

N-6220.22

LIBRARY
USA. CGSC FT. LEAVENWORTH, KS

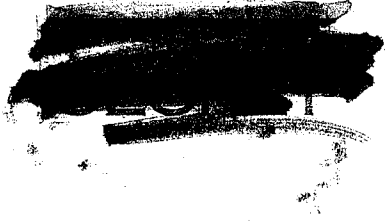
A Chronology,
World War II

(DEC 1944)

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

N-6220.22



DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

For reasons of economy, air and naval operations and the campaigns of other than U.S. units (French forces in Sixth Army Group excepted) have been omitted from this issue of the Chronology.

DECLASSIFIED





TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLASSIFIED

Section	Page
I. Western European Theater	
Part 1 Twelfth Army Group	1
Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups	65
Part 2 Sixth Army Group	117
II. Mediterranean Theater	161
III. Southwest Pacific Theater	187

DECLASSIFIED



DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

1 U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIII Corps On N of Corps, elements of 84th Div repel two-pronged counterattack on Lindern by units of 9th Pz Div; counterattack is preceded by arty barrage and comes from vicinity of Brachelen and Leiffarth. Other troops of 84th Div attack toward high ground NE of Lindern and secure dominating position outside Beeck against stiff resistance. To the S, 102d Div renews attack toward Linnich-Roerdorf-Flossdorf line along the Roer: 405th Inf moves E toward high ground N of Linnich but after slight initial gains is halted by extremely heavy fire from concrete pillboxes and emplacements until dusk when it renews assault and advances slightly, 2d Bn maneuvering around R to within 700 yards of Linnich; 407th, also confronted with severe opposition, makes but little progress toward its objectives, Roerdorf and Flossdorf, but clears snipers out of Welz; at 1400, 406th Inf is committed and, aided by units of 17th Tank Bn (7th Armd Div) and a continuous arty barrage, moves steadily forward from Welz area, entering Linnich before dark and securing two-thirds of the town by midnight. Seventh Armd Div, aside from elements assisting 84th Div at Lindern and 102d at Linnich, is held in reserve.

XIX Corps Second Armd Div defends Roer R. line on three-mile front E of Barmen. First Bn of 116th Inf, 29th Div, attacks toward the Roer, elements reaching W bank near Juelich against heavy arty fire from enemy on dominating heights across the river. With relief of units of 120th Inf by 17th Cav Rcn Sq, Macz, all organic units of 30th Div are withdrawn into rest areas; attached 17th Cav Sq assumes defense of entire Div zone.

XVI Corps Seventy-eighth Div is attached to Corps.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps On N of Corps zone, 104th Div elements fight from house to house for Inden against severe opposition from inf aided by arty, armor, and aircraft; N half of

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group1
Cont

Inden and part of S half secured by dusk. To the S, 1st Div is clearing enemy from vicinity of Langerwehe and Juengersdorf: initial gains by plat of 18th Inf in attack for crossroad E of Langerwehe are wiped out by enemy counterattack supported by severe arty and mortar barrage; slow progress is made in forest S of Juengersdorf. Farther S, attempts by 1st Div to reach the two cos of 26th Inf isolated in Merode fail. Forty-seventh Inf, after relief by 16th Inf, 1st Div, reverts to 9th Div. On Corps R flank, 4th Div secures high ground overlooking Gey, despite wooded terrain, extensive mine fields, numerous strongpoints, and enemy fire; hostile force attempting to infiltrate is eliminated.

V Corps Corps is inactive except on N where 8th Div continues series of limited objective attacks to clear Brandenburg, Bergstein, and region W of Roer and Kall Rivers in Div zone; elements of 121st and 28th Regts with attachments make slow progress toward Brandenburg and Bergstein, respectively, against strong resistance. The 102d Cav Gp and attached units, occupying sector from N exits of Lammersdorf to Monschau, maintain defensive screen and patrols toward Siegfried Line. Ninth Div's RCT 60, reinf with tanks and TDs, moves to Lammersdorf-Mutzenich area, closing at 1645 and occupying defensive positions by nightfall; 1st Bn, upon arrival, is attached to 102d Cav Gp. RCT 47, released from attachment to 1st Div, reverts to 9th Div and starts movement to Camp Elsenborn area. Ninety-ninth Div maintains defensive positions between Schmidt and Monschau and patrols aggressively.

VIII Corps Corps sector extends 88 miles, from Losheim, in the N (about 10 miles S of Monschau Forest), through the SW portion of the Schnee Eifel, then southward along the W bank of the Our R. (boundary between Luxembourg and Germany), and down the Sauer and Moselle Rivers to the Franco-German border. This quiet, central sector of the Western Front has been utilized by both sides for the training of inexperienced troops and the rehabilitation of battle weary units. An exchange of rested 83d Div troops,

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

1
Cont

holding S sector of Corps front, with 4th Div troops, fighting in Huertgen Forest under VII Corps is just beginning. Enemy units facing this corps early in December are, from N to S, the 18th, 26th, 352d, and 212th VG Divs. During the first half of the month this front remains almost completely inactive. Enemy sends small probing patrols W across the Our R.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

XX Corps Corps holds most of region between Moselle and Saar Rivers from wooded area NW of Merzig to wooded area N of St. Avold. Third Cav Gp (TF Polk) units protecting Corps N flank, which lies 3 miles across German border, hold line from Besch on the Moselle R. to vicinity of Tunsdorf, 3 miles W of Saar R. On the other side of Tunsdorf, in the area directly NW of Merzig, 10th Armd Div is continuing its attack toward the Saar R., clearing W bank up to, but not including, Dreisbach.

Ninetieth Div controls most of high ground W of the Saar between Merzig and Rehlingen, but 357th Inf still encounters resistance in extreme S portion of Div zone, where it clears town of Buren by noon. Siersdorf and Eimersdorf, along the Nied R. just W and N of Buren, are taken without opposition other than moderate arty fire. Enemy mine fields prevent patrols from reaching Rehlingen, on the Saar R., 1 mile NE of Buren. Mondorf and Mochern, to the N, are occupied by 359th Inf without resistance.

South of 90th Div, 95th Div makes preparations to cross the Saar R. somewhere between Saarlautern and Pachten. First measure taken is an attack to clear remaining enemy resistance W of the river. Preceding this attack, which begins at 1235, 8 groups of medium bombers carry out bombing missions on E bank of Saar in vicinity of Saarlautern suburbs. Felsberg and Unterfelsberg, 3 miles SW of Saarlautern, are cleared by 377th Inf before 1500. To the N, other elements of 377th encounter strong resistance from enemy armd vehicles in vicinity of St. Barbara. S of Felsberg, 378th Inf captures Altforweiler and Berus. Elements on Div extreme S flank are forced to

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section 1. EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1. Twelfth Army Group

1
Cont

fall back to Merten in face of fire from German dug-in positions on high ground W of Bisten. The 379th Inf commences an advance through R flank of 377th toward Saarlautern. TF Bell attacks NE from Niedervisse area into la Houve Forest at 0800, against light resistance. At 1200, all elements of this task force are relieved from attachment to 95th Div and 10th Inf reverts to 5th Div.

RCT 2 and RCT 11 of 5th Div are containing Metz forts of Driant, Jeanne d'Arc, St. Quentin, and Plappeville. At 1200, 6th Cav Gp, with 5th Ranger Bn, is attached to 5th Div; during following night it relieves 10th Inf units in vicinity of Carling, 4 miles N of St. Avold.

XII Corps With 80th Div, 6th Armd Div, 26th Div, and 4th Armd Div in line from NW to SE, Corps holds sector of front extending from vicinity of St. Avold, 15 miles SW of Saarbruecken, to vicinity of Sarre-Union, 12 miles S of Sarreguemines; 35th Div is in Corps reserve. From NW to SE, enemy units faced by Corps are 11th Pz Div, 17th SS Pz Gren Div, Pz Lehr Div, and the 25th Pz Gren Div. Direction of Corps attack is NE through the Maginot Line against enemy astride Saar R.

Second Cav Gp, attached to 80th Div, protects its L flank as it attacks toward Forbach. Group is now assembled in Longeville-les St. Avold—St. Avold area. Small recon patrols are sent to Steinberg Forest, NE of St. Avold. In Hombourg-Haut—Farebersviller area, directly ENE, 80th Div elements patrol E, probing enemy's outpost line and reconnoitering for tank crossing points over RR and various creeks. To the S, 6th Armd Div holds area SW of Barst-Marienthal—Cappel—Puttelange line. Div arty fires interdiction and harassing fires during night of 30 Nov—1 Dec. The 101st Inf, 26th Div, and elements of 4th Armd Div, attack N at 0800 from vicinity of Wolfskirchen, E of Saar R. 4 miles S of Sarre-Union. Sarrewerden, only 1 mile S of Sarre-Union is reached before noon. Enemy is entrenched on high ground E of Saar-Union; SA and arty fire from there slow down 101st Inf attack in afternoon. Supporting fighter

DECLASSIFIED

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

planes strafe enemy supply roads N from Sarre-Union to Oermingen. Outskirts of Sarre-Union are reached by 1635. Fourth Armd Div receives intense arty fire from enemy positions N and E of Sarre-Union, as it attempts to out-flank city on the E. CCA and CCB attack N from Burbach, Thal, and Adamswiller, reaching positions near Rimsdorf and about 2 miles E of Sarre-Union.

Ninety-fourth Div During month of December, 94th Div (Reinf.) continues to contain enemy forces in Brittany and protect S flank of Twelfth Army Group along Loire R. and E to Yonne R. Mission includes maintenance of pressure on strong enemy pockets at Lorient and St. Nazaire and responsibility for security of N Brittany coast.

2 U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIII Corps Following 5-minute arty preparation, 84th Div's 334th Inf (Cos A and B of 1st Bn) attacks for Leiffarth at 1305 and, aided by smoke screen and moving never more than 50 yards behind arty, reaches the town unopposed, securing it by 1330 and high ground outside shortly afterward; Co C mops up Leiffarth at conclusion of heavy enemy arty concentration on the town. Other troops of 84th Div renew attack for high ground near Lindern, jumping off before dawn after arty preparation; objective secured by daybreak. To the S, 102d Div successfully concludes its drive to the Roer R. line; 405th Inf during early morning reduces pillboxes and emplacements near Linnich which were by-passed yesterday; 406th mops up Linnich by nightfall; 1st Bn of 407th with fire support from 3d Bn attacks at dawn for Roerdorf and captures the town by noon while 2d Bn, during same period, takes Flossdorf.

XIX Corps Twenty-ninth Div starts operations to overcome tenacious resistance at the two remaining strongpoints W of the Roer opposite Juelich—the Juelich Sportplatz

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

2
Cont

(athletic field) and nearby swimming pool and the Hasenfeld Gut (group of buildings) about 1,100 yards N of the Sportplatz; both are protected by enemy fire from high ground on E bank of the Roer and accessible only through flat, open terrain. Elements of 1st Bn, 116th Inf, attack toward the Sportplatz and swimming pool from vicinity of Koslar paper mill but are halted by mines. Second Bn units (116th Inf) start toward Hasenfeld Gut but are pinned down by heavy arty and mortar fire; one co later moves to within 300 yards of objective before enemy fire halts it.

XVI Corps Newly-arrived 106th Div is attached to Corps. Corps Hq moves to Tongres, Belgium; XXI Corps now has Corps' former mission of receiving troops at Channel Base Section.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps Inden and entire 104th Div zone W of the Inde R. cleared of enemy by 1700. At 2300, 104th Div's 415th and 414th Regts supported by fire of 413th assault across the Inde near Inden; by midnight three cos are across and three others ready to cross; Germans are taken by surprise at the night assaults, but quickly rally and offer severe opposition; fighting continues throughout night. First Div consolidates positions in vicinity of Langerwehe and Juengersdorf; the two cos of 26th Inf isolated in Merode are presumed lost. On N flank of 4th Div, 8th Inf advances slightly in Wenau Forest between Merode and Gey, penetrating enemy defenses and exploiting breakthrough before attack halts at 1600 for consolidation of positions. Counterattacks to the S are repulsed by 12th and 22d Regts: 12th Inf quickly drives off small force from 91st Div attacking newly-won positions near Gey; determined counter-attack near Strass by elements of 353d Div penetrates 22d Inf line, but lost ground is regained before dark. Meanwhile, 2d Bn of 12th Inf makes limited objective gain in center. CCA, 5th Armd Div, is released from attachment to 4th Div and reverts to parent Div.

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

7

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

2
Cont

V Corps On 8th Div front, attached CCR of 5th Armd Div attacks SE toward Brandenburg along road from Kleinbau, gaining about 500 yards before being held up by high velocity fire and mine fields; mines are cleared during night. Elements of 121st and 28th Regts renew attacks to clear enemy from vicinity of Brandenburg and Bergstein, moving forward slowly but steadily. Supporting 8th Div, fighter bombers strike at Brandenburg and Bergstein. Situation is static on remainder of Corps front.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

XX Corps Corps front roughly parallels Siegfried Line on other side of Saar R. From vicinity of Merzig to S of Saarlautern, the Line is held by 19th Gren Div, 719th Inf Div, and elements of 21st Pz Div. Tenth Armd Div captures town of Dreisbach, on W bank of Saar R. about 5 miles NW of Merzig. CCA begins river crossing demonstrations at three likely sites along Div front. Boundary between 90th and 95th Divs is shifted S to bring town of Wallerfangen, immediately NW of Saarlautern, within 90th Div zone. TD's destroy 6 enemy pillboxes. A co of 357th Inf enters Rehlingen after dark. Engrs are clearing Buren-Rehlingen road for tanks. Additional guns are placed along 359th Div front, N of Nied R., and arty increases its fire on targets across the Saar R.

Ninety-fifth Div is supported by about 400 medium bombers in Saarlautern area during morning. Elements of 377th Inf in St. Barbara withdraw while Div Arty places TOT on the town. Following arty and air bombardment, St. Barbara is re-entered and cleared of all enemy by 1300. Many mines are encountered on St. Barbara-Wallerfangen road. Other units of 377th advance through Beaumarais to Wallerfangen, which patrols find to be clear of enemy. Villages of Bisten, Neuforweiler, and Fikard, SW of Saarlautern, are centers of stiff resistance, but finally fall to 378th Inf. No advance is made, however, during entire day of fighting in Falck and Merton areas at N edge of la Houve Forest. Ninety-fifth Rcn Tr is placed on R

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

flank, between 378th Inf and 5th Div. Enemy barracks near W edge of Saarlautern are captured in afternoon by 379th Inf and fighting within the city commences. Enemy resistance is determined, though not well organized. There are no signs of further enemy withdrawal to the E. Tenth RCT of 5th Div attacks NE at 0800, through E part of la Houve Forest, and captures town of Creutzwald. On its E, 6th Cav Gp attacks toward town of l'Hopital.

XII Corps North half of Corps zone continues inactive. Sixth Armd Div Arty resumes harassing and interdiction fires during night of 1-2 Dec, targets including Ernestviller, Grundviller, and Holving. The 104th Inf moves up on L flank of 101st, as 26th Div again attacks Sarre-Union, where street fighting commences by 1930. Enemy tank and inf counterattacks from N and E of the city are frequent. Elements of 101st attempting to move up through woods on E side are met by furious resistance, but gain positions astride high ground on Sarre-Union-Domfessel road. Other units of 26th Div by-pass Sarre-Union on the W, while CCB of 4th Armd Div by-passes it on the E, repelling strong counterattacks from direction of Domfessel. Elements of 104th Inf, 26th Div, join in the fighting within the city in the afternoon. During night of 2-3 Dec, 35th Div relieves elements of 6th Armd Div SW and S of Puttelange, moving into position for eventual attack across Saar R. in vicinity of Sarreguemines.

3 U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIII Corps Offensive operations halt, and a period of consolidation of positions, intensified patrolling, rotation of troops, and special training in preparation for Roer R. crossing ensues. Eighty-fourth Div quickly repels pre-dawn counterattack against Leiffarth by small enemy force.

XIX Corps Attempts by 116th Inf, 29th Div, to reduce the Sportplatz and Hasenfeld Gut strongpoints again meet with bitter resistance which prevents significant gains; 1st Bn troops are pulled back to Koslar and two cos of

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED

9

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

3
Cont

3d Bn committed against the Sportplatz; 2d Bn makes no further progress toward Hasenfeld Gut.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps Continuing assault across the Inde initiated night of 2/3, 3d Bn of 415th Inf, 104th Div, fights its way to Lucherberg and takes it from stubbornly resisting and numerically superior enemy by 1715; 2d Bn of same Regt gains limited objective SW of Lucherberg by dawn; as diversion for 2d Bn, 415th Inf, 3d Bn of 414th secures bridgehead E of Inden extending as far as RR 700 yards E of the town and repels counterattack while doing so. First Div attacks NE toward Luchem, 1st Bn of 16th Inf jumping off at 0600, entering the town at 0812, and clearing it and positions near by with aid of tanks and TDs during day; in limited objective attack, elements of 18th Inf secure site for observation post near Juengersdorf. Both Lucherberg and Luchem were defended by elements of German 3d Para Div. On S of Corps front, 4th Div's action is largely defensive, and its relief is initiated. Eighth Div renews attack on N of Div zone but makes no headway due to an almost simultaneous enemy attack preceded by heavy arty concentration; German infiltration in 12th Inf sector, in center of Div zone, causes slight withdrawal; counterattack against Div R flank is repulsed by 22d Inf which is relieved in line later in day by 330th Inf, 83d Div. Elements of German 981st Regt, 272d VG Div, participate in counterattacks against 4th Div; these troops are newly arrived on Corps front from the S. Fourth Div units, as relieved, are to move to 83d Div area and pass to VIII Corps control.

For the first time in two months, German planes are over Corps zone in strength; of about 60 engaged by AA, 25 are destroyed and 10 probably.

V Corps Resuming attack toward Brandenburg at 0800, CCR of 5th Armd Div (attached to 8th Div) gains the town against relatively light resistance by 1415. Eighth Div's 121st and 28th Regts gain limited objectives in

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

3
Cont

vicinity of Brandenburg and Bergstein. RCT 47, 9th Div, completes movement to Camp Elsenborn area.

Enemy air activity over Corps zone increases: AA downs 8 and probably 10 more of about 30 ME-109s strafing 8th Div positions; of 12 planes raiding 9th Div zone, 4 are shot down by AA; 40 ME-109s and FW-190s reported over Monschau.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

XX Corps CCA of 10th Armd Div continues river crossing demonstrations along W bank of Saar R. NW of Merzig, while rest of Div assembles in rear areas. The 359th Inf of 90th Div maintains fire on Siegfried Line defenses across the Saar R. while, on its R., the 357th Inf assembles in Buren-Siersdorf-Hemmersdorf area and opens routes to Rehlingen.

After crossing to N bank of Saar R. early in morning without arousing the enemy, 1st Bn of 379th Inf, 95th Div, succeeds in taking important Saar R. bridge at Saarlautern only minutes before it was to have been blown by enemy. Immediate utilization of bridge proves impossible, however, since the Germans soon blanket it with heavy fire and make every effort to retake it during the day. House-to-house fighting in Saarlautern continues until late afternoon, by which time most of the city has been cleared. Niederlimberg, adjoining Wallerfangen, is taken by 377th Inf. Lisdorf, S of Saarlautern, is being cleared by 378th Inf. All three regts of 95th Div have reached the Saar R.

RCT 10 of 5th Div continues attack to NE but cannot advance against strong resistance offered by enemy. Two counterattacks strike 5th Ranger Bn along Carling-Volklingen road, but Bn repulses both and attacks to outskirts of Lauterbach.

XIII Corps Sixth Armd Div relieves 80th Div units in vicinity of Henriville, S of Farebersviller, and is relieved by elements of 35th in CCB zone to the S. CCB assembles at St. Jean-Rohrbach, preparatory to moving NE through 35th Div zone, so as to attack 6th Armd Div objectives from the S. Enemy harassing fire falls in

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

35th Div sector. Woods E of Sarre-Union are cleared by 26th Div elements. Around noon, Germans counterattack from N and NE with tanks and inf and enter the city, where bitter hand-to-hand fighting under tank, arty, and sniper fire is resumed. Fourth Armd Div sends in tank reinforcements, but fighting continues until 2200.

4 U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIII Corps Another small enemy counterattack, by a co or less with several tanks, against 84th Div units at Leiffarth is broken up by arty fire before it gets under way.

XIX Corps Front line of 2d Armd Div is taken over by 82d Armd Rcn Bn and Rcn Co, 67th Armd Regt. Troops of 116th Inf, 29th Div, again fail in attempts to clear the Sportplatz area and Hasenfeld Gut because of mines and determined enemy resistance; Co K, assisted by arty smoke screen and two tanks, makes progress toward Hasenfeld Gut during night.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps On N of Corps zone, 3d Bn of 414th Inf, 104th Div, repels early morning counterattack and strengthens its bridgehead E of Inden, while elements of 415th Inf mop up Lucherberg and vicinity by 1600 despite heavy enemy fire and counterattacks by freshly brought up troops. Shortly after resistance at Lucherberg is crushed, supporting weapons are brought across the Inde. Two bridges, one at Inden and another at Lamersdorf, are completed by 329th Engr Bn. First Div regroups and prepares for relief; 2d Bn of 36th Armd Inf, 3d Armd Div, is attached and starts relief of elements in line. Fourth Div's 8th and 12th Regts clear pockets of resistance in regimental zones, leaving 24th Cav Rcn Sq to outpost regions cleared; 330th Inf improves front line formerly held by 22d Inf, while latter moves to VIII Corps sector where it will relieve elements of 83d Div.

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

4
Cont

V Corps Eighth Div continues to make slow progress toward the Roer and Kall Rivers in limited objective attacks by 121st and 28th Regts; chief opposition is in zone of 28th Inf on the S. Ninth Div units move N to vicinity of Eschweiler to relieve 1st Div.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

XX Corps River crossing demonstrations which CCA of 10th Armd Div continues to stage along Saar R. NW of Merzig draw increased enemy arty fire. Ninetieth Div's 358th Inf moves to Gisingen-Oberlimberg-St. Barbara area, directly NW of Wallerfangen, and prepares for coming attack across Saar R. Elements of 95th Div's 377th Inf move to Saarlautern after zone held by them on Div L flank passes to control of 90th Div. Lisdorf, S of Saarlautern, falls to 378th Inf. Fraulautern, across the river from Saarlautern, is attacked by 379th Inf at 0645 and at about 1000 an enemy tank-inf counterattack is repulsed here. Enemy fire from Saarlautern-Roden, to the N, is very heavy all day. Other elements of 379th Inf mop up Saarlautern W of the river. Fifth Div's 10th RCT advances NE across German border and through woods to positions S of Friedrichweiler and W of Ludweiler, about 3 miles from Wadgassen and Volklingen on the Saar R. Sixth Cav Gp secures l'Hopital and clears W edge of Lauterbach. RCT 11 (-2d Bn) moves from Metz to vicinity NW of Lauterbach, to support attack on RCT 10.

III Corps Initial mission of Corps is to relieve XX Corps of responsibility in Metz area. Newly arrived 87th Div begins move from vicinity of Saint Saens to Metz.

XII Corps Second Cav Gp takes Freyming and screens line Hombourg-Haut-Freyming on Corps L flank. Combat patrol of 42d Cav Sq clears Steinberg Forest. At 0730, 318th Inf, 80th Div, attacks through Farebersviller to seize high ground NE of Farebersviller, while heavy arty and mortar concentrations are placed on all objectives. Only moderate resistance encountered. Kochern and town of

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Section 1: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

Part 1: Twelfth Army GroupDec
19444
Cont

Theding, NE of Farebersviller, are taken. At 2250, one of several time bombs planted in St. Avoild by retreating Germans blows up an AAA Bn CP. Sixth Armd Div attacks German positions located along axis of RR line running through Farebersviller and Farschviller, CCA advancing E at 0730 to seize le Mont de Cadenbronn and high ground in Diebling-Tenteling-Rouhling-Weiserding area directly E of Farebersviller. TF 1, on W flank, pushes through le Buchwald, SW of Kochern, and by early afternoon captures Ebering, ESE of Theding. TF 2 attacks Farschviller about noon and moves on NE toward Diebling, which is entered against broken opposition and quickly captured. An attempt to take Metzging late in day fails. Enemy guns on N outskirts of Metzging fire on tank columns of TF 1 moving NE from Diebling toward Cadenbronn and disable 8 tanks. TF 5 then joins forces with TF 1 to attack Tenteling and Cadenbronn, E of Ebering. By dark, Tenteling has been captured and both TFs hold high ground directly W of Cadenbronn. At dark, TF 4 is constituted from CCR, TF 1, and TF 5. Plan on Div R flank is to reduce town of Loupershouse, between Farschviller and Puttelange, by arty fire, then occupy it and construct a bridge there. After heavy concentration of 105-mm. assault guns and tank fire has been placed on Loupershouse, TF 3 advances across flooded valley and stream about 400 yards under enemy fire from town and seizes bridgehead across river S of town.

At 0400, 35th Div attacks toward Ernstviller, Grundviller, and Heckenransbach, directly E of Puttelange. Latter is cleared by 0930, as bns of 134th Inf on 35th Div L flank overrun sleeping enemy soldiers there. To the S, 320th Inf encounters resistance at once from SA and automatic fire, especially across stream N of Remering. Diderfing, Bettring, and Holving, on Div R flank, are cleared against lighter resistance. In the evening, 134th Inf, in Div N sector, drives on to Guebenhouse and Ernstviller, which it outposts during night, and 320th Inf advances toward Ballering. Twenty-sixth Div continues clearing Sarre-Union. Task forces from both combat commands

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

of 4th Armd Div attack Voellerdingen and Domfessel. Latter is held only by light enemy rear-guards, but CCA is delayed while engrs fill in bomb craters and build two bridges. Strong resistance of tanks and inf is overcome in taking Voellerdingen.

5 U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIX Corps Co K of 116th Inf, 29th Div, succeeds in reaching wall around Hasenfeld Gut early in morning, but withdraws soon afterward as no means of entrance is found. During night of 5/6, all elements of 116th Inf are withdrawn to Koslar preparatory to launching new drives against the Sportplatz and Hasenfeld Gut.

XVI Corps Seventy-eighth and 106th Divs are released from attachment to Corps and pass to First Army control.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps In determined effort to recapture Lucherberg, Germans counterattack with elements of 689th Regt, 246th VG Div, and 8-10 tanks early in morning, following hour-long arty barrage; 415th Inf, 104th Div, drives off attackers before noon, inflicting heavy casualties and destroying four of the tanks. During night, supporting weapons of 3d Bn, 414th Inf, are brought across the Inde under cover of arty barrage. Relief of 1st Div continues: RCT 39, 9th Div, moves up from V Corps zone and relieves 26th Inf in line; 26th Inf withdraws to rest area at Aubel, Belgium. First Div's RCT 16 is attached to V Corps. Elements of 12th Inf clear small enemy pocket in center of 4th Div sector; to the S, RCT 330 repels counterattack preceded by heavy arty and mortar barrage SW of Strass and later drives off hostile patrol.

