

Historical Report  
(After Action Report)  
of  
Provost Marshall  
and Military Police Platoon 70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

for

1 MARCH 1945 to 31 MARCH 1945

70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
Trailblazers

MILITARY POLICE PLATOON 70<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION

APO 461, U.S. Army

9 April 1945

1. INTRODUCTION

The Military Police Platoon, 70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, continued the activities as outlined in our after action report for Feb. 1945. The control of traffic along the MSR and lesser arterial roads, straggler control, and evacuation of prisoners of war from regimental collecting points, were the main functions completed. The rapidly changing tactical situation necessitated rapid movement of various installations, thus making the control of traffic a major problem. The control of displaced personnel was amplified upon our entry into Germany. This report is a narration of the activities and problems which confronted the Provost Marshall and Military Police Platoon during the month of March, 1945

2. ORGANIZATION

Some of the changes, losses and increases, in our organization from the set-up as shown in Annex 2 of Feb. 1945, were as follows: At the beginning of the month our platoon consisted of 102 Enlisted Men, and 4 Officers in accordance with T/O & E 19-7, 12 Sep. 1944. The Traffic Section consisted of 57 Enlisted Men, broken down to 5 squads of eleven men each, plus a section sergeant and driver. Lt. Nathan Howard was assigned as Traffic Section Leader, vice Lt. Donald J Battaglia. The Police Section consisted of three squads, with the first and third squad handling the security of the Division Command Post and the Commanding General's residence. The second squad's duties were confined to evacuation, guarding and disposition of prisoners of war. Headquarters Section consisted of 2 Officers and 7 Enlisted Men, plus 3 Enlisted Men who were assigned as body-guards for the Division Comdr. and Assistant Div. Comdr. namely; Pfc's McAfee, McDonald, and Nikka. On 2 Mar. 1945, the following promotions were announced: Pvts Bauman, Caminker, Curnow, Dziura, Nikka, Spicer, Pittore, and Redding were promoted to Pfc's. S/Sgt Cramer, Pfc's Kirk and Spades, 276<sup>th</sup> Inf., were attached for temporary duty with the police section on 2 Mar. 1945. Sgt Puls was assigned and joined on 1 Mar. 1945, and was assigned as squad leader of the third squad, police section, vice Sgt Kuschel, who was transferred to the first squad. Pvt Busenberg was promoted to Pfc on 20 Mar. 1945, vice Pfc Landis reduced. During the month of March, Sgt. Baker, Cpl Tyson, T/5 Wilkerson, Pvt Rittmaster, were transferred to the Detachment of Patients, of which Sgt Baker and Pvt Rittmaster, later returned to duty. Sgt. Emmett C. Vincent was transferred to the 10<sup>th</sup> Replacement Depot, for return to the United States for reassignment. On 23 Mar. 1945, Pfc Bym and Pvt Weaver, were assigned and joined from the 21<sup>st</sup> Reinforcement Battalion. The organization roster at the end of March, which included all changes in strength is herein attached as Annex No. 1.

### 3. TRAFFIC CONTROL

The first eleven days of the month consisted of patrolling the MSR, and maintaining traffic posts throughout the division sector. The construction of overlays and constant road reconnaissance over all division area was accomplished. On 3 Mar. 1945, we assisted in the movement of Combat Command A, from the 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division. This command moved from St. Avold, France, laterally through our Division sector into the vicinity of Behren and Forbach, France. Upon orders from higher headquarters, we established and operated 14 traffic check points throughout the entire division sector, for the purpose of locating a stolen 2 1/2 Ton Truck, 6x6, that contained important military equipment. These posts were in operation for a period of two days, commencing 8 March, and was released two days later when information was received that this vehicle had been apprehended. Our division command post was moved from St. Jean Rohrbach, France, to Freyming, France, on 11 Mar. 1945. The use of signs and traffic control greatly assisted in this movement. As a result of this move our traffic control posts at Puttelange and Hillimer, on the MSR, Highway N-74, were removed. MSR N-74, was no longer in our division sector. A traffic post was established at Oeting, France, on 4 Mar. 1945, when Cpl. Robinson and five men arrived there. Sgt Tretakis and six men moved into Forbach, France, on 13 Mar. 1945, and was joined the same day by Cpl Robinson when their post at Oeting was removed. Sgt Cannon and a half squad was established at Petite-Roselle, where he performed patrol activity from 15 Mar. 1945 until 20 Mar. 1945, when he was removed to the Saar River crossing at Krughutte, France. Our engineers had constructed a Bailey bridge across the fallen span of the fixed bridge in Saarbrucken, Germany. This being the best bridge for the Saar crossing, and being a one-way bridge, it necessitated constant and rigid control. On 21 Mar. 1945, Sgt Drake and his squad controlled the flow of traffic both North and South over this bridge. It necessitated at least six men on the approaches and on the bridge during the day. The movement displaced personnel of all nationalities increased the difficulty in controlling this traffic flow. The traffic flow approximated 200 vehicles per hour across the bridge at certain intervals. This congestion subsided after many of the heavy engineer vehicles had passed over, and by 25 Mar. 1945, traffic flow was classified as medium. The division command post was moved on 26 Mar. 1945, from Freyming, France, to Otterberg, Germany, where traffic control and guides assisted in the movement. Upon arrival at Otterberg, Germany, the traffic section was engaged in continual road reconnaissance, acquisition of maps, and preparation of overlays in order to become more familiar with the condition of the various road nets. Traffic in the town of Otterberg was heavy, which necessitated the establishment of patrols and fixed posts through the town.

