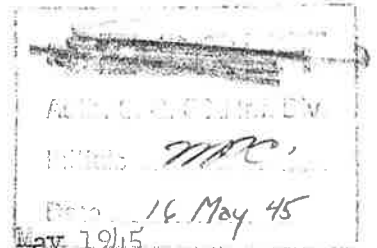


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HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General
APO 83, U. S. Army



319.1/401

16 May 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Report After/After Action Reports.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.
(Thru Channels).

1. In compliance with paragraph 10, G-3, AR 345-105, After Action Reports, for Headquarters 83d Inf Division covering the period 1-30 April 1945, are submitted herewith:

a. Original Unit: No Change.

b. Changes in organization: None.

c. Strength:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
1 April 1945	47	7	123
30 April 1945	<u>50</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>126</u>
increase	3	decrease 1	increase 3

d. Stations:

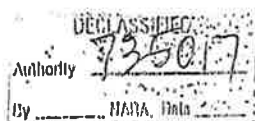
Ludinghausen, Germany, 1 Apr 45
Walstedde, Germany, 1 Apr 45
Beckum, Germany, 1 Apr 45 to 3 Apr 45
Delbruck, Germany, 3 Apr 45 to 4 Apr 45
Bad Lippspringe, Germany, 4 Apr 45 to 5 Apr 45
Horn, Germany, 5 Apr 45
Steinheim, Germany, 5 Apr 45 to 7 Apr 45
Rischenau, Germany, 7 Apr 45 to 8 Apr 45
Escherhausen, Germany, 8 Apr 45 to 10 Apr 45
Gr. Freden, Germany, 10 Apr 45
Langelsheim, Germany, 10 Apr 45 to 11 Apr 45
Hendeber, Germany, 11 Apr 45 to 12 Apr 45
Cochstedt, Germany, 12 Apr 45 to 13 Apr 45
Galbe, Germany, 13 Apr 45 to 30 Apr 45

e. Marches: See Inclosure No. 1.

f. Campaigns:

- (1) Campaign Germany (No. 1)
- (2) 1-30 April 1945.
- (3) Purpose: See Inclosure No. 1.
- (4) Ltr Hq European T of Opns, AG 200.6 OpGA, Subject: "Battle Participation Awards-Germany Campaign (No. 1)" dated 24 Dec 1945.

h. Battles: See Narrative Reports, Inclosure No. 1.



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h. Commanding Officers in important Engagements: Major General Macon commanded throughout this period.


i. Losses in action: None.

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None.

k. Photographs: See Inclosure No. 1.

For the Commanding General:

N. P. Cowden
N. P. COWDEN,
Major, AGD,
Adjutant General.



RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION

The account of the THUNDERBOLT DIVISION'S sweeping maneuver from the RHINELAND across the PRUSSIAN PROVINCES of WESTFALEN, HANNOVER and SACHSEN, the GERMAN STATES of LIPPE, BRAUN-SCHWEIG and ANHALT; through the TEUTOBURGER FOREST, over the HILLS of HESSE and the HARZ MOUNTAINS; across the LIPPE, the WESER, the LEINE, the SAALE and the ELBE RIVERS. This dash of some two hundred and eighty miles was made in thirteen days.

AFTER ACTION REPORT
FOR

APRIL 1945

RESTRICTED




Truman Bridge

Division bridge over the Elbe River
at D846766 completed on 16 April 1945.



"H" Bridge

The pontoon bridge on which the Division
crossed the Rhine River south of Wesel on
29 March 1945.

S E C R E T

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- MGO Supporting Papers*
- Photographs
- Overlay of Advance from the Rhine River to the Elbe River

*Under separate cover

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C O M M E N D A T I O N S

HEADQUARTERS NINTH U. S. ARMY
Office of the Commanding General
APO 339, U. S. Army

330.13 GNMCG

9 April 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Major General Raymond S. McLain,
Commanding General, XIX Corps,
APO 270, U. S. Army.

1. It has been my good fortune to have the XIX Corps operating under my command since the Ninth Army undertook operations in Germany, in October, 1944. Likewise it has been my pleasure to be able to congratulate you and the officers and men of your command upon frequent occasions wherein the Corps has distinguished itself and added to its long record of achievements on the Continent.
2. The crossing of the Rhine and subsequent operations to the eastward mark the high point in the history of the Ninth Army on the Continent to date. The outstanding accomplishment achieved by you in the current operations provides me with the opportunity of expressing my commendation for your series of successes that have contributed so materially to the steady advance of the Ninth Army since last October.
3. In considering the importance of the Rhine crossing, not to be overlooked is the operation known as "GRENADE" in which the Army mounted its first fully coordinated major offensive to clear the area between the Roer and the Rhine. In that operation, I may say, I confidently assigned the XIX Corps the difficult mission in the right of the Army zone of advance. Therefore, it was indeed gratifying to note the skill with which your mission was executed. Most impressive to me was the manner in which you successfully employed the art of maneuver to the maximum advantage in turning the enemy out of his strong positions, thereby achieving surprise which subsequently was exploited to the utmost.
4. With respect to the operations east of the Rhine, I am mindful that you were faced with an extremely difficult and complicated problem in the movement of your command from its location in the Army southernmost zone to an assembly area across the river from where offensive operations could be launched. This was accomplished only by virtue of the skill and precision which, I have noted, are so characteristic of your organization.
5. Equally gratifying to me was the speed with which your troops were committed on the far shore and the power with which they began immediate exploitation of the bridgehead. As in the preceding operation from the Roer River to the Rhine, the well-timed integration of the troop build-up resulted in a quick breakthrough and rapid advance to the eastward. It is most significant that the impetus of this advance was sustained from the Rhine to the Weser, crushing hostile opposition and at the same time preventing the enemy's escape from his Ruhr citadel.
6. It is my desire that this commendation be transmitted to every officer and man of your command together with an expression of my appreciation of their untiring and unremitting efforts.

/s/ W. H. Simpson

W. H. SIMPSON,

Lieutenant General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

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S E C R E T

S E C R E T

330.13 (CG) 1st Ind.
HQ XIX CORPS, APO 270, US Army, 15 April 1945.

TO: Unit Commanders, XIX Corps.

1. This commendation of the Army Commander applies to every officer and enlisted man associated with the XIX Corps during these operations. Our Infantry and Armored divisions, and our Cavalry, Tank, Tank Destroyers, Artillery, Engineers, AAA, Signal, Medical, Military Police, Quartermaster, Ordnance, Finance, Special Service, MRU, and Red Cross units have each contributed an essential part to the making of a splendid fighting machine equal to the best of its kind in all of the Army. The support given by the Air Corps units that have fought with us have played a decisive role in the successes realized. The officers and enlisted men of the various staffs, working long and unremittingly, have made possible smooth functioning and coordination and are deserving of the highest praise.

2. To each member of this command may I extend my personal appreciation and congratulations. Commanders will insure that this commendation is brought to the attention of every officer and enlisted man concerned.

/s/ Raymond S. McLain
RAYMOND S. McLAIN,
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding.

2d Ind.

HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 83, U. S. Army, 18 April 1945.

TO:

1. The above commendations of the Army and Corps Commanders are directed to all officers and enlisted men of this Division.

2. a. In the 83d's successful action from the Rhine to the Weser River, our missions were accomplished through hard work and devotion to duty.

b. The Division's drive from the Weser to the Elbe was accomplished with brilliant coordination and speed that fully repaid us for the hard work done in training after reaching the Rhine.

c. The blows we struck were very serious ones to the enemy and have helped greatly to bring him to the verge of utter collapse.

d. Finally, the establishing and holding of a strong bridgehead over the Elbe has won the admiration of all those who fight with us.

3. Your high combat efficiency has again brought praise from higher commanders. I wish to add my full appreciation for the supreme efforts put forth by all of us.

/s/ Robt C. Macon
ROBT C. MACON
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

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INTRODUCTION

Background In the last days of March, the Allies launched their greatest offensive of the war against the Germans.

The Rhine River was crossed by Ninth U. S. Army after a powerful artillery and aerial bombardment. Airborne troops dropped well east of the river were quickly contacted by ground troops whose crossing was supported by craft operated by the United States Navy. The XIX Corps, initially in reserve, passed through the bridgehead established by XVI Corps. The 83d Division, initially in Corps reserve, crossed the Rhine on the 29th of March and after assembling a few miles east of the river, began moving eastward in rear of the 2nd Armored Division. By the end of the month First and Ninth U. S. Armies were on the verge of joining up at Lippstadt, Germany.

Order of the Day The significance of the operations was emphasized on the third day of April when the Supreme Allied Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, issued the following order of the day to all members of the AEF:

"The encirclement of the Ruhr by a wide pincer movement has cut off the whole of Army Group B and parts of Army Group H, thus forming a large pocket of enemy troops whose fate is sealed and who are ripe for annihilation. The most vital industrial area is denied to the German war potential. This magnificent feat of arms will bring the war more rapidly to a close. It will long be remembered in history as an outstanding battle -- the Battle of the Ruhr."

On the 21st of April another order of the day by the Supreme Commander stressed the significance of the reduction of the Ruhr Pocket:

"The Battle of the Ruhr has ended with complete success. Following hard upon the final destruction of the German forces west of the Rhine, the Twenty First Army Group thrust powerfully across that river with the U. S. Ninth Army under its command. Simultaneously, rapid drives across the Rhine and from the Remagen bridgehead by Twelfth and Sixth Army Groups provided the southern arm of a great double envelopment which completely encircled the entire German Army Group "B" and two corps of Army Group "H", whose mobility was rendered almost zero by our magnificent and tireless Air Forces. Thereafter, in the pocket thus created the Twelfth Army Group eliminated twenty one enemy divisions, including three panzer, one panzer grenadier and three parachute divisions. Over three hundred seventeen thousand prisoners of war were captured including twenty four generals and one admiral. Many tanks and more than seven hundred fifty guns were destroyed or taken. Booty is immense and still being counted. The enemy's total losses in killed and wounded will never be accurately known."

"The rapidity and determination with which this brilliant action was executed tore asunder the divisions of Field Marshal Model, and enabled all Army Groups without pause to continue their drive eastwards into the heart of Germany.

"This victory of Allied arms is a fitting prelude to the final battles to crush the ragged remnants of Hitler's armies of the

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West, now tottering on the threshold of defeat."

Synopsis During the month of April, the 83d Infantry Division, together with the 2nd Armored Division, spearheaded the Ninth Army drive to the Elbe River. Elements of 2nd Armored Division and the 83d Infantry Division made separate assault crossings of the river on the 12th and 13th of April respectively.

Committed initially behind the 2nd Armored Division, the 83d launched operations in its own zone on the 4th of April and by utilizing every conceivable means of organizational and commandeered transport spearheaded the drive to the Elbe, was the first division to establish and maintain a bridge over the Elbe River. On a fluid front, sometimes abreast, sometimes ahead of the 2nd Armored Division, the 83d achieved unprecedented infantry mobility matching the sustained speed of the adjacent armored division.

The Division throughout the month was a vital instrument in effecting the only alternative to unconditional surrender - the gradual disintegration and destruction of the Wehrmacht. Absorbing disorganized resistance in its path, the 83d cut a swath of liberation from the Rhineland across the Prussian Province of Westfalen, Hannover, and Sachsen, the German States of Lippe, Braunschweig and Anhalt; through the Teutoburger Forest, over the Hills of Hesse, and the Harz Mountains; across the Lippe, the Weser, the Leine, the Saale and the Elbe Rivers.

During this month, missions changed rapidly, but the momentum did not slacken. A total of 280 miles were covered in 13 days. Countless towns and villages were cleared of enemy troops. 42,140 prisoners of war were liberated, countless displaced persons overrun. Concentration camps, work camps, underground factories, airports, marshalling yards, forced-labor factories were seized. Numerous Gestapo agents were apprehended.

On the 16th of April the Division was ordered to hold the bridgehead across the Elbe River and not advance any further. The enemy's numerous counterattacks and attempted sabotage against the bridges were unsuccessful. In a meeting with the Commanding General of the Division on the 25th of April the Theatre Historian said that the official record of the Division's bridgehead over the Elbe River would in time be one of the most significant since the landing on Omaha Beach last June. An analysis of why the Ninth Army stopped its drive east, he said, would eventually arise and the War Department would at that time want to know precisely the conditions of the bridgehead at the time the hold order was issued.

Radio contact was established with the Russian Forces during the latter part of the month. The first meeting between the two Allies occurred at 1330 hours on the 30th of April when elements of the 113th Cavalry Group contacted Soviet troops in Apollensdorf (E3174).

Instructions were issued for the moving of all Western European displaced persons and prisoners of war into designated areas of the 2nd Armored Division beginning on 1 May.

Enemy

Resistance

In an effort to delay the Thunderbolt Division's advance the enemy threw into battle all available replacement and training battalions, Flak, Landeschutzen, and

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Volkssturm units that were near at hand. As a result opposition was local, varying from nil to fanatical depending on the character of the commander and the state of supplies, but had not overall strategy other than that of holding the Allies at all costs. The last remaining enemy manpower was being expended. The speed of advance was such that the enemy had no chance to form battlegroups much larger than battalion size and no comprehensive plan of defense was possible. Contributing to the inability of the German Army to stand its ground were shortages of small arms, ammunition, and gasoline to move supplies and reinforcements. Even where movements by rail were possible Allied air superiority made transport by day a hazardous if not suicidal risk while interdiction of roads kept enemy movement to a minimum.

Terrain In the dash from the Rhine to the Elbe River, the Division encountered terrain which varied from the undulating lowlands of the Rhine to the rugged heights of the Harz Mountains.

The Munster Plain in which the Division was first committed is flat open country providing excellent terrain for attacking forces. It contains, however, a great number of small streams and ditches as the headwaters of the Ems and Lippe Rivers are found in the plain. Owing to the extremely dry weather during March, trafficability through this area was excellent.

Bordering the Munster Plain on the east is the Teutoburg Ridge, a heavily wooded line of hills lending itself toward a strong line of defense. Due to the swiftness of the advance, the enemy did not have sufficient forces available nor the time to form a defensive line. In this sector enemy defense consisted primarily of roadblocks on the numerous primary and secondary roads which cut the wooded ridge. These formed only a temporary delaying action. To the east in the area between the Teutoburg Ridge and the Weser River gently undulating hill country prevails. The terrain again afforded defensive possibilities, but the enemy was in no position to organize a line. In blowing all bridges over the Weser River in the Division zone, the enemy vainly attempted to gain time. The river, however, afforded no barrier and with the seizure of the bridges across the Leine River the advance was not impeded.

East of the Leine River a portion of the Harz Mountain region lay in the Division zone. The densely wooded hills with altitudes varying from 500 to 900 meters were chosen by the enemy as the scene for his last ditch stand. Infantry action was employed against the enemy in clearing this area. The main advance of the Division side-slipped to the left of this mountainous region into the Leine-Saale Lowland.

The advance of the Division continued in this lowland area to the Elbe River. A maze of ditches and small streams running through this plain makes movement difficult during wet weather, but these, however, caused no delay because the advance utilized the excellent road net existing throughout the lowland.

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THE OPERATION

1 April

On the first of April the Division continued advancing to the east behind the 2d Armored Division, following its mission of clearing the area of by-passed pockets of resistance. In a letter of instructions from XIX Corps at 2300 on the 31st of March the 83d Division was given the responsibility of protecting the Corps right flank east of the Dortmund-Ems Canal. The Division was also instructed to cut the roads leading east and northeast from Hamm, and to cross the Lippe River only if bridges were captured. The 83d was further instructed to relieve Combat Command B, 2d Armored Division, engaged near Beckum (B215508) and to seize that city, being prepared to continue the attack to the east. In addition the Division was to be prepared to intercept any enemy forces attempting to escape from the Ruhr pocket. Special vigilance was enjoined in reference to the sector along the Lippe River on the Corps right flank.

On 1 April XIX Corps instructed the Division to protect the Corps right flank between the Dortmund-Ems Canal and Lippstadt (B4242), reducing all resistance north of the Lippe River between the Dortmund-Ems Canal and Lippstadt. When relieved by the 95th Infantry Division the 83d was to: follow closely the 8th Armored Division in its zone; be prepared to pass through 8th Armored; reduce by-passed pockets of resistance and protect the Corps right flank east of Lippstadt.

During the day the division command post closed at Lundinghausen (A800528) and opened at Walstedde (B042517) at 0900; closed at Walstedde and opened at Beckum at 1700.

Regiments

The 329th Infantry moved from the area south of Dulmen (A6859) - Lundinghausen railroad to an assembly area in the vicinity of A8654. At 1715 the regiment closed in a new assembly area in the vicinity of Beckum. The 2d Battalion moved south to clean out a pocket of resistance on an autobahn (B162445) and occupied the line on the Lippe River from B1843 to B2541.

Filling the request of the 2d Armored Division for a battalion of infantry to move to Ahlen (B1051) to guard or maintain order over 3,000 convalescent Germans, the 2d Battalion of the 330th Infantry moved from the area west of Ascheberg (A9254) to a new area in the vicinity of Ahlen - Beckum prior to 0600. At approximately 1400 the regiment began movement to a new area in the vicinity of Lieborn (B364462) - Lippstadt, completely closing in at 2115, and relieving elements of the 2d Armored Division at approximately 2200 along the Lippe River in the regimental zone. The 3d Battalion occupied the river line from B2940 to Lippstadt. The regimental command post closed in Wadersloh (B355489) at 1930.

The 331st Infantry was relieved from positions along the Dortmund-Ems Canal and moved to a new area in the vicinity of Walstedde at the beginning of the period and launched an attack to the south with the mission of clearing its zone to the Lippe River. Resistance was initially light but stiffened at the approaches to the town of Dolberg (B1346) and the Lippe River. At the close of the period all battalions were about 300 yards from the river and most of Dolberg was cleared.

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Cavalry

The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop moved from the vicinity of Hiddingsel (A7760) to Ahlen, closing at 0700. The Troop screened the Division area for pockets of resistance and established roadblocks at critical intersections. The Troop later moved to Lippborg and closed at B210406 at 2100.

Elements of the 15th Cavalry Group continued to clear its zone to the north bank of the Lippe River and during the period occupied the north bank of the river from the Dortmund-Ems Canal to a point opposite Hamm (A0441).

Enemy

The enemy front lines lay south of the Lippe River from Lunen (A8535) east to Lippstadt. Prisoners of war taken during the day represented approximately sixty miscellaneous replacement training units. No unit of divisional size was identified.

Situation

Light to scattered resistance was encountered by the Division as it continued mopping-up operations. The advance of the 331st Infantry on the northern approaches to Hamm were challenged by enemy small arms and high velocity fire. Throughout the afternoon and evening no opposition was met in occupying positions along the Lippe River.

2 April

Instructions were given to all regiments at 1000 hours on the 2d of April in accordance with the mission which had been assigned to the Division by XIX Corps on 1 April. Each regiment was to eliminate any enemy troops north of the Lippe River, seize any bridges that were intact and hold those bridges for use. Any bridges secured were to be carefully watched. The regiments were to be prepared to stop at the river any enemy attempts to cross the river, and in case any crossing was effected, to counterattack it at once. The following are notes on a meeting between the commanding generals of the 83d Division, the 95th Division and a Corps representative at 2315 hours:

- "1. 95th Division will relieve units of 83d in proposed boundary as soon as possible.
- "2. In order to avoid traffic difficulties, 377th Regimental Combat Team will be held initially in present positions and will not be moved until after attack has been launched.
- "3. 83d will assemble east of proposed boundary as soon as possible. 331st Regimental Combat Team will be moved east over roads through Beckum as soon as approved by the commanding general of the 95th.
- "4. 83d and 95th will be prepared to attack on Corps order in zone on or after 031200.
- "5. 95th will be prepared to relieve remainder of 83d should this plan be called off.
- "6. In either event 15th Cavalry Group passes to 95th when 95th assumes responsibility west of proposed boundary.
- "7. Will probably get engineer and artillery support from Corps."

During the day the Division continued clearing its zone to the Lippe River, establishing a bridgehead across the river at Hamm and initiating a reconnaissance to the east.

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Regiments

The 2d Battalion of the 329th Regiment prepared and occupied defensive positions on the north side of the Lippe River in its zone. A reconnaissance was made of the regimental sector, and troops engaged in a fire fight with enemy forces across the river. The regiment maintained contact with the 330th Infantry on the left.

The 3d Battalion of the 330th Infantry continued clearing its zone north of the Lippe River and occupied defensive positions along the north bank. The 1st Battalion protected the bridges over the river north and east of Lippstadt. The regiment maintained contact with the 329th Infantry on the right and hourly contact with the 3d Armored Division in the vicinity of Lippstadt.

The 331st Infantry continued to maintain defensive positions along the north bank of the Lippe River and to strengthen the bridgehead across the river at Hamm. Two enemy counterattacks against the bridgehead were repelled and elements of the regiment crossed the river. The 331st held contact with the 329th Infantry on the left. During the period 275 prisoners of war were taken, six 88mm anti-aircraft guns, one 88mm self-propelled gun and seven enemy vehicles were destroyed.

Task Force "Ritchie"

Task Force "Ritchie" -- composed of the 83d Reconnaissance Troop, Company D of the 736th Tank Battalion and Company G (reinforced) of the 330th Infantry -- initiated reconnaissance to the north and east to determine the strength and disposition of troops and the condition of roads and bridges in the proposed Division zone.

Enemy

The enemy front lines lay south of the Lippe River from Lunen (A8535) to Lippstadt with the exception of a small bridgehead held by troops of the 83d Division at B055423. Prisoners taken during the day represented approximately 85 miscellaneous units.

Situation

There was no indication that the enemy was attempting to break from the Ruhr pocket in this sector. He demonstrated concern, however, over the Division's small bridgehead. Late in the afternoon artillery fire was placed on the enemy forming for an attack, and at 1200 an attack of undetermined strength, preceded by an artillery preparation, was repulsed. No armor was observed at any time. Small arms fire was received as elements of the 83d reconnoitered the bridge at Herzfeld (B2840). Artillery and high velocity fire fell in Lippborg (B2140) throughout the day.

The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon of the 330th Infantry fired upon by small arms, in the vicinity of Overhagen (B398-402), captured a member of the Volkssturm who stated that about 150 Volkssturm occupied and defended that area. The negotiations for surrender of an undetermined number of enemy in the vicinity south of the bridge at B353405 did not materialize. The use of the loudspeaker, however, resulted in the response of 30 prisoners.

3 April

On the 3d of April the 95th Infantry Division relieved elements of the 83d Division generally west of the 30 north-south grid line. The following letter of instructions was issued by XIX Corps at 1130 hours:

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"Corps will attack south with 8th Armored Division on left (east) and 95th Infantry Division on right (west) to clear area north of the Ruhr River in zone. XVI Corps will continue to push eastward south of Lippe River and north of the Ruhr River.

83d Division will:

- a. Maintain in position elements now protecting the line of the Lippe River east of the boundary between 8th Armored Division and 95th Division until covered or passed through by advances of 8th Armored Division.
- b. Relieve elements of 8th Armored Division in old 2nd Armored Division zone, securing that portion of Corps zone now held by the 8th Armored Division.
- c. Facilitate passage of 8th Armored Division across Lippe River.
- d. Attack east at earliest possible time in old zone of 8th Armored Division to secure the line at Weser River."

At 1945 hours a message received from XIX Corps indicated that if bridges over the Weser River could not be seized intact, the Division was to seize a bridgehead in its zone for the construction of Corps bridges.

During the day the Division maintained defenses along the Lippe River in its zone and prepared for employment to the east. The division command post closed at Beckum and opened at Delbrück (B5752) at 1530.

