were generally of battalion size and were made against enemy strongpoints emplaced in depth and strategically situated on dominating terrain inside the German border. It was known as the switch line positions of the SEIGFRIED LINE. The attacks were successful in penetrating the greater portion of the defense in depth adjacent to the MOSELLE River. Several woods, particularly the CAMPHOLZ WOODS (LO60020) and the BANNHOLZ WOODS (LO60055) were cleared of the enemy and their fortifications destroyed and the Germans were forced to commit the 11th Pz Div to restrain further advances by the 94th Inf Div.

2. The second period of February operations (19-21 Feb incl) witnessed the full scale attack by the 94th Inf Div to seize the commanding ground in the vicinity of MUNZINGEN (LO83045), reduction of the remainder of the switchline and clearance of the SAAR-MOSELLE triangle. Field Order #16 was issued 19 Feb and at 0400 hours 19 Feb the 94th Inf Div attacked with three regiments abreast to penetrate the enemy fortifications to the north. This it did by nightfall. After the breakthrough had been achieved permission was granted XX Corps by SHAEF for

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the use of one of its reserve divisions, the 10th Armd Div, to exploit the breakthrough. The morning of 20 Feb the 10th Armd Div passed through the 94th Inf Div and attacked with two combat commands (CCA and CCB) abreast along the summit of the high ridge situated down the center of the SAAR-MOSELLE triangle. Progress was rapid with the chief obstacles being mines, road blocks and blown bridges. RCT 376 of the 94th Inf Div was attached to the 10th Armd Div and followed behind to mop up by-passed enemy pockets of resistance. By evening of 21 Feb the 10th Armd Div had occupied its objectives, the dominating terrain commanding TRIER but had been unable to seize bridges intact over the SAAR River due to their destruction by the enemy. Although a bridging operation had not been originally contemplated plans were quickly perfected upon THIRD US ARMY order and Field Orders #17 was issued 21 Feb for crossings to be made over the SAAR River and the seizure of TRIER. Through out this short period of intensive operations in the north the 26th Inf Div and TASK FORCE POLK had aggressively pushed on in force to their fronts in order to constrain as many enemy units as possible.

3. During the closing period of the month of February (22-28 Feb incl) the entire triangle was cleared of the enemy, three assault crossings were made over the SAAR River in the vicinities of SERRIG (L153092)-TABEN (L184062) and OCKFEN (L162148) with bridges being built at SERRIG and TABEN. The 5th Ranger Bn attacked 24 Feb to reach their objective, the main road net work at (L204117), by nightfall, which it held against repeated enemy counter-attacks while the bridgeheads at SERRIG and TABEN were consolidated by the 94th Inf Div. The 10th Armd Div was passed through this bridgehead and attacked north along the ridge roads towards TRIER, fanning out and threatening the city at the end of the period.

SECTION II - G-1 SUMMARY

1. GENERAL:

During the first part of the month XX Corps units maintained their position and continued to reinforce the Saarlautern bridgehead. On 19 February 1945, XX Corps units attacked to clear the Saar-Moselle triangle and capture the key German communication center of Trier. Casualties were comparatively light and enemy prisoners of war numerous.

2. REINFORCEMENTS:

Two divisions and numerous Corps Troops were committed in the offensive operation, thus necessitating reinforcements to maintain combat efficiency. Through the month of February the reinforcement system furnished 6621 reinforcements to the units under XX Corps.

3. PRISONERS OF WAR:

Due to the tactics of offensive employment by XX Corps Units during the latter part of February, many prisoners of war were taken. Supply vehicles were used by the divisions in evacuating prisoners of war from their collecting points to the Corps collecting point. From Corps collecting point, Army furnished special personnel and trucks to evacuate the prisoners of war to the Army enclosure. During the month of February 7193 prisoners of war were captured and evacuated by units of the XX Corps.

4. BURIALS:

Body collecting points had been established with one for each

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of the divisions and were located in the division's quartermaster area. The 3048 Graves Registration Company, under Army control, maintained the processing and evacuation of the dead. Corps troops utilized the divisions collecting points in their evacuation.

5. DECORATIONS AND AWARDS:

The Corps Awards and Decorations Board considered 264 recommendations for Decorations and Awards during the month of February 1945. The following decorations were awarded by the Corps Commander: seven (7) Silver Stars; ninety four (94) Bronze Star Medals; one (1) Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal; six (6) Air Medals; and thirty nine (39) Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal. The following recommendations were forwarded to higher headquarters; one (1) Congressional Medal of Honor; and three (3) Distinguished Service Crosses. One (1) Distinguished Service Medal was awarded by the War Department and presented by the Army Commander to the Corps Commander. Two (2) Legion of Merits were awarded by the Theater Commander, one (1) to a member of Corps Headquarters and one (1) to a member of Corps Artillery.

6. LEAVES, FURLONGHS AND PASSES:

The monthly quota for the return of personnel to the United States on temporary duty for rehabilitation, recuperation and recovery was announced by higher headquarters. The quota for Corps Troops received for the month of February was 52, of which 8 percent could be officers. This quota was allocated to Corps Troops based upon time in combat. Divisions also received a quota, based on length of combat service, directly from Army. Individuals selected were persons who had been hospitalized for wounds, had been decorated for gallantry or who had extended overseas service with efficient performance of duty.

7. STRENGTH REPORTS:

Throughout the month daily periodic reports were submitted to Corps by all divisions and Corps units, catalogued and compiled at Corps and then forwarded to the Commanding General, Third United States Army. The report was submitted in code by telephone, radio or courier to reach Army Headquarters by 0400 of the day following the report, and included by units the effective strength, number of personnel killed, missing or captured, wounded, sick or injured, reinforcements received and prisoners of war captured. A consolidated report was submitted to the Corps Commander daily. Cumulative totals for the month are as indicated below: Totals for units includes their activities only for the period of time they were assigned to the Corps, and are estimated totals only based on daily periodic reports.

UNIT	KILLED	MISSING OR WOUNDED. CAPTURED	(HOSP)	SICK OR INJ (HOSP)	TOTAL	REIN- FORCE- MENTS	PW CAPTD
26th Inf Div	73	46	371	524	1014	1399	52
94th Inf Div	321	242	1832	1565	3960	4035	4266
10th Armd Div	52	34	400	295	781	455	2865
Corps Troops	9	3	86	347	445	732	10
TOTAL	455	325	2689	2731	6200	6621	7193

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SECTION III - G-2 SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION: February, 1945, was a short but pithy month from the German viewpoint, bringing even closer the finale of the GOETTERDAEMERUNG". In the E, though the spectacular advances of the Russians slowed considerably, they pushed on inexorably, visiting considerable personnel and equipment casualties on their opponents, while BERLIN prepared for its "last-ditch" stand. A number of divisions from the W front appeared in the E, including part of 6 SS Pz Army, to aid in stemming the irresistible Russian hordes. The effect of this stripping of the W front was manifest in the hurried shift to and fro of units in the line, some in battered condition, as COLOGNE and the other RHINE centers, and TRIER on the MOSELLE were strongly threatened by the American drive to the E. In the TRIER sector, the month was an interesting and remunerative period for XX U. S. Corps, albeit considerable on the red side of the ledger for the enemy opposing us. The 10th U. S. Armd and the 94th U. S. Inf Divs swept clean the SAAR-MOSELLE Triangle, crossed the SAAR River and thrust N toward TRIER, in the process badly punishing, almost to the point of total elimination, 416 Inf Div, a long-term tenant of the area. Practically the same fate was met by 256 VG Div, rushed up from the Seventh Army front to help defend the TRIER area. Before the close of the period, 2 Mtn Div, badly battered in the COLMAR debacle, then committed for a short time in the BITCHE sector was hurried N willy-nilly to join its colleagues against our advance. Train trouble prevented all of 11 Pz Div from getting away to the N and because of the crucial state of affairs, a portion of 111 Pz Gren Regt and some of the tanks of 15 Pz Regt found themselves again thrown into the fray. In addition, a swarm of miscellaneous units, Volkssturm, GHQ and fortress units, and school personnel descended to add to the confusion. The close of the month found this heterogeneous assortment, in spite of heavy losses, fighting for the most part determinedly, though hopelessly, to prevent our seizure of the city of TRIER.

2. GENERAL: On 1 February, in XX Corps sector, the enemy occupied the general line: N of RJ (LO18057) - NE of WIES (LO205) - wooded area N of Highway (LO38057) - SINZ (LO504) - along ridge to N of BUTZDORF (LO403) - RJ (LO50023) - N edge of CAMPHOLZ WOODS - (LO57023) - (LO65020) S of OBERLEUKEN at (LO80012) - (LO5012) - (Q126993) - (Q135999) - to SAAR River at (Q150996) - S along E bank SAAR River to (Q275816) - (Q280820) - (Q283817) - (Q295814) - (Q302805) - to SAAR River at (Q29-9809) - S along E bank to Corps S boundary vic WADGASSEN (Q3174). Major units in contact were 416 Inf Div, generally along the line from the MOSELLE to the SAAR Rivers, and 719 Inf Div, generally along the SAAR. 38 GAF Fortress Bn filled in the line of 416 in the SINZ area while 1410 Fortress Bn was believed to be on the extreme right of 719, near METTLACH (L1700), and indications were that the defense sector of 347 Inf Div, on XV Corps front, extended partially into XX Corps zone, to vic FRAULAUTERN (Q2981). A 778 Div had been tentatively identified in the FRAULAUTERN area, but this was a very tenuous identification and never fully confirmed. The whereabouts of 11 Pz Div posed a big question mark. The division had been uncontacted since 28 Jan and there was no real evidence of the continued presence of the division in the SAAR-MOSELLE Triangle. However, it was believed that elements of the unit might still be in reserve in this area, a belief which was justified by the reappearance of elements of this division on our front on 2 Feb.

3. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD.

a. Opening Days of Month: 1, 2, 3 February 1945: Enemy activity was light. Sporadic artillery fire and a minimum of small arms and mortar fire was reported as the enemy apparently concentrated on resting and repairing the damages he had suffered as a result of our

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our attack which had previously gained us the towns of WISE (LO205), NENNIG (LO204), and TETTINGEN (LO502). On 1 Feb, our limited objective attack to clear CAMPHOLZ WOODS (LO602) met only scattered resistance. We cleared the Wood S of the anti-tank ditch there between (LO57021) and (LO63019), taking a total of 46 PWs, all from 416 Inf Div and attached units. The following day the remainder of the wood was cleared, opposition again being very scattered and the enemy showing little will to fight. A pillbox at (LO4850242), which slowed our advance at first, was captured during the afternoon. A total of 106 EM and 3 Officers were taken PW during the day's action, the most notable item being the re-identification of 11 Pz Div, uncontacted since 28 Jan. One officer and two enlisted men were taken, all from 119 Pz Arty Regt of the "Ghost" division. As the week drew to a close on 3 Feb enemy activity had dropped to practically zero. What little activity there had been during the week had all been in the N between the SAAR and the MOSELLE. The SAAR River line showed practically no activity whatsoever. Contact with 11 Pz Div was maintained but was still tenuous as the week ended, being made on 3 Feb by the capture of two enlisted men from 2 Co of 110 Pz Gren Regt.

b. Week of 4 February to 10 February 1945: Though the week was marked by the appearance on our front of 256 VG Div, moved up from the S, together with a concurrent diminution of strong contact with 11 Pz Div, and by bitter resistance and many counterattacks to forestall our push to the N in the SAAR-MOSELLE triangle, it began with little fanfare. For the first three days (4, 5, 6 February) there was little hostile activity except that in response to our efforts to reduce the enemy-held pillboxes NW of CAMPHOLZ WOODS (LO502) on 5 February I Bn, 713 Gren Regt, 416 Inf Div, reacted strongly and interdicted the area with heavy S/A, artillery and mortar fire. A counterattack in this same sector of unknown strength, at 051705A was repulsed by 051830A by our infantry-artillery action. Along the SAAR River Line, these three days saw only a quiet, defensive-minded enemy. During the remainder of the week, action in the SINZ (LO504) area was heavy as the 94th Inf Div continued to prod at the enemy's defenses. 416 Inf Div, the newly-arrived 256 VG Div, and (for a time) elements of 11 Pz Div, countered at every opportunity. Up to 15-18 tanks, possible belonging to 15 Pz Regt, 11 Pz Div, were also involved in enemy operations. A day-by-day synopsis of the action follows:

(1) 7 February 1945:

(a) North: During the night 6-7 Feb, the enemy was quiet, but met operations of the 94th Inf Div the following day with moderate to heavy opposition. Heavy mortar and artillery fire was received during our assault to clear several enemy-held pillboxes NW of CAMPHOLZ WOODS (LO502). Some success was achieved by our troops, and in spite of strong opposition, including a counter-attack of unknown strength at 071810A, repulsed by infantry-artillery action, we had wrested two pillboxes from the hands of 416 Inf Div by the end of the period. To the N, initial enemy resistance was light against our advance on SINZ (LO504) and BANNHOLZ WOODS (LO404); it consisted in the main of moderate small arms, mortar and artillery fire. However, the town and woods were determinedly defended by a conglomerate force of elements of 416 Inf Div, 110 Pz Gren Regt of 11 Pz Div, and 38 GAF Fortress Bn. Fighting continued in SINZ throughout the day, but by the end of the period, it was reported entirely cleared of enemy except for one house on the SW edge. As we pushed into BANNHOLZ WOODS to the N, the enemy counterattacked at 070920A with approximately 3 to 5 tanks and 30-50 infantry, but was contained along the S edge of the woods.

(b) SAAR RIVER LINE: Attempts by the 3rd Cav Gp to dispatch patrols across the river night of 6-7 Feb were rendered

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ineffectual by the swift current, and elicited alert reaction from the defenders on the E bank, consisting of MG fire and considerable flare activity. Light resistance was reported received by the 26th Inf Div during its limited objective attack in the FRAULAUTERN (Q2981) area. Light harassing fire was received during the period.

(2) 8 February 1945

(a) North. By 080905A, SINZ (L0504) was completely cleared of enemy who offered only moderate small arms and AW fire and slight artillery and mortar fire. Light initial opposition was also encountered by the 94th Inf Div in capturing six pillboxes SE of SINZ, which task was accomplished by 080840A. However, beginning about 080900A, there was a marked increase in enemy artillery, mortar and rocket fire, an estimated total of approximately 1800-2000 rounds being received from then until the end of the period. An attack by an undetermined number of infantry, not exceed one company, spearheaded by 3 tanks, was launched by the enemy SE of SINZ at 081200A, but was driven off a few minutes later. By 081000A, two pillboxes in the vicinity of (L053026), protected at the E and S approaches by many AP mines, were captured.

(b) South. The 26th Inf Div occupied an additional block in FRAULAUTERN (Q2981) without physical opposition, but received heavy small arms and mortar fire from nearby hostile troops. During the same period, several houses were captured in SAARLAUTERN-RODEN (Q2881) against moderate to heavy small arms and mortar fire. There was no enemy artillery fire reported.

