

L-366

SECRET

AUTH: CG, XX CORPS,

INITIALS: *REC*

DATE: *10 FEB 1945*

S-E-C-R-E-T

HEADQUARTERS XX CORPS

APO 340

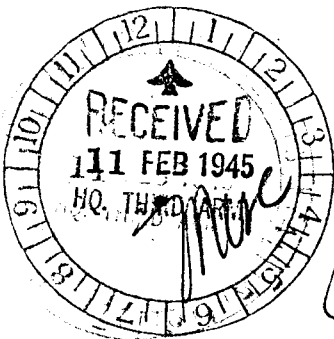
U. S. ARMY

JANUARY 1945

6

HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMY
314.7

220-33.4



REPORT OF OPERATIONS *9 Mar 45*
8637

S-E-C-R-E-T

0 0037

87

SECRET

SECRET

AUTH: CG, XX CORPS,

INITIALS: *Math*DATE: *17 Feb 45*HEADQUARTERS XX CORPS
APO 340 U. S. ARMY

10 February 1945

AG 314.7

SUBJECT: Report of Combat Operations, 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945.

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

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

SECTION I - Narrative of Operations
SECTION II - G-1 Summary
SECTION III - G-2 Summary
SECTION IV - G-3 Summary
SECTION V - G-4 Summary
SECTION VI - G-5 Summary

SECTION I - NARRATIVE

This report of Combat Operations in France and Germany of XX Corps, Third U. S. Army for the period 1 January to 31 January 1945 (Inclusive), is submitted in accordance with provisions of paragraph 10 (Change #4) AR 345-105.

1. Defensive positions were maintained by XX Corps units along pre-existing sectors until 6 January. During this first period defensive positions were improved, active patrolling was conducted, and the defense of the sector was maintained. Offensive actions were limited to the commitment of a reinforced Infantry Battalion of the 95th Infantry Division in aid of XV Corps to the South, which sustained an enemy penetration on its left flank. Upon clearance of the enemy from its small salient at SCHAFFHAUSEN (Q3273) the area was turned over to the Cavalry operating under the command of the XV Corps.

2. On the 8th of January, the 90th Infantry Division was relieved from attachment to XX Corps and its two front line Regiments were relieved from their positions west of the SARR River in the center of XX Corps sector by the 94th Infantry Division (less 302d Infantry). The 94th Infantry Division then immediately moved to the left assuming command of the left flank of XX Corps, relieving the 3d Cavalry Group a Squadron at a time. The 3d Cavalry Group, upon relief, assumed the defense of the divisional sector that had been vacated. This period (6 January to 14 January, inclusive) of readjustment was accompanied by extensive planning and preparations to meet possible enemy counterattacks.

3. For the period 15 January to 29 January, when the 95th Infantry Division moved to VIII Corps upon relief by the 26th Infantry Division, the offensive efforts of XX Corps were concentrated upon making limited objective attacks along its extreme left flank by the 94th Infantry Division while the remainder of XX Corps units contained by aggressive patrolling the enemy in their respective sectors. The attack of the 94th Infantry Division penetrated for $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north and cleared the Switch Line position of the SIEGFRIED LINE in the MOSELLE - SAAR triangle

- 1 -

SECRET

88

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS XX CORPS
APO 340 U. S. ARMY

SECRET

AUTH: CG, XX CORPS,

INITIALS: *Reb*

DATE: *10 FEB 1945*

10 February 1945

AG 314.7

SUBJECT: Report of Combat Operations, 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945.

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

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

SECTION I - Narrative of Operations
SECTION II - G-1 Summary
SECTION III - G-2 Summary
SECTION IV - G-3 Summary
SECTION V - G-4 Summary
SECTION VI - G-5 Summary

SECTION I - NARRATIVE

This report of Combat Operations in France and Germany of XX Corps, Third U. S. Army for the period 1 January to 31 January 1945 (Inclusive), is submitted in accordance with provisions of paragraph 10 (Change #4) AR 345-105.

1. Defensive positions were maintained by XX Corps units along pre-existing sectors until 6 January. During this first period defensive positions were improved, active patrolling was conducted, and the defense of the sector was maintained. Offensive actions were limited to the commitment of a reinforced Infantry Battalion of the 95th Infantry Division in aid of XV Corps to the South, which sustained an enemy penetration on its left flank. Upon clearance of the enemy from its small salient at SCHAFFHAUSEN (Q3273) the area was turned over to the Cavalry operating under the command of the XV Corps.

2. On the 6th of January, the 90th Infantry Division was relieved from attachment to XX Corps and its two front line Regiments were relieved from their positions west of the SAAR River in the center of XX Corps sector by the 94th Infantry Division (less 302d Infantry). The 94th Infantry Division then immediately moved to the left assuming command of the left flank of XX Corps, relieving the 3d Cavalry Group a Squadron at a time. The 3d Cavalry Group, upon relief, assumed the defense of the divisional sector that had been vacated. This period (6 January to 14 January, inclusive) of readjustment was accompanied by extensive planning and preparations to meet possible enemy counterattacks.

3. For the period 15 January to 29 January, when the 95th Infantry Division moved to VIII Corps upon relief by the 26th Infantry Division, the offensive efforts of XX Corps were concentrated upon making limited objective attacks along its extreme left flank by the 94th Infantry Division while the remainder of XX Corps units contained by aggressive patrolling the enemy in their respective sectors. The attack of the 94th Infantry Division penetrated for 2½ miles north and cleared the Switch Line position of the SIEGFRIED LINE in the MOSELLE - SAAR triangle.

- 1 -

SECRET

see Connected copy

89

HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMY

SECRET

on a three mile front. Despite repeated counterattacks, positions gained were retained and the following towns in Germany captured: TETTINGEN (LO45025); PUTZDORF (LO48030); NENNIG (LO22043); WIES (LO19051); SINZ (LO55043) and EUBINGEN (LO19055). However, during this same period the Corps also acted as an administrative clearing point for divisions moving into the Third Army zone of attack to the north, and divisions being relieved from commitment in that zone. The 10th Armored Division was relieved from attachment 17 January and after being rejoined by CCB at METZ, moved South on the 20th of January to join the Seventh U. S. Army. The 35th Infantry Division was attached on 18 January and remained in assembly area in the vicinity of METZ, conducting rehabilitation and training until it was detached on the 22d and sent to the South to the XXI Corps. On Third U. S. Army order, the 8th Armored Division, located out of the Corps sector, was divided into three equally balanced combat teams to be rotated in attachment to the 94th Infantry Division in its limited objective attacks along the east side of the MOSELLE River. One combat command was moved to KOENIGSMACKER on the 19th of January and committed in support of the attack on the 25th of January. It was withdrawn the 27th and returned to rejoin the remainder of the Division in PONT-a-MOUSSON on the 28th of January.

4. The closing period of XX Corps for the month of January found the 26th Infantry Division relieving the 95th Infantry Division in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead on 29 January and assuming command of the defense of the right flank of XX Corps. The period closed with the 94th Infantry Division consolidating its gains and holding the left flank of XX Corps from the MOSELLE River to the SAAR River, while the 3d Cavalry Group (reinforced) maintained patrols along the SAAR River in the central portion of XX Corps sector facing MERZIG. The 26th Infantry Division remained in position on the right flank of XX Corps sector and improved its defensive positions in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area.

SECTION II - G-1 SUMMARY

1. GENERAL:

XX Corps units were generally disposed in defensive formations throughout the entire period 1-31 January inclusive. Despite operational inactivity, administrative problems remained constant, due to the shifting of divisions from XX Corps to the zone of the Third United States Army offensive.

2. REINFORCEMENTS:

Battle worn divisions were transferred to XX Corps sector throughout the month for reorganization and rehabilitation. Qualified personnel as reinforcements were provided these units to return them to combat effectiveness. Through the month of January 6,611 reinforcements were furnished units under XX Corps.

3. PRISONERS OF WAR:

Prisoners of war for the month of January resulted from active and aggressive patrols by XX Corps units. Supply vehicles were used by the divisions in evacuating prisoners of war from their collecting points to the Corps collecting point. From Corps collecting point Army, using its own personnel and transportation, evacuated the prisoners of war to the Army enclosure. During the month of January, 1236 prisoners of war were captured by units of the XX Corps and evacuated through the the Corps prisoner of war enclosure.

4. BURIALS:

A body collecting point has been established for each division, generally located in their quartermaster area. The 3048th Graves Registration Company, under Army control, maintained the processing and evacuation of the dead. Corps Troops utilized the divisions collecting points in their evacuation.

SECRET

SECRET

on a three mile front. Despite repeated counterattacks, positions gained were retained and the following towns in Germany captured: TRETTINGEN (LO45025); BUTZDORF (LO48030); NENNING (LO22043); WIES (LO19051); SINZ (LO55043) and EUBINGEN (LO19055). However, during this same period the Corps also acted as an administrative clearing point for divisions moving into the Third Army zone of attack to the north, and divisions being relieved from commitment in that zone. The 10th Armored Division was relieved from attachment 17 January and after being rejoined by CCB at METZ, moved South on the 20th of January to join the Seventh U. S. Army. The 35th Infantry Division was attached on the 18th of January and remained in training until it was detached on the 22d and sent to the South to the XXI Corps. On Third U. S. Army order, the 8th Armored Division, located out of the Corps sector, was divided into three equally balanced combat teams to be rotated in attachment to the 94th Infantry Division in its limited objective attacks along the east side of the MOSELLE River. One combat command was moved to KOENIGSMACKER on the 19th of January and drawn the 27th, and returned to rejoin the remainder of the Division in PONT-a-MOUSSON on the 28th of January.

4. The closing period of XX Corps for the month of January found the 26th Infantry Division relieving the 95th Infantry Division in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead on 29 January and assuming command of the defense of the right flank of XX Corps. The period closed with the 94th Infantry Division consolidating its gains and holding the left flank of XX Corps from the MOSELLE River to the SAAR River, while the 3d Cavalry Group (reinforced) maintained patrols along the SAAR River in the central portion of XX Corps sector facing MERZIG. The 26th Infantry Division remained in position on the right flank of XX Corps sector and improved its defensive positions in the SAARLAUTERN Bridgehead area.

SECTION II - G-1 SUMMARY

1. GENERAL:

XX Corps units were generally disposed in defensive formations throughout the entire period 1-31 January inclusive. Despite operational inactivity, administrative problems remained constant, due to the shifting of divisions from XX Corps to the zone of the Third United States Army offensive.

2. REINFORCEMENTS:

Battle worn divisions were transferred to XX Corps sector throughout the month for reorganization and rehabilitation. Qualified personnel as reinforcements were provided these units to return them to combat effectiveness. Through the month of January 6,611 reinforcements were furnished units under XX Corps.

3. PRISONERS OF WAR:

Prisoners of war for the month of January resulted from active and aggressive patrols by XX Corps units. Supply vehicles were used by the divisions in evacuating prisoners of war from their collecting points to the Corps collecting point. From Corps collecting point to Army, using its own personnel and transportation, evacuated the prisoners of war to the Army enclosure. During the month of January, 1236 prisoners of war were captured by units of the XX Corps and evacuated through the Corps prisoner of war enclosure.

4. BURIALS:

A body collecting point has been established for each division, generally located in their quartermaster area. The 3048 Graves Registration Company, under Army control, maintained the processing and evacuation of the dead. Corps Troops utilized the divisions collecting points in their evacuation.

SECRET

5. DECORATIONS AND AWARDS:

The Corps Awards and Decorations Board considered 455 recommendations for Decorations and Awards during the month of January 1945. The following decorations were awarded by the Corps Commander: twenty four (24) Silver Stars; three hundred and one (301) Bronze Star Medals; eleven (11) Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters to the Bronze Star Medal; fourteen (14) Air Medals; thirty nine (39) Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal; and five (5) Soldier's Medals. The following recommendations were forwarded to higher headquarters; fourteen (14) Distinguished Service Crosses; one (1) Distinguished Service Medal; and three (3) Legion of Merits. One (1) Legion of Merit (posthumously) was awarded to a member of the Corps Headquarters by the Theater Commander.

6. LEAVES, FURLONGHS AND PASSES:

A monthly quota for the return of personnel to the United States on temporary duty for rehabilitation, recuperation and recovery was announced by higher headquarters. The quota for Corps Troops received for the month of January was 40, of which 8 percent could be officers. This quota was allocated to Corps Troops based upon time in combat. Divisions also received a quota, based on length of combat service, directly from Army. Individuals selected were persons who has been hospitalized for wounds, had been decorated for gallantry or who had extended overseas service and efficient performance of duty.

Permission to grant passes to visit Paris for not over 72 hours to members of Corps Headquarters and Corps Troops was granted by Higher Headquarters. Quotas, based upon combat service, were allocated to Corps Troops. The quota varied from time to time, but the average quota for the month of January was 8 officers and 30 enlisted men every 72 hours. Divisions received a quote of 16 officers and 55 enlisted men.

7. STRENGTH REPORTS:

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

UNIT	KILLED	MISSING OR CAPTURED	WOUNDED (HOSP)	SICK OR INJURED (HOSP)	REIN-FORCE-MENTS	PW CAPT'D
26th Inf Div	0	5	10	95	110 193	1
35th Inf Div	0	0	0	84	84 678	0
90th Inf Div	9	0	30	142	181 202	13
94th Inf Div	128	524	897	1289	2838 2279	835
95th Inf Div	37	41	319	687	1084 1658	350
10th Armd Div	2	0	1	170	173 760	12
Corps Troops	11	4	40	399	454 689	14
TOTAL	187	547	1297	2866	4924 6459	1225

SECRET

92

SECRET

SECTION III - G-2 SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION: January, 1945, was a month heavy with portent for the German High Command, the German nation, and the German people. The ARDENNES offensive, which had raised such high hope, stalled, stopped, and was slowly but inexorably pushed back toward the SIEGFRIED Line. While it could not be gainsaid that the seizure of the initiative by VON RUNSTEDT had accomplished a great deal in at least delaying the Allied Threat to the RUHR, as the last embers of the fiery dash into BELGIUM and LUXEMBOURG began to wane and die, it became apparent that far-reaching results were nil. While the Germans were pondering this unsatisfactory state of affairs, on 12 January, the Eastern front blazed in life as the Russians launched their powerful winter offensive, which advanced so rapidly that at the close of the month they had gained WARSAW, MEMEL, and CRACOW, had by-passed POSEN, were pounding on the gates of KORNIGSEURG, and were threatening DANZIG, STETTIN, and even BERLIN. Meanwhile, strong efforts had been made by the Germans early in the period to exploit their bridgehead in the STRASBOURG area, but this too died away as the Russian menace developed. In XX Corps sector, the enemy was content for a time to rest on his defensive laurels and maintain the "status quo". However, toward the middle of the month, concern was exhibited at our slow push to the N in the triangle between the SAAR and MOSELLE Rivers S of WASSERBILIG. The GESPENSTER (Ghost) Div, 11 Pz Div, made its wraith-like appearance to strike several times in a futile effort to restore the original line, and then disengaged itself. Farther S, a strong but uncoordinated attack was made on our SAARLAUTERN bridgehead but was repulsed. At the close of the month, the enemy in XX Corps sector had settled back once more to a policy of cautious defense.

