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HEADQUARTERS XX CORPS

APO 340 U. S. ARMY

6 NOVEMBER 1944

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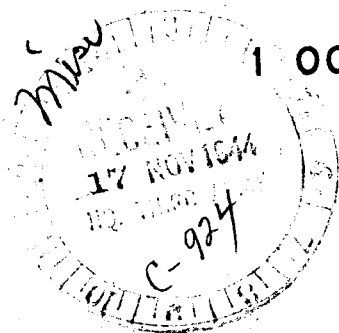
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REPORT OF OPERATIONS

1 OCTOBER 1944 31 OCTOBER 1944



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HEADQUARTERS XX CORPS
APO 340 U. S. ARMY

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AUTH: CG XX CORPS
INIT: RLB
DATE: 16 Nov 1944

16 November 1944

SUBJECT: Report of Combat Operations, 1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944.

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

THRU : Commanding General, Third U. S. Army, APO 403, U. S. Army.

Section I - Narrative of Operations
Section II - G-1 Summary
Section III - G-2 Summary
Section IV - G-4 Summary
Section V - G-5 Summary

SECTION I - NARRATIVE

1. During the period 1 - 10 October, inclusive, XX Corps units were vigorously patrolling on an extended front. The 83 Infantry Division was in contact with the First US Army on the north. TF POLK atchd to the 83 Infantry Division patrolled the MOSELLE RIVER on the south flank of the Division. This Division's mission was to push east from the vicinity of LUXEMBOURG to the junction of SAUER RIVER and MOSELLE RIVER. The 90 Infantry Division contained the enemy bridgehead west of the MOSELLE RIVER and north along the MOSELLE RIVER to the southern boundary of the 83 Infantry Division. The 5 Infantry Division occupied the ARNAVILLE-VANDIERES bridgehead east of the MOSELLE RIVER maintaining contact with XII Corps units on the south.

2. The Corps mission during the period was to improve its position by aggressive patrolling, and to contain the enemy forces to prevent enemy penetrations or enemy river crossing operations until sufficient supplies could be made available for an offensive operation. This mission allowed a rotation of units in the line to the extent that valuable training was received by several battalions in the technique of assault on fortified positions. Both the 83 and 90 Infantry Divisions conducted this training against forts and pillboxes in the MAGINOT LINE.

3. 2 Bn 11 Inf (reinforced) 5 Infantry Division contained a small sector of the enemy bridgehead west of the MOSELLE RIVER in front of FT IRIANT. An attack was made on FT IRIANT by this unit on 3 October 1944. As the attack progressed, elements were successful in entering the fort. Heavy resistance was encountered inside the fort from small arms, mortars and artillery. Certain objectives within the fort were reached the night of 3-4 October. One company was successful in entering the concrete barracks that led them to underground passages that connected various strong points within the fort. Passages were found to be blocked by heavy steel doors. Demolitions were used against these steel doors. Fumes from the demolitions and from enemy counter-blasts in the passageways made the underground passageways untenable for our troops. Harassing enemy fire above the ground had our units pinned down and unable to advance. The unit was relieved by other elements of the 5 Infantry Division and by Army order the elements were withdrawn from the fort on 13 October to their original position with a mission of containing the line in front of FT IRIANT.

4. 12 Army Group established a new boundary between First and Third US Armies on 11 October 1944. The new boundary extended generally along the same line as the boundary between the 83 Infantry Division and the 90 Infantry Division. The 83 Infantry Division passed to the control of VIII Corps, First Army, and 90 Infantry Division became XX Corps north flank division. TF POLK was detached from the 83 Infantry Division and attached to the 90 Infantry Division at the time the 83 Infantry Division passed from control of XX Corps.

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5. 95 Infantry Division was attached to XX Corps, 13 October 1944 and closed in the vicinity NORROY (U600773), 15 October 1944. The 95 Infantry Division was ordered to relieve the 5 Infantry Division in the bridgehead east of the MOSELLE River and assumed command of the bridgehead 20 October 1944. The 5 Infantry Division upon being relieved in the bridgehead moved to a training area west of AUDUN (U665870). During the period 21-30 October 1944, the 5 Infantry Division was engaged in a rehabilitation and training program. On 31 October 1944, the 5 Infantry Division began the relief of the 95 Infantry Division in the bridgehead east of the MOSELLE River.

6. Elements 90 Infantry Division to improve their position attacked MAIZIERES-LES-METZ (U855701). The city was stubbornly defended by the Germans and required house to house fighting before falling to our forces on 30 October 1944.