(3) 9 February 1945: On this day, 256 Inf Div, in no way fit for its coming task, arrived in the area, and went into the line. The admittedly weak state of the division led a number of its officers to feel that it should have been withdrawn into comparative safety of the Westwall fortifications prior to our attack. One battalion in particular was required to hold a sector too large for its strength and no rest period could be furnished the men. It appears that at the time of commitment, the combat strength of each of the three infantry regiments was no more than 500; 481 VG Regt was reported to have numbered 300-400. However, 456 and 481 Regiments were committed to relieve units of 11 Pz Div along the MOSELLE River and the line THORN (L0206) - KRUEZWEILER (L0406) - BEUREN (L0707) to the SINZ-MERZKIRCHEN Road in vicinity of (L074064), II Pn, 476 VG Regt was held in division reserve until 15 Feb, while I Pn occupied strong points along the MOSELLE River N of WEHR (L0310). The action for the day follows:

(a) North. The enemy reacted strongly to our activities in BANNHOLZ WOODS (L0505), and during the period launched several local tank-infantry counter-thrusts, intended to regain lost ground. Preparations for this action began during early morning when the enemy succeeded in infiltrating infantry and tanks into GEISBACH WOODS (L0505), and despite our artillery fire, launched an attack at 090935A with three tanks attacks repulsed. A second attempt was made at 091215A by at least 50 infantry, supported again by three tanks, from the NW along the W side of the woods, while at 091237A an abortive assault was made by about 30 infantry along the E edge of the woods in the direction of SINZ. The tanks taking part in the attack along the W edge of the woods were reported withdrawing to the N at 091352A, leaving the hostile infantry to operate alone. At the close of the period, the situation in BANNHOLZ WOODS was obscure, but our troops were reported still holding the SW portion.

(b) South. The 26th Inf Div occupied several more buildings in SAARLAUTERN-RODEN (Q2881) and FRAULAUTERN (Q2981) during the period against moderate small arms and mortar fire. Artillery fire was slight.

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(4) 10 Feb 1945.

(a) North. Demonstrating extreme sensitivity to continued operations of the 94th Inf Div in the SINZ (LO504) area, the newly-arrived 256 VG Div, with tank support, offered strong resistance to our advance. Our troops pushed through to the N edge of ADENHOLZ WOODS (LO405) against moderate small arms and slight artillery and mortar fire, but in BANNHOLZ WOODS (LO505) to the E, bitter fighting raged all day. Initially, before opposition jelled, resistance was fairly light, though an estimated six enemy tanks took part in the action, and our troops had cleared one-half the woods by 101030A. At this point, however, resistance stiffened, and artillery and mortar fire increased. At 10-1300A, and again at 101450A, counter-attacks were launched from the NW, consisting of approximately 50 infantry and an undetermined number of tanks in each case, in an effort to drive us from the woods. Both were repulsed, the enemy losing several tanks in the action. Apparently convinced that stronger measures were necessary, a final concerted effort was made as the enemy struck a third time, with 150-200 troops and six tanks. This last bid netted him small but costly success as our troops withdrew from the woods under pressure, leaving behind considerable enemy casualties including 9 tanks reported knocked out.

(b) SAAR River Line. The limited objective attack by the 26th Inf Div in the SAARLAUTERN-RODEN (Q2981) bridgehead encountered only light small arms fire. Otherwise, enemy activity was practically non-existent.

c. Week of 11 to 17 Feb 1945: This was a week of comparative quiet with the enemy showing no signs of aggressive action. His reaction to an offensive move on our part either on the SAAR-MOSELLE Triangle or in the SAARLAUTERN Bridgehead was, however, quick and sharp, in short an active but non-aggressive defense.

(1) On 11 Feb the enemy took the opportunity offered by the slackening of our offensive action to improve his defensive positions and continue relief of elements of 11 Pz Div in the BANNHOLZ WOODS (LO505) area by elements of 256 VG Div. Moderate artillery fire harassed our front line units and interdicted roads and woods in the area. There was no contact with enemy armor though three enemy tanks were observed in the area during the day. On the remainder of the Corps front the enemy was quiet.

(2) From the 12th through the 14th the enemy remained very quiet except for light fire from mortars and artillery. In the Triangle there was evidence that at least some tanks remained but it was not clear how many were present. The number does not appear to have been large, however, and they took no aggressive action. It is doubtful if more than 10-15 tanks were present at any time during the period.

(3) On the 15th there was a sharp reaction with rocket, mortar, and artillery fire to the attack of the 94th Inf Div against pillboxes E of CAMPHOLZ WOODS. At 2055 hours he launched a counter-attack in this area with four tanks, of which two were reported knocked out, one damaged and the other hung up in an anti-tank ditch. After this setback he regrouped and struck again about midnight with 150 to 200 infantry, and six tanks and two assault guns. Principal support for both attacks was mortar fire, although some artillery and rocket fire was received. The second attack was successful in forcing us to give up several pillboxes we had captured earlier in the day. The remainder of the division zone was quiet. There was some increase in activity around pillboxes across the SAAR in the sector of the 3rd Cav Gp where there was additional evidence of Volkssturm as indicated by

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reports of several enemy in civilian clothes. As the 26th Inf Div continued operations to clear houses in SAARLAUTERN-RODEN (Q2881) enemy resistance increased, principally from small arms but there was some reports of hand to hand fighting indicating unusual tenacity on the part of the Germans.

(4) On the 16th the enemy was quiet in the Triangle after his success of the previous day. In the sectors of the 3rd Cav Gp and the 26th Inf Div he showed no aggressive tendencies but he increased his mortar and artillery fire in response to our limited objective attacks in the bridgehead area. One tank was reported to have appeared, fired one shot and departed.

(5) As the week drew to a close on the 17th the entire front was quiet with the exception of strong mortar, machine gun and artillery fire which met the continuation of our attack in the bridgehead, and two counterattacks, one at 1100 hours with a platoon and the other at 1830 hours with 50-80 men. The first counterattack was repulsed without loss of ground, the second succeeded in retaking two buildings.

d. Week of 18 to 24 February 1945: Though~~h~~ beginning, paradoxically enough, with a very quiet day in the N sector and a flurry of activity to the S in the SAARLAUTERN sector, this was the week that, in addition to the return of 11 Pz Div, saw the back of the resistance in the SAAR-MOSELLE Triangle broken, the beginning of the destruction of 416 and 256 Divs, and the way paved for the drive on TRIER. For example, 416 Inf Div units, already in a state of debility, were in some cases completely liquidated. II Bn, 712 Regt, in the OBERLEUKEN (LO801) area, was overrun and completely destroyed - the Regimental commander was captured; 713 Regiment's I Bn was completely wiped out, while out of II Bn only some of the supply elements were able to escape - the Regimental Commander and both Battalion Commanders were captured; 714 Regt suffered somewhat the same fate. In the case of both 416 and 256 Divs, our unexpected and speedy advance cut communications, overran a CPs, and caused a maximum of confusion. After our attack of 19 Feb had broken through the enemy MLR between THORN and MUNZINGEN (LO804), the staff of 256 VG Div became hopelessly confused, and on 20 Feb the Div Commander issued an order that remnants of the Div would retreat across the SAAR and assume control of the westwall bunkers in the area. The CO of 456 Regiment ordered his unit to retreat in small groups or singly, on 20 February, after all contact with the Div had been severed. In short, it is apparent that while continued minor, local attacks on our part may have been expected by the enemy, he did not look for a determined, major thrust with the necessary force to carry us to the SAAR. In any event, though there had been reports of motorized equipment being amassed behind our lines, the attack by a large number of tanks came as a complete surprise. Further, during the early stages of the attack, the enemy artillery suffered almost irreparable casualties; a great many pieces in the Triangle were either destroyed or abandoned, and according to a PW, I Bn, 256 Arty lost all of its guns on the morning of 23 Feb; the strength of each battery having been reduced to about 60 men, the battalion was thereupon marched to IRSCH as infantry replacements. A day by day account of the action follows:

(1) 18 February 1945

(a) North. The sector of the 94th Inf Div was quiet during the period. Some fire from what was believed to be a 75mm SP gun was received.

(b) South. The enemy assumed an aggressive defensive attitude in the zone of the 26th Inf Div, launching three counterattacks during the period. The first, at 2300 hours, was made with an estimated 40 infantry supported by MG, bazooka, mortar and artillery fire vicinity

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(Q285820). The second and third attacks in the same vicinity were at 0100 and 0300 hours with 60 and 100 infantry respectively. All were repulsed. A small friendly patrol encountered 50 to 60 enemy infantry in SCHAFFHAUSEN (Q3273), at 2000 hours and withdrew after a short fire fight.

(2) 19 February 1945

(a) North: Apparently caught by surprise by the attack of the 94th Inf Div to the N and E beginning 190400A, both 256 VG and 416 Inf Div were kept off balance throughout the period and encountered difficulty in trying to stem our advance. Initial reaction was an increase in artillery, mortar and rocket fire, which continued through the day. Resistance was characterized as light at the beginning of the attack, but in some cases, later in the period, hostile infantry offered stubborn opposition from prepared defensive positions. However, the enemy apparently failed to utilize towns as strong points as MUNZINGEN (LO804), FAHA (LO903), KESSLINGEN (LO902), and OBERLEUKEN (LO801) were captured; there was little determined opposition or house-to-house fighting reported. A minor attempt by a small group of enemy infantry, supported by MG fire, to regain a lost pillbox was readily repulsed. What may have constituted two embryonic counterattacks were evidently nipped in the bud when a platoon of enemy infantry and 2 tanks advanced SE toward our lines from KREUZWEILER (LO306) but were forced into hiding by our artillery fire, and when plans (according to a PW) to attack in vicinity FAHA (LO903), using three assault guns, were forestalled by our capture of both town and guns. Indications were that enemy resistance had practically ceased by about 191600A, and that hostile infantry groups were for the remainder of the period attempting to escape our mopping-up operations.

(b) SAAR RIVER Line. With the exception of harassing enemy fire, mostly MG, the front of the 34d Cav Gp was quiet. In the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area, the enemy was quick to react to probing patrols of the 26th Inf Div during the night 18-19 Feb. About 190830A, approximately 20 hostile infantry, assisted by an SP gun, succeeded in recapturing two buildings. The enemy was relatively inactive the remainder of the period.

(3) 20 February 1945

(a) North: Offering resistance in the SAAR-MOSELLE Triangle that can be characterized only as "spotty" and varying from light to moderate, 256 VG and 416 Inf Divs were evidently caught by surprise again and were unable at any time during the period to fully crystallize their defense against the attack of the 10th Armd Div and the 94th Inf Div. The surprise factor apparently included not only the attack itself but also the appearance of our armor and the speed of our advance. Unable to cope with the rapidly disintegrating situation, enemy units found tactical control lost, communications disrupted, and both infantry and artillery positions overrun. Though in no sense was there any indication of an overall willingness to surrender either ground or personnel, the harried enemy, centering most of his opposition about towns, offered what in some cases amounted to token resistance only, which behavior was possibly accentuated in some measure by the morale effect of our tanks, while in other instances, good size groups held out fairly strongly in certain towns for sometime, utilizing obstacles, minefields, small arms, mortar and some artillery fire. Difficult terrain in some areas was a stronger factor in slowing our advance than the enemy defense. Heaviest enemy resistance was at ORSCHOLZ (L1201). The attack by the 2nd Cav Gp across the MOSELLE River to capture WINCHERINGEN (LO513) early morning 20 Feb met very slight resistance, consisting only

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of sporadic small-arms fire; it was believed the enemy was taken completely by surprise here. Towns reported cleared during the period included the following: WINCHERINGEN (L0513), BILZINGEN (L0711), FISCH (L0914), KORRIG (L0911), PORTZ (L1009), KELSEN (L1008), MEURICH (L1007), KIRF (L0906), FREUDENBERG (L1305), WEITEN (L1304), ORSCHOLZ (L1201), ENSINGEN (L0409) was not reported clear by the end of the period.

(b) SAAR River Line. With the exception of some harassing enemy fire, the front of the 3rd Cav Gp was quiet. In the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area, however, the enemy exhibited some aggressive inclinations. At 192130A an increase in enemy activity vicinity (Q289818) and (Q 281819), consisting of smoke, flares, small-arms and SP gun fire was reported and at 192230A an undertermined number of enemy infantry and two tanks observed moving S from vicinity (Q 282321) were dispersed by artillery fire. At 200730A, a second offensive attempt was made by the enemy as an attack by an estimated 30 infantry, two tanks and three SP guns were repulsed. During the afternoon there were several efforts by small infantry groups of 5-10 men each to rush our positions; all were driven off by small arms fire.

(4) 21 February 1945

(a) North. The task of clearing the SAAR-MOSELLE Triangle continued with all indications pointing to the fact that organized enemy resistance had collapsed. The enemy was entirely inactive during the night 20-21 February, and the 94th Inf Div reported little enemy opposition during the day, but difficult terrain constituted an obstacle. The advance of the 10th Armd Div met only sporadic resistance consisting in the main of slight small arms and mortar fire, mines and roadblocks, several in vic TRASSEM (L1209) reported undefended. There was practically no artillery fire received except for an estimated 100 rounds during the early morning vic FREUDENBERG (L1305). TAWERN (L1220) was captured against light small arms fire, and elements of the 10th Armd Div who were in SAARBURG (L1412) by the close of the period, encountered only sniper fire there. Towns reported cleared during the period included (KOLLESLEUKEN (L1106), FREUDENBURG (L1305), WEITEN (L1305), REHLINGEN (L0614), ROMMELFANGEN (L1710), KOLLIG (L0715), NITTEL (L0718), FISCH (L0914), DITTLINGEN (L0809), KELSEN (L1008), FELLERICH (L1020), TAWERN (L1220), MANNEBACH (L1115), PORTZ (L1009), KAHREN (L1011). At the close of the period, troops of the 10th Armd Div were firing into KONEN (L1421) and had occupied the high ground N of TAWERN. It was believed that in the sector of the 10th Armd Div, the Triangle was clear of enemy forces except for small groups being mopped up. In the 94th Inf Div sector, the FORET DE SAARBURG, E of ORSCHOLZ, probably contained a number of enemy troops caught there by the close of their escape gap to the N.

(b) SAAR River Line. The front of the 3d Cav Gp was quiet except for normal reliefs, garrison activities, and the usual harassing fires. The 26th Inf Div repulsed with artillery fire an attack by an unknown number of enemy troops in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead about 210630A.

(5) 22 February 1945

(a) North. Final phase operations to clean out the SAAR-MOSELLE Triangle were practically unopposed. Last minute attempts by the enemy to impose delay were apparent as our troops encountered mines, cratered roads, demolitions, and road blocks, particularly in the WAWERN (L1417) area, where a half-hearted attempt was made to defend obstacles in that vicinity by an AT gun N of the town, which fired one round and then withdrew on the approach of our tanks. There was some sniper fire in the SAARBURG area and light small-arms fire received from E of the SAAR River. The entire Triangle was reported clear of enemy by the end of the period. The SAAR River crossings of the 94th Inf Div in the SERRIG (L1609) - TABEN (L1706) area were reported initially unopposed but later, small arms and mortar fire developed and a slight amount of artillery fire was received on the crossing sites.

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Light to moderate small arms and automatic weapons fire was the mainstay of the VOLKSSTURM defending the SAAR River line from SIEGFRIED Line Defenses on the E side. Remnants of units of 416 Inf and 256 VG Divs who successfully evacuated the Triangle were hurriedly thrown back into the fight to fill out the defense, strengthen the VOLKSSTURM stand, and in some cases at least, to assume tactical command of the defense zones. A small infantry counter-attack on the SERRIG bridgehead just before the close of the period was repulsed by 222015A without loss of ground.

(b) SAAR River Line. In the 3rd Cav Gp section there was no change; enemy activity was confined to normal harassing fires. In the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead, 719 Inf Div, averse to giving up more ground, sought to forestall any activity by the 26 (US) Inf Div by an alert defense. Harassing small-arms and MG fire and flares were utilized through night 21-22 February, while harassing and interdictory fire, including some concentrations, were received.

(6) 23 February 1945.