2. GENERAL: On 1 January, in XX Corps sector, the enemy occupied the general line: N of BESCH (LO12016) - TETTINGEN (LO45026) - OBERLEUKEN (LO82018) SE to approximately (LL20992) - E to SAAR River - S along E bank of SAAR River to (Q275816) - (Q280820) - (Q283817) - (Q295814) - Q302805 - to SAAR River at (Q299809) - S along E bank of SAAR River to Corps S boundary vicinity WERDEN (Q3571). Major enemy units in contact included 416 Inf Div, generally along the line from the MOSELLE to the SAAR River, and 719 Inf Gen generally along the E bank of the SAAR. Continued presence of elements of 559th Gren Div on the Corps front was doubtful since there had been no identifications from this division for several days.

3. ENEMY OPERATION DURING PERIOD.

a. Week of 1 - 7 Jan 1945: In general throughout the week, the enemy remained dormant. There was some patrol activity, but his over-all policy was one of watchful waiting. He demonstrated sensitivity to our patrol activity. Our limited attack in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead encountered small arms, moderate mortar and extremely light artillery fire from elements of 719 Inf Div, who fought in groups of 10 - 20 from fortified houses and bunkers. Though the enemy was passive in XX Corps sector, a potential threat developed to the S when several enemy attacks were launched against XV Corps shortly after midnight 31 Dec 1944. The attacks, in some strength, and some of which had limited success, did not develop seriously. However, just S of XX Corps boundary, the 106th Cav Gp was forced to withdraw initially 1-2 kilometers in vicinity (Q3072) and (Q3269). Counter attacks by the 106th Cav Gp made some gains, and on 2 Jan elements of the 95th Inf Div moved S from XX Corps sector to aid the cavalry in clearing the ground gained by the enemy. SCHAFFHAUSEN (Q3273) was cleared and house-to-house fighting developed in HOSTENBACH (Q3373). Portions of the latter had been cleared when 95th Inf Div troops withdrew night of

SECRET

220-33.4

① 8637 93

SECRET

2-3 Jan to allow the 106th Cav Gp to take over 3 Jan. In XX Corps sector enemy artillery fire ranged from negligible to desultory except on 2 Jan when some severe shelling was received on the extreme S flank apparently directed at units S of XX Corps. The GAF started out with a bang 1 Jan over XX Corps with a total of 154 sorties reported over Corps zone. Our AAA reported 35 aircraft destroyed and four probables. Activity decreased sharply 2 Jan with 51 sorties reported (four claimed destroyed and three probables) and died away completely by 5 Jan.

b. Week of 8-14 Jan 1945: As long as we remained unaggressive, the enemy was content to occupy his defensive positions, exhibiting no desire to lock horns. Through 13 Jan, hostile activity was at a minimum. Not to be caught napping, however, the enemy kept an eye on us with his patrols. In spite of this precaution the defenders of TETTINGEN and BUTZDORF (LO403), consisting of elements of I Bn and 14 Co, 713 Gren Regt, 416 Inf Div, and 41 GAF Fortress Bn, was literally and figuratively caught napping when our attack 14 Jan resulted in the capture of two towns. Resistance consisted of MG, small arms, and a good deal of mortar fire, though artillery shelling was very slight. A counter attack involving approximately 35-40 enemy troops was launched from CAMPHOLTZ WOODS (LO502) toward BUTZDORF but was repulsed by 141225A. To the S, troops of 743 Gren Regt and 719 Fuesilier Bn, 719 Inf Div, offered only moderate resistance to our limited objective attacks in SAARLAUTERN-RODEN (Q2881) and FRAULAUTERN (Q2981) during the morning of 14 Jan. Resistance was chiefly from small hostile groups in fortified positions from which he countered our attacks with heavy small arms and MG fire, moderate mortar and slight artillery fire. Artillery fire was in fact desultory for the entire period. Enemy air activity was also at a low level, though there were two days of small reconnaissance flights, and on 13 Jan some hostile strafing was reported in the Corps zone.

c. Week of 15-21 Jan 1945: This was a week during which the enemy committed one of his best panzer divisions, 11 Pz or the "GESPENS-TER" (Ghost) Div, against XX Corps in a determined effort to prevent us from entering the SAAR-MOSELLE triangle. He also attacked our SAARLAUTERN Bridgehead. In the N he fought with determination and skill, attaining some success, but completely failed in the bridgehead where his troops were apparently as poor in quality as they were good in the "Triangle". A day by day account of the action follows:

(1) 15 Jan: Strong enemy resistance developed on the front between the SAAR and MOSELLE Rivers following our capture of TETTINGEN on 14 Jan. At 0355 hours on 15 Jan the 416 Feldersatz Bn attacked, opening the action with a strong combat patrol. This built up during the day until it was estimated that 300 to 400 enemy were engaged. All attacks were driven off with heavy losses to the enemy, but it was apparent that he was determined to hold the SAAR-MOSELLE Triangle at all costs. In the zone of the 95th Inf Div enemy activity was negligible.

(2) 16 Jan: During 16 Jan evidence, which had been building up since 5 Jan, began to point with increasing conclusiveness to the arrival of a panzer division in the "Triangle", and during the afternoon it was decided that this division was probably 11 Pz Div. All units of the Corps were warned to expect the appearance of this division which was part of VON FUNSTEDT's reserve. During the day the enemy renewed his attacks with elements of 713 Gren Div and 416 Feldersatz Bn, striking at BERG (LO25047) and WIES (LO305) with fanatical fervor, but without being able to make any progress against our troops. As the day ended our troops had joined forces along the S road between NENNING (LO204) and TETTINGEN, enclosing an enemy pocket of unknown strength within our lines. This was reported to be about 500 yards in diameter with the center at (LO23030). Activity in the 95th Inf Div zone remained negligible.

SECRET

(2)

94

SECRET

(3) 17 Jan: During 17 Jan enemy activity abated somewhat with the enemy contenting himself with resisting our operations to eliminate the pocket, and with keeping contact through mortar and small arms fire. Although 37 PWs were taken there were no identifications of note. Further evidence was received, however, from a PW statement confirmed by air photos, that the enemy was building up his strength in the "Triangle", lending more credence to the expected appearance of 11 Pz Div. No activity worthy of notice was reported in the S Corps sector.

(4) 18 Jan: Our suspicions of the presence of 11 Pz Div in the SAAR-MOSELLE Triangle were confirmed, and the concern with which the enemy viewed our threat to his retention of that area became apparent when the division launched an attack against our NENNIG - TETTINGEN holdings. All elements of the division were identified in the attack, with the exception that not all of its tank regiment was employed. Evidently the enemy's plan provided that 11 Pz would re-establish the original line, after which 416 Inf Div, in a relief role, would once again occupy and defend the regained position. The assault, with 110 Pz Gren Regt on the left to retake BUTZDORF and TETTINGEN, and 111 Pz Gren Regt on the right to seize NENNING, WIES, and BERG was supported by artillery and armor. Beginning in the morning and continuing throughout the day, enemy infantry and tanks pounded our positions with little result, in some cases being stopped short of their goal by our artillery fire. Toward the end of the period, attempting a final desperate attempt which netted it three houses in TETTINGEN, from which it was promptly dislodged, and gained BUTZDORF, which was yielded by our troops after strong pressure, at 182055A. There was no aggressive enemy activity in the S portion of the Corps sector.

(5) 19 Jan: Resting from his labors of the day before and girding his loins for later attempts, the enemy contented himself with strong patrol activity and harassing operations. That 11 Pz Div still maintained considerable interest in the area was evidenced by our contact with a 40-man patrol from 111 Pz Gren Regt in the woods about a kilometer W of TETTINGEN. The majority of the patrol was taken prisoner or killed. What might have been a projected attack was apparently forestalled when our artillery placed fire in the woods SE NENNING at (LO3830348). These woods, according to PW statements, sheltered a German Infantry Battalion presumably contemplating a drive against BESCH. At 191305A, enemy troops were observed moving into PONTEN (Q181983), E of the SAAR and NW of MERZIG (Q2094). All carried full field packs, but some were in uniform and others in civilian clothes, indicating the possible presence of Volkssturm in the area. At 191500A our troops engaged in clearing the enemy pocket vicinity (LO203) were attacked in flank and driven back by an enemy force which, according to a PW statement, was composed of two squads of 110 Pz Gren Regt. Later this enemy group was driven off. The S sector remained quiet throughout the period.

(6) 20 Jan: Our two thorns in the German side received considerable attention from him as strong attempts were made in the N to knock out our recent gains in the NENNIG - TETTINGEN area, and in S to reduce our bridgehead over the SAAR River at SAARLAUTERN (Q2880).

(a) North: Following an uneventful night, 110 and 111 Pz Gren Regts renewed their assault beginning about 200600A, this time between NENNIG and TETTINGEN, and preceded by a brief artillery preparation. The enemy operation began with about a company of infantry, but reinforcements were fed into the action during the day and

SECRET

(3)

95

SECRET

fighting became heavy and confused. Tanks were used in support of an attack by I Bn, 111 Pz Gren Regt, at WIES at 200900A. The tanks attempted to slice through and isolate our troops in WIES, with some initial success which the enemy was unable to sustain. As the day wore on, small infantry thrusts were made all along the line. One of these gained a chateau in NENNIG. A possible attack force concentrated in the woods SE of NENNIG at (L037034) but was broken up by artillery fire. During the afternoon, the enemy again concentrated forces in the woods, this time in the vicinity of (L0304). The attack of 111 Pz Gren Regt against NENNIG was renewed at 202045A by an estimated company of infantry and four tanks, and that of 110 Pz Gren Regt at TETTINGEN at 202200A by an infantry Company. Both had been thrown back by 20-2300A. The pocket which existed behind our lines S of NENNIG in the vicinity of (L-23030) was completely cleared during the day with 96 PWs taken from both 416 Inf Div and 111 Pz Gren Regt. According to a PW at least two squads from 111 Pz Gren Regt arrived at the encircled bunkers at 200600A and later contributed to our bag of PWs taken when the pocket was finally mopped up. Our attack to capture ORSCHOLZ (L1201) was slowed and finally halted about 200 yards from the objective by heavy mortar and machine gun fire. Intense artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire was delivered by the enemy throughout the night of 20-21 January.

(b) South: Beginning about 200600A, elements of 719 Inf Div and KG SCHWAB, 347 Inf Div, made an abortive and uncoordinated attack against our bridgehead in the vicinity of SAARLOUIS-RODEN, in conjunction with an intense artillery preparation. A few PW stated that 400-500 infantry were to be in the attack, these being in part reinforcements received 8 Jan, at which time 400 new levies were received and parcelled out to various units of 719 Inf Div which garrisoned this sector. The new men were not properly assimilated and briefed and some of those captured did not even know which company they belonged. This, in part, was responsible for the untold confusion which existed when the attack was launched. Some of the infantry moved out too soon and was caught in the fire of its own artillery. That which was left suffered heavily from our fire. Only small groups reached our lines and succeeded in infiltrating through them, and these were not in sufficient strength to cause us any material damage. Our situation was never out of control. One notable feature of the attack was the weight of the artillery preparation which preceded it. Between 0600 and 0730 hours 800 to 1000 rounds fell throughout the bridgehead area, and all told some 2500 rounds fell during the period, nearly all of it before 1400 hours. In this attack a PW was captured from 14 Co, 34 Reserve Regt. According to this PW, 34 Reserve Regt is a part of 778 VG Div. If 778 exists as a division, it is most likely a Stellunge division.

(7) 21 Jan: Heavy machine gun, mortar and artillery fire, which developed during the night of 20-21 Jan in the vicinity of ORSCHOLZ, continued into the day and forced the withdrawal of our troops who had been attacking that place on the preceding day. The enemy launched two attacks during the night, one at 2030 hours when he attacked at NENNIG with an estimated battalion of infantry supported by four tanks and the other at TETTINGEN with about a company of infantry and four tanks. The attack on TETTINGEN was repulsed but the one on NENNIG continued. By 2215 hours the enemy had gained about half the town. In the S our attack in FRAULAUTERN met heavy resistance from small arms and mortars and received moderate artillery fire. In SAARLAUTERN-RODEN isolated groups of enemy who had infiltrated during the course of the enemy attack 20 Jan, fought stubbornly but were reported to have been all mopped up by dark.

SECRET

(4)

96

SECRET

d. Week of 22-28 Jan 1945: Against dogged enemy resistance, principally from 11 Pz Div, out augmented by 416 Inf Div, XX Corps continued its efforts to push the enemy N in the SAAR-MOSELLE Triangle during the week. A part of the time one combat command of the 8th U. S. Armd Div was used to bolster the 94th U. S. Inf Div which had been fighting in snow and cold for almost a month. The enemy used his armor sparingly against us but the terrain gave him the advantage and our progress was slow. Our efforts were almost entirely confined to the area between SINZ (LO504) and the MOSELLE River. As the week closed we were still in contact with 11 Pz Div and there was no evidence of any new arrival, although PW's said 11 Pz Div had lost heavily in personnel. The enemy's actions, as well as our own, along the SAAR River front and our bridgehead vic SAAR-LAUTERN were confined to patrolling and improvement of defenses.

