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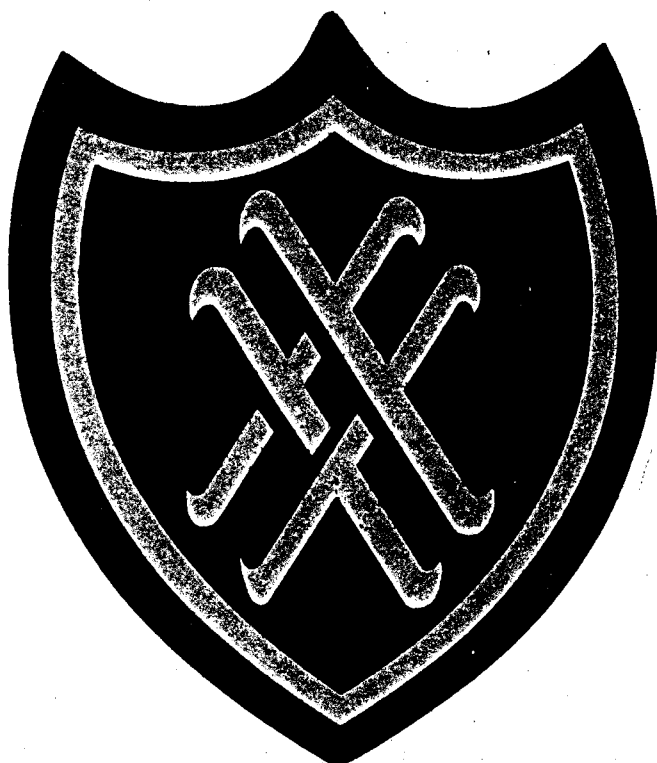
DATE: *18 APRIL 1945*

# HEADQUARTERS XX CORPS

APO 340

U. S. ARMY

MARCH 1945



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## REPORT OF OPERATIONS

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HEADQUARTERS XX CORPS  
APO 340 U. S. ARMY

SECRET

AUTH: CG, XX CORPS,

INITIALS: *RLB*

DATE: *18 APRIL 1945*

19 April 1945

AG 314.7

SUBJECT: Report of Combat Operations, 1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945

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

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

HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMY  
*14.7*

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SECTION I - NARRATIVE

This period of combat operations in Germany by XX Corps, Third U. S. Army, for the period 01 March to 31 March 1945 (inclusive) is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 10, change No. 4, AR 345-105.

1. The seizure and reduction of TRIER 02 March 1945, key German communication center and keystone in the enemy bastion of defense along the SAAR and MOSELLE Rivers in Germany, marked the beginning of the month. The 26th Infantry Division held the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead and the 3d Cavalry Group patrolled the SAAR River line North of MERZIG to the SAARBURG bridgehead held by the 94th Inf Div, the 10th Armored Division entered TRIER and captured intact a bridge in the city over the MOSELLE River on 01 March 1945. The last resistance ended in TRIER Germany 021620 March 1945.

2. During the period 03 March to 13 March, positions won were consolidated, plans were drafted, boundaries allocated and objectives assigned to units preparatory to the XX Corps breaching of the Siegfried Line, its drive across the SAAR Valley and through the German Palatinate and over the RHINE River at MAINZ. While the essential tactical preliminaries were being completed the 10th Armored Division until the 10th of March, cleared an area approximately three miles wide and twenty-six miles in length along the Northern banks of the MOSELLE River East of TRIER to ALF (WL563623). During this period the 94th Infantry Division expanded the SAARBURG bridgehead in face of determined enemy counterattacks. The 65th Infantry Division and the 80th Infantry Division were attached to XX Corps on 04 March and 12 March respectively. Prior to the breaching and uncovering of the Siegfried Line along XX Corps front from TRIER to and including SAARLAUTERN, the units were disposed as follows: The 3d Cavalry Group was extended along the left flank of XX Corps with the 94th Infantry Division occupying the SAARBURG bridgehead. The 80th Infantry Division and 26th Infantry Division were prepared to attack thru the SAARBURG bridgehead Southeast in the direction of ST WENDEL and KAISERSLAUTERN and link up with the 65th Infantry Division that would attack East towards KAISERSLAUTERN from

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the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead. The 10th Armored Division, initially in reserve at TRIER, would be committed through the Northern penetration of the Siegfried Line and the 16th Cavalry Group would screen the right flank of XX Corps.

3. Under cover of a diversionary attack by the 65th Infantry Division, the 94th Infantry Division, 26th Infantry Division, and the 80th Infantry Division attacked at 130300 March and overran natural and man-made obstacles to breach and uncover the Siegfried Line by 16 March. The 10th Armored Division was thereupon committed 16 March with the 80th Infantry Division following it to seize ST WENDEL 17 March. KAISERSLAUTERN was cleared by the 80th Infantry Division on 20 March. SAARLAUTERN in the meantime had been completely reduced by the 65th Infantry Division on 19 March.

4. As the enemy situation in front of XX Corps rapidly disintegrated, the 12th Armored Division was attached 18 March and committed the same day on the Northern flank of XX Corps through elements of the 94th Infantry Division. The 12th Armored Division generally followed the Autobahn North of KAISERSLAUTERN East to reach the RHINE River at 210100 March. Elements of the 94th Infantry Division and elements of the 80th Infantry Division were motorized. By marching and shuttling, moved through the SAAR Valley and German Palatinate capturing important installations and spectacular amounts of enemy stores, supplies and equipment. The 94th Infantry Division (plus one CC of 12 Armored Division) entered LUDWIGSHAFEN 22 March and cleared the city of fanatical enemy resistance on 240825 March, while the 12th Armored Division patrolled the West banks of the RHINE River and sent a Task Force in aid of the 10th Armored Division drive from KAISERSLAUTERN towards SPEYER.

As these concluding moves West of the RHINE River were being developed, junction was effected between Third and Seventh U. S. Army on 24 March. Due to a shift in boundaries and the detachment of front line units, namely, the 12th and 10th Armored Division and the 26th Infantry Division, XX Corps was left with no units in contact with the enemy.

5. The period 25 to 27 March (inclusive) was spent in rehabilitation of personnel and maintenance of equipment with preparations being made for an assault crossing of the RHINE River in the vicinity of MAINZ.

6. At 280100, XX Corps attacked across the RHINE River at MAINZ and the MAIN River at HOCHHEIM and successfully established a bridgehead North of the RHINE and MAIN Rivers with the 80th Infantry Division. The 65th Infantry Division was passed through the bridgehead on 29 March. With the 6th Armored Division and the 5th Infantry Division (both attached 281000 Mar) XX Corps continued the attack North towards KASSEL, with FRANKFURT being cleared of enemy resistance 291200 March. While the 5th Infantry Division remained in FRANKFURT to maintain law and order, the remainder of XX Corps continued the attack with the 80th Infantry Division on the left (West) flank and the 65th Infantry Division on the right flank preceded by the 6th Armored Division to advanced North against light resistance and at the end of the period had established a defensive line along the FULDA River six miles South from KASSEL.

## SECTION II - G-1 SUMMARY

### 1. GENERAL:

Striking north from the strong bridgehead that had been

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secured across the Saar River the last few days of February, XX Corps troops reached the outskirts of the Key city of Trier and subdued it a few days later. Quickly consolidating their new gains, they pressed on, crossing the Ruwer River on 13 March 1945. Then began a giant pincer movement in which XX Corps acted as a moving fulcrum, with the XII Corps swinging down from the north toward units of the Seventh Army which were attacking from the south. On 21 March 1945, XX Corps troops reached the Rhine River. Six days later, over a trestle bridge 1896 feet long constructed by Corps engineers, elements of the XX Corps successfully crossed the Rhine at Mainz, and at the close of the month were rapidly advancing deep into the heart of Germany.

2. REINFORCEMENTS:

Five infantry and three armored divisions plus numerous Corps troops were employed at various periods of operations during the month of March. The maintenance of peak combat efficiency necessitated securing 11250 reinforcements for units under the XX Corps.

3. PRISONERS OF WAR:

The aggressive onslaught of the XX Corps and the weakening resistance of the Nazi forces made possible the capture of prisoners in unprecedented numbers. Supply vehicles were kept busy moving prisoners of war from division to Corps collecting points. There, Third Army furnished personnel and trucks to evacuate the prisoners of war to the Army enclosures. During the month of March, a total of 70,971 prisoners were taken--nearly ten times the number of the previous month.

4. BURIALS:

A body collecting point was established in each division quartermaster area, the 3048th Graves Registration Company, under Third Army control, processing the evacuating the dead. Corps troops used these division collecting points in evacuating their dead.

5. DECORATIONS AND AWARDS:

The XX Corps Awards and Decorations Board considered 428 recommendations for decorations and awards during the month of March 1945. The following awards were made by the Corps Commander: eighteen (18) Silver Stars; eight (8) Soldier's Medals; three hundred and thirty-nine (339) Bronze Star Medals; three (3) Oak Leaf Clusters to the Bronze Star Medal; and three (3) Meritorious Service Unit Plaques.

The following recommendations were forwarded to higher headquarters: sixteen (16) Distinguished Services Crosses; one (1) Distinguished Service Medal; and one (1) Legion of Merit.

6. LEAVES, FURLONGHS AND PASSES:

The monthly quota for the return of personnel to the United States on temporary duty for rehabilitation, recuperation and recovery was announced by higher headquarters. The quota for Corps Troops received for the month of March was 67, of which 8% could be officers. This quota was allocated to Corps Troops based on length of combat service. Divisions also received a quota, based on length of combat service, directly from Army. Individuals selected were persons who had been hospitalized for wounds, had been decorated

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for gallantry or who had extended overseas service with 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 received from higher headquarters. The quota for the month of March was ten (10) officers and sixty (60) enlisted men every seventy-two (72) hours. Divisions received a quota of fifteen (15) officers and seventy (70) enlisted men.

Similar permission to grant passes to visit Brussels for not over 72 hours was received from higher headquarters for Corps Headquarters and Corps Troops. The quota was for ten (10) officers and one hundred (100) 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 include their activities only for the period of time they were assigned to the Corps, and are estimated totals only based on daily periodic reports.

UNIT	KILLED	MISSING OR CAPTURED	WOUNDED (HOSP)	SICK OR INJURED (HOSP)	TOTAL	REIN- FORCE- MENTS	PW CAPTD
26 Inf Div	117	38	723	601	1479	1582	4739
94 Inf Div	244	252	972	974	2442	3269	14560
10 Armd Div	138	107	864	594	1703	2325	12948
65 Inf Div	113	52	278	269	812	1088	1095
80 Inf Div	120	100	634	657	1511	1157	16739
12th Armd Div	21	50	111	52	234	18	4696
6 Armd Div	4	11	22	42	79	17	11320
5 Inf Div	1	3	11	103	118	312	1798
TOTAL	758	613	3715	3292	8378	9768	67859
Corps Troops	153	46	504	691	1394	1482	3112
TOTAL	911	659	4219	3983	9772	11250	70971

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SECTION III - G-2 SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION: March was a month of almost uninterrupted disaster for the Germans opposing XX Corps. With the vaunted SIEGFRIED Line already broken by our attacks in February, March saw the RHINE crossed and must have made it clear to even the most ardent Nazi that the final phase of the war had commenced.

2. GENERAL: On 1 March in the extreme 'N sector the situation was fluid and no front line could be defined. Our spearheads had reached the confluence of the MOSELLE and RUWER Rivers at (L2632) and were in the outskirts of TRIER in several places. Between TRIER and KONZ-KARTHAUS (L2216) the situation was obscure. From RUWER (L2632) the line was generally just W of the RUWER River to (L250126) - (L235100) - (L218097) - (L188064) - (L188054) to SAAR RIVER at (L176050), then S along the E bank of the SAAR River (Q273816) - (Q280820) - (Q283817) - (Q303805) S along the E bank of the SAAR River to the Corps S boundary vicinity WADGASSEN (Q3176).

3. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD:

a. Failing to hold the high ground at PILLINGEN (L2320) and S of IRSCH (L2524) the enemy fell back on TRIER on the 1st of March, resisting the advance of the 10th Armd Div with intense fire from all infantry weapons and moderate artillery fire. By 1250 hours his route of escape from TRIER S of the MOSELLE was cut off by our occupation of the high ground at (L258310). He was also forced off ground vicinity KOMMLINGEN (L1821) and the MATTHEISER WALD (L2124). He resisted stubbornly from his positions in the SIEGFRIED Line along the SAAR River and blew bridges across the MOSELLE W of TRIER, thus breaking the last link between the sections of the SIEGFRIED Line N and S of the River. The advance of the 94th Inf Div was against spotty resistance from badly cut up enemy elements in pillboxes and other prepared positions. In the S portion of the Corps zone the enemy remained alert and sharply countered combat patrols of the 26th Inf Div with infantry weapons and some artillery fire.

b. The next day the enemy resisted the 10th Armored Div's entrance into TRIER with intense small arms and high velocity weapons but by 1620 hours all resistance in the city had ceased. The ROMER Bridge in the W part of the city was captured intact. It was estimated that more than 3,000 PWs were taken. Meanwhile the enemy was fighting desperately against the 94th Inf Div to break into the hinge of our position W of ZERF (L2411). He made two attacks, one at 1730 hours with an unknown number of infantry which achieved some penetration vicinity of (L218089), and another at 1900 hours with an estimated 400 men against the high ground vicinity (L199082) which was repulsed. On 3 March the enemy continued to defend strongly in the SERF area and on the 4th he attacked the high ground to the SE of the town with 200 infantry supported by eight self-propelled 88mm guns at 0500 hours. This attack was beaten off without loss of ground. Against the 10th Armd Div to the N the enemy made good use of his defensive positions and continued to hold the high ground vicinity (L2832). In the S, enemy activity against the 26th Inf Div was negligible.

c. The 5th saw little enemy activity except for strong defensive fires with all arms, but on the 6th he resumed the offensive and launched several determined attacks against our SAAR River bridgehead with the greatest concentrations against the SERF - PELLINGEN area where his operations were made more notable by the appearance of the 6 SS Mtn Div. The 10th U. S. Armd Div, engaged in

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clearing EHRANG (L2435), encountered stubborn opposition from infantry weapons and artillery. In the 94th Inf Div area the enemy attacked five times with strong artillery support. In the N portion of the division sector an assault by an estimated 220 troops of KG KOBTSCH, S of KORLINGEN (L2725) at 0700 hours, reached the woods at (L260255) where it was halted and repulsed. Further S the HENTERN (L2413) - SCHOMERICH (L2515) area received the bulk of the hostile attention. Here 6 SS Mtn Div with elements of 11 SS Mtn Regt on their left, aided by remnants of 256 VG Div, attacked to the N with the initial objective of seizing several towns N of ZERF. The first attempt with about 50 infantry vicinity KUMMELERHOF (L2615) was repulsed. The second with about 200 infantry was launched through the woods of HARDTER WALD (L2514) at 0515 hours and succeeded eventually in reaching the PELLINGEN - ZERF Road along which at two or three points a total of 150 - 200 enemy dug-in on high ground vicinity (L250168) and (L250178), near LAMPADEN. At 1715 hours an attack by an unknown number of infantry, supported by three to four assault guns or tanks, was beaten off. HOCKER HILL (L1907) was also attacked and the attack was repulsed. In the S there was little activity except for limited patrolling.

d. Emphasis of enemy offensive activities shifted N to the zone of the 10th Armored Division on the 7th when there was a total of three counter-attacks NE of RUWER. Beginning at 1930 hours and preceded by intense artillery fire the enemy's attack finally forced us back about 1,000 yards. Meanwhile, the offensive attitude vicinity of ZERF and PELLINGEN was continued but with decreasing force. To the W along the ZERF - PELLINGEN Road hostile positions between PELLINGEN and DREIKOPF (L2317), gained the previous day, were cleared during the morning but the enemy retained his line astride the road from (L225170) to (L237170), stubbornly resisting efforts to dislodge him. In the S there was little enemy activity except for harassing fires and some patrolling.

e. On the 8th the enemy ceased his offensive efforts and reverted to the defensive, resisting the 10th Armd Div with generally disorganized forces. He failed to exploit his success in overrunning our positions S of the MOSELLE and NE of RUWER and our troops reoccupied their former positions without opposition. Advance elements of armor reached the vicinity of the RR line between FOHREN (L3040) and SALMROHR (L3648), about 3 km NE of FOHREN. Progress was delayed by defended road blocks and minefields. Street fighting continued in SCHWEICH (L2936). In the 94th Inf Div zone the enemy clung tenaciously during the early morning hours to his positions astride the ZERF - PELLINGEN Road but withdrew voluntarily later during the morning. A PW said the withdrawal was made necessary by a shortage of ammunition. To the S, in the sector of the 65th Inf Div, enemy activity was negligible.

f. From the 9th through the 12th of the month there was little action of a decisive nature. The enemy remained generally on the defensive, although he reacted vigorously to any move on our part, particularly in the N. On the 9th, the 10th Armd Div cleared SWEICH (L2936), ISSEL (L2836), HETZERATH (L3342), BEKOND (L3239) and FOHREN (L3040). Progress of leading elements was slowed by road blocks, craters and mines. On the 10th we cleared WITTLICH (L3934), BOMBOGEN (L4354), BERLINGEN (L4354), ESCH (L3644), KRAMES (L3844), CLAUSEN (L3943), LONGEN (L3234), KIRSCH (L3035), LONGVICH (L3034) and KASEL (L2729). N of the MOSELLE River, the 10th Armd Div continued its advance to the E on the 11th against initially scattered resistance which stiffened when the ALF River was reached late in the day. Here fire from all infantry weapons as well as high velocity and artillery fire was received from the E bank of the River vicinity BAUSENDORF (L4657). S of the MOSELLE, RIOL (L3233) was occupied with no opposition. The hill at (L298295) was captured during the morning but the enemy counter-attacked with infantry and three tanks in the

