

### 1 January 1945

The Second Cavalry Group (Reinforced) – TF Reed – continued on its present mission of protecting the right flank of the XII Corps. The Task Force was still composed of Group Headquarters and Group Reserve and CT Hargis and CT Costello. There were no changes in troops assigned to TFR, however in CT Hargis, one Bn of 372 Engr GS Regt came from Group Reserve and during the hours of darkness relieved the 2d Bn which then reverted to Group Reserve. There were no changes in the zone assigned to TFR – CT Hargis still occupied positions along the Moselle from vic of Remich to Ihnren [Ehnen?] and CT Costello from Ihnren [Ehnen?] to vic of Wossenbillerg [Wasserbillig?] with the town of Machtum itself still occupied by the enemy. The Group Reserve and the 398<sup>th</sup> Engr GS Regt of CT Costello continued intensive training. Little enemy activity was reported. Both CT's improved front line positions. Our patrols were: CT Hargis, one to L019179 and L015041 with no enemy contacts; CT Costello made three attempts to cross the Moselle near Ahn in the face of S/S and MG fire. T/5 Edward Beal, ASN 36636459, was evacuated to the hospital as a result of wounds. The 255 FA Bn, in support, fired harassing and interdiction missions as well as on call from their FOs on targets of opportunity. The supporting 204 Engr Combat Bn continued work on reserve and support positions.

### 2 January 1945

TF Reed continued on present mission with no changes in assignment or disposition of troops. The 215<sup>th</sup> FA which was in general support of our area was moved out by Corps order. The enemy though not aggressive, showed signs of activity in CT Costello zone, and four planes resembling US P-47's strafed and bombed Medange [Medingen?] about one kilometer from Group CP at Moutfort. Our forces improved the reserve and support positions. The 204<sup>th</sup> Engr Combat Bn worked on the barrier lines. The 255<sup>th</sup> FA Bn fired and both Assault Gun Troops delivered H and I as well as supporting a 15 man patrol from Troop A, 2d Cav Sq into Machtum (L062186). The patrol entered from the East and after a short fire fight withdrew with no losses and no prisoners. Other patrol activity was by CT Hargis, consisting of two (2) 6 man patrols across the Moselle which contacted the enemy outpost line on river near Weis and with same results. S/Sgt William H Vath, 31280862, Troop B, was killed by accidentally exploding a booby trap in the troop area.

### 3 January 1945

No changes in troop assignments or dispositions. All reserves continued training. The 808<sup>th</sup> TD Bn completed their reserve and alternate positions. CT Costello sent two (2) small ambush patrols across the Moselle with negative results. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt David A Freeman, O-461342, MC, joined on temporary duty and was assigned to Med Det, 2d Cav Sq. Another newly joined officer, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Charles W Brown, O-1030124, was assigned and joined Troop C, 2d Cav Sq.

### 4 January 1945

The Group continued on its mission without any material change. Visibility was restricted due to snow and fog therefore reports of observation of enemy activity were few, both CTs reported hearing considerable vehicular movement. Our patrols to Machtum and across the Moselle reported no contact but sounds of vehicular movement on roads 3-4 kilometers to the east of the Moselle.

### 5 January 1945

No changes. Engineers completed reserve positions. Patrols to Machtum and across Moselle in CT Hargis area reported no enemy contact but signs of recent occupation. The enemy still holds the general line of the Moselle River but very sparsely.

#### 6 January 1945

No changes. Training of reserves continues. Artillery fired H and I missions and concentrations on call. Machtum was reported reoccupied by enemy by a five man patrol from Troop C of the 2d Cav Sq. In the early hours of the morning the enemy showed his first aggressiveness by sending two 3-5 man patrols to the high ground which we hold S of Machtum. Two members of attached Engineers were killed and one wounded.

