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HEADQUARTERS XX CORPS

APO 340

U. S. ARMY

DECEMBER 1944



220-334

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 December 1944 to 31 December 1944.

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

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

HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMY
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SECTION I - NARRATIVE

1. This report of Combat Operations of XX Corps of the Third US Army in France and Germany for the inclusive period 1 December to 31 December 1944 is submitted in accordance with provisions of par. 10 (Change #3) AR 345-105. The initial period (1-3 December, inclusive) was spent in the conclusion of the mission of clearance of the enemy west of the SAAR River in XX Corps zone. The 90th Infantry and 95th Infantry Divisions were occupied in pursuit of an enemy that was withdrawing into Germany east of the SAAR River and behind the protection of the Siegfried Line. On 3 December, this phase of the Corps activities was concluded with the surprise seizure of the 95th Infantry Division of a bridge intact over the SAAR River at (Q282802) in the city of SAARLAUTERN.

2. While bitter house to house fighting ensued in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead, the 90th Infantry Division regrouped in its zone to the north and on the 6th of December made an assault crossing of the SAAR River in the vicinity of DILLINGEN (Q2584). Fighting of a house to house nature was encountered east of the SAAR River during the establishment of the bridgehead (6-20 December). Fortified positions were reduced one at a time. In the face of constant counterattacks and unprecedented enemy artillery fire, the infantry moved slowly forward until DILLINGEN was cleared of the enemy and the first belt of forts of the Siegfried Line was breached at SAARLAUTERN. To exploit, expand and link these two bridgeheads the 5th Infantry Division was committed in the SAARLAUTERN area. Prior to this time the 5th Infantry had reduced the remaining enemy fortifications around METZ and had thereafter conducted a training program preparatory to this commitment. The 10th Armored Division that had made several river crossing feints in the northern zone, was ordered on the authority of higher headquarters to move to LUXEMBOURG (17 December) to counter the enemy threat in the VIII Corps sector.

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3. On the 20th of December, upon orders from higher headquarters, XX Corps retired east of the SAAR River to occupy a defensive position generally along the SAAR River with two divisions abreast - the 90th Infantry Division on the north and the 95th Infantry Division on the south. Pressure was maintained on the enemy and continued offensive actions were represented until the last moment before withdrawal. Maximum demolition and destruction of houses and pillboxes were executed prior to and during the withdrawal. The 90th Infantry Division withdrew its troops east of the SAAR River by 0800 hours, 22 December, and prepared to defend a sector from NOHN (Q1399) to the NEID River (Q2288) (both inclusive). The 3d Cavalry Group moved to defend the left flank of XX Corps along the terrain corridor on the north between the MOSELLE and SAAR River. 5th Infantry Division was withdrawn from SAARLAUTERN bridgehead and assembled north and east of KOENIGSMACKER (U942896). On the 21st of December the 5th Infantry Division moved North to the vicinity of LUXEMBOURG and was attached to XII Corps for participation in the attack of Third US Army to counter the German threat in that area. The 95th Infantry Division, with elements of two RCT's took up the defense of the bridge and previously won positions in SAARLAUTERN.

4. For the remainder of the month, XX Corps held its sector with two divisions and repulsed all enemy attempts to cross west of the SAAR River.

SECTION II - G-1 SUMMARY

1. GENERAL:

During December the XX Corps units took prompt and effective advantage of the reduction of the Metz fortified area. The divisions drove the enemy before them across the Saar Valley and stormed across the Saar River at Saarlautern and Dillingen. The battle then resolved itself into bitter house-to-house fighting, with efforts being made by XX Corps elements to penetrate the Siegfried Line. Due to the bitter close in fighting, casualties were numerous and demands for reinforcements insistent. Individual feats of heroism were many and immediate attention and service was given the requests of combat units of the XX Corps by the G-1 Section.

2. REINFORCEMENTS:

Requests for reinforcements occasioned by intensive fighting found the Reinforcement System unable to meet the full demands of combat units for reinforcements necessary to keep them up to Tables of Organization strength. It became necessary, by Army directive, to draw qualified personnel as reinforcements from Army and Corps troops for assignment to divisions. However, during the latter part of the month the Reinforcement System was able to furnish numerous reinforcements to divisions and during the period of 1-31 December, 8,081 reinforcements were furnished to units under XX Corps.

3. PRISONERS OF WAR:

Due to the tactical situation, and defensive measures employed by XX Corps Units during the latter part of December, not many prisoners of war were taken. One of the two collecting points in the Corps zone which was located in the vicinity of Class I supply point was discontinued. The divisions attached to Corps were using their organic supply vehicles in evacuating prisoners of war from division collecting to Corps collecting points. From Corps collecting points, Army furnished special personnel and trucks to evacuate the prisoners of war to the Army enclosure. During the month of December, 6404 prisoners of war were captured and evacuated by units of the XX Corps.

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4. BURIALS:

Body Collecting points had been established with one for each of the divisions and were located in their quartermaster area. The 3048th Graves Registration Company, under Army control, maintained the efficient processing and evacuation of the dead. Corps troops utilized the Division collecting points in their evacuation.

5. DECORATIONS AND AWARDS:

The Corps Awards and Decorations Board considered 480 recommendations for Decorations and Awards during the month of December. The following decorations were awarded by the Corps Commander: twenty four (24) Silver Stars; one hundred and seventy seven (177) Bronze Star Medals; eighteen (18) Air Medals; sixty (60) Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal; and seven (7) Soldier's Medals. The following recommendations were sent to higher headquarters for approval: one (1) recommendation for the Congressional Medal of Honor; eighteen (18) Distinguished Service Crosses; two (2) Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters to the Distinguished Service Cross; two (2) Distinguished Service Medals; eight (8) Legion of Merits; and one (1) Distinguished Flying Cross.

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 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 CAPTURED	WOUNDED OR (HOSP)	SICK OR INJURED (HOSP)	TOTAL	REIN-FORCE-MENTS	PW CAPTD
5th Inf Div	50	191	427	695	1363	1718	2300
35th Inf Div	0	0	0	49	49	968	0
90th Inf Div	152	51	915	1222	2340	2909	1326
95th Inf Div	295	205	1451	625	2576	1192	2524
6th Armd Div	5	0	19	64	88	89	53
10th Armd Div	28	11	97	490	626	553	100
Corps Troops	46	7	211	574	838	652	101
TOTAL	576	465	5120	3719	7880	8081	6404

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SECTION III - G-2 SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION. - December was an eventful month on the Western Front. It saw heretofore retreating enemy strike back with a counter offensive to our N which broke through our lines and made a deep penetration. While this did not occur in XX Corps zone, it is mentioned because of its effect on the operation in this zone. During the month the enemy in XX Corps zone completed his withdrawal into the prepared defenses of the SIEGFRIED Line and there held steadfastly, resisting development of our bridgeheads.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD.

a. Prelude.

(1) At the opening of the month the enemy held the general line: NENNING (LO204) - KESSLINGEN (LO902) - STAUDT (Q1697) - HILBRINGEN (Q1893) - FREMERS - DORF (Q2190) - ITZBACH (Q2284) - FELSBERG (Q2477) - UBERHERRN (Q2472) - higher ground vic (Q2066) - ASPENHUBEL (Q2662) - MERLEBACH (Q3261). He had suffered a costly defeat at METZ and thw MOSELLE River and was withdrawing to his SIEGFRIED Line defenses E of the SAAR River under extreme pressure of our troops. In the N sector of the Corps zone our advance had been stopped along a strong defensive line BESCH (LO102) - TETTINGEN (LO402) - OBERLEUKEN (LO801) - NOHM (Q1399) - DREISBACH (Q1599) where the enemy resisted determinedly from prepared defensive installations and obstacles. Our attempt to penetrate this line in a hurry having failed, the main effort of our attack was thrown against the SIEGFRIED Line E of the SAAR River. In the vic of METZ four of the forts continued to hold out. They were FTS DRIANT, JEANNE D'ARC, ST QUENTIN, and PLAPPEVILLE. These were not a serious inconvenience to us, however, and were contained until one by one they surrendered when their ammunition and food supplies ran low or were exhausted.

b. SAAR River Line.

(1) On 3 December the 95th U.S. Inf Div, after having cleared the enemy from W of the SAAR River at SAARLAUTERN (Q2880), made a crossing of the river N of that city. The bridge at (Q282803) was captured intact. The initial opposition to our crossing showed an amazing lack of coordination and energy. Later, however, opposition stiffened and heavy arty fire was reported E of the River. In SAARLAUTERN - RODEN (Q2882) and FRAULAUTERN (Q2981) the enemy had withdrawn into the well prepared and strong defensive positions of the SIEGFRIED Line. These defenses consisted of pillboxes, bunkers, and blockhouses, many of which were disguised as houses, barns and other types of buildings. A second crossing of the SAAR River was made on 5 Dec by the 95th Inf Div at ENSDORF (Q3079). This crossing was met initially with heavy small arms fire which increased as the operation progressed. To this was added heavy arty and mortar fire, and expansion of the bridgehead was slow and bitterly contested.

(2) To the N the 90th U.S. Inf Div and 10th Armd Div had advanced to the SAAR River and had cleared the enemy from W of the river, from DRIESBACH (Q1490) to vic (Q3076) S of ENSDORF.

(3) On 6 Dec the 90th U. S. Inf Div established a bridgehead across the SAAR River vic DILLINGEN (Q2684) in the face of severe automatic weapons and mortar fire. Arty fire was light to moderate, however, probably due to the high intensity of our arty counterbattery preparation. Pillboxes overrun or by-passed delivered heavy fire on our troops. Severe house to house fighting developed in DILLINGEN. On 8 December the 90th U. S. Inf Div received a severe counterattack on its bridgehead from an estimated 600 enemy infantry and 6 tanks. The attack came from NE and E and spread through the town of DILLINGEN until each street was a separate battlefield. Tanks roamed from street to street and intersection.

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delivering frontal and enfilade fire on our troops. Small arms and MG fire was reported as heavy and accurate. DILLINGEN was reported to be a natural fort, many of its buildings having thick concrete walls, some of them undoubtedly reinforced for defense. The enemy succeeded in making some penetration of our lines during the attack, but at the close of the day our lines were reestablished. There is little doubt but that this was a determined enemy effort to destroy us in the bridgehead and throw us back across the SAAR River. This attempt was repeated on each of the following three days, but each attack was equally unsuccessful and our bridgehead remained secure. The expansion of the bridgehead, however, was a difficult and slow operation.

(4) We were now firmly established in three bridgeheads. Further expansion of these was a difficult and tedious task. The beaten enemy who had retreated from the MOSELLE River was now fighting from the formidable defensive installations of the SIEGFRIED Line. Here were defenses of all types of concrete and steel including extensive antitank obstacles, houses and buildings with reinforced walls and basements, and other ordinary appearing buildings which were in reality camouflaged pillboxes. Furthermore, the enemy had made good use of the time available to him by digging many field fortification to supplement the permanent defenses. While the personnel manning these positions were not particularly good soldiers, and in some cases lacked even basic infantry training, they nevertheless were a very formidable foe when fighting from the comparative safety provided by the walls of concrete and steel which made up their positions. To this array of fortifications must also be added arty fire from numerous field pieces supplementing the weapons of the SIEGFRIED Line. The fighting was bitter, and our progress slow. The enemy clung doggedly to his positions and had to be driven from each one. In the DILLINGEN bridgehead the enemy had some success with infiltration tactics, hampering our supply operations.