V Corps Eighth Div attacks toward Bergstein with CCR, 5th Armd Div, and captures the town by dark; approaches to Bergstein are blocked and mopping up initiated. Arty

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group5
Cont

and fighter bombers support assault on Bergstein. Elements of 121st and 28th Regts, meanwhile, consolidate previous gains and renew attacks toward the Roer and Kall Rivers on L and R, respectively, of CCR with some success, although 121st Inf fails to join with CCR, and enemy pocket in front of 2d Bn, 28th Inf, S of Vossenack holds out against day-long attacks; the pocket is brought under arty fire during night. RCT 16, 1st Div, is attached to V Corps and relieves RCT 60, 9th Div, of responsibility for defensive positions in Lammersdorf-Mutzenich area; 1st Bn of 60th Inf is detached from 102d Cav Gp. Ninety-ninth Div reports heaviest shelling by enemy arty since Div took over sector. Considerable evidence of enemy digging has been observed in this area for past few days. Seventy-eighth Div is assigned to V Corps.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

XX Corps CCA, 10th Armd Div, ceases river crossing demonstrations in afternoon and withdraws to rear area. Third Cav Gp commences taking over 10th Armd Div zone NW of Merzig. Ninetieth Div seeks crossing sites in vicinity of Itzbach and Wallerfangen. Saar R. is flooded and far banks are inundated. Cities of Pachten and Dillingen on opposite side of the river are obviously heavily fortified and mutually supporting pillboxes are numerous all along the E bank. The 378th Inf, 95th Div, crosses Saar R. opposite Endorf, SE of Saarlautern, and at end of day is fighting within Endorf and E of RR tracks at point S of city. Elements of 379th Inf enter Saarlautern-Roden, while units in Fraulautern take several enemy pillboxes at S end of city. Continuing its advance to within 2 miles of Saar R., 5th Div's RCT 10 captures Friedrichweiler, Differten, and Werbeln, and clears most of Ludweiler, while RCT 11 captures Lauterbach and reaches the Roselle R. Karlsbrunn, 3 miles SW of Grossrosseln, is captured by 6th Cav Gp.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

XII Corps Second Cav Sq extends screen from Freyming to Rosbruck and across German border to St. Nikolaus. Elements of 42d Cav Sq reconnoiter Cite Jeanne d'Arc. Eightieth Div continues to occupy positions taken N and NE of Farebersviller on previous day. TF 2 of CCA, 6th Armd Div, resumes attack on Metzging at 0950 and captures it. Tank-inf team is sent to take Nousseville, already outflanked on N by attack of TF 4 on Cadenbronn. Ippling, 2 miles E of Metzging, also is occupied. TF 4 envelops Cadenbronn from the N and by noon holds both le Mont de Cadenbronn and town of Cadenbronn. In afternoon, TF 4 envelops Rouhling, E of le Mont de Cadenbronn, from N and S and takes the town before nightfall. Attacking at 0800, 134th Inf of 35th Div soon takes Heckensransbach and Woustviller and has elements in outskirts of Sarreguemines. The 320th Inf seizes Ballering, midway on road between Puttelange and Sarralbe, at 0110, then proceeds to take Richeling, Grundviller, Hambach, and Siltzheim—latter two villages 3 miles S of Sarreguemines. Patrols are sent through Sarreguemines Forest to Saar R. after dark. As enemy withdraws, he leaves scattered forces, mines, and road blocks to delay 35th Div's advance. Twenty-sixth Div continues attack N from Sarre-Union; 328th Inf enters drive on Div L flank, seizing Schopperten, Keskastel, and Sarralbe. CCB of 4th Armd Div crosses Eichel R. at Voellerdingen and with inf riding on tanks drives cross-country toward Schmittviller. CCA attacks NE from Domfessel, crossing the Eichel and advancing to Dehlingen against light SA opposition. TF of CCB which proceeded past Schmittviller to point NW of Rohrbach-les-Bitche is forced to withdraw for lack of inf to consolidate the gain.

6 U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIX Corps All three regts of 116th Inf, 29th Div, are committed against the Sportplatz and Hasenfeld Gut strongpoints: aided by fighter bombers of XXIX TAC, chemical mortars, and arty, 1st Bn heads for the Sportplatz,

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

17

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

6
Cont

2d Bn attacks toward Hasenfeld Gut, and 3d supports attacks of 1st and 2d Bns; although progress is made initially, neither objective is secured because of severe arty, mortar, and SA fire from the strongpoints in addition to arty fire from across the Roer.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps In limited objective attack, 3d Bn of 414th Inf, 104th Div, expands its bridgehead E of Inden about 400 yards, mopping up as attack progresses and taking over 100 prisoners. RCT 60, 9th Div, moves from V to VII Corps zone to relieve remainder of 1st Div; at midnight, 9th Div is placed under VII Corps control. Preparatory to relieving elements of 4th Div, RCT 331, 83d Div, moves to Gressenich area.

V Corps Three determined enemy counterattacks on Bergstein result in heavy casualties to defenders, CCR of 5th Armd Div, but fail to oust them. Because of severe opposition in this area, 2d Ranger Bn is committed and at night passes through CCR and attacks for objectives beyond the town. Fighter bombers furnish air support in vicinity of Bergstein. Meanwhile, 121st Inf, 8th Div, strengthens defensive positions and with 1st Bn attacks for hill near Bergstein; attack is broken off during enemy counterattacks on Bergstein, but renewed at 2130 and objective captured. Twenty-eighth Inf secures R flank of CCR in Bergstein, but 2d Bn fails to clear pocket S of Vossenack. Enemy arty fire on 99th Div front increases about 100% from yesterday's record fire.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

XX Corps Forty-third Cav Rcn Sq of 3d Cav Gp relieves 10th Armd Div and demonstrates with tank and arty. Tenth Armd Div Arty conducts fire and smoke demonstration from 0700 to 1100, to divert enemy attention while 90th Div crosses Saar R. At 0200, assault troops of 90th Div move up to the banks of the Saar R., and at 0415 the first waves of 4 bns shove off for the far bank. Almost complete

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twelfth Army Group6
Cont

tactical surprise is achieved. The 358th Inf crosses opposite Dillingen and just S of Pachten. First Bn pushes across open ground toward Dillingen, which it reaches well before dawn. Pillboxes by-passed during night and others S of Prims R. harass rear and flank elements, requiring assault teams to work their way backward to dispose of them. Third Bn is into Pachten by daybreak and fights there from house to house and from pillbox to pillbox for remainder of day. A strong belt of enemy fortifications on its L flank prevents contact with 357th Inf to the N. Second Bn, which crosses to Pachten after 0800 on a newly constructed footbridge, is subjected to intense MG and mortar fire. First Bn of 357th Inf crosses just S of Rehlingen, reaches Beckingen-Dillingen road by dawn, moves to high ground in vicinity of Pachten, and there waits for 2d Bn, which crosses nearer Pachten, S of destroyed RR bridge; after daybreak rear elements receive heavy MG fire from pillboxes along RR embankment on L flank and fortified area on R—between the regts. At 1730, 1st Bn of 357th Inf is counterattacked from NE by enemy inf and tanks but is able to repulse the attack with heavy losses to enemy. Third Bn of 357th Inf crosses after dark. Enemy fire thwarts all attempts to bridge the river and even the footbridge has been destroyed by end of day. Smoke operations are unsuccessful. Food and ammo are brought up by assault boats and carrying parties. On Div N flank, 359th Inf remains on W bank of Saar R., maintaining arty fire on visible fortifications on opposite side and carrying out smoke and fire demonstrations. Ninetieth Div units in bridgehead area are in precarious situation at end of day, lacking firm lateral contact with one another, harassed by pillboxes in their rear areas, and without adequate means for crossing supplies and armor.

Ninety-fifth Div, also up against the Siegfried Line, gains only a few blocks in towns of Saarlautern-Roden, Fraulautern, and Ensdorf, across the river from Saarlautern proper. Many buildings are so strongly defended that they resemble forts. Numerous counterattacks are received and

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

19

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

enemy arty and mortar fire is intense, particularly in early part of day. One bn of 378th Inf is still on W side of Saar R., unable to cross because of enemy arty and SA fire.

Metz fort. of St. Quentin ceases all resistance at 1300 and almost 600 PWs are taken from it by 2d RCT of 5th Div. RCT 10 reaches Saar R. at Wehrden, where bridge is found blown, and in vicinity of Wadgassen, to the N. Elements of RCT 11 cross Roselle R. against strong resistance. In S of Div sector, 6th Cav Gp clears towns of Grossrosseln, Emmersweiler, and Rosbruck, along course of Roselle R.

XII Corps Elements of 42d Cav Sq seize Morsbach, 4 miles N of Farebersviller, and dispatch patrol to Forsbach along rail route NE into Saarbruecken. Under light enemy arty fire, 2d Cav Gp holds positions E of Morsbach. Eightieth Div extends its line northward, occupying Merlebach without opposition. TF 2 of 6th Armd Div envelops and occupies Hundling, then continues E through Ippling to Welferding, which it occupies under fire from enemy guns E of Saar R. In 35th Div sector enemy resistance has been driven E of Saar R. except for pocket in vicinity of Wittring, 5 miles SE of Sarreguemines. Fourth Armd Div attacks toward Rohrbach-les-Bitche, receiving heavy arty fire from Singling, on L flank. Attempts of Div to take Singling and Bining are unsuccessful in face of very strong resistance. Twenty-sixth Div captures Kulhausen, 7 miles NE of Sarre-Union, and regroups for assault on Maginot Line fortifications.

7 U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIX Corps Twenty-ninth Div's 115th Inf relieves 116th preparatory to launching new assaults on Sportplatz and Hasenfeld Gut tomorrow, and latter moves to assembly areas at Shaufenberg and Bettendorf.

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group7 U.S. FIRST ARMY
Cont

VII Corps Third Bn of 414th Inf, 104th Div, increases its holdings E of Inden by 500 yards and gains dairy. Ninth Div completes relief of 1st Div and at 2400 takes over responsibility for Luchen-Langerwehe-Juengersdorf-Merode region; remainder of 1st Div (-RCT 16, attached to V Corps) moves to rest areas. Eighty-third Div completes relief of 12th Inf, 4th Div, at 1600, and at this time becomes responsible for 4th Div zone with 8th Inf of that Div under command in present position; 4th Div (-8th Inf) passes to VIII Corps control. Elements of 4th Cav Gp formerly assisting 1st and 4th Divs pass to control of 9th and 83d Divs, respectively. RCT 329, 83d Div, remains in Luxembourg and is attached to 4th Div.

V Corps Orders are issued for Corps attack, starting 13 December, to capture four dams (Urfttalsperre, Schwammenauel, Paulushoff, Heimbach) on the Roer and Urft Rivers. Attempts to destroy these by aerial bombing have met with little success, and their possession by the enemy would severely handicap U.S. assault across the Roer.

In 8th Div sector, 2d Ranger Bn continues attack initiated night of 6/7, gaining its objectives S and E of Bergstein by 0930 and securing approaches to the town. Germans mount determined counterattacks against Bergstein, but all are repulsed with able assistance of arty. During night, CCR, 5th Armd Div, moves out of Bergstein to assembly area W of the town. Elements of 121st and 28th Regts make slow progress in limited objective attacks, but enemy pocket remains S of Vossenack in zone of 2d Bn, 28th Inf; boundary shift at night narrows 2d Bn zone, giving a portion of it to 13th Inf. Remainder of Corps zone is quiet, and enemy arty fire on 99th Div decreases.

VIII Corps Responsibility for S sector of Corps, from vicinity of Beaufort, on the N, to the Franco-German boundary, on the S, passes from 83d Div to 4th Div, as latter is transferred to this corps from VII Corps and

DECLASSIFIED

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

7
Cont

83d Div is assigned to VII Corps. New front of 4th Div extends along the Sauer and Moselle Rivers in region NE of Luxembourg city. Enemy holds small pockets W of the Sauer R. in the river bend area E of Echternach, at Born, and at Wasserbillig.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

XX Corps Third Cav Gp conducts intensive patrolling E and SE of Tunsdorf. Enemy arty, mortar, and SA fire falls on 43d Cav Rcn Sq's positions in Nohn, Ripplingen, and Schwemlingen. Ninetieth Div engrs continue efforts to bridge Saar R. in vicinity of Pachten, but are soon forced to postpone construction until nightfall. Second Bn, 358th Inf, attacks E from Pachten in a day-long fight against pillbox defenses which have prevented contact with 1st Bn. Latter continues combat in Dillingen, where a stalemate seems to have been reached. First and 2d Bns of 357th Inf, on high ground commanding approaches to bridgehead area from N and NE, are attacked from three directions but force assaulting enemy units to withdraw in disorder. Regt spends remainder of day reducing pillboxes threatening its supply routes. Enemy continually infiltrates, reoccupying all pillboxes not physically held. Steadily maintained enemy pressure from N, E, and SE, and lack of shelter forces many troops to remain in their waterlogged fox holes. Attempts to smoke enemy's multiple vantage points and to keep a smoke screen on the river line are rendered futile by unfavorable wind conditions. Resupply of 357th Inf bogs down badly.

Enemy arty has knocked out all bridges in S sector of 95th Div zone, where 378th Inf is making only slight progress in clearing enemy fortified positions in Ensdorf. Equally severe fighting continues in Saarlautern-Roden and Fraulautern. Div units have not progressed much beyond RR tracks running through W edge of all three towns.

Ft. Plappeville, containing over 250 soldiers, surrenders to 2d Inf, 5th Div, at 1200. Other elements

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

of Div assemble for reorganization and training. RCT 10 completes occupation of W bank of Saar R. in its sector, seizing towns of Wadgassen and Hostenbach.

XII Corps On Corps L flank, 86th Cav Ren Sq of 6th Armd Div relieves 2d Cav Gp, which moves to rest area after having reached outskirts of Forbach, Oeting, and Emmersweiler. Other units of 6th Armd Div relieve 80th Div, which assembles in vicinity of St. Avold. Thirty-fifth Div prepares to cross Saar R.; elements of 134th Inf clear Sarreguemines as far E as the river. Small units of 320th Inf are sent to Zetting and Wittring, river towns SE of Sarreguemines. Twenty-sixth Div, attacking in area N of Kulhausen, captures Weidesheim and Etting and clears le Grand Bois. Fourth Armd Div captures Bining before being relieved by 12th Armd Div, U.S. Seventh Army.

8 U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIX Corps Troops of 115th Inf, 29th Div, with elements of 92d Cml Bn and assault guns of 747th Tank Bn attached, attack at 0500 toward the Sportplatz and Hasenfeld Gut. Taking the enemy by surprise, 1st Bn quickly secures the Sportplatz. German mortar fire halts one of the two cos of 3d Bn attacking for Hasenfeld Gut, but the other co, protected by smoke screen, rapidly reaches and reduces objective.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps Corps action consists largely of consolidation and defense of present positions, but elements of 330th Inf, 83d Div, seize Hill 376, W of Bogheim. On 104th Div front, 329th Engr Bn completes another bridge at Inden.

V Corps On 8th Div front, two points remain sensitive, the Bergstein area and zone of 2d Bn, 28th Inf. Twenty-eighth Inf, reinf by 2d Ranger Bn and elements of 121st and 13th Regts, repulses three counterattacks in vicinity

DECLASSIFIED

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

23

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

8
Cont

of Bergstein without loss of ground, and, in small attacks, moves forward in vicinity of Vossnack and Bergstein. Second Ranger Bn is relieved during night in Bergstein area.

VIII Corps The 106th Inf, only recently arrived on the Continent, begins moving into assembly area near St. Vith, preparatory to relieving 2d Div in N sector of Corps front.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

XX Corps Patrol of 3d Cav Gp finds no enemy in hamlet of Dreisbach on the Saar R., although all approaches are covered by barbed wire entanglements. Schwemlingen again receives enemy arty fire. TD's place direct fire on targets across the river. Troops in 90th Div bridgehead area are still without a ferry service or bridge across the Saar R. First Bn of 358th Inf attacks across RR tracks at Dillingen but fails to gain against heavy fire from buildings. Enemy counterattack at 0700 effects slight penetration between 2d and 3d Bns. Heavy arty, MG fire, and roving tanks of enemy prevent 358th Inf from taking the offensive. To the N, a series of reckless counterattacks hits 357th Inf and enemy is repulsed with severe losses. The 359th Inf assembles preparatory to crossing river at midnight in zone of 357th Inf.

Ninety-fifth Div units attacking Fraulautern spend most of day attempting to reduce a particularly troublesome pillbox and mopping up 3 city blocks already taken. Only a few yards are gained in Saarlautern-Roden. Bn of 378th Inf that was still on W side of Saar R. on 7 Dec crosses in assault boats during the night and attacks across RR in Ens Dorf, making slight gains. Most effective enemy resistance is from the pillboxes, many of which are found in the towns as well as in the more thinly populated areas between.

Relief of 1st RCT, 5th Div, by 345th Inf, 87th Div (III Corps) is completed after Fort Driant surrenders to 3d Bn, 2d RCT, on the afternoon, yielding 650 PWs. Sixth Cav Gp assumes command of 10th Div front, relieving elements of 10th and 11th RCTs.

~~TOP SECRET~~

24
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

III Corps RCT 345 of 87th Div relieves 2d Inf, 5th Div (XX Corps), on Metz fortifications, garrisoning Forts Driant, St. Quentin, and Flappeville, and containing Fort Jeanne d'Arc.

XII Corps Sixth Armd Div reorganizes and holds within its zone, protecting Corps N flank. Thirty-fifth Div starts crossing Saar R. at 0500; 134th Inf crosses at RR bridge S of Sarreguemines and completes crossing by 0700. Heavy resistance is encountered on E side of river. One bn clears out buildings along R side of RR tracks to the NE, a second enters woods SE of Sarreguemines, and a third advances SE and mops up Sarreinsming. Tank counterattack from direction of Neunkirch, immediately NE of Sarreguemines, is dispersed by arty fire. Farther S, 320th Inf crosses an hour later in river bend area S of Sarreinsming. Direct fire from E bank holds up a crossing at Zetting, but to the S a bridgehead is advanced to village of Dieding. Other elements cross at night on footbridge at Wittring. Heavy enemy arty fire prevents construction of vehicular bridges near Sarreinsming and Wittring. Two forts at Achen, 2 miles SE of Wittring, and a strongpoint W of Singling are captured by 26th Div, despite strong resistance from enemy forces to the NW. Elements of 4th Armd Div move to rest areas near Cutting and Loudrefing as relief by 12th Armd Div (U.S. Seventh Army) in area SW of Rohrbach-les-Bitche continues.

Ninety-fourth Div Forces in Lorient sector reduce two enemy strongpoints in enemy bridgehead E of Etel R. Attacking at 0833, after 10-minute heavy arty preparation, elements of 301st Inf capture the fortifications within an hour, while receiving enemy fire from W of the Etel R. and from Isle de Groix. About 60 PWs are taken. French troops occupy entire E side of Etel R.

9 U.S. NINTH ARMY

Seventy-fifth Div, newly arrived on Continent, is assigned to Ninth Army and on 11 Dec further assigned to XVI Corps.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

25

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

9
Cont

XIX Corps Twenty-ninth Div's 115th Inf mops up the little remaining resistance W of the Roer in Div zone. Thirtieth Div is ordered to secure region in Div zone between the Inde and Roer Rivers, thus protecting L flank of 104th Div.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps Corps continues to defend and consolidate positions and, preparatory to resuming offensive tomorrow, adjusts lines. On N flank, 415th Inf of 104th Div sends Co K under cover of darkness to establish outpost line 400 yards E of Lucherberg. Third Armd Div Res (CC Howze) moves to assembly area near Langerwehe. Enemy activity is slight and occurs largely on 104th Div front where combat patrol is driven off and small force of inf with a few tanks moving from Pier toward Lucherberg is routed and two of the tanks destroyed.

V Corps Second Bn, 28th Inf, renews attack to reduce enemy pocket S of Vossenack and secure final objective of 8th Div, but is halted by intense opposition after gain of about 300 yards. On remainder of Div front, defensive positions are maintained and improved and various units in line relieved. Seventy-eighth Div closes in Roetgen (Germany)-Raeren (Belgium) area, preparatory to participating in drive for dams on Roer and Urft Rivers, and RCT 311 relieves 13th Inf (-3d Bn), 8th Div.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

XX Corps The 359th Inf of 90th Div crosses Saar R. in assault boats during the night, landing near enemy barracks area between the 357th Inf on the N and the 358th Inf on the S. All three regts of 90th Div are now in bridgehead area between Beckingen and Saarlautern. Newly landed elements are immediately engaged in combat by a line of enemy pillboxes extending nearly to the river on their S and by a nest of pillboxes E of the

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group9
Cont

barracks area. Fierce and unremitting combat continues in 357th Inf zone to the N, with the enemy reoccupying all pillboxes not strongly held. Units along the curve of the RR and astride the Beckingen-Dillingen road bear the brunt of the fighting. South of 359th Inf, the 358th Inf attacks across the RR tracks at 0700, fighting desperately for negligible gains. AT guns and jeeps are finally crossed by raft to units in this sector, and XIX TAC drops medical supplies. The first tank crosses Saar R. on a treadway ferry at 1930. Unreduced enemy fortifications still block contact with the two regts on the N, however, and they are still being supplied by assault boats and carrying parties working at night. With an unprotected N flank and still no juncture with 95th Div on its S flank, 90th Div struggles to hold its bridgehead against increasing enemy pressure. Many of the troops are afflicted with trench foot.

Only progress made by 95th Div in fifth day of heavy combat in the Saarlautern bridgehead area E of Saar R. is the capture of the Saarlautern-Roden RR station by 379th Inf. Div units are held to complete standstill in Fraulautern and Ensdorf. Problem of crossing supplies is made more difficult than ever by sudden rise in Saar R., which spreads to twice its normal width in 378th Inf zone.

Fifth Div reorganizes and conducts training in area W of Saar and Roselle Rivers.

III Corps RCT 346 of 87th Div moves from Metz to vicinity of Gros Rederching to initiate relief of 26th Div, XII Corps.

XII Corps Sixth Armd Div patrols aggressively to N and NE from position about 4 miles below German border S of Saarbruecken. Thirty-fifth Div enlarges bridgehead over Saar R. slightly; heavy enemy fire prevents progress on L flank. The 137th Inf clears snipers from SW part of Saarlautern. On R flank, 320th Inf seizes Hill 311, N of Dillingen and contacts 26th Div on its R before pushing on to secure Wiesweiler. Engrs complete class 40 bridges

DECLASSIFIED

ECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twelfth Army Group

at Sarreinsming and Witttring shortly before midnight. Bridge sites are under intensive enemy arty fire. Twenty-sixth Div attacks Gros Rederching, 2 miles NE of Achen. Enemy holds town stubbornly throughout day, although Wiesviller and Woelfling, over 2 miles NW of Gros Rederching, fall to elements of 26th Div.

10 U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIX Corps Fire support for 104th Div's attack on Schophoven, in VII Corps zone, is furnished by elements of 30th Div.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps Corps attacks to secure W bank of the Roer W of Dueren, with 104th, 3d Armd, 9th, and 83d Divs making coordinated effort. On the N, 414th Inf, 104th Div, is committed against Schophoven and Pier at 0745, 3d Bn halting on high ground 600 yards W of Schophoven because of determined resistance, 1st Bn reaching Pier where bitter fighting ensues, and elements of 2d Bn moving to assist in assault on Pier.

To the S, Task Forces Hogan and Kane of 3d Armd Div's CCR (Howze), followed by elements of 9th Div's RCT 60, attack toward Geich and Echtz, respectively. TF Hogan, jumping off at 0745, is halted by mine field at edge of Obergeich, but later by-passes this and continues toward Geich; 3d Bn of 33d Armd Regt enters Obergeich and completely clears it by 1700; moving behind TF Hogan, 2d Bn of 60th Inf succeeds in entering Geich, and elements with units of 3d Armd Div block road at Rothhaus, to the S. Attacking toward Echtz at 1400, TF Kane, followed by 1st Bn, 60th Inf, reaches edge of town by 1700 and, jointly with 1st Bn of 60th Inf, partially occupies the town. Other units of RCT 60, 9th Div, attack earlier in the day: attached 1st Bn of 47th Inf jumps off toward lake between Lucherberg and Luchem at

ECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

10
Cont

0730, quickly gains S edge, repels counterattack at 1255, and at night when strong resistance on L abates secures NW edge of lake; 2d Bn, 39th Inf, attacking at 1515 under cover of smoke takes Dhorn and continues beyond town to block roads.

On Corps R flank, 83d Div's mission is to clear Gey-Strass defile to permit 5th Armd Div to debouch through it and subsequently operate on R of 83d Div. Jumping off at 0630, elements of 330th Inf attack toward Strass and clear it during day, by-passing resistance at Schafberg en route; 2d Bn during afternoon starts clearing Schafberg area; meanwhile, 331st Inf's 2d Bn attacks toward Gey and gains small hold in town by 1130, but fails to clear it. RCT 329 is detached from 4th Div, VIII Corps, and moves from vicinity of Luxembourg to assembly area near Gressenich, preparatory to relieving 8th Inf, 4th Div, which is attached to 83d Div. Planned attack of CCB, 5th Armd Div, is postponed until tomorrow; CCB closes into assembly area W of Kleinhau.

Corps assaults hampered by extremely muddy terrain and unfavorable weather as well as enemy. German reaction varies from moderate at Obergeich, Dhorn, and Echtz to stubborn at Pier, Schophoven, Geich, Strass, and Gey; opposing VII Corps from N to S are 246th VG, 3d Para, 353d and 344th Inf Divs and 981st Regt of 272d VG Div.

V Corps On 8th Div front, 2d Bn of 28th Inf eliminates pocket S of Vossenack by 1600 and gains final objective of Div, concluding first phase of operations. Meanwhile, 1st Bn, 28th Inf, attacks E toward road leading SW out of Bergstein, gaining about 200 yards. Thirteenth Inf assumes responsibility for Bergstein area.

VIII Corps Ninth Armd Div is assigned a small sector of front on R flank of 28th Div, along Sauer R. in vicinity of Bigelbach. Twenty-eighth Div front now covers about 25 miles along the Our R.; the 110th Inf has taken over the central sector formerly occupied by 32d Cav Rcn Sq.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part Fifth Army Group

10 U.S. THIRD ARMY
Cont

XX Corps Arty fire is placed on hamlet of Dreisach after patrol of 43d Cav Rcn Sq observes enemy soldiers there. Only enemy activity on Corps N flank is heavy arty and mortar fire directed at Schwemlingen and Rech.

Ninetieth Div receives local tank and inf counterattacks all along its front in bridgehead area N of Saarlautern. The 359th Inf continues assaults on enemy pillboxes blocking contact with 358th Inf on the S. Ferry becomes grounded as Saar R. falls, and enemy arty fire rakes work site on the near bank, changeable winds preventing maintenance of adequate smoke cover despite employment of some 20 smoke generators, plus floating and land smoke pots, arty, and 4.2" chemical mortars.

Two major counterattacks and four lighter counterattacks hit 95th Div in bridgehead area opposite Saarlautern. Some progress is made in Fraulautern, nevertheless, where two more blocks are cleared in bitter combat, during which hand-to-hand fighting takes place in ballroom of a large hotel. Heavy counterattacks in Ensdorf and Saarlautern-Roden are repulsed without loss of ground after two-hour battle.

XII Corps Sixth Armd Div continues aggressive patrolling to N and NE, maintaining contact with elements of 6th Cav Gp on N flank and 35th Div on S flank. Thirty-fifth Div, now on E side of Saar R., contends with prepared enemy defensive positions at the edge of woods and in cellars and other strongpoints in towns. The 137th Inf crosses river at Sarreguemines and attacks NE to seize Neunkirch. Other elements are detained 4 hours in bitter, close-in combat in large porcelain factory E of city. The 320th Inf mops up le Lehwald wooded area and takes two farms in region between Wiesviller and Habkirchen. On Corps R flank, Gros Rederching falls to 3d Bn, 104th Inf, 26th Div. Other elements of Div advance N slightly in area beyond Wiesviller and Woelfling, then are forced

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

to withdraw because of massed enemy tanks in Bliesbruck Woods. TDs eliminate about 10 enemy tanks in the woods and XIX TAC fighter bombers bomb and strafe the area in the afternoon. The 101st Inf moves to Metz as 87th Div (III Corps) commences relief of 26th Div, with 346th Inf assembling in vicinity of Achen.

