DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

[redacted] [redacted]

HEADQUARTERS 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 44
U.S. Army

8 March 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for Period 1 February to 28 February 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, U.S. Army, Washington, 25, D.C. (Thru Channels).

1 February - The 345th Inf Vic HEUEM, SCHONBERG and the 346th Inf Vic ANDLER were in Division Reserve. The 347th Infantry attacked at 0830 to the East. The 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry captured MANDERFELD. The 3d Battalion, 347th Infantry captured AUW. Resistance was heavy. Snow and mined roads slowed their advance.

2 February - On 2d February the 347th Infantry regrouped and continued the attack through the Division left sector. The 761st Tank Battalion was relieved from attachment to the 87th Infantry Division. The 735th Tank Battalion was attached to the Division this date. The 346th Infantry moved from reserve positions and resumed the attack in the Division right sector. The 3d Battalion, 347th Infantry captured BERTERATH and HERGERSBERG. The 87th Reconnaissance Troop maintaining contact with the 4th Division on our right was ordered to capture the town of ROTH. The 345th Infantry remained in Division reserve protecting the Division right flank. The 602d TD Battalion (-C Co) (SP) was relieved from attachment; the 607th TD Battalion (SP) was attached to the Division this date.

3 February - The 345th Infantry continued to protect the Division right flank while in Division reserve. The 346th Infantry had resumed the attack the night of 2-3 February and captured the town of KREWINKEL at 0535. The 347th Infantry continued the attack the night of 2-3 February and captured LOSHEIM. LOSHEIM and KREWINKEL were the Division objectives. Upon occupation of assigned objectives, all troops consolidated positions with active patrols to the front. The 87th Reconnaissance Troop occupied ROTH at 1300 and continued to protect the right flank of the Division, maintaining contact with the 4th Division on the right. Div OP opened in SCHONBERG 1600.

4 February - The 345th Infantry moved forward to new assembly areas on the Division right flank, 1st Battalion in the vicinity of ANDLER, 2d Battalion in the vicinity of AUW, 3d Battalion relieved the 87th Reconnaissance Troop in the vicinity of KOBSCHEID. During the night 3-4 February propaganda shells were fired into enemy territory. The 346th and 347th Infantries consolidated and improved their positions. The Division right boundary was extended to the South. Responsibility for the new right, South, boundary was assumed at 2000 by the 345th Infantry.

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE AD[redacted]
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 4 Dec 46

[redacted]

DEC 3 1944
ID 294

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

[redacted] [redacted]

5 February - The 345th and 347th Infantries remained in their present positions. The 346th Infantry regrouped as follows: 1st [illegible] Battalion in vicinity of [redacted], 2d battalion in vicinity of [redacted]. [illegible] moved to Division reserve vicinity of LAUDENFELD. Orders were issued to the 345th Infantry to send patrols to capture the crossroads (047861) and (064894). The 346th Infantry was ordered to send patrols into the pillbox area to their direct front vicinity (069901) and to follow the patrols with an attack to seize and hold the high ground to protect the left, North flank of the 345th Infantry. Patrols were also sent to OBEREMT to demonstrate further possible action in that direction. The 347th Infantry was directed to send strong patrols down the Division left boundary and North of SCHEID to demonstrate possible action in that direction. Patrols were also sent along HEPPENBERG-HALLSCHLAG ROAD to detect the enemy weakness in that area. The 90th Division completed the relief of the 328 Infantry Division on our left. The 2d battalion, 345th Infantry moved the [illegible] to 2000 [illegible] below the crossroads (047861). The 1st battalion, [illegible] their assembly positions on the LUDENFELD-HAUN ROAD at [illegible].

6 February - The 2d battalion, 345th Infantry attacked at 0300. Progress was held up by heavy enemy artillery fire. The 2d battalion, 346th Infantry attacked at 0400 and secured the road junction (052907). The 347th Infantry continued to send strong patrols to OBERAU to ascertain possible action in that direction. Division Engineers prepared road blocks and bridge demolitions on the Division north flank. The 87th Division is now entering the SIEGFRIED LINE. The 1st battalion attached 062400 Feb 45.

