

SECRET//NATO  
R 09 0445Z APR 00

FROM: HQ, III US Corps  
TO: HQ, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
PRECEDENCE: FLASH  
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NATO  
SUBJECT: OPORD OPERATION RESET

I. SITUATION

Enemy Forces

(S/NATO) The enemy forces in and around LODZ include 3<sup>rd</sup> Guards Spetsnaz Brigade, 35<sup>th</sup> Guards Air Assault Brigade, and 6<sup>th</sup> Independent Guards Motor-Rifle Brigade acting as the operational reserve for 3<sup>rd</sup> Combined Arms Army at WARSAW. These units are understrength and consist mainly of light infantry and special operations with few, if any, serviceable armored fighting vehicles.

(S/NATO) The enemy's Capabilities include defensive positions that may have been strengthened over the winter months. They may have chemical and/or tactical nuclear weapons available at corps level. The enemy's Limitations include understrength units weakened by combat, lack of fuel, limited communications, inadequate supply lines, no air support, and unwillingness to make decisions without direct orders.

(S/NATO) The enemy's most likely Course of Action (EMLCOA) is to hold in place and defend while waiting for orders. Overdependence on defenses and the unexpected nature of the allied attack are expected to cause paralysis in the enemy's operational chain of command.

(S/NATO) The enemy's most dangerous Course of Action for the success of this mission would be to maintain their positions and counterattack into the flanks of advancing NATO and allied forces that are overextended or weakly protected on their flanks.

(S/NATO) Enemy forces in eastern Poland include:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Guards Tank Army (GDANSK)
- 20<sup>th</sup> Guards Tank Army (BIALYSTOK)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Combined Arms Army (WARSAW)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Independent Guards Motor-Rifle Brigade (LODZ)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Guards Spetsnaz Brigade (LODZ)
- 35<sup>th</sup> Guards Air Assault Brigade (LODZ)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Guards Combined Arms Army (LUBLIN)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Guards Tank Army (KATOWICE)

(S/NATO) Enemy forces in the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Area of Operations at LODZ include:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Independent Guards Motor-Rifle Brigade
  - 133<sup>rd</sup> Independent Motor-Rifle Battalion (BMP-2)
  - 154<sup>th</sup> Independent Motor-Rifle Battalion (BMP-1)
  - 178<sup>th</sup> Independent Motor-Rifle Battalion (BMP-1)
  - 53<sup>rd</sup> Independent Tank Battalion (T-80)
  - 54<sup>th</sup> Independent Tank Battalion (T-72)
  - 65<sup>th</sup> Independent Tank Battalion (T-72)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Guards Spetsnaz Brigade
  - 330<sup>th</sup> Spetsnaz Detachment
  - 501<sup>st</sup> Spetsnaz Detachment
  - 503<sup>rd</sup> Spetsnaz Detachment
  - 509<sup>th</sup> Spetsnaz Detachment
  - 510<sup>th</sup> Spetsnaz Detachment
  - 512<sup>th</sup> Spetsnaz Detachment
- 35<sup>th</sup> Guards Air Assault Brigade
  - 351<sup>st</sup> VDV Battalion (BMD-2)
  - 352<sup>nd</sup> VDV Battalion (BMD-1)
  - 353<sup>rd</sup> Independent VDV Battalion
  - Howitzer Artillery Battalion (122mm)
  - Rocket Artillery Battery (BM-21)
  - Antiaircraft Missile Battery (SA-14)
  - Antitank Guided Missile Battery (AT-4/5)

### Friendly Forces

(S/NATO) The primary mission of OPERATION RESET is to push Soviet forces back to their original start positions inside Russia and establish a demarcation line used for negotiation for a peace settlement.

(S/NATO) 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's avenue of advance from LESZNO to LODZ along route RED is bounded on the south flank by the III US Corps main elements, including 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division and 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division (main body of III US Corps advance to LUBLIN) and the Polish Silesian Corps, with 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR in reserve. 29<sup>th</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions are advancing further south on their right flank.