#### 7 January 1945

No changes. The reserve Battalions of the 372d and 398<sup>th</sup> Engr GS Regts continued training programs firing their new S/S and Bazookas which are part of the new equipment procured especially for their assignment to their present mission. A six man combat-rcn patrol to Chateau Thorn (L022067) from Troop B, 42d Cav, killed an estimated 10 to 15 enemy and withdrew without casualties after establishing enemy dispositions in this area.

#### 8 January 1945

No changes. CT Costello continued improving defensive positions. Their patrols across Moselle vic Ahn and to vic Nittel reported no enemy contact. CT Hargis also improved all defensive positions and their 3 patrols to Nennig and to a quarry just South of Nennig as well as Wehr had no enemy contact. 808<sup>th</sup> TD Bn constructed additional alternate dug in positions in rear of MLR.

#### 9 January 1945

No pertinent changes. TFR continued on defensive mission. TF Commander issued orders to CT Costello for attack on Machtum to drive the enemy from their last small foothold on the West side of the Moselle.

#### 10 January 1945

No changes. Troop C assembled and order for attack on Machtum issued. To effect this, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, C Co, 398<sup>th</sup> Engr GS Regt relieved 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, Troop C, 2d Cav Sq. Other changes within CT Costello were: B and E Companies of 398<sup>th</sup> GS Regt replaced respectively C and F Cos on the line. Enemy S/S and Mortar fire prevented a 12 man rcn patrol to Machtum from entering town. CT Hargis, patrols were unable even to cross the Moselle due to S/A and MG fire, Mortar and Artillery fire. The enemy has demonstrated increasing alertness along the whole front of TFR.

#### 11 January 1945

No change in troop assignments. However our dispositions were changed where Troop C attacked Machtum from the west with artillery support in form of successive box barrages. Two platoons attacked with one in reserve. Town cleared of enemy by 1530, 14 PWs taken and estimated 9 killed confirming previous estimate of platoon occupying town. PWs from 1<sup>st</sup> Company, 44 MG Battalion stated that they occupied defense on opposite side of Moselle from Wellen (L0614) to confluence of Moselle and Saur Rivers. Our casualties were two EM slightly wounded, Pfc Edwin W Winter, 37347544 (Rtd), and Tec 5 Robert R Anderson, 39907896 (Hosp), and one officer wounded, 2d Lt Albert M Weisberger, O-1010576,

Troop F, 2d Cav Rcn Sq (Hosp). C Troop held the town during the ensuing night. In CT Hargis the only significant action was continued training of the CT Reserve from the Engineers and improvement of existing positions. The TF reserve of one Battalion of the 372d Engineers also continued their training. The TF reserve was also enlarged by the attachment of Co "C", 825<sup>th</sup> T.D. Bn which was placed in supporting position behind CT Costello covering approaches along highway No. 1 to Luxembourg city.

#### 12 January 1945

There was no change in troop assignments however within CT Costello dispositions were changed to the extent that after improving and consolidating positions in Machtum, the 1<sup>st</sup> platoon of Troop C reinforced by 2d platoon, Co "D" of the 398<sup>th</sup> Engr GS Regt relieved the 2d and 3d platoons of Tr C, 2d Cav Sq. The TF now held the entire Moselle river line from vicinity Remich (L0106) to vicinity Mertert (L0923) and was well readied for any crossing in strength the enemy would choose to make. The entire Moselle river line was overlooked by observation posts and dug in three inch AT guns of the 808<sup>th</sup> TD Battalion plus Engineers acting as Infantry from the 398<sup>th</sup> and 372d Engineers in supporting positions all tied together by a double communication system of radio and telephone. Furthermore in reserve the TF commander held the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn of 372d Engineers at Shassig (P9313) and Moutfort (9311) as well as Troop F, 42d Cav Sq also at Shassig. In direct support were the 105's of the 255<sup>th</sup> FA Bn reinforced by both our assault gun troops and A Co of the 808<sup>th</sup> TD Bn in indirect firing positions. However the enemy chose to remain placid – the only activity being the usual flares, scattered artillery and mortar fire and some motor and horse drawn traffic. All reserves continued training.

