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~~ADJUTANT GENERAL, XX CORPS,~~

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~~DATE: 15 May 1945~~

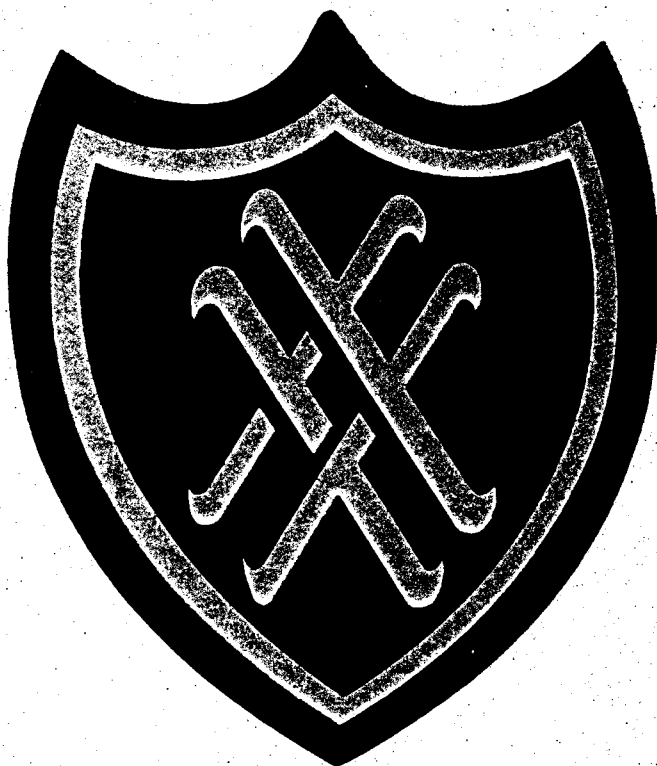
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HEADQUARTERS XX CORPS

APO 340

U. S. ARMY

APRIL 1945



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REPORT OF OPERATIONS

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ITEM NO: 3632
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HEADQUARTERS XX CORPS
APO 340 U. S. ARMY

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AUTH: CG, XX CORPS

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SUBJECT: Report of Combat Operations, 1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945.

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

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

SECTION I - Narrative of Operation
SECTION II - G-1 Summary
SECTION III - G-2 Summary
SECTION IV - G-3 Summary
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SECTION I - NARRATIVE

1. This period of Combat operations in GERMANY by XX Corps, Third U. S. Army, for the period 01 April to 30 April 1945 (inclusive) is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 10, Change No. 4, AR 345-105.

2. The first of the month found one Combat Command of the 6th Armored Division containing the enemy troops defending KASSEL until the 80th Infantry Division could be passed through it for an all-out assault on the key communication and supply center of KASSEL. The remainder of the 6th Armored Division had begun its thrust East towards WEIMAR and JENA, while the 3rd Cavalry Group cleared the FULDA River line from MELSUNGEN (H4465) to ROTENBERG (H4068) for the assault of the 65th Infantry Division across the river to supplement the armor's attack. The 5th Infantry Division remained in FRANKFURT maintaining law and order and clearing out isolated groups of enemy by-passed in the rapid advance to the North.

3. Enemy resistance to the reduction of KASSEL was determined and stubborn, but the city was entered, bisected from West to East, the enemy forces split, a bridge seized intact over the FULDA River, and the capture of KASSEL completed by the 80th Infantry Division on 04 April. While the bulk of the enemy forces were thus engaged in KASSEL, the 6th Armored Division had ruptured the KASSEL - WERRA River line and advanced in multiple columns East along an axis SPANGENBERG (H3581) - ESCHWEGE (H6190) and had encircled and converged on MUHLHAUSEN (H9093) from six different directions. The city of MUHLHAUSEN was cleared early in the morning of 05 April. The 65th Infantry Division in the meantime, had passed through the Cavalry lines along the FULDA River and had followed behind the armor mopping up the area East to the WERRA River until the 4th of April, when both the 5th and 65th Infantry Divisions were detached from XX Corps.

4. A short period (06 to 09 April inclusive) of readjustment now ensued. The rapid advance East which had brought the forward

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elements of XX Corps well East of all American and Allied forces in Germany. While waiting for the First U. S. Army to come abreast on the left (North) flank and while the other elements of the Third U. S. Army closed up on the right (South) flank, the 76th Infantry Division, which had been attached to XX Corps on 05 April 1945, moved East along the North flank of XX Corps mopping up areas containing isolated parties of German troops by-passed by the 6th Armored Division. In the general reshuffling of Army and Corps boundaries, XX Corps zone of advance to the East was changed and shifted South so that the axis of advance ran ERFURT (J-3170), WEIMAR (J-5271) - JENA (J-7065) and CHEMNITZ (K-6459). The 80th Infantry Division was moved the 7-8 April from the vicinity of KASSEL and by trucks was sent South to take up positions in and immediately East of GOTH, which was held by the 4th Armored Division which became attached to XX Corps on 09 April.

5. The issuance of Field Order 20 at 091300 April 1945 marked the beginning of the next phase of XX Corps activities for the month of April. The plan of attack for XX Corps to the East along its axis of advance, was for the 76th Infantry Division on the left (North) flank and the 80th Infantry Division on the right (South) flank to push East from their positions towards ERFURT. The 6th Armored Division would remain in assembly areas behind the 76th Infantry Division on the North prepared to move through the Infantry along designated routes on XX Corps order. The 4th Armored Division from its assembly area in the vicinity of GOTH, would attack on XX Corps order East through the 80th Infantry Division along the right flank of XX Corps which included the autobahn extending from GOTH to DRESDEN.

6. The Infantry pushed East on the 10th of April and after the shallow defensive line built up by the enemy had been broken, a coordinated Infantry-Armor attack was launched on the 11th of April. With the Armor by-passing centers of resistance, refusing to be drawn into engagements which would have delayed them, and the Infantry taking over from the Armor, yet constantly maintaining one RCT (motorized) from each Infantry Division to follow closely behind both armored divisions, the attack sped over 130 miles East to the Western outskirts of CHEMNITZ by the 16th of April. Cities which promptly accepted an unconditional surrender ultimatum, (WEIMAR and numerous small towns) were occupied and law and order maintained. Cities which elected to fight, (ERFURT - JENA - GERA (K-0561) - ZEITZ (K-0881), and GLACHAU (K-3858) were rapidly enveloped and reduced.

7. XX Corps zone of attack was changed on the 17th of April in accordance with the new Third U. S. Army drive Southeast on order of 12th Army Group, to gain contact with Soviet forces advancing West from VIENNA. XX Corps, as the center Corps of Third U. S. Army, would retain the 80th Infantry Division and 3rd Cavalry Group as Corps units, but the 76th Infantry Division and the 4th Armored Division, as well as the 6th Armored Division, would remain in place East of the MULDA River facing CHEMNITZ and be detached from XX Corps. The 65th Infantry Division, 71st Infantry Division, and the 13th Armored Division replaced the units detached. XX Corps Headquarters, with the 80th Infantry Division and 3rd Cavalry Group, moved 117 miles South and prepared to assume control of the XV Corps zone of the Seventh U. S. Army, when the city of NUREMBERG was taken. XX Corps then made preparations to attack Southeast on an axis of advance, REGENSBURG - LINZ from a Line of Departure extending from AMBERG to NUREMBERG.

8. Field Order No. 21 was issued on the 19th of April directing the 65th and 71st Infantry Divisions to attack Southeast and

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gain contact with the Soviet forces. The 65th Infantry Division on the right (South) flank would attack the morning of 20 April 1945 through elements of the XV Corps and maintain contact with elements of the III Corps on its right. The 80th Infantry Division would remain in an assembly area as XX Corps reserve together with the 13th Armored Division, and attack through the leading Infantry units on Corps order only. As XV Corps was concentrating its attack on NUREMBURG, the 71st Infantry Division was committed on the 18th of April on the left or North flank, and had attacked Southeast to cut the SALZBURG - NUREMBURG highway by the 20th of April. Both the 65th and 71st Infantry Divisions on the 20th of April then attacked Southeast.

9. To conserve the Armor until the DANUBE River had been crossed, the 3rd Cavalry Group (reinforced by the 5th Ranger Battalion) was utilized as a Combat Team and sent Southeast on the 22d of April in advance of the Infantry. It reached the DANUBE River by early afternoon of the 24th of April. The 71st and 65th Infantry Divisions came up quickly to the DANUBE River and in a coordinated attack made four assault crossings over the DANUBE River the night of 25-26 April, and established a 15 mile wide bridgehead during the 26th and 27th of April with REGENSBURG capitulating on the morning of 27 April. The 80th Infantry Division which had remained in the rear area as SHAEF reserve was moved forward for committal behind the 13th Armored Division which attacked through the DANUBE River bridgehead on 28 April.

10. The 65th Infantry Division was left to hold REGENSBURG and the DANUBE River bridgehead while the 71st Infantry Division on the left and the 80th Infantry Division on the right (South) flank closed behind the 13th Armored Division which had forced a bridgehead over the ISAR River on the 29th of April. On the 30th of April, both the 71st Infantry Divisions and the 80th Infantry Division forced a crossing of the ISAR River, reduced LANDAU (U-6019) and had established a firm bridgehead preparatory to entering AUSTRIA.

SECTION II - G-1 SUMMARY

1. GENERAL: Exploiting their bridgehead across the Rhine River at Mainz, XX Corps armor and infantry swept northeast toward Kassel, key city in the German defense system. Quickly subduing it, they pushed ahead to the hastily organized enemy defenses along the Fulde River. Resistance here was slight and once past the German positions, XX Corps troops advanced with even greater speed. Casualties were light. Large numbers of prisoners were taken. Many Allied prisoners of war camps were overrun and the huge task of processing and evacuating the liberated soldiers was undertaken. The rapid advance of the Corps was halted when a "stop-line" was imposed just west of Chemnitz and the Corps swung south to take up its new position in the Army Group master plan. Again the attack was begun and the Danube and Isar River barriers were crossed with negligible losses. The end of the month saw the XX Corps at the Austrian border.

2. REINFORCEMENTS: Five infantry and three armored divisions plus numerous Corps were employed at various periods of operations during the month of April. The maintenance of peak combat efficiency necessitated securing 6436 reinforcements for units under the XX Corps.

3. PRISONERS OF WAR: The aggressive onslaught of the XX Corps

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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 April, a total of 99,895 prisoners were taken, an increase of nearly 30,000 over the total 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 and 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 168 recommendations for decorations and awards during the month of April, 1945. The following awards were made by the Corps Commander: twenty (20) Silver Stars; four (4) Soldier's Medals; one hundred and thirty-nine (139) Bronze Star Medals, plus three (3) awarded posthumously for a total of one hundred and forty-one (141); one (1) Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal; eight (8) Air Medals; thirty (30) Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal; one (1) Meritorious Service Unit Placque.

The following recommendations were forwarded to higher headquarters: one (1) Distinguished Service Cross; two (2) Distinguished Service Crosses (posthumously); 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 April was 25, 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 time in combat, directly from Army. Individuals selected were persons who had been hospitalized for wounds, had been decorated for gallantry or who had extended overseas service with efficient performance of duty. The period of leave or furlough was extended this month from thirty (30) to forty-five (45) days.

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 April 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.

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

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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.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KILLED</u>	<u>MISS- ING OR CAPT- URED</u>	<u>WOUNDED (HOSP)</u>	<u>SICK OR INJURED (HOSP- ITAL)</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REIN- FORCE- MENTS</u>	<u>PW & CAPT'D</u>
5th Inf Div		10	1	79	90		1911
65th Inf Div	56	11	218	304	589	103	7257
71st Inf Div	41	18	187	245	491	435	15508
76th Inf Div	74	21	234	364	693	389	12470
80th Inf Div	139	-102§	582	1043	1662	2182	21676
4th Armd Div	34	6	142	127	309	650	9925
6th Armd Div	107	31	404	302	844	997	14651
13th Armd Div	14	9	50	50	123	203	3030
Corps Troops	30	12	114	467	623	1477	13467
TOTAL	495	16	1932	2981	5424	6436	99895

§ Negative total due to shift of personnel previously reported Missing to Killed, Wounded, Effective Strength, or other categories.

SECTION III - G-2 SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION: Though the outer ramparts of the castle built on the sand by the Nazis had already been washed away by the relentless Allied tide, the month of April saw the inner structure buckle and become a shapeless, sagging mess with the close prospect of being entirely engulfed. Despite the fact that the situation was plainly hopeless to even the most sanguine Nazi, the fight was continued, stubbornly in many cases, fostered by the last miserable hopes of the Nazi masters to gain time - time for a miracle, for a heartily-desired (and apparently actually expected in some quarters) conflict between the Western Allies and RUSSIA; time to stretch out their numbered hours or to plan for escape; time to pour fresh vindictiveness on their foes.

During April, the German saw the RUHR and over 300,000 soldiers swallowed up; the junction at several points of the Russians and the Western Allies, the penetration of the "Redoubt", the

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Russians march on and into BERLIN, the northern ports strongly threatened, the loss of immeasurable miles of holy German "lebensraum".

XX Corps, in spearheading this irresistible drive drove NE and E from KASSEL to capture GOTH, ERFURT, WEIMAR, GERA, and threaten CHEMNITZ. About the middle of the month, the Corps shifted S to take over the general zone held by XV Corps and join in Third US Army's drive SE, crossing the DANUBE and ISAR Rivers and thrusting toward the INN River and AUSTRIA.

Resistance was spotty throughout the month, in some cases surprisingly stubborn, in others merely token; many towns were cleared without opposition; there were some large-scale surrenders.

2. GENERAL: An enemy front line, in its true conception, had ceased to exist. Though the situation was obviously hopeless, and "space" no longer available, the German fought desperately for "time", in the hope that a miracle would enable him, if not to achieve victory, at least to stave off total defeat. The defense-delay policy had developed, or rather, deteriorated into a successive occupation of river lines, defending crossing sites, and garrisoning towns controlling communications and favorable commanding terrain features. With the increasing tempo of withdrawal, the use of mines as a delaying tactic slipped to a secondary place, overshadowed by the extensive demolition of bridges and a profusion of road blocks, though the latter, in many cases, were found undefended. As a matter of fact, it became apparent through the period, that the character of defense of any place depended, not on any cohesive plan of battle, but rather on the character of the local defender. Stubborn opposition, token resistance or abject surrender were the results on the one hand of complete Nazi indoctrination or thorough military training; on the other, of inadequate training, forced participation, a late sloughing off of the Nazi yoke, or simply a weary acceptance of the inevitable.

On the first of the month, the enemy opposing XX Corps was generally disposed along the EDER and FULDA Rivers S of KASSEL, where the strongest resistance was being encountered since our crossing of the RHINE. Our rapid drive NE from FRANKFURT had turned the right flank of Seventh (German) Army and smashed the left wing of Fifteenth (German) Army, most of which was in the process of being pocketed in the RUHR, anyway; so far, German Order of Battle had not congealed to the point where Corps could be defined (later developments turned up XII and LXXXV Corps) but we were opposed by a number of hastily committed and hastily shifted units, battle groups, and remnants, apparently flying the Seventh Army banner: 166 Inf Div, for some time suspect as a possible arrival on our front, elements of 5 Para Div in a weakened state, elements of 340 VG Div and 6SS Mtn Div, and variously assorted replacement, training, and AA units.

Behind our lines, NE of FRANKFURT and of some trouble the first part of the month, a considerable number of enemy troops showed up, crossing from the Corps zone to our N into our rear area, thence eastwards into the Corps zone to our S, in an attempt to break out of their involuntary encirclement. The strength of this group was variously estimated from 700 to over 2,000 and was apparently under control of 6 SS Mtn Div. Eventually this ensemble was eliminated, either through attrition or the success of some, after breaking into small groups, in shifting out to the E.

3. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD:

a. Week ending 7 April 1945.

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Striving desperately to repair the damage wrought by the breakthrough between his Seventh and Fifteenth Armies, and to establish a strong, cohesive, defensive line sandbagging his now rapidly disintegrating W front, the enemy fought fiercely along the EDER and FULDA Rivers to prevent our further advances N and E.

