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HEADQUARTERS, 3RD TANK DESTROYER GROUP
 PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT SECURITY GUARD SECTION

4 February 1945



SUBJECT: History of MGS Section, Hq, 3rd TD Group, for January 1945.

TO : Historical Section, Army War College, Washington, D.C.

1. This is the fifth historical report submitted by this organization.

2. During the month of January the MGSO continued to operate under the reorganized plan as outlined in letter, Hq V Corps, subject: "Military Government Police", file 320, dated 2 December 1944. The name of the organization was changed from Provisional Military Government Police Force to Provisional Military Government Security Guard Section in accordance with letter, Hq, V Corps, subject: "Security Guards", file 092, dated 5 January 1945.

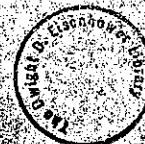
A further reduction in man power was affected during the month by the return of the 893d TD detachment to their parent unit on 6 January on its assignment to Ninth Army. To make up for this loss in trained personnel 11 EM from the Security Guard, 9th Division were borrowed on DS with this section for employment in Eupen. These men however returned to their unit later in the month as they were needed for duty in division area.

3. During the month of January the MGSO detachments operated in the towns of Eupen, Verviers, Robertville, Limbourg, Jehanster and Stembert.

4. In the early part of January, it was considered desirable to have an SOP for patrolling and searching towns for security purposes. After conferring with CIG and Provost Marshal it was found that they desired that all persons in Army uniforms on the streets of Eupen be checked for identity, for the purpose of discovering enemy agents, deserters and AWOL's and for determining the extent to which shops and cafe's were being used during the day by U.S. troops. Therefore an SOP and overlay were drawn up splitting the town into sections and patrol "beats" for efficient handling of the matter in the shortest possible time. In order to test the feasibility of the plan, the operation was put into effect on 13 January 1945. Personnel from the MGSO, CIG and MP participated and approximately 225 soldiers were checked during the morning. The entire town was covered between the hours of 9:30 and 11:30, proving that the plan could be used for similar checks with ease and speed. This operation was called "Dragnet 1".

Later in the month the same plan was used as a basis for conducting a house to house search of Eupen. These operations were called "Dragnet 2, 3, 4, 5". The town was divided up into 5 areas, one area being searched at a time. The purpose of these searches was to uncover U.S. Army rations, equipment, German or other types of property of forbidden categories, persons who were illegally in Eupen, U.S. soldiers who were AWOL or deserters, spies and enemy agents. Each search started at 0730 hours and was completed by 1200 hours. Many articles of German equipment, U.S. rations and equipment were confiscated. As all civilians were checked for identity many were approached for not having proper credentials and were turned over to CIG for screening.

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Other searches were made by MOCG detachments during the month, but on a smaller scale in the towns and outlying districts of Verviers, Gos, Bethans and Jehanster.

5. During the entire month of January MOCG detachments were called upon to perform various other duties. Some of these duties were: guarding civilian and political prisoners, checking identity of military vehicles entering or leaving the town of Eupen; assisting CA in registering civilians in Eupen, handling billeting details for military units in various towns; guarding CA civilian trucks hauling food stuffs.

6. There were no casualties suffered by the MOCG as a result of enemy action during the month of January 1945.

7. The following are several of the more interesting incidents of the work done by MOCG detachments during the month of January:

Due to the fact that many German parachute troops were dropped in the 461st AAA detachment area prior to the German breakthrough, it was decided by Captain Date to conduct a search of all isolated farms and buildings to determine whether there were any German parachutists hiding or being sheltered in these places. Two squads were dispatched daily to conduct the search. On the 16th January, S/Sgt Murreth arrived at 98 Rue Beuleu, Jalhay with his squad prepared to search the house. No one was home at that time, but the squad entered and continued their search. Various items of German equipment were discovered including a suitcase containing six German gas masks with names and grades of enemy soldiers inscribed on them, four German paratrooper packs, 5 German hand grenades, 7 rolls of heavy copper wire, 2 rolls of heavy wire cable, 3 G.I. gas cans and various items of G.I. clothing. All of the above equipment was left in its place. Later in the afternoon, the squad returned and upon entering asked whether there was any German or American equipment in the house. The woman in the house assured them that there was none. The squad then entered the house again and decided to give it another thorough search. During this search, one member of the squad discovered many radio tubes and parts hidden under a floor board in the attic. The woman explained that this equipment belonged to her son and that she knew nothing about it. All of the equipment found was put into a vehicle along with four suspects in the house at the time. They were taken to the Gendarmerie in Verviers to be held overnight and taken to the CIC in Eupen the following day. The suspects were brought to CIC along with the equipment and the story explained to the CIC. They were held by CIC and a squad from CIC was sent to the house to make a further search, however, nothing more was found. After further interrogation, three of the suspects were released and the fourth, the son, was held in arrest and was later evacuated to the rear.