(a) North. Our crossing operations over the SAAR River vic OCKFEN (L9614) received moderate small arms and AW fire and sporadic mortar and artillery fire. After our troops occupied OCKFEN, a counterattack at 230955A by about 150 infantry from 481 VG Regt, 256 VG Div and 523 Engr Bn, supported by assault guns, succeeded in recapturing the town. Later it again changed hands and by the middle of the afternoon, the town was reported cleared of enemy after some house to house fighting in the N portion. Further advance to the E of the town met heavy small-arms fire but very little mortar or artillery fire. Towns along the W bank of the SAAR River in the sector of the 10th Armd Div received sniper fire from the E bank during the day. In the SERRIG (L1609) bridgehead, the 94th Inf Div encountered light resistance during night 22-23 February consisting mainly of small arms fire, but crossing sites were harassed strongly throughout the period by enemy artillery. By shortly after noon, the fortified area S of SERRIG to the river was reported clear of the enemy, with some snipers still remaining. During the day determined infantry opposition and heavy artillery and mortar fire opposed our expansion of the SERRIG bridgehead. At 230715A and again at 230825A, the enemy counterattacked vic SERRIG with about 50 infantry and three tanks/assault guns, but he was repulsed. A second embryonic attack was broken up in its formative stages N of SERRIG at 231255A when about 200 infantry was dispersed by artillery fire.

(b) South. Enemy activity was negligible in both 3rd Cav Gp and 26th Inf Div sectors.

(7) 24 February 1945.

(a) North. Desperate for succor, 416 Inf Div grasped at the straw offered by the failure of part of 11 Pz Div's infantry and tanks to get away with the rest of the division because of transportation difficulty, and this day's action found II Bn, 111 Pz Gren Regt committed against us while several tanks of 15 Pz Regt remained in the area. Enemy resistance varied in the OCKFEN (L1714) bridgehead from comparatively light in the N portion to heavy small arms fire in the S. In particular, strong small arms fire from pillboxes in the S portion impeded crossing operations until occupants were driven from the fortifications. Our troops on the W bank of the SAAR River along the front of the 10th Armd Div received moderate to heavy arms and MG fire from enemy positions on the east side. Sporadic artillery and harassing mortar fire were received during the period. During night 23-24 February, the SERRIG (L1609) bridgehead received small arms fire from pillboxes disguised as houses E of SERRIG. There was consistent harassing mortar and artillery fire throughout the period along the SAAR River front of the 94th Inf Div, with several concentrations reported, including one of 250 rounds vicinity TABEN

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(L1706) night 23 February. Reports are incomplete on the character of enemy opposition to the advance of the 5th Ranger Bn NE of SERRIG.

(b) South. On the front of the 3rd Cav Gp there was a reported increase in enemy fire of all arms as a result of our artillery demonstration in the sector. The enemy was sensitive to the limited objective attack of the 26th Inf Div in the SAARLAUTERN (Q2881) bridgehead, and offered determined resistance, countering immediately from positions in buildings with intense small arms and MG fire, followed in a very short time by considerable artillery and mortar fire.

e. Closing days of Month: 25, 26, 27, 28 February 1945. While the fighting for TRIER continued heavy and confused, and as the enemy found himself no longer with his back to the wall, but completely behind it, the urgency of the situation resulted in 2 Mtn Div, barely settled in its new home on Seventh Army front, racing to the N to help hold the line. The Engr Bn was identified 25 Feb, and practically all of the two infantry regiments later in the month.

(1) 25 February 1945

(a) North. This was the scene of confused and at times heavy fighting. Difficulties of communication and the nature of the terrain gave rise to many obscure situations. The principle sources of resistance were pillboxes and prepared positions. Some of the pillboxes mounted high velocity guns, but the main source of enemy fire was small arms and bazookas. Road blocks and minefields, covered by fire, impeded the progress of our armor in some cases. The Boche was in mixed quality, some groups fighting last ditch fights and other anxiously seeking an opportunity to surrender. As we advanced, some enemy groups were by-passed and others were believed to have infiltrated back into old positions. At the close of the period no accurate estimate could be made as to the number of enemy operating behind our lines but it was reported not large enough to seriously hamper our progress. Against the 10th Armd Div the enemy launched three small counterattacks between 0440 hours and 0600 hours, all from the vicinity of (L1814). These involved in all about 100 infantry of whom 40 were taken prisoner. Casualties were reported very high among the remainder. Otherwise resistance was marked by intense small arms and mortar fire. The enemy throughout the period was able to interdict our crossing site with small arms fire. Against the 94th Inf Div the enemy made several counterattacks during the day. One was against a pillbox at (L191081) with unknown strength and composition, and at the close of the period no further information was available. Another attack at 0745 hours was directed against HACKER HILL (L195074). Details as to the size of the attack are still lacking, but a PW reported a battalion composed of 4 companies of 150 men each, four tanks and eight 88 mm guns in the vicinity. An attack against the 5th Ranger Bn vicinity (L21211117) involved 200 infantry from the SW and 400 from the NE together with four tanks and one self-propelled gun. At the close of the period the situation in regard to the Rangers was not clear. Snipers and at least one 88 mm gun vicinity TABEN (L1705) continued to harass our crossing.

(b) South. In the sector of the 26th Inf Div the enemy continued to be quick to react to any move by our troops with well aimed small arms fire. Combat patrols were met with heavy MG, small arms, artillery and mortar fire. Flare activity increased during the hours of darkness.

(2) 26 February 1945

(a) North. At 252042A, a small counterattack of about 50 infantry in vicinity SCHOEDEN (L1616) was repulsed with no

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loss of ground and the town was reported cleared of enemy by the close of the period, except for a few houses in the NE part of the town. During our advance enemy resistance was characteristic of the type of fighting in the SAAREBURG area during the preceding few days. Generally it consisted of intense S/A fire, particularly from pillboxes, and moderate mortar and artillery fire. The 10th Armd Div reported a number of road blocks and AT guns and bazooka fire. The enemy attack on the 5th Ranger Bn the previous night flared up again early in the morning, when between 260600A and 260800A, about 600 infantry and several tanks took part in an assault on the Rangers and succeeded in overcoming some of our positions before the line was eventually restored. The fortified area SE of BEURIG (L1512) was reported cleared against determined resistance with the pillbox occupants fighting tenaciously from the comparative security of their positions until surrounded, then surrendering, in some cases, under the "white flag."

(b) South. On the front of the 3rd Cav Gp, normal harassing enemy fire was reported. Tracked vehicular movement was heard in vicinity METTLACH (L1700) 252230A - 252245A, and in vicinity PONTEN (Q1798) at 260112A and at 260345A. In the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead sector, the 26th Inf Div reported a continuation of enemy harassing fire, with small arms and automatic weapons fire in some instances becoming very heavy. A small hostile patrol which, with artillery support, attempted to penetrate our lines vicinity (Q284821) at 261855A, was repulsed by our artillery fire.

(3) 27 February 1945.

(a) North. The advance of the 10th Armd Div N along the ZERF (L2311) - PELLINGEN (L2320) road was met by heavy mortar and small arms fire and moderate anti-tank and artillery fire. Enemy between this route of advance and the SAAR River continued to oppose our efforts to consolidate our bridgehead from pillboxes in SCHODEN (L1616) and with harassing artillery fire. SCHODEN was cleared by 1530 hours. In general resistance was stubborn but disorganized. Troops of the 94th Inf Div continued to consolidate their positions in the face of harassing mortar and artillery fire and engaged in fire fights with small groups of enemy still holding out. One counterattack was reported by the 5th Ranger Bn in the vicinity of (L218113). It began at 0800 hours with an estimated 200 infantry and was repulsed by 1000 hours without loss of ground and with 150 PWs taken.

(b) South. In the sector of the 26th Inf Div the enemy continued to be extremely sensitive to any action on our part. Almost continuous machine gun and artillery fire was reported. A 50-60 round artillery concentration of white phosphorous was reported vicinity of (Q284819) at 1814 hours. There was a marked increase in the use of flares during the hours of darkness.

(4) 28 February 1945.

(a) North. Against the 10th Armd Div enemy activity consisted principally of delaying the advance to the N by active defense of minefields and roadblocks in vicinity of PELLINGEN (L2320) and by intense mortar and small arms fire. At about 2200 hours 27 Feb he made a small counterattack at (L239102) supported by some tanks but this was soon repulsed. NE of SCHODEN (L1616) the enemy resisted stubbornly in pillboxes giving them up one by one. Against the 94th Inf Div resistance varied from moderate to heavy. During the first part of the period small arms, mortar and artillery fire delayed the advance. Isolated fire fights in the pillbox areas developed. An estimated 25 pillboxes and shelters were taken. Very heavy artillery fire was reported vicinity (L214120) at 2115 hours. Two counterattacks were received, one at 1515 hours vicinity (L245112) with an estimated 80-90 men, and the second at 1710 hours vicinity (L210092) with an estimated 100 men. Both were repulsed. Artillery, believed to be 88mm continued to harass our bridge site at TABEN (L1705) and other river towns.

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(b) South. Enemy activity in the sector of the 26th Inf Div was negligible with two patrols reported.

4. ENEMY UNITS IN CONTACT 28 FEBRUARY 1945.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Location.</u>
2 Mtn Div	
137 Mtn Regt	
Regt'l Hq Co, 6,7,8, Cos & Hq Co/II Bn	(L2411)
11,12,13,15, Cos & Hq II Bn	(L2310)
136 Mtn Regt	
Regt'l Hq Co, Hq Co/I Bn & 1,2,3,5,6,7, & 8 Cos, Hq/II Bn (L2411)	(L2411)
82 Engr Bn	(L2310)
256 VG Div	
476 VG Regt	
Regt'l Hq, Hq/II Bn & 4,5,6, & 7 Cos	(L2310)
481 VG Regt	
Regt'l Hq, Hq/I & II Bn & 1,2,3,4,6,8,13, & 14 Cos	(L1616)
456 VG Regt	
Regt'l Hq Co, Hq/I Bn & 1,3,4,8 & 14 Cos	(L2411)
256 Arty Regt	
Hq Btrys of Regt & I Bn, & 1,2,3,4,5,8 & 9 Btrys	(L2411)
256 Engr Bn	
Hq Co & 1 & 2 Cos	(L2411)
2 Co/256 AT Bn	10th Armd Div Zone
256 Fusilier Co	(L2411)
256 Verwaltungs Co	(L2411)
256 Kraftfahr Co) -	10th Armd Div Zone
256 Feldersatz Bn)	
256 Feldzueg Co) -	94th Inf Div Zone
256 Veterinary Co)	
416 Inf Div	
712 Gren Regt	
1 & 7 Cos, & Regtl Hq	(L1609)
713 Gren Regt	
Regt'l Hq & Hq/I Bn	(L2411)
13 Co/774 Gren Regt	(L2411)
8 Btry/416 Arty Regt	(L2310)
416 AT Bn	
2 Co/416 Engr Bn)	
416 Kraftfahr Co)	
416 Fahrschwadron) -	94th Inf Div Zone
416 Veterinary Co)	
416 Feldersatz Bn)	
Miscellaneous	
506 SS Pz Gren Bn	94th Inf Div Zone
1151 Arty Bn (CHQ)	94th Inf Div Zone
1309 Fortress Arty Bn	(L2310)
1303 Fortress Arty Bn	(Q2881)
1 Co/47 Volks Pionier Brig	(L2411)
2 Co/Feldersatz Bn AOK 7	(L2018)
2 Co/999 Labor Bn	(L1718)
Festungspak Co I/XVII	(L2411)
Stellungs KG XII/2	94th Inf Div Zone
6 Co/Fest Stamm Regt CXII	94th Inf Div Zone
523 Pi Erueckenbau Bn	
2,3, & 4 Cos	(L1616)
WCO School Heidelberg	
1,2,3, & 4 Cos	(L1614)
Marsch Co 124 (KG Batistella)	(L2411)
KG Kobitsch	(L2411)
KG Schwetzingen	(L2411)
Marsch Co 55	(L2411)
Marsch Co Gren E & A Bn 107	10th Armd Div & 94th Inf Div Zones

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Volkssturm SAAREBURG

10th Armd Div & 94th Inf Div
Zones

Volkssturm Bn 40/31

26th Inf Div Zone

Major Units in Contact: Elm Pz Div (27 Feb), 2 Mtn Div, Rem 256 VG Div, Rem 416 Inf Div, 719 Inf Div (18 Feb), Elm 347 Inf Div (23 Feb).

5. LINE HELD BY ENEMY 28 FEBRUARY 1945. From Corps N boundary S along E side SAAR River to (L174170) - (L192170) - (L220151) - here the situation was fluid and our elements were reported at (L231205) and (L250227); S of here the enemy was along the general line (L257170) - (L240145) - (L253121) - (L250110) - (L240110) - (L225090) - (L205114) - (L193100) - (L200090) - (L194066) - (L190044) - to SAAR River vicinity (L180044) - thence S along E bank SAAR River to (Q273816) - (Q280820) - ((Q283817) - (Q302805) - to SAAR River at (Q299809) - S along E bank SAAR River to Corps S boundary vicinity WADGANSEN (Q3176).

SECTION IV - G-3 SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION:

On 01 February XX Corps front line units were disposed as follows: 94th Inf Div (5th Ranger Bn attached 9 Feb) was extended along the base of the SAAR-MOSELLE triangle in the northern portion of XX Corps sector; TASK FORCE POLK (3rd Cav Gp rein) held the central portion of XX Corps sector along the SAAR River facing MERZIG while the 26th Inf Div defended the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead and protected the right or southern flank.

During the initial period, 1-18 Feb incl, the 94th Inf Div initiated small limited objective attacks generally of battalion size against the switch line positions of the SIEGFRIED LINE extending along the divisional front. These attacks had some success and the fortified positions adjacent to the east banks of the MOSELLE River were partially penetrated. Meanwhile TASK FORCE POLK and the 26th Inf Div aggressively patrolled and defended their respective sectors with the 26th Inf Div making small limited objective attacks in the SAAR-LAUTERN bridgehead area.

At the commencement of the second period, 19-21 Feb incl, the 94th Inf Div attacked north with three regiments abreast and completely breached the German fortified line on the northern flank of XX Corps. With the permission of SHAEF the 10th Armd Div was committed to exploit the breakthrough. By evening the 21 Feb the 10th Armd Div (376th Inf Attached) had cleared the triangle formed by the convergence of the SAAR and MOSELLE Rivers and was in possession of the high ground that dominates TRIER. Bridges over the SAAR at WILTINGEN and KANZEM were, however, blown by the enemy.

During the concluding period 22-28 Feb incl, plans for a crossing of the SAAR were quickly made, three assault crossings accomplished over the SAAR River and a bridge built through which passed the vehicles of the 10th Armd Div. At the end of the period the 10th Armd Div was threatening TRIER to the north. Concurrent with these operations TASK FORCE POLK and the 26th Inf Div continued to actively defend their respective sectors.

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1 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light overcast throughout the period limited visibility from 1-4 miles.

Aviation: All aircraft were grounded because of the weather.

94 INF DIV: The 376th Infantry remained in divisional reserve at VECKRING and initiated a training program. The 301st Infantry on the left flank held newly won positions and improved the defenses of the sector. Aggressive patrolling was accomplished and one Combat Patrol, supported by artillery, completely destroyed a pillbox at (LO20061). The 302d Infantry, with all three battalions committed on a wide defensive front, continued active patrolling. One Reconnaissance Platoon probed the CAMPHOLZ WOODS (LO60020). At 1100, one Rifle Company (reinforced) was sent behind the Reconnaissance Platoon to occupy the southern one-half of the woods, and had reached the anti-tank ditch passing through the center of the CAMPHOLZ WOODS, after meeting light enemy resistance consisting mostly of small arms.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) employed combat, contact, and demolition patrols along the SAAR River line in the central portion of XX Corps sector facing MERZIG.

