

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS 776TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 753

23 April 1945

EXTRACT

EXTRACT taken from G-2 Report No. 33, Hq 684 Infantry Division dated
0100 17 Mar 45 for period 15 2400 Mar 45 to 16 2400 Mar 45.

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Annex to G-2 Report No. 33

DIVISION CONSOLIDATED IPW REPORT

Report No. 34

From: 2400 15 Mar 45
To : 2400 16 Mar 45

WESTWALL: PW states Westwall fortifications have generally three defensive lines depending on terrain. First defensive line consists of field fortifications. 2d or outer defensive line has concrete bunkers w/100 emplacements and communication centers. Third or inner defense line consists of super forts w/AR, ARTY and 88 emplacements. Communication system between defensive in the West is by means of underground cables. PW states when attacked all personnel seek shelter in communication trenches outside of bunkers to escape destruction thru WP or handgrenades. Upon completion of initial attack personnel re-enters bunker to man 88s. PW states personnel have dugout outside of bunkers to fire Pz Panzer and to repel attack w/AR fire and handgrenades. PW is convinced that Westwall fortifications will be stubbornly defended.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

Louis J. Wade
LOUIS J. WADE
Captain, P. A.
2-5

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FROM: 16 2400 Mar 45
TO : 17 2400 Mar 45

Hq 458 Inf Div
France
0100 18 Mar 45

No. 45

EXTRACT

1. SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD:

4. Artillery: Nebelwerfers reported at the following locations: (55767190), (55712157), (57007350), (55517503), (57117400), (55457445), (55557431), (55557494), (55557505). 23mm Nebelwerfer or large caliber guns at (55057450). 3 or 5 gun Wg vic (515755). Gun Wg believed at (5557450). 1 large caliber gun (5557775). PW statements: 5 - 75 mm Russian guns, mounted on half tracks moved to at HENRY (5575) 15 Mar (3 Wg vic Regs).

2. ARTILLERY OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD:

- a. General Summary: FIRE C/A were reported in the division sector. At 0800 an undetermined number C/A in vic (555715) but were dispersed by arty fire with an estimated 70 casualties. At 1500, in the vic of FURNISH, approx 50 cy were driven off by SA, AF and mortar fire. In the vic (555705), at 1500, 2 C/A of approx 200 cy and one of unknown strength were reported. At 2000 2 tks or 20 guns were firing from (555705) directly into our position. By the close of the period these C/A were stopped by our arty. SA fire was heavy from the pillboxes of the HENRY wall in the vic (555705) - (555705). Arty and rocket fire was generally moderate but became heavy in the 2 part of the division sector towards the end of the period.

b. Operations of Component Elements:

- (1) Artillery:
Between 0800-0850, 34 wide rocket fire at of HENRY (5467). 1000 15 wide rocket vic (5555). 1400-1450 undetermined number of wide medium arty vic (5555750). 1450-1455 30 wide medium arty in FURNISH (5165). 1455-1455 3 wide medium arty in vic (515445). At 1500 2 part of sector heavily shelled by arty fire. Between 2000-2400 50 wide arty vic HENRY (5467). Intermittent harassing arty fire was used in other sectors during the period.

END

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Lucius J. Wade
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Captain, FA
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FROM: 17 2400 Mar 45
TO : 18 2400 Mar 45

Rm 624 Inf Div
Tramco
0100 18 Mar 45

No. 41

EXTRACT

1. BERRY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD:

- b. Approx 50 wooden mines on road and dirt road to W via (575707). Wooden mines N of bridge between first 2 houses at S entrance of HOSCHENHARTEN via (560700). AT guns in pillboxes via (560700). AT guns in 2-5 pillboxes W of road via (560700).
- d. Artillery: Suspected Arty Btry at (560700). Reg'd arty posn on high ground (5771). Reports during the period indicate arty exploded in the vic OBER WENZACH (5771), MASEL (5874), or INSURE (5875).

2. BERRY OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD:

- a. General Summary: The W part of the Division sector remained generally quiet with only intermittent and harassing AF and artillery reported. On the front of the 254 and 255, the AF stubbornly defended his pillbox positions. In this vicinity, AF fire was heavy. Artillery seemingly coming from the vic of MASEL (5874), OBER WENZACH (5771) and of INSURE (5875) was, at times, very heavy. No C/A was reported during the period.

b. Operations of Component Elements:

(1) Artillery:

Early in the period, OBERHARTEN (5740) was heavily shelled. At 1300 30-40 mm unknown cal landed. (5745000). At 1425, a barrage of approx 20-30 rounds of estimated medium cal landed via HOSCHENHARTEN (5800). The eastern part of the Division sector received heavy shelling intermittently during the day.

