

HEADQUARTERS
V CORPS PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT POLICE FORCE BATTALION

APO 305, Postmaster,
New York, N. Y.
9 October 1944.

SUBJECT: History of V Corps Provisional Military Government Police Force Bn.

TO : Historical Section, Army War College, Washington, D. C.
(Thru Channels).

1. The accompanying inclosures formulate a detailed history of the V Corps Provisional Military Government Police Force Battalion from date of activation through 30 September 1944.

CHURCH M. MATTHEWS,
Colonel, FA,
Commanding.



12 Inclosures:

- 1 - General Order No. 51.
- 2 - Memorandum, G-5, V Corps.
- 3 - Letter of Instructions.
- 4 - SO No. 1, Hq, V Corps PMGPF Bn.
- 5 - SO No. 2, Hq, V Corps PMGPF Bn.
- 6 - Roster of Officers.
- 7 - SO 3, Hq, V Corps PMGPF Bn.
- 8 - SO 4, Hq, V Corps PMGPF Bn.
- 9 - Movement Order No. 1.
- 10 - Daily Bulletins (19 - 30 September 1944).
- 11 - Operations Summary (11 - 30 September 1944).
- 12 - Action Against Enemy, Report After.

Sept: The 3rd TD Group has been assigned the duties of organizing, administering, and furnishing the Headquarters organization for the V Corps PMGP Force. Lt. Colonel Matthews, CO, 3rd TD Group, has been designated as Corps security Officer in command of the PMGP Force. He has been charged with responsibility for the enforcement of all orders and regulations of the Corps Commander imposed by Military Government in areas specifically assigned to him by Corps order. Authority for this is GO #51, Hq V Corps, APO 305, dated 10 Sept. Official distribution of GO # 51 was received by 3rd TD Gp on 11 Sept. Appendix # 3 to GO # 51 listed battalions to furnish detachments for PMGP Force. The 3rd TD Group notified the battalions concerned to have the senior officer in charge of the detachment from each battalion to report to Lt. Colonel Matthews at 121000B Sept at Hq V Corps to receive instructions. The Bns to furnish the detachments are:

186 FA Bn	400 FA Bn	254 Engr Bn
187 FA Bn	987 FA Bn	893 TD Bn
190 FA Bn	20 Engr Bn	629 TD Bn
955 FA Bn	1340 Engr Bn	741 Tk Bn
200 FA Bn	112 Engr Bn	747 Tk Bn
941 FA Bn	146 Engr Bn	460 AAA Bn
461 AAA Bn	38 Cav Sq	102 Cav Sq
377 AAA Bn	447 AAA Bn	387 AAA Bn



Left old area PALISEAUL (P-731481) at 1830 - arrived new bivouac area, BASTOGNE, Coordinates P-557583 at 2015.

12 Sept: At 1000 hours Officer representatives from all battalions were assembled at Hq V Corps to receive instructions. Lt Col. Matthews called the meeting to order and presented a general introduction and orientation. Colonel Moroney, V Corps G-5, then presented the functions and prospective operation of Mil. Govt. Letter of instructions, Hq V Corps, dated 12 September 1944 was distributed to all representatives present. This letter of Instructions directed that all Bns except 377, 447, and 387 AAA Bns send their complete detachments to the present location of Corps CP at BASTOGNE on 141000B Sept. The Corps Hq was located in a Army Barracks recently abandoned by the Germans. Assy was dismissed at 1140 hours. The CO of the 893 TD Det was notified at the close of the meeting that his Det would function as Service Det for the PMGP Force. He was then directed to assemble his Det at the barracks, 13 Sept, and begin assignment of bks areas for other Dets.

13 Sept: The Det from 893 TD Bn arrived at the Barracks approx 1000 hours, set up Hqs and began cleaning the barracks for other Detachments. The 102 CAV Det, 741 Tk Det, and 190 FA Det were authorized to assemble their Detachments at the Barracks today. These detachments moved to the barracks and were closed in by 1500 hours. Hq and Hq det, V Corps MGP Bn was activated per GO # 51, Hq V Corps, dated 10 Sept 1944. Assignments made per SO # 1 Hq V Corps PMGP Bn.

14 Sept: The following Dets moved from their organizations to the barracks at BASTOGNE, all Dets closing by 1200 hours:

186 FA Bn	987 FA Bn	254 Engr Bn
187 FA Bn	20 Engr Bn	629 TD Bn
955 FA Bn	1340 Engr Bn	747 Tk Bn
200 FA Bn	112 Engr Bn	460 AAA Bn
941 FA Bn	146 Engr Bn	461 AAA Bn
400 FA Bn	38 Cav Sq	

The afternoon was spent as follows: Cleaning of barracks and area; collecting and sending of laundry to QM laundry units. At 1700 hours all officers were assembled for one hour of instruction. This hour was the first of a scheduled short course of instruction.

