

Historical Report  
(After Action Report)  
of  
Provost Marshal  
and Military Police Platoon 70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
for  
1 May 1945 to 31 May 1945

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

MILITARY POLICE PLATOON 70<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO 461, U.S. Army

10 June 1945

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This report is a narrative of the activities performed by the Provost Marshal and Military Police Platoon, 70th Infantry Division, for the month of May, 1945. The Provost Marshal office and Platoon C.P. were located in Frankfurt on Main, Germany from 1 to 18 May and at Diez, (Oranienstein) Germany, from 18 to 31 May, 1945. Most of the operational duties performed during the month will fall under the following headings: Traffic Control, Straggler Control, Civilian Control, Prisoner of War Control and Command Post Control.

### 2. ORGANIZATION

During the month the organization had the following changes in status of personnel: On 1 May, 2d Lt. Donald J Battaglia was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. 4 May, Pvt Thomas P Cunneran, was transferred to 275th Inf., and Pvt Harold B Weaver, was transferred to 276th Inf. These two men were unsuitable for M.P. duties. On 4 May, Major Wisman departed for I & E School, Paris, France. Duration of this school was one week, but with travel time involved, it was 15 May when he returned. During his absence Lt. Walter C Berger performed the duties of Provost Marshal and Commander of the platoon. 14 May, S/Sgt Harold L Cramer, Pfc Raymond E Kirk, and Pfc Sebastian A Spades, were relieved from temporary duty, and returned to their respective organizations. On the 25th of May, twenty-one Privates were promoted to Privates First Class. During the month T/5 Clarence D Burns, Pfc Bernard Carroll and Pvt Donald M Ferroe, returned from the hospital. During the month T/5 William L Wilkerson and Pvt James M Smith were admitted and discharged from the hospital. At the end of the month the Platoon was organized as shown on attached Annex No. 1.

### 3. TRAFFIC CONTROL

At the beginning of the month, Lt. Howard was in charge of a M.P. detachment in Wurzburg, with traffic control on MSR (N-8) as their principal duty and enforcement of other police regulations as their secondary duty. Similar detachments during the first part of the month were located in Darmstadt, Aschaffenburg and Fulda, Germany. After the Platoon moved from Frankfurt with Division Headquarters, there was only one detachment of two squads with Lt. Streeper in charge. This detachment was located in Frankfurt, with traffic control on the main highway N-40, as the principal duty. About 140 traffic violations were reported during the month. Of this number, less than 5 per cent of the violations were attributable to Division personnel. Speeding was by far, the most serious violation, because it was the direct or indirect cause of many vehicle accidents. Other violations in order of frequency were: Officer driving, no accident report (Standard Form #26), no operator's driving permit, and no trip ticket.

#### 4. STRAGGLER CONTROL

Approximately 20 stragglers were processed during the month with most of them being handled while the C.P. was located at Frankfurt. Frankfurt was located on the MSR and main line of communication, which accounted for so many stragglers at that location. It was a problem returning these stragglers under guard, because all straggler collecting points had moved forward with the rapid moving situation; and there was little contact between the army and corps installations, which had advanced a long ways from the Division and Army reserve. On 9 May, the Platoon assumed responsibility of guarding about 7 Military prisoners awaiting General Courts-Martial, and by the end of the month this number had increased to 12. A majority of these prisoners were transferred from other units to the Division for courts-martial jurisdiction.

#### 5. PRISONERS OF WAR

About 1,340 prisoners of war were processed during the month with the heaviest day being 9 May, on which 281 prisoners of war were processed. Included in the foregoing figures were individuals on the automatic arrest list, which was a list of Military and Civilian officials of the Nazi party, which were to be automatically arrested by C.I.C. because of their position in the party. These prisoners of war were not obtained by front line action since the Division was in Army reserve. Most of them were stragglers, which remained behind as the Germans retreated, and a large number were released from German hospitals, which were located in our area of responsibility.

About 170 Allied prisoners of war, most of which were British and 32 were Americans, were processed through the Division collecting point through prisoner of war channels, but they were not treated as prisoners of war.

On 6 May 1945, an unusual incident took place when Sgt Albert J. Drake, by his alertness and quick thinking, captured 9 German soldiers traveling through Frankfurt on a German army truck. Upon questioning the German soldiers, they stated the war was over, and they were going home. Apparently, these soldiers were acting on a premature rumor of war being over.

#### 6. CIVILIAN CONTROL

Civilian control consisted mainly of enforcement of curfew and circulation regulations. However 68 civilians were arrested and evacuated to the appropriate corps or army agency. These civilians were arrested as war criminals and/or security menaces.

#### 7. COMMAND POST CONTROL

The security of the exterior and interior of the Division C.P. required a continuous 24 hr. guard at the following places: Main vehicular entrance to C.P. area, main personnel entrance to C.P. building, information desk near Hq. Commandant, and at cryptographic equipment in Message Center.

#### 8. SUPPLY

Sgt Wendell D Sparks, Supply Sergeant, had only normal supply problems during the month except laundry and dry cleaning was in great demand, and the facilities for this work were limited. Dry cleaning service was obtained twice during the month, but on one occasion there was a three weeks period from the time clothing was sent out until the work was received.

#### 9. MOTOR VEHICLES

First echelon maintenance was performed by the drivers, and the usual high standard was maintained. Nearly all members of the Platoon did some driving, and several of the newer men were qualified as drivers, and issued operator's permits, but the responsibility of first echelon maintenance was placed on the assigned driver and assistant driver. A 1/4 ton truck, 4x4, was received by the Platoon during the month, which made a total of 30 vehicles in operation at the end of the month. During the month of May, the assigned vehicles of the Platoon were driven approximately 68,000 miles with little or no unusual maintenance problem. T/4 Donald E Walters and T/5 Keith R Caldwell, continued to perform second echelon work in a superior manner.

