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HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY (CP)
G-2 STRATEGIC SERVICES SECTION
APO 758 US ARMY

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.Auth: CG 7th Army.
.Initials: JC
.Date: 24 Feb 45
JJC/jwdg

REF NO : 70.

24 February 1945

SUBJECT: Military Information, SAARBRUCKEN--LUDWIGSHAVEN/MANNHEIM Area.

TO : See Distribution.

The following information was submitted to the undersigned by an experienced SSS agent who was passed through the German lines at FORBACH (Q-3966) at 0700 hours, 12 Feb 45. He returned to the same location on 23 Feb 45 after a trip east to LUDWIGSHAVEN/ MANNHEIM. See text for date of information. Evaluation, B-2 unless otherwise indicated. See attached sketch for itinerary and dates.

12 February:

1. At Q-9493 agent saw fortification being built 1 km west of EINSIEDLERHOF (Q-9593) consisting of an AT ditch, dragon's teeth.
2. At the EINSIEDLERHOF station, agent saw ammo being loaded into a train. Ammo was brought from a wood south of station. In a period of 1/2 hour he saw 8 to 10 trucks coming out of woods to station loaded with ammo. A non-com in charge of loading told him area had been bombarded several times, but only the station was the target, not the ammo dump. Dump is at Q-943908 according to the non-com. It is built into hillside and is just south of crossroad. C-3.
3. All of the trains on trip were crowded, but passengers were stragglers rejoining their units, and a few civilians. No Volksturm were seen on train.

13 to 17 February:

4. In MANNHEIM (M-5300) the 776th Landesschuetzen Bn is located with the 1st Co in MANNHEIM; 2d Co in MAINZ (M-3856); 3d and 4th Cos in BINGEN (M-1152.) Agent was told this by an armorer for the 776th Bn and this info was confirmed by two other people. The equipment of the 776th: 1st Co has from 100 to 130 men and 1 HMG. The CP of the 776th is located at the Volksschule at the corner of Wasserturm and Rosengarten Strasse. C-3.
5. The Signals platoon of the 42d Inf Regt was in MANNHEIM on 15 Feb 45. C-3.
6. Agent saw Signal Co of Luftwaffe at old airport in MANNHEIM.
7. At KAISERWILHELM Barracks in MANNHEIM is the 1st Co of the 69th Schwere Artillerie Ersatz Abteilung.
8. On 16 Feb between 0500 and 0600 agent saw 2 ammo trains originating in DARMSTADT (M-6543) leaving MANNHEIM for HALLE (D-9428.) The trains had 26 to 28 cars. A troop transport left the same time for the same destination.

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9. The station master at MANNHEIM said that in transporting troops, units of all types, even companies, are split up and assigned to various trains. Every transport train is guarded by troops and carries one 20mm Flak Vierling just behind the engine and 3 or 4 cars behind that a 20mm solo flak. In middle of train there is another 20mm Flak Vierling. On last car of train is another solo flak. The same is true of all trains except regular passenger trains. These defenses were observed by the agent himself, and on several occasions the details were confirmed by others to whom he spoke.

10. The Volksturm in MANNHEIM is not armed as yet and has been used for digging.

11. In MANNHEIM no tanks, and no SP guns were seen.

12. All RR traffic avoids MANNHEIM and goes through FRIEDRECHSFELD (M-6194.)
B-O.

13. No traffic on Rhine River in MANNHEIM area because river has been mined. Only shipping is at present on the Neckar River and the Rhine barges are being unloaded and goods put on Neckar barges. B-O.

14. Agent reports a dump is located between EBERSTADT and SEEHEIM at M-6634 at the northern point of the triangle formed by RR and the EBERSTADT--SEEHEIM road. This dump contains ammo for howitzers and cannon, rifle, MG, panzerfaust, hand grenades. The size of this dump is unknown to agent.

15. Agent saw no signs of units from COLMAR pocket in MANNHEIM.

18 February:

16. A German experiment to discover means of protecting armor from panzerfaust discovered that about 3cm of concrete covering a net is sufficient protection. F-O.

17. Trains between LUDWIGSHAVEN (R-5199) and KAISERSLAUTERN (R-0294) were crowded with Volksturm and troops returning from hospitals.

18. The only troops observed in HOCHSPEYER (R-1394) were 30 to 40 SS Feldgendarmerie.

19. 2 out of 4 barracks located at R-0792 on the side of road half way between HOCHSPEYER and KAISERSLAUTERN have been destroyed by bombing. Two intact barracks are occupied by Volksturm and troops coming from hospital.

