

G-2 Intelligence Summaries, November 22- 30, 1944

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22 Nov 44

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
~~SPECIAL G-2 REPORT~~



1. Defensive Organization.

The town of SAVERNE is protected only by fortifications west of SAVERNE PASS, which consisted of trenches, barbed wire, A/T ditches, pillboxes, and light field pieces. The pass has now been flanked.

STRASBOURG is defended to the West by a semi-circle of defenses, approximately 3 mi from the city. Roads are defended by pillboxes, with forts spaced regularly along the semi-circle.

From STRASBOURG N to BISCHWILLER scattered pillboxes are the main defenses except that from the railroad to the river the Maginot line defenses are quite heavy.

The MAGINOT LINE leaves the river at BISCHWILLER, runs N to WISSEMBOURG and thence W to BITCHE. Defenses of the line consist of forts, pillboxes, wire, AT ditches and personnel shelters.

2. Enemy Operations.

a. First French Army. In BELFORT GAP area resistance continues vic BELFORT and MULHOUSE with enemy counterattacking and infiltrating. In the GERARDMER area, enemy continues withdrawal toward COLMAR.

b. Seventh U.S. Army.

(1) VI Corps. Resistance scattered throughout front. Enemy Arty very slight with exception of Lt & Med Arty fire on bridge at ST MICHEL.

36 Inf Div - Crossings of MUERTHE only lightly opposed. Enemy employing delaying tactics to E.

103 Inf Div - Crossings of MUERTHE N of ST DIE and advance E met only light S/A and mortar fire.

3 Inf Div - Advancing against unorganized resistance.

100 Inf Div - Snipers fire encountered.

(2) XV Corps. 2 DB continued rapid advance against light and scattered resistance. 79 Inf Div receiving harassing S/A fire from by-passed pockets. 44 Inf Div reports SAARBOURG cleared. Very little Arty fire.

c. Third U.S. Army. XII Corps encountering well-coordinated delaying action, roadblocks, mines, blown bridges. XX Corps reports most of METZ cleared but street fighting continues. Further north, E of LUXEMBOURG, dragon teeth and AT ditches were encountered, hvy Arty fire received.

3. Miscellaneous. - Only light motor and rail movement observed by air in VOSGES and RHINE valley.

4. Weather. - 23 Nov - Cloudy throughout day with light rain in morning and

moderate rain in afternoon. Visibility 2 miles in morning due to fog and rain, increasing to 5 - 6 miles in afternoon with exception 1 - 2 miles in moderate rain. Wind SW, 16 - 24 m.p.h. after 1000A. Slightly warmer.

24 Nov - Overcast with steady rain in morning; broken low clouds and showers in afternoon. Visibility 2 - 3 miles due to fog and rain improving to 6 miles during afternoon. Wind SW, 6 - 12 m.p.h. becoming N to NW, 8 - 10 m.p.h. in late afternoon. Considerably cooler.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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1. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. First French Army: Enemy counterattacked in DANNIEMARIE area of BELFORT GAP; situation now restored. French advanced up two roads along RHINE; took HOMBURG, have patrols in ENSISHEIM. Enemy reported as ferrying tanks and equipment across RHINE in KEMBS area. Entire staff of Nineteenth Army captured at MULHOUSE; General Wiese (CG) believed to have escaped. Enemy continues to withdraw in GERARDMER area, laying many mines.

b. Seventh US Army:

VI Corps: 36th Inf Div - Increased enemy resistance, S/A, SP guns, mines and booby traps. Barbed wire before FRAIZE. Two local counterattacks before CLEFCY. 103rd Div - Bridgehead over MUERTHE RIVER under S/A fire from dug-in positions E of SAULCY. ST DIE and GRATIN cleared. 150 enemy resist in DIJON. Advance in woods W of PROVENCHERES encountering only slight resistance. 3rd Div - Stubborn resistance with S/A and SP Arty in delaying action at MAYMONT. Light resistance vic SAULXURE. SALLES occupied. 100th Div - Enemy delaying from dug-in positions and mined road blocks. Snipers and pockets of resistance remain in SENONES, VIEUX MOULINS, LA PETITE RAON.

XV Corps: 2d DB - Enemy withdrawing on all fronts. SAVERNE captured and bridge over RHINE--MARNE canal taken intact. Advance W into VOSGES contacted enemy E of PHAISBOURG. MARMONTIER, ROMANSWILLER, WEITWILLER, NEUWILLER and DOSSENHEIM occupied. 79th Div - Encountered light disorganized resistance, defended blown bridge E of ARZVALLER, small force vic ST LOUIS. 44th Div - Enemy withdraws, delaying in towns and on suitable terrain. Resistance strong at PHAISBOURG, DANNELBOURG and LUTZELBOURG. Armored elements and few tanks encountered vic EYWILLER, BETTWILLER, DURSTEL and PIEFFENBACH but withdrew without showing fight.

