

# INTRODUCTION

It will be enlightening to the veteran and the non-military reader of this history book to learn about the military function of an Infantry Division in World War II. Each former member of the 87th Infantry Division, who experienced the combat challenges at the level of a squad, platoon, Company, Battalion, Regiment and Battery, can now, with the background of this history book, understand how the "combat story" fits together like a jigsaw puzzle, and feel the camaraderie of the troops making up this Combat Team.

After the former members of the 87th Infantry Division slide off the plateau of time, may those who open this history book feel the pulse of the young "Depression Era" kids (circa 1928 to 1941), who responded to the call of their Country to help protect the America they grew up to cherish so dearly.

May the patriotism that lives in this book come alive for the future generations that peruse these pages. It is with this pride and dedication that the "Golden Acorns", in the twilight years of their lives made it possible for the reprinting of this Infantry Division history book about one of the outstanding components of General George S. Patton, Jr.'s Third Army, the 87th (Golden Acorn) Infantry Division.

Gladwin A. Pascuzzo, Past National Commander  
87th Division Association  
*Golden Acorn News*, Editor  
Former member of the Company "D". 312th Medical Battalion  
Reprinted February 9, 2001

This book is respectfully  
dedicated to the officers and  
men of the 87th. Infantry  
Division who gave their lives  
so that we might live.



*American Military Cemetery*

FRANCE

AN HISTORICAL AND PICTORIAL RECORD

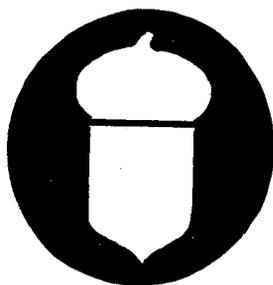
OF THE

87<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION

IN WORLD WAR II

1942 ~ 1945

*Golden*



*Acorn*

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY DIVISION  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL  
Fort Benning, Georgia

September 13, 1945

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE 87TH "GOLDEN ACORN" DIVISION:

A review of 154 days of combat and other events of three years of war service, from December 1942 to September 1945, is presented in this book. Individuals, with their knowledge limited by the detail which confronts them personally, miss much of the broader scope of the picture beyond their ken. The whole scene is captured here in words and pictures to live forever so that all may know the full story.

These were days and events that will never leave the minds of those who have worn the Golden Acorn. This book therefore will become a priceless treasure to each of us who stood together as the Division traversed its path across France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Germany to Czechoslovakia and VICTORY!

I am deeply honored to have had command of the 87th Infantry Division. The privilege of having been one of you remains a source of lasting satisfaction and pride.

Let each of us resolve to remember those who made the supreme sacrifice, and the spirit in which the sacrifice was made. Let those who remain perpetuate the comradeship that was born of war to produce a better peace.

*Frank L. Culin Jr.*  
FRANK L. CULIN, JR.  
Major General, U. S. Army  
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS  
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL  
APO 403

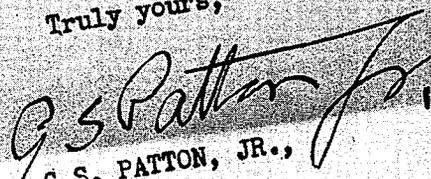
13 September 1945

My dear General Culin:

Please accept for yourself, and pass on to the officers and men of your splendid division, my sincere congratulations on the magnificent fighting record you established. From the day you entered the line in the blood-spattered mud of the Saar valley through the bitter struggle of Bastogne, and then across Germany, the 87th always lived up to the highest tradition of American valor, patriotism, and efficiency.

It was a proud privilege to have such a unit in the Third Army.

Truly yours,

  
G.S. PATTON, JR.,  
General.

Major General Frank L Culin, Jr.  
Headquarters 87th Infantry Division  
Fort Benning, Georgia

To the Eighty-Sixth Division  
from  
G S Patton Jr.



## GEORGE S. PATTON, JR.

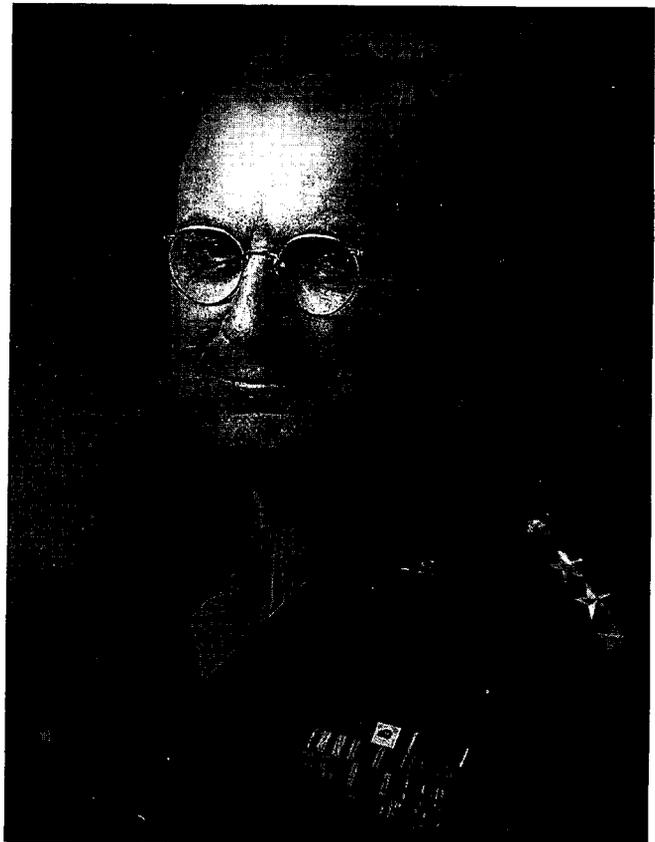
GENERAL, U. S. A.

*Commanding General, Third Army*

## TROY H. MIDDLETON

LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. A.

*Commanding General, VIII Corps*





**FRANK L. CULIN, JR.**

MAJOR GENERAL, U. S. A.

*Commanding General, 87th Infantry Division*



**P. W. CLARKSON**  
*Major General, U. S. A.*  
*First Division Commander of the 87th Division*  
*World War II, Camp McCain, Miss.*



**EUGENE M. LANDRUM**  
*Major General, U. S. A.*  
*Commanding General, 87th Division, from*  
*October 26, 1943, to April 30, 1944*



**JOHN L. MCKEE**  
*Brigadier General, U. S. A.*  
*Assistant Division Commander*



**WILLIAM W. FORD**  
*Brigadier General, U. S. A.*  
*Commanding General of Division Artillery*



GRANT LAYNG  
*Colonel, G.S.C.*  
*Chief of Staff*



JOHN F. T. MURRAY  
*Lieutenant Colonel, G.S.C.*  
*AC of S, G-2*

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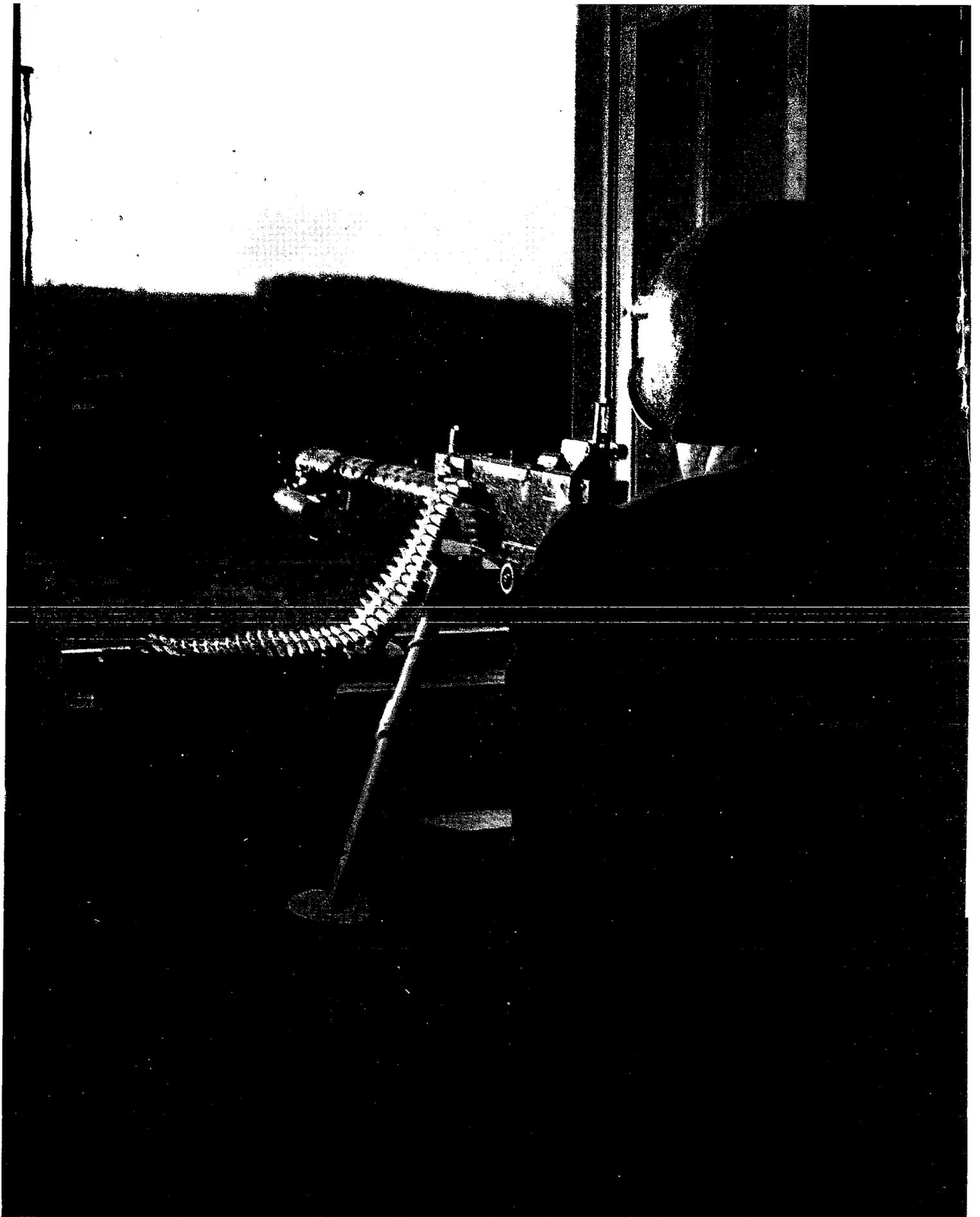
EDWIN O'CONNOR  
*Lieutenant Colonel, G.S.C.*  
*G-1*



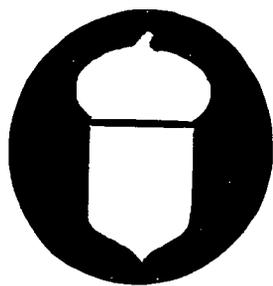
JOHN J. BROWN  
*Lieutenant Colonel, G.S.C.*  
*AC of S, G-4*



ARTHUR L. GAYLE  
*Lieutenant Colonel, G.S.C.*  
*AC of S, G-3*



*Lonely Vigil at Metz, France*



# Stalwart and Strong

## 87TH DIVISION IN WORLD WAR I

*H*istory for the 87th Infantry Division began in the last war at a time when the United States was massing its forces for the final push on the Western Front and the blow that was to defeat Kaiser Wilhelm's troops. On August 5, 1917, the War Department directed that the 87th Division be organized as a part of the National Army at Camp Pike, Little Rock, Arkansas. The division was to be a Southern Division. Enlisted men were to be drawn from Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi draft quotas.

With the division up to full strength, a rigorous training schedule began. During this training period, the 87th furnished overseas replacements for the 31st, 39th and 81st Infantry Divisions. (The latter division repaid its debt to the 87th when it furnished cadre for the 87th Division of World War II). Fillers taking the places of the men who left for overseas came from the draft quotas of northern reception centers. This gave the 87th a better representation from the 48 states, and the 87th could no longer be called a Southern Division.

A year after the Division's activation, orders arrived directing the 87th to move to Camp Dix, N. J. in preparation for overseas movement. Major General Samuel D. Sturgis, first division commander, led his troops to England and later to France, where the Division assembled in preparation for its mission in combat. The trans-

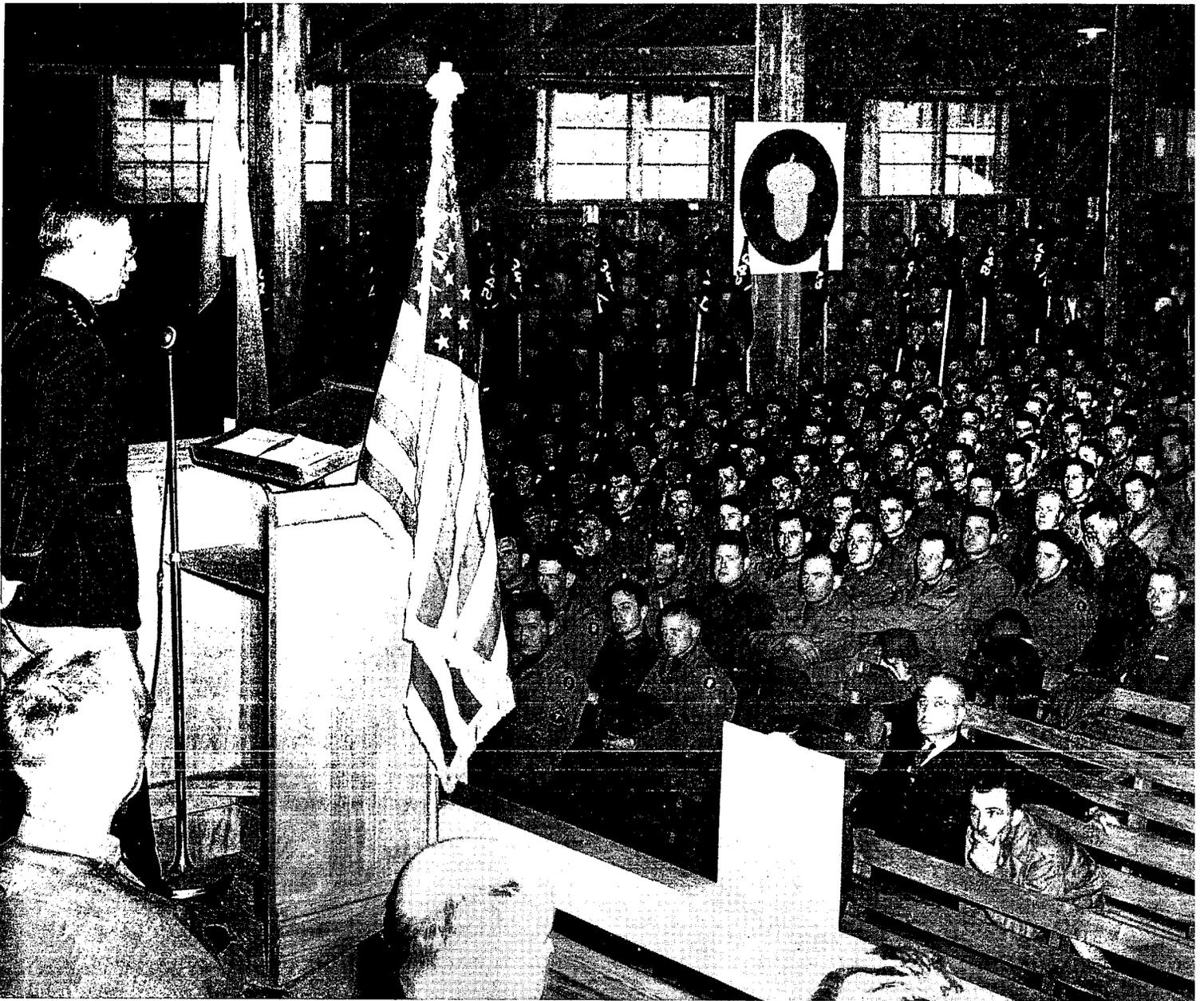
ocean crossing only had one mishap. The ship carrying an infantry brigade and the First Battalion of the 347th Regiment—the battalion that later distinguished itself in World War II when it crossed the Rhine River in an assault crossing and earned the Distinguished Unit Citation—was torpedoed.

For the first several months in France, the 87th was under direct control of the Services of Supply. Elements of the Division were scattered throughout Western France doing construction, guard, police, convoy, labor and other supply details. In November, 1918, when the war ended, the division was on orders to move to the front. It was only a few months before men in the Acorn Division started embarking for America. Men were discharged as soon as they reached the United States. The 312th Supply Train, the last element of the division to leave Europe, sailed in July 1919.

Several years later—in 1921—the 87th Division was reconstituted in the Organized Reserves and allotted to the Fourth Corps Area. It was reorganized as a triangular division in January 1942.

