



S E C R E T

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

From: 132100B May 45
To: 142100B May 45Hq 80th Inf Div
In the field

142100B May 1945

No 240

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD: No change.2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD:

a. General Summary: Mvmt of enemy Trs into designated assembly areas continued. 12 officers and 26 EM, specially trained saboteurs from an unidentified SS Para unit, surrendered at 140800B to our forces via BAD AUSSEE (V5408).

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. PWs today: Through MP channels - 38
Through Med channels - 0
Total to date - 187,678
- b. Enemy dead buried today - 0; total to date - 2,153.
- c. Enemy Trs destroyed today - 0; total to date - 205.
- d. CMC Det Operations: No change.
- e. Sunrise 15 May 45 - 0554B; Sunset 15 May 45 - 2050B.
- f. Weather:

(1) During Period: Continued fair and warm.

(2) Forecast: Fair and warm with scattered clouds during day. Visibilities greater than 5 Mi. Trafficabilities to continue good. Max Temp 86°, Min Temp 52°.

g. "In a Fieseler Built for Two" A In pilot for Commanding General Ninth German Army took a short reconnaissance flight to view the Russian Army opposite BERLIN. The sight was so discouraging that he decided to fly West, but picked his fiancée up for company. The couple landed at ROSSDORF, where they were captured by a 6th Armored Division Artillery liaison pilot. The plane was recovered by Corps Artillery Air Officer, and the happy couple were hustled off to the 76th Infantry Division cage for their honeymoon. (Source: SHAEF Weekly Int Notes No 60)

h. Black Market: A considerable number of civilians in KOETHEN, GERMANY, were able to obtain an unpurified alcohol. Several families were found to be in possession of as much as five gallons of this fluid. It is believed that this is the fluid used for V-2 propulsion. The liquid itself is deadly poisonous. These civilians apparently intended to distill and manufacture a home made liquor, which was later to be sold or bartered in shops, stores, or other homes for food and other commodities which are difficult to obtain at the present time. Confiscations have already been made in two houses. Up to the present moment no other black market is reported to be in existence. No US supplies appear to be in commercial circulation. (Source: 9th US Inf Div).

- i. The Fuehrer Interviewed: Annex #1.
- j. KONRAD HENLEIN, Gauleiter of SUDETENLAND: Annex #2.
- k. "Free AUSTRIA Movement": Annex #3.
- l. Statistics Regarding the Cremation Plant at Camp BUCHENWALD: Annex #4.
- m. Removal of the Tattoo Blood Group Marking by SS Members: Annex #5.
- n. No Peace For The Wicked: Annex #6.

ENEMY CAPABILITIES: Omitted.FLEISHER
G-2

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

G-3 PERIODIC REPORT

SECRET

Auth: CG, TUSA

Init: *8/11/45*

Date: 9 May 45

From: 081200B May 45

To : 090001B May 45

HQ THIRD U S ARMY

APO 403, ETO

090001B May 45

No 332

Maps: 1/250,000, GSGS 4346, sheets K51, L50, L51, M49, M50, M51, N48, N49, N50, N51, O49.