26 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - The 101st Infantry remained in Division reserve and continued its training, maintenance, and rehabilitation program. The 104th Infantry (2d Battalion, 328th Infantry attached) improved its defensive positions in the bridgehead sector and aggressively patrolled the area. The 328th Infantry (-2d Battalion) held and actively patrolled the south flank of XX Corps and maintained contact with the 106th Cavalry Squadron of the XV Corps.

2 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low scattered clouds throughout the day, with light rain beginning late (2000 hours) in the evening.

Aviation: One Squadron of Fighter-Bombers cooperated with the 94th Infantry Division and dropped bombs on the town of SINZ. No results were reported due to lack of observation.

94 INF DIV: 376th Infantry remained in division reserve at VECKRING and continued its training program. The 301st Infantry, on the left flank of XX Corps along the eastern banks of the MOSELLE River, improved its defensive positions in that sector, while a Combat patrol from the 2d Battalion on the extreme right of the Regimental sector destroyed a pillbox at (LO48024). The 302d Infantry maintained active patrols throughout its sector and continued a reconnaissance of the anti-tank ditch in CAMPHOLZ WOODS (LO58018), while the 1st Battalion attacked at 0900 to clear the woods. Four pillboxes were captured, eighty-three (83) PW's taken, and the entire woods occupied at 1520.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) actively defended the central portion of XX Corps sector and destroyed two enemy pillboxes with 76mm fire.

26 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - The 101st Infantry remained in division reserve at FALCK (Q199707) and continued its program of training, maintenance, and rehabilitation. The 104th Infantry (2d Battalion 328th Infantry, attached) continued its patrol activity and improved its defensive positions in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead. The 328th Infantry (-2d Battalion) occupied SAAR River line along the right flank of XX Corps sector and patrolled the west bank of the SAAR River.

3 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light rain throughout morning which changed to low overcast throughout the remainder of the period. Visibility limited from 1-3 miles.

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Aviation: No missions were flown during the period due to weather.

94 INF DIV: While the 376th Infantry remained in division reserve at VECKRING and continued its training program, the 301st Infantry on the left flank continued its organization for defense in that sector. The 302d Infantry consolidated the newly won positions in the CAMPHOLZ WOODS, and coordinated plans with the 301st Infantry for the reduction of an enemy pocket located West of the CAMPHOLZ WOODS.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) actively defended the central portion of XX Corps sector and attempted to send a raiding party across the SAAR River at (Q205908). This attempt was halted because of the swift current and ice on the flooded river.

26 INF DIV: The 101st Infantry remained in division reserve at FALCK and continued its training program. The 104th Infantry (2d Battalion of the 328th Infantry, attached) continued to defend the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead, improve defensive positions, and operate combat patrols throughout the area. The 328th Infantry (-2d Battalion) on the right flank of XX Corps sector, continued patrolling along the SAAR River line.

4 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light rain throughout the morning with low overcast for the remainder of the period.

Aviation: No missions were flown due to the weather.

94 INF DIV: The 376th Infantry remained in division reserve and made preparation for future operations. The 301st Infantry improved its defensive positions and operated five patrols along the front of the left (west) flank of the divisional sector. The 302d Infantry, on the right, continued the consolidation of positions in the CAMPHOLZ WOODS and destroyed an enemy pillbox at (L061018).

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) defended the central sector of XX Corps facing MERZIG, and by the use of combat and demolition patrols destroyed one large pillbox, four small pillboxes and six machine guns in this area.

26 INF DIV: The 101st Infantry (-3d Battalion) remained in division reserve while the 3d Battalion was designated TF "A", and reinforced by the attachment of the 26th Reconnaissance Troop (-one Platoon) and Company D 778 Tank Battalion (-one Platoon) initiated aggressive patrol activities in and along the left flank of the divisional sector. The 104th Infantry (2d Battalion 328th Infantry, attached) maintained patrols throughout the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead while the 328th Infantry (-2d Battalion) continued patrols along the SAAR River line on the south flank of the XX Corps sector.

5 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light intermittent rain throughout the entire day limited visibility from 1-4 miles.

Aviation: No missions were flown due to the weather.

94 INF DIV: The 376th Infantry remained in divisional reserve. The 301st Infantry on the left flank of the division sector, improved its defensive position and operated patrols to its right. One of the patrols destroyed an enemy shelter at (L052026). The 302d Infantry on the right flank of the divisional sector consolidated its positions in the CAMPHOLZ WOODS, while the 1st Battalion on the Regimental left flank attacked after an eight minute artillery preparation to capture pillboxes west of the CAMPHOLZ WOODS. The first attack was repulsed by heavy enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire from pillboxes to the north. After reorganization, the attack was resumed at 1705 whereupon the 1st Battalion received two enemy counterattacks consisting of enemy

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infantry, preceded by heavy artillery and mortar fire. Both counter-attacks were repulsed.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) - Active defense of the central portion of XX Corps sector was conducted by the use of combat and demolition patrols. One enemy SP Gun was destroyed and five small enemy pillboxes were damaged.

26 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - While the special Task Force, built around the 3d Battalion of the 101st Infantry, defended the SAAR River line on the left flank of the divisional sector, the 104th Infantry continued the improvement of defenses and operated combat patrols in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead. The 2d Battalion of the 328th was relieved from attachment to the 104th Infantry and moved to the vicinity of FAICK with the 101st Infantry (-3d Battalion) also in divisional reserve preparing to relieve the 328th Infantry on the right flank of the divisional sector. 328th Infantry, in the meanwhile, actively patrolled its portion of the sector.

6 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low scattered clouds throughout the day with light rain beginning at darkness and continuing until the end of the period.

Aviation: Armd Rcn was flown over Corps sector in the afternoon.

94 INF DIV: The 376th Infantry remained in division reserve and continued its training program. The 301st Infantry continued the active defense of the left flank of the division sector and operated combat patrols to its front. The 302d Infantry remained in position and prepared plans to continue the reduction of enemy pillboxes west of CAMPHOLZ WOODS. The 2d Battalion moved to the left and relieved the 1st Battalion of its mission while the later assumed charge of the sector vacated by the 2d Battalion in its move to the west.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) actively defended the central portion of XX Corps along the SAAR River line facing MERZIG.

26 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - TF "A", consisting of the 3d Battalion 101st Infantry (reinforced), continued to patrol and defend the left flank of the division sector north of SAARLAUTERN. The 104th Infantry continued its defense of the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead. The 101st Infantry relieved the 328th Infantry along the right flank of the division sector while the 328th moved to the vicinity of HARGARTEN (Q180701) as division reserve.

7 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light and moderate rain throughout the entire period.

Aviation: No missions flown due to the weather.

94 INF DIV: Launched an attack at 0700 to capture the town of SINZ and the high ground northwest of the town. Elements of the 1st and 3d Battalions attacked and cleared the entire town except for one building at 1920. At that time a strong defense was set up for the night and reconnaissance patrols sent out into the woods southeast of SINZ. The 302d Infantry remained in position and supported by fire the attack of the 301st Infantry. The 376th Infantry remained in division reserve at VECKRING and conducted a training program.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) - Continued the active defense of the central portion of XX Corps sector by the employment of eleven (11) combat patrols, six (6) contact patrols, and six (6) demolition patrols.

26 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - The 328th Infantry at HARGARTEN, as division reserve, initiated a training and rehabili-

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tation program. TF "A", consisting of the 3d Battalion 101st Infantry (reinforced), defended the SAAR River line north of SAARLAUTERN and maintained contact with TF POLK. The 104th Infantry in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead launched a limited objective attack at 0700 and captured three houses in the northeast section of FRAULAUTERN against light resistance.

8 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light overcast throughout the day that changed to light rain in the evening limited visibility from 2-4 miles.

Aviation: One Squadron bombed and strafed box cars and motor traffic in the vicinity of (L260200) with excellent results. Cooperation with the 94th Infantry Division could not be performed due to the overcast.

94 INF DIV: In the 301st Infantry zone on the left flank of the division sector, the town of SINZ was cleared at 0905 and the attack was continued to clear the BANNHOLZ WOODS to the east. At the end of the period the 301st Infantry was engaged in mopping-up scattered enemy resistance in the woods. The 302d Infantry, on the right flank of the division sector, attacked at 1530 to clear pillboxes west of the CAMP-HOLZ WOODS. The pillboxes were reduced by 1600 and at 2400 hours the entire area had been sealed off and all pillboxes cleared of the enemy. The 376th Infantry remained at VECKRING as division reserve and continued its training and rehabilitation program.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) actively defended its sector and sent two patrols across the SAAR River during the night of 7-8 February which encountered mines, but were still operating east of the SAAR River in vicinity of MERZIG at the close of the period.

26 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - The 328th Infantry remained at HARGARTEN as division reserve and continued its program of training and rehabilitation. TF "A", composed of the 3d Battalion 101st Infantry, reinforced, continued its patrols along the SAAR River line in the left flank of the division sector. The 104th Infantry booby trapped the buildings captured in the limited objective attacks during the preceding period, and withdrew to original defensive positions. Patrols from the 104th Infantry probed along the right flank of the bridgehead sector and found one block in FRAULAUTERN unoccupied. This block of houses was occupied by the 2d Battalion of the 104th Infantry. The 101st Infantry (-3d Battalion) actively defended right flank of the division sector by combat patrols operating along the west banks of the SAAR River.

9 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast throughout the period limited visibility from 4-6 miles.

Aviation: Armd Rcn over the entire Corps front throughout the day.

94 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached 1045 hours) - The 301st Infantry on the left flank of the division sector, continued its limited objective attack and completely cleared the BANNHOLZ WOODS early in the morning the 9th of February, and at 0930 repulsed a counterattack consisting of a company of enemy infantry supported by three tanks. Another counterattack of infantry supported by one tank, struck elements of the 301st Infantry that had occupied BANNHOLZ WOODS. This counterattack overran positions in the northwest and northeast parts of the BANNHOLZ WOODS. At 1237, another enemy counterattack of thirty men against the town of SINZ was repulsed. At 2103, the 5th Ranger Battalion relieved the 1st and 3d Battalions of the 302d Infantry on the right flank of the division sector while the 2d Battalion consolidated its positions west and northwest of the CAMPHOLZ WOODS. The 376th Infantry (-2d Battalion) moved north to vicinity of PERL (Q023980).

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) actively defended its por-

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tion of XX Corps sector and awaited reports from the two special patrols that had crossed the SAAR River vicinity of (Q179969) which were unheard from at the end of the period.

26 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion was relieved from attachment at 1045 hours). The 328th Infantry remained at HARGARTEN as division reserve and motorized the 3d Battalion as a special reserve to be held in the vicinity of COUME (Q155673). TF "A", consisting of the 3d Battalion 101st (reinforced), maintained patrols along the left flank of the division sector. The 104th Infantry, in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead, pushed forward in FRAULAUTERN and SAARLOUIS-RODEN to take and occupy one city block in each town. 101st Infantry on the right flank of the divisional sector continued to improve its defensive positions west of the SAAR River line.

10 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light rain throughout the morning and afternoon with limited visibility from 2-4 miles.

Aviation: Armed reconnaissance over Corps sector throughout the period. A flight of twelve P-47's was made in support of the 94th Infantry Division the afternoon of 10 February, and a reported tank concentration was bombed south of DILMAR. No results were observed due to weather.

94 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - The 376th Infantry (-2d Battalion) with the 1st and 3d Battalions of the 302d in reserve continued a training program and prepared for offensive operations. The 301st Infantry continued to defend the left flank of the division along the MOSELLE River and at 1346 pushed through the ADENHOLZ WOODS to make contact with elements of the 2d Battalion 376th Infantry on its right. The 2d Battalion of the 376th Infantry, committed in the center of the Divisional sector between the 301st Infantry and the 302d Infantry, repulsed the counterattack at 1300 by fifty enemy infantry and an undetermined number of tanks. It thereafter established a defensive position and made contact with elements of the 301st Infantry on its right. The 5th Ranger Battalion actively defended its portion of the 94th Division sector and kept close contact with elements of the 302d Infantry on its left and the 3d Cavalry Squadron on the right.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) - Actively patrolled the central portion of XX Corps sector along the SAAR River facing MERZIG, and maintained firm contact with the 5th Ranger Battalion on its left and elements of the 26th Infantry Division on its right flank.

26 INF DIV: The 328th Infantry as Division reserve, continued its program of training, rehabilitation, and organization of delaying positions. TF "A", composed of the 3d Battalion 101st Infantry, 26th Reconnaissance Troop (less 3d Platoon), and Company D (less 1st Platoon) 778th Tank Battalion, continued to defend the left portion of the division sector along the SAAR River and maintained firm contact with elements of the 43d Squadron on its left flank. The 104th Infantry in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area continued its limited objective attack. The 2d and 3d Battalions abreast, with the 1st Battalion in reserve, advanced against stiff resistance to clear four buildings in SAARLOUIS-RODEN and thirty buildings in FRAULAUTERN. The 101st Infantry (-3d Battalion) occupied the right portion of the Division sector and continued to improve defensive positions along its MLR on the west banks of the SAAR River.

11 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light rain throughout the entire day which limited visibility from 1-3 miles.

Aviation: No missions were flown due to the weather.

94 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - The 301st Infantry

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was relieved on the left flank of the divisional sector by elements of the 302d and 376th Infantry and commenced movement to VECKRING (Q013831), as Division reserve. The 376th Infantry (1st Battalion of the 302d Infantry attached) completed relief of the 301st Infantry on the division left flank at 2310. The 302d Infantry continued to actively patrol the central portion of the divisional sector and made reconnaissance of approaches to OBERLEUKEN (L082018). The 5th Ranger Battalion on the right flank of the division sector continued to consolidate and improve its defenses.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) - Continued to actively patrol the central portion of XX Corps sector facing MERZIG with twelve Combat Patrols, nine Contact Patrols, and six Demolition Patrols.

26 INF DIV: TF "A", on the north flank of the division sector, sent a reconnaissance patrol across the flooded SAAR River during the morning and located several well camouflaged enemy positions. Three combat patrols, equipped with satchel charges, were sent at darkness to demolish the positions. The 328th Infantry (-1st Battalion) continued its program of training and rehabilitation. The 1st Battalion 328th Infantry at the close of the period was in the process of relieving the 3d Battalion of the 104th Infantry in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area. The 104th Infantry in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead continued its daily limited objective attacks employing a reinforced rifle company from each of the bridgehead battalions in an effort to increase the perimeter and depth of the bridgehead, obtained prisoners and maintained aggressive contact with the enemy. During the day's attack, ten buildings were seized and reduced in most instances to piles of rubble. The 101st Infantry on the right flank of the divisional sector, maintained and improved its defensive positions on the MLR along the western banks of the SAAR River.

12 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light rain throughout the early morning with low overcast clouds for the remainder of the period.

Aviation: No missions were flown due to poor weather and limited visibility.

94 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - The 301st Infantry, as Division reserve, closed in at VECKRING at 0930 and conducted a patrol critique and initiated a program of rehabilitation and care and cleaning of equipment. The 376th Infantry (reinforced by the 1st Battalion of the 302d Infantry, and Companies B & C of the 81st Chemical Mortar Battalion) improved defensive positions on the left flank of the division sector, keeping the 2d Battalion in Regimental reserve to conduct a reorganization of its elements. The 302d Infantry (-3d Battalion) in the central portion of the Division sector, reorganized its MLR and prepared plans for future offensive operations. The 5th Ranger Battalion on the right flank consolidated its positions and placed small arms fire and mortar fire on ORSCHOLZ (L125015) and on the area north of NOHN (Q134990).