14th Corp

c. Third US Army:

III Corps: Advance encounters large numbers of obstacles, demolitions and mines.

XX Corps: Last organized resistance in METZ area reported ended.

2. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. Movements. Large exodus reported moving NE from SAALES. Little activity further S in RHINE valley. To the N, air reports considerable rail activity vic WISSEMBOURG.

b. Weather. 24 Nov - Intermittent light to moderate rain, low overcast day and night. Visibility 1 - 2 miles at dawn, improving to 6 - 8 miles by noon.

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Wind southwest, backing to south, 10 m.p.h. Much colder afternoon and night.
Minimum temperature 34 degrees Fahrenheit.

24 Nov - Cloudy in morning, partly cloudy in afternoon. Visibility
2 - 3 miles in morning improving to 7 - 9 miles in afternoon. Few scattered
showers over VCSGES mountains in afternoon. Wind westerly, 7 - 9 m.p.h. Continued
cool. Minimum temperature 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

No. 3



1. ENEMY OPERATIONS.

a. First French Army: Enemy continues to react strongly to further French advance N in ALSACE PLAIN. Strong counterattacks in MULHOUSE region forced French withdrawal from HOMBURG, BETTENHEIM, SAUSHEIM and to southern suburbs of MULHOUSE. In the BELFORT area enemy continues to resist strongly, holding forts covering eastern exits of town.

b. Seventh US Army:

VI Corps: 36th Div - Resistance encountered was scattered, however, considerable SA and mortar fire received from high ground S of FRAIZE. Further N progress made unopposed vic MANDRAY. 103rd Div - Enemy E of SAULCY showed signs of withdrawing, delaying in villages. STE MARGUERITE, REMONEIX, DIJON, cleared after stiff fire fights. Concrete and steel emplacements around PROVENCHERES were found unoccupied. 3rd Div - Enemy withdrawing E of SAALES, gave stiff fire fight before withdrawing from SAULKURES. 100th Div - Enemy in scattered groups lightly opposed advance. Patrols moving toward CELLES received SA fire. Road PETIT RAON to LE SAULEY reported heavily mined and booby-trapped.

XV Corps: 2d DB - Moved on STRASBOURG virtually unopposed. Four bridges over RHINE--MARNE canal captured intact. Enemy was stubbornly defending western approaches to KEHL bridge over RHINE river. Bridge reported heavily mined. 79th Div - Captured PHALSBOURG. Light resistance encountered in remainder of VOSGES. 528 by-passed PW's surrendered from woods SE of NIDERVILLER. 44th Div - Advance through VOSGES made only slight enemy contact. Two light enemy counterattacks supported by estimated eight tanks vic ESCHWILLER and EYWILLER repulsed. Enemy column W of PISTROF observed turning N into woods.

c. Third US Army:

XII Corps: Enemy continues to offer strong delaying action.

XX Corps: Situation remains comparatively quiet.

2. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. Movements. Photo cover of western German railroads reveals movement of both Inf and Armor from central GERMANY toward the RHINE.

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b. New Identifications. Elms of 11 Pz Div and 130 Pz Div (both of LVIII Pz Corps) have been identified on N flank of XV Corps.

c. AT Cos. A series of AT Cos from unit X (composition of unit X unknown) are being encountered: 8, 10, 11 Cos in front of Seventh Army, 22, 23, 26 Cos in Third Army front. Cos are attached to Inf Bgts. AT Co consists of 3 Lt plats of 3 Russian 7.62 Cm AT guns each and possibly an additional Hvy plat of 4 88mm AT guns, with one Lt MG for each AT gun.

d. Weather. 25 Nov - Cloudy throughout day with intermittent rain. Visibility varying between 1 and 6 miles in precipitation. Fog in valleys in morning, dissipating by 1200A. Wind westerly, 8 - 10 m.p.h. Cooler afternoon and evening. Minimum temperature 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

26 Nov - Cloudy all day. Intermittent rain and probably snow. Visibility varying from 1 mile in fog and rain to 8 - 10 miles elsewhere. Wind northwesterly, 7 - 10 m.p.h. Minimum temperature 28 degrees Fahrenheit.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY



No. 4

1. ENEMY OPERATIONS.

a. First French Army: In the MULHOUSE area the enemy continues to counterattack to prevent further advance N. On the RHINE river he maintains small bridgeheads on the W bank at KEMBS, ROSENAU, and HUNINGUE and is reported reinforcing troops in KEMBS area. At BELFORT, Forts JUSTICE and MIOTTE have fallen, but the enemy continues to resist in the BELFORT CHATEAU.

b. Seventh US Army:

16 and 716 Inf Divs withdrawing with all possible speed out of the VOSGES.