Though tips from the local populace are often productive of results, many are proven to be unfounded and often lead to a "wild goose chase". A good example of this is the following incident reported by the 460th AAA detachment:

"Captain Date and M/Sgt Mason departed on 24 December to investigate a report of five supposedly German officers in a Verviers home. Upon arriving at this home it was found to be the home of a Gendarme. There were no German officers found and the Gendarme then mentioned that perhaps this report was a continuation

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of a rumor heard the day before by him wherein some strange persons in uniform were observed in a neighboring cemetery. So, in the company of this Gendarme, a two hour search was made in this cemetery, uncovering nothing."

8. As of 31 January 1945 the effective strength of the Provisional Military Government Security Guard Section, Hq, 3rd TD Group was twelve (12) officers and one hundred forty-eight (148) enlisted men.

9. Summary of activities for 1 - 31 January 1945 includes:

PATROLS AND CHECK POINTS:

317 Patrols - 633 EM used
719 Check points - 1469 EM used.

IDENTITY AND PASSES CHECKED:

18547 Civilians

MILITARY VEHICLES CHECKED:

Checked for identity	- 42,933 vehicles
Passed through posts but not checked	- 76,720 vehicles
Total	119,653 vehicles

APPREHENDED:

118 civilians (to CA and CIC)
2 U.S. soldiers (stragglers)(to MP)
1 U.S. soldier (indecent exposure)(to MP)

TRANSPORTED:

Electrical workers from Delhain and Verviers to Eupen (CA)
7 wounded evacuees from Seroule City Hospital to Misplaced Persons Center at Verviers (PM)
1 EM and 1/2 ton truck furnished CA.
2 EM and 3/4 ton truck furnished CA.
Civilian workers to water plant in Eupen (CA)

GUARD FURNISHED:

24 guards furnished as escorts for electrical workers, cattle trucks, civilian ambulance, and civilians with CA passes, as guards for civilian trucks, civilian and political prisoners.

RAIDS AND SEARCHES:

13 raids and searches conducted of civilian homes for U.S. Army equipment and German equipment, areas for paratroopers, and the cities of GOE and EUPEN for soldier and civilian violators.

MISCELLANEOUS:

German-speaking EM furnished CA and CIC, abandoned vehicles retrieved, blackout violations investigated, gas cans picked up, billet surveys conducted, DOLHAIN canvassed for locations of stores, patrol operated in EUPEN at request

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of CIC, black market activities investigated, and articles stolen from civilian home recovered.

Samuel E. Mays
SAMUEL E. MAYS
Lt Col, Inf
Commanding



7 Inclosures

- Incl 1 - Ltr, Hq V Corps, subject, "Security Guards", file 092, dd 5 Jan 45.
- Incl 2 - Overlay showing detachment areas, dd 6 Jan 45.
- Incl 3 - Memo No. 10, Hq PMCSG Sect, dd 7 Jan 45.
- Incl 4 - Intelligence Notes, Hq PMCSG Sect, dd 25 Jan 45.
- Incl 5 - Order "Dragnet Two Through Six", Annex 1, 2, and 3, w/overlay showing routes, Hq, PMCSG Sect, dd 18 Jan 45.
- Incl 6 - Activities PMCSG Section, 1-31 Jan 45 inclusive.
- Incl 7 - "Exercise Dragnet One", Hq PMCSG Sect, dd 12 Jan 45, w/overlay.

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