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced): Actively defended the central portion of XX Corps sector by Contact, Combat, and Demolition patrols.

26 INF DIV: TF "A" on the left flank defended its sector maintaining contact with the enemy by aggressive Combat patrols operating to and across the SAAR River. 328th Infantry in process of relieving the 104th Infantry in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area. 104th Infantry: 3d Battalion was relieved at 0015 by the 1st Battalion 328th Infantry which reverted to mobile reserve in the vicinity of HARGARTEN. The 2d Battalion of the 104th Infantry was in the process of being relieved by the 3d Battalion 328th Infantry while the 1st Battalion of the 104th Infantry continued to defend in the bridgehead area. 101st Infantry (-3d Battalion) defended along the MLR on the west banks of the SAAR River on the right flank of the divisional sector.

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13 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast with occasional break through. Visibility 4-8 miles.

Aviation: Limited by overcast. One Squadron attempted to support 94th Infantry Division. One plane strafed enemy in the woods at (LO55055). Other activity was limited to reconnaissance.

94 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - The 301st Infantry remained in Division reserve and conducted a general rehabilitation. The 302d Infantry sent out five patrols during the period and prepared plans for attack on pillboxes east of the CAMPHOLZ WOODS (LO58020). The 376th Infantry sent out one day patrol and seven night patrols. The 5th Ranger Battalion sent eight patrols out during the period.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) continued defensive measures, nine combat patrols, seven contact, and five demolition patrols were sent out during the period.

26 INF DIV: The 101st Infantry, plus TF A, continued to patrol and to improve defensive positions. The 104th Infantry moved to the vicinity of FALCK (Q198706) where they began training and preparing delaying positions. The 328th Infantry relieved the 104th Infantry at the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead taking over defensive positions. Ten PW's were taken by patrol activity.

14 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Scattered clouds in the morning clearing in the afternoon. Visibility from 6-9 miles.

Aviation: Two squadrons cooperating with the 94th Division bombed enemy positions with good results at BEUREN (LO70072), woods (LO72065), KIRF (LO90065), KREUZWEILER (LO38070) and hit two tanks at (LO70042).

94 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - 301st Infantry remained in Division reserve and continued training. 302d Infantry was active attacking pill boxes east of the CAMPHOLZ WOODS. Six pill boxes and sixty-three PW's were taken by 2d Battalion during the period. 376th Infantry (1st Battalion 302d Infantry, attached) continued defensive activity and night patrolling. Eight patrols were sent out during the night.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group reinforced) continued defensive action in their sector also carried out ten combat patrols, nine contact patrols, and seven demolition patrols. The enemy was ambushed at DREISBACH (Q152992) and at the west end of MERZIG bridge (Q195942). Twelve enemy were killed and two were wounded.

26 INF DIV: Continued patrolling and defense of their sector. One patrol was sent across the SAAR. 104th Infantry was in Division reserve. 328th Infantry continued defense of the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead and made plans to expand the bridgehead and take prisoners.

MISC: French units continued to guard vital installations on French soil within the Corps sector.

15 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Foggy during morning, scattered clouds during the afternoon. Visibility 2-5 miles.

Aviation: No missions during the morning. During the afternoon two squadrons bombed and strafed enemy positions at OBERLEUKEN (LO90015), TRASSEN (L125092), KILLESLUCKEN (L115062), FISCH (LO99152), KIRF (LO91065) and enemy entrenched along the Division front with good results.

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94 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - 301st Infantry continued in Division reserve. 302d Infantry: 1st Battalion was relieved by the second Battalion 376th Infantry at 1945 and moved to the vicinity of PERL (Q023979). 2d Battalion repulsed strong counterattack consisting of Infantry supported by eight tanks in the vicinity of (L068024). Counterattack was repulsed at 2200. Another counterattack consisting of approximately one hundred Infantry supported by two tanks succeeded in taking two pill boxes and four troop shelters occupied by our troops in the early morning of 15 February. Five enemy tanks were knocked out during the enemy counterattacks. 3d Battalion 302d Infantry and 5th Ranger Battalion continued to maintain their sector and supported the 2d Battalion 302d Infantry by fire. 376th Infantry: Two combat patrols went into BANNHOLZ WOODS to locate the enemy tanks. The patrols were unsuccessful, suffering several casualties from mines and mortar fire. 2d Battalion 376th Infantry relieved 1st Battalion 302d Infantry on the line at 1945. 3d Battalion sent one combat patrol into the AENHOLD WOODS which made contact with the enemy, killing approximately six and suffering two casualties, one killed and one wounded.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) actively defended their sector sending out seven combat patrols, eight contact patrols and seven demolition patrols. Increasing activity was initiated to draw enemy troops to the area.

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry, plus TF "A", continued to patrol and defend their sector. Eleven men out of a fifteen man patrol pinned down by enemy fire on the east side of the SAAR River in the vicinity of (Q248857) returned by means of an improvised raft. Four men were believed lost in the attempt to re-cross the river.

16 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Clear in the morning, low scattered clouds towards noon. Low scattered clouds in the afternoon. Visibility 2-5 miles.

Aviation: One squadron bombed and strafed enemy positions in the woods at (L070042) and BEUREN (L070072). In the afternoon one squadron supporting the 94th Infantry Division bombed and strafed enemy positions in BEUREN (L075072), woods (L070060) and one squadron on armed reconnaissance bombed and strafed railroad yards at LEBACH (Q403905) cutting the tracks and destroying ten railway cars.

94 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion attached) - 301st Infantry Regiment: Cannon Company continued in division reserve. 302d Infantry, 1st Battalion in reserve in the vicinity of PERL (Q023979). 2d Battalion relieved the 3d Battalion on the line at 2300. The 3d Battalion moved to the vicinity of WOCHERN (L038012). 376th Infantry patrolled and defended their sector sending out one day patrol and four night patrols.

TF POLK: (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) defended their sector by active patrolling. Six combat patrols, six contact patrols and eight demolition patrols were sent out. Two patrols reported vehicular movement in the vicinity of BESSERINGEN (Q180980) at 2243. SAAR River was reported to have receded three inches in the last twenty-four hours.

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry (plus TF "A") continued to patrol and defend their sector. 104th Infantry, 1st Battalion was attached to 328th Infantry in SAARLAUTERN and relieved the 2d Battalion of the 328th Infantry in the line. 2d Battalion (Mtz) and 3d Battalion 104th Infantry remained in division reserve. 328th Infantry (1st Battalion 104th Infantry attached) continued plans for enlarging their bridgehead.

10 ARMD DIV: Remained in METZ conducting training.

17 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Heavy fog in the morning, low overcast throughout the period. Visibility 1-3 miles.

Aviation: No activity due to weather.

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94 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - 301st Infantry continued in Division reserve. 1st Battalion relieved elements of the 2d Battalion 302d Infantry. 2d and 3d Battalions 301st Infantry were in the vicinity of VECKRING preparing to move to assembly area at (L045025). 302d Infantry 2d Battalion maintained position and the 1st and 3d Battalions prepared for offensive action. 376th Infantry prepared for offensive and the 2d Battalion was relieved by the 94th Reconnaissance Troop. The 5th Ranger Battalion continued patrolling.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) continued to patrol and defend their sector.

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry continued to patrol and defend their sector. 104th Infantry moved from COUME to FALCK (Q205698). 3d Battalion and 2d Battalion continued training at FALCK. 328th Infantry defended their bridgehead repulsing a counterattack at 2005. 3d Battalion attacked at 0900 and cleared two houses in FRAULAUTERN.

10 ARMD DIV: Remained in METZ conducting training.

18 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Intermittent light drizzle until 1000, then low overcast and scattered until 1200. Visibility 1-3 miles.
Aviation: No activity due to weather.

94 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - Troops were redeployed for the attack on 19th of February. 2d Battalion, 301st Infantry moved to regimental reserve position in the vicinity of PERL (Q022-980) closing at 1500. 2d Battalion 302d Infantry relieved on line and reverted to division reserve in the vicinity of EFT (Q065982).

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) actively defended their sector employing ten combat patrols, six contact patrols, and seven demolition patrols. Reserve troop conducted general rehabilitation. Assault guns fired harassing missions into MERZIG area.

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry continued patrolling and maintaining defenses of their sector. The 2d Battalion, 104th Infantry relieved 3d Battalion, 101st Infantry as TF "A" (2d Battalion, 104th; 26th Reconnaissance Troop). 3d Battalion, 104th Infantry remained in reserve in the vicinity of HARGARTEN (Q180702). Increased enemy resistance was met by 328th Infantry at SAARLOUIS RODEN in the morning. The 328th Infantry (1st Battalion 104th attached) continued to exert pressure on the enemy and patrol aggressively in their bridgehead sector. Six fortified buildings were cleared in SAARLOUIS RODEN.

10 ARMD DIV: Remained in METZ area conducting training and preparing for possible operations.

19 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low broken clouds becoming scattered in the afternoon and clearing at the end of the period.

Aviation: Nine squadrons flew ninety-seven sorties cooperating with the 94th Infantry Division and conducted armored reconnaissance in the entire Corps zone. The towns of KIRF (L091066) - KONEN (L149208) - FREUDENBURG (L130054) - TRASSEM (L125092) - and IRSCH (L258251) were bombed, and towns and woods north and east of the above were strafed. An enemy crossing site at OCKFEN (L168145) was bombed and damaged. Vehicles were hit and either destroyed or damaged north of KIRF (ten claimed) and in the vicinity of TRASSEM. Targets of opportunity were hit by the armored reconnaissance aircraft. The above missions were all flown in the afternoon.

Field Order 16 was issued. Corps attacks 19 February to clear the SAAR - MOSELLE triangle, seize intact the crossings over the SAAR River at WILTINGEN (L1718) and KANZEN (L1619) and to prepare to continue the

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attack northeast on Army order. 94th Infantry Division to continue its present attack to seize initial objective and clear the BORG - MUNZINGEN Highway, then attack without delay to seize final objective. The 26th Infantry Division would continue to aggressively defend the SAAR River in its zone and the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead. The 10th Armored Division to pass through the 94th Infantry Division on Corps order and attack northeast to seize final objective. It was further to make every effort to seize intact the bridges at WILTINGEN and KANZEM and to establish a bridgehead in protection of those crossings. The 3d Cavalry Group (reinforced) would aggressively defend the SAAR River in its zone. Operations Instructions #55 directed the 10th Armored Division to initiate the movement to a forward assembly area in the vicinity of APACH (Q015965) with minimum delay (issued at 2100).

94 INF DIV: 1st and 3d Battalions, 301st Infantry, attacked at 0400 and by noon had gone approximately 2000 yards. The 302d Infantry, the 1st and 3d Battalions attacking, moved at 0400 and by noon had taken fourteen pillboxes and shelters, advanced about 1500 yards and were on a hill northwest of OBERLEUKEN (L080013). 1st and 3d Battalions of the 376th Infantry attacked at 0400 and by noon had gone about 1500 yards. The attack of the Ranger Battalion (attached to 94th Infantry Division) began at 0545 with an assault on OBERLEUKEN and by noon had reached the southeast edge of the town. The 301st Infantry continued its attack at 1230 when the 2d Battalion passed through the 1st Battalion to take the second objective. 3d Battalion by-passed MUNSINGEN (L083045) and reached the second objective at 1335. Reserve company assaulted and captured MUNSINGEN at 1630. 2d Battalion moved to second objective by-passing FAHA (L095037) and the town was cleared at 1832. 302d Infantry continued its attack at 1230 with the 3d Battalion to capture the second objective; 1st Battalion captured and cleared OBERLEUKEN at 1635. 376th Infantry continued the attack at 1230 and captured second objective. Elements of the regiment then redispersed to protect the north flank of the division. At 1800 RCT 376 was attached to the 10th Armored Division. 5th Ranger Battalion participated in the division attack; assisted 302d Infantry in clearing wooded area southeast of OBERLEUKEN.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) actively defended sector. A special patrol checked bridge at MERZIG and north along the SAAR River for possible enemy crossing sites. Reserve Troop conducted motor, weapons and road maintenance.

26 INF DIV: 1st Battalion, 101st Infantry remained at UBERHERRN (Q243725) as Regimental reserve. 2d Battalion relieved by 3d Battalion, 104th Infantry, at 2115, and 2d Battalion then reverted to Division reserve at HARTGARTEN (Q180702). The 3d Battalion (Mtz) in the FAICK vicinity was designated as Corps reserve. TF "A" continued patrolling and defense of sector. The 328th Infantry (1st Battalion 104th Infantry attached) continued active defense of the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead. Tank Destroyer and bazooka fire demolished eight more buildings in SAARLOUIS RODEN. A counterattack by Infantry and five self-propelled guns was repulsed at 0735. No ground was lost.

10 ARMD DIV: Movement from the METZ vicinity was begun at 1445 towards assembly area at PERL.

20 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low and overcast in morning. Intermittent light rain from 1100 to end of period. Visibility 1-3 miles.

Aviation: Nine squadron missions, cooperated with 94th Division and 10th Armored Division. Destruction of bridges at OCKFEN claimed. Armed Reconnaissance destroyed twenty-five vehicles and damaged twenty-four others. This occurred during the morning missions. In the afternoon one squadron cooperating with the 94th bombed and strafed TABEN (L176058). Two squadrons unable to attack their assigned targets due to the overcast were sent on armed reconnaissance over the Corps front, bombing and strafing WILLENGIN (L180174) destroying two vehicles and

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one artillery piece. Bombed Marshalling Yards and destroyed twenty railroad cars. Strafed one locomotive and thirty railroad cars moving east, one locomotive and twenty railroad cars facing east.

94 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - 301st Infantry resumed attack at 0700 and captured ROLLESLEUKEN (L116063) at 1800. 2d Battalion cleared FREUDENBURG (L130055) also at 1800 and moved forward to capture four pillboxes northeast of the town. 302d Infantry resumed attack at 0700, captured the high ground west of ORSCHOLZ (L125015) and in its approach to WEITEN (L135042) met considerable small arms fire. The 3d Battalion attacked WEITEN at 1420 and had the town cleared within two hours time. The 1st Battalion 301st Infantry and the 2d Battalion 302d Infantry attacked ORSCHOLZ at 1405 and captured the town at 2000. 1st Battalion 302d Infantry captured six bunkers vicinity of (L090013). The 376th Infantry resumed the attack northward at 0700 and advanced about 200 yards when elements of the 10th Armored Division passed through them.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) actively defended sector.

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry: 1st Battalion attached to 328th Infantry and relieved one Battalion 104th Infantry in bridgehead. 2d Battalion remained in Division reserve at HARGARTEN, training and organizing defensive positions. 3d Battalion as Corps Reserve in FALCK. 104th Infantry: 1st Battalion (relieved in bridgehead) moved to the vicinity of UBERHERRN (Q245705). TF "A" continued patrolling and defending sector. 328th Infantry (1st Battalion, 101st Infantry attached) continued active defense of SAARLAUTERN bridgehead against greater enemy pressure.