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afternoon and forced us from the height. On the 12th the enemy continued to delay the 10th Armd Div by blowing bridges and laying mines along the route of advance. Moderate to intense artillery fire was received by forward elements. Enemy infantry, estimated at 250 - 300, made a stand vicinity of BAUSENDORF (L4657) but was routed at 1330 hours. Against 3rd US Cav Gp the enemy increased his defensive artillery fires and four of our light tanks and four tank-destroyers were knocked out by direct fire weapons.

g. For the next several days the enemy stiffened his defense considerably and showed no hesitancy in throwing counter-attacks against us whenever such action suited his predominantly defensive purpose. On the 13th he attacked twice against the 3rd Cav Gp, twice against the 94th Inf Div and several times against the 26th Inf Div. Only one of these achieved any penetration, that against the 94th Inf Div from (L284165) at 1743 hours. This attack penetrated to (L271730) where it was contained. Otherwise along most of the Corps front the resistance was stubborn. Severe artillery fire was directed against the 3rd Cav Gp where about 2,000 rounds fell during the period. Elsewhere fire was limited mostly to infantry weapons, though all units received some artillery and rocket fire. Most of these fires were delivered against front line elements.

h. During the 14th enemy artillery fire slackened generally along the entire Corps front but small arms, mortar and machine gun fire was intense and mines and booby traps were plentiful. In the zone of the 94th Inf Div there was heavy resistance in the BONERATH (L2921) - HOLZERATH (L3020) area where an estimated 500 rounds of direct 20mm and 40mm fire was received. A counter-attack was launched with 100 infantry, supported by four self-propelled guns along the E-W road vicinity of (L2810) at about noon. This was repulsed without loss of ground but the self-propelled guns continued to operate in the area.

i. On the 15th the enemy began to show signs of cracking when the 94th Inf Div reported in late morning that resistance was beginning to show signs of disorganization. By the end of the day resistance had slackened considerably and we overran one battery of field artillery vicinity NIEDERKALL (L3114). Two 75mm howitzers were captured intact. Elsewhere on the Corps front resistance was determined and there were two attacks against the 80th Inf Div, both with infantry and assault guns; one was from NW of SCHEIDEN (L2705) at 0730 hours and the other vicinity WEISKIRCHEN (L3306) at 1830 hours. Both were repulsed without loss of ground. The 26th Inf Div received an attack from the III Bn of 38 SS Pz Gren Regt vicinity (L230042) at 1000 hours. This was supported by several self-propelled guns and penetrated to vicinity (L231048), but by 1130 hours the attack had been repulsed and all lost ground regained.

j. Stubborn but spotty and, in general, disorganized resistance met the continuation of our attack on the 16th. As the day drew to a close it appeared that the enemy was rapidly losing his already limited powers of cohesive defense and was on the verge of having a chaotic defeat forced upon him. In the zone of the 3rd Cav Gp he fought a bitter defensive battle. He appeared to be in good quality and used his weapons skillfully. An entire platoon of our light tanks was knocked out by 88mm fire and here he showed no signs of withdrawal. There were definite signs of withdrawal in front of the 10th Armd Div, however. PWs said they had received orders to withdraw to a defensive line HOFCHEN (L4019) - GUSENBURG (L3915), and air reported 100 vehicles moving NE from vicinity HERMESKEIL (L4318). In the zone of the 94th Inf Div resistance was spotty and

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there were signs of withdrawal, while the 80th Inf Div reported that toward the end of the day resistance became disorganized except in the area N of WEISKIRCHEN (L3306) where it was very stubborn. The 80th overran much abandoned equipment including four 150mm howitzers, two 88mm guns, and a complete field train with 100 to 150 horses and many wagons loaded with supplies. Along the SAAR River to the S, fire from all weapons decreased during the day but there were no signs of a withdrawal here.

k. The signs of enemy disintegration which had marked his actions for the past several days became crystalized on the 17th as his withdrawal became general all along the Corps front. Even the SAAR River line in the zone of the 26th Inf Div, his previously tenacious defense turned into a rapid disorganized withdrawal. A fluid situation ensued and mopping up operations continued during the afternoon with the following towns cleared of enemy: MERZIG (Q2095), BESSERINGEN (Q1898), MERCHINGEN (Q2394), HONZRAETH (Q2792), DUFFENWEILER (Q2991), REIMSBACH (Q3095), RISSENTHAL (Q2997), AUSSSEN (Q3594), and HUTTERSODRF (Q3592). Though the enemy withdrew to the E from MENNINGEN (Q2290) and was believed to be withdrawing from the area N of DILLINGEN (Q2684) during the afternoon and with the 65th Inf Div advancing 1,000 yards in that vicinity without contact, resistance was strong in DILLINGEN and vicinity, with heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire coming from fortified positions. To the N little resistance was offered to any of our units. The 3rd Cav Gp captured THOM (L3327) and HERL (L3426) without opposition and FARSCHWEILER (L3424) with only slight opposition. The 10th Armd Div reported practically no opposition except for an assault with five enemy tanks vicinity (L447083) in which three of the tanks were knocked out. The 94th Inf Div met road blocks and a few isolated groups but there was no serious resistance at towns and critical road centers. The following towns were cleared in the division zone: WAHLEN (Q2099), NOSWENDEL (L3703), WADERN (L3805), MORSCHOLZ (L3603), MICHELBAACH (Q3496), LOCKWEILER (L4003), KRETTNACH (L4203), NUNKIRCHEN (Q3598), WEISKIRCHEN (L3306) and WEIRWEILER (L3303). At the close of the day, although no tangible front line could be defined, our leading elements had reached (L3532) - PROSTERATH (L4126) - BURTSCHIED (L4426) - GEISFELD (L4324) - DAMELOS (L4519) - (L490190) - BUHLENBERG (L5517) - EISEN (L5112) - (L521100) - GONNESWEILER (L5307) - KRETTNACH (L4203) - AUSSSEN (Q3594) - BURRICH - HUTTERSODRF (Q3592) - ERBRINGEN (Q2794) - MENNINGEN (Q2290) - BECKINGEN (Q2488) and DILLINGEN (Q2684). From the PRUMS River the line ran S along the SAAR to (Q275816) - (Q283817) (Q295814) to the SAAR River at (Q399809) - S along the E bank of the SAAR to the Corps S boundary vicinity WADGASSEN (Q3174).

l. On the 18th, although in general resistance continued scattered, with enemy forces still withdrawing to the N and NE, there were several instances in which the enemy opposed our advance strongly and determinedly, particularly at LIMBACH (Q3997), vicinity of ST WENDEL (Q5997), and in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area. DILLINGEN (Q2684) was cleared against scattered small arms and automatic weapons fire from pillboxes. Along the PRUMS River S of the town resistance was stronger and limited advances in the SAARLAUTERN-RODEN area met determined opposition from small arms, mortar and artillery fire.

m. With few exceptions the enemy situation in front of the Corps rapidly disintegrated on the 19th as his forces fled unceremoniously to the E and SE. An unusually large number of prisoners was taken, rear installations and supply dumps were overrun and a considerable amount of equipment was captured. In an attempt to keep open the narrowing escape gap to the S, strong opposition was offered in the OTTWEILER (Q5899) area and in the vicinity of SAARLAUTERN-RODEN during the night of 18-19 March. No enemy front lines existed as the day drew to a close, except in the area S from ENSDORF

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(Q2098) where the enemy remained in his SIEGFRIED Line positions.

n. For the most part operations of the next day were a continuation of those of the 19th. Enemy forces streaming E to the RHINE contributed a great number of prisoners to the total already taken in the operation, and spectacular amounts of enemy stores, supplies and equipment continued to fall into our hands. What relatively firm opposition was encountered was of a delaying character only and was quickly mopped up. OTTWEILER (Q5889) remained a focal point of fairly heavy opposition during the first part of the period, with artillery, SP guns and small arms fire being used. By 0800 hours, however, all organized resistance in the town had ceased.

o. There was little to make the 21st except for the continued inflow of prisoners in large numbers and a flurry of air activity. The following enemy air activity was reported:

	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	0800	(M3187)	3 flights of four Me-109s bombed and strafed.
1000A to	1005A	(M3107)	8 Me-109s strafed.
	1055A	(M3005)	1 JU-88.
	1100A	(M4203)	2 Me-262s, bombed.
	1110A	(M4906)	1 Jet-propelled, 1 two-engined plane, dropped two bombs.
	1120A	(M2809)	2 Me-262s, bombed.
	1200A	(M3005)	3 Me-262s, strafed.
	1220A	(M2809)	3 Me 109s, bombed and strafed.
	1245A	(M3107)	15 Me-109s dropped AP bombs.
	1350A	(M3108)	2 enemy planes (1 Jet-propelled), dropped bombs.
	1352A	(M3265)	2 enemy planes bombed (believed 1 or both Jet-propelled)
	1430A	(M3128)	1 enemy plane attacked.
	1450A	(M3205)	1 enemy plane, bombed.
	1455A	(M3001)	Town strafed by enemy plane.
	1500A	(M3205)	Me-262, bombed.
	1504A	(M3205)	5 Me-109s, attacked.

p. On the 22nd there was little enemy activity, such as there was being centered around the towns of NEUSTADT (R2983) and LUDWIGSHAFEN (R4994). Elements of the 10th Armd Div reported sniper fire in NEUSTADT and resistance from dug-in infantry at (R265780). Generally resistance in this area was heavy, with direct anti-tank and machine gun fire. A general line of defense ran through DIEDSFELD (R2980), LACHEN (R3280) and SPEYERSDORF (R3382). In NEUSTADT the situation was unclear but fighting was brisk. The 12th Armd Div received tank and anti-tank fire from BOHL (R4087) but the town was taken at 1330 hours. A small number of tanks were engaged during the period, apparently being those which were unable to escape or being some which had been deliberately left behind for delaying action. A total of 57 enemy aircraft bombed and strafed during the period.

q. There was no front line possible of definition on the 23rd, however our units were in contact at LUDWIGSHAFEN (R5098) and SPEYER (R5080). Only three divisions were in contact, the 94th Inf Div and the 10th and 12th Armd Divs. The 94th Inf Div fought a stubborn enemy in LUDWIGSHAFEN, on the outskirts of the town and later in house-to-house fighting within the town itself. The 12th Armd Div was engaged in clearing SPEYER and met only light resistance. Other elements reported resistance from infantry and tank or self-propelled fire vicinity HANDFEN (R4479), small arms and AT fire at WEINGARTEN (R4073) with intense artillery fire falling N of the town. An air OP reported six tanks in the vicinity of the latter place. The 10th Armd Div reported the enemy defending stubbornly in the area W of GERMERSHEIM (R4669) while direct anti-tank and artillery fire was

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received in NEIDER-HOCHSTADT (R3571), OBERHOCHSTADT (R3372), BORNHEIM (R3270), LANDAU (R2866), QUICHEM (R2966), ESSINGEN (R3171), FREIMER-SHEIM (R3574) and KLEIN-FISCHLINGEN (R3273). Forty enemy in U. S. uniforms and armed with bazookas were reported to have attempted to infiltrate our lines at 1335 hours.

Only two divisions remained in contact on the 24th, the 12th Armd Div and the 94th Inf Div. The 12th Armd Div was relieved from attachment to the Corps at 1200 hours but reported all resistance ceased in SPEYER (R5180) at 085 hours. The RR bridge at GERMERSHEIM (R4769) was blown at 1045 hours. At LUDWIGSHAFEN (M5000) the 94th Inf Div reported fanatical enemy resistance during the early part of the period, with the Germans using small arms, automatic weapons, and AA weapons in a ground role. All organized resistance ceased at 0825 hours, although snipers continued active and some enemy held out in a building vicinity (R516985). Headquarters personnel of the Corps, including an AG officer and two liaison pilots, engaged in a short fire fight with an estimated 25 enemy in the vicinity of the Corps airstrip at about 1200 hours. We took 19 PWs but suffered the loss of a jeep in which three of the enemy escaped.

s. On the 25th and 26th we had no units in contact, but on the 27th we again had a front with the 80 Inf Div facing the enemy across the RHINE in the MAINZ (M3756) area. Sporadic artillery fire was received in MAINZ and one JU-88 was shot down. Otherwise the day was uneventful.

t. Whether the enemy anticipated our crossing of the RHINE on the 28th is not certain. He reacted against the 80th Inf Div attack however, with stubborn resistance from infantry weapons and 20mm AA fire. Our attack progressed well, although at 0340 hours our bridgehead received two counterattacks, one of which involved two tanks and 40 infantry and the other an unknown number of infantry. Both were repulsed with no loss of ground. KASTEL (M3956) was cleared at 0830 hours after a short period in which there was close-in fighting in the streets and houses. Opposition to the crossing of the MAIN River was light and HOCHHEIM (M4458) was cleared at 0915 hours. After our bridgehead became firmly established, resistance became scattered and disorganized, although AA fire continued to harass our troops all day. WIESBADEN (M3564) was cleared at approximately 1900 hours against scattered resistance from small groups of enemy. Other towns cleared during the period were WICKER (M4759), DELKENHEIM (M4461), WALLAU (M4562), KOSTHEIM (M4055), MASSENHEIM (M4760), MEDENBACH (M4367) and ERPENHEIM (M4061). From an estimated 1,425 PWs taken during the period there were no identifications of divisional units.

u. The next day there was little opposition and what there was consisted mainly of token resistance. Much equipment was captured and many prisoners taken. After the greater part of FRANKFURT (M6770) was cleared by the 5th Inf Div against scattered resistance by 1200 hours the remaining defenders apparently gave the city up for lost and retired to the N, leaving the town to be completely occupied and cleared during the afternoon. Considerable equipment was captured and an estimated 1,000 PWs were taken from miscellaneous units. Only scattered resistance was met by elements of the 80th Inf Div on the left, at HAHN (M3071). Enemy groups cut off to the W attempted to infiltrate through our lines. An estimated 1,650 PWs were reported taken from miscellaneous units. No artillery fire was reported. Demoralized and disorganized enemy groups offered very slight resistance to the 6th Armd Div. This division pushed rapidly to the N, clearing FRIEDBURG (M7293), where an estimated 1,500 enemy troops heeded an ultimatum to surrender, BAD NAUHEIM (M7196); BUTZBACH (G6604) and GRUNINGEN (G7013). It then thrust to the NE, bypassing enemy personnel in woods alongside the route of advance. A Northbound enemy column composed of elements of Hq, 31 Flak Regt, lost some equipment when it was intercepted and attacked by units of the 6th Armd Div as it crossed the Autobahn vicinity

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(G772237) at about 1030 hours. During the day an estimated 6,000 PWs were taken, again mainly from miscellaneous units, but intermixed were PWs from 11 Pz Div, 2 Pz Div, 276 VG Div, 559 VG Div and 347. Inf Div. PWs from the later five divisions were apparently not fighting as divisional teams but were possibly scattered remnants which had shifted into the common pot and were gathered in with the other residue. PWs said that they had no orders except that if they must withdraw they were to move N and E, using the autobahn as a guide. As the day ended there was no enemy front line, but our leading elements were reported in the vicinity of (M4879) - (M5472) (M6176) - (M6884) - (M6798) - (G8723) - (G8426) and several kilometers NE of the latter point, on the autobahn.

v. On the 30th the 6th Armd Div continued its rapid advance against negligible resistance, while the 80th Inf Div, clearing woods and towns in the left of the division zone, reported practically no enemy resistance and an estimated 3,000 PWs captured. The 3rd Cav Gp advanced to vicinity of ROMROD (H0536), encountering no enemy resistance.

w. On the last day of the month it became apparent that the enemy had established a defense line along the FULDA River S from KASSEL and along the EDER River to its juncture with the FULDA, as resistance stiffened in this area. Enemy opposition was the strongest here it had been since our crossing of the RHINE. The 16th Cav Gp reported a fairly strong and increasing aggressive enemy pocket on the left flank of our zone in the wooded area around USINGEN (M5693). At 1145 hours it was reported that the 76th Infantry Div in VIII US Corps zone had met increasingly strong resistance during the day in this pocket. Elements were reported strongly engaged along the line (M482898) - (M460935) and other elements were fighting at (M515858). The 3rd Cav Gp reported receiving fire from 15-20 tanks or SP guns which were observed moving in both directions along the highway and the NE bank of the FULDA River from (H3672) to H4068) at about 1000 hours. Other tanks in smaller numbers were reported by other units during the day but none in very great strength.

4. Enemy Units in Contact 31 March 1945:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>166 Inf Div</u>	
II Bn, 661 Inf Regt ) I Bn, 662 Inf Regt )	Vicinity (H1883)
<u>6 SS Mtn Div</u>	
<u>2 Pz Div</u>	(H1079)
<u>276 Volks Gren Div</u>	(H2181)
<u>11 Pz Div</u>	
356 Btry, 356 Arty Regt	6th Armd Div zone
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
322 Med Flak Bn ) 727 Flak Bn ) 637 Hvy Flak Bn ) 834 Mixed Flak Bn ) 856 Light Flak Bn ) 12 Landesschuetzen Bn ) 768 Landesschuetzen Bn )	(H1079) (H2181)

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Miscellaneous Units in Contact 31 March 1945 (Cont'd)

87 Gren Repl Bn )  
326 Gren Repl Bn )  
605 Engr Bn )  
835 Engr Bn )  
Convalescant Co, 752 )  
Gren Repl Bn, 88 Hun- )  
garian Regt )

5. Line Held by the Enemy on 31 March 1945: As the month ended the enemy front line was not continuous but points of contact were reported at WERKEL (H1085) - (H1584) - (H1780) - (H2184) - (H2477) - (H2474) to the FULDA River vicinity (H3076). It appeared that the enemy was prepared to defend from the latter point to the Corps S boundary. ROTENBURG (H3968) and BEBRA (H4465) were still held by the enemy as the day drew to a close. An enemy pocket in the heavily wooded area surrounding USINGEN (M5693) was still holding out.

