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HEADQUARTERS 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 448
U.S. Army

5 April 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report For Period 1 March to 31 March 1945.

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

1 March - The 87th Division Reinforcement Training Center was opened and began operations at HEUEM, BELGIUM. Col WALKER L. GOODRICH was the commander of the center. The 3d Battalion of the 347th Infantry jumped off at 0600 to attack ORMONT from the South and East. ORMONT was taken by K Company, 347th Infantry at 1500. The 345th Infantry attacked to the East with the 2d Battalion but a counterattack against G and E Companies vicinity (102895) and (097897) hindered the advance. These counterattacks were quickly repulsed. The 346th Infantry did not jump off until 0800 due to the fact that difficult terrain prevented their armor from moving up to the front during the night. Heavy resistance was encountered by all troops from the numerous enemy pillboxes in this area. Seventeen pillboxes were taken during the day. The 87th Reconnaissance Troop began the relief of G Company, 347th Infantry at 2330. G Company, 347th Infantry was to move to ORMONT and hold it while the 3d Battalion, 347th Infantry continued the attack 2 March 1945. The 345th and 347th Infantries were directed to continue the attack 020630A March 1945.

2 March - A and B Companies, 345th Infantry jumped off at 0530 to take cross road (103932). The cross road was occupied 1010. Company A was engaged there in a fire fight throughout the day. A and B Companies, 346th Infantry were counterattacked 1000. The attack was repulsed 1200. The 2d Battalion, 346th Infantry attacked 1355. Because of most difficult terrain vicinity (093937), the supporting tanks and tank destroyers were unable to sup ort the advance of the 346th Infantry. Five pillboxes were taken by the 346th Infantry. The relief of G Company, 347th Infantry by the 87th Reconnaissance Troop was completed 0230. G Company moved to area South ORMONT and closed vicinity (075923) 0330. The 3d Battalion, 347th Infantry attacked 0645 through the pillbox area West of ORMONT. F Company, 347th Infantry advanced to (064930). Fifty-seven pillboxes were taken by the 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry this date. A total of sixty-two pillboxes taken today. All troops were subjected to intense fire of all types making advance extremely difficult.

3 March - During night 2-3 March 1945, 2d Battalion, 346th Infantry was subjected to heavy enemy artillery fire but no casualties were reported. The 346th Infantry continued the attack at 0630 and made rapid advances over heavily wooded and mined terrain. The 3d Battalion, 346th Infantry [illegible] high ground vicinity (093938). 1st Battalion, 346th Infantry advanced to

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positions vicinity (125942) just short of road running from KERSCHENBACH to ORMONT. Very close support from the 735th Tank Battalion and 607th TD Battalion was a big factor in the 346th Infantry gains for the day. At close of operations, 346th Infantry had captured 9 pillboxes. 1st and 2d Battalion's 345th Infantry also continued the attack at 0630. After meeting heavy enemy resistance early in their advance, much ground was gained and the road running North from REUTH (111892) was cut by 2d Battalion, 345th Infantry. 347th Infantry continued clearing pillboxes in its sector and at close of day had captured nineteen. Operational Instructions Number Thirty was distributed to units changing objectives of 346th and 347th Infantries. This was done because of possibility of CCA of 11th Armored Division being moved from 87th Division zone.

4 March - 2d and 3d Battalions, 345th Infantry continued the attack 0600. 3d Battalion, 345th Infantry captured town of REUTH (111892) at 1200. 1st Battalion, 345th Infantry continued the attack at 1500 and captured SCHONFELD (131907) at 1700. 345th Infantry consolidated and improved positions for remainder of day. 1st Battalion, 346th Infantry continued attach 0645 and captured town of KRONENBURGERHUTTE (106964). 2d Battalion, 346th Infantry continued its advance and cut road running from STADTKYLL (142953) to REUTH and held up for the day in vicinity (132922). 3d Battalion, 346th Infantry made rapid advances and captured town of KERSCHENBACH (121949). Nine pillboxes were taken by 346th Infantry. The 347th Infantry continued to clear pillboxes in their zone. Rapid advances were made during the day and at the end of period 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry had advanced North and captured SCHEID (064965). 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry captured town of HALLSCHLAG (078958). 3d Battalion, 347th Infantry had advanced and held line (088941) to (080946). One hundred nine pillboxes were captured by 347th Infantry. Field Order Number Fourteen Headquarters VIII Corps was received at 2330. Field Order gave 87th Infantry Division new objectives and boundaries and also relieved CCA, 11th Armored Division from operational control of this Division. 6th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached 87th Infantry Division effective this date.