(1) 22 Jan: The enemy continued his strong reaction to our threat against his grasp on the SAAR-MOSELLE Triangle. He thrust again at the NENNIG-TETTINGEN area with the weight of his pressure directed against NENNIG. This effort was made by I Bn, 110 Pz Gren Regt, 11 Pz Div, with 2 Co, 209 Pz Engr Bn attached. Heavy personnel losses were suffered and portions of I Bn were later relieved by elements of 61 Begleit Co, 11 Pz Div. The enemy, having gained half the town before midnight 21-22 Jan continued to feed infantry into the occupied portion and harassed our troops there with artillery fire. House-to-house fighting developed during the day but the enemy retained his grasp on his half of the town. In the zone of the 95th Inf Div the enemy was inactive.

(2) 23 Jan: After using several tanks to harass our troops in NENNIG during the night the enemy attempted to encircle the town during the day. This was unsuccessful and by 1530 hours he had been driven from the town, although he had fought with determination from house to house, utilizing machine gun and artillery fire and some armor. Throughout the remainder of the day the enemy used artillery, tanks and assault guns to fire into NENNIG. Small groups of enemy resistance between NENNIG and TETTINGEN were reduced during the day, making it possible for our units to straighten their lines in that area. In the zone of the 95th Inf Div the enemy remained quiet.

(3) 24 Jan: During the night of 23-24 Jan there was no enemy activity except for sporadic artillery fire. On 24 Jan our forces attacking in the BERG NENNIG area were slowed by the fire of all arms, including some tanks. An estimated platoon, supported by one tank, attacked our troops trying to take BERG, but although this was driven off, strong fire from machine guns and 88-mm artillery prevented our capture of the town. In the zone of the 95th Inf Div the enemy maintained his non-aggressive attitude.

(4) 25 Jan: Our attack to seize BERG, held by troops of 61 Begleit, 11 Pz Div, jumped off at 0530 hours and encountered stubborn resistance, chiefly from small arms fire, which developed into bitter house-to-house fighting. Nevertheless, the town was clear at noon. The chateau at (LO23049), which had been an enemy strong point, was occupied after the enemy garrison had withdrawn. A PW said the garrison of the chateau was made up of about 20 men. Enemy artillery continued to shell our positions in NENNIG, BERG and WIRS. The enemy in the zone of the 95th Inf Div was inactive.

(5) 26 Jan: After a night marked by sporadic artillery fire the 94th Inf Div advanced N during the morning and by the end of

SECRET

the day had reached a line running generally along the BUEBINGEN (LO105) - SINZ Road. Chief hindrances to the advance were the cold weather, snow, difficult terrain and numerous anti-personnel mines. BUTZDORF was cleared of enemy at about 1500 hours, except for a slight increase in artillery fire the zone of the 95th Inf Div remained quiet, although ABELS Mill in RODEN (Q2881), which had been the source of much harassing fire, was entered by our patrols and found to contain only German dead. It was occupied by our troops.

(6) 27 Jan: There was no hostile activity during the night of 26-27 Jan until about 0350 hours when some 30 enemy infantry attempted to infiltrate into BUTZDORF. During the day our attack met moderate enemy resistance initially, made up of harassing infantry and armor action. Tanks, in groups of four to seven, participated in the fight and there was some stiff enemy infantry opposition. A counter-attack of estimated company strength at (LO47047), NE of SINZ, was launched by the enemy at about 1630 hours but was repulsed a half hour later. As darkness fell we were in possession of several houses on the outskirts of SINZ. In the sector of the 95th Inf Div the enemy remained quiet.

(7) 28 Jan: The only offensive enemy action during the day was an unsuccessful attack by an estimated company of infantry and four tanks, supported by intense 88-mm and mortar fire, SW of SINZ at 1425 hours. BUEBINGEN was taken by our troops in the face of moderate resistance consisting of small arms and mortar fire. In the SINZ-BUEBINGEN area generally, the enemy leaned heavily on the use of artillery, mortars and rocket fire, an estimated 900-1200 rounds of all types falling during the day. The enemy was extremely quiet along the remainder of the Corps front.

e. Closing days of Month: 29, 30, 31 Jan 1945: As the month closed, the enemy in XX Corps sector, smarting from the effects of his ineffectual attempts to forestall our threat to his SAAR-MOSELLE Triangle holdings and to reduce our bridgehead across the SAAR at SAARLAUTERN, slipped quietly into a policy of passive defense. The last three days of January found enemy activity reduced to light harassing fires of all arms and limited patrolling. There was little artillery fire. No PWs were taken from 11 Pz Div and it was evident the division had withdrawn its units from the line. However, it was not known at the time if the division had packed up and moved out or was awaiting replacements in the inner reaches of the "triangle".

SECTION IV - G-3 SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION:

At the beginning of the month, 1 January, XX Corps units were deployed in defense of the Corps sector as follows: The 3d Cavalry Group (reinforced) held the northern sector protecting the left flank of XX Corps from the MOSELLE to the SAAR River; the 90th Infantry Division was deployed to the right of the 3d Cavalry Group along the SAAR River to SAARLAUTERN (exclusive); the 95th Infantry Division held the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead and protected the XX Corps Sector along the SAAR River to the XV Corps boundary. The 10th Armored Division (-CCB) was held as a mobile reserve and remained in METZ and continued its training and maintenance program.

SECRET

⑥

98

SECRET

1152 Arty Bn (mtz) - Identified beginning December-S
sector.

1303 Fortress Arty Bn - Early December - SAARLAUTERN
area.

503 Festungs Pak Bn - Early December - SAARLAUTERN area.
Fla Pz Jaeg Abt 183 - Early December - SAARLAUTERN area.
456 Heeres Arty Abt - Late December - SAARLAUTERN area.
7 Artillerie Gruppe - Early December - SAARLAUTERN area.
813 Ueberschw Festungs MG Bn - Early December -

SAARLAUTERN.

817 Ueberschw Festungs MG Bn - Early December -

SAARLAUTERN.

Flak Kampftrupp Btr. - Early December - SAARLAUTERN.
807 Ueberschw MG Bn - Early December - SAARLAUTERN area.
41 GAF Fortress Bn - 22 December - 416 Div sector -

moved to XV U. S. Corps area at the end of Dec.

58 Fortress MG Bn - Operating under 416 Inf Div - moved
to XV U. S. Corps sector late in December.

Festungs Stamm Abt LXIII - Throughout December -
SAARLAUTERN-DILLINGEN area.

306 Pionier Bau Bn - Operating under 416 Inf Div in the
ORSCHOLZ area.

Pz Zerstoerer Bn 486 - ENSDORF-SAARLAUTERN area through
most of December.

Festungs Kabel Bohrzug - Early December - SAARLAUTERN.

I Volkssturm Bn, SAARBRUEKEN Stadt - Through most of
December - ENSDORF-FRAULAUTERN area.

668 Engr Bn - Through most of December - DILLINGEN
area.

Kampfgruppe NIETSCHKE- These remnants of 462 VG Div
retreated across the SAAR in the MERZIG area in early December, and
later were committed at DILLINGEN. According to PW, 1216 Gren Regt
(KG (NIETSCHKE)), was finally dissolved on 27 December.

Landesschuetzen Bn 484-B - Middle of December - Absorbed
by 719 Inf Div. (The Bn was formerly part of 35 Regt zbV, and had
been with 719 Inf Div in Holland.)

Landesschuetzen Bn 1020 - Middle of December - ENSDORF.

Volkssturm WESTMARK Tng Bn - 21 December - BUSS area.

Bn WESEL-DUESSLDORF (Bn KLEIN) - 23 December in 416
Inf Div sector - Moved into XV U. S. Corps area late in December.
Personnel consists of stomach ailment sufferers from Gren Ers &
Ausb Bn (M) 278.

SECTION IV - G-3 SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

On 1 December, troops of the XX Corps were disposed as follows:
The 3d Cavalry Group (reinforced) continued to hold the north front
in the Corps zone protecting the Corps left flank; 10th Armored Div-
ision, located just south of the 3d Cavalry Group, were attacking
to the east in the direction of MERZIG; the 90th and 95th Infantry
Divisions occupied the center of the Corps zone with the 90th Inf-
antry Division on the north and the 95th Infantry Division on the
south, both divisions with the mission of driving the enemy east of
the SAAR river. The 5th Infantry Division continued to exert maximum
pressure on the uncaptured forts remaining in the METZ area. The
10th RCT, attached to 95th Infantry Division, protected the Corps
right (south) flank. As elements of the 5th Infantry Division were
released from the METZ area, the 10th Infantry was to revert to
the command of the 5th Infantry Division.

SECRET

①

8637
99

SECRET

the day had reached a line running generally along the BUEBINGEN (LO105) - SINZ Road. Chief hindrances to the advance were the cold weather, snow, difficult terrain and numerous anti-personnel mines. BUTZDORF was cleared of enemy at about 1500 hours. Except for a slight increase in artillery fire the zone of the 95th Inf Div remained quiet, although ABELS Mill in RODEN (Q2881), which had been the source of much harassing fire, was entered by our patrols and found to contain only German dead. It was occupied by our troops.

(6) 27 Jan: There was no hostile activity during the night of 26-27 Jan until about 0350 hours when some 30 enemy infantry attempted to infiltrate into BUTZDORF. During the day our attack met moderate enemy resistance initially, made up of harassing infantry and armor action. Tanks, in groups of four to seven, participated in the fight and there was some stiff enemy infantry opposition. A counter-attack of estimated company strength at (LO47047), NE of SINZ, was launched by the enemy at about 1630 hours but was repulsed a half hour later. As darkness fell we were in possession of several houses on the outskirts of SINZ. In the sector of the 95th Inf Div the enemy remained quiet.

(7) 28 Jan: The only offensive enemy action during the day was an unsuccessful attack by an estimated company of infantry and four tanks, supported by intense 88-mm and mortar fire, SW of SINZ at 1425 hours. BUEBINGEN was taken by our troops in the face of moderate resistance consisting of small arms and mortar fire. In the SINZ-BUEBINGEN area generally, the enemy leaned heavily on the use of artillery, mortars and rocket fire, an estimated 900-1200 rounds of all types falling during the day. The enemy was extremely quiet along the remainder of the Corps front.

e. Closing days of Month: 29, 30, 31 Jan 1945: As the month closed, the enemy in XX Corps sector, smarting from the effects of his ineffectual attempts to forestall our threat to his SAAR-MOSELLE Triangle holdings and to reduce our bridgehead across the SAAR at SAARLAUTERN, slipped quietly into a policy of passive defense. The last three days of January found enemy activity reduced to light harassing fires of all arms and limited patrolling. There was little artillery fire. No PWs were taken from 11 Pz Div and it was evident the division had withdrawn its units from the line. However, it was not known at the time if the division had packed up and moved out or was awaiting replacements in the inner reaches of the "triangle".

SECTION IV - E-3 SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION:

At the beginning of the month, 1 January, XX Corps units were deployed in defense of the Corps sector as follows: The 3d Cavalry Group (reinforced) held the northern sector protecting the left flank of XX Corps from the MOSELLE to the SAAR River; the 90th Infantry Division was deployed to the right of the 3d Cavalry Group along the SAAR River to SAARLAUTERN (exclusive); the 95th Infantry Division held the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead and protected the XX Corps along the SAAR River to the SV Corps boundary. The 10th Armored Division (-CCB) was held as a mobile reserve and remained in METZ and continued its training and Maintenance program.

SECRET

100

1 January 1945

SECRET

XX CORPS: Weather: Overcast skies with slight haze limited visibility from 2-5 miles.
Aviation: No missions were flown throughout the period.

90 INF DIV: The 357th Infantry remained in reserve. On the Division left flank in the 358th Infantry sector one platoon of Infantry reduced a pillbox and captured four prisoners for interrogation. The 359th Infantry, on the right flank, sent two patrols east of the SAAR River to capture prisoners during the night 01-02 January. To-date 14,042 anti-tank mines, 477 AP mines and 177 flares have been placed in the 90th Infantry Division sector. 55,338 pounds of explosives have also been placed and 5,835 pounds blown.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - Rotation of elements in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area was accomplished. The 377th Infantry continued to improve defensive positions until dusk when relief of the 1st and 3d Battalions by the 3d Battalion 378th Infantry and elements of the 379th Infantry was started. The 2d Battalion 377th Infantry was attached to the 378th Infantry for employment in the LISDORF sector. At 0300 the 2d Battalion 378th Infantry was motorized and sent to cover the exposed XX Corps south flank which had been uncovered by the withdrawal of the 106th Cavalry Group under enemy pressure. The Battalion assisted the Cavalry Group by fire to regain their positions. The 379th Infantry with the 2d Battalion 378th Infantry attached, improved positions in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area for defense of the sector.

10 ARMD DIV: (-CCB) - Remained at METZ on alert to meet any enemy threat in XX Corps sector. It also continued its training, rehabilitation and maintenance program.

2 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light fog and haze with overcast skies. Visibility limited from 1-3 miles.
Aviation: No missions flown.

90 INF DIV: (TF POLK, attached) - The 358th Infantry spent the day reconnoitering for patrol routes and enemy positions for night patrols. Night patrol from the 359th Infantry captured one PW and preparations were made for ambush patrols to be placed during the night 02-03 January. The 357th Infantry remained in reserve. Extensive work was conducted by all personnel in the preparation of demolitions in the Division sector in accordance with the obstacle plan for the defense of the divisional sector.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - The readjustment of defensive positions were completed during the day in the bridgehead sector at SAARLAUTERN. The 377th Infantry (-2d Battalion) was placed in Division reserve in the vicinity of HARGARTEN. The 378th Infantry (-3d Battalion): The 1st Battalion remained in position while the 2d Battalion (reinforced) cleared enemy from the towns of SCHAFFHAUSEN and HOSTENBACH in the 106th Cavalry Group sector. 106 PW's were captured, 150 enemy were killed or wounded and the 2d Battalion sustained 45 casualties. Upon clearance of the enemy from this sector the 2d Battalion withdrew to UBERHERNN and turned the area over to the 106th Cavalry Group. The 379th Infantry readjusted its units in the bridgehead sector and assumed command of the area.