### THE 87TH IS RE-ACTIVATED

Nearly two years later—December 15, 1943 to be exact—the 87th "Acorn" Infantry Division of World War II was officially made an active di-



*General Lear Addresses the 87th Division Cadre at Camp McCain, Mississippi, during the Activation Day Ceremony, December 22, 1942*

vision at Camp McCain, Miss., under Command of Major General Percy W. Clarkson.

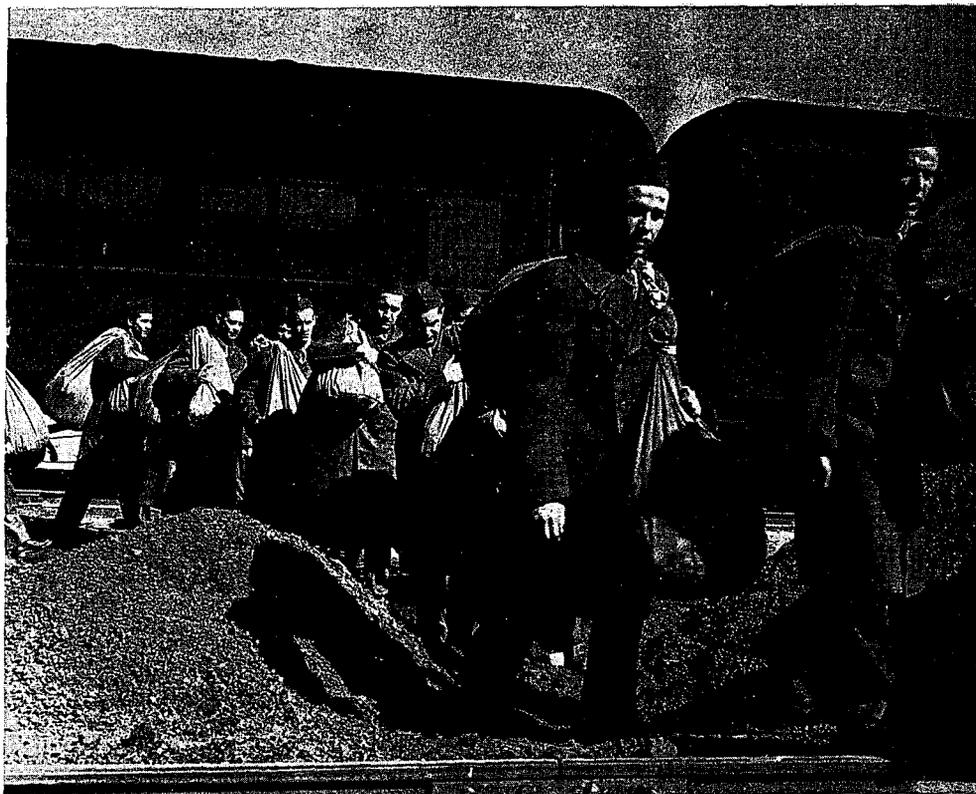
Component units were: Division Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 345th Infantry Regiment, 346th Infantry Regiment, 347th Infantry Regiment, 87th Division Artillery, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery, 87th Division Artillery, 334th Field Artillery Battalion (105 mm How trk D), 335th Field Artillery Battalion (155 mm How trk D), 336th Field Artillery Battalion (105 mm How trk D), 912th Field Artillery Battalion (105 mm How trk D), 312th Engineers Battalion, 312th Medical Battalion, 87th Signal Company, 87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, 87th Quarter-

master Company, 787th Ordnance Company, 87th Military Police Platoon.

Camp McCain, Mississippi, was the site of the 87th's first location. Brig. Gen. Raymond G. Lehman was the Assistant Division Commander. Members of the General Staff included:

Colonel Russell C. Throckmorton, Chief of Staff; Lt. Col. Charles McKemp, A. C. of S., G-1; Maj. Perry E. Conant, A. C. of S., G-2; Maj. Walker R. Goodrich, A. C. of S., G-3; Lt. Col. John J. Brown, A. C. of S., G-4.

The Commanding General and members of the General and Special Staff attended the new Division Course No. 9 at the Command General Staff



*The men arrive at Camp McCain, Mississippi*

School, Fort Leavenworth, Kans., for a four weeks' course of instruction prior to the activation of the division.

The Assistant Division Commander, Regimental Commanders and staffs down to and including company commanders attended the Division Officers' Course No. 9 at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga., from 1 October 1942 to 1 November 1942 before reporting to the 87th Infantry Division. Officers of the Division Artillery Cadre, after one month's training at Fort Sill, Okla., arrived at Camp McCain, on November 10, 1942. Commanding General of the Division Artillery was Brig. Gen. Russell G. Barklow.

The bulk of the Division Cadre, both officers and enlisted men, was drawn from the 81st Infantry (Wildcat) Division at Camp Rucker, Alabama, and arrived at Camp McCain on Sunday, November 16, 1942. A large percentage of newly commissioned junior officers who joined the division between 15 November 1942 and 30 November 1942 were from the 94th and 97th class of the Officer's Candidate School, Fort Benning, Ga.

The Division's Morning Report strength for 15 November 1942 was 218 officers and 1,417 enlisted men.

Camp McCain, commanded by Col. Ira C. Ryder, was a new post situated on Highway 51 approximately six miles south of the town of Grenada (Population 6,000) in the North Central part of the State of Mississippi. A theater of operation type camp, it was named for the late Maj. Gen. Henry B. McCain, formerly Adjutant General, who was born in Carroll County, Mississippi, on 23 January 1861, and who died in Washington, D. C. on 25 July 1941 after 40 years of service in the United States Army.

Prior to the activation, the Cadre of the 87th Infantry Division participated in a Command Post Exercise in Louisiana from 29 November to 13 December 1942 under X Corps commanded by Maj. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges. The exercise was conducted by Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger's Third Army Headquarters. Other organizations which attended this Command Post Exercise were the 86th Infantry Division and the 103rd Infantry Division.



*School Days, Army Style, at Fort Jackson, S. C.*

All headquarters of the 87th Infantry Division down to and including battalions participated in this exercise which was designed to acquaint staffs with the technique of "air" in support of "ground" units. Movement to Louisiana and return to Camp McCain was made by motor.

Although the Division was officially activated on 15 December 1942, the actual Activation Day Ceremonies were held one week later, 22 December 1942, at Camp McCain, Mississippi. This delay in the ceremonies was occasioned by the date of return of personnel participating in the Louisiana Command Post Exercises.

Elaborate ceremonies had been planned for the Reactivation Day exercises on 22 December 1942. Heavy rain and soggy grounds, however, made

it necessary to hold an abbreviated ceremony in the recreation hall of the 346th Infantry Regiment.

Speakers at the ceremony included Lt. Gen. Ben Lear, Commanding the Second Army, Maj. Gen. P. W. Clarkson, Commanding the 87th Infantry Division, and Mrs. Samuel D. Sturgis, widow of the first commander of the 87th Division during World War I.

Commanding officers of the three infantry regiments at the time of the reactivation were:

Coloney Kenneth S. Anderson, 345th Regiment; Colonel Egmont Koenig, 346th Regiment, and Colonel Lloyd R. Besse, 347th Regiment.

Upon being reactivated, the 87th Infantry Division was assigned by Second Army to III Corps, Commanded by Major General John Lucas.

Brig. Gen. John L. McKee succeeded Brig. Gen. Lehman on 3 January 1943.

### TROOPS ARRIVE AND TRAINING BEGINS

During the period 15 December 1942 to 8 March 1943, training aids were constructed, training programs developed and training undertaken to prepare the cadre for the task which lay ahead. During their spare time members of the cadre were largely occupied with improving living conditions and surrounding areas.

On 28 December 1942, the organization of the Casual Battalion Detachment for the reception of the filler replacements was announced. Lt. Col. Raymond C. Lane, Commanding Officer, First Battalion, 346th Infantry Regiment, was the Commanding Officer. On 12 February 1943 the filler replacements began to arrive at Camp McCain and throughout the month they continued to arrive in a steady stream.

Among the posts that supplied filler replacements to the 87th Infantry Division were Fort Thomas, Kentucky; Fort Custer, Michigan; Fort Hayes, Ohio; Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana; Camp Toccoa, Georgia; Fort Douglas, Utah; Jefferson Barracks, Missouri; Camp Robinson, Arkansas; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Camp Upton, New York; Fort Jay, New York; Fort MacArthur, California; Fort Snelling, Minnesota; Camp Dodge, Iowa. The 87th Division was composed of men from every state in the Union.

Basic training began officially on 8 March 1943 and continued through 12 June 1943. The objective was to train each man in what he as an individual soldier must know.

From 1 June through 6 June 1943, III Corps conducted its Mobilization Training Program tests to determine the state of proficiency of the individual soldier. As a result, it was announced that the Division was ready to begin the second period of training.

*Right, Top: The "Once Over." First Lieutenant Ortowski, 87th Reconnaissance Troop, is inspecting Company "F," 346th Infantry Regiment. They have a 60 mm mortar and are competing in a test with the 345th and 347th Regiments. Infantry Day, Fort Jackson, S. C. Center: Mortar Crew Draws a Bead. Bottom: Make Believe Attack on "Hitler's Village"—the Dynamite is Real.*





*"Eyes Right," Company "F" of the 345th Regiment Marching on Infantry Day at Fort Jackson, S. C.*

The Unit Training Period was conducted from 13 June 1943 to 13 September 1943. This was the period for transition from the individual soldier to squad, section, platoon, company or battery, battalion and regimental teams.

Platoon Combat Firing Tests were conducted by the Division, 11 July to 17 August 1943, to determine individual and unit proficiency of rifle, weapons and heavy weapons platoons.

Field Artillery Battery Tests were conducted by Division Artillery, 8 August to 14 August 1943, to determine the proficiency of Field Artillery Batteries.

Army Ground Force Field Artillery Battalion Tests were conducted by IX Corps at Camp McCain, Miss., from 23 August to 28 August 1943. On 20 October 1943, the tests were repeated.

On 16 July 1943, the 87th Infantry Division was transferred to the Third Army. On 28 July 1943, IX Corps, Commanded by Maj. Gen. Charles H. White, became the intermediate headquarters.

On 15 July 1943 the War Department issued a new Table of Organization and Equipment (T/O & E T-3) which provided for the creation of Headquarters, Special Troops in Infantry Divisions.

The 87th Infantry Division was authorized to create its Headquarters Special Troops by a letter from Third Army Headquarters, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, dated 5 August 1943, announcing the activation of a Headquarters for the units in the Division considered as Special Troops. These included:

Headquarters Company with attached Military Police Platoon, Medical Detachment and Band, 87th Quartermaster Company, 87th Signal Company, 787th Ordnance (LM) Company.

The 87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was added 16 August 1943 by General Order No. 19, Headquarters, 87th Infantry Division.

The Combined Training Period, designed for integrating all organizations within the Division began on 20 September 1943 and continued through 25 November 1943.

During September the Division was engaged in Regimental Combat Team Exercises at Holly Springs National Forest, Mississippi. These exercises were designed to train units of the Division Combat Teams to co-ordinate operations in task force missions. During this period the Division was called upon to make the first of a series of shipments of men for overseas replacements. By 1 October 1943 the Division strength had dropped from 15,153 men to 11,944 men.

On 9 October 1943 Maj. Gen. Percy W. Clarkson, the Division Commander, left for an overseas assignment and was succeeded by Brig. Gen. Russell G. Barkalow who was Commander of the 87th Division Artillery. General Barkalow in turn was succeeded on 26 October 1943 by Maj. Gen. Eugene M. Landrum, who since his overseas experience has been referred to as "Landrum of the Aleutians."

From 28 October to 16 November 1943 the Division held its "D" Series at Camp McCain with the objective of testing the combat proficiency of the Division. The Series was conducted by the IX Corps, then stationed at Camp McCain. During the "D" Series, IX Corps also conducted Air-Ground Tests No. 1 to 4.

In the last week of November further shipments of men from the Division took place, and on 1 December 1943 the consolidated Morning Report strength of the Division was 787 officers, 43 warrant officers, and 10,832 enlisted men.

On 2 December 1943 the Division was transferred from the Third to the Second Army, commanded by Lt. Gen. Lloyd R. Fredendall. On the same day the Division moved by motor convoy from Camp McCain to the Second Army's Tennessee Maneuver Area. Altogether the "Golden Acorn" Division engaged in six problems. Other divisions of the Second Army participating in the maneuvers were: the 100th Infantry Division, the 35th Infantry Division, the 14th Armored Division and other non-divisional units.

During the maneuver period and prior to Christmas, the Division was observed in action by Lt. Gen. Lesley J. McNair, Commanding General of the Army Ground Forces. Lt. Gen. Lloyd R. Fredendall, Commanding General of the Second Army, made two observation tours of the maneuver area, once in December and once in January.

### POST MANEUVER TRAINING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

The Division left the maneuver area by motor convoy on the 18th of January 1944 to begin a trek to its new post at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, a post commanded by Brig. Gen. D. G. Richart. Upon arrival at Fort Jackson and until 21 February 1944, the Division conducted a "pre-post maneuver" training period. Its objective was the immediate correction of deficiencies disclosed during earlier periods of training and during maneuvers.

The fourth period of training, "Final Preparation for Combat," began on 21 February 1944.

The enlisted strength of the Division was raised to 13,356 men by 1 April because of a series of shipments of ASTP men into the division. Officer strength fell, however to 694.

A high point of this phase of training was a visit by Secretary of War Stimson, accompanied by Maj. Gen. A. D. Surles, director of the War Department Bureau of Public Relations, on 5 April 1944. General Landrum, General McKee, and Colonel William W. Ford, Commander of the Division Artillery, conducted Mr. Stimson and his party on a complete tour of the Division. A Division review completed the inspection.

The objectives of this latter period of training were established by Training Memorandum No. 13, Headquarters 87th Infantry Division, dated 21 April 1944:

1. Intensive review of first, second, and third periods of training.
2. Bringing of all filler replacements up to the standard of the Division in the minimum of time.
3. And to bring all units to the highest state of battle efficiency in the shortest possible time.

*Colonel William W. Ford (now Brigadier General) Explains a Fine Point to Secretary of War Stimson, as General Landrum Looks On.*



Major Gen. Eugene M. Landrum, the Division Commander, left for a new overseas assignment on 30 April 1944 and was succeeded by Brigadier General John L. McKee, Assistant Division Commander. Additional shipments of officers and enlisted men in April depleted the strength of the Division. A total of 3,254 men were shipped out, of that number 2,625 went overseas to replacement depots. During the same month, the Division gained a total of 2,160 enlisted men of which 1,179 came from the Air Corps and 600 from tank destroyer units.

Brig. Gen. Frank L. Culin, Jr., arrived at Fort Jackson on 11 May 1944 to assume command of the 87th Infantry Division. General McKee resumed his former assignment as Assistant Division Commander. General Culin came to the Division as a combat-experienced officer, having served with the former Division Commander, General Landrum, in the famous Attu Campaign. On 20 May 1944 the 87th Division's new leader addressed the officers of the Division regarding problems of large personnel turn-over and excessive non-commissioned officers, the importance of leadership of troops in battle, and the new phase of training being started.

Lt. Gen. Lesley McNair, Commanding Army Ground Forces, and members of his staff again inspected the Division on 9 June 1944. The first two weeks of June were marked by intensive tests conducted in the Infantry Regiments to allow all infantrymen the opportunity to earn the new Expert Infantryman's Badge. Presentations were made on Infantry Day, 15 June 1944, as part of the open house ceremonies held that day. Maj. Gen. Emil F. Reinhardt, Commanding General IX Corps, and Brig. Gen. Culin addressed all infantrymen and guests on this occasion.

More men joined the Division in June to increase its strength for combat. By the first of July 1944 the total manpower of the Division stood at 676 officers, 45 warrant officers, and 13,349 enlisted men. Since many of the men sent into the Division were non-commissioned officers, General Culin on June twenty-fourth addressed all "non-coms" in order to clarify the situation of excess grades and ratings and to allay fears that reductions might be made without cause.

General Culin addressed the officers of the Division on 8 July 1944, reviewing the progress in training and the state of discipline observed since his assumption of command.