#### 10. ATTACHED UNIT

Company B, 509th M.P. Battalion, was attached to the Division, and arrived in the Division area on 18 May 1945. This company was billeted at Idstein, Germany, and operated under the direction of the Provost Marshal. For the remainder of the month, the mission of this company was the enforcement of traffic, uniform, and other police regulations, in about one-half of the division area.

#### 11. GENERAL

During the month all personnel of the Platoon were billeted in buildings, which offered good living accommodations. For the most part, the buildings were private homes, which were properly requisitioned. The M.P. detachments located away from Division Headquarters were rationed with nearby units if available. On several occasions it was necessary for these detachments to prepare their own rations using, 10 in 1, K and/or C rations. On 18 May, Headquarters Company furnished sufficient personnel and equipment to establish a mess for serving the M.P. Platoon only. This mess was run under the direct supervision of Lt. Howard.

CALVIN S. WISMAN  
Major, C.M.P.  
Provost Marshall & Commanding

ANNEX 1

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

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

31 May 1945

POLICE SECTION

2d Lt Battaglia  
Sgt Pepetti  
Pfc Busenberg

1<sup>st</sup> SQUAD

Sgt Baker  
Sgt Kuschel  
Cpl Green  
Pfc Long  
Pfc Haley  
Pfc Smith, W  
Pfc Eads  
Pfc Bainum  
Pfc Stocksdale  
Pfc Emanuelson  
Pfc Curnow  
Pfc O'Neal  
Pvt Willis  
Pvt Nikka  
Pvt Frick

2<sup>nd</sup> SQUAD

Sgt Strang  
Cpl Schoenfeld  
T/5 Wilkerson  
Pfc Peinsipp  
Pfc Basta  
Pfc Stotler  
Pfc Bauman  
Pfc Dziura  
Pfc Preston  
Pfc Freeman  
Pfc Norvell  
Pfc Koorndyke  
Pfc Peters  
Pvt Braun  
Pvt McDevitt

3<sup>rd</sup> SQUAD

Sgt Puls  
Cpl Dillenbach  
Pfc Henry, A  
Pfc Spicer  
Pfc Caminker  
Pfc Lockwood  
Pfc Fuller  
Pfc Pote  
Pfc Deboer  
Pfc Schroettinger  
Pvt Landis  
Pvt Demyan  
Pvt Felshaw

Platoon Hq.

Major Wisman  
Lt Berger  
S/Sgt Whitman  
S/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"

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

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

31 May 1945

Traffic Section

Lt Howard  
\*Lt Streeper  
Sgt. Dial  
Pfc Burgio

1<sup>st</sup> SQUAD

Sgt. Beary  
Cpl Rataj  
Pfc Thompson  
Pfc Bym  
Pfc Rowe  
Pfc Garibaldi  
Pfc Driever  
Pfc Marchinsky  
Pfc Osborne  
Pfc Smith, L  
Pvt Largist  
Pvt Moynihan  
Pvt Reneau  
Pvt Towne  
Pvt Shipley  
Pvt Hutzler  
Pvt Drummond  
Pvt Slusher

2<sup>nd</sup> SQUAD

Sgt Drake  
Cpl Tyson  
Cpl Kelly  
Pfc Van Vilet  
Pfc Bell  
Pfc Berger  
Pfc Moberly  
Pfc Hill  
Pfc Yoho  
Pfc Bliss  
Pfc Pittore  
Pfc Sink  
Pfc Lucco  
Pfc Palermo  
Pfc Zubrzyski  
Pvt Feroe  
Pvt Loar  
Pvt Smith, J.  
Pvt Cluff

3<sup>rd</sup> SQUAD

Sgt Jobling  
Cpl Stivers  
Pfc Wachowiak  
Pfc Morgan  
Pfc Henry, W.  
Pfc Lathrope  
Pfc Fogg  
Pfc Rittmaster  
Pfc Hunt  
Pfc Matteson  
Pfc Raymond  
Pvt Kalus  
Pvt Wilson  
Pvt Hughes  
Pvt Markley  
Pvt Melfi  
Pvt Stonecipher  
Pvt Green  
Pvt Johnson, F  
Pvt Becker

4<sup>th</sup> SQUAD

Sgt Tretakis  
Cpl Robinson  
T/5 Burns  
Pfc Tecarr  
Pfc Cherney  
Pfc Grant  
Pfc Redding  
Pfc Buck  
Pfc Barclay  
Pfc Carroll  
Pfc McByrne  
Pfc Webb  
Pfc Peale  
Pvt Nolan

5<sup>th</sup> SQUAD

Sgt Cannon  
Cpl Williams  
Pfc Brunner  
Pfc Jones  
Pfc Brumm  
Pfc Loss  
Pfc Mack  
Pfc Larimer  
Pfc Markham  
Pfc Johnson, A  
Pfc Piccolo  
Pfc Quist  
Pvt Peterson  
Pvt Raby

Pvt Thomas  
Pvt Davidson  
Pvt Dunnigan  
Pvt Drefke  
Pvt McKnight  
Pvt Day

Pvt Abbot  
Pvt Clanton  
Pvt Corey  
Pvt White  
Pvt Bennett  
Pvt Constable

\* Assigned to Hq. Co., 70th Inf Div, but performing duties with M.P. Platoon.

"ANNEX NO. 1"