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15 Sept: Schedule instructions on new duties and functions began at 0900 hours, instructors were Lt. Col. Matthews, Lt. Col. Warner, Lt. Wheaton-Smith, Lt. Metcalfe, Corps G-5 section. Dets conducted training as follows: Firing on indoor rifle range, dismounted drill, cleaning and care of weapons, personal equipment, reading and discussing proclamations, laws and ordinances.

16 Sept: Reconnaissance made for location of new bivouac area vicinity V Corps CP by CO, asst S-3, and Hq Commandant. The Bn moved at 1500 hours and closed at 1620 hours. MGP Bn Hq located vicinity MALSCHIED (P-798743). Detachments from 38th Cav Sq and 102 Cav Sq were relieved from attachment per VOOG, V Corps. The Detachments departed for new bivouac area 1730 hours.

17 Sept: Detachments conducted maintenance and cleaning of equipment. Four Dets, 190 FA, 254 Engr, 741 Tk, and 460 AAA were alerted for possible action against the reported German troops at HARLANGE (P-603498). An armed rcn patrol consisting of two lt Armd vehicles, the CO and S-2 went to HARLANGE to investigate the report. The reported German troops could not be found and the rcn patrol returned to Hq at 1800 hours.

18 Sept: At 1630 hours the Bn armed rcn unit and four Dets, 987 FA, 254 Engr, 741 Tk, and 1340 Engr were alerted for a mission to NOCHER (P-739512). The force departed Bn Hq at 1705 hours for NOCHER. A civilian guide was made available from Corps and accompanied the force. After arriving vic NOCHER, the search began east of the village and continued over approx 2500 yards along a ridge containing intermittent fields and woods. The civilian reported to have been watching the Germans had no knowledge of their location and were unable to provide any definite information. A patrol from Troop "B", 102 Cav Sq, commanded by Lt. Gibson, was met by this detachment. At 1935 hours it was evident that further search was impractical and at that time the force started the return trip. Force arr Bn area 2115.

19 Sept: Detachments conducted maintenance and training which included: Exercises, drills (extended order), road marches, instructions in street fighting, German language classes, Rules of Land Warfare, study of Laws, ordinances and proclamations and orientation on current news and progress of operations. Four Detachments placed on 15 minute alert status from 191300 to 211300 as follows: 741 Tk, 190 FA, 254 Engr, 460 AAA.

20 Sept: Detachments continued training program during morning. The Prov. Bn Commander in coordination with Corps G-5 made arrangements for the policing of five cities in LUXEMBOURG. Thirteen (13) Detachments were alerted for movement at 1315. They were ready for movement and received instructions from the Force Commander at 1600. Instructions included the responsibility of the Detachment, CA Detachments, and the difference between the Two; that the Det were to assist in policing the areas supervised by CA Det. and to provide practical preliminary training for the MGP detachments before actually entering on their duties in GERMANY.

ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS

LUXEMBOURG -----	955 FA Det
	200 FA Det
	460 AAA Det
	112 Engr Det
DIEKIRCH -----	747 Tk Det
	146 Engr Det
	20 Engr Det
WILTZ -----	741 Tk Det
	941 FA Det
MERSCH -----	254 Engr Det
	461 AAA Det
CLERF -----	187 FA Det
	1340 Engr Det

22 Sept: The State Dept. was advised by the Government

The Detachments which moved to the five (5) cities in LUXEMBOURG late yesterday set up Hqs and billets in the cities, established liaison with the local CA Detachments and made plans for operating on such missions as may be assigned.

22 Sept: 186 FA Det departed for the town of ST. VITH at 1600 hours to establish Military Government Hqs. At 1640 the 190 FA Det reported enemy activity in vic P-825695. A patrol was sent out from this detachment to gain all information on the reported enemy force without engaging it. All information they received was sent to G-3, V Corps. All dets were inspected by the S-3 during the period.