Dug-in infantry with small-arms weapons and with all types of supporting fires resisted strongly along the river lines and from towns and critical terrain features on 1 April; the remaining bridges in enemy hands over the FULDA River were blown. The seriousness with which the enemy viewed the situation was exemplified by his use of what was patently all his armor in this area in support of his defense; up to 40-50 tanks or SP guns (probably from nearby armored training schools) were estimated to have taken part in this action.

Opposition, hinged on KASSEL, continued strong 2-3 April against 6th U. S. Armored and 80th U. S. Infantry Divs; enemy armor remained active and considerable fire was received from emplaced AT guns, and AA guns in a ground role. Fighting stubbornly to hold KASSEL, the enemy launched four infantry-armor counter-attacks S of the town in the two days, and resisted determinedly with dug-in infantry and tanks, accurate sniper fire in towns, direct fire weapons, bazooka and AT fire, air attacks (an estimated 15-20 hostile aircraft on 2 April and 50-60 on 3 April attacked our troops and columns), and some attempted house to house opposition in KASSEL itself; heavy enemy fire drove advance elements of 3rd Cav Gp from high ground NW of KASSEL. However, elements of 80th Inf Div entered KASSEL, split the garrison from W to E, and as resistance decreased the remainder of the defenders surrendered at 1230 hours on 4 April.

Farther SE, resistance slackened as hostile troops withdrew to the temporary shelter of the WERRA River, which was crossed by elements of the 65th U. S. Inf Div 2 April meeting no organized resistance. The 6th U. S. Arm Div captured ESCHWEGE (H62 90) 3 April against moderate resistance including AT fire, and crossed the river; to the NW, W of the WERRA River and E of KASSEL, dug-in enemy infantry and tanks supported by moderate artillery fire contested our advance.

With the KASSEL-WERRA River line ruptured, enemy resistance was spotty 4-5 April as our units, heading E, pointed for WEIMAR. For the most part, opposition was scattered and varied from light to moderate; in the KASSEL area; however, the enemy continued to fight grimly. E and NE of KASSEL, two small counter-attacks were repulsed with heavy enemy losses 4 April by the 80th U. S. Inf Div; one was a 40-man infantry affair, the other by 150 men supported by three SP guns. The 3rd U. S. Cav Gp encountered no opposition just NW of KASSEL 4 April, while resistance against the 65th and 76th U. S. Inf Divs was light to nil. The 6th U. S. Arm Div, encountering some small-arms and AT fire and many road blocks, some undefended, advanced to MULHAUSEN (H9093) which was cleared early 5 April against light to moderate resistance of small-arms, AA, and bazooka fire. Heaviest opposition 5 April was E of KASSEL where the 80th U. S. Inf Div encountered dug-in infantry supported by tanks at HEILIGENRODE (C2802) and the high ground to the N vic (C295056); a counter-attack by an undetermined number of enemy infantry S from SIMMERSHAUSEN (C2909) was broken up by artillery fire. Between 12 and 15 enemy tanks, either because of lack of fuel or lack of decision, remained unaggressive for 2-3 days vic NIEDERKAUFUNGEN (C3000). During 5 April, the 76th U. S. Inf Div

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cleared its zone W of the LOSSE and YOCKE Rivers against generally light, scattered resistance except at HELSA, where heavy small arms, mortar and SP guns fire was reported. Farther E, vic UNGS-TERODE (H4596), an assault by an unestimated number of enemy was repulsed. The 6th U. S. Armd Div encountered little enemy opposition, while the 3rd U. S. Cav Gp N and NW of KASSEL advanced against light to no resistance.

During 6 April, most activity was on the N flank of the Corps zone, again E of KASSEL, as the enemy, disposed along an MLR running generally from HELSA (H3697) to GROSSALMERODE (H4297) to VAD SOODEN (H5599), strongly contested the advances to the N of the 76th U. S. Inf Div. Stiff resistance from small-arms and direct fire from SP guns was reported in HELSA before the town was cleared about 061000B; heavy resistance was also encountered at GROSSALMERODE (H4297), cleared by 061000B, as the enemy utilized small-arms, machine guns and some mortars. Farther E an estimated battalion of hostile infantry strongly opposed our attack on BRUBENHAUSEN (H4698) and two small infantry counter-attacks in this area were repulsed. In BAD SOODEN, a stubborn enemy clung grimly to his hold on the town, and about 060430B succeeded in driving out our troops who had fought their way in during the night. We later re-entered the town, encountering stubborn resistance from small-arms, machine gun and mortar fire, and fighting continued throughout the day, though opposition slackened considerably; some enemy troops still resisted from houses in the town late 6 April but the place was cleared the next day. To the S, the 6th U. S. Armd Div cleared LANGENSALZA (J0382) about 061200B against generally light resistance.

The enemy grip loosened somewhat 7 April as the 76th U. S. Inf Div continued pushing to the E against light to moderate resistance. There was a flare-up of activity vic STRUTH (H7994) as 688 (German) Engr Brig, well behind on the tactical situation (PWs stated they had not known we had taken MULHAUSEN) moved blithely toward DINGLESTADT (C7904) to establish a defensive position. Our troops were contacted near STRUTH, and II Bn of the brigade, supported by at least 10 tanks, succeeded in capturing the town about 070700B. However, the enemy was driven back, suffering heavy vehicular and personnel casualties (our supporting aircraft reported good results on hostile vehicular traffic in the STRUTH area), including a considerable number of PWs. STRUTH, DINGLESTADT, and the KEFFERHAUSEN (C7704) area were cleared during the afternoon. There were indications from tactical and civilian reports of an enemy build-up on an arc roughly 12-18 miles N, NE, and E of MULHAUSEN.

b. Week ending 14 April 1945:

During the week, the S flank of a completely debilitated German Fifteenth Army drew back under our pressure, offering in the main only scattered resistance from small groups, but occasionally fighting tooth and nail to retain a precious bit of ground or protect a hallowed shrine; this was particularly true at ERFURT (J3170).

The enemy offered sporadic resistance 8-9 April except along the N flank of the Corps zone vic MALTERODE (J0596) where a counter-attack by about 100 hostile infantry plus six tanks or assault guns was repulsed by 080950B after almost four hours of fighting in which the enemy had to be driven from the town house by house. There was a marked increase of enemy air activity both days

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with an estimated 30-40 aircraft attacking our troops 8 April and 20-30 the next day. Thirty-eight were reported active 10 April.

During the remainder of the week, enemy aircraft continued their harassing missions. Ground resistance against the 6th and 4th U. S. Armd Divs was mainly light to nil as our armored elements romped past ZEITZ (K0781) by 13 April; in the ZEITZ area, however, very heavy ground fire from AA guns was received by the 6th U. S. Armd Div, one report stating that 271 guns of 88mm and 105mm caliber had been located. SE of ZEITZ, the 6th U. S. Armd Div encountered stubborn resistance at KAYNA (K1575) 14 April. Our Infantry units, cleaning up behind the armor, encountered varied resistance. On 10 April, strongest resistance in the zone of the 76th U. S. Inf Div was in the DACHWIG (J1879) - WITTEHDA (J2075) area, while little in the way of opposition was forthcoming the remainder of the week except at ZEITZ, which was a principal center of resistance, with heavy ground use of AA guns before it was cleared at the end of the week.

The 80th Inf Div (U. S.), to the S, encountered moderate resistance throughout 10 April; one small enemy infantry attack from vicinity (J255665) was repulsed without loss of ground. The rest of the week, enemy activity centered around ERFURT. NW of the town, at GISPERSLEBEN (J2874) two hostile attacks, one by infantry supported by three tanks, and the other by three assault guns, were repulsed 11 April; GISPERSLEBEN itself was cleared against stiff resistance 111700B.

With a newly-identified and apparently recently improvised Div "FELLER" in the saddle, ERFURT, protecting the approaches to WEIMAR (which surprisingly enough, capitulated 12 April, before ERFURT fell) held out for two days against the 80th U. S. Inf Div assault. Stubborn opposition was offered along the N, W, and S approaches to the town 11 April; heavy fire was received from small arms, automatic weapons, AA pieces, and 8-10 assault guns dug-in in towns, woods and high ground along the roads. A counter-attack of undetermined strength from the SW edge of ERFURT 111745B was repulsed without loss of ground. Fierce resistance continued into 12 April, with house-to-house fighting developing, and fire received from small-arms, automatic weapons, mortars, and assault guns; the town was finally cleared by 121900B. JENA (J7065) SE of WEIMAR, was cleared by 80th U. S. Inf Div troops 13 April against moderate small arms, automatic weapons and bazooka fire.

The ZEITZ (K0881) area was the scene of major enemy activity 14 April. The 6th U. S. Armd Div finally cleared the town except for snipers by 141500B, but only after stubborn resistance in and around the place from small-arms and bazooka fire, intense ground fire from AA weapons, and heavy concentrations of AT and artillery fire. The 76th U. S. Inf Div, cleaning up behind the 6th U. S. Armd Div spearheads, reported stubborn house-to-house fighting in RAYSBERG (K0880) and BERGISDORF (K0779). The 4th U. S. Armd Div followed by the 80th U. S. Inf Div, drove to the MULDA River and established bridgeheads, meeting opposition from small groups of soldiers and a few Volkssturm armed with rifles, bazookas and sometimes machine guns, resisting fairly strongly from towns; there was some cases where the enemy infiltrated back into towns already cleared by leading elements. Considerable small-arms and bazooka fire was received by bridgehead elements about the middle of the afternoon. After prospective surrender negotiations with

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GERA (K0561) were blocked 132200B by about 40 enemy troops N of the town, troops of the 80th U. S. Inf Div entered GERA during the morning, encountering stiff resistance in the town and at road blocks on the W approaches from small-arms, automatic weapons and bazooka fire. GERA was cleared by 141500B, and EISENBERG (J9271) captured against moderate resistance about 140955B. There was considerable sniper fire from enemy troops in woods at scattered points in the division zone, including some placed along the Autobahn SE of JENA (J7065).

c. Week ending 21 April 1945.

On 15 April, the 76th U. S. Inf Div advanced E and SE of ZEITZ against light resistance as KAYNA, resisting strongly the day before, was cleared and ALTENBURG, to the NE, was occupied by troops of the 6th U. S. Armd Div; heavy fighting was reported between the two places, vic (K1877). A series of road blocks, defended by small-arms and bazooka fire, was reduced by the 4th U. S. Armd Div farther to the SE, vic LICHTENSTEIN, while behind them, the 80th U. S. Inf Div cleared stubbornly defended GRIMMITSCHAU (K2755) and drove the fiercely-resisting garrison of GLACHAU (K3857) to the SE portion of the town where it was finally eliminated 152400B. An assault by an estimated 150 troops with small arms and bazookas and including SS personnel, on an outpost of the 3rd Cav Gp (U. S.) near GERA, was repulsed 150820B with considerable enemy casualties.

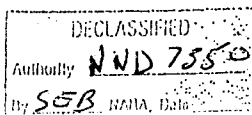
There was little enemy activity 16-17 April as our units consolidated positions and cleaned up by-passed enemy groups. There were a few hostile patrols and several cases of snipers active in rear areas. It was reported that surrender terms sent to the Military commander of CHEMNITZ (K6561) through the mayor of a nearby town, were returned unopened. The W approaches to CHEMNITZ were discovered by our patrols to be protected by defended road blocks and entrenched infantry.

On 18 April, VIII Corps took over the sector of XX Corps, which moved more than 100 miles S to the NURNBERG area to take over the general zone then occupied by XV U. S. Corps. The 65th Inf Div and 80th U. S. Inf Div and 3rd U. S. Cav Gp remained in XX Corps, which dropped the 4th and 6th U. S. Armd Divs but picked up the 71st U. S. Inf Div, then operating under XV U. S. Corps, and a little later the 13th U. S. Armd Div. XX Corps, center Corps of Third U. S. Army, was to join the Army in its drive SE and into AUSTRIA to contact the Russian advance up the DANUBE Valley from the E.

The following units were identified in the NURNBERG area 18 April: Elements 256 VG Div (also controlling elements 159 VG Div); elements 17 SS Pz Gren Div; 36 VG Div; elements 719 Inf Div; numerous KGs and miscellaneous units. Later identifications included 416 Inf Div; 38 SS Div "NIBELUNGEN" and the evanescent 25 SS Div "HUNYADI". As the Order of Battle picture came into better focus through the month, it appeared that major units opposing XX Corps were 36 VG and 416 Inf Div under LXXXII Corps on the S flank of Seventh German Army, and 17 SS Pz Gren and 38 SS Divs under XIII SS Corps on the N flank of First German Army. Later, as our line of advance cut across boundaries, we contacted other units, including 2 Pz Div, a member of XII Corps of Seventh German Army, which was shifting S anyway; other units farther S dropped out of contact.

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On 18 April, activity in XV U. S. Corps zone was centered around NURNBERG where bitter house-to-house fighting was in progress. Resistance consisted of heavy small-arms, machine-gun and 88mm fire. Our troops had cut all the roads leading out of town except the road S to SCHWABACH (T3887), and considerable traffic was reported moving S on this road during the day.

Strong fighting continued in NURNBERG 19-20 April. Though AA fire decreased somewhat, fire from other arms increased and fanatical house-to-house resistance developed; two counter-attacks were repulsed vic (T5392). FURTH, just NW of NURNBERG, surrendered but considerable resistance from tanks and SP guns was encountered at NEUMARKT (T7082). NURNBERG was cleared except for snipers about 201600B but very stiff resistance developed from an estimated 700-1000 hostile troops, including many SS (37 SS PGR had been previously identified) in the EZEISDORF (T6287) - ALTENTHANN (T5991) - BURGTANN (T5989) area. This pocket remained for several days, until finally cleaned up just before the end of the month.

Generally light and disorganized resistance was met by the 71st U. S. Inf Div 19-20 April from scattered groups defending villages and critical points with small-arms and machine gun fire; numerous defended and undefended road blocks were encountered. A small enemy infantry attack vic TROSCHENREUTH (O-7836) was repulsed 19 April. The 65th U. S. Inf Div entered the fray, meeting the same type of scattered resistance and successfully snuffed out an attempt by an overly ambitious SS major to launch an assault vic STOPPACH (O-6713) at 200645B with about 100 Wehrmacht strays and remnants, three tanks, and one SP gun he had rounded up; the armor was destroyed the SS major wounded and captured.

On 21 April, opposition in general was scattered and light to moderate in the Corps zone, though at NEUMARKT (T7082) the 65th U. S. Inf Div ran into a determined enemy and house-to-house fighting; small-arms and automatic weapons fire was described as intense; sporadic 105mm artillery fire and some direct fires from 88mm guns were received.

d. Week ending 28 April 1945:

Fighting continued in NEUMARKT on 22 April, but the 65th U. S. Inf Div cleared all but the E outskirts against fire of all arms by the close of the day. A small counter-attack was repulsed about 221700B and considerable fire from small-arms and machine guns was encountered at KIRCHENWINN (T8582) and KASTL (T8693) before they were captured. About 150 troops in the woods E of KIRCHENWINN also offered strong resistance to our cavalry. Snipers were active in the zone of the 71st U. S. Inf Div; principal resistance was from small-arms and automatic weapons. Only light opposition was encountered as SULZBACH-ROSENBERG (O-8908) was captured and the 71st continued on to take AMBERG (O-9802) against only small-arms fire.

The residue of opposition in the S and SE outskirts of NEUMARKT was eliminated 23 April; resistance was scattered elsewhere in the Corps zone except at points to the S, where 3rd U. S. Cav Gp and 5th U. S. Ranger Bn pushed rapidly SE to reach the NAAB River and captured a bridge intact at BURGLINGENFELD (U1376). Resistance was light except for stiff resistance at BERATHZHAUSEN (TT9763) for a short time, and at HEITZENHOFEN (U0667), which offered strong small-arms and 20mm fire. Definite evidence of an enemy defensive line protecting the approaches to REGENSBURG materialized as minefields and road blocks strongly defended by small-

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arms, automatic weapons and 88mm guns were encountered along the general line POLLENRIED (U0757)- DUERLING (U0457)- HEIMBERG (U0455). Farther N, E of LAABER (U0360) and S of BRUNN (U0463), road blocks and minefields were also reported, covered by small-arms and bazooka fire; though no opposition was met in LAABER, determined opposition was encountered E of the town.