10 ARMD DIV: All combat elements closed in the vicinity of PERL (Q023980) - KOENIGSMACKER (U945895), the assembly area at 0508. CCR attacked at 0725 and by noon leading elements had cleared PALZEM (L015083) but armored elements were held up by blown bridges. CCA attacked at 0725 encountering mines and road block in KIRF. KIRF was cleared by noon and the attack continued north in several columns, from KIRF passing through MEURICH (L100076), KELSEN (L100088), PITTLINGEN (L080090), KORRIG (L097117), and FISCH (L098143). Team O'GRADY and Team SHADDEAU pressed north to reach the division objective at (L114186). Elements of CCA contacted elements of the 2d Cavalry Group in the vicinity of WINCHERENGEN at 1600. The Reserve Command continued the attack in vicinity PALZEM (Q015083). At 1400 blown bridges were repaired and the attack continued to the north, capturing WEHR (L019109), and HELFANT (L045105) late in the afternoon. Elements of the Reserve Command contacted elements of the 2d Cavalry Group at WINCHERENGEN (1820). The advance continued, DILMAR (Q044076), SUDLINGEN (Q068097) and ROMMELFANGEN (L072100) being taken. RCT 376 (attached to 10 Armored Division) moved up, clearing out enemy pockets by-passed by armor.

21 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low scattered clouds to 2100, and clear to end of period. Visibility 406 miles.

Aviation: Nine missions in the morning cooperated with both divisions. One mission bombed TABEN. The other eight missions were armed reconnaissance over the Corps front, during which eighteen vehicles were destroyed or damaged. In the afternoon twenty-one missions were flown in cooperation with the Corps attack. At request of ground control the following towns were bombed or strafed: KEIGNACH (L200200), NEIDERLEUKEN (L140140), SAARBURG (L140130), NEIDELOSHEIM (L308010), BRITTEN (L235030), and GREIMERATH (L240077). Claims include the destruction or damage of one hundred seventy-five motor transports, one hundred thirty-seven railroad cars, seven armored vehicles, and six horsedrawn vehicles, all being east of the SAAR River along the Corps front to a depth of approximately twenty miles.

Field Order 17 directed the attack on the 22d to exploit the breakthrough that had been achieved, to continue on and seize TRIER, to expand the bridgehead on the SAAR River to the line PFALZEL to HAMM in

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preparation for continuation of the attack to the northeast or north on Army order. The 10th Armored Division would (1) attack northeast to seize TRIER, (2) expand the bridgehead in its zone to a line as shown on overlay (see Field Order 17), and (3) be prepared to continue the attack to the north or northeast on Corps order. The 94th Infantry Division (reinforced) would attack across the SAAR River between SAARBURG and HAMM (L1808) during the night of 21-22 February. It would (2) establish the line GEIZENBURG (L2620) south to the river bend at HAMM, prepared to continue the advance to the northeast on Corps order. It would (3) maintain contact with the 3d Cavalry Group on its right flank and with the 10th Armored Division on its left. The 5th Ranger Battalion was relieved from attachment effective midnight 21-22 February and attached to the 3d Cavalry Group. The 26th Infantry Division and the 3d Cavalry Group would continue to aggressively defend the SAAR River line, and maintain contact on their flanks. Corps artillery to support the attack to the northeast and the defense along the SAAR River.

94 INF DIV: 301st Infantry resumed the attack at 0830, capturing KASTEL (L149080), STAADT (L154089), and clearing their zone to the SAAR River. 302d Infantry: Attack resumed at 0830, clearing the area south and southeast of ORSCHOLZ, capturing sixteen pillboxes and one-half of KEUCHINGEN (L169003). The 3d Battalion attacked east capturing TABEN, RODT (L169063), HAMM (L181079) and clearing their zone east to the SAAR River line.

26 INF DIV: A series of counterattacks involving an Infantry rush began at 0630. By nine in the morning all attacks had been repulsed and no ground was lost. Patrolling continued and defense of sector was maintained.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) (5th Ranger Battalion attached 2400). Defended sector actively, employing ten combat patrols, seven contact patrols, and seven demolition patrols. Reserve Troop conducted training in the use of mortars and mine detector. Estimated that fifteen of the enemy were killed and thirty wounded.

10 ARMD DIV: Attack continued by CCR at 0700 cleared REHLINGEN (L057147) at 0725 and reached south edge of NITTEL (L067182) by noon. Leading elements of both CCA and CCR were continuing the advance with little enemy resistance. Some opposition was met by CCA in the town of TAWERN (L125200). Town was cleared at 1630. Leading elements reorganized and continued attack clearing the high ground to the north and moving on to the east. CCB attacked to the northeast in the direction of SAARBURG. By dark elements of CCB had captured high ground around SAARBURG. CCR continued the attack, capturing TEMMELS (L085214) at 1755. At 1850 leading elements entered PELLERICH (L108209) where no enemy was encountered. RCT 376 continued moving northeast clearing the area to the SAAR River in the vicinity of OCKFEN.

22 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low scattered clouds in the morning and clear to end of period. Visibility 2-4 miles.

Aviation: In the morning no fighter-bomber aircraft were available for cooperation with the Corps action, but tactical reconnaissance was flown over the Corps front during the period. In the afternoon two missions comprising twenty-four sorties cooperated with the 94th Infantry Division and the 10th Armored Division. The town of PELLINGEN (L232202) was bombed and strafed. Fifteen motor transports claimed destroyed within the town, and seventeen other vehicles either destroyed or damaged in the immediate vicinity. Five motor transports and two tanks were damaged in the vicinity of (L270350). Fifteen railroad cars were destroyed at TRIER. Night fighters and Intruders operated along the Corps front during the night.

94 INF DIV: 301st Infantry: The 3d Battalion resumed the attack at 0735 when elements began crossing the SAAR River in the vicinity of (L153092). One Company was reported across the river by noon. The

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Regiment continued crossing at STAADT (L155089). The attack progressed slowly as leading elements encountered many enemy in SERRIG, necessitating house to house fighting. By midnight all of the 3d Battalion had crossed and had occupied nineteen houses in SERRIG; and elements of the 2d Battalion were crossing. 302d Infantry: Elements of the 1st Battalion began crossing the SAAR River at 0722 in the vicinity of (L180065). Three companies were across by noon and crossing continued with the Regiment turning north and going into SERRIG from the east in order to assist elements of the 301st in clearing the town. At 2012 hours elements of the 1st Battalion repulsed a small enemy Infantry counterattack in the vicinity of (L173086).

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group with 5 Ranger Battalion attached) actively defended sector employing twenty-four patrols. 90mm Tank Destroyer fire destroyed two enemy pillboxes east of the river.

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry: Continued training and organizing delaying position. 3d Battalion (motorized) was in Corps reserve. 104th Infantry and TF "A" continued to maintain defense of sector and patrol the west bank of the SAAR River. 1st Battalion remained in Regimental reserve in the vicinity of UBERHERRN (Q244725). 328th Infantry (1st Battalion 104th Infantry attached) continued clearing fields of fire, removing mines and booby traps and generally improving defensive positions in its bridgehead.

10 ARMD DIV: At 0930 the bridge at KANZEM was reported blown by ground observer. CCA continued clearing sector of small groups of the enemy and patrolled to the river line. At noon CCB reported SAARBURG clear except for a castle where the enemy was offering some resistance. CCB continued clearing the enemy from its sector. The entire SAAR - MOSELLE triangle was reported clear at 1545. Patrols from TF RILEY were sent across the river to determine enemy strength in the vicinity of BEURIG (L153125). CCR assisted elements of CCA in clearing the remainder of the triangle. 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron established a combat reconnaissance screen along the MOSELLE and SAAR Rivers between MERTERT (L097230) and SAARBURG. The 376th Infantry attacked East across the SAAR River early in the evening.

23 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Clear until early morning, obscured in fog until noon, broken clouds until end of period. Fog heavy from 0600 until 1000. Visibility zero to one mile, from noon until end of period 3-6 miles.

Aviation: Eight missions in cooperation with Corps flown in the morning. Fifteen missions were flown in the afternoon. The towns of WADERN (L388053), PELLINGEN (L232200), and GREIMERATH (L240077) were bombed and strafed at the request of ground controllers. A reported dynamite factory was bombed at (Q300850). Principal attacks were on trains carrying motor transport and armored vehicles. Air claims include the destruction or damage of ninety motor transports, twelve armored vehicles and one hundred and ten box and flat cars. (These claims include both morning and afternoon missions). An additional mission claims the complete destruction of a train of sixty-five cars, half of which were flats loaded with seventy-five vehicles, in the vicinity of (Q450900). Night fighters and Intruders operated during the night attacking rail and vehicular traffic in front of the Corps sector.

94 INF DIV: The 5th Ranger Battalion and 3d Battalion 101st Infantry were attached as of 1200. Elements of the 301st and 302d Infantry Regiments were in contact at SERRIG by noon. 301st Infantry: The third battalion continued house to house fighting in SERRIG, and at 1820 the town was cleared of the enemy. 302d Infantry: The 1st Battalion assisted the 3d Battalion 301st Infantry in mopping up SERRIG. Patrols swept the river road between SERRIG and the TABEN bridgehead site for mines. The 3d Battalion protected the TABEN bridgehead site. The 1258 Engineer Combat Battalion was attached to the division to be employed along the SAAR River between (L135010) and the vicinity of

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(L175055). 5th Ranger Battalion was relieved by the 3d Battalion 101st Infantry and completed crossing of the SAAR River by foot bridge in the vicinity of (L177065) at 2245, prior to attacking northward.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) - 5th Ranger Battalion relieved from attachment to 3d Cavalry Group at 1200. Sector was actively defended, with twenty-two patrols employed. Relief of elements of the 5th Ranger Battalion completed in sector at 1625.

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry: 3d Battalion attached to 94th Infantry Division as of 1200. 1st and 2d Battalions continued training and organization of delaying positions. 104th Infantry and TF "A": no change. 328th Infantry: (1st Battalion 101st Infantry attached) launched a limited objective attack in FRAULAUTERN and cleared six more fortified buildings. Many enemy mines and booby traps were reported encountered.

10 ARMD DIV: (RCT 376 attached) - Elements patrolled area in search of remaining enemy resistance in the SAAR - MOSELLE triangle. The 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop maintained its combat reconnaissance screen along the river to prevent enemy infiltration across the SAAR. The night attack of the 376th Infantry across the SAAR got all three battalions over to the other side by 0650. At 0955 an enemy counterattack consisting of an unestimated number of tanks or assault guns, accompanied by infantry, penetrated into OCKFEN. The 2d Battalion, 376th Infantry, cleared the enemy resistance from OCKFEN. Considerable enemy mortar and MG fire was encountered in the bridgehead area.

24 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Overcast until noon, and scattered to broken clouds for the remainder of period. Visibility 2-4 miles, then 4-8 miles.

Aviation: No missions were flown in the morning due to weather. In the afternoon, sixteen missions were flown in cooperation with Corps. The complete destruction or damage of trains carrying motor transport was claimed: (1) at NOHFELDEN (L569100), (2) at NONNWEILER (L445123), (3) vicinity of HOMBURG (Q710800). Eight motor transports were destroyed and two damaged in the vicinity of OBEREMMEL (L200180). The claims for all sixteen missions include the destruction or damage of one hundred and eleven (111) motor transports and one hundred and forty-five (145) railroad cars. Political and Physiological Warfare bombs were dropped on TRIER and its vicinity. Night fighters and Intruders operated during the hours of darkness in front of the Corps.

94 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - 301st Infantry: At 0850 all three battalions were across the SAAR River, the 1st Battalion having crossed in the vicinity of (L177065). The 1st and 3d Battalions, 302d Infantry, were attached at 1130, and the work of clearing pillboxes and expanding the bridgehead in the vicinity of SERRIG continued. One anti-tank gun and one Weasel were ferried across the river in the vicinity of SERRIG at 0205, but during the next attempt to ferry heavy equipment the ferry was knocked out by enemy fire. A Treadway bridge (Class 40) was completed in the vicinity of (L178065) at 1320. The bridge was open for traffic at 1600. The 5th Ranger Battalion attacked north early 24 February and at 0917 leading elements had reached: (196093). The attack was continued reaching the objective (L204117) at 2215.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) - Actively defended sector employing twenty-one patrols. A patrol consisting of one officer and two enlisted men crossed the SAAR to make a deep penetration and observe BROTDORF (Q233937) and MERZIG (Q205945). Continued demonstration fires with 50 caliber machine guns, mortars, 37mm, and 90mm (SP) guns, starting fires in MERZIG and BESSERINGEN. Nine pillboxes, eight houses and one vehicle were destroyed.

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry (-1st Battalion) - 2d Battalion relieved 3d Battalion 328th Infantry in bridgehead. 3d Battalion 101st Infantry (motorized) (Corps reserve) relieved from attachment to 94 Infantry Divi-

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sion and closed vicinity FALCK at 1930. 104th Infantry and TF "A" continued to patrol and maintain defense of sector west of the SAAR River. 1st Battalion in Regimental reserve near UBERHERRN. 328th Infantry (1st Battalion 101st Infantry attached) made limited objective attack and withdrew to original positions after dark. Twenty-three enemy estimated killed and forty-four wounded.

10 ARMD DIV: (RCT 376 attached) - Three Armored Infantry Battalions under command of CCA made crossings in assault boats vicinity (L163147) and assembled in areas north of OCKFEN. The 376th Infantry and three Armored Infantry Battalions continued to expand the bridgehead and to move east to contact the 5th Ranger Battalion. A company of Armored Infantry was dispatched in the morning to clear out SCHOLDEN (L163163). Enemy small arm and machine gun fire from this vicinity hampered bridging operations all during the period. Elements of CCA and the Reserve Command west of the river continued patrolling SAAR - MOSELLE triangle and prepared for crossing of river. CCB west of the river initiated movement to cross at treadway bridge vicinity (L178065) in the zone of 94 Infantry Division.

25 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast throughout the period with visibility from 3-5 miles.

Aviation: Five missions flown in morning in cooperation with 94th Infantry and 10th Armored Divisions. The towns of KRETTNACH (L210210), GREIMERATH, and HENTERN (L250139) were bombed and strafed; tanks and motor transport reported in KRETTNACH were bombed and strafed. Nine more missions were flown in the afternoon in cooperation with the attack. Claims include the destruction or damage of four tanks, seventeen motor transport, sixty-two railroad cars, and the railroad bridge at NONNWEILER (L449120).

94 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - At 0745 a strong enemy counterattack materialized vicinity HOCKER HILL (L195075) and was repulsed. 301st Infantry (-3d Battalion with 1st Battalion 302d Infantry attached) continued expanding bridgehead and cleaning out bridgehead area east of river. 2d Battalion 301st Infantry continued to establish defenses in protection of bridge (L176058). Regiment continued the attack to north clearing out pillboxes and the advance of CCB (10th Armored Division) through the bridgehead area. 302d Infantry (-1st Battalion with 3d Battalion 301st Infantry attached) continued the attack to the north reaching objective and made contact with elements 61st Armored Infantry Battalion in vicinity IRSCH (L170120). 5th Ranger Battalion patrolled to make contact with elements 61st Armored Infantry Battalion. Ammunition dropped to them was successfully received.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) - Actively defended sector employing twenty-four patrols. The patrol which crossed the SAAR River during the previous period penetrated to (Q205005), operated and maintained contact by carrier pigeon. Demonstration by fire was continued. Reserve Troop conducting general rehabilitation.

26 INF DIV: 2d Battalion 101st Infantry completed relief of 3d Battalion 328th Infantry in bridgehead at 0030. 3d Battalion 328th Infantry remained in bridgehead; 2d Battalion 101st Infantry attached to 328th Infantry on completion of relief. 101st Infantry (1st Battalion 328th Infantry attached) completed relief of 328th Infantry in bridgehead. 3d Battalion remained (motorized) as Corps Reserve vicinity FALCK (L199707). 104th Infantry and TF "A" continued to patrol and defend on west bank of SAAR River in Division sector. 1st Battalion in Regimental reserve vicinity UBERHERRN (Q243723). 2d Battalion 328th Infantry moved to vicinity FALCK.