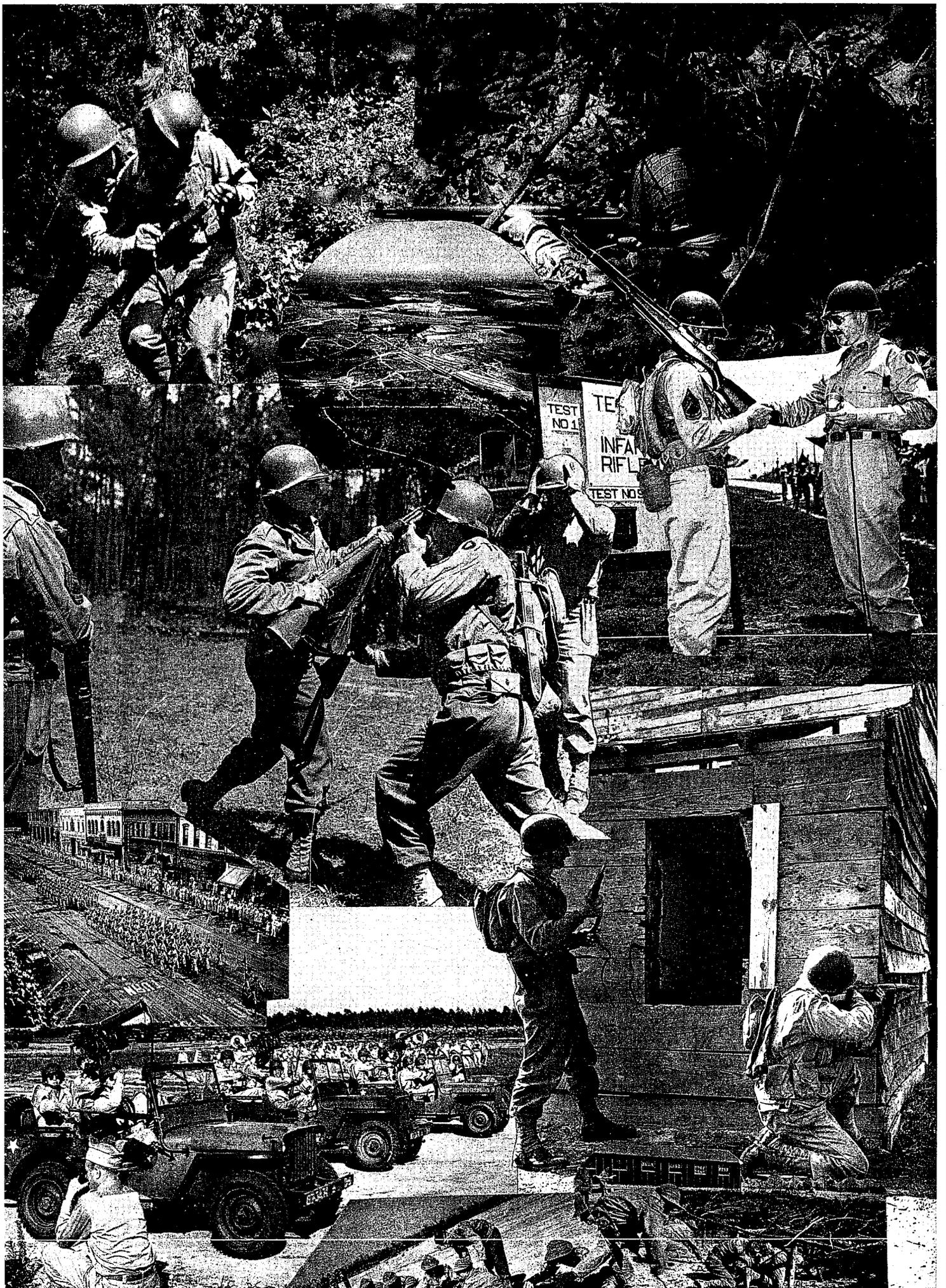
In August 1944 the Division again suffered personnel losses. A total of 2,018 enlisted men were shipped out, 1,395 going to Army Ground Force Replacement Depots. A total of 1,858 enlisted men came into the Division in the same month.

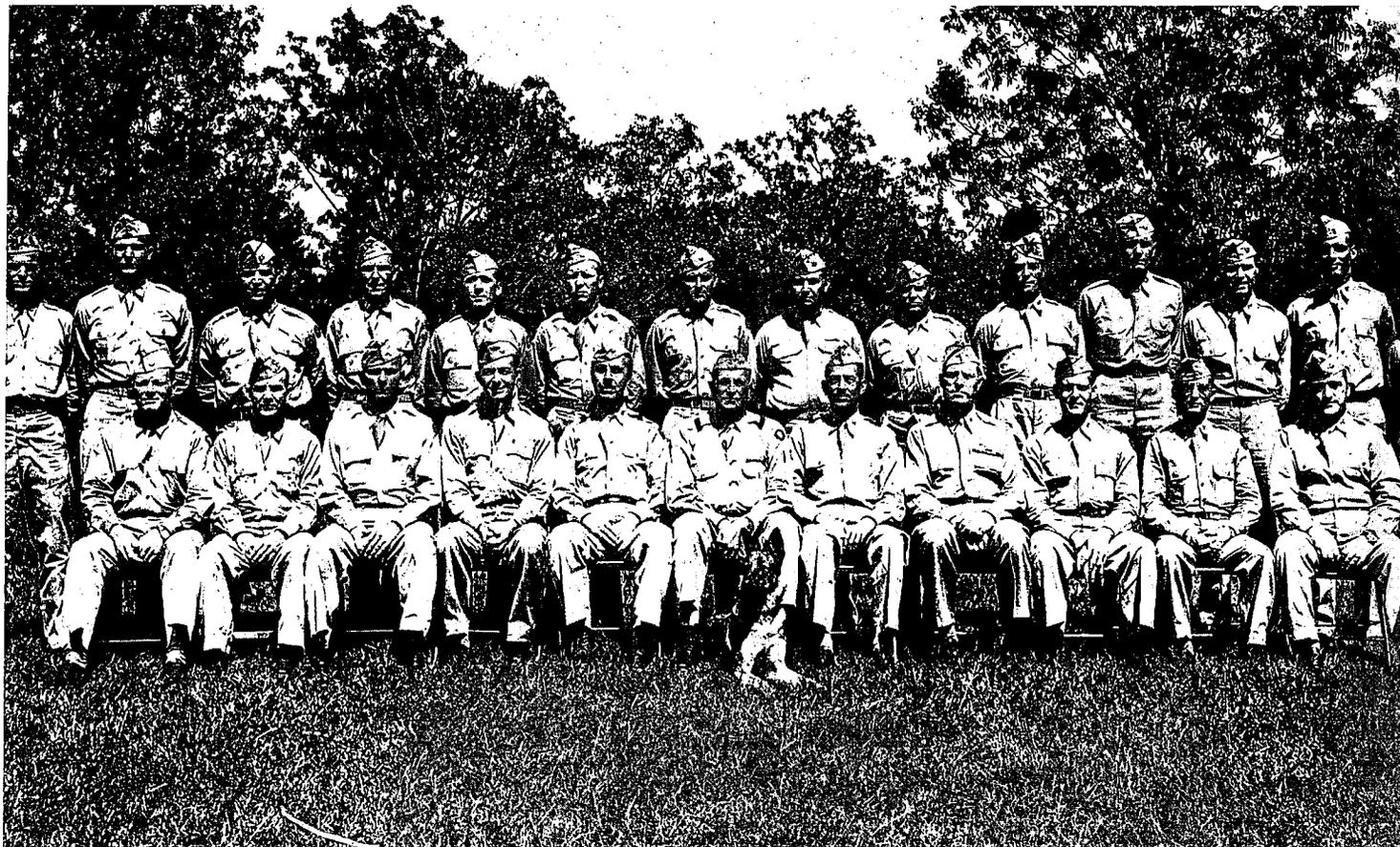
On 15 August 1944 the status of the 87th Infantry Division was suddenly changed, indicating an early overseas movement. General Culin informed all officers that the Division had been alerted for overseas movement, reminding them of the restrictions on speech and action attending this change and of the final training requirement which had to be met with at once. A similar address was given to all enlisted men of the Division on 21 August 1944. Special emphasis was given to the dangers involved in spreading idle rumors and making fruitless speculations. All men in the Division who had overseas service in World War II were addressed by General Culin on 24 August at which time they were told the part that their experience must play in the Division in the preparation for an overseas movement.

Lt. Gen. Ben Lear, the Commanding General of Army Ground Forces, and members of his staff, inspected the Division on 13 September 1944. General Lear's party included Maj. Gen. Charles W. Ryder, former Commanding General of the 34th Infantry Division in Tunisia and Italy, and Maj. Gen. F. H. N. Davidson, British liaison officer with Army Ground Forces. General Culin conducted the visiting generals on an inspection of the Division and presented a review of the 346th Infantry Regimental Combat Team. After the review General Lear addressed the assembled officers and non-commissioned officers of the Division.

During the six-month period, April-September 1944, the Division had received 7,636 replacements. All of these men had to be brought up to the standard of the Division and be completely POM qualified. The favorable results of the War Department Inspector General's inspection of 18-23 September 1944 reveal that this requirement was met through the efforts of the officers and men of the 87th Infantry Division.

On 30 September 1944 the Division came under the command of the XXIII Corps. During the period from the time "alert" orders were received to the time when the Division moved from Fort Jackson to the Staging Area, all efforts were directed towards completing the POM requirements.





#### MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL AND SPECIAL STAFF OF THE 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION

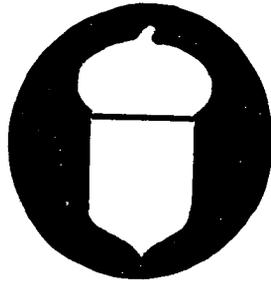
Seated, Left to Right: Lt. Charles C. Ege, Lt. Col. Mark Amen, Lt. Col. John J. Brown, Lt. Col. John F. T. Murray, Brig. Gen. John L. McKee, Maj. Gen. Frank L. Culin, Jr., Brig. Gen. William W. Ford, Col. Grant Laying, Lt. Col. Arthur L. Gayle, Lt. Col. Edwin O'Connor, Lt. Col. James P. Healey. Standing, Left to Right: Lt. Frank L. Culin, III, Lt. John E. Glover, Capt. Enzo Gaspari, Chap. Alexander Whittaker, Capt. William J. Rooney, Maj. Frank McGwier, Lt. Col. Alwin L. Folley, Lt. Col. Stoessel S. Barksdale, Lt. Col. Harold W. Schubert, Lt. Col. Gilbert Pirrung, Maj. John S. Nelson, Capt. Archibald S. Miller, Lt. William F. O'Donnell, Lt. Leon Rubin.

#### ROSTER OF OFFICERS OF THE 87TH DIVISION HEADQUARTERS

CG—FRANK L. CULIN, JR., Major General, U. S. Army, c/o Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.  
 Aide—FRANK L. CULIN, III, 1st Lt., ADC, 3263 Broadway, Tucson, Ariz.  
 Aide—LEON RUBIN, 1st Lt., ADC, 69-30 Dartmouth St., Forrest Hills, Long Island, N. Y.  
 ADC—JOHN L. MCKEE, Brigadier General, U. S. Army, 2922 Legation Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.  
 Aide—JOHN E. GLOVER, 1st Lt., ADC, Huntington, W. Va.  
 Aide—WILLIAM F. O'DONNELL, 1st Lt., ADC, 2701 28th St., N.W., Washington, D. C.  
 C/S—GRANT LAYNG, Colonel, G. S. C., c/o Bendix Home Appliance Co., South Bend, Ind.  
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 G-1—EDWIN O'CONNOR, JR., Lt. Col., G.S.C., 306 Braham Blvd., San Antonio, Texas.  
 Asst. G-1—WAREING T. MILLER, Major, G.S.C., 322 Dyer Ave., West Palm Beach, Fla.  
 Asst. G-1—SAMUEL E. TRACY, JR., 1st Lt., Inf., Northeast Harbor, Maine.  
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 Asst. G-2—JULES E. DIEUDONNE, Captain, FA, 117 Rosier St., New Iberia, La.  
 OB Team—RICHARD E. HARTIG, Captain, CWS.  
 PI Team—GEORGE H. GRIMM, 1st Lt., Cav. 225 W. 106th St., New York, N. Y.  
 CIC Team—SAM E. HARWELL, 1st Lt., Infantry.  
 IPW Team—LOUIS ROSENBLATT, Captain, CAC, 1171 Sherman Ave., New York, N. Y.  
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 Asst. G-3—JERRY HARTER, Major, G.S.C., 1118 S. Cloverdale, Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Ln O—THEODORE C. MODER, Captain, Infantry, P. O. Box 582, Appleton, Wis.  
 Ln O—DAINE L. DAY, Captain, Infantry, 626 Holcombe Ave., Schenectady, N. Y.  
 Ln O—PAUL CHAPMAN, Captain, Infantry, 324 Sixth St., Marietta, Ohio.  
 Ln O—MONROE T. de VRIES, 1st Lt., FA, 875 Cortney St., N. W., Grand Rapids, Mich.  
 Air-Gr. — EDWARD BROEKEMA, Cap-

tain, Infantry, 209 N. Third St., Grand Haven Mich.  
 Ln O—FRED EMERT, 1st Lt., Infantry, 26 Suffolk St., New York, N. Y.  
 G-4—JOHN J. BROWN, Lt. Col., G.S.C., Eastman, Ga.  
 Asst. G-4—ROBERT E. HUMPHREYS, Major, G.S.C.  
 Asst. G-4—LEIGHTON G. MOREY, Captain, G.S.C., 1395 Mission Blvd., Riverside, Calif.  
 Asst. G-4—WILLIAM J. SOKOLOFF, Captain, Infantry, 1744 E. Moyamensing Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Mtr. O—HARBERSON E. TRIGG, CWO, USA, Hattiesburg, Miss.  
 Surgeon Section—JAMES P. HEALEY, Lt. Col., Division Surgeon, MC, 71 Earle St., Central Falls, R. I.  
 Surgeon Section—CARL W. MEEHAN, Captain, MC, Division Medical Inspector, 2540 Fifth Ave., Sacramento, Calif.  
 Surgeon Section—MARTIN J. LAMDEN, Captain, MAC, Office Executive, 715 W. 175th St., New York, N. Y.  
 Surgeon Section—MAURICE J. CRUISE, Captain, DC, Division Dental Surgeon, 502 S. Second, Washington, Iowa.  
 Surgeon Section—KURT R. LISSLER, Captain, MC, Division Neuropsychiatrist, 5048 Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, Ill.  
 IG Section—CHARLES C. EGGE, Lt. Col., IGD, 3808 N. W. 25th St., Oklahoma City, Okla.  
 IG Section—RODGER H. THORNE, Captain, IGD, Hannacroix, Green County, N. Y.  
 IG Section—GEORGE F. DERRICK, CWO, USA, 1912 Jerome Ave., Schenectady, N. Y.  
 JA Section—WILLIAM J. ROONEY, Captain, JAGD, 2870 Marion Ave., New York, N. Y.  
 CWS—STOESSEL S. BARKSDALE, Lt. Col. CWS, 302 Grand Ave., Ft. Payne, Ala.  
 CWS—FRED C. DREWERY, Captain CWS, Wyandotte, Mich.  
 AG Section—MARK AMEN, Lt. Col., AGD, Adjutant General, Jonesboro, Ill.  
 AG Section—HOWARD K. WALLACE, Major AGD, Asst. Adj. General, 1108 S.W., Eighth Ave., Gainesville, Fla.  
 AG Section—MAURICE P. BECK, Captain, AGD, Class O, 43 Sessions Ave., Providence, R. I.  
 AG Section—EDWARD L. CORNILS, 1st Lt. AGD, Asst. AG, Rt. 4, Dixon, Ill.  
 AG Section—GEORGE S. JONES, CWO, USA, Asst. AG, 1506 W. Market St., Greensboro, N. C.  
 AG Section—ELMER R. SCHULTZ, CWO, USA, Asst. AG, c/o Mrs. Charles Carroll, 211 Ninth St., Bakersfield, Calif.

AG Section—FRANCIS E. WHITE, CWO, USA, Asst. AG.  
 Finance Section—HAROLD W. SCHUBERT, Lt. Col., FD, Fin. O., 5402 83rd St., Elmhurst, Long Island, N. Y.  
 Finance Section—HAROLD H. GARDNER, Cap., FD, Asst. Fin., 5537 W. Parker Ave., Chicago, Ill.  
 Finance Section—PHILIP L. ROSENBERG, CWO, USA, 2208 N. Fifth St., Clinton, Iowa.  
 Postal Section—ROBERT E. THORNTON, Captain, AGD, Postal O., 638 Alabama Ave., S. E., Washington, D. C.  
 Engineer Officer—GILBERT R. PIRRUNG, Lt. Col., CE, 29 Westmoreland Pl., St. Louis, Mo.  
 Quartermaster Officer—JOHN E. O'HARA, Lt. Col., QM, 6605 Strathmore St., Chevy Chase, Md.  
 Ordnance Officer—JAMES P. SNOOKS, JR., Lt. Col., Ord., 128 N. 68th Pl., Birmingham, Ala.  
 Chaplain Section—JOHN E. CHALKER, Lt. Col., Ch. C., 400 St. Charles Ave., Montgomery, Ala.  
 Chaplain Section—WILLIAM T. LEE, Major, Ch. C.  
 Chaplain Section—JOHN H. MEISTER, Captain, Ch. C., 1333 Duncan Ave., Cambridge, Mass.  
 Chaplain Section—ALEXANDER WHITTAKER, Captain, Ch. C., 1628 Peabody Ave., Memphis, Tenn.  
 Hq. Comdt.—ALWIN L. FOLLEY, Lt. Col. Inf. Hq. Comdt., Aberdeen, N. C.  
 Hq. Comdt.—HERBERT E. EGERT, Capt., FA, Adj. Sp. Trs., Pitt and Arbor Rds., Rowland Park, Cheltenham, Pa.  
 Hq. Company—RICHARD E. HINKS, Captain, Inf., C.O. Hq. Co., 18935 Oak Dr., Detroit, Mich.  
 Hq. Company—JAMES F. MAGUIRE, Captain, Inf., Mtr. O.  
 Hq. Company—ROBERT L. EGGLESTON, 1st Lt. Inf., Supply O., 3268 E. 137th St., Cleveland, Ohio.  
 Hq. Company—STERLING J. DEVILLE, 1st Lt., Inf., Def. Plat. O., RFD., Marksville, La.  
 Signal Officer—JAMES B. EVANS, Lt. Col., Sig. C., Signal O., State College, N. M.  
 Special Service—P. J. EGGERTSEN, Major, Infantry, 515 Delta Ave., Manistique, Mich.  
 Information, Education and Public Relations—ENZO GASPARI, Captain, Infantry, 1854 White Plains Rd., Bronx, N. Y.  
 Information, Education and Public Relations—CLARENCE G. DAVENPORT, Captain, FA, c/o First Trust and Savings Bank, Pasadena, Calif.