(S/NATO) 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's avenue of advance from LESZNO to LODZ is bounded on the north flank by elements of I German Corps and the Polish Warsaw Corps advancing from POZNAN to WARSAW. They are supported by I Dutch Corps in reserve.

(S/NATO) Note that current end-strengths of the units designated as divisions is approximately equivalent to one brigade of vehicles and heavy equipment and few or no air assets. Personnel strength for most units is about 50% of nominal end-strength for the peacetime unit size. All units under OPERATION RESET have been reinforced and resupplied to the maximum amount available by EUCOM/LANDCENT.

(S/NATO) Friendly forces assigned to OPERATION RESET include:

- I UK Corps (SZCZECIN)
- Polish Pomeranian Corps (SZCZECIN)
- I Belgian Corps (SZCZECIN)
- I German Corps (POZNAN)
- Polish Warsaw Corps (POZNAN)
- I Dutch Corps (POZNAN)
- III US Corps (WROCLAW)
- Polish Silesian Corps (WROCLAW)

### Civil/Terrain considerations

(FOUO) Poland is an allied nation occupied by enemy (Soviet) forces. Its citizens are our friends; however, organized partisan elements and individual resistors may be encountered.

(FOUO) The terrain between LESZNO and LODZ is mainly flat, open farmland with some areas of thick deciduous and pine forest. The area has few hills and many small villages connected by unpaved roads.

(S/NATO) Observation and Fields of Fire: Due to the flat, open terrain and the scarcity of cover and concealment, observation ranges are long, so units must be dispersed to avoid enemy artillery fire.

(S/NATO) Cover and Concealment: There is little to no cover or concealment along the advancement route. Advance reconnaissance is a requirement to avoid detection and/or ambush.

(S/NATO) Key Terrain: The main road, any areas of cover and concealment, and road junctions should be considered key terrain. The primary decisive terrain is the city of LODZ.

(S/NATO) Avenues of Approach: The main road between LESZNO and LODZ is route 12, which passes east through JAROCIN, KALISZ, and SIERADZ, where it joins the larger S8 highway connecting to LODZ.

## II. MISSION

(S/NATO) 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's mission is to secure the III US Corps' north flank against counterattack from Soviet forces at WARSAW by occupying and defending LODZ. This also secures the south flank of I German Corps as they advance against WARSAW. 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division is to begin their advance east toward LODZ at 10 0200Z APR 00 from LD RED DEVIL at LESZNO, crossing PL RED DIAMOND within 48 hours, and securing OBJ LIMA (LODZ), taking up defensive positions facing east in LODZ NLT 15 0200Z APR 00.

## III. EXECUTION

### Commander's Intent

(S/NATO) The Center of Gravity of III US Corps rests on the main axis of advance, held by 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division and 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. Priority of fires, reinforcements, and supplies is on this central element. 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division is operating on a secondary axis of advance to LODZ.

(S/NATO) The Critical Vulnerability of the main thrust to LUBLIN is the opportunity for enemy flanking attacks to deflect, delay, or deny the mission's success.

(S/NATO) The Desired End State of this mission is the security of LODZ at the junction between the III US Corps advance on LUBLIN and the I German Corps advance on WARSAW.

### Tasks

(S/NATO) 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division is to advance along route RED and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> brigades are to move around the city of LODZ in a pincer movement with 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade moving in to seal the west side of the city. Once the city is captured from the three understrength Soviet brigades, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> brigades will occupy defensive positions east of the city while 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade remains in the center of the city.

IV. SERVICE SUPPORT

Administration

(S/NATO) All EPWs are to be transferred to 6th Polish Security Regiment for consolidation, interrogation, and transport. Casualties are to be evacuated to the nearest Battalion Aid Station, with more severe casualties transferred to III US Corps 1st Medical Brigade MASH in WROCLAW.

Logistics

(S/NATO) All elements of the 5th Infantry Division have received three days of combat supplies of all classes. Additional supplies are held at the III US Corps headquarters in WROCLAW and will be distributed as needed beginning on day 4 of OPERATION RESET.