1. OUR FRONT LINE: No change.
2. LOCATION OF TROOPS: No change.
3. INFORMATION OF ADJACENT UNITS AND SUPPORTING TROOPS:
 - Ninth U S Army: VIII Corps maintained positions.
 - Seventh U S Army: XV Corps maintained positions.
4. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY:
 - Clear and warm with high scattered clouds. Visibility excellent.
5. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:
 - a. Third U S Army - 70th Inf Div and 474th Inf Regt (Sep) continued to police assigned areas.
 - b. III Corps - 4th Inf Div closed into area east of NURNBERG wO4100. 99th Inf Div continued movement to new area with 395th Inf closed vicinity NEU-STADT AD SALLE wN7794. 14th Armd Div remained in assembly areas. 14th Cav Gp enroute to NURNBERG area with 32d Cav Rcn Sq closed near ERLANGEN wO3616.
 - c. V Corps - 1st Inf Div (CCA 9th Armd Div attached) maintained positions and contact with VIII Corps on the north. Took large numbers of prisoners from the German XII Corps which surrendered during the period. 2d Inf Div maintained positions vicinity PILSEN xLO642. 97th Inf Div maintained positions north of PILSEN. 9th Armd Div (less CCA) remained assembled. 16th Armd Div continued to protect city of PILSEN. 102d Cav Gp - 102d Cav Sq closed at PILSEN. 38th Cav Sq and attachments remained assembled vicinity AS wP1789.
 - d. XII Corps - 5th Inf Div, 26th Inf Div, 90th Inf Div, 4th Armd Div, 11th Armd Div and 2d Cav Gp maintained positions. Patrols from 41st Cav Rcn Sq (11th Armd Div) contacted elements of Russian Army vicinity xWL473 at 1550B.
 - e. XX Corps - 65th and 71st Inf Divs maintained positions along ENNS RIVER and processed many prisoners of war from the German Army Group South. Withdrew patrols to west of ENNS RIVER. Elements 65th Inf Div made contact with Russian 7th Frecht Div vicinity STRENGBERG xWL372 at 1845B. 80th Inf Div captured and provided guard for HUNGARIAN treasury of gold and jewels vicinity SPITAL AM PYHRN xV9517. 13th Armd Div remained assembled vicinity TANN wZ8281. 3d Cav Gp maintained positions along Corps south flank and administered captured concentration camp at EBENSEE xV5230.
6. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Excellent.

- 1 -

S E C R E T

G-3 Periodic Report No 332 (Cont'd)

7. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS:

The unconditional surrender of all German armed forces at 090001B May 1945 brings to an end the long and victorious march of the Allied Armies which carried Third U S Army through FRANCE, BELGIUM, LUXEMBURG and GERMANY into CZECHOSLOVAKIA and AUSTRIA. During this last period of the operation contact was made with Russian forces south of the DANUBE RIVER near STRENG-BERG. All divisions processed thousands of German prisoners and prepared to take over occupational duties in assigned areas.

H G Maddox
H. G. MADDOX
Brigadier General, GSC
AC of S, G-3

1 Incl.

DISTRIBUTION:

"A" plus 60 to G-3	Corps (10 ea)
Twelfth Army Group(5)	XIX TAC (3)
First U S Army(3)	Divisions (6 ea)
Seventh U S Army(3)	38th AAA Brig (3)
Ninth U S Army(3)	1st TD Brig (3)
Fifteenth U S Army(3)	474th Inf Regt (6)

S E C R E T

Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Rpt #240, 142100D May 45, Hq 80th Inf Div.

THE FUHRER INTERVIEWED

Whether the Fuhrer, in his last days, actually maintained any control over military policy is doubtful. His signature, however, appeared beneath the following order, and the principles contained in the document are of some interest, giving - as they do - official impetus to the guerilla tendencies evidenced in so many other ways:-

UHLINHORST Number 035

TPM
17 April 1945 - 1430 hours

TOP SECRET

SECRET after receipt

TO: EMS Corps

The following order from the Fuhrer for information:-

The present situation on the WESTERN Front is marked by a disparity to our disadvantage of forces, material and ammunition. In spite of this or just on that account greatest activity must be maintained in action. Only attacks against the flanks and the rear of the enemy, the harassing and disruption of his L of C, guarantee success. From the total of the counter attacks which must always and everywhere be made in the rear of the enemy, in conjunction with guerilla warfare, complete success will result. When planning these attacks it is of utmost importance to take advantage with skill and cunning of the dispersal over a wide area of enemy forces which, split up, stream through the country in great breadth and depth. Our own attacks will, therefore, not be made against the strong positions of the enemy, but only against the weak points (flanks, rear and L of C) and will be made into the depth of the enemy areas. Therefore, the infiltration and penetration by our own attacking forces through the forward enemy battle zone is of the greatest importance. We adopt the methods which the Russians have shown and taught us during the years of 1942/44. Split up into individual, but nevertheless effective parties, groups amply supplied with POL and ammunition, and which for the rest of their requirements live on the land, must allow themselves to be bypassed by the forward enemy attacking groups after which they will launch surprise attacks in the depth of the area against the vulnerable and weak points of the enemy. The large-scale operations initiated by us are exempted from this procedure. These new principles established for German commanders and sub-commanders must immediately be applied by all Armies in the WEST.