The potential threat offered by the strong defensive line covering REGENSBURG dissolved 24-25 April as the enemy withdrew and our troops closed in along the DANUBE River and poised before REGENSBURG. Opposition was light, with a few isolated exceptions; strong 88mm and bozooka fire and intense small-arms fire was encountered at ETTZERHAUSEN (U1056) and a road block at KARETH (U1758) was stubbornly defended; opposition in BRUNN (U2480) was cleared up without much trouble after three supporting tanks withdrew. Fire from 88mm pieces increased and for the first time in four days, larger caliber artillery fire, 105mm, was reported. Heavy small arms and machine gun fire was reported across the river vic REGENSBURG during night 24-25 April.

As our troops forged across the DANUBE River 26 April, the enemy was able to offer only scattered, disorganized resistance except at two points: Organized opposition was encountered by the 71st US Inf Div as they cleared the airfield vic (U2552) and captured about 180 Luftwaffe personnel and 80 Hungarians; stiff resistance developed in ABBACH, believed coming from elements of SS Div NIBELUNGEN, made up of 16-17 year old fanatics with small-arms only. ABBACH was cleared by the 65th US Inf Div 27 Apr and REGENSBURG capitulated to the 71st US Inf Div on the same day.

An increasing tempo of artillery and mortar fire was noted toward the end of the week but it led to no increase in enemy cohesion as 27-28 Apr only sporadic opposition in the main developed to our advances. A stiff fire fight developed in HIRSCHLING (U4338), but the town was taken by the 71st U.S. Inf Div after less than an hours fighting; the major obstacle to the advance of the 13th US Armd Div was a minefield covered by AT fire E of STASSKIRCHEN (U6538) 281500B, which caused some casualties to our tanks.

e. Closing days of Month:

As the month ended, the weary and endlessly-pursued enemy could offer little in the way of opposition. Resistance was slight to nil 29 and 30 Apr as our units reached the ISAR River and established two bridgeheads, one at PLATTING (U7632), the other at MAMMING (U5817). Two very small hostile infantry attacks were made in the PLATTING area apparently in an attempt to prevent construction of our bridge there; as the month ended, the 71st U.S. Inf Div reported considerable small-arms, mortar and artillery fire from the far side of the river.

SECTION IV - G-3 SUMMARY

On 01 Apr 45, XX Corps units were disposed as follows: CCA of the 6th Armd Div, and the 80th Inf Div were extended in attack formation approximately six miles S of KASSEL. The remainder of the 6th Armd Div was driving due E towards WEIMAR across the FULDA River at MELSUNGEN, while the 3d Cav Gp held the western banks of the FULDA River from MEL-SUNGEN to ROTENBERG for the 65th Inf Div which was closing into assembly area behind it. The 5th Inf Div remained in FRANKFURT maintaining law and order and cleaning out isolated groups of resistance to the North.

The period 01 to 05 April (inclusive) witnessed the capture of KASSEL and MUHLHAUSEN by the 80th Inf Div and the 6th Armd Div respectively while the 76th Inf Div mopped up behind the drive E of the 6th Armd Div.

The period 6-9 April, inclusive, was devoted to a reshuffling of troops and a preparation for the continuation of the attack to the E. The period 10-16 Apr inclusive saw a coordinated Infantry-Armor attack E from GOTHHA in accordance with revised Corps boundaries which took XX Corps to the western outskirts of CHEMNITZ.

During the period 17-20 Apr (inclusive), a reorganization and re-grouping of new units attached to XX Corps was effected after XX Corps boundaries had again been revised in accordance with the new mission of effecting a junction with the Soviet forces advancing W from VIENNA.

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During the final and concluding period of 22-30 Apr, inclusive, XX Corps units drove Southeast towards Austria on a zone of advance of REGENSBURG - LINZ, across the DANUBE River and ISAR River to the borders of Austria.

1 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast throughout the morning and afternoon with light rain in the evening.

Aviation: Armed reconnaissance was flown throughout the period. Enemy vehicles, gun positions, and railroad equipment were attacked. Good results were reported.

Operations Instructions were issued modifying boundaries between XII Corps on the right, and XX Corps which on Army directive changed the direction of attack for both Corps to the East. The 5th Infantry Division was ordered to designate one RCT to maintain law and order in FRANKFURT and move the balance of the division to the vicinity of GIESSEN (G6621) on Third US Army order. The 6th Armored Division was to continue its mission East and seize WEIMAR and JENA while the 65th Infantry Division would attack without delay through the 3d Cavalry Group which was holding the FULDA River line from ROTENBURG (H4068) to BEBRA (H4565). The 80th Infantry Division would continue reducing KASSEL.

5 INF DIV: The division remained in position maintaining guard on existing bridges and important installations while it maintained law and order in FRANKFURT. The 3d Battalion of the 2d Infantry moved at 1400 hours to clear the woods North of ERBSTADT (M804864) which were cleared by nightfall, and the 3d Battalion 2d Infantry assembled in the vicinity of (M830895). The 3d Battalion of the 10th Infantry moved North at 1647 hours to BAD HOMBERG (M627815) and prepared to clear the woods in the vicinity of (M6590).

65 INF DIV: (-261st Infantry attached 6th Armored Division) - The 259th Infantry completed crossing of the RHINE River at 0030 hours and moved forward by motor Northeast to assembly areas in the vicinity of GREBENAU (H2339). The 260th Infantry on the right portion of the divisional zone of advance, continued the advance Northeast rapidly clearing enemy pockets of resistance en route to assemble in a forward area East of GREBENAU preparatory to an attack through the 3d Cavalry Group along the FULDA River line.

80 INF DIV: Passed through CCA of the 6th Armored Division and attacked KASSEL (C2203) with the 318th Infantry on the left at 1600 hours and the 319th Infantry on the right at 1700 hours. The 317th Infantry remained behind the 318th Infantry as divisional reserve. The 318th Infantry attacked with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left towards KASSEL with the 3d Battalion in Regimental Reserve. At the close of the period the 318th Infantry was fighting in ALTENRITTE (H1697). The 319th Infantry on the right attacked with the 1st Battalion and 2d Battalion (right flank) abreast. The 3d Battalion following the 1st Battalion effected a crossing of the FULDA River and pressed forward to seize the high ground Southeast of KASSEL against scattered enemy resistance.

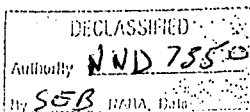
6 ARMD DIV: The division continued its advance to the North and East. In the North, CCA was relieved by the 318th Infantry at 1945 hours and CCA moved into assembly areas in position preparatory to crossing the FULDA River. The 6th Armored Division expanded its bridgehead over the FULDA River by moving CCB across a bridge at MAISFELD (H2678) at 0940 hours and cleared the enemy from ADELSHAUSEN (H2880) and SPANGENBERG (H3581) where it closed in that vicinity for the evening. While CCR protected the bridge crossings, the 86th Cavalry Squadron (reinforced) crossed the FULDA River over the railroad bridge at (H265813), clearing it at 1603 hours and moved North and East to protect the North or left flank of the divisional advance and moved into assembly area at (H363856). The 261st RCT assembled on the West side of the river preparatory to crossing and following CCA.

2 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light rain throughout the day.

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Aviation: Armed reconnaissance was flown over the front.

5 INF DIV: Units of the division which were not committed to mopping up pockets of resistance and guarding installations outside of FRANKFURT, remained in position in FRANKFURT and guarded existing bridges and important installations in the city. The 3d Battalion of the 10th Infantry completed the mopping up of the woods between BAD HOMBERG, BADNAUHEIM, and (M6091). The remainder of the 2d Infantry, plus the 5th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop moved to STADEN (M836932) and cleared the area as far North as NIDDA (G9802). The 1st Battalion of the 2d Infantry and the 5th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop moved North to close off enemy escape routes and held positions at the close of the period in the vicinity of GLASHATTEN and KAFENROD.

65 INF DIV: (-RCT 261) - The division attacked East across the FULDA River with the 260th RCT on the North, or left flank, and the 259th Infantry on the right, or South flank, and advanced through SONTRA (H5476) to clear approximately seven miles East in the zone of advance.

80 INF DIV: Continued the attack on KASSEL against greatly increased enemy resistance. The 318th Infantry on the left repulsed two counter-attacks made by enemy infantry supported by tanks, while the 319th Infantry on the right (East) flank reduced enemy strong points in towns and pockets of resistance by-passed during the night attack. Enemy strong points and pockets of resistance were eliminated. At the close of the period leading elements of both regiments committed on the line were fighting in the outskirts of the city of KASSEL, and many important enemy installations had been overrun. A great amount of enemy equipment had been captured or destroyed, during the days advance, consisting of thirty-five 88mm guns, twelve tanks, six half-tracks, two 75mm guns, and eight hundred and twenty-nine (829) PWs had been taken. While the 318th and 319th Infantry were entering KASSEL, the 317th Infantry moved from its assembly area in the vicinity of ALTENRITH (H1697) and established road blocks to protect the divisional left flank and mopped up isolated enemy pockets of resistance left by the 318th Infantry attack during the day.

6 ARMD DIV: Attacked to the East with CCB on the right and CCA on the left. Despite the heavily wooded mountainous terrain, the leading elements advanced twenty miles. In the North, CCA met heavy enemy resistance particularly in the towns of HESS LICHTENAU (H3890) and QUENTEL (H3390) which were cleared during the afternoon after heavy fighting. CCA, after reducing the last enemy resistance at 1830, struck East against moderate resistance through RODELBACH (H4988) and at 2100 had captured GERMERODE (H518906). On the right, CCB moved out at 0700 and found bridges blown over the WERRA River. After reducing WALDKPEL (H5085) it secured a bridgehead vicinity of (H5786) and at (H538768). CCB commenced moving its units through the two bridgeheads at the close of the period and made contact with elements of the 76th Infantry Division on the right. The 86th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (reinforced) on the North was unable to by-pass LICHTENAU and fell behind CCA when that Combat Command attacked and cleared the town.

3 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Light rain in the morning with broken clouds in the afternoon changing to rain in the late evening.

Aviation: No missions were flown due to the weather.

5 INF DIV: The 2d RCT continued the attack and mopped up enemy pockets of resistance in the woods in the vicinity of (G9505) - (H0707) and advanced as far East as UNTER-REICHENBACH (M1398) and UNTER-SOTZBACH (M1394) mopping up all enemy pockets in the area covered. The 10th and 11th Regiments remained in position in FRANKFURT maintaining guard on existing bridges and important installations. Law and order was maintained in the city by patrols.

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65 INF DIV: (-RCT 261) - The 260 Infantry on the left and 259 Infantry on the right (South) flank, continued its advance East occupying many towns and populated places. Rapid progress was made against scattered enemy resistance. The 260th Infantry occupied the towns of ROHDRA (H6280), MITTERODE (H5381), BISELHAUSEN (H5384) and at the end of the period regrouped its forces, awaiting the passage of the 6th Armored Division on the roads that had been cleared by the infantry. The 259th Infantry with the 2d and 3d Battalions on the North (left) flank, advanced East, crossed the WERRA River and occupied the high ground to the East thereof. During the day the following towns were captured: LUDERBACH (H6777), NETRA (H6479), RITTMANNSHAUSEN (H6779), IFTA (H7176), SCHERBDA (H7579), FALKEN (H7782), and CREUZBURG (H7575).

80 INF DIV: While the 3d Cavalry Group screened to the West and North of KASSEL and made contact with elements of the 69th Infantry Division of the First U.S. Army, the 80th Infantry Division continued the attack on KASSEL against strong resistance. The 318th Infantry on the left advanced into KASSEL from the West with all three battalions committed on the line. The 2d Battalion on the North (left) flank fought its way through the center of the city to the FULDA River where the Northern bridge was still intact, and at the close of the period the 2d Battalion was fighting to seize it. The 3d Battalion in the center, attacked Northeast into KASSEL and reached the West end of WILHEMSTRASSE and HOHENZOLLERNSTRASSE where an enemy counterattack down these two main thoroughfares was repulsed. The 1st Battalion on the right (South) flank of the Regimental zone enveloped strong enemy resistance from the vicinity of the railroad tracks in the Southern section of KASSEL, and at midnight were attacking enemy positions from the South and the West. On the East bank of the FULDA River the 319th Infantry on the divisional right flank pressed the attack into KASSEL. The 3d Battalion on the right (East) flank of the Regimental zone, completed the capture of VOLLMARSHAUSEN (H2797) and attacked Northeast and seized the high ground overlooking BETTENHAUSEN (C2402). With its rear thus secured, the 1st and 2d Battalions at 2230 hours attacked North along the Autobahn to the KASSEL air-drome which was captured after heavy fighting. The 2d Battalion on the South attacked Northwest from VOLLMARSHAUSEN (H2797) and after the repulse of an enemy counterattack, cleared CRUMBACH (H2798) and at the close of the period was entering the city to make contact with the 318th Infantry at the FULDA River bridge. The 317th Infantry moved from ALTENRITTE (H1697), by marching, to HARTESHAUSEN (C2006) where it established road blocks and outposts to protect the divisional West flank.

6 ARMD DIV: Continued its attack to the East and the leading elements crossed the WERRA River. They then advanced against moderate enemy resistance approximately seventeen miles. CCA on the left (North) flank of the divisional zone, continued patrolling along the WERRA River toward bridgesites and prepared to follow CCB and the 86th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (mechanized) to the East. CCB on the South, pushed East against moderate resistance to cross the WERRA River at (H570849) and gained approximately seventeen miles, clearing REICHENSACHEN (H5886) and ESCHWEGE (H6190), with the 261st RCT following close behind it mopping up isolated groups of enemy resistance.

4 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast skies with light intermittent rain throughout the day.

Aviation: Continuous close cooperation missions were flown along the Corps front line. Results included the destruction or damage of seventy-eight (78) motor transports, three (3) artillery pieces, three (3) locomotives and sixteen (16) railroad cars. MULHAUSEN (H9094) was bombed and strafed. Six enemy aircraft were destroyed and four were damaged in an air engagement over the MULHAUSEN area.

The 5th Infantry Division passed to the control of Third

U.S. Army and the 76th Infantry Division was attached to XX Corps, while the 65th Infantry Division was detached from XX Corps and attached to VIII Corps at 1030, and under Army Directive, VIII Corps commenced operations on the XX Corps right (South) flank.

Operations Instructions were issued detaching the 261st RCT from the 6th Armored Division. The 76th Infantry Division was ordered to attack to the Northeast on the Corps right flank. The 80th Infantry Division, after it had cleared KASSEL, would leave one RCT to maintain law and order in KASSEL and thereupon attack due East on the left flank of XX Corps. The 6th Armored Division was ordered to capture MULHAUSEN and thereafter go into an assembly area North of MULHAUSEN and make preparations for a continuation of the attack to the Northeast.

5 INF DIV: Detached from XX Corps 041800 hours.

65 INF DIV: Detached from XX Corps and attached to VIII Corps effective 041030 hours.

80 INF DIV: Completed the capture of KASSEL. The Northern bridge across the FULDA River was seized intact. The enemy continued to resist strongly in the barracks area located in the Southern part of KASSEL until noon, when General EXLEBEN, his Staff and remnants of the garrison surrendered. Two enemy attempts to re-enter the city from the North, by Infantry and tanks, were repulsed by the 317th Infantry guarding the Northern approaches into the city. German tank concentrations to the East were dispersed by the Division Artillery. With the capture of KASSEL, many critical military installations and vital industrial plants fell to XX Corps. A key road and railroad center was denied to the enemy and a new avenue of attack to the East was opened. 5,488 PWs were taken from the KASSEL area alone.

6 ARMD DIV: The division having secured the bridgehead across the WERRA River at GROSBURSCHLA (H708847) continued its advance to the East to encircle and enter the city of MULHAUSEN from six different directions. CCB entered the city from the Southwest, South, and Southeast, while CCA entered the city from the West, North, and Northeast. Other elements of CCB (CT 9) on the Northern flank, continued the advance to the East and captured SCHLOTHEIM (J040983), while the 86th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (mechanized) proceeded North to screen the division's North flank at BUTTSTADT (H792988) and KUDLLSTEDT (H772005).

5 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast throughout the entire period.

Aviation: The weather limited operations to two armed reconnaissance missions over the Corps front.