5 March - 2d and 3d Battalion, 345th Infantry continued advance at 0700. Organized resistance was met, but Regimental objective (139885) was captured by 1115. 345th Infantry consolidated positions during remainder of day. 346th and 347th Infantry Regiments, after occupying all assigned objectives 4 March 1945, reorganized and regrouped troops for future operations. Field Order Number Eighteen, giving 345th and 346th Infantry Regiments new objectives along KYLL RIVER was distributed. TASK FORCE MUIR consisting of Company A, 345th Infantry Regiment, 87th Reconnaissance Troop, one light tank company and three assault guns was organized for this operation. 6th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron closed vicinity ORMONT and initiated the relief of the 347th Infantry Regiment.

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6 March - Relief of 347th Infantry Regiment and 1st Battalion, 346th Infantry Regiment along left (North) boundary of Division zone was completed by 6th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron at 0743. 345th and 346th Infantry Regiments and TASK FORCE MUIR jumped of at 0700. All elements of 347th Infantry Regiment had closed vicinity of ORMONT at 0900 and were in Division Reserve. Rapid advances were made by all units. Little enemy resistance was met, but numerous mines and road blocks were encountered. Forward Command Post of the 87th Infantry Division opened at SCHONFELD, GERMANY at 1730. At close of period all objectives were reached and foot troops had crossed the KYLL RIVER in four places. 345th Infantry Regiment captured the towns of STEFFELN, LISSENDORF, GONNERSDORF and crossed the KYLL FIVER and captured BIRGEL. 1st Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment crossed the KYLL RIVER and a dvanced to positions vicinity (199939). TASK FORCE MUIR advanced and put foot elements across the KYLL RIVER Southwest of BIRGEL. The 346th Infantry Regiment advanced and captured the towns of STADTKYLL, NIEDERKYLL, GLAADT, SCHULLER, KRUMM and JUNKERATH. E and F Companies, 346th Infantry Regiment crossed the KYLL RIVER and held up in JUNKERATH. Elements of I and L Companies, 346th Infantry Regiment crossed the KYLL RIVER and held up in GLAADT. K Company, 346th Infantry Regiment crossed the KYLL RIVER and advanced to high ground Northeast of NIEDERKYLL. These troops were under heavy mortar and small arms fire all afternoon and early evening. Operation Instructions Number Twenty-Nine VIII Corps relieved 6th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron from the Division and assigned 6th Cavalry Group responsibility of North Boundary of this Division from STADTKYLL West to SCHEID. at 2336, 6th Cavalry Group took over responsibility of their new sector. Operational Instructions Number Thirty-One was distributed to units at 2130 giving 345th and 347th Infantry Regiments new objectives along AHR RIVER. 3d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment was ordered to cross KYLL RIVER and take FEUSDORF this date.

7 March - 345th Infantry Regiment continued the attack with TASK FORCE MUIR leading, followed by the 3d Battalion and captured the town of WIESBAUM and moved North to capture MIRBACH after meeting some resistance. 3d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment continued to move Northeast during night for an attack on DOLLENDORF in the morning. The 346th Infantry Regiment continued the attack at 0900. 1st Battalion, 346th Infantry Regiment moved to Northeast and after meeting small pockets of resistance cpatured ESCH. The 2d Battalion, 346th Infantry Regiment cleared the woods from JUNKERATH to Northeast to FEUSDORF and secured ground around th town. 3d Battalion, 346th Infantry Regiment cleared town of GLAADT and continued advancing North and Northeast and secured high ground from (165967) Southeast to (180960). 3d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment continued the attack night 6-7 March 1945 and captured FEUSDORF. 1st and 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment passed through 3d, Battalion, 347th Infantry and attacked Northeast. 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry captured town of ALLENDORF, 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment captured town of RIPSDORF. The 3d Battalion, 347th

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Infantry Regiment moved during night of 7-8 March 1945 to attack HUNGERSDORF in the morning. The Division Command Post opened in SCHONFELD 0800, closed SCHONFELD 1800. Division Command Post opened LISSENDORF 1800.