23 Sept: Four detachments in reserve continued training program. Detachments at ST. VITH, MERSCH, DIEKIRCH, AND LUXEMBOURG inspected by CO and S-3. Consolidated reports on Operational Detachments: CLERF DET: Traffic control placed on town at request of CA. Patrol of two officers, 20 EM, sent to KARLEWIN at request of CA to check reports of uncollected American dead and Live Germans. Results were no enemy contact, Americans buried by own units. DIEKIRCH DET: Three guard posts established and operating in this sector. Received and transported to PW camp at GILSORF 34 PWs. Established in ETTTELBRUCK and vicinity two walking patrols, one civilian traffic control post, and one stationary post at a garage where vehicles are stored. MERSCH DET: Established guard at bridge, MERSCH. Established check points (six man post) at KOLMARBURG, 7 km N of MERSCH, and at LORINTZWEILER, 4 km S of MERSCH. Civilian traffic check point established at LAROCLETTE and CRUCHTEN. Removed detonating caps from mined bridge at P-840348. Placed guard on bridge. Removed charges of approximately 2000 lbs from mined bridge at P-848345. Explosives given to 254 Engr Bn(C). Picked up 3 stragglers from 28th Inf Div.

24 Sept: Detachments at CLERF and WILTZ inspected by S-3. Reconnaissance made for relocation of reserve detachments. LUXEMBOURG DET: 11 patrols of 4 or more men operated in the city and at entrances to the city on important highways; document containing information on spy ring turned over to CIC, T Force Hq; 7 FFI taken into custody and turned over to CIC. MERSCH DET: Bridge guards; civilian traffic control posts continued in operation. Two recon trips made to investigate reported German troops. No troops found. Farmhouse where Germans were reported had freshly washed German uniforms. The Marquis are watching the farmhouse for the return of the German soldiers. DIEKIRCH DET: Assigned patrols in DIEKIRCH and ETTTELBRUCK continued. One Medical Det. straggler picked up. Turned over to 5th Armd Div. Moved to new quarters at 32 Rue Du Jardins. CLERF DET: Two 2 man foot patrols and one veh patrol requested by CA were furnished to enforce traffic regulations and off limits. CIC requested a detail which was furnished to search house and arrest a Gestapo agent. The agent was not found but a radio transmitter was found in the loft of the barn. The transmitter was turned over to the CIC.

25 Sept: LUXEMBOURG DET: Continued guard posts established in the city and on all important roads leading into the city from the South, West, North. MERSCH DET: Established guard post at CRUCHTEN. Cont bridge guard in MERSCH. Apprehended 3 stragglers and turned them over to provost marshall at ETTTELBRUK. DIEKIRCH DET: Ten (10) curfew violators apprehended, informed of regulations, and escorted home. Civilian traffic control at ETTTELBRUCK has been revised at request of CA as follows: No civilian traffic to leave in any direction or enter from the South or West, and all traffic from the North and East required to remain in ETTTELBRUCK. WILTZ DET: The six walking posts of the town changed from 24 hours per day to duty from 1900 to 0700. No other changes. CLERF DET: Traffic control posts in the town continued. "Route Militaire" signs posted on highway from MALSCHIED to HOSCHIED at request of CA. ST. VITH DET: Established four traffic control posts for daylight hours and three mobile foot patrols for hours of darkness. One motor patrol operates on a 24 hour basis.

26 Sept: LUXEMBOURG DET: Guard posts in and around city continued. Guides placed on detour around RR bridge. MERSCH DET: Bridge guard and traffic control continues. Conducted searches of two homes at request of CA and CIC. (1) Prince of MEISENBERG chateau - found German uniforms and signal equipment. Brought two German women in for questioning. (2) Farm near

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FELS - found German uniforms, signal equipment, German maps etc. Two Poles were brought to the CIC for questioning. DIEKIRCH DET: Civilian traffic control posts continued. One additional night patrol created at P-862422. One other post established on GILSDORF* DIEKIRCH highway. Two curfew violators were apprehended and turned over to Civil Police. WILTZ DET: One Rcn patrol was sent out to pick up two suspicious looking men in U.S. uniforms. This turned out to be two soldiers, AWOL, who were picked up by the MPs at ETTTELBRUCK. CLERF DET: Traffic control patrols of 20 EM furnished CIC for investigation of inhabitants of HEINERSHED, 4 man patrol, same purpose at HOSINGEN. One suspect detained by CIC. ST VITH DET: Foot and motor patrol continued. 400 FA Det set up as guard for the detention camp at WALLERODE, 3 mi N of ST. VITH. This camp for civilians evacuated from BLEIALF, GERMANY in 4th Inf Div Sector. Five guards furnished CA to guard evacuees located at LICHENVILLE, 7 1/2 mi NW of ST VITH. CO, S-2 inspected detachments at LUXEMBOURG, MERSCH, DIEKIRCH. CO, legal officer inspected Det at ST VITH.