Operations Instructions were issued which changed the Corps boundaries in accordance with Third U.S. Army Directive. The 80th Infantry Division was ordered to assemble, upon relief by elements of the V Corps, and initiate on 6 April an advance to the East through elements of the 65th and 89th Infantry Divisions. The 76th Infantry Division would remain in its present established zone which now became the Northern flank of XX Corps zone of advance to the East, and 76th Infantry Division would attack and clear to the East in its zone at once and pass through the 6th Armored Division. The 6th Armored Division was directed to move into an assembly area South of MULHAUSEN due to the moving of the Corps boundary to the South.

80 INF DIV: Resumed the attack to the East at 0700, with the 319th Infantry meeting determined resistance from enemy infantry and tanks, but by early afternoon the enemy had been driven from their positions and the initial objectives of the attack were secured. During the early afternoon the attack of the 80th Infantry Division was halted on XX Corps order and the division received its new mission. The 318th Infantry occupied and protected the city of KASSEL. The 69th Infantry Division took over the mission of the 80th Infantry Division and at the close of the period the relief was in progress.

76 INF DIV: From its assembly area South of HESS LICHTENAU (H3890) the 76th Infantry Division attacked East with the 385th Infantry on the North and the 304th Infantry on the South. The 417th Infantry remained in reserve in the vicinity of HELSA (H3697). The 385th Infantry on the North advanced against moderate enemy resistance to the WERRA River while the 304th Infantry mopped up in its zone of advance and occupied the West banks of the WERRA River.

6 ARMD DIV: After having blocked all entrances and exits to MULHAUSEN the city was cleared at 0905 hours. The division then moved into assembly areas in and around MULHAUSEN where it made preparations for future operations to the East or Southeast. The 86th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (mechanized) moved North and Northeast to screen the divisional North flank and cleared the towns of KEULA (C9407), HOLZTHALSHEN (C9909), GROSSERUCHTER (DO305), WIEDERMUTH (DO705) and EBELEBEN (DO802).

6 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Intermittent rain throughout the day.

Aviation: Weather limited operations to two armed reconnaissance missions over the Corps front.

Operations Instructions were issued establishing the boundary between XX Corps and VIII Corps on the right (South) flank and giving the autobahn from SALIMAMMSHAUSEN (H6669) to LEINA (JO460) to VIII Corps with running rights to XX Corps. The 6th Armored Division was directed to send a Task Force of not less than one Armored Infantry Battalion plus one medium Tank Company with Engineer and Medical support, to strike to the West and establish a bridgehead across the FRIEDA River at (H7099): - The Task Force to become attached to the 76th Infantry Division when it had crossed the River. The 5th Ranger Battalion was moved to ESCHWEGE (H6290) to guard Army Signal installations and maintain law and order in the city.

80 INF DIV: RCTs 317 and 318, upon relief in the city of KASSEL at 1720 hours by the 69th Infantry Division, initiated movement to forward assembly areas at GROSSENBAHRINGEN (H9473) and ETTENHAUSEN (H9267) respectively. The 319th Infantry moved all battalions South of the First U.S. Army boundary to the vicinity of CRUMBACH (C2498).

76 INF DIV: Crossed the WERRA River and continued its attack to the Northeast in its zone against moderate enemy resistance. The 417th Infantry on the left attacked at 0630 hours with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast and the 1st Battalion in reserve. At the end of the period the Regiment had advanced approximately two and one-half (2½) miles to positions in the vicinity of (H3998) - (H4001) and repulsed two enemy counterattacks. The 385th Infantry on the right flank of the division zone of advance attacked with the 2d and 3d Battalions and held the 1st Battalion in reserve. Approximately five mile advances were made. BADSOODEN (H5599) and TRUBENHAUSEN (H4698) were captured. The 304th Infantry was held in reserve and moved by motors to reach positions in the vicinity of SCHONSTADT (H9984) at 1945 hours.

6 ARMD DIV: Remained in assembly area vicinity of MULHAUSEN preparing for future operations to the East. Active patrols and reconnaissance was continued in the sector. CCR made preparations for an attack West to assist the 76th Infantry Division in clearing an enemy pocket in the vicinity of KROMBACH (C6701) - FURSTENHAGEN (C6404).

13 ARMD DIV: - (Attached XX Corps 6 April) - Relieved from attachment to XII Corps at 0630 hours and initiated move to a forward assembly area vicinity HOMBERG (H1771) at 1300 hours; CCB closing at 1800 hours and CCA closing at 2400 hours, while CCR was en route at the end of the period.

7 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Intermittent light rains throughout the morning.

with low broken clouds throughout the afternoon and evening.

Aviation: Armed reconnaissance and continued close cooperation missions were flown during the period. 110 motor transports and 33 armored vehicles of the enemy were reported destroyed or damaged.

80 INF DIV: The 317th Infantry and 318th Infantry relieved elements of the 4th Armored Division East of GOTHA (J0865) where they remained in position and prepared to continue the advance East on the 8th of April. The 319th Infantry moved into GOTHA and began to relieve elements of the 4th Armored Division at the close of the period.

76 INF DIV: The 76th Infantry Division continued its attack to the East:- The 317th and 385th RCT on the line and the 304th RCT in reserve. The 417th RCT advanced approximately five miles against light resistance and captured FAHRENBACH (C4501) - HUNDELSHAUSEN (C4701) - ROSSBACH (C4403) and WENDERSHAUSEN (C4904), with leading elements controlling the high ground at (H5302) and (H5206). The 385th RCT on the right, advanced East approximately three miles to secure a bridgehead along the FRIEDA River in the vicinity of ALLENDORF (H5699).

6 ARMD DIV: The 6th Armored Division held a front of approximately thirty-five miles and continued to defend the MULHAUSEN (H9049) area. A Task Force consisting of two Combat Teams built around the 50th Armored Infantry Battalion and the 68th Tank Battalion moved in two columns to the Northwest at 0730 hours to make contact with elements of the 76th Infantry Division in the vicinity of (C6603). One column passed through DINGLESTADT (C7905) and on to KEFFERSHAUSEN (C7704) and the other column passed through KULLSTADT (C7700) and on to WACHSTADT (C7502). Both columns advanced rapidly against light or no resistance. Upon reaching KEFFERSHAUSEN and KULLSTADT at 1015 and 1035 hours respectively, each Combat Team contacted the enemy retreating from the West. After a small arms fight, supplemented by some enemy anti-tank fire, the situation was brought well under control, and KULLSTADT and KEFFERSHAUSEN were secured for the evening.

13 ARMD DIV: Closed into assembly area vicinity of HOMBERG and was relieved from attachment to XX Corps at 2400 hours.

8 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Clear skies throughout the day.
Aviation: Ten close cooperation missions were flown. 81 motor transports, 15 Armored vehicles and 12 horse-drawn vehicles were claimed to be destroyed.

Operations Instructions were issued wherein the 3d Cavalry Group was ordered to relieve elements of the 76th Infantry Division along the West bank of the WERRA River from BADSOODEN (H5599) inclusive, to the Corps left (North) boundary and was to clear a zone East of the WERRA River without delay and protect the left or North flank of XX Corps. The 76th Infantry Division was directed to clear the zone North and East of ESCHWEGE (H6290) and construct a bridge in the vicinity of ALLENDORF (H5699). Elements of the 4th Armored Division were to generally remain in place around GOTHA while the 80th Infantry Division was to relieve elements of the 76th Infantry Division in the new divisional zone of advance and advance East of GOTHA preparatory to an attack on ERFURT.

80 INF DIV: Closed into the GOTHA sector. The 319th Infantry remained in Division reserve maintaining law and order in the city of GOTHA. The 317th Infantry on the North and the 318th Infantry on the South pushed two miles East and seized key terrain from WORZA (J0771) to TUTTLEBEN (J1465) which commanded Western approaches to ERFURT (J3170).

76 INF DIV: The 385th Infantry continued its advance in zone to capture and clear ALLENDORF (H5699), while the 417th Infantry pushed beyond ESCHWEGE and cleared out enemy from the woods in the vicinity of EIGENRIEDEN (H8193). The 304th Infantry extended its battalions along the left flank of the divisional zone of advance and maintained defensive positions thereon.

6 ARMD DIV: Continued to defend the MULHAUSEN area and elements of CCB withstood an enemy counterattack in the vicinity of MARCITERODE (J0596) by an estimated force of one Infantry Battalion supported by ten tanks, which was broken up with the aid of supporting aircraft. CTs 68 and 50 resumed their attack to the West in aid of the 76th Infantry Division. Combat Team 68 attacked at 0800 to the West and met little resistance. By 1500 hours the 68th Combat Team was on its objective, FURSTENHAGEN (C6404) at which time it passed to control of the 76th Infantry Division. Combat Team 50 advancing to the Southwest from WACHSTEDT (C7502) disposed of enemy resistance at WIESENFELD (C6599) and moved to VOLKERODE (C6398) where it contacted the 1st Battalion 385th Infantry, 76th Infantry Division, and was relieved by the Infantry.

9 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Bright and clear throughout the day.

Aviation: Thirteen missions were flown and 114 motor transports, 22 Armored vehicles, and 32 railroad cars were reported destroyed or damaged.

Field Order 20 was issued at 1300 hours. XX Corps attacked East in its zone on Army order along an axis of advance - ERFURT, WEIMAR, JENA, and CHEMNITZ to its final objective DRESDEN, the 76th Infantry Division on the left or North flank and the 80th Infantry Division on the right or South flank. The 6th Armored Division would remain in assembly areas behind the 76th Infantry Division on the North prepared to move through the infantry on designated routes on Corps order. The 4th Armored Division which passed to XX Corps control 1800 hours, would attack on Corps order East through the 80th Infantry Division on the right flank of XX Corps, by-passing defended enemy cities and strong enemy centers of resistance. The 3d Cavalry Group would protect both flanks of XX Corps with the 43d Cavalry Squadron on the left flank and the 3d Cavalry Squadron on the South flank.

Operations Instructions were issued ordering the 76th Infantry Division to attack East in its zone at 100700 April, and detaching the 68th Combat Team of the 6th Armored Division from the 76th Infantry Division, effective 1200 hours. The 80th Infantry Division on the South (right) flank would likewise attack East in its zone at 100700 April. The 4th and 6th Armored Divisions would initially remain in their present positions at GOTHA and MULHAUSEN, respectively. The 6th Armored Division would aid the 3d Cavalry Group with Combat Team 60 in reducing the remaining enemy pocket on the North flank of the XX Corps zone.

80 INF DIV: The 319th Infantry remained in divisional reserve in GOTHA maintaining law and order. The 317th Infantry on the left seized key terrain Northwest of ERFURT and was relieved by elements of the 385th Infantry during the afternoon. At the close of the period it assembled in the vicinity BIENSTADT (J1873) preparatory to the attack in the morning. The 318th Infantry on the right advanced approximately one mile to come abreast of the 317th Infantry and prepared to attack East toward ERFURT in the morning.

76 INF DIV: Continued to mop up wooded areas and towns in the division zone of advance and the 304th Infantry on the left and the 385th Infantry on the right took up positions generally BURTONAGTONNA (J0978) to BALLSTADT (J0974), preparatory to the attack East on the morning of the 10th. The 417th Infantry protected the left or North flank of the 76th Infantry Division in conjunction with the 3d Cavalry Group.

6 ARMD DIV: Maintained a reconnaissance screen to the North and contacted elements of the 69th Infantry Division, First US Army, which were advancing from the West in the vicinity UDER (C6209) at 1500 hours and the 3d Cavalry Group at (C5903) at approximately 1400 hours.

4 ARMD DIV: Attached XX Corps at 091800 hours and remained in assembly area in the GOTHA - OHRDRUF area.

10 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Heavy ground fog during the morning becoming clear during the afternoon.

Aviation: Twenty-one missions were flown throughout the day. 144 motor transports, 8 armored vehicles, 27 locomotives, and 163 railroad cars were reported as destroyed or damaged.

Operations Instructions were issued establishing the time of execution of Field Order 20 as of 110700 April. The 4th and 6th Armored Divisions were relieved of their missions of protecting the Corps South and North flanks and the 76th and 80th Infantry Divisions were directed to continue the attack East in their respective zones on the night of 10-11 April, and insured that routes were cleared for the passage of the 4th and 6th Armored Divisions.

80 INF DIV: Attacked at 0700 to capture ERFURT. Determined resistance was offered from outlying towns protecting the approaches to the city from the North, South, and West. The 317th Infantry on the left attacked with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast to gain positions North of the city at KILIANI (J2873) and ALACH (J2470). The 318th Infantry on the right shattered the organized outer defenses of the city, capturing BISCHLEBAN (J2864) and BECHSTADT (J3461), while the high ground South of ERFURT in the vicinity of MOBISBURG (J2863) was held. The 319th Infantry was relieved of its police duties in GOTHA and moved forward to an assembly area in the vicinity of (J2761) preparatory to an attack East, clearing routes for the armor with the mission of following behind the 4th Armored Division and mopping up enemy resistance by-passed by the 4th Armored Division. The 304th Infantry and 385th Infantry attacked against light resistance and advanced approximately three miles. The 417th Infantry relieved of its mission of guarding the left flank, closed in a forward assembly area at 1430 and relieved the 304th Infantry on the left flank of the division zone preparatory to continuing the attack East in the morning and clearing routes of advance of the 6th Armored Division.

6 ARMD DIV: The 86th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized) maintained a reconnaissance screen on the North flank of the 76th Infantry Division until noon, the entire division then moved into an forward assembly area prepared to attack at 110700 April.

4 ARMD DIV: The division remained in assembly area in the GOTHA - OHRDRUF area, conducting maintenance and training. Preparations were completed for the attack East in two columns. CCB on the North would by-pass ERFURT while CCA planned to attack at 110700 hours along the Autobahn South of ERFURT.

11 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low scattered clouds throughout the entire day.

Aviation: Eighteen missions were flown and 223 motor transports, 7 Armored vehicles, 37 locomotives, and 141 railroad cars were reported destroyed or damaged.

80 INF DIV: Continued the attack on ERFURT, assigning the mission of reducing the enemy resistance therein to the 318th Infantry. The 317th Infantry on the North blocked the Northern and Western approaches to ERFURT and repulsed a German counterattack on the town from the Northeast. The 318th Infantry, committing all three battalions on the line, cut all main exits to ERFURT, and destroyed enemy resistance in outlying towns. An ultimatum was delivered to the garrison commander of ERFURT to surrender the city by midnight. The ultimatum was ignored by the German commander and preparations were made to assault the city in the morning. The 319th Infantry was committed on the right flank of the divisional zone with the mission of following the Armor and reducing WEIMAR. CCA of the 4th Armored Division passed through the positions of the 319th Infantry South of ERFURT and the 319th Infantry prepared to move forward behind the armor on WEIMAR.

76 INF DIV: Continued its attack to the East in zone with RCT 417 on the left and RCT 385 on the right. RCT 304 in Division reserve and prepared to follow closely behind RCT 417. RCT 417 advanced to positions in the vicinity of (J5385) while RCT 385 at the end of the period had advanced eight miles to positions in the vicinity of (J5579).

6 ARMD DIV: Passed through the 76th Infantry Division and advanced approximately fifty miles from its assembly area to secure three bridgeheads across the SAALE River. CCB on the North moved out at 0700 and passed through the 304th Infantry to secure bridges at (J751860) across the SAALE River against small arms and bazooka fire, and had at 2200 hours a company each of tanks, Infantry, and tank destroyers across the river. Another bridge was secured and a bridgehead established in the vicinity of KOSEN (J785894). At 2200 hours the majority of CCB had crossed the SAALE River. CCA on the South advanced along two routes against light resistance consisting mostly of small arms fire to secure a bridge across the SAALE River at (J782808) and by evening had secured a bridgehead with the majority of the command across the river at that point.

4 ARMD DIV: Two Combat Commands of CCA on the South attacked through the 319th Infantry South of ERFURT in two columns astride the Autobahn towards JENA. By nightfall they had advanced against light resistance, and enemy strongpoints had been by-passed to take up positions in the vicinity of BECHSREDTSTRASS (J4368). CCB attacked at 0700 hours through the 317th Infantry of the 80th Infantry Division North of ERFURT, and at 2200 hours had completed bridging a stream in the vicinity of GISPERSLEBEN (J2874).

12 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Overcast skies with low broken clouds throughout the day.

Aviation: Eight missions were flown. Pin-point targets in ERFURT (J3170) were bombed for the 80th Infantry Division and close cooperation and armed reconnaissance missions were flown for the 4th and 6th Armored Divisions.

