HEADQUARTERS 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO U S ARMY

SUBJECT: After Action Reports For Period 1 May to 31 May 1945.

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

1 May. 87th remained in defensive positions on VIII Corps Limiting Line approximately seven kilometers North of the **CZECHOSLOVAKIA** border. All troops continued to use the time and facilities for maintenance and training. The 347th Infantry was notified that the anticipated advance had been canceled by VIII Corps. Contact was maintained between Regiments and adjacent units.

2 May. 87th Division continued defensive operations on VIII Corps Limiting Line.

3 May. "H" Company, 345th Infantry and "E" Company, 346th Infantry were ordered to conduct a search of **NETZCHKAU, ELSTERBERG,** and **BERGEN** at the request of Military Government.

4 May. The 346th Infantry established contact by radio with the Russian forces to their front. Contact by Radio was again made at 1935 hours, but the Russians declined to disclose their positions. They were expecting a message from their Commander Marshal ZHUKOV.

5 MAY. The 346th Infantry continued to maintain contact with the Russian forces by radio. Operations memo Number 48 was received from VIII Corps. VIII Corps to attack 6 May 1945 progressively from right to left. 87th Division to attack in conjunction with 6th Cavalry Group. Operations instructions Number 54 was distributed at 2330 directing 346th and 347th Infantry Regiments to attack at 0800 and 0700, 6 May 1945 respectively.

6 MAY. The 345th Infantry, minus the 2nd Battalion, remained in Division Reserve. The 2nd Battalion, 345th Infantry, continued to protect installations in **PLAUEN**, **ELSTERBERG** and **NETZSCHKAU**. The 345th Infantry, minus the 2nd Battalion, was alerted to move on Division order 7 May 1945 to an assembly area vicinity **FALKENSTEIN**. The 346th Infantry jumped off in the attack with the 1st and 3rd Battalions at 0800. The 2nd Battalion, 346th Infantry followed the 1st Battalion. **RODEWISCH** was captured by the 1st Battalion at 0900. **AUERBACH** was captured by the 2nd Battalion, 346th Infantry at 1630. The 3rd Battalion, 346th Infantry captured **FALKENSTEIN** at 1100. All objectives were secured at 1715 by the 346th Infantry. The 347th Infantry jumped off in the attack 0700, with the 1st and 3rd Battalions, the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3rd Battalion on the left. The 347th Infantry encountered numerous road blocks in its zone of advance. All of the 347th Infantry objectives were taken by 2000, climaxing a 21 kilometer advance for the day. The 6th Cavalry Group on the Division right flank coordinated plans with the 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry and attacked at 0645. The 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry captured **SCHONECK** at 1115. Task Force **SUNDT** was dissolved at 1030, releasing the tanks and Tank Destroyers to their respective Battalions, which Sptd the operations and advance of the Division. The 87th Recon Troop moved to vicinity **FALKENSTEIN** after having assembled in **BERGEN**. The 549TH AAA (AW) Battalion shot down one enemy JU 88 plane. Operational Instructions Number 55, this Hq, was distributed at 1930 directing the 346th and 347th Infantry Regiments to continue the Attack to the East at 070700B May 1945. The 87th Infantry Division passed to Operational Control of the US NINTH ARMY at 1800.

7 May. The 346th and 347th Infantry Regiments were prepared to jump off and continue the Attack to the East at 0700. At 0515, the Division Commander was notified to sit tight, hold what we had and accept all surrenders. At 0835, a message was received from VIII Corps Hq to the effect that members of the German High Command had signed an unconditional surrender of all German Land, Sea and Air Forces to the AEF and simultaneously to the SOVIET HIGH COMMAND at 0141B 7 May 1945, under which all forces would cease active operations 0001B 9 May 1945. Due to the difficulty in communications, there might be some delay in orders reaching enemy troops, so full defense

precautions ere to be taken. Division CP opened in **FALKENSTEIN** at 1015. The 345th Infantry in Division Reserve, minus the 2nd Battalion, closed in the vicinity of **FALKENSTEIN** at 1830.

8 May. The 345th Infantry furnished two platoons of riflemen to guard PWE at **NEUNSTADT**. German soldiers continued to surrender in large numbers throughout the day. Several German aircraft landed at the airstrip in **PLAUEN** and the occupants immediately gave themselves up to our Troops.

9 May. At 0001, the war against Germany was officially declared at an end. The two Platoons of I Company, 345th Infantry, guarding the PWE at **NEUNSTADT** were joined by the remainder of the Company. The 549th AAA (AW) Battalion was relieved from attachment to the 87th Division Artillery. The 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion (minus one company attached to the 346th Infantry) and the 735th Tank Destroyer Battalion (minus one Company attached to the 346th Infantry) were assembled as Battalions. Operational Memo Number 50, Hq VIII Corps, was received at 2125 directing the 87th Division to occupy, organize an govern an area running from vicinity **BLANKENBURG** East to **LANGENFELD** South to the **CZECHOSLOVAKIAN** border West to vicinity **ERNSTHAL** North to vicinity **SAALFELD**, and to relieve elements of the 6th Cavalry Group and the 89th Infantry Division in Zone.

10 May. The 346th and the 347th Infantry Regiments continued to accept the unconditional surrender of German Troops until 1200 at which time the acceptance of surrendering Troops was stopped due to the fact that there were too many German Prisoners of War to be processed. A staff meeting was held at 2000 in the Asst Division Commander's office with regard to future plans.

11 May. A meeting of all Regimental Commanders, attached Battalion Commanders and General and Special Staff Officers was held at 0830 in the Division Commanders Office. Operational Instruction No 56, this Hq. was discussed. The 2nd Platoon, 87th Recon Troop was given the mission of moving East to contact elements of the 13th Russian Army. Elements of the 13th Russian Army were contacted in **ANNABERG** and **MARIENBERG** at 1415. The 87th Division passed to the **NINTH U.S. ARMY** as of 1800. Elements of the 1st Battalion, 347th Infantry completed relief of 6th Cavalry Sq. at 2230.

12 May. The 87th Infantry Division and attached troops began occupying and governing **Assigned** areas as directed by operational instructions Number 56, this Hq., 10 May 1945. The relief of elements of the 89th Division in new zones of occupation was completed by the 346th Infantry at 1030. The 345th Infantry completed relief of elements of the 7th Tank Destroyer Group at 1200. Troops were used to guard Prisoner of War Camps. Every effort was made to keep displaced personnel and German soldiers from entering our area and penetrating to the rear.

13 May. The 87th Infantry Division continued carrying out Operations in occupational phase. The 87th Division assumed command of occupational area at 2000.

14 – 15 May. No change.

16 May. Division Command Post opened **SAALBURG, GERMANY.**

17 – 23 May. No Change.

24 May. 87th Division was notified by VIII Corps that this Division would be relieved by the 30th Division and will assemble. Further details were unknown.

25 May. Advance Party of the 30th Division arrived and formulated plans for relief.

26 May. No change.

27 May. 347th Infantry Relieved at 2100 by 117th Infantry, 30th Division.

28 May. All practice firing was discontinued. Message received from VIII Corps at 1420: "The 87th Division is forecast for indirect redeployment through the United States in July. It is anticipated that alert orders will be received around 1 June 1945.

29 May. Meeting held at Division Commanders office at 1000 regarding Message received from VIII Corps 281420B May 1945.

30 May. 30th Infantry Division assumed command of 87th Division area at 1400. 345th Infantry was relieved by the 119th Infantry, 30th Division at 0900 and closed in assembly area vicinity **SCHLIEZ** at 1130. 87TH Division Artillery was relieved by 30th Division Artillery at 1200.