7. The 10 Armored Division was attached to XX Corps, 23 October 1944 and were ordered to an assembly area in the vicinity PUXIEUX (U650545). On 27 October 1944, the 10 Armored Division was ordered to relieve elements of 90 Infantry Division in a sector of the enemy bridgehead west of the MOSELLE River.

SECTION II - G-1 SUMMARY

1. GENERAL: Limited objective attacks characterized the period 1 - 31 October 1944, hence the calls for replacements were not as heavy as in previous months. Numerous acts of individual bravery were cited and awards made, reports of strength, prisoners of war, and duties incident to G-1 were maintained.

2. REPLACEMENTS: In support of the Corps, the 53d Replacement Battalion kept the divisions and corps troops supplied with a steady flow of replacements. The Replacement Information Center which was established during the month, at Class I Supply Point, proved invaluable in informing units of the location of replacements and casualties ready for delivery to units. Supply vehicles were used to transport replacements from the Replacement Battalion, located in the vicinity of Class I Supply Point, to the unit concerned. During the period 1 - 31 October, 4191 replacements were furnished to units under XX Corps.

3. PRISONERS OF WAR: Prisoner of war collecting points in the vicinity of Class I Supply Points has allowed for the speedy evacuation of prisoners of war. Trucks being dispatched to the supply point for rations were utilized to transport prisoners of war to the Corps collecting point. From there, vehicles coming from the rear with supplies were used to transport prisoners of war from the Corps collecting point to the Army enclosure. During the month of October, 463 prisoners of war were captured and evacuated by units of the XX Corps.

4. BURIALS: The evacuation and burial of the American and enemy dead passed from control of the Corps and the duties assumed by the Third United States Army. Two body collecting points located near the Class I Supply Points, one located in the north and the other in the south of the Corps zone, were used to collect and evacuate the dead for burial in the Army cemetery located in the vicinity of Andilly, France. (U650190)

5. DECORATIONS AND AWARDS: The Corps Awards and Decoration Board considered 377 recommendations for Decorations and Awards during the month of October. The following decorations were awarded by the Corps Commander: Twenty-two (22) Silver Stars; ninety-two (92) Bronze Star Medals; thirty-eight (38) Air Medals and twenty-three (23) Oak-Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal. The following recommendations were sent to higher headquarters for approval: Thirteen (13) recommendations for the Distinguished Service Cross; six (6) for the Legion of Merit; four (4) for the Distinguished Flying Cross; twenty-nine (29) for the French Legion of Honor and two-hundred and thirty-one (231) for the French Croix de Guerre. One Distinguished Service Cross was awarded to a member of the Corps by the Army Commander.

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6. 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 this 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, replacements 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 Captured	Wounded (Hosp)	Sick or Injured (Hosp)	Total	Replacements	PW Capt'd
5th Inf Div	80	171	414	1651	2316	1861	40
83d Inf Div	39	22	146	328	535	349	38
90th Inf Div	66	3	474	664	1207	1114	376
95th Inf Div	17	23	96	222	358	280	8
Corps Troops	11	8	46	432	497	587	1
TOTAL	213	227	1176	3297	4193	4191	463

SECTION III - G-2 SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION.

a. During a month fraught in the main with little offensive action on the part of the enemy, he continued to get his house in order, primarily through improvement and thickening of defenses and re-disposition of troops along his MOSELLE RIVER - METZ FORTRESS - SEILLE RIVER Line. It became fully apparent that he intended to hold this position as long as possible. This intention was amply illustrated by his successful defense of FT TRIANT and stubborn resistance to our seizure of the town of MAIZIERES.

b. Through October, the enemy was not only largely successful in maintaining his line of defense, but also found himself able to withdraw units from the Corps front for use elsewhere, and replace them, in some cases, with inferior, miscellaneous units.

c. More spectacular enemy activity during the period included the appearance and use of a 280mm RR gun, or guns, on the Corps front, hostile patrol and agent activity behind our lines, broadcasts to our troops to lay down their arms, and the use of messenger dogs and pigeons.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD.

a. General.

(1) As pointed out in "After Action Report, G-2 Section, Hq XX Corps 1 - 31 September 1944", the enemy seized the welcome opportunity afforded by the slackening of our advance to establish a strong defensive position on the MOSELLE RIVER Line. During the month of October he clung

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tenaciously to this line and improved its defensive organization, at the same time preparing successive defensive lines to the rear for use in withdrawal from the MOSELLE to the SIEGERIED LINE. While his attitude during October was primarily defensive, the situation did not prevent certain unwelcome and annoying attentions being forced upon us.