80 INF DIV: While the 3d Battalion of the 318th Infantry remained in position blocking the escape routes from ERFURT to the East, Northeast, and Southeast blocking enemy attempts to use these routes. The 1st and 2d Battalions launched a coordinated assault against ERFURT at 0630. The 1st and 3d Battalions of the 317th Infantry attacked ERFURT from the North in conjunction with the 1st and 2d Battalions of the 318th Infantry. All four battalions met determined resistance but by 1900 hours all resistance was reduced and at the close of the period the four battalions were searching the town in designated areas for stragglers. The 2d Battalion of the 317th Infantry did not participate in the reduction of ERFURT but continued the advance to the East in the wake of CCB of the 4th Armored Division and at the close of the period was in the process of relieving the 2d Battalion 319th Infantry in WEIMAR. The city of WEIMAR capitulated to a surrender ultimatum and the 2d Battalion of the 319th Infantry entered the city at 1400 hours to occupy it. The 1st and 3d Battalions continued abreast following behind the armor with the 3d Battalion reaching NIEDER SYMDERSTEDT (J6060). The 1st Battalion on the left was motorized and reached the town of GROTTEN (J6263) at 1700 hours. At this point the battalion detrucked and moved out to attack the town of JENA (J7082). The 2d Battalion after being relieved in WEIMAR by the 2d Battalion of the 317th Infantry moved to GRETSCHWABHAUSEN (J6366).

76 INF DIV: Continued its advance to the East following the 6th Armored Division. The 417th Infantry passed through the 304th Infantry on the left flank following CCB of the 6th Armored Division and mopped up pockets of resistance by-passed by the armor. The 385th Infantry followed CCA of the 6th Armored Division on the right (South) flank of the divisional zone of advance, advancing approximately six miles and clearing the zone of enemy pockets of resistance.

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6 ARMD DIV: The division from its three bridgeheads across the SAALE River at (J782802) - (J785894) - (J751859) continued its advance thirty miles to the East securing bridgeheads across the WEISSE River. On the South flank elements of CCA crossed a bridge at (K001758) only to have the bridge blown as its leading elements crossed. On the left (North) flank elements of CCB moving to the Northeast secured a bridge intact and established a bridgehead in the vicinity of (K164948). At the end of the period elements of CCA and those elements of CCB still West of the WEISSE River were attempting to locate and secure additional crossings over the WEISSE River.

4 ARMD DIV: CCA on the South (Right) flank completed bridging operations at MAUA (J7159) at 1300 hours and continued its attack to the East capturing STADTRODA STUBNITZ by the end of the period. On the left flank of the divisional zone of advance CCB established a bridgehead over the SAALE River at KUNITZ (J7469) and completed bridging operations thereat by 1930 hours and struck East to reach STEINBRUCKEN by nightfall.

13 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Intermittent rain during the early morning hours with low broken clouds for the remainder of the period.

Aviation: Twelve missions were flown in the afternoon in which 108 motor transports, 21 gun positions, 9 locomotives, 98 railroad cars and 19 enemy aircraft (three in the air and sixteen on the ground) were either destroyed or damaged.

76 INF DIV: Infantry elements of all regiments were motorized and sent forward in the zone behind the 6th Armored Division. The 304th Infantry led and attacked across the WEISSE ELSTER River at 0900 to establish a bridgehead at (K0981) in the vicinity of ZEITZ (K0781). The main resistance in XX Corps zone was centered in ZEITZ. The 304th Infantry in conjunction with CCR of the 6th Armored Division after coordination of plans attacked and reduced ZEITZ at 2400. The 417th Infantry on the left (North) and the 385th Infantry on the right (South) flank of the divisional zone followed behind and cleared rear areas of small groups of enemy soldiers.

80 INF DIV: While the 318th Infantry remained in ERFURT maintaining law and order prior to relief, the 317th Infantry moved East by foot and truck along the Northern portion of the division zone maintaining contact with the 76th Infantry Division on its left and clearing isolated pockets of resistance. The 319th Infantry continued its attack on JENA (J7065) which was cleared at 2200.

6 ARMD DIV: CCA received heavy opposition from anti-aircraft weapons principally of 88mm caliber in the vicinity of ZEITZ which became non-existent when the town was passed. CCR coordinated with the 304th Infantry 76th Infantry Division and in conjunction with the infantry cleared ZEITZ by midnight. CCB found progress in their zone to the East barred by blown bridges over the WEISSE ELSTER River and accordingly turned North into V Corps zone to utilize bridges at (L2780) located by the 86th Reconnaissance Squadron. The command thereupon passed temporarily to V Corps control until it could return to XX Corps zone of advance.

4 ARMD DIV: Combat Command A and B moved forward approximately 43 kilometers against light opposition. CCB on the right (North) flank, thrust forward from KUNITZ to capture a bridge intact over the ZWICK MULDE River in the vicinity of (K4767) where it established a bridgehead East of the river in conjunction with CCA. CCA advanced East using the Autobahn as its axis of advance on the Southern portion of the division zone to seize three bridges intact at (K4667) - (K4267) and (K3960) over the ZWICK MULDE River by nightfall.

14 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast skies that limited visibility from 1 to 4 miles.

Aviation: Five missions were flown in the afternoon and 75 motor transports, 6 locomotives, and 14 railroad cars were claimed to be either destroyed or damaged.

Operations Instructions were issued in accordance with directives from higher headquarters which placed a temporary restraining line beyond which units would not advance. The line ran East of the ZWICKAUER MULDE River on the North of XX Corps zone to its juncture with the North - South Autobahn West of CHEMNITZ. From this juncture the line extended generally Southwest along the Autobahn to the Southern boundary of XX Corps. Both Armored units were directed to advance to this line, halt and await in place until relieved by the infantry. The armor subsequently would withdraw to assembly areas East of the river on the flanks of XX Corps zone.

76 INF DIV: After the 304th Infantry was relieved by the 417th Infantry in ZEITZ it continued its advance by motor 14 miles to the East behind the tanks of the 6th Armored Division against light resistance. The 385th Infantry attacked on the South of the division zone and after two actions involving house to house fighting the towns of RASBERG (K0880) and BERGIS-DORF (K0779) were cleared.

80 INF DIV: The 317th Infantry (-2d Battalion) moved into JENA to maintain law and order. The 2d Battalion was placed in division reserve and moved to WEIMAR. The 318th Infantry moved forward on a 4000 yard front clearing isolated groups of enemy soldiers as it advanced to take the town of EISENBERG (J9271) at 0955 hours. At noon the 318th Infantry was motorized with division trucks and moved to GLACHAU (K3857) to take over the town from the 4th Armored Division. The 319th Infantry after a surrender ultimatum to the Burgomeister of GERA (K0561) was interrupted (132200) by the outbreak of enemy small arms fire, attacked the city at dawn after considerable artillery preparation. GERA was attacked by all three battalions from three directions; North, West and East and was cleared at 1500 against moderate resistance.

6 ARMD DIV: CCB crossed the ZWICK - MULDE River in V Corps zone in the vicinity of IEHMA (K285810) and attacked Southeast at 1120 hours to re-enter XX Corps zone by nightfall. Control of CCB reverted to XX Corps as of 2400 hours. CCA attacking to the East on the South of ZEITZ crossed the WEISSE ELSTER River and cleared LIDENBERG (K140760) by 1100 hours. By nightfall CCA had advanced ten miles to the Western outskirts of ALTENBERG (K3075) where it received heavy small arms fire. CCR completed the clearance of ZEITZ by noon with the 304th Infantry, 76th Infantry Division, and moved East towards ALTENBERG at darkness.

4 ARMD DIV: CCB on the North with CCA on the South or right flank continued to expand the bridgehead over the MULDE River, an approximate distance of eight miles to the East, and cleared JERISAU (K3859) - HOHENSTEIN (K5056) - LIMBACH (K5365) and GLACHAU (K3857) against negligible resistance. CCR advanced along the center of the divisional zone behind the two forward combat commands.

15 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast skies limited visibility from 4 to 7 miles.

Aviation: 13 missions flown throughout the day resulted in claims of approximately 550 motor transports, 25 armored vehicles, 100 locomotives, 95 aircraft (6 in the air and 89 on the ground) being either damaged or destroyed.

Operations Instructions issued modifying the allocation of assembly areas for armored units after relief by the Infantry on the restraining line previously established. The modification enlarged the assembly area to include an area West of the MULDA River.

76 INF DIV: Having left the 2d Battalion at ZEITZ to maintain law and order, the 1st on the North and 3d Battalions on the South (417th Infantry)

advanced approximately nine miles along the left flank of XX Corps zone to pass the advance elements of the 304th Infantry and cleared the Northern half of the Forest LEINA (K3775) at 2000. The 304th Infantry cleared the Southern portion of the Forest LEINA and at the close of the period was advancing East to mop up behind CCB of the 6th Armored Division. The 385th Infantry held the 1st Battalion in reserve and attacked (0800 hours) on the right flank with the 2d Battalion (South or right flank) and 3d Battalions abreast concurrently with the attack of the 417th Infantry. KAYNA (K1575) which had offered stubborn resistance to the 6th Armored Division on the previous day was taken against light resistance consisting of small arms fire at 1030 hours and the 385th Infantry cleared approximately six miles East of the town by nightfall.

80 INF DIV: The 2d and 3d Battalions 317th Infantry remained in Division reserve Vic of GERA while the 1st Battalion outposted an approximate two mile front East of GERA and defended the right flank of XX Corps, maintaining contact with the Cavalry to the East. The 318th Infantry on the left of the division zone of attack advanced to GLACHAU (K3858) which it captured in conjunction with CCR 6th Armored Division (2400 hours) after a hard days fighting. The 319th Infantry on the right (South), advanced 4 miles against increasing enemy resistance to clear GRIMMITSCHAU (K2755), MEERANE (K3360) and the woods Southeast of TAUTENHAIN (J9366).

6 ARMD DIV: Initial crossings of the ZWICK - MULDE River were made under heavy small arms, anti-tank, and bazooka fire centered in woods at (K5281). After leading elements of dismounted armored infantry cleared the woods (1100 hours), the subsequent crossings were uninterrupted. At the end of the period crossing of combat elements continued and the bridgehead was being expanded in conjunction with similar bridgehead expansion efforts by the 4th Armored Division on the South. CCR in conjunction with elements of the 80th Infantry Division cleared GLACHAU (K3858).

4 ARMD DIV: Continued to cross all elements across the ZWICK - MULDE River and expanded the bridgehead East to the North - South Autobahn 2 1/2 miles East of CHEMNITZ. Plans and preparations were made for relief of all elements by the 318th and 319th Infantry of the 80th Infantry Division.

16 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Bright and clear.
Aviation: Twenty missions were flown on targets requested by XX Corps. 53 motor transports, 15 locomotives, and 46 railroad cars were destroyed or damaged.

76 INF DIV: Continued its advance East clearing its zone in the wake of the 6th Armored Division. The 304th Infantry began relief of the 6th Armored Division units East of the ZWICK - MULDE River which continued throughout the day. The 417th Infantry advancing on the left flank of the division zone cleared wooded areas and relieved elements (2d Battalion) of the 304th Infantry and 6th Armored Division North of MITTWEIDA. On the right of the divisional zone the 385th Infantry moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of ALTENBERG and provided protection for bridges over the ZWICK - MULDE River.

80 INF DIV: The 318th Infantry and 319th Infantry relieved by 1600 hours all elements of the 4th Armored Division in the bridgehead East of the ZWICK - MULDE River. An ultimatum to surrender was issued to the German Commander of troops in CHEMNITZ but was returned unopened. The 317th Infantry remained in GERA with elements disposed along the divisional right flank aiding the 3d Cavalry Group in protection of the right flank of XX Corps.

6 ARMD DIV: Relieved in bridgehead area East of the ZWICK - MULDE River by the 76th Infantry Division. The Combat Commands assembled in their designated assembly areas and began a program of training and maintenance.

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4 ARMD DIV: Relieved in bridgehead area East of the ZWICK - MULDE River by the 318th Infantry and 319th Infantry of the 80th Infantry Division. After the relief, all elements of the 4th Armored Division moved into their designated assembly areas and began a rehabilitation, training and maintenance program.

17 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Clear and fair throughout the entire period.
Aviation: Fourteen missions were flown and 115 motor transports, 16 locomotives, and 23 railroad cars were reported as being destroyed or damaged.

XX Corps zone of attack was changed in accordance with a new Third U.S. Army drive to the Southeast on order of Twelfth Army Group to gain contact with Soviet forces advancing West from VIENNA. XX Corps as the center Corps of Third U.S. Army would retain the 80th Infantry Division and the 3d Cavalry Group as Corps units, but the 76th Infantry Division, 4th Armored Division and 6th Armored Division would remain in place and be detached from XX Corps. The 65th Infantry Division, 71st Infantry Division and an unnamed Armored division would replace the units detached. XX Corps would assemble its units in the vicinity of BAMBERG and assume control over XV Corps zone approximately 115 miles to the South when NUREMBERG had been taken. XX Corps would then prepare to attack Southeast on an axis of advance REGENSBURG - LINZ from a line of departure extending from AMBERG to NUREMBERG. Operations Instructions were issued in the morning assigning assembly areas in the new area to the new units attached to XX Corps. The 80th Infantry Division would be relieved in position by elements of the 76th Infantry Division and 4th Armored Division. When properly relieved the 80th Infantry Division was directed to move into an assembly area between ALTENBURG (K2975) and MEERANE (K3260). The 3d Cavalry Group and the 80th Infantry Division movement to the new Corps zone would be under Corps control. The 71st Infantry Division already positioned along the North flank of XV Corps would sideslip South and come under the operational control of XV Corps.

80 INF DIV: Continued to occupy and improve positions containing CHEMNITZ on the North and South. A surrender ultimatum delivered to the commander of the German forces in CHEMNITZ was returned unopened but the matter was dropped because of the new instructions. Preparations were made for the relief of the regiments in their present positions and movement to a new zone of action. At the close of the period the relief of the division by elements of the 4th Armored Division and 76th Infantry Division was in progress.

65 INF DIV: Relieved from control of VIII Corps and passed to the command of XX Corps. With the 260th Infantry leading, the regiments began movement to new assembly areas in the vicinity of BAMBERG (O-2749).

71 INF DIV: Relieved from attachment to XII Corps and although assigned to XX Corps came under the operational control of XV Corps.

76 INF DIV: Relieved from assignment to XX Corps and attached to VIII Corps.

6 ARMD DIV: Relieved from attachment to XX Corps and attached to VIII Corps.

4 ARMD DIV: Detached from XX Corps and attached to VIII Corps.

18 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Fair and warm with high overcast skies.
Aviation: Armed reconnaissance was flown over the Corps area during daylight hours.

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By Walewis, Date 8/27/89

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80 INF DIV: The 318th Infantry and 319th Infantry moved from HARTMANSDORF (K-5666) and LIMBACH (K5362) respectively closing in an assembly area vicinity of SCHLESWITZ (O-3658) by motor. The 317th Infantry and other elements were moving by truck to the new assembly area at the end of the period.

65 INF DIV: Closed into its new assembly area in the vicinity of BAMBERG (O-2749) at 1630 hours. Rehabilitation and maintenance of equipment was carried on throughout the period. Preparations were made for movement Southeast vicinity of SCHMAITTSBACH (O-6043) to take up positions on the right flank of XX Corps new zone of advance.

71 INF DIV: Operational on left flank of XV Corps and attacked Southeast with two regiments abreast. The 14th Infantry on the left (North) flank and the 66th Infantry on the right flank cleared wooded areas to their front. The 5th Infantry remained in reserve in the center of the zone.

19 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Clear with a few high scattered clouds throughout the period.

Aviation: Armed Reconnaissance was flown over the zone throughout the period.