### 4. STRAGGLER CONTROL

The change in the tactical situation necessitated the changing of the straggler line from a fixed post set-up to a patrol function. The aid given to individuals who are lost or misplaced greatly assisted them in their rapid return. These patrols gave information as to location of units to columns other than division, who were moving through our sector. Several stragglers from units other than the division were collected during the month, and were returned to their units. The problem in handling these individuals was that of locating their units, and making arrangements for their rapid return without us making a special trip. Unit location information was acquired, and vehicles moving in that direction was used to advantage in returning these stragglers.

### 5. PRISONERS OF WAR

The division prisoner of war collecting point was located at St. Jean Rohrbach, France, for their first eleven days of the month. Fifteen enlisted men from the 142<sup>nd</sup> M.P. Escort Guard Company were attached on the first of the month, and assisted us in guarding and evacuating the prisoners of war. The transportation from the 70<sup>th</sup> Div Q.M. Co. was acquired in order to assist us in transporting prisoners of war from regimental collecting points to division collecting point, and then back to Army collecting point. Fifteen enlisted men from the 142<sup>nd</sup> M.P. Escort Guard Company were released on 25 Mar. 1945. The 274<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regiment were successful in liberating

approximately 1,060 persons from a German P.O.W. Camp on 5 Mar. 1945. Our Police Section assisted the Civil Affairs in evacuating these P.O.W.'s to St. Avold, France, where they were given medical treatment. While the division command post was located in Freyming, France, the nearby railroad station was used as the P.O.W. collecting point, which provided the best facilities to date. Reports and incidents from other units clearly indicated the necessity for thorough searching of P.O.W. regardless of source. The total number of prisoners of war handled during the month were 1,362 and the largest number handled in a single day was 252.

#### 7. CIVILIAN CONTROL

The military police rendered assistance to the Civil Affairs in their enforcement of regulations effecting the circulation of civilians. The posting of signs along the highways, plus constant patrolling of the roads, assisted in the elimination of civilian movement. The checking of passes that were issued by Military Government, and the elimination of horse-drawn or other wheeled vehicles that civilians were using, was included in our tasks. The enforcement of blackout regulations and curfew in town, greatly eliminated the civilian movement. A total of 665 civilians were processed during the month of March.

#### 8. COMMAND AND CONTROL

The security and control of the exterior and interior of the division command post, plus parking regulation enforcement and blackout compliance, was continued during the month. The addition of security for the Division Commander's quarters was established and maintained. The control of movement of civilians after blackout in the town of Freyming, France, and Otterberg, Germany, was added and enforced.

#### 9. SUPPLY

The Supply Sergeant, Wendell Sparks, performed normal supply functions, and endeavored to acquire some critical items that we were short, namely; one 3/4 Ton Truck, wristwatches, reflectorized batons, and second echelon tool set. The problem we encountered the previous month in reference to tires was greatly eliminated when our change of operations afforded us a much better road net. Vigilant check was made to determine shortages in clothing and equipment, and replacement or reissue was accomplished.