SECTION IV - G-3 SUMMARY

On 01 March 1945, XX Corps front line units were disposed as follows: 10th Armored Division had entered the outskirts of TRIER from the East, while the 94th Infantry Division was expanding a bridgehead East of the SAAR River in the vicinity of SAARBURG. TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group reinforced) held the central portion of XX Corps zone along the SAAR River facing MERZIG, while the 26th Infantry Division defended the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area and protected the right or Southern flank of XX Corps.

After the fall of TRIER Germany on 02 March, the period from 03 March to 13 March was devoted to preparation and planning for the attack to the East.

The period 13 March to 24 March (inclusive) witnessed the breakout from the SAARBURG and SAARLAUTERN bridgehead areas, the breaching and uncovering of the Siegfried Line from TRIER to SAARLAUTERN, and included the capture of important centers such as ST WENDEL, KAISERSLAUTERN, and LUDWIGSHAFEN, and the junction with Seventh U. S. Army units from the South.

During the period 25 to 27 March inclusive) XX Corps units were reorganized and regrouped preparatory to assault crossings of the RHINE River and a resumption of the pursuit of the Enemy North and East into Germany. During the concluding period, 28 March to 31 March (inclusive), assault crossings were made over the RHINE and MAIN Rivers at MAINZ and HOCHHEIM: The capture of FRANKFURT and the reconnaissance phase preliminary to the final assault on KASSEL.

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1 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Overcast to broken clouds during period. Visibility 1 to 3 miles in the morning, 7 to 8 miles in the afternoon, and 2 to 5 miles until end of period.

Aviation: Eight missions were flown in the morning, and seven in the afternoon in cooperation with the Corps. The towns of FAR-SCHWEILER (WL345245), OSBURG (WL318245), NIEDERFELLOBEN (WL310310), and KELL (WL340157) were bombed using blind bombing technique. The towns of GREIMERATH (WL240077) and HILSCHEID (WL472260) were bombed and strafed visually. Claims include the destruction or damage of forty-five (45) motor transports, twenty-seven (27) of these being in the BERGEN (WL249 043) area.

The 65th Infantry Division was attached to XX Corps this date.

94 INF DIV: (3d Cavalry Group and 5th Ranger Battalion, attached) - 301st Infantry (- 3d Battalion attached to the 302d Infantry) continued expanding bridgehead. 1st Battalion 302d Infantry attacked at 0815 to secure strongpoint at (WL211079). Heavy enemy mortar, rocket and artillery fire halted the advance just short of the objective. 302d Infantry (- 1st Battalion) continued advance to the Northeast clearing out Division zone after passage of armored elements. 2d Battalion cleared the towns PASCHEL (WL244160), SCHONERICH (WL251157) and HENTERN (WL248138). 3d Battalion captured four pillboxes vicinity (WL205165), continued the advance and occupied LAMPADEN (WL253172) and OBERSEHR (WL251183) at 1830. 3d Battalion 301st Infantry repulsed an enemy counterattack at 0830 vicinity (WL248111). 5th Ranger Battalion consolidated positions at (WL214 090) in the face of heavy mortar, rocket and artillery fire.

TF POLK (3d Cavalry Group - attached to 94th Infantry Division) - 43d Cavalry Squadron actively defended South flank of Division sector from West side of SAAR River. 3d Cavalry Squadron initiated reconnaissance in bridgehead area.

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry operated combat patrols and maintained an aggressive defense of SAARLAUTERN bridgehead. 104th Infantry (26th Reconnaissance Troop and 1258th Engineer Combat Battalion, attached) actively defended sector and organized defensive positions on West bank of SAAR River. Patrols were employed throughout sector. 3d Battalion 104th Infantry (motorized) Corps reserve vicinity REMELING. 328th Infantry: 1st and 2d Battalions in regimental and division reserve respectively, engaged in training programs. 3d Battalion patrolled and defended on South flank of division sector from West side of SAAR River.

10 ARMD DIV: (RCT 376 attached) - CCA continued the advance on TRIER. At 1230 TF HASKEL was at (WL245284) with TF RILEY abreast and on adjacent roads to TF HASKEL. At 1320 leading elements TF HASKEL were receiving heavy flanking fire from 88mm guns but was making good progress clearing the last resistance along the route of advance and was ready to push into TRIER. At 1400 leading elements had entered the outskirts of the city and had cut the main road coming down from the Northeast. At 1730 TF HASKEL was placed under command of CCB. TF NORRIS continued the advance to the North from (WL231213) to the Southern outskirts of TRIER. Elements of TF RICHARDSON fought their way through the city, captured a bridge intact, and established a small bridgehead on the northwest side of the MOSELLE River. TF CHAMBERLAIN employed elements in an attack on OBEREMMEL (WL202185) and KRETTNACHOBERMENNING (WL211207) in conjunction with the attack of the 376th Infantry. Both towns were captured against light resistance. Elements of TF CHAMBERLAIN then continued North. CCB continued the attack North with TF RILEY leading. By 1500 leading elements of TF RILEY had occupied the high ground vicinity (WL260310) and blocked the main road near the river coming South into TRIER. Some elements CCB continued advancing North to assist the attack on TRIER while

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other elements of CCB remained on right of axis of advance to protect the division right flank. Elements Reserve Command continued the advance North along available routes following and sometimes abreast of TF RILEY. At 1525, leading elements turned West and entered the outskirts of the city. RCT 376: 1st Battalion in regimental reserve vicinity SCHODEN began entrucking at 2400 for movement to TRIER. 2d Battalion advanced from its original location and captured the town of WILTINGER and continued to the North approximately 1500 yards. Twenty-five pillboxes were taken. 3d Battalion advanced approximately 2500 yards to the Northeast and captured three pillboxes.

2 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light rain during early morning hours with low overcast throughout the daylight hours.

Aviation: Twenty-one missions were flown throughout the day. The towns of WEISKIRCHEN (WL335070) and FARSCHWEILER (WL345245) were bombed using blind bombing technique. The towns of SCHILLINGEN (WL315155), GREIMERATH (WL230077) and REINSFELD (WL380200) were bombed visually. Claims include the destruction or damage of twenty-nine armored vehicles, twenty-seven motor transports, and thirty-seven railroad cars.

94 INF DIV: (- RCT 376) (3d Cavalry Group and 5th Ranger Battalion attached) - 301st Infantry (- 3d Battalion) (1st Battalion 302d Infantry attached) expanded the TABEN bridgehead in the morning with the 1st Battalion in the center and the 2d Battalion on the right moving forward an average distance of 800 yards while the 1st Battalion 302d Infantry pushed to the North along the SAAR River to secure high ground 300 yards to the North. In the afternoon the positions won were consolidated. The 302d Infantry (- 1st Battalion) consolidated defensive positions along the general bridgehead area. The 5th Ranger Battalion consolidated its positions at (WL214090) in the face of heavy mortar, rocket and artillery fire and then advanced during the early morning to the high ground at (WL202090) commanding the road network. The 3d Cavalry Group reconnoitered the bridgehead area for points of possible employment.

26 INF DIV: The 101st Infantry Division occupied the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area and operated Combat patrols to its front throughout the day. The 104th Infantry held the divisional left flank by patrols along the west banks of the SAAR River and TDs firing from the west banks destroyed six enemy pillboxes on the east banks. The 1st and 2d Battalions 328th Infantry remained in reserve while the 3d Battalion protected the right flank of the divisional sector with patrols.

10 ARMD DIV: (376th Infantry attached) - Continued the attack in and around TRIER mopping up the last resistance by 1620 hours. TF CHAMBERLAIN attacked past the convergence of the SAAR - MOSELLE Rivers to reach KONZ - KARTHAUS (WL165234) at 0855 hours and cleared the town by 1000 hours. The Task Force then attacked north along the MOSELLE River to join the remainder of the 10th Armored Division at 1300 hours fighting in TRIER. The 376th Infantry continued mopping up remaining fragments of enemy resistance in the SAAR - MOSELLE triangle.

3 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Scattered clouds throughout morning with light intermittent rain in the afternoon which limited visibility from 3-5 miles throughout the period.

Aviation: Eleven missions were flown throughout the day and the towns of DREIS (WL340495) - GREIMERATH (WL239077) - KELL (WL340157) - LOSHEIM (WL285015) and THALFANG (WL468286) were bombed and strafed. Air claims include the destruction or damage of seventy-one motor transports and eighty-nine railroad cars.

94 INF DIV: (3d Cavalry Group and 5th Ranger Battalion attached) -

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The 301st Infantry (plus 1st Battalion 302d Infantry) (-3d Battalion) continued to organize defensive positions along the TABEN bridgehead line while the 302d Infantry (-1st Battalion) committed both battalions along the bridgehead line east of SAARBURG. The 376th Infantry cleared the last remaining enemy resistance at 0700 in that portion of the Siegfried Line hinging upon the MOSELLE River at (WL160200). The Regiment reverted to 94th Infantry Division control at 1200, and the 1st Battalion was enroute to the 94th Infantry Division sector at the close of the period.

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry maintained its positions in the SAAR-LAUTERN bridgehead and continued aggressive patrolling in that area. The 104th Infantry (26th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop and 1258th Engineer Combat Battalion attached) continued to actively defend the north flank of the division sector along the SAAR River line and by the use of Tank Destroyers employing direct fire from the west side of the river, six enemy pillboxes were destroyed on the East banks of the SAAR. The 2d Battalion of the 328th Infantry relieved the 3d Battalion along the west banks of the SAAR River on the right flank of the division while the remainder of the Regiment remained in divisional reserve.

10 ARMD DIV: After the last elements of CCR had been relieved at 1700 by the 3d Cavalry Group in 94th Infantry Division sector the entire CCR provided defense of the divisional front northeast of TRIER. During the morning and afternoon elements of both CCA and CCB patrolled the division front while the remainder of both units reorganized and regrouped in TRIER.

4 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast skies throughout the entire day with light intermittent rain in the evening which limited visibility from 1 to 4 miles.

Aviation: No missions flown throughout the entire period due to weather.

Operations Instructions were issued that showed the new boundary between XII and XX Corps, established by Third US Army, giving XX Corps an area of operations West of the MOSELLE River. The 65th Infantry Division was ordered to relieve the 26th Infantry Division in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead sector on three consecutive nights beginning at 1800 hours the night of 5-6 March. 26th Infantry Division upon the completion of its relief by the 65th Infantry Division would move North into the SAAR - MOSELLE triangle and relieve the 94th Infantry Division in the SAARBURG area. 94th Infantry Division, upon relief by the 26th Infantry Division during the period 6-9 March, moved to a rear assembly area in the vicinity of REMICH and initiated a training and rehabilitation program. To insure secrecy in movement, all units involved in the various reliefs would remove or cover all identifying marks, and movement would be made under cover of darkness.

94 INF DIV: (3d Cavalry Group and 5th Ranger Battalion attached) - The 301st Infantry (less 3d Battalion with the 1st Battalion of the 302d Infantry attached) defended along the TABEN bridgehead line and constructed road blocks and other defenses. The 302d Infantry (- 1st Battalion with the 3d Battalion of the 301st Infantry attached) committed all three of its battalions along a wide front approximately five miles in width in the center of the SAAR bridgehead area east of SAARBURG. An enemy counter-attack in the vicinity of (WL248110) at 0500 hours consisting of 150 to 200 infantry supported by four (SP) guns was repulsed during the morning. The 376th Infantry moved east of the SAAR River and the 3d Battalion was attached to the 301st Infantry and completed the relief of the 1st Battalion of the 302d Infantry and the 5th Ranger Battalion at 0225.

26 INF DIV: All elements of the division maintained active and aggressive patrolling to their front and completed arrangements with the 65th Infantry Division for the relief of the 26th Infantry Division sector by the 65th Infantry Division.

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65 INF DIV: Closed into XX Corps area at 1230 and opened its CP at ENNERY (VU895708). Reconnaissance was initiated in the afternoon preparatory to relief of the 26th Infantry Division on the right flank and in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area of XX Corps. Units as they arrived removed or covered all distinctive markings and shoulder patches.

10 ARMD DIV: Elements of CCA and CCB attacked to the Northeast from TRIER through the holding positions maintained by CCR. TF HANKINS and TF CHAMBERLAIN attacked at 0700 and 0600 respectively. TF CHAMBERLAIN on the left attacked North along the SAAR River and made slow progress against enemy artillery and tanks. TF HANKINS attacked Northeast crossing the RUWAR River and reached the vicinity of (WL280300) and (WL275316) where it likewise met enemy artillery and tanks at 1300 hours. A treadway bridge was built across the RUWAR River at (WL269308). At 1330 five vehicles were placed across when they were destroyed by enemy fire thereby blocking crossing of the remainder of TF HANKINS. The 1st Battalion and 3d Battalion of the 417th Infantry were attached and attacked Northeast at the close of the period to clear the objective (WL268333). CCB attacked across the KYLL River in the vicinity of EHRANG (WL238353). The 20th Armored Infantry Battalion was dismounted and sent East to attack QUINT (WL260368) where it met heavy enemy resistance. A Company crossed and moved East to QUINT. B Company attempting to cross the KYLL River in the same vicinity met heavy small arms fire which stopped further progress. A Company of the 54th Armored Infantry Battalion was sent at 1730 hours to the aid of A Company 20th Armored Infantry Battalion but was unable to reach A Company 20th Armored Infantry Battalion at the close of the period.

5 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast with intermittent light rain during evening which limited visibility from 2 to 5 miles.  
Aviation: No missions were flown throughout the period due to weather.

94 INF DIV: (3d Cavalry Group and 5th Ranger Battalion attached) - The 301st Infantry (-3d Battalion with the 3d Battalion 376th Infantry attached) consolidated the TABEN bridgehead area and repulsed two enemy counterattacks throughout the day. The 302d Infantry (3d Battalion 301st Infantry attached) held the center of the bridgehead area and occupied OLLMUTH (WL263195) at 0615 hours without opposition. Two counterattacks were experienced in the center of the Regimental area. The first consisting of fifty enemy infantry was repulsed and the second enemy counterattack of an estimated 200 infantry, occurring at 0515 hours which was beat off by nightfall after heavy fighting. The 376th Infantry (-3d Battalion) conducted general rehabilitation in the vicinity of IRSCH (WL175123) while elements prevented enemy infiltration into pillboxes South of KONZ-KARTHOUS.

26 INF DIV: Maintained front line positions and completed arrangements with the 65th Infantry Division under cover of an accelerated patrolling to its front.

65 INF DIV: Advance parties of the 259th Infantry and 260th Infantry moved into sectors of the 328th Infantry with the 101st Infantry Regiment of the 26th Infantry Division in preparation for the relief of the 26th Infantry Division.

10 ARMD DIV: CCA (417th Infantry minus 2d Battalion, attached) passed through TF HANKINS and attacked to the northeast to seize the high ground at (WL293350). Several enemy tank attacks were repulsed and elements of the 417th Infantry advanced against heavy artillery and machine gun fire and occupied by nightfall, positions at (WL260340) - (WL285335) - (WL285320). To the South, CCB with the 2d Battalion of the 417th Infantry attached, continued its efforts to cross the KYLL River. Heavy machine

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gun fire prevented the use of either the trestle bridge at the site or the assault boats. Company B of the 20th Armored Infantry Battalion was across at 1625 and followed by Companies E and G of the 417th Infantry had advanced by nightfall to the line (WL230366) - (WL240368) - (WL245365) - (WL245350). CCR regrouped to the rear and prepared for commitment on divisional order.

6 March 1945

**XX CORPS:** Weather: Low overcast skies throughout the day with light rain in the evening. Visibility limited from 3 to 6 miles.  
Aviation: No missions flown due to the weather.

**94 INF DIV:** (3d Cavalry Group and 5th Ranger Battalion attached) - The 301st Infantry (- 3d Battalion with 3d Battalion 376th Infantry attached) repulsed at 1225 hours a small enemy counterattack on the right flank of the TABEN bridgehead area. In the afternoon relief of all elements of the 301st Infantry was begun by the 328th Infantry, 26th Infantry Division, and completed by 2330 hours. In the central portion of the SAARBURG bridgehead area the enemy supported by tanks counterattacked in strength. Penetrations chiefly by infiltrations were accomplished as far as the ZERF - PELLINGEN road by mid-day. However, tanks were committed by the 94th Infantry Division in aid of the 302d Infantry and original positions were restored by nightfall. The 376th Infantry (- 3d Battalion) was alerted for employment in the 302d Infantry sector at 1625 hours. The 1st Battalion was ordered at 1655 hours to attack south from PELLINGEN (WL232200) and by 2400 hours had reached the high ground at (WL232198).

**26 INF DIV:** The 328th Infantry, as divisional reserve, was relieved by the 259th Infantry 65th Infantry Division by 0415 and closed in the vicinity of SERRIG (WL161091) by 1000 hours from where it moved across the SAAR and relieved units of the 301st Infantry, 94th Infantry Division, in the TABEN bridgehead. The 2d and 3d Battalions of the 101st Infantry were relieved in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area by the elements of the 260th Infantry, 65th Infantry Division, by 2100 hours. The 1st Battalion remained in the bridgehead area awaiting relief in the morning of 7 March. All three battalions of the 104th Infantry were relieved by the 261st Infantry, 65th Infantry Division, by 2300 hours and movement to the North was begun at once.

**65 INF DIV:** All infantry elements except one battalion of the 26th Infantry Division were relieved by 2400 hours in the southern sector of XX Corps. The 259th Infantry (- 1st Battalion) was in division reserve. The 260th Infantry (- 3d Battalion) occupied the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area while the 261st Infantry held the west banks of the SAAR River on the left flank of the division. The 1st Battalion 259th Infantry patrolled the right flank of XX Corps along the western banks of the SAAR River.