II U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps Strenuous efforts of 414th Inf, 104th Div, to clear Schophoven and Pier again fail: 3d Bn's attack on Schophoven at 1340 is preceded by air strike and gains 100 yards; 1st Bn, now assisted by Co E, renews assault on Pier before dawn, but is unable to oust enemy. Meanwhile, 1st Bn, 415th Inf, launches surprise attack on Merken at 0400, secures Vilvenich and thereby cuts Pier-Merken road, and captures over two-thirds of Merken, mopping up as attack progresses; more than 150 prisoners are taken.

Geich is cleared of enemy by combined efforts of TF Hogan (3d Armd Div) and 2d Bn, 60th Inf (9th Div). While 1st Bn, 60th Inf, mops up Echtz, TF Kane jumps off from E edge of town toward Hoven at 0800 and is joined at 1000 by TF Hogan, but enemy fire prevents any gains; Echtz reported clear of enemy by noon, and 1st Bn, 60th Inf, is attached to TF Kane at midnight, preparatory to renewing assault toward Hoven. Third Bn, 60th Inf, attacks from Rothhaus at 0800 to clear Kosendorf area and reaches edge of town by 0915; fire fight with enemy at Mariaweiler and Derichweiler soon develops and continues until 1500. Thirty-ninth Inf, 9th Div, attacks at 0800 and captures Schlich and Merode with 2d and 1st Bns, respectively, against strong resistance; Co K and 4th Cav Rcn Sq knock out 5 MG positions in woods near Merode.

Because of enemy infiltration into Schafberg-Strass area night of 10/11, 3d Bn of 83d Div's 330th Inf starts re-clearing this region and reports Strass clear by 1830; a subsequent counterattack is stopped; during night,

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group11
Cont

patrol establishes first physical contact with 330th Inf units in Strass since its capture. Assault on Gey is renewed at 1445 by 331st Inf, but continued determined resistance makes progress in the town slow. RCT 329 relieves RCT 8, 4th Div, on L flank of 83d Div zone; latter reverts to 4th Div and prepares to move tomorrow to VIII Corps zone.

On extreme R of Corps, CCB, 5th Armd Div, jumps off toward Schafberg at 0730, passing through 330th Inf, 83d Div; tank column halts just W of town and takes cover, while elements of 15th AIB supported by tanks continue on foot, by-passing Schafberg, which is still being mopped up by 83d Div, to occupy positions near the town; CCB, vigorously opposed by dug-in inf and arty and mortar fire, sustains heavy casualties. Fourth Cav Gp (-4th and 24th Cav Rcn Sqs) is attached to 5th Armd Div with mission of blocking on S flank; 85th Cav Rcn Sq (-) is attached to 4th Cav Gp to assist in this. CCA, 5th Armd Div, moves forward at 0730 to attack E through Gey, but is unable to pass through that town because of continued fighting there; advance halts near Grosshau.

Over 700 prisoners are taken by Corps. First and 3d Bn, 16th Inf, are detached from V Corps and revert to 1st Div; these units move to rest areas.

V Corps Eighth Div consolidates positions; in Bergstein area, 13th Inf clears region NE and E of the town, establishes outposts, and repulses counterattack. Seventy-eighth Div, under cover of darkness, moves into position for attack on dams. Second Div closes in Camp Elsenborn area and is attached to V Corps. Seventy-eighth Rcn Tr, 78th Div, relieves units of 16th Inf, 1st Div, in line, permitting them to return to VII Corps control.

VIII Corps Schnee Eifel sector of front, which has been held by 2d Div, is taken over by 106th Div, and 2d Div moves N to join V Corps. Fourteenth Cav Gp, which was attached to 106th Div on 7 Dec, occupies 6-mile front through Lanzerath, Roth, and Kobscheid, to the N of the Schnee Eifel, and maintains contact with 99th Div of V Corps.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

11 U.S. THIRD ARMY
Cont

XX Corps Troops of 43d Cav Rcn Sq enter small village of Dreisach, about 5 miles NW of Merzig, receiving MG fire from across the Saar R.

An enemy counterattack at 0200 overruns pillboxes between 1st and 3d Bns of 359th Inf, 90th Div, in Pachten-Dillingen bridgehead. The 357th Inf, by now considerably reduced in strength, withdraws about 500 meters S and SW, while elements of it continue their attack against pillboxes N of E-W portion of RR. No forward movement is attempted by 358th Inf. Ninetieth Rcn Troop is attached to 359th Inf and ordered to outpost Div N flank along W bank of Saar R., where increased enemy fire is being received.

Although fierce enemy opposition from pillboxes and fortified houses continues unabated in the Saarlautern bridgehead, 95th Div troops advance about 5 city blocks in both Fraulautern and Ensdorf.

III Corps Units of 101st Inf, 26th Div, relieve 87th Div units containing Fort Jeanne d'Arc and 87th Div passes to XII Corps control.

XII Corps Sixth Armd Div Arty maintains harassing fire on towns between Div front line and Saarbruecken. Thirty-fifth Div drives N to the Blies R. and the German border: 134th Inf units advance through Felpersviller toward Frauenberg, while other elements clear Blies-Ebersing; 137th Inf continues to clear Sarreguemines, captures airport E of Sarreguemines, and seizes Frauenberg; 320th Inf advances N on Div R flank to within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of Bliesbruck, where halted by heavy enemy fire. Enemy defends strongly from woods and high ground N of Blies R. Felpersviller under arty fire in afternoon. Relief of 26th Div by 87th Div continues, but 328th Inf remains in the line and during night establishes defensive positions near Obergailbach. The 101st Inf, 26th Div, takes over siege of Fort Jeanne d'Arc from 345th Inf, 87th Div, under cover of darkness, and establishes positions in vicinity of others of the forts ringing Metz. The 346th Inf, 87th Div, advances against little opposition in area between Woelfling and Rimling.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

12 On this night, and on the three following night, outposts report hearing considerable enemy vehicular activity.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps Corps makes substantial gains in its drive to the Roer, and forward elements are less than a mile from Dueren. On N of Corps zone, 104th Div's 414th Inf secures Pier by noon, and 415th clears Merken by dusk. CCR, 3d Armd Div, gains its final objective, Hoven, at 1630; this town is won and roads near the town blocked by TF Kane with 1st Bn of 60th Inf (9th Div) attached; 1st Bn of 60th Inf is released by CCR at midnight. On 9th Div front, 2d Bn, 60th Inf, after moving from Geich to departure line E of Echtz, attacks toward Mariaweiler at 0730 and captures it by 1300 after heavy fighting; just afterward, enemy counterattack is repulsed, but some enemy remain in S portion of town. After furnishing fire support for 2d Bn's attack on Mariaweiler, 3d Bn, 60th Inf, gains group of buildings in Konzendorf and blocks crossroad S of the town. To the S, 1st Bn and Co F, 39th Inf, attack toward Rottfeld from vicinity of Merode and Schlich, gaining positions astride road in woods SSE of Merode; jumping off at 1245, 3d Bn, 39th Inf, secures about half of its objective, Derichsweiler. Fourth Cav Sq, in conjunction with 39th Inf, makes limited attacks E and maintains contact between 9th and 83d Divs. Two bns of 329th Inf, 83d Div, attack toward Guerzenich at 1000 and gain initial objective, Hof Hardt, by 1350; two small counterattacks repulsed during afternoon. Enemy remnants are at last cleared from Schafberg by about 1745; 1st Bn, 330th Inf, later in the day moves in to garrison the town, permitting 2d Bn to move N to Strass where 3d Bn is contacted. Supply road from Schafberg to Strass is cleared during night. After relieving 2d Bn, 331st Inf, in Gey, 3d Bn continues fight for that town; Grosshau-Gey road being cleared of mines. CCB, 5th Armd Div, consolidates newly won positions. Throughout the day, Germans continue their practice of defending village strongpoints tenaciously, but Corps troops bag 874 prisoners.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group12
Cont

V Corps Preparations for attack tomorrow are completed. Seventy-eighth Div takes over responsibility for Lammersdorf area, preparatory to attacking E through 102d Cav Rcn Sq. The 38th Cav Rcn Sq continues to defend Monschau sector. CCB, 9th Armd Div, is attached to Corps. Eighth Div continues to consolidate positions and eliminates hostile patrols which had crossed the river E of 13th Inf.

VIII Corps CCB is detached from 9th Armd Div and attached to V Corps. During night of 12/13, vehicular movement is heard all along the front. Direction of movement is mainly W and N from Bitburg.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

XX Corps Arty of 43d Cav Rcn Sq is active in Saar River area NW of Merzig, effecting several direct hits.

Vehicular ferry service across the Saar R. is put into operation again and cables are installed to assist small boat ferrying in 359th Inf zone. An effective smoke screen permits delivery of tanks and TD's to bridgehead area, where 90th Div has been forced on the defensive. More of RR embankment is cleared by 357th Inf elements; other units of Regt repulse an enemy counterattack of bn strength. Five pillboxes in enemy salient between 358th and 359th Regts surrender after lengthy pounding by 8" and 240-mm. howitzers, and patrol of 358th Inf establishes contact with an advance platoon of 359th Inf. Two platoons of armor are at once sent through the 359th Inf to the aid of the 357th Inf, holding N sector of bridgehead.

In 95th Div's Saarlautern bridgehead, enemy arty, MG, and mortar fire is continuous and heavy. The 377th Inf takes several more blocks in Fraulautern, about half of which has now been secured. Small gains are made in Enseldorf and Saarlautern against bitter resistance from fortified buildings.

III Corps Twenty-sixth Div is detached from XII Corps and attached to this corps. No direct assault is made on Fort Jeanne d'Arc, from which sporadic enemy fire is received.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

XII Corps Sixth Armd Div continues to hold zone of Corps N flank, S of Saarbruecken, and supports 35th Div with arty fire. At 0500, 134th Inf units of 35th Div cross Blies R. in assault boats and enter Habkirchen, slightly over 3 miles NE of Sarreguemines. Enemy offers stubborn resistance to further progress. Elements of 320th Inf inch toward Bliesbruck under intense MG and tank fire, unable to enter town even though aided by air strike. Directly E, 328th Inf of 26th Div advances into Obergailbach Woods, inside German border, prior to its relief during the night by RCT 347 of 87th Div.

Twenty-sixth Div passes to III Corps control.

13 U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIX Corps Second Armd Div front line is advanced to W bank of the Roer, a distance of about 600 yards. At 1800, Co L of 120th Inf, 30th Div, attacks N from high ground W of Schophoven and secures Viehhofen; large portion of region between the Inde and Roer Rivers in Div zone now cleared of enemy.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps At 0630, 414th Inf, 104th Div, renews attack on Schophoven; 2 cos enter the town by 0900 and are joined at 1510 by another which moved up under cover of tank smoke screen; fighting from house to house with tank support, the 3 cos secure the town by 1730; other elements are unable to overcome stiff resistance from castle SE of the town. Co of 415th Inf captures paper factory SE of Merken during morning. Attacking at 0730, 60th Inf, 9th Div, clears enemy from Mariaweiler and environs except for pocket in factory area SE of the town; 1st Bn later in day relieves TF Kane of CCR, 3d Armd Div, in Hoven. Third Bn, 39th Inf, 9th Div, attacks at 0800 and with support of tanks and TDs overcomes stiff resistance in Derichsweiler by 1535. Fourth Cav Sq is released from attachment to 9th Div and reverts to 4th Cav Gp. Enemy blows Roer R. bridge E of Hoven and another N of

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twelfth Army Group13
Cont

Derichsweiler. Renewing attack for Guerzenich at 0800, 329th Inf units of 83d Div reach objective by 1340 and against stubborn resistance gain a third of the town. The 331st Inf clears Gey by 1225; roads radiating from the town are being cleared. Corps takes 440 prisoners. Second Bn of 330th Inf, 83d Div, is attached to CCB, 5th Armd Div, in preparation for attack tomorrow. Second Bn, 16th Inf, is detached from V Corps and reverts to 1st Div.

V Corps Corps attack for dams on Roer and Urft Rivers jumps off during morning. On N, 8th Div with 1st Bn of 311th Inf stages a limited objective attack, as a diversion for 78th Div attack to the S, to clear high ground N of Kall R. in area SW of Vossenack, gaining a portion of the high ground and knocking out two pillboxes; other units of the Div drive off German patrols in vicinity of Bergstein. Seventy-eighth Div, in its first combat action, attacks with 309th and 310th Regts against Siegfried Line with preliminary objectives Rollesbroich, Bickerath, Simmerath, Kesternich, and high ground E of Kesternich; although enemy resists stiffly after recovering from initial surprise, all objectives except Kesternich are captured, and units dig in just N and W of the town. Future objectives for 78th Div are Konzen, Eicherscheid, Imgenbroich, Steckenborn, Strauch, high ground SE of Schmidt, and finally, Hasenfeld Dam. To the S, 2d Div attacks through 99th Div for six consecutive objectives: Rohren, E of Monschau; road junction on Hofen-Rocherath road; hill mass 3,000 yards E; high ground E of Dreibern and Harperscheid; road junction and high ground at Morsbach; ~~Urftalsperre Dam~~ and ridges to the S. Attacking NE, 9th Inf advances 4,000 yards unopposed, but makes no further gains because of mine fields, wire, concrete pillboxes, and heavy enemy fire. In Monschau Forest, 99th Div attacks to secure Olef R. draw E of Hellenthal with elements of 393d Inf on S and 395th on N, and against strong arty and mortar fire gains initial objectives.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group13 U.S. THIRD ARMY
Cont

XX Corps Elements of 43d Cav Rcn Sq in Dreisbach withdraw from this village before dawn, since intense enemy SA fire from across the Saar R. makes their supply very difficult.

Although 90th Div is concentrated in a small attack area, the boldness and persistence of enemy infiltration and counterattacks against its Saar R. bridgehead prevent it from making further gains and seriously threaten its present position. Div units are too depleted to man the scores of pillboxes along their front lines, while their demolition supplies are insufficient for blowing up those pillboxes not needed for shelter. Ferrying is successfully continued, but road from ferry site to Pachten is inundated and going to pieces.

A three-block gain in Ens Dorf is only visible progress made by 95th Div troops in Saarlautern bridgehead, although relief of 21st Pz Div in this area occasions slight slackening of resistance in Saarlautern-Roden and Fraulautern. Elements of 5th Div's 2d Inf are attached to 377th Inf and relieve latter's 3d Bn in Fraulautern.

III Corps The 101st Inf of 26th Div receives surrender of 511 German soldiers of Fort Jeanne d'Arc at 1115.

XII Corps On 35th Div L flank, enemy still holds area N of Sarreguemines, between Saar and Blies Rivers. Enemy arty very active. Some elements of 137th Inf, 35th Div, cross Blies R. just N of Habkirchen, but extremely heavy fire from entrenched enemy to N prevents further crossing or advance. Enemy counterattacks with armd vehicles and inf at 0015 against 134th Inf positions in Habkirchen on E bank of Blies R. Heavy fighting continues until 0400. Additional elements of 134th Inf enter Habkirchen and join in repulsing another counterattack at 0843. On R flank, 320th Inf attacks Hill 312, NW of Bliesbruck, and clears portion of Bliesbruck against stiff resistance. CG, 87th Div, assumes command of 26th Div sector on Corps

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

R flank at 1000, and 87th Div continues attacking NE toward German border.

14 Fifteenth Army advance party has established CP at Chateau d'Ardennes near Dinant, Belgium.

U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIX Corps Co I of 120th Inf, 30th Div, after relieving Co L, clears remainder of Div zone between the Inde and Roer Rivers.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps Plat of 414th Inf, 104th Div, with tank support captures castle SE of Schophoven, thereby eliminating all resistance W of the Roer in Div zone. Third Bn of 60th Inf, 9th Div, attacks to clear enemy pocket in factory area SE of Mariaweiler and with tank and TD support overcomes strong opposition to achieve objective; plat of Co L clears southward to point just short of Guerzenich, but is unable to contact 83d Div. Boundary between 83d and 9th Divs is shifted at 2130 to follow RR from point between Mariaweiler and Guerzenich E to the Roer, the RR coming in 9th Div zone. Jumping off at 0830, 329th Inf, 83d Div, clears enemy from Guerzenich by 1400 and later repels counterattack by 50-60 enemy supported by tanks. Boundary between 329th and 331st Regts is changed during morning to give Birgel to former; after 1st Bn, 329th Inf, clears line of departure in woods W of Birgel, 3d Bn starts forward at 1430 toward the town and enters it at 1500 but is unable to clear it; counterattack by enemy inf with 6 tanks is repelled. The 331st and 330th Regts attack E and NE during morning, gaining objectives between Berzbuir and Strass. Strass-Gey road cleared of mines by early morning, and ambulances for the first time are able to reach Strass. Attacking through Gey at 0925, CCA, 5th Armd Div is slowed by mines on road to Herm, but reaches that town by 1500 and here receives heavy arty

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

39

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

14
Cont

fire from Kufferath; following air strike on Kufferath and high ground to the E, advance is continued to edges of Kufferath. To the S, CCB with 2d Bn, 330th Inf (83d Div) attached makes but slight progress in attack E from Strass-Schafberg area against severe resistance; attack is initiated at 0645 and halts at 1655 after gain of one kilometer. Eighty-fifth Cav Rcn Sq (-) reverts to 5th Armd Div at night and is to operate with 4th Cav Gp in security screening on Div S flank. Corps prisoners for the day total 582.

V Corps On N of Corps zone, enemy combat patrol makes slight penetration in zone of 28th Inf, 8th Div. Seventy-eighth, 2d, and 99th Divs renew their attacks to the S. Further efforts by 78th Div to reduce Kesternich fail, although bn remains just NW of the town and another astride Simmerath-Kesternich road digs in 500 yards from the town; arty, mortar, and AW fire are met from the town and hedge rows outside the town. Other elements of 78th Div improve positions and clear out by-passed pockets; high ground NE of Rollesbroich fortified by a central and seven subsidiary pillboxes is secured with aid of aircraft and arty; efforts to take high ground S of Bickerath fail; enemy which infiltrated into Simmerath night of 13/14 is being eliminated, and a counterattack from SE of the town is repulsed. After 15-minute arty preparation, 9th Inf, 2d Div, renews attack in its zone and makes slight gains against strong resistance. Ninety-ninth Div improves positions and advances NE slowly against stiffening resistance and stubbornly defended pillboxes.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

XX Corps Forty-third Cav Rcn Sq receives heavy MG fire from E bank of Saar R. A TOT of 3 bns is placed on Merzig and a steady harassing fire is maintained at night on known or probable enemy positions.

At 0730, elements of 3d Bn, 358th Inf, 90th Div, well supported by tank, TD, and arty fire, attack a strategic RR overpass and intersection near Dillingen.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

Objective is gained by 0900, four pillboxes having been reduced and 70 prisoners taken. Div supply situation is well in hand, although operation of vehicular ferry is suspended in afternoon because of damage to ferry by enemy arty.

Ninety-fifth Div elements in Fraulautern gain about 3 more blocks in E part of town, while units fighting in Saarlautern-Roden and Ensdorf make smaller, local gains.

Fifth Div continues training in the assault of a fortified position, while 6th Cav Gp patrols vigorously along Div front.

XII Corps Enemy arty falls with increasing intensity on 35th Div front; particularly heavy concentrations hit Reinheim, Gersheim, Frauenberg, and Habkirchen in Blies R. bend area, where enemy holds dominating ground to the N. House-to-house fighting continues in Habkirchen. Attacking N in conjunction with 347th Inf of 87th Div, 320th Inf reaches positions slightly W and N of Bliesbruck. Attack of 87th Div at 0700 meets with light resistance at first. Rinling is captured by 346th Inf at 1250. Enemy counterattacks are repulsed in afternoon. Twenty-fifth Cav Rcn Sq of 4th Armd Div relieves 92d Cav Rcn Sq of 12th Armd Div on 87th Div R flank, having mission of protecting XII Corps R flank and maintaining contact between this Corps and XV Corps.

Ninety-fourth Div Germans capture 94th Rcn Tr OP at Plouharnel, on NW side of Quiberon Bay.

15 U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps On L flank, 83d Div consolidates positions in Guerzenich and continues clearing enemy from Birgel, while to the S, elements of 331st Inf clear and organize hill position from which to attack Berzbuir and at 1715 launch attack on that town, taking it by 1945. CCA, 5th Armd Div, employing a co each from 34th Tk Bn and 46th AIB, attacks toward Kufferath at 0730 and at the

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

41

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

15
Cont

same time sends a similar force against Div final objective, high ground SE of Kufferath (Hills 209 and 211); both missions accomplished by 0900 against slight resistance; 3d Bn, 331st Inf (83d Div), is given mission of holding Kufferath. At 0800, CCB with 2d Bn, 330th Inf, attached attacks: one column takes Langenbroich by 1100, while another clears woods W of Bergheim by 1130; N and S spearheads converge outside of Bergheim and await reduction of that town by 2d Bn, 330th Inf, a task which is accomplished against light resistance by 1545.

V Corps Eighth Div restores positions of 28th Inf in attack by elements of attached RCT 311. Seventy-eighth Div improves and consolidates positions already gained and renews assault on Kesternich. Bn astride Simmerath-Kesternich road attacks from the W with fire support from the bn N and W of the town, while plat of tanks attacks from the NW. Attack pushes into and through Kesternich, but enemy launches determined counterattacks to regain the town and during night infiltrates into Kesternich in some strength; one of the counterattacks is repulsed, but another causes slight withdrawal of some units and isolates the bn from remainder of 78th Div. Second Div's 9th Inf consolidates positions and patrols vigorously. Ninety-ninth Div elements, against considerably increased resistance, consolidate positions and make limited advance; 6 enemy pillboxes captured.

VIII Corps Enemy infiltrates many patrols along 28th Div front during night of 15/16.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

XX Corps Between Nohn and Dreisbach, patrol of 43d Cav Rcn Sq engages in fire fight with small enemy force in fox holes, withdrawing as enemy reinforcements appear.

In 90th Div bridgehead, 358th Inf renews assault against pillboxes and fortified building E of RR tracks in Dillingen, trying to capture Dillingen and the Prims R. bridge site on the Dillingen-Saarlautern road as a step toward consolidation of this bridgehead with that

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

of 95th Div. A foothold is gained E of the RR and enemy is driven from his MLR at edge of city. On L of 358th Inf, 359th Inf attacks in afternoon and gains 500 yards. Ground NE of Pachten is still held by 357th Inf. TF Thompson is formed out of AT personnel and Cannon Co drivers to relieve 1st Bn for a brief period.

In the Saarlautern bridgehead of 95th Div, German propaganda broadcasts directed at 377th Inf elements in Fraulautern state that they have been fighting there futilely since 7 Dec. Only parts of three more blocks are gained during the day. Resistance continues equally strong in Ensdorf; SA, mortar, and arty fire is heavy, and enemy uses flame throwers against 378th Inf. In Saarlautern-Roden, 379th Inf captures several fortified houses on Linden Strasse.

XII Corps Second Cav Gp moves to S outskirts of Sarreguemines, on L flank of 35th Div. German front directly N of Sarreguemines, along Blies R., is held by 37th Regt of 17th SS Pz Gren Div. Thirty-fifth Div continues to meet with strongest kind of resistance in Blies R. area NE of Sarreguemines. The 134th Inf reports Habkirchen clear at noon. On Div L flank, elements of 137th Inf seize ground in vicinity of Bliesransbach, but are driven out of the Breiterwald by enemy counterattack. The 320th Inf continues mopping up Bliesbruck on N side of river and drives on to Nieder-Gailbach and Reinheim, taking former during afternoon. Eighty-seventh Div attacks at 0700 against heavy resistance. Despite enemy counter-attack, 346th Inf and 347th Inf cross German border, 346th clearing Guiderkirch and Erching and 347th taking Obergailbach, all on French side of border. XIX TAC attacks Medelsheim in support of 87th Div.

16 Following brief but heavy preparatory fire, mighty German offensive, under command of Field Marshal Von Rundstedt, is launched shortly after 0530 by Field Marshal Model's Army Group "B"—6th SS Pz Army, 5th Pz Army, and 7th Army—striking at U.S. First Army front between the Hohe Venn and the vicinity

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group16
Cont

of Echternach, Luxembourg, in a desperate attempt to capture Antwerp and Brussels and split the main American and British forces. Broad plan is for Dietrich's 6th SS Pz Army to attack toward Antwerp via Stavelot and Liege concurrently with drive by Manteuffel's 5th Pz Army on Brussels by way of Bastogne and Namur; as a diversion, 7th Army is to attack for Luxembourg. Germans achieve high degree of surprise by taking advantage of poor weather which grounds Allied rcn planes, maintaining strict radio silence, choosing difficult terrain, and attacking lightly at first.

Numerous organizational changes are made to increase the combat strength of forces attempting to hold VIII Corps front and southern portion of V Corps front against the enemy's powerful onslaught. CCB of 9th Armd Div is released from attachment to V Corps at 1120 and attached to 106th Div to assist in the defense of St. Vith. Seventh Armd Div, which has been with Ninth Army, is assigned to VIII Corps, First Army, and commences movement to St. Vith. Tenth Armd Div is transferred to VIII Corps from XX Corps for the principal purpose of safeguarding Luxembourg city. It is planned to move the 82d and 101st Airborne Divs to Houffalize and Bastogne areas respectively. First Div is released by VII Corps and attached to V Corps at midnight. VT proximity fuze developed by the Navy is employed by U.S. arty with good effect.

U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIII Corps From Honsdorf and Randerath areas, Germans launch counterattacks against 84th Div troops around Leiffarth at 0430, striking between Leiffarth and Lindern and between Wuerm and Leiffarth; enemy, aided by darkness as well as arty and mortar fire, penetrates 84th Div positions, but situation is quickly restored after dawn; heavy casualties inflicted on Germans, largely due to enemy's inadequate knowledge of location of his own and Allied mine fields; estimated 80 enemy killed, 200 wounded, and 73 captured.

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

16
Cont

XVI Corps Corps is ordered to prepare plans to relieve XII British Corps and to perform certain tactical operations on that front, but subsequently plans are abandoned.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps Coincident with German offensive to the S, GAF activity over Corps front increases, and an unknown number of paratroopers are dropped. Sixth Belgian Fusilier Bn (-) is attached to 1st TD Gp with security mission of rear areas. First Div is attached to V Corps at 2400.

Meanwhile, elements of German 47th VG Div cross the Roer early in the morning and counterattack with aim of regaining Mariaweiler and Guerzenich; counterattack is preceded by heavy arty concentrations on Mariaweiler, Hoven, and Guerzenich; 9th Div prevents enemy from reaching Mariaweiler and clears area by 0900; 83d Div inflicts heavy casualties on Germans at Guerzenich and forces them to withdraw by noon. All enemy resistance at Birgel and Berzbuir is overcome by 83d Div. Against light resistance, 5th Armd Div elements reach the Roer in vicinity of Bilstein; morning attack gains CCB high ground SE of Bergheim, and Bilstein quickly falls to CCB in afternoon attack. Boundary shift between 5th Armd and 83d Divs returns to CCA responsibility for Kufferath and Hill 211; relief of 83d Div units at these points is initiated.

V Corps Germans launch all-out offensive at junction of V and VIII Corps. First assault hits Corps at 0615, after preparatory fire starting at approximately 0530. Ninety-ninth Div bears impact of enemy thrust in V Corps zone; its positions in vicinity of Hofen, SE of Monschau, hold, but its R flank in Buchholz Forest is penetrated, and Germans move W almost to Buellingen. Aid is rushed to 99th Div: 324th Engr Bn (-) is moved to woods E of Rocherath to defend N flank of hard-pressed 3d Bn, 393d Inf, and a bn of 23d Inf, 2d Div, and a co of 394th Inf are attached to 393d Inf; another bn of 23d Inf, 2d Div, with co each

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

16
Cont

of tanks and TDs are attached to 394th Inf and sent to vicinity of Muerringen. At midnight, co of 801st TD Bn moves to area S and SE of Buellingen to meet threat here. At the same time, 1st Div is released by VII Corps and attached to V Corps. Enemy arty fire is heavy and continuous throughout night, and paratroopers commanded by Lt. Col. Von der Heydte are dropped behind Corps lines in Eupen-Monschau area to seize key points, secure supply installations, disrupt communications, and create confusion. Meanwhile, 2d Bn of 395th Inf reduces last pillbox at Olef R. draw near German-Belgian border at 1400 and contacts 2d Div.