#### 10. MOTOR VEHICLES:

First echelon maintenance was performed for the most part in the field. Where personnel on patrol were concerned, they performed the maintenance concurrently with their duties. The second echelon maintenance was performed by T/4 Walters and T/5 Caldwell. With a large amount of patrol activity it becomes increasingly difficult to have vehicles available on schedule to perform second echelon maintenance. Coordination with Headquarters Company Motor Pool has afforded us the opportunity to draw gasoline and oil supplies, and an opportunity to use a higher echelon tool set. The use of field expedience in repair of critical items which we could not acquire, was found to be highly successful. The acquisition of tools from captured enemy vehicles were used to replace some of our broken or lost tools. During the month of March, the thirty-one (31) vehicles assigned to the Platoon, were driven approximately 27,000 miles.

#### 11. GENERAL

Upon entering Germany, police activities of towns were stepped up in order to suppress the high percentage of looting being committed by displaced personnel of all nationalities and enlisted men and officers of our own Army. It was further directed by higher headquarters, that rigid enforcement and necessary action taken to eliminate the high number of uniform violations. We

have found the use of two-man patrols in quarter ton vehicles to be very successful in the suppression of uniform violations, because of the wide coverage and mobility. It is a good practice for all units moving in to or passing through a military police installation to give the Military Police the location of their destination. This information would enable the Military Police to furnish information on the location of units to Military Personnel, especially personnel lost from their units, because of the move.

Calvin S. Wisman,  
Major, C.M.P.  
Provost Marshall & Commanding

MILITARY POLICE PLATOON 70<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

31 March 1945

Traffic Section

2d Lt. Howard  
Sgt. Dial  
Pfc Osborne

1<sup>st</sup> SQUAD  
Sgt. Beary  
Cpl Rataj  
Pfc Thompson  
Pfc Bym  
Pfc Rowe  
Pfc Audinet  
Pfc Garibaldi  
Pvt Towne  
Pvt Smith, L  
Pvt Cunneran  
Pvt Driever

2<sup>nd</sup> SQUAD  
Sgt Drake  
Pfc Van Vilet  
Pfc Bell  
Pfc Berger  
Pfc Moberly  
Pfc Hill  
Pvt Yoho  
Pvt Bliss  
Pvt Pittore  
Pvt Sink

3<sup>rd</sup> SQUAD  
Sgt Jobling  
Cpl Stivers  
Pfc Wachowiak  
Pfc Morgan  
Pfc Henry, W.  
Pfc Lathrope  
Pvt Fogg  
Pvt Fowler  
Pvt Rittmaster  
Pvt Hunt  
Pvt. Wood

4<sup>th</sup> SQUAD  
Sgt Tretakis  
Cpl Robinson  
T/5 Burns  
Pfc Tecarr  
Pfc Cherney  
Pfc Grant  
Pfc Redding  
Pvt Webb  
Pvt Buck  
Pvt McByrne  
Pvt. Barclay  
Pvt Carroll

5<sup>th</sup> SQUAD  
Sgt Cannon  
Cpl Williams  
Pfc Brunner  
Pfc Jones  
Pfc Brumm  
Pfc Loss  
Pfc Mack  
Pvt Larimer  
Pvt Markham  
Pvt. Johnson  
Pvt. Piccolo

"ANNEX NO. 1"

MILITARY POLICE PLATOON 70<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

31 March 1945

POLICE SECTION

2d Lt Battaglia  
Sgt Pepetti  
Pfc Lockwood

1<sup>st</sup> SQUAD

Sgt Baker  
Sgt Kuschel  
Cpl Green  
Pfc Long  
Pfc Haley  
Pfc Smith, W  
Pfc Eads  
Pfc Bainum  
Pvt Stocksdale  
Pvt Emanuelson  
Pfc Curnow  
Pfc Nikka

2<sup>nd</sup> SQUAD

Sgt Strang  
Cpl Schoenfeld  
Pfc Peinsipp  
Pfc Basta  
Pfc Stotler  
Pfc Bauman  
Pfc Dziura  
Pvt Banks  
Pvt Preston  
Pvt Freeman  
Pvt Norvall

3<sup>rd</sup> SQUAD

Sgt Puls  
Cpl Kelly  
Cpl Dillenbach  
Pfc Henry, A  
Pfc Spicer  
Pfc Caminker  
Pfc Busenberg  
Pvt Landis  
Pvt Demyan  
Pvt Fuller  
Pvt Maloy  
Pvt Weaver

Platoon Hq.

Major Wisman  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Berger  
S/Sgt Whitman  
Sgt Bangert  
Sgt Sparks  
T/4 Walters  
Cpl French  
T/5 Caldwell  
Pfc Lowman  
Pfc Lodge  
Pfc Oberg  
Pfc Bacon  
Pfc McAfee  
Pfc McDonald

"Annex NO. 1"