8 March - 3d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment moved to high ground Northeast and Southwest of DOLLENDORF during night 7-8 March 1945. 3d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment attacked 0645 and captured DOLLENDORF. Patrols of 3d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment found one bridge over AHR RIVER intact at AHRHUTTE. 346th Infantry Regiment secured dominating terrain on Division Left flank and patrols made contact with 69th Division which was advancing Southeast. 3d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment attacked at 0645 and captured HUNGERSDORF by 1030. Patrols were sent East to AHR RIVER and contact was made with 28th Division which was advancing Southeast. All Division objectives were captured and secured by 1200. Division was in the process of being pinched out by First Army troops on Left (North and Northeast) and by the 4th Division on Right (South) boundary.

9 March - The 6th Cavalry Group having been assigned a new mission to the East began movement from Division Left flank through the 87th Division sector, IP STADTKYLL at 0700. The 87th Division and at ahead troops began to reorganize, reequip and perform necessary maintenance. Responsibility for new South boundary was assumed effective this date. The additional area included AUEL, BASEBURG and OBR BETTINGEN.

10 March - All troops made maximum utilization of time and facilities for maintenance, training and rest. The 735th Tank Battalion was alerted on order by VIII Corps for possible movement. Contact was maintained with the 69th Division on Left, 28th Division to Left and front and 4th Division on Right.

11 March - 735th Tank Battalion was released from alert status by VIII Corps orders and informed they would remain with the Division. Familiarization firing was continued and maintenance was performed. 161st Smoke Generating Company attached this date.

12 March - Division continued to make maximum use of time and facilities for maintenance, training and rest. Movement orders were received from VIII Corps for this Division to relieve elements of the 4th and 11th Armored Division along the MOSEL RIVER. 346th Infantry Regiment with one company of Engineers, one company of the 312th Medical Battalion, the 336th Field Artillery Battalion and company of medium tanks, one company of light tanks, one company TD's, 87th Reconnaissance Troops and the 335th Field Artillery Battalion were alerted to move 13 March 1945. Remainder of Division alerted to move 14 March 1945.

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13 March - 346th Infantry Regiment with attachments crossed IP WIESBAUM, BERMANY at 1030, closed in new area at 1900 and initiated relief of the 4th and 11th Armored Divisions. Billeting and reconnaissance parties for remainder of Division left for new destination afternoon 13 March 1945. Remainder of Division prepared for move 14 March 1945.

14 March - 345th Infantry Regiment crossed IP at DOLLENDORF, GERMANY at 0530, closed in new area at 1245. 347th Infantry Regiment crossed IP at 0956, closed in new area at 1830. All Division troops had closed in new area By 2200 this date. Division CP opened in BASSENHEIM, GERMANY at 1445. 346th Infantry Regiment defensive positions were along MOSEL RIVER from North of KOBLENZ Southwest of LERMEN. Patrols were sent across MOSEL RIVER during the night. Division Commander, Artillery Commander and Regimental Commanders had a meeting and plans were issued for future operations for the Division.

15 March - The 345th and 347th Infantry trained and prepared for a scheduled assault crossing of the MOSEL RIVER. Original plan of two Regiments crossing morning of 17 March 1945 was changed. The 347th Infantry Regiment was alerted to make preparations to cross at 0300 on the 16th of March 1945. The 346th Infantry Regiment maintained defensive positions along entire Division front, and continued to send patrols across the MOSEL RIVER.

16 March - The 347th Infantry Regiment assaulted and successfully crossed MOSEL RIVER at 0345 against light opposition. 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment crossed vicinity of WINNINGEN: 3d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment vicinity KOBERN. The 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment had seized high ground vicinity (853900) by 0640 and began clearing woods and East bnak of MOSEL RIVER to the Southwest. At end of the day's operations, 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment had cleared enemy in zone and had advanced Southeast to vicinity (850894). 3d Battalion met some resistance in town of DIEBLICHERBERG and at end of operations for the day had a vanced to and captured small town of MARIAROTH. 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment crossed MOSEL RIVER vicinity KOBERN at 0830, and advanced South cleared West bank of river and c aptured town of MEDERFELL. At the close of the day, 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment had advanced to position vicinity (852844). The 345th Infantry Regiment was ordered to cross 2 Battalions over MOSEL RIVER in vicinity WINNINGEN and to advance Northeast toward KOBLENZ. 1st and 3d Battalions, 345th Infantry Regiments completed crossing at 1545 and began their attack toward KOBLENZ. At the end of the period, the 1st Battalion 345th Infantry Regiment advanced the the Southern outskirts of KOBLENZ. the 3d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment advanced North along West bank of MOSEL RIVER capturing the town of LAY and at close of this period was in position vicinity (872920) and was continuing to move North.