Regiments

The 1st Battalion of the 329th Infantry moved to the vicinity of Neuhaus (B6750) relieved elements of the 8th Armored Division and continued the attack on the town. The 2nd Battalion was relieved along the line of the Lippe River by elements of the 330th Infantry and moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Hustenbeck (B7160). The 3d Battalion moved to a new area in the vicinity of Sennelager (B6853). Neuhaus was later reported clear.

The 330th Infantry relieved the 2nd Battalion of the 329th along the Lippe River and held the line from B220400 to Lippstadt with the 1st Battalion protecting the bridges north and east of town. The 3d Battalion maintained defensive positions along the river from Lippborg to B410430.

The 2nd Battalion of the 331st Infantry was relieved in its zone by the 17th Cavalry Squadron (15th Cavalry Group) and moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Gemmerick (B6356) closing at 1800, where it was attached to Task Force "Biddle". Repelling an enemy counterattack at 1250, the 3d Battalion continued to hold the bridgehead at Hamm. The Battalion was relieved by elements of the 378th Infantry (95th Infantry Division). The 1st Battalion maintained defensive positions along the Lippe River in its zone, was relieved by elements of the 378th Infantry at 2000 and began movement to a new assembly area in the vicinity of Sennelager.

Task Force "Ritchie"

Task Force "Ritchie" continued reconnaissance and the clearing of the Division zone, including the towns of Neunbeken and Altenbeken (B8352).

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Task Force "Biddle"

At this time Task Force "Biddle" was in the process of being formed. It was to consist of the 113th Cavalry Group (less the 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion), the 2nd Battalion (reinforced) of the 331st Infantry (motorized), Company B of the 643d Tank Destroyer Battalion (self-propelled), Company B of the 308th Engineer Battalion, the 1st and 2nd Assault Gun Platoons of the 736th Tank Battalion, plus the units of Task Force "Ritchie" on its dissolution.

Enemy

Situation

The enemy was contacted at Hamm, Lippborg, Neuhaus, Schlangen (B7657) and B7660 during the period. Five unmanned roadblocks were found, one of which was mined.

Early in the day the enemy placed high velocity fire in the town of Lippborg in an attempt to conceal vehicular movement south of the Lippe River. Movement ceased when Division artillery fire was directed against the activity. During the morning half-tracks and/or self-propelled guns were reported moving toward Hamm from the southwest.

Late in the afternoon elements of the Division took 200 prisoners in clearing Neuhaus. According to the prisoners, elements which withdrew northeast from the town were an estimated 100 SS troops and three to four tanks with the intention of attacking troops of the 83d in Sennelager.

4 April

The Division on the 4th of April attacked to the East in its zone, cleared the towns of Horn (B8364), Altenbeken, Schonberg (B9054), Buke (B8350), and Schwaney (B825472), and secured passes through Altenbeken Forest. The Division command post closed at Delbruck and opened at Bad Lippe Springs (B747543) at 1500.

Regiments

The 3d Battalion of the 329th Infantry launched an attack to the east at 0930 from the vicinity of Sande, and the 2d Battalion jumped off from the vicinity of Neuhausen at 1130 against light resistance. Temporarily held up by a roadblock at the crossroads at B813042, the advance continued, when the obstacle was reduced, and cleared the town of Veldrom (B8259). The 2d Battalion moved from Schlangen and attacked through woods in the vicinity of B8164 to reduce enemy opposition in the town of Horn. By the end of the day the last position reported was along the railroad east of the town from B811646 to B838662. Reducing enemy resistance east of Neuhaus, the 1st Battalion moved to Schlangen. The regimental command post moved from Sennelager to Schlangen.

The 330th Infantry remained in position along the Lippe River from a point B265406 to Lippstadt. The 1st Battalion (minus Company B) moved from Lippstadt to positions behind the 3d Battalion.

The 3d Battalion of the 331st Infantry closed in the vicinity of Neuhaus at approximately 1130 and later attacked to reduce an enemy strongpoint at Schwaney, which had been by-passed by elements of Task Force "Biddle". The 1st Battalion closed into an assembly area north of Sennelager in the early morning and later moved to Paderborn (B5047). The Battalion followed closely elements of Task Force "Biddle" and at the end of the day was reported in the town of Altenbeken. The regimental command post moved to B678506.

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S E C R E T

Task Force "Biddle"

Jumping off from the vicinity of Bad Lippspringe at 0700, Task Force "Biddle" advanced to the east. At the close of the period Troop A was in Altenbeken, elements of Troop B were one kilometer east of Schonenberg, elements of Troop C were at Merlsheim (B8956). The 2d Battalion of the 331st Infantry moved from the vicinity of Kirchdorf (B6358) in the morning and advanced toward Horn, meeting scattered resistance and road blocks.

Enemy Situation

Advanced elements of the Division reached B880497, B875540, B8359 and the railroad at B8465.

329th Infantry

The 329th Infantry attacked in the morning through the woods at B6852 southeast of Sennelager and caught the enemy by surprise. Two tanks and approximately 60 infantry sleeping nearby were taken. The advance was temporarily held up by two enemy tanks at B797601 early in the afternoon. Moderate resistance was then encountered until the attack entered Horn and Veldrom. Here the enemy resisted stubbornly from house to house with small arms fire and Panzerfaust. Troops of the 329th in Veldrom received considerable 20mm fire from the high ground to the east. The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon encountered no opposition in reaching the hill at B8257. At the close of the period troops in Horn had advanced to the railroad. Veldrom was not completely cleared. Genmaj (Brigadier General) Kryssing, a Dane captured in Horn early in the evening, formerly organized and assembled a volunteer corps from Denmark in 1942. Being relieved after only three months in that command, he then served with the Germans as an observer. He had had no recent command.

331st Infantry

Attacking late in the afternoon the 331st Infantry advanced to B8654 and B8347 against light scattered resistance.

113th Cavalry Group

Small arms and machine gun fire characterized resistance during the morning as troops of the 113th Cavalry Group advanced to Buke clearing it at 1600. An anti-tank gun at B8450 was knocked out, and resistance increased with the advance. By 1830 troops had advanced to B880497, B889513 and B880497.

Air

One ME-109 was destroyed near the division command post at Bad Lippspringe shortly after 1400. Enemy had strafed along the highway southwest of the town. At 1700 the 330th Infantry reported six enemy aircraft strafed near a road junction (B8849).

Armor

Five enemy tanks were destroyed in the 329th Infantry zone during the period. A civilian reported eight tanks in the vicinity of Bad Driburg (B8849).

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Engineers

Prisoners reported that fields were mined on both sides of the road running northeast from Marienloh (B8252) to Bad Lippespringe.

5 April

A letter of instructions from XIX Corps at 1900 hours on the 5th of April stated that the 83d was to "continue advance in zone to Weser River, force crossings of Weser River and establish bridgehead beyond river, continue advance in zone securing a bridgehead over Leine River in zone, (Division) will not advance beyond line Gandersheim (C5866) - Westfeld (C4985) without further orders, protect Corps right (south) flank."

Adjacent Divisions

The 2d Armored Division continued to advance rapidly to the east. Combat Command A seized crossings of the Weser River at Hameln (C1190) and cleared the town. It also crossed south of Tundern (C1286) and continued an advance to the east. Combat Command B crossed the Weser River at Grohnde (C1681) and was last reported at C208840.

The 3d Armored Division advanced to the east along the Division right flank and last reported that Task Force B had advanced to the vicinity of Ottenbergen (C0846). Task Force K was at Rheder (B9843) and Task Force W at Dringenburg (B9142).

83d Division

The 83d continued to the east against scattered resistance, clearing the towns of Bad Driburg, Nieheim (B9557), Steinheim (B9363), and many smaller towns. The division command post closed at Bad Lippespringe and opened at Horn at 1700, closed at Horn and opened at Steinheim at 2100.

Regiments

The 1st Battalion of the 329th Infantry moved from Horn, passing through the 3d Battalion in the vicinity of Steinheim, and advanced to Brakelsiek (B9867). Closely following Task Force "Biddle", the 2d Battalion moved east from the vicinity of Horn. In the course of the advance the towns of Kreuzenstein (B8567), Valhausen (B8766), Belle (B9167), Wobbel (B9467) and Schieder (B9769) were cleared. At daybreak the 3d Battalion attacked toward Leopoldstal (B8561), cleared Vinesbeck (B8962) and advanced to Steinheim and assembled there.

The 330th Infantry was placed in XIX Corps reserve at 1430. The 1st Battalion was in an assembly area in the vicinity of B356-430. The 2d Battalion assembled in the vicinity of Liesborn (B3646), and the 3d Battalion in the vicinity of B3243.

The 1st Battalion of the 331st Infantry advanced from the vicinity of Bad Driburg northeast to reach Nieheim (B9557), clearing several smaller towns enroute. The 3d Battalion continued its advance and reached the towns of Vorden (C0359), Altenbergen (C0456) and Hinnenberg (B9949). The regimental command post moved from Altenbeken to Bad Driburg at approximately 1500 hours and later moved to Nieheim.

Task Force "Biddle"

Task Force A relieved Task Force B, both components of Task Force "Biddle", on the line west of Pombsen (B9253) at 0840. Elements advanced northeast through Nieheim and continued to Scheider, Brakelsiek (B9867), Kollerbeck (C0363) and Lowendorf (C0661).

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Enemy Advanced elements of the Division reached B6769, B686, B7064, C0469, C0561, C0960, C0456 and B9949. Opposition from tanks and dug-in infantry comprised the bulk of enemy resistance during the period. Throughout the morning good advances were made against scattered small arms fire. Four tanks operating in the vicinity of Steinheim and Wobbel temporarily slowed the advance early in the afternoon. When the tanks were forced to withdraw, supporting infantry readily surrendered. Thereafter, opposition continued moderately as Schieder was cleared and elements of the Division occupied Schwalenberg (C0065).

On the right of the Division zone an estimated 50 enemy resisted from dug-in positions in the vicinity of B9C75C5 shortly after 1200 hours. Resistance consisted of small arms fire and occasional tank and anti-tank gun fire. Good advances were registered as the towns of Lowendorf and Furstenau (C0960) were entered.

6 April On the 6th of April at 2100 hours XIX Corps issued a letter of instructions altering the division boundary:
"Boundary between 2d Armored Division and 83d Infantry Division is changed as follows: from point on present boundary at B057 north to Emmer River, thence along Emmer River to B1079, thence northeast to Grohnde (B1581) (inclusive to 83d Infantry Division), thence east to Brokensen (B800818) (inclusive to 2d Armored Division), thence to present boundary at B2281."

Continuing its advance to the east, the Division cleared a large number of towns and secured passes through Corveysche Forest and road approaches to the Weser River. Leading elements reached the river in the vicinity of Bodenwerder (C2272) and Holzminden (C1859) and the 3d Battalion of the 329th Infantry crossed the river at C2277, clearing the town of Halle (C2578) on the east side.

Regiments

The 1st Battalion of the 329th Infantry moved from positions in the vicinity of Schwalenberg (C0065) and advanced through Schwalenberg Forest until halted by a roadblock in the vicinity of Rischenau (C0666). To the north Company B continued to advance through the woods, cleared the town of Elbrinxen (C0468) and continued its advance to the east. The 2d Battalion moved from the vicinity of Schneider astride the road through the pass to the northeast, providing security while the 3d Battalion passed through. The battalion assembled in the vicinity of Glasbutte (B9972) and Harzberg (C0070), later moved to Ludge (C0374) and at 1500 resumed its advance to the east. At the close of the day elements had reached the Weser River at Bodenwerder. The 3d Battalion moved from Steinheim, passed through the 2d Battalion in the pass northeast of Scheider and moved 36 kilometers along the Division north boundary to the Weser River. The battalion crossed the river on the bridge provided by the 2d Armored Division and cleared the town of Halle.

The 330th Infantry, in XIX Corps reserve, remained in its assembly area northeast of Lippstadt.

The 1st Battalion of the 331st Infantry moved east from Rolfzen (B9762) and Nieheim (B9457) and advanced to the north and east through the towns of Munsterbrook (C0060), Kollerbeck (C0363), Rischenau (C0763), to Falkenhagen (C0867). At the close of the period the battalion was advancing through the forest toward Polle (C1568) and Heinsen (C1766) on the Weser River. The 3d Battalion continued to advance to the east. Companies I and K moved north to join Company L in

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Vorden (C0359), and later Companies I and L moved east to aid elements of the 125th Cavalry in reducing heavy enemy resistance at Elbaxen (C145). At the close of the period the town and the west bank of the Weser River in the vicinity had been secured. The 2d Battalion was attached to Task Force "Biddle".

Task Force "Biddle"

Continuing to advance to the east along the Division's entire front, Task Force "Biddle" generally encountered scattered resistance but met heavy opposition at Falkenhagen and Elbaxen. Elements reached the Weser River north and south of Holzminden and north and south of Bodenwerder at C2277. At the close of the period elements were fighting in the town of Bodenwerder on the west side of the river.

Enemy Situation

Advanced elements of the Division reached C1559, C0867, C1573, C2276, C1977. Troops east of the Weser River cleared the towns of Bodenwerder and Halle. Identifications from prisoners taken indicated that the enemy ranks were composed of a great many miscellaneous units primarily under the administrative control of 476th and 466th zbv Divisions.

Opposing action throughout the period was of a harassing and delaying nature. By defending from such key terrain features as crossroads, road junctions and towns, the enemy was able to slow the Division's advance. During the afternoon a tank-infantry combination at roadblocks was effective at the western approaches to Rischenau. Principally small arms, Panzerfaust, tank and anti-tank gun fire was employed. Infantry further demonstrated the lack of the will-to-fight as they readily surrendered when the tanks withdrew or when a pincer movement threatened. Division troops east of the Weser River cleared Halle against no opposition. Moderate resistance was encountered in clearing Bodenwerder. Elbaxen was cleared toward the end of the period after initially stubborn resistance. Loud explosions were heard at 1105 in the vicinity of the bridge at Hoxter (C1354) and at 1830 in the vicinity of the bridge at Bodenwerder. Good advances were made throughout the Division zone.

Armor

One enemy tank was operating in the vicinity of Rischenau during the afternoon. At 2130 two enemy tanks were reported on the southern edge of Falkenhagen. One Tiger tank at C0371 was reported destroyed by the enemy.

7 April

A fragmentary order dated 070900 gave the following instructions: "83d Infantry Division (reinforced) continues advance in zone and secures bridgehead over the Leine River. It will not advance beyond the line Gandersheim (C5866) - Westfeld (C4985) without further orders. It will protect the right flank of the XIX Corps."

It further instructed the 113th Cavalry Group to cross the Vesa River on the bridge at Grohnde and advance east to the Leine River in the zone assigned to the 331st Regimental Combat Team, containing and bypassing heavy resistance. Upon reaching the vicinity of Naensen (C495670) it was to investigate toward Delligsen and Alfeld, reporting the location of resistance met. It was to protect the right flank of the Corps east of the vertical grid line 33 until relieved by elements of the 331st Combat Team. It was to pass through or around the 329th Regimental Combat Team as early as opportunity permitted.

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The 331st Regimental Combat Team was to force crossings the Vesa River in its zone and continue the advance to the Division objective, mopping up enemy resistance by-passed by the 113th Cavalry Group.

The 329th Regimental Combat Team, composed of the 329th Infantry, with the 83d Reconnaissance Troop attached, and one platoon of Company D, was instructed to advance across the Vesa River and clear Eschershausen Valley, including Eschershausen (C3171), then to advance in its zone to the Division objective. The Combat Team was to maintain contact with elements of the 2nd Armored Division and the 30th Infantry Division on its left (north) flank and with the 331st Combat Team.

Adjacent Divisions

The 2nd Armored Division continued advancing rapidly to the east and established five bridgeheads across the Leine River between Sarstedt (X4506) and the Division's south boundary. It cut the main road southeast from Hannover approximately ten miles from the city.

The 3d Armored Division continued to advance to the east on the south side of the Division and closed to the line of the Weser River in its zone.

At 1200 hours on the 7th of April the 330th Infantry reverted to 83d Division control. The division command post closed at Steinheim and opened at Rischenau at 1000. At the close of the period the Division had cleared its zone to the Weser River with the exception of a small pocket in the vicinity of Polle. The 330th Infantry was used to attack to the south in the Division zone on the east side of the Weser River.

Regiments

The 1st Battalion of the 329th Infantry completed mopping up in the vicinity of Vahlbruch (C1070) and moved to the north and east clearing the woods in the vicinity of C1371. At the close of the period Company A had secured Brevorde (C1669) on the Weser River and established roadblocks on the main road to the east. The Battalion assembled in the vicinity of Hohe (C1974). Company E of the 2nd Battalion moved from Ottenstein (C1573) and advanced to join Company F on the west bank of the Weser at Bodenwerder. Company G completed the clearing of Hehlen (C1977) and continued to the east along the main road. At the close of the day the west bank of the Weser River had been secured in the vicinity of C2277. The Battalion later crossed the river at Grohnde and advanced to the east along the Division's north boundary to the town of Duingen (C3480). Operating east of the Weser River the 3d Battalion attacked to the southeast along the main roads to Eschershausen. Eschershausen was cleared and elements advanced to Delligsen to the east and to Wickensen (C3370) to the south. The regimental command post moved to Scharfoldendorf (C3073) on the east side of the river.

The 330th Infantry reverted to Division control at 1200, moving from the vicinity of Lippstadt to an assembly area in the vicinity of Heven (C2180), east of the Weser River, closing at 2030. As

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the 329th Infantry cleared the area to the southeast, the 330th moved to a new area in the vicinity of Eschershausen, closing at approximately 2130. The regimental command post moved from Halle to Eschershausen at the close of the period.

The 1st Battalion of the 331st Infantry moved east from Falkenhagen and Kollerbeck (C0363) and advanced through the woods to the east, reaching the west edge of Polle and Heinzen (C1766). The 2nd Battalion remained attached to the 113th Cavalry Group. The 3d Battalion moved out east from Vorden and Altenbergen. Advancing through the woods to the southeast, Company I occupied the town of Hoxter at 1930. Company K moved from Altenstahle (C1661) opposite the large town of Holzminden on the Weser River and sent patrols to the south along the river bank. At the close of the period the Regiment was making preparations to cross the river in its zone. The 2nd Battalion was attached to the 113th Cavalry Group.

113th Cavalry Group

Elements of the 113th Cavalry Squadron crossed the Weser River at the Grohnde bridge and advanced to the south to the 68 east-west grid line on the east side of the river, screening the advance of the 330th Infantry. The 125th Cavalry Squadron (minus) crossed the Weser River at Grohnde and assembled in the vicinity of the squadron command post near Hunzen (C2878). Troop C assisted Company I in the attack of Hoxter and later occupied the town with this Company.

Air

In a summary of air operations for the day it was stated that between 1220 and 1310 one squadron of planes bombed the woods at C1786 and destroyed motor transports, horse drawn vehicles, personnel, and strafed one tank. At 1635 to 1735 another squadron checked the same area again but could not locate tanks or half-tracks reported in that vicinity. This squadron was then shifted to Hoxter where it bombed barracks at the eastern edge of the town, also discovering 11 tanks, many motor transports, and an unreported number of troops in the woods east of Hoxter. Between 1725 and 1845 another squadron bombed the woods to the east of Hoxter and destroyed three tanks, attacked two others, and bombed motor transports. The squadron reported a concentration of motor transports at C2353 and approximately 100 rubber boats at 1645 at the edge of the woods.

308th Engineer Battalion

In support of the 329th Infantry Company A of the 308th Engineer Battalion operated ferries on the Weser River in the regimental zone. The 1st Platoon of Company B, attached to the 113th Cavalry Group, removed roadblocks in support of the Cavalry. Company C, attached to the 331st Infantry, made preparations for an assault crossing of the Weser River in the regimental zone.

Enemy Situation

Advanced elements of the Division reached the Weser River at Hoxter to Stahle (C1661) - C2768 - C4273. Enemy units contacted continued to represent the miscellaneous units encountered on the previous day.

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The enemy continued a delaying action by utilizing isolated strongpoints consisting of roadblocks supported by infantry, tanks and anti-tank guns. On the right of the Division zone the enemy showed greater determination in resisting the advances on Holzminden and Hoxter. The approaches to Holzminden were well defended, and considerable vehicular movement was heard in the town during the day. Late in the afternoon the city of Hoxter surrendered as enemy forces withdrew to the east. The enemy withdrawal was taken under fire. Vehicular movement continued to the east when at 1830 fire was placed on targets at C2667. On the left of the Division zone remaining pockets of enemy west of the river was cleared. Elements of the Division east of the river advanced southeast from Halle, clearing Schershausen (C3171), then east to occupy Deligsen (C4173) against light opposition.

8 April On 8 April elements of the Division continued to advance rapidly to the east, crossed the Leine River and reached the Division objective along the line between Wrisberg -- Holzen (C4389) and C565695. Mopping up continued in the rear areas. 1071 prisoners of war were taken during the period. The division command post closed at Rischenau and opened at Eschershausen at 1100.

Regiments

The 1st Battalion of the 329th Infantry moved during the morning from the vicinity of Hohe to Alfeld (C4378). The 2nd Battalion advanced to the southeast from the vicinity of Duingen (C3480) along the main road, clearing the town of Brunkensen (C3979), and continuing the advance toward the Leine River in the vicinity of Alfeld. The Battalion later crossed the river and advanced to the Division objective in the vicinity of Wrisberg - Holzen and Adensted (C5180), consolidating positions. Early in the period the 3d Battalion, advancing from Delligsen (C3580), seized intact the bridge crossing the Leine River at Wispenstein (C4575) and made a crossing. To the south other elements of the Battalion crossed the river at Freden (C4872) and at the close of the period had reached the Division objective and consolidated positions in the vicinity of Graste (C5477) and Lampspringe (C5676). The regimental command post moved to Scharfoldendorf during the morning.

The 1st Battalion of the 330th Infantry moved to an assembly area just south of Eschershausen at approximately 1300 hours and later attacked to the south. The Battalion cleared the town of Stadtoldendorf (C3066) and continued to advance with elements of the 125th Cavalry Squadron toward the Division's south boundary. The 2nd Battalion advanced to the southwest from positions north of Eschershausen to mop up enemy pockets isolated by the Division's advance parallel to the Weser River. The battalion cleared its zone to the 25 north-south grid line and established roadblocks at Golmbach (C2468) and the woods at C2465 to prevent enemy escape to the east. The 3d Battalion advanced rapidly to the south and east to the Leine River. Company I crossed the river and cleared Evershausen (C5972), Ohlenrode (C5570), and Dankelsheim (C5669) on the line marking the limit of the Division's advance. Company I also established a bridgehead across the river at Greene (C5164) after seizing the bridge intact.

The 3d Battalion of the 331st Infantry and Company B of the 736th Tank Battalion crossed the Weser River near Heinsel (C1766), advanced and cleared the town of Bevern (C2164). Patrols were sent to contact the 330th Infantry and also to Holzminden. The remainder of the Regiment (minus Company C) began crossing the river at 2030 over a newly completed bridge.



Underground factory near Escherhausen (C3171), manned by forced labor, mostly Italians, and produced parts for V-1 robot bombs. Upper photo shows narrow gauge railway used to bring raw materials into plant and finished products to the surface. Lower photo shows machines in tunnels which honeycombed underground plant. Factory was captured on 7 April.

SECRET

113th Cavalry Group

Elements of the 113th Cavalry Group continuing to advance to the east and south in the Division zone, cleared the towns of Ammer-
sen (C4670) and a number of smaller places. 165 prisoners were taken during the period.