Field Order #21 was issued at 0800 directing the 65th and 71st Infantry Divisions to attack Southeast to gain contact with Soviet forces advancing West from VIENNA. The 65th Infantry Division on the right (South) flank would attack 20 April through elements of the XV Corps and maintain contact with elements of the III Corps on its right, and the 71st Infantry Division on its left (North) flank. The 71st Infantry Division on the left would continue its attack Southeast in its zone and maintain contact with elements of the XII Corps on its left. The 80th Infantry Division would remain in assembly area vicinity of SCHLESWITZ (O-3658) as XX Corps reserve and prepare to attack through the 65th or 71st Infantry Division on Corps order. It would further be prepared to garrison towns and cities prior to commitment in Corps rear areas. The 13th Armored Division, which would be attached on Third U.S. Army order the 21st of April, would remain in assembly area in the vicinity of SCHNAITZACH (6012), as Corps reserve, and attack through the 65th Infantry Division and 71st Infantry Division on Corps Order. The 3d Cavalry Group was ordered to maintain contact with the III and XII Corps, and protect the South and North flank of XX Corps.

80 INF DIV: The 317th Infantry and the remainder of the division closed in the vicinity of SCHLESWITZ. During the late afternoon the 319th Infantry, with the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop attached, moved into and occupied the city of BAMBERG (O-2648) to maintain law and order. The remainder of the division conducted a rehabilitation and maintenance of vehicles.

71 INF DIV: The division committed all three regiments on the line; the 14th Infantry on the left (North) flank attacked Southeast at 1030 with the 1st and 2d Battalions abreast from positions in the vicinity of SCHONFELD (O-7740) and ZITS (O-7638) and advanced approximately five miles Southeast against scattered resistance clearing TROSCHENRUTH (O-7837), NEUHOF (O-7736) HEIMERSBERG (O-8140), and THURNDOERF (O-8237). The 5th Infantry in the center had all three battalions on the line and swept woods and towns in its zone a distance of approximately seven miles in length and three miles in width, taking PEGNITZ (O-7335), NASNITZ (O-7631), STEINWASSER (O-7832), and ENGELMANNSRUTH (O-8142). The 66th Infantry, with the 3d Battalion in reserve, attacked at 0700 with the 1st and 2d Battalions abreast from an assembly area in the vicinity of PUTTLACH (O-6840), and cleared woods and the following towns in its zone: WANDBERG (O-6733), NEUDORF (O-7133), BRONN (O-6832). Enemy resistance was scattered and by evening the Regiment was extended along the BERLIN - NURENBERG Autohahn in its zone.

65 INF DIV: The 261st Infantry remained in its assembly area and continued rehabilitation and maintenance. The 259th Infantry, 260th Infantry moved to new assembly areas vicinity of HAUSHEIM (T-6687), and KRUMBACH (O-6411). The remainder of the division prepared to move to new assembly areas in the vicinity of ALTDORF (T-6293) the morning of 20 April.

20 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: High scattered clouds throughout the period with visibility from 5 to 7 miles.

Aviation: Armed reconnaissance was flown over the front throughout the period.

80 INF DIV: While the 319th Infantry reinforced by the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop maintained law and order in BAMBERG, the remainder of the division conducted a training and maintenance program in its assembly area vicinity of SCHLESWITZ.

71 INF DIV: Continued its attack Southeast with all three Regiments on the line against bitter enemy resistance to reach positions generally South of the SULZBACH - NURNBERG road. All large towns in zone were defended and were cleared only after enemy pockets of resistance had been neutralized. Rough, wooded terrain, blown bridges, plus enemy artillery falling along the entire divisional front rendered the advance difficult. The 14th Infantry on the left took ALTENHAUS (O-9222), SCHLICH (O-9219) and VILSECK (O-9320) and captured an aircraft assembly plant in the woods Northwest of SCHLICH. The 5th Infantry, in the center, cleared KONIGSTEIN (O-8119), ESCHENFELDEN (O-8016), NEUKIRCHEN (O-8110), REINBACH (O-8213), and ROCKENRIGHT (O-8511), and cut the SALZBACH - NURNBERG road. The 66th Infantry on the right took HIRSCHBACH (O-7413), PONNELSBURN (O-7307), and HARTMANNSHOT (O-7607), knocking out seven enemy tanks with grenade launchers.

65 INF DIV: Attacked to the Southeast in its zone at 0600 with two regiments abreast: - The 260th Infantry on the left, the 259th Infantry on the right, and the 261st in reserve. The 260th Infantry on the left or North flank, after repulsing an enemy counterattack in the vicinity of TRUEF (O-6716) advanced approximately three miles and captured the towns of TRAUTMANNSHOFEN (T-07789), LAUTERHOFEN (T-8092), and the following towns which put up heavy resistance were demolished - TRUEF, STEPPACH (O-6713), and SIEGITZHOL (O-6817). The 259th Infantry, on the right or South flank, attacked to the Southeast in its zone at 0600 and cleared several populated localities throughout the day. At the close of the period NEUMARKT (T-7182) was being cleared.

21 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Cool with intermittent rain throughout the period.

Aviation: Armed reconnaissance was flown over the XX Corps front throughout the period.

Operations Instructions were issued establishing a restraining line which ran generally from North to South from HAHNBACH (O-9411), LAUTERHOFEN (T-8092), to NEUMARKT (T-7182).

Field Order No. 21 was modified by these Operations Instructions in that the 65th and 71st Infantry Divisions were to continue the advance on the 21st of April and occupy the restraining line in their zones, pass elements of the 3d Cavalry Group (reinforced by the 5th Ranger Battalion) through the divisional zone on 220600 April, and attack 220700 April to clear enemy by-passed by the 3d Cavalry Group (reinforced). The 3d Cavalry Group (reinforced) would pass through the Infantry divisions to develop any enemy line of resistance North of the DANUBE River and/or seize intact bridges over the DANUBE River. The 80th Infantry Division was ordered to initiate relief of the 3d Infantry Division in NURNBERG (O-4000) at 211800 April. The 13th Armored Division, which was attached on this date, was ordered to assemble in the vicinity of LAUF (O-5607) - ESCHENAU (O-5014).

80 INF DIV: The 319th Infantry (reinforced) remained in BAMBERG maintaining law and order. The 317th Infantry continued its training and maintenance program in its assembly area vicinity of SCHLESWITZ while the 318th Infantry moved to NURENBERG and relieved elements of the 3d Infantry Division in the East sector of the city.

71 INF DIV: Continued the attack Southeast in its zone, the 14th Infantry on the left with the 1st and 3d Battalions abreast, and the 2d Battalion in reserve, cleared numerous small settlements and stubborn enemy pockets of resistance in its zone, and by nightfall had reached EDELSFELD (O-8618), FROMBERG (O-8611), and REINBACH (O-8213) abreast of the 5th Infantry Division on its right which had occupied ALTNEUHAUS (O-9222) and REISCH (O-9119) by 1800. The 66th Infantry on the right attacked with the 1st and 3d Battalions abreast and the 2d Battalion in reserve. The assault battalions advanced approximately 15 Kms over rough terrain and against determined enemy resistance to cut the SALZBACH - NURENBERG highway and railroad.

65 INF DIV: Continued its attack to the Southeast in its zone to the limiting line. The 260th Infantry on the left reached the limiting line in its zone after destroying by fire the towns of PFEFFERTSHOFEN (T-7587) and KEGETHEIM (T-7799) which elected to fight rather than surrender. The 259th Infantry on the right continued its attack on NEUMARKT; the 3d Battalion fought in the town against strong resistance, while the 1st Battalion attacked Southwest and occupied the high ground Southeast of NEUMARKT in aid of the 3d Battalion. The 2d Battalion occupied positions in the left and North portion of the Regimental zone vacated by the 1st Battalion. The 261st Infantry extended the 1st and 2d Battalions along the left or North flank of the division, while the 3d Battalion remained in position as Division reserve.

13 ARMD DIV: Successfully cleared its old concentration area at ALTENKIRCHEN and at the close of the period was enroute to the assembly areas designated by XX Corps.

22 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Intermittent rain and light snow throughout the period.

Aviation: No missions were flown due to the weather.

80 INF DIV: While the 317th Infantry remained in its assembly area continuing its maintenance and training program, the 319th Infantry was relieved of its mission of maintaining law and order in BAMBERG, and made preparations to move to NURENBERG. The 318th Infantry remained in NURENBERG maintaining law and order in the Eastern sector of the city.

71 INF DIV: The division pushed the attack Southeast with all three Regiments on the line and overcame light to medium resistance. Woods and villages were cleared of small groups of entrenched enemy, snipers and isolated ambushes. The attack of the division overran the town of KASTEL (T-8693), HARTMANNSHOF (O-7607), SULZBACH - ROSENBERG (O-8908), ROSENBERG (O-9209), HAHNBACH (O-9611), and culminated the capture of AMBERG (O-9802) by the 3d Battalion 14th Infantry which had been motorized for that purpose. Approximately 650 PWs were liberated when the 5th Infantry captured SULZBACH - ROSENBERG.

65 INF DIV: While the 261st Infantry continued the protection of the division left or North flank, the 260th Infantry on the left continued its attack to the Southeast at 0700 with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast, the 1st Battalion in reserve, against scattered enemy resistance. PFAFFENHOFEN (T-8292), KASTEL (T-8693), ENGLSBERG (T-8287), PRONSDORF (T-8585), and many other populated places were captured. The town of KASTEL was turned over to elements of the 71st Infantry Division and elements of the 43d Cavalry Squadron were passed through the Regiment at 0600. The 259th Infan-

try on the right continued to attack NEUMARKT with the 3d Battalion, while the 1st and 2d Battalion advanced North of the town clearing the towns of PEISHENHOFEN (T-7583), DIETKIRCHEN (T-7984), BUCHFELD (T-7879), and WEISENACKER (T-8283).

13 ARMD DIV: Closed in an assembly area vicinity of ESCHENAU (O-5014) at 2300, and was alerted for the possible mission of screening the right flank of XX Corps.

3 CAV GP: (Reinforced by the 5th Ranger Battalion) - On the left or North flank of XX Corps, the 3d Cavalry Squadron with three companies of Rangers attached and transported on the Cavalry vehicles, passed through the 71st Infantry Division in two columns at 0600 and advanced approximately 18 miles Southeast by nightfall with slight opposition. The 43d Cavalry Squadron, with three companies of Rangers attached and similarly transported, passed through the 71st Infantry Division lines and advanced in two columns approximately fifteen miles ahead of the front lines against slight to no opposition.

23 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Rain, showers throughout the day limiting visibility from 4 to 7 miles.

Aviation: Weather limited operations to three armed reconnaissance missions in the afternoon.

80 INF DIV: The 317th Infantry and 319th Infantry moved into NURENBERG relieving elements of the 3d Infantry Division in the central and Western portions of the city respectively. The remainder of the division elements closed into the city during the day and the division assumed command over the city at 1830.

71 INF DIV: Leaving the 14th Infantry in AMBERG to eliminate snipers and maintain law and order, the division continued its attack in zone to the Southeast with the 5th and 66th Regiments abreast. The 5th Infantry on the left (North) flank attacked at 0700 and after an advance of five miles, motorized the 1st Battalion which together with the motorized 3d Battalion moved out with the 2d Battalion following on foot, the attack advanced ten miles Southeast, crossed the NAAB River and entered SCHWANBORN un-opposed at 1925. The 1st and 3d Battalions of the 66th Infantry advanced fourteen miles Southeast clearing HOHENBERG (T-9485) and SCHMIDMUHLER (U-8382). The 2d Battalion had been motorized and moved at 0625 hours from the vicinity of EDELSFELD (O-8616) against light enemy resistance to BURGLINGENFELD (U-1376) where it relieved the 3d Cavalry Squadron at 1530 hours at the bridge secured over the NAAB River.

65 INF DIV: Continued its attack Southeast committing all three Regiments in the line. The 260th Infantry on the left (North) flank made good progress against light enemy resistance and captured the towns of UTZENHOFEN (T-8789), FREISCHWEIBACH (T-8787), KITTENSEE (T-8982), GRIFFENWANG (T-9084), and many other populated places. The 259th Infantry in the center made rapid progress against scattered enemy resistance and captured the towns of LUPBERG (T-9269), HARDT (T-9668), PARSBERG (T-9070), and SEE (T-9367). The 261st Infantry was withdrawn from the left (North) flank upon relief by the 65th Reconnaissance Troop and passed through a portion of the 259th Infantry zone to attack Southeast, on the right or South flank of the zone capturing the towns of KLEIN (T-7993), EICHENHOFEN (T-8572), and BATZHAUSEN (T-8772).

13 ARMD DIV: Closed and remained in its concentration area and continued its maintenance and planning in preparation for future operations.

3 CAV GP: (Reinforced) - After the 3d Cavalry Squadron had been relieved in the vicinity of BURGLINGENFELD by elements of the 65th Infantry

Division at 1530, it continued Southeast reaching OPPERSDORF (U-1660). The 43d on the right advanced in the zone of the 65th Infantry Division and after by-passing enemy resistance in the vicinity of DEUERLING (U-0457) continued their advance to the South and reached POLLENRIED (U-0757).

24 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low broken clouds and overcast skies throughout the period.

Aviation: Six missions were flown. The town of KELHEIM (U-0304), was bombed and armed reconnaissance was flown over XX Corps front.

Operations Instructions were issued in the evening extending the Corps boundary Southeast of the DANUBE River. The 65th and 71st Infantry Divisions would cross the DANUBE River after passing through elements of the 3d Cavalry Group the night of 25-26 April. The 65th Infantry Division attacked in its zone to seize REGENSBURG. The 71st Infantry Division would assist the 65th Infantry Division in its attack on REGENSBURG by fire from the North bank of the DANUBE River. It would be further prepared to attack the city from the East with not to exceed one RCT. The division was to continue its attack with one RCT in reserve for possible employment in REGENSBURG, while the other two RCT's would follow elements of the 13th Armored Division. The 80th Infantry Division would remain in its present position at NURENBERG in the zone of the 65th Infantry Division on Corps order, and attack Southeast behind elements of the 13th Armored Division. The 3d Cavalry Group, after being passed through by the 65th and 71st Infantry Divisions, would move by infiltration to protect the North and South flanks of XX Corps. The 13th Armored Division was placed on a six hour alert for movement to the Southeast at 0700. Armor was ordered to relieve elements of the 65th Infantry Division on the right or South flank from NEUMARKT (T-7082) to HEMAU (T-9558) by 1000 hours, and at 252100 April initiate a movement to an assembly area North of the DANUBE River in the 65th Infantry Division area preparatory to crossing the river and attacking Southeast to seize crossings over the INN River, and make junction with Russian forces advancing from the East.

80 INF DIV: Occupied the city of NURENBERG and maintained law and order.

71 INF DIV: Continued its attack with three Regiments abreast and moved 32 miles southeast in its zone and crossed the NAAB and REGENS Rivers. The 5th Infantry on the left completed the occupation of SCHWANDORF (U-7090) during the early part of the period and moved 13 miles Southeast to the REGENS River. Foot elements forced crossings of the river at RAMSPAU (U-2171), while other foot elements crossed over the bridge at REGENSTAU (U-2067). A bridgehead was there consolidated by a joinder of the two crossings. The 14th RCT was motorized and advanced at daylight from AMBERG, sweeping the zone Southeast to the REGENS River. At 1010 hours crossings of the REGENS River were initiated at REGENSTRAUF. The crossing was made in Engineer assault boats against enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire, and REGENSTRAUF (U-2067) was cleared. A Bailey bridge was completed at 2315 hours and vehicles passed over the REGENS River. The 66th Infantry crossed the NAAB River and continued its advance Southeast to the general line PIEMEMHOFEN (U-0811), HAINSACKER (U-1521), and ZEITLARN (U-1922).

65 INF DIV: Attacked Southeast in its zone and with three Regiments abreast until the 259th RCT, in the central portion of the zone, was pinched out at VERATEHTIN (T-9763) where it assembled and became division reserve. The 260th Infantry on the left attacked Southeast encountering terrain obstacles but capturing the towns of SCHONHOFEN (U-0854), EILSBRUNN (U-0953), and BERGMATTING (U-1050). The 261st RCT on the right made rapid progress against light resistance and captured the towns of DASSWANG (T-8668), WILLENHOFEN (T-9165), HEMAU (T-9558), and PAINTEN (T-9852).

13 ARMD DIV: Continued the maintenance and training program while the 93d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron relieved elements of the 65th Infantry Division on the right flank of XX Corps at 1700 hours.

3 CAV GP: (Reinforced) - Advanced in its zone to reach the DANUBE River at 1330 hours. All bridges had been blown over the DANUBE River. The 3d Cavalry Group extended its elements along the river in XX Corps zone and at the close of the period was being passed through by elements of the 65th and 71st Infantry Divisions.

