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contains items from German language version

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Lt General

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Index for MS # B 091.

Rhineland, 15 September 1944 to 21 March 1945.

(Gustav Hoehne)

Commander of army rear area

Extent of command and mission 1/3

Airborne landings

Preparations for the defense against airborne landings 4/6

K O H L

Generalleutnant

MS # B-091

(Suelzenfuss)

Concerning: Report on the American Campaign at the West-Front.

Rhineland from 15 September 1944 till 21 March 1945.

Concerning : Report on the American Campaign at the West Front.

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On 1 October 1944 I was appointed to Commander of the Rear Area of the 'Armee-Oberkommando'1 (Abbreviation: 'Korueck'). The boundaries took about the following course :-

in the West : the Saar area, (sketch A - B)

in the South : the Saar Palatinate as far as Fischbach southeast of Pirmasens, (sketch B - D)

in the East : Fischbach - east of Kaiserslautern - Kirn - Traben-Trarbach (sketch C - D)

in the North : South curves of the Moselle windings (exclusive of Trier) - Saarburg (sketch A - C)

With regard to its administration and economy this area was simultaneously subordinate to the military area headquarters XII at Wiesbaden.*) The c p of the so-called 'Korueck' was stationed at Kusel, but on and after 31 October at St.Wendel. The superior authority for Korueck was the 'Armee-Oberkommando' 1. Subordinated to the Korueck were :-

the military administration c p at Ottweiler
" " " c p at Saarbruecken
" " " c p at Zweibruecken
" " " c p at Morbach
" " " Commander's Office at Kaiserslautern) Simultaneously
) subordinate to
Troop training grounds " " at Baumholder) milit.area XII*)

To these were added later (the exact date can no longer be quoted) :

the military administration c p at Saargemuend
troop training grounds Commander's Office Bitsch *).

The tasks of these command posts extended to :-

a. collaboration with the German military and civilian offices;

b. maintenance of quietness and order within the rearward area;

c. traffic control on the roads;

d. repair and maintenance of the roads;

e. supervision of the soldiers on leave;

f. to halt stragglers and bring them up to their respective units;

g. quartering of the troops (front troops in 'at ease'-positions and rear services);

h. supervision of the roundabout defense installations of the localities;

i. setting up of alarm units from available forces of the Staffs and rear services (not from front troops);

k. air observation and aircraft warning;

l. supervision of reconstruction works in case of bomb damages;

re a. this was effected within the framework of the sphere of activity specified under b - l;

re b. the surveillance as to quietness and order was the duty of the rural police 'Trupps'. For each Military Administrative c p there existed one, or with some of them two rural police 'Trupps' of twenty men each, in connexion with the Military Administrative c p's and Commanders of troops, and moreover in connexion with the provost service immediately subordinate to the 'Heeresgruppe';

re c. The traffic control on the roads was a matter of the traffic police (rural police) to deal with, which - regarding this - was subordinated to the 'Road and Highway Administration Commander (see re d);

re d. The maintenance and repair of the roads comprised the following :-

1. roadbed and surface;

2. scavenging and keeping passable of the roads particularly in winter when there was ice and snow;

3. providing of road signs and finger posts;

4. arrangement of halting (resting) places;

5. camouflage of stretches of road exposed to observation.

All this had to be carried through by the work of four 'Road-and-Highway-Administration'Commanders in agreement with and supported by the Road-Making Offices (Strassenbauaemter) and civilian workmen.

re e. The supervision of the soldiers on leave was effected as explained under b.

re f. For the seizing of stragglers special blocklines were fixed within the foreward as well as in the rear area. These blocklines were changed according to the situation. The supervising organs formed lines of sentries and patrols under a specific chief of the rural police and police forces available which - in most cases - were immediately subordinate to the 'Armee'.

re g. Quartering of the troops had to be effected by the local Commanders and to be currently reported - as well as every change taking place - to the military administration Hq. These reports were particularly important for the setting up of alarm units (see re i).

re h. The roundabout defense of the localities was a concern with the Nazi party organs (Kreisleiter). But it had to be watched over because of the changing situation and the closure of the street blockings at the entrance of the localities so as to protect the troops from getting

cut off or forced to take a time-wasting roundabout way.

re i. An order had been issued by the superior authority to seize those men from all Staffs, which - in the case of major air landings of enemy troops or piercings of enemy tanks behind the proper combat front - could be relieved for commitment without prejudice to their proper tasks as: supply, repair works, air raid protection, et cetera. These men were to be assembled mostly within their units, or the respective men from several units were to be concentrated, set up as alarm units and trained accordingly. These alarm units (which - as a rule - also belonged to one and the same task force, and were lying together in the same quarters), were organized according to their readyness for action, and that in alarm units I and II.

