

After Action Reports
Both Narrative and Operations

From the files of:
Charlie Gemeinhardt
Son of Otto Gemeinhardt (260HQ)

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Copy No. 1

HEADQUARTERS 65TH INFANTRY DIVISION

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X ~~SECRET~~ X
Auth: 65, 65th Inf Div X
Unit: *[Signature]* X
Date: 15 April 1945 X
XXXXXXXXXXXXX

AF0 200, US Army
2 May 1945

Subject: Action Against Enemy, Report After (After Action Report)

To : Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(Thru Channels)

NARRATIVE (Mar 4 - Mar 31, 1945)

The 65th Infantry Division was committed on the Western Front in the vicinity of SAARLAUTERN on 5 March 1945, where it relieved the 26th Infantry Division. The initial mission was that of continuing the aggressive defense of that sector, with 65th Infantry Division units generally assigned to those areas where the 26th Division had located corresponding units. But it was implicit at the time of commitment that the three month's long holding operations around SAARLAUTERN were about to be terminated. The great "spring offensive" had already begun on the northern end of the Western Front.

At the beginning of this offensive the 65th Infantry Division's sector in the vicinity of SAARLAUTERN was located roughly at the pivotal point of two armies, the Third and the Seventh. The front lines of these armies had closed around two sides of the generally triangular Saar Basin, with their objectives being to overrun this industrial region and to cross the third side of the triangle, which is the RHINE River. Before the 65th Infantry Division moved into the line, the bulk of the Third Army was already moving east and northeast towards the RHINE from the KRYLL River. On 13 March the XX Corps joined this Third Army offensive, moving generally east and southeast across the Saar Basin. The 65th Infantry Division, on the southern flank of the XX Corps, was the last division to be committed in the Corps' offensive. Meanwhile, to the south of the 65th, the front line of the Seventh Army was generally parallel and south of that segment of the French frontier which runs east from SAARBRUCKEN to the RHINE River. The Seventh Army's frontal assault on the Siegfried positions opened up 16 March. Thus, when the 65th Infantry Division entered into the XX Corps' offensive on 18 March, it was to follow a zone which cut northeastwardly to the RHINE, and roughly bisected the angle formed by the narrowing jaws of the two armies closing around the Saarlands.

At 130300 the 94th and 26th Infantry Divisions initiated an assault east and southeast, with the 80th Infantry Division passing through elements of both divisions, to place three (instead of two) infantry divisions abreast on the front line. For this offensive, the 12th Armored spearheaded the 94th Division; while the 10th Armored led the 80th Division. The 65th Infantry Division, on the southern flank of the XX Corps, made a limited attack in the SAAR-
LAUTERN sector in connection with the Corps offensive, moving

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several blocks within SAARLAUTERN, only to lose them because of stiff enemy resistance on one flank of this gain. The same sort of limited attack was once more initiated by the 260th Infantry the following day, with similar results. Two days later, 16 March, on the left (north) flank of the 65th Infantry Division, the 261st Infantry put strong patrols across the Saar River, north of DILLINGEN (2684). The next day, 17 March, elements of two battalions of the 261st Infantry crossed the SAAR at MENNINGEN (2290) to seize high ground south of MERZIG. The 65th Infantry Division joined with other units of the XX Corps in a full-scale frontal attack on the Siegfried Line 180430.

At 1200, 18 March, the XX Corps front line could be plotted roughly along a northeast-southwest diagonal. Units of the 94th Infantry Division and the 10th Armored had advanced to the most northwesternly points on the diagonal, to BIRKENFELD and ST WENDEL respectively. At the lower end of the diagonal, the 65th Infantry Division, across the SAAR at SAARLAUTERN and just east of DILLINGEN, was situated at the most southwesternly points. Between these extremes, the 80th Infantry Division had reached LINDSCHEID (4199), and LIMBACH (3997), while the 26th Infantry Division, south of the 80th, had overrun NIEDERSAUBACH (4092) and BUPRICH (3591).

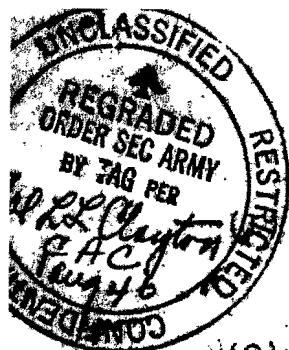
According to the original intention, the center of the 65th Division attack was to be the 260th Infantry's effort in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead, but the 261st CT pushed so rapidly southward through lighter enemy resistance to take DILLINGEN, and then, taking off from high ground to the north of this city, on 19 March, advanced so quickly southeast to take SAARWELLINGEN (3284), that the 260th Infantry was pinched out in its northeastwardly attack through SAARLAUTERN and SAARLOUISRODEN (2881) to revert to Division Reserve. On the southern (right) flank of the 65th Division, the 259th Infantry advanced along high ground parallel to the 261st drive, with the 261st driving more rapidly towards the east, so that our front during the Siegfried Line breakthrough was roughly a diagonal comparable to the direction of the XX Corps' front line on 18 March, running southwest from the 261st Infantry to the 259th Infantry. On 20 March, for example, the 261st had reached KIRSCHHOF (4284), while the 259th seized DILSBURG (4181). The next day, the 261st had further increased its lead on other Division units, when the entire Division was ordered to assemble in the vicinity of NEUNKIRCHEN (5983). The 65th was not in contact with the enemy's front line for the balance of the month.

After assembling in the vicinity of NEUNKIRCHEN, the 65th Infantry Division moved to two successive assembly areas. From the latter area, near SCHWABENHEIM (2548), units of the Division began crossing the RHINE at MAINZ and OPPENHEIM. The 261st CT was attached to the 6th Armored Division on completing its crossing, 29 March. By the last day of the month, appropriately enough, all units of the 65th Infantry Division, along with a vast part of US striking power had reached the initial objective of the "spring offensive" - the east bank of the RHINE - from which positions the pursuit of scattered enemy forces could be carried into the heart of Germany.

Both as a result of the operations of the 65th Infantry Division during the month of March, and of the relationship between these operations and the general strategy of the "spring offensive", our operations for this period can be most conveniently summarized under three categories:

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Assembly on the Western Front, Relief of the 26th Infantry Division, and the Aggressive Holding Operations in the SAARLAUTERN Sector. (4 through 17 March).

- (2) The Breaching of Siegfried Line Defenses East of the SAAR River. (18 through 21 March)
- (3) The Reassembly in the vicinity of NEUNKIRCHEN, with subsequent Eastward Moves across the Saarlands to cross the RHINE River. (22 through 31 March).

(1) The Period 27 February Through 17 March: The 65th Infantry Division left CAMP LUCKY STRIKE, in the vicinity of the English Channel port of ST VALERY EN CAUX, by rail and truck between 27 February and 1 March. During this period an advance party was located with XX Corps' Headquarters, in THIONVILLE. The Division had completely closed in the vicinity of ENNERY (8970) on 4 March. On this same day advanced parties of some of the Division units reconnoitered corresponding unit sectors of the 26th Infantry Division in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area. The initial mission was that of continuing the aggressive defense of this sector of the Western Front extending along the west bank of the SAAR River (except for a bridgehead at SAARLAUTERN itself) from (318747) on the right (south) flank to (136006) on the left (north) flank. The relief was completed by 9 March.

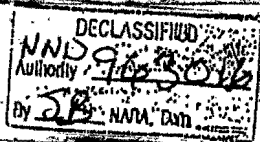
The 65th Infantry Division's baptism by fire was characterized by aggressive holding action, intensive patrolling, and extensive use of artillery fire against enemy personnel and installations on the east bank of the river. The 65th Div Arty fired approximately 1,275 missions with 18,812 rounds expended during this period. Air OPs carried out extensive combat and reconnaissance missions over enemy territory, in addition to flying numerous fire missions. Patrols actively probed across the SAAR, particularly in the 261st Inf sector, where reconnaissance carried out by these patrols enabled the regiment to put parts of two battalions across the river on 17 March at Menningen (2290). One of these patrols, on 10 March, merited the Division's first battle awards when four EM of the 261st Infantry captured a German pill box and returned with its 12 former occupants as prisoners.

On both the 13 and 14 March the 260th Infantry opened up with limited attacks inside the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead in conjunction with XX Corps' three-division offensive to the north of the 65th Infantry Division. Both times several city blocks were taken, but both times the 260th was forced to withdraw in the face of strong enemy resistance. However, from the larger perspective of the Corps' offensive, these attacks were probably successful in confusing the enemy. He must have miscalculated their limited nature, because orders for both days from the German High Command spoke of repelling fierce offensive action in the vicinity of SAARLAUTERN.

While enemy fire was particularly heavy in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area, the enemy quickly and accurately reacted to any of our movements along the entire sector occupied by the 65th Infantry Division. Individual exposure usually brought mortar and small arms fire. Vehicular traffic moving towards the front frequently stirred up enemy artillery. Again, this was heavy on arteries leading into SAARLAUTERN, where the roads, as they crossed a basin west of the city, were under direct observation from enemy OPs on high ground east of the river. Enemy patrolling was especially intensive in the bridgehead area, and to the south, in the vicinity of ENSDORF (3079) - probably another indication that the enemy suspected our strongest efforts to be directed in this area.

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In all, 55 PWs were taken from 4 to 17 March. These prisoners came from the following German units:

416th Infantry Division)
719th Infantry Division) Predominantly
347th Infantry Division
41st Fortress Bn, GAF

Thirty of these PWs were taken during the final day of this period when the 261st Infantry crossed the SAAR at MENNINGEN. It was significant for our later breaching of the Siegfried defenses that, as the XX Corps' offensive mounted to the northwest, interrogation of these prisoners revealed the growing confusion of the enemy troops facing us.

The Division suffered its first casualties in the Saarlautern sector. For this period the following G-1 statistics are available:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>EM</u>
KIA	2	34
MIA or CAP		2
WIA	10	133

NOTE: MIA figures are as of the period under consideration. Later statistics would show some of those in the MIA category to be KIA or returned to their outfits.

(2) Period 18 through 21 March: During these four days, the Division saw its most intensive activity in actual combat with the enemy. The 65th Infantry Division joined the XX Corps' offensive against the Siegfried Line between 0430 and 0600, 18 March. OI No 5, dated 172400, gives the unit zones of attack and objectives as planned prior to the opening of this offensive.

At the time of this attack our sector along the east bank of the SAAR had been decreased from (136006) on its left (north) flank to (202912) by the southeastwardly advance of the 26th Infantry Division, which had overrun territory to the town of HARLINGEN (2191), south of MERZIG. As of 17 March, the southern boundary of the 26th Infantry Division ran approximately eastward, from BIETZEN (2191), south of HAUSTADT (2690), to a point south of PRIMSWELLER (3689), then southeastwardly through LANDSWEILER (4188). The 261st Infantry was assigned a triangular area of which the base was its assembly positions along the SAAR; the hypotenuse, the southern boundary of the 26th Infantry Division as far east as PRIMSWELLER; and the elevation, a northeast-southwest diagonal from PRIMSWELLER to a point on the SAAR between DILLIGEN and SAARLOUIS-RODEN. The 259th Infantry, on the right (southern) flank of the Division was assigned an area, the upper boundary of which cut through the center of SAARLAUTERN, ran between SAARLOUIS-RODEN and FRAULAUTERN, north of SAARWELLINGEN, and hence up to the 26th Division boundary at (389888). The southern boundary ran along that of the 70th Infantry Division. In between these flanking combat teams, then, the 260th Infantry had a narrow corridor which included the northern half of SAARLAUTERN and SAARLOUIS-RODEN.

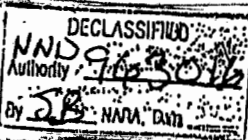
The objectives of the attack were the seizure of five areas between 3,000 and 5,000 yards in an eastward arc from SAARLAUTERN. Specifically, they were as follows:

- a.) DILLINGEN - 261st Infantry.
- b.) High ground east of DILLINGEN - 260th Infantry.

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- c.) High ground at the edge of the BOIS DE SAARWELLINGEN, north of SAARWELLINGEN (east of "b") - 260th Infantry.
- d.) SAARWELLINGEN, the open country to the south, and the edge of the BOIS DE HULZWEILER - 259th Infantry.
- e.) High ground north of GRIESBORN (3277) - 259th Infantry.

The 260th Infantry was to be prepared to assist the 261st Infantry in the capture of DILLINGEN. For this attack the 1st Battalion, 260th Infantry and the 65th Reconnaissance Troop were attached to the 259th Infantry, while the 3rd Battalion, 259th Infantry went into Division Reserve. The infantry battalions with the 259th Infantry were concentrated in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area. The 65th Reconnaissance Troop was assigned the bulk of the sector to the south of ENSDORF and the right (south) boundary of the Division contiguous to that of the 71st Infantry Division, after relieving the 3rd Battalion, 259th Infantry, on the MLR so that the latter organization could go to Division Reserve. The Division Reserve was to be prepared to (a) reinforce the 65th Reconnaissance Troop, (b) protect the right (south) flank of the Division, or (c) reinforce the 259th Infantry or 260th Infantry in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead area.

This, briefly, was the plan prior to the attack at 180430. As contemplated, the main effort was to be that of the units in the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead. What happened, however, was that the 261st Infantry quickly drove southward to take DILLINGEN, then moved speedily eastward to cut across the generally northeast zones of attack which had been designated for the other Infantry Regiments.

The 261st Infantry jumped off into the attack at 0600, with elements of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions advancing abreast, parallel to the east bank of the SAAR. Enemy mines and booby traps presented almost as serious an obstacle to their progress as the light enemy resistance which was met in the area. Crossing the river during the previous day, these units had entered DILLINGEN, but encountered heavy enemy resistance and withdrew to heights north of the city, confident that they could hold these positions until morning. This estimate was based not only upon the belief that the 261st had sufficient fire power across the river to repel any possible enemy counterattack during the night, but also because the 26th Infantry Division had taken MERZIG during the day, and the 26th Infantry Division engineers were already constructing a vehicular bridge across the SAAR at this point. (This bridge opened at 181800. Vehicles of the 261st Infantry reached the east bank of this point the following day.)

By 182400, the 261st Infantry had captured DILLINGEN and the high ground to the east. Meanwhile, the 260th Infantry (with the 1st Battalion, 261st Infantry attached) and the 259th Infantry (with the 1st Battalion, 260th Infantry attached) were meeting stubborn enemy opposition in the vicinity of the SAARLAUTERN bridgehead. The 260th Infantry had seized a few blocks in SAARLAUTERN, while the 259th Infantry advanced about 1,500 yards through the southern outskirts of the city. At the end of the first day of the attack, therefore, only the 261st Infantry had attained the objective which was set up in OI No 5, 65th Infantry Division. Its units were in an excellent position to continue to the east and they already threatened to outflank enemy defenses in the vicinity of SAARLAUTERN. As a result of the operations on D-Day, the main effort, the zones of attack, and the objectives were changed. OI No 6, 65th Infantry Division (dated 182300) directed that the 1st Battalion, 261st Infantry be returned (by motor, via the MERZIG bridge) to

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the control of its regimental CO. Thus augmented, the 261st was to drive for high ground, first to the east of SAARWELLINGEN, then to the west of this town. The 261st Infantry would, therefore, pinch out the 260th Infantry north and northeast of SAARLOUIS-RODEN. The 259th Infantry was to continue on its mission as stated in OI No 5, which would give the territory south of SAAR-WELLINGEN as its initial objective in a generally southeastwardly drive.

The Siegfried Line was breached the following day and the enemy's 347th and 719th Infantry Divisions were forced to begin a hasty retreat. By 192400, the 261st Infantry had pushed so rapidly and so far past the objectives as set up in OI No 6 that the towns of PIESBACH (3288) and BILSDORF (3487) had been occupied. The 261st Infantry had reached its second objective as early as 1545. Prior to this time, the 260th Infantry had been pinched out and reverted to Division Reserve, after clearing the northern half of SAARLAUTERN and SAARLOUIS-RODEN. Meanwhile, below the 260th, the 259th Infantry fanned out northeast and southeast from SAARLAUTERN, to seize FRAU-LAUTERN (2981) and ENSDORF (3079). The 65th Ren Tr was relieved from the SAAR River line on 20 March, to pass through elements of the 259th and 261st Infantry and reconnoiter routes in the Division zone.

The enemy now gave evidence of thorough confusion. He retreated rapidly across the Saarlands to escape the gigantic pincers movement which the Third and Seventh Armies were closing about the Saar Basin. Small delaying forces which he left behind were killed or captured. The 65th Infantry Division swiftly pursued these retreating elements roughly from the apex of the two-Army pincers through the middle of the narrowing corridor between, with its infantrymen motorized on Division transportation. By 202400, the 261st CT had reached KIR-SCHHOF (4284); the 259th, advancing in a parallel zone below that of the 261st, had captured DILSBURG (4181) and NIEDERSALBACH (4082). The following day the Division was ordered to assemble in the vicinity of NEUNKIRCHEN, and there, in effect, it awaited its turn to cross the bridges heavily jammed with Army traffic bound for the east banks of the RHINE.

During this period the Division sustained the following casualties:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>EM</u>
KIA	7	55
MIA or CAP		60
WIA	10	184

As compared to 4 through 17 March, therefore, this period of offensive activity naturally indicates a higher, but not a tremendously higher, number of KIAs and WIAs. The largest increase is in the MIA category, which is typical in attack situations.

(3) The Period 22 through 31 March: From 22 March to 26 March the Division undertook a training and rehabilitation program, during which time the 3rd Bn, 259th Infantry patrolled NEUNKIRCHEN. On the 26th plans were completed for the movement of the Division to a new assembly area in the vicinity of ROCKENHAUSEN (0614) into which all units closed during 27 March. By the 29th the Division had completely closed into another assembly area, near SCHWABENHEIM (2584), and the first units of the Division began crossing the RHINE at OPPENHEIM and MAINZ. On crossing the RHINE, the 261st CT was attached to the 6th Armored Division, and continued eastward in pursuit of the enemy. By 31 March, all units of the Division had crossed the RHINE, with the Division CP located in LAUBACH (8816).

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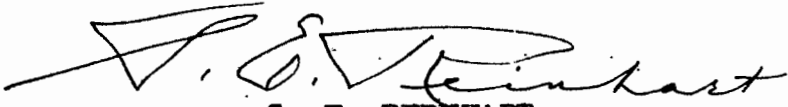
There was no contact with the enemy's front lines during this period. G-2 reports tell of routine processing through the PWE, 1,002 prisoners being processed during the five day period in the vicinity of NEUNKIRCHEN. These prisoners were in large part from the two German infantry divisions noted above, although a hodge podge of assorted units were identified, indicating that the enemy had thrown whatever manpower was available into a futile attempt to stem the retreat across the SAAR Valley. Toward the end of the period, stragglers and remnants of rear area personnel, such as Alarm Companies, March Companies and SOS units, were captured in our rapid advance.

Casualties during this final period were extremely light, because of the laxity of enemy action.

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>EM</u>
KIA	1	1
MIA or CAP		4
WIA	4	33

Since the MIA figure is a cumulative one, the 33 MIAs at the end of the month indicate the proportionately large number of personnel listed as MIA in the second period which could be definitely placed into another category prior to the end of the month. The Division was maintained at full strength during the entire month of March.

