

SECRET

SECRET
Auth: CG, V Corps
Date: 07 Jun 45
Init: *RM*

HEADQUARTERS, 3D TANK DESTROYER GROUP
V CORPS SECURITY SECTION
APO 403, US ARMY

07 June 1945



SUBJECT: History, V Corps Security Section, 3d Tank Destroyer Group
TO : Historical Section, Army War College, Washington, D. C.

1. This is the 6th such report to be submitted by the Rear Area Security Section of this headquarters.

2. During the month of May, this headquarters supervised and directed the activities of its normally attached unit, the 17th Belgian Fusilier Battalion, plus other troops made available because of the large area of the Corps and the consequent large number of installations to be secured. Units under operational control and dates thereof include:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 656th FA Bn | 1 - 3 May 1945, 5 - 16 May 1945 |
| 351st FA Group | 1 - 12 May 1945 incl |
| 86th Cpl Bn | 1 - 20 May 1945 incl |
| 17th Belgian Fus Bn | 1 - 21 May 1945 incl |

3. The V Corps Rear Area Security Section of 3d Tank Destroyer Group was located at Corps Headquarters during the entire month, and moved with Corps Headquarters. Locations and inclusive dates are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Grafenwohr, Germany (P-0033) | 30 Apr 45 to 8 May 45 |
| Pilsen, Czechoslovakia (L-086390) | 8 May 45 to 31 May 45 |

The Rear Echelon of the Group continued to locate itself in the rear sector of the Corps zone for most of the period, with locations and inclusive dates as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Mainleus, Germany (O-605730) | 2 May 45 to 12 May 45 |
| Marktredwitz, Germany (P-115653) | 12 May 45 to 28 May 45 |
| Pilsen, Czechoslovakia (L-069415) | 29 May 45 to 31 May 45 |

4. On 8 May 1945 the official announcement of V-E Day was received. However, certain conditions continued to exist after that date which required continued full scale activity and alertness throughout most of the remainder of the month. These conditions were:

SECRET

SECRET

- a. The large area of responsibility of the Corps sector.
- b. The long travelling distances from the Corps CP to most of the Corps sector.
- c. The difficulty of maintaining adequate communication over such distances.
- d. The continued large number of by-passed soldiers, in and out of uniform, many being armed.
- e. Small numbers of determined and fanatic enemy soldiers who would not give up or cease hostile actions after 8 May 1945.
- f. The large number of liberated displaced persons.
- g. The many important installations which were captured and overrun.

5. Large numbers of enemy installations continued to be overrun and captured during the period of advance. After the forward advance had been stopped and troop units became more stable, the number of installations decreased slightly. Detailed searches of all areas commenced, and revealed a certain amount of materiel and equipment which had been stored or hidden in an apparent effort to avoid detection. The considerations which generally determined whether or not a guard was to be placed continued to be:

- a. If the installation could be used against us.
- b. If the installation could be used for or by us.
- c. Essential civilian activities or commodities.

6. The system of reporting continued in effect. One additional report form was devised to simplify and make uniform the reports sent in by the additional numbers of reporting units, including all divisions. (Incl #1)

7. On 9 May 1945, information was received that the western Czechoslovakian border would be the Corps rear boundary, and the entire zone of the Corps would be assigned to the divisions, thus eliminating the Corps area as such separate from the division area. The Corps Security Commander continued the coordination of the security activities of the divisions.

8. The activities relating to security and guard of installations will be presented in this report in chronological order. The units performing the security or guard were split into a number of small groups ranging in size from a platoon to a 3-man detachment, and varied in composition from one installation or locality to another. It is therefore not possible or feasible to report the activities of a unit as such. The report is designed to report the accomplishments of all troops on the security mission. The activities are recorded in the paragraphs to follow.