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17 March - 3d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment continued toadvance to the North and captured town of MOSELWEISS, this allowing 2d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment to cross river in Vicinity GULS at 0810. 2d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment then advanced North along the river clearing enemy from Western part of KOBLENZ. 2d and 3d Battalions then advanced Eastward through KOBLENZ and after much house-to-house fighting and organized resistance had captured over one-half of this city at the close of the day. 1st Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment remained in Southern outskirts of the city during this period. At 1515, General CULIN and General McKEE crossed the MOSEL RIVER and entered KOBLENZ. 3d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment continued its attack at 0800 and captured the town of WALDESCH. 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment attacked at 1335 and at close of the period was in town of RHENS where heavy small arms fire was being encountered. 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment continued the attack at 1315 and at close of the period had advanced to positions vicinity (883846). A strong petrol of the 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment continued Southeast and cut the road along the RHEIN RIVER vicinity (890820). By 2400 this date, the 35th Engineer Combat Battalion had completed two Class 40 Pneumatic Treadway bridges across MOSEL RIVER; one in vicinity KOBERN, the other vicinity WINNINGEN. The 2d Battalion, 346th Infantry Regiment assembled vicinity WOLKEN. Elements of the 3d Battalion, 346th Infantry Regiment assembled vicinity RUBENACH. 1st Battalion, 346th Infantry Regiment continued to maintain defensive positions. Company B, 607th TD Battalion was relieved from attachment to the 87th Division and placed under VIII Corps control in vicinity RUBENACH.

18 March - The 345th Infantry Regiment continued mopping up operations at 0700. The 1st Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment remained in its position on the South side of KOBLENZ. The 2d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment attacked along the MOSEL RIVER to encircle KOBLENZ from the North. The 3d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment crossed the main railroad track through the center of the city. At 1200, the island on the Eastern side of KOBLENZ was cleared by Company C, 345th Infantry Regiment. The 2d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment cleared the Northern part of KOBLENZ during the day. The 3d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment was held up by a fanatical group in FORT KONSTANTIN during the day and could not clean anything out East of the Fort because of the observation which the enemy had. The Fort commander called for a parley to evacuate his wounded, but Lt Colonel MORAN, 3d Battalion Commander, would accept nothing less than complete surrender so the enemy commander returned to his Fort. Supporting tanks and tank destroyers of the 735th Tank Battalion and the 607th TD Battalion fired direct fire on the Fort during the day. At 2025, a report was received that FORT KONSTANTIN had not fallen and that the 3d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment was buttoning up for the night. The 1st Battalion of the

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346th Infantry Regiment was relieved by the 6th Cavalry Group. The relief was initiated at 1100 and was completed at 1555. The 1st Battalion, 346th Infantry Regiment then moved to vicinity of WINNINGEN. The 2d Battalion, 346th Infantry Regiment moved from the vicinity of WOLKEN to vicinity of KOBERN. The 3d Battalion, 346th Infantry Regiment moved from vicinity RUBENACH to vicinity GONDORF. 346th Infantry Regiment closed in field bivouac at 2000. The 346th Infantry Regiment also maintained a double guard on the two Pneumatic Treadway bridges in vicinity of WINNINGEN and KOBERN. The 347th Infantry Regiment continued the attack early in the day to the South. K and L Companies, 347th Infantry Regiment captured BREY at 1210 and I Company, 347th Infantry Regiment captured NIEDERSPREY at 2330. Progress was difficult due to the every present observation of the enmy from the East bank of the RHEIN RIVER. The 28th Infantry Division initiated the relief of the 6th Cavalry Group on the Division Left flank during the late afternoon. The 161st Chemical Smoke Generating Company was relieved from attachment to the 87th Division effective 2400.