Corps units to the N of 99th Div continue offensive toward Roer and Urft Rivers objectives. Just N of 99th Div, in Monschau Forest near German-Belgian border, 2d Div's 9th and 38th Regts capture road junction on Hofen-Rocherath road, knock out 24 pillboxes in this region, and from vicinity of the road junction advance N and E approximately 1,000 yards against strong resistance. CCB, 9th Armd Div, is detached from 2d Div and V Corps.

Seventy-eighth Div launches another assault against Kesternich during afternoon, employing 1st Bn of 309th Inf from Simmerath, while another bn of 309th and bn of 310th remain in positions N and W of the town; this attack reduces pillboxes at SW edge of Kesternich, but fails to penetrate into the town. Arty breaks up counterattack forming NE of Kesternich. Second Ranger Bn is attached to 78th Div and with elements of the Div attached is to protect Simmerath from the S. Other elements of 78th Div repel counterattack against Rollesbroich.

Eighth Div units repulse counterattack against Hill 400, E of Bergstein.

VIII Corps Starting shortly before 0530 in the N and somewhat later in the S, heavy enemy arty preparatory fires are received along Corps front. Tank and inf attacks soon follow, with greatest pressure near V and VIII Corps boundary in the vicinity of the easternmost corner of Belgium, where advance elements of 14th Cav Gp and 106th Div of VIII Corps are soon overrun. St. Vith and towns of

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group16
Cont

Afst and Roth are shelled as the attack begins. Two bns of 18th VG Div, supported by about 15 tanks, strike 14th Cav Gp near Krewinkle. By 1100, Auw has been captured and Roth and Kobscheid surrounded, while 14th Cav Gp has fallen back about 2 miles. CCB, 9th Armd Div, is attached to 106th Div to help defend St. Vith. Farther S, 62d VG Div attacks and captures positions of 424th Inf, 106th Div, E of Winterspelt, but fails to penetrate its lines in vicinity of Heckhuscheid. Enemy attacks 28th Div positions along W side of Our R. at approximately 0800, employing elements of 116th Pz Div, 560th VG Div, 2d Pz Div, 26th VG Div, and 352d VG Div. On 28th Div N flank enemy attacks with a tank bn and two inf bns from direction of Kesfeld and with two inf bns from Eschfeld, with Weiswampach their objective. Lutzkampen, about 5 miles E of Weiswampach, falls. In center of Div front, Div arty inflicts heavy losses on attacking 2d Pz Div Engrs, but the attack continues and the enemy advances toward Marnach and Bockholz, from 3 to 4 miles W of Our R. Enemy arty preparation has concentrated on Marnach-Fischbach ridge, 2 miles E of Clerf (Clervaux). Enemy's penetrations are particularly deep in sector W of Our R. between Dasburg and Vianden, with heaviest pressure at Marnach, Holtzthum, and Wahlhausen. The main N-S highway between and parallel to the Our and Clerf Rivers is reached and cut by the enemy at several points. Enemy arty preparation is also very heavy in Diekirch-Bastendorf area, NE of Ettelbruck. Crossing the Our R. midway between Vianden and Wallendorf, enemy forces attack through Longsdorf toward Diekirch and Ettelbruck, reaching Walsdorf, Tandel, and area S of Bastendorf. Although 109th Inf succeeds in containing this attack, Tandel remains in enemy hands. Fifth Para Div, committed late in the day, attacks toward Diekirch along general line of boundary between 28th Div and 9th Armd Div. Everywhere along the battle front, enemy is infiltrating positions, pinning down the troops and then moving through gaps between the encircled strongpoints. In CCA, 9th Armd Div, sector, 276th VG elements advancing S down the Schwaize Ernzt draw, W of Berdorf, are nearing Waldbillig and Mullerthal. Three boatloads of German

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

47

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

16
Cont

soldiers cross Sauer R. on R flank of 9th Armd Div and infiltrate defensive positions. Enemy bridging operations near Wallendorf and Echternach are halted by arty fire. Only N sector of 4th Div front becomes directly involved in the large-scale battle in which the rest of VIII Corps is engaged. In 12th Inf sector, 212th VG Div crosses Sauer R. in strength, infiltrating to towns of Berdorf, Lauterborn, Osweiler, and Dickweiler, and surrounding Echternach. Troops are rapidly cut off in Echternach and Osweiler. Units of 70th Tank Bn participate in unsuccessful efforts to rescue men surrounded by enemy in Echternach and Berdorf and in an advance to Osweiler and Dickweiler, where they, themselves, become encircled.

Orders have been issued to hold at all costs a rear line of defense along W side of Our (upper), Clerf, and Sauer Rivers.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

XX Corps Alerted for movement to Luxembourg, 10th Armd Div is detached from this corps and attached to VIII Corps, First Army. Ninetieth Div's assault regts consolidate their positions in Dillingen. Ninety-fifth Div now holds about two-thirds of Fraulautern and Ensdorf and about one-third of Saarlautern-Roden. During night of 16-17 Dec, 5th Div begins relief of 95th Div units in Fraulautern and Saarlautern-Roden. Sixth Cav Gp is relieved from attachment to 5th Div and attached to III Corps, but remains in place along the Saar and Roselle Rivers.

III Corps Corps is assigned a zone between XX Corps on the N and XII Corps on the S, with front line running SE from Wadgassen (3 miles S of Saarlautern) to point just N of Sarreguemines, and passing SW of Forbach—still in enemy hands. This line is held by TF Fickett (6th Cav Gp) on the N and 6th Armd Div (formerly XII Corps) on the S, both of which are placed under III Corps command. Twenty-sixth Div remains at Metz to train replacements as riflemen.

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

XII Corps Resistance remains stiff in 35th Div sector and few prisoners are taken. Elements of 35th Div protecting Div L flank NE of Sarreguemines are relieved by 2d Cav Gp. Reinheim and Gersheim, latter about 7 miles ENE of Sarreguemines, are cleared by 320th Inf. Enemy arty falls on Sarreguemines and Frauenberg. Eighty-seventh Div attacks at 0700, encountering heavy resistance from Medelsheim and Baumbusch Woods. Counterattacks are repulsed on fronts of both attacking regts. Enemy arty fire is intense.

Ninety-fourth Div About 200 German troops invade Houat Island, off French coast midway between Lorient and St. Nazaire, and capture OP manned by 94th Rcn Tr, taking prisoner 4 EM and about 35 French.

17

With the realization of the magnitude of the German counteroffensive and of the uncertainty of success of delaying actions on the VIII Corps front, steps are taken to deny vital road nets to the enemy by strengthening the defenses of St. Vith, Houffalize, Bastogne, and Luxembourg.

XVIII Corps (Airborne) is detached from First (Allied) Airborne Army and attached to Twelfth Army Group with orders to concentrate as soon as possible at Bastogne, Belgium, actual order reaching Corps Commander at 0215, 13 Dec. Corps at this time consists of 82d and 101st A/B Divs, training and refitting in Reims-Suippes-Sissons area of France; 17th A/B Div, training in England; Corps Hq and Corps troops, major portion of whom are in England and remainder in Epernay, France. Eighty-second A/B Div is further attached to V Corps and 101st A/B to VIII Corps.

U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIII Corps Seventh Armd Div starts southward move to VIII Corps area of First Army early in the morning.

XIX Corps Thirtieth Div is attached to V Corps, First Army, and starts movement S at 1625; 29th Div assumes

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

17
Cont

responsibility for 30th Div zone at 2030. Seventeenth Cav Rcn Sq, Mecz, is released from attachment to 30th Div and attached to 29th. GAF harasses movement of 30th Div with little effect.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps In support of German offensive against V and VIII Corps, GAF planes operate over VII Corps zone on large scale, and paratroopers of Combat Group Von der Heydte are dropped at scattered points; AA downs 25 hostile planes and probably 6 more, and 46 paratroopers are accounted for in Corps area. In addition to systematic search for paratroopers, defensive measures are taken against possible airborne attack: patrolling is intensified and check points, road blocks, and listening posts established. RCT 47, 9th Div, is attached to V Corps.

Continuing attacks to clear R flank of Corps to the Roer, 9th Div elements meet stubborn resistance just W of Dueren but make some gains with assistance of 83d Div on R. Eighty-third Div attacks toward Roelsdorf and Lendersdorf with a bn committed against each; both towns quickly entered and cleared during remainder of day. Fifth Armd Div consolidates positions and completes relief of 83d Div units in Kufferath.

V Corps German offensive on S of Corps gains momentum and enjoys extensive air support; numerous paratroopers are dropped, most of whom are rounded up. Ninety-ninth Div units encounter Germans wearing U.S. and British uniforms and using U.S. vehicles. U.S. troops adjacent to the breakthrough are forced to fall back. Elements of 1st SS Pz Corps, 6th SS Pz Army, thrust toward Hofen and Mutzenich in vicinity of Monschau without success, and, to the S, make strong bids for Muerringen, Krinkelt, Buellingen, Butgenbach, and Malmedy. Germans attack with armd inf preceded by tanks from vicinity of Honsfeld toward Buellingen and Krinkelt at 0550 and by 0730 are in contact with 254th Engr Bn, attached to 99th Div early in day to defend roads leading into Buellingen from S.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

17
Cont

and SE; 254th Engr Bn withdraws at 0850 to defend W end of the town; shortly after noon, fighter bomber strike against enemy near Buellingen diverts German advance S of the town. Enemy gets tanks and half-tracks into Muerringen, but these are driven out. Ninety-ninth Div moves its CP from Butgenbach to Camp Elsenborn. To defend Butgenbach, co of 612th TD Bn (attached to 2d Div) is sent to road leading SE from the town, and 1st Div's 26th Inf is later attached to 99th Div to defend the town from SE and S; 26th Inf moves into position during afternoon and relieves 254th Engr Bn near Butgenbach and contacts 2d Div on L. Remainder of 1st Div is moving into position to defend Butgenbach-Weywertz-Waimes sector, E of Malmedy. Second Div establishes defensive lines S of Wirtzfeld and Krinkelt and repulses determined attacks against them. Div CP is moved from Wirtzfeld to Camp Elsenborn. Elements of 99th Div move toward defensive positions astride roads leading into Rocherath.

Despite strenuous efforts of S flank troops to stem German advance, enemy column rolls westward almost to Malmedy, contacting road blocks E and SE of the town held by 291st Engr C Bn; vigorous defense of these blocks forces Germans to by-pass Malmedy. Thirtieth Div is detached from XIX Corps, Ninth Army, and attached to V Corps to hold enemy S of Spa, where First Army Hq is located; elements are subsequently committed to secure and defend Malmedy and Stavelot, now defended solely by road blocks of 291st Engr C Bn. To bolster 291st Engr C Bn until arrival of 30th Div units, First Army sends Army Security Force reserve, consisting of 99th Inf Bn (Sep), together with elements of Twelfth Army Group "T" Forces (526th AIB, Sep, and a co of 823d TD Bn) to Malmedy; 99th Inf Bn is in command of these forces. Meanwhile, 30th Div starts S by motor toward assembly area near Hauset, Belgium, during afternoon, and while en route RCT 117 is ordered to continue S to Malmedy. In the Malmedy-Spa-Stavelot triangle are two large gasoline depots, one near Stavelot and the other on ridges a mile or so S of Spa, which enemy hopes to gain on his way to Liege, communications and supply center of First and Ninth Armies. Capture of Allied gasoline and rations would permit enemy to continue

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

51

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

17
Cont

his offensive beyond the Meuse. Malmedy is first objective of 6th SS Pz Army, with 1st SS Pz Div of 1st SS Pz Corps leading and other units of the Corps to the rear; 2d SS Pz Corps is to exploit breakthrough of 1st SS Pz Corps and thrust N through Malmedy and Eupen.

V Corps is further augmented by attachment of RCT 47, 9th Div, which assembles in vicinity of Eupen, and 82d A/B Div.

Corps troops to the N of German salient are engaged in mopping up paratroopers, consolidating and improving positions, and beating off counterattacks. Seventy-eighth Div with aid of arty repels four enemy counterattacks in and around Kesternich. Eighth Div's offensive mission is suspended; 3d Bn, 121st Inf, moves to Roetgen where it is attached to CCR, 5th Armd Div. Eighth Div CP moves from Rott to Germeter.

VIII Corps After losing all vehicles of Troop A, 32d Cav Rcn Sq, at Honsfeld, on Corps extreme N flank, and two rcn teams at Andler, 2 miles NE of Schonberg, the by now badly disorganized 14th Cav Gp is rapidly pushed back into area a few miles NW of St. Vith. Schonberg, 6 miles E of St. Vith, is soon under direct attack from the N by units of 18th VG Div, supported by armor, while Bleialf, 3½ miles S, is attacked from the S by other elements of the same div. The two enemy forces meet near Schonberg at about 0900, thus completing a pincers movement which seals off two regts of 106th Div (422d and 423d) holding positions in the Schnee Eifel salient to the E. The 18th VG Div is then headed straight W for St. Vith, through Heuem. The 168th Engrs are fighting a delaying action N and E of St. Vith. CCB of 9th Armd Div is committed SE of the city, where 424th Inf of 106th Div is under heavy attack in vicinity of Winterspelt by 62d VG Div and elements of 1st SS Pz Div. Winterspelt and Winterscheid fall to the enemy by 1030. CCB of 7th Armd Div arrives at St. Vith at about 1600 and is immediately committed E of the city. At 1700, enemy is within 1 km. of St. Vith, but his advance is effectively checked by 1930. The rest of 7th Armd Div arrives in St. Vith area

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

17
Cont

before midnight. CCR is to take its position S of Recht, about 5 miles NW of St. Vith, while CCA goes to vicinity of Beho, 7 miles SW of St. Vith.

In center of Corps sector enemy tanks and inf have continued to infiltrate throughout the night, seriously disrupting communications. Additional enemy tank and inf forces are being committed all along 28th Div front. Marnach and Bockholz, well W of the N-S highway, have fallen during the night. These deep penetrations are soon extended to the Clerf R. and by 1100 a pitched tank battle is in progress in Clerf, where 110th Inf CP is located. Adjacent defenses are overrun or by-passed and by midnight enemy units are through Div rear boundary W of Clerf and are within two miles of Div CP at Wiltz, 10 miles ESE of Bastogne. The 44th Engr Combat Bn is given mission of defense of Wiltz. Large part of counter-attacking units of 110th Inf becomes encircled during the day. On 28th Div N flank the 112th Inf withdraws to W bank of Our R. during the night of 17-18 Dec. In S sector of Div zone, 109th Inf retakes Tandel but fails to take Longsdorf, directly E. CCR of 9th Armd Div is moved SW from Corps Reserve at Trois Vierges to establish road blocks along the Bastogne-Trois Vierges road. Enemy's bridgehead at Echternach is broadened to the SW and NW with the capture of Lauterborn and Berdorf, and enemy reaches Scheidgen and Consdorf, 4 miles SW of Echternach. Twelfth Inf of 4th Div halts enemy penetration S of Osweiler and Dickweiler, but American units are cut off in Berdorf, Lauterborn, Echternach, Consdorf, Osweiler, and Dickweiler. The forces in Berdorf and counterattacking medium tanks on S flank of enemy penetration come under heavy fire during night of 17-18 Dec; an 89th Cav Rcn Sq troop is overrun near Beaufort. Tenth Armd Div arrives in vicinity of Luxembourg city.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

XX Corps Enemy shelling of front line towns in 3d Cav Gp sector increases in intensity. Ninetieth Div continues defense of its bridgehead area, while preparing for an

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED

53

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

attack that will enable it to link up with 95th Div's Saarlautern bridgehead to the S. Fifth Div's 2d RCT completes relief of 377th Inf, 95th Div, in Fraulautern and 11th RCT completes relief of 379th Inf in Saarlautern-Roden. Extremely heavy resistance continues to restrict operations of 378th Inf in Ensdorf.

XII Corps Second Cav Gp reconnoiters area formed by loop of Blies R. between Sarreguemines and Frauenberg. Thirty-fifth Div attacks to clear wooded area just N of Blies R. Elements of 137th Inf suffer heavy casualties in assaults against enemy in Breiterwald forest. Factory area N of Gersheim is taken by 320th Inf, which contacts 87th Div on its R flank. Very heavy resistance confronts 87th Div, which manages, however, to capture Walsheim and advance to edges of neighboring woods. Supporting aircraft strafe the Sagenwald and town of Medelsheim. Eightieth Div moves into position on Corps R flank, vicinity of Rohrbach-les-Bitche.

18 Under orders issued by the Supreme Commander, the CG, U.S. Third Army, assumes command of VIII Corps troops S of the enemy breakthrough.

U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIII Corps Eighty-fourth Div's 334th Inf attacks to clear Wuerm and Muellendorf. At 0900, following terrific and extremely accurate concentration of fire from arty and supporting weapons, 1st Bn of 334th Inf jumps off from Leiffarth to capture Wuerm; against generally light resistance, final objective is reached by 1000 and occupation of the town virtually completed by 1045. At 0900, Allied fire is shifted from Wuerm to Muellendorf, objective of 2d Bn, 334th Inf, which attacks from Beeck at 1045 and secures it by 1300; 15 pillboxes reduced. Attempted counterattack by about 80 Germans to retake Wuerm is initiated at 1945 and broken up by Allied fire in twenty minutes. During capture of Wuerm and Muellendorf, enemy

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group18
Cont

losses are estimated to be 50 killed, 100 wounded, and 91 captured; 84th Div casualties are about one-tenth the enemy's.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

XVIII Corps (Airborne) Hq units in England are flown to Reims, France. Hq and 82d A/B Div are further ordered to concentrate at once in vicinity of Werbomont, Belgium. Eighty-second and 101st A/B Divs start by truck to Bastogne; latter is dropped off upon arrival, but 82d A/B continues toward Werbomont, leading units reaching destination at 1730; defensive positions are organized progressively as troops arrive.

VII Corps In coordinated attacks, 83d and 9th Divs clear remaining enemy from respective Div zones; former takes 337 of the 417 prisoners captured by the Corps. Twenty-fourth Cav Rcn Sq is released from attachment to 83d Div and reverts to 4th Cav Gp control.

Because of German breakthrough, Corps front is enlarged during afternoon by 18 kms., covering a portion of former V Corps zone to the S, with new boundary running from vicinity of Eupen ESE to the Roer near Dedenborn. Coincident with boundary change, 8th and 78th Divs, with attachments (including CCR of 5th Armd Div, 102d Cav Gp, and 2d Ranger Bn), are relieved from V Corps in place and pass to VII Corps control. VII Corps is to stabilize front from Monschau NE and N. CCA, 3d Armd Div, and 9th Div, less RCT 47 (attached to V Corps 17 Dec) and RCT 60, are released by VII Corps and attached to V Corps. The 104th Div assumes responsibility for 9th Div zone in addition to its own at midnight, and RCT 60, 9th Div, is attached to it. Seventy-eighth Div, with CCR of 5th Armd Div and 102d Cav Gp attached today and 2d Ranger Bn attached previously, is instructed to hold road center at Entenpfuht, N of Konzen, and Paustenbach knoll at all costs; small enemy counterattack near Kesternich is repelled by arty fire. Enemy continues large-scale air activity over Corps zone; AA downs 31 planes and probably 14 more. A few more parachutists are dropped. Counter measures

DECLASSIFIED

~~TOP SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED

55

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

18
Cont

against parachutists are continued.

V Corps Within its smaller zone of operations, resulting from boundary change between it and VII Corps, V Corps' mission is to stabilize Monschau-Butgenbach-Malmedy-Stavelot line and to be prepared to resume the offensive with units regrouped as above. Germans continue W through gap S of Butgenbach, but are kept from Butgenbach and important Elsenborn ridge, extending from vicinity of Butgenbach to Elsenborn. First SS Pz Div of 1st SS Pz Corps, 6th SS Pz Army, has pushed two columns W, the stronger on the N advancing along Buellingen-Ligneuville-Stavelot-La Gleize-Stoumont axis and the weaker on the S moving on Pont-Trois Ponts-Werbomont axis. Although RCT 26 is released from attachment to 99th Div and reverts to 1st, it continues to assist 99th and 2d Divs in holding line near Butgenbach and protecting Elsenborn ridge through which the 1st SS Pz Corps hopes to open route for II SS Pz Corps. Identified in this area are 12th SS Pz Div, 3d Para Div, 12th VG Div, and 277th VG Div. Germans maintain strong pressure against 99th Div, particularly in vicinity of Hofen and Rocherath, and in the course of tank-inf assaults on former temporarily penetrate positions of 3d Bn, 395th Inf; attacks near Rocherath are repulsed without loss of ground. The 324th Engr Bn (-) is withdrawn to Elsenborn. Two bns of 23d Inf, 2d Div, are released from attachment to 99th Div, and 99th Div is attached to 2d Div. Second Div repels further inf and armor attacks and improves defensive positions; TF "L" (elements of 3d Bn, 23d Inf, Special Units, 23d Inf, and elements of Div Rear Echelon) occupies a secondary line of resistance NW of Wirtzfeld; TF "H" (2d Rch Tr, approximately 100 men from 23d Inf, and Cannon Co, 9th Inf); to defend N flank of Div, occupies positions astride road N of Elsenborn near German border.

First Div starts systematic combing of woods near Eupen for enemy paratroopers and moves to block further enemy movement W toward Malmedy; perimeter defense of Waimes is organized, despite strong enemy pressure, and advance continued toward Faymonville. Weywertz is

~~TOP SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED

56

~~REDACTED~~

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

18
Cont

found to be free of enemy, but Germans hold Honsfeld and Buellingen.

Ninety-ninth Bn task force arrives at Malmedy early in morning, and a rifle co of 526th AIB and a plat of TDs continues to Stavelot where they delay but are unable to prevent enemy tanks from crossing L'Ambleve R. at dawn; threat to gasoline depot in this area is so great that the dump is fired, but the fire later extinguished after enemy tanks pushing N from Stavelot are halted. Army Hq Security Force, reinf, is organizing ridge S of Spa for defense. Troops from Hq Co, 9th Armd Gp, are ordered to defend gasoline dump here. Low-level bombing and strafing attack by P-47s halts enemy column advancing NE from La Gleize toward Andrimont and forces it to turn toward Stoumont. Road net N of Stoumont is defended by 740th Tank Bn and elements of 110th AA Gun Bn.

RCT 117, 30th Div, closes in assembly area NW of Malmedy at 0800, and moves its 1st Bn S through Francorchamps to secure most of Stavelot NW of L'Ambleve R. against determined resistance by 1600, while 2d and 3d Bns, reinf by troops already on hand, organize defense of Malmedy and occupy defensive positions along commanding ground between Malmedy and Stavelot. From assembly area near Eynatten, RCT 119 moves to Remouchamps where it splits into two columns in order to intercept German spearheads at Stoumont and Habiemont. Third and 1st Bns form one column and move toward Stoumont; 3d Bn occupies Stoumont and contacts enemy advance guard just E of the town, while 1st Bn digs in at Targnon, NW of Stoumont. Second column, consisting of 2d Bn, circles W to Aywaille, turns S to Werbomont, then E to Habiemont where another enemy spearhead is contacted and forced to withdraw toward main body near Stoumont. RCT 120 resumes move to S and at night occupies defensive positions near Malmedy. Thirtieth Div CP is established at Francorchamps, blocking enemy's path of advance to Spa and Verviers.

VIII Corps Defenses of St. Vith are reinforced as momentum of enemy's drive increases. The 106th Div orders its two regts isolated in the Schnee Eifel to fight their way W out of the encirclement by attacking toward Schonberg. It is planned to have 7th Armd Div attack E

DECLASSIFIED

~~REDACTED~~

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

18
Cont

from St. Vith at same time. Enemy pressure against St. Vith continues so strong, however, that 7th Armd Div is unable to assume the offensive. The 422d and 423d Regts make a futile attempt to move toward Schonberg. Bad weather prevents their supply by air. Recht, 5 miles NW of St. Vith, is occupied by enemy before morning and, at about 1900, elements of 1st SS Pz Div cut the E-W road from St. Vith to Vielsalm at Poteau, 2 miles SW of Recht, disrupting a heavy column of traffic. All troops of 14th Cav Gp in this general area withdraw to Petit Thier, 2 miles W of Poteau. The Group is relieved from attachment to 106th Div and attached to 7th Armd Div. CCA of 7th Armd Div recaptures Poteau.

The 112th Inf, on L flank of 28th Div, is unable to stabilize its lines after withdrawing W of the Our R. and enemy gains positions on high ground W of the river. Lieler and Weiswampach are overrun. Bn on R flank of 112th Inf withdraws rapidly NW, leaving a wide gap between 112th Inf and 110th Inf on the S. By 1345, enemy tanks are in Trois Vierges. During afternoon, roving enemy tanks penetrate far enough W to shoot up columns on the Houffalize-Bovigny road. The defenses of 110th Inf become completely disorganized as the core of 28th Div crumbles under the relentless armored thrusts which in two days have carried the enemy W from the Our R. to the Clerf R. and beyond. Many of its companies have been encircled and captured or destroyed and numerous enemy columns are appearing behind its sector. Enemy tanks are at Donnange, 3 miles W of Clerf, early in the morning. Elements of 2d Pz Div occupy Clerf at 1030. Some remnants of 110th Inf gather at Consthum, then withdraw to the SW. Wilwerwiltz, Eschweiler, and Bockholz-sur-Sure have been overrun. The 44th Engr Combat Bn and the Div Provisional Defense Bn are in combat immediately NE of Wiltz. The 109th Inf withdraws in the evening to high ground around Diekirch. By end of day, 28th Div has lost contact with both 112th and 110th Inf Regts. The road blocks which CCR of 9th Armd Div set up on the Bastogne-St. Vith road have been overrun and Longvilly, only 5 miles ENE of

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATERPart 1: Twelfth Army Group18
Cont

Bastogne, is under attack from the SE. Enemy troops which overran the rcn troop of 9th Armd Div during the night advance toward Ettelbruch between 109th Inf, 28th Div, and CCA of 9th Armd Div. All enemy penetrations in 4th Div sector are met and contained by RCT 12 and elements of CCA, 10th Armd Div.

Corps troops S of the breakthrough are placed under Third Army command. CCB of 10th Armd Div, however, moves to Bastogne and is detached from 10th Armd Div and placed under direct operational control of VIII Corps. It has been assigned the mission of holding that city and posts at Noville, Longvilly, and Bras, on roads leading N and E from Bastogne. The 35th and 158th Engr Combat Bns maintain road blocks still closer to Bastogne, at Marvie, to the SE, and at Neffe, to the E. Tenth Armd troops are forced during the day to fall back from Longvilly to the defenses established by the Engrs.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

Due to the enemy breakthrough in VIII Corps zone, U.S. Third Army is given control over VIII Corps troops S of the breakthrough.

Starting from vicinity of Lintgen, 7 miles N of Luxembourg, Task Forces Chamberlain, Standish, and Riley of CCA, 10th Armd Div, pass through 4th Div and at about 0800 attack N and E against heavy enemy opposition. High ground commanding Mullerthal is obtained and the enemy is forced to withdraw slightly in the Schwaize Ernz River area. Consdorf and Scheidgen, 11 miles ENE of Lintgen, are occupied and Berdorf, 3 miles N of Scheidgen, is entered but not fully secured. TF Riley pushes forward NE from Scheidgen and contacts the 4th Div co which has been cut off in Echternach. Fourth Div mops up small enemy forces which have penetrated beyond Osweiler and Dickweiler and repulses an attack on Dickweiler from Girst. Enemy bridging attempts E of Echternach are broken up by arty fire.