9. 1 May 1945

a. The situation as of 1 May was one which concerned primarily the taking over of a new Corps sector from XII Corps of Third Army. The Security Headquarters moved with V Corps from NAUMBERG, GERMANY (J-843923) on 30 April to GRAFENWOHR, GERMANY (P-0033). The immediate mission was that of relief of elements of XII Corps of the security and installation guard responsibility in the new V Corps area.

SECRET

S E C R E T



Negotiations for this relief were conducted with the Security Officer of the 97th Infantry Division and the Commanding Officer of the 204th Engineer (C) Battalion and the 97th Chemical Battalion, the latter two units being employed as security troops.

b. Relief started on 1 May and continued over a period of 3 days. The distance from the old sector to this new sector was considerably over 100 miles and delay in securing road clearance and shortage of transportation for moving the Belgians caused the relieving troops to arrive over a period of 4 days; however, relief was made with the first units to arrive and was completed by 3 May 1945.

c. On 1 May troops were employed, disposed, or acting as follows:

3d TD Gp Rear - Preparation for movement from ROSSLEBEN (old area) to MAINLEUS, the CP for the new area.

17th Belg Bn Hq - Preparation for movement from ROSSLEBEN (old area) to MAINLEUS, the CP for the new area.

3 Co, 17th Belg Bn - In process of relieving elements of 97th Cml Bn and 204th Engr (C) B.

2 and 4 Co, 17th Belg Bn - Assembling in old area preparatory to moving and awaiting transportation.

5 Co (-), 17th Belg Bn - Continued security duties with 177th Ord Bn.

2nd Plat, 5 Co, & Engr Plat, Hq Co - Continued weapon and ammunition clearance under supervision of 16th Bomb Disposal Squad.

656th FA Bn - (Closed in new area, less Btry C). In process of relieving elements of 97th Cml Bn, 204th Engr (C) Bn and 97th Inf Div in assigned sector.

351st FA Gp - Received orientation and initial instructions on new security assignment, and clearance to move unit from GELBES to GRAFENWOHR.

86th Cml Bn - Received orientation and initial instructions on new security assignment, that of relief of elements of 656th FA Bn.

d. Two platoons of 38th Cavalry Squadron were assigned to Corps Security Commander for combing towns and woods in Corps zone. The platoon leaders reported and were oriented and given their initial assignment.

e. 2 Company captured 35 PW's vic KOLLEND.

10. 2 May 1945

a. The new Corps and Division rear boundaries were announced by G-4 and the new Corps zone was divided into two areas for Rear Area Security Organization. (Incl #2)

b. Information was received that the 656th FA Bn is to revert to control of Corps Artillery. They will be relieved of security assignments by 86th Cml Bn.

S E C R E T

SECRET

c. The 2 platoons of Cavalry and 2 platoons of A Company, 86th Cml Bn conducted a woods and town clearing operation on the woods at O-9240 and the towns of TREMMERSDORF (O-9339), THURNDORF (O-8238), and SCHNABILWOLD (O-7742).

d. The 3d TD Group Rear and 17th Belgian Bn Hq moved from ROSSLIBEN (old area) to MAINLEUS, GERMANY, in the new Corps zone.

e. The 2 Company minus 3/2 plus 3/3 moved from SOMMENDA to the new area, the 2 Company closing in KULMBACH and the 3/3 closing in KORBACH. The 2 Company began relieving elements of Third Army QM in the KULMBACH area immediately upon arrival.

f. The 3d platoon of 2 Company had two prisoners under special guard at Platoon Hq. These two knocked the guard down and ran out of the room. The guard recovered his wits, picked up his Bren gun and fired at the escaping men. They were killed. One was an SS and the other was a French Gestapo Agent.

g. 2 Company captured 11 PW's vic KOLLENDÄ.

11. 3 May 1945.

a. The 4 Company Belgian moved from LOSSA (old area) to LICHTENFELS, closing at 2030 hours. They will begin relief of a FA Bn in the area on 4 May.

b. 3 Company captured 6 PW's (including 1 SS from DACHAU) vic KORBACH.