Air

One squadron of planes from 1335 to 1445 bombed and reduced an enemy strongpoint at C2868 in the zone of the 330th Infantry. Armed reconnaissance to the south of that area showed a tank, vehicles, and a roadblock guarded by tanks at C297637 in the vicinity of Braak (C2963). Another squadron at 1600 to 1745 bombed and strafed infantry and vehicles at C5266 for the 330th Infantry. The squadron then proceeded on an armed reconnaissance to the east where it attacked trains at Braunschweig. Another squadron from 1850 to 1945 bombed, fired rockets, and strafed the town of Holzminden for the 331st Infantry. This bombing resulted when the town was issued an ultimatum to surrender or be bombed.

308th Engineer Battalion

Company A of the 308th Engineer Battalion, in support of the 329th Infantry operated a ferry during the first part of the period and later moved to Alfeld, removing several roadblocks enroute. Company C supported elements of the 331st Infantry in an assault crossing of the Weser River during the morning. The bridge at Polle was completed at 082030.

Enemy Situation Advanced elements of the Division at the end of the period were along the Weser River from Hoxter to Stahl, across the river to Bevern (C2163) - C2465 - C3364 - Lumorst (C3762), Brunsen (C4665), across the Leine River from C5864 to C4983.

Enemy opposition was confined largely to the right of the Division zone. Tanks and dug-in infantry opposed elements of the Division in the advance on Stadtoldendorf. The enemy aggressively defended with machine gun and small arms fire from strongpoints on high ground south and southwest of Negeborn (C2667). In the advance on Bevern from the north, moderate resistance was encountered. Air reconnaissance revealed a roadblock at the north end of Braak defended by two tanks with a third tank on the southern approaches to the town. Opposition against the bridgehead over the Leine River in the left of the Division zone remained light. Reconnaissance elements made excellent advances as they continued to the east.

Air

Ten enemy aircraft were reported over the area during the period. At 1350 hours the 330th Infantry destroyed one F4U-190 in the vicinity of C4867 and the 113th Cavalry Group reported destroying another in the vicinity of C5368 at 1715 hours.

Armor

Two enemy tanks were destroyed in the vicinity of C2969 during the morning. After removing the light weapons, the enemy abandoned four tanks in the vicinity of C3571.

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Enemy Installations Overrun

Two airfields were taken during the period; one at C3275 with six planes on the ground, and one at C4882 with 57 planes, some of which were partially damaged. The following were also captured: several underground factories in the vicinity of C352734 and C387787, a munitions plant at C410810 and one at Alfeld. Thirty-two new six-inch guns were found in the vicinity of C469714. Twelve 105mm guns found in the vicinity of C469713 had been abandoned intact by the enemy.

9 April

The 83d Division issued a fragmentary order at 0200 hours on the 9th of April to the effect that the Division had completed its mission, was holding present lines, regrouping and preparing for future operations.

During the day the Division consolidated along its established front lines in preparation for further employment to the east and continued clearing rear areas and the north edge of the Holzminden Forest.

A message from XIX Corps at 092200B outlined the nature of future employment. "Date and time of attack for Field Order #32, 082000, early April 10. Divisions will utilize every means of transportation to shuttle troops to positions, pending return of transportation now on supply missions. Regimental Combat Team 331 passes to Corps control in position 100600. Continues on present mission until completed. 2nd Battalion will remain forward in present position."

Division Field Order #59 issued at 1900 hours gave the following instructions: "83d Infantry Division (less 331st Infantry) (reinforced) will:

1. Attack east, clearing all enemy in zone.
2. Protect Corps right (south) flank.
3. Maintain contact with 1st Infantry Division (VII Corps) on right (south) flank, and with 2nd Armored Division on left flank.
4. Seize and secure crossings of Elbe River.
5. Be prepared to continue attack to east or northeast."

Regiments

The 1st Battalion of the 329th Infantry moved from Alfeld and assembled at Gehrenrode (C5673), relieving elements of the 330th Infantry in that sector. The 2nd Battalion consolidated positions gained on the previous day and occupied the line from Westfeld (C4985) to Harbernsen (C5379). The 3d Battalion occupied and consolidated positions in Graste (C5477) and Lamspringe. The regimental command post moved from Alfeld to Lamspringe during the period.

The 1st Battalion of the 330th Infantry continued its advance to the east from the vicinity of Stadtoldendorf and Luthorst (C3762). Companies A and C crossed the Leine River and assembled in the vicinity of Sandersheim (C5866). Company B continued its advance to the east to Seesen (C6868). The 2nd Battalion moved from the vicinity of C2465 to the Leine River in the vicinity of Greene and cleared both sides of the river south to the Division boundary. The 3d Battalion crossed the Leine River to occupy the line in the vicinity of Ohlen-

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rode (C5669) and Gehrenrode (C5669). The regimental command post moved to Anensen (C4866).

The 331st Infantry continued clearing and patrolling the zone west of the 25 north-south grid line. Company C protected the bridge at Polle. The Regiment (minus) began assembling in the vicinity of Stadtoldendorf, Negenborn, and Bayern.

113th Cavalry Group

Reconnoitering throughout the Division forward areas, the 113th Cavalry Group occupied the towns of Einsbeck (C4760) to the south and Gandersheim to the east. Two general officers and five colonels were captured in Einsbeck.

Enemy Situation Advanced elements of the Division were east of the Leine River - C5766, C5670, C5676, C5381. During the period enemy resistance as the Division engaged in clearing the Division zone was scattered. Holzminden was occupied against opposition from light small arms fire late in the morning. To the east negligible resistance was encountered in clearing Gandersheim. 20mm fire was received in the town after Division troops entered. Immersen (C4956), to the right of the Division zone, was the scene of considerable enemy movement throughout the afternoon and evening. Tanks, motor transport and troops were observed moving through the town to the northeast and southeast in an attempt to gain the east bank of the Leine River.

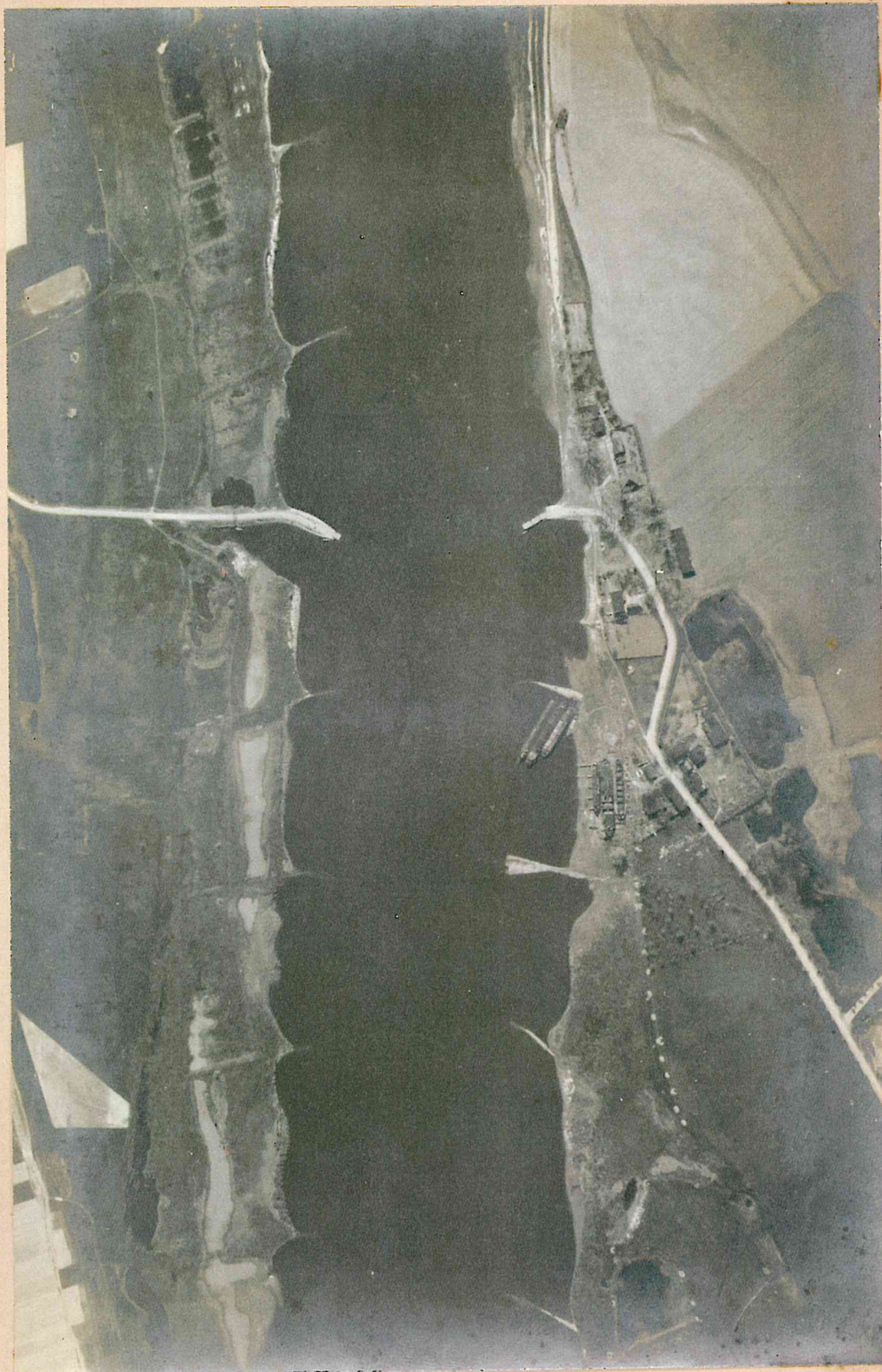
10 April On the 10th of April XIX Corps made a change in the Division boundary. The Commanding General of the 83d decided that instead of having two regiments abreast, he would have two in column, the second peeling off to the south and clearing out woods along the Division boundary. To this second regiment (331st Infantry) he attached the 801st Tank Destroyed Battalion. The Battalion was to take over the roadblocks established by the Regiment as it advanced.

The Cavalry initially was to screen on the right (south) flank but later was given the additional mission of blocking the increasing enemy activity along the south flank.

The Division continued to advance to the east in its zone and cleared the towns of Seesen, Langelsheim (C7874), Goslar (C8571), Oker (C8970), Harlingerode (C9171), and a number of smaller towns, securing the main road net skirting the north edge of an extensive forest to the south. 4314 prisoners of war were taken during the period, including 3058 confined to hospitals by-passed in the advance. The division command post closed at Eschershausen and opened at Grosser Freden (C4872) at 1000, closed at Grosser Freden and opened at Langelsheim at 1900.

Regiments

Advancing rapidly to the east against scattered resistance from small arms fire and pausing in temporary delay because of roadblocks at C7775, and 8075, the 329th Infantry cleared the towns of Langelsheim, Goslar, Oker, Harlingerode and several smaller places. At the close of the period elements had advanced to positions as



Bridge Site

Air photo of the Truman Bridge site
D846766 taken on 10 April 1945.

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follows: 1st Battalion at Schlevecke (C9270), 2d Battalion enroute to Harlingerode, 3d Battalion in Vienenburg (C9476).

Continuing an advance to the east after clearing Seesen early in the period, the 330th Infantry made rapid progress initially but slowed down after elements advanced into the forest east of the 70 north-south grid line. At the close of the period elements were reported as follows: 1st Battalion, Company B at C751680-751661, Companies A and C at C706660-700650-694640-682632, 2d Battalion enroute to Goslar, 3d Battalion assembled in Langelsheim.

The 331st Infantry passed into XIX Corps reserve at 0600. It moved from the vicinity of Stadtoldendorf after clearing Holzminden Forest into an assembly area northeast of Alfeld and closed by 1900.

<u>Enemy Situation</u>	Advance elements of the Division reached Schlöwecke (C9270), Vienenburg, C7568, C6964.
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Defending from the heavily wooded terrain with tanks and/or self-propelled guns, Panzerfaust and small arms fire, the enemy attempted to utilize every capability for defense on the right of the Division zone. Elements of the Division encountered small arms, machine gun and Panzerfaust fire on entering the defile at C7068. Four tanks supported by infantry were reported firing from the woods east of Münchehof (C6864) throughout the morning and early afternoon.

The enemy's efforts to defend on the left of the Division zone met with little success. During the morning in the advance to Langelsheim, the bulk of resistance was centered around two defended roadblocks at C7174 and C7674. The attack continued to the east at an unabated pace, Goslar being occupied against little opposition. Late in the afternoon when the enemy resisted with small arms and Panzerfaust at Oker, a brisk fire fight ensued. This resistance, comprised chiefly of 17 and 18 year old youths, was soon overcome.

<u>11 April</u>	The 329th Infantry continued its rapid advance to the east and cleared the towns of Halberstadt (D2871) and Groningen (D3976). The 330th Infantry and Task Force "Biddle" initiated the clearing of the forest on the Division's south flank. The division command post closed at Langelsheim and opened in Heudeber (D140729) at 1900.
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Adjacent Divisions

The 2d Armored Division continued to advance rapidly to the east, advance elements last reported at D540910, D4088 and D4382 --- less than eight miles from the Elbe River. Some enemy heavy artillery fire was met during the period. The division command post moved from Salzgitter (C8086) to Hornburg (C9785). A late report placed elements of Combat Command B at the southwest outskirts of Magdeburg at D6597.

Positions of the 3d Armored Division were last reported as C8042-8836-9036-9734-9533-D0733-0432-1227. The division command post was at C9126.

Regiments

The 1st Battalion of the 329th Infantry jumped off from Schlevecke (C9270) at 0800 hours and cleaned out several villages includ-

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ing Bad Harzburg (C9468) and some woods on the extreme right of the regimental zone. The battalion passed into regimental reserve and followed the advance of the 2d and 3d Battalions. At the close of the period the 1st Battalion was assembled in Halberstadt. The 2d Battalion moved east from Harlingerode at 0700, passing between the 1st and 3d battalions and continued the advance to the east. It assisted the 3d Battalion in clearing Halberstadt and then continued east to clear Harsleben (C3168) and Wegeleben (C3670). It consolidated for the night in Wegeleben. The 3d Battalion jumped off from Vienenburg at 0800 and advanced rapidly to the east to initiate an assault on Halberstadt. After the town had been cleared with the assistance of the 2d Battalion, the 3d Battalion continued to the northeast to clear Groningen and at the close of the period was fighting in Kroppenstedt (D4577) to the east. The regimental command post was located in Halberstadt at D286718 at the close of the period.

The 330th Infantry began clearing an extensive forest on the Division's south flank with the 1st Battalion attacking east and south from the vicinity of Seesen, the 2d Battalion attacking south from Harlingerode, and the 3d Battalion attacking south from Langelsheim and Goslar. Progress was comparatively slow against small arms and Panzerfaust fire. The 1st Battalion encountered Hitler Youth manning weapons at Wildemann, and the 2d Battalion met SS troops south of Bad Harzburg. Lautenthal (C7566) and Wolfshagen (C7871) were cleared during the period, and at the close of the period the forest west of the Langelsheim-Wildemann road and north of the line from Wolfshagen to C937653 had been cleared.

The 331st Infantry reverted to Division control on the 11th of April, assembling in the vicinity of Derenburg (D1868). The regiment was placed abreast the attacking regiment (the 329th) being assigned a sector to the south of that regiment. One battalion was to be employed in blocking to the south.

Task Force "Biddle"

Commanding General to Task Force "Biddle": "I wish to have Task Force "Biddle" proceed on its mission without delay and make rapid progress. I want to be informed when head of its column reaches Stapelberg. Speed is essential." The 2d Battalion of the 329th had cleared Stapelberg and at this time was in Veckenskit. Task Force "Biddle" was reformed and began clearing the forest on the Division's south flank, south of Wernigerode in conjunction with the 330th Infantry. The Task Force advanced south and east from Wernigerode against small arms and Panzerfaust fire. At the close of the period elements had almost completely cleared the woods east of the road from Wernigerode to Elbingerode (D1157).

Enemy
Situation

Advanced elements of the Division to the east reached Groningen - Wegelben, to the south C8064 - D0366 and C8867.

The long advances on the north of the Division zone were contested only by light small arms fire, Panzerfaust fire and roadblocks. During the afternoon the enemy offered a light counterattack in the vicinity of Schmatzfeld (D0870). Three vehicles, an armored car and two light trucks attempted to enter the town from the south. This was frustrated when elements of the Division destroyed the three vehicles, killing all the occupants with the exception of a few who escaped. Infantry employing Panzerfaust were met at Heudeber, affording the most stubborn resistance of the period in that part of the Division zone. Halberstadt was cleared late in the afternoon with Groningen and Wegelben being occupied later.

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The enemy was reluctant to yield any part of the rugged terrain in the 330th Infantry sector. Defending with small arms, Panfaust, minefields and roadblocks, the enemy made advances of the 83d extremely slow. The towns, however, of Wildemann, Lautenthal, Wolfshagen, Hahnenklee (C7965) and Bockweise (C7964) were cleared. Two enemy half-tracks and one tank were destroyed late in the afternoon in the vicinity of C8064.

12 April In XIX Corps letter of instructions No. 142, dated 121030Z the 83d Division was directed as follows:

- a. Continue attack in zone to Elbe River.
 - b. Seize bridgehead in zone (if bridge has been secured in the vicinity of Schonebrecken it will be made available for crossing combat elements of 83d Infantry Division after combat elements, 2d Armored Division have crossed).
 - c. Protect Corp right flank, leaving sufficient force west of Elbe River to protect that flank until covered by advance of VII Corps.
 - d. Maintain contact with elements of First U.S. Army.
 - e. Designate one regimental combat team and tank company to pass to Corps reserve on Corps order after that portion of Harz Mountains in zone have been cleared.
5. Confirming verbal instructions, Combat Team 331 is released to control of 83d Infantry Division effective 111430Z April 45."

The Division continued its advance to the east, clearing the forest on the Division's south flank. Elements reached the Elbe River in the vicinity of Barby (D8582). 2,021 prisoners of war were taken from all operations. The division command post closed at Heudeber and opened at Cochstedt (D5371) at 1700.

Adjacent Divisions

In the same letter of instructions (No. 142) from XIX Corps the 2d Armored Division was ordered to "continue attack in present zone to seize all bridges in zone and secure Division bridgehead over Elbe River; be prepared to assist the passage of 30th and 83d Infantry Divisions into Division bridgehead; be prepared to continue the attack to seize that portion of Corps bridgehead in zone (as indicated in overlay).

Positions of the 2d Armored Division on 12 April were last reported as follows: elements of Combat Command A at Y230085 and Y615082, elements of Combat Command R at Y619995, and elements of Combat Command B at Y702920 and Y745870, preparatory to crossing the Elbe River, scheduled for the night of 12-13 April.

Letter of Instructions No. 142 also contained orders for the 30th Infantry Division. "Continue attack on Braunschweig, thereafter advance in present zone; be prepared to employ one Combat Team, 35th Infantry Division in the left of present Division zone with a view to early release of present zone to 35th Infantry Division; Commanding General, 30th Infantry Division notify this headquarters when he is prepared to relieve elements, 2d Armored Division in new 30th Infantry Division zone be prepared to force a crossing of the Elbe River in new zone or to cross into the bridgehead secured by 2d Armored Division and continue the attack to seize that portion of the Corps bridgehead in new Division zone protect Corps left flank."

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S E C R E T

On the 12th of April the 30th Division encountered heavy resistance in the canal region north of Braunschweig from dug-in infantry, but resistance lightened after enemy positions were penetrated. Elements were last reported at Y2513, Y3023 and in Braunschweig which was reported completely clear.

Regiments

The 2d Battalion of the 329th Infantry moved from the vicinity of Wegelben to the east on the right of the regimental zone, clearing several towns enroute. At the close of the period the battalion was assisting the 3d Battalion in fighting in Barby on the Elbe River. The 3d Battalion completed the clearing of Kroppenstedt (D4577) at approximately 0300. At 0630 the battalion attacked to the east from Groningen against light resistance until reaching the outskirts of Barby where it met heavy opposition from small arms and mortar fire. At the end of the period the 3d and 2d Battalions were fighting for the town. The 1st Battalion moved from Halberstadt and followed closely the 3d Battalion, sweeping the zone thoroughly for enemy by-passed by the 3d Battalion. At the close of the period the 1st Battalion occupied a reserve position at Gnadau (D7782). The regimental command post was located in Kleine Muhlengen (D7579).

The 330th Infantry continued clearing the woods on the Division's south boundary, west of the 20 north-south grid line with the 1st Battalion advancing in columns of companies northeast astride the main road to Goslar. The 1st Battalion made contact with Company I, passed through it and assembled in Goslar. The 2d Battalion swept the woods between the 88-95 north-south grid lines and north of the 66 east-west grid line with Company E advancing northeast from positions along the road south of Bad Harzburg. Companies F and G moved southeast from the edge of the woods in the vicinity of C6991. The 3d Battalion backed up the 2d Battalion with Company I in Goslar, Company K in Ilsenberg (D0367) and Company L in Oker. The battalion manned roadblocks controlling the main roads from the south. At the close of the period Company I was enroute to Wernigerode, and elements of the 2d Battalion were relieving Company L at the roadblocks in the vicinity of Oker.

The 331st Infantry assembled in the vicinity of Derenburg (D1868) at the beginning of the period. The 1st Battalion moved from its assembly area at 0700 and advanced to Leopoldshall (D6568) and late in the period moved west to Hedersleben (D4268), prepared to block to the south. The 2d Battalion moved from its assembly area at 0600 and advanced rapidly to the east. Several towns were cleared and at the close of the period the battalion (minus) had occupied Nienburg (D7767), Company G occupying Naugattersleben (D7368). The 3d Battalion (minus company with Task Force "Biddle") occupied Halberstadt and established roadblocks to the south at D267702, D285692 and D308692. The battalion was attached to Task Force "Biddle" at 2300. The regimental command post was located in Leopoldshall at the close of the period.

Task Force "Biddle"

Task Force "Biddle" continued to advance along the Division south flank and established roadblocks at critical road junctions, uncovered by the advance of the 331st Infantry, to contain the enemy to the south. At the close of the period the task force was strengthening roadblocks and preparing to block an enemy effort from the south. The command post was located at Derenburg.

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Enemy Advanced elements of the Division reached the Elbe River at D8484 - Barby - D7767 - D7368, along the Division's right flank C8063 - C8862 - D0364.

Situation

The period was again marked by sweeping advances on the left in the 329th Infantry sector which culminated in elements reaching the Elbe River at 1230 hours. Opposition became more determined as the advance reached Barby. Here the enemy employed small arms, Panzerfaust, 20mm and mortar fire in an attempt to defend the approaches to the railroad bridge across the river at D8583. The bridge was blown at 1945. To the right in the Division zone the resistance remained light and scattered, and the bridges over the Saale River were blown to delay the advance. Calbe (D7774) was intensively contested toward the close of the period.

On the south resistance continued to be strong in the Harz Mountain area. Opposition from dug-in infantry, minefields, roadblocks, and snipers made advances slow as forces of the 83d penetrated from the north through the narrow defiles. An enemy minefield was reported in the vicinity of C224668. Division artillery concentrated on considerable enemy movement in Clausthal-Zellerfeld during the day. A light volume of artillery fire was received in the 113th Cavalry sector during the day.

13 April The Division on the 13th of April continued its advance to the east and established a bridgehead across the Elbe River in the vicinity of Barby. At the close of the period three battalions of infantry were on the east side of the river. The 330th Infantry was placed under the control of XIX Corps at 1500. The division command post closed at Cochstedt and opened at Calbe at D779747 at 1130.

Adjacent Divisions

Elements of the 2d Armored Division crossed the Elbe River in the vicinity of D7092 the night of 12-13 April, and by 1200 hours had three battalions of infantry on the east side of the river. Bridging operations were seriously hampered by 88mm fire from Magdeburg. Combat Command B reached the river at 748875 and reported the bridge blown.