**10 ARMD DIV:** (RCT 417 attached) - CCA (1st and 3d Battalions 417th Infantry attached) cleared the high ground at (WL268334), captured the town of KENN and advanced Northeast two miles to take and hold the high ground at (WL290348) by 1810 hours. CCB (2d Battalion 417th Infantry attached) crossed foot elements of the 2d Battalion 417th Infantry, the 20th and 54th Armored Infantry Battalions across the KYLL River, where they prepared to attack EHRANG (WL242348) the morning of 7 March. CCR remained in TRIER prepared to exploit any bridgeheads gained over the RUWAR or KYLL Rivers.

7 March 1945

**XX CORPS:** Weather: Low overcast throughout the period with intermittent light rain. Visibility 3-7 miles.  
Aviation: No missions flown throughout the period due to weather.

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94 INF DIV: (3d Cavalry Group and 5th Ranger Battalion attached) - 301st Infantry (- 3d Battalion with 3d Battalion 376th Infantry attached): The 3d Battalion 302d Infantry in the vicinity of LAMPADEN (WL253171) repulsed an armored counterattack of five Mark V tanks at 0915. The 2d Battalion 376th Infantry was alerted to support the 3d Battalion 302d Infantry. B Company 302d Infantry with one platoon of light tanks in support, attacked North to clear the enemy out of the area along the ZERF - PELLINGEN road. 301st Infantry (- 3d Battalion) was relieved in its sector by the 328th Infantry and moved to CATTENOM (VU920908), closing at 1130. 302d Infantry (3d Battalion 301st Infantry attached) continued mopping up enemy which had infiltrated during the previous counterattacks. 3d Battalion received a strong counterattack of Infantry supported by five tanks in the vicinity of LAMPADEN (WL253171) at 0845. Counterattack was repulsed at 1050. Three enemy tanks and one self-propelled gun were knocked out. 376th Infantry, 1st and 2d Battalions attacked Southeast from PELLINGEN to clear out the rear area and contact 3d Battalion 302d Infantry in the vicinity of LAMPADEN. Contact was made at 1620. The 3d Battalion moved to DUDELANGE (VU800995).

26 INF DIV: 104th Infantry: All three battalions were relieved by the 261st Infantry 65th Infantry Division, and the 104th Infantry closed in the IRSCH - OCKFEN - BEURIG area at 0715. 101st Infantry: 2d and 3d Battalions cleared BOUZONVILLE enroute to assembly area vicinity WILTINGEN (WL175185).

65 INF DIV: (1258th Engineer Combat Battalion attached) - 259th Infantry, 1st Battalion defended South flank of Division sector from West banks of SAAR River while the 2d and 3d Battalions remained in divisional reserve conducting a rehabilitation and training program. 260th Infantry disposed itself in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area and conducted its defense by a system of coordinated combat patrols. 261st Infantry (65th Reconnaissance Troop and 1258th Engineer Combat Battalion attached) actively defended by patrols the divisional left flank along the West banks of the SAAR River North of SAARLAUTERN.

10 ARMD DIV: CCA moved its reconnaissance elements across the KYLL River bridge at (WL189429) with TF CHAMBERLAIN following at 1455 hours. TF CHAMBERLAIN attacked to outflank EHRANG and QUINT and at 1940 had reached (WL219448). CCB continued its attack to the northeast along the western banks of the SAAR River cleaning out EHRANG (WL245350) and capturing QUINT (WL260366) by 1510, with the aid of the 2d Battalion 417th Infantry attached to it. The remainder of the 10th Armd Division (1st and 3d Battalions 417th Infantry attached) remained in and around TRIER prepared to exploit bridgeheads over the KYLL and RUWAR Rivers.

8 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast in the morning. Broken clouds at the end of the period. Visibility 4 to 7 miles. Light rain in the evening.

Aviation: No missions were flown due to the weather.

94 INF DIV: (3d Cavalry Group and 5th Ranger Battalion attached) - 301st Infantry: 1st and 2d Battalions conducted rehabilitation of personnel and equipment in the vicinity of CATTENOM. 3d Battalion was relieved in its sector by 2d Battalion 104th Infantry and A Company 302d Infantry. 3d Battalion closed in the vicinity of BEURIG (WL153125) at 2330. 302d Infantry completed mopping up its area and elements of 2d Battalion relieved elements of 3d Battalion 301st Infantry in its sector. 376th Infantry: 1st Battalion closed in vicinity of PELLINGEN (WL233200) at 1500. 2d Battalion moved to vicinity of OBERSEHR (WL252182) at 1600. 3d Battalion closed in SCHODEN (WL164162) at 2340.

26 INF DIV: 1st Battalion was relieved in bridgehead during darkness and began moving to WILTINGEN, closing at 1130. 2d and 3d Battal-

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ions assembled in the vicinity of OBEREMMEL (WL202187). 104th Infantry: 1st Battalion moved to vicinity BEURIG (WL150125). 2d Battalion completed relief of elements of the 1st Battalion 328th Infantry and 301st Infantry in the sector at 2330. 3d Battalion closed at IRSCH at 2150. 328th Infantry: Elements of the 1st Battalion were relieved in their sector by 2d Battalion 104th Infantry. 2d and 3d Battalions continued to patrol and maintain defense of sector.

65 INF DIV: (1258th Engineer Combat Battalion attached) - 259th Infantry: 1st Battalion defended on the south flank of the division sector. 2d Battalion and 3d Battalion in regimental and division reserve, continued to train and organize their positions. 260th Infantry continued to defend the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead. 261st Infantry (65th Reconnaissance Troop and 1258th Engineer Combat Battalion attached): Patrolled and defended their sector from the West side of the SAAR River North of SAARLAUTERN.

10 ARMD DIV: (RCT 417 attached) - CCA continued the attack to the East meeting light resistance in the morning. Obstacles and increasing fire were met during the afternoon. TF CHERRY and TF HANKINS continued the attack and were reported at (WL351478) and (WL356425) respectively. CCB crossed the bridge at EHRANG and continued to attack toward the Northeast from QUINT. TF CHAMBERLAIN was at (WL325397) at the close of the period. Reserve Command moved infantry elements of the 54th Armored Infantry Battalion to SCHWEICH (WL293363) to occupy the city.

9 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Broken to overcast clouds throughout the period. Visibility 3 to 7 miles.

Aviation: Only one mission flown in the morning, which was unsuccessful due to weather. In the afternoon seven missions were flown in cooperation with the Corps. The towns of KELL (WL340157), WEISKIRCHEN (WL337071), NONNWEILER (WL325130) and WALDWEILER (WL325130) were bombed, using blind bombing technique. A convoy of vehicles was bombed at THOMM (WL330275) with unobserved results. Twenty-six motor transports were destroyed or damaged in the vicinity of (WQ400900). Night fighters and Intruders operated during the hours of darkness.

Operations Instructions #61 was issued this date, confirming Oral and Fragmentary Orders. It directed that the existing boundaries between 10th Armored Division and 3d Cavalry Group remain in effect until changed by Corps order. When ordered, the boundaries would place the 10th Armored Division in the zone North of the MOSELLE River on the Corps left flank, and would place the 3d Cavalry Group South of the MOSELLE River, with the river the boundary line between the two units. The instructions made all other lateral boundary changes effective immediately. These placed the 94th Infantry Division South of the 3d Cavalry Group, the 26th Infantry Division South of the 94th Infantry Division, and the 65th Infantry Division on the right flank. Due to limited road nets general use was authorized of roads within the Corps zone, regardless of boundaries.

94 INF DIV: (3d Cavalry Group and 5th Ranger Battalion attached): 301st Infantry: 1st Battalion relieved elements 3d Battalion 302d Infantry in sector. 2d Battalion completed relief of the 2d Battalion 302d Infantry in sector at 2340 hours. 3d Battalion in Regimental reserve vicinity BEURIG (WL152125). 302d Infantry: 1st Battalion initially division reserve later moved to assembly area. 376th Infantry: 1st Battalion relieved elements 3d Cavalry Squadron in zone at 2315. 2d Battalion relieved 3d Battalion 302d Infantry on line. 3d Battalion regimental reserve vicinity KRETTNACH - OBERMENNING. 5th Ranger Battalion division reserve vicinity BURMERANGE (VU970990).

3 CAV GP: Relieved from attachment to 94th Infantry Division 092400. Patrolled and aggressively defended sector.

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26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry (- C Company) completed move from 94th Infantry Division sector to TRASSEM.- FREUDENBURG area. C Company 101st Infantry attached to 26th Reconnaissance Troop and defended in sector. Regiment (division reserve) initiated training program. 104th Infantry, 1st and 3d Battalions in regimental reserve vicinity IRSCH; 2d Battalion defending in sector. Regimental CP opened IRSCH 090600. 328th Infantry continued to operate combat patrols and defend sector.

65 INF DIV: (1258th Engineer Combat Battalion attached) - 259th Infantry, 1st Battalion defending South flank of division sector. 2d and 3d Battalions in regimental and division reserve respectively; conducting training and organizing defensive positions. 260th Infantry patrolled and actively defended SAARLAUTERN bridgehead. 261st Infantry (1258th Engineer Combat Battalion and 65th Reconnaissance Troop attached) defended division sector North of SAARLAUTERN and continued patrol activity.

10 ARMD DIV: (RCT 417th attached) - Continued the attack to the Northeast to seize WITTLICH. METZERATH was cleared at 091325. Just East of RIEVENICH (WL360423) a blown bridge held up the column. Elements of TF HANKINS turned North at this point and contacted elements TF CHERRY. At 1800 bridge at (WL358478) was completed and attack continued Northeast in two columns. CCB continued attacking to the Northeast in two columns, one moving through FOHREN (WL305405) and the other South to vicinity (WL312382). Road blocks and minefields at FOHREN necessitated turning the column to the East. BEKOND (WL328393) was taken at 1225. The attack continued, moving Northeast toward WITTLICH. Reserve Command completed mopping up of objective (SCHWEICH) and occupied the high ground. 1st and 3d Battalions 417th Infantry launched coordinated attack and captured high ground to the East in RUWAR bridgehead area.

10 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast clouds to 0500, scattered to 0800, then broken to overcast for remainder of period. Visibility 3 to 5 miles. Aviation: Four missions were flown in the morning, with unreported results. Two missions were flown in the afternoon, but were unsuccessful due to the weather.

Field Order #18, issued this date, directed that the Corps attack at 0300, 13 March, Southeast from the SAARBURG bridgehead, then northeast through the NAHE River valley to seize successive dominating terrain objectives between the SAAR and MOSELLE Rivers. The 94th Infantry Division on the left would attack East in its zone; the 80th Infantry Division would attack Southeast in zone to seize the Corps objectives; the 26th Infantry Division would attack South in zone to reduce Siegfried Line and enemy defenses within the zone; the 65th Infantry Division would conduct intensive demonstrations in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead 12-14 March 1945, then attack on Corps order to reduce the Siegfried Line and enemy defenses within its zone. The 3d Cavalry Group (reinforced) would establish and maintain contact with XII Corps South of the MOSELLE River, and protect the Corps left (North) flank. The 10th Armored Division, initially in Corps reserve, would be prepared to pass through the 26th, 80th, or 94th Infantry Divisions, continue attack to the Northeast, and when committed exploit the breakthrough to the maximum.

94 INF DIV: 301st Infantry, 1st and 2d Battalions defending in sector sent five reconnaissance patrols to the front. 3d Battalion in regimental reserve vicinity WILTINGEN (WL173184). 302d Infantry was division reserve in the assembly area ( ). 376th Infantry, defending in sector sent out two night reconnaissance patrols. 3d Battalion in regimental reserve conducting training and preparing for future operations.

3 CAV GP: (16th Cavalry Group attached as of 092400) - 3d Cavalry Squadron relieved in sector by elements 43d Cavalry Squadron and 376th Infantry and moved to vicinity KONZ - KARTHAUS (WL167233). 3d Cavalry

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Squadron then moved to vicinity KENN (wL268342) to relieve the 3d Battalion 417th Infantry. The 43d Cavalry Squadron continued patrol activity and contact with the enemy. Occupied KASEL (wL276298) and ROIL (wL320330).

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry (-3d Battalion) division reserve. C Company reverted to battalion control; L Company attached to 26th Reconnaissance Troop and moved to vicinity WEITEN. Regiment conducted training. 104th Infantry, 1st and 3d Battalions in regimental reserve vicinity (wL208117) and IRSCH respectively; conducting training. 328th Infantry operated combat patrols and defended in sector.

65 INF DIV: 259th Infantry defending South flank of division sector. 2d and 3d Battalions regimental and division reserve respectively. 260th Infantry aggressively defending SAARLAUTERN bridgehead. Combat patrols were employed to probe into enemy lines and harass the enemy. 261st Infantry (1258th Engineer Combat Battalion and 65th Reconnaissance Troop attached) dispatched reconnaissance patrols from front line units to cross the SAAR River, causing considerable damage to enemy installations.

10 ARMD DIV: (RCT 417 attached) - Initiated action to clear division zone to MOSELLE River. CCA continued advance to the east after capturing and clearing WITTLICH at 1233, and BOMBOGEN at 1500. Resistance was light on final objective. Elements CCA pushed to the north and east of WITTLICH and BOMBOGEN where positions were organized for defense of objectives. CCB continued the advance toward final objective clearing enemy from zone. Towns of CLUSERATH, SCHELICH, POLICH, KRAMES, CLAUSEN, POHLBACH and ESCH were taken. Reserve Command: TF RILEY moved from vicinity SCHWEICH early in the morning to follow CCB in attack to the northeast. Reserve Command initiated plans to clear zone of enemy to MOSELLE River. 3d Battalion 417th Infantry occupied KIRSCH and LONGUICH.

11 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast to 0500, scattered to 0800, then broken to overcast clouds for rest of period.

Aviation: The two missions flown in the morning were unsuccessful due to weather. In the afternoon six missions were flown. LEBACH (wQ402907), MUHLBACH (wQ478911), HERMESKIEL (wL432178), WADERN (wL390050), OBERTHAL (wL530027), WALDWEILER (wL325130), and NOSWENDEL (wL375035) were bombed using blind bombing technique. Night fighters operated during the hours of darkness.

94 INF DIV: The 5th Ranger Battalion was relieved from attachment at 1200 and reverted to XX Corps control. 301st Infantry consolidated defensive positions, and operated eleven reconnaissance patrols. 3d Battalion regimental reserve. 302d Infantry (division reserve) conducting rehabilitation of personnel and equipment. 376 Infantry continued active defense of sector, sending out four day reconnaissance patrols, and three night patrols. 3d Battalion in regimental reserve conducted training.

3 CAV GP: 3d Cavalry Squadron completed relief of the 3d Battalion 417th Infantry vicinity KENN at 110102, and aggressively defended sector. Elements 16th and 19th Cavalry Squadrons completed relief of 43d Cavalry Squadron. 3d and 43d Cavalry Squadrons relieved elements 417th Infantry in sector. Continued construction of road blocks and other defenses.

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry (-3d Battalion) division reserve, continued training. 3d Battalion, attached to 104th Infantry, moved from vicinity SERRIG to assembly area (wL195102) and relieved 2d Battalion 104th Infantry in sector. Company L relieved from attachment to 26th Reconnaissance Troop and Company G attached. 104th Infantry (3d Battalion 101st Infantry attached), 1st Battalion relieved 1st Battalion 328th Infantry in sector. 2d Battalion relieved by 3d Battalion 101st Infantry. 3d Battalion regimental reserve vicinity IRSCH. Regimental CP opened

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BEURIG 1500. 328th Infantry, 1st Battalion moved to assembly area vicinity SERRIG upon being relieved. 2d and 3d Battalions continued to defend in sector.

65 INF DIV: 259th Infantry, 1st Battalion defending on South flank of division sector, continued patrol activity. 2d and 3d Battalions regimental and division reserve respectively. 260th Infantry maintained aggressive defense of SAARLAUTERN bridgehead and continued constant harassing of enemy. Some increase of small arms and mortar fire noted. 261st Infantry (1258th Engineer Combat Battalion and 65th Reconnaissance Troop attached) continued to defend division sector North of SAARLAUTERN. Reconnaissance and combat patrols crossed SAAR River.

80 INF DIV: (Attached XX Corps 10 March) - Closed in XX Corps area vicinity MONDORFF (vP940018) at 1945.

10 ARMD DIV: (RCT 417 attached) - Received new mission at 1205 to attack Northeast with one combat command and one Infantry Battalion (motorized) to take objective (wL560620). At 1545 CCA moved out. Shortly after column was held up by blown bridge at (wL469573), Infantry dismounted and continued on. Later another crossing site was found and armored elements continued the attack. CCB assisted 90th Reconnaissance Squadron in clearing up remaining enemy resistance in division zone. Reserve Command assembled vicinity TRIER conducting maintenance and rehabilitation. 1st Battalion 417th Infantry successfully repulsed a counterattack in the vicinity (wL293300) at 1400. 2d Battalion, 417th Infantry attached, and assisting CCA in attack to the Northeast.

12 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast clouds until 2000, then scattered to end of period. Visibility 2 to 6 miles.

Aviation: Two missions were flown in the morning, one unsuccessful because of weather, the other bombed OSBURG (wL320245) using blind bombing technique. Two more missions were flown during the afternoon. OSBURG, LEBACH (wQ402908), and MUHLBACH (wQ474913) were bombed using blind bombing technique. Night fighters operated during the hours of darkness and dropped incendiary bombs on OBERTHAL (wL532018), SCHOENBERG (wQ740800), LEBACH and HERMERSKEIL (wL432178).

94 INF DIV: 301st Infantry patrolled and continued normal activities prior to attack. Sent five reconnaissance patrols forward. 3d Battalion moved to assembly area vicinity LAMPADEN (wL252171) at 2155. 302d Infantry moved from position as division reserve to forward assembly area prepared for attack. 376th Infantry continued to occupy front line positions and carry on normal patrol activities.