SUMMARY: In conclusion, then, the most outstanding achievement of the 65th Infantry Division during the month of March was the breaching of Siegfried defenses near SAARLAUTERN. This was accomplished in cooperation with the gigantic pinchers offensives of the Saar Valley by the Third and Seventh Armies. Outflanked in his positions near SAARLAUTERN, the enemy was forced to retreat across the Saarlands, but not until he had put up a bitter two day battle in the bridgehead area. The 65th rapidly pursued the enemy to NEUNKIRCHEN, where the Division was ordered to assemble. After assembling in two more areas, the 65th Infantry Division crossed the RHINE River, with all units reported on the east bank of the RHINE on the last day of the month.


S. E. REINHART,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS 65TH INFANTRY DIVISION

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+ Auth: OG 65th Inf Div +
+ Init: *MD* +
+ Date: 10 April 1945 +
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APD 200, US Army
7 April 1945 *NR*

Subject: Action Against Enemy, Report After (After Action Report)

To : Commanding General, 65th Infantry Division

OPERATIONS

4 March 45

DIVISION CP: ENNERY (U896708), FRANCE.

ATCHD: 691st TD Bn (T) at 041200.
546th AAA AW Bn (Mbl) at 041800.

Guaranteed Del 31 July

The Div in assembly area Vic of ENNERY (U896708) was engaged in preparations for the relief of the 26th Inf Div in its sector (318747) to (136006) along the SAAR R. The relief was to be accomplished during three consecutive nights starting at 1800 on the night of 5-6 Mar. Organic units reconnoitered the corresponding unit sectors in the 26th Inf Div sector.

- 259TH INF: Advanced party moved into the area occupied by the 328th Inf.
- 260TH INF: Advanced party moved into the area occupied by the 101st Inf.

5 March 45

DIVISION CP: ENNERY (U896708), FRANCE.

Elements of the Div began the relief of the 26th Inf Div at 051800.

- 259TH INF: Accomplished the relief of the 328th Inf with the 1st Bn on the MLR. The 2nd Bn in Regtl Res Vic of UBERHERRN (245726). 3rd Bn as Div Res Vic of FALCK (197706).
- 260TH INF: 1st Bn relieved 2nd Bn of the 101st Inf in the SAARLAUTERN Brhd.
- 261ST INF: Advance parties moved into zone of

6 March 45

DIVISION CP: ENNERY (U896708), FRANCE.

Elements of the Div continued the relief

- 260TH INF: 2nd Bn relieved 3rd Bn, 101st Inf, with slight opposition.
- 261ST INF: Accomplished relief of 104th Inf.

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DIV ARTY: 867th FA Bn and 720th FA Bn relieved 180th FA Bn and 263rd FA Bn.

65TH RON TR: Atchd to the 261st Inf.

7 March 45

DIVISION CP: ENNERY (U896708), FRANCE.
BOULAY (Q097657), FRANCE.

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ATCHD: Co "C", 778th Tk Bn at 070700.
Co "A", 81st Oml Bn (Mtz) at 070700.
1258th Engr (C) Bn at 070700.

The CG of the 65th Inf Div assumed command of the sector at 0700. The Div maintained aggressive defense in the sector. All Inf units of the 26th Inf Div relieved by the 65th Inf Div, with the exception of one Bn of the 101st Inf in the SAARLAUTERN Brhd area, by the close of the period. Units on the MLR patrolled aggressively and Res units conducted training and organization of successive defense positions.

259TH INF: Completed relief of the 328th Inf by close of the period, with 1st, 2nd and 3rd Bns of the 259th Inf relieving the 2nd, 1st and 3rd Bns of the 328th Inf respectively. The 2nd Bn in Regtl Res.

260TH INF: 2nd Bn relieved the 3rd Bn, 101st Inf in the SAARLAUTERN Brhd area, completing the relief at 070130. 3rd Bn moved into Brhd area at 072400.

261ST INF:(with 65th Ron Tr and 1258th Engr (C) Bn Atchd): Completed relief of the 104th Inf at 070450, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Bns of the 261st Inf relieving respective Bns of the 104th Inf. 2nd Bn, 261st Inf, Mtzd in Corps Res Vic REMERING.

DIV ARTY: Hq 65th Div Arty, 868th FA Bn and 869th FA Bn complete relief of 26th Div Arty, 101st FA Bn, and 102nd FA Bn.

65TH RON TR: Maintained contact with 94th Ron on L flank. Relieved 26th Ron Tr at 0315.

8 March 45

DIVISION CP: BOULAY (Q097657), FRANCE.

Div continued aggressive defense in sector with units on MLR operating strong combat patrols to exploit and destroy enemy installations.

259TH INF: 1st Bn maintained and improved positions on MLR. 2nd Bn, Regtl Res, and 3rd Bn, Div Res, undergoing Tng and organization of successive defense positions.

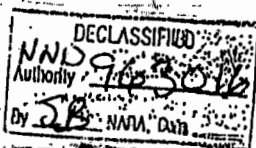
260TH INF: 1st Bn maintained aggressive defense in SAARLAUTERN Brhd. 2nd Bn relieved 3rd Bn, 101st Inf. Relief completed 070130. Mar 45. 3rd Bn cleared into SAARLAUTERN Brhd 2400.

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261ST INF (with Atchd units as of 7 Mar): Active patrolling, with Rcn patrol crossing the SAAR R. 2nd Bn released from Corps Res to revert ~~back~~ to control of CO, 261st Inf at 081630 Mar.

DIV ARTY: Fired numerous missions, inflicting damage on the enemy as follows: 4 mortars neutralized, 1 88mm neutralized, 2 vehicles destroyed, 1 enemy battery silenced. Air OP's flew combat and Rcn patrols.

65TH RCN TR: (See 7 Mar) Manned OP's; patrolled; defended sector.

9 March 45

DIVISION CP: BOULAY (Q097657), FRANCE.

Aggressive defense of sector continued with units on the MLR improving their positions. Div Arty fired harrassing missions causing damage and casualties to the enemy.

260TH INF: 3rd Bn completed relief of 1st Bn, 101st Inf at 080400.

261ST INF: Active patrolling.

DIV ARTY: Fired 119 missions, with 1,977 rounds expended. The following damage was inflicted upon the enemy: Two enemy OP's neutralized, four MG's neutralized, six mortars silenced and one tank apparently hit.

65TH RCN TR: Active patrolling, and manning of OP's. Maintained contact with 26th Rcn Tr.

10 March 45

DIVISION CP: BOULAY (Q097657), FRANCE.

Div continued to aggressively defend and improve positions along the entire front from (318747) to (136006). Strong combat patrols probed enemy positions during the period. Div Arty fired harrassing missions which inflicted damage on the enemy. 12 PW's captured by patrol of 261st Inf which crossed the SAAR R.

DIV ARTY: Fired 106 missions, with 1,150 rounds expended. Air OP's conducted 42 combat and Rcn patrols and 8 fire missions. Following damage inflicted on the enemy: 7 MGs silenced, 3 mortars silenced, 1 truck apparently destroyed and 1 88mm gun put out of action.

65TH RCN TR: Patrolled across SAAR R.

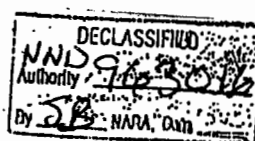
11 March 45

DIVISION CP: BOULAY (Q097657), FRANCE.

ATCHD: 176th FA Bn
744th FA Bn (Btry "C", 243rd FA Bn Atchd)
(Atchd to Div Arty)

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DETCHED: Co "A", 81st Cml Bn (Mtz)
Co "C", 778th Tk Bn

Active defense and the improvement of positions on the MLR continued by the Div with Div Arty in close support. Raiding parties continued to probe and harrass the enemy.

DIV ARTY: With 176th FA Bn and 744th FA Bn (Btry "C", 243rd FA Bn Atchd). Fired 144 missions, with 1,813 rounds expended. Following damage to the enemy: 3 MGs neutralized, 1 MG, 1 mortar, and 1 AT gun apparently destroyed, with direct hits on 1 pill box and 3 trucks.

12 March 45

DIVISION CP: BOULAY (Q097657), FRANCE.

Div continued active defense of its sector with the Div Arty in close support.

259TH INF: 1st Bn relieved by 3rd Bn on MLR. 1st Bn Div Res, in the VIC of FALOK (197706).

DIV ARTY: Fired 182 missions, with 1,932 rounds expended. Following damage to enemy: Direct hits on several pill boxes, 4 MGs neutralized, several mortars neutralized, 16 enemy personnel casualties.

13 March 45

DIVISION CP: BOULAY (Q097657), FRANCE.

Div continued aggressive defense of its sector, with patrols probing enemy positions. Limited Atk made in SAARLAUTERN Brhd area, with all Inf units increasing their activity as diversion in conjunction with Corps Atk.

259TH INF: 1st Bn (Div Res) begins extensive training in Vic of FALOK (197706).

260TH INF: 2nd and 3rd Bns made limited attack in SAARLAUTERN Brhd area. 2nd Bn Atkd 130700 to seize buildings in Block "AZ" (Map: 1:2500) SAARLAUTERN Brhd. Buildings held until late afternoon when Atkg Elms withdrew because 3rd Bn was unable to seize buildings in adjacent block against very stiff enemy resistance. 3rd Bn Sptd 2nd Bn Atk, but gained very little ground because of rigid enemy opposition.

261ST INF: 2nd Bn began relief of 1st Bn on the MLR at 1930.

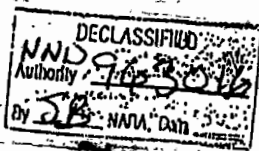
DIV ARTY: Fired 316 missions, with 4,885 rounds expended. Following damage to the enemy: 5 MGs neutralized, 1 MG apparently destroyed, 3 mortars silenced, 1 direct hit on an Armd vehicle. Air OP's flew 27 missions, of which 4 were fire missions and 23 combat Rcn patrols.

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14 March 45

DIVISION CP: BOULAY (Q097657), FRANCE.

DETCHED: 176th FA Bn at 140600.

Div continued aggressive defense of sector, reducing enemy resistance in the Vic of SPURK (323746). Limited Atks made in the SAARLAUTERN Brhd area. 6 PW's taken.

259TH INF: 3rd Bn continued to improve position on the MLR. One Plat of Co "K" entered the town of SPURK. Advances made on the R flank.

260TH INF: 2nd Bn seized Bldgs in Block "IG" SAARLAUTERN Brhd. However, attacking Elms were forced to withdraw due to heavy enemy fire.

261ST INF: 2nd Bn completed the relief of the 1st Bn on MLR at 0300. 1st Bn assembled in the Vic of REMERING (195745) as Regtl Res, to initiate training program.

DIV ARTY: Fired 239 missions, with 4,048 rounds expended. Damage to the enemy as follows: Direct hits on several enemy OP's, 1 Burp gun neutralized, hit observed on Neberwerfer, 6 MGs and 3 mortars neutralized, direct hit observed on 88mm gun, 1 vehicle apparently destroyed. Air OP's flew 20 combat and Rcn missions.

15 March 45

DIVISION CP: BOULAY (Q097657), FRANCE.

Div continued active defense of its sector.

261ST INF: 1st Bn began relief of 1258th Engr (C) Bn in its sector on the MLR at 1930.

DIV ARTY: Fired 136 missions, with 2,197 rounds expended. Damage to the enemy as follows: Several casualties to enemy personnel, 3 mortars and 3 MG's neutralized, 9 direct hits on pill boxes, 1 direct hit on anti-aircraft gun. Air OP's flew 27 combat and Rcn patrols.

16 March 45

DIVISION CP: BOULAY (Q097657), FRANCE.

DETCHED: 1258th Engr (C) Bn at 160800.

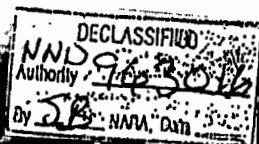
The Div continued to aggressively defend the entire sector with Inf units increasing their activity against the enemy. 1 PW captured.

261ST INF: 1st Bn relieved 1258th Engr C Bn on MLR and the 65th Rcn Tr on Div (N) left flank. Relief began 1930 and completed 2115. Combat patrols operating E of the SAAR R.

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DIV ARTY: Fired 159 missions, with 2,539 rounds expended. Damage to the enemy as follows: Fires started in suspected supply dump, RR car apparently set afire, 2 observed hits on train, 3 MG's and 3 mortars neutralized, direct hits on a flak tower, 2 gun positions neutralized. Air OP's conducted 28 combat and Rcn missions.

65TH RGN TR: Operated Rcn and combat patrols during first part of period. Reld by 1st Bn, 261st Inf at 2115, to assemble in the Vic of MERTEN as Div Res. Reld from Atchmt to 261st Inf at 170030.

17 March 45

DIVISION OP: BOULAY (Q097657), FRANCE closed 171830 Mar.
VILLING (Q198765), FRANCE opened 171830 Mar.

Div continued aggressive defense of its sector and made plans to Atk from the Vic of SAARLAUTERN (180430). The 261st Inf crossed the SAAR R, capturing the high ground S of MERZIG, and prepared to Atk DILLINGEN (180430).

259TH INF: 3rd Bn continued active defense in sector but made preparations to be Reld by 65th Rcn Tr prior to 180530. 2nd and 3d Bns began move to Fwd assembly areas 1900. 1st and 2d Plats Co "C", 748th Tk Bn Atchd 1830. 1st Bn, 260th Inf Atchd 172400.

260TH INF: Continued aggressive defense of SAARLAUTERN Brhd. Made preparations to Atk from Vic SAARLAUTERN 180600. 1st Bn, 261st Inf Atchd 260th 1830. Co "C", 748th Tk Bn (less 1st and 2nd Plats) Atchd 260th Inf 171830.

261ST INF: Elms of 2nd and 3rd Bns crossed the SAAR R in the Vic MENNINGEN (227904) during the morning hrs, seizing high ground S of MERZIG, and prepared to Atk DILLINGEN 180600. Co "C" 265th Engr C Bn and one Co 691st TD Bn (T) Atchd.

DIV ARTY: Fired 190 missions, with 1,468 rounds expended. Damage to the En as follows: 6 MG's neutralized, 3 direct hits on 88-mm guns, 1 hit on Tk observed, 1 enemy OP neutralized. Air OP's conducted 9 combat and Rcn patrols. Div Arty made preparations to Spt Atk to begin 180430.

65TH RGN TR: (See 259th Inf).

18 March 45

DIVISION OP: VILLING (Q198765), FRANCE.

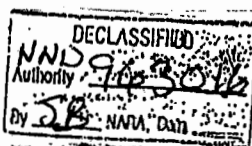
Div Atkd in the Vic of SAARLAUTERN. Atk started 0430.

259TH INF: (With Atchd units as listed 17 Mar): The 3d Bn Reld on MLR by 65th Rcn Tr at 0510. 3d Bn Div Res Vic ALT-FORWEILER (250758). The 1st and 2d Bns with 1st Bn, 260th Inf Atchd, Atkd Vic SAARLAUTERN at 0430. Progress of 1,500 yds was made against strong En resistance.

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260th INF: (With Atchd units as listed 17 Mar): Atkd 0600 Vic SAARLAUTERN and seized Blocks "IQ", "AZ" and parts of "C" and "K" (map SAARLAUTERN Brhd 1:2,500) captured. Unsuccessful in breaking out of Brhd. 1st Bn 261st Inf relieved from attachment 2030 and began movement by motor to rejoin 261 Inf Vic MERZIG.

261st INF: (With Atchd units as listed 17 Mar): The 2nd and 3rd Bns Atkd 0600 and seized DILLINGEN (270845) and the high ground to the N. Plans were made to renew Atk to the E 191200.

DIV ARTY: In close Spt of attacking units.

19 March 45

DIVISION CP: VILLING (Q198765) FRANCE.

Div continued to Atk in its Z expanding the SAARLAUTERN Brhd and capturing the towns of SAARLOUIS (285800), SAARLOUIS RODEN (285820), FRAULAUTERN (295813), NALBACH (314872), ENSDORF (305790) and SAARWELLINGEN (325843). 120 PWs were taken.

259th INF: (With 1st Bn 260th Inf Atchd): Continued Atk to N and E and captured the high ground S of SAARWELLINGEN and towns of ENSDORF and FRAULAUTERN. 3rd Bn reverted to Regtl control in the Vic of ALT-FORWEILER at 1800.

260th INF: Continued Atk to the N and E capturing the towns of SAARLOUES and SAARLOUIS RODEN and high ground to the N. The Regt was pinched out at 1800 by the progress of the 261st Inf and became Div Res in the Vic of SAARLOUIS RODEN. Followed by bounds in Z of 259th Inf. Co "C", 748th Tk Bn (- 1st and 2nd Plats) relieved from attachment 1800.

261st INF: (With Atchd units as listed 17 Mar): Atkd from line of the PRIM R N of DILLINGEN and captured NALBACH (314872), PIESBACH (322887), BILSDORF (340877) and SAARWELLINGEN (325843). Continued Atk to the E making rapid progress against light En resistance.

DIV ARTY: Fired 179 missions in close Spt of Inf Atk, with 3,732 rounds expended. Damage to the En as follows: 2 gun positions knocked out. Smoke and propaganda missions fired throughout the period. Air OP's conducted 21 missions of which 16 were combat and Ron patrols and 5 were fire missions.

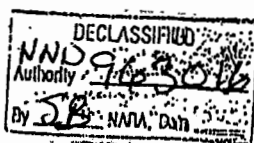
20 March 45

DIVISION CPs: VILLING (Q198765) FRANCE.
SAARLAUTERN (Q285800) GERMANY
REISWEILER (Q388851) GERMANY

Div continued its rapid eastward Adv against light En resistance, by motor and foot, with positions at the close of the period as indicated below. Many populated places taken.

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259th INF (1st & 2nd Plats, Co "C", 748th Tk Bn Atchd): In Vic of DILSBURG (416816). NIEDERSALBACH (400823) at the close of the period.

260th INF: Div Res. Conducted mopping up operations on S flank of Div in the Z of the 259th Inf. Assembled Vic DILSBURG at the close of the period. 1st Bn reverted to Regtl control at 200600 Apr.

261st INF (1 Co, 691st TD Bn & 1st & 2nd Plats, 748th Tk Bn Atchd): In Vic of KIRSCHHOF (420845) at the close of the period.

DIV ARTY: Fired no missions, but followed Inf units closely by means of rapid displacements so as to provide potential Spt. Displacement accomplished by leap frogging Bns along parallel roads. Air OP's carried out numerous Rcn patrols.

65th RCN TR: Reld from position along SAAR R, and passed through the 259th and 261st Infs to carry out Rcn of Fwd areas in the Div Z.

3rd CAV GP: (Atchd Div ~~Atchd~~): Protected S flank of the Div; maintained contact with 70th Inf Div. 3rd Cav Gp (less one Sqn) passed through 259th and 261st Infs to carry out Rcn of Fwd areas in the Div Z.

21 March 45

DIVISION CP: REISWEILER (Q388851) GERMANY
NEUNKIRCHEN (Q593834) GERMANY

Div continued rapid Adv to E until ordered to assemble for rehabilitation and training, Vic NEUNKIRCHEN. 600 PW's were taken and numerous populated places taken.