(2) A German 280mm RR gun made its debut on XX Corps front the night of 5 - 6 October, when about 8 rounds from this gun were received in the vicinity of Corps Headquarters. A total of 16 rounds from the same type gun was received in the same area the night of 7 - 8 October. At various intervals during the month, this type of shelling was placed on XX Corps Hq and vicinity, NANCY, PONTA-MOUSSON and LUXEMBOURG. The last reported shelling was of LUXEMBOURG early morning 27 October. Throughout the month attacks by our artillery and aircraft succeeded in cutting track and blocking tunnels reported to have been used by the gun which was fired from positions generally E of METZ. Our artillery was reported to have destroyed a RR gun in the freight station in METZ.

(3) Suffering from a dearth of other reconnaissance agencies, hostile patrols were dispatched W of the MOSELLE RIVER into our positions to gain information of our units, dispositions, and strength. Enemy agents were also utilized for the same purpose. Patrols usually crossed the river at night and in some cases had orders to stay as long as three days in order to complete their missions. Rewards were reported offered for the capture of American prisoners. Agents included two men captured in the S part of our sector, who had gone to a special school in Germany to learn U.S. identifications and were traveling to the PONTA-MOUSSON area to obtain information of American units in that area.

(4) Artillery fire varied throughout the period but generally speaking, it was heavier the first part of the month, slackening toward the close of the period. Areas usually receiving most of the enemy artillery fire included the GRAVELOTTE and MAIZIERES areas in the central portion of the Corps sector and the ARNAVILLE and bridgehead areas in the S.

(5) Rail and troop movement were continuous throughout the period, with troops trains in some instances delivering reinforcements, replacements and supplies to points in close proximity to front lines. The enemy continued to replace units withdrawn either for reorganization or for use elsewhere on the western front. A number of enemy smoke screens throughout the month in the bridgehead area were undoubtedly added precautions taken to conceal this activity.

(6) Enemy aircraft activity over the Corps area was desultory. At intervals enemy planes, usually no more than one or two at a time, flew over the area, but little hostile action was taken. At 111330A, two Me-109's strafed the bridgehead area but failed to hit any ground occupied by our troops; on 13 October reports were received of strafing by a single enemy plane W of THIONVILLE and bombing and strafing by two enemy planes SW of THIONVILLE, but the reports were unconfirmed and no casualties are known to have occurred.

(7) Either stung into activity by our own propaganda efforts or because of some distorted idea that our troops were ripe for desertion, the enemy made use of psychological warfare on a small scale during the month. Several broadcasts were made and propaganda leaflets were used with most of his activity confined to the bridgehead area. The gist of the messages was an appeal to our undoubted desire to be "out of the trenches by Christmas", and promises of good treatment to deserters.

(8) Dogs and pigeons were apparently serving as extra means of messenger service for the Germans. The dogs were seen several times with enemy troops in the bridgehead area S of METZ and in one instance, one of the animals was described as trotting across an open field, "making use of available cover and concealment." Pigeons, on the other hand, were reported in several cases flying E in formation over the center of the Corps sector.

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b. Action at FT. TRIANT.

(1) Following a previous unsuccessful attempt 26 September, operations began at noon 3 October to reduce FT TRIANT, by a reinforced infantry battalion of the 5th Inf Div. Initial objectives were the NW and S corners of the fort.

(2) Resistance to our attacks began with fire from pillboxes and dug-in positions outside and along the wall surrounding the fort. Entry was made on the S, at which time the enemy went underground and called for artillery and mortar fire on the fort and our exposed troops. Enemy fire consisted of small arms, MGs and mortars from dug in positions and pillboxes within the fort. This fire was supplemented by mortar fire from positions believed to be on the reverse slope of the hill N and NE of the fort, and by artillery fire apparently controlled by observation from armored OPs within the fort from which information was transmitted to batteries N of the fort. In addition, artillery within the fort was depressed and fired tree-bursts at our troops during the action. Enemy positions within the fort had been strongly reinforced with stone, wood, and sandbags and were well camouflaged. Demolitions and armor-piercing ammunition had little effect on these reinforced positions; our men carrying explosive charges became first priority targets for the enemy. At night, the enemy infiltrated into our positions and succeeded in knocking out a number of our tanks within the fort.

(3) Attempts by the enemy to reinforce the garrison of the fort were frustrated by artillery fire. During the early morning of 4 October, approximately 100 men of 3 Co, 208 Replacement Bn, moving to relief of the fort, were disorganized by our artillery fire and remained outside the fort to the NE. Another similar attempt by 4 Co, OCS Regt METZ, numbering about 70 men, at 050200 was twice broken up by artillery fire. A counter attack by elements of 119 Fusilier Co, about 60 men, supported by two SPs, at 060400 was repulsed.