19 March - At dawn, the 345th Infantry Regiment continued the attack on FORT KONSTANTIN. FORT KONSTANTIN fell at 0830 and at 1000 KOBLENZ was officially declared captured by our troops. Harassing artillery and mortar fire, spiced by occasional sniper fire continued throughout the day. The 2d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment moved from the Northern part of KOBLENZ to the wooded area vicinity (885905) and cleaned out some bypassed pockets of resistance. The 346th Infantry Regiment remained in its present area in Division Reserve. The 347th Infantry Regiment continued the attack to the South and captured OBERSPREY at 0630. This concluded a three day dive of the 347th Infantry Regiment which began with an assault crossing of the MOSEL RIVER and included an advance of 14 kilometers to the RHEIN RIVER. The remainder of the day was spent by each Regiment in clearing out bypassed areas in their sector and in organizing a riverline defensive system. The relief of the 6th Cavalry Group by the 28th Infantry Division was completed at 0315. The 2d Cavalry Group on the Division South flank, who had been screening the Left flank of the XII Corps, was relieved by the 76th Infantry Division.

20 March - Operational Instructions Number Thirty-Five, this Hq, was distributed directing all troops to begin training in river crossing with assault boats. This training was carried out in several different locations on the MOSEL RIVER. All available time was spent in much need maintenance of equipment and rehabilitation for personnel.

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21 March - A floating Bailey Bridge was completed in vicinity of WINNINGEN which also relieved the traffic congestion across the MOSEL RIVER. Troops continued using available time and facilities in maintenance of equipment and in river crossing training. At 2335, Operations Instructions Number Thirty-Five was received from VIII Corps directing the 28th Infantry Division to relieve the 345th Infantry Regiment and elements of the 347th Infantry Regiment without delay. The 87th Infantry Division was directed to move into an assembly area South of KOBLENZ and prepare for future offensive operations. General McKEE assumed command of the Division during the temporary absence of the Division Commander.

22 March - Contact was maintained with the 28th Infantry Division on the Left and with 7th Infantry Division on the Right. Operational Instructions Number Thirty-Six, this Hq, was distributed directing 346th Infantry Regiment, 607TD Battalion and the 735th Tank Battalion to begin movement to new area South of KOBLENZ commencing at 1200. At 1145, message was received from the 28th Infantry Division that the relief of the 87th Infantry Division by the 28th Infantry Division had been cancelled. There was some discrepancy in the boundary between First U. S. Army and Third U. S. Army which caused this cancellation. The three Infantry Regiments continued training in assault river crossings during the day. At 2000 Operations Memorandum Number Thirty-Six was received from VIII Corps which directed the 6th Cavalry Group to relieve the 345th Infantry Regiments and elements of the 347th Infantry Regiment 23 March 1945. The 162d Chemical Smoke Generating Company was attached to the 87th Infantry Division effective this date.

23 March - Operational Instructions Number Thirty-Seven, this Hq, which cancelled Operational Instructions Number Thirty-Six was distributed at 0200 and directed the movement of the entire Division into a new area vicinity GONDERSHAUSEN beginning 0700. The 6th Cavalry Group completed the relief of the 345th Infantry Regiment at 1500 and the 347th Infantry Regiment at 1630. The 345th Infantry Regiment closed in new area at 2030 and the 347th Infantry Regiment moved back from its former positions to the first available covered positions in rear of the positions where they were relieved. A conference of the three Regimental Commander, TD Battalion Commander, Tank Battalion Commander and Division Artillery Commander was held in the Division Commander's office at 2100 at which time plans were formulated for an assault crossing of the RHEIN RIVER. The Division Command Post opened GONDERSHAUSEN, GERMANY at 1945. The 748th Tank Battalion attached to the 87th Infantry Division effective this date.

24 March - The road between NIEDERSPAY and OBERSPAY which was blocked by between 75 and 80 destroyed enemy vehicles was cleared at 0330, by the 347th Infantry Regiment and supporting Engineers of the 312th Engineer Combat Battalion. The 346th Infantry

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Regiment moved from vicinity DORWEILER-HEYWEILER to vicinity OPPENHAUSEN and closed in at 2330. 346th Infantry Regiment remained in Division Reserve having one Battalion motorized prepared for immediate employment in either the 345th or 347th zones. Division Command Post opened BUCHHOLZ at 1600. Lt Colonel SUNDT, Commanding Officer, 607th TD Battalion was given the mission of organizing a task force and be prepared to spearhead an attack in the 345th zone. The task force to be composed of the following: 607th TD Battalion, minus companies A and C; 87th Reconnaissance Troop, possibly Company A, 735th Tank Battalion and Company K, 346th Infantry Regiment with the 335th Field Artillery Battalion in direct support. The 345th Infantry and 347th Infantry Regiments were in position prepared to make an assault crossing of the RHEIN RIVER 250001A March 1945.