20. Between HOCHSPEYER and KAISERSLAUTERN from 1200 to 1600 hours, agent saw about 25 vehicles moving in both directions. Of these, 5 or 6 were military vehicles.

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21. The frontleitstelle in KAISERSLAUTERN is located at Hildegard Kaserne. Cooking is done for an average of 180 men.

22. There were no fixed troops observed in KAISERSLAUTERN. No motor vehicles were seen but agent counted about 20 to 25 horse-drawn vehicles. All troops seen were transients. No tracked vehicles seen.

23. From KAISERSLAUTERN to SAARBRUCKEN, Volksturm has been drafted but not armed.

19 February:

24. Agent saw only one tank in KAISERSLAUTERN, a Mark IV concealed under a bridge.

25. On return trip agent saw no traffic coming from EINSIEDERHOF dump mentioned in par 2 above.

26. On road between KAISERSLAUTERN and SAARBRUCKEN barricades of earth and log road blocks were observed every $1\frac{1}{2}$ kms.

27. In LANDSTUHL (Q-8891) agent saw no tracked vehicular traffic.

28. From KAISERSLAUTERN to ST INGBERT (Q-5476) there is a hard surfaced road in good condition. From ST INGBERT to SAARBRUCKEN, hard surfaced road is in poor condition.

20 February:

29. At NEUNKIRCHEN (Q-5083) much traffic was observed by personnel carrier, military automobile, and civilian car. All troops seen were stragglers and casuals.

30. Russian prisoners numbering possibly 400 men are located in a barracks at Q-5885 in the wood between SCHIFFWEILER (Q-5885) and NEUNKIRCHEN.

21 February:

31. In LANDSWEILER (Q-5684) is a tank repair depot of 3 buildings located at Q-563850 on NE side of RR crossing from NEUNKIRCHEN.

32. Agent talked to tank mechanic in his shop. Man said Baren Tank Div had been expected at LANDWEILER by 21 Feb but had not arrived that date. These tanks were a new King Tiger which belonged to the Baren Div. There were 19 other tanks of various sizes, mostly Mark IV's and V's. Agent saw the new King Tiger, one Mark IV and one Mark V. The mechanic stated he thought tanks being repaired would be assigned to the Baren Div upon arrival. Mechanic thought Baren Div would have its CP at LANDSWEILER and would be committed by 28 Feb.

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Name of CG of this div unknown but he is reported to hold the Knights Cross of the Iron Cross.

22 February:

33. Agent saw flashes and heard sound which he identified as 150mm howitzer going from area between bicycle race course SW. of SAARBRUCKEN from approximately Q-4370 to the FORBACH road. Agent saw no troops and no guns in position.

34. Between 1800 and 2000 hrs, 22 Feb, all troops in SCHOENECK (Q-410695) and ZIEGELHOF (Q-4070) except MP's were moved back to SAARBRUCKEN. Agent observed 1 LFH and 1 ammo train said to belong to the 880th Bn.

35. Radio station at SCHOENECK in the water tower at Q-413692. There is an observer in the tower.

36. RR viaduct at Q-437780 has eastern arch heavily mined and guarded.

37. The road running parallel to and south of the Saar and east of RR tracks is barricaded and blocked by barbed wire and a stone wall about 1½ yds high and about 4 to 5 yds wide at approximately Q-437709.

38. At Q-385706 in CLARENTHAL, CP of 860 Gren Regt was located at 2000 hours. The commanding colonel is located in the same building.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

39. Throughout the trip agent observed no large or integrated troop movements. All traffic observed on road, in trains, and in towns was made up of casualties, stragglers, and soldiers returning from hospitals.

40. On the RR line between HOMBURG (Q-7180) and LUDWIGSHAVEN only train traffic is at night, and from 0600 to 0900 hours in the morning.

41. It is necessary to change at KAISERSLAUTERN and HOCHSPEYER because the RR line is broken in that section. The RR line from HOCHSPEYER to LUDWIGSHAVEN is unbroken. Between LUDWIGSHAVEN and MANNHEIM there is only one RR in operation. It is used to carry workers and military personnel. No civilians are permitted on the train.

For the Commanding Officer:

Incl:

Sketch

DISTRIBUTION:

"A" plus each div
OSS XX Corps

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