V. COMMAND AND SIGNAL

Command

(S/NATO) Location of Key Leaders: The 5th Infantry Division command staff and HQ element are to remain in the rear one-third of the division area. Upon occupation of LODZ, the command staff will relocate to the center of the city.

(S/NATO) Succession of Command: If the division Commander becomes a casualty, the senior brigade commander in the division is to take command.

Signal

(S/NATO) Primary: Encrypted frequency-hopping radio communication by FM radio.

(S/NATO) Alternate: Clear radio communication by FM radio using CEOI while on the move to set up renewed encrypted communication via SINGGARS ERF.

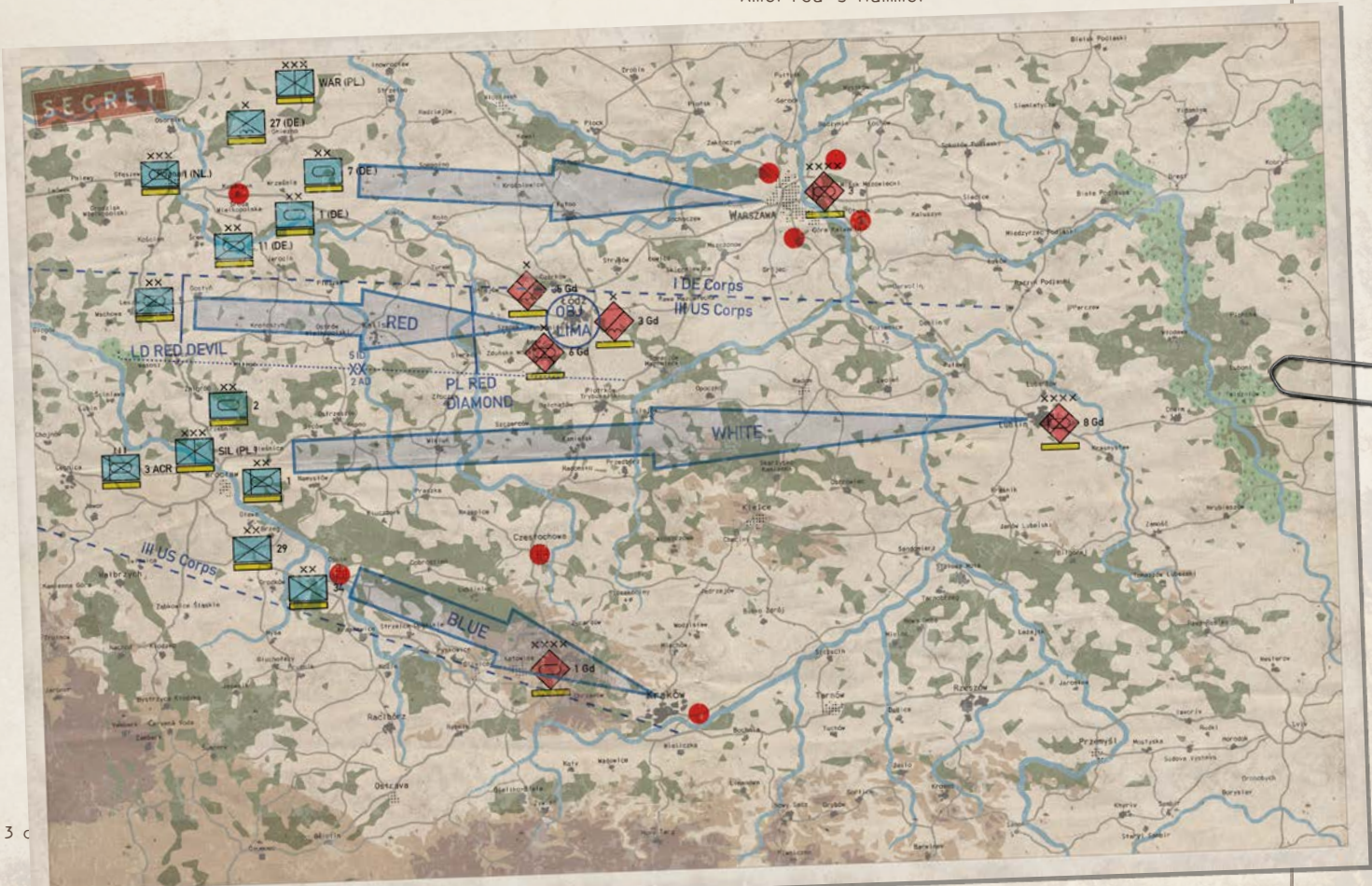
(S/NATO) Contingency: Encrypted radio communications by HF radio when stopped.