XX Corps Coordinated attack of 358th and 359th Infs in 90th Div bridgehead clears major portion of city of Dillingen. The 357th Inf continues to protect L flank

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

59

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

of bridgehead. Regts are alerted during night for possible enemy paratroop landings. Command of Saarlautern bridgehead exclusive of Ensdorf passes from CG, 95th Div, to CG, 5th Div, at 0600. Against continuing heavy resistance, 5th Div troops take a total of 244 houses and 6 pillboxes. The 377th and 379th Regts of 95th Div enter on rehabilitation and training program in rear assembly areas. The 378th Inf continues fighting in Ensdorf, greatly handicapped by necessity of detailing troops to hold against persistent enemy infiltration into buildings or blocks already taken and of using combat troops in carrying parties fetching ration and ammo supplies from the Saar R.

XIII Corps Sporadic enemy arty and mortar fire falls throughout 2d Cav Gp zone. Combat patrols find enemy alert along Blies R. The 137th Inf of 35th Div reaches N edge of Breiterwald forest, though still fighting bypassed tanks and inf in the woods. Other elements are fighting at Bliesmengen, which is vigorously defended. The 320th Inf fights most of day before securing farm W of Gersheim. Elements of 87th Div occupy Medelsheim, 7 miles N of Rohrbach-les-Bitche, and send patrol N into Seyweiler. Eightieth Div and 4th Armd Div are alerted for movement NW some 120 miles to assist in checking the German breakthrough in Belgium and Luxembourg, in the Ardennes.

19 U.S. NINTH ARMY

Ninth Army is instructed to assume the defensive and assist First Army.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps Third Armd Div is assigned to XVIII Corps (Airborne); prior to this assignment, CCA, on 18 Dec, and CCB, this date, were assigned to V Corps, but later ordered to XVIII Corps (Airborne). Aside from slight

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

19
Cont

changes in disposition of troops to insure defense in depth, Corps positions remain unchanged. Fifth Armd Div, preparatory to attacking 20 Dec, shifts CCA and CCB boundaries, giving Bergheim and high ground to the E to former; 4th Cav Gp is attached to CCB to assist it in clearing Untermaubach, Obermaubach, and pockets of resistance through Bogheim to the Roer; 15th AIB is detached from CCB and attached to CCA whose mission is to clear high ground W of Winden. At night, patrol of 78th Div initiates relief of some 50 personnel of 2d Bn, 310th Inf, who have been trapped in Kesternich since 15 Dec, and by morning of 20 Dec gets all of them back safely. Enemy activity is largely defensive, but harassing fire falls at several points, and small air raids occur. During 24-hour period ending at 0600, Corps AA establishes record against enemy aircraft, bringing down 77 and probably 33 more.

V Corps Second and 99th Divs repel further attacks in their sectors and start movement to new defensive positions from which to protect Elsenborn ridge. Ninth Div (-RCT 47, already in V Corps zone, and RCT 60) moves to V Corps and occupies defensive positions in zone of 2d Div in Kalterherberg-Elsenborn area; RCT 47 holds line Konzen-Monschau-Hofen-Kalterherberg, to N of RCT 39; elements of 2d and 99th Divs are relieved by 9th Div. First Div holds E-W line E of Malmédy, from Waimés E to R flank of 2d Div; positions of 2d Bn, 26th Inf, near Butgenbach hold against strong pressure. CCA, 3d Armd Div, relieves 18th Inf, 1st Div, of defense of Eupen, but 18th Inf continues to mop up paratroopers in woods S of Eupen while moving to 1st Div area.

To the W, German hopes of gaining gasoline depots in Stavelot-Spa area are dimmed: enemy is cleared from vicinity of the dump near Stavelot, and his attempts to reach that S of Spa are blocked. First Bn of 117th Inf, 30th Div, clears all resistance in Stavelot N of L'Ambleve R. and holds gains against determined counterattacks from E, W, and SW; engineers blow the bridge at night, cutting off enemy from supplies and reserves. Relieved of its

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

19
Cont

mission of defending Malmedy by 3d Bn. of 120th Inf, 3d Bn of 117th Inf moves to vicinity of Francorchamps and from there attacks toward La Gleize, stopping en route long enough to block enemy thrust to the N; Ruy, Cour, and Roanne are captured and defensive positions established. Army Hq Security Force, reinf, has now organized ridge S of Spa for defense, and with M-51s and AA personnel in inf role forces rcn party of 1st SS Pz Div moving toward gasoline dump to withdraw from vicinity of Andrimont toward La Gleize. Determined assault against 3d Bn of 119th Inf, 30th Div, by enemy tanks and inf forces it to withdraw from positions E of Stoumont through 1st Bn; 1st Bn halts enemy 200 yards E of Stoumont Station; in this action 3d Bn suffers heavy casualties and loses all its TD weapons, and Germans lose 14 tanks and 4 half-tracks; 3d Bn establishes strong road block NW of Stoumont. Eighty-second A/B Div is detached from Corps at 1500 and reverts to XVIII Corps (Airborne); shortly afterward, elements relieve 2d Bn, 119th Inf, in vicinity of Habiemont and latter moves to Targnon. CCB of 3d Armd Div is attached to Corps to assist 30th Div and at 1350 crosses departure line for assembly positions just S of Theux. The 740th Tank Bn is attached to 119th Inf at noon, and at 1530, 119th Inf with attachments is attached to XVIII Corps (Airborne).

XVIII Corps (A/B) Corps becomes operational and takes over responsibility for region generally S of L'Ambleve R. to include Houffalize, key road center between St. Vith and Bastogne, with mission of holding N flank of enemy. Eighty-second A/B Div, after closing in Werbomont area during morning, sends 504th and 505th Para Regts E to occupy Rahier and Basse Bodeux, respectively, relieving elements of 30th Div; co of 508th Para Inf moves SE and occupies crossroads just N of Floret, about a mile E of Bra; 325th Glider Inf blocks roads in vicinity of Barvaux, SW of Werbomont, with its 3d Bn, and occupies Grandmenil and Manhay, due S of Werbomont, with its Co F. Third Armd Div (-CCA and CCB) is attached to Corps and under cover of darkness starts toward Hotton-Le Grand Pre area.

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

19
Cont

VIII Corps Radio communication with 422d Inf, 106th Div, is lost. Both this regt and the 423d Inf are still struggling futilely for a way out of their encirclement in the Schnee Eifel. Hope of relieving these regts is abandoned, but the St. Vith and Bastogne defenses have been strengthened and enemy pressure on Corps front is somewhat less heavy than on preceding day. CCA of 7th Armd Div retains its hold on Poteau, 6 miles NW of St. Vith. Reorganized remnants of 14th Cav Gp attached to 7th Armd Div serve to protect Corps L flank in vicinity of Vielsalm. Gouvy, location of an ammo dump on the Houffalize-St. Vith road, is cleared and kept open by armor from CCA, 7th Armd Div. CCB of 7th Armd and CCB of 9th Armd maintain an aggressive defense in area immediately E of St. Vith. CP of 106th Div has been moved from St. Vith to Vielsalm. The 112th Inf, 28th Div, is attached to 106th Div in vicinity of Huldange, at N extremity of Luxembourg. A bn of 112th Inf moves to Beiler area to establish link with 424th Inf. Enemy seizes vital crossroads 1 mile SW of Malscheid, gaining use of a good highway to the SW. On S sector of 28th Div front, elements at Wiltz are forced to abandon positions there at midnight, under orders to infiltrate W and SW through the German lines to regain friendly lines. Div CP is moved to Sibret, 4 miles SW of Bastogne. After defending the Diekirch area all day and causing the enemy heavy losses, 109th Inf withdraws during night to the Grosbous-Ettelbruck area.

The 101st Airborne Div, First Allied Airborne Army, which was attached to this corps on 17 Dec for employment on the S flank, arrives at Bastogne and takes up defensive positions E and NE of the city, coming at once into contact with the enemy. In this same general area, CCB of 10th Armd Div and the 158th and 35th Engr Combat Bns are fighting off constant attempts of enemy armor and inf to penetrate the city from the N or E. Bastogne-Longvilly road becomes jammed with armd elements under heavy enemy TD and bullet fire. Much American armor is destroyed here in the confused fighting that takes place between Longvilly and Mageret, scarcely more than 3 miles E of

DECLASSIFIED
~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

63

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

19
Cont

Bastogne. With enemy troops already behind it, TF Cherry is forced to withdraw from Neffe. TF O'Hara withdraws to Marvie after being attacked on the Wiltz road. The 501st Para Inf (non-div), attached to 101st A/B Div, attacks E in an attempt to restore the road block at Longvilly and to take the town of Wardin, 2 miles S of Mageret. It fails in its first objective but succeeds in entering Wardin and holding it temporarily. By midnight, 501st Para Inf holds a line E of Bastogne running through Bizory, Neffe, and Marvie. The 506th Para Inf, which attacks NE along Bastogne-Houffalize road, joins Team Desobry of CCB, 10th Armd, in a battle against enemy armor at Noville. Enemy attack cuts off 101st A/B Div service area, about 8 miles WNW of Bastogne, and most of the personnel and all of the equipment of the Div Medical Co are lost. Remnants of CCR, 9th Armd Div, which have infiltrated back to Bastogne from vicinity of Oberwampach and Longvilly are organized as TF Pyle, under control of 101st A/B Div, and given a sector to defend in vicinity of Villeroux, 3 miles SW of Bastogne. The 705th TD Bn arrives at Bastogne in the evening, having come from N of Aachen. Because of a German road block at Bertogne, the Bn came into Bastogne via Champlon, after establishing a road block of its own N of Laroche. At day's end, the enemy has almost completely surrounded Bastogne, with small roaming elements infiltrating through American lines as far W as St. Hubert and as far S as 5 miles N of Arlon.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

At a meeting with Lt. Gen Patton at Thionville, Maj. Gen. Morris is made a provisional corps commander, with 4th Div, in addition to 10th Armd Div (-CCB), being placed under his control. Mission of his forces is to hold enemy in place along entire S flank of the penetration and includes immediate job of plugging 3-mile gap between CCA, 9th Armd Div, and RCT 109, 28th Div, in vicinity SE of Ettelbruck. CCA of 10th Armd Div is still engaged in house-to-house fighting in Berdorf, where very little progress is made. Enemy forces cut the

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twelfth Army Group

19 Cont Consdorf-Berdorf road. Combat is also particularly heavy at Hill 329, 2 miles W of Echternach. Enemy reinforces area about Echternach and more troops cross Sauer R. from Minden to Steinheim in 4th Div sector. In local counterattacks, 12th Inf eliminates small enemy groups which have infiltrated Div lines.

XX Corps Corps commences a general withdrawal from its positions E of Saar R. Enemy activity increases E and S of Beckingen, on N flank of 90th Div bridgehead. In afternoon Div receives order to begin withdrawal of all units to W bank of Saar R. and at once starts ferrying armor back across the river. Pressing their attack in the Saarlautern-Roden-Fraulautern area, 2d and 11th RCTs of 5th Div capture total of 283 houses and 4 pillboxes. Ninety-fifth Div's 378th Inf makes no appreciable advance in Ensdorf. All captured pillboxes and emplacements are being prepared for demolition. Withdrawal from Ensdorf sector of Saarlautern bridgehead starts during night of 19-20 Dec.

III Corps Corps is ordered N for attack against S flank of enemy forces in the "bulge." TF Fickett and 6th Armd Div pass to XII Corps control. On an order that is countermanded later in the day, 9th and 10th Armd Divs and 4th Div of VIII Corps, First Army, are temporarily attached to this corps and 80th Div and 4th Armd Div temporarily relieved from attachment to it.

XII Corps Sixth Armd Div returns from III Corps to XII Corps control; TF Fickett (6th Cav Gp, Reinf.), also, comes under Corps control. Fourth Armd Div and 80th Div are being transferred to III Corps and moved NW into Luxembourg. Enemy arty fire continues heavy along 35th Div front; Div is ordered to hold and consolidate. During night of 19-20 Dec, 137th Inf repels several counterattacks in area 3 miles NE of Sarreguemines. Eighty-seventh Div maintains and improves defensive positions across German border, just E of Blies R. Long-range harassing fire is received during afternoon and night. Elements of 12th Armd Div, XV Corps, relieve 25th Cav Sq, 4th Armd Div, in its positions on N flank of XV Corps.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

65

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

20

Situation is extremely fluid. Enemy attacking forces in the N, where 6th SS Pz Army is striking toward Liege, include two Pz divs, one para div, and five inf divs. To the S, 5th Pz Army spearheads are closing in on Bastogne and continuing to the W toward St. Hubert.

In early afternoon, U.S. First and Ninth Armies come under operational control of Twenty-first Army Group (British), and operational control of VIII Corps, U.S. First Army, passes to U.S. Third Army. Tactical air forces of U.S. 9th Air Force supporting units N of the breakthrough are placed under operational command of RAF. New boundary between Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups runs from Givet, on the Meuse R., through Houffalize and on toward Pruem, Germany. VIII Corps units N of new Army Group boundary pass to control of XVIII Corps (Airborne). Adjacent to U.S. First Army, XXX Corps of British Second Army operates on N and W flanks of enemy salient.

U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIII Corps Eighty-fourth Div is attached to First Army and starts movement to assembly area at Marche, Belgium. Responsibility for Corps front assumed by 102d Div.

XIX Corps Second Armd Div is released from XIX Corps and placed in Ninth Army reserve. Twenty-ninth Div takes over defense of Corps sector.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

VII Corps Fifth Armd Div resumes attack toward the Roer. CCB, with 4th Cav Gp and 2d Bn of 330th Inf, 83d Div, attached, captures Bogheim, blocks Winden-Untermaubach highway, and sends elements into Untermaubach where stubborn resistance from enemy supported by cross fire from MGs, AT grenades, and bazookas makes progress from house to house very slow; mine field halts CCB elements attempting to clear wooded area SE of Bogheim. CCA gains high ground W of Winden and digs in, although this region is later under severe arty, mortar, and tank fire from Winden; other elements of CCA reach outskirts of Schneidhausen where heavy fire from the town augmented by fire

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups20
Cont

from E bank of the Roer stops advance. CCB's road block on the Winden-Untermaubach road is means of halting and dispersing German tracked vehicles from Winden attempting to reach Untermaubach; troops and vehicles from Untermaubach are also caught in the trap. Remaining units of Corps regroup and improve defensive positions. Although 84th Div is attached to Corps, effective this date, it is verbally attached to XVIII Corps (Airborne) until 22 Dec, pending arrival of VII Corps in new zone; leading elements of 84th Div reach Marche during night.

V Corps Second and 99th Divs complete withdrawal to new defensive positions before Elsenborn ridge, shift and relieve units, and organize secondary defensive line. Germans launch three strong attacks, employing inf, tanks, and SP guns, against 99th Div line W of Wirtzfeld; two of these are repulsed without loss of ground, but the third, a two-pronged assault by about two bns of inf and 20 tanks, penetrates 99th Div lines slightly; penetration is sealed off and units inside lines dispersed or eliminated. First Div clears enemy paratroopers from assigned zone S of Eupen and to the S stops determined tank-inf assaults by 12th SS Pz Div in Butgenbach-Faymonville area; 2d Bn of 26th Inf is still under heavy enemy pressure. Ninth Div takes over its new zone on N flank of Corps at 0730. In Malmedy-Stavelot sector, 30th Div is detached from V Corps and attached to XVIII Corps (Airborne) at 1300; for action prior to this hour, see XVIII Corps.

XVIII Corps (A/B) CCB, 3d Armd Div, attacks southward at 0830 toward L'Ambleve R. to establish defensive positions between Stoumont and La Gleize, but is halted by flank guards of enemy tank column driving from La Gleize toward Stoumont; at 1700, CCB is attached to 30th Div.

Thirtieth Div (-119th Inf), with attachments, is released from V Corps control and attached to XVIII Corps (A/B) at 1300. Two hours later, 119th Inf, reverts to 30th Div control. Div continues to maintain and improve defensive positions in Malmedy-Stavelot area, and attacks to seize

DECLASSIFIED

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

67

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

20
Cont

La Gleize and Stoumont, blocking farther westward penetration of N column of 1st SS Pz Div spearheading main effort of 6th SS Pz Army. Third Bn, 117th Inf, in conjunction with elements of CCB, 3d Armd Div, renews attack SW toward La Gleize at 0800, cutting Stavelot-La Gleize road at Roanne Coo; Co K succeeds in entering the town on the N, but is forced out by determined resistance from armd inf. At 1600, 119th Inf, employing two bns, attacks E to secure Stoumont, in conjunction with another column of CCB, 3d Armd Div, and is halted just 500 yards from the town by stiff resistance from inf, tanks, and direct fire weapons. Elements of 117th Inf defending Stavelot and high ground NE withstand repeated attacks by armor and inf from W and SW and frustrate several enemy attempts to establish bridgehead across L'Ambleve R., while 120th Inf defends Malmedy and patrols S. TF Harrison, consisting of 119th Inf, CCB of 3d Armd Div, tanks, TDs, and other supporting units, is created at 2100.

Third Armd Div (-CCA and CCB), after closing in Hotton area at 1145, attacks E and SE to secure Manhay-Houffalize road, committing 83d Armd Rcn Bn, reinf, in three columns. On L, column reaches Manhay-Houffalize road W of Malempre; tanks, arty, and mortars halt center column at Dochamps, but a rcn plat is sent S to Samree and another E to objective; R column advances along L'Ourthe R. to point S of Samree where enemy is contacted and advance halted to await clearance of Samree. During night, Germans infiltrate at Samree and Dochamps.

Eighty-second A/B Div continues its eastward thrusts from vicinity of Rahier and Basse Bodeux: 1st Bn of 504th Para Inf attacks toward Cheneux at 1400 in effort to secure the town and bridge over L'Ambleve R. here, thus blocking further enemy movement across river, and gains W limits of town where it is strongly engaged by bn of S column of 1st SS Pz Div; 505th Para Inf establishes bridgehead across the Salm R. with two plats, one crossing at Trois Ponts and the other at La Tour, and gains thinly-held defensive line along the river from the bridgehead S to point S of Grand Halleux. To extend this line to include Vielsalm and Hebronval, 508th Para Inf starts

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

68
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

20
Cont

toward former and 325th Glider Inf toward latter. Div is to attempt to contact U.S. units in Vielsalm-St. Vith area.

Seventh Armd Div and 106th Inf Div, with attachments, are attached to Corps.

VIII Corps Radio communication with 423d Inf, 106th Div, ceases. Last reported location of elements of 422d and 423d Infs was in vicinity of Ober Lascheid and Radscheid, about 3 miles SE of Schonberg. Pressure on St. Vith from E and S increases. The 424th Inf of 106th Div is attacked in vicinity of Maspelt by elements of 62d VG Div. Corps units engaged in the defense of St. Vith (7th Armd Div, 106th Div, CCB of 9th Armd Div, and 112th Inf of 28th Div) pass to control of XVIII Corps (Airborne) at end of a day of bitter combat.

On Corps S flank, CCB's Task Force Desobry of 10th Armd Div and elements of 506th Para Inf (101st A/B Div) and of 705th TD Bn become surrounded in course of fighting at Noville, on Bastogne-Houffalize highway, and 502d Para Inf counterattacks from Recogne against enemy forces S of Noville, in order to relieve pressure on the TF and the troops fighting beside it. Most of these forces succeed in fighting their way out of this local encirclement on the perimeter of the larger encirclement of the Bastogne area. The 101st A/B Div extends its defensive line to the W and SW of Bastogne, assisted by remnants of CCR, 9th Armd Div, and by CCB of 10th Armd Div, both of which are later attached to it, along with the 705th TD Bn and with stragglers escaped to Bastogne from other units. A tank battle begins at 1125 at Marvie, less than 2 miles SE of Bastogne, involving the 327th Gli Inf and TF O'Hara of 10th Armd Div. After over an hour of close-in fighting the town is clear again. Twenty-five miles SE of Bastogne, 109th Inf of 28th Div establishes defensive line Ettelbruck-Oberfeulen-Merzig and also has forces near Ermsdorf, 6 miles ESE of Ettelbruck, backing up CCA of 9th Armd Div, to which it is attached on this date. Enemy is in possession of Waldbillig, 6 miles W of Echternach. SW of Bastogne, 28th Div Hq, with remnants

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

69

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

20
Cont

of 110th Inf, organizes stragglers to set up a road block on the Neufchateau-Bastogne highway. W of Bastogne, as far as St. Hubert, Corps Engrs create a system of road blocks and demolish bridges leading W and SW. Before night, the Engrs are under attack at Ortheuville, Lavacherie, Sprimont, and Amberloup and are being forced back. Road blocks near Martelange, 12 miles S of Bastogne on Arlon highway, are also under enemy fire before end of period. At Recogne and Libramont, NNW of Neufchateau, Hq of 7th TD Group organizes about 1,000 stragglers and an arty bn to defend roads leading into these towns.

At 1330, operational control of Corps passes to Third Army.

Twelfth Army Group

U.S. THIRD ARMY

For operations of VIII Corps, which passes to control of this army at 1330, see above section dealing with units fighting under both Twelfth Army Group and Twenty-first Army Group on this date.

III Corps Corps moves its Hq from Metz to Arlon, Belgium, and 4th Armd Div and 26th and 80th Inf Divs begin assembling in Arlon-Luxembourg area. CCB elements of 4th Armd Div push forward to vicinity of Bastogne, contact 101st A/B Div and 10th Armd Div, and are placed temporarily under VIII Corps. Units of 80th Div take up reserve battle positions on high ground N and NE of Mersch, near confluence of Alzette and Mamer Rivers.

Provisional Corps Ninetieth Cav Rcn Sq (-) occupies Stegen-Schieren gap in line SE of Ettelbruck. Weather continues foggy. CCA, 10th Armd Div, continues mopping up operations in vicinity S of Berdorf (W of Echternach), but Berdorf, itself, is evacuated by American troops and reoccupied by enemy. As 4th Div elements move up to hold positions gained by CCA, latter withdraws to assembly areas near Eisenborn, 5 miles NE of Luxembourg.

DECLASSIFIED

70
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

20
Cont

Tanks of TF Riley, CCA, assist 12th Inf, 4th Div, elements in attempt to rescue 12th Inf co trapped in Echternach, with which contact has again been lost. After bitter fighting, the outskirts of Echternach are reached, but team fails to reach isolated unit. Osweiler, 2 miles S of Echternach, receives heavy enemy arty and mortar fire. Forces are also sent W to help keep Mersch-Arlon road open and to reconnoiter N of it. At a meeting at CP, 4th Div, Lt. Gen. Patton adds 5th Div, CCA of 9th Armd Div, and RCT 109 of 28th Div to units placed under Maj. Gen. Morris' Provisional Corps with hq at 10th Armd Div Hq. CCA, 9th Armd Div, is directly attached to 10th Armd Div.

XX Corps Third Cav Gp (Reinf.) is attached to 90th Div as latter prepares to take over Corps N flank area along Saar R. While interdictory fire wards off expected enemy attack on N flank of its bridgehead, 90th Div proceeds with difficult task of withdrawing 9 inf bns and some 100 vehicles to the W bank of the Saar R. with the aid of a single ferry, a foot bridge, and a few assault boats. Engr units are busy destroying all pillboxes and fortifications in the bridgehead area and placing booby traps and AP and AT mines in Dillingen and Pachten.

Ninety-fifth Div's 378th Inf withdraws from Ensdorf after 15 days of bitter fighting in which about two-thirds of the town was captured. Eleventh RCT of 5th Div captures 5 city blocks in house-to-house fighting. Second RCT clears one city block and during evening starts relief of 11th RCT in Saarlautern bridgehead. RCT 10 moves to assembly area NE of Luxembourg. Fifth Div is added to the units coming under the Provisional Corps formed on VIII Corps S flank.

XII Corps As Corps components shift N from Sarreguemines zone of action to Luxembourg sector, units of XV Corps (Seventh Army) take over responsibility for line they held. Patrol of 2d Cav Sq succeeds in crossing Blies R. in NE outskirts of Sarreguemines but is unable to penetrate further than N bank. Enemy counterattacks 35th Div elements along Blies R. from woods N and NE of Habkirchen. The

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

71

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

134th Inf is pushed back to S edge of Reinheim Woods. During night of 20—21 Dec, 35th Div's relief is begun by 87th Div, when 346th Inf relieves 320th Inf in its zone along German border and Blies R. in area N of Bliesbruck. Eighty-seventh Div continues to improve its defensive positions. Enemy arty fire intense along entire front. Leading elements of Div are now $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Siegfried Line. Control of Corps area passes from XII Corps to XV Corps at midnight.

21

Twenty-first Army Group

Letter of instructions published this date says British XXX Corps, consisting of 43d, 53d, and Guards Armd Divs, will assemble in group reserve in Louvain-St. Trond-Hasselt area.

U.S. NINTH ARMY

Ninth Army is instructed to take over VII Corps zone and is reinforced by British 51st Highland Div and 6th Guards Tank Brig.

XIX Corps Second Armd Div is released to First Army and at night starts on 22-hour road march from assembly area near Baesweiler, Germany, to vicinity of Huy, Belgium. At 2400, Ninth Army boundary is moved S to include VII Corps sector of First Army. XIX Corps becomes responsible for former VII Corps sector with 104th, 83d, 5th Armd (-CCR), 8th, and 78th Divs (N to S) in present locations under command. XIII Corps takes over former XIX Corps front and 29th Div.

XVI Corps Seventy-fifth Div is released to First Army.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

New L boundary is established on line Tongres-Vise-Aubel-Herbestal-Eupen-Konzen, all towns inclusive to First Army. Boundary between V and XVIII Corps (A/B) is established, running from Verviers (to V Corps) to Malmedy (to XVIII Corps).

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups21
Cont.

VII Corps Fifth Armd Div continues attacks against stiff resistance all along front. CCA pushes about half way into Schneidhausen, and CCB gains approximately half of Untermaubach. Germans suffer further losses in personnel and materiel at road block on Winden-Untermaubach road, and are prevented from bringing in reinforcements to Untermaubach. On S flank of CCB, 4th Cav Gp overcomes resistance in woods SE of Bogheim and gains positions overlooking Obermaubach; relief of this Gp is initiated by 1st Bn of 121st Inf, 8th Div, and at midnight 4th Cav Gp reverts to Corps control. Third Bn, 311th Inf, is released from attachment to 8th Div and reverts to 78th Div. RCT 60, 9th Div, after relief by 413th Inf, 104th Div, is detached from 104th Div and moves to Ouffet, Belgium. XIX Corps of Ninth Army assumes control of VII Corps zone at midnight; VII Corps is to move immediately to Marche-Hotton area, SW of Liege, where it will be employed against the N sector of German salient to prevent enemy from reaching first main objective, the Meuse R.

V Corps Corps front extends from new First Army boundary on the L generally S from Konzen to W of Krinkelt, then almost due W to Malmedy. On N of Corps, 9th Div with 102d Cav Gp and 3d Bn of 395th Inf attached holds front from N boundary S to point about three miles S of Alzen. Second and 99th Divs hold zone down to vicinity of Krinkelt. Line W past Waimes is assigned to 1st Div. Thirtieth Div has front from Malmedy W to Stoumont.

