

HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN COMMAND  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HISTORIAN

D - 047

Manuscript Data Sheet

p. 1

I. Author: Werner Reissmann

II. Title of report: A Paper on the Transportation by Air of the  
104th Armored Inf. Regt. (15th Panzer Division)  
from Italy to the Place of Employment at TOBRUCH,  
April 1941 (107)

III. Date ordered: [None indicated]

IV. Sources:

A. Consultants:

Personal: My experiences as 1st Lt. and company commander of  
the 11th Infantry Howitzer Company, 104th Armored  
Inf. Regiment

B. References: American and German documents, diaries and various  
other. Personal diary for the year 1941

Abbreviations:

Komp.      Kompanie, company  
S.R. 104    Schützen - Regiment 104, 104th Arm'd. Inf. Regt.  
l.I.G.      leichtes Infanterie-Geschütz, light Inf. How.  
s.I.G.      schweres Infanterie-Geschütz, heavy Inf. How.  
Pak        Panzerabwehr-Geschütz  
Kfz.        Kraftfahrzeug, motor vehicle

HEADQUARTERS

EUROPEAN COMMAND

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HISTORIAN

D - 047

Manuscript Data Sheet

p. 1

I. Author: Werner Reissmann

II. Title of report: A Paper on the Transportation by Air of the  
104th Armored Inf. Regt. (15th Panzer Division)  
from Italy to the Place of Employment at TOBRUCH,  
April 1941 (007)

III. Date ordered: [None indicated]

IV. Sources:

A. Consultants:

Personal: My experiences as 1st Lt. and company commander of  
the 11th Infantry Howitzer Company, 104th Armored  
Inf. Regiment

B. References: American and German documents, diaries and various  
other. Personal diary for the year 1941

Abbreviations:

Komp. Kompanie, company

S.R. 104 Schützen - Regiment 104, 104th Arm'd. Inf. Regt.

l.I.G. leichtes Infanterie-Geschütz, light Inf. How.

s.I.G. schweres Infanterie-Geschütz, heavy Inf. How.

Pak Panzerabwehr-Geschütz

Kfz. Kraftfahrzeug, motor vehicle

EUCOM: HD: CHGB: Form 6A-2

A. Regimental Units

22 April - 25 April '41: Transport by rail of the 11th Company, 104th Armored Infantry Regiment from BAUMHOLDER (near TRIER) to NAPLES (CASERTA).

According to original instructions all infantry howitzers and AT guns were to have been transported by water. Subsequent instructions provided that light infantry howitzers and 37-mm AT guns could and should be transported by air. Therefore:

I. Transport by Rail

29 April at 1246 from CASERTA: 11th Company with two light platoons and the AT platoons of the 5th and 10th (heavy) Companies; Band as supply troops.

Strength of the Movement

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>NCO's</u>	<u>Pvts</u>
11th Co. 104th Arm'd. Inf. Regt. 4 light Inf. How.'s	2	14	54
5th Co. 104th Arm'd. Inf. Regt. 2 light Inf. How.'s 3 AT guns (37 mm)	1	8	36
10th Co. 104th Arm'd Inf. Regt. 2 light Inf. How.'s 3 AT guns (37 mm)	1	11	37
Band		22	11

30 April at 1055: MESSINA

at 2230: CATANIA

For transportation by water as before:

Parts of the company headquarters and communications section and heavy infantry howitzer platoon, 11th Company. All motor vehicles except 4 solo motorcycles. Supply trains. Elements of Hq. Co., 104th Armored Inf. Regiment.

II. Transport by Air

2 May, CATANIA: Loading started at 1600

11th Co. 9 Junker 52's )

22 April - 25 April '41: Transport by rail of the 11th Company, 104th

Armored Infantry Regiment from BAUMHOLDER (near TRIER) to NAPLES (CASERTA).

According to original instructions all infantry howitzers and AT guns were to have been transported by water. Subsequent instructions provided that light infantry howitzers and 37-mm AT guns could and should be transported by air. Therefore:

I. Transport by Rail

29 April at 12<sup>46</sup> from CASERTA: 11th Company with two light platoons and the AT platoons of the 5th and 10th (heavy) Companies; Band as supply troops.