- (2) Aviation: At 0830, 2 AF 100s were reported over HOSCHENHARTEN. 2 AF fighter planes were reported circling MASEL (5874) at 1445.

(3) Infantry:

AF machine gun fire from pillboxes of the HOSCHENHARTEN line in 254 and 255 sectors.

(4) Tanks:

Suspected tk or AF gun reported moving SE from vic (58740).

HANDWRN
G-2

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Louis J. Walle
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Captain, FA
S-5

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Hq 654 Inf Div
France
0100 20 Mar 45

FROM: IS 2400 Mar 45
TO: IS 2400 Mar 45

EXTRACT

No. 42

1. BRIEF SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD:

b. Civilian Statement: Pillbox with AT gun at (559714). Heavily defended pillboxes (559725), (559717), (559715), (559719).

d. Artillery: PW Statement: Story of 88's vic (557725), a 88's in woods vic (559727) - (575725), 1 75mm gun (570725), Nebelwerfer (571725), 100 pounds (575720) - (559725), arty in woods (5572).

2. BRIEF OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD:

a. General Summary: Arty fire increased during the period. Over 500 rds, mostly 105mm, was reported with the bulk falling in the general vic (5585). Mortar fire was moderate and generally increasing. PW continued to stubbornly defend his SINGAPORE points with heavy SA and AV weapons.

b. Operations of Component Elements:

(1) Artillery:

The ay loosened his join on built up ammunition stocks by firing over 500 rounds usually placed well to the rear of the line itself. Between 1400 and 1900, arty fire was heaviest with approx 200 rds landing in general vic (555525). An 82mm S rocket barrage, number undetermined, was received vic (551525).

(2) Infantry:

SA and AV fire was heavy and resistance was stiff in the SINGAPORE LINE where reached. Later in the period, well aimed small arms fire was received at (515575) - (555575) coming from vic (515525).

(3) Tanks:

At 1700 ay tk observed (499675) backed into natural hole and held in direction of front lines. At 2100 vic (555525) the sound of tracked vehicles was heard.

HARDWAY
G-2

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LOUIS J. WALSH
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HEADQUARTERS 770TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 758 U. S. Army

9 May 1945

1. Following is an extract from 254th Infantry Regiment IFW report dated 19 March 1945.

* * * * *

Effect of Direct Fire on
German Personnel in Pillboxes

A cross-section of PWs who were manning concrete bunkers of Siegfried Line while under fire was questioned and the following found to be general reaction: When a projectile hits an aperture or close to it it will penetrate the pillbox regardless of its construction. The knowledge and fear of that plus the terrific concussion caused inside the bunker when hit by a direct projectile even when it does not penetrate, has a disastrous effect on even the tough soldiers' nerves, heightened especially by fear of phosphorus shells, and after being under such fire once, everyone seems to develop a severe case of claustrophobia. Therefore, the inevitable rule among pillbox personnel is to try to scramble outside into one of the running trenches when attacked by a direct fire weapon.

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Louis J. Hader
LOUIS J. HADER
Captain, P. A.
3-5

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FROM: 1945 2400 Mar 45
TO : 20 2400 Mar 45

Hq 538 Inf Div
France
0100 21 Mar 45

~~EXTRACT~~

NO. 45

1. ~~EMERGENCY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD:~~
 - a. ~~Enemy Front Lines:~~ Complete withdrawal our sector.
 - b. ~~Defensive Organization:~~ ~~SEVERAL~~ Defenses our sector now unmanned, no other defensive positions reported.
 - c. ~~Units in contact:~~ Not applicable
 - d. ~~Artillery:~~ None reported.
 - e. ~~Reserves and other forces capable of intervention:~~ None.

~~REMARKS~~

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Louis J. Wade
LOUIS J. WADE
Captain, FA
C-3

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REF NO 30

SECRET

Auth: CG 554 Inf Div

Init: 71/ HK

Date: 18 Mar 45

SECRET

G-3 REPORT

From: 170000Z Mar 45

To : 190000Z Mar 45

By 554 Inf Div

AFG 410, U S Army

180000Z Mar 45

EXTRACT

No. 43

MAPS: France, 1/30,000, XXIV-12, XXIV-13.

