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 : Auth: CG, V Corps :  
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 : Init: *NCW* :

HEADQUARTERS, 3D TANK DESTROYER GROUP  
 V CORPS REAR AREA SECURITY SECTION  
 APO 230 US ARMY



24 April 1945

SUBJECT: History, V Corps Rear Area Security Section, 3d TD Group, March 1945.  
 TO : Historical Section, Army War College, Washington, D. C.

1. At the beginning of the period, the CP of V Corps Rear Area Security Section, 3d Tank Destroyer Group, was located in MONSCHAU, GERMANY (K-945181). The military situation was static. The Corps rear area was divided into Security areas and the Staff Officers assigned to these areas contacted the units within the areas, assisted in organization of unit defense plans and coordinated these to form area defense plans. Reports of security violations including shots fired and improper blackout were referred to units in the vicinity of the location of violation for investigation and action where necessary.

2. 1ST LT WAYMOND A WILLIAMS, JR was relieved from DS with 3d Tank Destroyer Group and returned to his unit, 86th Chemical Battalion, 11 March 1945. LT DAVID L ZEMSKY of 12th Armored Group was placed on DS with 3d Tank Destroyer Group per Par 4, SO 38, Hq V Corps, 9 March 1945 for duty as Security Staff Officer. LT DAVID L ZEMSKY was absent sick from 12 March 1945 and was relieved from DS with 3d Tank Destroyer Group for return to his unit 29 March 1945. Capt LEON WEBBER was relieved from DS with 3d Tank Destroyer Group and returned to his unit, 941st FA Battalion, 23 March 1945.

3. Corps rear boundaries and Division rear boundaries were moved forward a/o 081200A March 1945 and new Security Areas were organized accordingly. (Incl #1). Staff Officers assigned to the areas made reconnaissance of their areas preparatory to forming an area defense plan. Corps rear boundary again moved forward a/o 101200A March 1945 and Security Areas were adjusted. (Incl #2). With the rapidly moving situation it was found impractical to organize a standard area defense plan. Staff Officers were assigned sectors of responsibility. Units within the areas were contacted and communications maintained. Reports of German soldiers in the rear areas were investigated and referred to the proper authorities for required action.

4. Corps rear boundaries and Division rear boundaries again moved forward a/o 141200A March 1945 and new Security Areas were organized and area commanders appointed. (Incl #3).

5. Corps rear boundaries again changed a/o 241200A March 1945. Security Areas were assigned. (Incl #4). A Bomb Disposal Squad was made available to Corps Rear Area Security 24 March 1945. This squad proceeded to train Belgian troops of 17th Fusiliers Battalion on the job in clearing the Corps rear area of abandoned enemy ammunition and arms.

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6. Corps Rear Area Security Section, 3d Tank Destroyer Group, crossed the Rhine River 25 March 1945. The Corps rear boundary was moved to the Rhine River a/o 281200A March 1945. Security Areas were again established on the east side of the Rhine. Communications were maintained with units in the Corps rear area through the Security Staff Officers acting as liaison. The Bomb Disposal Squads systematically destroyed or turned over to Ordnance the abandoned ammunition and arms found in rear areas.

7. This period found practically all Corps units moving eastward so fast that no locations were occupied for more than a few days. Enemy installations were overrun so rapidly that it became apparent that security of valuable installations against the aggressive looting by civilians, allied displaced persons, and our troops would become as much a problem as security against enemy action. Steps were taken to meet this eventuality by assigning the 17th Fusiliers Battalion of the Belgian Army the primary mission of guarding the installations which were of such value that they could be used by the military forces or against the military forces.

8. The following data is made of record concerning the 17th Belgian Fusilier Battalion, which was attached to 3d Tank Destroyer Group on 7 March 1945 per letter, subject "Troop Assignment", Hq, V Corps, dated 19 March 1945:

The 17th Fusiliers Battalion was activated on 15 January 1945 at CHARLEROI, BELGIUM. Training was conducted primarily at FRIHWELZ, BELGIUM until 5 March 1945. The battalion arrived by motor and rail at EUPEN, BELGIUM 7 March 1945, consisting of 25 officers and 793 enlisted men. Thirteen (13) of the men were still in civilian clothes. They were equipped with an additional allowance of Class B items of clothing and equipment sufficient to allow them to be operational on a minimum standard. They were given a short course of orientation and instruction to acquaint them with ways and customs of the U.S. Army, and requirements to be expected of them.

9. The 3rd Platoon of 5th Company was the first to be assigned a mission - that of securing the Corps Class I and III dump at MECHERNICH, GERMANY beginning 10 March 1945. Assignment of additional missions followed in quick succession as follows:

- 11 March 1945 - 1st Platoon, 1st Company - Guarding Victor Air Strip.
- 13 March 1945 - Hq and 2nd Platoon, 5th Company - Guarding Corps Ordnance Units.
- 14 March 1945 - 3rd Company - Guarding 10,000-Ton Enemy ammunition dump and supply train in tunnel vicinity east of MUNSTERFEL and SCHULD, GERMANY.  
1st Platoon, 4th Company - Guarding ASP 143, vicinity RAMERSBACH, GERMANY.
- 20 March 1945 - 3rd Platoon, 4th Company - Guarding supply trains in three tunnels, vicinity REIMERSHOVEN, GERMANY
- 21 March 1945 - 3rd Platoon, 1st Company - Guarding signal installation 3250th Signal Service Company.  
Hq and 2nd Platoon, 4th Company - Guarding ASP 143 and enemy ammunition dump in vicinity.
- 28 March 1945 - 3rd Company relieved from guard of enemy ammunition dump and assigned as guard on ASP 147.  
3rd Platoon, 5th Company relieved from guard on Class I and III dump and assigned as guard for 177 h Ordnance Battalion.

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28 March 1945 - Hq and 2nd Platoon, 1st Company - Assigned to guard Corps Class I and III dumps.

During the period, seven (7) PW's and ten (10) suspected PW's (to CIC) were taken. One civilian was killed in the Class I and III dump at night when he failed to respond to the challenge of a sentry, but tried to run through the dump instead.

SAMUEL E. MAYS.  
Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding

4 Inclosures:

- Incl 1 - Overlay, Areas for V Corps Rear Area Security, 081200 Mar 45
- Incl 2 - Overlay, Areas for V Corps Rear Area Security, 101200 Mar 45.
- Incl 3 - Ltr, "Change of Area Commanders for Corps Rear Area Security", Hq V Corps, 14 Mar 45, w/overlay.
- Incl 4 - Overlay, Areas for V Corps Rear Area Security, 241200 Mar 45.

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