Signed ADOLF HITLER

ARMY Group BLUMENTRITT

This important order of the Fuhrer will immediately be passed down to the last man by means of all possible methods (in writing, by telephone and verbally.)

Signed BLUMENTRITT
Gen der Inf

(Source: SHAEF Weekly Int. Notes No 60, 5 May 45)

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Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Rpt #240.

KONRAD HENLEIN, GAULEITER OF SUDETENLAND.

(Source: 1st US Inf Div)

The unwholesome business of picking and sorting PW was today finally taped, tied and packaged with the capture of Konrad Henlein, the man who

S E C R E T

Annex #2 (Continued)

started the wretched snowball downhill before the MUNICH conference in 1938. He surrendered himself, his secretary to elements of the 9th Armored Division attached to the 1st US Infantry Division.

Henlein has changed considerably from his days as ranter, shouter and end man for the Nazi Party in CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Once a gymnasium instructor, he now looks like a former professional football player who has made a hat full of money in the restaurant business. His pants were pressed, his shoes were shined and his overcoat had evidently employed many tailors. He has put on a lot of weight and wouldn't do a giant swing on the horizontal bar to win a bet. He looks like just what the Fuehrer ordered in the way of Gauleiters. Altogether, in fact, his plushy presence as a prisoner was the most satisfying thing about him. As far as his testimony went he was a flop -- he weaseled out of embarrassing questions, he solemnly and consistently maintained that he was a man of good reputation and high honor and when he was stuck beyond a wriggle, he fell back on the tiresome excuse that he was only a little fellow, bound as so many others to follow orders without question.

Henlein's most important job was, of course, Gauleiter of the Sudetenland. He was in addition Reichsstadthalter of PRAGUE, or in other words the chief Nazi official of the city. In his dual capacity he was in position to throw a little light on just what has happened to Hitler, but again he fouled off. He maintained blantly that his first news that the Fuehrer was dead came over the German Home Service. The next day he received a radio message from Bormann, head of the Nazi Party. "Admiral Doenitz will take over from the Fuehrer." No further details, no indication that Hitler was really dead, and apparently Henlein was not even moved to speculate on this strange turn of events. In the cage he said that naturally he believed Hitler was dead; a responsible official like Doenitz would not make such a statement otherwise. What Henlein really believes is another question; when it comes to playing cards, Henlein plays them from inside his vest.

The more offensive details of his regime Henlein blamed entirely on the SS, an organization which he naively asserted to be entirely divorced from his own. His relations with Himmler were constantly at cross-purposes. "I told Himmler to let me do my own job in CZECHOSLOVAKIA," he said. "If left to myself I could have got the Czechs to understand German rule and to work with the Germans, but always there were orders from inside GERMANY -- orders which did not recognize at all the delicate state of relations. After all, my grandfather was a Czech and I understand the problems." The SS wanted to rule by force and I wanted to rule by peace." With this gratifying statement Henlein sat back in his chair and folded his hands resignedly. The cancerous thorn of Heydrich, "The Hangman", he disowned virtuously and entirely. Heydrich was an SS bully sent to CZECHOSLOVAKIA and from the day of his arrival Henlein recognized him as an enemy to his plans for a great happy family of Czechs. "There was nothing I could do, of course," he said. "Heydrich was there under orders and I was under orders myself." The violent purges that took place in PRAGUE and LIDICE to avenge Heydrich's assassination were also strictly SS affairs into which Henlein did not pry.