(4) Our troops during the entire action made consistent efforts to push from their position within the S corner of the fort to the NE, and to complete successive capture of positions within the fort, but were forestalled by the strong defensive system and stubborn resistance of the enemy.

(5) On 7 October, a double attack was launched, one through an underground tunnel to capture casemate positions from below, and the second pushing to the NE to seize objectives in the SE corner of the fort. The company making the above-ground attack made slow progress, receiving heavy MG, mortar and artillery fire, and was eventually forced to withdraw; in the process two platoons were cut off and captured by enemy forces working around the flanks.

(6) Our action in the tunnel was also unsuccessful, since two charges were set off in the tunnel by the enemy on 8 October, resulting in some casualties and temporary blocking of the tunnel, and forcing abandonment of our plans in that quarter. Previous action in the tunnel during our efforts to blow an entrance into the casemate objective had consisted of the enemy setting up at his end of the tunnel and firing MGs and rifle grenades and our countering from our end with MG and bazooka fire.

(7) During the night of 12-13 October, our troops were withdrawn from the fort. The defenders of the fort were estimated to number 400-500 men. This total included about 300 men from 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9 and 10 Cos., KG STOSSSEL, KRIEGSSCHULE METZ, and about 100 men of 3 Co, 208 Replacement Bn. Also identified were 119 Fusilier Co, 19 Gren Div and 5 Co, 698 Replacement Bn.

c. Capture of MAIZIERES.

(1) The 90th Inf Div launched its drive to capture the town the first part of the month; on 3 October, the slag pile N of the town was taken; two local counter attacks against our position on the slag pile the same day were repulsed.

(2) The assault to take the town was continued 7 October. Initial resistance was reported not heavy, but mines and road blocks in the town slowed the attack. At 0300A, a small enemy force supported by artillery and mortar fire succeeded in infiltrating into our positions in the woods NW of MAIZIERES but was driven out, and at 0500A an attack on our positions W of and near the town was repulsed.

(3) On 8 October, resistance had stiffened. The action developed into a house-to-house struggle and mortar fire increased. An enemy counter attack of company strength at 0600A was unsuccessful.

(4) During the next few days progress was slow; resistance was very determined and fighting became close and bitter. Resistance consisted of fire of all arms. The defenders utilized the most strongly built houses and buildings as strong points, with OP's in the upper stories. A second slag pile, SW of the town, furnished the enemy with an excellent OP.

(5) Up to the last part of the month, action in MAIZIERES was desultory, activity in the main being confined to artillery and mortar fire. The primary bone of contention during this period was the town-hall, which at one time was occupied by both friendly and hostile troops but was later regained by the enemy.

(6) On 29 October at 0730A, our final assault was launched on the enemy-held positions of the town. This final phase of the attack received greatly increased artillery support, which proved to be a decisive factor in the reduction of the town. Initial resistance was reported slight but by 0935A it had stiffened considerably. The first phase of the attack met heavy enemy defensive mortar fire. Enemy resistance in general was stiff throughout the day, consisting mostly of artillery and mortar fire. Individual resistance was not aggressive, though as long as the defenders were behind cover, they retained an outward semblance, at least, of staunch defense. However, once our troops had penetrated their positions, a number of the buildings were surrounded, and when entered from the rear, their surprised occupants surrendered.

(7) By 30 October, reduction of the town proper was completed and mopping-up operations were in progress. Enemy troops still occupied a chateau E of the town and the slag pile to the S.

* 3. ORDER OF BATTLE. Enemy units in contact with XX Corps front at the beginning of October were as follows: Attached units of 5 Pz Div, 36 Gren Div, 48 Inf Div, 19 Gren Div, 462 Inf Div, 17 SS Pz Gren Div, and elements of 3 Pz Gren Div. Enemy operations during the month were characterized by a good deal of shifting of divisions and parts of divisions from our front to more threatened areas, the arrival of one new division (416 Inf Div from Denmark), and the steady effort at reorganization and refitting of divisions on the line, or partly committed. This reorganization was facilitated by the static condition of our front, and aided by good defensive terrain and installations.

a. 5 Pz Div Staff - This staff controlled a number of separate units located in the sector between WASSERBILLIG (L1125) and WALLENDORF (P9642). Those identified by XX Corps at the beginning of the month included: 23 bn, 999 Brig; 780 Landesschützen Bn; 1 Co, 387 Landesschützen Bn; a Kampfgruppe made up of personnel of 105 Ersatz Bn; 5 Co, KG GARTEN, consisting of personnel of Gren Ersatz Bn 313; 1 Co, 501 Pz Jag Abt. 4 October we identified 5 Co, 87 Gren Regt, 36 Gren Div, vic ECHTERNACH (L0435). By 8 October it became apparent that the entire 87 Regt had moved into this area. On 14 October this sector passed from Corps control. At this time it was evident that 36 Gren Div was taking over the sector formerly controlled by 5 Pz Div, although several units formerly with 5 Pz Div remained in the line, and came under control of 36 Gren Div.