(5) With the opening of the German counter offensive in the N on 16 Dec, the mission of the Corps was changed to one of defensive along the SAAR River. The withdrawal from the DILLINGEN and ENSDORF bridgeheads was successfully accomplished without exciting undue attention on the part of the enemy. Beginning 22 Dec and continuing through to the end of the period there was a marked increase in enemy air activity over the Corps sector. Most of the sorties flown were reconnaissance missions, but a number of bombing and strafing incidents were reported. On 26 Dec, the most active day, there were an estimated 83 hostile aircraft over the Corps sector. Some instances of the use of American P-47s by the enemy were reported, but there was no positive verification of these reports at the close of the period. Except for this air activity there was no more major action on the part of the enemy for the remainder of the period. His activities consisted only of patrolling and light, harassing and interdictory arty fire on a much decreased scale. At the close of the period the enemy occupied the general line: - N of BESCH (LO12016) - TETTINGEN (LO45026) - OBERLEUKEN (LO82018) - SE to approximately (L120992) - E to SAAR River. S along E bank SAAR River to (Q275816) - (Q280820) - (Q295814) - (Q302805) - to SAAR River at (Q299809) - S along E bank SAAR River to Corps S boundary vic WERDEN (Q3571).

3. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE DURING DECEMBER

a. 416 Inf Div. - At the beginning of the month 416 Inf

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Div was considered in control of the area GREVENMACHER (LO620) - NENNING (LO204) - METTLACH (L1700), with elements of 712 Gren Regt disposed in the OBERLEUKEN (LO801) - DREISBACH (Q1599) area, and with 58 Fortress MG Bn outposted in the fortifications along the line NENNING-OBERLEUKEN. The garrison of the MOSELLE line from GREVENMACHER to NENNING was never very clear, but is thought to have consisted in the main of fortress and other GHQ battalions throughout the month of December. 416 Inf Div appears to have taken full advantage of the strong defensive positions in the SAAR-MOSELLE triangle to withdraw its major elements from the line for refitting, and to train the replacements it received. Of the garrison along the MOSELLE River, 44 Fortress MG Bn was identified towards the middle of the month in the NITTE (LO618) area. On or about 20 December a battalion composed of personnel from 278 Gren Ers Bn (M) (personnel with stomach disorders) took over a sector in the NENNING area, and was identified as Bn KLEIN (also known as Bn WESEL-DUESSELDORF). 41 GAF Fortress Bn appeared in the line in the OBERLEUKEN-ORSCHOLZ (L1201) area at about the same time, but left soon afterwards for XV U. S. Corps sector, where it was identified 1 Jan. The departure from XX Corps front of 19 Gren Div (for an attack in XV Corps front) during the last week of December forced 416 Inf Div to extend its sector S along the SAAR as far as BECKINGEN (Q2488), apparently employing 714 Gren Regt for this purpose. 58 Fortress MG Bn and Bn KLEIN also departed for XV Corps sector towards the end of the month, and 713 Gren Regt, out of contact during most of December, had to be committed in the sector NENNING-OBERLEUKEN.

b. 19 Gren Div. - 19 Gren Div held a sector along the SAAR from METTLACH to BECKINGEN at the beginning of December. As later PW interrogations brought forth, about 1000 GAF replacements were distributed to the various divisional units in the early days of December. Many of these had already been in training in the division's Kampfschule during the latter part of November. Also present in 19 Gren Div's sector were the remnants of 1216 Gren Regt (462 VG Div), as Kampfgruppe NIETSCHE. With our attack across the SAAR River at SAARLAUTERN (Q2879), and later at DILLINGEN (Q2784), major elements of 19 Div were committed to contain our bridgeheads. Most of these forces were in action at DILLINGEN, but at least the II Bn of 73 Gren Regt was sent to the SAARLAUTERN area. 59 Gren Regt, which had been reforming in the MERZIG (Q2094) area, was committed in its entirety, and soon was reduced to Kampfgruppe stage. 73 Gren Regt also committed both battalions, but 74 Gren Regt fared somewhat better, as only the I Bn was identified in action. The division must have received a fair amount of replacements during December, for during the last week of the month the unit was relieved of its sector on our front, and committed against XV U. S. Corps, apparently still strong enough to function as a weak divisional unit. The division's former sector along the SAAR River was taken over by 714 Gren Regt of 416 Inf Div.

c. 21 Pz Div. - At the beginning of December, II Bn 125 Pz Gren Regt, the last unit of the division to remain in this area, was retreating across the SAAR in the DREISBACH area, while elements of 192 Pz Gren Regt were identified in the fighting in the ST BARBARA (Q2381) area, at the approaches to SAARLAUTERN. By 5 December all the infantry elements of the division were identified in the battle for SAARLAUTERN, and by 8 December all elements were in contact in the SAARLAUTERN-DILLINGEN area. The division had evidently been waiting for replacement tanks because some tank personnel was encountered in an infantry role for a short period. After

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8 December some tanks of the division were encountered in action on this front. By 10 December a good deal of the service personnel of the division was combed out and put into Alarm companies. On 12 December I Bn, 192 Pz Gren Regt appeared on Seventh U. S. Army front, and PW statements indicated that the rest of the division expected to be relieved. 21 Pz Div was relieved in the DILLINGEN sector by the newly arrived 719th Inf Div, but elements continued in contact in the RODEN (Q2882) - FRAULAUTERN (Q2981) area until approximately 20 December as Einsatz Regt LIEHR. This Kampfgruppe was formed with the above mentioned four Alarm companies (supply and service personnel mostly), plus elements of 125 Pz Gren Regt, 21 Pz Rcn Bn, 148 Feldersatz Bn, and personnel from 19 Div's Kampfschule. Contact with 21 Pz Div on Seventh U. S. Army front was only light, and towards the end of the month the division was again out of contact, and supposedly reorganizing.

d. 559 Gren Div. - Severely battered and understrength, even though reinforced with personnel from the destroyed 48 Inf Div, 449 Gren Div retreated across the SAAR in the SAARLAUTERN-ENSDORF (Q3078) area at the beginning of the month. The division at this time operated as Kampfgruppe MUEHLEN, which included personnel not only from the infantry elements of the division, but also comb-outs from the divisional services. KG MUEHLEN attempted a stand in the BERUS (Q2474) - NEU FORWEILER (Q2777) area during the first days of the month, but later fell back, withdrew across the SAAR, and fought hard in the ENSDORF area, aided by 486 Panzer Zerstoerer Bn. By 12 December only one of the regiments, the 1126, was still in contact (outside of miscellaneous divisional elements), and it was assumed that the staffs and remaining cadre personnel of 1125 and 1127 Gren Regts had been withdrawn for reorganization. This assumption later on proved correct, when the division was reidentified in contact in XV U. S. Corps sector early in January 1945. 1126 Gren Regt remained in contact in the ENSDORF area until our withdrawal from that bridgehead took place during the latter part of the month. A III Bn had been formed for the regiment as Kampfgruppe BEYER, incorporating remnants from various divisional units, and personnel from 559 Ausbildungs Bn. Relief of 449 Gren Div in the ENSDORF sector seems to have taken place during the last few of December, and it is assumed that 719 Inf Div took over this area. The appellation KG MUEHLEN appears to have been dropped around 14 December, and the division resumed its former designation. This is taken as evidence of the arrival of substantial replacements at this time, enabling the division to proceed with its reorganization. Also on 14 December PW statements indicated that the remaining personnel of 48 Inf Div, then serving with 559 Gren Div, were being recalled, thus implying the reorganization of 48 Inf Div.

e. 719 Inf Div. - This division had been reorganizing in the DORDRECHT (Holland) area until the middle of November. During this time it received a fair amount of GAF replacements. The division left Holland during the second half of November, and first elements arrived in TRIER (L2129) 2 December. The III Bn, 723 Gren Regt moved to the DILLINGEN area during the night of 2/3 December. By 9 December the division had relieved elements of 21 Pz Div in the DILLINGEN area. Both the III Bn, 723 Gren Regt, and the I Bn, 743 Gren Regt, were identified in action by 10 December. II Bn, 743 Gren Regt was identified in SAARLAUTERN-RODEN on 12 December, thus beginning the relief of elements of 21 Pz Div here (all but Einsatz Regt LIEHR). Throughout December only the I and III Bns of 723 Gren Regt, and the I and II Bns of 743 Gren Regt were identified in action. It is expected that the other two battalions were still in the process of formation. The division suffered considerable losses during the month, a large part of it being due to the inexperience

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of some of its personnel. (About 50% of the division were said to be former GAF personnel with insufficient infantry training). With the departure of 449 Gren Div, towards the end of December, it was assumed that 719 Inf Div took over this sector. Disposition of elements of the division were not clear at this time, but 723 Gren Regt is thought to have taken over the sector RODEN to S of BECKINGEN, while 743 Gren Regt occupied the defenses in the area FRAULAUTERN to N of BUSS (Q3175).

f. 130 Pz Lehr Div. - Contact with this division was very during December Elements of II Bn, 192 Pz Gren Regt were identified in a counterattack in the FELSBERG (Q2477) area on the 2 December. It is believed that these troops had been withdrawn from our front 5 December.

g. 347 Inf Div. - Major elements of the division were in contact in the FELSBERG (Q2477) - KREUZWALD (Q2468) sector during the first days of December. By 7 December it appeared that a large part of the division was retreating across the SAAR River in the BUSS VOELKLINGER (Q3572) area, only to be committed again along a line from (Q3570) to (Q3568) where they dug in, taking advantage of strong defensive positions. The Ausbildungs Bn of the division was to the SAARLAUTERN area about 16 Dec. During the middle of the month the main sector held by 345 Inf Div passed out of XX Corps control due to boundary changes between corps, but through later changes was picked up again on 21 December, only to be relinquished anew a few days later.

h. 36 Gren Div. - At the beginning of December this division retreated in a general NE direction towards the area VOELKLINGEN-SAARERUECKEN (Q4671). With an Eastward shift of its left flank neighbor (17 SS Pz Gren Div), 36 Gren Div had to extend its sector to the SAAR river just N of SAARGEMUEND (Q5157), and by the month the division had in along defensive positions in the general area FOREBACH (Q3865) - GROSSBLITTERSDORF (Q4862). During the second half of December control of this sector was relinquished by XX Corps except for a short period around the 21 December. 36 Gren Div was stated by PW to be Corps reserve. Nevertheless, it stayed in the line throughout December, towards the end of the month shifting still further E into the sector previously held by 17 SS Pz Gren Div. Part of 36 Div's sector at this time was taken over by elements of 19 Gren Div.

i. Artillery. - During the first two-thirds of December the enemy achieved a considerable concentration of artillery on our front. A fair amount of this artillery strength was due to GHY units (see also paragraph under miscellaneous identifications). The most noteworthy of these GHY units were:

404 Volks Arty Corps - stated to have 6 battalions, containing pieces of various calibers up to and including 210mm.

Elm 42 Flak Regt (9 Flak Div).

Elm 27 Flak Regt (9 Flak Div).

31 Observation Bn - GHY unit first identified in the MERZIG area.

Towards the end of the month most of the artillery seems to have departed from our front (with the possible exception of some GHY fortress artillery formations).

j. Miscellaneous Identifications.

1151 Arty Bn (mtz) - Identified beginning December-S Sector.

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1 DECEMBER 1944:

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast and occasional showers. Visibility 1-4 miles.

Aviation: Eight groups of medium bombers attacked targets east of SAAR River in 95th Infantry Division zone with results not yet reported.

5 INF DIV: The 2d and 11th Infantry remained in position and contained enemy pockets of resistance. The 10th RCT (46th FA Bn, Co B 735th Tk Bn, Co B 818 TD Bn, Co B 7th Engr Bn, 5th Cav Rcn Tr and Co B 5th Med Bn attached) on the right flank of XX Corps attacked at 0800 to the northeast, advanced 1500 yards and at 1200 reverted to 5th Infantry Division control. At the same time the right flank sector of XX Corps was assigned to 5th Infantry Division. (The line of furthest advance being: (Q204696) - (Q220674) - (Q225655) - (Q235635)).