12. 4 May 1945.

a. Several reports of SS troops in woods and towns in the forward part of the Corps zone were investigated by elements of the 86th Cml Bn, 351st FA Group and 102nd Cavalry Group. The screening and searching operation lasted most of the day and netted a total of 30 PW's.

b. The 4 Company relieved a FA Bn in LICHTENFELS of the installations it was guarding. These installations have not yet received a number.

c. 86th Cml Bn captured 17 PW's vic installations under guard.

17th Belg Bn Hq captured 5 PW's vic MAINLEUS.

3 Co Belg Bn captured 9 PW's vic KRONACH.

13. 5 May 1945.

a. Information from G-3 received that the 656th FA Bn would again revert to operational control of the Security Commander. Later in the day the CO and S-3 reported and were assigned areas and installations to secure.

b. The 2nd platoon, 3 Company discovered over 400 kg. of explosives during the day and assembled this at Platoon Hq. One box of dynamite, complete with fuze and cap was found ready for use at a railroad bridge while on a German soldier hunting patrol.

SECRET

SECRET

c. A meeting of Security officers of the 1st, 2nd, and 97th Infantry Division was held with the Corps Security Commander orienting those present on the method of operation and ways of increasing efficiency of security work.

d. The 3d platoon of 3 Company took over guard of installations No. 36 to 45 inclusive, with Platoon Hq at SELBITZ.

e. Many installations in this new area were not discovered or reported by the units whom we relieved. Accordingly a survey was begun in the Corps zone to uncover and report those of a military nature or value. The first day's reconnaissance by the 3d TD Group located 13 installations in the MAINIEUS - BURCKUNSTADT - LICHTENFELS area. These were reported and assigned a number. (See Incl #1).

f. Another reconnaissance in the KULMBACH - NEUENMARKT area and another in the MAINIECK - STERNECK area revealed a number of installations having some possible military value, but which were adequately secured by civilian caretakers, and so required no guard. Accordingly, those installations which required no guard were not numbered.

- g. 1st platoon, 1 Co captured 1 PW vic DORFGMUND
 5 Co captured 1 SS vic WEIDEN
 3d platoon, 1 Co captured 1 SS vic GRAFENWORH
 3 Co captured 1 SS vic KORBACH



14. 6 May 1945.

a. Elements of Third Army QM captured enemy materiel section, returned to KULMBACH requesting to take over guard of installations guarded by 2 Company Belgian. They relieved 2 Company of all installations by 2000 hours. 2 Company was instructed to prepare for movement forward to relieve elements of 103 AAA Bn on guard of units in 1st Infantry Division zone.

b. The 1 Company provided 40 men and the 2 Company provided 40 men at the request of MGSB to assist in check of Displaced Persons camps at MAINIEUS and KULMBACH. The object was to search for hidden weapons. One sub-machine gun, one revolver and many knives were found.

- c. 3d platoon, 1 Co captured 1 PW (SS)
 1st platoon, 1 Co captured 3 PW's
 2nd platoon, 3 Co captured 6 PW's vic BAD STEBEN
 2nd platoon, 2 Co captured 4 PW's vic KULMBACH
 3d platoon, 2 Co captured 5 PW's (1 SS officer) vic NEUENMARKT
 4 Co captured 3 PW's vic LICHTENFELS
 Bn Hq Belgian captured 7 PW's (Hungarian)

15. 7 May 1945.

a. 2 Company Hq and 2nd Platoon moved from KULMBACH to WUNNSEIDEL (P-0568) to relieve elements of 103rd AAA Bn. They took over guard of the following installations in the vicinity: Nos. 7, 8, 9, 76 through 83, 29, and 14. The 1st platoon remained in KULMBACH awaiting transportation.