The 3d Battalion of the 119th Infantry, 30th Infantry Division, crossed the Elbe River as part of the 2d Armored Division bridgehead. The remainder of the Division continued clearing by-passed pockets of resistance in its zone.

Regiments

The 329th Infantry fought for the town of Barby throughout the night until the town surrendered at 0945. All three battalions assembled in the town, and at 1330 the 1st battalion started across the Elbe River. By 1430 the battalion had advanced to the town of Wartenburg (D8882) and was fighting for the town. The 2d Battalion started across the river behind the 1st Battalion at approximately 1500 and crossed without opposition. The battalion continued to advance to the east and moved up on line on the left of the 1st Battalion. The 3d Battalion remained assembled in reserve positions at Barby. Three enemy counterattacks were repelled on the east side of the river, and at the close of the period a fourth counterattack was under control.

The 330th Infantry with attachments passed to the control of XIX Corps at 1500 with the mission to continue clearing the Harz Mountains in conjunction with the VII Corps. The regiment continued to sweep the forest and man roadblocks in its zone during the period. The regimental command post was located at Stapelburg (D015110) at the close of the period.

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The 1st Battalion of the 331st Infantry moved from the vicinity of Hedersleben (D4268) east to Stassfurt (D6569) and then north east to positions in an assembly area in the vicinity of D7575. Later the battalion continued to advance and took up positions south of Barby. The 2d Battalion moved from the vicinity of Nienburg to Brumby (D7475) and then followed the 1st Battalion to positions south of Barby. The 2d Battalion started across the Elbe River at 1530 and by 1620 was on the east side of the river. The Battalion advanced to the northeast and made contact with the 329th Infantry. The 3d Battalion was attached to the 113th Cavalry Group during the period and remained assembled at Halberstadt except for elements manning roadblocks on the main roads to the south.

Task Force "Biddle"

Task Force "Biddle" continued its protective mission on the Division's south flank, meeting comparatively heavy resistance consisting of small arms and machine gun fire in clearing Heimburg (D1963).

<u>Enemy</u>	Advanced elements of the Division east of the Elbe River reached Flotz (D8784) - Walternienburg and the Saale River on the right of the zone.
<u>Situation</u>	

Enemy opposition during the period centered around our bridgehead area. Fanatic resistance from dug-in infantry with small arms and Panzerfaust fire was met throughout the early hours of the period in clearing Barby. Forward elements on the outskirts of the town were bombed by two enemy planes shortly after 0100 hours. At 0945 the town surrendered.

The initial crossing of the Elbe River by the 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry was made without opposition. The enemy soon retaliated by placing a light volume of high velocity and mortar fire on the crossing site and on Barby. As the bridgehead was strengthened so was the enemy's determination to erase it. Between 1800 and 2145 hours the enemy counterattacked four times in the vicinity of D894832 with an estimated battalion of infantry and seven tanks. Each attack was repulsed without loss of ground. Two enemy tanks were reported destroyed during this action. The volume of high velocity fire remained light as the period drew to a close.

An attempt by the enemy to infiltrate into the Division's rear area was thwarted late in the afternoon when two enemy tanks supported by an undetermined number of infantry entered Schadeleben (D5066) from the south. After an engagement with three tanks of the 83d which were passing through the town, the two enemy tanks were destroyed and the infantry dispersed.

Air

A total of four enemy aircraft were reported over the Division zone during the period with two bombings in the vicinity of Barby, one strafing at the crossing site early in the afternoon and the other on reconnaissance after dark.

Armor

A total of four enemy tanks were destroyed during the period. An estimated nine tanks and/or self-propelled guns were operating in the Division zone.

SECRET

14 April

On the 14th of April the following fragmentary order was issued: "The Division attacks on order (probably 0900 15 April to seize initial bridgehead. Be prepared on Division order to continue attack and seize Division bridgehead. Line of departure, present positions." The boundary was described by the following points: Godnitz (D875858), Gehrden (D900874), Schora (D935877), Strinum (D986875), E017820, Bias (D991785) and Steckby (D955745).

The Division enlarged its bridgehead across the Elbe River and at the close of the period the 329th Infantry with attachments, the 331st Infantry with attachments, Combat Command R of the 2d Armored Division, and two light field artillery battalions were on the east side of the river prepared to defend against enemy counterattack.

Adjacent Divisions

Strong pressure from a large enemy force consisting of tanks and infantry built up into a counterattack against the 2d Armored Division bridgehead during the morning of 14 April, and troops in the bridgehead area were forced to withdraw to the west side of the Elbe River. Combat Command R was attached to the 83d Infantry Division on the afternoon of 14 April for operations only.

Elements of the 119th Infantry, 30th Division in the 2d Armored Division bridgehead area withdrew to the west side of the river. Elements of the 117th Infantry were on the line of the Elbe River in the vicinity of Y7315 and at Rogatz (Y7521). The 120th Infantry was at Y6712 and on the line of the river in the vicinity of Glindenberg (Y6912). The division command post was in Wolmirstedt (Y6613).

Regiments

The Commanding General of XIX Corps visited the division command post during the afternoon. He stated that the Division could expect a strong counterattack directed toward the bridgehead. The 329th Infantry prepared and manned defensive positions against this expected counterattack. The 3d Battalion crossed the Elbe River the night of 13-14 April and by 1100 hours the regiment and attachments were completely on the east side of the river. A total of five counterattacks were repulsed during the night of 13-14 April with severe losses to the enemy.

The 330th Infantry, under control of XIX Corps, continued to sweep its zone to the south and east and maintained roadblocks, controlling the main roads to the south. The regiment destroyed enemy points of resistance at C933664 and C891650 during the period.

Company B of the 331st Infantry crossed the Elbe River the night of 13-14 April to reinforce the 2d Battalion on the east side of the river. The company took up positions behind Companies E and F. The remainder of the battalion was relieved from its blocking mission and started across the river at 1045. Company C encountered an enemy strongpoint while enroute to an assembly area in the vicinity of D903817 on the east side of the river. The strongpoint was reduced by artillery and tank support. The battalion attacked to the east and consolidated positions gained on the line D892833 - 900815 - 911809. The 2d Battalion jumped off at 0930 and by 1230 had cleared the towns of Godnitz and Badetz (D9279). At the close of the period the battalion had consolidated and prepared to defend the bridgehead against enemy counterattack. The 3d Battalion was relieved in its positions on the Division south boundary by elements of the 8th Armored Division prior to 0700, and the Battalion (minus one company) was relieved from attachment to the 113th Cavalry Group at the same time. The Battalion was moved to Stassfurt by the 113th Cavalry Group and then by regimental transport to Brumby. The Battalion crossed the Elbe River, closing on the east side of the river at 2130, and prepared to defend the bridgehead against enemy counterattack.

SECRET

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Air

One squadron of planes conducted an armed reconnaissance in the area of the Division bridgehead between 1725 and 1745. From 1745 to 1820 another squadron bombed tanks and armored vehicles and reconnoitered the area adjacent to the Division bridgehead. A third squadron made an armed reconnaissance east of Zerbst (D9983) between 1745 and 1830. From 1830 to 1925 a fourth squadron made an armed reconnaissance of the area north of the Division bridgehead and east of the 2d Armored Division destroying vehicles and guns. The same squadron bombed the town of Steg-elitz (Y8507) and reported approximately 20 staff cars and many guns of different calibres. A fifth squadron bombed the northeast section of Zerbst from 1840 to 1905.

Bridgehead Summary

At this time two entire regiments of the Division with tank destroyers, tanks and light artillery and Combat Command R, 2d Armored Division attached for operations to the 83d, all were across the Elbe River. The armor was on the north part of the bridgehead, the 329th Infantry in the middle, and the 331st Infantry on the south. Sufficient supplies had been rushed across in order to preclude the crisis that might otherwise arise if the bridge should go out.

On the 13th of April enemy artillery was dropped near the bridge site, but no hits were scored. The rounds fell in the area in which the 329th Infantry had carried on ferrying operations in the morning, and which the enemy presumed to be the bridging site. This was near the railroad bridge. The actual bridging operations, however, were some distance from there. During the night of 13-14 April searchlights were employed, half playing on the actual bridge site, half on the ferry site which had been shelled during the day. No rounds fell in either place.

Plans were being formulated for the construction of a bridge south of the existing one. The Commanding General of XIX Corps indicated that the 320th Infantry (35th Infantry Division) might be attached to the 83d Division for the operation of clearing the triangle of untouch territory south of Barby and establishing this second bridge. The task would involve the construction of a Bailey bridge over the Saale River northeast of Calbe.

Enemy
Situation

Elements of the Division held the bridgehead on the east bank of the Elbe River generally from D8784-8882-9081-9180

Resistance against the Division bridgehead continued determinedly throughout the period. A counterattack against the town of Flotz from the north at 0600 hours was short-lived. The attacking enemy employing marching fire provided an excellent target for Division artillery and machine guns. During the day considerable movement of enemy personnel and tanks was observed. Two enemy tanks were destroyed and a third disabled by artillery fire.

Enemy fire against the Division pontoon bridge across the Elbe River in the vicinity of Barby was negligible during the day. At 1800 hours, however, a few scattered rounds of artillery fire fell near the bridge site. Throughout the remainder of the Division zone artillery fire continued light with the bulk of fire received being high velocity.

Air

Between 0530 and 0830 hours three enemy aircraft were over the bridgehead area. Strafing and bombing was reported, with no damage resulting. One enemy plane was destroyed.

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Armor

The largest concentration of enemy armor was in the vicinity of D910822 at 1350 hours when six tanks were reported by the Air observation post. The tanks were dispersed by artillery with the probable destruction of one. Other tank movement was observed at D908821, at D913820, and at D916822. Two tanks were destroyed and one disabled when these targets were engaged by artillery.

15 April The Division received letter of instruction No. 145 151400B April: "83d Infantry Division will retain one Battalion Regimental Combat Team 320 in reserve to be committed only on Corps order. Conduct operations to clear eastern approaches to bridge sites vicinity Breitenhagen."

A fragmentary order was issued by the 83d to Regimental Combat Team 320 (less one battalion): "Assemble in area. Force crossings of Saale River at 151300B April 45, or as soon thereafter as possible, and secure regimental bridgehead. After seizure of regimental bridgehead continue advance to south in zone, to Division bridge. One Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 320 to be motorized and held in reserve vicinity Glothe (7175), not to be committed without permission this Headquarters."

The Division continued to expand and reinforce the bridgehead over the Elbe River and began clearing the area between the Saale River and the Elbe River in the Division Zone, using Regimental Combat Team 320 (35th Infantry Division) attached during the period.

Adjacent Divisions

The 2nd Armored Division (minus Combat Command R under operational control of the 83d Infantry Division) continued to advance in its zone to the line of the Elbe River and consolidated positions.

Elements of the 119th Infantry (30th Infantry Division) attached to Combat Command R assumed responsibility for a new zone to the north of the 2nd Armored Division.

The 1st Infantry Division continued to advance on the Division's south flank. The 26th Infantry was in contact with elements of the 330th Infantry in the vicinity of C9360 at 1120 hours.

Regiments

The 1st Battalion of the 329th Infantry jumped off at 0930 from positions in the vicinity of Walternienburg and advanced to the east meeting no opposition initially. Later in the period the Battalion cleared the woods in the vicinity of D9182 and advanced to the vicinity of Nutha (D9283) where positions were consolidated. The 3d Battalion attacked to the east at 0930 and advanced against heavy opposition from mortars and self-propelled guns. The Battalion cleared Gutergluck (D9284), and at the close of the period had consolidated positions, maintaining contact with the 1st Battalion on the right. The 2nd Battalion remained assembled in reserve positions at Walternienburg during the period.

The 330th Infantry continued to clear the woods in its zone. The 1st Battalion contacted Company E of the 26th Infantry (1st

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Infantry Division) at C931600 at 1120 hours. The 3d Battalion and elements of the 1st Battalion manned roadblocks at C925809, 977658, 995-643, D022634, 049619, 075620, 085630, 098630, 107631, and 115629.

The 1st Battalion of the 331st Infantry jumped off at 0930 with Company B moving southeast clearing woods in the vicinity of 9377 and continuing the attack toward Steckby. An enemy pocket of resistance at D907812 was eliminated during the afternoon. The 2nd Battalion attacked toward Badetz at 0930 and at 1330 the town was reported clear. The towns of Kameritz (D9181) and Hohenlepte (D9481) were also cleared against stubborn opposition. The 3d Battalion remained in its assembly area in reserve during the period.

320th Regimental Combat Team

The 320th Regimental Combat Team (35th Infantry Division) (minus 1st Battalion in Corps reserve) was attached to the Division effective 151000. The Combat Team completely closed in its assembly area in the vicinity of D7377 at 0710. After attachment to the Division, the 320th made crossings of the Saale River at 1500 hours in the vicinity of D7086, and D8376 after clearing Tornitz (D8378) and Werkleitz (D8377). It cleared the town of Grosse Rosenberg (D8576) and the area along the railroad south to the 74 east-west grid line.

Combat Command R

Combat Command R (2nd Armored Division) attached to the 83d for operations only, attacked to the east and secured Godnitz and Gehrden and at the close of the period consolidated positions in the two towns and also in Gutergluck.

Air

Between 1015 and 1105 one squadron of planes bombed Prodel (D8790) and Gutergluck. The eight aircraft used on each town then conducted an armed reconnaissance of the area immediately in front of the Division bridgehead. A second squadron from 1150 to 1230 performed an armed reconnaissance over the bridgehead area, looking for tanks, gun positions, and gun batteries, bombed Leps (D9778), causing large explosions and fires.

Enemy
Situation

Advanced elements of the Division in the bridgehead reached Gehrden - Nutha - Hohenlepte - D9280. Elements were south of the Saale River - Grosse Rosenberg.

The attack in the bridgehead area at 0900 hours was met by resistance from small arms, artillery, and self-propelled gun fire. From well prepared positions the enemy defended with machine guns and high velocity fire in the vicinity of D917826. Dug-in infantry supported by four self-propelled guns resisted advances from the vicinity south of Gutergluck early in the afternoon. Determined resistance was encountered in clearing the woods at D9182 where high velocity fire was intense. By the exertion of steady pressure Division troops continued the attack until by late afternoon Nutha and Hohenlepte were occupied.

Combat Command R, 2nd Armored Division, made good advances during the day clearing Godnitz, Gutergluck, and Gehrden. Resistance

~~S E C R E T~~

From direct fire weapons in the vicinity of Moritz (D9485) and Toppel (D9584) formed the bulk of opposition. Small arms and Panzerfaust fire was also encountered from dug-in infantry during the period.

The attack of the 320th Regimental Combat Team across the Saale River was met initially by small arms and machine gun fire from the vicinity of D8676. Light mortar fire was received from Grosse Rosenburg. At 2045 the town was reported cleared. Prisoners of war taken identified an air training and experiment regiment.

Armor

A minimum of 14 self-propelled guns and four enemy tanks were reported operating in the Division zone during the period. Ten of these were reported destroyed by Division fire.

17 April Letter of instruction No. 146, 171030B: "83d Infantry Division (320th Regimental Combat Team, 2nd Armored Division, attached):

- a. Continue defense of bridgehead.
- b. Expand bridgehead to protect bridging operations at Brietenhagen.
- c. Make such local adjustments as are necessary to provide better defensive positions in bridgehead.
- d. Prepare to release Combat Command R, 2nd Armored Division, when 330th Infantry Regiment returns to Division control, or on earlier order if required.
- e. Prepare to release Regimental Combat Team 320 less one battalion upon completion of present mission.
- f. Release 2nd Battalion, 119th Infantry to 30th Infantry Division.
- g. Protect Corps right (south) flank east of 57 grid line." The letter of instructions also released the 1st Battalion of the 330th Infantry Regiment to control of the 83d Division.

The Division completed clearing of the area between the Saale and Elbe Rivers in the Division zone and consolidated positions for the defense of the bridgehead across the Elbe. A second bridgehead across the Elbe at Brietenhagen was completed at 1730 hours. Contact was made with the 9th Infantry Division on the south.

Adjacent Divisions

The 2nd Armored Division began an assault on Magdeburg at 1445 hours, making slow progress against artillery fire and booby traps.

Elements of the 35th Infantry Division closed to the line of the Elbe River from D8882 to D8976 during the afternoon.

The 9th Infantry Division continued to advance north and east in its zone and at 1815 made contact with elements of the 83d Infantry Division in Bernburg (D7663) and Guisen (D6762). Contact was also established later at road junction D738620.

The 3d Armored Division continued to advance to the east, south of the Elbe River and continued to strengthen and enlarge the bridgehead across the Mulde River in the vicinity of E1365. Elements cleared Bernburg, and occupied Mosigkau (E9565) and Kochstedt (E0664).



Truman Bridge

Air photo of the Truman Bridge
taken on 16 April 1945.

S E C R E T

The 8th Armored Division continued clearing and blocking along the Corps south flank west of the 57 north-south grid line. Combat Command A was placed under control of XIX Corps and assembled in the vicinity of D4119 - 4798 - 4792 - 4191.

Regiments

The 329th Infantry continued the consolidation and organization of defensive positions in the bridgehead area and provide security for the bridge at Barby. One Company was attached to the 308th Engineer Battalion at 2300, and the Engineer Battalion assumed responsibility for the bridge.

The 330th Infantry continued clearing of the Harz Mountains. Progress was slow due to rough terrain and numerous enemy pockets. Enemy heavy artillery fire was also received as elements continued the advance to the east.

The 331st Infantry continued to occupy and improve defensive positions during the period. Patrols reported Niederlepte (D9582) unoccupied and the Regiment occupied it at 1500 hours with one company. Company K was attached to the 308th Engineer Battalion at 2300 to be used for bridge security.

320th Regimental Combat Team

The 1st Battalion of the 320th Regimental Combat Team attacked from the vicinity of the woods at D7974 and advanced south-east along the west bank of the Elbe River. The Battalion cleared Lodderitz (D9073), Diebzig (D8971), and Kuhren (D9271) during the period. The 2nd Battalion attacked from the vicinity of Grosse Rosenberg and Trabitze (D7581) and advanced south against scattered small arms fire. During the period the towns of Patzetz (D8572), Sachsendorf (D8571), and Zuchau (D8570) were cleared. At 2040 elements relieved the 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop in the town of Gerbitz (D8168). The 3d Battalion (minus Companies K and M) attached to Combat Command R at 1500 hours began movement to Flotz at 1835. Company K was attached to the 1st Battalion, 320th Infantry, and Company M was attached to the 308th Engineer Battalion for bridge security. The regimental command post moved from Tornitz to Grosse Rosenberg during the period.

308th Engineer Battalion

Upon the attachment of Infantry units, the 308th Engineer Battalion assumed responsibility for the security of the bridges at Barby and Breitenhagen across the Elbe River and the bridge across the Saale River at D846766.

Enemy

Situation

There was no change in front line positions in the bridgehead area. Advanced elements of the 320th Regimental Combat Team were south of the Saale River at D8168 - D8479 - D8671 - D9020 - D9271.

Floating mines were employed by the enemy in an attempt to destroy the bridge across the Elbe River. Prior to dawn three mines were observed moving down stream, one exploding on making contact with a brush raft and the other two being destroyed by guards along the river.

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Enemy activity in the bridgehead area during the period was characterized by a light volume of artillery fire, bombing attacks by enemy air, and movement of small scattered groups of enemy infantry. The bulk of artillery fire fell on Barby and on the approaches to the ridge between 0100 and 0500 hours. A patrol from the 329th Infantry entered the town of Toppel and returned with 30 prisoners of war. During the afternoon employment of the loud speaker induced 37 of the enemy to leave the town of Moritz and surrender. An estimated 40 enemy were observed digging in the vicinity of D947855 late in the afternoon. This target was immediately taken under fire by artillery and casualties inflicted. Good progress was made by the 320th Regimental Combat Team in attacking south in the Saale River pocket. Resistance was described as light scattered small arms with only an occasional round of artillery or mortar fire. Bombs were dropped in the vicinity of Brietenhagen in the air attack late in the day.

Air

Twelve enemy aircraft were observed flying south over the Division zone at 1955 hours. Between 2100 and 2125 hours, a low-level bombing run was directed against the left of the Division bridgehead area and the ponton bridge in the vicinity of Barby. An estimated 15 enemy planes took part in the attack, including JU 88's, ME 410's, and ME 109's. Bombs also fell in the sector of the 320th Regimental Combat Team and the 331st Infantry. No damage was done to the bridges across the Elbe River. One ME 410 was reported destroyed.

Artillery

Barby was the target for enemy high velocity fire and a small volume of heavy calibre artillery early in the period. At 0430 hours an estimated 40 rounds of artillery fire fell in the vicinity of the ponton bridge with no damage resulting to the bridge.

18 April

On the 18th of April the 83d Division issued a fragmentary order: "83d Infantry Division continues defense of bridgehead, making such local adjustments as are necessary to provide better defensive positions. Protect Corps right (south) flank east of the 57 north-south grid line." Orders effecting this assignment were sent to the individual elements in the bridgehead area. The order further stated that all positions, including tanks, tank destroyers, and anti-tank guns, were to be dug in and camouflaged; alternate positions to be prepared for all weapons, tanks, and tank destroyers; Maximum use was to be made of anti-tank mines, anti-personnel mines, booby traps, and abatis, these obstacles being covered by small arms fire; all personnel was to be dug in; observation posts and listening posts were to be maintained far enough forward to provide ample warning of enemy attack.

The Division repulsed a counterattack on the bridgehead during the morning and regrouped to provide all-around security for the bridgehead area.

Adjacent Divisions

The 2nd Armored Division continued its assault on Magdeburg, making slow progress against Panzerfaust, small arms fire, and road-

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blocks defended by infantry. At the last report all objectives had been taken. All bridges across the Elbe River had been blown.

Elements of the 3d Armored Division were last reported at D9670, E0566, E0865, and E1365. The Division made contact with elements of the 83d Division at D813663 at 1130 hours.

Regiments

The 329th Infantry regrouped on the east side of the Elbe River and improved defensive positions in the bridgehead area. Company C of the 330th Infantry, attached to the 329th, was relieved at Barby by Company G, 320th Infantry at 1700. The 329th was relieved of responsibility for security on the west side of the Elbe River at the same time.

The 330th Infantry continued clearing the Harz Mountains along the south flank of XIX Corps. Progress to the east continued to be slow due to difficult terrain and stubborn resistance.

At approximately 0730 an enemy counterattack consisting of tanks and infantry supported by self-propelled guns was launched against the 1st Battalion positions, 331st Infantry, protecting the approaches to the bridge over the Elbe River at Breitenhagen. The attack was repulsed and the artillery and air support caused great damage to the enemy, including at least five self-propelled guns definitely destroyed. During the remainder of the period the Regiment continued to clear the sector and regrouped to better consolidate defensive positions in the bridgehead area.

320th Regimental Combat Team

The 320th Regimental Combat Team (minus the 2nd Battalion less Company G, and the 3d Battalion) continued to clear its zone and occupied Dornbock (D8568) during the morning. Elements west of the line Lodderitz - Kuhren were relieved by elements of the 113th Cavalry Group at 1315. The Regiment began its mission of providing security along the west bank of the Elbe River. At 1700 hours Company G relieved Company C, 330th Infantry, attached to the 329th Infantry occupying positions north of Barby. The 2nd Battalion was attached to the 329th Infantry during the period and assembled at Breitenhagen at approximately 1400 and later moved to the regimental area, closing in Walternienburg at 1730.