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b. 36 Gren Div. - This division held the sector REMICH (10106) - WASSERBILLIG at the beginning of the month. On 4 October II Bn, 87 Gren Regt moved to ECHTERNACH, to be followed by the I Bn which moved into the adjoining sector to the E. In this transition period 48 Fus Bn, 48 Inf Div, was identified in 36 Div sector, and KG SCHAFER, consisting of GAF personnel from KG 200 also took over a part of the front formerly held by 36 Gren Div. By the middle of the month most of this division had moved to its new sector NW of GREVENMACKER (10620).

c. 48 Inf Div. - This division held the sector KONIGSMACKER (U9489) to REMICH at the beginning of the month while it was still in the process of reorganization. The only units of the division identified in contact at this time were: 127 Gren Regt; 48 Fus Bn; elements of 352 Ersatz Bn apparently used in the reorganization of the division. With the arrival between 6 and 10 October of elements of 416 Inf Div from Denmark, committed in the sector N of KONIGSMACKER, the 48 Inf Div shifted N into the sector previously held by 36 Gren Div. From there the division moved S into XII Corps sector about 20 Oct.

d. 416 Inf Div. - The first elements of this division left Denmark 4 October and were committed between 6 and 10 October in the area N of KONIGSMACKER, where they replaced elements of 48 Inf Div. On arrival the division was a 2 Regt - 3 Bn type, by taking one Bn from each of the original two regiments. Also the four identical companies of each Bn, comprising a heavy platoon and 3 Rifle platoons, were reorganized into 3 Rifle Co's and one heavy Co. At the end of the month the division held the sector KONIGSMACKER to GREVENMACKER. The division is estimated to have a strength of approximately 8000 men. About half the personnel is composed of Volksdeutsche, while a large part of the German half is of the age group 38 to 45.

e. 19 Gren Div. - Gren Regts 59 and 74 moved into the sector ENNERY (U8970) to KONIGSMACKER at the beginning of the month, replacing 559 Gren Div. The 73 Gren Regt at this time was committed in XII Corps zone. This regiment returned N for a counter attack on MAIZIERES (U8569) on 7 October, and the following day was again on the move, this time to return to the divisional sector. On 12 October 59 Gren Regt was identified in XII Corps sector, but towards the end of the month was reported out of contact and thought to be on its way back to the division's sector. In their various engagements elements of the division have suffered severe casualties, but appear to have received a fair amount of replacements. At the end of the month the strength of the division was estimated at 5000 men. The original personnel included a fair amount of veterans from Russia and Italy, but replacements received during the month are probably typical of recent formation being over-age and redrafted personnel, many of them physically defective, and convalescents.

f. 462 Inf Div. - At the beginning of the month this division was composed of KG STOESEL, Regt XV and 1010 Sicherungs Regt, plus a considerable number of replacement and training personnel and some Landesschutzen units. The division held the German perimeter of defense W of METZ through the month and suffered a considerable number of losses which were replaced with steadily arriving Marsch Cos from Wehrkreis XII. Toward the end of the month the various units under 462 Inf Div were undergoing another reorganization which evidently had not been completed when the month came to a close. At this time the strength of the division with all attached units was estimated at 9000 men. Its composition appeared to be that of a 3 Regt - 2 Bn type division, with the regiments not too clearly defined, but lined up in the main as follows: Regt NORD (formerly Regt XV); KG STOESEL; 1010 Sicherungs Regt (only the II Bn in existence, the I Bn apparently reforming); 1419 Fortress Bn.

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g. 17 SS Pz Gren Div - During the first week of October this division's sector was extended S from LOUVIGNY (U8444) as far as NOMENY (U8933) when 3 Pz Gren Div was withdrawn to be committed in the AACHEN area. Around 13 October elements of 17 SS Div were relieved in their sectors by 53 Fortress MG Bn (CORNY (U7749) to JOUY-AUX-ARCHES (U7952)), while the division's S sector in the area ROOVES (U8834) - NOMENY was taken over by 1431 Fortress Inf Bn (this bn apparently came under control of 48 Inf Div). On 26 October 45 Fortress MG Bn was identified in the SILLEGNY (U8444) area. Both 45 and 53 Fortress MG Bn's are controlled by 17 SS Div. The addition of these battalions enabled the division to resume its often interrupted reorganization at least partially. Most replacements for 17 SS Div during the month came from former GAF units. Strength of the division is estimated at 9800 men (including attachments). Its sector extends from JOUY-AUX-ARCHES (U8636).

h. 3 Pz Gren Div. - The division was withdrawn from its sector South of LOUVIGNY during the first week of October. At this time the division was said to be in reserve, but by the middle of the month it was again reported in contact, this time South of AACHEN.