25 March - The 345th Infantry initiated an assault crossing of the RHEIN RIVER with the 2d Battalion on the Left and the 3d Battalion on the Right at 0001. The 2d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment crossed two companies, the remainder of the 2d Battalion was held up by fire from the East bank of the river. The 3d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment completed crossing of the river at 0055. The 347th Infantry Regiment initiated assault crossing of the RHEIN RIVER at 0001. The 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment on the Left and the 3d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment on the Right. By 0130 both Battalions had two companies across. The 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment was caught by flares just as it started to cross and received heavy fire. The 3d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment was caught under flares as it reached the opposite bank and received fire. Boats were having difficulty getting back across the river due to heavy fire and current. The 6th Cavalry Group was notified to be on the lookout for drifting boats which might contain our wounded men. Many boats were carried down stream due to the current of the river. 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment was completely across at 0355 and the 3d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment was completely across at 0630. The 1st Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment was completely across at 0721, the 2d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment was completely across at 0645, the 3d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment was completely across at 0055. The 3d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment advanced to take the town of BRAUBACH. The 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment advanced to the high ground East OBER-LAHNSTEIN. The 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment was unable to cross due to the intense fire placed on the crossing site by the enemy. The 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment was counterattacked at 1843 from the North, East and West but it was repulsed. Three tanks and four tank destroyers which had crossed the river in the vicinity of BOPPARD were sent to assit the 1st Battalion,

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347th Infantry Regiment. 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment advanced to the outskirts of OBER-LAHNSTEIN and secured their positions there for the remainder of the night. Due to the fact that the 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment could not cross the river the 2d Battalion, 346th Infantry Regiment was attached to the 347th Infantry Regiment. The 2d Battalion, 346th Infantry Regiment crossed the RHEIN RIVER vicinity [illegible] and advanced along the river road to assit the 3d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment in BRAUBACH. The 1st Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment attacked and advanced to (948807) and secured the position for the night. The 3d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment captured KAMP and advanced to the outskirts of LYKERSHAUSEN. The 2d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment advanced to (925823). FILSEN and OSTSEITAI were captured by the 2d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment during the day's operations. Operational Instructions Number Thirty-Nine, this Hq, was distributed at 2300 which directed the 346th Infantry Regiment (- 2d Battalion) to move by marching so as to reach vicinity [illegible] by daylight 26 March 1945, cross the RHEIN RIVER and move to an assembly area in rear of the 345th Infantry Regiment and pass through elements of the 345th Infantry Regiment and continue attack East. The 345th Infantry Regiment and 347th Infantry Regiment were directed to continue their attack. The 102 Chemical Smoke Generating Company was relieved from attachment to the 87th Infantry Division effective this date. Company C, 748th Tank Battalion was relieved from attachment to the 87th Infantry Division effective this date.

26 March - 345th and 347th Infantry Regiments after consolidating bridgeheads across RHEIN RIVER continued to attack at 0730. 345th Infantry Regiment made rapid advances against moderate enemy opposition and captured towns of LYKERSHAUSEN, [illegible], and DAHLHEIM. 347th Infantry Regiment with 2d Battalion, 346th Infantry Regiment attached, continued to meet strong enemy resistance in towns of BRAUBACH and OBER-LAHNSTEIN. 20mm flak guns and automatic weapons made advances difficult for this Regiment. BRAUBACH was taken by 3d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment. OBER-LAHNSTEIN continued to hold and 1st Battalion was in process of flanking and clearing town at close of day. 1st and 3d Battalions, 346th Infantry Regiment crossed RHEIN RIVER vicinity BOPPARD and assembled vicinity (935866) and started to attack Northeast capturing DACHSENHAUSEN. TASK FORCE SUNDT under the command of Lt Colonel SUNDT, commanding officer, 607th TD Battalion, consisted of the following: 607th TD Battalion (SP) (- Companies C and A); 87th Reconnaissance Troop; Company A, 735th Tank Battalion; Company K, 346th Infantry Regiment; and 935th Field Artillery Battalion in direct support. TASK FORCE SUNDT crossed RHEIN RIVER and assembled vicinity DACHSENHAUSEN. 312th