#### 13 January 1945

No material change. Major Arthur L. Lambert, O-24731, Executive Officer, 42d Cav Sq was hospitalized as a non-battle casualty and dropped from assignment.

#### 14 January 1945

No change in troop assignment or disposition. Patrols attempting to cross the Moselle were prevented from doing so both by S/A and MG fire and ice on the river. In CT Hargis, E and F Troops of 42d Cav Sq started **Ranger Training** [Note from Tacoma Dave: this must surely be Range Training]. There was an increase in vehicle traffic on the far side of the Moselle east of Grevenmacher (L0620) – both wheel and tracked. Supporting troops continued their normal functions while the reserve of Engineers continued training. We supported the attack of the 94<sup>th</sup> Division by artillery fire.

#### 15 January 1945

No significant changes. Received 225 rds artillery on Remich as result of 94<sup>th</sup> Division attack. The enemy evidently had the impression that the attack was launched from that town.

#### 16 January 1945

Changes in dispositions and boundaries extended the zone of responsibility of CT Hargis to the high ground north of Inen [Ehnen?] (L0213). Changes effected were: Troop B (attached to CT Hargis) reinforced by rcn platoon Co "B" of 808<sup>th</sup> TD relieved from anti-airborne patrol vicinity Aspelt (P907040) and replaced Troop A in position from Stadtbredimus (L010080) extending their zone north to Inen [Ehnen?] (025123). Troop A shifted south taking over the remainder of CT zone from Stadtbredimus south from Troop C, which in turn shifted back into CT reserve and assumed responsibility for anti-airborne patrol as well as river line patrol from Bech (L001044) to Wintrange (L000010). CT Costello

continued defense of river line sending one reconnaissance patrol to Wincheringen (L055130) which found town strongly outposted.

#### 17 January 1945

No change in composition of CTs, however, the Commanding Officer of CT Costello relieved Troop C in Machtum area by one platoon of Troop A, 2d Cav Sq. The 808<sup>th</sup> TD Bn redispersed their pieces as follows: 2 from (P997029) and (P998028) (P998093) and (P999086), also 2 from (L036132) and (047149).

#### 18 January 1945

TFR continued on present mission with additional mission of making a demonstration to lure enemy forces away from and in front of 94<sup>th</sup> Division. Both CTs participated as well as the 255<sup>th</sup> FA and supporting 204<sup>th</sup> Engineers and special effects troops with sound trucks. The demonstration, a feint at establishing a bridgehead vic near Kreuzweiller included: increased activity around OPs, increased traffic (emphasis on bridging equipment), combat patrols, and an artillery preparation on proposed bridge site. All this was against a background of armored vehicle noises played by the 12<sup>th</sup> Army Group Special Effects Detachment. The result was a marked increase in artillery fire as well as tanks observed on our front looking for our combat patrols. Our artillery support of 94<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division attack was successful in taking under fire an estimated 300 enemy infantry near Thorn (L0206). Patrols were sent to Kollig (L067157) with no enemy contact and from CT Hargis to vicinity of Castle Thorn (L0206) where they engaged in a sharp fire fight with an estimated platoon of enemy. Our patrol withdrew without casualties. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Robert E Brown, O-508275, was returned to Troop A, 2d Cav Sq after being hospitalized for wounds since 20 Sept 44. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Joseph D King joined TFR Headquarters as acting Assistant Communications Officer on DS from Troop B, 2d Cav Sq. 11<sup>th</sup> Panzer Division identified by 94<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division opposite TFR across the Moselle.

#### 19 January 1945

Normal activities in CT Hargis area. With the presence of 11<sup>th</sup> Panzer Division across the river much more traffic was heard and observed. However, in CT Costello zone a 30 man patrol from Troop C of 3 teams lead by 2d Lt Charles M Little, Jr, O-534795, crossed at Ahn (L053151) and assaulted Rehlingen after a five minute artillery preparation. Results were – one PW and one enemy killed (identified from 44<sup>th</sup> MG Bn), and one of our men, Sgt Beecher L Gates, 31271307, killed and Pfc Melvin M Schmitz, Tr A, 2d Cav Sq slightly wounded.

