

W03 (10-39) C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS II CORPS ARTILLERY
APO 19

From: 051800 Oct '44
To : 061800 Oct '44

CORPS ARTILLERY INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERBATTERY REPORT NO. 129

1. General Intelligence:

Our forces continued their steady progress against increased resistance coming principally from automatic-weapons and mortar fire. On the left our troops are generally along the 25 northing between the 77 and 80 eastings, with advanced elements on the right of this sector reported to have advanced to (808-265) and (830-257). In the center our front lines run generally along the 255 northing from the 86 to the 94 easting. Stiffest opposition to our advance is still being encountered on the right, where only slight advances have been made.

2. Enemy Artillery Activity:

Enemy artillery activity showed an appreciable decrease over the previous period with the heaviest concentrations directed at our front line troops vic LOIANO (8723), S. BENEDETTO (90-21) and area NE of BELVEDERE (9818). Light harassing fire was directed at highways N of MONGHIDORO (85-18) and NW of CASTEL DEL RIO (00-16).

A total of 350 rds was reported falling in the II Corps sector. With the exception of 26 rds of medium caliber landing in the 00-17 sq, the activity during the night was one of the lightest we have enjoyed for sometime.

Between 0830 A and 0845 A, 20 rds of light caliber were reported falling in the 99-19 sq., while at the same time the 90-21 sq. received 18 rds which caused some casualties. The 87-24 sq. received a 100 rd concentration of light caliber starting at 1235 A. 20 rds of heavy were reported falling in the 00-20 sqs between 1330 A and 1350 A. The final activity for the period was a 30 rd concentration of light in the 90-21 sq. at 1445 A.

3. Enemy Artillery Disposition:

The rainy weather continues an obstacle to both air and ground observers in locating the enemy artillery now withdrawing before our advancing troops. Mountainous terrain likewise continues to obstruct sound ranging.

The absence of harassing fires on our main axis of supply, under conditions which are very favorable to the enemy, leaves the condition and whereabouts of his medium and long range weapons, normally used for this purpose, problematical at this time.

4. Counterbattery Missions:

Air OP: 0 Flash: 0 Unobserved: 34
Grd OP: 0 Sound: 0

Changes In Hostile Battery List No. 8

DELETE from SUSPECT List: SU 8625, TG 8626, RP 9723

DELETE from AA List: HBA 8726

5. Miscellaneous:

WEATHER: Rainy with poor visibility.

NOTE: Survey Operations: Following changes noted in Italian trig:

98/334 MONTE VENERE 580913.1 - 422701.8

98/353 TRE POGGIOLI - Amend description to read "Center line of masonry pillar 9 feet high."

For the Commanding General:

Philip P. Thoin
PHILIP P. THOIN
Lt Col FA

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-2
Per RAS

403 (5)

C O N F I D E N T I A L

10-30

HEADQUARTERS II CORPS ARTILLERY
APO 19

From: 041800 Oct '44
To : 051800 Oct '44

CORPS ARTILLERY INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERBATTERY REPORT NO. 128

1. General Intelligence:

The attack launched this morning met moderate resistance, with stiff opposition reported in the vicinity of MONZUNO (82-24), LOIANO (86-23), M. BIBELE (90-23) and SAN MARTINO (89-23). In spite of a stubborn enemy, difficult terrain and adverse weather conditions, our forces have made good progress, with front lines extending between the following points: 770-200, 820-255, 840-235, 920-235, 960-260, 970-230, 000-230, 020-190 and 080-170. At the close of the period, an enemy counter attack, against our right flank, in strength of 2 - 3 companies that was preceded by an artillery preparation, was successfully repulsed.

2. Enemy Artillery Activity:

Poor visibility, the extensive counterbattery fire received yesterday and the necessary retirement to other positions contributed to the decided decrease in enemy shelling which totaled about 600 rounds of mixed caliber.

Between 2000A and 2050A, 110 rounds of light, medium and heavy calibers fell in the 06-17 square. The remainder of the night produced light harassing fires in the 99-19 square causing some casualties.

