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Authority **73501A**
By **LJ** NAVA, Date

**HISTORICAL REPORT
(After Action Report)
DIVISION SIGNAL OFFICE
1 May - 1 June 45**

✓ 763

I. General

a. The division mission in this period was to patrol, guard, govern and maintain law and order in the province of HESSE-NASSAU. The accomplishment of this mission required an extensive network of electrical communications since distances between the division CP and subordinate unit CPs were at times as great as 100 miles. The history of this period is therefore one which places greater emphasis on the wire personnel than ever before.

b. The division CP had moved to FRANKFURT A MAIN on the 21st of April and at the opening of the month was still located there. On May 17, when advance elements of SHAEF moved into FRANKFURT, the division moved all its installations to the town of DIEZ, without any general change in the division mission. At the end of May the division was still located in DIEZ.

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II. Wire Operations.

A. General

Because of the distances involved, all wire circuits used in this period were Reichspost open wire and cable runs.

B. Method of Operation

In general the operation of the wire section in this period can be best illustrated by description of the move of the command post from FRANKFURT to DIEZ. Immediately on

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notification to the Signal Officer of the command post move, two pairs on toll cable from LIMBURG (near DIEZ) to FRANKFURT were secured from 12th Army Group, which controlled the greater part of the toll cable in the area. These cable pairs were used to establish the forward command post until new wire routes could be found to subordinate units. After this was established, from surveys of open wire routes previously made by a special survey crew operating in the wire platoon, new wire routes was selected to subordinate units and construction on these routes was begun. In addition to the normal construction personnel of the Signal Company, former Reichspost employees were formed into wire crews under the supervision of the wire construction officer.

The term "construction" instead of repair is used in connection with the existing open wire circuits, because the condition of the lines was such that in many sections it was necessary to reconstruct from the ground up as much as five miles of pole line.

While this work was underway, local installation crews moved to DIEZ to install local communications. The DIEZ automatic telephone exchange was put in order and trunks were connected with the division beard to service elements located outside of the immediate division command post, such as the local military government.

After the division command post moved to DIEZ, the two toll cable pairs from LIMBURG to FRANKFURT were utilized to provide circuits to the Division Artillery Command Post in

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BAD ORB. These circuits are over 100 miles in length and are repeated four times at German repeater stations controlled by 12th Army Group and by ASCZ. A description of these two circuits is indicative of the work done by the wire platoon in this period. The run is from DIEZ to LIMBURG repeater station on local cable, from LIMBURG to FRANKFURT repeater station on toll cable, from FRANKFURT to GELNHAUSEN on toll cable and then to BAD ORB on open wire.

When the move was completed and all units were tied into the new command post locations it was found that the division was utilizing over two thousand (2000) miles of toll cable and open wire for division communication alone. Part of this tremendous mileage is necessitated by the fact that additional units have been attached to the division, until at the close of the month it was approximately twice the size of a normal division in addition to the fact that some American Military Government detachments are tied directly into the division communications system.

C. Reorganization of Reichspost Wire Crews.

During this period reorganization of the Reichspost wire personnel was begun to restore essential civilian communication, to meet American Military Government needs, and to assist the division wire crews in the construction of lengthy open wire circuits. These crews were organized on the old Reichspost organizational basis. All work accomplished was ordered by the Division Signal Officer through the wire const-

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raction chief of the telephone district represented, and he alone was held responsible for the work. At present, approximately one hundred (100) German linemen are engaged in the rehabilitation of open wire for division and military governmental purposes. Many vexing administrative problems were encountered in the organization of these wire crews, all of which were ironed out, but which stemmed from the initial confusion as to what agency was responsible for the communications systems.

D. Wire Operation

1. Telephone traffic - with V-E day it would seem that the message book has been filed away and forgotten. There has been a 20% increase in telephone traffic above the highest level reached in combat, an average of 22~~00~~ calls being handled every 24 hours period, with the majority being completed by ~~8000~~ to 21~~00~~. In our present position we have 56 locals and 27 trunks, and the load is a heavy one for the two TC 4s employed.

2. Teletype operation - to offset the heavy telephone load, teletypes have been installed to the regiments. Some use has been made of this facility, but education to its use is proceeding slowly. Work is in progress to put in teletype nets to all military government detachments. Captured German teletypes are being utilized.

Annexes - Line Route Map, Circuit & Traffic Diagrams.

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III. Radio Operation

A. General

Radio was invaluable as an emergency means of communication, but its importance declined in proportion as the wire crews became more expert in the use of commercial wire facilities.

B. Problems

1. The great distances between CPs again invalued the use of antennas other than the regular whip antennae. For the division radio nets at DIEZ two modified voltage fed doublets were used, and two flat top receiving antennas were constructed totalling 800 feet in length.

2. Traffic - at DIEZ because of a further slowing down of traffic all stations in the division command net were combined into one net. Another SCR 193 was set up on the special purpose frequency in the event traffic become to heavy on the combined command net.

3. Methods of Operation - the two 193s mentioned in (2) and the Corps SCR 193 were all remoted in the Signal center from a commercial AC source of power. Two transmitters, BC 191 were operated using rectifiers RA 34, and the receivers and one transmitter were operated from twelve volt storage batteries charged from captured chargers operating on 220 volts, AC. In the event of commercial power failure, an alternate power source was provided by PE 75a, and a battery charger from the Signal Company motor pool.

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IV. Message Center Operation

A. General

Message center operation remained essentially unchanged, but because of the great distances to be covered and because of a gasoline shortage required the number of runs per day to each unit to be cut to two. In addition, between DIEZ and the Division Artillery Command Post, a distance of over 100 road miles, the division artillery liaison planes were used on a two-a-day schedule.

B. An additional problem presented to the Message Center was providing service to the eighteen military government detachments in the province of HESSE-NASSAU, the division area. One service per day was maintained to these detachments. Among other items handled on this run was the "Free Press", a newspaper for issuance to the German civilian population.

C. The problem of coordination of message center runs with staff section reporting times was unchanged, as was the tendency to penalize messengers by failure of units to have reports prepared by scheduled arrival time.

V. Signal Supply

The work of signal supply was cut down to providing the necessary expendables. The principle mission of the signal supply officer, utilizing the repair sections, was the investigation and evaluation of enemy signal supply dumps, and the evacuation to higher headquarters or use within the division of the supplies so evaluated.