#### 20 January 1945

Four units all newly arrived in the ETO were added to TF Reed forces and closed in assembly areas (before going into the line) as follows:

284<sup>th</sup> Engr Combat Bn – Biber (L0224)  
285<sup>th</sup> Engr Combat Bn – Dalheim (P9307)  
1252d Engr Combat Bn – Mondorff (P9401)  
1258<sup>th</sup> Engr Combat Bn – Trinrange (P9409)

The Task Force Commander received all commanders and informed them of his plans for their training and equipment, to better fit them for their coming role acting as infantry attached to TFR. In CT Costello area patrols were prevented from crossing the Moselle due to current, ice and enemy fire. In CT Hargis area our TDs emplaced on the heights overlooking the sloping ground across the river fired on 6 Mark V

tanks destroying one, crippling one and forcing the remainder to withdraw. Very heavy artillery fire on Kleinmacher (L0024) forced our CP to change its position. The major portion of the efforts this day TFR was in support of the attack of the 94<sup>th</sup> Division. Approximately 6 inches of snow covered the ground after intermittent snowfall, hard packed in the roads it made driving dangerous. The supporting 204<sup>th</sup> Engr Combat Bn diverted men and equipment to remedying this condition.

### 21 January 1945

The Group Commander received orders from Commanding General, XII Corps to relieve the 372d and 398<sup>th</sup> Engr GS Regt with the 4 Battalions of Combat Engineers, the 284<sup>th</sup>, 285<sup>th</sup>, 1252d and 1258<sup>th</sup>. This disrupted his comprehensive plans for training and equipping the Combat Engineers before putting them into the line. Plans were made to make relief as follows:

<u>New Unit</u>	<u>Old Unit</u>	<u>Under Headquarters</u>	<u>Use</u>
1258 <sup>th</sup> Engr C Bn	398 <sup>th</sup> Engr GS Regt	CT Costello	On line
285 <sup>th</sup> Engr C Bn	372d Engr GS Regt	CT Hargis	On line
1252d Engr C Bn	398 <sup>th</sup> Engr GS Regt	CT Costello	CT Reserve
284 <sup>th</sup> Engr C Bn	372d Engr GS Regt	TF Reed	TF Reserve

The remainder of the TF continued on present mission and assisted 94<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division with TD and artillery fire as well as information of enemy movements on their front. Patrol was sent by CT Hargis to Palzem (L0206) where it encountered 30 to 40 enemy killing several and withdrew without casualties or prisoners. Vehicular activity and prisoners captured by 94<sup>th</sup> Division indicate 11<sup>th</sup> Panzer still active opposite TFR across the Moselle River. The supporting 255<sup>th</sup> FA Bn reinforced by a Co of TDs and both our Assault Gun Troops fired on call as well as H and I fire. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt William C Watkins, O-1032495, Troop B, of 2d Cav Sq was hospitalized for sickness. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt William M Morrison, commanding Troop C, 2d Cav Squadron was promoted to Captain as of 18<sup>th</sup> January 1945. Capt. Morrison's troop was in CT Costello reserve with 20 men attached to Troop A, to reinforce their positions around Machtum at night.

### 22 January 1945

Important changes in composition of the TF were attachment of the 9<sup>th</sup> TD Group Headquarters, which TF CO planned to place in command of Group Reserve and in charge of all training. Also the 1258<sup>th</sup> and 1252d Engineer Bns completed relief of 398<sup>th</sup> Engineers in CT Costello area – the 1252d and Co A, 1258<sup>th</sup> being placed on line reinforcing the Cavalry positions. Preparations continued for relief of 372d Regiment by the other two Engr Combat Battalions. TF Reed maintained the defense of the Moselle River – normal patrol activities and outpost activities. High water, ice, and bright moonlight made the river difficult to cross. 2d Lt Gordon A Groebe, O-2001135 (former WOJG and M/Sgt Groebe) assigned to Hq, 2d Cav Sq as Adjutant.