90 INF DIV: 357th Infantry (Co C 712th Tk Bn, 3d Plat Co B 773d TD Bn, attached). The 2d and 3d Battalions occupied SIERSDORF (Q219860) and EIMERSDORF (Q214901) while the 1st Battalion foot troops entered and seized BUREN (Q222854). 359th Infantry (Co B 712th Tk Bn attached) cleared zone to SAAR River bank and outposted the river line. The 358th Infantry remained in reserve.

95 INF DIV: The 377th Infantry advanced 1000-1500 yards on a broad front to occupy ITZBACH (Q2284) - FELSBERG (Q2477) - OBERFELSBERG (Q2478) - ST BARBARA (Q2382) and OBERLIMBERG (Q2383).

The 378th Infantry occupied BERUS (Q2575) in the morning and after air bombardment advanced 300 yards and captured ALT-FORWEILER (Q2576) and occupied the high ground east of UNTERFELSBERG (Q2577). The 379th during the afternoon, initiated movement to pass through 377th Infantry on right flank to attack towards SAARLAUTERN.

10 ARMD DIV: CCA attacked towards SAAR River at 0940. At 1115 TF STANDISH occupied SCHWEMLINGEN (Q1797) and in the afternoon relieved CCB, relief completed at 2030. TF RILEY in its attack towards DRIESBACH (Q152991) was held up by heavy artillery fire after an advance of 800 yards. CCB remained in position.

2 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast with light rains.

Aviation: Enemy installations and troop concentrations bombed in and around SAARLAUTERN with excellent results.

5 INF DIV: 2d and 11th Infantry remained in position and contained enemy in forts. 10th RCT attacked at 0800 to the northeast. 2d Battalion on the left advanced against light resistance approximately two miles to positions along the German border vicinity (Q238708) where positions were taken for the night. The 1st Battalion on the right (south) advanced about 1½ miles against medium resistance to vicinity (Q238704), cleared about one-half the buildings vicinity (Q236668) and reached edge of L'EICHENBERG (Q250660) where positions were taken for the night. The 3d Battalion was relieved during the morning by the 5th Ranger Battalion vicinity CARLING (Q258635) and moved to Regimental reserve behind the 1st Battalion.

90 INF DIV: 357th Infantry remained in position and cleared area of extensive minefields while elements of the 1st Battalion occupied REHLINGEN (Q240873) under cover of darkness. 359th Infantry remained in position while the 358th was continued as division reserve.

95 INF DIV: The 377th Infantry cleared enemy from ST BARBARA (Q238819) and began clearing road from ST BARBARA to WALLERFANGEN of mines. The 378th Infantry continued its advance 3000 yards and seized BISTEN (Q255735) - NEUFORWEILER (Q270768) and PIKARD (Q265783) after

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hard fighting. The 379th Infantry began moving through right of 377th Infantry zone at 0830, reached SAARLAUTERN at 1600 and had three companies in southwest edge of city at darkness.

10 ARMD DIV: CCA: TF STANDISH made a feint at crossing river vicinity MERZIG while TF RILEY occupied DREISBACH at 1205 and made a feint at crossing river vicinity DREISBACH in the afternoon.
CCB: Remained in position.

3 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Light rain throughout period with visibility limited to 3-5 miles.

Aviation: No missions flown due to weather. 90th Infantry Division ordered to cross SAAR River in zone at earliest practicable time.

5 INF DIV: Division (- 10 RCT) remained in position to contain enemy in forts in division area; 10th RCT continued (0730) attack to the northeast with 1st and 2d Battalions abreast and the 3d Battalion in reserve. Heavy enemy resistance was met, but by nightfall objective No. 2, the northeast tip (Q295695) of the FOREST de CARLS BRUNN, had been occupied after an advance of 4½ miles. Elements of the 6th Cavalry Group continued attack in direction of L'HOPITAL (Q270628).

90 INF DIV: 357th and 359th RCT made extensive reconnaissance along SAAR River in division zone in preparation for river crossing. 358th Infantry elements moved by motor to GUISINGEN (Q215820) - ST BARBARA (Q238819) - OBER-LIMBERG (Q230831).

95 INF DIV: 377th RCT captured BEAUMARAIS (Q263804). Pushed to river and captured NEIDER-LIMBERG (Q258819) and WALLERFANGEN (Q260815). At 1930 reverted to division reserve and assembled at WALLERFANGEN. 378th RCT continued attack at 0800 and at close of period was mopping up in LISDORF (Q291788) and had occupied the high ground overlooking the SAAR River. 379th RCT: At 0545 1st Battalion forced crossing of SAAR River vicinity (Q276812) and at 0725 had reached north end of bridge at (Q282803). Bridge was taken intact and removal of mines begun. Several counterattacks were repulsed north of the bridge and artillery and mortar fire was heavy. 1st Battalion mopped up on east side of river and Tank Destroyers and supplies crossed to them beginning 1540. 2d Battalion mopped up on west side of SAAR River. The 3d Battalion passed over bridge at (Q282802), taken at 0545 by a reinforced Company of the 1st Battalion. 3d Battalion passed through the 1st Battalion and attacked FRAULAUTERN (Q295813).

10 ARMD DIV: Continued mission of containing enemy in zone and teams of CCA staged crossing feints at three sites. TF STANDISH at MERZIG. TF RILEY at vicinity SCHWEMLINGEN and CCA Reserve vicinity DREISBACH.

4 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Light rain throughout period with visibility limited to 3-7 miles.

Aviation: No missions flown due to weather.

5 INF DIV: 2d RCT and 2d Battalion 11th Infantry remained in position to contain enemy forts in area. 2d and 3d Battalions 10th RCT (46th FA Bn, Cos B and D 735th Tk Bn, Co B 818th TD Bn and 5th Cav Gp, attached) continued advance through FOREST de CARLS BRUNN with 2d Battalion reaching positions south of FREIDRICHWEILER (Q285718) and the 3d Battalion reached positions west of LUDWEILER (Q325695), an advance of 2 miles. The 1st Battalion was in Regimental reserve. 11th RCT (- 2d Bn) 3d Battalion moved in reserve position to support attack of 10th RCT while 1st Battalion moved to vicinity of ST AVOLD (Q251580).

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The 6th Cavalry Group captured L'HOPITAL (Q270628).

90 INF DIV: 357th and 359th RCTs sent patrols across SAAR River during early morning and probed enemy defenses. 358th Infantry closed at 1600 hours and outposted river within zone.

95 INF DIV: 377th Infantry prepared to relieve elements of 379th RCT west of river. 3d Battalion relieved 2d Battalion 379th Infantry at 1930. 378th Infantry: 3d Battalion cleared LISDORF (Q292875) at 1700 and Regiment prepared to cross SAAR River in the morning. 379th Infantry: 1st Battalion consolidated its positions on east side of SAAR River while 2d Battalion mopped up SAARLAUTERN west of the river. 3d Battalion attack still in progress against heavy resistance.

10 ARMD DIV: Continued crossing demonstrations and contained enemy in zone.

5 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Light rain throughout the entire day. Aviation: Three missions flown. Bombs dropped through overcast on towns of LEBACH (Q401902) and THOLEY (Q4998) and at request of 95th Division the woods at (Q3074). Operations Instructions issued by which new boundaries were assigned between the 5th Infantry Division on the right (south) flank of XX Corps and the 95th Infantry Division. The new boundary ran as follows: BOULAY-MOSELLE (Q095657) - UBERHERRN (Q245726) (Exclusive to 95th Infantry Division) - BOUS (Q3175). 10th Armored Division upon being relieved by 3d Cavalry Group was to assemble 6 December north and east of KOENIGSMACKER and be prepared to exploit SAAR crossings of 90th and 95th Infantry Divisions.

5 INF DIV: 2d Combat Team (with 2d Battalion 11th Infantry attached) remained in position and contained enemy forts in division area. 10th Combat Team continued advance northeast 1200 yards to capture FREIDRICH-WEILER (Q285718) - DIFFERTEN (Q308718) and WERBELN (Q317722). Positions were taken in this vicinity for the night. 11th Infantry (- 2d Battalion); 1st Battalion closed in rear at 1600 hours while 3d Battalion on division right flank reached positions west of the ROSELLE River vicinity (Q337693) by nightfall. TF FICKETT advanced approximately four miles due east to capture CARLSBRUN (Q326645).

90 INF DIV: 357th and 359th Infantry, under cover of darkness, sent reconnaissance patrols across the SAAR River and into the SIEG-FRIED LINE. There they determined the location of more pillboxes and the conditions of the river banks. The 358th Infantry closed abreast of the 357th Infantry and began work on extending routes of communication and lines of supply.

95 INF DIV: 377th RCT completed movement to SAARLAUTERN at 1230 and began the relief of elements 379th Infantry. 378th RCT: 1st and 3d Battalions crossed SAAR River at 0600. Their attack east, 1st on the right (south) encountered small arms fire initially and then made little (150 yards) advance east against increasingly heavy small arms, mortar and artillery fire. 2d Battalion remained at ENSDORF (Q303790). 379th RCT (1st Plat Co B 778th Tk Bn added to attachments) 2d Battalion crossed to east side of SAAR River and attacked north through 1st Battalion 0700 hours. 3d Battalion continued its attack to the east on left of 2d Battalion to capture sector of SAARLAUTERN in zone and relief by elements of 377th RCT was begun.

10 ARMD DIV: Contained enemy in zone by aggressive patrolling.

6 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Light rain in early morning and low overcast in afternoon.

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Aviation: Three missions flown, two on vehicular activity in enemy rear areas and one mission bombed and damaged the bridge at SAARBURG.

5 INF DIV: All resistance ceased at FT ST QUENTIN (U820593) at 1300 hours in 2d Infantry area and 593 PWs were taken. 10th Infantry reached west bank of SAAR River vicinity WEHRDEN (Q346725) and the two bridges in sector at (Q347724) and (Q314748) were found destroyed. 11th Infantry (- 2d Battalion) with 1st Battalion still at CARLING the 3d Battalion crossed the ROSELLE River and advanced east approximately one mile. 6th Cavalry Group continued advance to west bank of ROSELLE River.

90 INF DIV: Attacked across SAAR River at 0415 with two regiments - the 357th on the left (north) and the 358th on the right (south). The 359th Infantry in reserve supported assault by direct fire. The 357th RCT (Co C 712th Tk Bn; Co A 315th Engr Bn (-1 Plat); Co C, 81st Cml Bn; Co A 315th Med Bn, attached) crossed the 1st (north) and 2d Battalions (right flank or south) and met small arms fire but little artillery. By 0930 hours the assault companies had pushed 2500 yards inland. Resistance then increased and heavy artillery was received with a stubborn defense made by enemy in pillboxes. 358th RCT (Co A, 712th Tk Bn; Co B, 315th Engr Bn; Co B, 81st Cml Bn; Co B, 315th Med Bn, attached) attacked with two battalions in assault; 1st on the right (south) and 3d Battalion on the left (north). By 0930 hours the 358th RCT had pushed 1500 yards inland to the railroad tracks in PACHTEN (Q2584) and DILLINGEN. By-passed pillboxes delayed bridging operations. Resistance began to stiffen in the afternoon and numerous concentrations of mortar and artillery shells were received which forced a temporary abandonment of bridging construction (Q249838) and ferry operations at (Q259828).

95 INF DIV: 3d Battalion 377th Infantry relieved 1st Battalion 379th Infantry east of SAAR River. 1st and 3d Battalions 378th Infantry continued attack to North and East. Enemy artillery fire in this zone denied completion of approaches to bridges and use of bridges. Foot bridge was knocked out by enemy artillery fire. Numerous pillboxes and reinforced buildings slowed progress considerably.