7 February - The 2d battalion, 345th Infantry attacked at 0740 and captured the town of JAGDHEA vicinity (065861) at 1400. The 3d battalion, 345th Infantry secured the crossroads (064894) at 1410. The 2d battalion, 345th Infantry was relieved in position (065894) by 0C, 346th Infantry at 1600 and moved to Regimental reserve in vicinity HONSCHEID. The 2d battalion, 346th Infantry was in Division reserve in vicinity of WASCHBACH. C Company, 346th Infantry received enemy counterattack during the night 6-7 February and withdrew to the vicinity of HAUSCHEID. The 2d battalion, 346th Infantry held high ground in vicinity (075865). The 347th Infantry continued to demonstrate the enemy in zone.

8 February - During the night 7-8 February, the 1st battalion, 345th Infantry moved southeast through the 4th Division sector to the vicinity WASCHEID and attacked to the northeast at 0730, and seized the high ground south and East of OLEFFEL. The 2d battalion, 345th Infantry attacked against strong enemy resistance and captured OLEFFEL at 1600. The 3d battalion, 345th Infantry moved to position vicinity [illegible] and sent strong patrols to NEUKIRCH during the night 8-9 February. The 345th and 347th Infantries continued [illegible] in zone, [illegible].

[redacted] [redacted]

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

[redacted] [redacted]

1 February - The 3d battalion, 345th Infantry attacked at 0730 [illegible] strong enemy resistance and captured Nabemont at [illegible]. The 3d battalion, 345th Infantry attacked [illegible] and captured WILWERATH. The 345th Infantry continued consolidation of position and sent supply patrols to the front. The 87th Reconnaissance Troop, [illegible] the limit of screening the right flank of the division [illegible] contact with the 4th Division on our right attempted to [illegible] WILWERATH in coordination [illegible] the 4th Reconnaissance Troop, but was forced to withdraw after meeting strong enemy resistance. The 87th Reconnaissance battalion destroyed one tank, 7 tanks probably destroyed, and destroyed two machine gun nests and two horse-drawn artillery pieces. The division CP opened in AUW, Germany at 1000. The 345th Infantry of the 106th Infantry Division completed the relief of the 344th Infantry, both Division on our left at 0000. One tactical reconnaissance mission was flown by the 422nd through the courtesy of the 9th Air. All division objectives were again taken.

2 February - Orders received from VIII Corps, all troops [illegible] to the defensive and initiated defensive operations.

11 February - The division right, south, boundary was changed. [illegible] battalions, 345th Infantry were relieved by elements of the 381st Infantry, 4th Division. [illegible] the 4th Division at 1200. The 1st and 2d battalions, 345th Infantry closed in AUW at 2200. The 3d battalion, 345th Infantry was relieved by elements and moved in the vicinity of Neidenbach at 1200. [illegible] moved to Losheim, Belgium. The 345th Infantry, less 3d battalion, 345th Infantry, 345th Engineer Battalion, 345th Medical Battalion, 345th Quartermaster Company, 345th Ordnance Company, 345th Signal Company, 87th Reconnaissance Troop, 345th Anti-Tank Company, 345th Cannon Company, and 345th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion continued defensive operations. The Division Engineers continued maintenance of roads and bridges which were [illegible] and had become practically impassable.

12 February - The 3d battalion, 345th Infantry was relieved by elements of the 345th Infantry at 2359. Its ground was [illegible] the 2d battalion, 345th Infantry. The 345th Infantry [illegible] on line, the 345th Infantry [illegible] division reserve. The 1st and 2d battalions, 345th Infantry closed in LANZERATH. Division CP opened in SCHONBERG, Belgium at 1200. 1st and 2d battalion and 87th Reconnaissance Troop relieved from attachment 106th Division 12 February 1945.

13 February - The division continued defensive operations. [illegible] battalions were reconstituted in addition to preparing plans for counterattack to meet enemy penetrations in direction of HONSFELD, SOUTH-HAMBOURG, and GROSCHT-HOF.

[redacted] [redacted]

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

[redacted] [redacted]

14 February - 15 February - The 87th Division continued defensive operations in zone, [illegible] all available time and facilities were utilized for [illegible] and training. Regimental antitank companies were modified and [illegible] equipment were organized into rocket launcher teams, antitank [illegible] and replacement and training sections. Due to the [illegible] and blowing snow, the roads in the Division remained practically impassable. The Division Commander authorized the Division Engineers to draw on organizations for additional personnel to assist the Engineers in road maintenance.