259th INF: Continued Adv in Z until ordered to assemble in the Vic of FRIEDRICHSTHAL (535805). Numerous populated places taken. Prepared to police NEUNKIRCHEN with one Bn.

260th INF: Continued Adv in the Z of the 259th Inf until ordered to assemble in the Vic of QUIERSCHIED (535805).

261st INF: Continued rapid Adv in 'Z until ordered to assemble in the Vic of KLEIN OTTWEILER (678830). Many populated localities taken.

DIV ARTY: Activities; same as 20 March. Assembled Vic of NEUNKIRCHEN.

65th RCN TR: Continued Rcn of the Div Z until ordered to assemble in the Vic of MERCHWEILER (505845).

22 March 45

Div initiated training and rehabilitation program, and patrolled their respective areas.

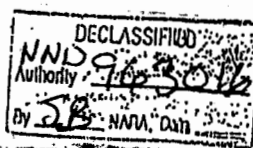
259th INF: 3rd Bn continued patrolling NEUNKIRCHEN.

23 March 45

Activities; same as 22 March.

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24 March 45

Activities; same as 22 March.

25 March 45

Activities; same as 22 March.

26 March 45

Div continued training, rehabilitation and maintenance of equipment. Plans were completed for movement of the Div to a new assembly area in the Vic of ROCKENHAUSEN (M062144).

27 March 45

DIVISION CPs: NEUNKIRCHEN (Q593834) GERMANY
ROCKENHAUSEN (M062144) GERMANY

Div began movement to new assembly area. Plans were formulated to move the Div into a Fwd assembly area from which to cross the RHINE R in the Vic of MAINZ.

259th INF: 3rd Bn released from Div control, to revert to the control of the CO, 259th Inf at 271200. 2nd Bn closed in new assembly area in the Vic of SCHWABENHEIM (M259481).

28 March 45

DIVISION CPs: ROCKENHAUSEN (M062144) GERMANY
SCHWABENHEIM (M259481) GERMANY

Div moved from assembly area Vic ROCKENHAUSEN (M062144) to assembly area Vic SCHWABENHEIM (M259481).

259th INF: Closed ROCKENHAUSEN assembly area and moved out to new assembly area Vic SCHWABENHEIM.

260th INF: Closed in new assembly area Vic SCHWABENHEIM (except for one Co, 2nd Bn and attachments).

261st INF: Closed in assembly area at BIEBEINHEIM (3134). Atchd to 11th Armd Div 281000. Reverted to Div at 281900.

DIV ARTY: Moved to new assembly area Vic SCHWABENHEIM.

65th RON TR: Moved to new assembly area Vic SCHWABENHEIM.

29 March 45

DIVISION CP: SCHWABENHEIM (M259481) GERMANY

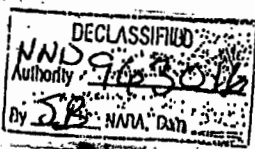
Div closed in SCHWABENHEIM area, and prepared to cross the RHINE R at OPPENHEIM.

259th INF: Closed SCHWABENHEIM area. Prepared to cross RHINE R.

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260th INF: Remaining Elms closed SCHWABENHEIM area. Initiated move across RHINE R at OPPENHEIM beginning 292400. Prepared to detruck at HATTERSHEIM (5363) and continue Adv in Div Z.

261st INF: Mtzd. Initiated move across RHINE R at 291950. Atchd to 6th Armd Div at 291845.

DIV ARTY: No firing during the period. Carried on Rcn across RHINE R for suitable displacement. Preparations for displacement completed.

65th RCN TR: Crossed RHINE R at MAINZ at 291620 to screen Adv of the 261st Inf in moving NE.

30 March 45

DIVISION CP: SCHWABENHEIM (259481) GERMANY

Div advanced NE in Z from HATTERSHEIM with one CT. Remainder of Div continued to cross RHINE R.

259th INF: Initiated movement across the RHINE R at OPPENHEIM. Entire Regt, with the exception of half a Bn across the RHINE R by close of period.

260th INF: Detrucked at HATTERSHEIM (5363) and advanced N and NE in Div Z with 2 Bns abreast.

261st INF: Atchd to the 6th Armd Div.

DIV ARTY: Completed crossing of RHINE R at 2115.

65th RCN TR: Atchd 261st Inf.

31 March 45

DIVISION CP: SCHWABENHEIM (M259481) GERMANY
LAUBACH (887165) GERMANY

Div continued its rapid Adv in Z to N and NE. Large number of PW's taken.

259th INF: Completed crossing of RHINE R. Made rapid Adv to NE in Div Z.

260th INF: Continued rapid Adv to NE in Div Z.

261st INF: Atchd to 6th Armd Div.

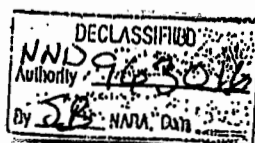
DIV ARTY: Rapid displacements in Spt of Inf units.

65th RCN TR: Atchd to 261st Inf.

George T. Duncan
GEORGE T. DUNCAN
Lt Col, GSC
A C of S, G-3

Quartermaster Col 31 July 10 -

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HEADQUARTERS 65TH INFANTRY DIVISION

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X ~~SECRET~~ X
xAuth: CG, 65th Inf Divx
xInit: *BEW* X
xDate X
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APD 200, US Army
10 July, 1945

WR *Box 1*

Subject: After Action Report for April 1945. (Action against enemy)

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(Through Channels)

INTRODUCTION:

April was a month of movement for the entire American Army. After the Siegfried breakthrough, all divisions pushed rapidly across Germany, with such enemy action as they met being generally scattered, however bitter.

What was true for US forces as a whole was true for the 65th Infantry Division.

Roughly, the path which the Division followed after crossing the RHINE at MAINZ and OPPENHEIM during the last few days of March, was a northeastward one. The zone of operations ran north of FRANKFURT, then northeast to HERSFELD and ESCHWEGE, where it bent eastward, to end at the MUHLHAUSEN - LANGENSALZA restraining line. The Division was then moved south, out of its position in the vanguard of infantry units headed for the central German cities of GOTHA and ERFURT, and assigned to the less spectacular job of mopping up behind the 87th and 89th Divisions, as VIII Corps Reserve. In this capacity, the Division moved from assembly area to assembly area, from BERKA, to WALTERSHAUSEN, to ARNSTADT.

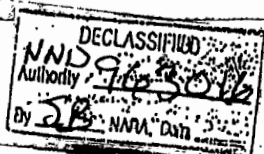
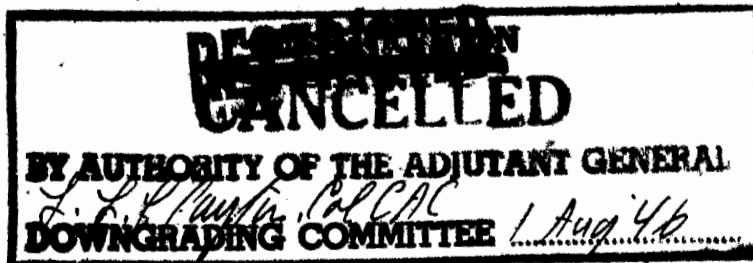
Then, on 17 April, the Division moved with the XX Corps, from the northernmost flank of the Third Army, to its southernmost flank, taking a route from ARNSTADT, through COBURG, to reassemble near BAMBERG. Another movement to Altdorf brought the 65th to a second zone of operations, this time extending southeast towards the DANUBE, and REGENSBURG. By the end of the month, the 65th had taken the upper DANUBE river port, and was ready to move still further southeast, into Austria, in the first week of May.

(NOTE: ALL TIME MENTIONED BELOW IS TWO HOURS AFTER GREENWICH TIME).

THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 7 APRIL:

On completing its crossing of the RHINE R, the 65th Infantry Division assembled in the vicinity of HATTENBACH (2846), with the 259th Infantry grouped west of HERSFELD (3853) and the 260th Infantry in the area between NAUSIS (2565) and RENSSHAUSEN (2669). The 261st Infantry was attached to the 6th Armored Division.

At this time, the Division was operating under XX Corps Operations Instructions No 76, dated 31 March, which defined the objectives for the three infantry divisions in the Corps zone as follows: The 65th



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and 80th Divisions were to attack abreast, with the 65th Division on the right (S) flank, and the 80th Division on the (north) flank of the Corps' attack. The 5th Infantry Division remained in Corps reserve.

The ultimate objective of the XX Corps was the seizure of WEIMAR and ERFURT, while the XII Corps drove for GOTHA and ARNSTADT. The initial instructions to the 80th and 65th Divisions provided that the 80th would attack to seize KASSEL, while the 65th would move north and east in its zone behind the 6th Armored Division and the 3d Cavalry Group. The 65th was to be ready to pass through these latter organizations to spearhead the attack in its zone. Upon receiving such an order the 261st Infantry, attached to the 6th Armored, and two Tank Destroyer Companies, attached to the 3d Cavalry Group, were to revert back to the control of the 65th Division.

Although all the provisions of this Operations Instructions were not carried out, and the 65th Infantry Division was stopped before reaching the WEIMAR-ERFURT line, Operations Instructions No 76 substantially acted as the basis of all operations from 1 April until 8 April.

The zone of operations during this period opened on a front west of the FULDA RIVER 11 miles wide, between BEBRA (4465) and NEUMORSCHEN (3175). At the close of the period, the Division occupied the 11 mile wide MUHLHAUSEN (9093) - LANGENSALZA (0382) line, with reconnaissance and security patrols in force east of LANGENSALZA. The 1st Bn, 261st Infantry pushed as far east as SCHLOTHEIM (0398), 8 miles northeast of MUHLHAUSEN (9093), while it was attached to the 6th Armored Division. Between the FULDA RIVER line and the MUHLHAUSEN-LANGENSALZA line, the 65th Division pursued a generally northeastwardly course until the right (south) flank of the Division reached ULFEN (5974), when the right flank turned east and slightly south, so that at the widest point, this zone of operations was approximately 14 miles wide between STRUTH (7994) and a point 1-1/2 miles south of CREUZBURG (7576). The southern flank then returned to a northeastwardly direction, to again, narrow the width of the front to the 11 mile distance which it had measured during the FULDA crossing.

The information in Corps Operations Instructions No 76 was disseminated to the 65th Division in Field Order No 2, dated 011630 April, which also outlined the operations for the FULDA RIVER crossing. The time for the attack was specified as 020600 April, with the 65th Infantry Division passing through the 3d Cavalry Group. The 259th and 260th Infantry were to cross abreast on the right (south) flank and the left (north) flank respectively. Div Arty was to fire no preparation, but was to lay down smoke after the initial surprise had been lost. The 65th Rcn Tr, which had been released from 6th Armored Division control on 1 April, was to assemble in Division Reserve, in the Vicinity of ERSRODE (3065), but be prepared to pass through either the 259th or the 260th on Division Order, once the objective, first the West bank of the FULDA, then high ground to the East of the river, had been seized. The 265th Engr (C) Bn was to construct a vehicular bridge capable of sustaining Division loads within each battalion area.

Aside from the proposed bridge-building program, the instructions in Field Order No 2 were carried out practically intact. The Infantry Regiments jumped off on schedule, and advanced rapidly against scattered enemy resistance. At 0830, D-Day, the 259th already had two battalions across the River, the 260th had one. The 259th Infantry had captured a bridge intact at BRAACH (3769), while the 260th Infantry took one at KONNEFELD (3273). The 265th Engrs were rushed forward to remove a road

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block from the BRAACH bridge, and to put additional supports beneath the KONNEFELD apan in order that the attack might continue to push rapidly to the northeast. Plans for a bridge in each battalion area could be abandoned because of the lack of enemy resistance at the FULDA. By 1300 lead elements of the Division, between 5 and 6 miles north of the River, were coming under some enemy aviation. The 65th Rcn Tr was ordered to cross the KONNEFELD bridge, about 1330, to pass through the 260th Infantry, for the purpose of screening the Division's advance and reconnoitering routes to the front of the riflemen.

By 2400, D-Day, the 2d and 3d Bns of the 259th had reached SONTRA (5576), which the 65th Rcn Tr had passed at 1830, while forward elements of the 260th had crossed the LANDEFELD (3876)-NAUSIS (3778)-HERELEFELD (4078) line. Aided by their partial transportation in Div Arty trucks, the Division was still advancing speedily to the northeast at the close of D-Day.

Progress continued to be good on 3 April, with an average advance of 13 miles for the 24 hour period. Elements of the 2d and 3d Bns, 259th Infantry, had crossed the WERRA RIVER prior to 2400. The 260th had reached the REICHENSACHEN (5885)-LANGENHAIN (6085) line, before it was held up by a regrouping of 6th Armored forces which had a priority on all roads to the front. The 265th Engrs had, meanwhile, constructed a Bailey bridge at BRIETENBACH (4363), which was designed to rechannelize traffic from the BRAACH bridge to a more direct route through BEBRA.

On the following day, 4 April, the 6th Armored was, once more, the only obstacle to further advance, by the 260th Infantry, which later on, moved up behind the 6th Armored to reach WANFRIED (7089), TREFFURT (7484), DIEDORF (7889) and GR BURSCHLA (7084) by 051200 April. In the 259th zone, which was not blocked by the 6th Armored, the regiment was able to push forward more rapidly, until the 2d and 3d Bns reached the vicinity of KAMMERFORST (8883) prior to 051200B April. Meanwhile the 261st Infantry was relieved from its attachment to the 6th Armored at 041200 and was given a series of assembly areas east from ESCHWEGE (6290) to GROSSENGOTTER (9887), located along the left flank of the Division, from which positions the regiment was to protect the Division's north flank in a reserve capacity.

On this same day, 5 April, an VIII Corps Order was received directing that the Division attack to the MUHLHAUSEN (9093)-LANGENSALZA (0382) restraining line, there to regroup forces, and await further instructions from higher headquarters before again pushing eastward. The 65th Division had passed to the VIII Corps the preceeding day, at 041030, when the VII Corps became operational between the XII Corps on the left (north) flank and the XX Corps on the right (south) flank. This VIII Corps order was almost identical to a similar order issued 4 April by the XX Corps.

The MUHLHAUSEN - LANGENSALZA line was secured prior to 061200, and strong patrols were operating forward of this restraining line for varying distances. Beyond LANGENSALZA the patrols were sent out only a short distance to the east. Beyond MUHLHAUSEN, however, patrols went about 10 miles east to points beyond SCHLOTHEIM (0398).

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The toughest battle in taking the MUHLHAUSEN-LANGENSALZA line occurred at the latter town. The battle at LANGENSALZA was a stubborn battalion action. It was more than the average city fighting operation. It had an element of daring in that a sizeable city was virtually captured through seizing, and skillfully holding, a single thoroughfare which wound from a suburb to the hub of the city.

The 2d Bn, 259th Infantry, approached LANGENSALZA from the southwest on 5 April. It entered by way of UFHOVEN, a suburb which abuts the city proper. Railroad tracks laid on a high embankment mark the dividing line between UFHOVEN and LANGENSALZA. The defenders had completed this separation with a substantial barricade across an underpass which acts as the principle gateway to LANGENSALZA from the southwest.

The main highway through UFHOVEN was lined with houses from which the GI's received their first sniper fire as they advanced to the blocked underpass. The doughs in the street were covered by "G" Co from heights to the southeast of the highway. When Jerry had been flushed from his suburban quarters, TD's from the 691st TD Bn, attached to the 259th blasted the barricade. Riflemen from Co "E", treading warily beside tanks from the 748th Tk Bn led the way through the rubble barricade. "P" Co deployed on top of the railroad embankment, from which vantage point they overlooked the southern half of LANGENSALZA. Co "G", meanwhile, descended from the high ground south of UFHOVEN, to follow the assault company through LANGENSALZA'S shopping district.

The battle was also a race against darkness, for the 2d Bn had pulled into UFHOVEN at 1500. Because of the approaching darkness the Bn had time to capture only the single, broad street running east across the southern half of the city, then north to reach the square fronting the city hall in the extreme northwest portion of the city at 2300. Tanks from the 6th Armored Division had attacked from the northwest, but were stopped by enemy road blocks after a short advance. The 65th Rcn Tr furnished some support in areas surrounding LANGENSALZA.

The bent finger which pierced LANGENSALZA was skillfully defended at every road intersection against a possible counterattack. But none came. The enemy, which had been stopped by a terrific daylight artillery and mortar barrage, was able to disappear under the cover of darkness. In the morning, there was mopping up - but there were also white flags. The city was declared cleared of the enemy by 060745 April.

The 65th Division was to have one more local, but bitter battle before leaving and turning over its positions on the MUHLHAUSEN-LANGENSALZA line to elements of the 76th Infantry Division, and moving southwestward to an assembly area in the vicinity of BERKA (6362), where it went into VIII Corps Reserve. This was the battle of STRUTH (7994), which began as an infantry action on the part of one battalion, and ended as a striking example of the effectiveness of combined arms.

STRUTH was a tiny hamlet on the Division's north flank. It is first mentioned in the Division Journal File when two enemy fighter planes were reported shot down in its vicinity at 041732. Its second mention comes when the 3d Bn, 261st Infantry, announced that its CP was located in the village at 061340. At the same time, Co "L" of this regiment had moved up to the village of EFFELDEN (7596), where it met fairly heavy

Enemy opposition of undetermined strength, and hence withdrew to STRUTH, where Co's "K" and "M" were grouped with Battalion Headquarters. Co "I", meanwhile, was located in DORNA (8396). The battalion was acting to protect the Division's left (north) flank, along with the rest of the 261st Infantry. The original plan of the 3d Bn, upon Co "I's" withdrawal, was to return to EFFELDEN on the following day with reinforcements. However, Jerry upset these plans. He struck, before dawn, at STRUTH. In the engagement which followed, the 3d Bn acted as a resisting core, while other units carried out encircling movements around the enemy in the territory surrounding STRUTH.

The battle started as simply as many isolated battles of this type which the Division was to fight up to V-E Day. A "K" Co sentry, stationed on one of three roads leading out of STRUTH in a northeastward direction, fired his BAR at what he thought to be a figure in the darkness at approximately 070230. This alerted the Co. A little later the same sentry thought he detected the sound of motors to the northeast of his position. About 0300, another sentry situated between two roads running northwestwardly (one of them to EFFELDEN) had the unpleasant experience of having a hand grenade plop into his slit trench. Still later there were several flares which went off to the east of the town, which indicated that the enemy was moving southward, as though to encircle the town to the east, and where his hardest blow would fall.

Before proceeding further with the sequence of events leading up to the battle it will be advisable to study the disposition of 3d Bn units within the STRUTH area. Firstly, the Bn Hq Co was located roughly in the center of the town. "K" Co was located to the north of the CP components; "M" Co to the south; while "L" Co had moved to the east, except for one platoon, billeted along the motor park, which was located in an area just west of the town.

The enemy attacked STRUTH in two principle drives. The first was an armor spearheaded swinging around the west side of the town, to attack towards the motor park area. The second was a house-to-house mouseholing by infantrymen which originated in a house on the northern edge of town and progressed through half a dozen more before being stopped. When final computations were made, it was estimated that the Germans attacked with 1,000 infantrymen, tanks, and mobile guns.

The tank-led drive west of the town got underway at 0500, so the flare activity to the east was apparently an enemy attempt to cover the main effort. The mouseholing party at the northern end of the village started about 0530.