10 ARMD DIV: Upon order relief of units by TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) was commenced 1000 and TF POLK assumed command at 2000. Division commenced movement to assembly area north and east of KOENIGSMACKER.

7 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast until late afternoon with light rains in the afternoon and evening.

Aviation: No missions flown due to weather. Operations Instructions issued whereby elements 5th Infantry Division were to be withdrawn from METZ area upon relief by 87th Infantry Division.

5 INF DIV: 2d Infantry (2d Battalion 11th Infantry detached 0930) captured FT PLAPPEVILLE (Q818605) at 1200. 10th Infantry continued occupation of zone along SAAR River and mopping up small pockets of resistance in zone. 11th Infantry - 2d Battalion, closed 1200 at CARLING with 1st Battalion while TF FICKETT prepared to relieve 3d Battalion in 11th Infantry zone.

90 INF DIV: 357th RCT - enemy groups infiltrated to rear of positions and made it necessary to clear them out. 358th RCT: PACHTEN was mopped up during the day. 359th Infantry: Maintained fire support from the west bank of the SAAR River and continued diversionary moves.

95 INF DIV: 377th RCT: 1st Battalion remained on west side of SAAR River while 2d Battalion crossed at 0430 and attacked through the 3d Battalion 379th Infantry. Enemy resistance was heavy. 3d Battalion remained in position on east side of river and protected the captured

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bridge (Q282802). The 1st and 3d Battalions 378th Infantry continued to reduce pillboxes and bunkers in its sector and plans were made to cross the 2d Battalion to the east side of the river during night 7-8 December. 379th RCT resumed attack at 0730 with slow progress being made against tanks used as pillboxes. Two counterattacks were repulsed without loss of ground during the morning.

10 ARMD DIV: Closed in assembly area by 1350 hours and engaged in maintenance and training.

8 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Light intermittent rain throughout afternoon and evening.

Aviation: Eight (8) missions flown and enemy tank and troop concentrations and fortified positions bombed with apparently good results. Responsibility for METZ area passed to III Corps effective 1600 hours.

5 INF DIV: FT DRIANT (U772539) with 650 soldiers was captured at 1545 by 2d Infantry. Relief of 2d Infantry by 345th Infantry, 87th Infantry Division, began in afternoon. TF FICKETT relieved the 10th Infantry 2230 hours and the latter commenced regrouping in assembly areas. 11th Infantry closed (0920 hours) in assembly area vicinity LAUTERBACH (Q276654).

90 INF DIV: 357th RCT reorganized positions under heavy artillery fire and against continuous pressure to secure a supply route to advance Battalions (1st and 2d Battalions). 3d Battalion attacked South against strongly held pillboxes and infantry in an attempt to contact 358th Infantry on their right during afternoon. 358th RCT attacked at 0600 with 1st Battalion putting small elements (1 platoon) in the railroad station where a fierce fight ensued. 3d Battalion on left, aided by 2d Battalion in center, repulsed an enemy counterattack of 200 enemy and 5 tanks after fighting all day. 359th Infantry continued fire support from west bank of SAAR River.

95 INF DIV: Very little progress made east of SAAR River by attacking infantry. Numerous pillboxes, reinforced buildings, enemy tanks used as pillboxes and determined enemy resistance slowed up the advance. Enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire remained heavy during the period. 2d Battalion 378th Infantry crossed the SAAR River in assault boats during early morning hours.

10 ARMD DIV: Prepared for movement on XX Corps order and engaged in maintenance work and training.

9 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast with visibility from 2-4 miles throughout the day.

Aviation: Special medical supplies were successfully dropped to advance elements and DILLINGEN was bombed with no results reported due to poor visibility.

5 INF DIV: 2d Infantry (- Co I on guard at FT DRIANT) closed in assembly area 1500 hours vicinity GREUZWALD (Q243678). 10th and 11th Infantry conducted training in the assault on fortified positions, while TF FICKETT continued patrolling of zone.

90 INF DIV: 357th RCT protected left flank and 358th RCT attacked at 0700 hours but advance of 250 yards was stopped by heavy resistance. 359th RCT (Co B, 712th Tk Bn; Co C, 315th Engr Bn (- 1 plat); Co C, 315th Med Bn, attached) crossed SAAR River starting at 0001 to take up positions in center of Division line. A light holding force was maintained on the west side of the SAAR River.

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95 INF DIV: House to house advance continued against heavy enemy resistance. Approximately a block was cleared and the railroad station in SAARLAUTERN was captured. Enemy artillery, mortar and small arms remained heavy. Due to the rise in the river, bridging operations became difficult and the use of LVTs had to be discontinued, due to slippery condition of the east bank of the river. The foot bridge in the 378th Infantry zone was again blown out at 0800.

10 ARMD DIV: Division in rear assembly area continued in intensive training program.

10 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Overcast during day with light rain changing to snow late (2300 hours) in evening.
Aviation: Southeast corner of DILLINGEN (Q2784) bombed and many fires started.

5 INF DIV: Units reorganized and conducted training in the assault of a fortified position. TF FICKETT continued patrolling of the zone.

90 INF DIV: 357th RCT: While 1st and 2d Battalions maintained their positions against continuous enemy probing, the 3d Battalion, utilized elements freed by advance of 359th RCT to clear pillboxes in its area. 358th RCT, on the right, repulsed (0930 hours) enemy counter-attack and destroyed five enemy tanks that supported the attack. At 1900 the right flank of the 358th Infantry received a very heavy artillery concentration followed by an enemy counter-attack which was repulsed by artillery and small arms. 359th RCT: In morning 1st and 2d Battalions attacked to secure high ground north of DILLINGEN while 3d Battalion continued assault on forts to the south in an effort to contact the 358th Infantry. Attack of 1st and 2d Battalions made no progress being held up by an enemy company which infiltrated through to occupy entrenchments near 2d Battalion CP. In the afternoon this company was eliminated.

95 INF DIV: Advance continued very slowly against pillboxes, reinforced buildings and bunkers. House to house fighting continued and small enemy groups infiltrated behind the front lines. Approximately 15 pillboxes, 93 reinforced buildings and one tank were either destroyed or captured throughout the day.

10 ARMD DIV: Maintained a training program preparatory to commitment on XX Corps order.

11 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Light rain throughout the day with visibility limited from 2 to 4 miles.
Aviation: No missions flown due to weather.

5 INF DIV: Units reorganized and conducted training in the assault of a fortified position. TF FICKETT patrolled the zone.

90 INF DIV: All of the RCTs withstood constant small scale counter-attacks throughout the day. The counterattacks struck at all portions of the division zone. They were separate actions but each was in itself well coordinated and supported by armor and artillery. Vehicular ferrying operations were stopped by artillery fire but the resupply of battalions was successfully effected despite enemy artillery fire.

95 INF DIV: 379th RCT on the left (north) with the 1st (on the right) and 2d Battalions abreast continued the attack against heavy resistance. The 1st Battalion cleaned up one block in bitter house to house fighting while the 2d Battalion made slight progress on the left. The 3d Battalion continued to protect the gap between the regimental

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right flank and the 1st Battalion 377th RCT on its right. In the 377th Infantry sector (center) the 1st Battalion on the left advanced slowly to capture twelve houses and one pillbox while the 2d Battalion took two buildings and one pillbox. The 3d Battalion remained in reserve. The 378th RCT, on the right, with its three battalions committed, advanced 150 yards in the face of heavy artillery fire.

10 ARMD DIV: All units maintained and continued their training programs.

12 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Light intermittent rain throughout the morning. Overcast in afternoon with visibility limited to 2 to 5 miles. Aviation: Fighter bombers supported the 95th Infantry Division vicinity of SCHWALBACH in the morning. Three missions were flown by eight P-47's in the afternoon and enemy concentrations were bombed and strafed northeast of DILLINGEN.

5 INF DIV: All RCTs remained in assembly areas and conducted training in assault of a fortified position. TF FICKETT patrolled the zone.

90 INF DIV: 357th RCT redispersed its front line companies during the morning and at 1400 sustained an enemy counterattack of 200 infantry supported by two tanks and three SP Guns. The attack was repulsed after bitter fighting in which 135 enemy soldiers were killed and two tanks disabled. The 359th RCT, in the center, attempted to establish contact with the 358th RCT on the right but the patrols were repulsed by heavy enemy artillery fire. The 358th RCT with the 1st and 2d Battalions maintaining their positions, pushed the 3d Battalion South in an attempt to eliminate the salient on their right flank. Heavy fighting was in progress at the end of the period.

95 INF DIV: 377th RCT, (3d Battalion in reserve), in the center, advanced against somewhat lighter resistance to clear ten blocks of enemy in FRAULAUTERN. 378th RCT, on the right, continued work on pillboxes and advanced 150 yards to the east, capturing two pillboxes. Only normal supplies crossed the SAAR River in assault boats due to heavy artillery fire. Attempts to use Infantry-supported rafts were also unsuccessful due to the artillery fire. 379th RCT, on the left (north), attacked against stiff house to house resistance and cleared forty buildings.

10 ARMD DIV: All units continued training activities.

13 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: No rain, but visibility limited to 1-3 miles due to heavily overcast skies.

Aviation: No missions flown due to weather.

5 INF DIV: Units remained in assembly areas and conducted training in the assault of a fortified position. TF FICKETT continued patrolling the zone.

90 INF DIV: Ground contact was made by the exchange of patrols between the 358th Infantry and the 359th Infantry. The 357th Infantry, on the left (north) flank, repulsed a vicious counterattack with heavy losses to the enemy and widened the bridgehead area to the north by the capture of four additional pillboxes. The 358th Infantry, on the right (south), cleared the area west of the railroad tracks and north of PACHTEN. Seventeen tanks were ferried across the river to aid the infantry.

95 INF DIV: The 377th RCT sent the 1st and 2d Battalions east of the railroad where, in a continuation of previous days house to house

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fighting, fifty buildings were either seized or destroyed. The 3d Battalion continued to protect the captured bridge. In the 378th RCT zone, the 1st Battalion patrolled in vicinity of pillboxes on right of zone. The 2d Battalion in the center cleared enemy from twenty houses while the 3d Battalion, on the left, attempted to reduce four pillboxes but was unsuccessful due to heavy enemy fire. In the 379th RCT section the 1st Battalion continued its attack and reduced two bunkers by assault and another one surrendered. The 2d and 3d Battalions waged a building to building battle and cleared three more blocks.

10 ARMD DIV: All units continued the training program.

14 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Scattered rain with a low overcast limited visibility from 1-3 miles.

Aviation: A factory (Q2286) and troop concentrations in DILLENGEN were bombed by two flights of eight P-47's during the afternoon with excellent results.

5 INF DIV: Units reorganized and conducted training in the assault of a fortified position. TF FICKETT reorganized and regrouped units for future operations.

90 INF DIV: 357th RCT expanded bridgehead 200 yards by an attack of the 3d Battalion on the left. The 2d and 3d Battalions maintained their positions while the 2d Battalion in the center repelled an enemy counterattack of forty enemy infantry at 1500. The 359th RCT in the center cleaned out several pillboxes which had been re-occupied by the Germans. During the course of this operation the 1st Battalion in the center of the sector repulsed an enemy counterattack of 120 infantry with heavy losses inflicted on the enemy. In the 358th RCT sector, on the right flank the 1st and 2d Battalions maintained their positions while the 3d Battalion on the left advanced at 0730 to straighten the line and captured four pillboxes and sixty-six PWs.