The morning activity was very light except for two heavy concentrations, 30 rounds of light in the 06-16 square and 40 to 50 rounds of light and medium calibers in the 77-18 square which caused some casualties. The tempo increased during the afternoon with concentrations ranging from 10 to 30 rounds of light and medium in the following squares: 82-22, 85-18, 87-22, 00-17, 81-21, 81-24 and 78-10.

3. Enemy Artillery Disposition:

No new locations of gun positions have been received during the period. Sound azimuths show that the TOSSIGNANO (07-23) gun group was active as well as those of light and medium caliber between the 80 and 88 easting.

4. Counterbattery Missions:

Air OP: 2 Flash: 0 Unobserved: 60
Grd OP: 0 Sound: 0

Changes In Hostile Battery List No. 8

ADD to ACTIVE List:

Square	Name	Coordinates	Acc	Ht	No/Type/Cal	Source	Date
1118	KNA	11260-18530	50	188	2/G/L	PI	10-4

ADD to AA List:

8447	KMA	84040-47363	50	56	4/AA/Hvy	PI	10-4
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DELETE from SUSPECT List: SY 9625, SP 9723

DELETE from AA List : SE 9723

C O N F I D E N T I A L

483 (2)

(Not to be taken into the front lines)

S E C R E T

.....
: S E C R E T :
: Auth: CG 85 Inf Div :
: Initials: *[Signature]* :
: 6 October 1944 :
:.....

FROM: 051200A
TO : 061200A
Eq., 85th Inf. Div.
Vic PIETRAMALA, ITALY
6 October 1944

(p-31)

G - 2 REPORT

Number 95

MAPS: Sheets 98 I - NE SE; 99 IV - SW NW, Scale 1/25,000,

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

a. Enemy front line

No organized enemy defense line was encountered at end of period.

b. Defensive organization

Photo Intelligence reports: Probable enemy occupied house - 96553558; military activity and indications of defense - 95203596; camouflaged object in road - 92143154; possible pillbox - 92193144; probable MG - 92023140; and large warehouse with motor transport in courtyard - 936417.

c. Units in contact

The recent identification of PWs from 65 Fus Bn Vic 8919, II 147 GR Vic 9022 and I Bn 117 GR Vic 9426 together with today's new identification of II Bn 117 GR Vic 955260 fulfills the anticipation of outside troops appearing in the M BIEBLE - SASSONERO area. Reliable sources report that the counter-attack Vic 9426 was also made by newcomers, elements of the I Bn 147 GR.

It was believed that the badly battered remnants of 362 Inf Div and Lehr Brigade would withdraw through a delaying position held by comparatively fresh troops. It is still too early to determine whether the newly identified units came into line with such a mission or whether they were sent to reinforce the tired troops. Latest identifications show a mixture of new and old units and does not help answer this question. However, PW statements indicate that 362 Fus Bn have been ordered to the Vic of BOLOGNA. The rest of the division, may well be on its way to the North, under cover of the overcast and rainy weather of the last few days.

d. Forces Capable of Intervention:

From the 65 Inf Div we have identified 65 Fus Bn and 147 GR. Still unlocated are 145 GR and 146 GR and auxiliary troops.

From the 98th Inf Div we have identified 117 GR. Still unlocated is 289 GR and auxiliary troops. The 290 GR of this division has been engaged for several days in Vic M BATTAGLIA (0617).

No definite reports have been received to indicate that any of the unlocated elements of either of these divisions are headed this way; but it appears that the gap between II Bn/147 and I Bn/117 may be filled in by one of the unlocated regiments.

Another division which might make its appearance in this vicinity is the 148 Res Div (8 Jaeger Regt and 239 GR) recently reported moving East from its last known location, NW of GENOVA.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

a. General Summary

During afternoon stiff resistance continued in left sector. At 1310A tank fire was reported in SAN MARTINO (8922) from NE. Considerable mortar and Arty fire and strong MG fire from 920235 was reported in center. Moderate Arty and mortar fire reported in right sector until late afternoon. Preceded by a 15 minute Arty and mortar preparation, an estimated enemy company attacked elements of right regiment Vic 948260 at 1730A. This attack was broken up by our Arty and long range MG fire.