16 February - At [illegible] the Division Commander at which time all organization Commanders were familiarized with the contents of FO no 11, VIII Corps dated 15 February 45. [illegible] plans and zone of operation of 90th Div, 11th Armored Division, 4th Cav Gp, and 12th Corps. Defensive operations were continued. Emphasis was placed on training with individual [illegible], familiarization firing, and Infantry tank training.

17 February - No change in situation.

18 February - Division continued defensive operations. [illegible] reserve battle positions are being prepared. Alternate positions are being prepared on the Division right flank in the event of penetration thru the 4th Division sector. 3d Bn, 346th Infantry relieved the 2d battalion, 347th Infantry in Place at 2000. The 2d battalion, 347th Infantry closed in MANDERFELD at 2135. Organizations continued to furnish men and equipment to assist the Division Engineer in [illegible] of roads in the Division sector. Measures were being taken to restrict the use of roads for supply and evacuation only.

19 February - 0c 2, 346th Infantry repulsed small counterattacks in their sector. At 1900 the 346th Infantry began the relief of the 346th Infantry. The supporting tanks and TD's remained in their present position during the relief because of the condition of the roads.

20 February - The 1st battalion, 346th Infantry completed the relief of the 3d battalion, 346th Infantry at 0040. The 3d battalion, 346th Infantry completed relief of 2d battalion, 346th Infantry at 0130. The 2d battalion, 346th Infantry closed in AUF at 0240. The 2d battalion, 346th Infantry closed in [redacted] at 0730. The relief of the 1st battalion, 346th Infantry by the 2d battalion of the 346th Infantry was initiated at 1900. Upon request of VIII Corps the following information was given: 79 pillboxes of which five were destroyed [illegible] by the 87th Division since 2, Jan 45.

[redacted] [redacted]

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

[redacted] [redacted]

21 February - The 1st Battalion of the 340th Infantry was relieved in place by the 2d Battalion of the 349th Infantry. The relief was completed at 0100. The 1st Battalion, 340th Infantry closed in ... at 0500.

22 February - No change.

23 February - Organizations continued to assist Division Engineers in road maintenance. All available time and facilities are being used for familiarization firing and maintenance of equipment. Organization commanders were oriented as to the plans of future operations in a conference held at the Division Commander's office, at 0930.

24 February - CCA, 11th Armored Division and 161st Chemical Smoke Generating Company were attached to the 87th Division effective this date. CCA, 11th Armored Division was located in Division Control Unit. An organizational commanders' meeting was held at the G-2 office at 1930 hrs. The final plans were made to capture [redacted] and [redacted] and to seize the high ground South of KRONENBURG.

25 February - The 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry moved from [redacted] to the vicinity of [redacted] closing there at 1030 and prepared to relieve the 2d Battalion, 345th Infantry during the night 25-26 Feb 45. The relief of the 2d Battalion, 345th Infantry by the 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry was completed 1430. CCA, 11th Armored Division closed in the vicinity [redacted] at 1930, prepared to relieve the 1st and 2d Battalions, 347th Infantry in place during the night 25-26 Feb 45. The 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry was relieved by the 2d [redacted] ... The relief of the 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry ... was completed at 2100. A covering force of the 347th Infantry was left ... one platoon in front of 1st Battalion area. ... left ... covering force for CCA, 11th Armored Division. Battery 17th ... Battalion (155 SP) was attached to the Division artillery this date. This battery in turn was attached to the south ... Battalion.

26 February - 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry ... relief of 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry moved to the ... closing ... at 0130. The relief of the 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry by the 1st Battalion was completed ... The 1st and 2d Battalions, 347th Infantry closed in vicinity (...), at 0600 ... went into Division reserve, vicinity [redacted]. The 347th ... were alerted to jump off in the attack at 2200 to the ... and [redacted] in a night attack. Due to the unusual number of ... casualties, the hour of attack was changed to 1300. Both regiments jumped off on time. Resistance was light initially. ... troops encountered ... minefields (both ... in the 347th Infantry sector, road blocks, and all types of fire ... mortar and artillery). Prisoners ... were ... during ... through minefields. 347th and 345th Infantries continued ... advance during night of 26-27 February 45. 87th Division ... opened at ... 1st Bn. Division Commander instructed CG ... 347th to send ... scouts to front to determine results of ... during day and to exploit any ground vacated by the enemy.