1. OUR FRONT LINES: Overlay.

2. LOCATION OF TROOPS: Overlay.

3. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:

(2) 254th Inf: 2d Bn attd at 0830Z from Vlc (0547008). By 1800Z Bn had seized 2 pillboxes. At this time Hq C/Atk supported by armor, forcing 2 and 3 Co to withdraw to Vlc (0547000). 3d Bn beat off two Hq C/Atks of approx 100 men and 200 men. Both Atks were dined at 1 Co from Hq. At 2000Z Regt Recd general C/Atk and 2d Bn was forced to withdraw to Pomas 2 of 3d Bn.

(5) 254th Inf: 1st Bn attd at 0830Z, reached limited Obj without opposition and organized defensive Pomas. 2 Co moved to protect right flank of Regt; was in Poma at 2150Z. 2d Bn moved to assembly area Vlc (0575375) and launched Atk on Siegfried Line (0575330) at 1735Z. Captured 2 pillboxes by close of period. 3d Bn attd at 0830Z, seized limited Obj by 0830Z without resistance. Organized defensive Pomas and supported Atk of 254th Inf by fire on Siegfried Line.

/s/ NEWFIELD
NEWFIELD /s/ HK
G-3

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Louis J. Hinkle
LOUIS J. HINKLE
Captain, F. A.
G-3

SECRET

COPY NO. 29
SECRET
Auth: CG 534 Inf Div
Title: /A/ HK
Date: 19 Mar 45

SECRET

G-3 REPORT

From: 120000Z Mar 45
To : 120000Z Mar 45
By 534 Inf Div
APO 413, FORT MONMOUTH, NJ
120000Z Mar 45.

EXTRACT

No. 44

MAPS: France 1/50,000, XXVI-12, XXVI-13.

1. OUR FRONT LINES: Overlay.

2. LOCATION OF ENEMYS: Overlay.

3. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:

(2) 254th Inf: Resumed the Atk at 1400h with 2d Bn regaining ground lost at close of previous period and reducing 3 A44 pillboxes via RT (Q55705). It was Spd by The 2nd Bde. With 2 Platoons of B 740th Tn Bn, and 2 Platoons of A 776th TD Bn and mine sweeping teams from 254th Engr C Bn, Co A formed 2 task forces. One bridged the gap, previously made in German trench by 254th Engr C Bn; this was done in the face of Bn Bn S/A and Army fire. The other seized ENEMY POS (Q55705) with little resistance. Remainder 1st Bn followed 2d Bn. 2d Bn could to hold and improve defensive Posns.

(3) 255th Inf: 2d Bn Atk electric line via (Q55712) during the opening hours of period. Held by Army fire and were forced to withdraw after reducing a number of pillboxes. Cos F and G held Cos A and B at 2500h. Remainder of Bn improved its Posns and prepared to renew the Atk. Co G 776th TD Bn and Co C 740th Tn Bn fired direct fire on pillboxes.

(4) ID: 776th TD Bn (SP): A Co gave close Spd to Atk elements of 254th Inf by giving direct fire on RT pillboxes, in Via (Q55608) and (Q55705). C Co gave close Spd to 255th Inf firing on RT pillboxes in grid square (Q5770). B Co in mobile Pos.

7. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS: Div contd to press the Atk against the staggered line. The 254th Inf limited its operations to regaining lost ground and capturing 3 more pillboxes. The 255th Inf reorganized after making an Atk early in the period but maintained strong pressure against the RT defenses. The 740th Tn Bn relieved the 70th Tn Bn at 1200h thus making impossible any continuous RT support during the period. Contact was maintained on the flanks and 1st Bn Sp contd to protect Div V flank.

/s/ REFIELD /s/ HK
REFIELD

SECRET

G-3

五、六、七、八、九、十、十一、十二、十三、十四、十五、十六、十七、十八、十九、二十、二十一、二十二、二十三、二十四、二十五、二十六、二十七、二十八、二十九、三十、三十一、三十二、三十三、三十四、三十五、三十六、三十七、三十八、三十九、四十、四十一、四十二、四十三、四十四、四十五、四十六、四十七、四十八、四十九、五十、五十一、五十二、五十三、五十四、五十五、五十六、五十七、五十八、五十九、六十、六十一、六十二、六十三、六十四、六十五、六十六、六十七、六十八、六十九、七十、七十一、七十二、七十三、七十四、七十五、七十六、七十七、七十八、七十九、八十、八十一、八十二、八十三、八十四、八十五、八十六、八十七、八十八、八十九、九十、九十一、九十二、九十三、九十四、九十五、九十六、九十七、九十八、九十九、一百。