The tanks and mobile guns were spaced abreast to pound the town. Luckily, a fairly deep gully ran from the vicinity of the billets of the westernmost platoon of "L" Co, south towards the "M" Co Area. The platoon was able to move into this trench and inflict some damage on foot soldiers in the attack, before being forced to leave the trench which came under a concentrated enemy artillery barrage. This platoon then moved further out into the parking area, set up a base of fire, and remained there throughout the attack. The mechanized equipment of "K" Co, meanwhile, stopped the mouseholers.

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The 3d Bn called for help as the battle tempo increased with the growing daylight. Between 070600 and 070800, the fighting was at its height, although up until 1100, it was still bitter. But by this time the outcome was certain. Reinforcements had arrived, bringing with them a variety of armament.

With dawn, "M" Co's mortars opened up so effectively on enemy concentrations to the northwest that German mortars located in this area could not be placed into operation. Cannon Co, 261st, which was located at EIGENRIEDEN (0893), 1-1/2 miles southeast of STRUTH, added further fire power to areas north and northeast of the town.

Among the first units to arrive at STRUTH from outside the immediate area were "B" and "L" Co's, 260th Infantry, and the 1st Bn of 261st Inf. The 1st Bn was to make a frontal attack of the town from the south, while "B" Co moved from below the town around to the east, and "L" Co to the west, in a two-pronged encircling movement. The 3d Bn, 259th, was on the way to STRUTH from positions near LANGENSALZA.

But other arms of the service were moving into STRUTH. Reinforcements from the 808th TD's engaged the mechanized equipment southwest of the town, while a flight of fighter bombers, coming in at 0900, initiated the beginning of the retreat of the enemy's mobile equipment. Together with the TD's, the air force accounted for 11 tanks and mobile guns, most of the air tally being scored after this German equipment had pulled northwest of STRUTH in its withdrawal. Four artillery battalions were also effective in laying fire on the retreating enemy, causing much damage to vehicles and many casualties to personnel. The 6th Armored Division rumbled into position north of STRUTH, as the battle was ending, and pursued the retreating enemy to the northwest.

The most dramatic gesture of the day came just after the beginning of the retreat, when an enemy self-propelled gun rumbled up to the 3d Bn CP, to fire point-blank at the building which was indicated by STRUTH citizenry. An 808 TD from its location near "K" Co CP, finished the mobile gun.

There was, finally, one more factor in the STRUTH struggle. The enemy was unable to strengthen his attack with such reinforcements as he had. By far the largest part of his force was committed, but a considerable number of reinforcements were stopped at DORNA as they approached STRUTH from the northeast. "I" Co had started to pull out of this hamlet just prior to the attack, to make a move southwest to EIGENRIEDEN. However, a handful of Co personnel were left behind at DORNA to look after some equipment which was to be carried in another trip. It was these guards which served as outposts. They immediately contacted the bulk of "I" Co, which made a hurried return trip to the site of this brisk side action.

Had the enemy been able to penetrate the Division's flank defenses he would have been in an excellent position to swing behind positions established in the vicinity of MUELHAUSEN by the 260th Infantry. This, as was later revealed by prisoners and documents, was his ultimate intention. In the unsuccessful attack he lost 12 of an estimated 15 to 20 tanks and assault guns, SP gun and four AA guns, 37mm, besides suffering 253 men killed and 500 captured of his total estimated force of 1000 to 1,500.

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The 65th Division was particularly vulnerable to a strong attack on its flanks at this time, because it had advanced further eastward than any other infantry unit in its sector. At the time that it was relieved to move southwest to an assembly area at BERKA, its forward units were closer to what had been designated as the original XII and XX Corps objectives than was any other infantry division.

This naturally created tremendous supply problems, as the Division rapidly widened distances between food, gasoline and ammunition supply points to the rear and its advancing riflemen to the front. The problem was roughly that of feeding 19,000 men with three meals every day, to bring up a daily load of approximately 40,000 gallons of gasoline and a sizeable supply of ammunition in 30.6x6 trucks, which were the number which could be allotted for this purpose from Division Headquarters and Quartermaster transportation. During this period, supply points were approximately 100 miles to the rear, which meant that the round trip required from 24 to 30 hours.

At this time also, the Division was sprawled out over more territory than it was ever to occupy again. From the front line positions on the MUHLHAUSEN-LANGENSALZA restraining line to the rear echelon, which had been left on the west side of the RHINE for lack of transportation, represented a distance of 185 miles - or a quarter of the distance across Germany.

The biggest battle which the Division had in its advance from the east bank of the RHINE to the MUHLHAUSEN-LANGENSALZA restraining line was that of supply, and troop movement.

The battle of supply and of troop movement was continuous during this period. The battle of weapons was sporadic. This, in fact, was to characterize all 65th Division activities, down to V-E Day. In this respect, the 65th Division was typical of the vast majority of divisions at this time. The American Army swiftly spread across GERMANY to fight, for the most part, stubborn rear guard actions, now involving handfulls of resisters, and occasionally, a battalion or more, such as at LANGENSALZA and STRUTH.

From the G-2 point of view, this period was unusual only in that the German Air Force appeared over our troops almost daily. However, these craft were few in number, and did a negligible amount of damage. A considerable number of them were destroyed by our anti-aircraft, while the best that they were able to do was to shoot down one of the Division's artillery liaison planes.

Relatively little concentrated enemy fire was reported in the Division's zone of operation, except in the STRUTH counter-attack. This attack on the 65th Division flank was made by a tank battalion sent from the 11th Panzer Division, located near HANOVER, for the defense of the ROTENBURG area, together with between 1,00 and 1,500 infantry troops Herrick Rickier Brigade (Motorized) 688.

For the most part, however, the enemy was more interested in surrendering than fighting, as 1,961 PW's were taken during the first seven days of the month.

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Considering the numerical strength of the Division, our losses were very light, most of the casualties which we had suffered at STRUTH. Casualty figures for this period, exclusive of those of attached units, are as follows:

	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>
Officers	9	1	0
Enlisted Men	81	19	0

THE PERIOD 8 APRIL TO 18 APRIL:

This period comprises the 11 days that the 65th Division served as VIII Corps reserve.

On 8 April, units of the 76th Division began to relieve the 65th Division from its positions in the MUHLHAUSEN-LANGENSALZA area. The entire VIII Corps had been shifted further south, to place the former positions of the 65th Division in the XX Corps zone. On this same day the Division started to move southwest to BERKA (6362), the first of several assembly areas which trailed the front line of the VIII Corps. The Division was completely closed in the vicinity of BERKA by 101500. While other Division units carried out a training and rehabilitation program, the 260th Infantry cleared the Corps zone behind the 89th Division on the left(north) flank of the Corps and the 87th on the right (south) flank. The 65th Rcn Tr was attached to the 260th, to aid in blocking exits as the regiment successively combed area after area.

Beginning at 111300 April, the Division initiated movement to a new assembly area at WALTERSHAUSEN (9859), into which all units had closed prior to 121600. Starting at 131200, the Division began displacement once more for a third assembly area; this time, ARNSTADT (2653), into which the 65th completely closed prior to 141830. Meanwhile, the 259th Infantry had relieved the 260th of clearing operations in the VIII Corps rear at 130700, and the 65th Rcn Tr switched its attachment from the 260th to the 259th. Upon reaching ARNSTADT during 14 and 15 April, however, all units carried on a training and rehabilitation program.

Operations Instructions No 28, dated 151700 April gave instructions for the movement of the 65th Division, east from ARNSTADT, to another assembly area east of the SAALE RIVER in the vicinity of TROCKENBORN (7850), which was in the zone of the 89th Division. It was planned that the 65th would be given a zone of operations between those of the 89th (on its north) and the 87th (on its south), and that the attack would continue to the east with three divisions abreast instead of two.

However, at 161940, a message coming through VIII Corps notified the Division that it was to be returned to the XX Corps. A later message during the same day, 2315, gave the new destination as the vicinity of BAMBERG. From the northern flank of the 3d Army, the 65th was moving with the XX Corps to the southern flank. With the move there was a general shift in the direction of the entire Third Army. From objectives in Central GERMANY, where the Ninth and First Armies were building heavy concentrations, the Third Army was orientated toward its goals in Czechoslovakia, and toward new ones in Austria. The XX Corps, and with it the 65th Division, was destined to head for AUSTRIA.

Operations Instructions No 30, dated 170300, gave the route from ARNSTADT (except for the 259 CT which had previously followed Operations Instructions No 29 before it was rescinded by moving into HUMMELSHAIM (7448), through COBURG (2989), to a cluster of farmtowns just north of BAMBERG (2648). The 259th and 260th CT's, the 65th Div Arty and the 748th Tk Bn had assembled in the vicinity of BREITENGUSSBACH (2557) by 19 April, when preparations were made to move to still another area in

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in the vicinity of ALTDORF (6293). With this last assembly area the Div entered into a new zone of operations.

G-2 reports for this period are concerned largely with CIC work behind our lines, or with the investigation of certain enemy equipment and installations which were captured by the 87th and 89th Divisions, and left for more detailed examination by the 65th Division. Although the Division had no contact with any organized resistance during this period, mopping up patrols accounted for 604 PW's through the Division PWE. Considering that the other two Divisions had already raked over the area, this is a relatively sizeable figure, and indicates the large number of Wehrmacht personnel which continued to hide after the main force had passed them by.

Because we had no contact with the enemy, beyond an occasional brushing with isolated, individual enemies, casualties were at a minimum.

	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>
Officers	2	0	0
Enlisted Men	13	4	0

THE PERIOD 19 APRIL TO 30 APRIL:

Operations Instructions gave the movement order for the Division to travel southeast of the BAMBURG area to reassemble in the vicinity of SCHNAITACH (6012), which was immediately altered to ALTDORF (6293). The movement was to begin at 190600. CT's 259 and 260 were to ~~prepare~~ to attack southeast through elements of the 14th Armored at 200700. For the 261st CT, this Operations Instructions simply stated that it would move by motor to an assembly area to be designated later. Operations Instructions No. 32 gave this assembly area as the vicinity of DEINSCHWANG (7294) approximately six miles due east of the Division CP at ALTDORF. The 65th was prepared to move forward on Corps order, and to use one Battalion to protect the right flank, while the 71st Division covered the left. By 201830 April, the entire Division was located in the new combat zone.

The Division attacked while assembling vicinity of SCHNAITACH about 0100 20 April. (Stiff counterattacks from by-passed enemy were overcome at STAPPACH (6713) and TRUEF (6716). In the STAPPACH engagement, units of the 808th TD Bn combined with the 1st Bn, 260th to wreck two MK IV Tanks, an SP gun, a half track, one personnel carrying vehicle and three AT Guns).

The 259th and 260th CT's had attacked, meanwhile, to the southeast through the 14th Armored at 200600. Rapid progress was made during the first day, with the Periodic Report for 202400 April stating that the 259th Infantry was in the process of clearing NEUMARKT. The 260th attacking on the Division's left flank, swiftly overran many populated localities up to the line TRAUTMANNSHOFEN (7789)-LAUTERHOVEN (8092) prior to 2400 on D-Day.

These were characteristic of the kind of tough local actions which the Division was to meet all the way to the DANUBE R. The prophesied last ditch stand never materialized in the Redoubt Area, but stubborn pockets of enemy troops, with whatever equipment they could muster, made it a tough battle zone.

During this operation, the 71st Infantry Division operated on the left (north) flank of the XX Corps, the 65th Division on the right (south) flank. The 80th Division was in Corps Reserve. Throughout the advance to REGENSBURG, the 65th Division operated slightly in front of the 71st Division. This resulted from the fact that the parallel zones of operation for these divisions ran southeastward while the phase lines which were set as objectives ran more nearly north-south. Therefore, in order to attain its phase lines, the 65th was generally spearheading the attack in this area. To the south of the 65th Division, a number of units were given zones which took off from the northwest-southeast right boundary of the XX Corps (65th Division) zone, and headed due southward to clear a wedge of territory between the southeastwardly moving Third Army and the southward moving Seventh Army, which was on the right flank of the Third Army. Therefore, during this operation the 65th Division formed the southern flank Division for the entire Third Army.

The attack southeastward on the 21st continued much as on the preceding day. Rapid advances were reported in most sectors with sporadic resistance from enemy pockets. By 212400 the Division's front had reached the line OB BUCHFELD (7779)-WIESENACKER (8283) in the 259th sector, and KASTL (8693)-PROWSDORF (8585) in the 260th. But the 3d Bn, 259th, was, at the close of the period, meeting tough opposition on the southern half of NEUMARKT, in which a surprising amount of enemy opposition had developed. During the 21st, the town was once more considered to be practically freed of the enemy, then late in the period a strong enemy defensive position was set up around a lumber yard at the southern outskirts of the city.

The first message in the journal file on NEUMARKT, dated 201700, states that the 3d Bn, 259th, entered the city from the north, receiving no enemy resistance, although encountering some artillery fire. As patrols from Co's "I" and "K" reached the town, at 1750, some mortar or minenwerfer fire was reported along with a small amount of burp gun and rifle fire. The shooting was characterized as "intermittent" and "timid". At this time, Cos "A" and "B" were operating patrols along a line which considering the direction of the zone, was "abreast" of 3d Bn patrols at NEUMARKT. At 202000 April, the front line of the 259th Infantry ran northeast from the upper third of NEUMARKT through LABERSRICHT (7284) to PFEFFERSHOFEN (7587). At the close of the period, the enemy artillery fire was reported as very active in the city.

On the following day, clearing of NEUMARKT continued slowly during the first part of the period despite the addition of tanks from Co "A", 748th Tk Bn. The 3d Bn CP had moved to a point (705836), immediately to the north of the city. By 1045, Air OP's reported two friendly tanks in the center of NEUMARKT, with the infantrymen converging towards the center from the north. Around noon the 1st Bn, 259th, advanced to take high ground to the northeast of the city, in the vicinity of SCHATHOF (7283). At 211800, the 1st Bn changed positions with the 2d Bn to go into regimental reserve. At this time, approximately 1/2 of the city was taken, as Cos "I" and "K" moved on the left and right flanks respectively through the city, with "L" Co in reserve, while Co "B" held high ground northeast and east of the city, and was moving south and west to get behind the city and thus trap the estimated Bn of enemy which were in NEUMARKT. At 211900 April, the position inside NEUMARKT was little

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changed, while Cos "A", "B" and "C", 259th, were grouped in a semi-circle extending from LAHR (7380) two miles southeast of NEUMARKT to SCHATHOF, and equal distance to the northeast.

There was little change in positions during 22 April. The 259th was ordered at 1930 to burn down the lumber yard which harbored the enemy even if it meant a night attack. At this time, the resistance was reported to come from about 100 Germans plus a heavy concentration of Mortars, SP guns, machine guns and artillery fire. Although the 3d Bn used Mortars on the enemy they did not prove successful. Rubble made it impossible for tank destroyers to reach the area. The firing of the yard during the night, however, forced the enemy to retreat, and by the next morning the 3d Bn was fighting south of the city. Meanwhile the 261st which had been ordered to follow in the zone of the 259th, moved into NEUMARKT to carry out final mopping up operations.

Tactically, there was little of interest in the NEUMARKT fight. It simply represented how a well-intrenched enemy could hold up our advance. After NEUMARKT, however, the 65th Division moved swiftly to the banks of the DANUBE, following the 43rd Cavalry Group which was passed through the Division during 22 April. The mission of the 43rd was to travel southward to the DANUBE, by-passing enemy resistance, to seize and hold fording sites for the 65th Division.

In general, this period was characterized by swift advances against moderate and scattered enemy resistance. By the use of phase lines as temporary restraining lines, the rate of advance was adjusted so as to place both the 65th and 71st Infantry Divisions on the north bank of the DANUBE simultaneously.

On 23 April, the 261st was given a segment of the 259th zone on its right (south) flank. Through this corridor, the 261st swiftly advanced to positions ahead of the 259th, after pinching out this latter organization in the vicinity of BERATZHAUSEN (9763). The 261st then advanced beside the 260th in what had been the 259th's zone, while the 259th trailed the 261st in Division Reserve.

At 242400 the front line ran from WALDORF (0147) northeast to HAUGENRIED (0553) in the 261st zone, from KOHLSTADT (0751) southeast to BERGMATTUNG (1049), and northeast to the confluence of the NAAB and DANUBE RIVERS in the zone of the 260th. The 260th and 261st moved into forward assembly areas, and made preparations to cross the DANUBE at 260200, while the 3d Bn, 259th, protected the Division right (south) flank from PAINTEN (9852) to KELHEIM (0344). The rest of the 259th remained in the vicinity of BERATZHAUSEN, and made preparations to move to a forward staging area to cross the river in the zone of the 261st. The 65th Rcn Tr was given the job of protecting the same flank from HEMAU (9558) back as far as NEUMARKT (7182).

Field Order No 5, dated 241900 April, gives the general plan for the crossing of the DANUBE, and the entry into REGENSBURG by way of the back door. The 260th and 261st were to attack abreast, the 260th on the left flank of the Division, the 261st on the right. The first objective was the seizing of phase line A. The area inclosed by phase line A would

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afford a limited bridgehead on the inside of each of the regimental zones (that is, where the two zones abutted). For the 261st this semi-circular phase line touched the River below ALKOFEN (1043), swung south of LENGFELD (1244), and north to ABBACH (1546). ABBACH formed the place at which the boundary between the regimental zones reached the river. Finally, this same town marked the southern point for phase line A in the 260th zone, from which it swung sharply north, west of GRASSLEPPING (1548), until it met the DANUBE at (140503). The regiments were to regroup on phase line A, then strike out for a second semi-circle which was inscribed on a larger radius around the other. This second semi-circle, phase line B, from its southern to its northern extremities at the River, ran as follows: From a point opposite KELHEIMWINZER (0643), southeast to a point just south of TEUGN (1341), then northeast to run east of PEISING (1644) through SEEDORF (1847), northwest through HOHENGEBRACHING (1749), with the northernmost termination at PENTLING (1551). From this phase line B the regiments were to capture objective C, which was REGENSBURG (1855) itself.

The assault was to be a surprise attack. While Corps engineers, the 206th Engr C Group constructed a class 40 treadway bridge, the 265th Engr C Bn was to ferry the assault waves across the swiftly flowing River. Div Arty was instructed not to fire until the enemy had discovered the crossing. The 65th Rcn Tr was to move its territory slightly, so as to protect the right (south) flank of the Division from KELHEIM (0844) on the north bank of the River, north to HAMBERG (9655). The 259th, meanwhile, was to be prepared to cross the DANUBE on Division order, and to pass through the 261st in order to protect the right (south) flank of the Division on the REGENSBURG side of the river.

At 251600 April, Field Order No 5 was expanded slightly by Operations Instructions No 34. This Operations Instructions defined the role which other units, neighboring to the 65th would play in the operation. Firstly, the 71st Infantry Division would attack REGENSBURG from its location to the east of the city with a force not to exceed one RCT, in an operation which was similar to that of the 65th Division's RCT's. The 71st would also furnish additional fire power for the crossing. Once the 65th had crossed, the 13th Armored Division was to pass through the Division, having priority on all roads; the 80th Infantry Division was to follow the 13th Armored. The 65th would, then, go into Corps Reserve in the vicinity of REGENSBURG, with the southern boundary of its zone, separating the 65th from the 80th's zone. This line ran along the southern half of the 261st segment of phase line B until a point southeast of PEISING was reached. Then veered northeast and east through WOLKERING (2246) to a point between KOFERING (2647) and ALTEGLOFSHEIM (2745).

