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NO. 307.

Maps: GSGS 4336, Sheets C-7 & R-7, 1:100,000.



1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD. No change.
2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD. No enemy activity was reported during the period. In spite of this fact, the usual miscellany of stragglers, deserters, war-weary and Russian-fearing members of the Wehrmacht continued to enter our lines. In addition, large numbers of civilians persisted in attempting to infiltrate through our forward elements along the MULDE River.
3. MISCELLANEOUS.
 - a. Pws. 246 PwE were processed during the period.
 - b. Activity on other fronts. VIII Corps. An estimated 100 enemy supported by one tank launched an attack at K5151 about 1900B yesterday. The engagement lasted until 2045B.
2d British Army troops cleared BRELEN and made small advances East of the city while other troops advanced in the area NE of the city.
Third Army. Advances of ten miles were reported in the area E of RUTENING (U7376) and armored elements advanced 4 miles S along the Austrian border to GEGENBACH (Q4528). REGENSBURG (U1855) was cleared. 99th Inf Div advanced to within 3 miles of NEUSTADT (T9631) against heavy resistance. 14th Armd Div and 86th Inf Div mopped up enemy resistance in the area E of INGOLSTADT (T7125). Advances were also made to REICHERTSHOFEN (T7515).
Seventh Army. Troops reached RAIN (T3416) while armored elements advanced 20 miles South toward LINDBERG (T3444). MELLINGEN (X8377) was captured. Enemy resistance along VI Corps front was reported to have collapsed.
First French Army troops continued the reduction of the large enemy pocket in the EBINGEN (W9658)- HAYINGEN (X3065) areas.
 - c. Weather forecast for period 2000 28 April to 2000 29 April. Continued unsettled. Much cloud with intermittent periods of light rain or rain showers. Visibility: 3-6 miles, lowering to 2-5 miles in precipitation. Surface winds: westerly to Northwesterly at 5-10 mph. Temperature: Maximum 50, minimum 36.

JHK for
CHRISTENSEN
G - 2

2 INCLS.

- 1 - Annex No 1, The HASAG PZFauste Factory and Concentration Camp.
- 2 - Annex No 2 - Excerpts from the Report of Surrender of Gen KURT DITTMAR.

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Auth: CG, 2 Inf Div. *J.H.K.*

28 April 1945

THE HASAG PANZERFAUST FACTORY AND CONCENTRATION CAMP

After investigation of the camp and factory located just north of FLOESSBERG (K3991) and interrogation of civilian employees, Polish watchmen and of three slaves who escaped from the camp after hiding for 13 days under a barracks, the following information has been pieced together:

Contracts were let by the German Government to the HASAG firm of LEIPZIG for the construction of a factory near FLOESSBERG, for assembling and loading PzFauste. Labor for the construction was allotted from the concentration camp at BUCHENWALD, near WEIMAR, and arrangements were made for two companies of SS guards to transport, guard and work the slaves. Labor for operation of the plant was provided in the form of Polish forced workers. HASAG sent about 50 employees to supervise construction and operation and sub-contracted some of the construction to EUGEN ENGERT Co, LEIPZIG, which installed the piping of the factory. The manager of the factory was an old employee of HASAG and former member of the TODT Labor Ministry named SPETTINAGEL. Original transfer of slaves from BUCHENWALD was directed by SS Sturmführer SCHELLER, assisted by SS Sturmführers HEINRICH and SCHNEIDER. Chief of the Polish watchmen, all of whom claim merely to have guarded stores and machinery and not to have dealt with the slaves, is said to have been a man named BELGER.

Construction of the factory and camp was begun on 15 December, although some preliminary work had been done before that time. In February the factory began to produce and had reached a rate of production of about 1200 weapons per month by the beginning of April, when the factory was shut down. Capacity was to be 500,000 weapons per month. At the present time there are 1200 completed PzFauste on hand, plus 20,000 loaded heads, 600 tons of HE and a quantity of the powder used in booster charges. The explosive is stored in bunkers near the plant, in boxcars and in a dump on the road between BEUCHA (K3994) and BAD LAUSICK (K4394).

The original complement of slaves was about 1300. These were mostly Polish Jews, but a small number of political prisoners were included. The SS company which guarded the prisoners in their barracks was composed of about 35 older men who wore either Death's Head or regular SS insignia. The company of SS who supervised the labor of the slaves consisted of about 120 Ukrainian and Hungarian Volkedutsche. The treatment of the slaves was inconceivably brutal, and between 400 and 600 were beaten to death during the period from December to April. The dead were buried in piles of 10-20 in graves well concealed in the woods. The chief of the SS guards in the camp was Oberecharführer STRESE, who was known by the nickname of "Zick-zack" and whose left hand is missing.