Anti-Aircraft

Batteries A, B, D, and the Provisional Platoon "X" of the 453d Anti-Aircraft Artillery (attached to Division Artillery) engaged a flight of nine bombers and six ME 109's attempting to bomb the bridges over the Elbe River the evening of 17 April between 1945 and 2130. One JU-88 and one ME 410 were destroyed. During a bombing and strafing attack the evening of 18 April by an undetermined number of planes, two HE 111's were destroyed.

Air

From 1240 to 1340 one squadron of aircraft bombed the town of Steckby and made a reconnaissance of the wooded area to the north to

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assist in repulsing the enemy counterattack taking place at that time. From 1600 to 1710 another squadron searched for railroad guns reported at E0876, and failing to find them bombed railroad box cars located to the south. At 1740 a squadron searched for railroad guns reported at E0876 and E1383. The guns were not located, but the squadron made an armed reconnaissance of the area, bombing and strafing guns in position in that area. At 1815 to 1910 hours a squadron bombed Steckby again and also Steutz (D9973), strafing troops and horse-drawn vehicles on the road between the two towns. It then made an armed reconnaissance of the general area as far north as Zerst and to the southeast of the bridgehead area. From 1800 to 1900 two squadrons reported to the Division and were sent to work with Combat Command R. They bombed Weishau (D8992) after locating a command post and a concentration of motor vehicles in the town.

Enemy Situation There was no change in front line in the bridgehead area. The 320th Regimental Combat Team had advanced elements at D8366 - D8568 - D8970 - D9271.

Enemy Defense Preparation

Freshly dug trenches with fortifications were reported by air observation in the vicinity of Z233010. At 1330 enemy were observed digging and laying wire in the vicinity of D949866. A civilian reported that the infantry had dug positions in the southwest portion of the woods and along the railroad track.

Enemy Operations

The bulk of enemy action occurred in the wooded area along the east bank of the Elbe River in the 331st Infantry sector. A counter-attack was to have been launched by the 1st Battalion, Regiment Mahlow, supported by five self-propelled guns at 2400 hours north from Steckby with Badetz and Tockheim (D9079) as its objective. Through lack of coordination apparently caused by Division interdictory artillery fire the enemy attack failed to materialize. But by 0600 the enemy had infiltrated to the vicinity of D925767. Artillery fire prevented further advance at this time. At 0800 hours, after the enemy had reorganized, a second time he attempted to carry out his mission. High velocity fire from self-propelled guns supporting the attack fell in the vicinity of D9477 and Breitenhagen. The strength of the attack forced Division outposts on the extreme right sector to fall back, but again artillery prevented any further penetration. Throughout the afternoon Division forces were engaged in clearing the wooded area through which the enemy had infiltrated.

Scattered harassing fire fell throughout the remainder of the Division sector with only small groups of enemy being observed. Shortly after dark enemy air was active over the area, bombing and strafing with particular attention directed toward the north bridge across the Elbe River in the vicinity of Barby.

Artillery

A civilian reported enemy artillery pieces located in the woods at D7695, D8288 and D8391. During the afternoon artillery pieces were seen firing from D952738. Tactical reconnaissance reported as of 1400 hours seven railroad guns at E083759 and guns at E133827.

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Air

For the second night in succession the enemy directed a rapidly diminishing airforce against the Division bridgehead area. A change in tactics employed was observed in that one plane was used initially to attract fire from defensive guns while the other planes converged on the target from different directions. At 2040 hours three ME 109s staged a low-level strafing and bombing attack in the left of the sector. An undetermined number of JU 88s and ME 410s were over some minutes later to bomb in the vicinity of the north bridge at Barby, and in the area immediately to the southeast. No damage to the three bridges in the Division sector was reported. Three enemy planes were destroyed.

19 April

The Division regrouped in its zone to provide maximum security for the bridgehead and the west bank of the Elbe River in its zone.

Regiments

The 329th Infantry made minor changes in dispositions and continued to improve defensive positions in the bridgehead area.

The 330th Infantry continued clearing the Harz Mountains with the 2d Battalion advancing north through the area in the vicinity of D0560 and elements of the 3d Battalion advancing east and southeast in the vicinity of D1061 and 0759. Roadblocks were prepared to protect the area cleared in the advance.

The 331st Infantry accomplished minor regrouping and improved positions for the defense of the bridgehead area in its sector. Company I was relieved from attachment to the 113th Cavalry Group and closed in the regimental area at 2000.

The 1st Battalion of the 320th Regimental Combat Team was relieved in its sector between the Saale and Elbe Rivers by the 113th Cavalry Group (minus) at approximately 0930 and moved to an assembly area at Lodderitz. It later moved to Flotz, closing at 1530. The 1st and 3d Battalions completed the relief of Combat Command R in positions on the north flank of the Division bridgehead at 1645. The regiment prepared for defense of the sector and assumed responsibility at 1730. The 2d Battalion assembled in reserve positions in the vicinity of Flotz. The regimental command post moved to Walternienburg and closed at 1430.

Anti-Aircraft

At 182040 Battery D of the 453d Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion destroyed two of three FW 190s during a low-level strafing attack. Batteries A and D destroyed one HE 111 during a bombing on the evening of 18 April. Battery B claimed one JU 88 probably destroyed during a bombing and strafing attack approximately at 2100.

Combat Command R

Combat Command R was relieved in positions on the north flank of the Division bridgehead by the 320th Infantry at 1730. Combat Command R moved back to an assembly area in the vicinity of Walternienburg, completely closing at 2225. The unit was detached from the Division upon completion of relief. The 3d Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment (Companies C, E, H and I) and one platoon, Company A, 702d Tank Destroyer Battalion (self-propelled) were attached to the Division at the same time.

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113th Cavalry Group

The 113th Cavalry Group relieved the 1st Battalion, 320th Infantry in the sector between the Saale and Elbe Rivers in the Division zone and assumed responsibility for the security of the area at 0930. The command post moved to Grosse Rosenberg and closed at 1515. Contact was made with the 33d Armored Infantry Battalion (3d Armored Division) at D964705 at 1230.

Air

From 1100 to 1210 one squadron of planes bombed and strafed guns at D9783. Five guns were seen, an ammunition supply set on fire. A squadron bombed tanks in Lubs (8889) from 1220-1325, destroying two. The squadron also bombed Liechau (8993), strafed infantry and sighted four railroad guns at E1397. From 1230 to 1340 a squadron made an armed reconnaissance north of the bridgehead area and bombed and strafed a motor transport. From 1350 to 1515 a squadron knocked out four railroad guns and an ammunition train at E1397. From 1445 to 1545 it bombed and strafed the town of Toppe, also observing tanks in Zerbst. From 1540 to 1650 one squadron bombed tanks in Zerbst, also a motor transport, but results were not obtained. From 1605 to 1710 a squadron destroyed four railroad guns at E1281, observed more trains and guns to the northeast along the railroad. From 1745 to 1850 a squadron used rockets and strafed trains and guns along the railroad northeast of E1281. From 1810 to 1925 the squadron bombed medium guns at E0479 but results were not obtained. From 1940 to 2030 the squadron endeavored to bomb tanks reported in Liechau but was not able to get on the target due to darkness and haze.

Chemical

The 27th Smoke Generator Battalion and the 83d Smoke Generator Company maintained smoke screen on the bridge over the Elbe River at Barby from dawn to 1200.

Engineers

All units of the 308th Engineer Battalion, except platoon, Company B with the 330th Infantry, assisted supported regiments in the preparation of defensive positions by laying mines, stringing wires, etc.

Enemy

There were no front line changes in the bridgehead area. East of the Elbe River positions were from D9277 to the Division boundary (D9571).

Situation

Activity during the early hours of the period displayed the enemy's curiosity over the 83d's intentions. Patrols were reported operating in the sector of Combat Command R (2d Armored Division) and the 331st Infantry. Seven prisoners of war were taken after a light skirmish. A group of forty enemy marching from Moritz to Toppel yielded two more prisoners when encountered by a patrol of the 329th Infantry shortly before dawn. This group undoubtedly accounted for the disappearance of a small friendly outpost in Toppel. Throughout the day considerable vehicular movement observed in the vicinity of Zerbst and to the north of the Division sector was engaged by aircraft working for the Division. Artillery and air engaged two tanks at D8889, destroying both of them. Horse-drawn vehicles and enemy infantry attempting concealment were targets in the Leitzkau (D8992) area during the afternoon. A noted increase in enemy movement was prevalent, but no concentration of significance was observed to the immediate front.

Artillery fire remained light in volume throughout the period and no sizeable concentrations were directed against the Division

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sector. Enemy aircraft on reconnaissance missions were reported over the sector at 1500, 2035 and 2330 hours.

Tactical reconnaissance reported five enemy tanks well camouflaged along the railroad in the vicinity of El22813 at 0730 hours. Four railroad guns at Y920220 and four at Y210440 were reported at 1015 hours. A civilian source stated that a concentration of 10 enemy tanks was observed in the vicinity of Leitzkau during the afternoon.

Elbe River Grave concern over the bridgehead was shown by the enemy's repeated attempts to destroy the bridges over the Elbe River. In doing so he utilized the drifting mine (type GL) which contains approximately 25 pounds of TNT. A telescopic rod five feet long with antenna extends from the top of the mine. This rod remains above the surface of the water when the mine is floating and any deflection of the antenna will detonate the mine.

A total of 15 mines were directed against the bridges, two of which exploded on making contact with mine booms placed upstream as anti-mine devices. The others were detonated by extremely accurate rifle fire. As a precaution against swimming saboteurs in a night attack on the bridges, two and a half pound charges of TNT were detonated upstream from the bridges at five minute intervals throughout the hours of darkness.

The dwindling but daring German airforce was employed as a second weapon against the bridges. During the six days 12-18 April, seven bombing and strafing attacks were staged with the enemy using a conglomeration of all types, JU 88s, ME 410s, HE 111s and JU 188s. A small fighter cover was provided for bomber formations. The largest number involved in one attack was estimated to be 15 planes at 2110 hours the 17th of April, while three to six planes took part in the other attempts. The time chosen varied somewhat as attacks were staged at 0600 and 1300 hours with the most concentrated attacks developing shortly after dark. A total of seven planes were destroyed during this period with no damage resulting to the bridges.

Enemy artillery fire on the bridge sites was consistently light although several near misses were scored.

Bridgehead During the latter part of the month the Division maintained its continued defense of the bridgehead over the Elbe River. Defensive positions were improved, and patrolling activity was conducted regularly. Continuing his campaign to destroy the vital link to the Division bridgehead, the enemy employed swimmers and aircraft against the bridges on the 20th of April. Two well equipped swimming saboteurs were captured shortly after daylight following their unsuccessful mission. Two groups of three men each under the supervision of an officer were to have employed the mammoth torpedo mine Anti-mine devices and the regular detonation of charges upstream by Division engineers caused disorganization and terminated the attempt in failure. Enemy aircraft were over the Division sector shortly after 0700. A bomb falling near the bridge at Barby resulted in no damage.

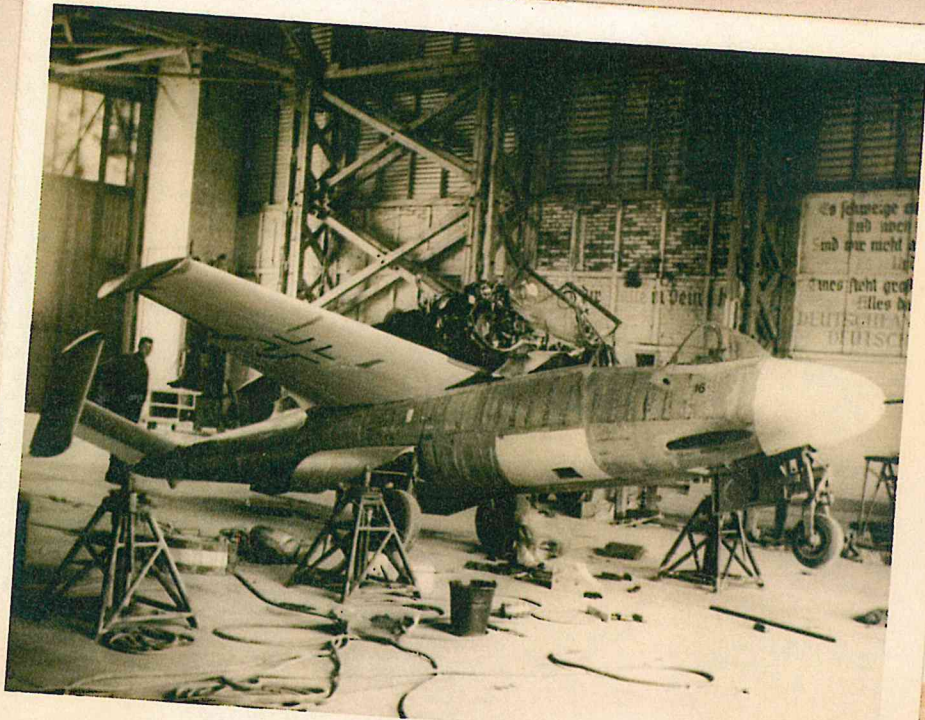
Swimming Saboteurs

The seven swimming saboteurs, working as two groups, were members of the Kriegsmarine trained in a specialty school at Venice, Italy in sabotage of ships, bridges, and water installations. About 2000 hours on 18 April they were taken in a truck pulling a trailer



360mm Mortar

Found near Calbe (D779747) on 20 April 1945



Jet Planes

Upper photo shows a jet-propelled plane destroyed on the ground at an airport near Nienburg (D7767). Lower photo is the interior of an experimental hangar at the same airport. The plane featured here was still in the experimental stage, one of the two or three in existence. Photos made on 20 April 1945.

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loaded with two torpedo mines to a forest near Steckby, where they remained throughout the next day. At about 0100 hours, 20 April the group backed the trailer into the Elbe River to unload the two mines and then, working underwater, the saboteurs proceeded downstream toward the Allied bridges. The two groups had been instructed to stay together, but because of darkness and river currents, became separated. Neither group had any knowledge of the other's whereabouts. They had been in the river about three hours before encountering mine-sweeping devices, nets and explosive charges which disorganized them resulting in the loss of the mine and the capture of one party. The officer in charge was later apprehended but the second party was not located.

330th Relieved

On the 20th of April the 330th Infantry (minus the 1st Battalion attached to the 331st Infantry) was relieved of its mission in the Harz Mountains on the south flank of XIX Corps by Combat Command A, 8th Armored Division, at approximately 1230. On the 21st of April the regiment relieved the 320th Regimental Combat Team of its responsibility in the bridgehead area.

Air

On the 20th of April from 0815 to 0915 a squadron of planes bombed Letizhau (D8993) including tanks, vehicles and personnel in the town, following up with an armed reconnaissance of the immediate vicinity. From 0945 to 1025 a squadron bombed a train at El281 and El685 containing guns and ammunition cars. A squadron from 1210 to 1310 bombed a target at El685, found another train in that area and bombed other targets. From 1300 to 1350 one flight bombed at E0081, looked over Zorbst and made an armed reconnaissance along the railroad to the northwest and over the bridgehead area and bombed targets at El685. From 1345 to 1435 a squadron bombed ammunition dumps, tanks, cars and trains at El685 and El179. From 1455 to 1600, from 1540 to 1615 and at 1545 a squadron bombed trains and ammunition dumps at El685 and El277. From 1615 to 1700 and again from 1705 to 1800 a squadron bombed six large guns on flat cars at El382, destroying one in the first sorty and three in the second. From 1755 to 1900 a squadron conducted an armed reconnaissance of the area north and northeast of the bridgehead. At 1840 to 1950 an armed reconnaissance was made along the railroad to the northeast from the bridgehead area, especially over the wooded area to the northeast, and to the east and southeast of the bridgehead.

Soviet

On the 21st of April the commanding officer of the 329th Infantry was instructed to organize a small task force consisting of one platoon of tanks, one company of tank destroyers and one company of infantry, plus any reconnaissance he chose ahead of the force. This task force was to

Contact

be held in readiness for the purpose of going out five to ten miles to meet the Russians. At the time Division artillery planes were up endeavoring to get all possible information regarding the location of Russian forces.

Subsequent orders regarding measures to be taken for identification purposes during the link-up with the Soviet forces were sent from XIX Corps on the 22d of April. The following telephone call was received from XIX Corps: "If and when contact is made with forces of the Soviet Union, you will telephone this headquarters immediately, making a 'Clear the Line' call. Notify all your subordinate units to advise you of the contact by a 'Clear the Line' call."

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Throughout the rest of the month frequent radio contact was established with the Russian forces. Numerous patrols were sent forth in an effort to contact the Soviet troops without success. Finally on the 30th of April at 1330 hours the 3d platoon of Troop C, 125th Cavalry Squadron (minus), 113th Cavalry Group contacted Soviet forces in Apollensdorf (E3174). Arrangements were made for a meeting with the commanding general for the next morning.

Displaced On the 24th of April a letter of instructions from XIX
Corps read: "83d Infantry Division will be prepared to
Persons move all Western European displaced persons and prisoners
of war, excluding Italians, from their Division areas into
2d Armored Division area to locations designated by 2d Ar-
mored Division. This movement to be commenced only on order of this head-
quarters. 83d Infantry Division will furnish this headquarters by 270800B
April 45 with list of number of nationalities of displaced persons and
prisoners of war to be moved."

In a meeting held at XIX Corps on 29 April it was decided that the evacuation of Western Europeans would begin on 1 May at the rate of 1,400 per day.

On the 27th of April the 330th Infantry negotiated the surrender of an enemy combat team intact with a strength of 41 officers and 855 enlisted men. 1,219 prisoners of war were taken as a result of operations during the period.

Zerbst The 2d and 3d Battalions of the 329th Infantry attacked and occupied the town of Zerbst without opposition on the 28th of April after negotiations to effect its surrender had failed. Approximately 800 prisoners of war were maintained. Company E (minus) of the 331st Infantry occupied Bias to furnish flank protection for the attack of the 329th Infantry on Zerbst.

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E N G I N E E R S

April was the 308th Engineer Battalion's busiest month of the war. The companies in support of infantry regiments were occupied with roadblock removal, mine sweeping, ferry operation, assault river crossings, bridge construction, mine laying and removal, and bridge security guard.

The first six days of the month, before the Division reached the Weser River, the Engineer Battalion cleared roads to the east and prepared bridges for demolition on the southern flank. A class 40, three-span timber bridge was constructed at Neuhaus (B6750) in order to shorten the main supply route.

On 6 April elements of the Division reached the Weser River in the vicinity of Bodenwerder (C2277) where the enemy had destroyed all existing bridges. So that no momentum would be lost one element crossed the Weser River over the 2nd Armored Division bridge in the vicinity of Grohnde (C1681), and then swung back into the Division area. The Engineers constructed and operated two ferries, one at Kemnad (C2278) and the other at Hehlen (C1978), to support this unit. By constructing trail type ferries it was possible to utilize the existing enemy trolley cable equipment. The operation was highly successful.

After breaking bitter enemy resistance, the 329th Regiment reached the Weser River on 8 April in the vicinity of Polle (C1568). At 0900 hours the Engineers supported the assault crossing and later constructed a motor-driven infantry support ferry. The crossing was made with two companies abreast in the face of light resistance. An M2 treadway bridge started by the 246th Engineer Battalion at the ferry site near Polle at 1030 hours was finished, after some difficulty with swift current, at 2030 hours.

The Division then continued moving eastward, advancing so rapidly that the enemy was unable to establish an effective rearguard action. Consequently all bridges over the Leine River were left intact, suitable for Division loads and an immediate crossing.

The 330th Infantry attacked the enemy in the Harz Mountains, protecting the southern flank so that forward supply lines would not be cut. The other two regiments raced on toward the Elbe River.

After encountering stiff enemy resistance in the vicinity of Barby (D8582), elements of the Division reached the Elbe River on 12 April. A double track railroad bridge, the only one in the Division area, was demolished by the enemy at 1945 hours.

On the afternoon of 13 April elements of both regiments made assault crossings in the vicinity of Barby. Each regiment used 34 boats, crossing two companies abreast. No difficulties were experienced during the initial phases of the crossing, but after the Infantry pushed on, enemy self-propelled guns started shelling the crossing site. Immediately after the first companies crossed, the Engineers constructed one five-boat treadway raft and three infantry support rafts. The operation of these ferries, especially the treadway ferry, was of prime importance for it enabled the infantry commanders to be supplied during the entire operation until the treadway bridge was completed. Over two hundred heavy vehicles including medium tanks and tank destroyers were ferried across on the treadway ferries. This contributed immeasurably to the success in repelling several counterattacks. Soon after the tank destroyers arrived on the enemy shore, the self-propelled guns were silenced. At no other time was there any artillery fire on the crossing site.

Later in the afternoon an M2 treadway bridge was constructed by the 295th Engineer Battalion at the existing ferry site immediately southeast of Barby. Except for some indirect artillery fire on the

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morning of 13 April the bridge was completed without difficulties.

During the next two days the enemy made several counterattacks but failed to penetrate the bridgehead.

In order to make the bridgehead more secure it was decided to construct an additional treadway bridge over the Elbe River at the ferry site four kilometers south of Barby. To accomplish this, however, it was necessary to make an assault crossing of the Saale River and drive the enemy from the pocket between these two rivers. On the afternoon of 15 April the Engineers supported an assault crossing made by the 320th Infantry of the 35th Division. Only 17 boats were used, one battalion crossing on a partially destroyed railroad bridge. Although the enemy was well entrenched on the opposite shore, the assault crossing was made without a shot being fired. An infantry support raft was operated until the treadway bridge was completed the next afternoon. The bridge was started at midnight 15-16 April, and its construction progressed satisfactorily until in the early morning an enemy patrol infiltrated through our lines, firing on the bridge and personnel with machine gun and small arms. Considerable damage was done to pontoons and equipment, but the bridge was completed at 1530 hours.

Shortly after the attack the engineers constructed a five boat treadway ferry to transport four light tanks across the river. This ferry was later used in the bridge.

The next morning at day break the second bridge over the Elbe was started by the 234th Engineer Battalion. It was completed at 1730 hours. The enemy became very sensitive to the new bridge and made several attempts to destroy both bridges. Artillery fire became more pronounced.

Two successive nights concerted aerial bombardment attacks were made. Our anti-aircraft prevented their hitting the bridges, but the bombs dropped caused several casualties in the general area of the bridges. The enemy floated numerous mines downstream, but anti-mine booms installed about 600 yards upstream and engineer riflemen stationed upstream and on the bridges anticipated the threat. In spite of these precautions one mine came within 15 feet of the bridge before it was destroyed by rifle fire. Although concussion from the mine caused one casualty, no damage was done to the bridge. A day or two later the enemy sent two crews of swimming saboteurs downstream. One of the reported crews was never located. But the other crew, consisting of one officer and two enlisted men, was captured. They had experienced great difficulty with the mine boom and were forced to give up their mine after working an hour trying to free it from the boom. No more attempts to destroy the bridges were made.

Shortly after the bridges were completed a portion of each of the Engineer Companies assisted the Infantry in laying and recording minefields along the MHR of the bridgehead. Nearly 14,000 mines were laid and many anti-personnel and trip flare devices installed.

During the last few days of the month the Engineers started to recover the minefields and open roads to the east in order to make contact with the Russians.

The Engineers worked two days in the town of Zerbst (D9983) with three D7 dozers to clear the rubble from the main routes to the east. In one section of the town the streets were completely blocked with debris 10 feet high. Streets were cleared for two way traffic.

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On the last day of the month one platoon supported the Cavalry Squadron to clear roads out to the extreme front near the Russian advanced elements in this sector.