3 CAV GP: Aggressively defended sector. 3d Cavalry Squadron attacked and seized FELL (wL312310) and high ground at (wL332293) and (wL339322). Pushed East and took Hill 425 at (wL327315) and dug in positions at that location. 43d Cavalry Squadron attacked and seized high ground from Hill 407 (wL293290) to Hill 421 (wL299295). Heavy enemy artillery fire was encountered on final objectives. Elements 16 Cavalry aggressively patrolled and defended sector.

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry (-3d Battalion) division reserve, continued training and preparation for operations. 104th Infantry and 328th Infantry completed regrouping in preparation for attack at 0300, 13 March.

65 INF DIV: 259th Infantry, 2d Battalion relieved 1st Battalion on South flank of division sector. Combat patrols crossed SAAR River. 1st Battalion became Division Reserve on being relieved by 3d Battalion. 2d Battalion no change. 260th Infantry continued constant harassing of enemy in bridgehead. Increased artillery and mortar fire noted as a result of activities. 261st Infantry (1258th Engineer Combat Battalion and 65th Reconnaissance Troop attached): Combat and reconnaissance patrols on

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East side of SAAR River report strong enemy resistance from fortified locations. Continued patrol activities and active defense of division sector North of SAARLAUTERN.

80 INF DIV: Initiated movement to vicinity BEURIG-IRSCH. 318th Infantry Regiment closed vicinity IRSCH 1100. Combat elements closed in forward assembly areas at 1945 in position to pass through elements 26th Infantry Division and 94th Infantry Division and attack to the east.

10 ARMD DIV: Leading elements CCA passed through BENGEL (WL516576) at 1200, continued attack to Northeast and was on final objective vicinity ALF (WL563623) at 1500. CCA was relieved by elements XII Corps at this position. 2d Battalion 417th Infantry reverted to parent unit. The South column of CCA by combined efforts of two teams destroyed forty to fifty enemy vehicles attempting to escape North and South from REIL (WL557583). CCA when relieved began movement to vicinity TRIER. CCB closed in vicinity TRIER at 0700. 43d Cavalry Squadron completed relief of 1st Battalion 417th Infantry at 0800. 2d Battalion 417th Infantry attached and assisted CCA in attack to the Northeast. 1st and 3d Battalions 417th Infantry moved to vicinity ZEMMER to rejoin 76th Infantry Division. CCB and Reserve Command remained in vicinity TRIER conducting maintenance and general rehabilitation.

13 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Scattered clouds to clear throughout period. Visibility 3 to 5 miles.

Aviation: Three blind bombing missions were flown in AM. REINSFELD (WL380200), MUHLBACH (WQ475913) and OBERTHAL (WL532018) were bombed. In the afternoon twenty missions in close cooperation with the Corps were flown. SAARWELLINGEN (WQ325845), NAURATH (WL385295), HERMES-KEIL (WL432175), HAPPEWEILER (WL320050), SCHEIDEN (WL275058), REINSFELD, CONFELD (WL345065), SCHILLINGEN (WL315155), THOMM (WL330275) and KELL, were bombed and strafed. Claims include the destruction or damage of fifty-three motor transports, ten armored vehicles and three horse drawn vehicles. Forty-five motor transports were destroyed on flat cars at OTTWEILER (WQ585895). Night fighters operated during the hours of darkness attacking enemy motor transport.

94 INF DIV: At 0300 the 301st and 302d Infantry Regiments attacked to the East from present front lines. Machine gun and small arms fire in addition to rugged terrain was offering most of the resistance. Advances up to two miles by the 2d Battalion 301st Infantry by noon were reported. BERGHEID (WL275163) was captured by the 301st Infantry at 1438. 2d Battalion withdrew to assembly area (WL220160) upon being passed through by elements 318th Infantry prior to attack. 2d Battalion then prepared for attack. 3d Battalion repulsed counterattacks vicinity (WL284174) and (WL285165) and advanced to position West of HEDDERT (WL299164). 302d Infantry, 1st Battalion cleared BONNERATH (WL272226) at 1815, and HOLZERATH (WL298206) at 2125. 2d Battalion met strong resistance at SCHONDORF (WL283205). The town was cleared at 1900.

3 CAV GP: (16th Cavalry Group and 609th Tank Destroyer Battalion attached) - Aggressively defended sector. Repulsed two enemy counterattacks. Elements 19th Cavalry Squadron made a flanking movement to seize MORCHEID (WL292263), SOMMERU (WL281245) and high ground West of river between MORCHEID and BONERATH (WL295217). 43d Squadron was relieved by elements 3d and 16th Squadrons and assembled vicinity of KENN (WL274339). Sixty-three PWs were taken, fifty-three enemy killed and one hundred and two wounded. Two enemy tanks and one rocket gun destroyed.

26 INF DIV: 104th Infantry and 328th Infantry attacked at 0300, both regiments having two battalions abreast. Attack met scattered resistance mostly small arms and machine gun fire; rugged terrain slowing progress.



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By noon leading elements of 2d Battalion 104th Infantry had advanced approximately 2500 yards, and other leading battalions were making good progress. At darkness 1st Battalion 104th Infantry moved to strengthen positions of 2d Battalion. Task Force D (3d Battalion 104th Infantry, motorized) (Company B 778th Tank Battalion and one platoon each of AAA, Tank Destroyers and Engineers) launched an attack at 1245 to clear ZERF - BRITTEN road on Division left flank. Progress slowed by road blocks and direct fire weapons. 328th Infantry continued attack making slow progress in rough, wooded terrain and defenses of the Siegfried Line. 101st Infantry (-3d Battalion) Division reserve, moved to assembly area. 3d Battalion relieved from attachment to 104th Infantry and attached to 328th Infantry; prepared to attack in 328th Infantry zone 14 March.

65 INF DIV: 259th Infantry, 3d Battalion defending South flank of division sector. Elements 3d Battalion entered SPURK (wQ323747) in conjunction with attack of 101st Cavalry on Corps South flank. 2d Battalion Regimental reserve. 260th Infantry carried out limited objective attacks in bridgehead. Ambush and reconnaissance patrols also probed into enemy positions. 261st Infantry (1258th Engineer Combat Battalion and 65th Reconnaissance Troop attached) continued active defense and patrolling in sector.

80 INF DIV: 317th and 318th Infantry Regiments attacked at 0300. 3d Battalion 317th Infantry met strong opposition in GREIMERATH (wL240072) and after fighting in town cleared it at 2115. 1st Battalion 317th Infantry reached a point Northeast of GREIMERATH at noon and continued on. 1st and 2d Battalions 318th Infantry were held up by strong enemy position on Hill at objective #2 (wL261101). This position was cleared with one hundred PWs taken and three 88mm guns captured. 3d Battalion continued the advance and captured objective #8 (wL290093).

10 ARMD DIV: Remained in TRIER area conducting maintenance, general rehabilitation and preparing for further operations.

14 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Heavy ground fog from 0600 to 0900, then few high scattered clouds throughout period. Visibility 0 to 5 miles.

Aviation: Four missions were flown in the morning and seventeen missions flown in the afternoon, in close cooperation with the Corps. The towns of BUTLICH (wL400320), WEISKIRCHEN, BRITTEN (wL230030), DILSBURG (wQ420825), THOMM, SCHEIDEN, SAARWELLINGEN, LOSHEIM, OBERTHAL, REINSFELD, HULZWEILER (wQ325804), FARSCHWEILER (wL345245) and ZWALBACH (wL305060) were bombed and strafed.

94 INF DIV: 301st Infantry, 1st Battalion cleaned out by-passed pockets of resistance between BERGHEID (wL275163) and HEDDERT (wL298165); 2d Battalion jumped off in attack at 0500 and made slow progress East in rough wooded country; 3d Battalion reached vicinity SCHILLINGEN (wL315154). 302d Infantry, 1st Battalion continued attack at 1630, seized hill vicinity (wL322212); 2d Battalion passed through 1st Battalion and captured Hill 708 (wL350200) and continued the attack east in the direction of REINSFELD; 3d Battalion mopping up rear and flank areas of resistance. 376th Infantry remained in reserve position conducting reconnaissance for possible employment.

3 CAV GP: (16th Cavalry Group and 609th Tank Destroyer Battalion attached) - Aggressive defense of sector was maintained. Elements 16th Cavalry Squadron seized Hill 421 with little enemy opposition. Attempt to clear WALDRACH by 16th Cavalry Squadron met strong opposition. All squadrons continued strong patrol activity and contact with the enemy across the front.

26 INF DIV: Division making slow progress. 101st Infantry (-3d Battalion) moved from assembly areas to positions for attack in zone of

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328th Infantry. 104th Infantry, 1st and 2d Battalions meeting strong resistance from fortified and dug in enemy positions. 3d Battalion (reinforced) continued the attack clearing road adjacent to 80th Infantry Division zone, and repulsing three enemy counterattacks. 328th Infantry (3d Battalion 101st Infantry attached) continued attack to the Southeast, making slow progress through rough wooded terrain and defenses of the Siegfried Line. 3d Battalion, 101st Infantry passed through 328th Infantry and attacked at 1145.

65 INF DIV: Continued aggressive defense of the division sector. Limited objective attacks in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead were made, and the harassing of enemy positions continued. Combat patrols operated deep into the enemy positions across the SAAR River.

80 INF DIV: The division attack continued, breaking the enemy resistance along the ZERF - WEISKIRCHEN highway. The 2d Battalion, 317th Infantry, passed through the 3d Battalion at 0235 to continue the attack East from GREIMERATH. 1st Battalion, 317th Infantry resumed attacking at 0500 to take objective vicinity (WL265075). 318th Infantry continued the attack to the Southeast through heavily wooded country and initially strong resistance. Over 300 PWs were taken in the vicinity (WL287110). The 2d Battalion attacking East along the ZERF - WEISKIRCHEN highway seized Hill 634 (WL299085) at 2000. 319th Infantry moved up to forward assembly areas prepared to attack through the 317th Infantry.

10 ARMD DIV: Remained in vicinity TRIER alerted for employment and continuing preparation for offensive operations.

15 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Few scattered clouds throughout the period. Visibility 1 to 4 miles.

Aviation: Thirty missions in close cooperation with the Corps were flown during the day. The towns of NIEDERLOSHEIM (WL310010), SAARHOLZBACH (WL183025), LORSCH (WL362270), RAPPWEILER (WL322050), LOSHEIM, BUDLICH, EPPELBORN (WQ442898), WADERN (WL389048), REINSFELD, WADRILL (WL385100), HEIDENBURG (WL412337), OSBURG (WL319245), CONFELD (WL345065), DILSBURG, MITLOSHEIM (WL306044), SCHEIDEN (WL274058) and GUSENBURG (WL398156), were bombed and strafed. Results include the damage or destruction of twenty-two motor transports, twenty-one horse drawn vehicles, and two tanks. Night fighters operated during the hours of darkness.

94 INF DIV: 301st Infantry: 3d Battalion came abreast of 1st Battalion in the vicinity of SCHILLINGEN (WL312154) and the regiment continued the advance with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The town of KELL (WL340155) was cleared at 1427. GUSENBURG was captured by the 1st Battalion at 2115. Elements of the Reconnaissance Troop entered WALDWEILER. 302d Infantry: Continued attacking East, capturing REINSFELD at 2130. 3d Battalion moved to assembly area vicinity (WL338200) and passed through 1st and 2d Battalions. 376th Infantry moved from assembly areas vicinity OBEREMMEL to South flank of the division zone with the mission of attacking and seizing GRIMBURG, STITZERATH, BIEFELD and NONNWEILER. GRIMBURG attacked at close of period.

3 CAV GP: (16th Cavalry Group and 609th Tank Destroyer Battalion attached): Maintained aggressive contact with the enemy. Attacked and captured WALDRACH (WL285281) at 1725. Infantry elements guarding factory vicinity (WL415269) were relieved at 1615.

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry (-3d Battalion) attacked at 0700 through elements of 328th Infantry in direction of SAARHOLZBACH (WL183022). Progress slow at first, through rough wooded terrain and Siegfried defenses, but better progress was made as the attack continued South. 1st Battalion was leading the attack. 104th Infantry continued attack on division left flank against strong resistance. A counterattack was repulsed by the 3d Battalion. 328th Infantry (3d Battalion 101st Infantry attached) continued



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attack through very rough terrain and defenses of the Siegfried Line South and East of SAARHOLZBACH.

65 INF DIV: (1258th Engineer Combat Battalion attached) - Continued aggressive defense of sector, with reconnaissance and raiding patrols active throughout the period. Enemy positions penetrated up to 2½ Kms on the East side of the SAAR River. Three mortars, three machine guns and one antiaircraft gun were silenced.

80 INF DIV: The attack East continued with the 317th Infantry capturing WALDHOLZBACH at 2100 hours. 318th Infantry continued to mop up woods along ZERF - WEISKIRCHEN highway, with the 2d Battalion meeting stiff resistance in WEISKIRCHEN. A strong enemy counterattack of tanks and infantry was repulsed. 1st Battalion, 319th Infantry passed through 317th Infantry lines at 0400 and captured BERGEN (WL248041). 3d Battalion, 319th Infantry passed through the 317th Infantry attacking South in the direction of BRITTEN (WL235028); 2d and 3d Battalions then attacked East from Vicinity BERGEN and BRITTEN. 1st Battalion, attacking South from BERGEN, cut the BRITTEN-LOSHEIM road and captured HAUSBACH (WL240010).

10 ARMD DIV: Remained in TRIER area alerted for rapid employment.

16 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: High scattered clouds until 2000, then low overcast to end of period. Visibility: 3 to 8 miles until 2100, then 2 to 4 miles.

Aviation: Twenty-one missions in close cooperation with the Corps were flown throughout the day. The towns of NUNKIRCHEN (WQ350990), NIEDERLOSHEIM, RIMLINGEN (WQ268978), BROTDORF (WQ230970), NONNWEILER (WL448125), REIMSBACH (WQ308150), WADERN, OSBURG, HARGARTEN (WQ270958) and BUWEILER (WL415075) were bombed and strafed. Principal attacks were on enemy transport, resulting in claims of approximately 185 motor transports, 21 armored vehicles, and 50 horse drawn vehicles destroyed or damaged.

94 INF DIV: 301st Infantry - 2d Battalion continued attack passing through 1st and 3d Battalions and capturing HERMESKEIL (WL398154) at 1000. The regiment with normal CT attachments attached to 10 Armored Division at 1500. 302 Infantry - 3d Battalion passed through 1st and 2d Battalions in vicinity REINSFELD and continued attack southeast, reaching HERMESKEIL at 1740. 37 pillboxes were reduced during the advance. 376 Infantry - 3d Battalion continued advance to the east against moderate resistance, capturing BIERFELD (L432125) at 1745.

3 CAV GP: (16th Cavalry Group and 609th Tank Destroyer Battalion attached) - 43d Cavalry Squadron attacked and captured HINZERT (WL399232) and POLERT (WL345225) and made gains through woods to West of HINZERT. 19th Cavalry Squadron attacked and made excellent progress to the Northeast, capturing the towns of OSBURG (WL318244), HERL (WL341260), THOMM (WL330273) and FARSCHWEILER (WL345245).

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry - attack continued in zone, with pillboxes being captured and destroyed as necessary to the advance. 104th Infantry continued attack in zone. An especially organized Task Force "D" (one Rifle Company supported by tanks, tank destroyers and Engineers) moved South from HAUSBACH, crossed the SEFFERBACH River without difficulty and captured RIMLINGEN (WL290970). 328th Infantry continued the attack South, destroying fifteen pillboxes in the Siegfried Line. SAARHOLZBACH was captured by one battalion at 1620. METTLACH was secured by the 3d Battalion at 2030.

65 INF DIV: The 1258th Engineer Combat Battalion was relieved from attachment at 0800. The aggressive defense of sector was carried on, with continual patrol activity. Counter-battery and harassing missions were

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fired throughout the period.

80 INF DIV: 317th Infantry continued the attack in zone. 1st Battalion captured ZWALBACH (WL310060), RAPPWEILER (WL320050) and THAILLEN (WL340040). 2d Battalion captured MITLOSHEIM (WL300040) and WEIRWEILER (WL330030), and moved Northeast, capturing WADERN. 318th Infantry continued house to house fighting and mopping up in WEISKIRCHEN. Town was cleared and advance continued. 1st Battalion continued to mop up forest along ZERF - WEISKIRCHEN highway. RCT 318 attached to 10th Armored Division at 1410 hours. 319th Infantry continued attack, capturing BRITTEN, HAUSBACH, WAHLEN (WQ300990) and LOSHEIM. Strong and determined enemy resistance was encountered at LOSHEIM.

10 ARMD DIV: CCA and CCB crossed the IP at 0245 and 0300 respectively. Advance elements CCA closed in area 318th Infantry CP at 0545. Elements of CCB were arriving in forward area of 94th Infantry Division at approximately the same time. Leading teams of both Combat Commands carried the attack from positions already held by Infantry elements. RCT 301 and RCT 318 attached 1500 and 1410 respectively to the division. Considerable determined resistance was encountered by CCA at WEISKIRCHEN. Advanced elements reported resistance mainly from natural and prepared obstacles covered by fire. CCB passed through elements of 94th Infantry Division and attacked on several routes offering the most rapid progress.

17 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast clouds to end of period. Visibility 2 to 4 miles.

Aviation: No missions were flown in the morning due to weather. In the afternoon, fourteen missions were flown in close cooperation with the Corps. Principal attacks were on enemy transport in the area (WL590030) - (WL580200) - (WL660220) - (WL660030). Claims included the destruction or damage of five hundred and forty-six (546) motor transports, sixteen (16) armored vehicles, and one hundred and thirty-eight (138) horse-drawn vehicles and artillery pieces. Night fighters operated during the hours of darkness.