VI Corps: Enemy Arty activity very light and confined to 36th Div area. 36th Div - Scattered enemy resistance encountered (small delaying groups and snipers). Troops moving on the STE MARIE road encountering no resistance. 103rd Div - Advance to the E encountering practically no resistance. SA fire vic LUSSE. LUBIN being mopped-up. 3rd Div - Rapid progress being made NE along the BRUCHE river. Estimated 700/1000 enemy (probably bulk of 708 Inf Div) were forced out of BOURG-BRUCHE after offering stiff fight. Slight enemy opposition encountered at FOU DAY overcome. Enemy resistance again encountered at ROTHAU. 100th Div - Advance continued on wide front against broken enemy resistance. Mortar and sniper fire encountered at LES QUEVELLES and DIESBACH. Farther E in the PLAINE river valley no resistance was met between CELLES and BIONVILLE.

XV Corps: Enemy Arty activity very light. 2nd DB - Completed mopping-up operations in STRASBOURG. Enemy continued strong defense at western approach to KEHL bridge. 79th Div - Rapid progress made in ALSACE PLAIN E of SAVERNE. Forward elements reached HOERDT and WEYERSHEIM without opposition. Rcn elements reached NEUBOURG and found town clear of enemy. Two air attacks (straffing) reported in SAVERNE area. 44th Div - In DOSSENHEIM area enemy surrendering in large numbers. N of SARREBOURG 130 pz Div attacked toward SARREBOURG with Inf and tanks; now defends with tanks and Arty support on the general line RAUWILLER NE to ADAMSWILLER. BAERENDORF cleared of enemy.

c. Third US Army:

XII Corps: Stiff resistance was encountered only in the center. On flanks, enemy is withdrawing.

XX Corps: The VERDUN and DRIANT forts continue to hold out with estimated 2800 men. Guns from these forts command the SW highway leading into METZ.

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14th Corp

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2. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. 130 Pz Div (Pz Lehr Div).

Elements of all the principal combat units of this Div have been identified on the N flank of XV Corps. These are: 901 PGR, 902 PGR, 130 Pz Regt, 130 Pz Arty Regt. Only 10-15 tanks of this Div have been employed in the present action.

b. Weather. 26 Nov - Broken to overcast low clouds with light rain in morning, possibly intermittent snow in afternoon. Visibility 1 mile until 1030A due to fog, improving to 6-8 miles by 1100A, with exception 2 miles in snow. Cold with minimum temperature 30 degrees F. Wind westerly 6-12 m.p.h.

27 Nov - Scattered to broken low clouds in morning, overcast in afternoon. No precipitation in morning but snow in afternoon. Visibility 2 miles in morning improving to 4-6 miles by 0930A, but becoming 1 mile in afternoon snow. Continued cold with minimum temperature 27 degrees F. Wind SW, 8-14 m.p.h.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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No. 5

1. ENEMY OPERATIONS.

a. First French Army: Resistance at BELFORT, according to an unconfirmed report, is lessening and enemy is withdrawing to the NE. In the MULHOUSE area enemy continues heavy pressure.

b. Seventh US Army: German armor reported active in area. 11th Pz Div reported by PW's as in vic of HAGUENAU (R 0424) and 130th Pz Div counterattacking N of SARREBOURG.

VI Corps: 36th Div - Advance meeting slight enemy resistance. Street fighting in progress STE MARIE (V 5961). 103rd Div - Scattered resistance encountered. Fire fight in progress at LA SALCEE (V 5973). 3rd Div - Enemy offering broken resistance. Advance nearing MUTZIG (V 7793). 45th Div - No enemy reported along road net DURNINGEN (Q 8709) E to MARNE-RHINE canal and SE to STRASBOURG.

XV Corps: 2nd DB: Situation in STRASBOURG remains unchanged. Bridgehead W of KEHL bridge still defended fiercely. 79th Div - Enemy armor and Inf active in the HAGUENAU area. KRIEGSHEIM (Q 9917) cleared. 44th Div - Enemy Inf supported by tanks attacked in the RAUWILLER (Q 5424) and VECKERSWILLER (Q 5927) area. Attack repulsed 5 miles N of SARREBOURG.

c. Third US Army: Enemy counterattacked along the front. In the XII Corps sector, counterattack supported by 200/250 infantrymen occurred in the BAERENDORFF (Q 5226) area. In the XX Corps sector, counterattack by 100 Inf and 3 tanks repulsed vic KASSLINGER (L 0903).