25 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Fair and warm with scattered clouds.
Aviation: Armed reconnaissance flown throughout the period.

80 INF DIV: Occupied NURENBERG and maintained law and order.

71 INF DIV: The 66th Infantry moved the 2d and 3d Battalions to positions along the DANUBE River South of REGENSBURG, while the 1st Battalion (motorized) was held in reserve in the vicinity of EICHLBERG (U-1658). The Regiment was given the mission of creating a feint crossing in the Regimental zone during the night of 25-26 April by the use of patrols and heavy fire in aid of the attack by the 5th and 14th RCT's across the DANUBE River. The division (less the 66th Infantry) completed crossings of the REGENS River at REGENSTRAUF and advanced to positions North of the DANUBE River clearing woods and towns in its zone of advance. Preparations were made for the 5th and 14th RCT's to force crossings of the DANUBE River in their respective zones at 260200 April.

65 INF DIV: Moved to forward assembly areas preparatory to crossing the DANUBE River. Detailed plans were prepared for the division to force a crossing of the DANUBE River with the 260th and 261st RCT's, while the 259th RCT was held in reserve to protect the right or South flank of XX Corps.

13 ARMD DIV: Continued its maintenance and training program throughout the day and at 2100 hours initiated movement to forward assembly areas in the zone of the 65th Infantry Division preparatory to crossing the DANUBE River.

26 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast skies throughout the morning, with light rain showers beginning at noontime and continuing for the remainder of the period.

Aviation: Nine missions were flown and the towns of UNTER-TEUERTING (U-0537), and KOFERING (U-2647) were bombed and strafed. 78 M/Ts, 18 Armored vehicles, 11 locomotives, 94 railroad cars, and 25 enemy aircraft (in the air) were reported as destroyed or damaged.

80 INF DIV: With the exception of the 318th Infantry, the remainder of the division was relieved of its mission of maintaining law and order in the city of NURENBERG by line of Communications troops. The 318th Infantry participated in the occupation of the city while the remainder of the division conducted a maintenance and training program.

71 INF DIV: The 66th Infantry made a feint and demonstration of crossing the DANUBE, and thereafter aided the 5th and 14th RCT's in their assault crossings of the DANUBE River. In the 5th RCT zone of attack the Regiment crossed the river in a column of battalions, the 3rd Battalion leading initiated crossings at 0415 hours in assault boats at FRENGKOFEN (U-3556). The first wave gained complete tactical surprise and met no resistance. Succeeding waves of the 3rd Battalion met small arms and mortar fire coming from inland positions while crossing the river. At

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0600, 3rd Battalion had completed crossing the river and drove south to seize ILLKOFEN (U-3456) and AUBERG (U-3555) against scattered resistance. The 1st Battalion crossed the river at 0600 without any opposition. It then moved to the left of the 3rd Battalion, seized AILACH (U-3454), advanced South and West into the woods where it ran into determined resistance and suffered many casualties. The 2nd Battalion followed the 1st Battalion at 0700 and moved to the left of the 1st Battalion. It then advanced South and assisted in the taking of ALTHEIM (U-3453). The 2nd Battalion then continued its advance across the REGENSBURG-STRAUBING (U-5442) road and took GEISLING (U-3551). At the close of the period all battalions of the 5th Infantry had advanced South of the REGENSBURG-STRAUBING road, and the 1st Battalion was pulled back in reserve in the vicinity of ALTHEIM. On the right or South flank of the divisional crossing area, the 14th Infantry began crossing the river at 0410 hours with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions abreast. The 3rd Battalion on the left completed an unopposed crossing operation by 0359 hours and moved steadily Southeast to reach the high ground dominating the town of SARCHING (U-2855) at 0845 hours. The 2nd Battalion on the right likewise crossed the DANUBE without opposition and by 0900 hours had reached the line BARBING (U-2654)-SARCHING. The 1st Battalion moved at 0845 to the crossing point of the 2nd Battalion, closed across the DANUBE at 1440, and moved in between the 2nd and 3rd Battalions. All three battalions thereupon expanded the bridgehead a distance of approximately 200 yards in all forward directions. The 2nd Battalion of the 66th Infantry was attached to the 5th Infantry, crossed the DANUBE River and took up positions in the bridgehead in the 5th Infantry bridgehead zone. 3rd Battalion, 66th Infantry, was attached to the 14th Infantry and moved to the vicinity of SALZBACH. Bridging operations were started at 1100 hours, completed at 2315 hours, and the movement of the division over the bridge was initiated at 2350 hours.

65 INF DIV: Crossed the DANUBE River with the 260th and 261st RCT's abreast beginning at 0200 hours. The 261st Infantry on the left attacked with the 1st and 3rd Battalions abreast, and the 2nd Battalion crossed behind the 3rd Battalion. Heavy enemy resistance was initially encountered in the vicinity of the crossing site, and the town of IENGFELD (U-1244) was captured against stubborn enemy resistance. The 260th Infantry attacked across the DANUBE River at 0200 hours with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions abreast, and the 1st Battalion following behind the 2nd Battalion. Enemy resistance was initially light but increased as the attack progressed. Heavy small arms, mortar fire, and considerable 88mm fire was encountered. The towns of MATTING (U-1249), GRASSLFING (U-1549), OBERNDORF (U-1347) and NIEDER (U-1648) was captured. The 259th RCT protected the right flank of the division North of KELHEIM (U-0343), when upon division order at 0730 the regiment moved to a forward assembly area and at 1800 hours began crossing the DANUBE River in the zone of the 261st RCT. At the close of the period, the 2nd Battalion and elements of the 1st Battalion were across the river. The 2nd Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion of the 261st Infantry and protected the division right or South flank. The attack was continuing at the close of the period, although hampered by rain and the poor road net.

13 ARMD DIV: Completed its march to the new assembly area on the right, or South flank of XX Corps along the DANUBE River. The division completed plans for a crossing of the DANUBE River and exploiting the bridgehead established by the infantry divisions.

27 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Intermittent rain throughout the period limiting visibility from 1 to 2 miles.

Aviation: Weather limited operations to one mission, and the town of LEIDLING (U-5130) was bombed and 8 railroad cars were claimed as being destroyed.

80 INF DIV: The 318th Infantry, in conjunction with Line of Communication Troops, guarded installations and maintained law and order in NURENBERG. The remainder of the division remained in NURENBERG conducting a training program and a maintenance of equipment schedule.

71 INF DIV: Combat elements of the division continued their attack to expand the DANUBE River bridgehead against light to medium opposition in all zones. The division completed its movement across the DANUBE River South of SULZBACH (U-2957) and assisted in the passage of CCB 13th Armored Division over the bridge and to the Southeast. The 5th Infantry on the left resumed the attack at 0700 with all three battalions on the line, the 2nd Battalion on the left, the 1st in the center and the 3rd on the right. The 2nd Battalion attacked GEISLING (U-3551) and captured the town at 1830 hours. Previously the town of PFATTER (U-3950) had surrendered and was entered without opposition at 0930 hours. The 1st Battalion in the center had swept South from a position along the Eastern edge of the woods at (U-3350) and assisted the advance of the 3rd Battalion by clearing out woods on the left flank of the 3rd Battalion. The 3rd Battalion cleared GENGKOFEN (U-2951) at 0830 hours and thereupon, in conjunction with the 2nd Battalion of the 66th Infantry, captured MINTRACHING (U-2944) after a fifteen minute artillery preparation. At 1100 hours, on Regimental order, the 3rd Battalion took up positions on the right flank of the 5th Infantry bridgehead and after a short but intense fire fight, cleared ST GILLA (U-3450) at 1700 hours. The 66th Infantry also had all three battalions committed on the line, the 1st on the left, the 2nd in the center, and the 3rd on the right. The Regiment attacked to the Southeast with 1st Battalion seizing MOOSHOM (U-3246) and SENGKOFEN (U-3346) without resistance, with patrols pushing South to clear TAIMERING (U-3445) by evening. The 2nd Battalion in the center coordinated with elements of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Infantry, and cleared MINTRACHING. It thereafter continued the attack Southeast clearing SCHEUER (U-2948) and KOFERING (U-2847), and forward patrols found the town of ALTGLOFSHEIM (U-2745) clear of enemy. The 3rd Battalion on the right attacked to the Southwest and after cutting the REGENSBURG railroad line in the vicinity of TRAUBLING (U-2450) cleared the town of the enemy and established positions on the bridgehead perimeter. On its advance from the river into its zone of action, the 3rd Battalion had uncovered a German Jet plane factory, with some planes in perfect operating condition at (U-317539). The 14th Infantry on the right commenced their attack Southwest with the 1st and 2nd Battalions on the line and the 3rd in reserve. The 1st Battalion on the left accepted the surrender of HARTING (U-2452) at 1410 hours. Prior to the attack of the 2nd Battalion on the right, a German Major General was conducted to the Battalion Command Post under a flag of truce at 0645 hours, where he requested terms for the surrender of REGENSBURG. The Regimental Commander, after notifying the Division Commander of the presence of the officer, presented Terms of Unconditional Surrender to the German General to be effective as of 1400 hours. The 2nd Battalion (reinforced by Company B of the 761st Tank Battalion) was assigned by division the mission of proceeding to REGENSBURG to effect the capitulation of the city. The 65th Infantry Division was directed by XX Corps to be prepared to move to REGENSBURG where it would occupy and police the city. At 1430 hours, REGENSBURG had fallen and had been occupied by elements of the 65th Infantry Division. The 2nd Battalion was thereupon relieved and returned to its position in the 71st Infantry Division zone.

65 INF DIV: The remaining elements of the division (less three Battalions of Division Artillery) completed the crossing of the DANUBE River. The 260th Infantry on the left completed crossing of the DANUBE River and cleared the town of ABBACH (U-1546) at 0700 hours. At 0900 hours, information was received that the REGENSBURG garrison desired to surrender. General JOHN E. COPELAN, Assistant Division Commander, and Colonel FRANK DUNKLEY, Commanding Officer of the 260th Infantry entered the city with an advance party to negotiate the surrender. The retired German General, who had taken charge after the Regular Army Commander had left the city

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at 0400 hours, surrendered the city to them at 1030 hours. This is the same retired German General who had previously conducted negotiations with the 14th Infantry of the 71st Infantry Division. By 1400 hours the 260th Infantry had entered and was policing the city at the end of the period. The 261st Infantry on the right, after completing the crossing of the DANUBE River, was halted as they moved on REGENSBURG, and was given the mission of protecting the division assembly area South of the DANUBE River. The 259th Infantry completed crossing the DANUBE River and protected the division right (South) flank in the rear of the 261st Infantry.

13 ARMD DIV: The division moved CCA and CCB from its assembly area in the vicinity of PARSBERG (T-9070), crossed the DANUBE River on the right flank of XX Corps and prepared to attack Southeast in the division zone of advance.

28 April 1945

XX CORPS: XX Corps moved their Command Post to REGENSBURG.

Weather: Rain, showers throughout the day.

Aviation: No missions flown due to the weather.

80 INF DIV: The division was ordered from NURENBERG to cross the DANUBE River in the vicinity of REGENSBURG and attacked to the Southeast through the bridgehead of the 65th Infantry Division. The 317th RCT remained in NURENBERG while the 318th and 319th RCT's moved South from NURENBERG to an assembly area South of REGENSBURG.

71 INF DIV: The division continued the expansion of its bridgehead and advanced Southeast with two Regiments abreast, the 5th Infantry on the left and the 66th Infantry on the right, and the 14th Infantry initially in reserve. Elements of the 13th Armored Division were passed through the bridgehead with the two assault Regiments expanded a distance of approximately two miles along the perimeter of the bridgehead.

65 INF DIV: The 259th Infantry and the 261st Infantry protected the division assembly area across the DANUBE River and guarded the floating Treadway bridge over the river. Elements of the 43rd Cavalry Squadron, 13 Armored Division and 80th Infantry Division were passed through the division zone. The 260th Infantry with the remainder of the divisional elements, occupied REGENSBURG and patrolled the city to prevent looting and maintain law and order.

13 ARMD DIV: CCR on the left closed across the DANUBE River at approximately 1800 hours, and the assembly was completed in the vicinity of DENGLENG at 2000 hours. CCA on the right closed across the DANUBE River in the zone of the 65th Infantry Division at 1800 hours. The Combat Command then moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of SANDING (N-2421). CCB, after crossing the DANUBE River in the zone of the 71st Infantry Division advanced Southeast along Highway #8 through STRAUBING (U-5442) and arrived at the ISAR River at 1830 hours.

29 April 1945

XX CORPS: Weather: Low overcast through-out the morning with rain showers throughout the afternoon.

Aviation: No missions were flown due to the weather.

80 INF DIV: The division closed into an assembly area South of REGENSBURG at 1740 hours in the vicinity of KOFERING (U-2647). The 318th and 319th RCT's passed through elements of the 65th Infantry Division and

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followed the attack of the 13th Armored Division. The divisional plan of attack was for the 318th, on the left, and the 317th, on the right, to advance abreast with the 319th Infantry to be motorized and push to the ISAR River. The 319th RCT after it had closed in its assembly area at 0730 hours, motorized the 1st and 3d Battalions, retaining the 2d Battalion in reserve. The 1st and 3d Battalions moved rapidly to the South and at the close of the period, the 3d Battalion had reached the ISAR River at ESSENBAACH (U3010), and occupied ALTHEIM (U2909) while the 1st Battalion occupied ERGOLDS (U-2920). The 1st and 3d Battalions of the 318th Infantry were likewise motorized and moved rapidly to the Southeast following the advance of the 13th Armored Division. At the close of the period the battalions had detrucked and occupied an assembly area in the vicinity of WEICHSHOFFEN (U4523). The 317th Infantry closed across the DANUBE River and remained in the divisional assembly area.

71 INF DIV: Advanced with the 5th (on the left) and 66th Infantry (on the right) abreast along the line ATTING (U-4744), WIESENDORF (U-4642), PERKAM (U-4539), to the line STOCKERPOINT (U-5324), MUNCHSHOFEN (U-6333), LOH (U-6938), clearing towns and woods in its zone of advance. The 14th Infantry continued in division reserve displacing from reserve positions in the vicinity of RIEKOFEN (U-3745) and HAINBRUCK (U-4154), to new positions vicinity of LEIBLFING (U-5030), protecting the right (South) flank of the division.

65 INF DIV: Continued to occupy and police REGENSBURG (U-1955), maintained the protection of the Class "40" bridge (Floating Treadway) across the DANUBE River and initiated a training, rehabilitation, and maintenance of equipment program.

13PARMD DIV: Continued its attack to the Southeast with CCA leading, followed by CCR on the right and CCB on the left. Scattered resistance was met in the form of small arms, machine guns, and 88mm fire. CCR relieved elms of CCA along the river and continued the attack Southeast along the DANUBE River line while CCB reconnoitered the North banks of the ISAR River and seized a bridgehead with two companies of Infantry at (U3872).

30 April 1945

XX Corps: Weather: Cool with occasional rain showers throughout the day.

Aviation: Two missions were flown during the day and enemy concentrations strafed and bombed with good results reported.

80 INF DIV: The North bank of the ISAR River in the division zone was cleared of the enemy. The 318th Infantry on the left made an assault crossing of the ISAR River with the 1st and 2d Battalions, and the 3d Battalion in reserve, in the vicinity of MAMMING (U5717). The 1st Battalion immediately attacked Southwest and seized DINGOLFING. After the 319th Infantry had cleared the North bank of the ISAR River it moved up into position to attack across the ISAR River the morning of 01 May. The 317th Infantry occupied the North bank of the ISAR River opposite DINGOLFING (U-5014) and supported the attack of the 318th Infantry by fire.