27 Sept: ST. VITH DET: Rcn and patrol of 3 roads established. Detail of 5 EM investigated report of radio equipment at STEINEBRUCK. Nothing was found. Routine road patrol picked up one man and one woman at NEUNDORF and returned them to Hq. The mans wallet contained German army paybook and pictures on the couple revealed the man a member of the German Army. Turned over to CA. Supplied CA with one 2 1/2 ton truck for transporting 30 Belgium soldiers to an unknown area which was believed to have German soldiers in the vicinity. One man picked up for violation of curfew and travelling without authority. MERSCH DET: Investigat report of German Nationals in HELMDANGE. Reported incident to CA and CIC. Routine patrols continued. DIEKIRCH DET: Picked up one civilian for violation of curfew. Patrol picked up 25 FFI coming from East and turned them over to CA. Routine patrols continued. WILTZ DET: 2 squads raided house which was believed to have hidden German soldiers. Nothing was found other than parts of German uniforms. Civilians in the vicinity of this house revealed that secret activities were taking place after dark to the rear of the house mentioned. Arrangements were made to post a guard in the vicinity to note any further activities. LUXEMBOURG DET: Continued routine guard posts and patrols. CLERF DET: CA requested and received guards for traffic control and enforcement of off limits. Continued routine guard posts and patrols.

28 Sept: ST VITH DET: Investigated report by civilian of German artillery ammunition store in house. Detail picked up 15 rounds, 88mm ammo, cased and fused, returning it to Det. Hq. Belgian soldiers forced to evacuate house formerly used as hospital and still bearing red crosses on the roofs. CLERF DET: CA requested and received guards for traffic control and town patrol. Routine posts and patrols continued. DIEKIRCH DET: One civilian stopped and turned over to CA for violation of travel law. He was attempting to travel to a point 50 km distance with no pass of any type. Picked up French civilian who had escaped from a German labor camp. He possessed no identification papers, and was turned over to CA. Civilian turned over to civilian police for breaking curfew and resisting arrest. WILTZ DET: Two American soldiers, AWOL, were apprehended and turned over to Corps MPs. Civilian reports that neighbor may be hiding German soldiers in house, investigation to be made. One German soldier in civilian clothes apprehended and turned over to the PW enclosure. MERSCH DET: Maintained bridge guard and patrols and established check point at P-831217. 2 civilians apprehended without identity cards and turned over to Gendarmerie. Austrian deserter from German Army turned self in, and was turned over to MPs.

29 Sept: CLERF DET: CA assigned 12 towns to be cleared along road from HEINERSHED TO HOSINGEN. This was accomplished with no trouble. Guards were posted at HOSINGEN on all roads to assist in evacuation of civilian population. Detail with 2 1/2 ton truck dispatched to transport refugees from SCHLAUSENBACH to refugee inclosure. WILTZ DET: Investigated report of civilian possessing transmitter and sending messages. House was thoroughly searched but nothing was found. B-17 (Flying Fort) crashed near BOULAIDE(6245). All occupants were found with the exception of the pilot and engineer who were believed to have landed

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GERMANY. Secret radio equipment was recovered and destroyed. Crew was billeted at barracks for the night and were to be taken to Corps in the morning. DIEKIRCH DET: 17 men and 5 women were apprehended during the day with either faulty identifications or none at all. They were turned over to CA. MERSCH DET: Normal guard continued. Two German soldiers, deserters, turned over to us by other units were taken to PW enclosure at ETTELBRUK. ST VITH DET: One 2½ ton truck furnished CA to transport people evacuated by 4th Div from SCHLAUSENBACH, GERMANY to new detention camp at AZERATH, BELGIUM. Arranged for establishment of night guards at this detention camp. 6 civilians picked up and turned over to CA for traveling without identification cards.

30 Sept: MERSCH DET: Investigated report of German Nationals in vicinity of LINGTEN. Arrested 28 Nationals and turned them over to CIC for investigation. CA requested and received truck and guard to go to LORENZWEILER to pick up 19 German Nationals, who were taken to the city jail. Captured German parachutist deserter at CRUCHTEN and turned him over to CA. WILTZ DET: Made arrangements for the arrest and quartering of German nationals in WILTZ and vicinity. Civilian picked up for flashing light from house. This was the second time this had happened. He was picked up and turned over to CIC for investigation. CIERP DET: Routine guard posts and patrols continued. Sent guard detail to nearby towns to ascertain whether or not they have been evacuated. ST. VITH DET: Sent 2½ ton truck to BLEIALF, GERMANY, to evacuate civilians at request of CA. These people will be moved to detention camp at WALLERODEX; DIEKIRCH DET: One American soldier picked up for violation of "off limits". 3 civilians picked up for improper identifications and turned over to CA.



Aug 11³