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. Defenses in ERSTEIN area: E of ERSTEIN (V 9480), toward the RHINE river, a small cluster of defenses consisting of wire, pillboxes and an A/T ditch, are evidently for the defense of the bridge site between ERSTEIN and DINGLINGEN (W 1070).

b. New Identifications: Four divisions of Fifteenth Army (85, 245, 256, and 381) have been withdrawn from HOLLAND. The 256 has been located in the HAUGENAU area. PW states the four Divs are expected in the HAGUENAU area with mission to retake STRASBOURG.

c. Weather: 27 Nov: Overcast low clouds during morning with intermittent rain. Overcast breaking to 7/10 in afternoon with probable clearing at night. Visibility 3 miles at dawn improving to 5 - 7 miles in afternoon; will reduce to 2 miles in showers. Wind W, 8 - 12 m.p.h. Cold with minimum temperature 28 degrees Fahrenheit.

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28 Nov: Overcast low clouds during morning with scattered showers. Scattered to broken clouds, base at 2,000 ft., after 1100A, becoming generally clear to scattered after 1800A. Visibility unrestricted after 0900A, 1 - 3 miles prior to this time in rain showers. Wind W, 8 m.p.h. Continued cold with minimum temperature 27 degrees Fahrenheit.

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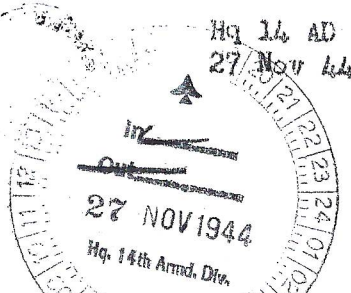
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1. ENEMY OPERATIONS.

a. First French Army: In the MULHOUSE area enemy pressure is lessening, but enemy still maintains three RHINE bridgeheads in that area. Enemy withdrawing with delaying actions from BELFORT--MULHOUSE line. Only light contact in the VOSGES.

b. Seventh US Army: Reported SE movement of 50 tanks suggests shift of enemy armor eastward into the HAGUENAU area. 16, 716, and 708 Divs continuing withdrawal out of the VOSGES. Slight increase in enemy Arty fire.

VI Corps: 36th Div - Scattered resistance. Stubborn defense with house to house fighting in progress at STE CROIX (V 6262). 103rd Div - Enemy delaying action by small groups. Stubborn resistance in towns. 3rd Div - Light and disorganized resistance. S/A, SP and AT fire encountered W of KUTZIG (V 7993). Light resistance at KOLSHEIM and ROSHEIM. Roadblocks covered with AT fire vic DONLSHEIM (V 8191).

XV Corps: 2nd DB - No change in STRASBOURG. 79th Div - Enemy action consists mostly of patrols. 45th Div - Enemy reoccupied INGILLER (Q 8130) and WEINBOURG (Q 7830). 44th Div - Enemy holding general line WOLFSKIRENEN (Q 5131)--GUNCHILLER (Q 5731), also TIEFFENBACH (Q 6434) and high ground S of town.

c. Third US Army: XII and XX Corps meeting strong resistance from enemy in LAGINOT and SIEGFRIED defenses. In the vic of IETZ, forts BLAISE and ST SOMAY surrendered.

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. Aviation: Estimated total of 52 enemy sorties reported 26 Nov including reconnaissance, strafing, and one bombing mission.

b. Bridges over RHINE River: Air reports the following: (1) Road bridge at (V 9050) appears serviceable, (2) Pontoon bridge at (V 960623) destroyed, (3) RR bridge at BBEISACH (V 8836) serviceable, (4) Boat bridge appears to be under construction at (A 8890).

c. RHINE River Flood: Photo cover 25 Nov show both sides RHINE River inundated at DRUSENHEIM (R 1717), SOLLINGEN (R 2420), and from FT LOUIS (R 2322) to RR bridge at (R 2727). Most of the fixed defenses of the SIEGFRIED line in these areas were under water. Also crossing operations would be difficult.

d. Enemy Reserves: 256 Inf Div continues Acn vic HAGUENAU. 130 Pz Div with 60-70 estimated tanks moving E to HAGUENAU area. 25 PG Div (reorganized

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after defeat in RUSSIA) apparently replacing 130 Pz Div on left flank IV Corps. 35th and 216th Inf Divs (last reported in RUSSIA) now reported moving into FREIBURG and KARLSRUHE respectively, probably to man SIEGERIED line.