10 ARMD DIV: (-CCB) - Remained in the METZ area and conducted training, rehabilitation and maintenance.

3 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light snow in the morning that changed to rain in the afternoon and evening. Visibility 1-3 miles.
Aviation: No missions flown throughout period.

SECRET

90 INF DIV: (TF POLK attached) - Both the 358th and 359th Infantry sent out harrassing patrols of 10-15 man size to probe enemy installations while work continued on defensive positions. The 357th Infantry remained in reserve. The division also conducted a training school in its sector.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - Patrolled along the Division front and improved defensive positions.

10 ARMD DIV: (-CCB) - Remained in METZ area and continued its program of training and maintenance.

4 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light to moderate snow throughout the day and night. Visibility from one to three miles.

Aviation: No missions flown throughout the period.

90 INF DIV: (TF POLK, attached) - The two front line regiments, the 358th Infantry (left flank) and the 359th Infantry continued their practice of sending patrols east of the SAAR River and setting ambushes for the enemy patrols. One PW was captured. Division training continued in small unit maneuver problems and the firing and care of weapons was practiced. Engineer experiments in the reduction of obstacles was developed.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - Patrolled the west side of the SAAR River while the 378th Infantry and the 379th Infantry continued the improvement of defensive positions. The 377th Infantry (-2d Battalion) trained reinforcements.

10 ARMD DIV: (-CCB) - Remained in METZ area and continued its training and maintenance program.

5 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast throughout period with visibility limited from 0-2 miles.

Aviation: No missions flown due to weather.

90 INF DIV: (TF POLK, attached) - Patrols continued to probe the enemy lines to a depth of one mile in several instances. Two PW's were captured while valuable information regarding enemy dispositions were secured. The defense of the division sector continued.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - The 377th Infantry (-1st Battalion) remained in Division Reserve. The 378th Infantry (-3d Battalion) remained in defensive positions in its sector. In the 379th sector the 3d Battalion of the 378th Infantry and the 3d Battalion of the 379th Infantry launched an limited objective attack at 0730 in FRAULAU-TERN. Heavy small arms fire was received but several houses were cleared of enemy defenders, six PW's were taken, and the troops returned to their original position at darkness.

10 ARMD DIV: (-CCB) - Continued its training program concurrently with its rehabilitation and maintenance work.

6 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast with light fog in the afternoon that limited visibility from 1 to 3 miles.

Aviation: No missions flown throughout the entire period.

The 94th Infantry Division, which previously had contained the enemy resistance elements in the ST NAZAIRE pocket on the western coast of FRANCE was assigned to Third U. S. Army; one RCT, the 302d, had been immediately sent to temporarily aid the 28th Infantry Division in the LUXEMBOURG battle. The 94th Infantry Division (less the 302d RCT) was then attached to XX Corps. The 94th Infantry Division, directed by XX

SECRET

Corps, was to relieve with the 301st Infantry the 90th Infantry Division at 1800 with command of the sector to pass to Commanding General 94th Infantry Division at 0900 hours 7 January. The 90th Infantry Division was instructed to initiate movement of one RCT to SAEUL (P7427) in XII Corps zone at 1300 with remainder of Division to move to the same assembly area as soon as possible upon relief by 301st RCT of the 94th Infantry Division. The 94th Infantry Division was instructed to assemble its leading RCT, the 301st Infantry, in the vicinity of HALSTROFF (Q0988) - WALDWISSE (Q1291) prior to relief of elements of 90th Infantry Division. Relief of one RCT of the entire 90th Infantry Division was to be effected by 0800 hours 7 January, if possible. TF POLK was relieved from attachment to the 90th Infantry Division and attached to 94th Infantry Division. The 43d Cavalry Squadron of the 3d Cavalry Group was directed to assume responsibility, over the sector which had originally been held by the 359th Infantry Regiment of the 90th Infantry Division, patrol the area and maintain contact with the 95th Infantry Division on its right. The 3d Cavalry Squadron would remain in position on the left (North) flank of XX Corps with the 301st RCT situated between the two Cavalry Squadrons.

90 INF DIV: Relieved from attachment to XX Corps and attached to III Corps. 357th Infantry (Division reserve) began movement by motors to SAEUL (P7427) in LUXEMBOURG at 1615 hours. Remainder of division followed upon relief by elements of 94th Infantry Division during evening of 06 January and early morning hours of 07 January.

94 INF DIV: (Less the 302d Inf) (TF POLK, attached). Attached XX Corps. The 301st Infantry began to close in its designated area after movement across France from the ST NAZAIRE area.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Bn, attached). Continued to improve defensive positions in division sector while the 377th Infantry (-1st Battalion) in Division reserve continued a training and rehabilitation program. The 379th Infantry in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area created considerable movement in that sector in an effort to deceive the enemy into a belief that a withdrawal was being made. As a result of this deception some (5) prisoners of war were taken.

10 ARMD DIV: (-CCB) - In the METZ area, continued its training, rehabilitation and maintenance program.

7 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light snow in the morning that changed to moderate snow in the afternoon. Visibility limited from 1-3 miles.
Aviation: No missions flown throughout the entire period.

94 INF DIV: (less 302d RCT) (TF POLK, attached) - The 301st Infantry completed relief of the 358th Infantry, 90th Infantry Division, at 1030. Commanding General 94th Infantry Division assumed command of the sector 0900. Last element of 90th Infantry Division relieved at 1200. The motor elements of the 376th Infantry, 94th Infantry Division, closed into the vicinity of SIERCK (Q004943) at 2100 while foot elements of the division were enroute to UCKANGE (Q8579). The 43d Cavalry Squadron relieved the 359th RCT of the 90th Infantry Division on the right flank of the 94th Infantry Division sector. Patrols were sent out to the front and flanks at once and contact was gained with the 378th Infantry of the 95th Infantry Division on the right flank of the 43d Cavalry Squadron. The 3d Cavalry Squadron remained in position and protected the left (North) flank of XX Corps.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - The 377th Infantry in reserve continued to train reinforcements. The 378th and 379th Infantry continued to improve defensive positions and patrolled the wooded areas and the west side of the SAAR River in the divisional sector.

10 ARMD DIV: (-CCB) - Continued its training program in the METZ area.

SECRET

103

SECRET

90 INF DIV: (less 357th Infantry) - Moved out of XX Corps sector in the afternoon for the III Corps zone to participate in the Third U. S. Army attack against the German threat in LUXEMBOURG.

8 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light snow throughout the entire day with visibility from 1-3 miles.

Aviation: No missions were flown throughout the zone.

94 INF DIV: (less 302d RCT) (TF POLK, attached) - 301st Infantry patrolled the area in the center of the divisional sector. The 376th Infantry closed into SIERCK at 2330 and was in the process of relieving the 3d Cavalry Squadron of TF POLK on the left flank of XX Corps sector.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - Continued to improve defensive positions and maintain patrols along the west banks of the SAAR River in the divisional sector. Training of reinforcements continued by the division reserve, the 377th Infantry.

10 ARMD DIV: (-CCB) - Continued its training and maintenance program in the METZ area.

9 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast in the morning with light snow in the afternoon. Visibility limited from 1-3 miles.

Aviation: No missions flown throughout the entire period.

94 INF DIV: (less 302d Infantry) (TF POLK, attached) - 301st Infantry occupied its sector of the front on the left flank of XX Corps and conducted active patrolling in its sector. The 376th Infantry completed relief of 3d Cavalry Squadron on extreme left flank of XX Corps by 0730. The 3d Cavalry Squadron being relieved moved to the right flank of the division sector and took up positions in reserve to the rear of the 43d Cavalry Squadron. Defensive positions were improved, active patrolling was conducted, and the defense of the sector was maintained.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - Continued to improve the defensive positions in the division sector while the division reserve, the 377th Infantry, continued the training of reinforcements. A pillbox in the 378th Infantry Sector on the right flank was reduced by a combat patrol.

10 ARMD DIV: (-CCB) - Remained in the METZ area and conducted a training program concurrently with rehabilitation and maintenance.

10 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Overcast skies with light snow flurries which limited visibility from 1-3 miles. Intense cold reaching lowest temperature at 22 degrees with skies clearing by noon.

Aviation: No missions flown with all aircraft grounded for the period.

94 INF DIV: (TF POLK, attached) - The Division continued to improve its defensive positions. Active patrolling was maintained to their front with five patrols sent out from the 301st Infantry Regiment. The 1st and 3d Battalions continued to organize their MLR while the 2d Battalion was engaged in the organization of the RRL. The 302d Infantry Regiment closed in their area MONNEREN - WALDWEISTROFF - BIBICHE at 1730. The 376th Infantry maintained active patrolling with organization of the MLR and RRL.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - The training of reinforcements continued according to schedule. Very active patrolling was continued along the western bank of the SAAR River with improvement of present defensive positions. The 377th Infantry effected the relief of the 2d Battalion 379th Infantry in the northern part of the 379th

SECRET

104

~~SECRET~~

Infantry sector with Company F going in at REHLINGEN at 2100; E Company in at WALLERFANGEN at 1515, and G Company in at GUIISINGEN at 1140, with the 2d Battalion 377th Infantry being attached to the 379th Infantry at 2100. The 378th Infantry, with its 1st Battalion (-) remaining in LIS-DORF outposted WADGASSEN and continued patrolling the river. The 2d Battalion (Motorized) (✓) remained on alert in UBERHERREN, while the 3d Battalion was attached to the 379th Infantry. The 379th Infantry, 2d Battalion relieved by 2d Battalion 377th Infantry continued patrolling in SAARLAUTERN, maintaining contact with 94th Ranger Troop, and engaged in active defense of its bridgehead area.

10 ARMD DIV: With the bulk of the Division (-CCB, which remained under operational control of VIII Corps) in the METZ area, the unit engaged in a program of maintenance, rehabilitation and training.

11 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Cold with overcast skies; visibility limited to 0-3 miles in fog during morning until 0800. Temperature dropped to 5 degrees above zero, with snow flurries occurring during the afternoon. AVIATION: Haze and fog prohibited flying of any missions during the period.

94 INF DIV: (TF POLK, attached) - The 301st Infantry patrols reconnoitered AT ditch from (Q13209930) to (Q13759970) and acted as observers for artillery fire upon an enemy pillbox. Other patrols in 2d Battalion sector operated in front of MLR to check possible infiltration through OPL. The 302d Infantry continued training and prepared for Rcn of XX Corps zone, to begin at 0800 in the morning of 12 January.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - 1st Battalion 377th Infantry completed the relief of 1st Battalion 379th Infantry in bridgehead by 1900. 3d Battalion 377th Infantry relieved 3d Battalion 379th Infantry at 2030 and the command of the bridgehead passed to 377th Infantry at 2100. The 3d Battalion 378th Infantry was attached to the 377th Infantry and the 2d Battalion 377th Infantry was released from the 379th Infantry. The 2d Battalion 377th Infantry remained in its sector and active patrolling was continued. In the 378th Infantry, patrolling was continued with the 2d Battalion remaining on alert. The 379th Infantry was relieved at the bridgehead with its 3d Battalion closing in COUME at 2300. The 2d Battalion conducted reconnaissance for counterattack plans.

10 ARMD DIV: The Division (-CCB, under VIII Corps in BASTOGNE area) remained in the METZ area conducting maintenance, rehabilitation and training.

12 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light snow during the morning hours with visibility generally limited from 1-3 miles. Lowest temperature reached 14 degrees above zero. Skies generally hazy with occasional sun.

Aviation: Weather prohibited any missions being flown during the period.

94 INF DIV: (TF POLK, attached) - While the 301st Infantry continued to organize the MLR, three Rcn patrols operated forward of the outpost line knocking out a pillbox at (Q136996) with the aid of artillery. The 2d Battalion sent one patrol to the front to check possible enemy infiltration through the OPL. The 302d Infantry conducted physical conditioning training marches in accordance with its schedule, while it continued to make Rcn in the 95th Infantry Division zone in the event of possible counterattack. The 376th Infantry maintained contact with the 43d Cavalry Squadron, continued to patrol to their front and prepare defensive positions on the RRL.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - The 377th Infantry, 2d Battalion remained at GUIISINGEN and continued to maintain contact with the 43d Cavalry Squadron on their left flank. The Rcn platoon and a platoon of Company D, 778th Tank Battalion patrolled in their sector and

~~SECRET~~

105

~~SECRET~~

maintained contact with the 94th Rcn Troop on their left flank. The 1st Battalion continued to patrol in SAARLAUTERN. 3d Battalion of 377th Infantry and 3d Battalion of the 378th Infantry (attached) continued patrolling in their sector. The 378th Infantry continued to improve its defensive positions while the 2d Battalion remained motorized and on the alert at UBERHERRN. The 379th Infantry closed its Regimental CP in FAICK at 2130 while the Regiment prepared counterattack plans and conducted reconnaissance of defensive positions. 5th Ranger Battalion maintained traffic security posts North and East of ST AVOLD.

10 ARMD DIV: Bulk of Division (-CCB under VIII Corps) remained in METZ area conducting training. Additional reinforcements were assigned to CCB.

13 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Continued below freezing, with clearing skies. Visibility was limited to 3-4 miles during daylight.

Aviation: During morning one Squadron made reconnaissance east of SAAR River and noted light enemy traffic. During afternoon, 377th Squadron bombed and damaged piers, bridges and barges (wL160190) and (wL160150). 378th Squadron bombed and destroyed north embankment of railroad bridges at (wL151232) cutting the tracks at both ends. 379th Squadron damaged the western approach to a bridge at (wL173177), while the 388th Squadron bombed marshalling yards at (wQ350880) and strafed ten motor transports at LEBACH.