Ninety-ninth Div frustrates numerous enemy attempts to attack, bringing enemy movement and concentrations of tanks and inf under arty fire. Germans employ white flag ruse frequently in attempts to maneuver into attack positions. CCA, 3d Armd Div, is released from attachment to Corps and reverts to parent Div, moving from vicinity of Eupen to Werbomont area. Further attacks by 12th SS Pz Div to secure Elsenborn ridge are repulsed by 1st Div, with heavy losses to both German and U.S. forces; 26th Inf is hard hit and communications of its 2d Bn temporarily knocked out by severe arty barrage, but line holds. On 9th Div front, 47th Inf rounds up 80 prisoners, mostly

DECLASSIFIED

██████████
DECLASSIFIED

73

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

21
Cont

paratroopers, in Monschau area and searches the town for enemy; elements of 39th Inf rout small hostile force in Monschau Forest. Div CP moves from vicinity of Sourbrodt to Eupen area.

XVIII Corps (A/B) Seventh Armd Div's CCB withdraws from St. Vith at night, since enemy pressure here is unabated. Troops cut off E of the town are to make their way back as best they can. CCA repels attacks in vicinity of Poteau and forces Germans to abandon ambush on St. Vith-Poteau road. CCR zone is relatively quiet, and elements clear Vielsalm-Poteau road. Germans infiltrate during night into Hinderhausen, threatening emergency withdrawal route to Commanster and Vielsalm. CCB of 9th Armd Div is relieved from attachment to 106th Div and attached to 7th Armd Div.

Eighty-second A/B Div, with two bns of 504th Para Inf, overcomes strong opposition at Cheneux, inflicting considerable losses on 1st SS Pz Div in men and armor; captures neighboring town, Monceau; drives enemy across L'Ambleve R. and occupies positions on S bank of the river. To the SE, 505th Para Inf, under strong pressure from other elements of 1st SS Pz Div, gets two cos of 2d Bn across the Salm at Trois Ponts and maintains defensive line S to vicinity of Grand Halleux. Farther S, 508th Para and 325th Glider Regts occupy line Vielsalm-Hebronval-Regne without enemy contact and are pushing patrols S. Contact is made by 82d A/B Div with 7th Armd Div, 106th Div, elements of 28th Div, and CCB of 9th Armd Div in St. Vith sector. These units are cut off from remainder of First Army except in small area of 82d A/B line from Vielsalm to Salmchateau.

La Gleize and Stoumont again resist with tanks and inf renewed assaults of 30th Div: TF Harrison attacks S and W for La Gleize at 1040, but is held up by bitter resistance after gain of about 1,000 yards. The 117th Inf fares better, attacking E and SE at 0830 with 3d Bn and seizing three small towns (Ster, Renardmont, and Parfondray) just W of Stavelot. Repeated enemy attempts

██████████
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

21
Cont

to cross river near Stavelot are blocked. The 120th Inf, maintaining defensive positions and road blocks in vicinity of Malmedy, frustrates determined efforts of enemy tanks and inf to gain Malmedy-Spa road after hard fighting in which seven enemy tanks are knocked out. First Bn of 551st Para Inf (non-div), reinf, is attached to 30th Div and closes in vicinity of Ster.

Elements of 116th Pz Div launch strong inf-tank assault on Hotton during morning and enter the town where 3d Armd Div Hq Co, Div Signal Co, Hq of 23d Armd Engr Bn, and service elements of the Div are located; local defense is hastily organized with meager equipment on hand, and enemy is driven back to edge of town. CCR succeeds in getting small force of tanks and inf from Soy to Hotton by flanking N of road, but force sent along road makes but slight progress. Other elements of 3d Armd Div meet stiff resistance in renewed attacks to secure Manhay-Houffalize road: although L column (TF Kane) withstands tank-inf assaults against road block at critical junction SE of Manhay, both the center (TF Orr) and R (TF Hogan) columns are driven back by fierce resistance to defensive positions in vicinity of Amonines and Beffe, respectively. TF Kane contacts 82d A/B at Hebronval. CCA reverts to 3d Armd Div from V Corps and starts movement to vicinity of Werbomont.

Eighty-fourth Div, operationally under this corps although attached to VII Corps, starts organization of perimeter defense of Marche with first-arrived units, 334th Inf; a co each moves to Hotton and Hampteau where enemy is contacted and driven off; 4 of 7 enemy tanks destroyed at former. In compliance with orders to hold enemy S of Marche-Hotton road at all costs, a thinly-held line is established running from crossroads near Bois de Chardonne, E of Marche, to Menil-Hampteau-Hotton-Melreux, a distance of about seven miles. Important road center of Marche is in grave danger, since 84th Div is in direct line of enemy threat and has no friendly forces on its R or L flanks.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

75

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

21
Cont

Twelfth Army Group

Advance hq of Fifteenth Army evacuates Chateau d'Ardennes near Dinant and moves to Cerfontaine, Belgium.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

VIII Corps Enemy lays siege to Bastogne and extends his forces to the W on either side. Twenty-eighth Div units in the vicinity of Sibret are attacked early in the morning and forced SW to Vaux-les-Rosières, where a strong road block is established. Enemy troops cross the Neufchateau-Bastogne highway in force, cutting off the supply line to Bastogne from the SW, and occupying Villeroux, Morhet, and Chenogne, as well as Sibret. About 6½ miles NW of Sibret, Co B of 3d Bn, 327th Gli Inf, 101st A/B Div, destroys German strongpoint newly established at crossroads on Bastogne-St. Hubert road at S end of the Bois de Herbaimont. Later, at about 0730, same co destroys an enemy arty battery coming from the direction of Salle. The position is abandoned, however, on learning that enemy has blown highway bridges on either side, rendering the highway useless. The 101st A/B Div is heavily attacked three times during the day. N of Bastogne, units of 502d Para Inf, 101st A/B Div, withdraw from Recogne, shortening the line and linking up with 506th Para Inf on the R. Units of these two regts envelop estimated bn of enemy along RR track in locality slightly over 2 miles NE of Bastogne. A large amount of enemy armor and inf is concentrating near Givry and Bertogne, 5 to 6 miles NW of the city. Both ammo and food supplies of Bastogne garrison are running low. Second Pz Div, in the clear NW of Bastogne, appears headed for the Meuse R., but is delayed by 327th Gli Inf road block SE of Tenneville on Marche-Bastogne road. Enemy units are in St. Hubert before dark.

III Corps Fourth Armd Div finishes assembling at Arlon, Belgium, and CCB elements return from VIII Corps control. Twenty-sixth Div units are in vicinity of Eischen, Luxembourg, while 80th Div units are concentrated NE of Luxembourg city.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

21
Cont

Provisional Corps Elements of CCA, 10th Armd Div, clear Consdorf-Mullerthal area NW of Scheidgen. Heavy casualties are incurred in unsuccessful attempt by TF Chamberlain to seize and hold Waldbillig. CCA of 9th Armd Div joins with CCR of 10th Armd Div to constitute CCX, 10th Armd Div. Enemy attacks directed from Echternach area toward Consdorf and Osweiler are repulsed by 4th Div elements under heavy enemy arty fire. No communication is had with troops cut off in Echternach. RCT 10 of 5th Div is attached to 4th Div on its L flank. Provisional Corps troops are transferred to control of XII Corps.

XX Corps Front remains inactive on N flank of Corps, between Moselle and Saar Rivers. Third Cav Gp (Reinf.) is attached to 90th Div as latter extends its zone to include sector NW of Merzig. Ninetieth Div elements continue to evacuate their bridgehead area E of the Saar R., striving to empty it completely by 0800 of 22 Dec. Enemy arty fire on bridge and ferry sites increases and hits on the ferry put it out of commission in afternoon. Town of Wallerfangen and other approaches to the ferry sites also receive intense arty fire. Roads on E side of river are deteriorating and the banks are steep and slippery, since river is at low ebb. The 377th Inf (-2d Bn) and the 379th Inf (-3d Bn) of 95th Div relieve 2d Inf, 5th Div, in the shrunken Saarlautern bridgehead. Fifth Div troops continue movement to assembly area NE of Luxembourg, while RCT 2 continues to hold Saarlautern bridgehead until relieved by 95th Div during the night. Sixth Armd Div with TF Fickett (6th Cav Gp, Reinf.) attached, holding Wadgassen-Welferding line, has been temporarily attached to this corps, pending relief by XV Corps units.

XII Corps Elements of 2d Cav Sq disperse with SA fire an enemy patrol sent to blow bridge in Sarreguemines. Thirty-fifth Div assembles S and E of Puttrelange following completion of its relief by 44th Div. Eighty-seventh Div passes to XV Corps control and 6th Armd Div, with 6th Cav Gp attached, is temporarily assigned to XX Corps. Corps

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

assumes command of 4th and 5th Inf Divs, RCT 109 of 28th Div, and 10th Armd Div (-CCB) with CCA of 9th Armd Div attached, all of which units have been under the Provisional Corps established in VIII Corps zone on 19 Dec. Advance CP opens at Luxembourg at 2300.

Ninety-fourth Div French troops under control of 94th Div in St. Nazaire sector repulse German attacking force totaling about 650 that strikes at la Bogere, Vue, and la Sicaudais.

22

Twenty-first Army Group

U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIX Corps Relief of 5th Armd Div units in line by 8th and 83d Divs is concluded during night of 22-23. While relief is in progress, 5th Armd Div elements clear Untermaubach and Schneidhausen of enemy. Eighth Div attacks to clear enemy from positions in and near Obermaubach: 2 cos of 1st Bn, 121st Inf, and plat of 709th Tank Bn jump off at 1100 and advance to the town where strong opposition is met; another attack at 2300 with an additional plat of 709th Tank Bn fails to oust enemy from Obermaubach. Third Bn of 28th Inf, 8th Div, relieves 2d Bn of 311th Inf, 78th Div, of responsibility for defense of its sector at 2005; latter reverts to 78th Div control.

XVI Corps Corps moves from Tongres, Belgium, to Heerlen, Holland, and for remainder of month prepares plans for submission to Ninth Army. Fire Direction Center, XVI Corps Arty, is placed under operational control of XIII Corps Arty.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

First Army's defense of the N shoulder of the breakthrough and of the St. Vith sector has delayed Von Rundstedt's schedule by several days and prevented enemy from reaching Liege through Verviers. This is a severe blow to the enemy, since the success of his offensive depends upon speed in capturing U.S. supplies

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

22 and reaching the Meuse before U.S. reserves can be brought
Cont up. Deceptive and surprise tactics (known collectively as
"Operation GREIF"), aimed at disrupting organization of re-
sistance and preventing rapid commitment of U.S. reserves by
such means as use of paratroopers and special troops with
American uniforms and equipment, have failed dismally. Although
the offensive is not yet halted, Von Rundstedt is forced to
make major changes in his plans. Since enemy is unable to
gain the Monschau-Eupen and Malmedy-Verviers roads, II SS Pz
Corps cannot be committed on R flank of I SS Pz Corps as
planned, but must move S through St. Vith to region between
L'Ourthe and L'Ambleve Rivers.

V Corps German pressure forces 1st Div to fall back in
Butgenbach area, and to the N causes slight withdrawal
of 9th Div in Monschau Forest. In another determined
effort to gain Butgenbach, key point on Waimès-Malmedy
road, 12th SS Pz Div breaches lines of 26th Inf, 1st Div,
with tanks and inf, creating 800-yard gap between Cos A
and K, and fighting starts in the town; 18th Inf moves
up to assist 26th Inf, and arty fire against enemy
activity in Buellingen-Butgenbach-Schoppen sector is
almost continuous; penetration in 26th Inf sector is
narrowed to 200 yards by end of day; enemy sustains
severe losses in men and tanks in attacks yesterday and
today. In Monschau Forest, Germans, with strong arty
support, strike at 39th Inf, 9th Div, penetrating po-
sitions of Co E about 500 yards; to the N, enemy surrounds
one plat and overruns another of 99th Rcn Tr, but both
are able to withdraw with assistance of RCT 47. Second
Div outpost W of Wirtzfeld is overrun during attack by
about a co of inf, but restored later in day. For the
rest of the month, enemy action against 2d Div is limited
to arty and mortar fire, and 2d Div maintains and im-
proves positions, patrols, and prepares counterattack
plans. Germans with American uniforms and equipment
infiltrate 99th Div lines. Ninety-ninth Div continues
to employ arty fire against enemy movement, and is itself
subjected to intermittent arty concentrations. The 395th
Inf (-1st Bn) and 99th Rcn Tr are attached to 9th Div.

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

22
Cont

XVIII Corps (A/B) Since St. Vith sector is completely untenable, preparations are completed for withdrawal of friendly forces through 82d A/B Div lines, and unessential vehicles are sent to the rear. CCB of 7th Armd Div is forced to fall back W of St. Vith, but CCA positions at Poteau hold against determined attacks. To the SW, RCT 424 of 106th Div withdraws to establish perimeter defense of Commanster, a task which is made easier by heavy snow-fall which prevents enemy observation of moves; 28th Div's 112th RCT moves NW from Beiler to vicinity of Rogery, between Beho and Vielsalm.

On 82d A/B Div front, 505th Para Inf withdraws its bridgehead across the Salm at Trois Ponts as result of attack by bn of 1st SS Pz Div, but gains others, at Grand Halleux and La Neuville; two enemy sqs are driven out of Trois Ponts and back across the Salm, and two enemy attempts to cross to W bank repulsed. To the S, 325th Glider Inf extends its line W to Manhay-Houffalize road, 2d Bn occupying Fraiture, W of Regne, and Co F joining 3d Armd Div forces defending main crossroads SE of Manhay. Retention of this crossroad is of vital importance, since its loss would permit German armor to by-pass 82d A/B Div and seize Regne-Lierneux ridge mass, a vantage point without which 82d A/B would be unable to cover withdrawal of forces from St. Vith. The 508th Para Inf organizes defensive positions on line Vielsalm-Salmchateau-Grand Sart. Germans are massing forces S of Div zone. Through Petite Langlir, a steady stream of enemy pours toward Ottre; when hostile column of 125 vehicles, including tanks, reaches latter in afternoon, the town is brought under arty fire which breaks up two attempted enemy attacks and leaves town in ruins; arty also disperses tanks and patrols near Joubieval. Patrol of 307th A/B Engr Bn blows bridge at Petite Langlir at night.

Attacking SE at 1300, elements of TF Harrison, 30th Div, overcome determined resistance to take Rouat by 1430; with capture of Rouat, other elements of TF Harrison launch simultaneous assaults toward Stoumont and La Gleize, securing former and gaining some 800 yards in direction of latter against strong resistance. While

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

⁸⁰
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

22
Cont

120th Inf maintains defensive positions at Malmedy and repels attack by enemy inf, 117th Inf, in limited attacks, improves defensive positions at Stavelot.

CCR, 3d Armd Div, attempts to clear Soy-Hotton-Beffe area against bitter resistance: column (TF Mize) attacks SE from Soy toward Hampteau, making small gains; TF Hogan, attached to CCR with orders to attack NW from Beffe, is halted by intense opposition at S edge of town where it withstands severe counterattacks before withdrawing to defensive position in Marcouray, and here is surrounded by enemy; 1st Bn, 517th Para Inf (non-div), also attached to CCR, at 1750 attacks toward Hotton, making slow progress. Just after dark, another enemy attack on Hotton penetrates the town, forcing defenders back to RR line. Elsewhere, 3d Armd Div units withstand heavy pressure on road block on Manhay-Houffalize road, secure Amonines, but are unable to reduce Dochamps. Moving from assembly positions astride Werbomont-Manhay road, CCA's TF Doan, reinf, cuts Marche-Bastogne road and establishes road blocks at strategic points.

Corps is given mission of screening assembly of VII Corps.

VII Corps Reconstituted VII Corps, consisting of 75th and 84th Inf Divs and 2d Armd Div with some of the same Corps troops, moves rapidly to Hotton-Marche-Modave-Mohiville area of Belgium (except for 84th Div which is already in position), most troops closing in new zone during day. Corps Hq closes in Kornelimunster, Germany, and opens at Bassines, Belgium, at noon. New Corps zone, about 75 kilometers long, is on First Army's R flank; XVIII Corps (A/B) is on its L and Br XXX Corps on its R. Formation of a defensive line against German offensive is begun immediately by troops as they arrive; outposts and road blocks are established and patrols sent to probe enemy positions. RCT 60, 9th Div, although it remains in vicinity of Ouffet, Belgium, is attached to 2d Armd Div. Eighty-fourth Div completes perimeter defense of Marche and sends out two bns to establish counter-roc screen in area generally S and SW of Marche and to hold Rochefort; these units, operating in groups of a co or less,

DECLASSIFIED

~~TOP SECRET~~
 DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

22
Cont

contact the enemy at several points and some are temporarily isolated.

Twelfth Army Group

U.S. THIRD ARMY

VIII Corps German demand, delivered at noon, for the surrender of the besieged forces in Bastogne is rebuffed by Brig. Gen. McAuliffe, Acting CG, 101st A/B Div. While XVIII Corps holds the N shoulder of the breakthrough and III Corps drives toward Bastogne from the S, enemy shells Bastogne severely and attacks perimeter defenses sharply, especially near Chenogne, 4 miles W of the city. Toward evening, 28th Div forces that blocked road SW out of Bastogne at Vaux-les-Rosieres are forced to fall back to Neufchateau, which has been bombed during day by enemy planes. Seventh TD Group continues to hold Libramont-Recogne area NW of Neufchateau. On SE side of Bastogne, enemy combat patrols are within 2 miles of the city. No aerial resupply possible this day because of unfavorable weather, but fighter bombers furnish valuable support. Shell shortage is becoming acute, but arty pounds enemy concentration near Givry, 5 miles NW of Bastogne, through most of day. Enemy planes bomb Bastogne during the night.

III Corps Fourth Armd Div, 26th Div, and 80th Div attack due N at 0600, in a heavy fog. Drive to relieve encircled troops at Bastogne is spearheaded by tanks and half-tracks of 4th Armd Div, on Corps W flank. GCB advances about 10 miles on L of Arlon-Bastogne highway, reaching Burnon by midnight. A blown bridge delays CCA on the highway at Martelange, 6 miles SE of Burnon. Elements of 5th Para Div are not cleared from Martelange until early the following morning. Snow and ice on roads also impede advance. On R flank of 4th Armd Div, 26th Div marches about 16 miles before contacting German columns moving W. The 26th Cav Rcn Tr reaches Rambrouch, 5 miles E of Martelange, and fights advance enemy rcn elements which offer delaying action there. The 328th Inf finds enemy SP guns on hill near Rindschleiden, 3 miles NE of Rambrouch.

~~TOP SECRET~~
 DECLASSIFIED

82
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

22
Cont

On Div R flank, 5 miles E of Rambrouch, 104th Inf is counterattacked S of Grosbous by elements of 352d VG Div and forced to withdraw one mile. After an advance of 5 miles, 80th Div, too, encounters stiff resistance from 352d VG Div, especially at Merzig and Ettelbruck. Advance of 318th Inf takes enemy by surprise, however, and almost a bn of enemy field arty is destroyed on Ettelbruck-Diekirch highway and two cos of enemy inf and trains are destroyed by arty fire on Oberfeulen-Merzig road. Most of Merzig is secured by nightfall, and 319th Inf seizes Oberfeulen, Feulen, and Niederfeulen, but fighting remains heavy on W and SW edge of Ettelbruck. The 317th Inf maintains road blocks at Moesdorf and Cruchten on E side of Alzette R.

XII Corps New XII Corps zone includes most of area along E border of Luxembourg. Fourth Div patrols along Moselle and Sauer Rivers as far N as Born, 3 miles N of Wasserbillig, while its active front extends W from Sauer R. near Born to vicinity of Waldbillig. Tenth Armd Div holds line from vicinity of Waldbillig northward to just S of Haller, thence W to the Alzette R. Enemy has a firm bridgehead across Sauer R. from Ettelbruck to area SE of Echternach. Enemy units in contact in Corps zone include the 352d, 276th, and 212th VG Divs, with 5th Para Div attacking W along the Sauer R. in general direction of Bastogne. RCT 109 of 28th Div is attached to 10th Armd Div. Latter maintains its positions in area NE of Luxembourg and straightens and consolidates its lines in an attack coordinated with 4th Div. The 90th Cav Rcn Sq pushes rcn N to Sauer R. in Ettelbruck-Diekirch sector. Fourth Div, with RCT 10 of 5th Div attached, attacks enemy forces SW of Echternach; only small gains made against heavy resistance. Arty, TD, and tank fire wipes out over 150 of enemy force counterattacking near Scheidgen. Heavy enemy arty and mortar fire falls in and about Osweiler. Fifth Div closes N of Luxembourg at noon. Thirty-fifth Div moves from Puttelange to Metz. Second Cav Gp is relieved at Sarreguemines by 114th Inf of 44th Div, XV Corps, and assembles near Vatimont.

XX Corps By 0955, enemy has become aware of withdrawal of troops from 90th Div bridgehead NW of Saarlautern and

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

places mortar and direct MG fire on ferry site as last elements on E side of the Saar R. struggle to get a few remaining vehicles across the river. Div Arty hits outskirts of Pachten and Dillingen with barrage after barrage, in order to block enemy pursuit, and within an hour the remainder of vehicles has been brought across. The 358th Inf relieves elements of 3d Cav Gp E of Bueschdorf and establishes a line between Bueschdorf and W bank of Saar R. at Ripplingen; from Ripplingen S to the Nied R. the Saar R. line is held by 359th Inf. Div line remains substantially the same during rest of month.

An enemy rcn co is encountered on W bank of Saar R. S of Lisdorf by elements of 378th Inf, 95th Div, which kill or capture about 50 and scatter the rest. Elements of 377th Inf later relieve 378th Inf elements in this area along W bank of Saar. Units of both 377th and 379th Infs improve defensive positions in Saarlautern bridgehead. Other units of 379th Inf move N as far as Rehlingen—into area across Nied R. from 90th Div zone.

23

Twenty-first Army Group

U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIX Corps At 1615, 83d Div's 1st Bn of 330th Inf, reinf, attacks toward Winden and, although opposed by extremely heavy arty and mortar fire, reaches edge of town by 1700. Relief of 83d Div is initiated, 104th Div relieving units in N portion of zone under cover of darkness; to assist 8th Div in taking over S portion of 83d Div front subsequently, elements of 113th Cav Gp plus 295th Engr Combat Bn are attached to 8th Div. At midnight, 744th Tank Bn is released from attachment to 113th Cav Gp. Second Bn of 330th Inf (83d Div) is detached from 5th Armd Div. First Bn of 121st Inf, 8th Div, regroups for another attack on Obermaubach. RCT 311, 78th Div, is released from attachment to 8th Div and boundary between 8th and 78th Divs adjusted.

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

~~TOP SECRET~~

84
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

23 U.S. FIRST ARMY
Cont

Left boundary of First Army is redefined to run: S of Gemund-S of Dedenborn-N of Konzen-N of Kettenis (N of Eupen) and as before except to follow Highway #3 from Fort de Lonein to St. Trond instead of running through Vise.

V Corps Enemy pressure decreases along Corps front, but planes are over in strength and drop a few paratroopers near Elsenborn; many of the planes are downed by Allied aircraft and AA. Twenty-sixth Inf, 1st Div, restores its lines at Butgenbach and occupies hill S of the town. With failure of 12th SS Pz Div to gain Butgenbach and from there push N, Germans go on the defensive; attacks are confined to holding efforts, and inf elements are brought in to replace armor. First Div is ably supported by air and arty: medium bombers hit enemy in Butgenbach area; fighter bomber targets include enemy columns in Faymonville-Schoppen-Buellingen area and vehicles in Moderscheid; in addition to usual interdictory, counter-battery, and harassing missions, arty fires on towns of Buellingen, Moderscheid, Schoppen, Faymonville, and Steinbach. To improve defenses of Elsenborn ridge, elements of 23d Inf, 2d Div, are moved to rear of Butgenbach. RCT 60 moves to Eupen and reverts to 9th Div control, whereupon 9th Div starts regrouping. Thirty-ninth Inf regains ground lost yesterday, and arty breaks up small counterattack in same area. Although Germans exert strong pressure and expend considerable arty fire against RCT 47, no attack materializes. Fifth Armd Div is attached to V Corps.

XVIII Corps (A/B) Withdrawal of 7th Armd Div, remnants of 106th Div, RCT 112 of 28th Div, and CCB of 9th Armd Div, a force of approximately 15,000, with supplies and equipment from St. Vith area through 82d A/B Div lines is completed. This feat marks successful conclusion of initial task of Corps. Withdrawal is executed as planned in the face of strong enemy pressure. Some of the battered forces, after their withdrawal, are placed in support of 82d A/B Div. Fourteenth Tank Bn of CCB, 9th Armd Div,

DECLASSIFIED

~~TOP SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

23
Cont

with a co blocks Manhay crossroad; 3d Bn of 112th Inf, 28th Div, is attached to 508th Para Inf.

Although pressure on 82d A/B Div L is waning, situation on R is critical. All-out effort against vital road junction SE of Manhay by elements of 2d SS Pz Div aided by effective tank, mortar, and arty fire over-runs positions of 3d Armd Div elements and Co F of 325th Glider Inf by evening, and Manhay and Werbomont are threatened. Second Bn of 504th Para Inf is sent SW to Malempre to contain enemy in woods between Malempre and Fraiture. German plans for attack to Liege are captured by 325th Glider Inf, elements of which lose and regain outpost in Joubieval and repel several probing attacks. The 508th Para Inf beats off strong tank-inf attack toward Salmchateau, and the three bridges here are blown. First SS Pz Div units still offer considerable opposition to 505th Para Inf along Salm R. line on Div L.

Two-pronged assault on La Gleize fails to clear the town: TF Harrison, 30th Div, jumps off at 0830, with force moving E and NE on the town and another attacking to the W; former gains 1,500 yards against inf, tanks, mines, and SP guns, but latter is pinned down by stiff resistance. Other elements of 30th Div clear large portion of woods near Arret de Co.

Third Armd Div passes to control of VII Corps in place at 1630. For action prior to this hour, see VII Corps.

VII Corps Corps L boundary is established: along L'Ourthe R.-Bomal-SE to Manhay-along road SE of Manhay to bend at Champha. Although no specific R boundary is set up, Corps operates in area S of the Meuse and E of Namur-Dinant-Givet. Corps front extends roughly from junction of La Lesse and Meuse Rivers and Anseremme on the R to road from Manhay SE to Champha on L.

On L of Corps, 3d Armd Div is to defend line extending from main road junction SE of Manhay, about two miles NW of Champha, generally W to, but not including, Hampteau. The 509th Para Inf Bn (non-div) and RCT 290 of 75th Div are attached to 3d Armd Div at 0230 and 2330,

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups23
Cont

respectively; at 1630, TF Doan is released by the Div and attached to 84th Div to defend road blocks. CCR (Howze) with 1st Bn of 517th Para Inf attached attacks to clear Hotton-Soy road but makes very little progress against stubborn resistance. Task forces of the Div are heavily engaged in vicinity of Dochamps and Amonines. German tank-supported inf strongly attack road block at important junction SE of Manhay during morning; TF Richardson sends elements of 509th Para Inf to reinforce TF Kane here and assumes responsibility for the block, but continued enemy pressure succeeds in overrunning it and pushing it back to Belle Haie, on road to Manhay, during evening. Attempts to supply TF Hogan, cut off in Marcouray, NW of Laroche, by air fail.

To the W, Germans penetrate in force on 84th Div front between Hargimont and Rochefort, and sharp fighting starts in latter during evening.

Fourth Cav Gp closes in Pessoux-Sinsin-Haversin area, between Ciney and Marche, early in morning and organizes defensive positions; its mission is to reconnoiter and screen line of La Lesse R. from its junction with the Meuse to Rochefort; German inf co with tanks and mortars overrun road block near Haversin and reach edge of town before being driven off.

Second Armd Div, assembled in Havelange-Les Avins-Clavier area, first contacts enemy near Haid, about 7 miles WNW of Marche; CCA occupies and organizes Ciney to check German drive toward Dinant and Namur and from there advances SE toward Buissonville, clashing with enemy near Leignon after dark and occupying the town, then continuing night advance on Buissonville. RCT 60 is relieved from attachment to 2d Armd Div and reverts to 9th Div.