During the month the following tasks were completed:

183	Roadblocks removed
127	Enemy mines removed
3,900	Friendly mines removed
14,000	Mines laid
5	Roadblocks installed
9	Ferries operated
4	Assault crossings made
20	Miles of road swept
2	Miles of road repaired
43	Vehicles removed from roads
3,000	Yards of debris removed from streets
1	Treadway bridge fixed installed
1	Class 40 timber bridge constructed
3	Bridges destroyed
9	Bridges prepared for demolition
25	Dead animals buried
3	Barges destroyed
830	Signs painted and posted
66,000	Maps distributed
3	Water points operated 280,000 gallons; operated in 22 locations
500	Miles of road reconnaissance

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AIR-GROUND COOPERATION

During the month of April the success of the Division's drive from the Rhine across the Weser, Leine and Elbe Rivers was in no small way dependent on close cooperation of the Air Corps.

Continuous air cover was provided for our racing columns of infantry and tanks. After the Division established a bridgehead over the Elbe River a constant flow of fighter-bombers protected the area and had much to do with our maintaining this spear pointing at the hear of the German Reich - Berlin.

From 7 to 20 of April a continuous flow of fighter-bomber squadrons broke up repeated enemy counterattacks. The most serious counterattack occurred on 18 April when infantry and tanks succeeded in infiltrating to positions behind our lines. Fighter-bombers strafed, bombed, and fired rockets on enemy tanks and troop concentrations where were sighted in close proximity to our bridges.

On 16 April a counterattack of less serious proportion was directed at CCR of the 2d Armored Division which was attached to the 83d Division for operations. The attack came from the north-east and we were forced to yield ground. Fighter-bombers strafed and bombed hitting the town of Glutengluck (09284) and SCHORA and MORITZ. By the end of the day the lost ground had been regained and positions consolidated along the original line. As part of the same counterattack the 331st Infantry was subjected to the blows of infantry supported by tanks and SP guns against their position, in vicinity of HOHENLEPTE (9381) at the close of the period 11 enemy tanks and 11 SP guns had been destroyed and heavy casualties inflicted on enemy personnel.

Between 15 and 20 April as many as 12 squadrons a day worked with the Division and succeeded in destroying at least 28 RR guns and many field pieces, ammunition dumps and oil cars.

The total number of 45 fighter-bomber squadrons for the period 7 to 20 April clearly shows the importance of our drive and the importance of our bridgehead.

On 16 April five groups of medium bombers totaling approximately 200 aircraft levelled a major portion of the town of ZERBST (09983).

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SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS

The problem of signal communication from the crossing of the Rhine to the crossing of the Elbe was unique. The Division Signal Company managed to keep all units within the Division in constant wire and radio communication.

Starting 28 March 1945, the Division crossed the Rhine with what were believed to be adequate supplies of wire. Thence came anywhere from one to three displacements per day for the Division Headquarters to correspond to the moves of the infantry regiments.

During the period of 28 March to 13 April, 1945, the Division drew an additional 700 miles of field wire, bringing the total expenditure of 1,295 miles. This, of course, does not include the hundreds of miles of civilian open wire and cable without which the displacements would have been impossible.

In order to insure continuous communication, it was necessary to reorganize the telephone and telegraph section into four echelons. Often all four echelons were in operation with all equipment. Non-standard German army equipment, usually telephones, were pressed into service.

Another function which fell to the Signal Company was of an intelligence nature. First, when the Division Headquarters arrived in a town it was necessary to send a small detachment with the Division CIC personnel to interrupt local service without destroying any of the equipment so that it would be available for later use by both Division and Corps. Secondly, much undamaged enemy signal equipment that fell into our hands had to be evaluated and reported to higher headquarters. Much critical and heretofore unknown enemy signal equipment was located this way.

The regiments had the same problem as the Division, although on a smaller scale. Often during the continuous advance the only telephone communication consisted of a telephone on the end of the Division line, with another phone parties on ahead to serve as the advance command post. All radio nets were constantly kept open, and a large volume of traffic was handled, both clear text and code.

Number of Displacements

The Division made 18 moves in 16 days.

Number of miles of field wire used

During period 28 March to 13 April the Division used 1,295 miles of field wire. On crossing the Rhine each unit carried its basic load of field wire in addition to the 595 miles held in reserve by Division Signal Supply. It was necessary to draw an additional 700 miles of field wire from the Army Signal Dump. At one time, towards the end of the march to the Elbe, the wire reserve had fallen to less than 67 miles and arrangements were being made to have some flown in by cargo aircraft.

Open Wire

Civilian open wire was generally in fair condition along the highways and railways. Because of the rapidity of the advance there was little destruction of open wire circuits, hence conversion to military use was accomplished by routing the wire with cut-throughs and jumpers. This proved quite a problem but was overcome by long, hard hours of work.

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Underground Cable

Some underground cable was cleared by the XIX Corps wire teams to bring communication to the Division. However this practice was secondary to finding open wire or overhead cable because of the longer period of time required to locate and clear underground cable circuits.

Enemy Equipment Used

A large enemy signal warehouse was taken in Alfeld, Germany. This installation provided the Division Signal Company with about 50 extra German telephones. In addition to these, a few public address systems were acquired and were to prove to be of great value later when used by the regiments for broadcasting instructions for surrender. It is impossible to state even approximately the amount of German signal equipment used because it greatly varied from time to time to conform to the needs of the situation. Much equipment, such as additional phones, switchboards, etc were picked up and used.

Radio Communication

Constant radio communication with Corps as well as subordinate units was maintained throughout the entire drive. No technical difficulties were experienced except that the telephone-radio link equipment had some difficulty in suitably beaming its signal across the Harz mountains. Because of the rapidity of the moves, it was necessary to attach a radio team to the command post reconnaissance parties. This practice expedited the movement from one command post to another neatly.

Message Center Operation

From 28 March to 13 April, the Message Center provided more cryptographic service than the total amount of cryptographic work done for the preceding four months. This was due to the fact that radio was used extensively and because teletype was usually in to Corps by radio link. Scheduled messenger runs ran between 25 miles to 250 miles round trip. Fortunately, all vehicles withstood the gaff.

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MILITARY GOVERNMENT

The Division began the month in Ludinghausen and ended it in Calbe, 250 km to the east. To attempt to describe in detail all activities of the Military Government Section during this period is impossible. The SHAEF Handbook contains no rules and regulations covering Military Government in such situations.

Throughout the period Military Government Detachment 112E3, Captain Vendig Commanding, was attached to Division as "Spearhead Detachment". His group plus the Division staff were all the Military Government trained personnel that were available to govern what can only be estimated as about 1,500,000 people.

Division arrived in Calbe on 14 April 1945 and for the balance of the month had a relatively static territory to control, containing a civilian population of 260,000 west of the Elbe river. The Bridgehead area contained an additional 50,000 people, a figure which constantly fluctuated due to tactical conditions.

Local governmental officials were by and large found at their posts, with the exception of those who had held important office in the Nazi Party. These had either evacuated themselves or donned a cloak of anonymity. The cooperation of the German officials was good, obedience to the orders of Military Government being the rule rather than the exception. In the rapidly moving situation in which the Division found itself, it was frequently impossible to investigate thoroughly the background of each important official but within the limits of capabilities Nazis were eliminated from office.

Several instances were encountered where fear of the American occupation or of retaliation for crimes committed resulted in suicide by the incumbent Nazi officials prior to our entry. In one case this occurred as Division CIC was entering the house to make an arrest. The propaganda of the Hitler regime would seem to have been effective in convincing its hirelings that they would be summarily dealt with by the Allied forces.

The peculiar indoctrination of the Germans regarding race superiority was evidenced time and again by their attitude in providing food and shelter for Displaced Persons. To them they are classed as slaves, literally, people who are not fit for anything but menial work. To be required to furnish them food, shelter, comforts other than is necessary to enable them to produce for the Fatherland is absurd. But they comply with the strange demands of these Americans. Time and again has arisen the point that people should not be fed unless they work. Usually a statement that the Germans brought these people to Germany and now must care for them, coupled with an order that they do so, has sufficed. In one instance, however, the method of provision was unexpected.

The Buergermeister of Egel, a cleric unexperienced in such affairs, had the belief that he must pay the citizens for the food that they furnished the town to care for foreign nationals. Being without cash in hand for the purpose, the obvious solution to him was to print some, and he did. Apparently in Egel, this proved to be satisfactory tender until Military Government confiscated the source of supply.

Another instance of arrogant belief that the German ruling class is a caste apart, and something which must have the approval of the rest of the world for its efficiency and superiority, was the incident of Bobo, the Count Augensleben. He, the self styled Squire of Neugattersleben, sauntered into the offices of Military Government in Stassfurt and described himself as Landrat of Kreis Calbe, a friend of Lord Astor, and

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an ardent non-Nazi. Said he, "I thought you might be wanting me to take charge of things up there for you." He appeared to find nothing incongruous in his profession of anti-Hitlerism and the fact that his membership in the NSDAP dates from 1937 and in the SA from 1933. He was assured that there were people in Calbe who were most anxious to see him and if he returned at about 1600 Military Government would be happy to offer him transportation to Calbe. "Shall I pack a bag for a short stay?", he asked. It was allowed that that was probably desirable. At 1600, he returned, a picture of sartorial elegance, with luggage neatly packed, and conversed pleasantly on various topics during the ride. Arriving in Calbe he was presented to his host, Captain Vieter of CIC, who used PW channels to dispose of Bobo, the Count Augensleben. That the disposition of the Count was well decided may be indicated by the fact that subsequently his devoted ex-subjects placed in a position of prominence on the old stone wall of the village of Neugattersleben midst such soul stirring exhortations as "ES LEBE DER FUEHRER," "UNSER LEBEN GEHOERT DEM FUEHRER", and "TOD DEN EINDRINGLINGEN", this final epitaph: "GRAF VON AUGENSLEBEN..... PFUI!"

The control of the civilian population was handled through the local police forces, augmented in all instances by about a 200 percent increase in auxiliary police. No difficulties were encountered in securing the obedience of the German population. Such trouble as did arise were the result of the presence of large numbers of Displaced Persons and Allied PW escapees. Neither as a matter of policy nor of practice could it be expected that local German police could adequately control the foreign nationals, their chief violations being looting of food stocks, indiscriminate travel, and in some instances reprisals against their ex-German overlords. Two methods of controlling them were devised. The first was to appoint some foreign national as leader for all of his nationality in a particular area and make him responsible for their conduct. Corollary to this was the appointment of foreign nationals to local police forces as auxiliaries. Results generally were good. The second method of control was physical presence of at least a small number of US troops in each community. It was not always possible to make such disposition but it was carried out so far as the tactical situation permitted.

Military Government Summary courts operated to only a limited extent during the period. In only rare instances was it possible to obtain a static situation making the holding of courts possible. The cases that were tried were mostly for violations of curfew, with one or two trials for looting and failure to obey the orders of an Allied officer. No intermediate or General Military Government Courts operated in Division area during the period.

The civilian education system was found non-functioning and remained so.

The banks were found closed and none was opened by this Division during the period. No branch of the Reichsbank was in Division area and the necessary forms to be delivered prior to the reopening of fiscal institutions were not available. It became increasingly important towards the close of the month to get the banks functioning, for without their facilities many of the Military Government demands made on local officials could not adequately be met. It is recommended that the reopening of banks be the sole responsibility of specialist officers of higher headquarters or that Division be furnished the necessary materials to accomplish the job.

No monuments, fine arts, and archives targets were found by Division during the period.

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The Division in general passed through an area rich in natural resources and food production. There were numerous coal and salt mines. In conformity with SHAEF policy, instructions were uniformly issued to restore agriculture to a maximum production immediately, employing all available means and such governmental force and control as might be necessary to place the maximum number of German people in food production. It was consistently ordered that no foreign national could be required to work for any German enterprises, but that on a completely voluntary basis such did not violate instructions from higher authority. Generally speaking, the stocks of food and other supplies were found to be adequate, and with the restoration of normal distribution facilities many of the food shortages now prevalent in occupied areas should disappear. It is believed that the areas occupied by this Division were more than selfsufficient in this regard.

There is naturally a shortage of skilled farm labor if one disregards the foreign nationals in the area. But that there is a shortage of labor overall on a peacetime economy basis is not apparent.

Generally throughout Division areas electricity was found not operating initially, but was easily and quickly restored. Many water systems were found undamaged and in most instances all were restored by the close of the period. No gas facilities were found in operation or have as yet been restored to full operation. Civilian transportation available is critically short but sufficient for the most essential local government needs. It is apparent that all available transport should be registered and allocated only to those essential enterprises approved by Military Government. The operation of all types of utilities in the Division area depended largely on coal as the motivating power and although supplies of coal are ample distribution is disrupted. With the resumption of rail communication, most problems in this regard will be eliminated.

Health conditions were found generally good. No evidence of disease in epidemic proportions was uncovered. Health conditions in isolated instances of concentration camps were deplorable, but such places were taken immediately under military control. The concentration camp at Langenstein, south of Halberstadt, was the worst encountered by Division. It contained over 1100 inmates, political prisoners, who had been forced to work 16 hours per day on a daily ration of dry bread and water. Deaths were at a rate of 25 to 40 per day at the time Division uncovered the camp. A complete report on this camp was included as an annex to Division's daily MGSUM of 17 April 1945. What bad health conditions were found can be traced to malnutrition and overcrowded quarters.

By far the biggest problem of Military Government during the month was handling and control of Displaced Persons. For the relatively static last half of the month there were approximately 30,000 Displaced Persons in Division area. About 85 percent of these were Eastern Europeans, mostly Russians and Poles. There were few large camps, the majority of the foreign nationals being in small groups on farms. Usually were employed in factories and mines, small groups lived in scattered dwellings and locations in the nearby vicinity. The first concern of Military Government in all instances was to enforce the standfast policy and to require the local governmental officials to provide food and shelter for all Displaced Persons in area. Although requiring constant supervision, this was generally successful and after initial difficulties attendant on any new system, the foreign nationals admitted that they were getting adequate food.

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A start was made on repatriating Western Europeans, French, Belgians, Dutch and Luxembourgers, shipment being by rail from outside Division area. Concurrent with westward movement, Division was at the close of the period receiving approximately 3,000 Eastern Europeans per day.

The maintenance of the Elbe bridgehead provided constant headaches for Military Government in that it became the focal point for all Western European Displaced Persons east of the river seeking to return home. It was impossible tactically to permit uncontrolled flow across the river, but Division did remove about 4,000 Displaced Persons to places West of the Elbe.

It is apparent that the operations of Military Government are for a long time to come going to be considerably taken up with the care of Displaced Persons. It is to be desired that the problem be so organized as to permit the ordinary duties and functions of Military Government to operate separately and apart from this specialized field. Ordinary Military Government will be in operation for a long period of time and its energies are now required full time on the restoration of German essential economy unless the Allies are to assume the job of feeding and providing for the German people.

At the close of the period Division had divided its area into sub zones with Military Government responsibility allotted to each Infantry Regiment, Division Artillery and the attached 113th Cavalry Group. These units in turn had subdivided the areas with officers and units in charge of each town. All Military Government activities were carried on by these officers and men, with Division Military Government Staff performing normal staff work and providing technical aid and assistance to the Division Commander. Military Government operating in this manner gave far more complete coverage than would be possible through Military Government Detachments and the job done by the tactical units was superior. The tactical commanders of Division showed an aptitude and interest in Military Government far exceeding anticipation.

No account of Military Government operations for this historic month could be complete without mention of the variety of the problems confronting the Division. For the first half month Division was racing across Germany at a rate of some 30 kilometers per day. Then the primary problem was enforcement of the standfast policy and the essential preliminary steps of reactivating local governments and police forces. Bringing under control the vast numbers of wandering Displaced Persons and Allied Prisoners of War became of major importance. During the latter half of the month, tactical conditions became more stabilized and the occupation and governing of the Division's area became of primary consideration. In all its missions the Division was successful, and not the least in Military Government. In the opinion of the Military Government Staff, few if any tactical units have a more clear conception of the responsibilities of the Military Commander for Military Government than do these of this Division; nor are there many which have assumed and discharged these responsibilities ably.

S E C R E T
1 April to 30 April

DIVISION COMMANDER	Macon, Robert C., Maj Gen, USA (1 April to 30 April)	0-4733
ASST TO DIV COMMANDER	Ferenbaugh, Claude B., Brig Gen, USA (1 April to 30 April)	0-12479
CHIEF OF STAFF	Boyle, Conrad L., Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-15951
AC of S, G-1	Mackenzie, Alan F. S., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-253371
	Harrell, Robert G., Lt Col (Acting 30 April)	0-318679
AC of S, G-2	Deshotels, Jules H., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-273934
AC of S, G-3	Duke, Robert W., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-365127
AC of S, G-4	Hughes, Shelly G., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-165757
ARTILLERY OFFICER	Montague, Robert M., Brig Gen, USA (1 April to 30 April)	0-12261
SIGNAL OFFICER	Rhyme, George W., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-21219
ENGINEER OFFICER	Dodge, Roy T., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-21463
AIR-GROUND COOPERATION OFFICER	Stephens, Raymond D., Maj (1 April to 30 April)	0-367023
ADJUTANT GENERAL	Harrell, Robert G., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-318679
	Cowden, Norman F., Maj (Acting 30 April)	0-1000099
EDGE ADVOCATE	Smith, John D., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-915645
INSPECTOR GENERAL	Tubb, James H., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-371106
FINANCE OFFICER	Shuck, Russell N., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-474859
SURGEON	Clotfelter, David W., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-20029
MILITARY GOVERNMENT OFFICER	Hanrahan, James C., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-520279
INFORMATION-EDUCATION OFFICER	Neff, John C., Capt (1 April to 30 April)	0-454413
ORDNANCE OFFICER	Lundy, Thomas F., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-252065
MASTER	McLaughlin, John D., Maj (1 April to 30 April)	0-452948
SPECIAL SERVICE OFFICER	Reeder, Julius C., Capt (1 April to 30 April)	0-1300743

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CHAPLAIN	Donnelly, Augustine P., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-23681
PROVOST MARSHAL	Ogilvie, George, Maj (1 April to 30 April)	0-445620
HEADQUARTERS COMMANDANT	Lewis, Raymond J., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-271706
CIC DETACHMENT	Victor, Oliver A., Capt (1 April to 30 April)	0-1049003

329TH INFANTRY

COMMANDING OFFICER	Crabill, Edwin B., Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-6769
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330TH INFANTRY

COMMANDING OFFICER	Foster, Robert T., Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-11258
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301ST INFANTRY

COMMANDING OFFICER	York, Robert H., Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-21341
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3D DIVISION ARTILLERY

COMMANDING GENERAL	Montague, Robert M., Brig Gen, USA (1 April to 30 April)	0-12261
EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Clay, Robert P., Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-16212
S-1, S-4	Seidler, Howard B., Maj (1 April to 30 April)	0-394165
S-2	Faxon, Alfred A., Maj (1 April to 30 April)	0-361523
S-3	Smith, Robert B., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-411990

308TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

COMMANDING OFFICER	Dodge, Roy T., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-21468
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3D CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE TROOP

COMMANDING OFFICER	Wells, Keith L., 1st Lt (1 April to 30 April)	0-1030205
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308TH MEDICAL BATTALION

COMMANDING OFFICER	Higdon, Robert S., Lt Col (1 April to 30 April)	0-21459
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DIVISION HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

COMMANDING OFFICER	Cederberg, Elfred A., Capt (1 April to 17 April)	0-1286960
	McGonagle, Robert F., Capt (17 April to 30 April)	0-1287038

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783D ORDNANCE (LM) COMPANY

COMMANDING OFFICER

Getty, John A., Capt
(1 April to 30 April)

O-370379

83D SIGNAL COMPANY

COMMANDING OFFICER

Harkey, Marion L., Capt
(1 April to 30 April)

O-454655

83D QUARTERMASTER COMPANY

COMMANDING OFFICER

Brauch, George P., Capt
(1 April to 30 April)

O-1573740

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T R O O P L I S T - 1 - 30 A P R I L

329th INFANTRY REGIMENT

330th INFANTRY REGIMENT

331st INFANTRY REGIMENT

83d DIVISION ARTILLERY:

322d Field Artillery Battalion
323d Field Artillery Battalion
324th Field Artillery Battalion
908th Field Artillery Battalion

308th ENGINEER BATTALION

308th MEDICAL BATTALION

83d CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE TROOP

83d DIVISION SPECIAL TROOPS:

83d Headquarters and Headquarters Company
83d Quartermaster Company
83d Signal Company
783d Ordnance (Light Maintenance) Company
83d Military Police Platoon

ATTACHED UNITS:

453d Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion (AW) (1 through 30 April)
643d Tank Destroyer Bn (Self-Propelled) (1 through 30 April)
736th Tank Battalion (1 through 30 April)
25th Field Artillery Battalion (105mm Howitzer) (1 through 30 April)
801st Tank Destroyer Battalion (10 through 12 April)
967th Field Artillery Battalion (155mm Howitzer) (1 through 30 April)
113th Cavalry Group (3 through 30 April)
65th Armored Field Artillery Battalion (21 through 30 April)
Combat Command "R", 2d Armored Division (14 through 19 April)
696th Armored Field Artillery Battalion (21 through 30 April)
92d Chemical Battalion (151800 through 30 April)
15th Cavalry Group (1 through 3 April)
27th Smoke Generator Company (18 through 30 April)
Regimental Combat Team 320, 35th Infantry Division (151000 through 211200 April)
3d Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment (19 through 30 April)
Air-Ground Coordination Party
83d Counterintelligence Corps Detachment
Military Intelligence Interrogation Team #428-G
Photo Interpretation Team #42
Order of Battle Team #20
Interrogation of Prisoner of War Team #51
Interrogation of Prisoner of War Team #58
Military Government Detachment 112E3
168th Signal Photo Detachment
83d Smoke Generator Co (18 through 30 April)

SUPPORTING UNITS:

1115th Engineer Group (1 to 3, and 20 to 30 April)
228th Field Artillery Group (7 to 30 April)
132d Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion (90mm) (18 through 30 April)
295th Engineer (Combat) Battalion (1 to 3 April)
246th Engineer (Combat) Battalion (4 to 8 April)

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DETACHMENTS

330th Infantry:

Attached: 323d Field Artillery Battalion
Company B, 308th Medical Battalion
In XIX Corps Reserve 051430-071200

331st Infantry:

Attached: Company C, 736th Tank Battalion
1 Reconnaissance Platoon 643d Tank Destroyer
Battalion (Self Propelled)
908th Field Artillery Battalion
Troop A, 113th Cavalry Squadron
XIX Corps Reserve 100600-11 April

330th Infantry:

Attached: Company B, 1 Platoon Company D, and 2nd Assault
Gun Platoon, 736th Tank Battalion,
323d Field Artillery Battalion
801st Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed) (- Company C)
Passed to control of XIX Corps at 131500.
1st Battalion reverted to Division control 16 April. 2d and
3d Battalions 20 April

S E C R E T

A W A R D S

	S S		B S		SSOLC		BSOLC		SOLDIER'S MEDAL		AIR MEDAL	AMOLC	TOTAL	
	Off	EM	Off	EM	Off	EM	Off	EM	EM		Off	Off	Off	EM
Div Hq			2	3									2	3
329	6	25	17	98			2	5					25	128
330			6	18			4	2					10	20
331	11	9	13	62	2			8					26	79
Div Arty			2	1									2	1
322			1										1	
323			2	3									2	3
324				2								2	2	2
908									1					1
Engr		1		6				1					1	7
Med				5										5
QM			1	3									1	3
Ord			1	2									1	2
Div Total	17	35	45	203	2		6	16	1			2	73	254
ATCHD														
453 AAA				1									1	
643 TD		4	2	23									2	27
736 TK	1		4	2									5	2
25 FA			10	8			1				2	2	15	8
67 Armd Regt				1									1	

S E C R E T
BATTLE CASUALTIES

	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>NBC</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REINF & RTD</u>
DIV HQ		1		2	3	8
329	62	215	16	170	463	316
330	33	155	13	184	385	281
331	89	335	55	119	598	534
Hq DIV ARTY		2	2	1	5	5
322		3		10	12	14
323	1		14	6	21	12
324			2	11	13	11
908		2		17	19	11
ENGR	1	5		25	31	32
MED		1		7	8	8
RCN	4	10		3	17	17
Hq Co Sp Trs						6
SIG	1	1		4	6	11
QM			4	4	8	9
ORD						1
MP			1	4	5	3
TOT DIV	191	730	107	567	1594	1279
453 AAA	4	14	4	13	35	18
643 TD	10	30	2	28	70	47
736 Tk	13	38	1	46	98	75
25 FA		2		6	8	3
976 FA				3	3	6
696 FA		1	1	7	9	4
65 FA				1	1	5
92 Cml Bn				7	7	9
801 TD Bn				1	1	

S E C R E T

A NOTE ON MORALE

Many things contributed to the success which the 83d Division enjoyed during the month of April. Not least of these things was morale. An indication of the high state of morale obtaining in the Division can be found in the paragraph below. This is an Extract of the Record of Events of the Morning Report, Company B, 331st Infantry, dated 23 April 1945.

