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Answer to the questionnaire.

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(Alfred Zerbel)

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Gen. Hitzfeld
Gen d Inf

A-935
Trans.
Oberursel
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Answers for Questionnaires:

To: 1. Commitment in the Ardennes Offensive as;
a,b,c, Commanding General of LXVII.A.Corps,
Army Dietrich's right wing,
Later, by v.Zangen and v.Manteuffel.

Object: Assault of Monschau.

Troop-Units: 272, 277, and 326 Inf Div

2 Volks Artillery Corps

Detachments of Sturmgeschuetz Abt.
(self-propelled gun detachment).

Plans made for Later: Continuation of assault with 3. Pz

Gr Div, establishment of a line running from
Monschau to east of Liege. The execution of
the plan resulted mostly in local success and
north-east of Monschau in defensive actions.
The left wing's deepest penetration was made
in the vicinity southeast of Malmedy. An
assault for the capture of Elsenborn was
planned, but did not get under way. Main
actions were mostly defensive actions, which
resulted after the center of the main strong-
point had been shifted to the left wing.

d. Preparatory artillery fire, was the same as in the whole assault sector.

e,f,g,h,i cannot be done without the aid of maps.

j. Strong enemy defensive positions were on both sides of Monschau. We had not sufficient strength to by pass through this difficult terrain.

k. Losses were between 10 and 40 percent.

To: 2.

I heard for the very first time of such a plan on 8 Dec 44 through an order. Each commander was only informed of what was necessary for him and his troops.

3.

The Volks Artillery Corps, as well as the Sturm Geschuetz Detachment's changed. At that time I had 3 Volks Artillery Corps and about 5 Sturm Geschuetz Detachments. In addition to the mentioned Inf Divs. was also the 89. and 26. Inf Div and the 3. Para Div.

4.

Troops were largely up to 90% freshly reorganized and rested troops. Others had just begun to reorganize and to rest up, especially the Sturm Geschuetz Det.

To: 5.

Preparations for the Corps CP had been completed. They were 3 km behind the front line and were ready for use during the night as the assault was launched.

Special troops and strong artillery.

Mission was to penetrate the first day as deep as possible.

6.

Fuel could be obtained up to the beginning of the attack, it was counted on using up captured enemy fuel, but we never got it. I do not remember details.

7.

1. Terrain and the weather were most difficult.
- 2-3. Never have been there (St. Veith, Bastogne).
4. Enemy airpower was superior.
5. Supply system worked well at the beginning of the attack but soon proved to be insufficient.
6. The early LXVII.A.Corps successes during the initial assault hours, aided by confusion and surprise among the enemy, were soon nullified by the difficult terrain and insufficient strengths, in addition to the heavy defensive battles which took place for days in the Corps' right wing before the assault was launched.

I do not remember many details. More exact statements could be made with the aid of maps and better working quarters.

Hitzfeld, Gen d Inf.