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HEADQUARTERS, 3RD TANK DESTROYER GROUP
 PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT SECURITY GUARD SECTION
 APO 330



4 March 1945

SUBJECT: History of MMSG Section, HQ, 3rd TD Group, for February 1945.

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

1. This is the sixth Historical report submitted by this organization.

2. The MMSG continued to operate during the month in the new territory to the East and South assigned to Corps control. Despite the limited man-power with which the MMSG detachments operated, the job of maintaining security in the new Corps area as well as the performance of routine duties and those special duties performed for other agencies, were carried out.

3. During the month of February the MMSG detachments operated in the towns of Eupen, Limbourg, Steebert, Jehanster, Verbeister, Robertville, Keywerts, Monchau, Ambleve, Spa and Gvifat.

4. On 1 February 1945 the operation "Drognet 7" was conducted by personnel of MMSG detachments and CIC. This was a house to house search of Meebach, Belgium for the purpose of locating and collecting U.S. Army rations and equipment, collecting German military and other types of forbidden property, interrogating and apprehending persons illegally in Meebach, including AWOL U.S. soldiers and spy spies and agents. The search was conducted along the same lines as were the other Drognet operations in the town of Eupen during the month of January. The results of the search, while it produced very little in the way of tangible evidence of security breaches and violations, it had a favorable effect on the local populace. Since the search was held, voluntary informers from that area have come forward with reliable information which lead to the uncovering of many black market activities.

Numerous other individual house searches and raids were conducted during the month in cooperation with CIC and GIC, on information received from reliable informers and from investigations.

5. Contrary to the condition of areas heretofore encountered by MMSG detachments, this new sector had been not too long before the scene of heavy fighting. Two of these areas were cluttered up with considerable amounts of American and German equipment. In addition, the melting snow revealed many American and German dead soldiers that had not been recovered by Graves Registration units. Heavy mine fields laid by both German and American units were still intact and presented a hazard to both civilians and military personnel.

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In order to clear the areas the Burgemeisters of each town in the vicinity were called in and told to have the civilians collect all equipment and ammunition left laying in the fields and houses in the area, and turn it in to the detachment collecting points for proper disposal. Details of civilians supervised by MOCG personnel were used to bury the dead cattle in the area. The location of each dead soldier was noted and the information turned over to the nearest Graves Registration unit.

GA and GIC found that civilians had moved around from town to town since the German occupation thus necessitating a complete rechecking and reregistration and were kept very busy checking up on these people. MOCG detachments aided these agencies by registering all civilians in the many small villages in the southern part of Corps area.

The general thaw which occurred during the early part of the month, caused the hard surface of roads in the Corps area to weaken. At this time there was a great amount of military traffic due to the shifting of units, and before long the roads deteriorated rapidly making vehicular traffic almost impossible. As many agencies were attempting to return to their homes it was necessary to keep a close check on this civilian traffic to prevent the hampering of supply routes, especially as the number of roads open for traffic steadily decreased.

Mines and minefields were another source of hazard in the areas occupied by MOCG detachments. There were many mines laying loose in the ditches along roads and others were buried in fields. Those which had been rendered safe were collected by MOCG detachments and turned into the nearest ASP. Minefield locations were secured and reported to the proper authorities so that they could be removed.

6. In view of the enormous amount of MOCG work to be done in Germany in the future it was decided by Corps that the present strength of the MOCG was not sufficient to handle all this work and that it would not be practical to draw men from various units for training in MOCG duties as had been done heretofore. It was finally decided that a Light Field Artillery Battalion should be withdrawn from the line and trained for MOCG work. The 196th FA Bn was selected and was moved from the field on 12 February to the town of Jalhay where the Bn was to be converted and trained. The training of the Bn was left entirely up to the MOCG Section, 3rd TD Group because of their experience and knowledge of this type of work. The training of the Bn began on 12 February and was completed on 26 February. The Bn was then divided into detachments and placed on duty with the present detachments of the MOCG Section where they received practical training in security work. The personnel of the MOCG Section with the exception of those transferred to the 196th FA Bn and those retained for a short period as instructors were returned to their parent unit. The 196th FA Bn took over the control and operation of the MOCG from the 3rd TD Group on 1 March 1945.

7. There were no casualties suffered by the MOCG Section as a result of enemy action during the month of February 1945.

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8. The following is one of the more interesting incidents of the work done by M3SG detachments during the month of February:

"On 13 February an officer of Veterinary Casual Co called Capt Fulton of the 150/161 AAA detachments in Moushan and reported that a number of German rifles and some ammunition had been found by his men in the Gebhardt and Co factory building in Moushan. Captain Fulton made an investigation of the report and at that time noticed that one of the directors of the concern who was there at that time was rather nervous when questioned about the presence of the rifles in the building. He claimed to know nothing about the rifles having been hidden there and acted in a suspicious manner. The CIC was contacted immediately and Captain Fulton and two Special Agents proceeded to make a further investigation. Twenty rifles of varied caliber from air rifles to regular German Mausers were recovered and also two cases of .22 caliber ammunition. These rifles were found tied in bundles and lowered into an elevator pit by means of a rope which had been tied to a bar under a manhole cover. The rifles and ammunition were confiscated and the case was taken over by CIC for further investigation on the basis of the suspicious actions of the director and the evidence found."

9. On the 1st February 1945 the effective strength of the M3SG Section, 3rd TD Group was 12 officers and 118 enlisted men. As of 28 February 1945 the effective strength had been reduced by transfer to the 196th FA Bn to 4 officers and 51 enlisted men.

SAMUEL E. MAYE
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

7 Inclosures:

- Incl 1 - Order "Dragnet 7", M3SG Section, dd 31 Jan 45.
- Incl 2 - Overlay showing location of M3SG Dets, dd 6 Feb 45.
- Incl 3 - Training Program for 196th FA Bn, M3SG Sect.
- Incl 4 - Ltr, HQ, 3d TD Gp, M3SG Sect, dd 20 Feb 45.
- Incl 5 - Ltr, HQ, 3d TD Gp, M3SG Sect, Sub "Disposition of dead U.S. and enemy soldiers", dd 25 Feb 45.
- Incl 6 - Overlay, Locations and Areas of responsibility, M3SG Dets, M3SG Sect, dd 26 Feb 45.
- Incl 7 - Summary of Activities M3SG Section, 1-28 Feb 45 inclusive.

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