"This Co is in mourning for the greatest man ever to be a member of this organization. Capt Moore is no longer among the living, but his spirit will always hover over the Co which he made so great. The Co has lost its greatest friend and the Div its best Captain. He gave his life so that this Co could continue on the road to greatness. There is no tangible way that the men can show their grief, but in each man's heart a void and ache has been created. Every man in this Co can honestly feel he was privileged to serve under Capt Moore. Whatever honors we may amass in the future will be in his memory. It will live untarnished in our minds forever. Capt Moore - May your soul rest in peace and have the tranquility which it did not have on this earth."

S E C R E T

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY

During the first 3 weeks in April, the activities of the 83d CIC Detachment had necessarily to be adapted to the speed with which the Division was advancing across Germany to the Elbe. With a daily movement of between 20 and 30 miles, it was impossible to accomplish any but the preliminary counter intelligence steps. Hence, the Detachment personnel devoted themselves largely to the accomplishment of 3 principle activities; namely, the neutralizing of communications between Allied and enemy territory, the arresting of Nazis and other Germans whose presence in the area constituted a threat to the security of Allied operations, and the sealing of party buildings, in order that the records therein would remain intact for future use by occupational forces.

In discussing each of the above 3 steps more in detail, it must be remembered that the reaction of the enemy to our swift advance made counter intelligence work in some cases more fruitful than in others. For example, enemy communication facilities were found in almost every case to be in working condition at the time when CIC personnel arrived to neutralize them. This job had to be coordinated with signal personnel, particularly in the case of the regular enemy civilian communications system, which not only had to be neutralized, but had to be done in such a way that the system could be put to use by our own forces as quickly as possible for communication to our own rear areas. It was a situation where the mere smashing of a telephone cable with an axe, the normal neutralizing procedure, was not the acceptable method. In the case of the civilian communications system, therefore, CIC personnel were in almost every case accompanied by trained signal men, who could neutralize the system by the removal of certain technical parts, rather than by severing the main cable. This procedure was found to be acceptable to all parties concerned.

In the case of other enemy communications systems, however, this care did not have to be taken, and these systems were also found to be in operation, as we made our advance. It was discovered that in the larger towns the Nazi Party buildings had a separate communications system, which it was necessary to neutralize. In one case, a direct line from a town in Germany all the way to Holland was found to be still in operation. The communications system most frequently being used by the enemy was the railroad telephone network. In one case, CIC personnel interrupted a railway official while he was in process of telling an unknown enemy station further up the line of the presence of American troops in his town. The conversation was short-lived.

In connection with the arrest of high-ranking Party members and other Germans constituting a threat to our security, some interesting facts came to light, as our advance continued. In the larger towns, the Party officials, SS and SD personnel, and other persons liable to categorical arrest, were usually found to have fled, whereas in the smaller towns the local "big shot" Party man was usually still to be found, apparently assuming that he would be overlooked. In a few cases, Party members indicated their despair at the general situation by committing suicide. In one case, an Ortsgruppenleiter killed his whole family prior to eliminating himself, in another, a Kreisobmann shot himself just after one of our CIC officers had entered his home to make the arrest.

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Although it was by no means possible to arrest all persons who should, by higher headquarters' directive, be arrested, the Detachment nevertheless amassed in the 3 week period a rather large total of arrestees, which in summary form is as follows: 5 Nazi Party officials of Kreis level; 50 Ortsgruppenleiters; 8 officers in the SA; 42 members of the Allgemeine SS; 10 members of the SD (Secret Security Police); 5 Hitler Youth engaged in espionage; one member of the Gestapo; 2 members of the German Intelligence Service; 3 saboteurs; 10 members of the staff of the Stein Company, Eschershausen, engaged in the production of enemy airplane parts and tank equipment - 3 of these had worked in the United States for several years, and 2 of them could still be American citizens.

In connection with the sealing of important Nazi offices, the advance which was made by the Division produced interesting results. At the beginning of the operation, the usual procedure on the part of the enemy was discovered: namely, that they had either burned or taken with them all party records of value. However, as our advance increased in rapidity and the enemy's front became more and more disorganized, Party members fled from their offices leaving all their records intact. In one case, a half-drunk cup of tea and a piece of toast was found still on the desk of a Party official at Kreis level. The sealing of the many buildings in which these records were left behind was the preliminary step undertaken by CIC personnel to insure that occupational forces will be able to let the records speak for themselves, as they go about the long range job of completely de-Nazifying Germany.

One other task which Detachment personnel were constantly called upon to perform throughout the period was the interrogation of many civilians to determine whether or not they were PW's in civilian clothes. It is notable that hundreds of soldiers abandoned their uniforms and donned civilian dress, not with the thought that they might continue resistance, but rather that they might escape detection as soldiers and somehow return home. An accurate estimate of the number of PW's in civilian clothes arrested during the first 3 weeks of April cannot be given, but a conservative estimate would place the total at approximately 300. The uncovering of these persons as PW's was the clearest concrete indication which the CIC had of the ever-increasing disintegration of the German Wehrmacht.

S E C R E T

CONCENTRATION CAMP

Interview of Captain Georges Desprez, French Army, Medical Corps, conducted by MII Team 428-G at 2100, 17 April and 1000, 18 April in Calbe, Saale, Germany. Map reference: Halle, M52, 1/250,000.

V-2 Factory Beneath the wooded mountain (300 meters high) at 096310 is the Dora (code name) V-2 Factory. This is an assembly plant, producing 20 V-2 rockets daily as well as motors for Junkers bombers. V-2 rockets left factory daily until 5 April by RR in direction of Nordhausen completely assembled but for warhead which was to be attached later at another factory, location unknown. The factory which traverses base of mountain from N to S, consists of 4 principal tunnels off which there are 26 shafts. Entrances to each principal tunnel are defended by a well camouflaged light tank, manned by crews of 4 Waffen SS. Entire mountain is mined. Factory is connected by double-tracked RR line (not shown on map) with RR stations at Salza (105285) and Wolfleben (075330). RR tracks run through Dora Factory beneath said mountain. Factory is manned by 25,000 foreign forced labor under supervision of German common law convicts and guarded by approximately 1,500 SS police led by a sturmbannfuhrer.

V-2 Inventor According to informant, V-2 rocket is an invention of one Sawatski, civilian engineer, from East Prussia, who frequently visited this factory and personally told subject that each V-2 rocket cost 350,000 RM. Sawatski is one of the original 100,000 members of the Nazi Party and a bearer of the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross.

Sawatski Of light build, Sawatski is 42, stands 5' 5". His complexion is pale, his chestnut hair is worn combed back. Sawatski has one scar over right eyebrow. Although Captain Desprez does not know the present whereabouts of Sawatski, the latter's residence is reported to be in the vicinity of said factory. Special quarters were built for Sawatski in shaft No. 26.

Hitler's Quarters Informant stated that during February, 1945 all of Hitler's personal food supplies and elaborate furniture were transported to one of the above mentioned tunnels from Berchtesgaden. Subject claims, from hearsay, that the Fuehrer intended to use Dora Factory as an alternate residence and CP when and if his mountain residence at Berchtesgaden should be threatened. Informant further states that the barracks constructed in February for the use of the Fuehrer and his suite were particularly elaborate and luxurious and that the Fuehrer's personal food and liquor supplies were scheduled to last for at least six months. Numerous radio sets, both receivers and transmitters, were installed in these prospective quarters.

Dr. Speer Entire personnel of War Production Ministry, headed by Dr. Speer, moved into Dora factory from Berlin in February, 1945; this included offices as well as living quarters and large quantities of supplies of all types. The Dora factory was begun in 1940 by French PWs to house underground factory; this work was taken up again by forced labor in September, 1943. 10,000 drills were used by 15,000 workmen to complete tunnels by September, 1944 at which latter date production of V-2 began. Subject states that all entrances to principal tunnels are mined by means of 6 x 6 meter mine chambers, filled with unknown explosive, situated on both sides of above mentioned tunnels and approx 15 meters from the entrances, ventilation shafts are similarly mined. According to informant, these preparations for demolit-



Upper photo shows the inmates of a concentration camp near Langenstein (262667) south of Halberstadt (2871) 17 April 1945. Lower photo taken in one of the barracks, the floors wet with the blood of its inhabitants.



The Dead

Concentration camp near Langenstein.

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ion were made by enemy in order to bury alive all 25,000 foreign forced workers since they were officially classified as "Geheimnistrager", i.e. unreliable manpower entrusted, through military necessity, with a vital war secret (in this particular case, V-2), should Dora factory fall into Allied hands. Subject believes that since the above mentioned personnel were evacuated this original plan will be changed. According to him Allied troops will be permitted to enter tunnels and then all charges of explosives are to be set off. However, should factory be defended subject claims that the defending garrison would be completely self sufficient insofar as all outside help, supplies and electric current are concerned. All entrances to principal tunnels are camouflaged by huge colored nets and vegetation.

Treatment of Prisoners Approximately 18,000 of the prisoners employed at Dora were either quartered on premises of same or in 103 barracks situated in woods covering mountain. Remainder of forced labor was divided between camps situated at Ellrich (025365) and Harzungen (130335). These prisoners, who included men of practically every European nationality, were all political convicts. Sick personnel were hospitalized at Bolke barracks in Nordhausen which was destroyed on approximately 2 April by Allied bombers, causing death of 6,000 inmates.

Prisoners' Daily Schedule Subject describes the living and working conditions at Dora as follows: a. Reveille at 0300. Reveille formation at the position of attention, lasting anywhere from 1 to 5 hours. b. Inmates then marched to work on their bare feet from wherever their camp was located to their factory. During these marches prisoners were constantly thrashed without the slightest provocation with whips, sticks and blackjacks by SS guards as well as by German common law convicts in charge of the various work details. c. Work in Dora lasted until 1200. d. At 1200 there was a half-hour interruption for a meal consisting of one pint of flour and cereal soup. e. Work continued until 1900. f. Return to camp in manner similar to (b) above. g. Roll call, lasting 1 to 2 hours. h. Distribution of bread ration consisting of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs, and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb of margarine per six men. Twice a week men received additionally one sausage. i. Lights out at 2200 provided that there were no night shifts in addition to the regular day shift at the factory.

Mortality Rate Combined daily mortality rate of all 4 camps mentioned above was approximately 700. Daily death rate was particularly high at Nordhausen Camp, referred to above, where approximately 450 men died every day due to the following system of treatment: a. All those incurably ill were sent to Nordhausen to be placed on bare cement floors without bedding and without any food whatsoever until such time as they died. A man was considered incurably ill when he weighed less than 70 lbs. Just for the record's sake, 14 French doctors, equipped with absolutely no medical supplies, were kept in mock attendance at this "hospital". b. The dead were either cremated at Dora or burned on pyres in the adjoining woods, while trains from prison camps all over Germany constantly supplied Dora with "fresh inmates".

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Discipline

Disciplinary sanctions were inflicted on such prisoners as were considered wilfully disobedient. The following infractions were punished by 25 heavy lashes on the back, from which 30% of the prisoners thus thrashed died: a. Failure to salute Waffen SS Pvs mounting guard. b. Not standing in line. c. Hoarding bread. The following infractions, which were invariably interpreted as sabotage, were punished by hanging: a. Breaking windows. b. Destruction of any material. c. Cutting blankets to fit into shoes in order to keep warm. The above does not take into account such death sentences as were meted out for actual efforts on the part of inmates to sabotage factory, for example: a. 162 men were hung during December, 1944 for attempting to smuggle plans of V-2 through German traitor via Kassel. b. 43 men were hung in early March, 1945 for attempting to blow up entire Dora factory and sacrifice all personnel in order to avoid any future V-2 damage in England and elsewhere.

Informant

Capt Georges Desprez, aged 42, was arrested in vicinity of St Malo in 1942 for illegal transportation of firearms parachuted to French Resistance by Allies and for having in his home papers detrimental to Germany. While in the concentration camp described in above report subject was required by the German authorities to act as one of the Nordhausen doctors, referred to above. When said concentration camp was disbanded on 4 April 1945 one column left for Hamburg by train and one left on foot towards same destination. Subject, being part of the latter column, escaped 11 April together with 4 other inmates in vicinity of Biere and was overtaken by U.S. troops. Capt Desprez was turned over to Capt Duchene, French Liaison Officer, XIX Corps for more detailed interrogation concerning war atrocities and a list of the names of the perpetrators.

Corps Headquarters, Apr 26, 45

The General In Command
of a German Army Corps

T r a n s l a t i o n

- 1.) In the neighbourhood of Wisenberg - Belzig there are in German Field Hospitals about 6000 badly wounded German soldiers of the Eastern front. The wounds of these soldiers who are already taken care of by the German medical services are such that the soldiers will be permanently unfit for service. (Amputations of arms and legs, loss of one or both eyes, etc.)

In consideration of the fact that in spite of the severe fighting of the American Nation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain against the Great German Reich the Swiss Convention was in the most loyal way observed by both sides, furthermore in consideration of the fact that in the territories occupied by the Russian forces all wounded German soldiers who cannot be used for military service or work, are being killed, the undersigned General in Command begs to submit the following requests:

- a) Transfer of the wounded German soldiers of the space mentioned to the Commander of the USA Forces into the vicinity of Barby or Magdeburg by the medical services of the German Army or nurses of the German Red Cross.
 - b) Transfer of the wounded German soldiers into German hospitals in the German territory occupied by the USA Forces, by the institutions of the German Red Cross, in accordance with the regulations of the Geneva Convention and giving them into the care of the German civilian population.
- 2) On the military training field of Altengrabow there are 1500 young German women enlisted for working service with their children, furthermore a number of young girls. In consideration of the fact that German women who fall into the hands of the Russian troops risk to be violated in the most inhuman manner, the request is hereby put forward to also offer to these women and children the possibility of placing themselves under the protection of the International Red Cross within the zone of the German territory occupied by the Anglo American Forces. On account of the military situation the undersigned General in Command regrets not to be in a position to furnish the necessary transport facilities west of the Elbe. He begs to make him proposition as to how and where the transfer of the wounded soldiers and of the women and children should take place. He begs especially to have the necessary measures carried out urgently, on account of the fact that the German forces in the space mentioned are engaged in heavy fighting with front towards the East.

The requests put forward under 1.) and 2.) are being formulated in full consent with the High Commander of the German Forces engaged in this territory.

The course of the military action will not be influenced by the transfer to be effected according to the Geneva Convention, with the only exception of a small section for the duration of the transfer, this section to be locally determined by mutual consent and to be limited to the smallest space possible.

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Signed Koehler
Lieutenant General

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PUBLICITY

During the month of April, as in all its previous months of combat, the 83d Division was given a great deal of attention by the Press. Two newspaper articles are quoted below. They are typical of the many describing the Division's dash from the Rhine to the Elbe.

GI'S IN GERMAN FIRE ENGINES RACE PAST ELBE (NY HERALD TRIBUNE, 16 APRIL 45)

BEYOND THE ELBE WITH THE 83D DIVISION -- The fast-moving United States 83d Infantry Division, now holding the only bridgehead east of the Elbe River, extended its foothold today to a depth of five kilometers (about three and one-eighth miles) as armor and infantry poured across the division's bridge fifteen miles southeast of Magdeburg.

The feat of the 83d, as an infantry unit, in keeping pace with the United States 2d Armored Division in reaching the last natural barrier before Berlin and then building and hanging on to a bridge after the 2d Armored had been forced to abandon its site, is one of the most remarkable stories of the war.

Ten days ago, the 83d, which is under the command of Major General Robert C Macon, of Washington, consolidated bridgeheads before Hamm in the Ruhr and then was relieved to swing to the Elbe. In ten days, the slugging infantrymen covered 250 miles without requesting a single vehicle in addition to those normally assigned to the division.

With typical GI ingenuity, the troops picked up every conceivable captured German vehicle enroute to the Elbe. Convoys along the roads had doughboys packed thirty deep on American tanks, ten in a single jeep and dozens in German staff cars, buses, fire engines, trailers, police wagons, and half-tracks.

Some of the seized transport was painted, but most of it was not, for lack of time. The fantastic procession streamed along the roads at a twenty-five-mile-a-day clip, which is really stepping ahead for any unit, whether infantry or mechanized.

Spearheading the entire division was Major George White, twenty-four-year-old commander of the 3d Battalion of the 329th Regiment. With his regular vehicles he had a couple of police motor trucks and German staff cars. When he reached the Weser River, he borrowed the 2d Armored Division's bridge there and swung south to establish a bridgehead for his own division.

Colonel Edwin B. Crabill, commander of the 329th, a short, peppery man known to his troops affectionately as "Buckshot", has two objectives in mind at present -- trying to widen the bridgehead east of the Elbe and attempting to bring over a bright red bus, capable of holding fifty men, with which to ride triumphantly into Berlin.

With the abandonment of the 2d Armored's bridge over the Elbe further north, and in view of the serious casualties inflicted by the good troops which the enemy has been able to muster in that sector, the troops here hope that the series of wild assertions by rear-guard elements will cease. There were radio reports two days ago that Magdeburg had been captured; the tank crews forced to return after crossing the Elbe will dispute that point vehemently. For two days and a night they were subjected to merciless artillery pounding and tank fire, and had no air support. Their only food during that time was two "K" rations a man. And casualties were heavy.

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THE RAG-TAG CIRCUS - THEY MAKE HISTORY

(By Ernest Leiser
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer)

WITH 83RD INF. DIV. ACROSS THE ELBE, Apr 14 (delayed) - Gen Simpson himself went down to find out how they ever did it.

This rag-tag "travelling circus" that roade and fought over more than 200 miles of Germany in some ten days, keep up with the best of American armor, just didn't belong in the books of modern warfare.

It was impossible but the 83rd Inf. Div. did it. From the time they were relieved from the bridgehead they had secured across the Weser to the crossing of the Elbe and the holding of the bridgehead on the far side, they had not only kept up with the armor - they had outstripped it.

They used any kind of transport you can name - tanks, TDs, trucks, and jeeps, all bursting at the seams with GI passengers, and then added to that were German cars, trucks, fire engines, bicycles, and even wheelbarrows.

Except for a day or so they had absolutely no attached trucks to haul their fast freight so they made do with whatever they could find along the road, and they found plenty.

Strange things happened in that ten-day blitz - things that could only have happened to this "Coxey's Army".

The other day as they were rolling along a little German sedan was weaving in and out of the column, passing vehicles. No one would have noticed it there wasn't anything unusual in this convoy about a German vehicle - if the driver hadn't kept honking his horn imperiously.

Pfc David Webster, a Signal Company man from Terre Haute, Indiana, took a second look at the car and saw that the guy inside had on a German uniform O with red collar patches. The 83rd had captured a German general who was going east in even a greater hurry than they were.

In another case, the column overtook a German convoy, consisting of a Colonel and his staff, travelling the same way on the same road.

Up with the First Bn. of the 329th Inf. Regt, fighting their first real battle since they took off, the men were still reminiscing between ducking shells at the perimeter of the Elbe bridgehead. They were bitter about some of the thing they saw.

S/Sgt Dean Derey, of Bristol, Tenn., described the British and American prisoners they had freed in their sweep, about how they had cried when the 83rd came along and how the German guards had previously beaten the civilians who so much as offered them a glass of water in their death march across Germany.

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Summary of Enemy Order of Battle

Part One

At the beginning of the month the 83d Infantry Division was following closely behind elements of 2d Armored Division in its spectacular eastward drive along the north edges of the LIPPE CANAL. During the early part of the month our operations were confined to mopping up after the 2d Armored Division but there were periods of brief direct contact with the enemy when elements of the Division were diverted from the eastward push to take temporary action against HAHN (B0543) in the Northern RUHR, to contact elements of First US Army at LIPPSTADT (B4242), and to clear the HARTZ MOUNTAIN areas south of COBLAN (C0571). Toward the middle of the period 83d Infantry Division completed successful independent operations in the eastward push up to the ELBE RIVER abreast of the 2d Armored Division. A bridgehead over the ELBE was established at BARBY (D8582) and was successfully defended until the end of the period against persistent attempts on the part of the enemy to destroy it. At the end of the period units of 83d Infantry Division advanced eastward from the bridgehead to establish contact with Russian forces. This contact was made at APPOLLENSDORF (E3175) on 30 April 1945 by the 125th Cavalry Squadron.

The eastward drive from the RHINE RIVER by forces of XIX Corps was opposed by a highly disorganized enemy. He expected a frontal assault on the RUHR and was completely caught off guard by the powerful exploitation of our initial progress north of the LIPPE CANAL. The elements of a complete breakthrough were evident in that spearheads were never opposed by any organized division of the German Army while powerful forces of the enemy were fighting vigorous battles on the northern approaches to the Ruhr and also against XIII Corps and the British to our north. Great numbers of separate Infantry Replacement and Training units, Home Guard Battalions, recuperative units, AAA units, and a great host of rear echelon and service troops were encountered and our PW cages often presented a weird picture of crippled, wounded, recuperating and training elements of the German Army. The only divisional unit encountered in the early phases of the drive were elements of 116 Panzer Division which were anxiously defending HAHN with the hope, eventually, of finding a gap in the rapidly closing northern wall of the RUHR pocket. Most of the miscellaneous units encountered were component parts of the relatively large Training and Replacement system of Wehrkreis VI through which we drove rapidly. There was no indication, except for a few documents, which showed any attempt on the part of the enemy to organize and coordinate these small units into effective fighting Regiments or Divisions. 406 zbV, 466 zbV and 476 Mobilization Divisions normally controlled these numerous battalions administratively but proved unable to assume any combat mission or to organize them into any semblance of order or discipline. The enemy was totally unable to resist our advance and such barriers as the LIPPE RIVER, DORTMUND-LEIS CANAL, WESER RIVER, LEINE RIVER and finally the ELBE RIVER, were crossed without great difficulty.

Violent but short-lived resistance was met in the LIPPSTADT (B4242)-PADERBORN (B7147)-SENDELAGER (B5753) training areas. This area was the leading training center for the armored forces, both SS and Wehrmacht.

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A few Panzer Training Units (primarily 2 SS Panzer Training and Replacement Regiment, 502 Heavy Panzer Battalion, 500 Panzer Reserve Battalion and 507 and 508 SS Panzer Training Battalions) with an estimated strength of 60 tanks, fought strongly with the intention of preventing the junction of 2d US Armored and 3d US Armored Divisions south of PADERBORN. There were indications throughout these brief stands made by the enemy that while there were a fair number of tanks for the individual actions, there were no first class infantry troops to support these actions. A large number of disabled and convalescing troops were thrown into battle to support these tank teams but they quickly ended up in our PW cages.