10 ARMD DIV: (RCT 376 attached) - At 0545, fifty enemy Infantry launched counterattack against left flank of 3d Battalion 376th Infantry (L183139). Counterattack was repulsed. CCA moved south preparatory

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tory to crossing SAAR River. Head of column at TRASSEM at 1945. Column held here waiting for CCB to clear the road east of the river at SERRIG. CCB started crossing SAAR River vicinity TABEN (L176058); crossing uncompleted at end of period. 21st Tank Battalion seized IRSCH (L170120) at 2030, capturing ten pillboxes and over one hundred PW's. Contact was made at this point with 20th Armored Infantry Battalion, and combined Tank-Infantry elements continued the attack east to contact 5th Ranger Battalion. Elements Reserve Command and 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued patrolling SAAR - MOSELLE triangle.

26 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast throughout period. Light drizzle from 1500 to end of period. Visibility 2-5 miles.

Aviation: No missions flown due to weather. Operations Instructions #57 to Field Order 17 (Confirming Oral and Fragmentary Orders) was issued this date. Boundary between the 10th Armored Division and 94th Infantry Division was defined: Highway, BEURIG (L1512) - IRSCH (L1792) - ZERF (L2411). Boundary between divisions shown in Field Order 17 was altered to include SAARBURG in the 94th Infantry Division zone. 10th Armored Division (reinforced) was to expand bridgehead south to include BEURIG - ZERF highway, to gain contact with 94th Infantry Division south of BEURIG - ZERF highway and also with the 5th Ranger Battalion to the east vicinity (L218114). It was to move the division (less Infantry elements) through 94th Division zone north to the vicinity of BEURIG to join Infantry elements east of the SAAR River and then to continue mission assigned in Field Order 17. 94th Infantry Division (-RCT 376) was to expand its bridgehead north to gain contact with the 10th Armored Division along the BEURIG - ZERF highway, pass the 10th Armored Division (less Infantry elements) through its zone to the vicinity of BEURIG, and to continue mission assigned in Field Order 17. Corps Engineers were to construct bridge at SAARBURG as soon as enemy small arms and mortar fire from vicinity BEURIG had been reduced.

94 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - 301st Infantry (less 3d Battalion attached 302d Infantry) consolidated defense of bridgehead. 2d Battalion 301st Infantry took seven pillboxes vicinity (L178053), then launched attack on SAARHAUSEN (L177053) and occupied town. 1st Battalion operated patrols through woods to the front. 302d Infantry (less 1st Battalion attached 301st Infantry) continued the attack to the east and north clearing and mopping-up enemy resistance in the bridgehead area. A small enemy pocket remaining in the vicinity of BEURIG (L155123) was cleared with seventy PW's captured. 3d Battalion 302d Infantry and 3d Battalion 301st Infantry continued the attack to the north and east, expanding the bridgehead. 5th Ranger Battalion received strong counterattack at 0500. Counterattack was repulsed. 5th Ranger Battalion captured nine pillboxes, destroyed one Tank Destroyer and one half-track, and took fifty-nine PW's.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) actively defended sector employing ten Combat patrols, seven Contact patrols, and seven Demolition patrols. Reserve Troop conducted motor, weapons, and radio maintenance.

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry (3d Battalion 328th Infantry attached) continued active defense of the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead. 104th Infantry and TF "A" continued to patrol and actively defend sector on west bank of SAAR River. 328th Infantry (less 3d Battalion) initiated an intensive training program and also began work on delaying and defensive positions. 2d Battalion (motorized), 328th Infantry, Corps reserve in the vicinity of FAICK. 3d Battalion, upon completion of its relief in bridgehead, moved to HARGARTEN (Q173702). 101st Infantry assumed command of bridgehead as of 0700.

10 ARMD DIV: Leading elements of CCA began moving out of TRASSEM at 1045 to cross the bridge at SERRIG. Crossing of the bridge began at 1200. CCA initiated movement to by-pass CCB in the vicinity of ZERF (L242118) and to continue the attack to the north. CCB completed

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crossing of the SAAR River in the vicinity TABEN at 0222. CCB continued the attack to the east reaching ZERF and OBER-ZERF (L235104) and the column pushed north to (L232132). The 61st Armored Infantry Battalion moved east toward the 5th Ranger Battalion and by noon were not yet in contact. 376th Infantry assisted elements of 302d Infantry in cleaning out the BEURIG pocket and took one hundred and twenty-seven (127) prisoners. 1st Battalion 376th Infantry began cleaning out pillboxes in the SCHODEN area where the enemy had infiltrated. Tanks ferried across river at OCKFEN, assisted the 376th Infantry to reduce pillboxes in SCHODEN area.

27 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light drizzle until 1000. Low overcast clouds until end of period. Visibility 2-6 miles.

Aviation: No missions flown due to weather. Operations Instructions #58 to Field Order 17 was issued this date. 3d Cavalry Group attached to 94th Infantry Division effective 272400 Feb. 1258th Engineer Combat Battalion was relieved from attachment to 94th Infantry Division and attached to 26th Infantry Division effective 272400 Feb. Temporary boundary between 10th Armored Division and 94th Infantry Division assigned in Operations Instructions #57, 26 February, was discontinued as of 270600. Boundary between 10th Armored Division and 94th Infantry Division remains as shown in Operations Instructions #57. The boundary between 26th Infantry Division and 94th Infantry Division is altered as shown on overlay effective 271800. Effective 252400 February 1945, boundary between XII and XX Corps is changed as follows: MOSELLE River from NEUMAGEN (L3939) to STADTEREDIMUS (L0108), thence along road to BOUS (P9807). 26th Infantry Division (reinforced) assumes responsibility for 3d Cavalry Group zone by 272400 Feb; initiates relief of 3d Cavalry Group as soon as possible. Relief to be completed prior to 280800 February and continues mission assigned in Field Order 17 maintaining contact with 94th Infantry Division on the left (north) flank. 94th Infantry Division (-RCT 376th Infantry) (with 3d Cavalry Group attached) initiates relief of 1258th Engineer Combat Battalion as soon as possible. Relief to be completed prior to 280800 February and continues mission assigned in Field Order 17, maintaining contact with 26th Infantry Division on the right (south) flank.

94 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - 301st Infantry, less 3d Battalion attached 302d Infantry, maintained defense of bridgehead and continued to advance expanding the bridgehead. 1st Battalion, 302d Infantry, captured four pillboxes and moved east to better positions for observation. 302d Infantry (less 1st Battalion, attached 301st Infantry): 2d Battalion attacked at 1915 and advanced approximately 1000 yards against light resistance but difficult terrain. 3d Battalion attacked at 1750. Met little resistance and advanced approximately 1000 yards capturing thirty-nine PW's. 3d Battalion 301st Infantry advanced on the road east from IRSCH and occupied points to the east and south of ZERF (L242118) and OBER-DORF (L235105).

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) (attached 94th Infantry Division 272400 Feb) - Actively defended sector until relieved by elements of the 104th Infantry, 26th Infantry Division and 1258th Engineer Combat Battalion.

26 INF DIV: 3d Battalion 101st Infantry completed relief of 1st Battalion 328th Infantry in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead at 0135. 101st Infantry maintained an active defense of SAARLAUTERN bridgehead and operated Combat patrols to front from bridgehead line. TF "A" dissolved and 2d Battalion 104th Infantry reverted to command of 104th Infantry. 1st Battalion 328th Infantry moved to vicinity of OBERHERRN as Regimental reserve. 2d Battalion 328th Infantry (motorized) was Corps reserve in the vicinity of FALCK. 3d Battalion 328th Infantry relieved in bridgehead by elements of the 101st Infantry. 3d Battalion 328th Infantry then relieved 3d Battalion 104th Infantry on the south flank of the division sector.

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10 ARMD DIV: (RCT 376 attached) - Reserve command began crossing bridge at SAARBURG at 0447, and was ferrying vehicles across the SAAR River at OCKFEN. The column that crossed at SAARBURG was temporarily halted at 0900 for Engineers to repair approaches to the bridge. CCA continued the attack north in two columns in the direction of TRIER. Leading elements of CCA were held up at 1500 south of PELLINGEN (L232190) by large extensive minefields. CCB continued the attack north taking BALDRINGEN (L241132) at 1930. Leading elements continued to advance north. At 1030 the mission of CCR was changed and instead of the commitment to follow CCB the 61st Armored Infantry Battalion (reinforced) was assigned the mission of clearing the IRSCH - ZERF road of the enemy. The remainder of the reserve command was prepared for the commitment on order. 2d Battalion 376th Infantry continued to defend in its sector. 3d Battalion 376th Infantry was relieved by 3d Battalion 301st Infantry and crossed the river vicinity of OCKFEN at 2100. 1st Battalion continued the attack in the vicinity of SCHODEN capturing six more pillboxes.

28 February 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Obscure in fog with no visibility until noon, then low scattered clouds until 2400 with visibility 8-10 miles to 1900 and then 1-3 miles to end of period.

Aviation: No missions were flown in the morning due to weather. In the afternoon, eight missions were flown in cooperation with the Corps. The towns of GREIMERATH (L239075), BRITTEN (L235030), LOSHEIM (L285015), SCHILLINGEN (L315155), and REINSFELD (L380200) were bombed and strafed. Night fighters and Intruders operated during the hours of darkness.

94 INF DIV: (3d Cavalry Group and 5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - 301st Infantry (-3d Battalion with 1st Battalion 302d Infantry and 5th Ranger Battalion attached) attacked to expand bridgehead and to reduce enemy pillboxes in its sector. 1st Battalion captured pillbox at (191 082) and continued to hold HOCKER HILL. 2d Battalion improved defense positions and continued to hold high ground vicinity of TABEN bridgehead. 1st Battalion 302d Infantry attacked at 1000 to the east and was held up by an enemy strong point vicinity (L192082). 5th Ranger Battalion, assisted by 3d Battalion 301st Infantry, attacked south and took its objective vicinity (L213090) at 1622. An enemy counterattack at 1725 was repulsed. 2d Battalion 302d Infantry attacked northeast at 1425 and 3d Battalion 302d Infantry attacked northeast at 1425 and 3d Battalion 302d Infantry attacked at 1605, the Regiment advancing 2500 yards and reaching the general line (L198170) - (L209156) - (L247132). BALDRINGEN (L243132) was taken against heavy resistance and thirty-four pillboxes were captured. An estimated five hundred and twenty-five (525) PW's were taken by the division during the day.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group reinforced, attached to 94th Infantry Division) - 43d Cavalry Squadron completed relief of 1258th Engineer Combat Battalion in sector of 94th Infantry Division at 0130. 3d Cavalry Squadron was in reserve vicinity of FREUDENBURG. Continued active patrolling in defense of sector, prepared defensive positions and maintained contact with 301st Infantry on left and 1258th Engineer Combat Battalion on right.

26 INF DIV: 104th Infantry (-3d Battalion with 1258th Engineer Combat Battalion attached) completed relief of 3d Cavalry Group at 0630. 104th Infantry continued reconnaissance and orientation of new sector. 3d Battalion 104th Infantry (motorized) was Corps reserve vicinity REMELING (Q095905) effective 1500. 101st Infantry operated combat patrols and maintained defense of SAARLAUTERN bridgehead. 328th Infantry continued training and organizing delaying positions.

10 ARMD DIV: (RCT 376 attached) - Leading elements of CCA cleared a third minefield belt at (L232197), reached (L201235), (L258269) and (L270259) and were continuing the advance. CCB continued protection of ZERF roadnet while CCR prepared to support RCT 376. 2d Battalion 376th Infantry took WILTINGEN.

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SECTION V - G-4 SUMMARY

1. During the period 1 February to 19 February 1945, XX Corps units maintained pressure on the enemy West along the SAAR River in the area REMICH - MERZIG - SAARLAUTERN. On 19 February 1945 the 10th Armored and the 94th Infantry Divisions attacked North in the SAAR-MOSELLE River triangle and advanced up to within three miles SE of TRIER. The 26th Infantry Division continued to strengthen positions in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead and maintained active and aggressive patrols throughout the period. At the close of the period elements of the 10th Armored Division were probing the southern entrances of the city of TRIER.

✓ 2. On the 2nd of February 1945, XX Corps units were notified that HE and WP shells, 4.2" were rationed for two weeks. This was necessary due to a temporary shortage of this ammunition and was not the first time that this type of ammunition had been short. Civilian labor was used to aid the Corps Ammunition Officer in handling ammunition. Roads had been holding up well until this time because they were frozen solid and were able to carry the heavy traffic of military vehicles. However, with the thaw and resultant crumbling of roads not built to withstand our heavier vehicles it was necessary to limit many of the XX Corps roads to 1/4 ton trucks and ambulances only. Enforcement of a 25 MPH speed limit was effected on all other roads. This restriction, in effect for about fifteen days until the roads thawed and dried, prevented further breakdown of our roads and saved them for later military traffic. Bailey bridges in the XX Corps rear areas were replaced with fixed bridging so that equipment could be made available for SAAR River bridges. Reconstruction of railways enabled us to supply troops and move hospital trains close to the front soon after tactical advances had been made.

3. Salvage collection teams picked up equipment dropped in combat areas after units had moved forward. Items found include many bayonets and scabbards, rifles, grousers, tires, mortar cans, radios, reels, telephones, mast sections, radio tubes, flashlights, wire, clothing, ammunition bags, intrenching tools and carriers, gasoline cans, water cans, pack boards, blankets, haversacks, scissors, litters, shovels, camouflage nets, barbed wire pickets, gas masks, eyeshields and detector sleeves. Large quantities of German and American small arms ammunition, brass shell casings and cardboard containers for same were hauled and transported to Engineer collecting points for reissue and utilization. Labor was furnished by employing displaced persons and feeding them a C-ration at noon.

4. Necessary administrative information was announced in Change No. 1 to Administrative Order No. 13 in THIONVILLE on 19 February 1945. Restricted roads in danger of breaking down due to thawing conditions were listed in this order. Civilian labor was utilized to aid the Corps Engineer in repairing broken stretches. Six main routes were still restricted to 1/4 ton trucks, ambulances, and essential wire trucks and engineer vehicles actually working in restricted zones - after being originally closed ten days before. Security of routes as well as centers of communication was effected by the use of attached French troops. These forces were furnished rations and POL. Critical shortages outstanding for the period included especially spare parts for portable flame throwers, spare parts for 4.2" chemical mortar, floating foot bridges, assault boats, bayonets, 2 1/2 ton dump trucks, heavy wrecking trucks, tires, tubes, major vehicular assemblies, batteries, hot patches, stoves, cooking, 1-burner and 2-burner, portable typewriters, work-suits, field range utensils, wire (W-130), signal tools, relay units, oscillograph equipment, vibrators, power units, antennae, radios (SCR-506), ethyl alcohol, methol, radios (SCR-608), handsets (TS-10), (TS-13), and (TS-15). The variety and fresh components of the type "A" ration were increased during the period with the issue of such items as fresh eggs, oranges, apples, potatoes, carrots and cabbage. The continued warmer

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weather, together with receipts of shipments of coal from the mining areas, materially decreased the critical status of coal. Divisions and XX Corps troops continued stressing maintenance to prevent excessive deadlining of vehicles as a result of poor road conditions. Captured material for the period included vehicles, glass, putty, cable, wood boxes, cardboard boxes, and machinery.