The attack got underway at 262000 April according to the plan laid down in Field Order No 5 and Operations Instructions No 34. The 260th Regiment crossed with the 2d and 3d Bns abreast, followed by the 1st Bn in the zone of the 2d.

For the 261st, on the right flank of the 260th, it was the 1st and 3d Bns which made the assault crossing, and the 2d Bn which followed in the zone of the 3d Bn. The 260th ran into very light resistance reaching the opposite shore, which stiffened, however, as D-Day advanced. Meanwhile, in the 261st sector, the enemy was waiting on the bank, and a stiff

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battle developed at and just beyond the landing sites.

The battle progress was reported by air OP's, which made a continuous circle between the battlefield and the CP, to drop the information necessary for command purposes. A series of messages from these air OP's, plus less frequent communications from the Regiments participating in the battle, indicated that the bridgehead for the southern bank of the DANUBE west of REGENSBURG was initiated from crossings made as far downstream as SINZING (1452) to a point upstream at (103447), slightly southwest of KAPFELBERG. Most of the landings, however, were made no further downstream than a point to the northeast of MATTING (1249). These latter troops are the first to be mentioned in the messages, which stated that, immediately upon landing, the doughboys moved southwest along the river road, to take MATTING about 1100. Meanwhile, others, crossing further upstream, captured OBERNDORF (1347) and by 1200 the Division held a bridgehead comprising the thumbnail of land between MATTING and OBERNDORF, where the DANUBE makes a horseshoe bend. From this bridgehead, the 260th pushed eastward to take GRASSLFING (1548), and place patrols in NIEDER (1648) by 1445. By 1615, the 2d and 3d Bns, 260th, had reached phase line B at GEBRACHING (1749), while the 1st Bn, half way to B, diverted two Co's southward to aid the 261st in the taking of ABBACH (1546). At the close of the period, the 260th was running into increased opposition.

The 261st met tough opposition on the river bank in its sector, so that, at the close of D-Day the 261st had moved from the south bank of the DANUBE only as far east to take LENGFELD (1244) against bitter enemy opposition. By 2400, D-Day, both the 1st and 3rd Bns had reached phase line A, while the 2nd Bn was driving northeastwardly towards ABBACH (1546). At the close of the period, two Co's from the 1st Bn, 260th, were driving from the north towards the high ground southeast of ABBACH, as the 2nd Bn, 261st, pushed towards the objective from the south. The 260th was ordered to proceed to objective C, REGENSBURG, without waiting for the ABBACH pocket to clear up in the 261st zone.

By 2400, D-Day the 2nd Bn and elements of the 1st Bn, 259th Infantry had crossed the river in the zone of the 261st. They had protected the Division's right (south) flank until being ordered to move to a forward assembly area at 0730. The crossing was initiated at 1800, when the 259th was ordered to take over 261st positions in LENGFELD, and fan out south of this village to continue to protect the Division's right flank on the REGENSBURG side of the river, while the 2nd Bn went into Division Reserve near GRASSLFING. The 65th Rcn Tr was similarly relieved of its assignment to the protection of the Division right flank, and was ordered to maintain liaison between forward elements of the 261st, and rear elements of the 259th.

During the entire period of D-Day, the Div Arty, the 808th TD Bn, and the 94th Chemical Bn, together with a number of missions from Third Army's tactical air force, fired a semi-circle of towns beyond the bridgehead positions, as well as certain designated targets. Explosions in a number of the towns indicated that the enemy had used the hamlets as gasoline and ammunition dumps.

Meanwhile, at 2100, the class 40 treadway bridge was in operation to replace the rafts which had been ferrying Division vehicles. One of the most difficult parts of the DANUBE crossing was the maintenance of a road net to this bridge, since inadequate dirt roads, which had to be augmented by overland driving, were bogged down under a continuous D- Day rain.

On 27 April REGENSBURG was surrendered to the 65th Infantry Division. Although fighting continued in the bridgehead during the early morning, resistance had all but collapsed by mid-morning and at 1030, a retired German General formally turned over the cathedral city to General John E. Copeland, Assistant Division Commander, and Colonel Frank Dunkley, 260th Commanding Officer. It was surrendered after the regular Army Commander had fled REGENSBURG at 270400.

The biggest action of the day was a combined infantry, tank and tank destroyer assault on ABBACH by the 1st Bn, 260th and elements of the 748th Tk Bn, 808th TD Bn. The overwhelming weight of the attack overran the town by 0700, when the highway running along the DANUBE between the zones of the 260th and 261st was opened.

After the surrender of REGENSBURG was announced, the 261st was motorized with a company of TD's in the vicinity of ABBACH, and rode towards the city. The regiment was stopped, however, before entering REGENSBURG, and given the mission of protecting the Division area to the south of the city as far as the southern Division boundary which was to separate the 65th from the 80th Division. The 259th completed its crossing, and continued to protect the right flank of the Division with its 2nd Bn while the 3rd reverted from Division Reserve to the control of the 259th Commanding Officer for the job of protecting crossing sites. The 1st Bn, 259th was attached to the 261st.

The city of REGENSBURG itself was completely under the control of the 260th by 1400. At the close of the period, this regiment was maintaining a police of the city.

For three days, the 65th went into a period of guard duty, of minor patrolling, and finally, set up a training and rehabilitation period, while elements of the 80th Division, the 3rd Cavalry Group and the 13th Armored Division passed through the 65th area on 28 April.

At the month's end, the 65th Division was firmly established on the side of the DANUBE closest to AUSTRIA and ready to move towards this segment of the Greater Reich on the first day of the new month.

G-2 reports for this period abound in accounts of small counter-attacks throughout the zone of operations. The terrain was very favorable for small holding actions, usually centered around a couple of tanks or a single artillery field piece. But the action was of such a scattered nature that there was never any doubt about the fact that the mass of the Germans were in full retreat, and that their retreat was that of a large number of small units, rather than a withdrawal based on large overall planning. The NEUMARKT holding operations were certainly the best organized during the period, while the fighting around ABBACH AND LENGFELD revealed the rudiments of organized resistance. But it collapsed very rapidly once the power of a combined task force was applied to it.

- 14 -

Restricted Classification
Removed Per
Executive Order 10501

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 2.1

DATE 12-31-97

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The best indication of the enemy's desires are, once again, the PW statistics, which reveal that 7, 264 Wehrmachters went through Division cages from 19 April until the end of the month.

Naturally, these holding actions took their toll of Division personnel. Again, the figures are not large, but it is to be expected that the average daily casualties will be greater for this period than either of the preceding ones.

	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>
Officers	12	3	0
Enlisted Men	197	53	9

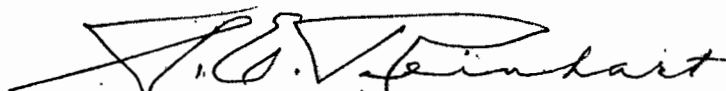
Note: This figure represents new MIA's during this period only. Actually, some of this total reported back to their outfits, while others went into other categories. The figure is intended only to furnish an idea of the MIA's for the period under consideration.

CONCLUSION:

A review of the operations for the month of April leaves the overall impression of a defeated and scattered enemy being rapidly overrun by the superior weight, numbers, equipment and organization of our forces. The last time that the Wehrmacht was able to put up any long and sustained opposition against the 65th Infantry Division was at the Siegfried Line. After the Division had breached his border defenses in the middle of March he could turn, and make short delaying actions - which were, in some sectors, extremely well conceived considering the forces at his disposal, and all too frequently caused Division blood to flow. But these holding operations were never more than the temporary expedients of the diehards. They were always shattered and always at far greater cost to the enemy than to ourselves.

The fighting, then, was sporadic. Day after day, squads, or platoons, or companies, sometimes battalions, and very infrequently, a combined task force, would be thrown against the remnants of the Wehrmacht. All of these skirmishes required Division attention, Division Command, and Division resources. However, only the crossing of the DANUBE can be said to represent a single operation in which every unit of the 65th played an integral part.

For the rest, it may be said that success of the operations during the month of April were as much responsible to the overcoming of tremendous logistic difficulties as to tactical considerations. The constant movement of the organization, with its resultant demands on transportation, as well as the lengthening of supply lines, presented some of the major problems of the month's operations. Their solution kept the 65th Infantry Division offensive rolling through GERMANY.


S. E. REINHART,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS 65TH INFANTRY DIVISION

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APO 200, US Army
 5 July 1945

Subject: Operations

To : CG, 65th Infantry Division, APO 200, U. S. Army.

1 April 1945

CP: HATTENBACH (2846) GERMANY

After Action Summary: Div moved into assembly areas and made preparations to attack through 3rd Cav Gp across FULDA R at 020600B.

259th Inf: Atchd: 867th FA Bn, one Plat Co "A", 265th Engr (C) Bn, one M Tk Co, two Plats Lt Tk Co, 749th Tk Bn, one Co 691st TD Bn, Co "A", 365th Med Bn.

Moved into assembly area W of HERSFELD (3854) and made preparations for attack 020600B.

260th Inf: Atchd: 868th FA Bn, one Plat Co "B", 265th Engr Bn, one M Tk Co, one Lt Tk Co (-two Plats), 749th Tk Bn, one Co 691st TD Bn, Co "B" 365th Med Bn.

2nd Bn into assembly area Vic NAVSIS (2565) and made preparations for attack. 3rd Bn, Div Res, Vic RENGSHAUSEN (2669).

261st Inf: Atchd to 6th Armd Div. Atchd: 869th FA Bn, Co "C", 81st Cml Bn, Co "C", 691st TD Bn, one Plat Co "C", 265th Engr (C) Bn.

Div Arty: Moved into assembly areas Vic ERSRODE (3065).

65th Rcn Tr: Detchd from 261st Inf and moved to assembly area Vic ERSRODE (3065) Div Res.

2 April 1945

CP: HATTENBACH (2846) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div attacked 020600 crossed FULDA R and continued attack to the NE against scattered Enemy resistance. Numerous towns and populated localities were captured. Attack continued throughout the period. At close of period, units had passed SONTRA and were continuing attack to the E making rapid progress.

259th Inf: (Atchd: See 1 April (except 867th FA Bn Detached)).

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 By: SP-1 NAVA, DMM

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Attacked 020600 in column of Bns with 3rd Bn Leading. Crossed FULDA R 0650 and captured towns of BAUMBACH (3571), BRAACH (3769), ROTENBURG (4068) and continued advance to NE making rapid progress against scattered enemy resistance. Town of BEBRA (4465) cleared by elements moving in rear of assault Bn. Bridge captured intact at BRAACH which is being used for all Div traffic except Tks. At close of period 2nd and 3rd Bn in Vic SONTRA (5576).

260th Inf: (Atchd: See 1 April (except 868 FA Bn Detchd)).

Attacked 020600 crossed FULDA R and captured towns of HEINEBACH (3574), BERGERSHAUSEN (3771), ALTMONSCHEN (3276). Bridge captured intact at KONNEFELD (3273). At close of period Adv units had passed through LINDELFELD (3876), NAUSIS (3778), HERLEFELD (4078), 3rd Bn (Div Res) Vic WICHTE (3073).

261st Inf: Atchd to 6th Armd Div. (Atchd: See 1 April)

Div Arty: Continued Rcn routes of advance and flanks by Air OP's. Arty in close support of Inf units accomplished rapid displacements and aided by transporting Inf Trs. At close of period all Div Arty had crossed FULDA R.

65th Rcn Tr: Crossed FULDA R and passed through elements of 259th Inf to screen advance of Div at close of period. Elements passing SONTRA (5576) made rapid progress.

265th Engr C BN: Repaired captured bridge at BRAACH to take 20 ton loads.

3 April 1945

CP: ERSRODE (3065) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div continued advance in zone occupying many towns and populated places. Rapid progress made against scattered enemy resistance. Elements of 2nd and 3rd Bns, 259th Inf, across WERRA R. Advance in progress throughout the period and Div now in position to continue attack to the E.

259th Inf: (Atchd: See 2 April).

Continued advance to the E occupying the towns of LUDERBACH (6777), NETRA (6479), RITTMANNSHAUSEN (6779), IFTA (7176), SCHERBDA (7579), FALKEN (7782), CREUZBURG (7575). Elements of 2nd and 3rd Bns crossed the WERRA R and occupied the high ground to the E thereof. Good progress made against scattered enemy resistance.

260th Inf: (Atchd: see 2 April).

Continued advance to the E occupying the towns of ROHDRA (6280), MITTERODE (5381), BISELHAUSEN (5384) and other populated localities. Rapid progress made against very slight enemy resistance. At end of period regrouping forces awaited the passage of the 6th Armd Div on roads before continuing the Adv in zone.

261st Inf: (Atchd to 6th Armd Div (Atchd: see 1 April)).

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Div Arty: Arty in close support of Inf units by rapid displacement. Continued to support Inf Trs.

65th Ren Tr: Continued to screen movement of Div and reconnoitered routes in zone of advance. One Plat searched woods for enemy along the MSR.

265th Engr C Bn: Bailey bridge completed at BRIETENBACH (4363) 031200.

4 April 1945

GP: BERNEBURG (5075) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div relieved Atchmt XX Corps; Assigned VIII Corps 1030. Div continued advance in new zone occupying many towns and populated localities. The only obstacle to the advance was the 6th Armd Div. Preparations completed to occupy line running from MUHLHAUSEN (9094) to LANCENSALZA (0483) and regroup forces before continuing the advance on Corps Order.

259th Inf: (See 2 April (except 1 Co 691st TD Bn Detchd)).

Continued advance to the E capturing the towns of MIHLA (8278), NAZZA (8282), KAMMERFORST (8883) and other populated localities. Good progress made against scattered Enemy resistance. A bridge was captured at NAZZA capable of carrying 2-1/2 ton trucks.

260th Inf: (Atchd: see 2 April (except 1 Co 691st TD Bn Detchd)).

Initially held up by movement of 6th Armd Div. Continued advance to the E following closely behind the 6th Armd Div and occupied the town of WANFRIED (7089), TREFFURT (7484), DIEDORF (7889), and GR BURSCHLA (7084).

261st Inf: Atchd: 869th FA Bn, 1 Plat Co "C", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "C", 365th Med Bn.

Relieved from attachment 6th Armd Div 041200. Assembled troops as follows: 1st Bn Vic BROSSENGOTTER (9887), 2nd Bn Vic WANFRIED (7090) 3rd Bn Vic EIGENNEDEN (8193). Remainder of Regt Vic ESCHWEGE (6290). Given the mission of protecting the Div left flank, guarding warehouse at ESCHWEGE (6290) and enemy class V supply dump Vic HEYERODE (8088). 2nd Bn liberated 400 British officer prisoners at LENGENFELD (7393) 041700.

Div Arty: Arty in close support of Inf units by rapid displacement. Continued to transport inf Trs.

65th Ren Tr: Continued to screen movement of Div and reconnoitered routes in zone of advance.

265th Engr C Bn: Constructing Bailey bridge at TREFFURT to be completed 051400.

5-6 April 1945

NOTE: From 5-6 April until further note, all operations are for period 1200 one day until 1200 the following day.

CP's: BERNEBURG (5075) GERMANY And TREFFURT (7585) GERMANY.

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After Action Summary: Div continued advance in zone and occupied restraining line MUHLHAUSEN - LANCENSALZA as ordered. Advance made against slight resistance except Vic LANCENSALZA where resistance was fairly heavy. Regrouping of forces and mopping up continued in preparation to beginning new mission. Aggressive patrolling to the front and flanks in progress.

259th Inf: Atchd: 1 Plat Co "A", 265th Engr C Bn, 1 M Tk Co, 2 Plat Kt Tk Co, 2 Plats M Tk Co, 749th Tk Bn, Co "A", 365th Med Bn, Co "A" 93rd Cml Bn.

Continued advance to the E capturing the towns of MULVERSTEDT (9483), FLARCHEIM (9284), UFHOVEN (0281), LANCENSALZA (0483) and other populated places. Resistance at LANCENSALZA was fairly heavy; over 300 PW's were captured. Mopping up continued throughout the period. Regt occupied position on line MUHLHAUSEN - LANCENSALZA in zone as ordered.

260th Inf: (Atchd: see 4 April).

Continued advance to the E occupying the towns of PFAFFERODE (8693), OBERDORIA (8888), MUHLHAUSEN (9094) and other populated localities. Advance was held up due to use of roads by 6th Armd Div. Regt fulfilled mission and occupied portion of restraining line MUHLHAUSEN - LANCENSALZA in zone.

261st Inf: Atchd: 1 plat Co "C", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "C", 365th Med Bn, Co "D", and 1 Plat Co "C", 707th Tk Bn (Atchd 061100).

Regt continued to assemble troops in preparation to become Div Res. 1st Bn finally assembled Vic SCHLOTHIEM (0498), 2nd Bn Vic WANFRIED (7090), 3rd Bn Vic EIGENWEILER (8193). Regt continued to protect left flank of Div. Aggressive patrolling in progress. Stiff resistance Vic GEISMAR (7095). Established road blocks on roads leading into Div zone along left boundary.

Div Arty: Arty in close support of Inf units by rapid displacement. Continued to transport Inf Trs.

65th Rcn Tr: Continued to screen movement of Div and reconnoitered routes in zone of advance. Assisted in capture of LANCENSALZA. Protected right flank of Div.

6-7 April 1945

GP: TREFFURT (7585) GERMANY

After Action Summary: Div continued to occupy restraining line. Aggressive patrolling to the front and flanks. Mopping up continued throughout the period. Enemy counterattack on Div left (N) flank at STRUTH (7984) with Tiger Tanks and Infantry being repulsed at close of period.

259th Inf: Atchd: 1 Plat Co "A", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "A", 365th Med Bn, Co "A", 93rd Cml Bn.

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By: J.B. NAVA, GSN

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Occupied restraining line MUHLHAUSEN - LANCENSALZA in zone. Aggressive patrols to the front and flanks. Mopping up continued throughout the period. Town of ALTENGOTTERN (9989) cleared. 3rd Bn (Mtz) sent to aid in repulsing enemy counterattack Vic STRUTH (7984). Preparations made for relief of units by units of 76th Inf Div.

260th Inf: Atchd: 1 Plat Co "B", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "B", 365th Med Bn

Occupied portion of restraining line MUHLHAUSEN - LANCENSALZA in zone. Active patrolling to the front and flanks. Mopping up in sector continued. "B" and "L" Cos assisted in repulsing enemy counterattack Vic STRUTH (7984).

261st Inf: Atchd: 1 Plat Co "C", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "C", 365th Med Bn

Maintained defensive position in zone and protected Div left (N) flank. 1st and 3rd Bns in process of repulsing enemy counterattack Vic STRUTH (7984) at end of period. Enemy attacked with tanks and infantry. At close of period enemy counterattack under control and town of STRUTH recaptured.

Div Arty: Arty fired in close support of Inf Trs on enemy counter-attack Vic STRUTH (7984)..

691st TD Bn (T): Relieved from attachment 061200 Apr 45.