# The Acorn Becomes Golden

## MOVEMENT OVERSEAS AND INITIATION TO COMBAT

The first stage of the overseas movement by the Division began when the first trains left Fort Jackson for Camp Kilmer, N. J., 9 October 1944. By 15 October the last trains had left Fort Jackson. Embarking at New York City on the British troopship, "The Queen Elizabeth," on 14 October, the Division Commander

"The Queen Elizabeth" departed from New York Harbor on 17 October 1944 and arrived at Gourock, Scotland, on the Firth of Clyde, on 22 October. Debarkation proceeded on 23 and 24 October with the Division Headquarters and other organizations proceeding by rail to Cheshire County, England. Division Headquarters was



*Koblenz Statue—Symbolic of Both Acorn Strength and of Crushed German Militarism*

with 50 officers and enlisted men from Division Headquarters and the total strength of the three Infantry Regiments, with components of Division Artillery and other units began the overseas movement. The rest of the Division followed a few weeks later on "H.H.T. Pasteur."

set up at Peover Manor, near Knutsford, England, with the other organizations being billeted in nearby towns.

The Division Commander with an advance party of 136 officers and enlisted men departed from Peover Manor on 23 November for France. The remaining units of the Division left their areas on 24-27 November for

France. Reassembly was made in the vicinity of St. Saens, France. On 5 December the Division began its movement to the combat area in the vicinity of Metz where the 345th Regimental Combat Team was committed to preliminary action by temporary attachment to the Fifth Infantry Division to assist in the reduction of the remaining fortresses surrounding that city.

The 345th Regimental Combat Team remained in the lines at Metz until December 13 when it was relieved by elements of the 26th Division. The first artillery round was fired on December 7 after observation was made from a liaison plane flown over Fort Driant by General Ford, with the Division Commander, General Culin, as a passenger. Fort Driant surrendered to the 345th on December 8.

The 346th Combat Team moved to the vicinity of Gros Rederching, France, on December 9 and jumped off at 0945 on 11 December to launch the first attack by any unit of the 87th Division.

The Second Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Gustave Heiss commanding, was on the right and the Third Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel William B. Travis commanding, was on the left. The objective, a hill guarding the approaches to Rimling, France, was won under a withering fire from enemy pillboxes and tanks after the First Battalion, Major Lester Cline commanding, relieved the Second Battalion the next morning. The 347th Infantry, the second regiment of the Division to be committed on this front, relieved elements of the 26th Infantry Division and took its place alongside the 346th Infantry on 12 December.

Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Jr., commanding general of the Third U. S. Army, visited the Division command post at Oermingen, France, on December 11 and extended his personal welcome to Generals Culin, McKee and Ford, and all members of their staffs. General Patton oriented the officers on their mission and the Army objectives.

The Division Command Post moved to Aachen on the morning of December 13 and General Culin assumed command over the sector. The Division was officially committed to action on that date. The first field order issued in the Command Post at Aachen read as follows:

H87D  
ACHEN, FRANCE  
131800 Dec. 44

FO No. 1

MAPS: Eastern FRANCE, Scale: 1:50,000.

1. a. Enemy—See G-2 Periodic.
- b. Friendly Trs—See G-3 Periodic Report.
2. a. 87th Div continues to Adv.
- b. Bds—See overlay.
- c. Time of atk—140700 Dec 44.
3. a. 345th Inf—Remain in present area in Div Res.
- b. 346th Inf—(W/Co A 761 Tk Bn and Co A 610 Tk Bn and Co. C 610 TD Bn Atchd)—Adv and clear within assigned sector—See overlay.

c. 347th Inf (W/Co B 761 Tk Bn, Co A 602 Tk Bn and Co C 610 TD Bn Atchd) a Adv and clear enemy within assigned sector—See overlay.

d. Arty—Support the Adv of the Div.

e. Other Orgns—No change.

4. See Adm O No. 1.

5. CP's—No change.

OFFICIAL:

CONANT

CULIN

G-3

Cmdg

Special units attached to the Division and placed under command of General Culin were:

549th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion,  
761st Tank Battalion,  
602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, and  
610th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

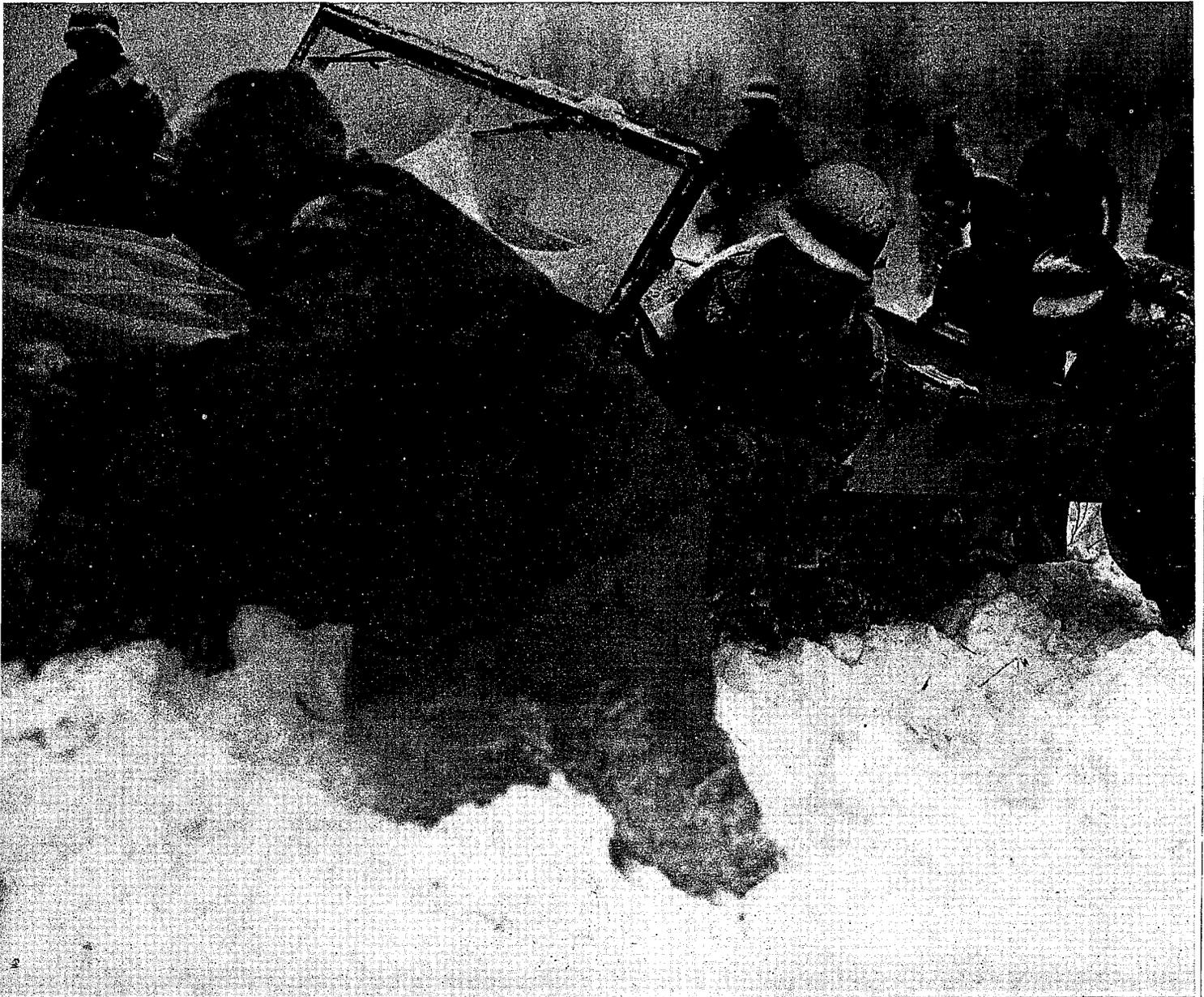
The 347th Regiment, Colonel S. R. Tupper commanding, had two battalions in the line near the border town of Obergailbach and was ready to attack at 0700 hours on December 14. The Second Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel William S. Bodner commanding and the Third Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Richard D. Sutton commanding, moved forward slowly in the face of fire from four enemy rifle companies. The Second Battalion took a hill and was pinned down by enemy fire coming from a woods inside Germany. The Third Battalion, continuing in the same direction, was held up by small arms and artillery fire. The First Battalion, Major Cecil W. Chapman commanding, joined in the fight and after capturing a hilltop southwest of Obergailbach exchanged fire with the enemy that was holding an opposite hilltop.

Company G of the Second Battalion, managed to work its way down the slopes of its hill and began an advance up the opposite open hillside towards a woods from which several enemy tanks were firing. Two machine gun nests protecting the tanks and hidden in a hedgerow opened up on G Company with a continuous cross-grazing fire. The company was pinned down.

Private First Class Harry D. Ellis, an automatic rifleman, arose in the face of the deadly enemy fire and advanced alone to the hedgerow, a distance of more than 100 yards.

Singlehanded, Private Ellis attacked one machine gun nest, destroying it before he advanced along the hedgerow to the other enemy position. He destroyed that nest, too. In killing five, and capturing four of the enemy, Private Ellis brought relief to his company. It was then able to advance and take its objective. Private Ellis has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his extraordinary bravery and heroism.

On the same day, the 346th Regiment launched an attack and the First Battalion captured a hill inside Germany while the Third Battalion commander, was wounded by shell fragments from a tree burst and Major William R. Reilly was appointed as battalion commander.



*There Were Two Enemies in the Bulge—the Germans and the Winter*

Corporal Irving D. Carpenter, Company F, 346th, earned the first battlefield promotion in the Division by successfully leading a reconnaissance patrol behind the enemy lines to pin point enemy tank and infantry locations so accurately that they could be destroyed with one concentration of artillery fire. Carpenter was promoted to the grade of Sergeant.

The 345th Regiment, having been relieved from its previous mission, moved up to the Division sector and relieved the 346th Regiment in the line. The 345th fought a terrific three day battle in a woods inside Germany before orders were issued to dig in and hold.

The next field order launching the attack on the Siegfried Line read as follows:

H87D  
GROS REDERCHING,  
Q623422  
181330 Dec. 44

FO: No. 2.

MAPS: 1/50,000—FRANCE.

1. a. To be issued later.
- b. (1) Third Army continues Atk to breach the SIEGFRIED LINE and Adv to RHINE RIVER.
- (2) XII Corps Atks on D-Day H-Hour. See overlay.
- (3) 33 FA Brig reinforces fires of Div Arty W/one light and two M bns. 177 FA Gp reinforces fires of Div Arty W/one light Bn.
- (4) Engr Spt: The 1135 Engr C Gp  
Atchd: 133 Engr C Bn  
150 Engr C Bn  
166 Engr C Bn  
513 Engr L Pon Co  
615 Engr L Equip Co  
(1-Plt)



*Combat Engineers Probe for German Mines in the St. Hubert Area*

- 553 Engr Hy Pon Bn  
 998 Engr Trdwy Br Co  
 G/S of 35 Inf Div and 87 Inf Div.  
 (5) Air Plan information later.
2. 87 Inf Div:  
 Atchd: 549 AAA AW Bn.  
 9 TD Gp.  
 704 TD Bn (effective 18 Dec. 44).

761 Tk Bn (effective 20 Dec. 44).  
 Co C, 91 Cm 1 Bn (effective 19  
 Dec. 44).

Cont Adv in Z, gain contact with SIEGFRIED  
 LINE.

Atk D-Day, H-Hour, penetrate SIEGFRIED  
 LINE, seize and clear ZWEIBRUCKEN,  
 (D-Day and H-Hour, later.)

Assist 35 Inf Div W/one CT to capture HOM-  
 BURG.

Prepare to Cont Adv to NE.

See Opns overlay for zones of action and  
 direction of Atk.

\* \* \* \* \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*

OFFICIAL:

CONANT  
 G-3

CULIN  
 Cmdg

From December 13 to December 23, the "Acorn" be-  
 came "Golden" when it was exposed to the bright flames  
 of battle. In receiving its baptism of fire, the Division  
 advanced across the German frontier, captured several  
 towns and gained more than ten miles.

### ACCEPTING VON RUNDSTEDT'S CHALLENGE

On December 13 the Germans launched their Arden-  
 nes offensive into Belgium. On December 23 orders were  
 issued for the 87th Division to break contact with the  
 enemy in the Saar region, turn its sector over to another  
 division and get going to Belgium in a hurry. Brigadier  
 General John L. McKee, assistant division commander  
 took charge of the movement. The movement in three  
 stages to Dieuze, to a forest near Reims, to the vicinity  
 of Seviscourt and Bertrix, Belgium, a total of over 350

*This Kind of Vehicle Helped to Blunt the Bulge*





*Doughboys Passing Through St. Hubert*

miles, was accomplished with the loss of only five days fighting time for the Division.

It was cold, bitterly cold, that morning of December 29 when the infantrymen, the artillerymen, the recons, the tankers, the tank destroyers, the triple-A's and all the rest of the units of the 87th Division climbed aboard the open 6x6's for the 100-mile motor march to Seviscourt and Bertrix, Belgium. The roads were frozen and the wind was icy as it whipped across the snow covered hills to torture the men who were moving up to meet the rampaging Germans who were on the loose again.

At 2000 hours that night the nearly frozen men of the 345th Regimental Combat Team detrucked in the vicinity of Serviscourt, but there was no bivouac nor rest period awaiting them. The enemy was coming down the road from the direction of Pironpre. The 334th FA Battalion swung into position and began preparing its gun emplacements.

The First Battalion was told to "Go get 'em!"

The battle was joined at Moircy about 1000 hours the next morning. Company A—that had dubbed itself "Kromer's Kadets" in training—was the first hit by the Germans. "Kromer's Kadets" stopped the Panzers

cold in Moircy and in cooperation with Companies B and C dealt the enemy his first sound defeat on the southern side of the newly created salient. Captain William Kromer, the company commander, was killed when he attempted to go to the aid of one group of his men. But they fought on throughout the day and by evening the three companies had won Moircy, destroying a number of enemy tanks in the process.

The enemy counterattacked and the Battalion Division Artillery zeroed in on Moircy. "We certainly did a job on that town," was the consensus of the gun crews. The next morning the First Battalion, 345th Infantry, attacked again. This time the Nazis had enough of Moircy and the "Golden Acorn" chalked up another town on its captured list.

In conjunction with the operations of the 345th Infantry, the 346th Infantry also was detached, during the night of 29-30 December, and attacked at 0730 the next morning, advancing nine kilometers that day to positions where they could control the roads leading to Vesqueville and St. Hubert.

About midnight on December 31 the men of the 347th Regiment exchanged Happy New Year greetings as they passed through the 345th positions and advanced on Pironpre. The roads over which the 347th was advancing were heavily mined and booby-trapped. Jenneville



*Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Jr., Commanding General of the Third Army Visits Headquarters of 87th Division January 30, 1945*

was captured by 1100 hours on January 1, 1945, by the Third Battalion, 347th. The enemy immediately counter-attacked and heavy fighting continued throughout the afternoon and night. The enemy was fighting for the life-

line of his offensive. It was the Houffalize—St. Hubert highway, the loss of which would make him shuttle his men and supplies over secondary, unimproved mountain roads that were practically impassable due to the snow.

*An Infantryman of the 87th Division Moves Up to the Front Through the Town of Bettole, Germany*



Jenneville, Pironpre, Bonnerue and Tillet were all key towns on that road. And they were all objectives of the 87th Division.

The First Battalion, 347th Regiment, attacked and captured Gerimont station, less than two miles southeast of Tillet on January 2nd. All along the front the enemy was throwing everything he had into the fight—artillery, mortars, machine guns, tanks and self-propelled guns of all calibers.