SECRET

SECRET

b. A representative of 38th AAA Brigade notified this headquarters that elements under command of the Brigade would relieve all Belgian units in the area west of the Autobahn by 1800 on 8 May, in view of the change of Corps rear boundaries.

c. 1st Platoon, 3 Co captured 12 PW's vic KORBACH.

16. 8 May 1945.

a. The Security Headquarters moved from GRAFENWOHR, GERMANY to PILSEN, CZECHOSLOVAKIA (L-086390) with V Corps CP.

b. The 1st Platoon, 2 Company moved from KULMBACH to SCHWARTZENBACH and took over guard of items No. 52 to 57 inclusive with Platoon Hq at No. 55.

c. Reconnaissance for military installations was conducted in all towns along Highway 85 from KULMBACH to BAYREUTH inclusive. Twelve installations were discovered and report sent to appropriate technical staff agency.

d. Pending complete relief in the LICHTENFELS area, the 4 Company minus one platoon was alerted for movement on 9 May to HOF (O-9798) and vicinity.

e. 1st and 3d Platoons of 2 Company moved with Air Strip and 3250th Signal Service Company to vic PILSEN and 2nd Platoon, 5 Company moved with 16th Bomb Disposal Squad from GRAFENWOHR to PILSEN.

f. 1st Platoon, 3 Company captured 12 PW's.
5 Company captured 5 PW's.
3d Platoon, 3 Company captured 1 PW (SS officer).

17. 9 May 1945.

a. The 4 Company with 1st and 2nd Platoons moved from LICHTENFELS to HOF, there relieving elements of 103 AAA Bn and taking up guard on the following installations: Nos. 96 to 102, hospitals; 103 (Co Hq), 105 to 107, 110 to 112, and 31, all in the vicinity of HOF.

b. The 2nd Platoon, 4 Company was located south and west of HOF on installations as follows: 91, 92-93 (Platoon Hq), 88, 89, 90, and 84 to 87 incl.

c. The 1st Platoon, 2 Company moved from KULMBACH to SCHWARTZENBACH (O-9988), there relieving elements of 103 AAA Bn and taking over guard on installations No. 52, 55 (Platoon Hq), 56, 57, and an unnumbered distillery and textile mill.

d. An investigation was conducted of the KIRCHENLAMITZ (P-0181) - WISSENSTADT (O-9675) area. There was nothing in immediate need of guarding.

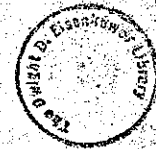
e. A representative of XII Corps informed the Security Commander that under the plan for occupation of Germany, the 90th Infantry Division would occupy an area immediately west of the CZECHOSLOVAKIA border, largely in the rear zone of V Corps. He was given all the necessary information on 57 installations under guard by security forces of 656th FA Bn and 86th Cal Bn.

SECRET

SECRET

f. Advanced information was received of a change of rear boundaries and of probable assignment of all of the Corps zone to divisions, eliminating a Corps area as such. (See Incl #3 for boundaries).

- e. 1st Co captured 1 PW.
 5 Co captured 2 PW's.
 1st Platoon, 3 Co captured 7 PW's.
 2 Co Hq captured 2 PW's vic WUNSEIDEL.
 1st Platoon, 2 Co captured 6 PW's (aviators) vic WUNSEIDEL.
 3d Platoon, 4 Co captured 2 PW's.
 Bn Hq Co captured 14 PW's.



18. 10 May 1945.

a. Notification was received from G-3 that the new Corps rear boundary would be the CZECHOSLOVAKIA - GERMANY border for the entire length between the two lateral boundaries. New areas were assigned to the 656th FA Bn, 86th Cnl Bn, and 351st FA Group. (See Incl #4).

b. The 3d Platoon of 4 Company moved to HQF, there joining remainder of 4 Company and thickening the guard on some installations in need of more guards.

c. The 1 Company Hq and 2nd Platoon (minus 1 section) moved from MAINLEUS to SELB (P-1484) where they relieved elements of 103 AAA Bn and took over guard of installations No. 58 to 63, 67, 68, 70, 71 and 74.

d. The 3d Platoon of 3 Company moved from vic BAD STEERN to REMAU, relieving elements of 103 AAA Bn and taking over guard of installations No. 46 to 50 inclusive.

e. The 2nd Platoon, 3 Company was instructed to move remaining elements to MUNCHBERG as they were relieved in their sector. There were sufficient additional installations in the vicinity of MUNCHBERG to employ the complete platoon.