95 INF DIV: The 379th RCT on the left attacked north and northeast against moderate to heavy resistance and captured approximately sixty buildings and destroyed or captured ten bunkers. The 377th RCT, in the center, advanced slowly against stiff resistance and heavy mortar fire to clear two blocks in SAARLAUTERN. The 378th RCT on the right flank advanced slowly against heavy small arms, machine gun fire and enemy flame-throwers to capture one pillbox and twenty-five buildings.

10 ARMD DIV: Training program was continued.

15 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Light intermittent rain throughout the day with visibility limited to 1-3 miles through the haze and fog that persisted during the day.

Aviation: Artillery positions east of PACHTEN bombed through the overcast in the afternoon without observation of the results due to the weather.

5 INF DIV: Units conducted training in the assault of a fortified position. TF FICKETT prepared for future operations and maintained patrols to the front and contact with XII Corps on the right flank.

90 INF DIV: 357th RCT, TF THOMPSON (AT Co, 1st and 2d Bn, AT Plats and elements Cannon Co) replaced the 1st Battalion (in the center) on the line. The 1st Battalion was withdrawn west of the SAAR for rehabilitation and rest while the 2d and 3d Battalions maintained their positions. The 358th RCT assaulted the line of pillboxes that guard DILLINGEN. By nightfall the line had been broken and 13 city blocks overrun. Resistance was strong, particularly at the church (Q26858395) and a group of buildings protected by pillboxes on the right near the PRIMIS River.

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359th RCT: The 3d Battalion advanced to maintain contact with the 358th Infantry on the left and enroute reduced the pillbox which had been firing into the left rear of the 358th RCT. At 1500 the 1st and 2d Battalions pushed forward against small arms fire to occupy the forward slopes of the hill immediately to their front.

95 INF DIV: In the 379th RCT sector the 2d Battalion maintained its position while the 1st and 3d Battalions continued the attack to the northeast against stiff resistance. Enemy artillery fire was heavy throughout the entire zone. Two city blocks and three pillboxes were destroyed or captured. In the center the 377th RCT advanced slowly with the 1st and 3d Battalions in assault to drive the enemy out of five pillboxes and eighty buildings during the day. The 378th RCT, on the right, with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast moved slowly forward against bitter house to house resistance. Several pillboxes and approximately seventy-five buildings were cleared of the enemy during the period. The 1st Battalion on the south patrolled in their zone and protected the division right flank.

10 ARMD DIV: Continued its training program and prepared for commitment on XX Corps order.

16 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Light rain in the morning with overcast skies for the remainder of the day. Visibility was limited to 1-3 miles.

Aviation: Troop concentrations at road junction at KORPRICH (Q3588) and in the town of HULZWILLER (Q3380) bombed with good results reported.

5 INF DIV: Continued training in assault of a fortified position. TF FICKETT relieved from attachment at 0915, (attached to III Corps).

90 INF DIV: 357th RCT held its positions and protected the advance of the 358th RCT in the center. Supplies continued to be manhandled by personnel from the AAA (537th AAA Bn) unit and Division Headquarters. In the 358th RCT sector enemy infiltrations made it necessary for front line companies to retrace their route of the day before, and mop up the area. Thirteen pillboxes were cleared and 130 PWs taken. The 359th RCT, on the right, likewise cleared out enemy positions on the forward slope of the hill, reduced two pillboxes and captured fifty PWs.

95 INF DIV: 379th RCT (left flank): The 2d Battalion, on the left, advanced through two city blocks and captured one pillbox. The 1st Battalion, in the center, cleared the enemy from four blocks in moderate fighting. The 3d Battalion, on the right, advanced slowly and was held up by a strategically located pillbox in its zone. The 377th RCT with all three of its battalions on the line cleared the enemy from four to five city blocks and two pillboxes and ninety-five houses were reported cleared or destroyed. In the 378th RCT (right flank) sector the 1st Battalion continued to protect the division right flanks with combat patrols. The 2d and 3d Battalions advanced against stiff enemy resistance to capture three pillboxes and approximately fifty buildings. A foot bridge over the SAAR River in the 378th Infantry sector was constructed during the night 15-16 December. Five 57mm AT Guns, one 75mm Gun and six prime movers were ferried across the river during the night 15-16 December while normal supply and evacuation were accomplished by assault boats.

10 ARMD DIV: Attached to VIII Corps as of 1800 and was prepared to move to assembly area vicinity LUXEMBOURG (P8415) in the morning 17 December.

17 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Overcast skies with visibility limited from 2-7 miles.

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Aviation: Five (5) missions flown. Troop concentrations, fortified positions, gun positions and railroad cars bombed with good results. Operational Instructions whereby 10th Armored Division was to move to assembly area vicinity LUXEMBOURG (P8415) at 0800 and 95th Infantry Division upon relief in SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area was to constitute one RCT (motorized) as Corps reserve.

5 INF DIV: 2d RCT (Co A 735th Tk Bn, Co A 818th TD Bn, Co A 7th Engr Bn, Co A 5th Med Bn, attached) assumed command (2330) and completed relief of 377th RCT 95th Infantry Division (2400 hours) in center of 95th Infantry Division zone. 11th RCT (Co C 735th Tk Bn, Co C 818th TD Bn, Co C 7th Engr Bn, Co C 5th Med Bn, attached) assumed command (1115) of Northern sector of 95th Infantry Division bridgehead and completed relief of 379th RCT, 95th Infantry Division at 1400 hours. Twenty-five additional buildings were captured before darkness. 10th RCT (Co B 735th Tk Bn, and Co B 5th Med Bn, attached) covered by active patrols the movement of the 2d RCT.

90 INF DIV: The 357th RCT (- 1st Bn) continued to protect the left flank of the bridgehead. The 1st Battalion (under division control) remained at CATTENOM BARRACKS (U901929) and reorganized. The 359th RCT in the center maintained its positions throughout the day and destroyed a pillbox that had blocked advance. The 358th RCT on the right with the 1st (right) and 2d Battalions abreast, 3d Battalion in reserve mopped up ten blocks in DILLINGEN and pushed patrols to their flanks.

95 INF DIV: 377th RCT; 1st Battalion cleared enemy from two blocks in FRAULAUTERN against moderate enemy resistance and was relieved by elements 2d Infantry, 5th Infantry Division at 2135. 2d Battalion worked on pillboxes in its area and was relieved by elements 2d Infantry, 5th Infantry Division at 2220. 3d Battalion cleared the enemy from one more block in zone and was relieved by elements 2d Infantry at 2245. 2d Infantry assumed command at 2330. In the 378th RCT zone the 1st (right) and 2d (center) Battalions made no progress against heavy enemy resistance while the 3d Battalion (left) cleared the enemy from two blocks during the period. The 379th Infantry was designated Corps reserve at 1300 and closed in new assembly area at 2050.

18 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast throughout period with light rain in evening. Visibility was limited from 1-4 miles.

Aviation: No missions flown due to weather.

5 INF DIV: 2d RCT attacked with the 1st (right) and 2d Battalions abreast at 1200 against stubborn enemy resistance located in houses and pillboxes. Sixty-six houses and three pillboxes were taken. The 11th RCT with all three Battalions on the line attacked at 0800 and took one hundred and seventy-eight (178) houses and three pillboxes from the enemy. The 10th RCT in divisional reserve continued its training in assault of a fortified position.

90 INF DIV: 357th RCT (- 1st Battalion) maintained positions on the left flank and continued patrols. The 1st Battalion closed in PACHTEN at 2230 when it came under regimental control. The 359th RCT attacked in coordination with the 358th RCT. The 1st and 2d Battalions established a base of fire to keep pressure on the high ground on left of 359th RCT while 3d Battalion moved through DILLINGEN and cleared ten city blocks by 0900. Preparations were then made to attack the high ground to the east which is protected by a strong fortified belt along the edge of the woods. The 358th RCT, on the right flank, attacked with the 2d Battalion (left) while the 1st and 3d Battalions protected the regimental flanks. The residential section of DILLINGEN within its zone was cleared (eleven blocks); only a steel factory remains to be cleared in DILLINGEN area of 358th RCT.

95 INF DIV: 377th Infantry closed in assembly area at 1600 and

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engaged in training, rehabilitation and maintenance. The 379th Infantry continued rehabilitation and training as Corps reserve. In the 378th RCT zone, enemy resistance was stubborn in all sectors. The 1st Battalion on the right attacked but was driven back by machine gun fire from a pillbox and by hand grenades. The 2d Battalion made slow progress, demolished three houses and cleared the enemy from a portion of its zone. The 3d Battalion cleared the enemy from an area in the south of its zone and captured twenty houses.

19 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Light, intermittent rain throughout the day with visibility limited to 1-4 miles.
Aviation: No missions flown due to weather.

5 INF DIV: The 2d RCT with two battalions, the 1st (on the right) and 2d Battalions, continued its house to house fighting in SAARLAUTERN against extremely heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire. Throughout the day one hundred and twenty-seven (127) buildings and one pillbox were captured. The 11th RCT, on the left, continued its attack with all three battalions on the line. At 0745 a counterattack of undetermined number of Infantry supported by two tanks was launched against the 1st Battalion on the left. The counterattack was repulsed at 0945 with the help of artillery. One hundred and fifty-six (156) houses and three pillboxes were taken. 10th Infantry continued training and was alerted for movement to new assembly area on 20 December.

90 INF DIV: 357th RCT maintained positions and patrolled to N. 359th RCT, in center, readjusted its units to consolidate newly won positions and continued to maintain pressure on high ground to the front. 358th RCT consolidated gains and initiated reconnaissance in force of factory area in DILLINGEN. Patrols reported some enemy and one self-propelled gun still in area. Construction of a bridge was initiated at 1800. Later (20 December) found unnecessary and work discontinued.

95 INF DIV: 377th Infantry designated Corps reserve at 0930 and continued training and rehabilitation. 379th Infantry relieved from Corps reserve 0930 and continued training. In the 378th RCT zone the 1st Battalion moved demolitions to east of river for use on pillboxes. The 2d Battalion directed heavy artillery on buildings in area. 3d Battalion attacked against heavy enemy resistance to capture seven buildings. All Battalions prepared pillboxes and enemy emplacements in regimental zone for demolition.

20 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast limited visibility to 2-4 miles.
Aviation: No missions flown due to weather. Operations Instructions issued whereby XX Corps retires at once to occupy a defensive position generally along the SAAR River with divisions abreast, 90 Infantry Division on the north and 95th Infantry Division on the south. Pressure was ordered maintained on the enemy and continued offensive actions represented until last moment for final withdrawal. Maximum demolition and destruction of houses and pillboxes were to be executed prior to and during the withdrawal. The 90th Infantry Division was ordered to withdraw its troops by 0800 hours 22 December and be prepared to defend a sector from NOHM (Q1399) to the NEID River (Q2288) both inclusive. The 95th Infantry Division will complete withdrawal of personnel prior to 0800 hours 21 December, defend bridge at SAARLAUTERN with not to exceed one RCT and be prepared to defend from the NEID River (Q2288) to WADGASSEN (Q3174) both exclusive. The 5th Infantry Division, after withdrawal from SAARLAUTERN bridgehead and relinquishment of command of bridge to 95th Infantry Division, would assemble north and east of KOENIGSMACKER (U942896) prepared for movement after 1200 hours 22 December to the northwest via CATTENOM and THIONVILLE bridges. The 3d Cavalry Group would defend the terrain corridor between the MOSELLE and SAAR Rivers. The 95th Infantry Division would continue training Infantry replacements at METZ Training Center for 90th and 95th Infantry

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Divisions. In accordance with verbal instructions of CG Third US Army at 1800 hours CG XX Corps assumed responsibility of the sector on the right (south) flank occupied by the 6th Armored Division and the 6th Cavalry Group. This southern expansion of XX Corps zone was to continue until XV Corps of Seventh US Army could relieve the 6th Armored Division and the 6th Cavalry Group in their sector.