SECTION IV - G-4 SUMMARY

1. Due to the fact that insufficient supplies were available for an offensive operation during the period October 1-31, inclusive, XX Corps units improved their positions west and south of METZ by vigorous and aggressive patrolling to prevent enemy penetrations or enemy river crossing operations. Minor attacks made by units of the XX Corps were stubbornly resisted by the Germans.

2. Change 1 to Administrative Order No. 9 was distributed to XX Corps units 7 October 1944. A QM mobile sales store for officers of Corps units and Army troops in direct support of Corps operated in the XX Corps area during the first part of the period 1 - 14 October. Stocks carried by this store were very low - various articles and sizes required not being available. The rationing of gasoline continued in effect and allocations were made on a day to day basis. Basic loads of gasoline were maintained. Gasoline consumption did not exceed daily allocations. Solid fuels were authorized for hospitals only. All gasoline cans in excess of authorized allowances were turned in to Class III supply points. On 3 October the XX Corps Engineer reported a box-car containing 1300 rounds of 88mm ammunition at HOMECOURT. This German ammunition was utilized in captured 88mm artillery weapons of the XX Corps. On 4 October Corps Engineers completed a 320 foot 2-way Class 40 pile bent bridge at ARNAVILLE. Captured material such as German camouflage material, mat lathing, lumber, rock wool, cement, and paint were released under control of this office to units requisitioning same for legitimate purposes.

3. Change 2 to Administrative Order No. 9 was distributed to XX Corps units on 15 October 1944. New locations of supply and service units were announced. Many XX Corps units were billeted in French buildings during the period covered by this report and an Accommodations Section was set up in the Corps G-3 Section to take care of the details of this billeting. Units were ordered to prepare water-cooled engines for cold weather operation - sufficient antifreeze to be added so that coolant would withstand a temperature of zero degrees fahrenheit. Supply of antifreeze was slow and many units had not received their required amount by the end of the period covered by this report. Corps Engineer reported on 16 October that Engineer combat units were currently using flamethrowers and rockets against the MAGINOT line fortifications in the vicinity of HETTANGE GRANDE. Corps troops were able to do additional maintenance work on equipment during October because of their static missions and opportunities in training and rehabilitation areas. The 5th Infantry Division especially needed the relief period it was given from 21-30 October 1944. This was the first time that this Division had been offered the opportunity of rehabilitation in the French campaign of 1944. Captured materiel released to XX Corps units during the latter half of the period covered were sheet metal, lumber, coal, wall board, paper bags, ammunition carts, and double-deck bunks.

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(wooden), and explosives (ARGONNE FOREST). Due to shortage of replacement tubes, Tank Destroyer guns firing in an artillery role during this period were restricted to ten (10) rounds per gun per day on an accumulative basis except in cases of emergency. Allocation of gasoline continued on a daily basis to each Infantry Division, and Corps and Army troops within the XX Corps area. The expenditure of ammunition continued to be rationed throughout the period. Purchasing and Contracting Officers were appointed to carry out such duties as were required in the following staff sections: Engineer Groups and Corps Ordnance. This was necessary because of the need which had arisen at this time to secure by purchase such supplies which the French and the people of LUXEMBOURG had for sale. On 28 October 1944 the Corps Engineers announced that a treadway bridge was open for traffic over the MOSELLE river at PAGNY replacing a heavy ponton bridge at the same site. It was necessary to keep bridge operations smoked during this period because of continuous enemy artillery falling all along the MOSELLE river. Several times during this period bridges installed by XX Corps Engineers were destroyed by enemy artillery.

4. During the month, the 3 truck companies attached to XX Corps dispatched 417 vehicles, carrying approximately 500 tons of supplies. Vehicle miles totaled 34,722. Two of the truck companies were held on 3-hour alert for use in motorizing R.C.T held in Corps Reserve. G-4 Traffic Control handled the reception of the 95th Infantry Division, 12 to 15 October. Five trainloads of personnel and two trainloads of equipment were received at BARONCOURT between 12 and 14 October, personnel being shuttled to Division assembly area in the vicinity of NORROY by 4049 QM Truck Co. Motor elements entered Corps zone at ETAIN beginning 13 October and closing 151200 October. Corps guides picked up column at ETAIN, separating 95th Inf Div elements from Ninth Army elements at that point. Ninth Army elements diverted north.