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Engineer Combat Battalion coordinated crossing sites and bridgeheads across RHEIN RIVER. A 1,044 foot Pneumatic Treadway Bridge was completed and in operating across RHEIN RIVER at 1000. 3d Battalion, 385th Infantry Regiment of 76th Infantry Division attached to 87th Infantry Division and relieved 3d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment in LYKERSHAUSEN during the night. 748th Tank Battalion (- Company C) relieved from attachment to 87th Infantry Division effective this date.

27 March - 345th Infantry Regiment continued its attack capturing towns of HIMMIGHOFON, NIEDERBACHEIM, MUHLEN, BETTENDORF, MARIENFELS, HUNZEL and POHL. Stubborn resistance was encountered by 345th Infantry Regiment during part of day but enemy was overpowered and forced to withdraw. 346th Infantry Regiment continued their attack capturing towns of SCHWEIGHAUSEN, BECHLEN, HINTERWALD, BULLBACH, MISSELBERG, DIENETHEL, BERGNASSAU-SCHEUERN, OBERWIES, FRUCHT, BAD-EMS, DESSIGHOFEN, DORNHOLZHAUSEN and SINGHOFEN. 347th Infantry Regiment fought against persistent resistance. 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment captured OBER-LAHNSTEIN. 3d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment continued its attack to Northeast. At close of this period 347th Infantry Regiment had taken all its objectives and had made contact with First U. S. Army troops along LAHN RIVER. TASK FORCE SUNDT attacked at 0500 and captured towns of RUPPERTSHOFEN, OLSBERG, and NASTATTEN. TASK FORCE SUNDT encountered persistent enemy resistance, blown bridges and road crater enroute. TASK FORCE BODNER consisting of 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment (motorized) under the command of It Colonel BODNER, Commander Officer 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment crossed bridge at BOPPARD and followed TASK FORCE SUNDT and secured towns TASK FORCE SUNDT had taken. During the day the Combat Teams from 89th Infantry Division, elements of 76th Infantry Division, 6th Cavalry and Corps troops used 87th Division Bridge at BOPPARD thus relieving heavy resistance the 89th Infantry Division was meeting in establishing their bridgehead to our Right (South) flank. 87th Infantry Division Command Post opened BOPPARD at 1000.

28 March - The 345th Infantry Regiment continued the attack at 0600 with the 1st and 3d Battalions. Resistance varied from none to heavy. At the close of the day's operations, 345th Infantry Regiment had advanced to KIRBERG a distance of 16 miles. The 346th Infantry continued the attack at 0700 in a column of Battalions and advanced to take all assigned objectives. The 346th Infantry Regimental Command Post opened in LINDENHOLZHAUSEN, a point ahead of the forward elements. Progress could have attained more speed except for the fact that First U. S. Army troops had misinterpreted the Third Army boundary and there was much confusion on our roads because of it. The 347th Infantry Regiment assembled with the 1st Battalion in BERGNASSAU-SCHEUERN and the 3d battalion in QUIENACKER. TASK FORCE SUNDT continued the attack throughout the day to take their objective KATZENELNBOGEN. TASK FORCE SUNDT was further instructed to continue on to NIEDERZELTERS and cut the FRANKFURT-LIMBURG

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autobahn Southwest of NIEDERSELTERS. Due to the fast rate of advance communications were limited to radio only. TASK FORCE BODNER followed TASK FORCE SUNDT to HOLSHAUSEN. The Division Command Post opened in SACHSENHAUSEN at 0830. All Division troops with the exception of the Administrative Center were now East of the RHEIN RIVER. Operational Instructions Number Forty-One, this Hq, was issued for the 345th Infantry Regiment to continue the advance in zone; the 346th Infantry Regiment to hold positions they occupied until the 345th Infantry Regiment moved up abreast and the 347th Infantry Regiment to relieve elements of the First U. S. Army at DIEZ and LIMBURG. TASK FORCE BODNER was released to the 347th Infantry Regiment this date. TASK FORCE SUNDT was ordered to continue the advance to the West and hold GROSSEN-LINDEN (646150). Co C, 735th Tank Battalion, was relieved from attachment to 87th Infantry Division effective this date and attached to 76th Infantry Division.