Seventy-fifth Div (-RCT 290), in Corps reserve, outposts along L'Ourthe R. between Bomal and Grand Eneille and patrols.

German 116th Pz, 2d Pz, and 560th VG Divs are identified on Corps front.

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

23
Cont

Twelfth Army Group

U.S. THIRD ARMY

Weather becomes favorable for tank and air corps operations. Army receives extensive air support. Fighter-bombers attack with excellent results enemy columns and troop concentrations surrounding Bastogne and 241 planes drop medical supplies and equipment to units cut off at Bastogne. Enemy aircraft, also, are active, strafing columns and attacking bridges and supply installations.

VIII Corps A see-saw battle rages all day at Flamierge, 6 miles WNW of Bastogne. Enemy tanks break through to the rear areas at dusk and defending troops withdraw about two miles nearer to Bastogne. At the SE corner of the besieged area, heavy fighting takes place in and about Marvie during the night, involving both paratroops and TF O'Hara from CCB, 10th Armd Div. A few enemy tanks temporarily rupture line of 327th Gln Inf, 101st A/B Div, at Hill 500 and advance to outskirts of Bastogne. Neufchateau, 17 miles SW of Bastogne, is bombed and strafed on this date and throughout following week, but ground troops are not in contact in this vicinity.

Corps is assigned responsibility for defense of Meuse R. from Givet exclusive to Verdun inclusive.

III Corps Despite road blocks, craters, and a blown bridge, CCA of 4th Armd Div finally clears Martelange and continues 2 miles up Arlon-Bastogne highway to attack Warnach. Farther N, on a secondary road into Bastogne, CCB smashes into Chaumont, only 6 miles SW of the city. Both columns, however, are hit by sharp enemy inf and tank counterattacks under cover of fog and CCB units are forced to withdraw S of Chaumont, which is left burning. In the meantime, CCR has entered combat on E flank of CCA, attacking through Flatzbourhof toward Bigonville, Luxembourg. Twenty-sixth Div is faced by difficult terrain in area N. of Grosbous, toward Eschdorf and the Sure (Sauer) R., with many deep gorges and high, wooded ridges. Against vigorous resistance, 104th Inf captures Grosbous and pushes on to

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups23
Cont

Dellen and Buschrodt. Wahl, NW of Buschrodt, is occupied by elements of 328th Inf. TF Hamilton, consisting of bn of 328th Inf, plus tank and TD units, is organized as mobile armor-inf team. Eightieth Div attacks in early morning hours, 319th Inf capturing Heiderscheid and reaching high ground across the Sure R. Enemy counterattacks Heiderscheid at noon from E and NE, losing 8 tanks as attack is repulsed. Other attacks occur during afternoon, but positions are maintained. Merzig is completely cleared during the morning and units here move to assistance of units at Heiderscheid. Attempts to secure a bridge at Heiderscheidergrund and another NE of Tadler fail. To the E, other elements of 319th Inf attack Kehmen and Scheidel in afternoon, clearing Kehmen at 1900. On Div R flank, 318th Inf continues attack on Ettelbruck, where enemy resists strongly all day. The 352d VG Div has been relieved by the 79th VG Div in Ettelbruck-Heiderscheid area. Elements of XII Corps relieve 317th Inf of responsibility for road blocks on 80th Div R flank, and Regt moves N to vicinity of Niederfeulen and during night passes through 318th Inf to continue advance on Bourscheid.

XII Corps Immediate task of Corps is to press N until it holds the Sauer R. line from the Prum R. on the E to the Alzette R. on the W. Enemy at present maintains a defensive front from vicinity of Waldbillig, Mullerthal, Melichschech, Osweiler, Dickweiler, SE to vicinity of confluence of Sauer and Moselle Rivers. Elements of 5th Div attached to 4th Div attack on latter's L flank SW of Echternach, making only slight gains. Farther W, 90th Cav Rcn Sq of 10th Armd Div attacks to shorten lines and secure Ermsdorf-Gilsdorf road. CCA moves to vicinity of Fels in preparation for attack N. Second Cav Gp moves to area E of Luxembourg city. Thirty-fifth Div is relieved from this corps and placed under direct control of Third Army. XII TAC destroys a number of enemy's bridges over the Sauer R. and bombs and strafes enemy troop concentrations.

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

89

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

XX Corps Third Cav Gp is relieved in area immediately NW of Merzig by 90th Div units and withdraws its troops W to zone between Moselle R. on the L and line NE through Tunting and Bueschdorf on the R. Tettingen, which is beyond the new OPLR, is left heavily booby trapped. Small counterattacks hit 95th Div units defending Saarlautern bridgehead and enemy aircraft are active over Div zone. Sixth Armd Div elements begin movement to assembly area near Metz as relieved by 103d Div (XV Corps, U.S. Seventh Army).

24

Twenty-first Army Group

Enemy lines are now over-extended and his fuel and ammunition short. Favorable weather permits intensive air action against German supply lines, concentrations, road traffic, and airfields. Enemy continues to land paratroopers within American lines and infiltrate in small groups by use of captured U.S. uniforms and vehicles.

U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIX Corps At 0200, 104th Div assumes complete responsibility for approximately the N half of 83d Div sector, and is to defend 16,000 yards of Roer R. front. Twenty-ninth Div relieves 104th of responsibility for Inden-Pier-Schophoven region, and boundary between XIII and XIX Corps is shifted S of this area. Two-thirds of Winden cleared of enemy by 83d Div elements against SA and sporadic arty and mortar fire; river bend just S of Winden is being cleared. Eighth Div continues operations to reduce enemy pocket in Obermaubach area: in limited objective attacks, elements clear portion of woods SW of Obermaubach; 1st Bn, 121st Inf, continues preparations for an assault on the town itself.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

Captured orders bearing this date reveal German plans to renew offensive toward Liege. Plans are apparently based on

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

24 mistaken idea that XVIII Corps (A/B) is in full retreat.
Cont

V Corps First Div holds present line and its 26th Inf repels inf-armor attack toward Butgenbach. Ninth Div continues regrouping and improvement of defenses; newly arrived 60th Inf takes over sector from road center N of Monschau to Div L boundary. Fifth Armd Div CP opens at Eupen; Div closes in this area and is placed in reserve.

XVIII Corps (A/B) Bitterly contested La Gleize falls to TF Harrison, 30th Div, in southeastward attack lasting from 0730 until 1040; the task force continues S and SE, clearing its zone to L'Ambleve R. and assisting 117th Inf in cleaning out woods near Arret de Coe. In La Gleize area, 170 Americans are released and 128 enemy prisoners taken. During operations to clear Stoumont-La Gleize pocket, TF Harrison captures or destroys numerous tanks, half-tracks, large caliber guns, and vehicles. CCB of 3d Armd Div is relieved from attachment to 30th Div at 1400. NE of Malmedy, 517th Para Inf, attached to 30th Div, occupies defensive positions near Gdumont.

Preparations are made for withdrawal of 82d A/B Div, on whose R, in the Manhay area, situation is critical. Battered 7th Armd Div units are pressed into action here, relieving 14th Tank Bn, but strong attack by German inf and armor of 2d SS Pz Div overruns Manhay at night. Enemy pressure forces 325th Glider Inf's 2d Bn to abandon Fraiture and move to Bois Houby and overruns plat at Regne, but counterattack by Co B and supporting tanks regains latter. Third Bn (-) of 504th Para Inf moves S to positions SW of Lierneux where it repels strong enemy attack. Germans with strong arty and mortar support strike at Vielsalm and are engaged by 508th Para Inf. Along the Salm, 505th Para Inf inflicts heavy casualties on enemy attacking to withdraw across the river and sends elements N to intercept another force reportedly attempting to withdraw. Under cover of darkness 82d A/B Div starts voluntary withdrawal to line running generally: Trois Ponts-Basse Bodeux-Bra-Manhay, with positions from L to R occupied by 505th, 508th, 504th, and 325th Regts.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

91

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

24
Cont

Corps CP opens at Harze, Belgium. Seventeenth A/B Div starts movement by air from England to France where it will operate subsequently under VIII Corps.

VII Corps Tank-supported enemy inf, moving NE from Odeigne, force TF Richardson, 3d Armd Div, to abandon road block and vehicles at Belle Haie, on road to Manhay, and infiltrate to XVIII Corps lines via Malempre. CCR of 3d Armd Div attacks at 0815 in two columns, one moving E from Hotton and the other moving W from Soy, and by 1125 clears the Hotton-Soy road; outposts are established along the road. Elements of newly arrived 75th Div enter combat for the first time: RCT 289 is attached to 3d Armd Div to operate under control of CCA; RCT 290, attached to 3d Armd Div yesterday, operates under CCR. During night, RCT 290 attacks to secure defensive line S of Hotton-Soy road from Hampteau to Blier, while RCT 289 moves to occupy line from Blier to Grandmenil. Another attempt to supply TF Hogan in Marcouray by air fails. Germans maintain heavy pressure in vicinity of Amonines.

Eighty-fourth Div, now flanked by 2d Armd and 3d Armd Divs, holds line Hampteau-Waha-Hogne; because of enemy penetration in vicinity of Rochefort and Hargimont, 3d Bn of 335th Inf is ordered back to Marche; two cos set out from Rochefort on foot, since vehicles are knocked out, and Co L of the same Regt, which had been cut off in Marloie, between Hargimont and Marche, is relieved. First Bn of 333d Inf, with units at Wanlin, Beauraing, and Wellin, is also recalled. At 1500, 334th Inf jumps off to clear woods W of Verdenne of enemy who had infiltrated the previous night just as Germans attack Verdenne frontally and are preparing to attack it from the rear; woods are speedily cleared of enemy, eliminating threat to the rear, but frontal assault pushes through Verdenne and gains salient to N to chateau about 200 yards N, threatening Bourdon, on Marche-Hotton road.

Continuing night advance on Buissonville, CCA, 2d Armd Div, ambushes enemy tank column NW of Haid and disperses it after inflicting heavy casualties and knocking

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups24
Cont

out at least 15 vehicles, clears Haid by about 0930, engages tanks in fire fight near Forzee, and during afternoon enters Buissonville and clears area NE of the town. Elements of CCB move to vicinity of Ciney to secure it from attack; enemy is building up his forces to the SW in Celles area. CCR closes in vicinity of Scy, ENE of Ciney. Fourth Cav Gp is attached to 2d Armd Div with mission of maintaining contact between CCA and CCB, 2d Armd Div, and 84th Div as well as covering assembly of 2d Armd Div. Gp contacts 2d Armd at Mont Gauthier and British at Sorinne. Task force from 24th Sq sets out at 2130 to clear Humain.

Twelfth Army Group

Fifteenth Army's advance hq moves from Cerfontaine, Belgium, to Fme. de Suippes in France, about 25 miles from Reims.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

German rcn vehicles are reported close to the Meuse R. and elements of 2d Pz Div are observed in Beauraing, about 35 miles W of Bastogne. Except in immediate vicinity of Bastogne, enemy is not particularly aggressive along S flank of breakthrough.

VIII Corps Bastogne is severely bombed during the night; much of center of the city is destroyed and the aid station of CCB, 10th Armd Div, receives a direct hit. Heavy fighting continues about the city, particularly at Foy, 3 miles to the NE, and at Marvie, less than 2 miles to the SE. Latter town is surrounded at 0300, but paratroopers continue to hold N part of the town and counterattacks restore the line before dawn; enemy planes bomb and strafe the town in the afternoon. Corps places strong patrols and counter-rcn screen along western extension of its N flank and attempts to contact U.S. First Army on its L. Eleventh Armd Div, made available to Corps from SHAEF reserve on 23 Dec, is

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

24
Cont

placed on W side of Meuse R. as a mobile reserve. The 1102d Engr Combat Gp is put in charge of N subsector of Meuse R. line and the 1107th Engr Combat Group in charge of the S subsector. The bridges are prepared for demolition and road blocks are established on their approaches.

III Corps Two bns of 318th Inf, 80th Div, move W by motor and are attached to 4th Armd Div to assist it in relieving besieged elements at Bastogne. CCB is receiving further counterattacks S of Chaumont. CCA is heavily engaged at Warnach, on the Arlon-Bastogne highway. CCR wrests Bigonville from elements of 5th Para Div. Sixth Cav Gp (TF Fickett) arrives in this corps zone from XX Corps and 6th Cav Rcn Sq is assigned a sector between 4th Armd Div and 26th Div; remainder of Group protects Corps W flank in Neufchateau area. The 101st Inf of 26th Div secures Rambrouch and also takes Koetschette, directly NW. A bn of 328th Inf struggles to capture Arsdorf, less than 2 miles N of Koetschette, from German soldiers defending from house to house with fanatic fury. Fighting continues throughout the night. TF Hamilton, assigned mission of seizing heavily defended town of Eschdorf, dominating approaches to Sure R., is pinned down at village of Hierheck by intense enemy rifle and automatic weapons fire. Tanks engage enemy while inf infiltrates forward. Eightieth Div's 319th Inf is fiercely counterattacked by enemy tanks and inf at Heiderscheid at 0840. This attack from the N, NW, and W, cuts off troops which were moving to relieve units at Heiderscheidergrund, and latter are relieved, instead, by elements of 104th Inf, 26th Div. Enemy attacks are supported by tanks of the Grossdeutschland Pz Brigade. After fighting until 1500, enemy withdraws from Heiderscheid with heavy losses. Eightieth Div elements just W of Kehmen maintain their positions against strong counterattack from NE. Enemy blows bridge NE of Tadler at 1000. Units of 317th Inf, which were cut off N of Welscheid at dawn, fight their way back to their bn by 1700 and bn takes up positions on high ground SW of Welscheid. Positions of 318th Inf NW and SW of Ettelbruch are maintained against enemy counterattack in the afternoon.

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

94
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

XII Corps Fourth Div sector shrinks as L flank elements are relieved NW of Osweiler by 5th Div and R flank units along Moselle R. are relieved by 2d Cav Gp, reinforced and designated TF Reed. Fifth Div attacks at 1100 against fairly heavy resistance and makes slight gains in vicinity of Haller and Waldbillig. (RCT 10 has reverted to 5th Div control.) Tenth Armd Div's CCA attacks at same time, captures towns of Gilsdorf and Mostroff on the Sauer R., and secures high ground overlooking the river from locality W of Eppeldorf. Enemy rocket (Nebelwerfer) fire falls in both div sectors.

XX Corps Elements of 95th Div's 377th and 379th Regts launch a limited objective attack in Saarlautern bridgehead area at 0830. Enemy opposition is rather light and all objectives are taken before troops withdraw on order to their original bridgehead positions. During same period, units of 378th Inf clear woods N of St. Barbara-Wallerfangen line of enemy who infiltrated to W side of Saar in that area, encountering only 12. Relief of 6th Armd Div by 103d Div (XV Corps) is completed. TF Fickett, on Div L flank, is relieved by 106th Cav Gp and reverts to III Corps (5th Ranger Bn remaining with XX Corps, however). Command of this sector (S of 95th Div R boundary) passes to CG, XV Corps.

25

Twenty-first Army Group

U.S. NINTH ARMY

British 51st Highland Div passes to operational control of First Army and starts assembling S of Liege as reserve.

XIX Corps Renewing attack on Winden at 0730, 1st Bn of 83d Div's 330th Inf, reinf, clears the town by 1700; later in the day the Div is alerted to move to First Army zone. Obermaubach pocket of resistance is attacked by two bns of 121st Inf, 8th Div, reinf, and further gains made against still bitter resistance; 1st Bn clears 8-10

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

25
Cont

houses inside the town. Eighth Div prepares to take over remainder of 83d Div zone, attached 113th Cav Gp initiating relief of 83d Div during night.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

V Corps Only light contact is made with enemy. Corps units consolidate and improve defensive positions and patrol aggressively to maintain contact with enemy and adjacent Allied troops. German and U.S. arty and planes are active.

XVIII Corps (A/B) Eighty-second A/B Div completes withdrawal to new defensive line, and at night repulses attack in 325th Glider Inf sector near Manhay. Third Bn of 112th Inf, 28th Div, is relieved from attachment to 508th Para Inf. RCT 112 and CCB of 9th Armd Div are reorganizing in Corps reserve. RCT 424 of 106th Div is attached to 7th Armd Div. On R of 82d A/B Div, elements of 7th Armd Div reinf by 2d Bn of 424th Inf attack to recapture Manhay without success. Thirtieth Div clears enemy resistance N of L'Ambleve R. between Stavelot and Trois Ponts, maintains defensive positions in Malmedy and Stavelot area, and defends L'Ambleve R. line from Targnon through Stoumont and La Gleize to Arret de Coe. Accidental bombing of 30th Div troops in Malmedy-Stavelot area by friendly planes during 23d, 24th, and 25th results in personnel and property losses. First Bn of 551st Para Inf and 517th Para Inf RCT (-) are relieved from attachment to 30th Div.

VII Corps Although Corps is released from offensive action and directed to assume a defensive role to stabilize R flank of First Army, defense tactics are active, consisting of a series of limited objective attacks.

On XVIII-VII Corps boundary, both Manhay and Grandmenil are in possession of 2d SS Pz Div by 0330. CCB, detached from XVIII Corps and reverting to 3d Armd Div at

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

25
Cont

0830, attacks at 1600, in conjunction with attack of RCT 289 which started at 0730 in CCA sector, to recapture Grandmenil and crossroads just E, employing TF McGeorge; attack reaches E edge of town by 2200 despite very heavy AT and SA fire. Other elements of CCB gain crossroads at Melreux and high ground to NE. While 3d Bn of RCT 289 is engaged at Grandmenil, 1st and 2d Bns move to defensive line from Amonines to Grandmenil, but gap of 1,000 yards is left between the two in vicinity of river S of Sadzot. In CCR sector, RCT 290, assisted by 1st Bn of 517th Para Inf, gets some elements on objective, Werpin-Amonines defensive line, after hard fighting, but line is not completely secured or organized. TF Hogan, still cut off in Marcouray, radios that it is destroying its equipment and starting on foot through enemy territory toward Soy.

Eighty-fourth Div, employing elements of 334th and 333d Regts, counterattacks for Verdenne at 0100 and recaptures it against fairly light resistance in 25 minutes, but enemy pocket 800 yards long and 300 yards wide remains between Verdenne and Bourdon; remainder of period is spent in mopping up, and 9 officers and 296 enlisted men from 116th Pz Div are captured; 6 enemy tanks destroyed.

On W of Corps front, 2d Armd Div blocks further penetration of 2d SS Pz Div toward Dinant with capture of Celles by CCB; advance from Ciney to Celles is made on Achene-Boisseilles axis to vicinity of Bois de Hubermont on R and Conjoux-Scinne axis to high ground SE of Celles on L; the two columns unite to take Celles, and enemy units are trapped in Bois Coreux and Bois des Priesses; rcn elements reach Sorinne and Foy Notre Dame. CCA drives off counterattacking column near Buissonville with tank and arty fire and in southward attacks from this area occupies Havrenne and positions S of Frandeux and Forzee; tank and AT fire are met from Bois de Remy. To the W, CCA elements outpost Verre and trap hostile column in vicinity. Meanwhile, task force from 24th Cav Sq attacks SW from Jarodine and enters Humain at 0130, but

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

97

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

25
Cont

strong tank-inf counterattack at 0700 forces it out; efforts later in the day, by 24th Cav Sq, reinf, to regain the town fail. Second Armd Div inflicts very heavy losses on enemy in personnel, vehicles, and equipment during the day. Prisoners taken by Corps total 529.

Twelfth Army Group

U.S. THIRD ARMY

VIII Corps Heavy air bombardment hits Bastogne at 0300 and at about same time units of 26th VG Div and 15th Pz Gren Div attack town of Champs, slightly over 3 miles NW of Bastogne. Paratroopers of 502d Regt succeed in beating off this attack after fierce hand-to-hand fighting and capture over 100 PWs. A second attack is beaten off a little later. Enemy is attempting to close in on Bastogne from several directions. Poor weather at bases prevents dropping of supplies, but fighter-bombers operate in support of ground forces. Forces left to VIII Corps outside the Bastogne encirclement and E of the Meuse are insufficient for more than rcn activity.

III Corps Starting at 0200, CCR of 4th Armd Div moves from Bigonville 30 miles to Div's W flank and is at Bercheux, ready to launch surprise attack by 0700. This attack, supported by P-47s, results by end of day in capture of Vaux-les-Rosieres, Petite Rosieres, Nives, Cobreville, and Remoiville, in W-E line along road from Vaux-les-Rosieres to Chaumont. Attached bns of 318th Inf, 80th Div, assist CCB and CCA in recapturing Chaumont in center of sector and seizing Tintange on R flank. Both bns come under heavy enemy mortar and arty fire. Hollange, slightly over a mile SE of Chaumont, is cleared by CCA. TF Hamilton of 26th Div begins assault on Eschdorf shortly after midnight on Christmas morning, starting one of the most bitter battles of the campaign. Enemy counterattack forces most of TF out of the town by evening. A bn of 101st Inf

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

98
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

assists a bn of 328th Inf in clearing Arsdorf, 5 miles WSW of Eschdorf. Advance elements of Div reach Sure R. at two places. The 319th Inf of 80th Div clears area S of Sure R. in its sector and establishes contact with 26th Div on its L flank. Elements near Heiderscheid attack town of Ringel from the S, entering it against moderate SA fire; counterattack from woods to the E is broken up in afternoon. Units of 317th Inf move N to assist elements of 319th Inf under fierce counterattacks by enemy inf and tanks at Kehmen. Thirty-minute arty preparation precedes assault at 1030. Attacking bns are under continuous enemy SA and mortar fire. Attack is broken off at 1630, with leading elements within 100 yards of town. Patrols of 318th Inf, which has been containing Ettelbruck from positions NE of the town, find it now free of enemy forces.

XII Corps Fifth Div continues attack against somewhat lighter resistance, although Waldbillig is stubbornly defended and is not captured until 1530. Haller, 2 miles N of Waldbillig, is also captured. CCA of 10th Armd Div consolidates positions for defense of Sauer R. line in its sector. TF Reed (2d Cav Gp, Reinf.) sends patrols into enemy-held territory across the Moselle R.

XX Corps Not a single round of arty or mortar fire falls on 3d Cav Gp front during Christmas day. On 95th Div front a noontime barrage of heavy MG, mortar, and arty fire is placed by 379th Inf on a German force in Beckingen across the Saar R.

26

Twenty-first Army Group

U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIX Corps Detachment of 308th Engr Bn, 83d Div, blows Roer R. bridge just S of Winden at 0300. Eighth Div assumes responsibility for 83d Div zone at 0730, by which time 113th Cav Gp, attached to 8th Div, has completed relief

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

99

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

26
Cont

of all remaining units of 83d Div. Eighty-third Div is assigned to First Army. All three bns of 121st Inf, 8th Div, with elements of 13th Inf and 709th Tank Bn attached, participate in attack to reduce Obermaubach pocket, 1st Bn overcoming stubborn resistance inside the town, 2d Bn making small gains in attack NE toward the town, and 3d Bn furnishing fire support. Only one pocket, S of Obermaubach, remains to be cleared in 8th Div zone.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

V Corps Activity on Corps front continues light, consisting of patrolling, strengthening of defensive positions, and air and arty action.

XVIII Corps (A/B) Thirtieth Div maintains present defensive positions in vicinity of Malmédy, Stavelot, and Trois Ponts. On 82d A/B Div front, attack by elements of 2d SS Pz Div penetrates positions of 325th Glider Inf, but enemy is driven out with heavy losses in prompt counterattack. Twenty-third AIB, 7th Armd Div, relieves 1st Bn of 325th Glider Inf. Two attacks by elements of 9th SS Pz Div from vicinity of Floret, E of Bra, are repelled by 504th Para Inf. Hostile force of about two inf cos supported by several half-tracks unsuccessfully attacks 508th Para Inf near junction W of Reharmont; attack against outposts of this Regt is also beaten off. Seventh Armd Div consolidates its positions in vicinity of Manhay, but the town itself is still held by enemy. Third Bn of 424th Inf, 106th Div, is committed to close gap between XVIII and VII Corps in Manhay-Grandmenil sector.

VII Corps Third Armd Div stabilizes its front except for L flank where contact has not yet been established with 7th Armd Div. Renewing assault on Grandmenil during morning, TF McGeorge in conjunction with 3d Bn of 289th Inf regains the town by 1800. Germans infiltrate through gap between 1st and 2d Bns of 289th Inf during night. RCT 290 gains its objective, high ground S of Soy-Hotton road, and starts organizing defenses. First Bn of 517th

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

100
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

26
Cont

Para Inf is relieved from attachment to CCR. Majority of TF Hogan personnel reach friendly lines safely.

See-saw fighting occurs in vicinity of Verdenne: 84th Div elements attack at 0330, 1015, and 1700 to clear pocket of inf and tanks between Verdenne and Bourdon; Germans also launch three attacks (0705, 0800, and 2215), one of them penetrating 84th Div lines and getting four more tanks in to join the five already there; by end of period, 84th Div positions are restored, the pocket is believed virtually eliminated, and 7 enemy tanks are knocked out. Meanwhile, 84th Div is hit at another point: from Marenne, strong inf-tank force moves NE to attack Menil, between Marenne and Hampteau, at about 1830; attackers are forced off road by mines and subsequently routed by bazookas, rifle grenades, and arty; 6 German tanks and 19 other vehicles are wrecked. Most of 3d Bn, 335th Inf, returns to Marche.

In Celles area, CCB of 2d Armd Div repels two enemy counterattacks, one by inf and the other by tanks and inf, and clears Bois des Priesses, Bois de Geauvelant, woods W of Conneux, and most of Bois Coreux. CCA hurls back three counterattacking groups, two of them moving with tanks and half-tracks against Havrenne and the third striking at Frandeux. CCR prepares to attack Humain or support CCA or 4th Cav Gp should the enemy penetrate their positions, while 4th Cav Gp elements prevent supplies and reinforcements from entering Humain. In addition to inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy, 2d Armd Div destroys or captures 22 tanks, 3 AT guns, 4 arty pieces, and 41 other vehicles. Eighteen more tanks are knocked out in Div zone by Allied aerial attacks.

Eighty-third Div, relieved from attachment to Ninth Army and attached to Corps, leaves Dueren area of Germany by motor during afternoon; 1st Bn, 330th Inf, is further attached to 84th Div. Prisoners taken by Corps number over 400.

Adjacent to W flank of VII Corps, XXX Corps of British Second Army is disposed along the Meuse as follows: 43d Div, from Liege to Huy; Guards Armd Div, from Huy to Dinant; 53d Div, from Dinant to Givet.

DECLASSIFIED

~~TOP SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED

101

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

26
Cont

Twelfth Army Group

U.S. THIRD ARMY

VIII Corps Day is rather quiet in W part of Corps zone. Patrols of 11th Armd Div contact British forces near Givet and TF Wortham (under 9th Armd Div) contacts them at Beauraing. Pressure on Bastogne decreases slightly. Moving E from SW of Champs, enemy armor effects a breakthrough between 327th and 502d Regts of 101st A/B Div. Four tanks reach Hemroulle, only 2 miles NW of Bastogne, before they are destroyed. Small attacks at Longchamps and E of Monty are repelled. In the afternoon, 289 planes participate in air drop over Bastogne, but only half of their bundles are recovered. Eleven gliders land successfully—ten carrying gasoline and one bringing a surgical team. At about 1700, elements of 327th Gli Inf Regt, 101st A/B Div, on SW outskirts of Bastogne, meet troops of CCR, 4th Armd Div, who have crashed through the German lines at Assenois.