Operations Instructions #64 appeared this date modifying Field Order #18. The 65th Infantry Division (reinforced) would attack from the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead 18 March 1945, reducing enemy installations and destroying the enemy in its zone. Upon completion of that mission the 65th Infantry Division would become Corps reserve. 26th Infantry Division (reinforced) would continue the attack in zone reducing and mopping up enemy defenses and upon completion of the present mission would become Corps reserve. The 80th Infantry Division (-one RCT) would follow the 10th Armored Division attack in its zone taking over objectives from the 10th Armored Division and clearing its zone of remaining enemy resistance. The 94th Infantry Division (reinforced) was to continue attacking in zone and attach one RCT (motorized) to the 12th Armored Division on Corps order. 10th Armored Division (reinforced) was to continue attacking in the 80th Infantry Division zone to seize the Corps objectives and exploit breakthrough to the maximum by-passing resistance wherever possible. The 12th Armored Division (reinforced) would attack in the 94th Infantry Division zone 18 March 1945 passing through the infantry to seize successive Corps objectives dominating terrain to the east and would exploit the breakthrough to the maximum by-passing resistance wherever possible.

94 INF DIV: RCT 301 was relieved from its attachment to the 10th Armored Division the afternoon of 17 March and reverted to control of the 94th Infantry Division. It became division reserve in the vicinity of HERMESKEIL. The 302d Infantry continued attacking East, capturing ZUSCH, SCHMEIZ, NEUTHETTEN, EINSERSHUTTEN, ABBENTHEUER, BUBLENBERG, ELLENBERG, FECKWEILER and BERKENFELD. The 3d Battalion 376th Infantry continued advancing at 0600 capturing NONWEILER. 1st and 2d Battalions 376th Infantry moved up to pass through the 3d Battalion and continued the attack. The

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towns of OTZENHAUSER, SCHWERZENBACH, EISEN, ACHTESBACH, and DIRKENFELD were captured against light resistance.

3 CAV GP: (16th Cavalry Group and 609th Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached) - Aggressive contact was maintained with the enemy on the North flank of the Corps zone.

26 INF DIV: The 101st Infantry continued the advance against light opposition capturing towns of BROTDORF, HONZROTH, and DUPPENWEILER. The 104th Infantry continued attacking in zone against light resistance capturing a bridge intact over the PRYMS River at HULTERSDORF. 328th Infantry continued attacking to the South and captured MERZIG where the construction of a bridge was initiated immediately across the SAAR River. 3d Battalion by-passed MERZIG and continued on to capture HAUSTADT.

65 INF DIV: Crossings of the SAAR River to the South of MERZIG were made and the high ground vicinity (wQ212980) was captured.

80 INF DIV: 317th Infantry continued attacking East and seized a crossing of the PRYMS River in conjunction with elements of the 10th Armored Division; attacked East from PRYMS River clearing the towns of LOCHWEILER and KRETTNICH. The 319th Infantry continued attacking East establishing a bridgehead across the PRYMS River at (wL973977).

10 ARMD DIV: CCA continued its attack passing teams through the 80th Infantry Division on following available routes and by-passing centers of resistance. Most resistance came from natural and prepared obstacles. CCB continued attack East passing teams through elements of the 80th Infantry Division using available routes and by-passing centers of resistance. Two highway bridges were in vicinity of (wL550090). At 2400, CCB jumped off for an attack on ST WENDEL.

12 ARMD DIV: (Attached XX Corps 17 March 1945) - Moved from assembly area in the vicinity of APACH to forward assembly area at FORSCHWEILER - REINSFELD.

18 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Generally broken clouds during first part of period, and clear during the night. Visibility 5 miles until 1800, then 1 to 2 miles for remainder of period.

Aviation: Eleven missions were flown in the morning, attacking enemy transport vicinity (wQ500970) - (wQ530970) - (wL660190) with excellent results. In the afternoon twelve missions in close cooperation with the Corps were flown. The towns of ST WENDEL (wQ590968), IDAR OBERSTEIN (wL690240), ALSWEILER (wQ520970), SONNENBERG (wL670190), NOHEN (wL645158), BIRKENFELD (wL590170) and MATZENBACH (wL800995) were bombed and strafed. Results for the day include the destruction or damage of 450 to 500 motor transports, 200 to 250 horse-drawn vehicles, and the killing of 175 to 200 horses.

Operations Instructions #65 (18 March 1945) detached the 16th Cavalry Group from the 3d Cavalry Group, the 16th Cavalry Group reverting to XX Corps control upon its relief of the 3d Cavalry Group. Upon its relief, 3d Cavalry Group would assemble in the vicinity of TRIER for rehabilitation, maintenance and training. 16th Cavalry Group assumed the mission assigned to 3d Cavalry Group in Field Order #18 (XX Corps - 10 Mar 45).

94 INF DIV: 301st Infantry remained in division reserve vicinity BIRKENFELD. The 302d Infantry continued the attack East, clearing RIMSBURG, NOHEN, REICHENBACH, BAUMHOLDER, and BREITSESTERHOF, and outposted BAUMHOLDER. 376th Infantry; 1st Battalion continued attack from PRAUNEM and contacted 3d Battalion 302d Infantry in BIRKENFELD, then advanced South and took HOPSTADTEN and HEIMBACH. 2d Battalion in Regimental Reserve moved to HOPSTADTEN. 3d Battalion attacked from vicinity HEIMBACH, seized BERLANGENBACH and passed through 1st Battalion to continue the attack east.

3 CAV GP: Assembled vicinity TRIER upon completion of relief by 16th

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Cavalry Group, and began conducting general rehabilitation.

16 CAV GP: Continued aggressive activity, assuming responsibility for mission of 3d Cavalry Group. Continued to push North and East, screening and protecting North flank of Corps, against light opposition.

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry continued to attack in zone, capturing LEBACH, BURACH and KALMESWEILER. 104th Infantry attacked East in zone against scattered enemy resistance, capturing GRESAUBACH, THALEXWEILER, ASCHBACH and DIRMINGEN. 328th Infantry assembled as division reserve in vicinity HAUSTADT. 2d Battalion moved out to outpost South flank of division sector.

65 INF DIV: 259th Infantry (-3d Battalion in reserve vicinity ALT-FORWEILER) attacked from SAARLAUTERN bridgehead at 0430 and met very strong resistance. 2d Battalion reported progress of 1500 yards. 260th Infantry attacked from SAARLAUTERN bridgehead at 0600, met very strong resistance, but succeeded in capturing four blocks of the town. The 2d and 3d Battalions, 261st Infantry, continued attacking East of SAAR River and captured city of DILLINGEN and high ground to the North and East of DILLINGEN. The 1st Battalion, 261st Infantry, moved over the MERZIG bridge to the vicinity of DUPPENWEILER on the North flank of the division sector.

80 INF DIV: The 317th Infantry continued to attack East with the motorized 1st Battalion attacking East from NAMBORN. 2d and 3d Battalions mopped up enemy pockets of resistance, by-passed by elements of the 10th Armored Division. RCT 318, attached to 10th Armored Division, reverted to control of the 80th Infantry Division at 2100. 319th Infantry continued attack east, after crossing the PRIMS River, and took LIMBACH, DORF, and LINDSCHEID.

10 ARMD DIV: CCA continued to attack Eastward in the 94th Infantry Division zone, by-passing centers of resistance, and overcoming natural and prepared obstacles. During hours of darkness (18-19 March), elements of CCA entered ST WENDEL and captured a bridge intact. Heavy resistance was encountered in the vicinity ST WENDEL. CCB continued to attack East, capturing much enemy equipment and many PWS. The advance of CCB was slowed by an anti-tank ditch at (WL708073), and bridging was necessary. The bridge was completed at 2015 and the column proceeded on to the East. CCR, prepared for commitment on order, moved to the vicinity of GRONIG (WL520018).

12 ARMD DIV: From assembly area FARSCHWEILER - REIENSFELD, CCR and CCB attacked East at 0600 through elements 94th Infantry Division. Only light opposition was encountered. CCA was division reserve vicinity (WL568178).

19 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light valley fog during morning hours; remainder of period clear with good visibility.

Aviation: Fourteen missions were flown on the Corps front during the day. Results include 306 motor transports destroyed and 161 motor transports damaged; 73 horse-drawn vehicles destroyed and 85 damaged; 10 armored vehicles destroyed and two damaged.

94 INF DIV: 301st Infantry remained in division reserve vicinity of BIRKENFELD preparing to displace forward. 302d Infantry continued rapid advances to the East in zone against light opposition, moving more than twenty miles and seizing eighteen towns. 1st Battalion, 376th Infantry, passed through 3d Battalion to move rapidly twelve miles to the East against light resistance. 2d Battalion (motorized), following the 1st Battalion, prepared to pass through 1st Battalion, and continue attack. 3d Battalion (motorized) prepared to resume attack East from vicinity MORBACH.

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3 CAV GP: Initiated movement to vicinity SAARLAUTERN for employment on the South flank of the Corps zone.

16 CAV GP: Continued advance to the East screening North flank of the Corps zone.

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry continued attacking in zone capturing a bridge intact at OTTWEILER. 104th Infantry continued attack in zone, capturing several towns. 328th Infantry remained in rear positions, outposting the South flank of Division zone.

65 INF DIV: 259th Infantry continued attacking to the North and East in zone, capturing the high ground South of SAARWELLINGEN and the towns of ENSDORF and FRAULAUTERN. 260th Infantry continued to attack North and East, capturing all of SAARLOUIS RODEN and the high ground to the North. Regiment reverted to division reserve vicinity DILLINGEN at 1800. The 261st Regiment attacked at 1400 from the vicinity PRIMS River North of DILLINGEN and captured NALBACH, PIESBACH, BILSDORF, and SAARWELLINGEN; continued the advance East.

80 INF DIV: 317th Infantry moved by marching and trucks, cleaning out pockets of resistance by-passed by elements of the 10th Armored Division. 2d Battalion, 318th Infantry, remained in assembly area at OBERTHAL (L530010) as division reserve (1st and 3d Battalions attached 10th Armored Division). 319th Infantry, 2d Battalion attacked East, mopping up pockets of resistance behind elements of the 10th Armored Division. 1st Battalion moved by motors to forward positions and continued mopping up in zone. 3d Battalion assisted elements 10th Armored Division clear ST WENDEL.

10 ARMD DIV: CCA continued attacking East against resistance that consisted mainly of road blocks and blown bridges. CCB continued to advance rapidly in zone against disintegrating enemy resistance, making extensive gains and overcoming natural and prepared obstacles. Reserve Command moved at 0300 to assist in attack to the East. Elements 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron pushed reconnaissance to the South and East on the right flank of division zone.

12 ARMD DIV: CCA initiated move from vicinity (WL568178) at approximately 1900 to follow CCB and CCR, prepared to continue the attack East. CCB continued to advance East in zone against little resistance, overcoming obstacles as necessary to the advance. Reserve Command continued advance to the East in the North part of the division zone, against minor resistance. Much enemy equipment and material was captured during the advances.

20 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Middle broken clouds to 1800, then becoming scattered to clear for remainder of period. Visibility: 2 to 5 miles.

Aviation: Twenty-five missions were flown during the day on the Corps front. The destruction or damage of 519 motor transports and 48 horse-drawn vehicles was claimed.

Forward Echelon XX Corps displaced forward this date from SAARBURG, Germany to ST WENDEL, Germany.

94 INF DIV: 301st Infantry, in division reserve, moved forward to WOLFSTEIN (WL910090), closing at 1600. 302d Infantry continued attack to East, clearing numerous towns and villages. 376th Infantry continued moving, making use of available transportation, and clearing enemy pockets of resistance remaining in zone.

3 CAV GP: Attached to 65th Infantry Division effective 0700, (Operations Instructions #66, Headquarters XX Corps dated 19 March 1945) and began moving to assembly area vicinity OBERTHAL (WL530020).

16 CAV GP: Continued advance East over available routes, making con-

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tact with elements 26th Infantry Division on the North. Group continued screening mountain area and mopping up pockets of remaining resistance.

26 INF DIV: 101st Infantry continued to attack, mopping up OTTWEILER, and clearing enemy from zone against light resistance. 104th Infantry continued advance East against scattered resistance. 328th Infantry was in assembly area vicinity OTTWEILER, preparatory to advancing East through 101st and 104th Infantries, to seize West bank of RHINE River. Elements of the 26th Infantry Division made contact with elements 70th Infantry Division at KIRCHEN (wQ605860) at 1800.

65 INF DIV: 259th Infantry advanced East in zone against light resistance, capturing the towns of HERZWEILER, SCHALBACH, NIEDERSALBACH, and DILSBURG. 260th Infantry reduced pockets of resistance along the division South flank. 261st Infantry continued to advance, capturing REISWEILER, BIWIELER, LABACH, And KIRSCHHOF.

80 INF DIV: 317th Infantry continued advance East by motors and marching, cleaning out pockets of resistance by-passed by armor. 2d Battalion, 318th Infantry initially outposted ST WENDEL and later moved by motors to KAISERSLAUTERN. 1st Battalion, 319th Infantry, moved by motors to KAISERSLAUTERN, entered the city and reduced all enemy resistance at 1230. 2d and 3d Battalions, 319th Infantry reached HOCHSPEYER (R120940) at 2005.

10 ARMD DIV: CCA reached the outskirts of KAISERSLAUTERN during the morning, by-passed the city and moved rapidly on to the East. Elements of CCA turned South short of the RHINE River in an effort to contact elements of the Seventh U. S. Army. CCB by-passed KAISERSLAUTERN to the North and continued advance toward the RHINE River, turning Southeast in the direction of MANNHEIM in an effort to take a bridge over the RHINE River. The Reserve Command attacked East from KAISERSLAUTERN, and turned South at HOCHSPEYER in an effort to contact elements Seventh U. S. Army to the South. 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron patrolled South flank of division zone.

12 ARMD DIV: CCA continued to follow CCB and CCR in zone. CCB advanced East against increasing resistance in some areas as the RHINE River was approached. CCR advanced Eastward to the North of CCB, and met increased resistance. 92d Reconnaissance Squadron continued to advance East probing into division South flank.

21 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Broken to overcast clouds to 1000, low scattered to 1800, then clear for remainder of period. Visibility 3 to 6 miles. Aviation: Fourteen close cooperation missions were flown during the day. Results include the destruction or damage of approximately 230 motor transports and 50 horse-drawn vehicles.

94 INF DIV: 301st Infantry, Division reserve, proceeded to assembly area vicinity BUBENHEIM AM BERG (wM301029) and WEISENHEIM AM BERG (wM302018). 302d Infantry continued advance to East, clearing numerous towns, and occupied a defensive position along river line. 376th Infantry advanced to the West edge of LUDWIGSHAFEN (wR410980), where enemy resistance was encountered.

3 CAV GP: Assembled vicinity OTTWEILER (wQ584895),

16 CAV GP: Continued patrolling mountain area and mopping up in zone.

26 INF DIV: Division continued advancing to East until halted by Corps. Preparations made to move North to new zone.

65 INF DIV: Continued advance East until ordered to assemble for rehabilitation and training. 259th Infantry ordered to assemble vicinity

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FRIEDRICKSTHAL. 260th Infantry, in division reserve, assembled vicinity QUIERSCHIED (wQ535805). 261st Infantry ordered to assemble vicinity KLEIN - OTTWEILER (wQ678830).

80 INF DIV: Continued to mop up enemy pockets, following 10th Armored Division.

10 ARMD DIV: CCA continued to advance slowly toward SPEYER against organized resistance and road blocks, clearing NIEDERFELD (wR225878), NEUSTADT (wR290836) and other towns. CCB continued to advance to seize bridge over RHINE River at GERBERSHEIM (wR455690) meeting strong opposition vicinity WALDFISCHBACH and ANNWEILER. CCR continued to advance South against road blocks, small arms and anti-tank fire.

12 ARMD DIV: CCA continued following CCR and closed in assembly area vicinity (wM302704). CCB relieved by elements 94th Infantry Division along RHINE River and moved to assembly area vicinity (wR090990). CCR continued to advance to North edge of LUDWIGSHAFEN. Relieved by elements of 94th Infantry Division and moved into assembly area South of CCA.

22 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Mild with a few scattered clouds that permitted good visibility for aircraft.

Aviation: Fifteen missions were flown that resulted in the destruction or damage of approximately thirty military trucks.

Operations Instructions were issued whereby the 80th Infantry Division moved North to the vicinity of MAINZ, relieving elements of the XII Corps while the 94th Infantry Division was ordered to maintain its position along the RHINE River until relieved by elements of the Seventh U. S. Army. The mission of the 10th Armored Division to attack East towards SPEYER on the RHINE River was cancelled and the 12th Armored Division was directed to strike South along the banks of the RHINE River towards SPEYER and establish contact with elements of the Seventh U. S. Army advancing from the South.

80 INF DIV: 1st and 3d Battalions of the 318th Infantry were detached from the 10th Armored Division and with the 2d Battalion, the entire regiment began to assemble in the vicinity of KAISERSLAUTERN in the afternoon. The 319th Infantry on the left flank of the divisional zone of advance behind the 10th Armored Division continued forward until halted by division order at 1115 hours, and prepared to move to an assembly area vicinity of NEUSTADT. The 317th Infantry on the right flank mopped up enemy pockets of resistance by-passed by the 10th Armored Division, and at 1130 hours prepared to move to a temporary assembly area vicinity of WEST-HOFEN (wM370230).

94 INF DIV: The 301st Infantry remained in reserve while the 302d Infantry with all three battalions committed on the line, advanced on the Corps left flank to the RHINE River clearing numerous towns. The 376th Infantry with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast and the 1st in reserve advanced to the East where they encountered enemy resistance at the West edge of the town of LUDWIGSHAFEN at which time plans for a systematic reduction of the town were made.