94 INF DIV: (TF POLK, attached) - The Division improved its defensive positions and completed plans for a limited objective operation employing a reinforced Infantry battalion to be launched in the vicinity of TETTINGEN - BORG. The 301st Infantry continued organization of the MLR and RRL operating patrols to their front. The 302d Infantry continued to reconnoiter for counterattack plans in Division zone and began to paint vehicles white as a camouflage in the snow covered terrain. The 376th (Company B, 607th TD and Company C, 319th Engr Battalion attached effective 131800) improved position on MLR and prepared for limited objective attack involving one reinforced battalion.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - Division continued to improve defenses in its sector with extensive patrolling. 377th Infantry attached two platoons of Company A, 778th Tank Battalion as of 131200 to support limited objective attack on 14 January. 2d Battalion remained at GUIISINGEN and maintained contact with elements of 43d Cavalry Squadron on their left flank. Reconnaissance platoon and a platoon of Company D, 778th Tank Battalion continued patrolling in sector and maintained contact with 94th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop on left flank. Patrolling in bridgehead sector maintained. 378th Infantry continued active patrolling, maintaining the 2d Battalion (Mtz) in UBERHERRN alerted for employment on Division Order. Combat Patrol of Company C encountered enemy in SPURK during night of 12-13 Jan. 379th Infantry displaced its cannon company to ST AVOLD at 131600. Prepared counterattack plans and continued to improve defenses.

10 ARMD DIV: (-CCB) - Conducted extensive reconnaissance in preparation of counterattack plans. Engaged in training and rehabilitation.

14 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Clear and cold with visibility 5-7 miles in Corps sector. Temperature reached lowest at 14 degrees above zero.

Aviation: Morning of 14th, 377th Squadron bombed and strafed an enemy bivouac area in the woods at (wL250100). An estimated forty-six motor transports and two armored vehicles were destroyed. Reported over fifty motor transports moving west in the vicinity. In afternoon, two Squadrons attacked motor transport concentration in the vicinity of the woods at (wL250100) destroying forty-two and damaging twenty-three of the tanks. Continued to fly armored reconnaissance east of the SAAR River.

~~SECRET~~

106

SECRET

94 INF DIV: (TF POLK, attached) - 301st Infantry continued active patrolling and organization of the MLR. 302d Infantry reconnoitered 2d Cavalry Group zone for counterattack plans. 376th Infantry, 1st Battalion (CP opened at WOCHERN (LO38012) at 0600) Co B, 607th TD Bn, Co C, 81st Cml Bn, Co C, 319th Engr Bn attached, crossed the LD - Co A on the right, C on the left, B in reserve (LO37022 - LO42020) at 0730 and advanced under cover of artillery preparation to southern edge of TETTINGEN (LO45025). With machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire, the two companies moved in to capture the town at 0815. At 1007, Company A advancing toward BUTZDORF, was pinned down at northern edge of TETTINGEN. After 5 minute artillery preparation on BUTZDORF, Company A advanced to capture the town by 1142. BUTZDORF was counterattacked from CAMPHOLZ WOODS (LO58020) with 40 men at 1225. Attack was repulsed and enemy driven off. At 1335 one platoon of Company B moved into BUTZDORF and Company B (-) moved into TETTINGEN. Perimeter defense of both cities organized and sporadic enemy artillery fire continued to be received. 2d Battalion 376th Infantry supported the attack of the 1st Battalion by interdicting CAMPHOLZ WOODS with mortar fire. 3d Battalion completed plans for offensive operations in battalion relief. Opened 3d Battalion CP at BESCH by 1900.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - 377th Infantry - 3d Battalion continued patrolling in their zone night of 13-14 January. 3d Battalion launched a limited objective attack at 0800, against light resistance. Encountered small arms and mortar fire, reaching objective and withdrawing according to plan by 1800 to original defensive positions. 2d and 3d platoons of Company C, 778th Tank Battalion relieved from attachment to 377th Infantry at 1600. Continued to maintain contact with 94th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop. 378th Infantry attached its 3d Battalion to 377th Infantry while its 1st Battalion remained in LISDORF improving its defensive position. 2d Battalion remained on alert in UBERHERRN. 379th Infantry conducted reconnaissance of Blue Line defenses and prepared counterattack plans.

10 ARMD DIV: CCB remained under VIII Corps control while CCA remained in METZ area conducting training and rehabilitation.

15 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: The ceiling consisted of high scattered clouds, limiting visibility from 1 to 4 miles. The temperature varied between 7 and 16 degrees above zero with continued cold and freezing atmosphere.

Aviation: During the morning, armored reconnaissance was being flown beyond the SAAR River, while the afternoon was utilized for striking at marshalling yards and targets of opportunity.

94 INF DIV: (TF POLK, attached) - In the 301st Infantry, the 1st Battalion continued to organize the MLR and operate patrols to its front. The 2d Battalion sent Company F (motorized) to the vicinity of WOCHERN for the purpose of clearing communication lines to the 1st Battalion, 376th Infantry in TETTINGEN. After the company had arrived and before reconnaissance was completed, an order was issued changing the left Regimental boundary. Company F moved to a position between BORG (LO600) and BUSCHDORF (Q087977), closing at 1730.

The 302d Infantry followed a prescribed training schedule. In the 376th Infantry, the 1st Battalion continued to hold TETTINGEN (LO45025) and BUTZDORF (LO48030). An enemy counterattack of four companies was repulsed. The 2d Battalion relieved two companies from the MLR and moved them to WOCHERN (LO38012). At 0715, the 3d Battalion attacked NENNIG (LO22043) - WIES. All troops were on their objectives by 1045 and continued to mop up until 1700.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached). 377th Infantry: The 1st Battalion remained in its former position. In the 2d Battalion, Company G continued active patrolling, capturing several enemy prisoners. The 3d Battalion reported that an enemy patrol had infiltrated into the sector of Company L at 0500. Only one casualty was inflicted upon the enemy patrol however. The 3d Battalion, 378th Infantry, (attached to the

SECRET

107

SECRET

377th Infantry) was receiving moderate artillery and mortar fire. The reconnaissance platoon, together with Company D, 778th Tank Battalion, continued to maintain contact with the 94th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop on the left flank.

The 378th Infantry continued to improve its defensive positions, with its 2d Battalion (motorized) (reinforced) alerted for employment on Division order. 379th Infantry: The Battalions continued to improve defensive positions and reconnoiter pre-determined defensive positions. 3d Battalion conducted reconnaissance.

10 ARMD DIV: CCA remained in the vicinity of METZ conducting rehabilitation and training. CCB was released from the control of VIII Corps at 1200, and prepared to rejoin the Division.

16 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Clouds, which were low, forming an overcast at 0900 broke into scattered formations at 1000 remaining scattered until 1800 when the skies cleared for the remainder of the day. Visibility was generally limited from 4 to 6 miles. The cold continued slightly above freezing.

Aviation: Armored reconnaissance was conducted over the Corps front, with targets of opportunity engaged where possible.

94 INF DIV: (TF POLK, Attached) - 301st Infantry: The I & R Platoon sent patrols beyond the OPL in the forest, southeast of OBERLEUKEN (LO818), which reported no contact with the enemy. The AT Company relieved the weapons company of the 376th Infantry within the zone of the boundary change between the regiments. The 1st and 3d Battalions continued to organize the MLR and RRL while the 2d Battalion made reconnaissance for the relief of the 1st Battalion. 302d Infantry: All of the battalion commanders made a reconnaissance of the 376th Infantry zone. 376th Infantry: A junction was effected between the 1st and 3d Battalions at 1517. The 1st Battalion continued to hold TETTINGEN (LO45026) and BUTZ-DORF (LO48029) receiving sporadic artillery and mortar fire. The 2d Battalion attacked and reduced two pillboxes, contacting the 3d Battalion at (LO33033) by 1517. With Company C in TETTINGEN, Company G cleared the wooded area between (LO33026) and (LO26028). The 3d Battalion continued to hold NENNIG (LO23043) BERG (LO24046) and WIES (LO19051).

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - 377th Infantry: 1st and 2d Battalions continued active patrolling and interception of enemy patrols attempting to infiltrate through the bridgehead. The 3d Battalion in SAARLOUIS - RODEN received heavy enemy artillery fire between 1000 and 1200 with no other enemy activity reported. The 3d Battalion, 378th Infantry, in FRAULAUTERN, (attached), also received intermittent artillery and mortar fire on their positions. 378th Infantry: (3d Battalion attached to 377th Infantry). The regiment continued to improve its defensive positions, holding its 2d Battalion (motorized) (reinforced) alerted for employment on Division order. 379th Infantry: (Co C, 320th Med Bn attached) - The regiment continued to improve its positions along the BEE LINE while the 3d Battalion reconnoitered the CHOW LINE.

10 ARMD DIV: CCA remained in the METZ area conducting training while CCB continued to prepare to rejoin the division. CCB had not yet been released from the control of the 101st Airborne Division.

17 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Ceiling conditions were low and overcast throughout the period with the formations closing in at 0400. Light snow flurries fell from 1300 to 1400 with visibility limited from 1 to 2 miles.

Aviation: Weather prohibited the flying of missions during the day.

94 INF DIV: (TF POLK, attached) - One company of the 778th Tank Battalion (Special) was attached to the Division at 1200 for operations

- 17 -

SECRET

108

SECRET

only. The 301st Infantry continued to organize the MLR and to extend active patrolling beyond the OPL. The 302d Infantry followed a prescribed training schedule and made detailed reconnaissance of the 376th Infantry zone and of the left of the 301st Infantry zone prior to an effective relief of the 376th Infantry. The 376th Infantry continued to hold the towns of TETTINGEN (LO45026) and BUTZDORF (LO48029) using assault teams to reduce pillboxes to their front. The 3d Battalion held the towns of NENNIG (LO23043), BERG and WEIS (LO19051) while the 2d Battalion in an attempt to assault a strongpoint of five pillboxes (LO29035) was repulsed by small arms and mortar fire.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - In the 377th Infantry sector, outposts of the MLR were maintained and active combat patrols were sent out along the entire front. Further reconnaissance of their defensive positions was continued throughout the period. The 3d Bn, 378th Infantry (attached), was relieved in their sector by the 2d Battalion 378th Infantry, the relief complete by 2030, at which time the 3d Battalion reverted to its parent unit and the 2d Battalion was attached to the 377th Infantry. The 378th Infantry closed its 3d Battalion in UBERHERRN (L245 725) at 2030, relieving one platoon of its Cannon Company, a platoon of the AT Company and the 2d platoon of Company B, 778th Tank Battalion from attachment to the 2d Battalion and attaching them to the 3d Battalion which assumed an alert status. The 1st Battalion (-) remained in LISDORF (L290 790) in defensive position with its Company B (reinforced) outposting WADGASSEN. The 1st Battalion conducted a river crossing feint in the vicinity of LISDORF at 0730 to determine enemy reaction with artillery and mortar fire. Only small arms and machine gun fire were received. 379th Infantry: At 0815 the 1st Battalion was given a practice alert for movement on Division order to occupy defensive positions in the vicinity of ST AVOLD - L'HOPITAL. The battalion began its movement at 1030, closing into position at 1145. The battalion, its maneuver completed, returned to its original assembly area in FAICK by 1545. The 3d Battalion conducted training and a reconnaissance of its established defensive line.

10 ARMD DIV: (-CCB) - The 10th Armd Div was relieved from attachment to XX Corps and was attached to the 7th U. S. Army, effective 17 January 1945. CCA began its move from the METZ area to the vicinity of DIEUZ (WQ255240) at 0900. (For security reasons the 10th Armored Division continued to appear on the XX Corps G-3 Periodic Report in a special insert, not for normal distribution). CCB was to move, relieved from VIII Corps control, toward METZ and follow the Division.

18 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: The lowest temperature reached during the period averaged 08 degrees above zero, while visibility was limited from 1 to 3 miles. The clouds were low with overcast throughout the period with intermittent rain and snow flurries.

Aviation: Weather prohibited the flying of any missions.

94 INF DIV: (TF POLK, attached) - The 301st Infantry continued to organize the MLR and to operate reconnaissance patrols to their front. The 302d Infantry 1st Battalion closed, with the AT Company, in the 376th Infantry sector by 1745. The remainder of the regiment was in readiness to effect the relief of the 376th Infantry on Division order. The 376th Infantry continued to hold TETTINGEN (LO45026) - BERG, WIES (LO19051), NENNIG (LO23043) but was forced to withdraw after continued enemy tanks and Infantry attacks from BUTZDORF (LO48029). At 0715 the enemy had launched an attack on TETTINGEN and BUTZDORF in the 1st Battalion sector with tanks penetrating BUTZDORF by 0755. The enemy was forced back by artillery, mortar and small arms fire by 0835. Enemy tanks and infantry again attacked and forced Company A in BUTZDORF to withdraw at 1830, when the 1st Battalion (-) reverted to regimental reserve in the vicinity of WOCHERN (LO12038). At 1150 Company F (-), attached to 1st Battalion, had prepared to launch a counterattack on BUTZDORF. Company F, which had been attached to the 1st Battalion at 1310, reverted to the 2d Battalion at 1830. The 3d Battalion continued to hold NENNIG and to evacuate the wounded under the heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire which fell in the area NENNIG, WIES, BERG throughout the period.

- 18 -

SECRET

109

SECRET

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - The 377th Infantry continued to maintain its bridgehead and MLR with ambush patrols being placed between ST BARBARA (L280810) and ITZBACH (L220840). No contact was made with the enemy. The AT Company relieved elements of the 807th TD Bn, providing close-in protection for a captured bridge. The 378th Infantry continued to improve its defensive positions, maintaining its 3d Battalion (motorized) in UBERHERRN, alerted for employment on Division order. The 379th Infantry remained in Division reserve alerted for employment on Division order.

35 INF DIV: Attached to the XX Corps VOGG of the Third U. S. Army. The 137th RCT began its move from an assembly area in the vicinity of MORTELANGE (vP565390) at 0930 and by noon was enroute to the METZ area; the remainder of the Division (-RCT 134, attached to the 6th Armored Division) was to move to METZ on the 19th. RCT 137 had closed in METZ at 1735.

10 ARMD DIV: The Division (-CCB and one AFA Battalion and stragglers) relieved from XX Corps and attached to the Seventh U. S. Army by special order on the 17th, had cleared METZ by 1200 and was enroute to DIEUZ (wQ255240). CCB arriving in METZ at 1400, its Headquarters assumed control of the troops of CCR and continued to move to DIEUZ. The Headquarters of the reserve command assumed command of the troops of CCB in METZ and began to refit and to assign reinforcements preparatory to moving to DIEUZ on the 20th.