Light enemy activity was reported during the night. Eight rounds of Arty were reported in OSTERIA (8918) at 2215A.

During the morning advancing elements of left regiment encountered MG fire from Hill 455 (930255) and observed enemy on Hill 455 (930251) in right of sector. No resistance reported in advance of elements in extreme left of sector. Light Arty fire was reported on forward element of the right regiment.

IPW REPORT

<u>Number</u>	<u>PWs</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Captured at</u>
11		2 Co; 117 GR	950260
6		3 Co; 117 GR	944260
2		7 Co; 117 GR	955260
4		14 Co; 1059 GR	940255
3		Eng Pl; 956 GR	950260
1		Bic Pl; 956 GR	950260
1		II Bn Hq; 956 GR	954226
7		8 Co; 956 GR	952242
2		2 Co; 362 Med Bn	958233
1		6 Co; 147 GR	895224
4		1 Co; 1060 GR	925231
4		2 Co; 1060 GR	928231
1		3 Co; 1060 GR	930231
10		7 Co; 1060 GR	907230
3		Lehr Bde	935230
60	Total		

I Bn 117 GR

GENERAL: 117 GR (formerly 282 GR) of 98 Inf Div was in rest, being re-organized after hvy casualties, on RIMINI front, near FORLINOPOPOLI between 15 and 27 Sept. Moved to CASA LURADE 28 Sept. I Bn took over sector and went into psns along 26 Northing between 94 and 95 Easting, 0100 5 Oct. I Bn CP at PALFONA (947262).

ORGANIZATION: Regt was reorganized after RIMINI engagement by using remnants of Cos to build up I Bn. Additional rpls came fr reserve personnel recalled fr civilian life since the "Total Mobilization" order.

STRENGTH: 2 Co - 60 men - 10 LMGs; 3 Co - 60 men - 10 LMGs.

II Bn 117 GR

GENERAL: II Bn arrived in psn, between 95 and 96 Easting along 26 Northing, 1700 3 Oct. 6 Co prepared psn in 2 Co sector by mistake and was ejected upon arrival of I Bn.

ORGANIZATION: II Bn arrived in Italy as a rpl Bn fr DOEBERITZ (trng ground of Lehr Bde in Germany) and was put into 117 GR as II Bn in its entirety.

STRENGTH: 7 Co - 80 men - 10 LMGs. PWs state other Cos are same strength as 7 Co.

956 GR

Remnants of II Bn 956, Bicycle Pl and Eng Pl - total strength of app 50 men - are still committed in former sector despite appearance of 117 GR. II Bn is badly disorganized having suffered by casualties and having lost practically all officer personnel.

6 Co 147 GR

GENERAL: PW states his Co went into psn 2 Oct. He had become separated fr unit and was unable to give units location. PWs fr 7 Co 1060 GR state II Bn 147 GR was on their right which would place unit in Vic 9020.

STRENGTH: 6 Co 147 GR - 70 men - 10 LMGs.

I Bn 1060

DISPOSITION: 1 Co vic 925231 (4 Oct); 2 Co vic 928231 (4 Oct); 3 Co vic 930231 (4 Oct).

STRENGTH: 1 Co - 13 men (4 Oct); 2 Co - 30 men (4 Oct); 3 Co - 20 men (4 Oct); 4 Co - 40 men (4 Oct).

7 Co 1060 GR

DISPOSITION: 907230 night 4/5 Oct.

STRENGTH: 10-45 men.