26 INF DIV: Continued its advance East in its zone of attack on the right flank of XX Corps and completed mopping up operations to a point four miles East of a North-South line drawn through KAISERSLAUTERN, at which point the continued advance of the division was halted and the division began assembling in an area vicinity of DAUTENHEIM (wM295268) where it initiated plans for movement to the North flank of XX Corps zone preparatory to attachment to XII Corps.

65 INF DIV: Advanced in narrow zone on the rear right flank of XX Corps mopping up isolated groups of enemy resistance until completion of its mission at 1030 hours. On Corps order the division initiated movement

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to an assembly area in the vicinity of NEUNKIRCHEN.

10 ARMD DIV: CCA attacked Southeast towards SPEYER against organized resistance and numerous road blocks, NIEDERFELDT (WR225878), NEUSTADT (WR290836) enroute. CCB attacked South from KAISERSLAUTERN, swung East at 1000 hours towards GERBERSHEIM (WR455690), captured WALDFISCHBACH, and ANNWEILER to advance to the North edge of PIRMOSENS (WR900678) by nightfall. CCR attacked due South from KAISERSLAUTERN at 0800 towards LANDAU and advanced approximately six miles against road blocks, small arms, and anti-tank fire.

12 ARMD DIV: While combat commands were relieved along the RHINE River South of LUDWIGSHAFEN by elements of the 94th Infantry Division, a special Task Force called Task Force "F", consisting of the 92d Reconnaissance Squadron, one Tank Battalion (one Company) and one armored Infantry Company, continued to advance South towards SPEYER and were within six miles of the town by nightfall.

23 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Fair and mild with only a few scattered clouds. Aviation: Nineteen close cooperation missions were flown in the afternoon and towns located in the area South of LUDWIGSHAFEN, constituted pockets of resistance West of the RHINE River were bombed with good results.

Operations Instructions were issued which established a new boundary for XX Corps. The Seventh U. S. Army zone was extended North to join with the right boundary of XII Corps at LUDWIGSHAFEN, thereby closing out XX Corps zone of advance to the East. In accordance with these new boundaries the 65th Infantry Division and the 80th Infantry Division was ordered into assembly areas in the XX Corps sector. The 94th Infantry Division with CCA of the 12th Armored Division attached, was directed to complete the clearance of LUDWIGSHAFEN and prepare upon the termination of this mission to move into an assembly area. The 26th Infantry Division was relieved from attachment to XX Corps and passed to the control of the XII Corps at 0945 hours. The 10th Armored Division and the 12th Armored Division were directed to continue the attack South, gain contact with elements of the Seventh U. S. Army where they would pass to the control of the Seventh U. S. Army in place.

26 INF DIV: Detached from XX Corps 0945 hours and moved North into the XII Corps zone.

65 INF DIV: Regrouped its troops in conformity with the new boundaries and assembled in the vicinity of NEUNKIRCHEN where it initiated a program of training and rehabilitation.

80 INF DIV: Began the movement of its various elements into an assembly area vicinity of OTTWEILER.

94 INF DIV: With the aid of CCA of the 12th Armored Division the 301st Infantry and 376th Infantry engaged in house to house fighting in the city of LUDWIGSHAFEN throughout the day while the 302d Infantry occupied positions along the RHINE River North of the city.

10 ARMD DIV: Continued its attack South in three columns and made contact with the Seventh U. S. Army at 1900 hours and passed to the control of the Seventh U. S. Army at 1800 hours.

12 ARMD DIV: (-CCA) - Entered SPEYER from the Northwest and was engaged in house to house fighting at the conclusion of the period.

6 ARMD DIV: Came under XX Corps control at 1800 hours and remained in its assembly area in XII Corps zone prepared to move on XX Corps order to an designated assembly area.

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24 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Fair and mild with very few clouds.  
Aviation: No missions were flown throughout the period.  
Operations Instructions were issued which modified the boundary between Seventh and Third U. S. Armies and permitted the use by XX Corps of KIRCHHEIM - BOLANDEN. 6th Armored Division was relieved from attachment to XX Corps and attached to XII Corps as of 1100 hours while the 11th Armored Division was attached to the XX Corps at the same time from the XII Corps.

65 INF DIV: Closed into assembly area vicinity NEUNKIRCHEN and initiated a general training and rehabilitation program.

80 INF DIV: The 318th and 317th Infantry Regiments closed into assembly areas and began a rehabilitation and training program while the 319th Infantry started movement to its new assembly areas vicinity MANNWEILER (WMO40210).

94 INF DIV: (CCA 12th Armored Division was relieved from attachment at 1200 hours) - Cleared LUDWIGSHAFEN in the morning at 0320 hours. The 301st and 376th Infantry held the city throughout the day awaiting relief by elements of the Seventh U. S. Army. The 302d continued to outpost the RHINE River line North of the city awaiting relief by elements of the Seventh U. S. Army.

6 ARMD DIV: Relieved from attachment to XX Corps at 1100 hours and was attached to XII Corps at the same time.

12 ARMD DIV: Assumed control of CCA when it was relieved from attachment to the 94th Infantry Division at 1200 hours and passed to the command of the Seventh U. S. Army at 1200 hours.

11 ARMD DIV: Attached to XX Corps at 1100 hours but continued its mission assigned by the XII Corps and cleared area North along the West bank of the RHINE River towards MAINZ.

25 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Clear and mild.  
Aviation: No missions flown throughout the period.

65 INF DIV: All elements of the Division conducted a training and rehabilitation program. Patrols from each of the Infantry regiments maintained security of installations in assigned areas in and around divisional area vicinity of NEUNKIRCHEN (WQ593834).

80 INF DIV: Closed into an assembly area vicinity ROCKENHAUSEN (WMO614) and all units began rehabilitation of personnel and performed maintenance on vehicles and equipment.

94 INF DIV: 301st and 302d Infantry were relieved on the RHINE River line at 0130 by 3d Infantry Division Seventh U. S. Army and closed in a rear assembly area by 2100 hours at BAUMHOLDER (WL710130). RCT 376 was en route from a forward assembly area at LAMBSHEIM (WM3901) to the rear assembly area at the close of the period.

11 ARMD DIV: CCA continued the mission assigned to it by XII Corps of defending the RHINE River line South of Grid Line 31, CCB relieved in the morning by elements of 3d Infantry Division of its mission to guard the RHINE River line moved with remainder (-CCA) of Division to an assembly area at FRAMERSHEIM (WL3229).

26 March 1945

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XX CORPS: Weather: Light rain during the morning with overcast skies throughout the afternoon.

Aviation: No missions flown during the period.

65 INF DIV: All elements of the division conducted a training and rehabilitation program. Patrols from each of the infantry regiments maintained security of installations in assigned areas in and around divisional area vicinity of NEUNKIRCHEN (wQ593834).

80 INF DIV: Began movement by motor to a new assembly area vicinity of SCHWABENHEIM (wm2648) and at the close of the period RCTs 317 and 318 had cleared the Division IP vicinity MARIENTHAL (wM1415). The 319th Infantry remained at ROCKENHAUSEN and performed maintenance on vehicles and equipment.

94 INF DIV: RCT 376 closed in divisional assembly area vicinity BAUMHOLDER (wL7113) at 0545 and with remainder of the 94th Infantry Division engaged in the rehabilitation of personnel and equipment.

11 ARMD DIV: While the balance of the division engaged in maintenance CCA was relieved of the defense of the West bank of the RHINE River at 2010 and started movement to the Division assembly area.

27 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast throughout the period which limited visibility from four to six miles.

Aviation: No missions were flown during the period.

Field Order 19 was issued; the 80th Infantry Division would cross both the RHINE and MAIN Rivers during the night 27-28 March between MAINZ and FRANKFURT, establish a bridgehead North of the RHINE and MAIN Rivers and be prepared to pass the 11th Armored Division through the bridgehead thus established. New boundaries were assigned from Third U. S. Army placing XX Corps in the center zone of the Third U. S. Army attack to the North along the East banks of the RHINE River; the zone of advance prescribed for XX Corps being MAINZ, WIESBADEN, and GIESSEN.

65 INF DIV: All units began movement to a new assembly area vicinity of BIEBELHEIM (wm3133) and SCHWABENHEIM (wm2648), and were en route at the close of the period. Plans were prepared for an attack over the RHINE River to the North and East.

80 INF DIV: RCT 317 moved by motor into an assembly area in MAINZ (wm3854) and prepared plans to cross the RHINE River the night of 27-28 March. RCT 318 remained in an assembly area vicinity of OBERINGELHEIM (wm2351) as division reserve. RCT 319 moved East across the RHINE River at OPPENHEIM and assembled at BISCHOFHEIM (wm4454) where it prepared to cross the MAIN river concurrently with RCT 317.

94 INF DIV: All elements of the division and attached units engaged in training, rehabilitation of personnel and equipment.

11 ARMD DIV: CCA closed in division assembly area at 1340 and with the remainder of the division participated in a maintenance program and made preparations for eminent combat operations.

28 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Clear and mild in the morning with low overcast throughout the afternoon and evening.

Aviation: Continuous cover was flown throughout the afternoon over two bridge sites in the Corps bridgehead area.

Operations Instructions were issued establishing the Corps zone of attack between the VIII Corps on the left and the XII Corps on the right, and instructing the 65th Infantry Division to move to a forward assembly area vicinity of BIEBELHEIM (wm3133). The 3d Cavalry Group was

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directed to protect the bridge across the RHINE River at MAINZ from ground or water-borne attacks.

80 INF DIV: Against heavy to moderate small arms fire the 317th Infantry on the left and the 319th Infantry on the right made assault crossings of the RHINE and MAIN Rivers respectively at MAINZ and BISCHOFSCHEIM. The 317th Infantry on the left attacked across the RHINE in a column of battalions to clear KASTEL by 0830 hours. The 319th Infantry made an assault crossing of the MAIN River with two battalions abreast and cleared HOCHHEIM by 0915 hours. Construction of a floating treadway bridge at HOCHHEIM was commenced at 0430 hours while construction of the 1976 foot floating Treadway Bridge over the RHINE River at MAINZ was started at 1200 hours. The 317th and 319th Infantry Regiments joined the two bridgeheads together in the afternoon and with the aid of LCM's and LCVT's the 318th Infantry crossed the RHINE River at the crossing site of the 317th Infantry. At the close of the period, the bridgehead was being expanded rapidly to the North against light resistance.

65 INF DIV: (-RCT 261, attached to the 11th Armored Division at 281000 March) - RCT 259 and 260 initiated movement to forward assembly areas at BIEBELNHEIM (WM3133) and SCHWADENHEIM (WM2648) respectively at 280600, preparatory to crossing XX Corps bridges and advancing North in zone along the Corps right flank. RCT 261 was detached from the 11th Armored Division at 1900 and reverted to Divisional control.

5 INF DIV: (Attached to XX Corps 1800 hours) - Continued to clear the city of FRANKFURT with nine battalions of infantry. A reinforced Bailey Bridge was constructed across the MAIN River at 1930 hours at FRANKFURT.

94 INF DIV: Continued the training and rehabilitation of personnel and equipment in its assembly area and prepared to move to the Seventh U. S. Army zone of attack.

11 ARMD DIV: Began the movement of CCA at 1100 hours across the RHINE River in XII Corps zone and at 1800 hours the 11th Armored Division was relieved from attachment to XX Corps and attached to the XII Corps.

6 ARMD DIV: (Attached to XX Corps at 1800 hours after being relieved from XII Corps) - The division continued its attack North with balanced Task Forces from Combat Commands A and B, and by the close of the period had reached a point (WG770295) approximately fifteen miles North of FRANKFURT.

29 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light intermittent rain throughout the entire period.

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

Operations Instructions were issued directing the 6th Armored Division to advance in multiple columns in close pursuit of the enemy. The 5th Infantry Division was to clear and police the city of FRANKFURT and assist the advance of the 65th Infantry Division by fire. The 65th Infantry Division with one RCT (motorized with XX Corps trucks) would cross the RHINE River at MAINZ at 1400 to follow the 6th Armored Division while the remainder of the division would cross the RHINE River in accordance with instructions from XX Corps Traffic Control. The 80th Infantry Division would continue the advance to the Northeast and clear the zone of advance while it maintained contact with the 65th Infantry Division on the right and units of the VIII Corps on the left or North flank. One RCT would be motorized preparatory to following the 6th Armored Division.

80 INF DIV: The 317th Infantry on the left continued to expand the bridgehead and cleared ERBENHEIM, BIERSTADT, and WEISBADEN. The 319th Infantry on the right advanced and cleared DELKINHEIM and FLORSHEIM. The 318th Infantry passed through the center of the bridgehead and attacked

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North to clear IGSTADT and AURINGEN.

65 INF DIV: (-RCT 261, attached 6 Armored Division 1845 hours) - While RCT 259 closed in a forward assembly area vicinity ESSENHEIM, RCT 260 completed closing at OPENHEIM and was closed in assembly area vicinity of HATTERSHEIM.

5 INF DIV: Continued to clear the city of FRANKFURT and completed the construction of a Class 40 Bailey Bridge over the MAIN River in the city of FRANKFURT.

6 ARMD DIV: (4 RCT 261) - Advanced in multiple columns North to STEINBACH and GIESSEN.

30 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast with intermittent rain throughout the morning.

Aviation: Armed cover was flown over the RHINE and MAIN Rivers while armed reconnaissance missions were flown over the Corps front, throughout the afternoon.

Operations Instructions were issued relieving the 3d Cavalry Group of its mission of guarding the bridge over the RHINE River at MAINZ while the 5th Infantry Division was directed to initiate movement to an assembly area South of GIESSEN on the 1st of April, leaving one Regiment in FRANKFURT to police the city and guard important installations and stores. One RCT of the 80th Infantry Division, motorized with XX Corps trucks, is attached to the 6th Armored Division as of 0700.

80 INF DIV: (- RCT 318) - Continued to advance in its zone to the Northeast making use of all available transportation. The 319th Infantry on the right moved by shuttling from an area Northwest of FRANKFURT to BADNAUHEIM. The 317th Infantry remained at WIESEBADEN awaiting the trucks utilized to move the 319th Infantry to the North. The left flank of the 80th Infantry Division zone was screened by elements of the 16th Cavalry Group.

65 INF DIV: (-RCT 261) - RCT 260 closed in assembly area vicinity of HATTERSHEIM at 0530 and moved across the MAIN River to a position North-east of FRANKFURT. The 259th Infantry remained in assembly area vicinity ESSENHEIM prepared to cross the RHINE River in the vicinity of MAINZ when transportation became available.

5 INF DIV: Continued policing the city of FRANKFURT and made preparations for its move North to GIESSEN.

6 ARMD DIV: (RCT's 261 and 318 attached) - Attacked at 0600 and by nightfall had reached the line from West to East vicinity of GUDENBERG (WH140970) - FRITZLAR (WH110837) - MULGERSHAUSEN (WH220840).

31 March 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Scattered clouds with good visibility.

Aviation: Close cooperation and armed reconnaissance missions were flown throughout the period. Motor transports, horse-drawn vehicles, gun positions, and railroad equipment were bombed and strafed with good results.

Operations Instructions were issued directing the 6th Armored Division to turn East and seize ERFURT (WQ135685) and WEIMAR (WQ520705). The 318th Infantry, 80th Infantry Division, and the 261st Infantry, 65th Infantry Division, were relieved from attachment to the 6th Armored Division at 2345 hours and reverted to divisional control. The 80th Infantry Division would continue the attack North on KASSEL while the 65th Infantry Division would follow the advance of the 6th Armored Division prepared to

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pass through it when and if the armor was stopped. Movement of the 5th Infantry Division to an assembly area Northeast of GIESSEN was suspended and the 5th Infantry Division was directed to advance to the North and reduce all enemy groups and pockets of resistance in the woods West of BAD-NAUHEIM, while two infantry battalions would be left to guard important spots and installations in FRANKFURT.

80 INF DIV: The 317th and 319th Infantries moved by motor and marching to forward assembly areas vicinity of (WH090613) and (WH204580) respectively, closing in at these forward assembly areas at 1840 and 2350 hours. The 318th Infantry continued the attack North on KASSEL against increasing resistance.

65 INF DIV: The 259th and 260th RCT's moved by motor and marching to the Northeast throughout the day. The 261st RCT stayed in position awaiting the remainder of the division and at 2350 hours was reattached to the 6th Armored Division.

5 INF DIV: The 11th Infantry (- one battalion) remained in FRANKFURT maintaining law and order while the 2d and 10th Infantry moved forward to reduce enemy pockets of resistance in the woods West of BADNAUHEIM.

6 ARMD DIV: (4 261 RCT) - CCA continued the attack North on KASSEL and seized a bridge intact over the EDER River at (WH155850). CCB, with the 261st RCT attached, continued the attack to the North and East and reached the FULDA River at MELSUNGEN (WH270830).

#### SECTION V - G-4 SUMMARY

1. During the period 1 March to 31 March 1945, XX Corps units completed the capture of TRIER, turned East along the Line TRIER - SAARBURG - SAARLAUTERN and, after all SIEGFRIED Line defenses in the area crumbled, pushed on rapidly East to capture the area in this vicinity between the SAAR and the RHINE Rivers. Traveling a distance of approximately 150 miles in four days, the 80th Infantry Division crossed the RHINE River on 280100 March 1945 and established a bridgehead at MAINZ. A ponton bridge 1896 feet long was constructed over the RHINE. At the end of the period, XX Corps units were pushing on toward KASSEL.