III Corps CCR, 4th Armd Div, attacks Remichampagne, while arty strikes both this village and near-by Bois de Cohet, on the W. Medium tanks attack enemy in woods E of Remichampagne. Receiving air support, CCR clears Remichampagne by noon and the tankers surge NE to seize high ground near Clochimont, 4 miles SW of Bastogne. Armd units assembled on slope S of Clochimont watch C-47s drop supplies to troops at Bastogne. Renewing its drive, CCR assaults villages of Clochimont and Assenois at 1515, starting from crossroads 500 yards S of Clochimont. Four arty bns place preparatory fire on Assenois and woods beyond, while CCR takes Clochimont and its tanks race ahead on this secondary road leading NE into Bastogne, spraying wooded area on either side with MG fire. Fourth Armd Div blasts a corridor between 5th Para Div and 15th Pz Gren Div, overrunning arty and inf elements of 26th VG Div S of Assenois. Four medium tanks succeed in bursting through to 101st A/B Div's outer defenses before the German along the forested ridge beyond Assenois have

DECLASSIFIED

~~TOP SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

26
Cont

time to act. Bastogne is entered at 1645, but elements of 4th Armd Div which make this contact are not strong enough to return to the main body of their unit. The Germans have thrown Teller mines on the road in a gap between the first 4 tanks and the half-tracks behind them, and enemy bazooka teams have closed in. Four half-tracks explode and burn and their crews fight on foot. Meanwhile a co of CCR mops up Assenois with light tanks, taking almost 400 prisoners. At midnight another co attacks enemy forces in woods bordering the road, so that trucks and ambulances can get through to the 101st A/B Div. Since elements of latter are too close to permit arty support, heavy MG and 60-mm. mortars firing in battery provide cover. Twelve bazookas and two 75-mm. guns are captured. Elements of 80th Div which are attached to 4th Armd Div attack toward Grandrue and Honville, on either side of Arlons-Bastogne highway. A 5-man patrol passes 4,000 yards through enemy territory and contacts 101st A/B Div's 326th Engr Bn, which escorts its members to 101st A/B Div CP, from which they return with information on positions of besieged units within Bastogne. The 101st A/B Div is placed temporarily under control of this corps, and 9th Armd Div's CCA, which has been attached to 10th Armd Div under XII Corps, is attached to 4th Armd Div for employment on its W flank, on SW side of Bastogne. TF Hamilton of 26th Div re-enters town of Eschdorf, which is fast becoming heap of smouldering rubble. Battle rages under arty and mortar fire, with troops losing contact with one another and with their commanders. Town is finally taken with assistance of 1st Bn of 104th Inf. Twenty-sixth Div now faces Sure R. along its front. Efforts of 101st and 104th Regts to secure crossing sites meet with heavy SA and mortar fire, especially in vicinity of Bannal and at Esch-sur-la-Sure, but greater part of these units is across by end of the day. Enemy aircraft are active over bridging sites; 390th AAA Bn destroys 15 enemy planes. Three and one half miles E of Esch-sur-la-Sure, 319th Inf of 80th Div clears wooded area E of Ringel. To the SE, elements of 317th Inf attack and clear

~~TOP SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

Scheidel in morning; other elements enter Kehmen in afternoon and fight from house to house. Automatic weapons and SA fire is heavy. Withdrawal on order is made after 1530 and defensive positions organized S of Kehmen. At 2000, 80th Div is relieved from assignment to III Corps and assigned to XII Corps, its L flank becoming inter-corps boundary. Thirty-fifth Div (earlier active under XII Corps) moves from Metz to area N of Arlon, along boundary of Belgium and Luxembourg, and is attached to III Corps to assist with drive into S flank of enemy salient.

XII Corps Units of 5th Div attack Berdorf, 3 miles WNW of Echternach, taking the town at noon. Other 5th Div elements occupy high ground directly SW of Echternach. Sixth Armd Div, returning from control of XX Corps to that of XII Corps, moves N from Metz into Luxembourg during night of 25—26 Dec and at once relieves 10th Armd Div, which moves S and passes to XX Corps control at Metz. The 109th Inf, 28th Div, which has been attached to 10th Armd Div, returns to 28th Div, VIII Corps. Eightieth Div (-1st and 2d Bns, 318th Inf), which has been operating on XII Corps L flank under III Corps is transferred to XII Corps and the Corps boundary is moved to the left (W) to include the 80th Div zone.

XX Corps Tenth Armd Div (-CCB) reverts to control of this Corps as it moves into assembly area at Metz. Ninety-fifth Div patrols capture a few prisoners in Fraulautern. German fighter planes strafe several gun positions. Ninety-fifth Div is brought up to strength with assignment of 2,006 reinforcements which have been training at Borny; 90th Div receives about 1,000.

27

Twenty-first Army Group

U.S. NINTH ARMY

Sixth Guards Tank Brig (British) passes to command of British 43d Div.

DECLASSIFIEDDec
1944Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups27
Cont

XIX Corps Second Bn of 121st Inf, 8th Div, renews attack to clear remaining enemy pocket S of Obermaubach at 1230, but is held to small gains by determined resistance; 2d Bn of 13th Inf at night relieves 2d Bn of 121st Inf of task of clearing this position. Corps and 8th Div Arty prevent strong enemy patrol across the Roer S of Winden from penetrating U.S. Lines.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

V Corps GAF activity increases in some sectors, but ground forces remain relatively quiet.

XVIII Corps (A/B) Thirtieth Div regroups and maintains defensive positions in its zone. Ninth SS Pz Div, in estimated strength of two bns, penetrates line of 508th Para Inf, 82d A/B Div, and infiltrates into Erria, NE of Bra, in pre-dawn attack, but Erria is mopped up and entire regimental sector cleared shortly afterward. Seventh Armd Div elements, reinf by bn of 517th Para Inf, attacks for Manhay and recaptures it early in morning. RCT 112, 28th Inf, is attached to CCB of 9th Armd Div; 2d Bn of 112th Inf is further attached to 75th Div, VII Corps.

VII Corps CCB of 3d Armd Div assumes responsibility for R of Div sector, relieving CCR in Soy-Hotton area; front line defenses on CCB front are held by RCT 290. In CCA zone, where front line is held by RCT 289, Germans are infiltrating and moving on Sadzot; 509th Para Inf Bn attempts to drive off enemy in this region, but infiltration continues. Arty fire breaks up small enemy attack at 2110 in Verdennes area; 84th Div combat patrol enters the pocket shortly afterward, takes 15 prisoners, and reports pocket clear. On W of Corps, CCB of 2d Armd Div clears all enemy from rear areas and, in limited objective attacks, makes small gains to the S, securing Herock-Ciernon line and high ground overlooking La Lesse R. near Verre. Bois Coreux is cleared by 1130 after an attempt by enemy to break out earlier is frustrated. Germans

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

27
Cont

are forced to yield Humain to 2d Armd Div in attack lasting throughout day. Attack jumps off at 0800, following hour-long arty preparation; CCR, attached to CCA and assisted by it, envelops the town, enters it during afternoon, and by 2330 overcomes fierce resistance from enemy barricaded in houses and assisted by AT fire from Bois de Deffes; 24th Cav Sq, reinf, blocks exits from the town. While attack on Humain is still in progress, CCA units participating are withdrawn to operate in Rochefort area. In several limited objective attacks, CCA clears Verre region and gains objectives along La Lesse and L'Homme Rivers between Ciergnon and Rochefort and positions N of Rochefort. Fourth Cav Sq mops up in area NW of Verre-Haversin road. Second Armd Div inflicts record losses on the enemy, destroying or capturing 142 vehicles and taking 448 of Corps' 775 prisoners. Div arty, during past 24 hours, fires 5,598 rounds in 88 missions. Entire 83d Div has closed in Havelange area by noon, and relief of 2d Armd Div is initiated at night.

To the W of VII Corps, in British Second Army's XXX Corps zone, 53d Div (Br) is relieved of defense of Meuse R. line from Givet to Namur by 6th British A/B Div; Guards Armd Div (Br) takes over line from Namur to Liege; 43d Div (Br) moves to assembly area above Maastricht.

Twelfth Army Group

U.S. THIRD ARMY

VIII Corps Town of Libramont, 6 miles NW of Neufchateau, is bombed twice, and Neufchateau, also, is raided by the Germans. The 7th TD Group is attached to 28th Div in order to unify patrol activity in this area, and the 4th French Para Bn (SAS) is directed to cooperate with 28th Div. Enemy seems to be on the defensive in area W of Bastogne. Troops at Bastogne are again re-supplied by air. The Meuse River sector passes to command of CG, 17th A/B Div, at noon.

DECLASSIFIED

106
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

27
Cont

III Corps First trucks and ambulances move into Bastogne on road opened by CCR, 4th Armd Div, ending siege of the city. Attacking NE from vicinity of Longlier, CCA of 9th Armd Div, attached to 4th Armd Div, captures Sibret, 4 miles SW of Bastogne. Bns of 318th Inf, 80th Div, attached to 4th Armd Div continue attack of yesterday by capturing Honville, where elements of 15th Pz Gren Div are encountered, and clearing Hompre and the woods S and E of Assenois. First Bn pushes on past Honville to Liverchamps, which is strongly defended by enemy inf, mainly 5th Para Div elements, supported by tanks, half-tracks, and 88-mm. guns. Just E of the secondary road into Bastogne, CCB of 4th Armd Div fights to widen the corridor to the N from Hompre, carrying its advance to the perimeter defense around Bastogne. CCA keeps hammering at resistance blocking Arlon-Bastogne highway. At 0800, from positions along S bank of Sure R., 35th Div attacks N through 6th Cav Sq, between 4th Armd Div and 26th Div. The 137th Inf moves by truck into 4th Armd Div zone, to point SW of Tintange, in order to cross river in friendly territory. After crossing, good progress is made up to Surre, which is captured only after bitter struggle. The 320th Inf, on the R, has difficulty crossing the river against opposition from N banks, but elements wade across before noon. By nightfall, resistance has lessened and Boulaide and Baschleiden are occupied. Twenty-sixth Div continues advance in bridgehead of 101st Inf, units proceeding NW, N, and NE of Bonnal area, taking high ground about Bavigne and capturing Mecher-Dunkrodt and Kaundorf. Elements of 104th Inf assist in clearing Kaundorf. During this 24-hour period, III Corps has taken 871 prisoners and delivered 400 replacements to 4th Armd Div and 400 to 101st A/B Div.

XII Corps In center sector of 80th Div zone, enemy attack from woods near Ringel at 1450 is repulsed by 319th Inf by 1900. Enemy arty falls in this area throughout afternoon. Other elements of 319th Inf hold positions near Tadler and patrol Sure (Sauer) R. on extreme L flank of

DECLASSIFIED

107
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

Corps. On Div R flank, 318th Inf sets up road blocks N and NE of Ettelbruck. Sixth Armd Div assumes responsibility for sector S of Sauer R. between Ettelbruck and Mostroff; Div Arty fires harassing missions upon Diekirch, Bastendorf, and roads to the E. Beaufort, 3 miles N of Waldbillig, falls to 11th RCT, 5th Div. Patrols of 4th Div find that Echternach has been evacuated.

XX Corps Ninetieth Div intensifies combat and recon patrolling, employing raiding parties in an effort to prevent enemy from withdrawing troops from this region to strengthen his forces in the Ardennes. Ninety-fifth Div front, to the S, remains quiet. Fifth Ranger Bn is attached to 95th Div at 1200, to be employed only for defensive action in case of a German breakthrough on Div R flank.

28

Twenty-first Army Group

U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIX Corps Patrol of 104th Div crosses the Roer at night and penetrates 500 yards into Dueren before being forced out by enemy fire. Except for two MG positions, all resistance S of Obermaubach is cleared by 2d Bn of 13th Inf, 8th Div.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

New R boundary for First Army is established as follows; Namur (exclusive)-road from Namur SE to crossroads above Emptinne (exclusive)-Emptinne-Marche (inclusive)-Hargimont (exclusive)-Wassoie R. to point on road SW of Grune (exclusive). Army is to maintain defensive positions and regroup. British XXX Corps, British Second Army, is to relieve VII Corps on the W, starting 29 Dec.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

28
Cont

V Corps Enemy makes final effort to crack defenses of Elsenborn, striking at 1st Div after intense arty and nebelwerfer barrage; prompt arty fire against the approaching column turns most of the enemy force back, and the few who succeed in infiltrating are eliminated before dark. Elements of 12th VG Div are identified in this attack. Local attack on S of 9th Div is repelled by arty fire.

XVIII Corps (A/B) Thirtieth Div continues readjustment of units and improvement of defensive positions. Eighty-second A/B Div zone is relatively quiet, but 504th Para Inf repels attack by about 60 enemy and, with mortar and arty fire, drives off enemy tanks. CCB of 9th Armd Div and RCT 112 move to Bonal-Heyd-Izier area to back up 3d Armd and 75th Divs.

VII Corps Seventy-fifth Div, less RCTs 289 and 290, is attached to XVIII Corps. Elements of German 12th SS Pz Div, newly arrived on Corps front, infiltrate in CCA sector of 3d Armd Div, taking Sadzot and continuing as far as Briscot; 2d Bn, 112th Inf, 28th Div, moves from XVIII Corps zone to plug gap between 1st and 2d Bns, 289th Inf, and combined efforts of this bn plus 509th Para Inf Bn and RCT 289 forces most of enemy to withdraw; Sadzot is cleared. On 84th Div front, arty fire breaks up counterattack by small enemy tank-inf force near Verdennes early in day and destroys two of the tanks. On W of Corps, 83d Div continues relief of 2d Armd, taking over positions in E portion of CCA sector; 83d Div assumes responsibility for area E of Buissonville-Rochefort (both inclusive) line. Second Armd Div regroups, and forward positions of CCA and CCB are taken over by 4th Cav Gp and 82d Armd Ren Bn; La Lesse and L'Homme Rivers are patrolled and contact maintained with British. Elements of 329th Inf, 83d Div, attack toward Rochefort during afternoon, meeting increasingly strong SA, MG, and arty fire as attack nears the town; Co B succeeds in entering Rochefort; fighting continues during night. VII Corps takes approximately 450 prisoners.

DECLASSIFIED

109
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

28
Cont

Twelfth Army Group

Empire Javelin, carrying main body of Fifteenth Army Hq, is disabled in mid-Channel by mine or torpedo at about 1440, but troops are transferred to French frigate L'Escarmouche before Empire Javelin sinks at 1725.

U.S. THIRD ARMY

VIII Corps Eleventh Armd Div is released from SHAEF reserve and attached to this corps late in day.

III Corps NW of Neufchateau-Bastogne highway, 6th Cav Gp advances toward Moircy and Remagne. On remainder of Corps front only limited advances are made against enemy delaying actions between the Sure and Wiltz Rivers. Bns of 318th Inf, 80th Div, which have been attached to 4th Armd Div, are relieved before midnight and proceed to Colmar, on the Alzette R. in XII Corps zone, on extreme R flank of 80th Div. Thirty-fifth Div continues drive against S flank of enemy salient, encountering very heavy SA, mortar, and arty fire SW of Villers-la-Bonne-Eau. Road junction N of Baschleiden is secured. Twenty-sixth Div makes slight gains that bring it within 2 miles of Wiltz. Sixth Armd Div is transferred from XII Corps to this corps.

XII Corps Enemy again attacks 80th Div positions at Ringel. Strong arty support assists in repulsing the attacking forces and prevents them from digging in on high ground E of Ringel. Sporadic arty fire received by elements W of Kehmen, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles SE of Ringel. Units on S flank maintain positions at Ettelbruck and patrol in vicinity of Warken and Burden, where enemy SA fire is encountered. Elements of 5th Div advance N on 6th Armd Div's R flank, pinching out CCA elements of latter and securing high ground between Dillingen and Bigelbach. Eightieth Div and 5th Div then begin relief of CCB. Corps is ordered on the defensive at 1400. Fourth Div maintains and improves its MLR fronting on W bank of Sauer and Moselle Rivers.

DECLASSIFIED

10
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

XX Corps Third Cav Gp sends patrols as far as Nennig, Sinz, and Kesslingen to obtain identification of enemy troops along W. half of Corps N flank. Combat patrols of 95th Div make only light contact with enemy.

29

Twenty-first Army Group

U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIII Corps Twenty-ninth Div extends its zone to the R, relieving elements of 104th Div.

XIX Corps Arty fire drives back enemy patrol seeking to cross the Roer just S of Dueren. Elements of 8th Div clear final resistance S of Obermaubach.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

V Corps Corps is quiet, with German and U.S. forces on the defensive.

XVIII Corps (A/B) Corps is virtually inactive. At 1600, boundary between XVIII and VII Corps is changed to run from L'Ourthe R. ford N of Hamoir-along L'Ourthe R. to Petit Barvaux-SE through Erezee and Amonines to W edge of Samree. Coincident with boundary change, 75th Div is attached to XVIII Corps and, with RCT 289, 509th Para Bn, 2d Bn of 112th Inf, and 3d Bn of 517th Para Inf under its control in place, takes over zone of 7th Armd Div.

VII Corps Second Bn of 112th Inf, 28th Div, closes gap between 1st and 2d Bns of 289th Inf, 75th Div, in 3d Armd Div zone, and enemy who had infiltrated through it are being mopped up. RCT 290 wipes out hostile force of about a plat which had infiltrated in area between Amonines and Magoster early in morning; large number of enemy dead are found in front of RCT 290. Eighty-fourth Div zone is quiet, and extensive patrolling is conducted. Eighty-third Div renews attack on Rochefort at 0730,

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

29
Cont

329th Inf making slow progress against heavy arty and mortar fire; no word is received from Co B, cut off in the town, and heavy arty barrage is placed on Rochefort during evening to give this co an opportunity to withdraw. The 331st Inf, 83d Div, moves to 3d Armd Div sector and passes to operational control of that div upon arrival. Eighty-second Armd Rcn Bn and 4th Cav Gp continue to patrol line of La Lesse and L'Homme Rivers. British XXX Corps starts relief of VII Corps units as planned: 158th Welsh Brig of Br 53d Div relieves CCB of U.S. 2d Armd Div at 1820.

Twelfth Army Group

U.S. THIRD ARMY

VIII Corps Eleventh Armd Div moves across the Meuse and on E to vicinity of Neufchateau. Eighty-seventh Div, of SHAEF Reserve, moves into area about ten miles to the W and is attached to Corps. Both Divs have been ordered to launch an attack next morning. Eighty-seventh Div is to advance to the Ourthe R., seize the crossings, and protect L flank of 11th Armd Div, which is to advance between the Ourthe R. and Bastogne toward Houffalize. Strong enemy forces are concentrated in and about the Bois des Valets, N of Chenogne and 5 miles W of Bastogne.

III Corps CCA of 4th Armd Div clears final resistance blocking Arlon-Bastogne highway. Thirty-fifth Div attacks again at 0800. The 137th Inf pushes to N edge of Surre Woods and makes some progress in its drive into Villers-la-Bonne-Eau. Most of Lutrebois, 2 miles N of Villers-la-Bonne-Eau, is seized by dark, however, and advance elements contact units of 101st A/B Div at Marvie, about 2 miles SE of Bastogne. The 320th Inf is engaged in fierce fighting around a farm SE of Harlange. Twenty-sixth Div's 104th Inf clears Nothum, N of Mecher-Dunkrodt, against considerable resistance. Enemy opposition is increasing in intensity as 26th Div approaches key

[REDACTED]
DECLASSIFIED

112
DECLASSIFIED

1 Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

communication and supply center of Wiltz. Elements of 9th VG Div are defending in area S of Wiltz. III Corps units in Bastogne (101st A/B Div, with attached units, and elements of 9th Armd Div) revert to VIII Corps control at 1800. The Neufchateau-Bastogne highway and the RR running NE from Bastogne constitute temporary boundary between VIII Corps and III Corps. Enemy bombs and strafes Bastogne at 1830. Sixth Armd Div assembles in area between Arlon and Neufchateau.

XII Corps Eightieth Div organizes defensive positions W of Sauer R. between Ringel and Ettelbruck. Enemy retains Kehmen-Bourscheid area near center of sector, though 80th Div has cut one of his main supply routes. In 4th Div zone enemy abandons defense of Girstenklaus area E of Dickweiler. Sixth Armd Div, transferring to III Corps, withdraws to assembly area NW of Arlon. Fifth Div extends its front on L flank to vicinity of Stegen, 3 miles S of Gilsdorf. Hostile arty activity increases.

XX Corps No change.

Ninety-fourth Div Elements start to assemble at Chateaubriant and Pontivy concentration areas in preparation for movement to Reims.

30

Twenty-first Army Group

U.S. NINTH ARMY

XIX Corps SA and MG fire frustrate another attempt by enemy to cross the Roer near Dueren.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

V Corps In process of pushing its outpost line out, 9th Div has small clashes with enemy. Otherwise, Corps is virtually inactive.

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

30
Cont

XVIII Corps (A/B) Corps zone is again quiet, with units engaged in active patrolling and strengthening of defenses. RCT 424 of 106th Div, attached to 7th Armd Div since 24 Dec, is released by that div, and its positions are taken over by elements of 75th Div.

VII Corps Corps and enemy action is light. British XXX Corps takes over region SW of a line from Marche to Namur. Germans abandon Rochefort at 0300; Co B of 329th Inf, 83d Div, which had been isolated in the town, is contacted by radio and withdraws with nine prisoners during morning. Relief of 329th Inf by 160th Brig of 53d Div is completed by 1915. CCA (-TF Doan), 3d Armd Div, is assembling near Bende. Eighty-fourth Div zone remains quiet. Relief of 2d Armd Div continues: responsibility for CCA sector is assumed by 160th Brig of Br 53d Div. Fourth Cav Sq, attached to CCA, is also relieved by British, but 24th Cav Sq remains in position over night.

Twelfth Army Group

U.S. THIRD ARMY

VIII Corps Eighty-seventh Div attacks at 0730 and by early afternoon has captured Moircy and is containing Vesqueville and St. Hubert. Enemy regains town of Moircy in counterattack at 2100, though several platoons of 345th Inf remain there throughout the night. The 11th Armd Div attacks with CCA on L and CCB on R. CCA encounters enemy forces S of Remagne at 0822, several miles N of Div assembly area, and a heavy fire fight develops, preventing further advance on this day. Inf digs in on ridge about 1 km. S of Remagne. CCB meets elements of 15th Pz Gren Div N of Jodenville, 5 miles E of Remagne, at 0930, and units swing W to capture Laraselle and secure high ground near Brul and Houmont. No progress is made in an afternoon attack on Chenogne, 1½ miles E of Brul. Progress of the armd units in general is slow and their losses heavy. Seventh TD Gp is relieved from

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Group

30
Cont

attachment to 28th Div and placed under VIII Corps control. Hq of 9th Armd Div is moved to Charleville, on the Meuse R.; Div is ordered to move to vicinity of Sedan, where it will become SHAEF reserve. Bastogne is heavily bombed and strafed.

III Corps Strong enemy counterattack from NE hits 35th Div along line Lutrebois—Villers-la-Bonne-Eau and CCA of 9th Armd Div is heavily attacked on W flank of Bastogne corridor, as Germans attempt to cut off Bastogne a second time. Tanks and inf of 167th VG Div and 1st SS Pz Div reach Lutrebois village, only 1,200 yards from main highway into Bastogne from the S. Two ccs of 137th Inf, 35th Div, become surrounded in Villers-la-Bonne-Eau. The 320th Inf, missed by the counterattack, jumps off at 0800 against strong resistance from Harlange and farm SE of the town. With aid of an air observer, 6 Shermans of 35th Tank Bn are enabled to ambush and destroy 11 enemy Mark V's skirting woods near Lutrebois. Fourth Armd Div and 35th Div, together with supporting Thunderbolts, knock out total of 55 enemy tanks during the day. The Germans still cling to Lutrebois pocket at end of day, but their counterattack has fallen short of accomplishing mission of cutting Arlon-Bastogne highway. In the latter part of the day, 26th Div's 101st Inf receives local counter-attack. On Corps extreme L flank, 6th Cav Gp is relieved by 87th Div and 11th Armd Div of VIII Corps. Fighting continues in vicinity of Remagne and Moircy.

XII Corps Eightieth Div elements N of Ringel receive considerable enemy SA fire early in morning. Enemy attempts to infiltrate positions there before 0500 and is repulsed with heavy losses. No major changes in Corps zone. Active patrolling to the front continued.

XX Corps Enemy action is limited to patrolling and light SA and mortar fire.

DECLASSIFIED
~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 1: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

31

Twenty-first Army Group

U.S. NINTH ARMY

Twenty-eight non-div combat units have been released by Ninth Army to First Army during latter part of Dec.

U.S. FIRST ARMY

V Corps Ninth Div continues to push out its outpost line.

XVIII Corps (A/B) Enemy who had infiltrated S of Briscolare being eliminated, and a local enemy attack W of La Fosse is contained. Widespread patrolling of 82d A/B Div is uneventful.

VII Corps Eighty-third Div assumes responsibility for former 3d Armd Div sector on L flank of Corps with mission of defending Hampteau-Amonines area. Defending this region are RCT 290, which is detached from 3d Armd and attached to 83d Div, and 331st Inf, also detached from 3d Armd and reverting to 83d Div. Twenty-fourth Cav Sq of 4th Cav Gp, relieved by Br 53d Div, moves to Sinsin.

Twelfth Army Group

U.S. THIRD ARMY

VIII Corps Elements of 87th Div attacking on Div E flank at 1315 capture Remagne an hour and a half later and are fighting near Moircy at night. CCR of 11th Armd Div attacks at 0900 and advances as far as Pinsamont and Acul during the day, encountering heavy enemy mortar and arty fire. CCB of 11th Armd attacks Chenogne, 4 miles W of Bastogne. At nightfall town is not entirely clear, so inf digs in S of it. CCA, which withdraws during previous night from its positions S of Remagne in sector which is being transferred to 87th Div, moves S in order to get on the Neufchateau-Bastogne highway, where it

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

116
DECLASSIFIED

Dec
1944

Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part I: Twenty-first and Twelfth Army Groups

31
Cont

becomes tangled in traffic jams with 6th Armd Div, also moving toward Bastogne on the icy road. CCA turns NW from the highway onto the Morbet road and advances between CCR and CCB to attack Rechrival, a little over 2 miles NW of Chenogne. After repulsing a counterattack at 1800, CCA digs in for night on S and E outskirts of Rechrival.

III Corps CCA of 6th Armd Div displaces to new assembly area S of Bastogne during night of 30—31 Dec, then attacks E to secure high ground near Wardin, which it obtains at cost of numerous casualties. CCB is delayed by traffic congestion and snow and ice on Neufchateau-Bastogne road, but finally assembles at Clochimont, with elements later infiltrating to a final assembly area NE of Bastogne. Fourth Armd Div is placed under operational control of VIII Corps, remaining in present location for time being. Thirty-fifth Div's attempts to attack are unsuccessful. Icy roads prevent effective tank support. Companies of 137th Inf isolated in Villers-la-Bonne-Eau are given up for lost. Enemy strikes against 26th Div at 0530, mainly in zone of 101st Inf. After containing this counter-attack, 26th Div reorganizes and establishes defensive positions during the night. Corps Arty places TOT's on Wiltz and continues to fire intense harassing and interdiction missions. Neither side has made a major advance and situation remains unsettled at end of second day of violent combat. Germans are still in possession of Lutrebois.

XII Corps No major changes in zones of 4th, 5th, and 80th Divs. Second Cav Gp sends patrols E of Moselle R. Patrols encounter heavy resistance at Thorn and Wincheringen, NE of Remich. Enemy air is active.

XX Corps Ninety-fifth Div elements E of Saar R. make a second limited objective attack in Saarlautern bridge-head area. The 377th Inf reaches its objectives against very little opposition, but heavy SA fire and some rocket fire prevent 1st Bn of 379th Inf from completely securing its objective.

DECLASSIFIED