5. Largest traffic problems were presented by switch-over of 95th and 5th Infantry Divisions during period 17 October 1944 to 22 October 1944, and by three-way switchover between 5th, 95th, and 90th Infantry Divisions. This operation began 31 October and was still in progress at end of period. The latter maneuver, which involved moving the 5th Inf Div south into 95th Inf Div zone, the 95th Div north to the zone of the 90th Division, and withdrawing the 90th Division to rearward training and reserve area, had to be accomplished on two lateral routes - IC67 and N52B. The situation was further complicated by arrival of the 10th Armored Division, the first serial of which entered XX Corps zone on N-3, 291600 October. Entire movement of 10th Armored Division, which continued through end of period, cut directly across only lateral routes available in switching of 5th and 95th Infantry Divisions. Three of four columns of 10th Armored Division had closed in division area in vicinity of MARS-IA-FOUR by 312400 October.

XX Corps
SECTION V - G-5 SUMMARY

OCTOBER

2. - Det C2C2 has been made responsible for supply and administration of DP Camps at Piennes, Ludelage and Errouville. French Welfare Teams are assigned to conduct normal operation of Camps.
4. - Instructed Det C2C2 to pick up Displaced Persons from vicinity of Moyeuivre and Thionville and deliver them to one of the UP Camps. Capt Callaway made spot check of guards and MPs in Corps area as to handling of civilian circulation.
5. - Det C2C2 placed in control of all DP installations and operations in north portion of Corps zone. (See Daily Summary 6 Oct 44). AC of S, G-5, conferred with Corps Provost Marshal regarding enforcement of Corps Commander's directive on Civilian Control (See Annex "C" for details).

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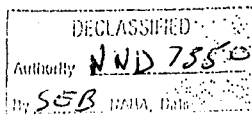
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After Action Report, XX Corps dtd 16 Nov 1944 (Cont'd)

6. - At request of this section Prefect of Moselle Dept has had circulation directives of Corps Commander reproduced in French for posting. (See Annex "C" for copy). Mr. San S. Angell, ARC Field Representative, Civilian War Relief, attached to section and reported for duty.
7. - CAO, 90th Inf Div, reported he has no further use for Gendarmes and FFI assigned to his organization. Gendarmes will be returned to Mars la Tour FFI through G-2 channels. CA Specialist Reserve Officers were placed on temp dy with 2d Transport Platoon (See Journal Entry No. 38).
8. - Received notification that Prefect of Moselle Dept will move his Hq from Mars la Tour to Hayange, effective 101600 October 1944. The section of the National Gendarmerie, intended for operation in Metz, will retain Hq in Mars la Tour.
9. - Lt Col Libcke conferred with the PM and the Chief of Staff with regard to effective road blocks and control of civilian circulation. Also oriented security group from Corps Artillery on civilian circulation.
- ✓ 10. - AC of S, G-5, detailed to escort General Marshall on his tour through the XX Corps Zone.
11. - Request made to G-5 Section, Third Army, that action be taken to relieve industrial problem in northeastern portion of Corps zone (See Journal Entry 51). Meeting was held in office of Sous Prefect, Briey (See Journal Entry 52). French posters designating military roads were posted in Corps zone (See Annex "C").
12. - Luxembourg Dets and 83d Inf Div passed to control of VIII Corps. Arranged with G-5 Section, Third Army, to secure supply of civilian food from Verdun for 5th Inf Div CA Section. G-2 reported Gendarmerie issuing passes at Hayange. Arranged with CO, Det D7C2, to pick up passes.
13. - All British CA Officers of Company H were ordered to report to Third Army on 15 October 1944.
14. - Supply Officer, G-5 Section, Third Army, reported an allocation of POL for civilian use (See Journal Entry No. 67).
15. - French Administrative In Officers reported to section for assignment. (See Journal Entry No. 72). Chief CA Officer, 5th Inf Div, reported 700 people to be evacuated from front line towns. Will provide own transportation.
16. - Chief CA Officer with two officers and chief clerk from CA Section, 95th Inf Div, reported for orientation and materials. Mr. Weir, Miss Dalgren and Mrs. Adams, ARC, reported from Esch and were attached to Det C2C2.
18. - CAO, 90th Inf Div, reported meeting of Mayors at Hettange-Grande, 201300 October, to discuss civilian circulation and evacuation of towns.
19. - CAO, 90th Inf Div, requested help from MG Dets awaiting assignments to Germany (See Journal Entry No. 89).
20. - Plans were completed for use of MG Dets personnel on temporary basis (See Daily Summary, Oct 21, 1944). Prefect of Moselle Dept called to pay his respects and was received by Maj Borchert. Chief CA Officer, 95th Inf Div, reported Det D5C2 had received orders to return to ECAD (See Journal Entry No. 95).
21. - AC of S, G-5, accompanied Chief of Staff to CP of 90th Inf Div to confer with Division Commander and Chief of Staff on civilian control measures. PM, CIC Officer and officer from MG Det held conference at this office to consider problems of exchange and sale of Army supply items for civilian items and favors. Maj Flecher, French, requested plan for removal of wheat from fwd combat area (See Journal Entry No. 100).