The meeting of our forces and those of 3d Armored Division south of PADERBORN closed the vast RUHR pocket. 83d Infantry Division was thinly spread along the northern edge of this pocket and noted the progressive eastward movement of enemy forces within the pocket, toward the east edge thereof with the intention of escaping the trap. It was during this period that some elements of 116 Panzer Division were contacted protecting the approaches to HAMM and points along the perimeter of the pocket further east.

Strongpoints consisting of road blocks supported by scattered small arms fire by dug-in infantry and occasional small groups of tanks, characterized enemy effort against us during our independent action from the WESTER RIVER up to the ELBE RIVER. The low grade personnel manning these positions continued to be from the host of Infantry Replacement and Training Battalions of Wehrkreise VI and XI, the numerous Home Guard Battalions of the areas overrun, groups of students from disbanded Officer and Non-commissioned Officer Schools, and a large number of AAA units which had lost their guns and were committed as infantry. In addition, a great number of soldiers were released from hospitals in the overrun areas and thrown into the lines with instructions to "hold to the last man" while the few SS troops leading them escaped at the last moments. Airfield personnel, Drivers Schools, Air Corps ground units, Survey Battalions, Smoke Companies, NSKK, Labor Service troops, Hitler Jugend, and a large number of foreign laborers in German Army uniforms complete the picture of enemy personnel until the ELBE RIVER was reached. When Wehrkreis VI units were dissipated the same pattern occurred with Wehrkreis XI units. The only reasonably effective enemy units were encountered in the northern approaches to the HARZ MOUNTAINS, south of GOSLAR, where our forces had to contend with elements of the 116 Panzer Division and the 3 Panzer Grenadier Division which had managed to extricate themselves from the RUHR pocket. In addition, a newly formed Division, the Potsdam, and a scratch Division of Wehrkreis XI, CT Goerbig, made up the enemy forces in the HARZ areas.

The backbone of the defense of BARBY (D2562) on the ELBE RIVER, was the 1 Battalion, 1064 Infantry Regiment, Potsdam Division. This division was one of three newly formed divisions organized in the vicinity of BERLIN within the preceding ten days. Personnel came mainly from the disbanded NCO and Reserve Officer Schools in the BERLIN area. The other two divisions were the Scharnhorst and the Ulrich von Hutten. PWs taken from the 1 Battalion, 1064 Regiment, stated on 13 April that the other two divisions were in the vicinity, and that the rest of Potsdam Division was in the HARZ MOUNTAIN area, south of HALBERSTADT (D2871). Only their battalion was diverted from the original mission and thrown into the defense of BARBY.

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The Potsdam Division was later fully identified in the HARZ MOUNTAIN area by units of First US Army. It consisted of 1053, 1054 and 1064 Regiments. The auxiliary number of this division, 135, and the 1053, 1054 Regimental numbers were formerly carried by units of 85 Infantry Division which was long believed to be reorganizing in the interior of GERMANY. The exact connection between 85 Division and Potsdam Division was not clear but it was believed at the time that this Division had new infantry regiments but that the supporting and service troops were those remaining from the 85 Infantry Division.

After our bridgehead over the ELBE RIVER at the town of BARBY was established on 14 April 1945, elements of another of the three newly-created divisions, Scharnhorst Division, were identified by our troops. This division was organized similarly to that of the Potsdam Division with three infantry regiments, Langemeier, Mahlow and Pick, (named after the Regimental Commanders). On 14 April the second battalion of Langemeier Regiment was identified and severe damage inflicted on it in a short time. In addition to this battalion a great number of miscellaneous units continued to keep our prisoner of war cages busy. In fact the bulk of prisoners were supplied by miscellaneous units rather than by the thus far identified battalions of the Potsdam and Scharnhorst Divisions.

On 15 April, VII US Corps which was operating on our southern flank reported the identification of the bulk of Potsdam Division in the Harz Mountain area and of the Scharnhorst and von Hutten on the approaches to DESSAU (E1069). It was apparent on this second day of our contact with the Scharnhorst Division that only one regiment, the Langemeier, supported by elements of 1170 Assault Artillery Brigade and Assault Artillery Training Brigade Burg were opposing our bridgehead while the bulk of the other two regiments was defending the approaches to DESSAU and ROSSLAU (E1175). PWs from Regiment Mahlow of Division Scharnhorst were taken by 320th Regimental Combat Team (attached to 83d Infantry Division) which was clearing the area south of the SAALE RIVER and bounded by the ELBE RIVER on the East.

The enemy attempted by various means to eliminate our bridge at BARBY. Repeated attempts were made to destroy the bridge by aircraft and a group of six swimming saboteurs were apprehended before they could do any damage. Ground attempts against the bridge were highly ineffective even though the enemy had a large number of men at his disposal. He was unable to organize these small units into an effective striking force and Regiment Langemeier, though composed of combat-able personnel was not a cohesive striking force probably because of lack of combat experience as an integral unit. Wholesale surrenders of entire companies and platoons of Regiment Langemeier occurred throughout this period. Numerous small ineffective patrols attempted to infiltrate our lines. Small groups of tanks sometimes cooperated in limited assaults but these attempts were easily frustrated by our artillery fire and the enemy registered no success whatever in his attempts at eliminating our bridgehead across the ELBE. This obvious ineffectiveness is of considerable interest in view of the extremely powerful drive that the enemy launched against the 2d US Armored Division bridgehead across the ELBE at MAGDEBURG when that bridgehead was eliminated.

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Towards the end of the period it became apparent that the remaining elements of the Scharnhorst Division had been withdrawn from our bridgehead area in the direction of WITTENBERG (E3874) for a stand against the Russian forces already reported near that area. In place of these units the enemy committed against our bridgehead the 107, 110 and 115 Fortress Machine Gun Battalions. These units had recently been organized in the HALBURG area from second grade personnel taken out of convalescent and reserve infantry battalions of Wehrkreis XI. These units also contributed a goodly number of prisoners and the units displayed token resistance only.

On 27 April 1945, Combat Team Januas, consisting of 1 Battalion, 32 SS Grenadier Regiment and 1 Battalion, 33 SS Grenadier Regiment of the 15 SS Latvian Division surrendered to our forces in toto. This Combat Team had left the major part of its division in POMERANIA and was to have reported to the Commandant of the BERLIN defenses in order to aid in the defense of that beleaguered Capital. The Colonel commanding the Combat Team, SS Standartenfuhrer Januas, decided to save his men from certain destruction and marched them around BERLIN and up to our bridgehead area where his surrender was accepted.

A very interesting interrogation of an officer PW revealed that the policy of the German forces at this time was to surrender their unarmed troops to the American forces and to continue fighting the Russians as long as possible. This was clearly demonstrated by a document which this officer PW carried specifically instructing commanders to send unarmed Germans westward (i.e. into American lines). Armed troops were to withdraw in a northerly direction to establish new lines of resistance against the southernmost prongs of Marshall Koniev's forces sweeping in a northwesterly direction towards MAGDEBURG. By the last day of the period all enemy were cleared in the 83d Division zone of advance while the junction with 121 Russian Infantry Division of Marshall Koniev's forces was established at APPOLLERSDORF (E3175).

SECRET

Part Two

List of P/Is Captured and Units to Which They Belong:

a. INFANTRY:

Div "Scharnhorst"		348	61
Regt "Langemeier"		396	50
Regtl Hq	51	398	279
1 Bn	117	453	2
2 Bn	295	463	1
13 Co	36	464	8
14 Co	37	487	9
Assault Co	56	497	3
Signal Plat	12	536	3
Regt "Mahlow"		588	5
Regtl Hq	2	590	2
1 Bn	62	661	2
2 Bn	10	1064	19
12 Co	1	211 Regt	4
14 Co	1		
Regt "Pick"		Home Guard Bns	
8 Co	1	2	10
Fusilier Bn	3	6	1
Engr Bn (1 Co)	55	8	3
Repl Bn (1 Co)	26	11	280
TD Bn (1 Co)	14	16	37
Comm Bn	6	17	1
		55	2
Div "Potsdam"	28	106	1
		180	4
Inf Repl & Tng Units		254	2
(All Bns unless otherwise noted)		236	1
		308	1
11	21	319	7
12	2	328	1
18	136	406	3
36	9	446	9
37	1	460	6
58	25	461	7
64	2	464	20
82	167	477	5
116	104	479	11
146	24	486	3
167	41	489	16
193	108	491	3
194	22	499	35
276	24	554	11
281	19	585	34
284	3	610	8
286	36	613	1
306	2	614	17

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631	24	CT PAULI	10
664	1	CT DAEMELARK	2
701	1	CT WORZEN	13
704	1	593 Inf Bn (CT BOCK)	92
708	86		
714	26	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
715	1	107 Fortress MG Bn	11
718	78	110 Fortress MG Bn	139
719	67	115 Fortress MG Bn	53
720	65	1466 Fortress Inf Bn	6
740	2	3466 Fortress Inf Bn	10
749	19	15 Latvian Div	
778	16	1 Bn, 32 SS Regt	363
874	38	1 Bn, 33 SS Regt	533
876	2	554 Regt, 18 Inf Div	3
895	2	193 Security Bn	2
1006	7	323 Security Bn	17
1010	4	Volkssturm	307
1012	1	Tng Bn zbV MOELLER	17
"D"	51	zbV Co ST. BLOK	73
I/6	195	zbV Co HOATZ	7
VI A	13	26 Fusilier Bn	4
23/11	2	39 Fusilier Bn	3
		85 Fusilier Bn	4
		356 Fusilier Bn	5
		6 Rcn Bn	5
		15 Rcn Repl Bn	284
<u>March & Convalescent Units</u>			
161 March Bn	10		
487 Conval Co	67		
497 Conval Co	5		
March Co 74	52		
329 Conval March Co	9		
95 Conval March Co	27		
193 Conval March Co	19		
Conval Co, 412 Gr Regt	3		
329 Conval Co	3		
<u>Schools</u>			
OC School DETMOLD	190		
OC Res School Wehr VI	79		
Res Off School ZERBST	12		
NCO School ZERBST	210		
NCO School ROSSLAU	8		
Inf Tng School MOSEBECK	4		
Repl & Tng School IX	18		
DETHOLD Close Combat			
School (CT ALBRECHT)	75		
<u>Combat Teams</u>			
CT Regt KOBELINSKI	4		
CT MEYER (from SENNE- LAGER)	4		
CT Major GROMME	4		
CT GOEPBIG	7		
CT ERDMANN	1		
CT HANSTZKI	21		
CT EICHMEYER	17		
		b. ARTILLERY	
		411 Arty Corps	14
		890 Arty Regt	10
		Arty Regt NIEB.	9
		200 Arty Bn	3
		Lehr Btry Hall	6
		Cannon Co 416	11
		011 CHQ Coast Arty Regt	112
		394 AG Bn	3
		50 Navy Arty Bn	1
		688 M Btry	23
		16 Werfer Brig	2
		86 Werfer Brig	3
		87 Werfer Brig	2
		6 Res Arty Regt	4
		16 Res Arty Regt	9
		252 Res Arty Regt	2
		13 Arty Repl Bn	1
		16 Arty Repl Bn	22
		62 Arty Repl Bn	199
		76 Arty Repl Bn	1
		169 Arty Repl Bn	28
		216 Inf How Repl Co	4
		146 Pz Arty Repl Co	5
		Atch'd to Div Scharnhorst	
		Ass Arty Tng Brig BUE	32
		1170 (CH) Ass Gun Brig	8

S E C R E T

c. PZ or PZ Gren Units

3 Pz Gren Div	
8 Pz Gren Regt	18
29 Pz Gren Regt	48
3 Arty Regt	9
AA Bn	2
Butcher Co	52
116 Pz Div	
60 Pz Gren Regt	4
146 Pz Arty Regt	22
Misc Units of Div	28
21 Pz Div	
125 Pz Gren Regt	39
BT MATHIAS, 125 Pz Gren Regt	15
Misc Units of Div	12
9 Pz Div	6
15 Pz Gren Div	3
Pz Lehr Div	2
SS Div WALLONEN	7
SS TOTANKOPF	2

Pz or Pz Gren Reserve Units

4 Pz Gren Bn	4
64 Pz Gren Repl Bn	1
361 Pz Gren Tng Bn	7
2 SS Pz Tng Bn	6
11 Pz Res Bn	3
60 Pz Tng Bn RHEINE	3
116 Pz Res Bn	2
316 Pz Tng Bn	10
500 Pz Res Bn	110
506 Pz Bn	3
507 Pz Bn	3
508 Pz Bn	79
511 Pz Bn	1
SS Pz Res Bn SENEZELLE	222
6 Pz Rcn Res Bn	7
7 Pz Rcn Res Bn	2

d. ANTI-TANK UNITS

17 AT Bn	6
185 TD Bn	2
371 TD Bn	5
1272 TD Bn	5
TD Bn BERGEL	8
23 Fortress TD Bn	3
XII Fortress AT Bn	8
6 TD Res Bn	8
13 TD Res Bn	1
216 TD Res Bn	4
416 TD Res Bn	1

e. ENGINEER

11 Constr Bn	361
24 Constr Bn	4
51 Constr Bn	2
106 Constr Bn	7
130 Constr Bn	38
46 Constr Co	2
434 Constr Bn	1
Constr Co CALBE	12
Constr Co DIERSCHLAGE	8
1 PW Constr Bn	21
411 RR Engr Co	3
686 RR Constr Bn	1
2 RR Engr Bn	12
3 Engr Bn	2
6 Engr Bn	28
16 Engr Bn	5
26 Engr Bn	10
16 Pz Engr Bn	3
29 Pz Engr Bn	3
344 Engr Bn	110
15 Fortress Engr Bn	3
56 Fortress Engr Bn	2
18 Technical Bn	3
Elect Work Bn	13
2 Bridge Bldg Bn	2
1 Engr Lehr Bn zbV	5
Engr Bn zbV	1
5 Engr Tng Bn	21
85 Tech Engr Co	7
Elect Rep Engr Det VI	6
Engr Ord Shop HOLTEN	2
Engr OCS DESSAU	21
6 Home Guard Engr Co	4
III/21 Fortress Engr	26

Engr Reserve Units

4 Engr Res Bn	62
6 Engr Res Bn	1
19 Engr Res Bn	125
26 Engr Res Bn	138
30 Engr Res Bn	2
208 Engr Res Bn	5
16 Pz Engr Res Bn	4
19 Pz Engr Res Bn	307
11 Constr Engr Res Bn	1
6 Survey Res Bn	16

f. SIGNAL

597 Comm Regt	12
605 Comm Regt	3
618 Comm Regt	4
13 Sig Bn	2
651 Sig Bn	3

SECRET

3 SS Sig Bn	2	105/12 zbV Btry	18
II/169 Sig Comm Btry	6	6521 zbV Btry	27
Comm Det VI BIALEFELD	2	144 RR	2
SOEST Naval Radio Station	11	300 RR	2
3 Sig Res Bn	3	423 RR	8
6 Sig Res Bn	20	456 RR	3
16 Sig Res Bn	4	513 RR	1
211 Sig Res Bn	6	525 RR	17
216 Sig Res Bn	2	955 RR	103
Comm School ZERBST	31	956 RR	11
		957 RR	7
		960 RR	2
g. <u>ANTI-AIRCRAFT or AIR CORPS</u>		974 RR	23
<u>BNS (Unless otherwise no-</u>		4 Res	12
<u>ted)</u>		6 Res	5
7	4	36 Res	6
36	9	51 Res	9
42	17	61 Res	6
46	403	94 Res	2
48	2	96 Res	8
64	2	276 Res	38
131	2	359 Res	6
146	27	737 Res	4
154	13	887 Res	26
156	3	I/933 Res	13
174	27	Kroatian	3
221	8	59 Searchlight	2
230	2	74 Searchlight	6
243	1	158 Searchlight	4
272	206	170 Searchlight	4
366	1	179 Searchlight	3
371	20	211 Searchlight	5
445	1	248 Searchlight	12
464	29	479 Searchlight	2
507	1	518 Searchlight	1
512	2	583 Searchlight	2
525	3	709 Searchlight	2
565	4	933 Searchlight	3
582	2	106 Ballon Barrage	10
587	4	3 AA School LACHENBURG	1
753	1	AA Repair Shop	5
772	4		
838	1	<u>Air Corps other than AA</u>	
840	2	Braunschweig Airport	1
887	1	Cologne "	4
892	2	Detmold "	14
943	28	Goettingen "	6
958	2	Goslar "	14
960	6	Guetersloh "	6
993	3	Halberstadt "	44
4 AA Div	9	Kassel "	1
5 AA Div	2	Koethen "	66
507 AA Brig	2	Koettun "	2
55 Regt	3	Lippspringe "	7

S E C R E T

Lippstadt Airport	62	2 Flying Sq 105	5
Munster "	5	Hq VI A/C	4
Paderborn "	2	3 March Regt	2
Zerbst "	70	A/C Photo Rcn Sv	3
213 A/C Comm Regt	6	Para Commando	1
231 A/C Comm Regt	4	3 Para Convul Co	6
233 A/C Comm Regt	4	5 Para Div Ord Co	6
351 A/C Comm Regt	2	Para Div Straggler Coll	3
4 A/C Comm Bn	8		
11 A/C Comm Bn	9		
A/C Comm Bn XVI	15		
A/C Comm Bn EINBECK	3		
2 A/C Comm Co	1		
A/C Sig Tng Regt KOLTHEN	102		
4 A/C Constr Bn	9		
107 A/C Constr Bn	2		
A/C Engr	14		
105/X A/C Constr Bn	8		
105/XVII Constr Bn	248		
10/III A/C Engr Bn	63		
Constr Co, 4 AA Div	4		
11/III A/C Engr Bn	8		
171 Labor Service AA Bn	2		
A/C Engr Tng Bn STEINHEIM	9		
A/C Repair Co BARBY	4		
A/C QM	2		
A/C QM BIELEFELD	2		
A/C QM GOETTINGEN	6		
A/C QM HALBERSTADT	3		
5 A/C Repl Bn	113		
12 A/C Res	2		
6 zbV A/C Repl Bn	5		
A/C Res Bn IV	2		
9/VI A/C Repl Co	21		
A/C Repl Bn ESCHLAGE	2		
43 A/C School	12		
A 52 A/C Pilot School			
GOELAR	14		
A/C Ordnance School	19		
Air Ord Bn DETMOLD	15		
Air Ord Bn 15/VI	6		
7 A/C Tng Bn	2		
A 43 A/C Tng Bn	33		
A/C Tng Sch HALBERSTADT	5		
44 A/C Smoke Co	1		
A/C Ammo Factory III/3	34		
A/C Ammo Factory V/6	16		
A/C Ammo Factory TONTUM	2		
VI Air Security Bn	9		
A/C Guard Co EINBECK	14		
AA Wacs	59		
3/XIII A/C Med Det	2		
A/C Sq Col OLSON	34		
5 A/C Sq BERNBURG	15		
		h. MISCELLANEOUS	
		RR and RR Guards	
		102 RR Guard Co	3
		686 RR Btry	14
		RR Transp Patrol VI	1
		RR MPs	12
		RR Control Bn	2
		Air Raid Services	
		Air Raid Police	10
		Air Raid Bn HANNO	15
		Air Raid Bn 6	2
		Fire Police	2
		Alarm Co BERGEN	16
		Foreign Soldiers	
		French	6
		Hungarian	548
		Italian	43
		Latvian	7
		Lithuanian	190
		Polish	11
		Rumanian	92
		Russian	19
		Turkish	7
		Yugoslavia	25
		MPs, Guards, Police	
		6 Police Repl Bn	10
		Police Res Bn BULR	6
		531 MP Bn	2
		Prison Co	4
		11 Police Gd Bn	6
		Police Bn	36
		Guard Co TARNICHLRODE	10
		106 Guard Co	5
		QM and Supply	
		Einbeck QM	4
		Halberstadt QM	25
		Hannover QM	5
		Hildesheim QM	12
		Holzminde QM	2
		Lippstadt QM	7

SECRET

Sammelager QM	4	Miscellaneous	
Steinhagen QM	3	276 Horse Squadron	34
Naval QM HILDELM	3	War Correspondents	2
SS QM Hq	22	21 Observation Bn	58
9/VI Rear Echelon Co	3	Straggler Co ROSSLAU	29
		Straggler Co ZELBST	20
<u>Technical, Ordnance, Ammo</u>		Police Comm Bn HILDELM	
2 Tech Res Bn	7	SHILLI	12
13 Tech Res Bn	4	Bomb Disposal Sq DESSAU	4
Tech Corps	27	11 Interpreter School	3
Russian Tech Co 109	30	351 Interpreters School	2
16 Ammo Co	3	78 Smoke Bn	100
Ammo Fact STASSFURT	4	79 Smoke Bn	20
513 Motor Repair Shop	10	35 Smoke Co (HAG)	2
513 Ord Bn	56	Beckum Censors	2
Arty Ord Det HILDELSHEIM	3	Lippstadt Craft Board	9
Ord School HILDESBURG	27	NSKK	7
		Glassmaker Bn XVI	9
<u>Transportation</u>		6 Observation Repl Bn	46
617 Motor Pool	2	Army Res Inspectorate	
Lippstadt Motor Pool	7	H. MOVE.	38
Lunster Motor Pool	4	Army Res Inspectorate	
6 Transp Corps	54	HILDESBURG	38
629 Transp Corps	3	Copper Collecting Co VI	11
702 Transp Bn	2	Field Kitchen Co VI	4
I/6 Transport Co	2	Army Prison GELITZ	46
Transp Corps SPALL	6	Hq Army Prison GELITZ	9
6 Driver Repl Tng Bn	234	Stalag 326	1
11 Driver Repl Bn	5	Offlag VI	1
MINDEN Driving School	2	XV Army Hq	2
306ST Driver Tng Bn	4	Work Co, COETHEN	6
Horse Pool VI	4	6 Vet Tng Bn	11
		Horse Hospital VI	81
<u>Medical</u>		Horse Hosp HILDELSHEIM	20
Halberstadt Res Hospital	5	FW Constr Bn	3
Paderborn Hospital	12	Straggler Coll PTHOXTEN	17
Med Det COLOGNE	2	B 590 Coll Co HILDELM	13
Med Det HOKXTEN	9	Officer Coll Pt HILDELM	5
Med Det VI PADERBORN	3	Navy Coll Pt GELBE	24
Med Det SIEHLAGE	17	RED	93
Med Co HILDELM	7	Hitler Youth	17
3 Med Res Bn	3	Labor Service	28
4 Med Res Bn	4	Organ STEIN	203
6 Med Res Bn HILDELM	95	Organ TODT	295
11 Med Res Bn	25	Hospital Cases	1565
		Stragglers	2896

S E C R E T

PWs Processed through Division Cage.....19148
PWs Evacuated Directly to Army.....11395
PWs in Overrun Hospitals.....11189
PWs Evacuated through Medical Channels..... 408

GRAND TOTAL

42140

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General Officers Captured

Genmaj (Brig Gen) Erich Buescher - Fuhrerreserve OKH

Genlt (Maj Gen) Walter Behschnitt - Wehrersatz Inspection Hannover

Genlt (Maj Gen) Werner von Rudloff - Wehrersatz Inspection Magdeburg
(Found dead in Calbe)

SS Gruppenfuhrer (Maj Gen of the SS) Kryssing - Organizer of Danish
"Freikorps" (Danish Quisling Organization)

Genmaj (Brig Gen) Heinrich Kirsthein - Wehrersatz Inspection Hannover