Henlein's conception of himself as chief purveyor of goodies and avuncular philosophy to the Czechs is so complete that he was indignant, and probably honestly so, to find himself on the list of war criminals. He did not understand exactly what a war criminal was, but in any case he was certain he was not one. He pointed out that he is the first Gauleiter to surrender himself to our forces, evidence enough of his lilly character. He said nothing about the Russians who were prodding him coarsely from behind, nor did he explain why he was not in PRAGUE, where one still has to be nimble of foot, but in KARLSBAD, well within the American surrender territory. Some time ago Henlein was ordered by Bormann to take to the woods with his kreisleiters in case of occupation by enemy forces. There he would defend himself with a special company of SS men and approved Nazis and make himself unpleasant to the occupying forces. Henlein was to lay on arrangements to take care of this move. Consequently he appointed a Gen Hermann (a Wehrmacht General, according to Henlein) who was to lay in a supply of stores in RIESENGBERG and ALTVATFRGEBERG. Gen Hermann was to be assisted by a Waffen SS man named Skorzeny. (And who was Skorzeny? Henlein did not know -- probably just the man's name.) When it became clear that this plan might have to go into effect, Henlein realized he would have a tough time hiding out in the woods in CZECHOSLOVAKIA. His face was too well known to a great number of Czechs who did not care for him. Consequently he called the plan off, at least so far as he was concerned, and advised Gen Hermann to use the special company as regular soldiers.

S E C R E T

Annex #4 to G-2 Periodic Rpt #240

STATISTICS REGARDING THE CREMATION PLANT AT CAMP BUCHENWALD (WEIMAR)

The following translation is from a letter which was given to one of the Corps Chaplains by a former inmate of the BUCHENWALD Horror Camp. (Undoubtedly this was written to show his gratitude upon being liberated).

When Camp BUCHENWALD was opened in July 1937, the prisoners who died there were cremated in WEIMAR; because of the mounting death rate behind the camp walls, the necessity of concealing the amount of death cases arose. For this reason, a cremation plant in the camp was erected, which the inmates of the camp had to build. Later, modern installations were put in. The cremation took place in two large stoves, the capacity of which were eight bodies at a time. Cold, lack of proper clothing, hunger, and disease took a sizeable toll of prisoners. More died from torture and as the result of experiments on human beings performed in the "scientific testing station" of the camp. The average amount was 60 to 70 corpses a day. Later this figure grew and the crematorium became insufficient. The "production" had to be kept up day and night. Especially when transports started to arrive from the nearby camps DORA and LAURA. The amount of people detailed to serve at the stoves grew constantly. Large convoys of trucks arrived daily to dump heaps of corpses behind the fence screening the crematorium plants. Sometimes the bodies remained in the small yard in front of the cremation plant because the capacity of the stoves was insufficient. The cremation building served not only for disposal of bodies, but was also used by the SS administration of the camp as a place of execution. They used to hang political prisoners, people convicted by military court and so-called popular courts. For this purpose a gallows was erected in the yard of the crematorium. The gallows could be used for seven people simultaneously. The hanging was performed by the prisoners under the supervision of the SS. In some cases the camp commander or his secretary used to attend the execution. The gallows was used not only to dispose of the inmates but often to hang people from outside the camp, mostly Poles. Mass executions (as many as 25 at a time) used to be performed in public. The last mass hanging took place in March (16 men executed by order of SS Reichsfuehrer (HIMMLER)). Prisoners whom the management of the camp wanted killed or had to kill in a hurry used to be corralled into the crematorium and pushed through a special shaft down the cellar, where SS personnel awaited them in order to hang them in a way which prolonged the agony of dying. Sometimes the process was speeded up by blows of a heavy mallet. From the cellar, the bodies used to be transported to the crematorium in an electric elevator. At times this crematorium employed details of 60 to 70 men; their duties included unloading of bodies, stringing of clothing, sorting, and transporting to a cleaning plant. They had to perform this macabre and sad work in shifts, day and night. In exchange, they used to be treated better than the rest of the prisoners by the SS receiving more food and some tobacco; but on the other hand, they had no doubts that sooner or later they would be liquidated as witnesses to the crimes of the SS. In the beginning, the ashes of the prisoners could be obtained by the family for a fee of 50 marks. Later this was discontinued due to the lack of time. The administration of Camp BUCHENWALD organized a special registration bureau for the purpose of keeping track of the dead and the notification of the families. This last practice was discontinued after a couple of years. The amount of official death certificates given by the camp physician is 32,705. This does not include liquidation of Russian transports and murders committed by the SS. The statistics from 1 January 1945 is as follows: In January, from an average of 61,000 prisoners, 6,477 died. In February, from a total of 62,000 prisoners, 5,614 died. In March, from a total of 82,000 prisoners 5,479 died. From 3 to 10 April, 915 prisoners died from hunger and malnutrition. After the arrival of the American troops, the death rate immediately decreased due to help in the form of food, the care of medical men, and their effort to save the sick and disabled. Endless columns of supplies poured into the camp from the Army of DE GAULLE, the French Catholic charity units, the German Red Cross, and the Third US Army. Immediately upon liberation by the American troops,