5 INF DIV: 2d Infantry cleared one city block in SAARLAUTERN in house to house fighting and commenced relief of 11th Infantry of zone in SAARLAUTERN bridgehead during night. 11th Infantry captured five city blocks and forty-three prisoners in house to house fighting during the day, and at night began withdrawal from bridgehead upon relief by 2d Infantry. 10th Infantry remained in reserve and prepared to move north.

90 INF DIV: Three Infantry battalions (1st Bn 357th Inf, 3d Bn 358th Inf and 1st Bn (-C Co) 359th Inf)) withdrawn to west bank without incident via footbridge while vehicles were ferried across during darkness. Remaining personnel prepared minefields and buildings and other enemy installations for demolition. Doors and pillboxes held in area were welded.

95 INF DIV: 377th and 379th Infantry remained in assembly area and continued training and maintenance. 378th Infantry: Crossed all anti-tank guns and vehicles to west of river during night 19-20 and completed crossing of personnel to west side of river at 2320.

21 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast throughout period.

Aviation: One (1) squadron bombed through overcast at request of 90th Infantry Division while two other squadrons bombed through overcast by direction of Fighter Control Center. Results not observed due to weather. Operational Instructions issued attaching 6th Cavalry Group to 6th Armored Division and 6th Armored Division instructed to continue the active defense of their previous sector south of SAARLAUTERN until relieved by elements of XV Corps. Thereafter the 6th Armored Division would be prepared to counterattack in sectors of XX or XV Corps or for movement to the north. 3d Cavalry Group plus 135th Engineer Battalion (TF POLK) attached 90th Infantry Division at 1200.

Field Order #15 was issued at 2000 hours.

5 INF DIV: 2d Infantry relieved the 11th Infantry in SAARLAUTERN bridgehead at 0200 and 11th Infantry (- 1 Bn) began movement at 0200 to new assembly area vicinity LUXEMBOURG. The remaining battalion began movement at 0800. The 10th Infantry began movement at 0700 to assembly area vicinity (P900200), near LUXEMBOURG, and joined 11th Infantry en route. The 5th Infantry Division (-2d Inf) closed vic LUXEMBOURG during afternoon while elements of 377th and 378th Infantry of the 95th Infantry Division continued the relief of 2d Infantry in SAARLAUTERN bridgehead. Relief was completed at 2400. The 5th Infantry Division was released from attachment XX Corps and attached to XII Corps. The withdrawal of this division from XX Corps front left two Infantry divisions, the 90th and 95th Infantry Division, holding the XX Corps front.

90 INF DIV: Personnel and vehicles continued withdrawal from DILLINGEN bridgehead throughout the period. Two footbridges and a ferry were utilized and crossing was made without a casualty. Units, upon closing on west side, at once began movement to newly assigned sectors to take up defensive positions.

95 INF DIV: 1st and 3d Battalions plus F Company of 2d Battalion completed relief (2200 hours) of 2d Infantry, 5th Infantry Division, and assumed command 2400 hours. 2d Battalion (-F Co) remained vicinity HARGARTEN and prepared to relieve 2d Battalion 378th Infantry at LISDORF. 378th Infantry (-2d Bn) closed in assembly area 0530 while 2d Battalion remained at LISDORF to protect west bank of river. 379th

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Infantry (-3d Bn) engaged in relief of elements of 2d Infantry throughout the period. The 3d Battalion remained in assembly area vicinity VELVING prepared to move on regimental order. Division Engineers prepared the captured bridge for demolition on order from CG.

6 ARMD DIV: (TF FICKETT attached) maintained its line which runs generally from WADGASSEN (Q315745) southeast to WELFERDING (Q497573).

22 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Light snow during morning and overcast throughout remainder of period.

Aviation: No missions flown due to weather.

90 INF DIV: 357th Infantry closed all elements into final assembly areas at 2100 and initiated plans for employment as Division Reserve. The 358th closed at 2105 and 359th at 2130 and took up defensive positions with the 358th Infantry on the north. Reconnaissance was begun for occupation of successive delaying positions and placement of obstacles to block or canalize any enemy penetration.

95 INF DIV: 377th Infantry; 1st and 3d Battalions improved defensive positions while Company F of the 2d Battalion continued close-in protection of bridge. 2d Battalion (-F Company) completed relief of 2d Battalion 378th Infantry at LISDORF (2000 hours). 1st and 3d Battalions 378th Infantry, remained in assembly areas and conducted a training program. The 2d Battalion, when relieved at LISDORF, was assembled at UBERHERNN (2400 hours) and motorized for possible use on Division order. The 1st and 2d Battalions of the 379th Infantry improved defensive positions while the 3d Battalion was moved to a forward assembly area (Q284798) at 1030.

6 ARMD DIV: (TF FICKETT attached) maintained its line and continued to protect the south flank sector of XX Corps.

23 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Clear and cold.

Aviation: Armed recce was flown over zone throughout the period with attacks made on targets of opportunity. Good results were reported.

90 INF DIV (TF POLK attached): 357th Infantry was designated as Division Reserve. TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group reinforced) was allocated the left sector while the 358th Infantry assumed responsibility for the center and the 359th took over the right sector. Reconnaissance was begun for occupation of successive delaying positions and placement of obstacles to block or canalize a possible enemy penetration.

95 INF DIV: 378th Infantry in reserve conducted a rehabilitation and training program. The 379th Infantry with the 1st (south flank) and 2d Battalions east of the SAAR improved defensive positions in SAAR-LAUTERN on left flank of sector while 3d Battalion remained in reserve on the west side of the SAAR. The 377th Infantry on the right flank of the sector east of the SAAR in SAARLAUTERN had the 1st (north flank) and 3d Battalions in defensive positions with the 2d Battalion in reserve on the west side of the SAAR.

6 ARMD DIV: (TF FICKETT attached) maintained its line and made plans for movement to assembly area vicinity of METZ after relief by 103d Infantry Division of XV Corps.

35 INF DIV: Closed into new assembly area vicinity of METZ at 1300 and commenced a program of training and rehabilitation.

24 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Clear and cold with a temperature of 22 degrees.

Aviation: No support missions were executed but armed

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recce was conducted over the entire sector throughout the period. Upon relief of the 6th Armored Division at 1845 by the 103d Infantry Division of XV Corps on the southern sector, the command of the sector South of the 95th Infantry Division right boundary passed from CG XX Corps to CG XV Corps at 2359.

90 INF DIV: (TF POLK attached) - Defensive sectors remained the same and were further organized with mine fields, craters and an AT defense. Delaying positions were also selected and prepared for occupancy.

95 INF DIV: The front line battalions of the 377th (north flank) and 379th Infantry launched a limited objective attack at 0745 to secure a better defensive position. The concentrated attack advanced approximately 200 yards to attain the desired objective against light enemy resistance. The 378th Infantry remained in reserve while the 3d Battalion moved to vicinity OBER-LIMBURG to clear enemy from woods (Q2383).

6 ARMD DIV: In the process of relief by 103d Infantry Division and 106th Cavalry Group from line WADGASSEN (Q318745) generally southeast to WELFERDING (Q497573).

35 INF DIV: Units of Division continued their training and rehabilitation program.

25 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: High scattered clouds that limited visibility from 2-5 miles. Temperature, 19 degrees.

Aviation: Armed recce flown over sector throughout the period. 10th Armored Division relieved from attachment to XII Corps in LUXEMBOURG and attached to XX Corps.

90 INF DIV: (TF POLK attached) - Training of replacements was conducted while front line units searched out their sectors for patrol experience and security measures and executed additional work on defensive positions.

95 INF DIV: The 1st and 3d Battalions 377th Infantry advanced two blocks in SAARLAUTERN on north flank against light enemy resistance. At end of day it withdrew to original defensive positions. 2d Battalion (- Company F) remained in reserve at LISDORF while Company F guarded the captured bridge. 378th Infantry (- 3d Battalion) remained in Division reserve and conducted a rehabilitation and training program. The 3d Battalion cleared the enemy from the woods vicinity OBER-LIMBURG (Q2383) and closed in at COUME (Q1567) at 1430. The 1st and 2d Battalions 379th Infantry advanced 200 yards in SAARLAUTERN against moderate enemy resistance but withdrew to original positions at end of day. 3d Battalion remained in reserve on west side of SAAR River.

6 ARMD DIV: (- 15th Tank Battalion) - Closed in assembly area east of METZ. 15th Tank Battalion in assembly area vicinity MERLEBACH (Q332 615). Assembly of units began for movement to relieve elements of 10th Armored Division beginning at 2300. Division was relieved from attachment to XX Corps as of 2300 and attached to XII Corps. The 5th Ranger Battalion, a part of Task Force FICKETT, was relieved from attachment to 6th Armored Division and attached to XX Corps effective 2400 hours.

35 INF DIV: Continued training and rehabilitation throughout the period.

10 ARMD DIV: CCA began movement to METZ in XX Corps sector late in the evening.

26 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Clear and cold with temperature down to 17 degrees.

Aviation: Armed recce flown over sector throughout the day.

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90 INF DIV: (TF POLK attached) - Training of replacements continued. An extensive search by combat patrols of the area in the front of their sectors were conducted by the front line units and no enemy were discovered. The reserve Regiment, the 357th Infantry, initiated rcn for occupation of Maginot Line and OPLR on Division left flank.

95 INF DIV: 378th Infantry remained in Division reserve and maintained their training and rehabilitation program. The four front line battalions (1st and 3d Bns, 377th Inf and the 1st and 2d Bns 379th Inf) continued patrolling in their sectors in SAARLAUTERN. Reserve battalions (2d Bn 377th Inf and 3d Bn 379th Inf) remained on west side of SAAR River.

6 ARMD DIV: The Division (- Reserve Command and Div Tns) completed movement to XII Corps in LUXEMBOURG. Division, Tns enroute at close of period, but CCR remained at METZ until two combat commands of 10th Armored Division arrived from the north.

35 INF DIV: Relieved from attachment XX Corps 26 December and began movement to III Corps in north at 0600 and cleared XX Corps area at end of period.

10 ARMD DIV: CCA closed in METZ area at 1530 while CCR was enroute to assembly area vicinity of METZ at close of the period.

27 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Clear and cold.
Aviation: Armed recce was flown over XX Corps sector in the afternoon.

90 INF DIV: (TF POLK attached) - Continued work on defensive positions, minefields and Engineer obstacles. The 357th Infantry, in Division reserve, completed plans for occupation of a section of the Maginot Line and an OPLR thereto. The 358th Infantry (left flank) and 359th Infantry continued to hold assigned sectors, patrolled wooded areas within sector and made a reconnaissance for a switch of delaying positions.

95 INF DIV: The 5th Ranger Battalion was attached to the division at 1200. The 378th Infantry (Division Reserve) continued its training program and made preparation for either a defense or a counterattack mission. The 379th Infantry on the left (north) and the 377th Infantry in addition to sending out patrols in the SAARLAUTERN brhd area improved their defensive positions and processed replacements. The division continued the Infantry Training Center in METZ.

10 ARMD DIV: The division, less CCB, completed its move from LUXEMBOURG to the METZ area at 2200 hours. A maintenance and rehabilitation program was initiated. CCB remained under the operational control of VIII Corps at LUXEMBOURG and was engaged in defense of the BASTOGNE sector (P5557).

28 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: A heavy fog throughout the entire period limited visibility from 1 to 3 miles.
Aviation: No missions were flown due to weather.

