

1 - 18 April 1945
(Phase IV)

On 1 April the Allied pioneers around the MUIR were being closed by the First and Ninth U. S. Armies. VII Corps was attacking to clear the line MUIR - HUBER - BUSCHER - SCHEIDT - DEWITT - DEWITT - DEWITT. There was a possibility that the enemy forces in the southern portion of the pocket might turn North and attempt to break out.

The 29th Infantry Division, less the 116th Infantry, occupied an assembly area in the general vicinity of BILM - HUBER - MUIR (A5032) on 1 April. In VII Corps reserve, units prepared and conducted training and made reconnaissance for possible counterattack missions along the MUIR - HUBER Canal and the LITTE river as well as in the vicinity of SCHEIDT (A4540).

The 116th Infantry Regiment on 1 April closed into position in the vicinity of HUBER (A5643), BRASSETT (A5540) and HUBER - MUIR (A5841) and was attached to the 75th Infantry Division at 0730 hrs for operations in the North of the MUIR pocket along the MUIR - HUBER Canal. (For operations of 116th Infantry while attached to 75th Division see After Action Report of 116th Infantry). At 1310 hrs, Division Artillery was attached to the 79th Infantry Division for operations. The 29th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop remained attached to HQ, VII Corps for the purpose of guarding the Corps CP. The following day one platoon of Co B, 115th Infantry was attached to the VII Corps for guard duty at the Displaced Person Camp at BUSCHER (A277345).

On 3 April the Division, less the 116th Infantry Regiment, moved to positions at EARL (5740) and DEWITT ROAD (A5641). On VII Corps order responsibility was assumed for the protection of the bridges across the LITTE river on the boundary between VII and IX Corps. Immediately on arrival Co B, 115th Infantry took over the duty of guarding the huge TUNA (synthetic rubber) plant (A5643). The entire 1st Bn, 115th Infantry was attached to HQ, Ninth Army for the purpose of guarding the Army CP the next day and moved to EARL (A6249) for that purpose.

The tremendous number of Displaced Persons and Allied Prisoners of War liberated by the rapid advances of the Ninth Army constituted an enormous problem as they clogged roads and generally disrupted military traffic. The 29th Division was therefore, given the important mission of controlling this flow in the assigned area (see map section) and that of providing security for the rear areas of the Ninth U. S. Army.

On 6 April the Division again moved, this time to an area in the vicinity of SCHEIDT (50660) and EARL (0750), where it was relieved of attachment to VII Corps and reverted to Ninth Army reserve. The Division Artillery day the platoon of attachment to the 79th Division Artillery. On the following unit control. The 115th Infantry attached to HQ, Ninth Army reverted to the 75th Infantry Regiment was also relieved of attachment to the 75th Infantry Division and closed into positions at EARL (E0750) at 1730 hrs.

On 6 April preparations were underway to assume the control of displaced Persons and Allied Prisoners of War in the large area assigned the Division. Responsibility for the assigned area (see map section) was taken over at 1800 hrs, 8 April and the three regiments and the Division Artillery were each assigned subordinate areas. Communications were an immediate problem, and it was partially solved by using civilian telephone lines and the liaison planes of the Air CP.

Reconnaissance was made immediately of all displaced persons and Allied

Director of War Camps in the area and all such persons were collected and placed in these camps. In addition road blocks were established at strategic points to halt the stream of Prisoners of War and Displaced Persons. The food problem was enormous. Displaced persons were generally fed from local stocks and Military Government stores, while the Allied prisoners of War received army rations. All personnel, particularly those to be evacuated out of the hills, were dusted with insecticide powder using machines or the manual "couch and pupil" method.

↑ This was from

Sanitation was another major headache. In the majority of established camps there were little or no sanitary methods used and the pollution and filth was insupportable. A good start was made in reweaving this state, and it was necessary at first to strictly enforce all orders until their observance became a matter of routine.

The officer from the Military Government section was placed with each regiment and with the Division Artillery. The CIC team was split into four groups of two, and one man was attached to each group from the III Corps. The work of the CIC was quite extensive, and one of their most difficult tasks was the apprehension, investigation and arrest of Nazi officials, particularly those still holding offices in the Division area.

Supply was handled through Military Government and C-4. All material in the area was reported to C-4 immediately and shifts of stocks from one sub-area to another were coordinated through C-4. Requisitions for the requirements of Allied prisoners of War were processed through Division supply in the normal manner; while requisitions for Displaced Person Camps were submitted to Military Government for approval and then turned over to C-4 for coordination of transportation. All medical supplies were turned in to a central depot and then, as units needed them supplies, they were drawn from this depot. (See Military Government Report included herein)

The Division during the period 9 - 18 April controlled 146 Displaced Person Camps and handled 72,041 Displaced Persons, evacuating 9,051 of these. 89 Allied Prisoners of War Camps were established or controlled and 40,442 Allied prisoners of War were handled, with 3,021 of these being evacuated.