About 1 April the SS hastily loaded the slaves (approximately 1100 survivors) into boxcars and departed by rail, supposedly for CHEMNITZ, whence the slaves were to be taken either to PRAG or to MUNICH. SPETTINAGEL and a number of the German employees and of the Polish watchmen remained in the towns of BEUCHA and FLOESSBERG and are now in our custody.

Arrangements are being made for the burial of the victims under decent conditions. The physical labor of disinterment and reburial will be done by the employees of HASAG and by Nazis from towns near the camp. The cemetery will be located in a public place and the ceremony will be conducted as publicly as possible. Meanwhile every effort is being made to accumulate evidence against all persons directly or indirectly responsible for the atrocities in order that the guilty may be properly punished.

WRP
W. R. JOHNSON,
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ANNEX NO. 2 TO
G-2 REPORT NO. 307
HQ 2D INF DIV

28 April 1945

EXCERPTS FROM THE REPORT OF SURRENDER OF GEN KURT DITTMAR

Concerning the overall military situation, Gen DITTMAR revealed that it is a known fact that the war for Germany had been lost some time ago. This fact, he stated, is accepted by the German General Staff as well as the public. He further revealed that he had warned the Germans of their defeat, first at STALINGRAD and more recently at the failure of the MORTAIN-AVRANCHES counter-offensive, which he claimed was the turning point for the campaign of the BRITISH and AMERICAN forces in EUROPE.

Gen DITTMAR stated that two of Germany's mistakes had been very costly. Both were made on the Russian front. The first took place in the summer of 1942 when the attack was made in the CAUCASUS, instead of building up a defense line on the EASTERN front. The second mistake was at STALINGRAD, where men and equipment were lost in large numbers in a futile attempt to obtain an objective which was not worth the price.

Gen DITTMAR commented on the German December offensive in the ARDENNES by saying that it was a "poor man's choice". He stated that the most which the offensive could hope to have achieved would have been to delay the Allied attack at the RHINE by four months. Gen DITTMAR believed that if the offensive had been better led that it would have achieved that objective. He blames SEPP DIETRICH for not properly employing the Sixth SS Panzer Army in the offensive.

Gen DITTMAR stated that HITLER is definitely in BERLIN at present, having taken over the defense command of that city. They claimed that he would die in this attempt, and with his death would fall the resistance of all Germany, with the possible exception of those SS troops loyal to HITLER, who may be located somewhere in SOUTHERN GERMANY.

Gen DITTMAR feels that there are three men in GERMANY who are capable of taking over GERMANY in the event of HITLER's death. The first man is Field Marshal VON BRAUCHITSCH. The second is GUDERIAN, and the third is VON RUNDSTEDT. Gen DITTMAR based his opinion on the ability of these men, together with their recognition by the German public. He does not feel that if any of these men took over GERMANY, that resistance would continue.

Concerning the NATIONAL REDOUBT, Gen DITTMAR stated that its existence is mainly a paper-manufactured idea, although some preparations have actually been made.

The ever-present question of "Why do the Germans carry on?" was answered with the same old alibi of German obedience to higher command and loyalty as a soldier. Asked about the future outcome of the war, Gen DITTMAR believed it was only a question of a few more days. He also believed that total collapse in NORTH GERMANY would follow swifter than that in SOUTH GERMANY. Gen DITTMAR stated that although GERMANY has lost the war, no one ever conceived that it would end in such an utter destruction and waste of human lives.

Concerning the attempt on HITLER's life on 20 July, Gen DITTMAR stated that HITLER was definitely present but by his shifting his position prior to the explosion, managed to escape death. He further stated that if this attempt had succeeded, the Wehrmacht would have gained control of GERMANY and would have surrendered to the allies. Gen DITTMAR revealed that he was heartily in accord

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Cont'd.

with the spirit behind the attempt on HITLER's life on 20 July. However, he did not agree with the plan, and would not permit himself to be involved in the action. However, he stated that he really gave up hope for GERMANY when this attempt failed.

Gen DITTMAR's comments on high party officials revealed that HITLER is a dynamic personality who tries to run the things of most importance and the very minute details, showing little interest for the in-between matters. As an example of HITLER's concern over the most minute details, the Gen stated that if a Machine Gun bn was transferred from the EASTERN front to the WESTERN front, it had to be on an order signed by HITLER. GOEBBING, he stated, has lost all his prestige, and is quite ignored by the German public. GOEBRING is believed to be hiding in GERMANY or trying to escape. GOEBBELS, a crafty and intelligent man, and close supporter of HITLER is supposedly with HITLER at present in BERLIN. Concerning Himmler, Gen DITTMAR stated it was never a question but that HITLER was the boss and has remained so until the bitter end.

The rapid exchange in command echelons in the German Army was even a mystery to Gen DITTMAR, who stated that it took place as fast as one changed dirty shirts (a very apt expression).
SOURCE: 30th Inf Div through VII Corps Pk 117.