Tillet, situated on a barren hilltop between two larger hills, became the key town in the enemy's scheme of reinforcement and supply. The Gerimont Station Hill was on the east. A forest covered ridge on the south which connected with the hill on the southwest was the attack problem that faced the doughboys.

On the afternoon of January 6 the attack on Tillet by the Third Battalion, 346th Regiment, started. As the fighting men of L and I companies came over the crest of the Gerimont Station Hill all hell broke loose. Company K coming out of the trees on the ridge to the south met the same resistance. The attack was held up and the battalion was pinned down. Typical of the spirit in the Infantry Battalion was that of Corporal Technician Peter M. Buyas, second cook of I company. He heard that his men were in a tough spot and needed some hot chow. Buyas cooked them a meal of pork chops, mashed potatoes, bread and boiling hot coffee. He carried it to the front and personally saw that every man was fed.

After darkness fell that night Second Lieutenant Glenn J. Doman, serving his first day as platoon leader after having resigned the battalion S-4 assignment, made three voluntary patrols through the strong enemy outpost into Tillet. On the last mission he and Staff Sergeant George Blankenbaker entered a house in which 40 Germans were gathered, captured one of their number and returned him to the K Company CP for questioning.

Lieutenant Doman then volunteered to lead an assault platoon of 21 men into Tillet to begin the attack that was set for 0430 hours on January 7. "It was like watching a movie," Doman and his men described that assault action, "We weren't really there!"

The platoon slipped through the enemy outposts without detection and reached the house from which the prisoner had been seized. The men surrounded the house and simultaneously, from all four sides, they cut loose with everything they had. A lone German, outside sneaked up back of Sergeant Don Corbin, grabbed him around the neck

*Right, Top: The Foot Sloughers Push on Towards the Front. Center: Lieutenant Glenn J. Doman and His Patrol from Company K, 345th Regiment are Disappointed—No Nazis on the Inside. Bottom: At Lissendorf General Culin Awards the Gold Bars to Men Who Earned Their Commissions the Hard Way.*





*Loading Up for Task Force Operations*

and attempted to strangle him. Sergeant Emil Piger saw the action and ran to Corbin's aid. Piger shoved the muzzle of his "grease gun" into the German's ribs and emptied the clip.

A private walked up to a sergeant carrying a hand grenade in each hand. "Here, Sarge, pull the pins for me," the private said. The Sergeant pulled the pins and watched the private nonchalantly trot over to a window and throw both grenades inside. A German stepped up to a window to spray the doughboys with his "burp" gun. But instead he walked directly into a floating bazooka projectile.

The battle around the house lasted until after day-break. Lieutenant Doman, after he realized that none inside would escape, saw about 100 Germans coming out of the Hais de Tillet woods to attack him and his men. He withdrew his force to a house he had discovered to be vacant on his first patrol into the town and set up a house defense. Private First Class Warren Horton, the radio operator contacted the Company Command Post and Lieutenant Doman began directing artillery fire. Between fire direction calls he could be heard cheering his men on as if they were in a Coney Island shooting gallery.

An enemy tank pulled up to within about 200 yards of

the house and began firing. The remaining bazooka ammunition was fired at the tank without success. The tank pulled up to within 20 yards of the house and began firing a total of 18 rounds through the roof and walls. Private Horton insisted upon running upstairs between radio calls and he kept trying to fire bullets from his M-1 down the bore of the tank's 88 to prematurely set off a high explosive round. On one such trip the tank fired first and Private Horton was wounded in both legs. Some of the men rushed upstairs and, rescuing him, carried him to the cellar where first aid was administered.

At times Lieutenant Doman called for and received artillery fire within 15 yards of the house to ward off enemy infantry attacks. The enemy soldiers from the forest took position in the house where over 40 of their comrades had just been killed. One German, firing blindly at a closed door, killed one of Lieutenant Doman's men after the bullet passed completely through the house and struck him in the back as he lay in his foxhole outside the house.

With his ammunition running dangerously low and his one wounded man needing immediate medical attention, Lieutenant Doman received orders to withdraw from Tillet, provided he could find a way out.

He divided his platoon into two squads and while the first one made its way through a shell hole in the southeast corner of the building the second squad fired on the enemy in the ring of foxholes through which his men had to pass. Pinning the enemy down in that fashion the first squad ran the gauntlet of fire and then took up positions on the opposite side where it could fire the same covering protection for the second squad. Since the latter squad was carrying the wounded man, Lieutenant Doman and Private First Class Gerald Kramer stayed behind to give them cover from both sides. After the second squad was safely through the lines Lieutenant Doman and Private Kramer escaped under the cover of the first squad's guns. Total casualties for the entire action were: one killed, one wounded.

Companies L and I jumped off at the same time that Lieutenant Doman led the K Company attack. Company L was completely pinned down. Company I reached the bottom of the Gerimont Station hill and began advancing towards the nearest house in the eastern edge of Tillet. Enemy machine guns from that and other houses close by opened up on I Company. That company was pinned down to begin a terrible action that was to last through four cold, bitter days and nights. When those enemy machine guns opened up, 85 men hit the snow and the dirt. When I Company left Tillet four nights later, only 32 survivors walked out.

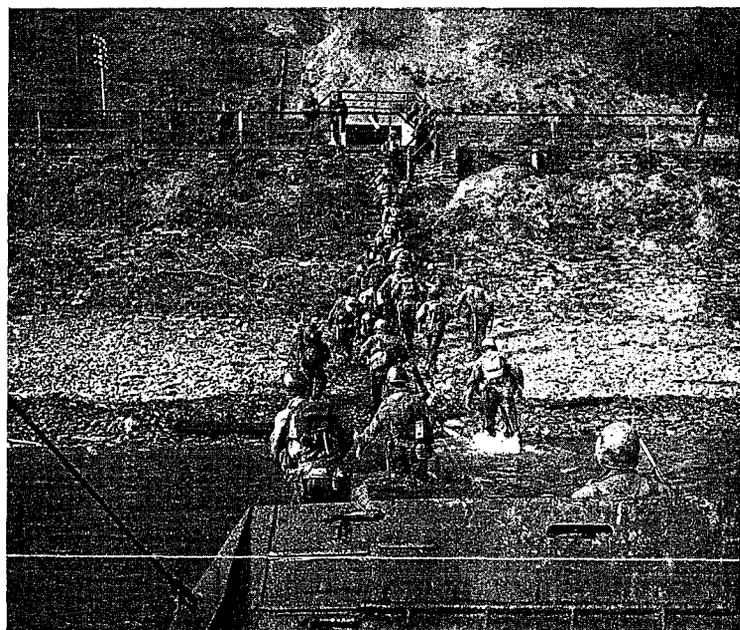
Staff Sergeant Curtis F. Shoup tried firing his automatic rifle but from the angle he couldn't touch the enemy machine gun crew. Sergeant Shoup arose to his feet and running forward, fired his heavy weapon from his hip. The German machine gunner took up the challenge for a personal duel. He fired at Shoup. The bullets cut into the snow around his feet and then a steady stream hit him in the legs and the body. He fell to the ground and lost his rifle.

Creeping forward now, dragging his shattered legs uselessly behind him. Staff Sergeant Curtis F. Shoup continued moving until he was within throwing distance of the window with the protruding machine gun barrel. He threw one grenade through the window and killed the entire machine gun crew. Another machine gun, in another house was firing on the men of I Company. Sergeant Shoup began crawling toward that window but, before he could reach it, a German sniper killed him. He died trying to clear a path for his fighting friends. (The nation's highest military tribute, the Congressional Medal of Honor, was awarded to Sergeant Shoup posthumously. He was the only member of the 87th Division to receive the Medal of Honor.)

Part of the Company came on forward and moved into the house. The rest of the Company was still pinned down by direct fire from three other machine guns. Sergeant James R. Barnett picked up a machine gun and ran 300 yards across open ground to a house where he could place the weapon in a window and fire on the enemy. He knocked out one machine gun nest. That allowed the rest of the Company to come on into the town and occupy a second house. By the time I Company secured three more houses in the east end of Tillet, there were only 44 men left fighting.

First Sergeant Charles Register (who later earned a battlefield commission) came into the town that night

*Right, Top: German Prisoners of War Landing on Our Side of the Moselle. Center: This Is It—Crossing the Moselle. Bottom: Landing on the East Bank of the Moselle.*



bringing a large sled laden with food and ammunition. He prowled the streets of Tillet calling for I Company, but the men, hearing the calls, feared an enemy trick and laid low. Private First Class Ralph Erbe, with two other men, set out to return to the Company CP to obtain food and supplies. They met Register in the edge of town and, taking his supplies, returned to the town while the First Sergeant went back for more.

Sniper and machine gun fire continued throughout that night and the next day. The night of January 8 Sergeant Register came back to Tillet with Sergeants Wardlaw Watson and Munson, each pulling heavily laden sleds filled with food and ammunition. The three men stayed to fight with the others.

Companies L and K attacked the next morning but both were stopped in their advance. Company I was then asked to take a house about 60 yards from its nearest position that afforded better artillery observation. Three men, one of them Staff Sergeant Lawrence B. Field, offered to go. They made a run for the house through direct enemy machine gun fire. Sergeant Field was hit just as he reached the house. Sergeant Register heard his call for help and ran to the house, picked up the wounded man and carried him back to the aid man, Corporal Technician Erasmus Pistone, who seemed to be everywhere at all times taking care of his wounded men. From the new vantage point, Second Lieutenant John E. Connolly, 336th Field Artillery Battalion forward observer, was enabled to direct more accurate fire on the enemy positions.

On January 10, Company I attacked to clear the enemy out of Tillet. Sergeant Watson took eight men and moved through the north end of town, clearing it out. Second Lieutenant Harold Lamont, with 13 men, worked through the south end of town. Second Lieutenant Robert Watson, with the rest of the Company, cleared out the center of the town. Of the 53 casualties suffered by I Company, seven were killed. An undetermined number of lives and limbs were saved by the untiring devotion and expert care rendered by Corporal Pistone, the Company aid man. This deed was reflected time and time again by many valorous actions of the Division Medical

personnel as they rendered first aid on every battlefield. The greatest tribute to the medics came from the men whom they served—the doughboys.

On January 8 the First and Third Battalions, 345th Regiment, coordinated an attack that won Hais de Tillet woods. The First and Second Battalions, 346th Regiment, attacked the high barren ground northeast of Tillet on January 9. Their tank support was lost owing to the steep, icy hillside that the tanks couldn't negotiate. The attack was driven back, but a counter attack immediately following, won the ground.

On the western side of the sector, the Third Battalion, 347th Regiment, occupied St. Hubert. The center of the sector, in the vicinity of Jenneville, Pironpre and Bonnerue was won after a hard sustained fight that lasted from January 1 to January 10, in which nearly every battalion and every company played a part. The 347th Regiment, on January 11, drove the last remnants of the enemy force from Bonnerue and Pironpre. On the 12th Company E, 347th captured Tonny and Amberloup, both northeast of Tillet and by 0900 the following morning the First Battalion, 347th occupied the Division objectives—a double road junction northeast of Amberloup and a bridge across the L'Ourthe River.

The Belgian Bulge then began to fold up like an accordion. The Division moved to the Duchy of Luxembourg.

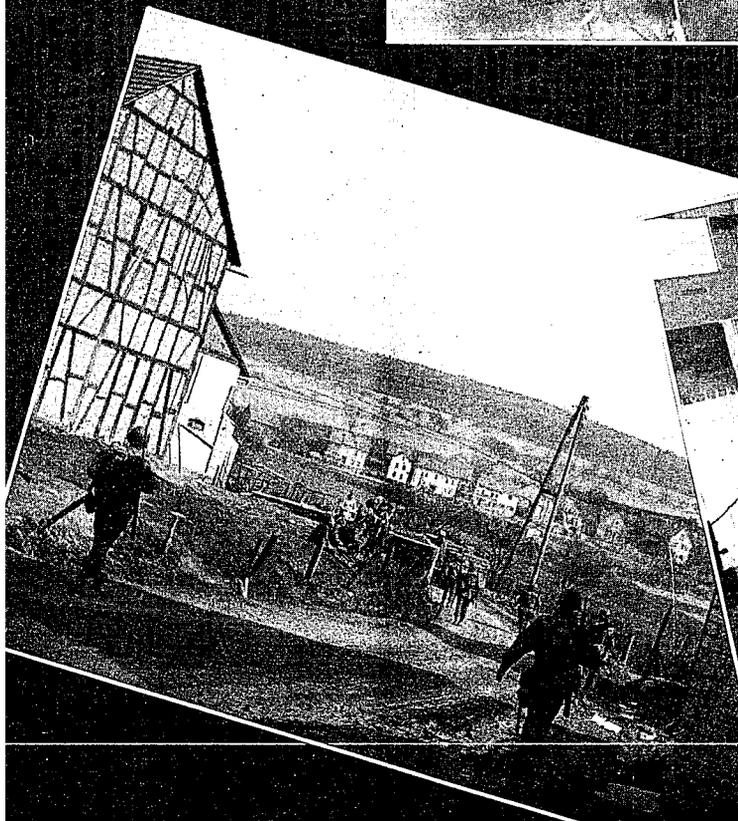
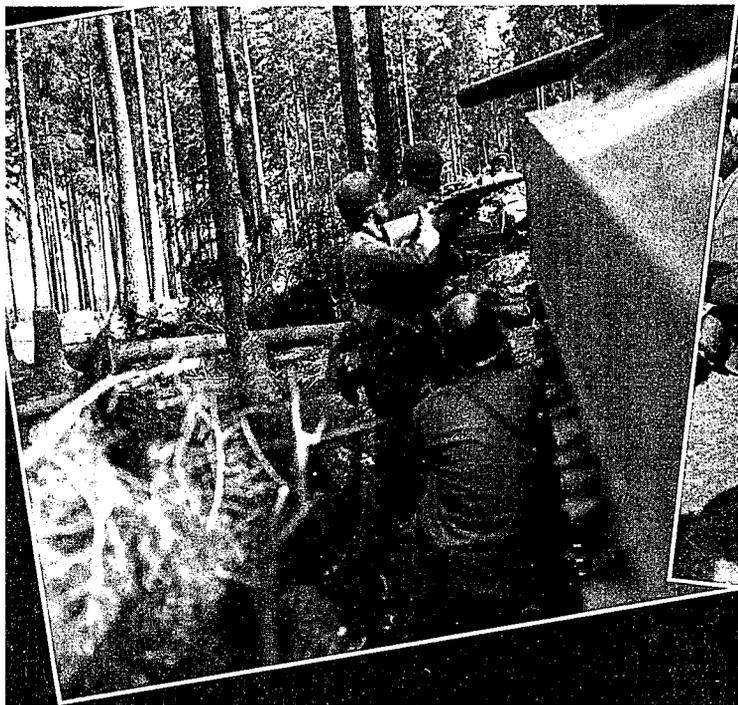
## HOLDING THE LINE AT LUXEMBOURG

The 87th Division moved from Belgium to the Duchy of Luxembourg on January 15 to take up defensive positions along the Luxembourg-German boundary river, the Sauer. The sector, from Echternach, on the left to below Wasserbillig on the right, had been occupied by another infantry division.

Action in Luxembourg was described by the doughboys, worn out after their terrific fighting in Belgium, as "a frontline rest area." Reinforcements were received, trained and outfitted and the Division instituted a pass policy, allowing a certain number of men three days in

*General Culin Addresses the Replacement Training Battalion at Heuem, Belgium*







*Gateway to the Capitol City of the Rhineland*

Luxembourg City and others three day passes to Paris.

A river crossing demonstration was put on to draw the enemy into their sector in front of us while three divisions to our left made full scale assault crossings of the Sauer River. Two "Tiger Patrols" from the Third Battalion, 346th Regiment, assaulted and captured the large city of Wasserbillig and held it until the Division was withdrawn from Luxembourg and sent back into Belgium on January 27 to have the honor of chasing the German invaders completely out of Belgium and of "Cracking the Siegfried Line."

The battle in the Saar, in the Belgian Ardennes, in Luxembourg, were past victories for the men of the 87th "Golden Acorn" Infantry Division on January 27 when Generals Patton and Middleton called upon them once more to fight a battle that was to test the mettle of every man in the division. The assignment: Drive the enemy out of Belgium and crack through the Siegfried Line.

### CRACKING THE SIEGFRIED LINE

Moving from Luxembourg on that day, the First Battalion, 346th Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Perry E. Conant commanding, was first to jump off in the new sector between Houffalize and St. Vith. Thommen and Grufflange were taken to begin the operation that, 11 days later, permitted Technical Sergeant Honree E. Ethridge, I & R Platoon, 345th, to lead a reconnaissance patrol into the Siegfried Line, over 25 miles ahead.

