

APPENDIX NO. 15

SECRET

21 Dec 44

5 CDN INF BDE

PERIODIC REPORT ON RIVER MAAS (ABLE SECTOR)

Sources: Grd observations and level readings.
Civ River Admin, NIJMEGEN

During the past 2 or 3 days the river has dropped in level something over 3 ft and the flooded areas in the flat land on the far right flank of ABLE sector have shrunk in proportion. The drop in the depth of the water in this area has been between 15 and 18 ins over the period -- the decrease in the level of the river being about twice that of the "puddles". The two inundated areas immediately WEST and NW of MIDDELAAR (marked (1) and (2) on trace att as appx "A") have NOT decreased in size or depth nearly the same extent, as they are NOT effected by the drop in level of the river and resultant drainage, but rather recede thru evaporation only (which in this weather is naturally very slow).

The recent rise in the level of the river and the resultant flooding has been quite abnormal for this time of year, the flood waters being 2 1/2 times greater than for the same period last year. This unusual behavior is due directly to rainfall which has been most abnormal also this season. Whether the river will continue to fall and the flooded areas drain or whether the river may again rise to a flooding height depends 100% on the precipitation, as there is no way that either our own troops or the enemy can control the rise or fall, and the subsequent flooding or draining, in any appreciable manner whatsoever. There is NO sluice gate system in this area and any rise or fall resulting from attempts to control the river by manipulating the dams and locks in the RUHR industrial area, much further upstream, would be negligible by the time they reached this sector. In other words the territory presently occupied by the right fwd Bde can NOT be artificially flooded or drained but is dependent absolutely on the weather. While the river is at present dropping and the flooded areas decreasing in size and depth due in turn to the decrease in rainfall over the last few days, there is always the possibility that the water level may rise again, and even reach a greater height than before, if the weather turns rainy once more during the remainder of DEC and the month of JAN, the usual season of heavy precipitation in this part of the country.

J.M. Delanere
(J.M. Delanere) Major
BM - 57 Cdn Inf Bde

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