

4 Aug 44

An INTERVIEW With  
Gen Art Walter WARLIMONT



TRANSFER OF UNITS  
BETWEEN  
EASTERN AND WESTERN FRONTS  
IN 1944

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HISTORICAL DIVISION  
SPECIAL STAFF, UNITED STATES ARMY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

12 July 1949

Note to: ETHINT 6

By: Kenneth W. Hechler  
Major, Infantry (Res)

This was an oral interview in English which I held on 4 August 1945 (rather than 4 August 1944 as indicated; I did not parachute into Luxembourg for this interview). No record in German was made at the time of the interview, because no German was spoken. This does not represent a stenographic transcript of General Warlimont's remarks, but these are the notes which I made as he rattled off from memory the transfers of units from West to East, and from East to West.

Prior to each interview which I had with General Warlimont, he protested that he could not hope to be 100% accurate in his memory of dates and units, and he made a plea for delaying the interview until he had access to the proper German maps and situation reports. However, in view of the fact that we knew General Warlimont would be taken to Nuremburg in the near future, it was decided to go ahead with the interview under the circumstances. Certainly no historian should rely upon the statements which General Warlimont made regarding dates and units, without further consultation with the available German documents. Nor should historians and observers conclude that because General Warlimont made some mistakes, and because he could not remember all of the details, therefore his evidence on other points and in other interviews is necessarily open to question.



ETHINT 6 - ( )

Title : Transfer of Units Between Eastern and Western  
Fronts in 1944

Source : Gen Art Warlimont, Walter

Position : Deputy Chief, Armed Forces Operations Staff  
(until 6 Sep 44, Deputy to Genobst Jodl -  
Chief, Wehrmachtsfuehrungsstab)

Date : 4 Aug 44

Place : Bad Mondorf, Luxembourg

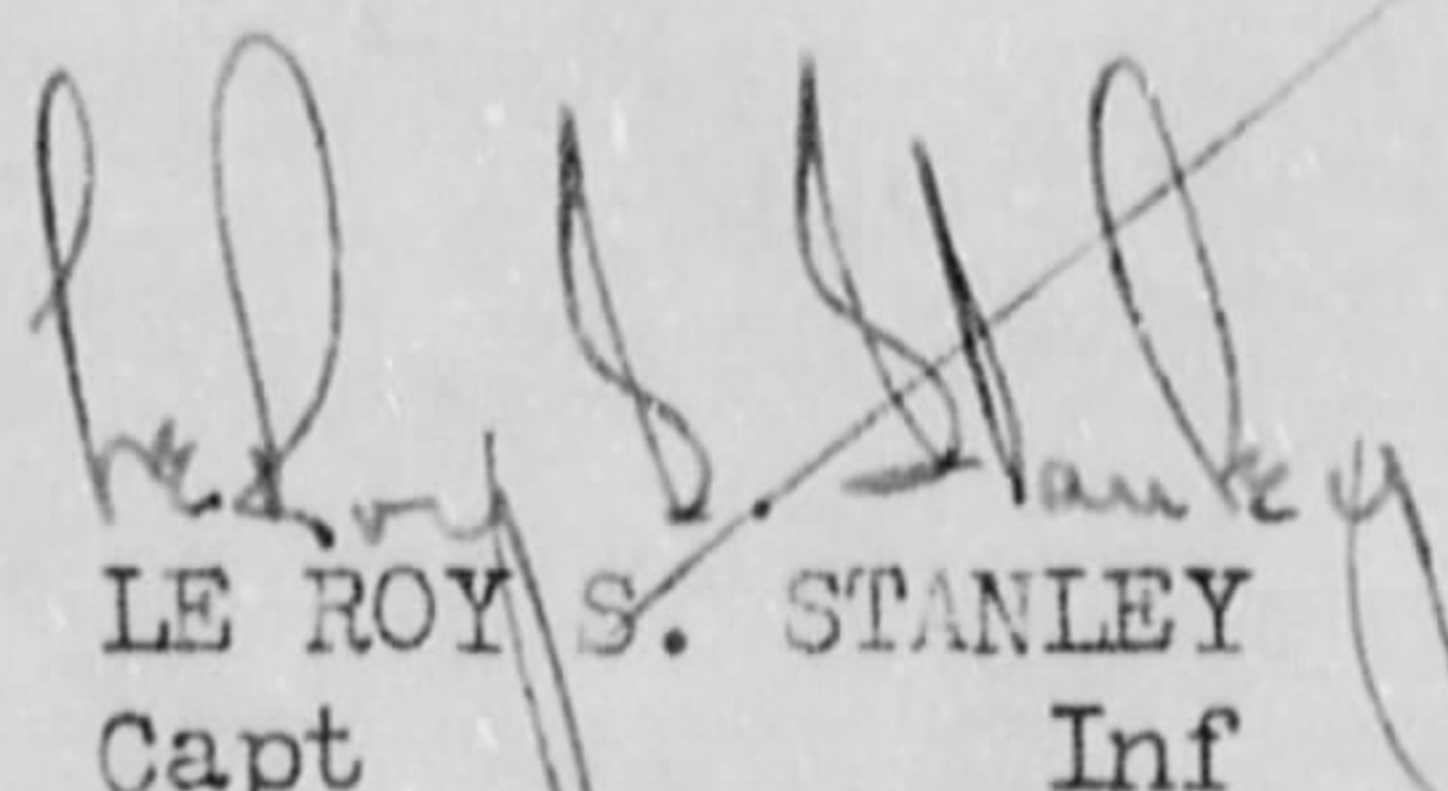
Interviewer : Unknown (probably Maj Kenneth W. Hechler)