90 INF DIV: (TF POLK attached) - Initiated an aggressive patrolling program in the MERZIG area to determine enemy strength, dispositions and activities. The 357th Infantry in reserve continued their training program. The 358th Infantry, on the left, sent patrols into DREISBACH (Q155990) which reported the town clear of enemy but containing minefields. In the 359th Infantry sector the training of replacements and work on defensive areas continued.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion attached) - The 377th and 379th

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Infantry continued to hold the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area and maintain active patrols throughout the entire sector. The 378th Infantry remained in position as division reserve and conducted a training and rehabilitation program. The 5th Ranger Battalion closed in at ST AVOLD and likewise began a training and rehabilitation program. The division withdrew all its personnel from the Infantry Training Center at METZ.

10 ARMD DIV: (-CCB) - Two-thirds of command were put on an alert to counter any enemy threat in XX Corps sector while the remaining one-third, which was on a twenty-four hour alert, engaged in maintenance and rehabilitation.

29 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Overcast skies limited visibility from 2-4 miles. The temperature reached a low of 19 degrees fahrenheit. The 10th Armored Division, as the Corps Reserve Division, was instructed to prepare and submit (O11200 Jan) a counterattack plan for its employment in three alternative sectors.

90 INF DIV: (TF POLK attached) - The 357th Infantry in reserve continued its training program and moved the 1st Battalion to KOENIGSMACKER. The 358th and 359th Infantry continued to hold their assigned sectors while the 1st Battalion searched, by patrols, the woods of LE SCHEIDWALD (Q1597) and captured two PW's. Two patrols from the 359th Infantry that crossed the SAAR River during the night captured four PW's but enemy resistance blocked any deep penetration.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Bn attached) - The 378th Infantry remained in its assembly area as Division reserve and conducted a training and rehabilitation program. The 377th and 379th Infantry continued to hold their respective sectors in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area and carried on active patrolling. One Combat patrol of the 379th Infantry on the left (north) captured one pillbox with five PW's in it. The 5th Ranger Battalion continued its training program.

10 ARMD DIV: (-CCB) - Engaged in maintenance and rehabilitation program in METZ assembly area. Plans were being made for a training program to commence 1 January 1945.

30 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Haze and intermittent precipitation limited visibility from 2-4 miles. The lowest temperature was 19 degrees.
Aviation: Armed recce was flown over XX Corps sector throughout the period.

90 INF DIV: (TF POLK attached) - 357th Infantry in reserve continued its training program while the two front line regiments, the 358th and 359th Infantry increased the size, number and range of patrols in forward areas. Six PW's were captured, twelve enemy killed and three wounded.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion attached) - The 377th and 379th Infantry continued to hold and actively patrol by Combat patrols their respective sectors in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area. The 378th Infantry as Division reserve and the 5th Ranger Battalion maintained an intensive training program.

10 ARMD DIV: (-CCB) - Completed its maintenance and rehabilitation program in the METZ assembly area.

31 DECEMBER 1944

XX CORPS: Weather: Light snow flurries throughout the day which limited visibility from 2-5 miles.
Aviation: A bridge at (WL200280) was bombed with no damage resulting.

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90 INF DIV: (TF POLK attached) - 357th Infantry in reserve continued training and moved the 1st Battalion from KOENIGSMACKER to HAUTE-SIERCK (Q024887). A platoon reinforced with tanks formed a Task Force from the 358th Infantry raided an enemy outpost at (Q101993) and captured thirteen PW's and three civilians without suffering a casualty. The 359th Infantry continued its training of replacements, patrolling across the SAAR River and work on defensive positions.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - The bridgehead forces of the 377th and 379th Infantry launched a limited objective attack to secure high ground to their front from which better defensive positions could be gained. The 377th Infantry on the right (south) attacked at 0830 and seized objective against light enemy resistance at 1320 hours. The 379th Infantry on the left attacked at 0745 hours. The 1st Battalion on the right (south) met heavy small arms fire and had occupied about one-half of their objective by darkness. The 2d Battalion was in reserve and the 3d Battalion which had met very light resistance seized its objective at 1300 hours. The 378th Infantry motorized one Battalion, the 2d, and sent it to UBERHERRN (Q2472) to be committed on Division reserve. The remainder of the 378th Infantry continued its training program. The 5th Ranger Battalion trained and conducted reconnaissance for possible employment in counterattack operations.

10 ARMD DIV: (-CCB) - Troops engaged in maintenance and began a training program. Plans for the training of replacements were perfected.

SECTION V - G-4 SUMMARY

1. During the period 1 December to 20 December 1944, XX Corps units driving east from the METZ-THIONVILLE area, reached the SAAR River and entered SAARLAUTERN. On 20 December units retired to occupy defensive positions west along the SAAR River with the 90th Division in the north and the 95th Division in the south sectors, respectively. Pressure was ordered maintained on the enemy and continued offensive actions represented until the last moment for final withdrawal. Intensive patrol activity continued throughout the Corps sector west of the SAAR River between MERZIG and ST AVOLD as units further improved and organized defensive positions. Organizations not engaged on the Corps front conducted training, rehabilitation and maintenance. At the close of the period successful limited objective attacks were being made in the SAAR-LAUTERN area. A small bridgehead, maintained in SAARLAUTERN, was kept open for supply of troops east of the SAAR River. This bridge remained prepared for demolition throughout the period, the enemy having placed charges but failing to set them off.

2. Administrative changes were announced to the Corps units in Change #1 to Administrative Order #11, dated 062100 December 1944. Units were advised to use greater care and caution when crossing railroad crossings. In compliance with orders of Third United States Army a special effort was made to have XX Corps units recover all articles of clothing and equipment lost or discarded by personnel. The 347th Engineer Regiment commenced construction of a railroad bridge over the MOSELLE River at THIONVILLE. Night lights were used after an air warning information service was established by Corps AAA Group. On 7 December Corps Engineer reported two road craters blown by time-delay charges. Assault bridge at SAARLAUTERN was badly damaged by shell fire which also prevented immediate replacement. An Infantry Battalion of the 5th Division was attached to the 95th Division in the SAARLAUTERN area for close in protection of the SAARLAUTERN bridge. Further reports of captured enemy materiel taken in METZ included radar equipment, electrical machinery, armament and parts, tar machines, flood lights, engineer instruments, stationery, small hardware, wagons and harness, ammunition, sled runners, skis and poles, pipe, coke, gravel, vehicles, sewing machines, chinaware, rolling kitchens powdered soap (15 truck-loads), and gasoline.

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3. Administrative Order #12, dated 192230 December 1944 was distributed to the units of the XX Corps announcing all new administrative changes. Units were warned to establish bomb dumps away from main roads, defiles, road junctions and bridges because of the danger to traffic circulation in case of explosions. Captured construction materiel was released to troops from storage establishments. Shell HE 4.2" and shell WP 4.2" was rationed during the period. Captured enemy Engineer materiel was stored at a captured Depot at WOIPPY N of METZ and released to units as required. "Flood conditions in the XX Corps area necessitated the use of landing vehicles, track ("alligators"), trucks, amphibian ("ducks"), light cargo carriers, M29 ("snowbirds"), assault boats and rafts to carry supplies across the SAAR River. Of all these means of water transportation only the "snowbirds" and the assault boats were successful under artillery and small arms fire because of their low silhouette, speed, maneuverability and silence. After the enemy artillery fire had abated the rafts (rubber) were used to transport vehicles across the SAAR with success." Captured materiel reported found in SAARLAUTERN by the 95th Division included nails, cable, tubing, strap iron, red lead, logs, insulators, electric meters, circuit breakers, transformers, a machine shop, woodworking shop, a locomotive, a serviceable armored car, and barbed wire. The 5th Division reported taking 30 tons sacked wheat in the vicinity of DIFFERTEN and this was turned over to the Military Government Unit of the area for civilian use. Reconstruction of destroyed bridges in the Corps area was expedited by the use of enemy materials found abandoned or captured. Snow plows were also constructed of enemy material and fitted to Engineer unit trucks in contemplation of the coming snowfall of northern FRANCE.

4. Attention of XX Corps units was directed to the new locations of supply installations and other administrative information in Change #1 to Administrative Order #13 dated 212200 December 1944. Units were informed that the Monthly Material Status Report as required by Third U S Army was no longer required although the monthly report on the status of Ordnance material continued to be submitted. All organizations were directed that Third U S Army had ordered gas masks, protective covers and protective ointment to be carried by personnel forward of division rear boundaries and that gas masks especially be inspected immediately for serviceability. Further material captured by the 95th Division in SAARLAUTERN included: barbed wire, steel bands, pickets, leather barbed wire mittens, burlap sand bags, nails, lumber, plywood, mess kits, German uniforms and carpenter tools. At the end of the period a critical shortage existed of the following items of equipment: flat red paint, oxyacetylene welding equipment, cable clips, 60mm mortars and mounts, bayonets, cal. .30 machine guns (M1919A5), medium tanks, dump trucks, 2 1/2-ton, Heavy wrecking trucks, Prestone, tires, tubes, major parts for GMC trucks, oil filter elements, hot patches, jute burlap, raincoats, canteen cups, meat cans, large size overshoes, radios SCR-300, wire W-110, and batteries. These items were the most critical existing at the close of the period.

5. Transportation: The 4051 QM Truck Co was transferred to Third U S Army on 18 December, leaving only 2 companies under Corps control. During the month, 1222 vehicle dispatches were made. 114,208 vehicle miles were traveled, carrying approximately 2000 tons of supplies and transporting approximately 11,000 personnel. 316 trucks were furnished for movement of 5th Inf Division 20-22 Dec., Corps trucks being supplemented by 70 trucks from Corps AAA units and 145 trucks furnished by Army G-4 Transportation Section.

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The 5th Inf Division was moved from vicinity of ITTERS DORF through THIONVILLE to vicinity of LUXEMBOURG, movement being made December 20, 21, and 22. 6th Cavalry Group moved from vicinity CREUTZWALD, thru CATTENOM Bridge, to ARLON on December 24. During period December 25 to 27, 6th Armored Division was moved from Assembly Area in METZ to LUXEMBOURG, and CCA and CCR of 10th Armored Division was moved from LUXEMBOURG to METZ as they were relieved by 6th Armored Division. CATTENOM, THIONVILLE, and METZ bridges were used in movement of Armored Divisions.

One new division, the 87th Inf Division assigned to III Corps arrived in Corps Area. Division arrived by rail at HAYANGE beginning December 7, moving from there by truck to METZ, then under III Corps control.

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SECTION VI - G-5 SUMMARY

1. During the period covered by this summary Civil Affairs/Military Government Detachments under control of this section operated in the following towns:

FRANCE: Boulay, Bouzonville, Manderen, Magny, Merlebach, Metz, Sierck, St Avoild and Thionville.

GERMANY: Eft, Perl, Saarlautern and Differton.

In addition, Detachments were deployed at Filstroff, France, and Niedaltdorf and Linsdorf, Germany, for the purpose of operating and maintaining refugee and displaced persons collecting points.

a. Detachment I5G2, upon its entry into Eft, was the first Military Government Detachment to become operational in Germany in the Third Army area.

b. At the close of the period, due to changes in tactical boundaries and situation, this section had under its control detachments operating in Thionville, Metz, Boulay, Sierck, St Avoild and Creutzwald, France, and in Perl, Niedaltdorf, Saarlautern and Linsdorf, Germany.