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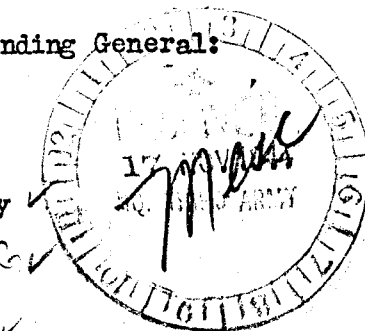
- 22 - Capt Vincent, CA Officer, 5th Inf Div, brought MG Det officers in for orientation. AC of S, G-4, and G-5 with FM completed plans for Corps Circulation Control Point. (See Annex "C"). French EM secured for Ord Section through French Ln Officer reported (See Journal Entry No. 105).
- 23 - Capt Callaway and Cpl Lybas assisted in the operation of a civilian circulation check point at Hayange. Lt Col Conley reported to this section to observe Civil Affairs operations for one week. JA, XX Corps, conferred with AC of S, G-5, on Military Courts with relation to his section. Lt Mackie, MG Det, reported to Det D6C2 to assist Capt Boice, Det Comdr and Town Major. Det D5C2 ordered to report to ECAD.
- 24 - Det D5C2 reported departure from Pagny to join ECAD, leaving that area without CA detachment service.
- 25 - Sgts Hovey and Baker represented G-5 in the operation of civilian circulation check point at Knutange. Det B1C2, reserved for Metz, moved from Thionville to Nilvange. Because of enemy activity in Thionville the unnecessary presence of any military personnel is undesirable. B1C2 will provide temporary Civil Affairs operations in Hayange. Det C1I2 attached by G-5 Section, Third Army, to XX Corps. At present detachment is operating DP Center in Briey. Det D1C2 moved from Thionville to Moyeuvre where they are now operating, under 90th Div control.
- 26 - Conference held with AC of S, G-4, and AG regarding use of present DP Camp at Briey for housing Rear Echelon, XX Corps. Capt Barry, MII, called regarding shooting of Frenchman by American soldier (See Journal Entry No. 126).
- 27 - AC of S, G-5, and Chief of Staff inspected DP Camp site at Briey. AC of S, G-5, arranged for use of DP labor in rear areas (See Journal Entry No. 129)
- 28 - Det D6C2 was reported for duty with XX Corps and were assigned to operate at Pagny under 95th Inf Div control. Investigation made of possibility of obtaining salt from salt mine in Corps zone for precessing and packing cabbage in Hayange area. Approximately 40 tons of salt needed.
- 29 - Arrangements completed for evacuation of DPs from Briey. Camp site to be used to house Corps rear echelon.
- 30 - It was requested of G-5 Section, Third Army, that Miss Eva Dalgren presently assigned to Det C2C2 be transferred to CA Section, 90th Inf Div, since her thorough knowledge of the customs and community organization of the French Dept and fluent ability to speak French would be invaluable in view of potential problem of evacuees and refugees in Division area. CO Detachment D7C2 reported that MG Det members will return to Joudreville, 31 Oct, for move to Nancy.
- 31 - Det C2D2 reported and were assigned for duty in and around Thionville under 90th Inf Div control. Det C1I2 moved from Briey DP Camp to billets in Hayange, where they will handle DPs and refugee problems in the Hayange area. CAO and Asst CAO, 10th Armd Div, reported for orientation and instructions. They are located at Mars la Tour.

For the Commanding General:

10 Incls:

- Incl 1.- G-1 Journal ✓
- 2.- G-1 Daily Summary ✓
- 3.- G-2 Journal ✓
- 4.- G-3 Journal ✓
- 5.- G-3 Opns Ins ✓
- 6.- G-3 Periodic Rpt ✓
- 7.- G-4 Journal ✓
- 8.- G-5 Journal ✓
- 9.- G-5 Daily Sum ✓

10.- Civilian Control ✓
(ORIGINALS ONLY)



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

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