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Foreword

This interview, one of a series conducted by the Historical Section, ETOUSA, consists of a table showing the transfer of units between the Eastern and Western Fronts in 1944. Inasmuch as only a typed record in English is available, it is not known whether a record in German was made at the time of the interview nor, if one was made, can the quality of the translation be determined. Therefore, no absolute guarantee can be given as to the accuracy of the units and transfers and dates described herein.

  
LE ROY S. STANLEY  
Capt                      Inf  
Historical Editor

DEC 17 1947



TRANSFER OF UNITS BETWEEN EASTERN  
AND WESTERN FRONTS IN 1944

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I. Transfers from West to East:

1. Late 1943-early 1944: Continuous relinquishing from all OKW theaters of war of young age-classes of men fit for the Eastern Front in exchange for cadres of battle-worn divisions, men of older age-classes, and officers and men of all ages physically unfit for the campaign in the East. Through this type of individual relinquishments, the divisions in the West, during the nine months preceding the Invasion, lost about 25% of their combat strength in return for the substitutions referred to.

2. Mar 44: II SS Pz Corps, with 9 and 10 SS Pz Divs, to A Gp South (Tarnopol).

3. Apr 44: Pz Lehr Div, to Hungary.

II. Transfers from East to West:

4. Jan 44: 2 Pz Div.

5. Mar-May 44: Cadres of 9 and 11 Pz Divs and 16 Pz Gren Div; I SS Pz Corps with 1 and 2 SS Pz Divs; and Pz Lehr Div, from Hungary to France.

6. Jun 44: II SS Pz Corps, with 9 and 10 SS Pz Divs.

7. Mar-Aug 44: Cadres of battle-worn infantry divisions which were sent to reorganize the following Inf and Volks Gren Divs: 176, 183, 338, 12, 353, 62, 340, 167, 272, 26, 276, 198, 95, 9, 36, 212, 256, 347, 257, and 25 Pz Gren Div. (The underlined infantry divisions were in the West at the time of the Invasion.)



8. Sep-Dec 44: XXXIX Pz Corps, several assault-gun brigades, Fuehrer Gren Brig, Fuehrer Escort Brig, one SS Corps (Gottberg), two mountain divisions (Ed: probably 2 Geb Div), and six SS mountain divisions (Ed: probably 6 SS Geb Div) from Finland.