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S E C R E T
Auth: Ltr 5th AD 19 Dec 44
Date: 3 February 1945
Init: PEU

HEADQUARTERS

85TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECHANIZED
APO 255

DOWNGRADED TO:

CLASSIFICATION REMOVED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE [unclear]

4 February 1945

Feb 45 MSD REPORT AFTER ACTION AGAINST THE ENEMY
Date Initials (Reference: Par 19, AR 345-105, C3)

JANUARY 1945 ✓

SECTION I - The Enemy and Elements Affecting Action.

- 1. **Enemy Situation.** - This Squadron not in contact.
- 2. **Terrain and Weather.** - Not material.

3. **Civilian population.** - Civilians were generally cooperative but had not been well instructed on the rules and regulations governing their conduct and hence were held by our road blocks on an average of six to eight per day for clarification of their status. A lack of an SOP for civilians in liberated countries and failure of competent authority to disseminate local rules and regulations are believed to be the cause for this difficulty.

a. In the towns of Hombourg, Gemmenich and Plombieres it was necessary for this Squadron to virtually assume the government of these communities in order to have a uniform plan of government which would permit civilians to continue their normal pursuits and still maintain proper counterintelligence measures.

b. In these towns too, there were over 500 carrier pigeons in about 40 different lofts. No regulation of this system of communication had been instituted and at the close of the period this squadron, on its own initiative was formulating a plan for registration and control of these birds, the plan to be submitted to higher headquarters for approval. In the interim an immediate regulation was promulgated directing that pigeons will not be released from lofts.

c. Identification of German nationals, evacuated to these towns presented a problem because of the previous failure to enforce the wearing of the yellow brassard. Spot checks to enforce this regulation were immediately instituted with good results but the presence of German nationals in close proximity to troops and installations leaves open a definite loophole in effective counterintelligence measures.

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d. Black market operations in illegal spirits and trading in U. S. Army rations and cigarettes was prevalent in the towns of Plombieres, Hombourg and Gemmenich. It was evident that very little or no attempt had been made to stop these operations as civilian enforcement agencies were inadequate and Military agencies for reasons unknown had not acted. This Squadron at the close of the period was investigating the problem and since warnings and orders were inerrctive, it was planned to refer the matter to higher headquarters for action.

SECTION II - Action.

1. a. The squadron remained under division control throughout the month, located at Hoor, Belgium (726800) until 28 January when a move was made to a new area SW of AACHEN, Squadron Command Post being located in the town of PLOMBIERES (747391).

b. No supporting units.

2. Mission. -

a. No mission was assigned the Squadron during the period, unless the usual preparation for future operations and the continuance of training can be called such.

3. Special weapons used. - None.

4. Communications. - Not applicable.

5. Assistance from supporting units. - None.

6. Use, etc. - None.

7. Supply, etc. - Not applicable.

8. Casualties. - No battle casualties.

SECTION III - Summary of Strength and Casualties, January 1945.

	Asgd Strength 1 Jan			Asgd Strength 31 Jan		
	OFF	WO	ML	OFF	WO	ML
Headquarters	9	1	46	9	1	44
Headquarters & Service	3	2	75	3	2	78
Troop A	4	0	106	4	0	130
Troop B	4	0	108	3	0	128
Troop C	4	0	127	5	0	128
Troop D	4	0	85	4	0	124
Troop E	5	0	99	6	0	97
Company F	4	0	86	5	0	87
Medical Detachment	2	0	12	2	0	12
	<u>39</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>744</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>328</u>

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No casualties.

Enemy Prisoners of War captured by our Forces: None

SECTION IV - COMMANDING OFFICERS- January 1945.

Squadron Commander: 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945 - Major
GEORGE C. BENJAMIN, O23422, Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE TROOP : 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945 -
Captain PAUL O. PETERSON, O1010111, Cavalry.

TROOP A : 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945 - Captain SEYMOUR B.
SCOTT, O306938, Cavalry.

TROOP B : 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945 - Captain LOREN L.
WIPOND, O1012532, Cavalry.

TROOP C : 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945 - Captain GEORGE C.
BASQUEZ, O1012910, Cavalry.

TROOP D : 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945 - 1ST LT. EDWARD J.
MC GAWK, O1012549, Cavalry.

TROOP E : 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945 - 1ST LT. PETER M.
SOUTTER, O1012549, Cavalry.

COMPANY F : 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945 - Captain JOHN T.
SCHWARTZ, O1010396, Cavalry.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT : 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945 - Captain
MEYER FRIEDLITZ, O425804, Medical Corps.

Incl.

- Incl 1 - Unit Journal.
- Incl 2 - File of Incoming and
Outgoing Messages.

George C. Benjamin
GEORGE C. BENJAMIN,
Major, Cavalry,
Commanding.

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