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 : Auth: CG, V Corps :
 : Date: 3 Jan 45 :
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HEADQUARTERS, 3RD TANK DESTROYER GROUP
 PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT POLICE FORCE SECTION
 APO 230

4 January 1945

SUBJECT: History of FMGPF Section, Hq, 3rd TD Group, for December 1944.
 TO : Historical Section, Army War College, Washington, D.C.
 (Through Channels)



1. This and subsequent Histories of this organization will in future be submitted with the history of the 3rd TD Group. Histories of September, October, and November 1944 should be refiled with the histories of the 3rd TD Group. This is the fourth such report submitted by this headquarters.

2. Due to the request for maximum economy of manpower in the operation of MGP detachments, the FMGPF was reorganized under Letter, Hq V Corps, subject: "Military Government Police", file 320, dated 2 December 1944. There was a considerable reduction in the number and size of the MGP detachments and as a result the detachments became highly mobile using 1-1/2 ton truck and 2-3/4 ton W/C's in each detachment. Besides their routine work the detachments were able to take care of emergency matters, which was largely performed by mobile patrols.

3. During the month of December the MGP detachments operated in the towns of Weywertz, Malmedy, Robertville, Verviers, Eupen, Herbiester, Sourbrodt and Butgenbach.

4. On 9 December at the request of and in cooperation with the CIC the operation designated as "EARLY BIRD" was carried out in the town of Monschau, Germany. It was suspected that there were a number of persons in Monschau in violation of present registration provisions, and also that sabotage and wireless equipment might be hidden there. It was thought possible that enemy agents and patriots might enter the town during the hours of darkness. It was intended to search Monschau house by house for civilian offenders, sabotage and wireless equipment, and any other enemy equipment.

At 0500, 9 December, twelve (12) officers and eighty-two (82) enlisted men from MGP detachments along with CIC and MP personnel, assembled at the Capitol Theatre in Eupen for briefing. The entire group then left in trucks for the town of Monschau where they arrived at about 0730. The group was divided into teams with at least one German speaking person in each team. Each team was assigned a number of houses in a section of town, and a systematic house to house search began.

The operation was completed by 1300, and approximately 15 persons were brought in for questioning and a number of cameras, binoculars, enemy uniforms, pigeons and radio repair equipment; some American equipment and rations were picked up in the course of the search.

The experience gained from this operation by MGP detachments was of great benefit and will be of assistance to the detachments in further operations of this type in Germany.

Later in the month three other searches were made. These were on a smaller scale than operation "EARLY BIRD". The main one of these searches

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was that made in the town of Weywertz. On 24 December 1944, one (1) officer and thirty-one (31) enlisted men in cooperation with the CIC conducted a house to house search of Weywertz. The result of this operation was that a considerable amount of American clothing, equipment, ammunition and rations were recovered.

5. It was decided that the MGP detachments were to be supplemented by men from Field Artillery battalions, which either were available from their organizations, or were made available by a reorganization within the units. Hq FMGPF immediately laid plans for the training of these new men by establishing a school to last for five (5) days in the vicinity of Robertville. On 9 December, 34 men from the 76th FA Bn, 4 from the 953d FA Bn and 4 from the 997th FA Bn reported for duty at MGP headquarters, and on 10 December these men began their training under the following subjects and instructors:

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
Orientation Talk	Lt Colonel Warner
German Government and Nazi Party	Capt Wheaton-Smith
German Language	EM Interpreters
Physical Conditioning	Capt Ferris
Military Government of Germany	Capt Percy
Proclamations and Laws	Lt Imbrock
Controlling Civil Population, Conduct, Discipline, Riots, Outbreaks.	Lt Imbrock
Ordinances and Notices	Capt Percy
Patrolling - Foot and Vehicular	S/Sgt Papageorge S/Sgt Nawrath
The CIC.	V Corps CIC Detachment
Practical Policing	Capt Haylon
Military Tribunals	Capt Haylon
Searching Towns, Woods, Houses.	Lt Imbrock
Displaced Persons and Refugees.	Lt German
Mines and Booby Traps	Capt Bainbridge
Non-Fraternization Reviews	Lt Imbrock



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On 15 December the school was terminated and the men were sent to various MGP detachments for practical training, although 27 were sent on a 48 hour pass to Eupen.

