

50 (Northumbrian) Division

Copy No. . . .
6 June 44A. ENEMY FMS (Locations as at 25 May)

1. 716 Inf Div. - Part of 84 Corps in 7 Army.
 Low Category Static Div - only 50% German, 30% Poles, remainder Czechs, Russians, etc. Average age 32 - 40. Non-German element is expected to fight as refusal to do so would certainly lead to a German bullet in the back.
 716 Inf Div holds coast incl ISIGNY 5085 - CUISTRHAM 1180 and has been there 2 years.
 Dive HQ - CAEN 0368
 726 Inf Regt (3 Bns) - BAYEUX 7879
 736 Inf Regt (3 Bns) - BIEVILLE 0674
 656 Arty Regt - CAEN Area.
 Cyclist, Sigs and Eng Bns.
 Approx 13,000 men.
 Being a Static Div, GOC 716 Inf Div also comds Coast Def Arty, local defence Tps etc, and about a Sqn of Tks which are in the area.
2. 352 Inf Div
 Area LE MOLAY-LITTRY T.6676 - ST LO T.4963 - VIRET 6332 - VILLERS BOCAGE T.8258.
 Composition - 914, 915 and 916 Grenadier Regts.
 Ancillary Tps bear No 352
 Reforming after "distinction" in Russia - arrived present location Nov/Dec 43. Age of Tps, very young or 35 - 40; high percentage of foreigners; morale reported low.
 Being an Inf Div, fd arty and majority of tpt is horse drawn. Some Tks have been reported at VILLERS BOCAGE.
 Role of this Div - immediate counter attack (limited by lack of MT), followed by holding role till arrival of SS or Armd Div.
3. 21 Pz Div.
 Destroyed in Tunisia - reformed in France. Up to strength.
Org:- Tk Bde (2 Regts, each of 2 Bn)
 About 200 Tks, including Mks III, IV, V, and VI and some
 Two Lorried Inf Regts French SOMURS
 155 Arty Regt (155mm French and 105mm German Guns)
 AA/A tk Bn.
Tps - said to be young and inexperienced and contains large non-german elements.
Location - roughly South of CAEN.
Role - immediate counter attack.
4. 12 SS Pz Div HITLER JUGEND.
 Formed in Belgium about 1943 - GOC is Oberfuhrer FRITZ WITT.
Org - Pz Regt (of 3 Bns) about 200 Tks.
 Other arms normal plus an additional Bn of Assault guns.
Tps - former members of HITLER JUGEND.
 Age 18 - 20 yrs, but NCOs are older and fought in Russia. Includes many Lithuanians.
Location - BERNAY Area, 50 mls EAST of CAEN.
Role - immediate counter attack.
5. 17 SS Pz Div.
 Probable org - Pz Regt (of 3 Bns)
 Location - RENNES - 110 mls SW of BAYEUX.
 Role - immediate counter attack.
6. Summary.
 716 Inf Div - Static - Coast Def - Low Category.
 352 Inf Div - Horsed Tpt - roughly 10 miles inland on Right front of 50 (N) Div. Role immediate counter attack, or holding till arrival of Pz Div, Low morale.

.....To Sheet 2.

A. ENEMY FMS (CONT'D).6. Summary (Cont'd).

- 21 Pz Div - about 20 - 30 mls inland on Laft front of 50 (N) Div.
 Role - immediate counter attack, probably on left of 50 (N) Div (69 Bde Sector) or on 3 Cdn Div. May be engaged on D Day.
- 12 SS Pz Div HITLER JUGEND - about 50 - 60 mls away on left of 50 (N) Div.
 Role - immediate counter attack, probably on 1 Corps front, but could reach 50 (N) Div Sector evening D Day or morning D + 1.
- 17 SS Pz Div - about 120 -130 mls away on right front of 50 (N) Div. Role probably immediate counter attack on 1 American Army to relieve CHERBOURG.

B. TOPOGRAPHY.7. Beaches.

Flat and sandy with underlying patches of clay and peat which are liable to be boggy. Above HWM sand is soft and loose.
 Distance water's edge to back of beach varies from 25 yds - 700 yds with tide.
 About half tide mark, sand is formed into a series of irregular mounds, which might be an obstacle to MT.

8. Coastal Sector.

- a. Low, flat, marshy ground immediately behind beaches - liable to floods.
- b. Ground then rises gently to about 150 ft.
- c. Rds and tracks are fairly numerous but very narrow and flanked by marsh.

9. Area up to rd BAYEUX - CAEN (i.e. North of the rd).

Open, undulating country largely cultivated. Orchards mostly round villages giving aspects of open rolling country dotted with close knots of houses and trees. Rds through villages are very tortuous.

10. Area South of rd BAYEUX - CAEN.

(Note - Rd BAYEUX - CAEN is a "Route Nationale" - dead straight and taking 3 lines of traffic).
 Type of country known as "BOCAGE" i.e. small fields, high hedges and lines of trees, copses, orchards. Grounds becomes more hilly and broken - ht up to 600 ft. Steep sided valleys, sometimes marshy at bottom and liable to be tricky for MT in wet weather.

11. MONT PINCON HILLS. (i.e. further South)

Rough sandstone heights rising to 1000 ft. Mainly open heath or woodland. In general, main rds can take two way traffic, but secondary rds will only take one way traffic and surface may break up.

ACK.

Adjnt 124 Fd Regt RA

DISTRIBUTION.

288 Bty	Copy No 1 - 4	2 IC	Copy No 18
441 Bty	5 - 8	Adjnt	19
489 Bty	9 - 12	QM	20
RHQ	13 - 14	MO	21
Sigs	15	Chaplain	22
LAD	16	File	23
CO	17	War Dy	24 - 25