Alarm units I : a. These were 'trupps' standing 'at the ready', so-called 'Jagdkommandos' in different strengths, which could be immediately marched off with greatest speed by motor trucks or cycles to the prospective landing place, or to act against the tanks.

b. These were units not fit for active service before a certain lapse of time, which were to set out on foot or to be transported by trucks, so as to be committed under a concentrated command.

Alarm units II : These were non-mobile units coming only into question according to their combat practice and arms, for the defense of a locality, mostly where they were quartered.

The coming and going of Staffs and troops - mostly columns and special branches of the service - was consecutively surveyed, and the setting up of alarm units from them was checked according to their numbers, strengths and armament.

This entire organization did not take effect on the American attack - as far as I know - since enemy air landings have not taken place nor real piercings of tanks through part of the front either.

re k. In connexion with this measure an aircraft-warning-service existed within the entire rear area of the 'Armee', on which it was incumbent to observe enemy flying formations by means of a procedure for reporting locations in air reconnaissance, and to inform of jumps or landings from planes.

This organization was made up in the following manner :

1. Observation posts

   a. posts standing on elevated points, mountain-tops, towers et cetera;

   b. military guards and posts in localities and in the area, for instance local guards, depots, antiaircraft gun emplacements, and other troops and military installations which were being watched over;

   c. individual observers, soldiers and civilians who had to inform the nearest military service office of their observations obtained.

2. Signal communications

   a. messengers, cyclists and so on;

   b. telephones;

c. Radio broadcasting stations, special transmitters for air observation, which were being consecutively listened in.

By these reports and statements the measures specified under i (i I : a.) were to be set a-going. But these never came to bear, since enemy air landings or the like have not taken place in the rear area of the 'Armee'.

re l. (meant is the letter l following 'k' in the alphabet)

The supervision of reconstruction works in case of bomb damages included :-

a. the up-keep of practicable roads in localities by clearing away ruins and obstacles likely to hinder troop movements;

b. repair of urgently needed military installations;

c. " " signal communication equipment;

d. " " railroad stations and installations, so as to render railroad traffic possible.

When the combat area of the 'Armee' was shifted backward by the end of October, the 'Armee'-rear area had the following boundaries :-

In the West : The line Bernkastel - Thalfang - Birkenfeld - St. Wendel (exclusively) - Homburg (see sketch E - F 1);

in the South: Waldfischbach ten kms north of Pirmasens - Landau (exclusively) (see sketch E - F 2)

In the East : a zone of fifteen kms in width west of the Rhine-course as far up as Mainz;

In the North: a zone of fifteen kms in width west of the Rhine-course as far up as Caub - Simmern - southern curves of the Moselle windings - Saarburg (see sketch A - C).

Subordinated to me were :-

the 'Feldkommandantur'	Huetschenhausen	'Kommandantur' Kaiserslautern
" "	Neustadt a.d.H.	Troop training grounds 'Kommandantur' Baumholder
" "	Kirchheimbolanden	
" "	Alzey	Troop training ground Bitsch was disbanded
" "	Kreuznach	
" "	Morbach	
" "	Simmern	

By mid-November the c p 'Korueck' was transferred to Sobernheim, fifteen kms southwest of Bad Kreusnach.

The subordination of the 'Feldkommandantur' Zabern and Hagenau which hitherto had been under the 'Korueck' of the 19.'Armee', had been taken in view after the shifting of the boundaries of the 'Armee'-area, but this did not take effect any longer, since the order with regard to this had been given only two days before the assault of American troops via Zabern upon Strassburg and Hagenau. The tasks remained the same as before.

As boundary between the 'Armeeoberkommando'1 and the military area XII, the line in a length of fifteen kms stretching west of the Rhine, was determined.

1 sketch annexed.

MS # B-091

Generalleutnant KOHL

Annex to the report on the

Rhineland Campaign

from 15 September 1944 till

21 March 1945.

'Feldkommandantur'