(S/NATO) Emergency: Vehicle-borne courier.

Respectfully,

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Jacob Torgerson  
LTG, Commanding  
III US Corps  
"America's Hammer"



SECRET//NATO  
R 17 2230Z APR 00

FROM: HQ, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized)  
TO: HQ, III US Corps  
PRECEDENCE: URGENT  
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NATO  
SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT

SITUATION: It has been one week since the beginning of OPERATION RESET. Enemy strength has been much higher than expected, with predicted reductions to enemy unit capabilities not in evidence during the operation. Our movement to PL RED DIAMOND was uneventful; however, the assault on LODZ did not go as planned and we are currently in KALISZ after a 12-hour fighting retrograde movement from LODZ.

INTELLIGENCE: The three Soviet infantry brigades of the regional Quick Reaction Force around LODZ were dug into heavily fortified and mutually supportive positions and further supported by 122mm howitzers and rocket launchers at the airfield west of the city. Aside from an unknown number of T-72 and a couple of T-80 tanks, they have at least a dozen BMP-1 and BMP-2 IFVs, and several BRDM-2 armored cars with ATGMs mounted (likely AT-5). The tenacity of the airborne unit in particular is ferocious, and their morale does not seem to be heavily impacted. The Spetsnaz detachments were particularly troublesome and ambushed several patrols and columns, destroying many vehicles. In addition to the Soviet forces, there appears to be an entire Red Brigade of Polish "volunteers" with a mix of civilian, Soviet, and Polish military weaponry and light vehicles. These are non-uniformed units, although some wear identifying armbands, and they blend into the local population to scout, snipe, and harass friendly units. They were probably trained by the Spetsnaz and equipped over the winter.

OPERATIONS: 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division is currently combat ineffective and incapable of field operations, including self-defense. Our only choices are to surrender if pursuit continues, or to split up and continue fighting as we move to the rear to regroup.

LOGISTICS: We have none. Supply vehicles sent to III US Corps for resupply have not returned. Soldiers are down to their last basic load, and vehicles are down to their last tank of gas. Rations are short and medical supplies are nearly nonexistent. Repair and resupply options are minimal and most of the few vehicles that remain are badly in need of refitting and repair.

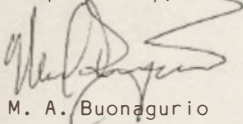
COMMUNICATIONS: We have had no communication with III US Corps or any other adjacent or friendly units in more than 48 hours. Communications within the division are in the clear and sporadic at best due to losses of command staff and an ongoing lack of batteries.

PERSONNEL: Our end strength is down from about 50% of TO&E strength to around 10%, with operational vehicles under 10% of nominal strength. 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division is operationally capable of acting only as a straight-leg infantry battalion, and the battalions are, at best, functional companies.

COURSE OF ACTION:

I have given the order to abandon the offensive and move as rapidly as possible into Germany via the Polish western border, where I will attempt to reorganize the division if communications are available. Some of the remaining Polish troops, as well as stragglers from other units and civilian refugees who are capable of fighting, will accompany the battalions to help maintain some combat capacity and assist in gathering information in civilian-occupied areas. The battalions and companies will move on their own until further notice. Operational command has been turned over to my subordinate commanders to get what is left of their units safely away from the front lines. I will now let the "Red Devils" of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division know that we are on our own.

Respectfully,



M. A. Buonagurio  
MG, Commanding  
5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized)  
"We Will"