6. On 16 December, the Germans began to shell Malmedy and Eupen with long range artillery. During the night numerous paratroopers were dropped in the vicinity of Eupen for the apparent purpose of cutting the main supply routes leading out of Eupen and also the communication system. MGP detachments were alerted as soon as the airborne attack was discovered and immediately patrols were organized and a systematic search for paratroopers was instituted. During this airborne attack six (6) enemy paratroopers were captured by MGP detachments stationed in Eupen.

On 17 December the powerful enemy counter-attack penetrated deeply into the southern portion of V Corps sector, causing a considerable amount of military and civilian traffic to move northward into the central and southern portions of the Corps area. Due to the critical situation at that time MGP detachments were called upon to perform a variety of duties not considered normal MGP duties. Some of the duties performed were, patrolling along the Warche river, mining and preparing for demolition, bridges and dams, coordination of local defense composed of portions of various units that had just moved into the area from the southern and southeast of Corps sector, taking over of essential CA and MP functions in the town of Malmedy and the setting up of road blocks.

The traffic problem, both military and civilian as a result of the enemy offensive became somewhat of a serious question in view of the enormous amount of equipment being moved, however, all available men of the MGP detachments were placed on immediate duty and the problem was handled in a most efficient manner.

As units were moving through the town of Robertville toward the north and to areas in the nearby vicinity, many of the CO's of these units visited the CP of Hq FMGFF which was located on the main road through the town. As the day passed the CP became a place where information could be obtained about the enemy and friendly situation. Captain Wheaton-Smith, Captain Symonds, Captain Percy and Lt German consolidated the information received during the day from officers and men coming in from the front and a good picture of the general situation was kept available. Many units requested billets in the town and a detail of men was sent out to scour the town for additional billets not already shown as available on the list of billets previously prepared by Hq Co, 3rd TD Group. Stragglers, lone and in groups of 25 or more were fed, given a place to wash up and sleep and then routed back to their unit as soon as such location became known at the CP. Because of the well established communications system of the FMGFF the switchboard in Robertville became the center of communication for units setting up their CP's in Robertville. Because of equipment left behind many units borrowed necessary signal equipment from the FMGFF. Later in the evening the 16th Infantry of the 1st Division moved into Robertville, and the local and general situation was explained to the CO of 3rd Bn, 16th Infantry at FMGFF CP; this assisted the infantry greatly because the situation was not known to them before entering the area, they having that day left a rest area.

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The 190th FA and 200th FA detachments which were operating in Weywertz were withdrawn to the town of Robertville to join Headquarters. The 200th FA detachment was sent on to join the 112th Engr and 254th Engr detachments in Eupen, where all roads leading into town were blocked by check points and the manpower shortage was critical. The 460th AAA and 461st AAA detachments were located in Malmedy where they took over the essential CA, MP and civilian administration functions, the welfare administration and provided reinforcement to other troops in tactical defense of Malmedy. As departing units had left much ordnance equipment behind, the detachments also endeavored to recover as much as they could of this equipment.

With the 190th FA, 893d TD and Hq detachments now located in Robertville, Headquarters undertook the coordination of local defense of the area in the immediate vicinity of Robertville, in areas in which no responsibility had been given to the 16th Infantry. Two possible means of entry into the town were on roads which lead across the bridge and dam on the Warche river at (K 8506) and (K 8407). This bridge and dam were mined and prepared for demolition and covered by machine guns manned by MGP personnel. Patrols of the 4 and 5 Co's, 6 Bn Belgian Fusiliers covered a front of 6 Km along the river.

The manner in which the MGP performed duties thrust on them during the critical period resulting from the German break-through has proven that the MGP personnel are capable of operating efficiently under such conditions with their limited manpower, possessing as they do a detailed knowledge of the surrounding area, its roads and civilian population.

7. Casualties suffered by the FMGFF during the month of December 1944 as a result of enemy action were as follows:

Sgt James E. Temenski, 20327314
 Cpl Benjamin Lindt, 38009681
 Pfc Joseph A. Bourguigond, 36196733
 Pfc Elmer W. Wald, 20326296
 Pfc Willard C. Wolfe, 33023049
 Pvt Joe Butia, 20327695



The above men were members of the 200th FA detachment and were reported MIA at Ambleve, Belgium on 16 December 1944.