2. Administrative Orders were published thru the period on the 6th and 11th (change) March 1945 in THIONVILLE, FRANCE and on the 25th March 1945 in WEIHERHOF, GERMANY (M2114). Supply points were moved forward rapidly and service elements kept up very well with the fighting troops in spite of the increased use of trucks with mobile combat teams and resultant scarcity of transportation for service elements. The advance on and cross the RHINE River was so rapid that supply by air of gasoline was necessary. Advance units cooperated by reporting locations and condition of airfields along the main routes. Operational rations (10-in-1) were utilized so as to decrease the space necessary for ration transportation. Ammunition supply was excellent throughout the period with shells, 4.2" HE and WP continuing to be rationed. Evacuation of prisoners, both enemy and released Allied, and displaced persons became a transportation problem, necessitating the strict adherence to the policy of "no trucks moving to the rear without carrying a full load of persons or salvage materiel".

Railroads followed the advance so well that three days after troops crossed the RHINE River rations were coming in near MAINZ by rail. Due to the large quantities of captured materiel that were reported, a problem arose whereby many combat troops had to be posted to guard property until the service and supply elements of higher headquarters arrived as relief. An example was the city of NEUNKIRCHEN

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where the 65th Infantry Division reported thirty coal mines, one hundred locomotives, one thousand carloads of supplies and many other German supply or manufacturing points. The area between the SAAR and RHINE Rivers offered much in the way of supplies of all classes for the Allied forces and was a severe loss to the German military machine. Ammunition dumps were found scattered over many areas. Equipment in all states of repair from new to demolished was found. Entire columns of retreating units had been attacked by either our Air Force or advancing divisions and the roadsides were littered with masses of both dead animals and military equipment. Hundreds of live artillery horses roamed the woods and fields until collected by area military governors for future use in farming and clearing the debris caused by the advance. Bridges and roads were blown and mined by by-passed German troops who infiltrated through woods to strategic points along our lines of communication. Road patrols were maintained to capture these sabotage parties.

4. Materiel in critical supply included such major items as: cargo trucks, small trailers, both dump and wrecking trucks, truck engines and major assemblies, truck parts, hot patches for inner tubes, tires, 1-burner stoves, barber kits, signal cable, wire, panels, and antennae.

5. Transportation. During the period, the 12th Armored Division the 65th and 80th Infantry Divisions, and the 16th Cavalry Group were received in Corps Zone. The 4th Infantry and 6th Armored Divisions were moved through Corps zone.

Foot elements of the 65th Infantry Division arrived by rail at METZERVISSE and EBERSVILLER on March 1, 2, and 3. Division vehicles traveled overland through METZ into Corps zone, vicinity ENNERY, on March 2, 3, and 4.

16th Cavalry Group arrived at VECKERING via THIONVILLE on March 9 and 10.

80th Infantry Division moved from XII Corps area to vicinity of REMICH 11 March.

12th Armored Division arrived from Seventh Army zone 17-18 March, moving to vicinity SIERCK, and then into SAAR-MOSELLE triangle.

Corps controlled major bridges at THIONVILLE, REMICH, SAARBURG, and MAINZ during the month.

The two trucks companies under Corps control made a total of 1,086 dispatches. Trucks traveled a total of 214,911 vehicle miles transporting approximately 86,600 personnel and 1800 tons of supplies.

~~XX Corps~~

March 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 : Thionville, Metz, Sierck, Bouzonville and Boulay.

GERMANY : Niedaltdorf, Gisingen, Saarburg, Trier, Ehrang,

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Schweich, Merzig, Birkenfeld, St Wendel, Saarlautern, Kusel, Kirchheim-Bolanden, Mainz, Wiesbaden and Frankfurt.

In addition, three Displaced Persons Detachments with French MMLA personnel attached, allotted to XX Corps by Third U. S. Army, continued to operate in the forward areas of the Corps Zone. At the close of the period, due to the rapid advance of the Corps, eighteen of the aforementioned towns had passed from Corps to Third U. S. Army or communication Zone control, so that but two Military Government Detachments were operating in XX Corps zone; namely, in the towns of Wiesbaden and Frankfurt. Two of the above-mentioned Displaced Persons Detachments were likewise operating within the Corps Zone at the close of the period.

2. During the early part of the period covered by this report, Civil Affairs Detachments continued to operate in those areas of France still remaining under the control of XX Corps. By reason of the static conditions existing therein, Civil Affairs operations were in the main, of a routine nature. Although particular attention was paid to the control and restriction of civilian circulation on the Main Supply Route, it became possible, with the front lines having advanced well beyond the Franco-German border, to relax civilian circulation restrictions insofar as the transportation of civilian supply was concerned. As a result thereof, civilian supply return to more normal operations thereby assuring an increased flow of civilian food and clothing. On 19 March, the town of Thionville, France, the last town in France in which a civil Affairs Detachment under control of XX Corps operated, passed to the control of Third U. S. Army. As a result, Civil Affairs in France ceased to be a responsibility of XX Corps. Accordingly, the remainder of this report is devoted to Military Government in Germany under XX Corps.

3. With the culmination of the Saar-Moselle Triangel attack resulting in the capture of Trier, the first large city in Germany to fall to the Third U. S. Army and more specifically to XX Corps, Military Government Detachment F2G2 arrived in that city on 3 March for the purpose of administering Military Government throughout the Regierungsbesirk of Trier.

a. Out of a population which normally numbered some 80,000 inhabitants, only approximately 2,000 inhabitants remained in the city at the time of its capture. The business portion of the city had been 95% destroyed by the constant aerial bombardment to which it had been subjected. Electricity and water was non-available throughout the city at the time of its capture. However, through the combined efforts of the Public Utility Officer of the Military Government Detachment and recruited German civilian labor, electric power had been restored to the city by 16 March.

b. The uncovering of areas to the east of Trier resulted in large numbers of displaced persons streaming into the city. Among these were many former French Prisoners of War. In order to cope with this situation two Displaced Persons Detachments were immediately dispatched to Trier on 5 March for the purpose of establishing collecting centers. Centers were established in a portion of a former Stalag which had previously been maintained by the Germans. This Stalag formerly housed some 25,000 forced laborers and Prisoners of War who had been evacuated by the Germans in the middle of February and forced to march to Koblenz. Arrangements were made and completed for the evacuation of the French Prisoners of War to the French Repatriation Camp, located at Longuyon, France. During the period from 5 March to 20 March, the date upon which the town of Trier passed to the control of Third U. S. Army, approximately 18,000 displaced persons and former French Prisoners

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of War had been collected and processed at the collection center at Trier. The SHAEF policy of requiring the German civilian authorities to provide food for consumption by displaced persons was put into effect for the first time in XX Corps Zone. Previously, no occasion had arisen requiring such action. This policy was complied with by the German civil authorities within their capabilities.

c. The restoration of civilian administration, including the public safety facilities, constitute a major portion of the Detachment's activities in the early days of operations in the town. Public officials were appointed after screening by CIC; a police and fire department were reactivated and a refugee center under supervision of German officials was established to care for the former inhabitants of the town who had sought refuge in nearby woods, shelters and towns and commenced to return once the combat fighting had passed. Due to that fact that a number of fires were breaking out in the ruins of the town, especially at night endangering the security of the troops quartered therein, an Engineer Fire Fighting Unit was secured by this section to augment the overtaxed available civilian fire fighting facilities.

4. As the Corps advance continued, the town of Merzig was uncovered. In this town the entire population, which formerly numbered some 14,000 persons, had been evacuated. There were, however, approximately 200 former residents of Merzig living in villages to the east thereof, wherein they had sought refuge. Military Government Detachment I4A2 arrived in Merzig on 18 March and assumed the administration of Military Government throughout the Land Kreis Merzig. From 18 March to 23 March, during which time the Land Kreis was under the control of XX Corps, Military Government was established in fifteen towns and villages, proclamations posted and acting Burgermeisters appointed.

5. On 18 March, Military Government Detachment I11G2 was dispatched to Birkenfeld for the purpose of administering Military Government in Land Kreis Birkenfeld. The town of Idar-Oberstein, the largest town in the Kreis, had a normal population of 28,000 of which 20,000 remained. The town of Birkenfeld itself had 3,500 inhabitants as compared with a normal population of 3,000. The town was virtually untouched by the war and all of the civilian authorities, including the members of both the police and fire departments, had remained at their posts. In the town of Baumholder, a huge former German Army installation was uncovered. The buildings were of recent construction and had complete kitchen and accommodation facilities to house approximately 50,000 troops. 500 displaced persons were uncovered living in this camp, 375 of whom were hospital cases. The hospital cases were immediately segregated in a portion of the camp set aside as a hospital and an Italian doctor, a former Prisoner of War, was placed in charge thereof for the purpose of caring for these individuals.

6. On 19 March, Military Government Detachment I1A2 was deployed at St Wendel for the purpose of administering Military Government in both the Landkreis of St Wendel and Ottweiler. The most serious problem confronting this detachment upon its arrival in the area was the huge number of displaced persons present. Approximately 10,000 displaced persons were uncovered in the town of Neunkirchen, 3,000 were uncovered in St Wendel and a similar number were uncovered in Ottweiler. With the advance of the tactical troops past this area, numerous incidents of looting by these displaced persons took place. Lack of Security Military Guards or sufficient Military Police to guard the various food warehouses and stores and the disorganization of civilian police agencies resulted in an inability to efficiently cope with this situation. Temporary collecting points were set up by the Military Government Detachment and food was obtained from captured Wehrmacht food supplies and indigenous sources. Because of the inadequacy of housing facilities in these towns arrangements allotted

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were made and completed to open a large displaced persons collecting camp at Lebach under the supervision of one of the Displaced Persons Detachments allotted to Corps. Transportation presented quite a problem and returning ration trucks, captured enemy vehicles and such trucks as could be secured from local units were utilized to transport the displaced persons from the two Landkreise to the center at Lebach. During the time that the aforementioned territory was under XX Corps control approximately 8,000 displaced persons had been so evacuated. Although some food had been transported into the collecting center from Third U. S. Army sources, via "automatic shipments" it did not become necessary to use any of this food during the period that the camp was under XX Corps control. Sufficient food had been obtained from indigenous sources to provide for the needs of these individuals.

7. On 21 March, Military Government Detachment I2A2 moved from Gisingen into Saarlautern. This detachment had previously administered Military Government in that town in December 1944 but at the direction of the tactical forces then in the area had withdrawn from Saarlautern in the early part of January 1945. Upon their return to Saarlautern, it was found that approximately two-thirds of the city of Saarlautern had been destroyed from three and one-half months of almost constant shellfire. Because of a continuous outbreak of fires in the ruins of the city it became necessary to resort to the dynamiting of buildings in order to check the spread of the fires. This was accomplished through the cooperation of an Engineer Unit in the area. At the time the Landkreis of Saarlautern had passed from XX Corps control some 3,000 German refugees who had formerly been segregated in the towns of Kerprich-Hemmersdorf, Gisingen and Ihn for the past three months had been returned, under supervision of the Military Government Detachment, to their homes in the villages throughout the Kreis.

8. On 22 March 1945, Military Government Detachment I7A2 was deployed at Kusel for the purpose of administering Military Government in the two Landkreise of Kusel and Rothenhausen. In many of the towns in these two Landkreise most of the civilian officials had remained at their posts. In those instances when necessary, officials were removed from office because of their affiliation or previous sympathies with Nazism. During the five days that the two Landkreise were under XX Corps control approximately 750 displaced persons were evacuated by the Military Government Detachment to a collecting point which had been established at Baumholder.

9. On 22 March 1945, Military Government Detachment I5A2 was dispatched to Kirchheim Bolanden for the purpose of establishing Military Government in the Kreis bearing that name. The Kreis had a normal population of approximately 30,000 with a present population of 33,000. Inasmuch as the area suffered negligible war damage, no serious housing problems were presented. The area is primarily agricultural and because of this fact most of the displaced persons in the area had been working on the numerous farms located therein. A standfast policy was invoked for the purpose of keeping these individuals on the farms where they would be assured of adequate food and lodging.

10. During the period from 26 March to 31 March, Military Government Detachments were installed in the cities of Mainz, Wiesbaden and Frankfurt. Inasmuch as these three cities were only under Corps control a relatively short period, little opportunity was afforded for any lengthy or extensive supervision of Military Government by this section.

a. Upon the arrival of our troops in Mainz, most of the remaining inhabitants thereof were hiding in cellars, the town had been badly damaged as a result of previous Allied air bombardments, all Nazi and Gestapo records had either been destroyed or removed and

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most of the civilian officials had fled. Considerable looting of food supplies and stores took place due to the fact that the civilian police department was in a state of disorganization. However, at the time that the city passed from Corps control, Military Government had reorganized and established a civilian police department consisting of 80 members, thereby restoring order in the city. Nine banks were uncovered in the city, with records intact and deposits totalling approximately 16,500,000RM.

b. The city of Wiesbaden was considerably less damaged than the other large cities in the immediate vicinity with only approximately 20-25% war damage having been caused. The electric and water systems were still functioning and the population displayed a readiness to cooperate in setting up a new civilian governmental administration. Two mobile public address systems were utilized to direct the civilians to turn in all firearms and for all deserters or former members of the Wehrmacht to turn themselves in at the town hall. Within a few hours after the announcement had been made long lines of deserters and former members of the Wehrmacht had presented themselves at the Rathaus and various types of weapons had been turned in. A large German Military Hospital containing some 600 wounded German soldiers was uncovered in the city and the German Military Commander in charge thereof presented himself within two hours after Military Government had been established and requested instructions as to what disposition would be made as to the wounded soldiers. A Military Government Security Guard of the 80th Infantry Division was assigned the duty of guarding these prisoners as well as other installations in the city. Civilian police which had been reorganized by the Military Government Detachment were utilized for the guarding of food stores and other important installations throughout the city.

c. On 28 March, Military Government Detachment F2D2 arrived in south Frankfurt for the purpose of administering Military Government in the Stadtkreis Frankfurt-am-Main. At that time the portion of the city north of the Main River had not been taken so that the activities of the detachment were necessarily confined temporarily to the southern portion of the city. No civil officials were found south of the river and the Detachment appointed a representative civilian committee consisting of a Catholic priest, a Protestant minister and a postal official for the purpose of submitting recommendations to the Military Government Officer on the selection of German Civilians to carry on civil administration in the area. An acting Burgermeister and Chief of Police were appointed for the southern part of the city until such time as permanent appointments for the entire city became practicable. A force of 181 former police and firemen were appointed as Military Government Police after screening by CIC and issued arm bands. A mobile loudspeaker unit was obtained by this section from the Psychological Warfare Branch of Third U. S. Army for use in broadcasting orders to the civilian population and displaced persons who were found roaming throughout the city. Civilian police road blocks were established on roads leading out of the city so as to prevent the travel of displaced persons out of the city. By 30 March, the northern part of the city was cleared of enemy troops so that the Military Government Detachment was able to extend its activities over the entire city. Herr Wilhelm Holbach, editor of Germany's widely known liberal newspaper, the "Frankfurter Zeitung", was appointed acting Burgermeister for the entire city. He had first been screened and cleared by CIC after having been the unanimous choice of the representative civilian committee, which by this time had been enlarged to include a local author and an administrative

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official of the I. G. Farbenindustrie, and which represented a cross section of the non-Nazi populace. In addition, Ferdinand Muerdel was appointed the acting Chief of Police for the entire city. Muerdel had been a member of the Frankfurt police department from 1907 to 1933 when he was tried and dismissed from the force for giving away confidential information against the Nazis. By the close of the period, displaced persons collecting centers had been established in Frankfurt. Sufficient food supplies were obtained for the feeding of these persons from captured Wehrmacht stocks and indigenous sources. Prior to the establishment of these collecting centers a serious public safety problem had presented itself in the nature of looting of food stores and warehouses by both German civilians and displaced persons. In one instance it became necessary for tactical troops to fire over the heads of a crowd which had been looting some railway cars after peaceful methods to disperse them had failed. At the close of the period some 8,000 displaced persons had been collected and were being cared for in the collection centers. Although these centers were being run under the supervision of Allied Military personnel arrangements had been completed for the German Red Cross and Welfare workers to assist in the feeding of these individuals.

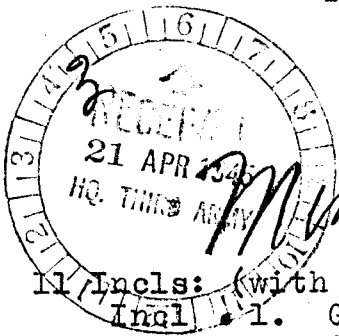
11. In towns in Germany in the zone of the XX Corps advance, Military Government was established and administered by Military Government Detachments and Division or Corps Military Government Staff Sections. In all of these towns the procedure followed was in accordance with the directives laid down by Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces. Proclamations were posted, curfew and travel restrictions imposed, the surrender of firearms, radio transmitters, cameras and binoculars enforced and civilian administration reorganized. In accordance with established directives, holders of public office, who were members of the Nazi Party, were dismissed and replaced, where possible, with individuals who formerly held office prior to 1933 or who had been dismissed from office during the Nazi regime for failure to cooperate with or subscribe to Nazi principles. Little trouble was encountered with the German civilians once the actual fighting had passed from an area, and the population on the whole was passive.

12. Toward the end of the period covered by this report, the most serious difficulties encountered were the displaced persons and the attendant looting of food supplies by these individuals, who upon their liberation immediately started trekking toward the rear. Due to the rapidity of the Allied advance east of the Rhine and the thousands of displaced persons who were encountered, facilities from the rear for the handling of these persons have been unable to keep stride with the tactical forces. Similarly with the employment of the Military Government Detachment at Frankfurt, only two Military Government Detachments remained available to XX Corps for deployment in the zone of future advances of the Corps. Information available from Third U. S. Army was to the effect that no more Military Government Detachments were available and there was no indication as to if or when any such additional detachments would become available. Had such additional detachments been available Military Government could have provided a much more complete coverage of civilian control for the benefit of the tactical commander. The need for additional personnel to be used as security troops in guarding of food supplies and important installations, especially in the areas immediately to the rear of the assault forces, is apparent. As we advanced, the need for such personnel will correspondingly increase.

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For the Commanding General:



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

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

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