2. The operations of Detachment I5G2 in Eft, Germany, and Detachment I2A2, in Saarlautern, Germany, were watched with great interest by this section and the G-5 Sections of higher echelons.

a. The reactions of the German population to this new experience of being governed by their conquerors may be said to be, first, one of fear which slowly turned to one of 'acceptance of the inevitable'. Their fears can be said to have been attributable to the stories spread by the retreating enemy of the cruel and revengeful treatment they could expect of the allies. In this respect it is interesting to note that while these stories had been disseminated by Nazi Party Officials, officers of the Wehrmacht had informed the civilians that they could expect fair treatment at the hands of the American Army. These stories were undoubtedly spread by Nazi officials for the purpose of persuading the population to retreat with them into the interior of Germany. That such an evacuation was a definite plan of the Nazis officials was evidenced from a copy of an order addressed to the inhabitants of all villages and towns in Kreis Saarburg by the Kreisleiter directing them to evacuate. This order was issued on the 19th of November, and a copy of it which was obtained by Detachment I5G2 is attached hereto

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b. In all of the forward areas uncovered, considerable numbers of the civilian population had been evacuated rearward by the retreating enemy, so that in Saarlautern, with a normal population of 32000, only approximately three hundred (300) civilians remained.

c. "In a flag raising ceremony held in Eft, Germany, on 12 December 1944, approximately six days after Military Government had been established, practically the entire civilian population attended and when the United States Flag was raised on the flag pole all of the civilians uncovered." C

3. One of the problems which continues to occupy a high priority in the activities of this section and the detachments operating under its control is that of refugees and displaced persons. To appreciate the importance of this problem one need but consider the total number of refugees and displaced persons which passed through the XX Corps area to the areas in the rear. In the period covered by this summary a total number of approximately 40,000 French refugees were returned from the forward areas to their homes either with the Corps area or to the rear of Corps area, of which, approximately 8700 were transported by military transportation. In addition, a total of 2023 displaced persons were transported from within Corps area to displaced persons assembly centers in the rear.

a. It has been found that the most advantageous way to handle the evacuation of these individuals is as follows:

(1) Upon an area being uncovered by our tactical troops, the American Red Cross Civilian War Relief representative, attached to this section, is dispatched into the area for the purpose of making a survey. Information is obtained by him from Division Military Government Staff Sections, civil authorities, Civil Affairs Military Government Detachment Commanders and American Red Cross Civilian War Relief personnel, attached to detachments. This information embodies the numbers present in the area, the facilities locally available to take care of the people and their food and clothing requirements. In addition, information is obtained, in the case of refugees, as to the towns where they formerly resided. A survey is likewise made of these towns to ascertain existing conditions so that an overall picture is obtained. Plans may then be made for the return of refugees as soon as the tactical situation permits. It is important that these surveys be made at the earliest practical moment for to wait until such an evacuation becomes necessary results in confusion and makes such an evacuation almost impossible. Such was the procedure followed by this section during the month of December and it is believed that the results obtained testify to the effectiveness of this plan.

(2) To alleviate the shortage of clothing for French refugees, approximately sixty (60) tons of American Red Cross clothing were transported into the area under the supervision of the American Red Cross Civilian War Relief representative, attached to this section. This clothing has been deposited in various warehouses throughout the Department of Moselle and was and will be distributed by the French Red Cross and Secour Social Teams on a needs basis.

b. In addition to the regular refugee and displaced persons problems as we had previously known them, two new ones presented themselves in our area.

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(1) One was the existence of two separate caves located in Buren and Linsdorf, Germany, wherein some 3000 German refugees, who had refused to evacuate their towns on orders of the German officials, had sought protection from the artillery shelling. Inasmuch as both of these caves were in division areas the immediate responsibility for handling these people rested with the divisions operating in the respective areas. However, a Civil Affairs Detachment was dispatched by this section for the purpose of assisting in the care of these people so that they would not become a hindrance to the tactical forces. The people were kept in the Buren cave for approximately three weeks at which time it was decided, because of the tactical situation, to evacuate them to towns in the rear of the division areas. During the time that these people were confined in the caves, they were under guard. However, individuals were permitted to return under guard to the towns from which they had fled for the purpose of gathering food supplies and baking bread. At the close of the period no evacuation had been made of the Linsdorf Cave and the people were being cared for and supervised by personnel of the 95th Infantry Division Military Government Staff Section, assisted by Detachment C2D2.

(2) This section during the early part of the month also temporarily maintained a detachment at the Johannes Bannberg Hospital, Denting, France, and at a hospital at Creutzwald, both of which had been used by the Germans as Prisoners of War Hospitals. At the time of their retreat from the area they abandoned the hospitals leaving behind some 2100 Russian, Polish and Serb Prisoners of War. Until it was definitely determined by higher authority as to whether these people were to be handled by the G-5 Section as displaced persons or by G-1 as Prisoners of War, Detachment C2D2 was in charge of the two camps. Third US Army eventually determined that they would be handled as Prisoners of War and a Medical Detachment was dispatched from Third US Army to relieve Detachment C2D2 and assume the care of these individuals. All of the patients were eventually evacuated to Toul. When these camps were uncovered it was found that the greater number of these patients were suffering from tuberculosis and in addition suffering greatly from malnutrition. It can be expected that as our lines move forward more of these camps will be uncovered and it appears that this is another of the enemy's efforts to place in our path obstacles which will require a considerable amount of time and personnel. Information received indicates that the Germans in retreating would compel those Prisoners of War who were capable of marching to accompany the German evacuation and would leave the bed-ridden and ill Prisoners of War behind.

c. Another problem which presented itself during the month of December was the decision of the 90th Infantry Division to evacuate all civilians from a strip of land in its forward area. A similar situation confronted us previous to the attack on Metz, namely the evacuation of towns along the west side of the Moselle River, so that such an evacuation was not a new experience for this section. Accordingly, a Military Government Detachment was dispatched to Niedaltdorf, Germany, the town in which it was decided to segregate these civilians. Motor transportation was obtained from the French Provisional Truck Company attached to Third US Army and with the assistance of Military Government Detachments I5G2 and I1A2, approximately 3000 persons had been evacuated to Niedaltdorf at the close of the period. The evacuation of the town of Borg, Germany, had to be carried out entirely at night because of enemy mortar and artillery fire.

d. To assist in the return of French refugees to the Thionville and Metz areas, transitory refugees points were operated at both of the aforesaid towns, utilizing in addition to Civil

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Affairs personnel, personnel of French MMLA Teams. At these two transitory points, refugees arriving late in the day can be cared for overnight until arrangements are made for return to their residences. French Red Cross and French MMLA personnel were also utilized to good advantage in arranging to have refugees in a town ready for evacuation when the transport arrives. Valuable transport time is saved in this manner.

5. Closely allied with the refugee and displaced persons problem was that of restricting civilian circulation on the highways in the Corps area. The limitation of Civil Affairs circulation passes to a minimum does not of itself solve the question of keeping civilians off the road. It has been found necessary and is the practice of this section to have an officer make daily reconnaissance over the various military highways for the purpose of obtaining first hand information on the civilian circulation situation. As a result of the information obtained through this means the source of this unauthorized civilian traffic can be traced and steps are then immediately taken to remedy the fault wherever it may be. Through cooperation with French civilian authorities, French Gendarmes were secured and placed at strategic points for the purpose of denying the use of the highways to unauthorized civilians. This system serves as a security measure in addition to being an aid in the control of civilian circulation. As a further aid in the control of civilian circulation, arrangements were made for a French Civilian Summary Court to be established in Metz for the purpose of prosecuting violators of circulation restrictions.

6. The problem of obtaining food for civilians in the forward areas in France and Germany continued to present certain difficulties.

a. In those forward areas which are in France, the main difficulty is transportation and circulation. Sufficient essential commodities, with few exceptions, are available for local authorities at both Metz and Thionville, and the Bureau of Revailtailment is functioning satisfactorily in both towns. The question of civilian transport is gradually improving and with occasional aid from military sources no great emergency exists. Some difficulty was experienced in the Unicorn area where all food trucks, even though possessing Civil Affairs passes, were being stopped and impounded for forty-eight hours. However, arrangements were made with the Military Government Officer of Unicorn to obtain clearance for these vehicles before entering the area and conditions are now satisfactory.

b. In the areas uncovered in Germany sufficient food reserves were available locally so that up until the expiration of the period of this report it has not been deemed necessary to import any food by the German population except to prevent disease or disorder which might hinder military operations, and the only requisition which was approved by Third US Army called for 35 gallons of diesel oil to run a flour mill.

7. The first Military Government Courts in Third US Army area were established during the month of December. All of the cases tried were those involving minor offenses and were heard by Summary Military Courts. In all, 12 cases were tried resulting in convictions. Fines ranged from 10RM to 50RM and prison sentences ranging from 2 days to 10 days were imposed.

a. Among the difficulties likely to appear in the very

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near future is the lack of suitable prison facilities for the purpose of confining individuals for any long term imprisonment. This difficulty should be overcome as soon as more enemy territory is occupied.

b. Another problem is presented in the case of Intermediate and General Courts established by Divisions. The rules governing Military Government Courts provide that at least one member of an Intermediate or General Court should be an officer of Military Government who is a lawyer. While the first requisite can be readily met from the Military Government personnel attached to a Division, the second of the qualifications may often be lacking as is evidenced in the 90th Infantry Division where none of the Military Government Staff Officers are lawyers. The situation is temporarily handled by having the Division include on the membership of its Intermediate or General Court a lawyer member of an attached Military Government Detachment.

8. French civilian administration continued to improve and was restored in many of the forward areas. In XX Corps area, the Prefect of the Department of Moselle continued to function from the Prefecture at Metz with Sous Prefects operating in the Arrondissements of Thionville, Boulay and those positions of liberated Forbach. The last two mentioned Sous Prefects were restored during the month, with the Sous Prefect, of Forbach, temporarily situated at St Avold. In many of the communes throughout the area the Mayors of 1939 were restored to their former positions by French Liaison Officers, attached to Civil Affairs Detachments and in those communes in which Mayors remained, who were in office during the time the areas were occupied by the Germans, they were either removed or were permitted to remain temporarily in office after screening by CIC. Arrangements were made with the French civil authorities at Metz so that civilians evacuated from the forward areas through Army Medical channels would be received at French hospitals regardless of their nationality. Instances had been reported to this section, that difficulty was being experienced in obtaining admittance for wounded German civilians so evacuated, on the ground that French hospitals were not for the use of Germans.

9. Civil Administration in Germany. In the EFT area appointments of Burgermeisters were made by Detachment I5G2. In one instance in Tunsdorf, the Ortsgruppenleiter and Burgermeister were removed and arrested by CIC and the former Burgermeister who had been removed from office in 1934 by the Nazis was appointed by the local detachment after screening. In Wehingen-Bettingen a Burgermeister who had been ousted by the Nazis in 1936 was restored to office.

In Saarlautern upon arrival of Military Government Detachment I2A2, on 12 December, civil administration was non-existent. Because of the tactical situation no attempts were made to restore or set up any civil administration of a permanent nature. With only approximately three hundred (300) civilians remaining from a normal population of 32,000, all of whom were being quartered in one section of the town, outstanding civilians, such as a doctor and a fire chief, were designated as civilian leaders who would be held responsible for the actions of the population. On 24 December, a Burgermeister was appointed for Saarlautern and an Acting Burgermeister was appointed for Kerprich-Hemmersdorf. At the close of the period of this report all civilians had been evacuated from the town with the exception of some patients in the local hospital and a skeleton force necessary for the operation of the hospital.

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For the Commanding General:

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

13 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. G-3 Field Orders
8. G-4 Journal
9. Administrative Orders
10. G-5 Journal
11. G-5 Daily Summary
12. Order Evac. KRIES SAARBURG
13. Engr Report



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Report of Operations, 1 Oct 44 to 31 Oct 44, Hq XX Corps, 6 Nov 44.

AG 314.7 - GNMCF
(6 Nov 44)

1st Ind.

HQ THIRD US ARMY, APO 403, US Army, 17 November 1944.

To: Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, APO 887, US Army.

10 Incls:
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