LEHR BDE

The Lehr Bde is now one BCo under Lt Betz and 4 Co (Lt Buchenberger). Lehr Bde held sector E of I Bn 1060 vic 935230 3 and 4 Oct. Total strength is reported as 75 men. Capt von Hindenburg is in command of both Bns. Interrogated by: Capt A.C. Hobeiman; S/Sgt R.E. Kuhn; T/3 P. Reif.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

b. Operations of Component Elements

(1) Armored Forces: One enemy tank was found destroyed in SAN MARTINO (8922). Tank fire was reported in SAN MARTINO from the NE at 1310A.

(2) Artillery: During early afternoon moderate and scattered Arty fire fell on forward elements in Div zone. Prior to enemy attack at 1730A, a 15 minute heavy Arty and mortar concentration was laid on forward elements of right regiment. SP guns firing from 955256 and 958258 were taken under our Arty fire at 1730A. Eight rounds of Arty fire were reported in OSTERIA (8918) during the night. Light Arty fire was reported on forward elements of right regiment during morning.

(3) Infantry: Stiff resistance continued in left sector during afternoon with three MG nests encountered on Hill 577 (908238) at 1445A and short clash with enemy on Hill 577 at 1845A. Considerable mortar fire was reported in center of zone, reported as coming from draws SW and W from BISANO - BORGO di BISANO road and heavy MG fire from 920235.

At 1730A an estimated enemy company attacked the right regimental forward positions in Vic 948260 from the East after a 15 minute preparation of Arty and mortar fires. This attack was repulsed by our Arty and long range MG fire. During the night, slight infantry activity was reported.

During the morning MG fire from Hill 455 (930255) was encountered by the left regiment and a few enemy were observed on Hill 376 (930251). No resistance was reported in extreme left of sector. Four enemy MGs in Vic CASTELNUOVO (9124) were reported by civilians as having withdrawn night of 4/5 October.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

a. Estimated enemy casualties: Moderate.

b. Prisoners - Through Div cage during period 60
- Total during current operations 1490
- Total to date 3912
- Breakdown - See Annex #1.

c. Enemy Methods: Deception: A lane marked with white tapes and a notice "Mines Cleared" was found by engineers between the MARECCHIA and USO rivers. As the words "Mines Cleared" is an unusual designation, the lane was swept and found to contain both Box and "SCEU" mines.

Incidents have been reported from FRANCE of Germans leaving notices bearing inscription "Verges Swept" along mined roads. (Source: 13 Corps I.S. #167)

d. Weather: Forecast 24 Hours from 1800A 6 October 1944. Mainly cloudy - occasional rain, Fair periods late tomorrow.

e. Shortage of Signal Equipment in German Army: Following is a translation of a letter from G - 3, 20 GAF Div:

Div Hq. 17. 9. 44

A particular instance makes it necessary to point out again that signal equipment will not be loaded onto one or only a few vehicles.

The danger of loss is too great, if this is not strictly observed. Replacement of radio equipment is impossible, and every unit must get along with its present allotment.

I, therefore, order that signal equipment, and above all, wireless sets be dispersed among as many vehicles as possible. (Source: 5 Corps I.S. #390 as reproduced in 13 Corps I.S. #167).

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES

No Change. See G-2 Report No. 94.

Wadsworth
WADSWORTH
Acting G-2.

S E C R E T

423

(5)

(Not to be taken into the front lines)

10-35

SECRET

SECRET
Auth: CG 85 Inf Div
Initials: PDW
7 October 1944

FROM: 061200A
TO : 071200A
Hqs 85 Inf Div.
Vic PIETRAMALA, ITALY
7 October 1944.

G - 2 REPORT

Number 96

MAPS: Italy Sheets 87 II SE, 88 III SW, 98 I NE, 99 IV SW. 1:25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

a. Enemy front line.