- f. Bn Hq Co captured 20 PW's (Including 2 SS) vic KULMBACH
 3 Co Hq captured 10 PW's vic KRONACH
 5 Co captured 76 PW's vic WELDEN

19. 11 May 1945.

a. The 3 Company Hq and 1st Platoon moved from KRONACH to SCHWARTZENBACH (O-9988). The 1st Platoon of 2 Company moved from SCHWARTZENBACH to KIRCHENLAMITZ, WEISSENSTADT, and MARKLEUTHERN, three towns to the south. This move was made to group the companies for better control.

b. The 3d Platoon of 2 Company moved from Items 23, 24, and 30 to ARZBURG (P-1871) and TALLSASSEN (P-2766) there relieving elements of 103 AAA Bn on some unnumbered installations, including a porcelain factory, signal dump, and 4 hospitals. With this, all troops of 1st Infantry Division were relieved of all installations in GERMANY.

SECRET

SECRET

c. Large numbers of German soldiers continued to cross the border from CZECHOSLOVAKIA into GERMANY. These troops were supposed to be stopped by border patrols and interned to await proper discharge. These German soldiers were being allowed to pass or go around the road blocks in greater numbers than the Rear Area Security could handle. It was felt that this was only a temporary condition which would be remedied as soon as the new troops coming into the area got adjusted.

d. The 3d TD Group and Belgians apprehended a total of 403 PW's, including one General, who had crossed the border.

20. 12 May 1945.

a. The 3d TD Group Rear Echelon and Belgian Battalion Hq moved from MAINLEUS to MARKTREDWITZ (P-1165). This completed the move of all Corps Security elements to the west of the Corps rear boundary established 9 May. On 11 May the Corps rear boundary was moved east to the CZECHOSLOVAKIAN - GERMAN border, however, there will be no immediate movement from the area just occupied by the Belgians, for there are no relieving troops yet available.

b. The 351st FA Group reverted to Third Army control. The 86th Cml Bn was assigned the responsibility for guard and administration of security in the area, relieving 351st FA Group.

c. There was a total of 110 PW's apprehended and delivered to PW cages this date. These were all stragglers and border crossers.

21. 13 to 15 May inclusive.

a. Notice was received on 13 May that the 86th Cml Bn was alerted for redeployment. Efforts were increased to get relief for their guards in the zone of XII Corps west of the CZECHOSLOVAKIAN border.

b. Plans were initiated on 13 May for relief of all Belgian units on guard with American units. The 5 Company was relieved of duty with 177th Ordnance Bn; the 1st and 3d Platoons of 1 Company were relieved of guard with the Air Strip and 3250th Signal Service Company; and the Pioneer platoon was relieved of duty with 16th HDS on 15th May. They were assembled in PUISSEN and were transported to MARKTREDWITZ and SELB, the assembly area of the Belgian Battalion.

c. Notice in the form of a TWX from Fifteenth Army was received on 15 May that the 17th Belgian Battalion was to be transferred to Fifteenth Army for attachment to 426th FA Group, vicinity TRIER.

d. Initial contacts were made on 15 May for the relief of all elements of the Belgian Battalion by 9th Armored Division of III Corps.

e. The Belgians apprehended 203 PW's and delivered them to the cage during this period. This was the last of the PW taking, for all troops were engaged in preparation for departure of the Battalion.