### 23 January 1945

Relief of 372d Engr GS Regt by 285<sup>th</sup> Engr C Bn in line reinforcing in CT Hargis, and by 284<sup>th</sup> Engr C Bn in Group Reserve was completed (see operations overlay). The two CT areas were not changed. Training of the reserves was resumed again. The enemy (416 VG Div and 11<sup>th</sup> Panzer Division) continued to devote most of his efforts to resisting pressure of 94<sup>th</sup> Division by delivering harassing artillery fire, and for the first time Nebelwerfer fire into our area vicinity Kleinmacher (L003046). Our TDs and artillery fired on vehicular targets in front of 94<sup>th</sup> Division destroying one truck and driving off two tanks. Sounds of revelry

in Chateau Thorn during night were dampened by our TDs and artillery. Patrols to Palzem (L015082) and Wehr (L019110) reported no enemy contact.

#### 24 January 1945

Only normal patrol and outposting activities although there were many changes in the rear areas. 9<sup>th</sup> TD Group headquarters closed completely in Oetrage (P933125). The 1258<sup>th</sup> Engr C Bn CP moved from Trintrange (P948090) to a farm about a mile east of Flaxweiler at (L011191). 284<sup>th</sup> Engr C Bn moved from Mondorff into barracks at Oetrage (P933125). Both the 398<sup>th</sup> and 372d Engrs GS Regts reverted to control of ADSEC and moved to Rheims and Verdun respectively.

#### 25 January 1945

Only routine enemy and friendly activity in CT Costello zone. Patrols unable to cross because of bright moonlight and enemy S/S fire. In CT Hargis zone Troop B, 2d Cav Sq fired cal 50 and 37 MM on Wehr (L0211) at 0700A as a diversionary measure for limited objective attack of 94<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on that place. Training of reserve continued. Supporting TDs and artillery fired normal missions. 204<sup>th</sup> Engineers continued on snow removal and road maintenance.

#### 26 January 1945

No changes in composition or dispositions of TF Reed. Engineers were now disposed as follows: 284<sup>th</sup> Engr C Bn in TFR reserve, 1258<sup>th</sup> Engr C Bn less one platoon (on line) in CT Costello reserve. 285 and 1252 Engineers in line with CT Hargis and CT Costello respectively, and 204<sup>th</sup> Engineers in support performing normal Engineer functions in rear area. All patrols unable to cross Moselle because of ice. Report was received from XII Corps, CIC that a person posing as an escaped Frenchman impressed into Todt organization picked up by elements of 398<sup>th</sup> Engr GS Regt near Machtum confessed to being an enemy short range agent.

#### 27 January 1945

Only normal routine activities throughout TFR area except in CT Hargis zone where TDs on Moselle River heights destroyed enemy tank at (L037065) in front of 94<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division thereby assisting their operations. Enemy outpost line along Moselle appears to have thinned.

#### 28 January 1945

Normal activities in maintaining defense of Moselle River line from vicinity of Remich (L0106) to vicinity Wasserbillig (L1124). Ice made patrolling across river impossible. Co "C" 285<sup>th</sup> Engr C Bn relieved Co "A" at Waldbredimus (P951074) Co "A" assembled at Bous (P982071). Remainder of 285<sup>th</sup> Engr C Bn and 1258<sup>th</sup> Engr C Bn continued infantry training.

#### 29 January 1945

A demonstration similar to that held ten days previous using the same deceptive measures was made between Ihnen [Ehnen?] and Grevenmacher. As a result the enemy increased flare activity and artillery fire in CT Costello zone.

