



was in the entire JULICH area.

Combat patrols were also active during the month. These patrols were dispatched to take prisoners and to destroy certain enemy compounds on the east bank of the river.

Three major raids were made. On 6 January Co F, 116th Infantry Regiment conducted a raid on PLECHTERDORF Castle (7996430) with the mission of destroying it. The party consisted of seventy-five enlisted men and five officers. Machine rubber ponies as well as rubber rolling mills were employed. Much was falling throughout the entire operation, and direction was hard to ascertain in spite of galling overhead tracers. Heavy wire was encountered on the east bank of the river as the raiding party advanced inland. The men made the objective impossible to find and the raiding force returned without encountering any enemy.

On 14 January Co B, 175th Infantry Regiment employed eight parties of fifty and collected men with the mission of capturing prisoners and destroying certain buildings in South JULICH. The enemy who was aroused by cracking ice on the near shore laid down heavy mortar and some machine gun fire on the east bank as the raiding party prepared to cross and consequently some casualties occurred. Coincidentally, the enemy blew a whistle which was the prearranged signal for withdrawal and as most of the ammunition for the supporting LA fire had been expended the raiding party returned without crossing the river.

On 29 January Co C, 116th Infantry conducted a raid on the building WILHELMSTRADE (7025609) with the mission of taking prisoners of war. Fifty-four officers and enlisted men crossed the river without incident. As the house was approached machine gun and machine pistol fire was received from the house and the raiders were embroiled in a fire fight. Casualties were counted on both sides and the raiding party withdrew.

In the night 25-26 January Co C, 175th Infantry crossed the river in the vicinity of 702590 with the mission of destroying the mill at 702590-599. The raiding party consisted of one officer and twelve enlisted men which was broken down into two flank security groups of four men each and one group of one officer and four enlisted men who were to destroy the structure

which. The crossing was made successfully at 0210 hours, but when the soldiers approached enemy trenches on the east bank they found them to be occupied by the enemy in approximately platoon strength. A flare light displayed immediately, but the man carrying the signal charge retreated in attempting it against the pillbox wall. The charge did detonate, but no estimate of the resulting damage was possible and the raiding party withdrew with no casualties.

Assaulting operation "Jovial" took place on 5-6 January. During the early morning hours of the first day, tanks of the 7th Armoured Division concentrated around the towns of KUALA and KIRKHAM to create the impression that large numbers of tanks were being gathered in those areas. A "all quiet" period was held from 0700 hrs, 5 January to 0745 hrs, 6 January. Movement was restricted to a minimum and absolute radio silence prevailed. At 0645 hrs to 0730 hrs firing units fired all available weapons while the artillery of the Division fired on known enemy positions. From 0730 hrs to 0745 hrs, 6 January the 83rd Chemical Smoke Generator Company set up a smoke screen around the eastern edge of KUALA (100550) and KIRKHAM (100550) to effectively screen these towns from enemy observation. Enemy reaction to this smoke operation was extremely light. As each enemy light anti-aircraft and machine gun fire on the appearance of the smoke screen was the enemy's only answer.

The combat patrols developed that enemy outpost line was usually held and usually these patrols encountered no enemy, but found fairly heavy wire defenses with many unoccupied trenches.

The 2nd Bn, 115th Infantry relieved the 1st Bn, 115th Infantry on 20 January, and in turn was attached to the 175th Infantry. On 27 January there was a shift of troops in the 29th Division sector. The 1st Bn, 115th Infantry relieved the 2nd Bn, 175th Infantry and the 3rd Bn, 115th Infantry conducted the relief of the 3rd Bn, 175th Infantry. The 2nd Bn, 115th Infantry, which had been attached to the 175th Infantry reverted to parent control and the 1st Bn, 175th Infantry was assigned to the 115th Infantry. An other unit, the 29th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, relieved the 1st Bn, 115th Infantry in position on the right of the 115th Infantry sector.

At the close of January, therefore, the 116th Infantry was defending the left half of the Division sector with the 1st and 2nd Bns in line and the 3rd Bn in reserve at FRISALDINGHOVEN (K953600), while the 115th Infantry with the 1st Bn, 175th Infantry, defended the right sector with three Bns in line. On the left was the 1st Bn and on the right the 2nd Bn, 115th Infantry, while the attached 1st Bn, 175th Infantry in Regimental Reserve occupied positions in PATTERN (H000540). The improvement of emplacements and general defenses continued and plans for future offensive action were in the process of formulation.