22. 16 to 18 May inclusive.

a. The 9th Armored Division relieved all elements of 17th Belgian

SECRET

S E C R E T

Battalion of guard of installations by 18 May, and assembly in platoon and company areas was completed by the Belgians by 18 May.

b. The 90th Infantry Division (XII Corps) began relief of 86th Cml Bn and 656th FA Bn in their zone on 17 May and completed the relief on 18 May. The 86th Cml Bn moved from the zone of 90th Infantry Division (GERMANY) into CZECHO-SLOVAKIA in an assembly area with mission of preparation for redeployment. The 656th FA Bn was relieved from operational control of this headquarters on 16 May and reverted to Corps Artillery.

c. The advanced detachment of 17th Belgian Battalion, composed of 2 officers and 35 men, departed on 17th May for WITTLICH (L-3954), that being northeast of TRIER.

22. 19 to 21 May inclusive.

a. Arrangements for, and movement of the 17th Belgian Battalion were made and carried out as follows: Thirty cargo trucks were provided to move the rifle companies to the railroad loading area, vicinity FURTH, near NURNBERG. Movement of the companies was made from 0300 - 1300 on 21 May. Organic Belgian transportation carrying Battalion Hq and Hq Co departed 210600 via FURTH, with mission of traveling overland on a schedule which provided for bivouac and resupply at definite places along the route. All organic transportation which would not withstand the trip was loaded on the train for rail movement.

23. With the departure of the Belgians, the relief by XII Corps of 86th Cml Bn and 656th FA Bn, the alert of 86th Cml Bn for redeployment and the 656th FA Bn reverting to Corps Artillery control, there ceased to be any operational troops available to the Security Command. This was in keeping with the announced policy effective 11 May that all of the Corps area was to be assigned to the divisions of the Corps.

24. The Security Commander's organization again became a coordinating and information agency concerning installations necessitating a guard and security within and between division areas. All divisions continued throughout the remainder of the month to make daily reports on the status of security and guard of installations within their area. Installations and actions necessary continued to be recorded, as shown in Incl. #1.

25. The 16th Bomb Disposal Squad, with the Pioneer Platoon of 17th Belgian Battalion, worked in the zone of the Corps from 1 to 12 May, collecting weapons, ammunition, and explosives which could be used by saboteurs, fanatics, etc. The accomplishment as reported by the BDS was as follows:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Ammunition collected and destroyed | 270 Tons |
| Military weapons, incl Panzerfaust, collected and destroyed | 12,865 pieces |
| Ammunition collected and stored | 241 Tons |

S E C R E T



S E C R E T

26. Summary of activities of the Rear Area Security Section and troops under its operational control is as follows:

| a. | Enemy captured | Enemy killed | Enemy wounded |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 3d TD Group | 3 | | |
| 17th Belgian Battalion | 984 | 2 | 1 |
| 656th FA Bn, 86 Cml B, 351 FA Gp) | 47 | | |
| *Two Cavalry platoons | | | |
| Total | 1034 | 2 | 1 |

*Reports incomplete

b. No casualties were sustained.

c. Over 200 installations were either (1) guarded in place, or (2) eliminated by consolidation, issue to troops, or destruction. In all cases, a report of the nature of the installation was made to the appropriate technical staff agency.

d. No installations under guard or surveillance in the Corps sector were sabotaged or damaged. Several attempts were made, but the alertness of the guards prevented entry and damage. Several instances of ambush of single vehicles and wire cutting occurred in isolated sectors. Investigational activity in the area seldom was able to apprehend positive suspects, but was sufficient that no further incidents were reported from the area.

SAMUEL E. MAYS
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding



4 Inclosures:

- Incl #1 - Locations of Enemy Installations and Materiel
- Incl #2 - Ltr, "Appointment of Area Commanders for Corps Rear Area Security", Hq V Corps, 2 May 1945, w/overlay.
- Incl #3 - Overlay of Corps boundaries
- Incl #4 - Overlay, V Corps Area a/c 111200 B May 45.

S E C R E T