808th TD Bn (Sp): Co "B" engaged in repulsing counterattack Vic STRUTH (7984).

65th Ren Tr: Reconnoitered to front and along right flank. Maintained contact with 89th Inf Div on Div right (S) flank.

7-8 April 1945

CP: TREFFURT (7585) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div occupied positions on restraining line MUHLHAUSEN - LANCENSALZA. Aggressive patrolling and mopping up continued. Enemy counterattack on Div Left (N) flank repulsed with heavy casualties to enemy in personnel and equipment. Preparations made for relief of units by 76th Inf Div. Plans made and movement begun to new assembly area (080700).

259th Inf: (less 3rd Bn). (Atchd: see 6-7 April)..

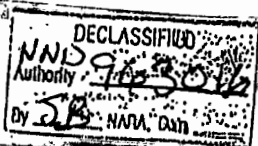
Occupied portion of restraining line MUHLHAUSEN - LANCENSALZA in zone. Mopping up continued during period. Forces regrouped and preparations made for relief of units by units of 76th Inf Div. Began movement to new assembly area Vid DIPPACH (6260) 080700 April. 3rd Bn Atchd to 261st Inf.

260th Inf: (Atchd: see 6-7 April)..

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Occupied portion of restraining line MÜHLHAUSEN - LINGENSALE in zone. Continued to mop up sector and patrol to the front and flanks. Prepared for relief of units by units of 76th Inf Div and movement to new assembly area Vic MARKSUHL (7360).

261st Inf: Atchd: 1 Plat Co "C", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "C", 365th Med Bn, Co "B", 748th Tk Bn, 3rd Bn, 259th Inf.

Maintained defense of zone and protected Div left (N) flank. Repulsed enemy counterattack Vic STRUTH (7984). Enemy attacked with estimated 1,00 Inf and 16 Tiger Tanks. 11 enemy tanks and 1 SP Gun knocked out; 253 enemy killed and 500 captured. Towns of STRUTH and DORNA (2398) recaptured and the town of EFFELDER (7596) occupied. At close of period units making preparations to be relieved by 417th Inf and then move to new assembly area Vic KATHERINENBURGER (7690).

8-9 April 1945

CP: TREFFURT (7585) GERMANY and BERKA (6362) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div continued regrouping of forces and move to new assembly area Vic BERKA (6362). Mopping up in progress throughout the period. Units began rehabilitation and training program upon arrival in new area in preparation for future operations. Relief of units by 76th Inf Div and move to new area still in progress at close of period.

259th Inf: (less 3rd Bn). Atchd: see 6-7 April).

Continued regrouping of forces and movement to new assembly area Vic DIPPACH (6260). Completely closed in new area 082000 Apr. Began training and maintenance of equipment.

260th Inf: (Atchd: see 6-7 April).

Continued regrouping of forces and move to new assembly area Vic MARKSUHL (7360). All units completely closed 090300 Apr. Began rehabilitation and maintenance of equipment.

261st Inf: (Atchd: see 7-8 April).

Maintained defense of zone and continued mopping up in sector. Units begin relieved by 417th Inf. Began move to new assembly area Vic KATHERINENBURGER (7690).

Div Arty: 867th and 868th FA Bns closed into new assembly area Vic LAUCHRODEN (6968). Training and maintenance of equipment begun. Assisted move of Div by transporting Inf Trs.

808 TD Bn (SP): "A", "B" and "C" (-): Companies moved to new assembly area Vic GERSTUNGEN (6465) and performed maintenance. 3rd Plat "C" Co remained with 3rd Bn, 259th Inf.

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65th Rcn Tr: Completed move to new assembly area Vic BERKA (6362).
Began training and maintenance of equipment..

265th Engr C Bn: (-): Closed into new assembly area Vic BERKA (6362).

10-11 April 1945

GP: BERKA (6362) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div completely closed into assembly area 101500 Apr. Search of area completed for enemy. 260th Inf advanced in assigned zone mopping up enemy lurking therein. Rehabilitation, training and maintenance of arms and equipment continued. Preparations begun to move to new assembly area beginning 111300 Apr.

259th Inf: (Atchd: Co "A", 93rd Cml Bn, 1 Plat, Co "A", 265th Engr Bn, Co "A" 365th Med Bn, Co "A", 808th TD Bn, 867th FA Bn.).

Continued rehabilitation, training and maintenance. Completed search of area for remaining enemy.

260th Inf: Atchd: Co "B", 365th Med Bn, 65th Rcn Tr.

Continued mopping up of assigned area with two Bns abreast making thorough search of woods and buildings to kill or capture enemy lurking therein.

261st Inf: Atchd: Co "C", 365th Med Bn, 1 Plat Co "C", 265th Engr Bn, Co "C", 808th TD Bn, 869th FA Bn.

Completely closed assembly area 101500 Apr. Continued training program and maintenance of equipment. Completed search of area for enemy.

808th TD Bn: Constructed Class II bridge at GERSTUNGEN (6465), made reconnaissance and performed maintenance on arms and equipment.

65th Rcn Tr: Atchd: 260th Inf. Assisted 260th Inf in searching woods and buildings in assigned zone.

11-12 April 1945

GP's: BERKA (6362) GERMANY and WALTERSHAUSEN (9859) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div continued rehabilitation, training and maintenance of arms and equipment. Began move to new assembly area Vic WALTERSHAUSEN (9859) 111300. Units enroute at close of period. 260th Inf advanced in assigned zone mopping up remaining enemy lurking therein.

259th Inf: (Atchd: see 10-11 April).

Began move to new assembly area 111300. Completely closed new assembly area Vic FRIEDRICHRODA (9954).

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260th Inf: (Atchd: see 10-11 April).

Continued mopping up in assigned zone, searching woods and buildings for enemy lurking therein.

261st Inf: (Atchd: see 10-11 April).

Departed for new assembly area Vic CATTERFELD (0352) 120700. Enroute at close of period.

Div Arty: (Less 867th and 868th FA Bns). Departed for new area Vic SCHONAU (0455) 120700. Enroute at close of period. Assisted move of Div by transporting Inf Trs.

265th Engr C Bn: Began move to new assembly area 120900. Enroute at close of period.

12-13 April 1945

GP: WALTERSHAUSEN (9859) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Continued rehabilitation training and maintenance of equipment. All units completely closed present assembly area 121600. Plans made to displace forward to next assembly area beginning 131200. 259th Inf in process of relieving 260th Inf mopping up assigned zone. Division continued to furnish guard details as ordered.

259th Inf: Atchd: Co "A", 93rd Cml Bn, 1 Plat Co "A", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "A", 365th Med Bn, Co "C", 808th TD Bn, 867th FA Bn, 65th Rcn Tr.

Continued training and maintenance of equipment. Searching new area for enemy. Began relief of 260th Inf in mopping up assigned zone for any remaining enemy lurking therein, 130700. One Plat Co "C" guarding ASP 53 LEINA (3369).

260th Inf: (Atchd: Co "B", 365th Med Bn).

Continued to comb assigned zone searching woods and buildings for enemy. Prepared to be relieved by the 259th Inf and move to new assembly area. Relief in progress at close of period. "I" Co guarding Corps CP. One Plat Co "C" guarding factory BROTTRODE (9050).

261st Inf: Atchd: Co "C", 365th Med Bn, 1 Plat Co "C", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "B", 808th TD Bn, 869th FA Bn.

Completely closed new assembly area 121430. Continued rehabilitation and training and prepared to displace forward to next assembly area beginning 131200. "A" Co guarding installations at ARNSTADT (2653).

Div Arty: Completely closed present assembly area 121600. Detail from 868th FA Bn guarding ammunition train GERSTUNGEN (6465).

65th Rcn Tr: Atchd 259th Inf. Assisted 259th Inf in searching woods and buildings in assigned zone.

265th Engr C Bn: Bn completely closed new assembly area Vic WALTERSHAUSEN (9859)

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13-14 April 1945

CP's: WALTERSHAUSEN (9859) GERMANY and ARNSTADT (2653) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div continued rehabilitation training and maintenance of equipment. At close of period units still enroute to new assembly area Vic ARNSTADT (2653). 259th Inf continued mopping up in assigned zone searching for remaining enemy lurking therein. Div continued to furnish guard details. Planning for future operations in progress.

259th Inf: Atchd: 65th Rcn Tr.

Continued to clear rear areas of Enemy stragglers in Corps zone. One Plat Co "C" guarding ASP 53 LEINA (3369). CT attachments reverted control parent organizations 131700.

260th Inf: Continued training and rehabilitation in assembly area after being relieved by 259th Inf. 2nd Bn departed 140700 for new assembly area Vic MARLISHAVSEN (3052). All units enroute at close of period. Co "I" guarding Corps CP. One Plat Co "C" guarding factory BROTTRODE (9050).

261st Inf: Closed present assembly area Vic ELXLEBEN (3252) 131730. CT attachments reverted control parent organizations upon arrival in assembly area. Continued rehabilitation and maintenance of equipment. "A" Co guarding installations in ARNSTADT (2653).

Div Arty: (less 868th, 869th FA Bns). Enroute to assembly area Vic RUDISLEBEN (2756) at close of period.

65th Rcn Tr: Assisted 259th Inf in searching woods and buildings in assigned zone.

265th Engr C Bn: One Plat Co "A" and one Plat Co "C" reverted Bn control. Enroute assembly area Vic ARNSTADT (2653) at close of period.

14-15 April 1945

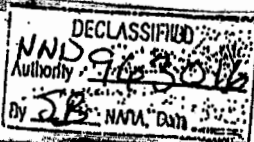
CP: ARNSTADT (2653) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div continued reorganization, rehabilitation and training program. Special emphasis placed on maintenance of arms and equipment. All units completely closed present assembly area 141830. Div continued to furnish guard details as ordered. Assembly areas searched for enemy stragglers.

259th Inf: Continued to clear rear areas in Corps zone of enemy lurking therein. Trs completely closed into new assembly area 141500. Began rehabilitation and training program. 65th Rcn Tr reld from attachment 150600. One Plat, Co "C", guarding ASP 53 LEINA (3369).

260th Inf: Regt completely closed present assembly area 141700. Co "I" guarding Corps CP.

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261st Inf: "A" Co guarding installations in ARNSTADT (2653).

Div Arty: Completely closed present assembly areas.

65th Rcn Tr: Assisted 259th Inf in mopping up operations. Relieved from attachment 259th Inf 150600. Closed in present assembly area Vic ARNSTADT (2653) at 141830.

265th Engr C Bn: Closed in present assembly area 141400.

15-16 April 1945

CP: ARNSTADT (2653) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Preparations made to stage forward to new assembly area Vic BREITENGUSSBACH (2657). 259th CT enroute at close of period. Guard details furnished as ordered.

259th Inf: Atchd: 1 Plat Co "A", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "A", (-), 365th Med Bn. 867th FA Bn.

Prepared to stage forward to new assembly area Vic STETTfeld (1456). Began move to new assembly area 160700. Regt enroute at close of period. One Plat Co "C" guarding ASP LEINA (3369).

260th Inf: Made preparations to move forward to new assembly area Vic GERACH (1963). Co "I" guarding Corps CP.

261st Inf: Made preparations to move to new assembly area Vic MURSBACH (2367). AT Co guarding installations in ARNSTADT (2653).

Div Arty: Assisted move of 259th Inf by transporting Inf Trs. Detachment from 868th FA Bn guarding ammunition train GERSTUNGEN (4646)

265th Engr (C) Bn: Departed for new assembly area Vic BRAUNACH (2358) 160700.

16-17 April 1945

CP's: ARNSTADT (2653) GERMANY and BREITENGUSSBACH (2657) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div relieved from control VIII Corps and passed to command XX Corps 17 Apr 1600. Began move to new assembly area Vic BREITENGUSSBACH (2657), 170630. Units enroute at close of period.

259th Inf: (Atchd: see 15-16 April).

Regt closed into assembly area Vic HUMMELSHAIN (7448) 161430. Made preparations to move to new assembly area Vic STETTfeld (1456). Departed for new assembly area 170900. Regt enroute at close of period.

260th Inf: Atchd: 1 Plat Co "B", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "B" (-), 365th Med Bn, 868th FA Bn.

Made preparations to move to new assembly area Vic GERACH (1963). Departed for new assembly area 170630. All units closed new assembly area 172020.

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261st Inf: Atchd: 1 Plat Co "C", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "C" (-), 365th Med Bn, 869th FA Bn.

Made preparations to move to new assembly area Vic MURSBACH (2367). Departed for new assembly area 171415. Regt enroute at close of period.

Div Arty: (less 867th, 868th, 869th FA Bns). Departed for new assembly area Vic STAFFELBACH (1654) 170930. Assisted move of Div by transporting Inf Trs.

65th Rcn Tr: Initiated move to new assembly area Vic EBING (2761) 171800.

265th Engr C Bn (-): Initiated move to new assembly area Vic BRAUNACH (2358) 170800. Closing in area at end of period.

NOTE: 18 April and all succeeding days represent operations for 24 hour period 0001 to 2400.

18 April 1945

CP: BREITENGUSSBACH (2657) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div closed in new assembly area Vic BAMBERG (2749) at 181630. Made preparations for movement to new assembly area Vic SCHNAITTSBACH (6013).

259th Inf: (Atchd: see 16-17 April (except Co "C", 808th TD Bn Atchd))

Regt closed into assembly area Vic STATTFELD (1456) 180430. Rehabilitation, maintenance of arms and equipment carried on throughout period. Made preparations for movement to new assembly area Vic DEHNBERG (5610) 191100.

260th Inf: (Atchd: see 16-17 April (except Co "A", 808th TD Bn Atchd)).

Rehabilitation, maintenance of arms and equipment carried on throughout period. Made preparations for movement to new assembly area Vic OB-KUMBACH (6711) 190700.

261st Inf: (Atchd: see 16-17 April (except Co "B", 808th TD Bn Atchd)).

Regt closed into assembly area Vic MURSBACH (2367) 180830. Rehabilitation, maintenance of arms and equipment carried on throughout period.

Div Arty: Assisted move by transporting Inf Trs. Made preparations for movement to new assembly area Vic KIRCHROTTENBACH (5515).

65th Rcn Tr: Closed into assembly area Vic EBING (2761) 180230. Prepared to screen left flank of Div assembly area Vic SCHNAITTSBACH (6013).

265th Engr C Bn (-): Continued maintenance and constructed Class 40 pontoon bridge over MAIN R Vic BAUNACH (2358).

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By: 28 NAVA, Dm

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19 April 1945

CP: BREITENGUSSBACH (2657) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div initiated move to new assembly area Vic SCHNAITTACH (6012) with two CT's, 65th Div Arty and 748th Tk Bn. Remainder of Div to move beginning 200700. Preparations made to move Div to new assembly area Vic ALTDORF (6293).

259th Inf: Atchd: 1 Plat Co "A", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "A" (-), 365th Med Bn, 867th FA Bn, Co "C", 808th TD Bn.

Regt moved to new assembly area Vic DEHNBERG (5610). Preparations made for movement to new assembly area Vic HAUSHEIM (6687).

260th Inf: Atchd: 1 Plat Co "B", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "B" (-), 365th Med Bn, 868th FA Bn, Co "A", 808th TD Bn.

Regt moved to new assembly area Vic OB-KRUMBACH (6411). Preparations made for movement to new assembly area Vic SINDLBACH (7091).

261st Inf: Atchd: 1 Plat Co "C", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "C" (-), 365th Med Bn, 869th FA Bn, Co "B", 808th TD Bn.

Preparations made for movement to new assembly area Vid OBERNDORF (6798).

Div Arty: Assisted move of Div by transporting Inf Trs and moved to new assembly area Vic KIRCHROTTEBACH (5515).

65th Rcn Tr: Moved from assembly area Vic EBING (2761) 190600 and screened left flank of new Div assembly area Vic SCHNAITTACH (6012).

265th Engr C Bn (-): Preparations made for movement to new assembly area Vic SCHNAITTACH (6012)

20 April 1945

CP's: BREITENGUSSBACH (2657) and ALTDORF (6299) GERMANY.

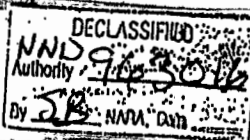
After Action Summary: Div attacked to the SE in zone 200600 capturing the towns of TRAUTMANNSHOFEN (7789) and LAUTERHOFFEN (8092) and many other populated localities. 259th Inf fighting in the town of NEUMARKT (7182) at close of period. Counterattack Vic STAPPACH (6713) repulsed by 1st Bn, 260th Inf, destroying two Mk LV Tks, one SP Gun, one half track, one personnel carrier and four AT Guns. Heavy personnel casualties inflicted on enemy. Preparations made to continue attack 21 April.

259th Inf: Attacked to the SE in zone 200600 Apr making good progress against moderate resistance. Several populated localities captured. At close of period NEUMARKT (7182) about 1/3 cleared. Aggressive patrolling to front and flanks. Preparations made to continue attack 21 Apr.

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260th Inf: Attacked to the SE in zone 200600 April capturing the towns of TRAUTMANNSHOFEN (7789), LAUTERHOFEN (8092) and many other populated places. 1st Bn repulsed a counterattack in the Vic of TRUEF (6716), STAPPACH (6713). The enemy attacked at approximately 200615 with Inf, tanks and SP guns. Towns of TRUEF (6716), STAPPACH (6713) and SIEF-ITZHOL (6817) demolished. Heavy casualties inflicted on enemy personnel and equipment. At close of period 2d and 3d Bns consolidating positions Vic LAUTERHOFEN (8092), TRAUTMANNSHOFEN (7789). 100 PW's captured during period. Preparations made to continue attack 21 April.

261st Inf: Departed for new assembly area 200750. Completely closed into new assembly area 201830. Occupied positions to protect Div left (N) flank. Initiated search of area for enemy stragglers. Regt occupying positions in Div Res at close of period.

808th TD Bn: Repulsed armored counterattack Vic STAPPACH (6713), destroying two Mk LV tanks, one SP gun, one half track, one personnel carrying vehicle and 3 AT guns, killed estimated 24 enemy. Delivered assault fire Vic STAPPACH (6713).

65th Rcn Tr: Performed reconnaissance in Div zone and on left (N) flank assisting 261st Inf protect Div left (N) flank.

21 April 1945

CP: ALTDORF (6293) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div continued attack to SE in zone limiting line capturing many populated places. Towns of PFEFFERTSHOFEN (7587) and KEGETHEIM (7799) destroyed by fire. 259th Inf continued to attack NEUMARKT (7182) at close of period about 1/2 cleared. Counterattack Vic NIESASS (8094), repulsed by 3rd Bn, 260th Inf. Heavy personnel casualties inflicted on enemy. Preparations made to continue attack 220700.

259th Inf: Atchd: Co "C", 81st Cml Bn.

1st Bn continued attack to SE to limiting line. At 211530 1st Bn Attacked to SW and occupied high ground SE of NEUMARKT (7182) to assist 3rd Bn in its attack of that town. 2d Bn occupied positions in left (N) portion of zone vacated by 1st Bn. 3rd Bn continued to attack NEUMARKT (7182) against strong resistance. Preparations made to continue attack to SE 220700.