[redacted] [redacted]

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

[redacted] [redacted]

27 February - The 345th Infantry continued the attack during the night 26-27 Feb 45. The 1st and 2d battalions encountered enemy [illegible]. The 2d battalion, [illegible] by-passed on the [illegible] and moved out [illegible] to the [illegible]. I Company moved to (0869?6). The 2d battalion [illegible] I Company and then turned to the East and at the end of the day had reached (1095??). The 1st battalion encountered heavy resistance in the portion they held north of NEUNKIRCHEN so they [illegible] and the east and attempted to take NEUNKIRCHEN from the south. The 345th Infantry was held up in its advance by booby traps, mines, artillery, and enemy fire. The 2d battalion passed around the 3d battalion to help the 3d Battalion take the initial objective (0869??), or if the 3d battalion had taken the initial objective to pass on to the intermediate objective (0926??). At the close of the day's operations I, K, L and A Companies were on the initial objective vicinity (0869?4). The 1st battalion, 345th Infantry was in Regimental reserve vicinity (0903??). The 347th Infantry had the 2d battalion on line with the 1st and 3d battalions in Division reserve vicinity of KOHLHOF. 11 pillboxes were taken since 1300, 26 Feb 45. The 161st and Anzac battalion, Company relieved from attachment 87th Division effective this date.

28 February - C Company, 345th Infantry [illegible] an enemy counterattack [illegible] at 0630 by approximately 40 enemy. This attack was quickly repulsed. The 3d battalion, 345th Infantry jumped off at 0630 and advanced to (1025??) with little resistance. I Company on tired [illegible] at 1000. The 2d and 3d battalions of the 345th Infantry advanced very little during the day due to heavy enemy fire of all types. The 3d battalion of the 347th Infantry moved from vicinity of KOHLHOF at 0300 to (0795??). There was a 10-foot road block which was covered by enemy fire and [illegible] and anti-personnel mines. A Company, 347th Infantry relieved I Company, 345th Infantry at this point while I and K companies, 347th Infantry moved to high ground vicinity (0859??) prepared to attack OBERN 1 March 45. [illegible] close support air mission which was flown in the 345th Infantry sector (1095?) resulted in the enemy being bombed and strafed. Two [illegible] are taken in today's operations. Orders are issued to attack 0100C March 45 to take OBERN and high ground NE of OBERN and high ground East of HALLSCHLAG.

The 87th Division has advanced 5 kilometers during the month of February. 16 days of the month of February the Division has spent in containing the enemy in the SIEGFRIED LINE while the remainder of the VIII Corps moved to secure the PRUM RIVER LINE. The SIEGFRIED LINE has been penetrated by this Division to a depth of 5 kilometers in some places. A total of 94 pillboxes have been taken.

[redacted]

[redacted]

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017

[redacted]

[redacted]

Units Attached To The 87th Division 28 February 1945.

1. [illegible], 11th Armored Division (for operation control only).
2. 735th Tank Battalion.
3. 607th TD Battalion (SP).
4. 549th [illegible] (AA) Battalion.

Monroe F. DeVries
MONROE F. DEVRIES
1st Lt, F. A.,
Division Historian

17 Incls:
After Action Rpts Fr
345th Inf Regt- Incl No 1
346th Inf Regt- Incl No 2
347th Inf Regt- Incl No 3
Div Arty - Incl No 4
312th Engr Bn - Incl No 5
312th Med Bn - Incl No 6
607th TD Bn - Incl No 7
735th Tk Bn - Incl No 8
549th [illegible] Bn - Incl No 9
87th Rcn Tr - Incl No 10
87th Sig Co - Incl No 11
87th [illegible] Co - Incl No 12
87th Ord Co - Incl No 13
G-1 - Incl No 14
G-2 - Incl No 15
G-4 - Incl No 16
G-5 (Mil Govt)- Incl No 17

[redacted]

[redacted]