8 ARMD DIV: Began its move from an assembly area in the vicinity of PONT-a-MOUSSON (vU770350) at 1845 toward KOENIGSMACKER, where it was to be attached to the 94th Infantry Division. (Under Third U. S. Army order, this Division has been divided into three equally balanced Combat Commands to be rotated in attachment to the 94 Infantry Division. Two of these commands are to be maintained in PONT-a-MOUSSON at all times, while the third is to be attached to the 94th Infantry Division. No Combat Command is to move from PONT-a-MOUSSON to relieve the command with the 94th Infantry Division until the latter command has closed in the PONT-a-MOUSSON area).

19 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Visibility was limited from 4-7 miles during the morning. Light snow flurries kept the temperature between 30 and 35 degrees above zero. Clouds were low and variable in overcast throughout the period.

Aviation: During the afternoon, armored reconnaissance was flown under the control of the 94th Infantry Division. This mission failed to locate enemy armored columns in the vicinity of TRASSEM (wL125095).

94 INF DIV: (TF POLK, attached) - 301st Infantry: The 1st Battalion completed its concentration at OBERTUNSDORF (Q102962) by 2400 and was prepared for offensive action. The 2d Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion in its original area at 2200. The 3d Battalion was relieved by the 3d Cavalry Group in a zone to include the LE SCHEIDWALD FORREST at 2300 while the regiment maintained units at (Q144987) and at (Q142980). 302d Infantry: Regiment was in the process of relieving the 376th Infantry. The 376th Infantry was in the process of being relieved by the 302d Infantry.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - 377th Infantry: Active patrolling was continued with the resulting destruction of a pillbox in FRAULAUTERN (L300800). Light to moderate artillery fire was received throughout the period. The 378th Infantry continued to improve its defensive positions and to hold the 3d Battalion in UBERHERRN on an alert status. The 379th Regiment continued to improve their positions and reconnoiter the defenses of the BLUE and CHOW Lines.

35 INF DIV: (Attached XX Corps 18 January) - The Division opened its forward CP in METZ at 0845. The remainder of the Division (-RCT 134) closed in METZ at 2300.

SECRET

110

SECRET

8 ARMD DIV: CCA, which had moved from an assembly area in the vicinity of PONT-a-MOUSSON (vU770350), closed in KOENIGSMACKER (vU945895) at 0545 and became attached to the 94th Infantry Division.

10 ARMD DIV: (Relieved from attachment to XX Corps 18 January 1945). The Reserve Command, under the command of CCB Headquarters, had remained in assembly area in the vicinity of DIEUZ (wQ255240) while the troops of CCB under the command of Headquarters CCR prepared to move to DIEUZ from the METZ area on the 20th.

20 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: The sky was low overcasts of dark snow clouds for most of the period. Visibility was generally limited from 5-7 miles, with light snow flurries between 1300 and 1800.

Aviation: No missions were flown throughout the day because of prohibitive weather.

94 INF DIV: (TF POLK, attached) - 301st Infantry: The 1st Battalion attacked ORSCHOLZ (L124014), crossing the LD at 0725. Companies A and B were halted at the edge of the woods west of ORSCHOLZ by small arms, mortar and machine gun fire. Company I was attached to the battalion at 1005. Another coordinated attack was launched by the units remaining in the vicinity of the LD at 1500. However, weather conditions and extensive fields of mines and booby traps caused further delay in the advance. An unsuccessful attempt was made at 1755 to flank the mine fields. Companies I, C and A(-) attacked to the east to establish contact with the 1st Battalion. The 2d Battalion protected the left flank of the regiment. The 3d Battalion(-) supported by fire the attack of the 1st Battalion and completed its concentration at (Q112966). 302d Infantry: The 1st Battalion attacked pillboxes at (LO302) and had captured or destroyed all of five by 1450. Company C attempted to close the gap existing in Company L at 1655 but was forced to assume the defensive. The end of the period found the 1st Battalion occupying defensive positions near BESCH (LO14017). The 2d Battalion continued to hold a line TETTINGEN (LO45026) - WOCHERN - BORG (LO24046) repulsing an enemy attack on TETTINGEN at 2200. The 3d Battalion continued to hold WIES (LO19051) - BORG and NENNIG (LO23043). The enemy succeeded in penetrating its lines at (LO37031) splitting the elements of Company L. Enemy attacks of five tanks supported by Infantry were repulsed at 1000 and at 2045. The 376th Infantry closed in assembly area in Division reserve at 0800.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - 377th Infantry: The enemy made piecemeal attacks throughout the day with a total force of 400 Infantry. The 3d Battalion was attacked first at 0610 with no ground lost to the enemy. Heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire fell throughout the day. One platoon of the 778th Tank Battalion was attached at 1045 for employment against enemy attacks in the bridgehead. The 378th Infantry continued to occupy its positions and to hold its 3d Battalion in a status of alert. The 379th Infantry practiced quick moves into alternate defensive positions.

35 INF DIV: The Division (-RCT 134) remained in assembly area in the vicinity of METZ conducting rehabilitation and training.

8 ARMD DIV: CCA remained under attachment to the 94th Infantry Division in the vicinity of KOENIGSMACKER (wQ945895).

10 ARMD DIV: Headquarters CCR, with the troops of CCB, crossed the IP at METZ at 0700 and had cleared the area at 1530 enroute to join the remainder of the Division under the Seventh U. S. Army at DIEUZ (wQ255240).

21 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Visibility throughout the period was limited from 2-4 miles, with light snow from 0100 to 0700 followed by intermittent snow flurries throughout the day.

SECRET

SECRET

Aviation: The weather prohibited the flying of any missions.

94 INF DIV: (TF POLK, attached) - 301st Infantry: Since the 1st Battalion had suffered such heavy casualties west of ORSCHOLZ, it had drawn back into its original positions, where it was relieved by the 2d Battalion. 302d Infantry: The 1st Battalion during the day became engaged in heavy fighting north of the woods in the vicinity of (wL030030). Enemy attempting to infiltrate through the positions of the 1st Battalion during the night were driven back while the 2d Battalion successfully held TETTINGEN (L045026) against a heavy enemy counterattack at 2140. The enemy attempted a reinforced attack against NENNIG (L023043) and at 2107 the 3d Battalion, in the strength of an Infantry force, supported by tanks and preceded by a heavy artillery concentration. The enemy attack increased in pressure throughout the night. The 376th Infantry remained in Division reserve.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - The 2d Battalion 379th Infantry completed the relief of the 2d Battalion 377th Infantry (reinforced) at 2000, and became attached to the 377th Infantry. The 2d Battalion 377th Infantry closed in its assembly area at 2206. The 3d Battalion 377th Infantry continued to mop up in SAARLAUTERN - RODEN while the 2d Battalion 378th Infantry initiated a limited objective attack at 0745 in the face of very strong resistance in the form of small arms and mortar fire. The 1st and 3d Battalions of the 379th Infantry prepared to relieve the remainder of the 377th Infantry.

35 INF DIV: The division (-RCT 134) remained in the METZ area conducting training and rehabilitation.

8 ARMD DIV: CCA remained in the vicinity of KOENIGSMACKER (wQ945895) under 94th Infantry Division control.

22 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: The overcast skies broke at 0400 and remained scattered to clear throughout the morning, becoming low to scattered clouds at intervals. Light snow prevailed from 0100 to 0200 with lowest temperatures at 21 degrees above zero, and visibility was limited from 2 to 5 miles.

Aviation: Two squadrons of the 365th Group seeking targets directed by the 94th Infantry Division, were unable to see them due to overcast and dropped their bombs on enemy territory.

35 INF DIV: (-RCT 134). The Division remained in the METZ area conducting rehabilitation and training.

94 INF DIV: (TF POLK, attached). The 301st Infantry: While the 1st Battalion continued to reorganize and rehabilitate, the 2d and 3d Battalions continued to improve their defensive positions. 302d Infantry: (2d Bn 376th Inf, Cos B and C 81 Cml Bn, Co A 748 Tk Bn, 7th Armd Inf Bn, Co A 607 TD Bn, attached) - the Regiment continued to hold TETTINGEN (L045026) and to improve its position there while an attack was launched to clear the enemy from the woods north of the town. The 3d Battalion launched a counterattack at 0800 to regain ground previously lost to an enemy attack of Infantry and three tanks on NENNIG and BORG. At the end of the period the Battalion held BORG (L024046) and the south one-half of NENNIG (L023043). 376th Infantry: The 2d Battalion was attached to the 302d Infantry at 1515 and closed in PERL at 1720. The 3d Battalion was motorized and alerted for employment in the division zone.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - The 1st Battalion of the 377th Infantry was relieved by the 3d Battalion 379th at 1900. The 3d Battalion 377th was in the process of being relieved by the 1st Battalion 379th at the close of the period. Mopping up operations were continued by the 3d Battalion 377th Infantry during the period of the relief and fire was being exchanged between all elements and the enemy.

8 ARMD DIV: CCA remained in the vicinity of KOENIGSMACKER (wQ945895) under 94th Infantry Division control.

SECRET

23 January 1945

SECRET

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast skies with a moderate snowfall throughout the afternoon and evening.

Aviation: Two Squadrons attacked SINZ (LO55043) and KREUZWEILER (LO38068) in the morning with good results. The 3d Cavalry Group was detached (1900 hours) from the 94th Infantry Division and assigned a defensive sector, between the 94th and 95th Infantry Divisions.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached). The 1st and 3d Battalions of the 377th Infantry were relieved in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead by the 1st and 3d Battalions of the 379th Infantry and 2d Battalion, 378th Infantry at 0100. Command of the bridgehead passed to 379th Infantry (2d Battalion 378th attached) at the same time. The 378th Infantry (-2d Battalion) remained in defensive positions on the divisional right flank and maintained contact with units of XXI Corps on its right. The 377th Infantry, upon relief, moved into Division reserve vicinity FALCK (Q200700) closing at 0825. The 5th Ranger Battalion moved from ST AVOLD to LE JOHANNISBANNBERG (Q138646) and closed at 1600.

94 INF DIV: TF POLK was detached at 1859 and was assigned a 10 mile sector by XX Corps between the 94th and 95th Infantry Divisions defending the MERZIG area. The 94th Infantry Division proper, on the left (North) flank of XX Corps, held the 376th Infantry (-2d Battalion) in reserve. The 301st Infantry on the Division's right (East) flank maintained contact by patrols with TF POLK and continued the active defense of its sector by combat patrols. The 302d Infantry (2d Battalion 376th Infantry, attached) continued to repel continuous enemy counterattacks of tank supported infantry. NENNIG was cleared of the enemy in the afternoon by the 2d Battalion 376th Infantry, but the enemy succeeded in occupying BERG the same afternoon.

35 INF DIV: (-RCT 134). Cleared METZ at 1700 except for rear echelon of Division Headquarters which will move 24 January to join remainder of Division in ~~XXI~~ Corps to participate in the COLMAR offensive. Company A, 654th TD Battalion (SP) remained at METZ and came under XX Corps for administration.

CCA 8 ARMD DIV: Made preparation for an attack to be made NE of BERG at 0710 the following morning.

24 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Snow in early morning until daybreak with low broken clouds throughout the remainder of the day.

Aviation: Two Squadrons worked with the 94th Infantry Division and attacked KIRF (LO92065) and a tank concentration in the woods at (L100120) with good results reported.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached). The 377th Infantry, in reserve, made a reconnaissance of defensive positions along the boundary between XX Corps and XXI Corps while the 378th Infantry (-2d Battalion) maintained its defensive positions on the right flank (South) of XX Corps. The 379th Infantry (2d Battalion 378th Infantry, attached) continued aggressive patrolling and defense of the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead.

94 INF DIV: The 376th Infantry (-2d Battalion) was held in reserve for possible employment in the sector of TF POLK. The 301st Infantry on the right continued to improve its defensive positions and organized its sector for defense. The 302d Infantry (2d Battalion 376th Infantry, attached) continued to hold TETTINGEN, NENNIG and WEIS. The 2d Battalion of the 376th Infantry attacked BERG at 0730 and advanced against tank and infantry resistance to engage in heavy street fighting at nightfall.

CCA 8 ARMD DIV: Deferred attack by order 94 Infantry Division to Northeast of BERG until the 2d Battalion 376th Infantry had taken the town of BERG.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group reinforced) actively defended its sector vicinity of MERZIG by the use of combat, contact and demolition patrols.

25 January 1945

SECRET

XX CORPS: Weather: Generally overcast skies with light snow and showers. Lowest temperature was 2 degrees above zero.

Aviation: All aircrafts were grounded due to weather.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached). The 377th Infantry remained in reserve but made route reconnaissance to TF POLK sector in case of employment in that sector. The 378th Infantry (-2d Battalion) remained in position along the defensive sector on right (South) flank of XX Corps. The 379th Infantry (2d Battalion 378th Infantry attached) continued to hold and patrol the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead.

94 INF DIV: The 301st Infantry remained in position after the 3d Battalion, on the right flank, was relieved by the 1st Battalion and the 3d Battalion moved out of the line and became the Division reserve. The 376th Infantry moved north, on the left flank, into the zone of attack. The 2d Battalion cleared BERG at 1200 and reverted to 376th Infantry control. The 1st Battalion of 376th Infantry relieved the 1st Battalion of the 302d Infantry on the line. After the completion of these adjustments, elements of the 302d Infantry and 376th Infantry attacked towards SINZ (LO55043) and at nightfall had crossed the AT ditch extending North of BERG.

CCA 8 ARMD DIV: 7th Armored Infantry Battalion with one platoon of tanks launched its attack North from BERG at 1300 and seized the CHATEAU (LO24048). They were relieved at 1630 by elements of the 302d Infantry and then prepared for a resumption of the attack to the North the following morning.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group reinforced) maintained active patrols in and along its sector.

26 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Generally overcast with light snow throughout the morning and afternoon.