On 12 April at 1200 hrs the Division passed from Sixth Army reserve to the operational control of VII Corps and continued the mission of Military Government. The 15th Cavalry Group with the 15th and 17th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons attached, was attached to the 39th Infantry Division at 1200 hrs, 16 April. The 20th Tank Destroyer Group with the 1st Regiment Infantry attached, was attached at 1830 hrs, 10 April and was given the mission of protecting the Army rear areas. On 14 April at 1200 hrs the 18th AAA Group was attached to the Division Artillery. The Group consisted of the 571st AAA Bn (AP), the 379th AAA Bn, and the 111st AAA Bn (AP). These attachments were made necessary when the Division sector was enlarged to measure approximately 149 x 80 kilometers and also to provide units to take over the area when the Division was relieved.

On 16 April the 18th AAA Gp was relieved of attachment to Division Artillery and was attached to the 79th Infantry Division. On 17 April at 2045 hrs the 1st Bn, 115th Infantry was relieved from attachment to 149, Ninth U.S. Army. The 15th Cavalry Group took over the responsibility for the area of the 115th Infantry on 16 April. The 116th Infantry was relieved of responsibility for its area by elements of the 79th Infantry Division at 2400 hrs and VII Corps Artillery at 2330 hrs, 16 April. The 175th Infantry was relieved early on 19 April by elements of the 95th Infantry Division and VII Corps Artillery, while the 121st Engineer Bn was relieved by the 802nd FA Bn and elements of the 95th Division Artillery. The relief of the 227th Division, while the 110th FA Bn and the 821st TB Bn were relieved by the 17th Airborne Division Artillery by 1700 hrs, 18 April. Other elements and attachments of the Division Artillery had been relieved by other elements of the same unit, so the Division was free to complete the move to the vicinity of (78155) under control of VII Corps. The attachment to VII Corps was made at 1215 on 17 April. VII Corps at the time was on the Rhine River.

...enlisted, however, but over the Corps left flank and the British on the left. The mission of the Division was to attack in this sector and reach the Elbe River in conjunction with the 5th Armored Division.

THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE DIVISION

19 - 30 April 1945

(Draft #1)

On 19 April all units prepared for commitment in the III Corps zone of action. The 115th Infantry Regiment, with 1 platoon Co A, 1st Lt Wyr 2 Pl, Co B, 104th Med Bn and Wyr 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

The 116th Infantry (less the 1st Bn) closed into the new assembly area around 1700 hrs, while the 1st Bn remained in position near 115th Infantry. In addition to 1 platoon of Co B, 1st Lt Wyr 2 Pl and Co C, 104th Med Bn already attached, the 111th Bn and Co B, 1st Lt Wyr 2 Pl and Wyr 9, 554th AAA Bn were attached to the Regiment at 2359 hrs.

The 175th Infantry did not close in its forward assembly area until 20 April at which time the Regiment had attached Co C, 29th Chemical Bortar Bn, Co F, 104th Med Bn and the 1st Bn of Co C, 1st Lt Wyr 2 Pl. Upon arrival at the new assembly area the 175th was attached to III Corps for operations.

On 20 April the 115th Infantry, with the additional attachment of Co B, 29th Chemical Bortar Bn and the 1st Bn, 29th Cav Bn Troop advanced behind elements of the British Royal Armored Car Regiment. Bypassed resistance was bypassed up until the line 115th - (Y021) - (Y022) was reached at which point the Regiment relieved the British.

The 116th Infantry, as in the case of the 115th, had two additional detachments, Co B, 29th Chemical Bortar Bn and the 3rd Bn, 29th Cav Bn Troop. The Regiment opened its attack on 20 April. Moving in the right flank zone with the 1st Bn on the right and the 2nd Bn on the left, the 116th encountered no opposition and the line (Y021) - (Y022) was reached at the end of the day. Throughout the day patrols from the I & R platoons and the heavy weapons company reconnoitered in front of the advancing battalions.