5. Traffic Headquarters issued 42 clearances during month of February, including clearances to 9th and 10th Armored Divisions. On 10 February, 9th Armored Division began movement from area Northeast of METZ, through METZ, North to First Army. Movement was halted after one combat command had cleared and unit was returned to Corps zone evening of 10 February. 10th Armored Division began movement from CHATEAU SALINS to Corps zone on same day, all elements clearing into METZ on 11th February 1945.

19-20 February, 10th Armored Division moved from METZ to area of SIERCK via GC31 and N53BIS.

22-23 February, 9th Armored Division moved from Corps zone, passing through METZ to Army area.

As a result of rapid thaw, critical road conditions developed in the Corps zone, and on February the following main roads were closed to all vehicles except 1/4 ton trucks, ambulances, essential engineer and signal vehicles:

N418, THIONVILLE to SCHRECKLING
M53BIS, BASSE HAMM to SIERCK
GC70, PETITE HETTANGE to KESLING
GC31, RJ GC31 and GC59 to KEDANGE
GC10, THIONVILLE to BOUSSE
N54, LES ETANGS to CONDE NORTHERN

A maximum speed limit of 25 MPH was set up on all roads, and extensive repair and rebuilding work was instituted by all available engineer troops, aided by French Civilian labor.

On 10 February, continued deterioration forced additional closures, GC10 being closed entirely, N54 from BOULAY South to RJ N3.

All traffic was diverted through secondary routes, speed limits rigidly enforced, and vehicle flow reduced to essential vehicles only. Above restrictions continued in effect until 26 February, when improved weather conditions permitted their removal.

In order to reduce volume of essential supply hauls, rail network in Corps area was utilized to utmost. Division railheads for Class V were set up at APACH, GRINDORF, and BRETTNACH, and for Class I and III at SIERK, TETTERCHEN, and HARGARTEN. Class V was moved from Army installations at DALSTEIN and KURTZIG, and Class I and III from FRIESTROFF and PIELANGE. A total of 9356 tons of ammunition and 2791 tons of Class I and III were moved by rail within the Corps area during the period.

During period, 1876 vehicle dispatches were made by 3802 and 4049 QM Truck Co's, whose vehicles covered 93,734 vehicle miles, transporting 5,189 tons of supplies and carrying 4,637 troops.

XX Corps Feb 1945
SECTION VI - G-5 SUMMARY

1. GENERAL

- a. During the period covered by this summary, Civil Affairs/

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Military Government Detachments, under the control of this section operated in the following towns:

FRANCE: Boulay, Bouzonville, Kedange, Metz, Sierck, Thionville and Veckring.

GERMANY: Gisingen, Niedaltdorf, Perl, Saarburg and Uberherrn

LUXEMBOURG: Remich.

In addition, two Civil Affairs Detachments, one with a French MMLA Team attached, were allotted to XX Corps by Third US Army for the purpose of operating Refugee and Displaced Persons Collecting Centers in the forward portion of the Corps zone. At the close of the period a total of thirteen CA/MG Detachments were operating in the Corps zone. Of this number, three were operating as Military Government Detachments in Germany, seven were operating as Civil Affairs Detachments in France, two were operating as Refugee and Displaced Persons Detachments and one Civil Affairs Detachment was available for use in handling civilian problems attendant with the presence of the Corps CP.

b. In view of the fact that the operations in Germany were strictly of a Military Government nature as contrasted with Civil Affairs activities in France, this summary is being divided into two parts, the first thereof being devoted to Military Government activities in Germany, while the second is devoted to Civil Affairs activities in France.

2. MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN GERMANY

a. Detachments I1A2, I2A2 and H1A2 continued to operate German Evacuee Concentration Centers in Niedaltdorf, Gross Hemmersdorf, Gisingen and Uberherrn, Germany. In the aforementioned towns there was approximately 7,642 inhabitants, all of whom had been previously evacuated from forward areas for security reasons and are now concentrated in self-sustaining groups. The main efforts of the detachments supervising these groups were directed toward the end of making these individuals self-sufficient and assuring that the Military Government Proclamations, Laws and Ordinances were complied with. By accomplishing these two results, the noninterference of the German civilians with military operations is assured. That this end has been achieved to a great extent is evidenced by the fact that during the entire month of February, it did not become necessary to call forward through military channels any food supplies; no outbreak of epidemic occurred, nor were there any incidents of disorder requiring the intervention of military forces.

b. In order to make these concentrations of German evacuees self-sufficient, work details of German nationals were organized for the purpose of returning to the evacuated towns, under military escort, to obtain food supplies that had been left behind, either in homes or which could be obtained by harvesting the crops. While most of these supplies were transported by horse drawn vehicles, two trucks for each detachment were obtained from the Civil Affairs Transport Pool for the purpose of assisting in this work. Some idea of the amount of work involved in this undertaking may be obtained by reference to the figures on the amount of food supplies transported into just one of these evacuation centers. During the month of February there was transported into Niedaltdorf the following: eighty-two (82) tons of fodder-beets, forty-four (44) tons of potatoes, fifty-six (56) tons of hay, sixteen (16) tons of wheat, five (5) tons each of flour and oats respectively, three-quarters ton (3/4) ton of salt and one-quarter (1/4) ton of peas. In addition, ninety-five (95) head of livestock and two hundred and two (202) wagonloads of wood-fuel was likewise transported.

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c. In addition to becoming self-sufficient communities these evacuee centers provided a source of civilian labor for use in connection with US Army projects. In one instance, two hundred and twenty-five German nationals were employed in preparing field fortifications for a switch position on the Nied River at the request of TF Polk. In accordance with the "Rules of Land Warfare", all of these German nationals were volunteers, signed statements to that effect were obtained and they were paid for their labor. German nationals were frequently used throughout the area in the hauling of gravel and the making of necessary road repairs. In the town of Niedaltdorf, 18 German nationals, on their own initiative, voluntarily set up a laundry for the purpose of furnishing free laundry service to the American units in the vicinity.

d. The medical needs of these people were amply supplied from indigenous sources. Three German doctors are available, as well as two mid-wives, and two hospitals, one at Saarlautern and one at Wallerfangen are in operation. The hospital at Saarlautern has adequate facilities for the performance of major operations and a sufficient supply of drugs are available from the former pharmacy in that town. The only medical supplies required to be imported into the area, during the month of February, were relatively small quantities of DDT powder for delousing purposes, soap, and some ointment to be used in the treatment of scabies.

e. No serious violations of Military Government Laws or Regulations occurred during the period covered by this report, so that it was unnecessary to hold an Intermediate or General Military Court. Three Summary Military Courts continued to operate throughout the area. A total of thirty-seven (37) cases were tried during the period, resulting in thirty-six (36) convictions. Following is a summary of the number and type of cases tried by the Summary Military Courts during the month of February:

<u>TYPE OF VIOLATIONS</u>	<u>No.</u>
Violation of Curfew regulations	13
Violation of travel restrictions.....	7
Stealing Property of Allied Forces or of any member thereof....	6
Acts to the Prejudice of Good Order or of the interest of the Allied Forces or any member thereof.....	4
Disobedience of an order of Military Government.....	4
Lack of Identity Card.....	2
Crossing International Border without authority.....	1
Total.....	37

During this period four appeals were filed and the cases reviewed by the Corps Commander. All of the convictions were sustained, except that in one instance, that a woman convicted for harboring a German woldier, her husband, the sentence of six months imprisonment imposed by the Summary Military Court was remitted.

f. Toward the close of the period, and as a result of the operations in the Saar-Moselle Triangle, Detachment I5G2 was transferred from Perl to Saarburg, which town had been its pinpointed destination. Detachment I5G2 will remain in Saarburg until the cessation of Military Government in that area, notwithstanding that the rear boundary of Corps will have moved beyond that town.

(1) Although most of the civilians had previously been ordered to evacuate from the Saar-Moselle Triangle by the German civil authorities in November and December, nevertheless, a considerable

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number had defied these orders by taking to the woods and other hide-outs until the civilian officials had themselves fled. Upon the arrival of American troops in the area, these civilians started returning into the towns. In the interest of security, tactical commanders directed that these civilians be evacuated from the immediate combat zone. Accordingly, steps were taken to set up a collecting center at Eft so that these people could be kept under supervision and thus, not free to roam about at will. The services of both Detachments D2D2 and I5G2 were utilized for this purpose. At the close of the period, with the immediate combat zone having moved forward, operations were in progress to return these people to their respective towns or at least to some central town near their homes so that full advantage could be taken of whatever food supplies they had left remaining in their homes at the time of their evacuation.

(2) In the towns immediately east of Saarburg and along the east bank of the Saar River, considerable more civilians were uncovered than had been found in the Saar-Moselle Triangle. In at least two towns, Irsch and Nieder-Zerf, approximately the entire normal population had remained. Their presence was due as explained by some of the German civilians, to the fact that they had been told by the German Military Authorities that the American attack would cease when it had reached the Saar River and if any attempt was made by the Americans to cross the river there would be sufficient time to evacuate the civilians. The rapidity of the XX Corps advance precluded such a plan from being carried into effect. Approximately 600 civilians were found in Irsch, 500 in Wiltingen and 1000 in Nieder-Zerf. Although only approximately 80 displaced persons had been uncovered up to the close of the period, information indicated that this number would steadily increase as the people came out of hiding from woods, cellars and caves. To meet this contingency, a Displaced Persons Collecting Center was established at Perl. Emergency rations for the feeding of these anticipated persons had been obtained from the Third US Army Civil Affairs Supply Depot.

(3) As a result of the combat operations in the Saar-Moselle Triangle considerable numbers of livestock, including horses used by the German Army, were killed by shelling and mines. In order to remove this potential health menace, Detachment I8D2 was dispatched into the Triangle for the purpose of organizing civilian work parties to bury these animals. In addition, the use of a bull-dozer was secured from the Corps Engineer to aid in this work.

(4) On the 28th of February, Military Government Detachment F2G2, the detachment pinpointed for Trier, was alerted for movement, in anticipation of the capture of that town.

3. CIVIL AFFAIRS IN FRANCE

a. In the French area of XX Corps zone, the problems confronting the Civil Affairs Detachments were, in the main, insuring adequate food supplies for the civilians, the evacuation of displaced persons, the return of French refugees to their homes within the Corps zone, the procurement of civilian labor for military units and the coordination of French civilian highway maintenance facilities to be placed at the disposal of the Corps Engineer in order to effect the repair and maintenance of vital and-essential highways in the Corps zone.

b. In connection with the insuring of an adequate food supply for the civilians in the French area of the Corps zone, the following supplies were imported into the area from the Third US Army Civil Affairs Supply Depot: 62 tons of sugar, 25 tons of coffee, 79 tons of pulses, 27 tons of canned meat, 16 tons of canned fish, 8 tons of biscuits, 3 tons of oleomargarine and lard and 1/4 ton of chocolate.

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It is to be noted that these supplies will be the last relief food supplies to be obtained locally through Civil Affairs channels. Commencing as of 1 March 1945, all relief food supplies for France will be handled at the National level. This change in policy relieves Civil Affairs Detachments in France of the responsibility of calling forward through Army channels, food supplies for civilian use. It is believed that this change in policy is another step toward returning to the French civilian authorities full responsibility for the functioning of their government.

c. In addition to the food supplies which were imported into the area as set forth in paragraph 2, Section II, there was distributed under the supervision of the American Red Cross, Civilian War Relief Representative attached to this section, approximately 18 tons of Red Cross clothing. This clothing was distributed to the needy families residing in the forward areas where transport and circulation had previously been restricted. Two thousand pairs of shoes, obtained from CA Supplies were also distributed under the supervision of both the American and French Red Cross. Toward the close of the period a second shipment of Red Cross clothing arrived in Third US Army area of which approximately 25 tons are to be allotted to XX Corps area.

d. Supplies imported into the area from Third US Army CA Supply Depot for the preservation of public health included 22 tons of soap, 200 pounds of DDT Powder and various small amounts of essential drugs and ointments.

e. During the period covered by this report a total of 837 refugees were returned to their homes either in XX Corps area or in areas to the rear. At the close of the period there were approximately 13,526 refugees in the area. Of this total some 13,045 were being cared for in private residences in the city of Metz, the remainder being taken care of in the refugee transit center in that city. The French area of the Corps zone has been practically cleared of all displaced persons. A total of 356 displaced persons were evacuated from the Corps zone to the Third US Army Displaced Persons Assembly Center at Hayange. Those still remaining in the area are gainfully employed, have no desire to be evacuated and are remaining with the consent of the French civilian authorities.

f. At the request of G-4, XX Corps, this section made arrangements with the civilian authorities of the various towns in Corps zone to enlist the cooperation of the French Civilians in a salvage drive which was conducted by G-4 for the purpose of reclaiming all US Army and German military equipment and material which had been abandoned during combat operations. Instructions were issued to all the Mayors to instruct their people to turn in all such equipment and material in their possession at designated collection points in each town by a certain date at which time it would be picked up by trucks from G-4.

g. During the period covered by this report, important highways in Corps zone reached a serious state of disrepair due to the extensive and constant amount of traffic which had been flowing over them and the early unseasonal thaw. In order to assist the Corps Engineer in the repair and maintenance of these highways this section arranged for the Chef de Ponts et Chaussées of the Department of Moselle to immediately coordinate all civilian road and maintenance facilities and place them at the disposal of the French civilian laborers to assist in the repairs of the highways under the supervision of the Corps Engineer. In all, 1,132 civilians were so employed furnishing a total of 141,759 man hours for this purpose.

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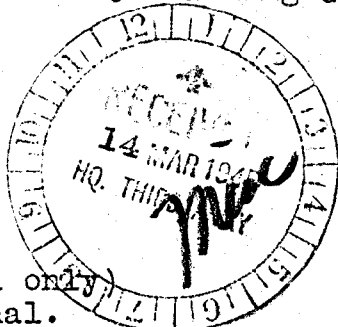
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h. Civilian labor was likewise secured by this section for the Corps Ordnance Officer to assist in the unloading of ammunition at the railheads. In all, approximately 28,800 man hours were furnished for this undertaking. A total of 2,068 French civilians were employed by US Army units in the Corps zone during the month of February, furnishing 243,434 man hours of labor.

i. Toward the close of the period, a portion of Luxembourg bordering upon the west side of the Moselle River passed to the control of XX Corps. Due to the fact that all towns in the area along the west bank of the river had been previously evacuated, it was deemed advisable to temporarily deploy a detachment in the area until such time as the inhabitants thereof had returned. Accordingly, Detachment IIA3 was deployed at Remich with instructions to facilitate the return of civilian officials, as well as the owners of a large winery, coal yards and lumber yards. At the close of the period the aforementioned persons had been returned, as well as one member from each household; the town had been debocoytrapped and arrangements had been completed for the return of the population commencing 3 March. A similar procedure is to be employed in the remaining towns along the Moselle River.

j. During the month of February, Detachment D6C2, the Civil Affairs Detachment available to Corps for use in handling civilian problems attendant with the presence of the Corps CP arranged for the billeting of six hundred and ten (610) officers and enlisted men visiting the Corps CP on official business. In addition, this detachment also handled the billeting, and the problems arising therefrom, of one hundred and forty-two (142) assigned and attached Corps officer personnel.

For the Commanding General:



Robert E. Cullen
ROBERT E. CULLEN,
Colonel, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.

11 Incls (With original only)

- Incl 1. G-1 Journal.
- 2. G-1 Daily Summary.
- 3. G-2 Journal.
- 4. G-3 Journal.
- 5. G-3 Operations Inst.
- 6. G-3 Periodic Report.
- 7. Field Orders.
- 8. G-4 Journal.
- 9. Administrative Orders.
- 10. G-5 Journal.
- 11. G-5 Daily Summary.

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