Aviation: One Squadron contacted 94th Infantry Division but was unable to attack its assigned targets due to overcast. Operational Instructions were issued ordering the relief by the 26th Infantry Division of the 95th Infantry Division in the SAARLAUTERN area as rapidly as possible after its move south from the VIII Corps zone, which was anticipated to be the 27th or 28th of January. The 95th Infantry Division was ordered to move to assembly areas designated by Commanding General VIII Corps as relieved by the 26th Infantry Division and to remove or cover all Division insignia and vehicle markings before initiating movement of any elements or reconnaissance parties to VIII Corps zone.

95 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached). The 377th Infantry, in reserve, and the 378th Infantry (-2d Battalion) maintained their positions and prepared for move to VIII Corps zone. The 379th Infantry (2d Battalion 378th Infantry attached) launched a limited objective attack to eliminate an enemy held strongpoint located in a mill at (Q289818) and at darkness the mill had been surrounded.

94 INF DIV: The 1st and 2d Battalions 301st Infantry held the right flank of the Division sector while the 3d Battalion, as Division reserve, was moved up behind the attacking 302d and 376th Infantry for possible employment. The 2d Battalion 376th Infantry (on the left) and the 3d Battalion 302d Infantry resumed the attack at 0700 but were held up by heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire zeroed in on the anti-tank ditch (LO27055) - (LO35052). The 2d Battalion 302d Infantry was then moved around to the right flank of the two front assault Battalions and advanced up to 1500 yards and then repulsed an enemy counterattack of two tanks and one Tank Destroyer.

CCA 8 ARMD DIV: Continued the attack north at 0905 against increasing fire and prepared obstacles until relieved by 2d Battalion 302d Infantry, 94th Infantry Division at 1700 when it withdrew to rear assembly areas.

SECRET

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group reinforced). Actively defended the center sector of XX Corps by the employment of twenty-six patrols that consisted of eleven combat patrols, eight contact patrols and seven demolition patrols.

27 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light snows throughout the entire day.
Aviation: No missions flown due to weather.

95 INF DIV: All the regiments remained in position prepared to execute move north into VIII Corps zone. In the 378th Infantry sector resistance in the MILL ceased at daybreak. The 377th Infantry, in reserve, was prepared to move out first upon relief by 104th Infantry of 26th Infantry Division. The 5th Ranger Battalion was relieved from attachment to the 95th Infantry Division and came under XX Corps control.

94 INF DIV: The 1st Battalion of the 301st Infantry, upon relief by 2d Battalion in the right flank sector, moved west to WEIS (LO19051) to relieve the 2d Battalion 376th Infantry. The 1st Battalion 376th Infantry resumed the attack in conjunction with other elements at 0905 and encountered a group of enemy armor just south of SINZ (LO55043) - BUBINGEN (LO20055) highway. After a fight in which two enemy tanks were knocked out it was relieved by the 3d Battalion at 2045 and reverted to regimental reserve. The 302d Infantry resumed the attack at 0905 with two battalions abreast (1st on the right and 2d on the North or left flank with the 3d Battalion in Division reserve) supported by tanks of CCA 8th Armored Division. After the repulse of an enemy counterattack the force moved into the southern outskirts of its objective, SINZ (LO55043), from whence it withdrew at nightfall to more favorable positions West of SINZ.

CCA 8 ARMD DIV: Supported the advance of elements of the 376th Infantry, 94th Infantry Division, and knocked out six enemy tanks. Elements of the 18th Tank Battalion continued the advance and reached the Southwest edge of SINZ at 1700. At dusk the Battalion was withdrawn and rejoined the remainder of CCA in a rear assembly area.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group reinforced) maintained its sector in the center of XX Corps sector by active patrols.

26 INF DIV: RCT 104 cleared the THIONVILLE bridge at 1940 and closed in 95th Infantry Division sector at 2330.

28 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Overcast and cold with temperature at 5 degrees above zero.

Aviation: No missions flown throughout the period. The 26th Infantry Division was attached to XX Corps on Third U. S. Army order.

95 INF DIV: The 377th Infantry began movement north into VIII Corps zone at 0538 and cleared XX Corps zone at 1330. The other two regiments, the 378th and 379th Infantry, remained in position prepared to move out upon relief by elements of 26th Infantry Division.

94 INF DIV: The 301st Infantry moved, upon relief by 302d Infantry, from the right flank of the divisional sector and completed the relief of the 376th Infantry on the left flank. At 1100 the 1st Battalion 301st Infantry attacked BUBINGEN (LO19055), entered it at 1117 and completely occupied the town by 1634. The 2d Battalion was held in Division reserve while the 3d Battalion assisted elements of the 376th Infantry in the repulse of an enemy counterattack at 1545. The 302d Infantry continued to defend TETTINGEN, BUTZDORF and BORG.

CCA 8 ARMD DIV: Began movement by Company increments at 0205 to rejoin the 8th Armored Division in PONT-a-MOUSSON. Cleared XX Corps area at 1405.

SECRET

115

SECRET

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group reinforced). Actively defended its sector facing MERZIG by the use of combat and demolition patrols.

26 INF DIV: The 328th Infantry closed in 95th Infantry Division sector at 1200 and prepared to relieve the 378th Infantry, 95th Infantry Division, while the last elements of the 101st Infantry was closing in the same Divisional sector at the end of the period. The 104th Infantry was in the process of relieving the 379th Infantry, 95th Infantry Division, in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead at the end of the period.

29 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Overcast skies to scattered clouds in the afternoon. A temperature of 5 degrees above zero maintained throughout the period.

Aviation: In the afternoon one squadron attacked bridge-sites and barges on the SAAR River in the vicinity of SERRIG (L160090) - KRUFWEILER (L150110) and OCKFEN (L165145). No results reported due to poor observation. The 5th Ranger Battalion was attached to the 26th Infantry Division.

95 INF DIV: Relieved from attachment to XX Corps and attached to VIII Corps. Command of SAARLAUTERN bridgehead passed to Commanding Officer of 104th Infantry, 26th Infantry Division, at 0215 when it relieved the 379th Infantry. The 378th Infantry was relieved in its sector at 2145 by 328th Infantry, 26th Infantry Division, and prepared to move to the VIII Corps zone.

94 INF DIV: 376th Infantry was placed in Division reserve while the 301st Infantry on the left flank consolidated and improved the positions recently won. The 302d Infantry, after its relief of the 376th Infantry, completed occupation of front line positions on the right flank of the Division sector.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group reinforced). Actively defended by front line patrols the center portion of XX Corps sector.

26 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached). Command of Division sector passed to Commanding General, 26th Infantry Division, at 2400. The 101st Infantry was placed in Division reserve and initiated a program of training and rehabilitation. The 104th Infantry (2d Battalion 328th Infantry attached) occupied and defended the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead after completing the relief of elements of the 95th Infantry Division at 2145. The 328th Infantry (-2d Battalion) assumed defensive positions on the extreme right flank of XX Corps.

30 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light to moderate snowfall throughout the day with a light rain in the evening.

Aviation: No missions flown due to weather. Operation Instructions were issued directing the 26th Infantry Division and TF POLK to prepare defensive plans for switch positions to the North from NIEDALT-DORF (Q1783) East to the SAAR River.

94 INF DIV: All three Battalions of the 301st Infantry occupied defensive positions in the recently won German territory on the left flank of XX Corps sector. The 302d Infantry, with all three of its Battalions on the line, continued the organization of defensive positions on the right (East) flank of the division. The 376th Infantry closed in at VECKRING (Q015830) at 1600 as Division reserve.

26 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached). The 101st Infantry remained in Division reserve and conducted a program of training, rehabilitation and maintenance. The 104th Infantry (2d Battalion 328th Infantry attached) consolidated and strengthened its defensive positions in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area. The 328th Infantry (-2d Battalion) organized and improved its defensive sector on the right flank of XX Corps while it maintained contact with the 106th Cavalry Group of XV Corps.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group reinforced). Actively defended its sector with numerous (25) patrols while it maintained contact with units on its flanks.

31 January 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light and intermittent drizzles with a rising temperature that reached 32 degrees above zero.

Aviation: All aircrafts were grounded due to the weather.

94 INF DIV: The 376th Infantry remained in reserve and continued the rehabilitation of personnel and equipment. The 301st Infantry remained in position and operated patrols to its front. One combat patrol, supported by artillery, destroyed a pillbox at (L020061). The 302d Inf on the right flank maintained its positions and formulated plans for a reconnaissance in force to be made of the CAMPHOLZ woods (L060020) during the early morning hours of 01 February.

26 INF DIV: (5th Ranger Battalion, attached). The 104th Infantry (2d Battalion 328th Infantry attached) improved its defensive positions in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area. The 328th Infantry (-2d Battalion) remained in position on the right flank of XX Corps sector and actively patrolled its area. The 101st Infantry, in Division reserve, continued its program of training and rehabilitation.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group reinforced) maintained patrols along the SAAR River in the center portion of XX Corps sector facing MERZIG.

SECTION V - G-4 SUMMARY

1. During the period 1 January to 31 January 1945, XX Corps units maintained pressure on the enemy west along the SAAR River in the area REMICH - MERZIG - SAARLAUTERN. Troops continued to strengthen positions in SAARLAUTERN bridgehead and maintained active and aggressive patrols throughout the period. At the close of the period successful limited objective attacks were being made in the SAARBURG Forrest area.

2. On January 2nd 1944, announcement was made of the new locations of supply installations and units received other administrative information when Headquarters, XX Corps issued Change 2 to Administrative Order Number 12. Units were directed to destroy completely all damaged enemy tanks wherever located in order to deny recovery and reuse by the enemy. Fluorescent Panels were ordered to be displayed for Air-Groupd recognition. Supply of panels was inadequate necessitating issue of about one per five vehicles. Chemical Warfare individual equipment was ordered to be carried by all persons forward of Division rear boundaries. The drive on Trench Foot was continued with all individuals being ordered to change socks daily when living under conditions which promoted the development of Trench Foot. Shells, 4.2" HE and WP were rationed during this early part of the period. Attempts were made to procure various types of captured equipment for French troops serving with the XX Corps. Small arms and ammunition were the principle items issued to the French from captured German stocks.

3. Traffic restrictions were set up in the vicinity of supply points as announced to the troops of the XX Corps in Change number 3 to Administrative Order number 12, dated 15 January 1945. This was necessary to avoid congestion in the vicinity of the supply points. Units were warned not to dismantle typewriters before sending them to Salvage Repair Companies as many parts had been lost in doing this and there was a scarcity of parts as well as experienced typewriter mechanics. Sleeping bags were issued to combat troops in lieu of two blankets. Snow suits were manufactured locally and issued on a ration basis as there were insufficient produced for all combat troops fighting in the snow. About 300 snowsuits were made daily by French manufacturers. This office maintained direct liaison with the French units attached to the XX Corps and

SECRET

all functions pertaining to these allies were handled in an efficient manner. Rations and petroleum products (Class I and III) were supplied the French military units employed to protect the lines of communication. By the middle of the report period the following items were critically short and daily report to higher headquarters was being made: Prestone, bayonets, tires, batteries, truck axles, trench knives, inner tubes, solder, burlap, soap, field jackets, shelter halves, tent stoves, individual cooking stoves, flashlights, radio tubes (TE-165), vibrators, and tubes (VT-221).

4. Administrative Order #13 was distributed to divisions and corps troops on 27 January 1945. Special cold-weather clothing of the following types were issued during the latter days of the report period: shoe pacs with innersoles, ski socks, shells and inserts for mittens with trigger fingers, cotton caps and trousers, and suspenders. A shortage of coal developed along the Western front during this time necessitating the suspension of issues for several days and thereafter issuing on a strict rationing schedule. Snow and cold weather held up through the month and units resorted to wood and coke for heating hospitals and billet rooms where work was being done - when the coal shortage began. The "drive" continued against Trench Foot and laundries made special efforts to get socks laundered daily as top priority. Captured carbide lanterns were being used in lieu of issue gasoline lanterns because parts, especially mantles, were still short and had been for months. Units were warned not to destroy enemy tanks of recent model in circumstances where recovery by the enemy was preventable but to preserve them for technical intelligence examination. All other enemy tanks, wherever located, were directed to be destroyed completely to deny recovery by the enemy. Conservation of coal, gas and electricity was stressed to all units. Salvage patrols were set up to make daily rounds to recover equipment dropped in combat areas. French guards on METZ forts were decreased to a minimum after a study was made of the tactical value of these forts to the enemy. Some small arms ammunition and the fact that many of the forts were on commanding ground were about the only tactical advantages the forts had. Strict rationing of shell, 4.2" chemical mortar, HE continued due to inability to anticipate availability. A critical shortage of the following types of Ordnance ammunition continued to exist at the close of the period: Shell, HE, 57mm; shot, HVAP, (for 3 inch and 76mm guns); flare, trip, M-48 and M-49. Items of Class II and IV in critical short supply at the close of the period were: spare parts for flame throwers, detectors, sleeve, floating foot bridges, assault boats, incandescent lamps, and sockets, cotton tape, bayonets, dump trucks, wreckers, tires and tubes, transmissions (GMC), axles (GMC), transfer cases (GMC), engines (GMC diesel), batteries, engines, hot patches, tire-chains, corn brooms, candles, field jackets, single burner stoves, canteen cups, portable typewriters, coveralls, water heaters, large overshoes, canvas cots, soap, brushes, utensils for field ranges, carpenters tools, wire (W-130), signal tools, antennae, relay units, oscillograph equipment, vibrators, power units, radios (SCR-506), panels, dynamotors, mast sections, flashlights, tubes, adaptors and handsets. These were the most critical items of the entire shortage list.

5. TRANSPORTATION: At request of G-5, first convoy clearance of the year was granted to flock of sheep making a move from XX Corps zone to area north of CATTENOM Bridge. Convoy arrived at bridge one and one-half days late. Last stragglers of column cleared bridge by midnight 2 January.