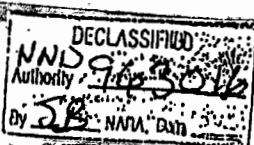
260th Inf: Regt continued attack to limited line, capturing many populated places. 3rd Bn repulsed a counterattack in the Vic NIESASS (8094) inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Towns of PFEFFERTSHOFEN (7587), KEGETHEIM (7799) destroyed by fire. At close of period Bns consolidated positions and maintained aggressive patrols. Preparations made to continue attack 220700.

261st Inf: Regt continued aggressive protection of Div left (N) flank. Regt, less 2 Bns, remained in position in Div Res. Continued search of area for enemy personnel. Preparations made to assemble Vic DEINSCHWANG (7294) and protect Div right (S) flank with one Bn when Div right (N) flank is covered.

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Div Arty: Fired in support of the Div advance on enemy OP's gun positions and personnel inflicting many casualties.

65th Rcn Tr: Assisted 261st Inf protect Div right (N) flank. Preparations made to assemble Vic ALTDORF (6293) when covered by elements of 71st Inf Div.

22 April 1945

GP: ALTDORF (6293) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div continued attack to the SE in zone 220700 capturing PELCHENHOFEN (7583), DIETKIRCHEN (7984), WEISENACKER (8283), OB-BUCHFELD (7879), PFAFFENHOFEN (8292), KASTEL (8693), ENGLSBERG (8287), PONS DORF (8585) and many other populated places against scattered to moderate resistance. Passed elements of 43rd Cav Gp through Div throughout period. Counterattack Vic GUNCHING (7980) repulsed by 2d Bn, 259th Inf 221900. Preparations made to continue attack to SE 230700.

259th Inf: Atchd: Co "C", 81st Cml Bn.

Regt continued attack to SE 220700 with 1st and 2d Bns against moderate resistance. 2d Bn repulsed counterattack Vic GUNCHING (7980) 221900. 3d Bn continued to attack NEUMARKT (7188). Regt cleared towns of PELCHENHOFEN (7583), DIETKIRCHEN (7984), WEISENACKER (8283) and OB-BUCHFELD (7879). Prepared to continue attack 230700.

260th Inf: Regt continued attack to SE 220700 against scattered to moderate resistance. Elements 43d Cav Gp passed through Regt throughout period. PFAFFENHOFEN (8292), KASTL (8693), ENGLSBERG (8287), PONS DORF (8585) and many other populated places captured. KASTL (8693) turned over to elements 71st Inf Div. Prepared to continue attack 230700.

261st Inf: Regt continued aggressive protection of Div left (N) flank until relieved by 65th Rcn Tr. 2d Bn moved and assumed protection of Div right (S) flank. Regt prepared to assemble Div Res Vic BERG (6988) early 23 April.

748th Tk Bn (-): Assisted advance of Inf by destroying BRUNN (8294) by supporting fire. Supporting fire placed on automatic weapons and buildings, 3 cavalymen and 3 horses were killed in KASTEL (8693).

65th Rcn Tr: Relieved 261st Inf of protection of Div left (N) flank. Prepared to assemble Vic UTZENHOFEN (8789) 23 April.

23 APRIL 1945

GP's: ALTDORF (6293) and VELBURG (8677) GERMANY.

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After Action Summary: Div continued attack in zone capturing the towns of LUPBURG (9269), HARDT (9668), PARSBERG (9070), SEE (9367), UTZENHOFEN (8789), FREISCHWEIBACH (8787), GRIFFENWANG (9084), KITTENSEE (8982), BATZHAUSEN (8172), EICHEWHOFEN (8572), KLEIN (7973) and many other villages and populated localities, and clearing NEUMARKT (7188). Div advanced rapidly along entire front against scattered enemy resistance. At close of period advance was continuing with good progress being reported. 260 PW's cleared through PWE during the period.

259th Inf: Continued attack to the SE making rapid progress against scattered enemy resistance, capturing the towns of LUPBURG (9269), HARDT (9668), PARSBERG (9070), SEE (9367) and many other populated localities, NEUMARKT (7188) cleared.

260th Inf: Continued attack to the SE in zone making good progress against light enemy resistance, capturing the towns of UTZENHOFEN (8789), FREISCHWEIBACH (8787), GREFFENWANG (9084), KITTENSEE (8982) and many other populated places. At close of period units were continuing to advance.

261st Inf: Passed through portion of 259th Inf zone and attacked to the SE making rapid progress against slight enemy resistance, capturing the towns of BATZHAUSEN (8172), EICHENHOFEN (8572), KLEIN (7973) and other populated localities. Elements of 3rd Bn continued to occupy high ground SW of NEUMARKT (7082). Elements of 2d Bn protected Div right (N) flank NW of NEUMARKT. At end of period units were continuing advance in zone.

24 April 1945

CP's: VELBURG (8677) and DEUERLING (0437) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div continued attack in zone capturing the towns of SCHONHOFEN (0854), EILSBRUNN (0953), BERGMATTING (1050), DASSWANG (8668), WILLENHOFEN (9165), HEMAU (9558), PAINTEN (9851) and many other populated places. Div advanced rapidly along entire front against slight opposition. Progress was continuing at close of period.

259th Inf: Continued advance in zone until pinched out by 260th Inf and 261st Inf, assembled Vic BERATZHAUSEN (9763) in Div Res.

260th Inf: Continued attack to the SE in zone making rapid progress against slight resistance. Many terrain obstacles encountered. SCHONHOFEN (0854), EILSBRUNN (0953), BERGMATTING (1050) and many other populated places captured.

261st Inf: Continued attack to SE in zone making rapid progress against light resistance capturing towns of DASSWANG (8668), WILLENHOFEN (9165), HEMAU (9558), PAINTEN (9852) and other populated places. Continued protection of Div right (S) flank. At close of period units were continuing to advance in zone.

65th Rcn Tr: Screened Div right (S) flank from NEUMARKT (7182) to HEMAU (9558).

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CP: DEUERLING (0457) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div moved to forward assembly areas during period in preparation for crossing of DONAU R. 2d Bn, 261st Inf, captured WALDORF (0146).

259th Inf: Regt protected Div right (S) flank from PAINTEN (9852) to . KELHEIM (0344) with 3d Bn. Remainder of Regt Div Rest Vic BERATZHAUSEN (9763). Preparations made to stage forward in Div zone to Vic VIEHAUSEN (0951) early 26 April.

260th Inf: Atchd: Co "B", 94th Cml Bn, Co "B", 748th Tk Bn.

Regt moved to forward assembly area late in period. Prepared detailed plans for crossing DONAU R 260200 April.

261st Inf: Atchd: Co "C", 94 Cml Bn, Co "C", 748th Tk Bn.

2d Bn captured WALDORF (0146) and assisted in the capture of KELHEIM (0344). Regt moved to forward assembly area. Prepared detailed plans for crossing DONAU R 260200 April.

Div Arty: Moved to forward positions and prepared plans to support Div crossing of DONAU R 260200 April.

808th TD Bn; (-): Assembled preparatory to crossing DONAU R.

748th Tk Bn (-): Remained in position in Div Res.

65th Rcn Tr: Continued to screen Div right (S) flank north of DONAU R.

265th Engr C Bn: Constructed Class 40 treadway bridge at LOCH (0654), prepared plans to support Div crossing of DONAU R.

26 April 1945

CP: DEUERLING (0457) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div crossed DONAU R with 260th and 261st Infs abreast beginning 260200. 260th Inf reported light resistance initially during crossing, but encountered heavy resistance as attack progressed. 261st Inf encountered heavy resistance initially, stubborn resistance continued as the attack progressed. At close of period all Bns 260th and 261st Infs, 2nd Bn and elements of 1st Bn 259th Inf had crossed river. A class 40 floating treadway bridge constructed across DONAU R was in operation 262100. Towns of MATTING (1249), GRASSLEFING (1549), OBERNDORF (1347), NIEDER (1648) and LENGFELD (1244) were captured. Operations hampered by rain and poor road net. Attack continuing at close of period.

259th Inf: Regt protected Div right (S) flank N of KELHEIM (0343) until relieved by Div order. Regt moved to forward assembly area beginning 260730 preparatory to crossing DONAU R in zone of 261st Inf. Began crossing 261800 with 2d Bn. At close of period 2d Bn and elements 1st Bn were across R.

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2d Bn relieved 1st Bn 261st Inf to protect Div right (S) flank and Div rear. Regt continued to cross R at close of period.

260th Inf: Atchd: Co "B", 94th Cml Bn, Co "B", 748th Tk Bn.

Regt attacked across DONAU R 260200 in zone with 2d and 3d Bns abreast. 1st Bn crossed in zone of 2d Bn. Enemy resistance initially light, increasing as the attack progressed. Heavy small arms, mortar fire and considerable 88mm fire was encountered. Two Cos of the 1st Bn were sent to assist 261st Inf in capturing high ground SE of ABBACH (1546) Vic PEISING (1644). The towns of MATTING (1249), GRASSLFING (1549), OBERNDORF (1347) and NIEDER (1648) were captured. Attack continuing at end of period.

261st Inf: Atchd: Co "C", 94th Cml Bn, Co "C", 748th Tk Bn.

Regt attacked across DONAU R 260200 in Z with 1st and 3d Bns abreast. 2d Bn crossed in zone of 3d Bn. Strong enemy resistance encountered in the Vic of the crossing site. One Inf support raft knocked out by 88mm fire. The town of LENGFELD (1244) was captured against stiff enemy opposition. Attack continued at close of period.

Div Arty: Fired in support of Div crossing of DONAU R inflicting many casualties on enemy personnel.

546th AAA AW Bn: Atchd to Div Arty.

Protected bridge and crossing sites. Direct fire in support of 261st Inf.

808th TD Bn: Bn destroyed enemy mortar, automatic weapons positions and enemy personnel by fire in support of Div crossing of DONAU R. Elements of Bn across R, remainder of Bn prepared to cross R. 22 Rds HE and 4 Rds APO fired, 31 M-36's operational.

65th Rcn Tr: Relieved from protection of Div right (S) flank. Assembled Vic HEMAU (9588) prepared to cross DONAU R on Div order.

27 April 1945

CP's: DEUERLING (0457) and REGENSBURG (1955) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: The remaining elements of the Div less 3 Bns Div Arty completed crossing of DONAU R. The Div advanced rapidly in zone to position as indicated. The following towns were captured during the period: REGENSBURG (1955), ABBACH (1546), PEISING (1544), OBTAUBLING (2449) and TEUGN (1341). Many populated localities were also captured. At close of period Div consolidating positions and searching for any remaining enemy stragglers.

259th Inf: Regt completed crossing of DONAU R. protected Div right (S) flank in rear of the 261st Inf with 1 Bn. The 2d Bn which was attached to the 261st Inf and the 3rd Bn (Div Res) reverted to control of CO, 259th Inf at 1300. At close of period the Regt was protecting Div assembly area in its zone and the drawbridge over DONAU R in Div sector.

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By: 25 NAVA, DAN

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260th Inf: Regt completed crossing of DONAU R. The 1st Bn launched a combined attack of Inf, Tks and TD's on ABBACH (1546) clearing the town at 0700 thus opening the road between the 260th and 261st Inf. At 0900 it was learned by advanced elements that the REGENSBURG garrison wanted to surrender. General John E. Copeland, Asst Div Comdr, and Col Frank Dunkley, CO of the 260th Inf entered the city with an advance party to negotiate the surrender. The city was surrendered at 1030 by a retired German General, who had taken charge after the regular army commander had left the city 270400 April. By 1400 the Regt had control of entire city. At close of period, Regt had occupied and was policing city of REGENSBURG.

261st Inf: Regt completed crossing of DONAU R. At 1045 the 2nd Bn Mtzd with a Co of TD's (less 2 Plats) departed Vic ABBACH for REGENSBURG. Regt was halted as it moved into REGENSBURG and was given the mission of protecting Div assembly area in its zone.

808th TD Bn: Supported attacking Inf in clearing ABBACH and supported advance into REGENSBURG.

65th Ren Tr: Crossed DONAU R and protected gap between 260th and 261st Inf Regts until relieved by advance of 261st Inf at which time it was given the mission of protecting the Div right (S) flank. At close of period outposting line and maintaining contact with 71st Inf Div.

94th Cml Bn: Assisted in the capture of ABBACH by firing preparation. Initiated and completed crossing of DONAU R.

28 April 1945

CP: REGENSBURG (1955) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div continued to occupy and maintain law and order in REGENSBURG (1955). Continued protection of Class 40 floating treadway bridge across DONAU R. 259th and 261st Inf protected Div assembly area. Some small arms, MG and 88mm fire was encountered during period. 260th Inf policed REGENSBURG. Training and rehabilitation program initiated. Elements of 80th Inf Div, 3rd Cav Gp and 13th Armd Div passed through Div zone during period. Regts continued to search areas for enemy personnel.

259th Inf: Regt protected Div assembly area, encountering small arms, MG and 88mm fire during period. Protected Class 40 floating treadway bridge over DONAU R. Passed elements 43d Cav Sq, 13th Armd and 80th Inf Divs through zone. Regtl area being cleared of remaining enemy personnel.

260th Inf: Regt continued occupation of REGENSBURG (1955). Maintained active defense of area to prevent enemy counterattack. Patrolled city to prevent looting and maintain order. Rehabilitation and training program carried on.

261st Inf: Regt protected Div assembly area, searched woods and towns in zone for remaining enemy personnel. Rehabilitation, training and maintenance program carried on.

65th Ren Tr: Maintained contact with 71st Inf Div until relieved by Div order. Assembled Vic REGENSBURG (1955).

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29 April 1945

CP: REGENSBURG (1955) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div continued to occupy and maintain law and order in REGENSBURG. Continued protection of Class 40 floating treadway bridge across DONAU R. 259th and 261st Infs protected Div assembly area. 2d Bn, 259th Inf accepted the surrender of a German Labor Bn of 624 men. 260th Inf policed REGENSBURG (1955). Regts continued search of area for remaining enemy personnel. Training and rehabilitation program in operation.

259th Inf: Regt continued protection of Div assembly area and Class 40 floating treadway bridge over DONAU R. Search of Regtl area for enemy personnel continued. Rehabilitation and training program in operation.

260th Inf: Regt continued occupation of REGENSBURG (1955), maintained control of civil population through defense of area and active patrolling. Rehabilitation and training program in operation.

261st Inf: Regt continued protection of Div assembly area. Search of Regtl zone for remaining enemy personnel continued. Rehabilitation, maintenance and training program in operation.

30 April 1945

CP: REGENSBURG (1955) GERMANY.

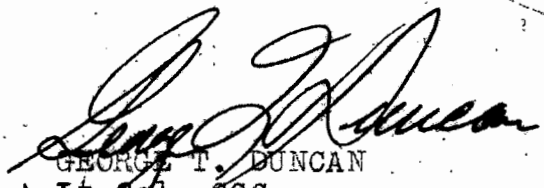
After Action Summary: (See 29 April 1945). 3rd Bn 261st Inf, sent to STRAUBING (5543) to quell civilian riot.

259th Inf: (See 29 April 1945). Made preparations for move to SE across ISAR R.

260th Inf: (See 29 April 1945). Made preparations for move to SE across ISAR R.

261st Inf: 3d Bn sent to STRAUBING. (5593) to quell riot of civil population. Made preparations for move to SE across ISAR R.

265th Engr C Bn: Co "A" assisting 1306 Engr Regt in construction of Bailey bridge across DONAU R at (1856).


GEORGE T. DUNCAN
Lt Col, GSC
A G of S, G/3

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HEADQUARTERS 65TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 200 U. S. ARMY

11 July 1945

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X Auth: CG, 65th Inf Div X
X Init: *SWP* X
X Date: 11 July 1945 X
XXXXXX

Subject: After Action Report for May 1945 (Action Against Enemy).

To : Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(Through Channels)

INTRODUCTION:

The final week of war was simply a question of what hour - what hour would the ultimate surrender come? All along the European front, the western half was squeezed against the eastern, until there was no space left to the enemy. In the zone of the 65th Division, there was less than 45 miles between the American and the Soviet front lines on V-E Day.

The 65th Division's final drive in this squeeze play was a rapid southeastern advance in a zone south of the DANUBE between REGENSBURG and the EMNS river, just east of LINZ. In between, these two cities, the Division crossed the ISAR and the Inn Rivers. It also met the last desperate pockets of resistance from the last desperate diehards in the Wehrmacht.

NOTE: ALL TIME MENTIONED BELOW IS TWO HOURS AFTER GREENWICH TIME.

PERIOD 1 MAY TO 8 MAY:

Operations Instructions No 35 governed the Division's first operations in a zone which ran in a southeastward direction, south of the DANUBE, from the ISAR river to its termination at the EMNS river. This latter river acted as the restraining line between United States and Soviet forces on V-E Day. The Division operated between the 26th Division on the north, and the 71st Division on the south.

Operations Instructions No 35 provided for the movement to forward assembly areas south of the ISAR, from which the Division would attack to the southeast. At the beginning of this movement, the 13th Armored was to spearhead the attack, while the 65th Division followed, and was to be prepared to pass through the 13th on Corps order. The 65th Rcn Tr was to head the units departing from the REGENSBURG assembly area, in order to maintain contact with the 13th Armored and to reconnoiter routes to the Division's front. By motorizing their infantrymen, the 261st and 259th Infantries were to advance rapidly abreast with the former unit on the Divisions left (north) flank and the latter on the right (south) flank. The 260th, meanwhile, would follow in the zone of the 261st. All three regiments and Division Artillery had cleared the IP prior to 011800.

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BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 1 Aug 46

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By: SP-5 NAVA, DASH

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By 012400, part of the 261st Infantry had crossed the ISAR and made rapid progress to the southeast, to put elements of its 2d Bn in SANDBACH (0816) on the DANUBE side of its zone, and its 1st Bn at ALDERSBACH (9412) on the side abutting the zone of the 259th. Meanwhile, the 259th, had crossed the ISAR over the PLATTING (7732) bridge, and was driving across the 261st zone so as to enter its own zone, with the 3d Bn near AUROLFING (8718) in the lead. The 261st ran into its first pocket of resistance at HAUSBACH (0515).

The advance to the southeast continued rapidly during the next day, when both the 261st and the 259th advanced 30 miles to reach the INN river while one company of the 1st Bn, 261st, was reported already across the river at 022400. The 2d Bn, 261st met up with heavy mortar and 88 fire coming from enemy positions south of PASSAU (2112) across the INN, in addition to small arms fire in the town itself. The PASSAU battle was another example of a bitter enemy holding action. By 022200, three quarters of the town had been cleared after a fight which had begun about 0915. PASSAU finally capitulated at 030030, after the 868th FA, the 546 AAA Bn, and the 808th TD Bn, together with the doughboys, had blasted 300 SS men and three Mark IV Tanks from the town's rubble. Mopping up continued throughout the day.

While the 2d Bn was stopped in PASSAU, the 1st Bn, 261st Infantry, was on the INN River at a point 8 miles south of PASSAU, opposite SCHARDING. Reconnaissance patrols, which had been sent ahead of the Bn, arrived on the east bank at 0515, 2 May to have the long NEUHAUS-SCHARDING bridge blown in their face.