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Annex #4 (Continued)

a committee consisting of prisoners of all nationalities was created. This committee directed an appeal to the population of WEIMAR for help in the form of provisions. In most of the cases, this appeal gave satisfactory results, and before long peasant carts started to roll into the camp, loaded with potatoes, bread and milk. The information service of the Committee kept the prisoners - now free people - informed about the progress of the rescue work. The water situation in the camp was critical due to the destruction of water mains during the retreat of the SS. The kitchen had no water for cooking, and toilets became cesspools until relief came in the form of water tanks, hauled mostly by the American troops. Unfortunately, a large number of former prisoners are still sick, the hospitals in the camp filled and the death rate due to physical damages beyond repair is still dreadful. The SS removed a large number of the camp prisoners prior to the entry of American units, leaving only 21,000 in the camp. Among them are still approximately 3,150 invalids and aged requiring hospitalization and 4,300 invalids and children who require special care. (Source: FIRST US ARMY)

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Annex #5 to G-2 Periodic Rpt #240.

REMOVAL OF TATTOO BLOOD GROUP MARKING BY SS MEMBERS

Waffen SS members are known to have blood group markings under the left arm about one inch below the armpit. Information received from 21 Army Group indicates, however, that since January 1945, attempts have been made by many individuals possessing such tattoo marks to remove them either by cauterization or by the use of a silver nitrate pencil. A reliable German medical officer has stated that he and other PW medical personnel have been approached with requests to remove these incriminating marks. It seems certain that PWs now know that these marks identify them as members of the SS and that they are doing everything possible to eradicate the marks. Many of these operations are self-performed. It is believed that it is impossible to remove these tattoo marks without leaving scars; in many cases, where operations have presumably failed, large infected areas have been observed. Any PW found to have scars which might indicate that tattoo marks have been removed will be considered as a possible member of the SS and will be treated accordingly until such time as interrogation either proves or disproves these suspicions. (Source: 89th US Inf Div).

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Annex #6 to G-2 Periodic Rpt #240.

NO PEACE FOR THE WICKED

On 12 April 1945, HIMMLER presided at a meeting of the Reichkanzlei in BERLIN, attended by GOEBBELS, BOHMANN, LEY and other leading Nazis, whereat it was decided to change the plans for the continuation of the Nazi movement after the war. According to this change, the territory of the Reich is to be divided into four parts: Gruppe Ost, West, Sud and Nord. At the head of each Gruppe is a Vorsteher, the name Fuehrer being abandoned. The Vorsteher for the East Gruppe is Felix HARTNER; for the South Gruppe, Hans PREUSS. These names naturally may be pseudonyms. The seat of the North Vorsteher will be in BERLIN; of the West Vorsteher in COLOGNE.

Each Vorsteher will be aided by a political committee, members of which will not meet for some time. It is even said that the majority of its members are outside GERMANY today and that the political committees will not commence their activities until five years after the war. No leading Nazis of the present regime will be included on the committee. (Source: XX Corps G-2 Per Rpt #276)

S E C R E T



S E C R E T

Annex #4 (Continued)

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