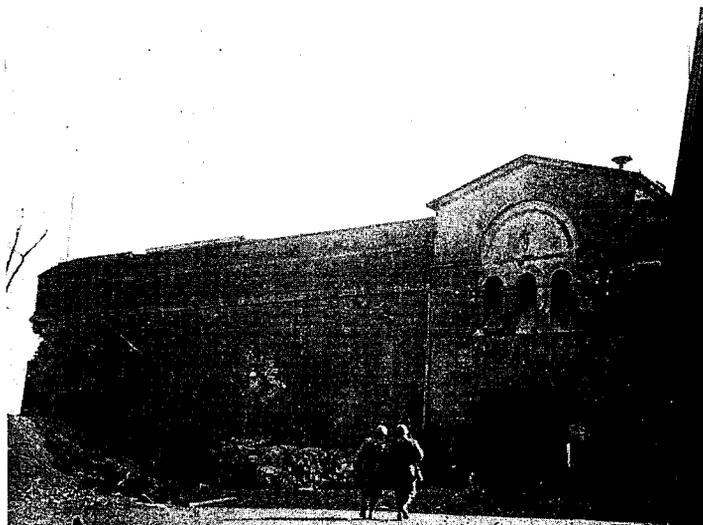
All nine infantry battalions, with their supporting artillery, tanks and tank destroyers, moved east from the line of departure southwest of St. Vith through the deep snow and mountain forests. With the 346th Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Donald E. Clayman commanding, setting the pace by executing an end-run around the enemy front lines to strike at his supply bases in Schonberg and Andler, the 345th and 347th Regiments moved forward against the enemy's front lines to bring about his complete collapse in Belgium and run for the protection of his vaunted Siegfried Line. The last town in front

of the Line to be captured, Roth, Germany, fell to the 87th Reconnaissance Troop on February 2.

With the 347th Regiment, Colonel S. R. Tupper commanding, on the left; the 345th Regiment, Colonel Douglas Sugg commanding, on the right, and the 346th Regiment in Division reserve, the Siegfried Line lay directly ahead, its pillboxes, dragon's teeth, bunkers and fortifications hidden by the snow cloaked forests of the Schnee Eifel mountains. But the line was well marked by the pyrotechnic bursts of fire that Division Artillery, with attached Corps units, all under the command of Brigadier General William W. Ford, placed upon it. "The Infantry's Best Friend," the Artillery, had kept pace with the advancing doughboys and by the time General Culin was ready to send his men in the Line the artillery had the way "well prepared."

The sector of the Line, directly in front of the Division, was laid out in the form of a huge "Y" with the two prongs leading northward. Those prongs branched out from the vitally important little town, Ormont. Two other towns, important in the enemy's scheme of defense, were Olzheim and Neuendorf, both a few kilometers south of Ormont.

*Fort Constantine Where the Nazi Holed Up When the 87th Men Overran Koblenz*



There were two roads to Olzheim, the main one from Roth, and the secondary one from Kobscheid, south of Roth. These two roads crossed a military road that ran north and south along the main line of pillboxes south of Ormont. The two road junctions were at points about 2,500 yards apart.

Colonel Sugg sent the reconnaissance patrol under the leadership of Sergeant Ethridge into the Line to explore the enemy's disposition and strength around the main cross roads on the night of February 4-5. Immediately following the patrol's return the Second Battalion, 345th Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas E. Matlock commanding, launched a surprise attack on the secondary crossroads. The operation was successful and the Third Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Robert B. Moran commanding, passed through the Second Battalion and advanced along the military road towards the main crossroads.

The bursts of artillery, machine gun, mortar, and automatic weapons fire from the foxhole-surrounded pillboxes and bunkers, and hundreds of mines, both anti-tank and anti-personnel, were the obstacles the hard fighting doughboys had to overcome to win their objective.

Colonel Moran went forward through treacherous mine fields and direct enemy small arms fire to pin point an enemy position that was delaying his battalion's advance. He returned through the mine field and led two tank destroyers to a place where they could bring direct fire on the enemy position. Standing between the two TD's, exposed to enemy fire, Colonel Moran directed their fire so effectively that the enemy position was demolished. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroic action. Shortly afterward the cross roads fell to the Third Battalion and G Company of the 346th Regiment took over the position.

The battle moved southeast in the direction of Olzheim, that sat astride the enemy's main supply road to Prum to the southwest. The First Battalion, 345th Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Hardin L. Olson commanding, swung south around Olzheim and captured high ground south and east of the town to cover an attack on the town itself by F and G Companies of the Second Battalion. Olzheim fell by nightfall of February 6.

Neuendorf, just north of Olzheim, was next on the objective list. The third Battalion sent a "Tiger Patrol," under the leadership of Second Lieutenant James T.

*"Kill or be Killed." A Machine Gunner Fires at Nazi Snipers from Debris of a Building in Koblenz, Germany*



Callen, into the town before dawn on February 9. Early that morning the rest of the battalion moved in. Company I attacked and won high ground east of Neuendorf.

Following closely on the heels of the infantrymen when they took the main crossroads of the Siegfried Line, Lieutenant Colonel James B. Evans, Division Signal Officer, accompanied by one officer from Signal Company and their driver, went in search of the Wehr-

Regiment, holding defensive positions on the northern flank of the sector, continued to send strong patrols into the Line's double prongs north of Ormont. A period of rest was granted divisions all along the front in which they could resupply, reinforce and consolidate their positions.

During the next fortnight the 312th Engineer Battalion enlisted the aid of many infantrymen in the maintenance of roads that were chopped up, hub-deep



*Moving In on Suspected Snipers Nest in Koblenz, Germany*

macht's main line of wire communication for the Line. At first the search was unsuccessful but, after finding a few clues, Colonel Evans obtained the aid of four 345th Infantrymen and they dug into the road shoulder. A cable that later proved to be the all-important communications line, was discovered and cut in two places.

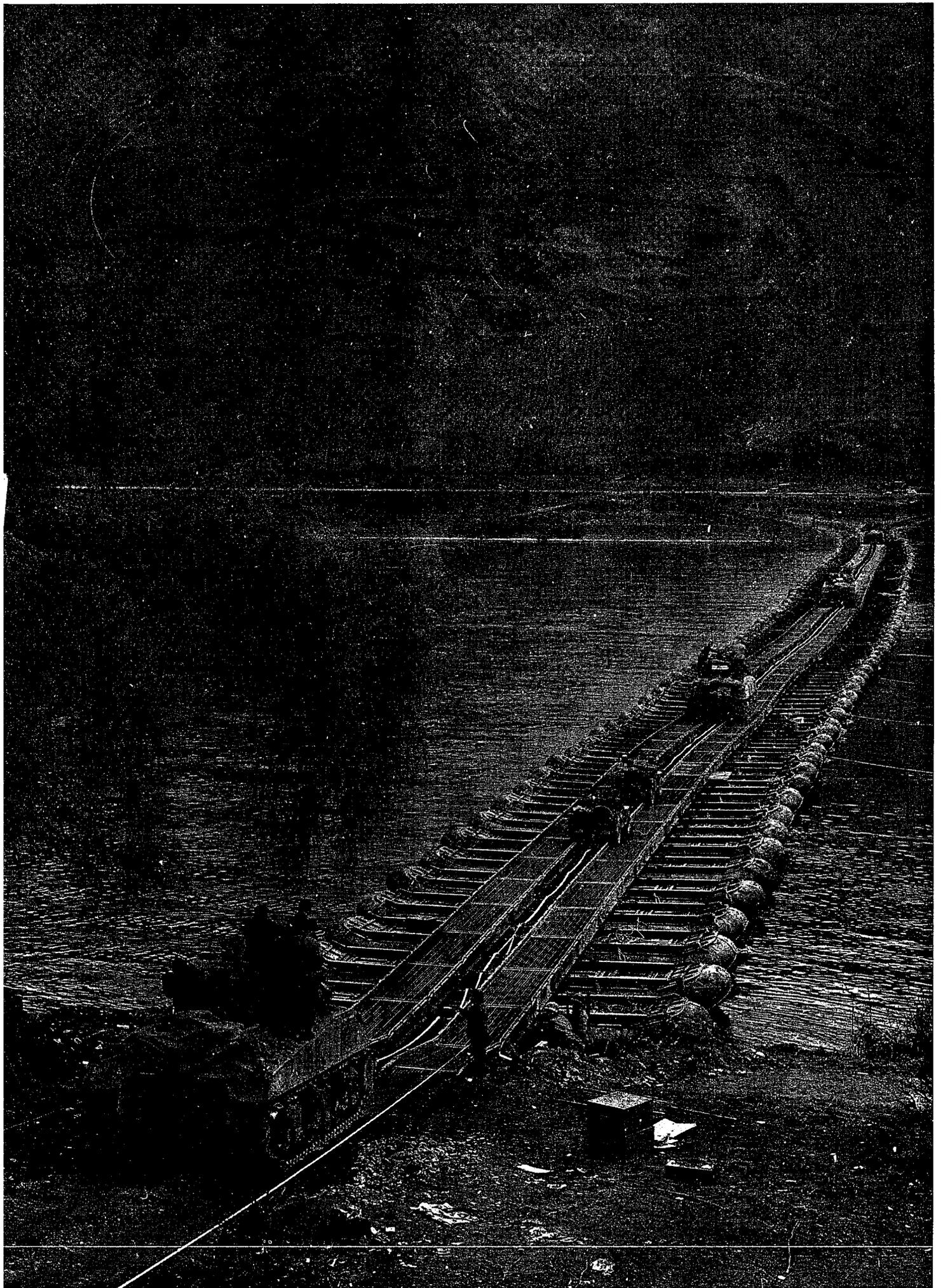
After the fall of Neuendorf, which marked the end of the first phase of cracking the Siegfried Line, the 346th Regiment, now under command of Colonel Curtis Renfro, took over all positions held by the 345th. The 347th

in mud, over which an ever increasing amount of supplies, munitions and reinforcements were being carried forward.

Orders for the long awaited attack came out on 24 February 1945 in Field Order No. 17 which was as follows:

Hq 87th Inf Div  
SCHONBERG, BELGIUM  
(P954886)  
241900A Feb. 45

*On Opposite Page:  
87th Jeeps Roll  
Across the Rhine*



FO No. 17

MAPS: BELGIUM & GERMANY, Scale 1/25,000—  
Sheets 5603-4, 5703-4-5.

1. a. See 87th Div G-2 Periodic Rpt Numbers 66 and 67.
- b. (1) VIII Corps Atks 262200A Feb 45 to capture HALLSCHLAG (L0795) and ORMONT (L0893) (Overlay), and seize high ground S of DRONENBURG (L1096).
- (2) 1107th Engr C Gp and 174th FA Gp Spt Opns of 87th Inf Div.
2. a. 87th Inf Div.  
Atchd:  
549th AAA (AW) BN  
607th TD Bn (SP)

Division Artillery prepared the way for the new attack which jumped off on 26 February. An 800 round concentration was fired on the town of Reuth east of Neuendorf in the space of 20 minutes. Two days later, another concentration of 540 rounds was dropped on Ormont just before the infantry entered that town. In all, Division Artillery fired 20,400 rounds in the seven days preceding and during the attack.

Company I, 346th Regiment launched the attack on the Ormont road but was pinned down at a road block for 36 hours before the Third Battalion, 347th Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Paul A. Pickhardt commanding, came down the road on schedule to join in the fight. The road block was blown by a squad of engineers under the leadership of First Lieutenant Vincent L.



*The Third Reich adopts a new flag—the white flag of surrender*

- 735th Tk Bn  
CCA, 11th Armd Div (Opnl Contl)  
161st Engr Smoke Gen Co  
(1) Atk 262200A Feb 45, capture HALLSCHLAG (L0795) and ORMONT (L0893) and seize high ground—(Overlay).  
(2) Maintain contact with V Corps on left (N) flank and protect left (N) flank of Corps.
- b. (1) Bd's, Zones, Objectives. Scheme of Maneuver—(Overlay).
  - (2) LD—Present front line.

\* \* \* \* \*

OFFICIAL:

GAYLE  
G-3

CULIN  
Comdg

McCarty. The same squad moved along the road with the infantry and, just outside of Ormont, rushed onto a bridge to cut fuses that saved it from enemy destruction.

Captain Howard Jennings, commanding Company K, 347th Regiment, took his men across the bridge and the company stormed the town that had just received the terrifying and destructive 540 round artillery concentration. It was reported captured within 20 minutes. Lieutenant McCarty's squad went into Ormont with the leading elements of Company K and swept the streets for mines to clear the path for tanks and tank destroyers.

The 347th Regiment, continuing on north of Ormont, captured the remaining Siegfried Line fortifications and the towns of Schied and Hallschlag. The Third Battalion, 346th Regiment, captured "Gold Brick" Hill, north-east of Ormont, and Stadtkyll, where Nazi Generals Model and Von Rundstedt formulated plans that re-



*Liberated Canadians from Dieppe Show Their Gratitude at Tambach, Germany*

sulted in the German salient into the Belgian Ardennes.

Task Force Muir, commanded by Captain John E. Muir, set the pace for the 345th Regiment. Shooting its way along the Lissendorf Road, the Task Force roared through enemy held towns, disrupting his supply, communications and reinforcements. Company L, charging into the town of Reuth immediately after the 800 round artillery concentration, waged a stubborn 3-hour battle before the last German defenders were either captured or killed. While fighting was still in progress there, Colonel Sugg sent the First Battalion on through Reuth and attacked the German defenders along the road to Schonfeld. The Second Battalion then moved on into Schonfeld and captured enemy reinforcements who were headed for Reuth to aid in the fight for that town. Task Force Muir captured Lissendorf and won its bridgehead across the Kyll River.

By the evening of March 5, General Culin had his fighting men poised along the banks of the Kyll ready to jump off the following morning, and, following a new pace set by Task Force Muir, rapidly advanced up to the Ahr River, some 25 miles inside Germany.

## ACROSS THE MOSELLE TO KOBLENZ

After the Division had crashed through the Siegfried Line and advanced up to the Ahr River, orders were received directing a movement to an area west of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers. The 346th Regimental Combat Team moved to the new positions on March 13. The other organizations and units moved the following day.

Koblenz, a city of nearly 100,000 population situated

on the triangle of land formed by the confluence of the Moselle and the Rhine, was the new division objective. The 346th, on the left flank of the sector, faced the Rhine, north of the confluence. The 347th, on the right flank, took positions along the Moselle. Psychological Warfare made an attempt to persuade the enemy defenders of the city to surrender but was unsuccessful. Koblenz now began to feel the explosive force of medium and heavy artillery shellings. Division Artillery, with attached units, prepared the city for the coming attack with nearly a full week of steady bombardments.

On the morning of March 16 at 0345 the First and Third Battalions, 347th Regiment, assaulted and successfully crossed the Moselle against light opposition. The First Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Robert B. Cobb commanding, crossed in the vicinity of Winningen. The Third Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Richard D. Sutton commanding, crossed in the vicinity of Kobern. The First Battalion immediately seized the high ground in front of its crossing and began clearing the enemy out of the steep, terraced, vineyard-covered hills. By the end of the day the Third Battalion had captured two small towns.

Colonel S. R. Tupper, commanding the 347th Regiment, who had served with the Third U. S. Army during its period of occupation near Koblenz after the last World War, remarked that in those days he had thought these hills to be very beautiful. Now they appeared to Colonel Tupper only as treacherous military obstacles that he and his men must hurdle.

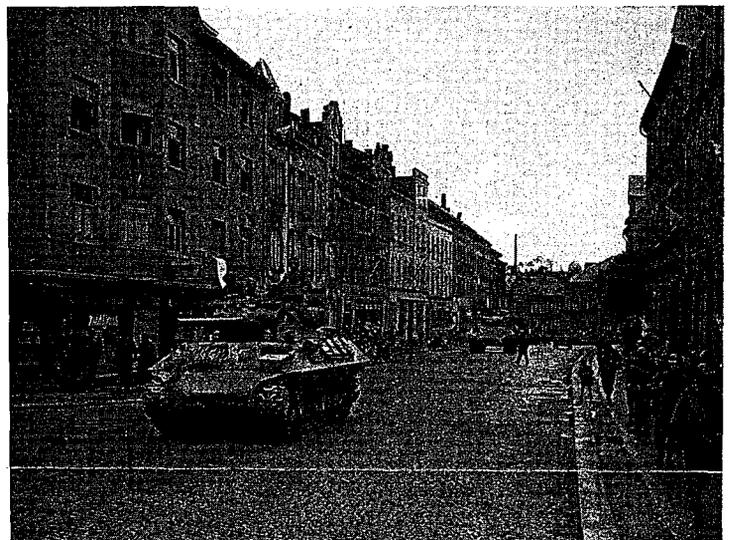
The Second Battalion, 347th Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel William S. Bodner commanding, crossed the river at Kobern at 0830 and began a southeastward drive to the Division's right flank. One town was captured.

General Culin ordered the 345th Regiment to cross the Moselle over the 347th Regiment's bridgeheads and attack Koblenz from the south. By 1545 that evening the First and Third Battalions had made their crossings and begun their advance on the badly battered city. The First Battalion advanced to the outskirts of the city and the Third Battalion advanced up the east bank of the Moselle, capturing the town of Lay.