71 INF DIV: Continued its attack to the Southeast and successfully forced a crossing of the ISAR River. By 2400 hours all battalions of the two assault regiments, the 66th RCT on the left and the 14th RCT on the right, had crossed the ISAR River and had expanded the bridgehead to include the towns of RACHELHOLZ (U6117), USTERLING (U6219), ZAWKLAU (U6319), LANDAU (U6419), KAMMERN (U7019), FRAMERING (U6920), HAID (U7220), and MEISTERNTAL (U7221). The 66th Infantry attacked to the Southeast at 0500 hours with the 1st and 2d Battalions abreast and the 3d in reserve. The 1st Battalion on the right advanced under considerable small arms and high angle fire from across the ISAR River and found all bridges in their zone destroyed. The 2d Battalion screened the towns on the left and closed along the river from WALLERDORF (U6827),

to ARNDORF (U7031) by 1100. The 3d Battalion was then brought forward in motors and at 1645 covered by fires of the 1st Battalion, assaulted the Southeast bank of the river against scattered resistance. Thirty-five minutes later the two companies had reached the opposite bank and the town of ZELHOFING (U6921) had fallen. The 1st Battalion crossed behind the 3d Battalion and was immediately followed by the 2d Battalion which crossed at 2035. The Division Artillery laid smoke screens along the ISAR River in the vicinity of LANDAU and under cover of this smoke, the 14th Infantry crossed on the railroad bridge in the vicinity of (U-6019) and by storm boats at LANDAU against light resistance. By 2045 hours the city of LANDAU was under control of the 14th Infantry.

65 INF DIV: Continued to occupy and police the city of REGENSBURG, protected the bridge over the INN River and continued its training and maintenance program in the vicinity of REGENSBURG.

13 ARMD DIV: The division (less CCA) crossed the ISAR River on a bridge at (U775320) and at the end of the period elements of CCB had reached OSTERHOFEN (U8824) while elements of CCR moved South to relieve the 318th Infantry of the 80th Infantry Division. CCA remained in assembly area in preparation for movement across the ISAR River.

SECTION V - G-4 SUMMARY

1. During the period 1 April to 30 April 1945, XX Corps units cleared the RHINE River bridge at MAINZ and continued to advance NE in the direction of KASSEL. The FULDA River was crossed early in the period in the vicinity of MALSFELD (H262788) and XX Corps units continued the attack on KASSEL. Armored units crossed the WEHRE River at (H580855) on 3 April and continued the advance to the East. Stiff resistance was met in the Southern part of KASSEL by our infantry forces. Advance was continued to the East through MULHAUSEN with the armor leading and the infantry following and cleaning our by-passed pockets. Rapid movement was made East thru ESCHWEGE, across the FRIEDA River, GOTH, LANCENSALZA, across the WERRA River, to ERFURT, across the SAALE River and then to WEIMAR which surrendered 120900B. Enemy losses were heavy and thousands of prisoners of war were evacuated thru the system of loading ration and fuel trucks with captured enemy soldiers when journeys were made to supply dumps. Upon the completion of mopping up of the ERFURT-WEIMAR-JENA areas XX Corps units moved East to take ZEITZ and continued on to the ZWICK MULDEN River. Resistance was generally light during these periods and our losses were negligible. Moving South into the BAMBERG area, units were assembled and proceeded to continue the attack Southeast to NEUMARKT (T710820) after 20 April. NEUMARKT was taken 22 April and infantry units closed in NURNBERG 231230B April. Advance was made East and REGENSBURG was occupied 27 April. XX Corps CP opened at REGENSBURG (U190550) at 281430B. By the end of the period, XX Corps units were crossing the ISAR River at (U695221) leading elements of the infantry progressing East of DINGOLFIN (U505143) and advance of other elements pushing swiftly SE toward AUSTRIA. Roads were muddy due to intermittent showers but units advanced quickly and enemy continued light.

2. During this period of rapid advances and the final breakdown of the German Army, many centers of supply were uncovered. Materiel in carload lots and large warehouses of all classes of supplies were reported and disposed of. Foodstuffs were utilized to feed prisoners of war and displaced persons. Vehicles were put into evacuation systems whenever possible. Thousands of both Allied and German prisoners of war

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were taken to rear areas in every means of transportation available many in their own German trucks. *Wah*

3. Supply points had difficulty in keeping up with the troops and long hauls of 75-125 miles for rations and gasoline were necessary. At the end of the period, even though gasoline was being flown in to many airports, the supply became critical. Gasoline (5-gallon) cans were short also, due to the fact that many had become scattered in abandoned dumps along the route of rapid advance and service units had experienced difficulty in recovering enough to maintain supply. Returning supply vehicles carried thousands of prisoners, both Allied and German and many thousands of displaced persons formerly used as slave labor or occupants of concentration camps. Class II and IV supply continued to be generally very satisfactory. A shortage of Engineer fixed Bailey Bridging occurred and, due to the many rivers crossed during the period, it was necessary to replace temporary bridges as quickly as possible to continue the advance forward. The shortage of 2 1/2-ton trucks, 1/4-ton trucks and 76mm motor carriages became critical since many of the older vehicles became unrepairable, necessitating overhaul and replacement of major assemblies and due to the non-receipt of vehicles on release. Spiral-4 cable continued to be the most critical Signal shortage. Ammunition supply was good throughout the period and expenditures were not great.

4. Traffic. At the beginning of the period, the Corps zone was well equipped with good roads, including an Autobahn, which greatly facilitated movements and traffic control.

Up to the 17th of the month, only normal road clearances were given totaling 83. Starting on the 17th the Corps consisting of the 65th and 80th Infantry Divisions, and attached or assigned Corps and Army troops, moved from the vicinity of WEIMAR to the vicinity of BAMBERG. Here the Corps assumed command of the 71st Inf Division and the 13th Armored Division.

The movement of the Corps was accomplished over one road and required 68 hours to clear the IP. Eight Truck Companies were used in the movement of the 65th and 80th Inf Divisions and now motorized Corps units.

Upon arrival in the new Corps zone vicinity of BAMBERG, the 13th Armored Division was moved into the Corps zone, and Corps moved forward on its new objective.

During the ensuing progress, the Corps moved consecutively across the DANUBE, ISAR and INN Rivers. In the DANUBE crossing operation, great difficulty was encountered due to long muddy approaches to the bridge sites and unfavorable road nets and road condition on both sides of the river. In all operations, the inadequate personnel strength of the Corps Military Police Company was again emphatically demonstrated.

SECTION VI - G-5 SUMMARY

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

Wiesbaden	Treffurt	Regensburg
Frankfurt	Forchheim	Burglengenfeld
Alsfeld	Erlangen	Parsberg
Falkenburg	Amberg	Mallersdorf
Melsungen	Nurnberg	Straubing
Eschwege	Neumarkt	Bamberg

In addition, two Displaced Persons Detachments, allotted to XX Corps by Third United States Army, continued to operate in the Corps zone. The last two mentioned detachments were so constituted that they could be divided into five separate units operating independently of each other thereby affording a maximum of coverage in the area. So as to adequately cope with the public health problems encountered as the Corps advanced, a Public Health Detachment was allotted by Third US Army to this section to work in conjunction with the Corps Surgeon on civilian public health problems. At the close of the period Military Government Detachments were operating in the towns of Regensburg, Burglengenfeld, Amberg, Parsberg, Mallersdorf and Straubing.

2. During the early part of the month and approximately up to 17 April, the zone of the XX Corps advance carried beyond the area in which preplanned Military Government was to be administered by the American Forces. As a result, once the advance of the Corps progressed east of the town of Eschwege, no Military Government Detachments were available for deployment in any of the towns subsequently uncovered. This situation existed up to and including the town of Jena at which time the mission of XX Corps was changed and the aforementioned area passed to the control of First U. S. Army.

3. The unavailability of Military Government Detachments during that period created a very serious situation due to the fact that in the area mentioned in par 2 hereof was found the greatest concentration of displaced persons uncovered to date in XX Corps zone. In the Gotha Erfurt and Weimar area alone, the three towns being no further apart than approximately sixty kilometers, some 100,000 displaced persons were uncovered. In the entire area from Muhlhausen to Jena approximately 250,000 displaced persons were uncovered.

4. In the areas uncovered in the Corps zone during the early part of the period, numerous Wehrmacht food and supply depots were captured. The presence of these food supplies were most advantageous and helpful in the feeding of the great number of displaced persons. On the other hand, the problem of guarding these warehouses so as to prevent their being looted became more serious as each of them was uncovered.

5. As the German Army was driven eastward many of the officials fled their posts thereby causing a serious breakdown in the civil administration. With no Military Government Detachments available to assist in the restoration of a civil administration, great disorder reigned and widespread looting on the part of both the displaced persons and the German civilians took place.

6. In an effort to offset the lack of Military Government Detachments in the areas east of Eschwege, two Field Artillery Battalions and one Ranger Battalion, attached to XX Corps, were utilized for the purpose of maintaining order in the towns uncovered and for the guarding of the captured supply depots and warehouses. These units in addition to performing the aforementioned duties administered Military Government in the towns wherein they were deployed. Their efforts along these lines included the enforcement of the Military Government Proclamations, Ordinances and Laws, the collection of firearms and the maintenance of Order. It should be pointed out that during this period the aforementioned units constituted the only Military Government administering agencies in the XX Corps zone.

7. With the fall of Ohrdruf the first grim picture of a Nazi concentration camp was obtained by the Allied Forces. At the concentration camp located in that town were found the unburied bodies of many of the victims of Nazi cruelty and barbarism, mute testimony of the vicious and inhuman treatment those unfortunate individuals had suffered at the hands of their Nazi persecutors. In order that the citizens of Gotha, some ten kilometers distant from Ohrdruf, might not at some future time deny that such deeds occurred at Ohrdruf, and

further that they might see for themselves the evidence of German cruelty, a representative committee of citizens from each walk of life was taken to the concentration camp and shown the dead and brutally battered bodies of the former inmates. Their reaction was one of proclaimed horror and a denial of any previous knowledge that such conditions existed at the camp. Previously the people of the town of Ohrdruf had been shown the camp by the 4th Armored Division which had uncovered the camp. Two nights thereafter the Burgermeister and his wife committed suicide.

8. Shortly after Ohrdruf was uncovered, the infamous concentration camp at Buchenwald, one of the three largest concentration camps in Germany, was overrun by XX Corps troops. Here, some twenty-one thousand political prisoners of almost every European nationality were found to be interned. Just as Ohrdruf presented mute evidence of Nazi cruelty and barbarism, Buchenwald produced both the living and dead evidence of the sadistic and depraved working of the Nazi mind. The day before the camp was overrun some three hundred persons had died from the treatment received or lack of proper care at the hands of the SS overseers. Even after the camp had been taken over by the Allied Forces, large numbers of the inmates continued to die daily due to the serious condition in which they were found and which no medical treatment could remedy. Prior to the arrival of the American Forces, four incinerators were in constant operation disposing of the remains of the victims, and the bodies would be piled as cordwood awaiting cremation. Lampshades made from human skins were found to be adorning some of the residences occupied by the former administrators of the camp.

9. As soon as word had been received that the camp was uncovered, a displaced persons team was immediately dispatched to Buchenwald. The first efforts of the team were directed toward obtaining food and blankets. The latter were needed due to the fact that many of the inmates had been forced to sleep upon wooden shelves with but one blanket as a cover. Some nine freight cars of Wehrmacht fresh meat captured in Weimar were secured for the camp and within 24 hours some 30,000 blankets had been obtained either from captured enemy supplies or manufactured by the tailoring shop in the camp from captured Wehrmacht uniform material. Water was a serious item at the camp as some 65,000 gallons were required per day. About one-third of that amount was available from the Weimar water supply at the time the camp was overrun. Work was immediately started at the camp on two pumps, the repair of which would have restored the water supply to normalcy. Until these pumps could be repaired water was trucked into the camp in containers. However, due to combat operations in the forward areas, the electric power failed in Weimar causing the water system to break down completely. A water point was immediately secured from the XX Corps Engineer and Water tank trucks were obtained from Third US Army Engineer to truck the water from the water point to the camp.

10. Of the 21,000 inmates in the camp some 5,000 required immediate hospitalization, and it was necessary to delouse all of the inmates because of lice. A Delousing Team was obtained from Third US Army G-5 and the XX Corps Surgeon arranged for a Medical Clearing Station and an Evacuation Hospital to set up at the camp for the purpose of furnishing medical aid. In addition, there were sixty cases of typhus in the camp hospital. These individuals, used for experimental purposes by the Germans, were well isolated and being well cared for and as such presented no serious health menace to the remainder of the camp.

11. A company of Rangers, attached to the Corps, was assigned to guard the camp as it was necessary that the internees be held in place, both from a security and a public health viewpoint until such

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time as they could be screened and properly deloused. For the purpose of administering the camp and further, due to the fact that included among the internees were alleged dangerous criminals as well as former prominent political and high civilian officials of the European members of the United Nations, a Military Government Prison Detachment, headed by the former Director of the Indiana State Prison, was secured from Third US Army G-5 Section. Included among the internees in the camp were two former French Generals, the former Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Belgium, a former aide to General Foch and General Dawes in World War I and many famous physicians, scientists and former outstanding personalities from various European nations. As soon as practicable, the evacuation of the internees to their native countries was commenced. In many cases, due to the weakened conditions of the individuals, it was necessary to transport them by air as they would have been unable to withstand the rigors of any other method of transportation.

12. In order that the people of Weimar might see for themselves the cruelty, barbarism and inhumane treatment that took place at Buchenwald, the Army Commander after an inspection of the camp commanded that 1,000 citizens of Weimar, one third from each of the social classes in the city, be marched from Weimar to Buchenwald and be taken on a tour of inspection of the camp. It is hard to say just what the reaction of these people were at the sights they witnessed. As was the case of Ohrdruf, the citizens of Weimar disclaimed any previous knowledge of what had been taking place at the camp. That such was the case is highly improbable. While they may never have previously visited the camp, they must have had at least knowledge of the inhumane treatment accorded the inmates. One thing is certain, they witnessed sights that day which they will carry in their minds for the rest of their lives.

13. With the change of the XX Corps zone from the left flank of the Third US Army to the center thereof and the concurrent shifting of Third US Army zone southward, pinpointed Military Government Detachments once again became available for deployment in the Corps zone. As the towns of Nurnberg, Forchheim, Erlangen, Regensburg and Straubing were uncovered Military Government Detachments were deployed and left behind in those towns. Not all of the pinpointed detachments were immediately available for the area inasmuch as they had been deployed in First and Ninth US Army areas awaiting the uncovering of their preplanned areas. In order to provide coverage for the area until their arrival, four provisional Military Government Detachments, formed from a Quartermaster Unit by Third US Army, were allotted to XX Corps. These detachments operated in the towns of Erlangen, Amberg, Neumarkt, Burglengenfeld, Parsberg and Mallersdorf. Throughout this area displaced persons and the guarding of food warehouses continued to occupy first priority together with the ousting of Nazis from important public office. The last mentioned priority presents a very difficult situation at times. Nearly all office holders had to be ardent Party Members in order to hold office, and if they had not fled with the retreating German forces, it was often impossible to find some individual who was free from the taint of Nazism and also possessed sufficient knowledge of governmental affairs to be of any assistance to Military Government. Wherever possible, persons ousted from office by the Nazis in 1933 or subsequent thereto were restored to office. If no such persons could be found it was very often found expedient to temporarily retain in office, without cloak of authority, such officials who had held office under the Nazi regime. By this method much valuable information was obtained from these individuals before they were placed under arrest and at the same time an opportunity was provided for Military Government to seek a competent successor.

14. At the close of the period, as the XX Corps drove across the

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Austrian border, no detachments were immediately available for use in Austria. Information reaching this section from Third US Army G-5 was to the effect that although Military Government Detachments have been pinpointed for Austria, these detachments are presently in Italy and thus not immediately available. Further information revealed that the Provisional Military Government Detachments previously allotted to XX Corps would not cross into Austria but would remain in Germany. The outlook for the administration of Military Government in Austria does not at the moment seem too bright in view of the lack of such Military Government Detachments. This situation will be remedied as soon as the above detachments are available. Until such time, however, Military Government will necessarily have to be administered by the combat troops.

15. In connection with the administration of Military Government by the tactical troops it is to be noted that Military Government Sections of Divisions are sometimes prone to furnish reports extolling the accomplishments of the section operating without Military Government Detachments, especially in the initial stages immediately after a town has been captured. While it is recognized that Military Government Staff Sections operate under a handicap when no Military Government Detachments are available, nevertheless, the rendition of reports tending to convey the impression that the operations are carried out in such a manner as to fully accomplish the mission of Military Government is to be discouraged. Reports are intended to set forth the facts as they exist and not as the writer of the report would like them to be.

For the Commanding General:



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

11 Incls: (With original only)

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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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