19 March - The 345th Infantry Regiment continued the advance against heavy artillery fire, small arms and automatic weapons fire and crossed the autobahn highway in the vicinity of NIED[illegible]. The 345th Infantry Regiment cleaned out the woods South and East of NIEDERSELTERS which contained a fanatical group of SS Troops that had been bypassed. The 346th Infantry Regiment continued the advance at 1100. Due to the intense traffic created by the 7th Armored Division, they were held up in the vicinity of [illegible] and were unable to complete their mission which was to relieve TASK FORCE SUNDT in the vicinity of GROSSEN-LINDEN. The 347th Infantry Regiment moved from vicinity OBER-LAHNSTEIN and BAD EMS to vicinity LANGHECKE and VILLMAR. The 2d Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment was given the mission of protecting the airfield South of LIMBURG and important German military installations in LIMBURG and DIEZ. The Division Command Post opened in HATTENBACH at 0815. TASK FORCE SUNDT continued their advance and occupied the Division and Corps objectives at 1300. The Corps objective was GROSSEN-LINDEN - LANG GONS - HOCH-WEISEL. The Division after reaching its final objective was in the process of being pinched out by the XX Corps on the front.

30 March - The 345th Infantry Regiment continued the attack at 0730. For the past three days, the 345th Infantry Regiment had encountered fanatical resistance of all types and they were not able to advance as rapidly as other elements of the Division. The 346th Infantry was ordered to assemble as follows: 1st Battalion vicinity of KROFTDORF, 2d Battalion vicinity OBERQUEMBACH and the 3d Battalion vicinity DIETENHAUSEN, with elements also guarding the German SS Hospital vicinity [illegible] which contained approximately 2,000 German wounded and 11 American wounded. The 347th Infantry Regiment continued its mission of protecting important installations in the vicinity of DIEZ. TASK

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FORCE SUNLT moved from the vicinity of LAN-GONS-HJCH-WEISEL West ot make a junction with the 345th Infantry Regiment moving East to clear out pockets or bypassed enemy resistance. The Division Command Post opened at WELLMUNTER at 1600. Prior to the time the Division Command Post was to move from KATZENELNBOGEN a report was received that some enemy SS Troops were known to be hiding in the vicinity of the Division Command Post. Capt MAGUIRE, of Division Headquarters Company, was sent to capture these troops with elementsof the Defense Platoon. Lt Colonel MURRAY, Division G-2, returned 30 minutes later to report that the enemy had bypassed the Defense Platoon and were approximetely 1 mile from town. Captain HARTER, assistant G-3 and 14 specialists from the staff sections of the Division Headquarters were organized and succeeded in surrounding the enemy to take 1 German officer and 19 enlisted men. Upon the return of the group, the Division Command Post moved to WELLMUNSTER. The enemy employed small groups of men who harassed our forces by sniping during the day and ambuscades at night. Company B, 346th Infantry Regiment was ordered to garrison the town of WELLMUNSTER and protect the Division Command Post. There was more confusion on roads again over the First and Third U. S. Army boundary. The error was made on the part of the First U. S. Army.

21 March - All troops continued to clear out bypassed pockets of resistance during the day. The 2d Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment closed in vicinity of BODENROD. Company A, 345th Infantry Regiment guarded an underground airplane factory in vicinity of HASSELBACH. Artillery Liaison planes were used in locating scattered pockets of resistance. General CULIN, Division Commander, returned to assume command of the 87th Infantry Division.

The 87th Infantry Division with attached troops advanced a distance of 165 air kilometers during the month of March 1945. A total of 225 enemy pillboxes were captured in the SIEGFRIED DEFENSES. A total of 10,282 Prisoners of War were taken. Assault crossing of MOSEL and RHINE RIVERS were made this month.

UNITS ATTACHED 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION 31 MARCH 1945
1. 549th AAA (AW) Battalion.
2. 607th TD Battalion (SP).
3. 735th Tank Battalion (-Company C)