On March 17, the Third Battalion continued on north and took the town of Moselweiss, allowing the Second Battalion to cross the river at Guls, directly opposite the western outskirts of Koblenz.

The Second Battalion advanced north along the banks of the Moselle to envelop an industrial section and the business district. The Third Battalion drove directly

*Tank Destroyers Roll Through Street of Rodewisch, Germany on way to Auerbach*





*After the Bombing the Doughboys March Into Ruined Plauen, Germany*

into the city from the southwest, seizing a great military marshalling rail yard and advanced on a hill in the center of the city. Fort Konstantin, atop the hill, was attacked by the Third Battalion. The First Battalion began clearing the southern residential and industrial section of the city.

Generals Culin and McKee crossed the Moselle and entered Koblenz in the afternoon and Colonel Sugg reported that half the city had been won in the first day's operations.

Meanwhile, fighting through the mountains south of Koblenz, Colonel Tupper's regiment had elements of the First Battalion in Rhens, on the Rhine River and a combat patrol from the Second Battalion had advanced to the Rhine south of Rhens and cut the main highway running parallel to the river.

*Displaced Persons Find a Brewery at Plauen*



On the following day the Second Battalion, 345th Regiment, cleared the northern part of the city and the First Battalion captured a large industrial island in the Rhine River. The fight for Fort Konstantin continued into the afternoon until the German commander, a captain, came out of the main gate under a flag of truce. Colonel Moran, the Third Battalion commander, advanced with an interpreter to confer with the enemy officer.

Seeing the youthful-looking American officer, who had a scarf high around his neck covering his insignia of rank, the German told the interpreter that he could not negotiate with a man who did not have rank.

Colonel Moran answered, "Tell him that I have both the rank and the Artillery." The fight continued.

Colonel Moran brought up tanks and tank destroyers and placed direct fire on the fort. The 94 German defenders surrendered the following morning. Following the surrender of the fort the city was announced as cleared of the enemy. Koblenz then came under enemy artillery and mortar fire from Fort Ehrenbreitstein, directly across the Rhine River.

The 347th Regiment for the next two days continued to clear enemy pockets in the hills south of Koblenz that had been by-passed in the rapid advance to the Rhine.

With the completion of the Moselle and Koblenz operations the following letter of commendation was received

*Opposite page: Top Civilians of Plauen, Germany captured by the 87th Division make their way through the debris filled streets, salvaging what articles they can from their wrecked homes and shops. Opposite page: Bottom, Hitler promised a New Order for Europe—this is what it got. (Plauen.)*





from Major General Troy H. Middleton, Commanding General of VIII Corps:

HEADQUARTERS VIII CORPS  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 308, U. S. Army,  
19 March 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation  
TO: Commanding General, 87th Infantry Division, APO 448, U. S. Army

1. On the completion of the advance of the 87th Infantry Division from the vicinity of Saint Vith, Belgium, through the Siegfried Line Defenses and on the Rhein River, which culminated in the capture of the historic city of Koblenz, I desire to take this means of expressing my appreciation for the excellent performance of the officers and men of your command during the advance in question.

2. It has been my duty to assign to the 87th Division difficult tasks while it has been in the VIII Corps. I am pleased to say that the Division has always accepted its assignments with the spirit of "Can Do." Furthermore, the Division has accomplished all missions given it in a most satisfactory manner. The most recent mission of forcing a crossing of the Moselle River, capturing Koblenz, and clearing the enemy from the area from Koblenz to Boppard was a difficult one made easy by the hard work and superior cooperation by all members of the division and attached units.

3. The 87th Division no longer can be considered inexperienced and unseasoned. The division now takes rank with other fine, experienced combat organizations in the U. S. Army. I therefore convey to all ranks of the division my thanks and appreciation for the work you have done so well.

TROY H. MIDDLETON  
Major General, U. S. Army  
Commanding

### BRIDGING THE RHINE

With the highly touted Siegfried Line shattered Nazi Germany stood an anxious watch on the Rhine. The myth that hung over the mother river like a marsh-gas had its roots in the oldest German legends that peopled the river with gods, giants, and enticing maidens. But at one minute after midnight on Sunday, March 25, 1945 doughboys of the 345th and 347th Regiments, waiting to step into assault boats, had no mood of reverence for the tribal myths and saw no maidens.

Each organization commander based his plans for the bold maneuver of crossing Germany's Number One river on Field Order No. 20, a part of which is reproduced below:

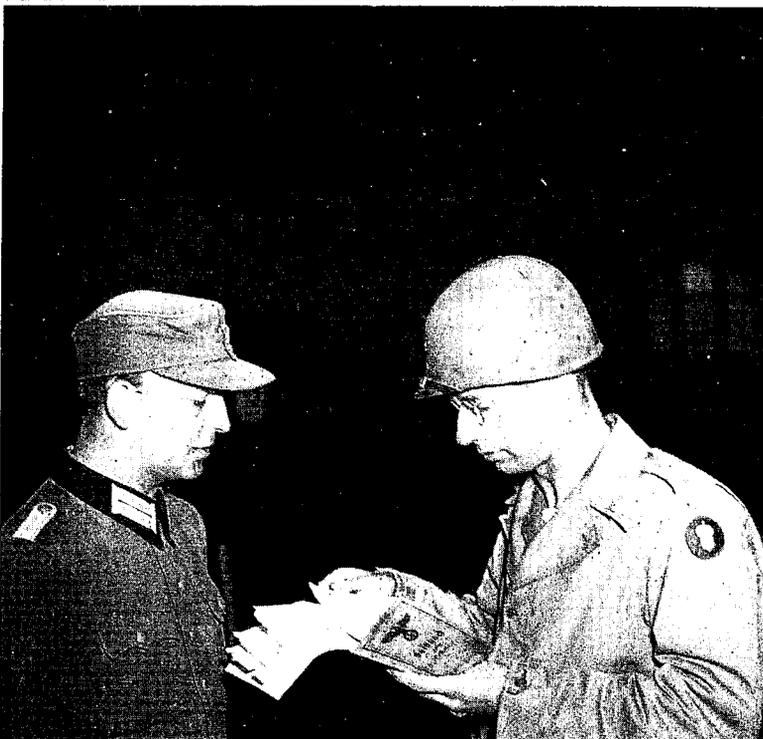
Hq 87th Inf Div  
GONDERSHAUSEN, GERMANY  
(820734)  
241130A Mar. 45

FO No. 20

MAPS: GERMANY, GSGS 4414, Scale 1/25,000, Sheets 5610-11-12, 5710-11-12, 5810-11-12.

GERMANY, GSGS 4507, Scale 1/50,000, Sheets 81-82, 101-102.

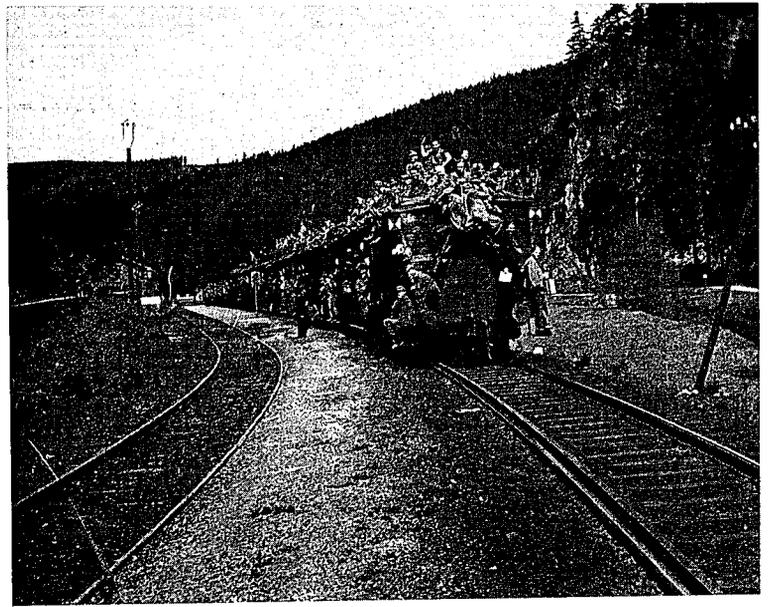
1. a. (1) See G-2 Periodic Rpt Nos. 92 and 93.



Left, top: A Tommy and two Yanks read the great news V-E Day. Center: A Nazi plane surrenders at Plauen airfield. Bottom: A German propagandist screened at Plauen.



German women fought too—and surrendered.



Germans Arrive at Surrender Points by Train After V-E Day.

- (2) RHINE RIVER Road and Bridge Study—sheet 5711.
- b. (1) VIII Corps Atks D-Day and H-Hour to cross RHEIN RIVER and Adv NE in Z to effect a junction with FIRST U. S. Army Vic GIESSEN (G6620).  
 (2) 76th Inf Div continues present mission and assists Atk of 87th Inf Div and 89th Inf Div by fire.  
 (3) 6th Cav Gp on left (N) flank of 87th Inf Div continues defense of W bank of RHEIN RIVER.  
 (4) 89th Inf Div crosses RHEIN RIVER between KESTERT (L9376) and KAUB (MO265) on D + 1 Day. It will establish and maintain contact with 87th Inf Div E of RHEIN RIVER.
2. a. 87th Inf Div:  
 Atchd: 549th AAA (AW) Bn  
 735th Tk Bn  
 748th Tk Bn  
 607th TD Bn (SP)  
 162 Cml Smk Gen Co
- (1) Effects crossing of RHEIN RIVER between RHENS (L9187) and BOPPARD (L90081) beginning D-Day and H-Hour.  
 (2) Secures bridgehead and captures SINGHOFEN (MO786), HOLZHAUSEN (M1280) and NASTATTEN (M0876).  
 (3) Continues Atk to NE, E or SE on Corps order.
- b. Bd's, Z's, and Obj's: — Overlay (Annex No. 1).

\* \* \* \* \*

OFFICIAL:

S/HARTER	McKEE
T/HARTER	Comdg
Actg G-3	

\* \* \* \* \*

The Second and Third Battalions, 345th Regiment, initiated their crossings in the vicinity of Boppard and 54 minutes later the Third Battalion reported that it had all its units completely across. The Second Battalion succeeded in getting two companies across before a concentration of enemy fire held up its advance.

The First and Third Battalions, 347th Regiment, initiating their crossings in the vicinity of Rhens, opposite the city of Oberlahnstein, fought their way across the river under heavy resistance. Just as the First Battalion began its crossing it was caught in the bright light of enemy flares and received heavy fire from weapons of all calibers. The enemy depressed his 20mm Ack-Ack guns to the water level and fired directly on the navy craft and the rubber assault boats. The Third Battalion was caught under the flares as it reached the opposite banks of the river and received extremely heavy fire.

With enemy fire coming from the high, steep hills along the river's edge, the Second Battalion was pinned down on the American side of the river and had to remain there until the enemy gun positions were destroyed. The Second Battalion, 346th Regiment, was ordered to cross the river at the 345th's Boppard bridgeheads and proceed down the east bank of the river to assist the 347th in its fight around Oberlahnstein.

The fighting continued throughout Sunday and Monday, March 25 and 26, to clear the entire eastern bank of the river along the Division sector. All fighting battalions of the Division were across the river by Monday night, and, with the exception of Oberlahnstein, all river towns in the Division section were captured. Two task forces were organized out of organic and attached units of the Division.

One, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Harold S. Sundt, was composed of one-half of his 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion, the 87th Reconnaissance Troop, Company K, 346th Regiment, and Company A, 735th Tank Battalion, with the 335th Field Artillery Battalion in direct support. The other, under command of Lieutenant Colonel William S. Bodner, was composed of his Second Battalion, 347th Regiment that had been motorized, with attached units from the Tanks, Tank Destroyers, and Field Artillery.

The mission of the two task forces was to advance as rapidly as possible along the highways running east from the Rhine, hitting and fighting the enemy wherever he was encountered and moving on deeper into his territory to disrupt his communications, supplies and organization. The remainder of the infantry companies and artillery batteries were to follow through, clearing out bypassed areas, seizing and holding important enemy installations, and capturing and processing the great number of enemy prisoners that were increasing in numbers



*Burgemeister of Saalburg, Germany, speaks to his citizens at a reburial ceremony for 56 victims of the SS troopers "March of Death" from Buchenwald concentration camp.*



*"Golden Acorn" meets "Red Star" in Falkenstein, Germany.*

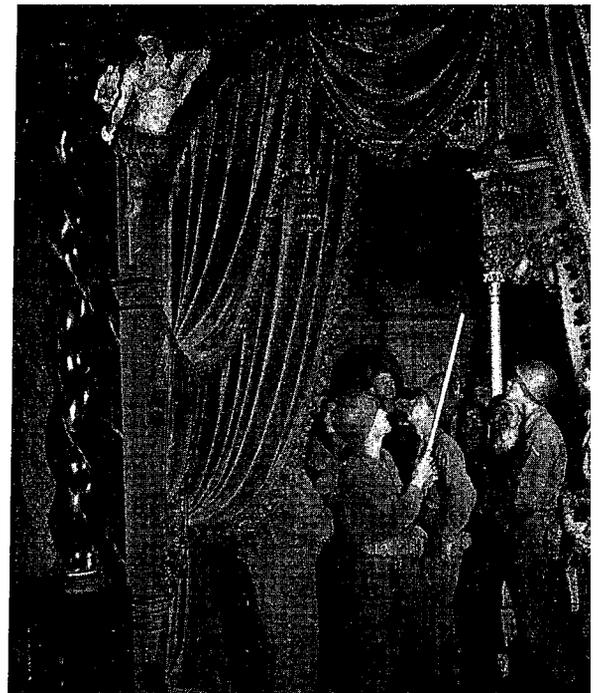


*The Taste of Freedom: Russian Slave Labor Liberated from Nazi Yoke by 87th Men at Plauen, Cook a Meal.*

*A Tour to Burgk Castle Passes Time During Occupation.*



*The Bridal Suite at Burgk Castle Built in the 10th Century.*



with every mile of the advance. The Division advanced a total of over 45 miles in the last seven days of March. The whole month of March had been one of conquest.

The Siegfried Line was cracked wide open, the Kyll, the Ahr, the Moselle, and the Rhine Rivers were crossed under heavy enemy opposition and the city of Koblenz, the capital city of the Rhineland, was captured. The Division Command Post was located in Weilmunster, deep inside Germany on March 31. One month earlier the Command Post had just moved out of Schonberg, Belgium.

During the month of March, the Division advanced a total of 165 kilometers inside Germany, captured 319 Siegfried Line pillboxes and took 10,282 prisoners of war. But all of this would not have been possible if the less-publicized but extremely essential units attached to the Division had not contributed their skill and courage to the Division's numerous engagements. Units which contributed mightily were: the 607 TD Bn, 735 Tank Bn, 549 AAA Bn, 35 Engineer Combat Bn, 159 Engineer Combat Bn, 1012 Treadway Bridge Bn, 511 Light Ponton Company, 1102 Engineer Group, elements of the 991 Treadway Bridge Company, and Company C of the 161 Chemical Bn.

The organic units of the Division: 87th MP Platoon, 87th Signal Company, 787 Ordnance Company, and the 87th Quartermaster Company—all played their parts with enthusiasm and energy, enabling the 87th Division to move forward against the enemy as a smoothly functioning team of combat-wise veterans.

## RACE TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

On April 6, one month before Germany's unconditional surrender to all Allied Forces, the 87th "Golden Acorn" Infantry Division began movement from the vicinity of Weilmunster approximately 50 miles east of Koblenz, to the vicinity of Friedewal, a few miles south of the city of Eisenach, in central Germany. The doughboys of the Division were moving up to a new line of departure that was to develop into their last offensive in the European Theater of Operations.

In fitting recognition for his leadership through four very rugged months of combat, Brig. Gen. Frank L. Culin, Jr., Commanding General of the Golden Acorn Division was promoted to the grade of Major General.

The 345th Regiment jumped off in the new sector in an attack at 0730 on the morning of April 7. The advance was headed in the direction of Tambach, the war-time home of I. G. Farben Industry. The Second Battalion was the first unit to meet resistance. The enemy, now fighting only delaying actions, had blown his bridges and burned his heavy weapons and vehicles behind him as he withdrew. Small arms, bazookas, and road blocks, a few 88s and fewer self-propelled heavier weapons was all he had left. His resistance was soon beaten down and a mad race through the bloody heart of Nazi Germany was on.

The speed of the advance was limited only by the speed with which infantrymen could fan out and search the forest, the towns and the cities. There were prisoners by the thousands to be taken, processed and guarded in improvised enclosures. There was an ever increasing number of prisoners of war from all Allied nations who were liberated by the wearers of the Golden Acorn. Those men and women had to be especially cared for and some, actually rescued from the death march in Nazi concentration camps, had to be hospitalized and given immediate attention.