Strength of the Movement

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>NCO's</u>	<u>Pvts</u>
11th Co. 104th Arm'd. Inf. Regt. 4 light Inf. How.'s	2	14	54
5th Co. 104th Arm'd. Inf. Regt. 2 light Inf. How.'s 3 AT guns (37 mm)	1	8	36
10th Co. 104th Arm'd Inf. Regt. 2 light Inf. How.'s. 3 AT guns (37 mm)	1	11	37
Band		22	11

30 April at 1055: MESSINA

at 2230: CATANIA

For transportation by water as before:

Parts of the company headquarters and communications section and heavy infantry howitzer platoon, 11th Company. All motor vehicles except 4 solo motorcycles. Supply trains. Elements of Hq. Co., 104th Armored Inf. Regiment.

II. Transport by Air

2 May, CATANIA: Loading started at 1600

11th Co.	9 Junker 52's	)	Commander: 1st Lt. Reissmann
		)	
5th Co.	6 Junker 52's	)	
		)	
10th Co.	7 Junker 52's	)	
		)	
Band	4 Junker 52's	)	
	26 Junker 52's	)	

attached: 1 Junker 52 with men of the 9th Co., who had been left behind in REGGIO due to take-off trouble.  
2 Junker 52's Officers and EM of the Hq. Co.

p. 3

3 May at 0705: Take off from CATANIA  
3 May at 1050: Landing in BENINA/BENGASI  
at 1000: Reached African coast SW of BENGASI; flying altitude 50 m above water, detouring east of MALTA; 2 planes missing.

III. March Overland: BENINA---TOBRUCH

4 May at 2200: AT Plat. and light Inf. How. Plat. of the 5th Co. and AT Plat. of the 10th Co. with column of empty vehicles of the 5th Light Div. to TOBRUCH.

8 May: Loading on Italian column (14 motor vehicles); departure at 1345 via BENGASI---BARCE as far as 4 km. this side of MARAUA (170 km).

9 May at 0610: Continued via DERNA (halt from 1015 to 1245)---ACROME---TOBRUCH, where arrived at nightfall. Immediately attached to Task Force Müller.

10 June at 0415: Departure of vehicles of the 11th Co., 104th Arm'd. Inf. Regt., from NAPLES

12 June at 2030: Arrival at BERDIA

B. 2d Battalion

7 May: 3th, 9th, and 10th Cos., 104th Arm'd Rifle Regt. held up at BENINA due to lack of transportation space.

8 May: Vehicles depart by transport from NAPLES.

9 May: Vehicles return because of danger at sea.

11 May at 0200: Fresh departure

13 May at 1100: TRIPOLI

24 May: TOBRUCH

left behind in REGGIO due to take-off trouble.

2 Junker 52's Officers and EM of the Hq. Co.

p. 3

3 May at 0705: Take off from CATANIA

3 May at 1050: Landing in BENINA/BENGASI

at 1000: Reached African coast SW of BENGASI; flying altitude  
50 m above water, detouring east of MALTA; 2 planes missing.

III. March Overland: BENINA---TOBRUCH

4 May at 2200: AT Plat. and light Inf. How. Plat. of the 5th Co.  
and AT Plat. of the 10th Co. with column of empty  
vehicles of the 5th Light Div. to TOBRUCH.

8 May: Loading on Italian column (14 motor vehicles);  
departure at 1345 via BENGASI---BARCE as far as 4 km.  
this side of MARAUA (170 km).

9 May at 0610: Continued via DERNA (halt from 1015 to 1245)---  
ACROME---TOBRUCH, where arrived at nightfall.  
Immediately attached to Task Force MÜLLER.

10 June at 0415: Departure of vehicles of the 11th Co., 104th Arm'd.  
Inf. Regt., from NAPLES

12 June at 2030: Arrival at BERDIA

B. 2d Battalion

7 May: 8th, 9th, and 10th Cos., 104th Arm'd Rifle Regt. held up at  
BENINA due to lack of transportation space.

8 May: Vehicles depart by transport from NAPLES.

9 May: Vehicles return because of danger at sea.

11 May at 0200: Fresh departure

13 May at 1100: TRIPOLI

24 May: TOBRUCH

[Signed:] Werner Reissmann

Translated by: Eve Kroy Wisbar