Pvt Stephen L. Gasper, 33625515

The above enlisted man was killed in action by an enemy bomb while in performance of duty at Eupen, Belgium on 22 December 1944.

8. The following is a description of one of the more interesting incidents of the work done by MGP detachments during the month of December:

On 17 December 1944, Captain Dale H. Fulton and Captain Richard L. Bate were stationed in Malmedy, Belgium, as detachment commanders of the 460th AAA and 461st AAA respectively. When the threat of a German break-through became apparent during the morning of the 17th, military organizations,

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including hospitals, Civil Affairs, Military Police, as well as civilian police and officials of the local government, and members of civilian emergency services left Malmedy in great haste. There remained behind two members of the CIC, the two MGP detachments and approximately 100 officers and men of the 291st Engr Bn.

The immediate tasks which confronted Captains Fulton and Bate were how, in conjunction with the other MGP detachment, each detachment and with the other few troops in the town, to secure the defense of Malmedy, as well as maintain security within the town, re-establish some form of municipal government, civilian police, welfare and medical services, how to prevent looting of U.S. property and otherwise maintain law and order, and deal with a large number of suspected persons who had been in confinement but were released when the police and other Belgian authorities fled, as well as to care for approximately a thousand refugees many of whom had been under some form of surveillance. The fact that the town was shelled and portions subjected to direct HE and MG fire from tanks and infantry patrols of the enemy both day and night made assistance on a large scale necessary in order to control the civilian population. Nor, in view of the haste with which all others had departed, could any help be expected. Ten extra men were, however, sent out from Hq, 3rd TD Group, MGGF Section.

These varied tasks were at once undertaken by Captain Fulton and Captain Bate in conjunction with the Commanding Officer of the engineer detachment. The essential elements of the CA administration was undertaken, medical and Belgian Red Cross relief were established, refugees were checked on, and civilian circulation from Malmedy to the outside world was prevented. Looting was rigorously prevented, and U.S. equipment was inspected and safeguarded with particular attention to valuable hospital equipment which was temporarily abandoned though later collected by the units to which it belonged. Civilian circulation within Malmedy was permitted only during limited hours, and a survey of the food and supply situation was conducted and a hasty rationing scheme set working. To house known suspects and those who later were picked up, a sort of concentration or detention camp was organized, administered, and guarded by Captain Fulton and Captain Bate and their men. A satisfactory burgermeister was appointed and started functioning. Road blocks and check points in and around the town, in conjunction with the Engineer company, were manned, and at these blocks the earliest threats to Malmedy by German Armored units was prevented and successfully stopped. Many of the above duties were performed while under small arms and shell fire. Later, after the 30th Infantry Division took over Malmedy, the duties which MGP detachments performed included rescuing wounded in the streets while small arms and artillery fire was still in progress and German troops were assaulting the town. Later because of Malmedy being in the division area the MGP detachments were withdrawn to within the Corps boundaries, the work done by these MGP detachments during this critical period is evidence of the ability and energy that MGP personnel are capable of under any circumstances.

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9. As of 31 December 1944 the strength of Hq, 3rd TD Group, Military Government Police Force Section was twenty-two (22) officers and one hundred and seventy (170) enlisted men.

For the Corps Security Commander:



CRAIG WHEATON-SMITH
 Captain, F. A.
 Historical Officer

10 Inclosures;

- Incl 1 - Activities of FMGPF, 1-31 Dec 44.
- Incl 2 - Ltr, Hq V Corps, Subject: "Mil Govt Police", dated 2 Dec 44, file 320
- Incl 3 - Un-numbered Memo "Journals".
- Incl 4 - SO 182, Hq V Corps, dd 7 Dec 44.
- Incl 5 - Memo No. 8, Hq FMGPF dd 6 Dec 44, w/overlay.
- Incl 6 - Overlay, Area of responsibility, 11 Dec 44.
- Incl 7 - SO 17, Hq FMGPF, dd 7 Dec 44.
- Incl 8 - Memo No. 9, dd 14 Dec 44.
- Incl 9 - Hq FMGPF publication "Identity Documents".
- Incl 10 - Outlines - FMGPF School

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