The next day, the 21st, the Division resumed the attack to clear all remaining resistance west to the bank of the Elbe River on the left flank of III Corps. The 1st and 2nd Bns opened the day for the 115th and encountered stiff resistance on the right near 115th (Y022). Self-propelled, labeler and small arms fire made the going difficult, and at 1300 hrs the 3rd Bn took over the left half of the 1st Bn's original sector. The attack then continued with the 1st Bn clearing 115th (Y022), 111th (Y023), 111th (Y024), 111th (Y025), 111th (Y026), 111th (Y027), 111th (Y028), 111th (Y029), 111th (Y030), 111th (Y031), 111th (Y032), 111th (Y033), 111th (Y034), 111th (Y035), 111th (Y036), 111th (Y037), 111th (Y038), 111th (Y039), 111th (Y040), 111th (Y041), 111th (Y042), 111th (Y043), 111th (Y044), 111th (Y045), 111th (Y046), 111th (Y047), 111th (Y048), 111th (Y049), 111th (Y050), 111th (Y051), 111th (Y052), 111th (Y053), 111th (Y054), 111th (Y055), 111th (Y056), 111th (Y057), 111th (Y058), 111th (Y059), 111th (Y060), 111th (Y061), 111th (Y062), 111th (Y063), 111th (Y064), 111th (Y065), 111th (Y066), 111th (Y067), 111th (Y068), 111th (Y069), 111th (Y070), 111th (Y071), 111th (Y072), 111th (Y073), 111th (Y074), 111th (Y075), 111th (Y076), 111th (Y077), 111th (Y078), 111th (Y079), 111th (Y080), 111th (Y081), 111th (Y082), 111th (Y083), 111th (Y084), 111th (Y085), 111th (Y086), 111th (Y087), 111th (Y088), 111th (Y089), 111th (Y090), 111th (Y091), 111th (Y092), 111th (Y093), 111th (Y094), 111th (Y095), 111th (Y096), 111th (Y097), 111th (Y098), 111th (Y099), 111th (Y100).

The initial advance of the Regiment on the right, the 116th Infantry met no opposition as the 1st Bn moved in the right zone and the 2nd Bn in the left. At the end of the day the line (Y022) - (Y023) - (Y024) had been reached. Light opposition then started the resistance the 115th Infantry met on 22-23 April. Numerous anti-tank mines were encountered and the remainder of Co B, 1st Lt Wyr 2 Pl was attached to the Regiment.

At the close of the day, 23 April, the 115th had advanced to the line 0700 (T1109) - 0400 TL (T2004) - 1100 (T2125) where they consolidated in preparation for the relief of elements of the 5th Armored Division which had passed across the front of the 29th Division. After the 5th Armored Division had cleared the Division's front, the 115th and 116th Infantry Regiments followed closely, taking care of bypassed resistance.

The 116th Infantry also experienced light opposition both days. The 1st and 2nd Bns attacked on 23 April, and as the 3rd Bn was released to Regimental control all three Bns attacked on 24 April. At the end of the day the general line was 0700 (T2199) - RUBENOK (T3095) - 0400 (T3593) - 0400 (T3593) had been reached.

The next day both Regiments reached the W 38 river. The 115th Infantry, with the 1st and 3rd Bns and the 116th Infantry with the 2nd and 3rd Bns. Resistance was heavy in the 116th zone on the last day with a large amount of small arms and Nebelwerfer fire and numerous mines.

More than 1600 prisoners of war were taken in the late evening of 24 April. By the end of the day the Division had assumed complete responsibility for the area relieving the 5th Armored Division. The 1st Bn, 116th Infantry encountered a naval magnetic mine in the area around 0100 (T3207). It means to disarm them could be found, and consequently the area was only entered on a matter of great necessity.

The 175th Infantry was assigned the mission of clearing out several wooded areas in the vicinity of III Corps Headquarters at 0400 (T3153).

On 21 April the 175th Infantry Regiment, under control of XII Corps, began clearing the wooded area W of 0100 (T3053). The 1st and 2nd Bns, with the 3rd Bn in motorized reserves, moved through rapidly, and by 1700 hrs the area was declared cleared with 56 prisoners of war taken. The next day the area was declared cleared with 18 prisoners of war taken. The next day the 2nd and 3rd Bns cleared the woods around 0100 (T3155) on 23-24 April as well as the wooded area W (T3157). 67 prisoners were taken and approximately 45 enemy dead were counted. On 25 April the 175th Infantry cleared 0400 (T3052) with three Bns almost.

The next day, 26 April, the 175th Infantry, less the 1st Bn, moved to the 1200 hrs and relieved the 39th Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division at 2130 hrs. The 1st Bn moved the following day into the rear area of the 175th Infantry sector.

The remainder of the month was employed in defending the W 38 river line, 30 miles of it, evacuating all displaced persons, Allied prisoners of war and civilians from the zone 5 kilometers from the east bank of the river. During the night 29-30 April two enemy patrols crossed the river. One crossed in the sector of the 2nd Bn, 116th Infantry, and the other in the area held by the 1st Bn, 115th Infantry. After a brief exchange of fire, both were driven off or captured. On the evening of 30 April elements of the 13th Regiment, 8th Infantry Division relieved the 1st Bn, 115th Infantry and the 29th Cav Recon Troop.

The close of the month found the 175th Infantry Division occupying an area along the W 38 river, defending the actual river line with four Bns while the remainder of the Division was occupied in Military Government duties. These duties, as before, consisted largely of the control of displaced persons and Allied prisoners of war, as well as evacuating all civilians behind the 5 kilometer line. During this period the Division controlled 17 displaced German troops and 2,300 displaced persons. The Allied prisoner of war Camps W 38 and W 39, while 100% Allied prisoners of war were handled.