90th Div - 94th Div Switchover: From period 6 to 10 January, switchover between 90th Infantry Division and 94th Infantry Division was accomplished. 90th Division moved first RCT from vicinity WALDWEISTROFF to VIII Corps zone on 6 January, via CATTENOM Bridge. Second and third RCT's cleared XX Corps zone 7 January. Trucks used to move 94th Division to zone, supplemented by two 10th Armored Division Truck Companies, were employed in movement of 90th Division. First RCT of 94th Division arrived in Corps zone 6 January, moving via N-3 to N-53 to UCKANGE Bridge, thence eastward to vicinity HALSTROFF. Second RCT,

SECRET

118

SECRET

(motor elements) arrived UCKANGE Bridge 071630 January. Third RCT, originally attached, to 28th Division, reached Corps zone 10th January, moving from LUXEMBOURG to THIONVILLE to N-418. In addition to motor elements, approximately 3600 troops and some equipment arrived at UCKANGE by rail as follows:

<u>Main No.</u>	<u>Time Arrival Uckange</u>	<u>Personnel</u>
1795B	071853	1209
1798B	080530	1239
1799B	081800	1194

All personnel were shuttled from UCKANGE to Division area by Corps' truck companies.

Move was complicated by poor weather conditions, snow and ice on roads, and the railway system which was at all times at least 36 hours behind schedule. Several cases of frostbite were discovered among members of 94th Division upon arrival due to poor accommodations enroute.

9th Armored Division: On 11 January, 9th Armored Division appeared vicinity AUMETZ. Gegan movement under Corps control into XX Corps zone (area ABOND COURT - BOCKANGE - METZERVISSE) morning of 12 January. Division moved in three columns over THIONVILLE, METZ and UCKANGE bridges clearing into zone by early morning 13 January.

8th Armored Division: Notice was received late evening 11 January that 8th Armored Division would arrive PONT-A-MOUSSON morning of 12 January. Two officers from Corps G-4 Section met advance party at PONT-A-MOUSSON 120500 January, and arrangements were made to move division into area east of MOSELLE River (PONT-A-MOUSSON - NOMEY - PAGNY-LES-COIN - CHEMINOT). Leading elements of main body arrived PONT-A-MOUSSON via N52B 120920 January. Because of icy roads, tracked vehicles were badly delayed, and final elements did not close into division area until 14 January 1945.

10th Armored Division: Division alerted for movement to vicinity CHATEAU SALINS 16 January 1945. First elements moved from METZ via N-55 17-18 January. CCB which had not yet rejoined Division from BASTOGNE area, arrived in Corps zone 18 January, and remained in METZ until 20 January to regroup and re-equip. Final elements of division cleared Corps zone 201000 January.

35th Infantry Division: 1st RCT of Division arrived METZ from EASTOGNE area 181300. Division (-1 RCT) closed in Corps zone 19 January. On 23 January, upon 12 hours notice, Division once more moved from Corps zone, proceed via N-55 to vicinity CHATEAU SALINS. Trucks for move were furnished from Corps QM and AAA units, and from truck companies attached to 8th Armored Division.

8th Armored Division: 181830 January, CCA of 8th Armored Division moved from vicinity NOMEY to APACH, where it was attached to 94 Infantry Division. Combat Command was subsequently returned to 8th Armored Division 28 January, moving by infiltration through columns of 95th and 26th Infantry Divisions which were at the time moving through UCKANGE and THIONVILLE.

95th and 26th Infantry Divisions: During period 27 - 30 January, 95th Infantry Division was relieved in Corps zone by 26th Infantry Division. 1st RCT of 26th Division arrived 271330, entering zone via THIONVILLE Bridge. Division closed in zone early morning 30 January.

- 28 -

SECRET

119

SECRET

95th Division completed movement to north between 28 January and 30 January.

Road conditions throughout period were poor because of excessive ice and snow, a situation further aggravated by the necessity to use secondary routes to handle large simultaneous movements within zone. At the end of the period, both CATTENOM and UCKANOE Bridges were temporarily out because of ice-floes in the MOSELLE River. During first few days of period several strafings of 95th Division column on 29 January occasioned some delay in Division moved west on highway N-418.

The two truck companies assigned to Corps made 753 vehicle dispatches. Trucks travelled a total of 94,907 vehicle-miles, hauling 1421 tons of supplies and equipment, 11,760 troops. Largest single item for the month was mail, with a total tonnage of 341 tons.

XX Corps Jan 45
SECTION VI - G-5 SUMMARY

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

FRANCE: Boulay, Bouzonville, Creutzwald, Merlbach, Metz, Sierch, St Avoild, Vechring and Thionville.

GERMANY: Differten, Gisingen, Niedaltdorf, Pearl and Uberherrn.

In addition, a Civil Affairs Detachment was deployed at Lisdorf, Germany, to assist the Military Government Section of the 95th Infantry Division in the supervision of the bunker containing some six hundred (600) German refugees. Due to the fact that XX Corps, during this period, occupied a static position on the right flank of the Third United States Army, no need arose for the deployment of any additional Military Governments. At the close of the period, by reason of changes in XX Corps boundaries, the towns of Merlbach, St Avoild and Creutzwald, France, and the town of Differten, Germany, had passed to the control of the XV Corps.

2. The operations of Detachment IIA2 in Niedaltdorf and Detachment I2A2 in Gisingen, both in Germany, continued to attract the attention of other Staff Sections of both this and higher headquarters.

a. Detachment IIA2 operated in the town of Gross Hemmersdorf as well as Niedaltdorf. In these two towns are segregated, in addition to their normal populations, some twenty-six hundred (2600) German civilians who had been evacuated in December 1944 from the area lying between the Franco-German border and the Saar River by order of the Commanding General, 90th Infantry Division.

b. Detachment I2A2, in addition to carrying on Military Government operations in the town of Gisingen, operated German Evacuee Centers at Kerprich-Hemmersdorf, Inn and Gisingen, wherein are segregated some two thousand, two hundred and ninety-three (2293) German civilians. These civilians are evacuees from what remained of the population of Saarlautern and from the bunker at Buren which had been evacuated by the 95th Infantry Division in December 1944.

c. In both of the above areas, the most important factor was that of a sufficient food supply for the civilians.

(1) Fortunately the area from which the inhabitants of Niedaltdorf and Gross Hemmersdorf had been evacuated was a farming area and although most of the people took what food they could with them when they were evacuated, large supplies of food, stored in their individual homes and farms, were left behind. In order to salvage this food, work

SECRET

parties were organized and with the consent of the tactical commanders in the area, these parties were permitted to return to the evacuated areas under guard of Military Government personnel for the purpose of transporting the supplies into Niedaltdorf and Gross Hemmersdorf. In addition, large numbers of livestock had been left behind and would perish unless they could be fed and cared for. These work parties made daily trips to the evacuated areas and in the interest of economy of military transport most of these supplies and livestock were transported by horse-drawn wagons. That the task was not a small one is evidenced by the fact that during the month of January the following supplies and livestock were transported into Niedaltdorf and Gross Hemmersdorf: seventy-one (71) tons of feed and fodder, seventeen (17) tons each of flour and wheat, twenty (20) tons of potatoes, three hundred seventy-two (372) head of cattle, four hundred forty-nine (449) pigs, two hundred (200) sheep, thirty-seven (37) goats, nineteen (19) horses, eighty (80) wagonloads of miscellaneous foodstuffs and one hundred sixteen (116) wagon-loads of wood-fuel. In view of this fact, it was not necessary to requisition any food supplies from Army sources for the inhabitants of Niedaltdorf and Gross Hemmersdorf.

(2) In the area under control of Detachment I2A2 a similar system of salvaging food supplies left behind in the evacuated areas was carried out. However, a goodly number of the evacuees under the control of this detachment came from Saarlautern and the vicinity, which is an urban area, and thus the amount of local supplies available was not as great as in the Niedaltdorf area. Accordingly, it was necessary to requisition from Army sources some staple food products, such as yeast, salt, etc. In addition to the aforementioned food supplies, a requisition was approved and filled by Third United States Army for a small amount of diesel oil, kerosene and grease which was used for operating two bakeries in Saarlautern and for providing illumination for the local hospital at Saarlautern and the prison at Kerprich-Hemmersdorf. The two aforementioned bakeries continued to operate during the period notwithstanding that repairs had to be made from time to time due to damage caused by German artillery fire. A total of approximately fourteen thousand loaves of bread were produced during the month for the consumption by the inhabitants of the refugee centers.

3. As a result of the German breakthrough in the Ardennes sector, the civilian population in XX Corps area, both in France and Germany, became very apprehensive, especially in the forward areas. This natural state of mind was aggravated by rumors and also by the sight of large military convoys moving out of and through XX Corps area. With the absence of electric power to operate radios and lack of newspapers, the people were isolated from what was actually happening and rumors of the Germans returning to this area were rampant. In order to counteract these rumors and to satiate the civilian population's thirst for news, two methods were employed by this section. A loudspeaker mobile unit was obtained from Third United States Army Psychological Warfare Branch and dispatched into the forward areas for the purpose of disseminating news in German and French among the civilian population. In addition, each CA/MC Detachment was furnished daily with copies of the "Sunday Punch" XX Corps daily publication, with instructions to have the World News, compiled from BBC and AEF broadcasts appearing therein, translated into French and German and distributed to the Mayor of the various towns for posting on the town bulletin board. Both of these undertakings were well received by the civilian population and are being continued until electricity and newspapers are available for the area. In addition, fifteen hundred (1500) copies of "Die Mitteilungen" are distributed each week in the areas of occupied Germany under XX Corps control. Die Mitteilungen is a weekly newspaper, printed in German, and published by

SECRET

121

SECRET

Twelfth Army Group. It contains war news and topics concerning Military Government which need be brought to the attention of the German civilians.

4. During the month of January, the bunker at Lisdorf, where some six hundred (600) German evacuees were being cared for by the Military Government Section of the 95th Infantry Division, assisted by Detachment C2D2, was evacuated and the occupants thereof were transported into surrounding towns in the vicinity of Uckerhörn. Upon arrival in these towns the people were given delousing treatment and were billeted under the supervision of Military Government Detachment H1A2. Because of the crowded conditions under which the German civilians are presently forced to live, it became necessary to delouse a total of approximately three thousand (3000) persons. This undertaking was carried out by a Delousing Unit obtained from the Medical Branch of G-5 Section, Third United States Army, and by personnel of the French MMLA Teams.

5. Four Summary Military Courts were sitting, in that portion of occupied Germany under XX Corps, during the period covered by this report for the purpose of hearing cases involving violations under Military Government. A total of thirty-seven (37) cases were tried, resulting in thirty-six (36) convictions. Following is a summary of the type of violations committed:

TYPE OF VIOLATIONS

Crossing France-German boundary in violation of Law 161..	6
Failure to obey an order of Military Government.....	9
Violation of curfew regulations.....	12
Failure to possess identity card.....	2
Aiding, or failing to report, any person known to be wanted by the Allied Forces.....	2
Slaughtering of cattle in violation of German ordinance..	3
Acts to the prejudice of good order or of the interests of the Allied Forces or any member thereof.....	3
Total.....	37

Sentences imposed upon conviction of the above violations ranged from a suspended sentence to imprisonment for six months and a maximum fine imposed of 1000 RM. One of the cases tried involved two (2) French nationals who were accused of crossing the international border from France into Germany, in violation of Law 161. It is believed that this was the first case of its kind tried in Third United States Army area. While, legally, there had never been any question as to whether or not French nationals could be tried for violation of this law, the policy whether they would be tried by Military Government Courts or be left to be prosecuted by French civilian courts had not heretofore been enunciated. A verbal ruling was obtained by this section from Third United States Army, G-5 Section, that under the above circumstances French nationals would be tried in Military Government Courts. This policy had been obtained by Third United States Army from Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force through Twelfth Army Group.

6. The refugee and displaced persons problem presented no serious problems during this period. In the first week of January some eleven hundred and forty-nine (1149) refugees from the Metz area, were evacuated from Merlbach under the supervision of Civil Affairs Detachment D2D2. Transportation for this movement was obtained from the Civil Affairs Transportation Pool and the entire movement took six (6) days. During the entire period covered by this report a total of four hundred and eighty-one (481) displaced persons were evacuated from the XX Corps area to the

SECRET

122

~~SECRET~~

a. In the eleven different towns in Germany under the control of Military Government Detachment I2A2, a total of twenty three (23) civilian police have been appointed. In addition, a civilian prison has been established at Kerprich-Hemmersdorf with accommodations for fifty (50) prisoners. The prison has a German Director and five (5) German civilian assistants and is supervised by the Public Safety Officer of Detachment I2A2. The prison is being utilized for the confinement of German civilians who have been convicted by Military Government Courts in XX Corps area, and at the close of the period ten (10) prisoners were serving their sentences at the prison.

b. Food rationing systems have been set up and are being administered by the German officials appointed by Military Government.

4 9. "The non-fraternization policy, as directed by the Supreme Commander, is being strictly adhered to in the occupied portions of Germany under XX Corps. In the towns under control of Military Government Detachment I2A2, no German civilian is permitted to speak with any of the personnel of the Detachment, either in or out of the Military Government Office, unless he has first received permission from the Burgermeister, except, that if the civilians wish to register a complaint against any of the civilian officials they may address the Military Government Officer direct. This method has a two-fold purpose. It brings to the attention of the German civilian the rigidity with which the non-fraternization policy is enforced and also prevents petty matters from being brought to the Military Government Officer, which can easily be handled in the first instance by civilian officials."

10. The problem of civilian circulation presented no difficulties during the month. In the areas in Germany the only travel passes issued by Military Government Detachments were to mayors, physicians and priests, and then only in cases of extreme emergency. In the areas in France, the civilian police agencies have been functioning efficiently and have cooperated very well with the Military Police and Intelligence Units. Periodic reconnaissances made throughout the month revealed few violations of the travel restrictions.

For the Commanding General:

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

- 11 Incls: (With Original Only)
- Incl 1. G-1 Journal.
 - 2. G-1 Daily Summary.
 - 3. G-2 Journal.
 - 4. G-3 Journal.
 - 5. G-3 Operations Inst.
 - 6. G-3 Periodic Report.
 - 7. G-3 Field Orders.
 - 8. G-4 Journal.
 - 9. Administrative Orders.
 - 10. G-5 Journal.
 - 11. G-5 Daily Summary.



~~SECRET~~

124