

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 83D CIC DETACHMENT
QUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 83, U. S. ARMY

L-551
1 April 1945.

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

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

Mar 45

1. For the month covered by this report, there have been only 2 items of interest from the personnel standpoint. On 6 March, one agent returned from the 24th Evacuation Hospital, and on 13 March, an exchange of one EM on DS with this Detachment was made. The new EM on DS was considered suitable for assignment to the Corps, and a recommendation to this effect was submitted on 24 March 45.

2. At the end of the month, the Detachment's strength was 7 officers, 9 assigned EM, and 3 EM on DS.

3. During the month, the Detachment was stationed with the Division CP at the following places: Aldenhoven, Buttgen, Germany; Echt, Holland; Schiefenbahn, Germany, Gutshof, Stockwiese, and Ludinghausen.

4. For the past month, the activity of this Detachment can be divided into 2 phases, each of which will be summarized separately.

a. The Neuss Area:

1. When the Division reached the west bank of the Rhine River opposite Dusseldorf and found the bridges into the City blown, it became impossible to make further advances, and consequently a static CIC problem immediately presented itself.

2. The Divisional area on the west side of the River included Neuss with a population of approximately 35,000, and Oberkassel-Dusseldorf with a population of approximately 25,000. Scattered towns in the remainder of the Division area added another 10,000 or more civilians to the population figures with which the Detachment had to deal.

3. It was decided that mass screening of all males in the Division area would be undertaken in an effort to apprehend any members of the Wehrmacht, who might be in civilian clothing. This screening resulted in the apprehension of 210 P.W.'s.

4. It was discovered that in both Neuss and Oberkassel all the high-ranking Party members had fled well in advance of our entry. They had also had time to dispose of such records as they deemed necessary. However, sufficient records were left behind in the case of Neuss to enable the Detachment to build up a complete picture of the Gestapo unit, which had operated in the City.

5. The personnel doing Gestapo work in Neuss and their mode of activity was corroborated by several German civilians still present, who had either formerly worked in a menial capacity in the organization, or knew some small bit of information about it which they wished to reveal to the Americans.

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6. In Oberkassel, there was no Gestapo office, as this City worked directly under Dusseldorf. However, certain Nazi Party records had been left behind indicating the high-ranking members of the Party in that area.

7. After mass P.W. screening had been completed, the main work of the Detachment consisted in investigating and screening the police force and civil administration, which had been set up in the 2 cities by Military Government, and in making thorough searches and inspections of the various party buildings, which contained what remained of the party records. One final type of CIC activity with which the Detachment was concerned was the investigation of all persons crossing the River. The majority of these appeared to be displaced persons, who had decided to make a break for it, and those Germans who did cross were all placed under house arrest, in order that they could engage in no subversive activity.

b. Operations East of the Rhine:

1. At the close of the period, the Division was assigned the mission of following up the 2nd Armored Division in its drive eastward from the Rhine. The speed of movement has been such that only the preliminary CIC steps were possible of achievement.

2. In the larger towns through which the Division has moved, and on which there has been target data sent down from higher headquarters, attention has been focused on the primary mission of neutralizing all forms of communication into the interior of Germany, sealing up important party buildings, and arresting such persons as fall into the automatic arrest category.

3. At the beginning of the operation, all the high-ranking party members had a chance to flee and to destroy such records as they pleased. However, at the close of the period, the speed of the operation has been such that party members have barely had time to get out, and records have all been left behind in perfect condition.

5. No journals or supporting papers are attached to this report, as none are permanently kept by this Detachment.

Oliver A. Victor
OLIVER A. VIETOR,
Capt, CA (AA),
Commanding.

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319.1/401 1st Ind.
HEADQUARTERS, 83D INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 83, U.S. Army APR 12 1945

TO: Commanding General, XIX Corps, APO 270, U.S. Army
(Attention: Adjutant General)

Forwarded.

For the Commanding General:

Incl. n/c

N. P. Cowden
N. P. COWDEN,
Major AGD,
Asst Adj General.

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