Mid-November

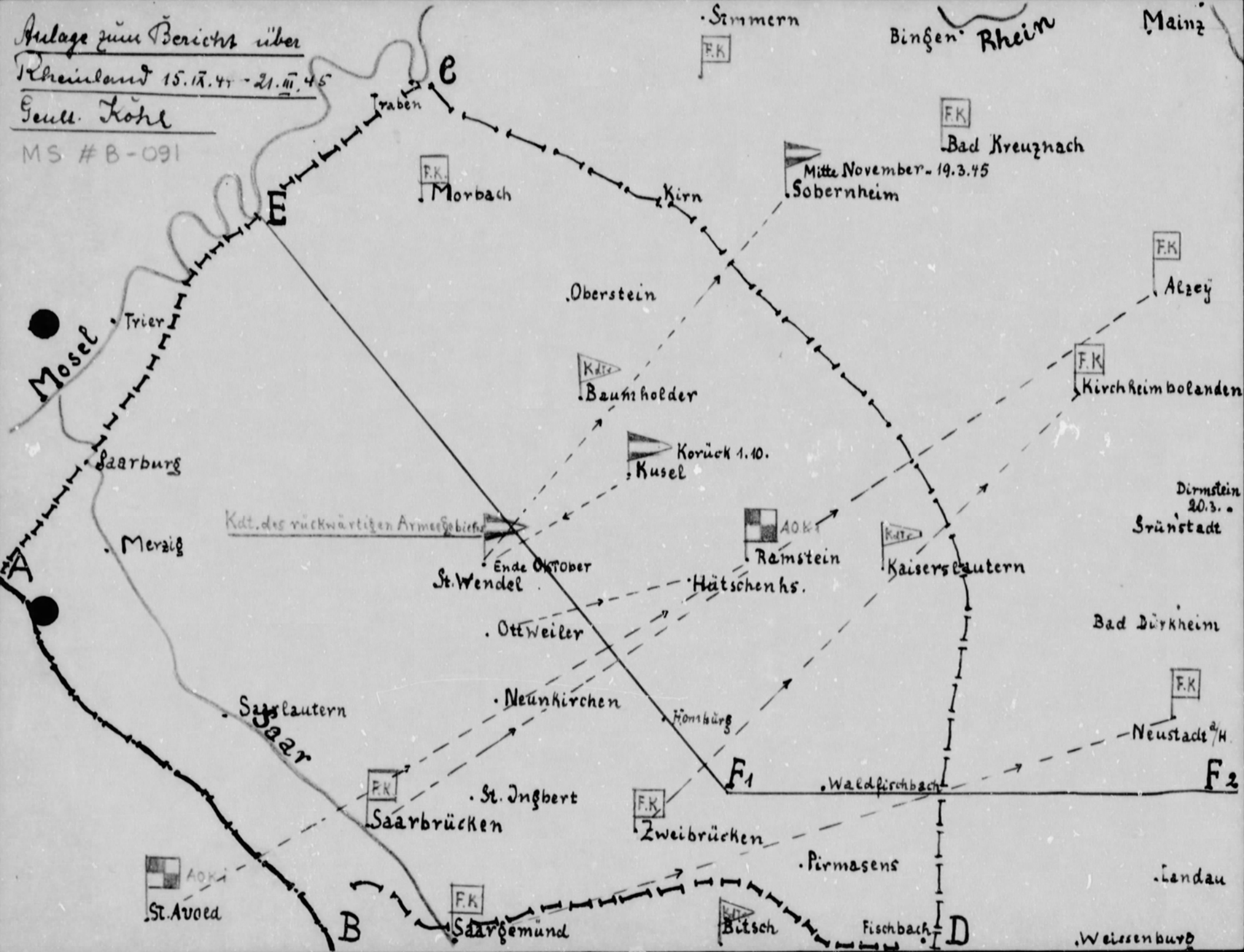
'Kommandantur'

'Kommandantur'of the
rearward area of the 'Armee'

'Korueck'

'Armeeoberkommando' 'Kommandantur'

end of October


Anlage zum Berichts über
Rheinland 15.II.44 - 21.III.45
Genl. Köhl
MS # B-091
Simmern
Bingen
Rhein
Mainz
C
Traben
F.K.
Morbach
Kirn
F.K.
Bad Kreuznach
Mitte November - 19.3.45
Sobernheim
F.K.
Alzey
Oberstein
Trier
Mosel
Kdtr.
Baumholder
F.K.
Kirchheimbolanden
Korück 1.10.
Kusel
Saarburg
Dirmstein
20.3.
Grünstadt
Kdt. des rückwärtigen Armeegebietes
Merzig
AOK 1
Ramstein
Kdtr.
Kaiserslautern
Ende Oktober
St. Wendel
Hütschenhs.
Ottweiler
Bad Dürkheim
Saarlautern
Neunkirchen
Homburg
F.K.
Neustadt a/H
Saar
F1
Waldfischbach
F2
St. Ingbert
F.K.
Saarbrücken
F.K.
Zweibrücken
Pirmasens
Landau
AOK 1
St. Avold
B
F.K.
Saargemünd
Kdtr.
Bitsch
Fischbach
D
Weissenburg