By 1200, the 1st Bn reached the vicinity of NEUHAUS, and set up defensive positions in and behind the town. The battalion was reinforced by two Cos from the 265th Engr Bn, which moved through the infantry to take up positions on the north bank of the river. About 1430, a 261st officer, who had crossed to SCHARDING to ascertain whether the town would be surrendered, returned with a negative answer. The Engineers immediately set up machine gun positions along the river, and had just completed their defenses when the enemy opened up from the opposite side. There was a brief, but fierce, exchange of fire when the Engineers temporarily took up the role of the Infantryman.

While the Engineers fought their brief battle, the 1st Bn sent out scouting parties to look for boats and a fording site.

They returned with the Judge Advocate Generals of both the German Army and Navy, who, like the GI's, had been stranded by the blown bridge. They also produced one large-sized rowboat in which the 1st Bn, 261st Infantry, started across the river.

Not a shot was fired at the boats, although 88's aimed at our artillery positions arced the river throughout the night. The enemy had been blasted from intrenched positions in SCHARDING by an artillery and heavy weapons barrage between 1500 and 1730. They were battered once more by a ten minute preparation before the rowboat took off.

After the initial rowboat crossing, four engineer assault boats increased the flotilla. "A" and "C" Cos had crossed by midnight. The rest of the battalion reached the west bank between 0430 and 0800 in a number of assault boats rushed to the INN during the night. The next morning, the Wehrmacht woke up in SCHARDING cellars, where they had hidden since the barrage, to find Americans on top of them.

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While the 259th and 261st Infantry were mopping up and initiating crossings of the INN, the 260th was advancing swiftly behind the 261st. The 3d Bn was ambushed at SANDBACH (0915), and because there were reports of other by-passed enemy troops in the woods harassing the Division rear, Operations Instructions No 36 was issued at 030400, which provided that one battalion clear the woods along the PASSAU road between the verticals 09 and 21, while the remaining two battalions crossed the INN at SCHARDING. The 2d Bn was given this assignment, and during 3 May removed over 300 by-passed enemy troops from the area.

This same Operations Instructions provided for a switch in zones of operation with the INN crossing. The 260th (which had left REGENSBURG trailing the 261st in the zone on the left flank of the Division, immediately south of the DANUBE) had changed into a similar rear position behind the 259th after crossing the ISAR. Now the 260th (1st and 3d Bns leading, with the 2d Bn pulling up after the completion of its mopping-up operation) was ordered to pull through 259th positions in the right flank zone, and to follow the 261st across the INN. The 261st, however, on crossing the river, was to continue to the southeast in the right flank zone (what had been the 259th zone), while the 260th was to turn north out of the SCHARDING bridgehead after making the crossing, to reach the parallel zone to that of the 261st, on the Division's left flank. The 260th and 261st would therefore continue the advance abreast to the ENNS River restraining line, as the 259th trailed in the zone of the 261st.

By 032400, the 1st Bn, 261st, the 3d Bn, 259th, and the 1st, 3d, and elements of the 2d Bns, 260th Infantry had crossed on ferries with part of the 65th Rcn Tr. The remainder of the Division crossed on the bridge which was completed at 0900 , 4 May.

At the close of the period for 3 May, the 1st Bn, 261st, had reached WAIZENKIRCHEN (5389), 20 miles to the southeast, against extremely light enemy opposition.

Operations Instructions No 37, dated 031300, gave the new objective of the 65th Division as LINZ (8587), while Operations Instructions No 38, dated 052330, further defined the final Division objective as the ENNS River, which was to act as the restraining line between the American and Soviet forces. The regiments were to proceed rapidly in their zones to take these objectives.

The Division drove forward on the last lap of its march through the Reich, meeting only small delaying forces enroute, notably at ERFERDING (6587). About 051200, right flank of the XII Corps, on the Division's left, reached LINZ, which had been entered at 1100 by elements of the 11th Armd Div. They were relieved by the 260th, which entered the metropolis between 1700 and 1730 the same afternoon.

The 261st arrived at the ENNS River, overrunning the city of ENNS itself without a battle, at 2245. On 6 May, the 259th Infantry advanced from its rear positions as Division Reserve, to an area abreast of, and to the right of, the 261st zone, to complete the holding of the ENNS River line, which, for the 65th was the segment between the confluence of the ENNS and the DANUBE at (030823), south along the River to the Division boundaries between the 65th and the 71st, at (013675). Meanwhile, the 260th began the policing of the LINZ area.

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Operations Instructions No 38 also directed that all bridges over the ENNS be seized (there were two, one at ENNS itself, and the other a foot bridge at (012692), while officer-led patrols crossed the river to attempt to contact Soviet forces. Operations Instructions No 39, dated 071600, limited the distance east of the river to which these patrols could do as the line (060817) south in a straight diagonal to (040680). On this same day, about 1115, the 869th FA sent a volley of 105's sailing into the narrow pocket still remaining to the enemy. For the 65th Division, these shells marked the end of the war against Germany.

One hour and five minutes before these final explosives boomed in enemy territory, the Division received the following message which notified the 65th of the termination of the war with Germany.

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT ZERO SEVEN ONE ZERO FIVE ZERO BAKER FROM ROMAN TWENTY CORPS PAREN LT COL DUNGAN CMA GEORGE DASH THREE SECTION PAREN BY TP CLN

THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND SIGNED AN AGREEMENT FOR UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER OF LAND CMA SEA AND AIR FORCES AT ZERO SEVEN ZERO ONE FOUR ONE STOP ACTIVE OPERATIONS WILL CEASE AT ZERO NINE ZERO ZERO ONE STOP EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY ALL TROOPS WILL STOP MOVEMENT AND ACTIVE OPERATIONS STOP DUE TO THE FACT THAT COMMUNICATIONS ARE SO POOR THERE WILL PROBABLY BE SOME ACTION ON THE PART OF THE ENEMY AND WE WILL HAVE TO REMAIN ON THE DEFENSIVE STOP

Twenty four hours before the V-E Day announced in this message became official, all German troops confronting the 65th Division surrendered unconditionally. Laying down their arms, they came into our PWE's by companies, regiments and divisions. In one week, the Division caged cleared 61, 602 PW's, more than were taken during the rest of the period in which the 65th was fighting in Germany.

At the official time set for V-E Day, Major General Stanley E. REINHART, Commanding General of the 65th Infantry Division, met the Russian General commanding the 7th Parachute Guard in the tiny Danubian hamlet of ERLAUF, 45 miles east of LINZ, and 55 miles west of VIENNA. A Division which had come east from SAARLAUTERN met another which had come west from STALINGRAD.

As during the month of April, G-2 reports continued to concentrate on the number of enemy troops and the kind of weapons which the Division had to face at such scattered points of resistance as PASSAU, NEUHAUS, the area north of FURSTENZELL and EFERDING.

Some Division personnel were killed and wounded on the eve of victory in the last fierce resistance of the dying Wehrmacht. Relative to the entire Division, however, these casualties were slight.

	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>
Officers	5	4	0
Enlisted Men	55	9	0


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CONCLUSION:

The final collapse of Germany came swiftly. The 65th Division moved the 135 miles from REGENSBURG to the ENNS river in ~~less than a week~~ ^{4 1/2 days}. The war only ended on the 65th front, as it ended on other fronts, when the Germans ran out of maneuvering room. Actually, there was no doubt about the imminent defeat when the month began. The final week only proved that there were still those Germans, so thoroughly indoctrinated with fervor for the Fatherland, that they would continue to conduct small delaying actions at scattered points right up to V-E Day. The surprising thing, perhaps, is that the German was as good a defensive fighter, even at the end, as he was. These small holding actions, however, stubborn as they sometimes were, cannot blur the overall picture, which was almost a sprint (135 miles in 5 days) down to the finish line.


S. E. REINHART,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS 65TH INFANTRY DIVISION

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APO 200, US Army
6 July 1945

Subject: Operations

To : CG, 65th Infantry Division, APO 200, U. S. Army.

1 May 1945

CP's: REGENSBURG (1955) and PLATTING (7633) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div initiated movement to forward assembly area south of ISAR R 011200 May. Elms of 259th and 261st Infs crossed ISAR R and began advance to SE in zone making rapid progress against scattered enemy resistance. Occupied the towns of PLEINTING (9620), ALDERSBACH (9413), VILSHOFEN (0118), OSTERHOFEN (8824) and many other populated localities. Units of Div enroute at close of period. Advance of 259th and 261st Infs continuing.

259th Inf: Atchd: Co "A", 748th Tk Bn, 1 Plat Co "A", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "A", 365th Med Bn, Co "C", 808th TD Bn,
D/S: 867th FA Bn.

Departed assembly area Vic REGENSBURG (1955) 011530. Elements crossed ISAR R and began advance in zone. Regt continuing advance at close of period making good progress.

260th Inf: Atchd: Co "B", 748th Tk Bn, 1 Plat Co "B", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "B", 365th Med Bn, Co "A", 808th TD Bn.
D/S: 868th FA Bn.

Departed assembly area REGENSBURG 011800 May as Div Res. Regt enroute to assembly area Vic SCHONERTING (9615) at close of period.

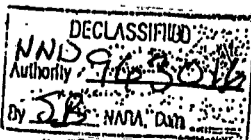
261st Inf: Atchd: Co "C", 748th Tk Bn, 1 Plat Co "C", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "C", 365th Med Bn, Co "B", 808th TD Bn.
D/S: 869th FA Bn.

3d Bn arrived STRAUBING (5422) 010230 to maintain law and order. 3d Bn reverted to Regt Res upon relief. AT Co guarding PWE at OB-TRAEUING (2450) relieved by elements of 5th Ranger Bn 011200. Regt departed assembly area Vic REGENSBURG (1955) 011330. Crossed ISAR R and began advance in zone making rapid progress. Stiff enemy resistance encountered in HAUSBACH (0515). 2d Bn captured SANDBACH (0715) 012230. Regt continuing advance at close of period.

Div Arty: (less 867th, 868th and 869th FA Bns). Departed assembly area Vic REGENSBURG (1955) 011700. Supported advance of Div. Bns assisted move of Div by transporting Inf Trs. Units enroute at close of period.

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65th Rcn Tr: Departed assembly area Vic REGENSBURG (1955) 011200.
Crossed ISAR R and began reconnaissance in Div zone in advance of
Inf Regts.

265th Engr C Bn: Departed assembly area Vic REGENSBURG (1955) 011500.
Crossed ISAR R and gave close support to advance of 259th and 261st Infs

2 May 1945

CP's: PLATTING (7633) and FURSTENZELL (1106) GERMANY.

After Action Summary: Div continued advance to SE in zone, moving 30 miles during period. Elements of 259th Inf reached INN R, encountering no resistance. 260th Inf enroute to assembly area Vic GRUND RESCHAU (1001) at close of period, Regt in Div Res. 261st Inf advanced to INN R, 2d Bn cleared three quarters of PASSAU in Div zone, 1st Bn attacked across INN R to SCHARDING (2002) against strong resistance initially, and at close of period one company had completed crossing. 3d Bn assembled in Regt Res.

259th Inf: (Atchd: See 1 May).

Continued advance in zone, making good progress against no resistance.

260th Inf: (Atchd: See 1 May).

1st Bn closed assembly area Vic HADER (1099) 022000B May. 2d Bn enroute to assembly area Vic GRUND RESCHAU (1001) at close of period. 3d Bn enroute to assembly area Vic SANDBACH (0915) at 021600B May. Regt in Div Res.

261st Inf: (Atchd: See 1 May). Support: Co "I", 259th Inf.

1st Bn arrived Vid NEUHAUS (2001) and attacked across INN R to SCHARDING (2002) at 1855. At close of period, one company had completed crossing and remainder of Bn was continuing to cross. Initial slow crossing was the result of lack of boats. Strong resistance consisting of Arty and MG fire was initially encountered, but was largely neutralized by supporting Arty, MG and AAA weapons. 2d Bn attacked PASSAU in zone and at close of period had cleared three quarters of town in zone. 3d Bn assembled Vic NEUKIRCHEN (1506).

Div Arty: 869th, 968th and 720th FA Bns placed heavy concentrations on enemy positions prior to crossing of INN R and gave supporting fire during crossing.

65th Rcn Tr: Reconnoitered routes in Div zone and assisted 3d Bn, 260th Inf in combatting enemy ambushing forces Vic (0915).

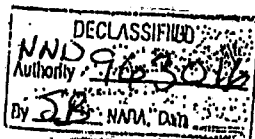
265th Engr C Bn: Bn (-) closed new assembly area. Assisted crossing of 1st Bn, 261st Inf on INN R.

3 May 1945

CP's: FURSTENZELL (1106) and NEUHAUS (1900) GERMANY.

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After Action Summary: Div continued rapid advance to SE in zone, with leading elements of 261st Inf at WAIZENKIRCHEN (5329). Section of PASSAU in Div zone cleared and policed. SCHARDING cleared. At close of period all troops were across INN R or were prepared to cross on bridge at NEUHAUS (1900) upon its completion. Numerous PW's captured during period.

259th Inf: (Atchd: See 1 May (except 867th FA Bn Reld D/S)).

3d Bn attached 261st Inf effective 031300B. Regt (-) moved to new assembly area and prepared to cross INN R on Div order. At close of period Regt was in process of crossing and assembling Vic SCHARDING (2001) in Div Res. preparing to stage forward in zone of 261st Inf.

260th Inf: Atchd: Co "B", 748th Tk Bn, 1 Plat Co "B", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "B", 365th Med Bn, Co "A" 808th TD Bn, 868th FA Bn, 1 plat, 65th Rcn Tr.

2d Bn cleared woods Vid SANDBACH (0915) taking 300 PW's. Regt moved to new assembly area, prepared to continue attack to SE. At close of period 1st and 3d Bns were across INN R and 2d Bn is in process of closing.

261st Inf: Atchd: Co "C", 748th Tk Bn, 1 Plat Co "C", 265th Engr C Bn, Co "C", 365th Med Bn, Co "B", 808th TD Bn, 869th FA Bn, 3rd Bn, 259th Inf, Co "A", 94th Cml Bn, 65th Rcn Tr (- 1 Plat).

808th TD Bn: 3d Plat, Co "B", supporting 2d Bn, 261st Inf in clearing PASSAU, destroyed two Mark IV tanks.

65th Rcn Tr: Reconnoitered PASSAU - NEUHAUS (1900) road. Assisted 260th Inf in clearing woods S of REGENSBURG - PASSAU road. Contacted 71st Inf Div on right flank.

265th Engr C Bn: Elements of Bn operated boats to effect crossing of 1st Pl, 261st Inf. Bn assisted in construction of Bailey Bridge across I. S. R.

4 May 1945

CP's: NEUHAUS (1900) GERMANY and RAAB (3739) AUSTRIA.

After Action Summary: NEUHAUS - SCHARDING bridge completed 0900. All elements of Div completed crossing of INN R by 041800B. 260th Inf continued rapid advance in zone against scattered resistance. 261st Inf continued advance to SE in zone against moderate resistance. 259th Inf staged forward in zone of 261st inf. Div advanced approximately 12 miles.

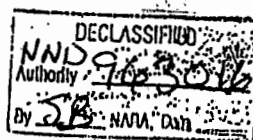
259th Inf: (Atchd: See 1 May).

Regt (- Bn) completed crossing of INN R and staged forward in zone of 261st Inf.

260th Inf: (Atchd: See 1 May).

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Regt completed crossing of INN R and advanced rapidly in zone against scattered enemy resistance. At close of period 1st Bn had captured EFERDING (6587), and 2d and 3d Bns were continuing advance to the SE in zone.

261st Inf: (Atchd: See 1 May).

Regt (-2d Bn) completed crossing of INN R and continued advance in zone. 2d Bn continued police and occupation of PASSAU. 1st Bn assembled Vic WAIZEHRHOFEN during organization of task force. 3d Bn advanced in Reg zone against moderate enemy resistance. 3d Bn, 259th Inf in Regtl Res. I & R Plat and I Plat, Co "E" were captured in EFERDING BY SS troops while on reconnaissance for Regt, but I & R Plat leader arranged for and effected equal exchange of enemy prisoners for himself and his men.

Div Arty: Completed crossing of INN R.

808th TD Bn: Completed crossing of INN R.

748th Tk Bn: Completed crossing of INN R.

65th Rcn Tr: Tr (-1 Plat) attached 261st Inf. Completed crossing of INN R.

265th Engr C Ba: Bn crossed INN R.

5 May 1945

CP's: RAAB (5789) and LINZ (8588) AUSTRIA.

After Action Summary: Elms of Div advanced to Corps objective. 260th Inf occupied LINZ 051723, relieved elements XII Corps in LINZ. 259th Inf advanced in zone. Div advanced 25 miles during period. 261st Inf captured ENNS (0080) and reached ENNS R.

260th Inf: (Atchd: See 1 May).

Regt continued advance to E in zone, relieved elements XII Corps in LINZ and occupied the city. At close of period was policing the city of LINZ and maintaining law and order. In advance on LINZ, resistance consisting of Arty fire was encountered Vic (8285) initially, but was neutralized and the advance was continued without opposition.

261st Inf: (Atchd: See 1 May).

Regt continued advance in zone to Corps objective encountering moderate resistance from AA Guns and Mortar artillery, Vic (7578) and (7374). Regt accepted surrender of enemy garrison at NEUBAU (7979). 2d Bn at close of period, enroute to join Regt. ENNS captured (0080).

65th Rcn Tr: (1 Plat) attached 261st Inf. Reconnoitered routes in advance of 261st Inf. 1 Plat reconnoitered routes in advance of 260th Inf.

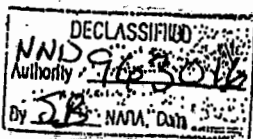
6 May 1945

CP: LINZ (2588) AUSTRIA.

After Action Summary: Div consolidated positions on ENNS R line. 260th Inf continued occupation and police of LINZ.

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8 May 1945

CP: LINZ (8588) AUSTRIA.

After Action Summary: The 260th Inf Regt continued occupation and police of LINZ. The 259th and 261st Inf Regts continued consolidation of positions along W bank of ENNS R. Three officers from the Russian 7th Parachute Division contacted the 259th Inf Regt and were brought to Div CP, arriving at 081845B. Elms of 261st Inf Regt contacted Russian forces in Vic STRENGBERG (1372) at 081845B.

259th Inf: (D/S: See 6 May).

Regt consolidated positions on W bank of ENNS R and maintained reconnaissance patrols and security outposts E of ENNS R, to limiting line. Bridge at (0070) guarded on E and W banks of river. 3 Russian officers of the 7th Parachute Div contacted forward Elms of Regt at 1910 and were conducted to Div CP.

260th Inf: (D/S: See 6 May).

Regt continued occupation, police, and guarding of vital installations in LINZ. Active patrols were continued to prevent looting. 1 Plat guarding airfield at (7880).

261st Inf: (D/S and Atchd: See 6 May).

Regt consolidated positions on W bank of ENNS R and maintained reconnaissance patrols and security outposts E of ENNS R to limiting line. Bridge at (0080) guarded on E and W banks of ENNS R. A patrol of the 2d Bn contacted the Russian forces in Vic STRENGBERG (1372) at 081845B.

65th Recon Tr: Elms reconnoitered routes from ENNS R to IMNS R in Div zone.

George I. Duncan
GEORGE I. DUNCAN
Lt Col, GSC
A G of S, G/3

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