#### 30 January 1945

Our activities resumed normal cycle however the enemy exhibited his first real aggressiveness when he sent a 15 man raiding party to Ahn (L0545) where they attacked a six man outpost of Troop C which was reinforcing the position at night from reserve. They captured 5 (Pvt William W Rhodes, 20323256, Pfc Leo F Cycon, 32034775, Pfc Hastings, 34602333, Tec 5 Albert M Shousky, 36728409, Pvt Bob B Alcorn, 386776655[?]) and slightly wounded Sgt James B Dunn, 34602310. Although one of the enemy patrol deserted to our troops in Machtum before the attack, due to misunderstanding of what he was trying to say warning was not soon enough to avert the event. Information extracted from the deserter established the fact that elements of the II Bn, 713 Inf, 416 Div were holding the river line from Nittle (L0619) to the south. Detailed information of the town of Kollig (L0615) formed the basis of an attack for the following night.

### 31 January 1945

Poor visibility restricted our observation of enemy activities. The combat patrol to Kollig was unsuccessful because they returned to this shore upon hearing enemy fire off their left when approaching their objective. 2d Lt Eugene D Crisman, O-1019071 was in charge. Our outposts in Ahn were reinforced. CP of 1252d Engr C Bn moved from Biwer (L019242) to Flaxweiler (P996197). Co "C", 825<sup>th</sup> TD Bn relieved from attachment to TFR and assembled preparatory to joining parent unit vicinity Luxembourg city. Other units continued improving defensive positions and training.

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#### I. Losses in Action, Officers and Men

The below listed officers and enlisted men from duty to hospital as battle casualties, and dropped from assignment per Section II, Circular No 69, Headquarters European Theater of Operations, United States Army, dated 13 June 1944:

#### 2d Cavalry Rcn Sq

1. (a) Engagement: Manternach, Luxembourg, 1 Jan 1945  
(b) Name: Beal, Edward B, 31283366, Tec 5  
(c) Wounded: DOW
2. (a) Engagement: Manternach, Luxembourg, 1 Jan 1945  
(b) Name: Salyers, Eugene, 36636459, Tec 5  
(c) Wounded: LWA
3. (a) Engagement: Manternach, Luxembourg, 2 Jan 1945  
(b) Name: Vath, William H, 31280862, Sgt  
(c) Wounded: KIA
4. (a) Engagement: Berg, Luxembourg, 11 Jan 1945  
(b) Name: Anderson, Robert R, 3990786, Tec 5  
(c) Wounded: KIA
5. (a) Engagement: Berg, Luxembourg, 19 Jan 1945  
(b) Name: Gates, Beecher J, 31271307, Sgt  
(c) Wounded: KIA

6. (a) Engagement: Betzdorf, Luxembourg, 30 Jan 1945  
(b) Name: Dunn, James B, 34602510, Sgt  
(c) Wounded: LWA
7. (a) Engagement: Flaxweiler, Luxembourg, 11 Jan 1945  
(b) Name: Weisberger, Albert M, O-1016281, 2d Lt  
(c) Wounded: LWA

#### 42d Cavalry Rcn Sq

1. (a) Engagement: Wehr, Germany (L0199009) Nord de Guerre, 23 Jan 1945  
(b) Name: Rogers, Elwood Z, 12215260, Tec 5  
(c) Wounded: LWA
2. (a) Engagement: Palzem, Germany, (L013083) Nord de Guerre, 26 Jan 1945  
(b) Name: Huson, Hobart Jr, O-1012889, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt  
(c) Wounded: LIA
3. (a) Engagement: Palzem, Germany (L103083) Nord de Guerre, 26 Jan 1945  
(b) Name: Maes, Tito J, 38071162, Sgt  
(c) Wounded: LWA
4. (a) Engagement: Ihnen [Ehnen?], Luxembourg (L026122) Nord de Guerre, 27 Jan 1945  
(b) Name: Campbell, Charles J, 32759631, Tec 5  
(c) Wounded: KIA

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