2. Weather: 28 Nov - Increasing low clouds from midnight to dawn with low overcast during day. Rain late morning and afternoon. Wind SW, 10 m.p.h. Visibility 3 - 6 miles. Minimum temperature 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

29 Nov - Clear sky at night from midnight to dawn with increasing low clouds during day and clear after sunset. No rain. Visibility 10 miles. Wind WNW, 10 m.p.h. Minimum temperature 38 degrees Fahrenheit.

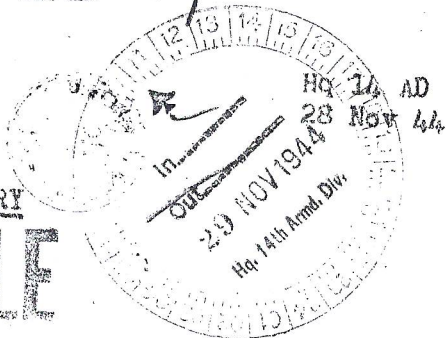
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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1. ENEMY OPERATIONS.

a. First French Army: KEMBS (A 825982) retaken, but enemy still holds bridgeheads N & S of the town. Enemy pressure resumed in the MULHOUSE area. In the area W of MULHOUSE, the enemy withdrew slowly employing counterattack tactics. MORTZWILLER (V 4804) fell. In the VOSGES, the enemy continued to withdraw to the E.

b. Seventh US Army: In the southern zone, enemy resistance stiffened while falling back on COLMAR (V 7242) and SELESTAT (V 7962). In the center, only scattered resistance met as the advance entered the ALSACE plain. N of SARLEBOURG (Q 595155) elements of the 25 PG Div, supported by tanks, continued to show a defensive attitude.

VI Corps: 36th Div - Strong resistance along FRAIZE-COLMAR RD. Farther N, ST CROIX (V 6262) fell and advance continued to outskirts of LIEPVRETTE (V 6664). 103rd Div - VILLE (V 6871) cleared of enemy. In the N advance continued to outskirts of LE MONSIEUR (V 699783) without contact. 3rd Div - Enemy resistance scattered in entire Div sector. WALTERSBACH (V 6174) and BELMONT (V 6275) occupied without contact. Advance continued into the ALSACE PLAIN to KRAUTENGERSHEIM (V 8786) and MEISTRATZHEIM (V 8683) without resistance.

XV Corps: 2nd DB - Men elements made contact at FRSTIEN (V 9480). 79th Div - Enemy activity confined to patrolling. GAMBERSHIEM (R 1110), KILSTETT (R 0808) and MORSCHWILLER (Q 9224) reported occupied by the enemy. Considerable enemy activity reported in MULHAUSEN (Q 8631) and RINGELDORF (Q 9025). 45th Div - WEINBERG (Q 7830) cleared. Enemy reported digging in S of INGWILLER (Q 815305). Scattered contact maintained with enemy in Div zone. 44th Div - Enemy Inf, supported by tanks, strongly defending a general line WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q 5131) - OTTVILLER (Q 6629).

c. Third US Army: XII Corps S flank meeting stiffer enemy resistance. To the NW, WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q 5131), KERVILLER (Q 4437) and HINSINGEN (Q 4539) cleared of enemy. Farther NW, ST AVOLD (Q 2556) was taken, and the enemy continued to withdraw to the NE. In the XI Corps sector, the enemy continued to withdraw to the E and NE under pressure.

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. Aviation: Enemy air activity decreased considerably. One ME 109 shot down W of PHALSBOURG (Q 6419). 8 ME 109's observed over SARREBOURG (Q 595155).

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b. Armored Force: Enemy armor during period was quiet. Tanks of the 130 Pz Div appeared to be concentrated in the area T of HAGUENAU (R 0324).

c. Weather: 29 Nov - Rain in morning and few showers in afternoon. Cloudy sky. Visibility 2 - 3 miles in morning with fog, improving to 15 miles after 1000A, except in periods of rain 6 miles. Wind SW until 1200A, shifting to W, 10 - 15 m.p.h. Minimum temperature about 39 degrees Fahrenheit.

30 Nov - Showers in evening; partly cloudy sky. Visibility 5 miles at dawn with haze, 10 - 15 miles after 0930A. Wind W, 10 m.p.h. Minimum temperature about 39 degrees Fahrenheit.

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