Enemy front line from East to West Hill 528 (945268); Hill 423 (942263); Hill 424 (939264); LA VILLA (937263); Hill 436 (931263); 929263; Hill 360 (926255); Hill 394 (919256); Hill 505 (915256); Hill (911256); Hill 418 (905260); Hill 432 (896255).

b. Defensive Organization

Enemy is organized on prominent terrain features. Most of the enemy positions so far located, are in houses, in one case in a church.

c. Units in Contact

From E to W the enemy order of battle appears to be II Bn/289 GR (only 6 Co identified); II Bn 117; I Bn 117; 1060 GR; II Bn 147 GR. No confirmation has been received of the report that I Bn 147 GR was on our extreme right front, in fact PWs from II Bn report that they had expected I Bn to follow them by marching, and it would not yet be due to reach this area. The 362 Inf Div is slowly disappearing from our front. The 1059 GR is reported to have withdrawn night of 5/6 Oct but 1060 GR continues to be represented by PWs taken as late as 1600 on 6 Oct.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

a. General Summary

Scattered light resistance encountered in left regimental sector during afternoon and night. Friendly advances generally to 20% Northing encountered moderate LG, Mortar and S/A fire toward end of period. Friendly patrols reported enemy activity on all prominent terrain features North of 26 Northing in right regt sector. Arty concentration followed by S/A fire on forward positions Vic 945260 at 2335A. Artillery and mortar fire generally harassing throughout period. Patrol encountered heavy mortar barrage at 945261 at 1645A.

b. Operations of Component Elements

(1) Armored Forces: 752 Tank Bn reports that tracks of Tiger tanks have been noted at several places in Division Sector indicating that one or more of that type of enemy tanks may be operating in this sector. SP fire was reported on both flanks of right regiment.

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 Authority NO 735077
 By MS NARA Date 8-15-06
S E C R E T

(2) Artillery: Two heavy concentrations of Arty fire fell on Western slopes of Hill 408 (9325) during the afternoon and there was a concentration Vic 945261 at 2335A. Otherwise artillery was harassing throughout period. Heavy barrages of Mortar fire Vic 945260 at 0610A. Mortar fire was otherwise intermittent and harassing. Partisan reported mortars behind haystack at 919257.

(3) Engineers: Bridge at 920251 was found completely demolished. Bridge at 918246 reported intact.

(4) Infantry: Light resistance in left regimental sector up to 25 Northing. Toward end of period S/A, MG and Mortar fire encountered at Hill 408 (937257). Friendly patrols encountered enemy troops on Hills 415, 424, (9326), 423, 438, (9426), 424, 407 and 386 (9525). Enemy on these hills were reported to be digging and preparing defensive positions. Partisan reports the church at CASTELNUOVA di BISANO (9025) is being used by enemy as an OP. Troops also report that church is occupied by enemy, and that a priest's house nearby is utilized as an enemy Hqs. Enemy encountered Vic 915253 withdrew after a short fire fight. PW states that the 12 remaining men in 7 Co, 1059 Regt are operating in coordination with an SP unit. Demolished bridge at 920251 was found to be defended by enemy troops. 337th Inf continued to mop up scattered enemy in regimental sector during period.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

a. Estimated Enemy Casualties. Moderate

b. Prisoners

- Through Div cage this date	17
- Total during current operation	1507
- Total to date	3929
- Breakdown	- See Annex #1

c. Radio Security

PW states 44th Division moved their CP from TOSSIGNANO (0723) because they intercepted a message giving information of proposed bombing of TOSSIGNANO the following day. (Source: 88th Div Periodic Report 5 Oct 1944).

d. Enemy Espionage

(1) An Italian woman was arrested by our troops after her questions regarding the locations of our officers quarters had excited suspicion. The house in which the officers were staying was hit the same night.

(2) A man in well cut civilian clothes, purporting to be an Italian, was arrested in our forward area, due to the vigilance of a Partisan in spotting the stranger's bad Italian accent. Upon interrogation, the man confessed to being a German soldier.

S E C R E T

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Authority NO 735077By MS NARA Date 8-15-06SECRET

(3) Two men in American uniform were arrested behind our own lines. They were German soldiers. (Source: 34th Div., G-2 Report).

c. Weather Forecast: Mainly fair. Scattered showers. Visibility good after early morning mist.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES

No Change. See G - 2 Report No. 94.

Wadsworth

WADSWORTH
Acting G-2.

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