All in all the duties of a combat infantryman were multiplied many times over when he became the liberator of the slaves of war. The concentration camp at Ord-ruff, which the men of the 87th Division captured was living testimony to the Nazi mentality. When the noise of battle broke in on the city the keeper of the concentration camp ordered, "Kill them all!" And the machine guns were turned on the starving, crippled and wounded prisoners of all nationalities. They were slaughtered where they stood and left lying where they fell. A few miles south of that place the 347th Regiment captured a great Nazi resort town called Oberhof. There the "right people" used to meet and play and celebrate the accomplishments of the "Master Race."

In the first ten days of the advance in this sector the Division advanced a total of 170 airline kilometers through Thuringen province and into Saxony. One month after the 345th captured Koblenz on the Rhine River, the Third Battalion, 347th Regiment, captured Plauen, a city of over 111,000 population. Plauen, before the advent of Nazidom, had been the fine lace capital of Europe. When Hitler came into power, he caused Plauen to turn to the ways of war and make it become one of the great targets for Allied bombers. Vomag, a name in Germany comparable to the name General Motors in America, made its home in Plauen and manufactured heavy duty military trucks, guns and other war machinery. For its strategic part in the German war machine, Plauen paid the extreme penalty. In a series of devastating air raids, the last of which came on April 10 (one week before the 347th captured the town) Plauen was almost totally destroyed. It was a one-day operation for the infantry.

Plauen, when it was standing undestroyed, was a symbol to the German people of their national will engaged in a total war. Plauen on V-E Day, completely destroyed, was a symbol to the men of the Golden Acorn Division of a defeated nation.

Russian forces had now made a junction with her Western Allies. Major Jerry Harter and a patrol from the 87th Reconnaissance Troop were the first to greet the soldiers of the Red Army on behalf of the 87th. Their handclasp, like similar meetings between the Russians and the Allies further north, meant that the military might of the highly vaunted Nazi warlords and their Wehrmacht was decisively defeated. Hitler's New Order had become dust and ashes.

## SHAEF MESSAGE RECEIVED BY THE 87TH DIVISION ON MAY 7, 1945

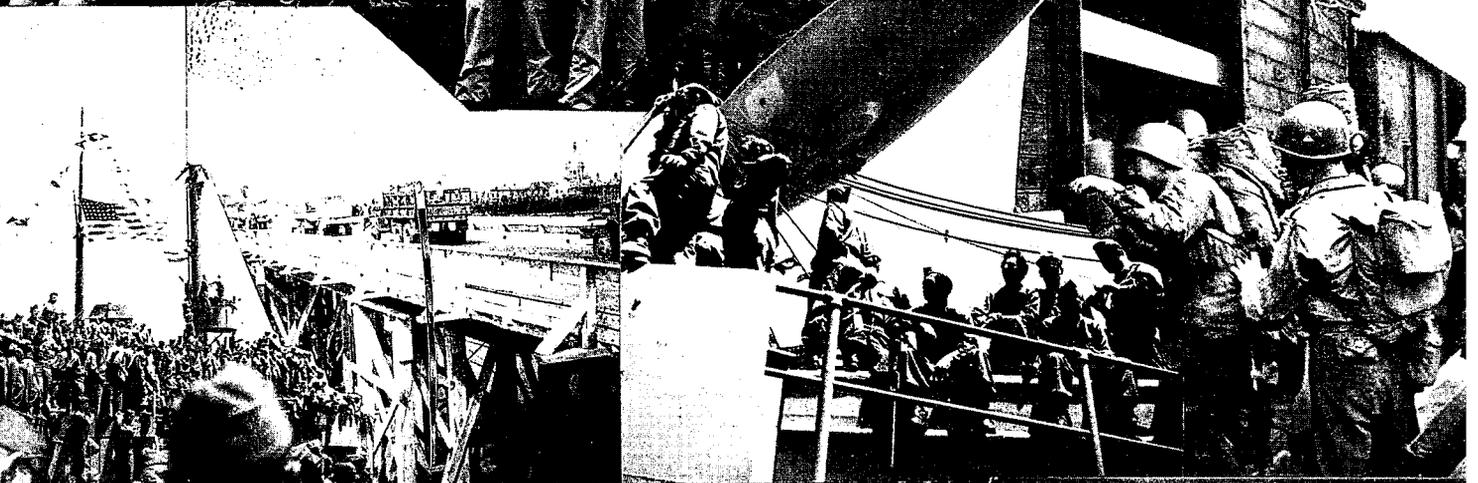
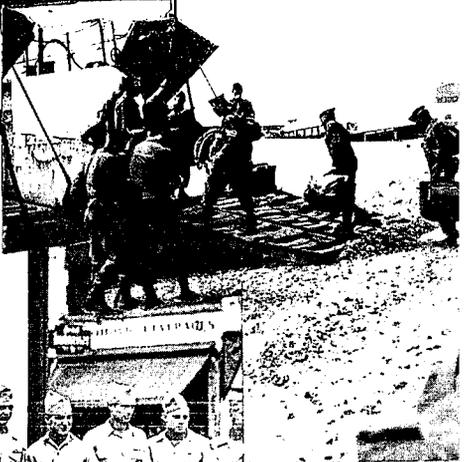
"Representatives of the German High Command signed the unconditional surrender of all German land, sea and air forces in Europe to the Allied Expeditionary Forces and simultaneously to the Soviet High Command at 070141B May 1945 under which all forces will cease active operations at 090001B May 1945. Effective immediately all offensive operations will cease. Troops will remain in present positions. Moves involved in occupational duty will continue. Due to difficulty in communications there may be some delay in similar orders reaching enemy troops, so full defense precautions will be taken. No release to the press pending announcements by the head of the three Governments."



WELCOME TO COLUMBUS!  
Golden Acorn



87th Infantry Division



## THE TREK BACK HOME

After V-E Day with no immediate battle commitments in sight the Division settled down to the task of occupation in the Thuringian area of Germany in the vicinity of Plauen. The job of supervising the 87th five prisoner of war camps and the discharge center, where German prisoners were processed at the rate of a 1,000 a day prior to being sent back to till the soil, was in the capable hands of Lieutenant Colonel John F. T. Murray, G-2. Another difficult military-government problem, the care and disposition of displaced persons, was also taken in stride by members of the Golden Acorn Division. At the camp set up to handle displaced persons of French nationality, for example, officers and men drawn from the 345th Infantry Regiment and the 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion carried out administrative and service duties, while similar methods were employed at the Italian, the two Russian, the Czechoslovakian, and the mixed minorities camps. The displaced persons were formed into companies and battalions with their own officers, were given nourishing rations, and were provided with clean living-quarters.

On the tenth of June 1945 the first elements of the Division left the Division Headquarters area in Salburg, Germany to begin the long trek out of enemy territory, back to France, and finally across the Atlantic for 30-day furloughs at home. On 17 June 1945 the Division was assembled at Camp Oklahoma City, France after a motor march from the Plauen area. Processing was not completed at this camp, and from 2, June to 4 July the Division finished its processing at Camp Lucky Strike, France. The advance party, under the command of Brig. Gen. John L. McKee, the assistant Division Commander, had left Camp Oklahoma City earlier, on the 21st of June, and had made a motor march to Camp Home Run, France, a former Napoleonic fortress, arriving on the same day. After being processed, the advance party boarded the Victory ship, "The Marine Dragon," on the evening of the 26th of June at the port of Le Havre, France and set sail for New York the following morning. On the evening of the fourth of July the advance party came into New York harbor

and disembarked the next day at Camp Shanks, New York where it was processed before receiving 30-day furloughs. On 4 July the 335th Field Artillery Battalion, the 312th Engineer Battalion, the 312th Medical Battalion, and Special Troops set sail from Le Havre on "The Marine Fox," landing at Hampton Roads, Va. on 13 July. Assembling at Camp Patrick Henry the officers and men from these units were sent to their respective induction centers from which they received their furlough papers. "The West Point," the largest naval transport ship in American service, sailed from Le Havre on the fifth of July with Division Headquarters, the 345th Infantry Regiment, and the 347th Infantry Regiment. "The West Point" landed on 11 July at New York, and its passengers assembled at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, prior to being sent to their respective reception centers. "The Marine Robin," carrying all of the Artillery except the 335th Battalion, left Le Havre on 7 July and arrived at Newport News, Va., on the 16th of July. The 346th Infantry Regiment, the last unit of the Division to leave Le Havre, set sail, with the teams attached to the G-2 section during combat, on "The Frederick Lykes," leaving on 9 July and arriving in Boston on 19 July.

By the 10th of August 1945 members of the advance party that had left from Le Havre on the 26th of June had returned from their furloughs to the 87th's next station: Fort Benning, Ga., where they prepared to receive the remainder of the Division in the Sand Hill Area.

When the 87th left Europe its members expected to be called upon to play a role in the defeat of the Japanese, but the sudden termination of the war in the Pacific while the Division was reassembling at Fort Benning changed the future of the "Golden Acorn" Division. On the 27th of August 1945 General Culin addressed elements of the Division that had returned at that time from their furloughs, informing them that the 87th Division would be the first major Army unit to be inactivated, and that transfer of the Division's personnel would begin the next day. At the ceremony General Culin read the following telegram, written by General Jacob L. Devers, Commanding General of the Army Ground Forces:

## General Devers' Congratulatory Telegram

*"You have brilliantly attained your final objectives and it is with the deepest appreciation that I salute the officers and men of the Acorn Division. From your first baptism of fire in the Metz area to this occasion when your services as a unit will be recorded in the annals of this war your conduct has been exemplary. The battle record of the 87th Infantry Division now is a part of history. That record must be a source of great satisfaction to you all as you now take up the tasks to which you are assigned while our Army brings to completion the biggest military job of all time. Whatever those tasks are I am confident you will carry them out as individuals with the same high efficiency you displayed in combat. You were tested under conditions of the utmost severity. You passed these tests with the warmest commendations of your country."*



**HEADQUARTERS**  
**THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY**

Office of the Commanding General  
APO 403

My Dear General Middleton:

Again the exigencies of war have separated the VIII Corps and the Third Army. We are all most regretful.

None of us will ever forget the stark valor with which you and your Corps contested every foot of ground during Von Rundstedt's attack. Your decision to hold BASTONGE was a stroke of genius.

Subsequently, the relentless advance of the VIII Corps to the KYLL River, thence to the RHINE, your capture of KOBLENZ and subsequent assault crossings of the RHINE at its most difficult sector, resulting in your victorious and rapid advance to the MULDE River, are events which will live in history and quicken the pulse of every soldier.

Please accept for yourself and transmit to the officers and men of your command my sincere thanks and admiration for the outstanding successes achieved.

May all good fortune attend you.

Very sincerely,

G. S. PATTON, JR.  
Lieut. General, U. S. Army,  
Commanding.



AG 330. 13—GNMHG

1ST IND.

(25 APR 45)

HEADQUARTERS VIII CORPS, APO 308, U. S. ARMY, 27 APRIL 1945.

TO: See Distribution.

It is with deep appreciation and a sense of humility that I transmit to the officers and to the enlisted men who have served in the VIII Corps since December 16, 1944 this letter of appreciation from General Patton.

As we review the picture since Bastogne, we see performance of feats by officers and men of the Corps which in normal times one would have believed to be impossible of execution. It is however doing the impossible which marks the leader and returns the winner in war.

My sincere thanks to those members of the Corps now living and my humble reverence to those now deceased who by devotion to a cause and a duty made this letter of appreciation from our Army Commander possible.

DISTRIBUTION:

(Copies to all units which served with VII Corps since December 16, 1944).

TROY H. MIDDLETON,  
Major General, U. S. Army,  
Commanding.

Reproduced, Hq 87th Infantry Division, 8 May 1945



2D IND.

FLC: wg

HQ 87TH INF DIV. APO 448 U. S. ARMY 2 MAY 45

TO: All Members, 87th Infantry Division, 549th AAA Bn, 607th TD Bn and 735th Tk Bn.

1. General Patton's letter and General Middleton's indorsement aptly express the outstanding battle performance of the VIII Corps. The 87th (Golden Acorn) Division has been privileged to play an important part in the achievement of these successes. The place names marking the record of the 87th Division will forever be illuminated with the bright light of consistently successful action. THE ARDENNES—THE SIEGFRIED LINE—THE KYLL—THE MOSELLE—KOBLENZ—THE RHINE—PLAUEN and THE MULDE—these names will be written in bold letters on the pages of history for all posterity to see.

2. I pass the commendations of these two outstanding leaders to you with soldierly pride and pleasure.

FRANK L. CULIN, JR.  
Major General, U. S. Army,  
Commanding.

# COMMAND POSTS OF HEADQUARTERS 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION

(15 DECEMBER 1942—27 AUGUST 1945)

Camp McCain, Miss., USA .....	Dec. 15, 1942—Dec. 1, 1943
Tennessee Maneuver Area, USA .....	Dec. 3, 1943—Jan. 18, 1944
Fort Jackson, S. C., USA .....	Jan. 20, 1944—Oct. 7, 1944
Camp Kilmer, N. J., USA .....	Oct. 9, 1944—Oct. 17, 1944
Glasgow, Scotland .....	Oct. 22, 1944—Oct. 23, 1944
Knutsford, Cheshire, England .....	Oct. 25, 1944—Nov. 24, 1944
South Hampton, England .....	Nov. 24, 1944—Nov. 25, 1944
Le Havre, France .....	Nov. 26, 1944—Nov. 30, 1944
Rouen, France .....	Nov. 30, 1944—Nov. 30, 1944
St. Saens, France .....	Nov. 30, 1944—Dec. 8, 1944
Metz, France .....	Dec. 8, 1944—Dec. 10, 1944
Oermingen, France .....	Dec. 10, 1944—Dec. 13, 1944
Achen, France .....	Dec. 13, 1944—Dec. 15, 1944
Gros Rederching, France .....	Dec. 15, 1944—Dec. 22, 1944
Achen, France .....	Dec. 22, 1944—Dec. 23, 1944
Dieuze, France .....	Dec. 24, 1944—Dec. 25, 1944
Pont Favarger, France .....	Dec. 25, 1944—Dec. 30, 1944
Bertrix, Belgium .....	Dec. 30, 1944—Jan. 2, 1945
Libramont, Belgium .....	Jan. 2, 1945—Jan. 13, 1945
Freux La Rue, Belgium .....	Jan. 13, 1945—Jan. 15, 1945
Sandweiler, Luxembourg .....	Jan. 15, 1945—Jan. 16, 1945
Rodenbourg, Luxembourg .....	Jan. 16, 1945—Jan. 27, 1945
Steinbach, Belgium .....	Jan. 27, 1945—Jan. 27, 1945
Hautbellain, Luxembourg .....	Jan. 27, 1945—Jan. 29, 1945
Gruflange, Belgium .....	Jan. 29, 1945—Feb. 2, 1945
Schonberg, Belgium .....	Feb. 2, 1945—Feb. 8, 1945
Auw, Germany .....	Feb. 8, 1945—Feb. 11, 1945
Schonfeld, Belgium .....	Mar. 7, 1945—Mar. 7, 1945
Lissendorf, Germany .....	Mar. 7, 1945—Mar. 14, 1945
Bassenheim, Germany .....	Mar. 14, 1945—Mar. 23, 1945
Gondershausen, Germany .....	Mar. 23, 1945—Mar. 24, 1945
Buchholz, Germany .....	Mar. 24, 1945—Mar. 26, 1945
Boppard, Germany .....	Mar. 26, 1945—Mar. 27, 1945
Dachsenhausen, Germany .....	Mar. 27, 1945—Mar. 28, 1945
Katzenelnbogen, Germany .....	Mar. 28, 1945—Mar. 30, 1945
Weilmunster, Germany .....	Mar. 30, 1945—Apr. 5, 1945
Friedewald, Germany .....	Apr. 5, 1945—Apr. 6, 1945
Schweina, Germany .....	Apr. 6, 1945—Apr. 8, 1945
Floh, Germany .....	Apr. 8, 1945—Apr. 10, 1945
Tambach, Germany .....	Apr. 10, 1945—Apr. 11, 1945
Grafenroda, Germany .....	Apr. 11, 1945—Apr. 12, 1945
Remda, Germany .....	Apr. 12, 1945—Apr. 13, 1945
Saalfeld, Germany .....	Apr. 13, 1945—Apr. 15, 1945
Possneck, Germany .....	Apr. 15, 1945—Apr. 16, 1945
Pausa, Germany .....	Apr. 16, 1945—Apr. 17, 1945
Jocketa, Germany .....	Apr. 17, 1945—May 6, 1945
Falkenstein, Germany .....	May 6, 1945—May 16, 1945
Saalburg, Germany .....	May 16, 1945—June 15, 1945
Camp Oklahoma City, Sissone, France .....	June 15, 1945—June 28, 1945
Camp Lucky Strike, Le Havre, France .....	June 29, 1945—July 4, 1945
Camp Kilmer, N. J., USA .....	July 11, 1945—July 13, 1945
Fort Benning, Ga., USA .....	July 14, 1945—Sept. 21, 1945