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Auth: CG, 87 Div  
Date: 5 Feb 45  
Init: JK

HEADQUARTERS 346TH INFANTRY  
APO 448 U S ARMY

13  
3 February 1945

Subject: After Action Report.

To: CG, 87 Inf Div, APO 448, U S Army  
(ATTN: A C of S, G-3)

The following After Action Report covers the period 1 January 1945 through 31 January 1945.

1 January 1945

Effective patrols sent into St Hubert and Vesqueville. Gained much information. Patrols fired upon by enemy at several points. Much effective firing done by supporting artillery. 347th Inf was to our right and 87th Rcn Troops on our left. Activity for day was mostly patrolling. 1st and 3d Bn's in Div Reserve. Co "I" relieved Co "E" which went into Bn Reserve. T/Sgt Hansen, Co "E", T/Sgt Alva M Miles, Co "B", and T/Sgt Johnnie E Hardman, Co "H" recommended by Co Comdrs for battlefield commissions. Received 240 reinforcements, 6 officers. Regtl CP moved from Recogne, Belgium to Freux-Suzerain Belgium at 1615 hours. Casualties were light. Weather, snow and cold.

2 January 1945

Two patrols which were sent around Vesqueville were driven off by heavy rifle and MG fire. They were unable to enter town even though Arty concentrations were effectively placed. Patrol sent to St Hubert and found town to be occupied by enemy. First Bn taken from Div Reserve and sent to vicinity of Moircy. One Plat of Co "A" sent to contact Co "G" and entered line to north near St Hubert. Co "C" moved to extend line to 347th Inf. Regt given mission to patrol left flank of Div. 2d Bn continued to contain St Hubert. 3d Bn given mission to block roads in vicinity of Maissen and Ochamps. Received 66 reinforcements. Casualties were light.

3 January 1945

Continued in same sector. 1st Bn on right, 2d Bn on left. Strong patrolling continued by 2d Bn in vicinity of Vesqueville. First Bn maintained road blocks across road to St Hubert. Third Bn blocked roads in vicinity of Ochamps, Maissen and Offange. Co "B" received heavy counterattack and was surrounded by 150 enemy, which resulted in heavy losses. Our position relative to the Div was left flank. We were relieved by 345th Inf in evening and placed in Div Reserve. Moved to assembly area in vicinity of Seviscourt and Jenneville. Regtl CP moved from Freux-Suzerain to school one mile NW of Freux-la-Rue. Casualties for the day were heavy.

- 1 -

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DOD Dir. 5200.9, Sept. 27, 1958  
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After Action Report, Hq 346th Inf, 5 February 1945 (Contd).

4 January 1945

Closed in at new assembly area. Later in day we received order to reconnoiter for attack. Second and Third Bns, with Co "B", 312 Med Bn and Co "A", 761st Tank Bn attached, ordered to move into attack positions in vicinity of Haies De Tillet and Bois La Chenaie woods during hours of darkness. First Bn remained in reserve in vicinity of Freux-Suzerain. Major Vincent Usura joined 2d Bn as Exec O. Lt Col Perry E. Conant, formerly with Div G-3, joined 1st Bn as CO. Casualties for day were very light.

5 January 1945

Scheduled attack not launched due to counterattack on 3d Bn, 347th Inf, and situation of left elements of 17th Airborne Div in the vicinity of Haies de Tillet at 0800. Attack repulsed. Arty concentrations sent into town of Tillet, resulting in withdrawal of enemy tanks to north of town. 3d Bn occupied and held Gerimont, improving defensive positions and defensive fire. 2d Bn remained in position. 1st Bn still in reserve. Cannon Co supported 3d Bn by firing on tanks in Tillet. AT Co defended roads and laid mines on approaches to town of Gerimont. Casualties were light. Weather --snow and cold.

6 January 1945

Patrols sent into Acul. Given mission to attack at 1400 to take and hold Tillet. 2d and 3d Bns moved to high ground east of Tillet and to defend ground south of Gerimont. Tillet reported burning at 1615. 3d Bn attacked town but did not take it. Casualties were light. Morale was excellent. Weather--cold.

7 January 1945

3d Bn continued attack on Tillet at 0800. Very little advance was made during the day. Enemy resistance was very strong. 3d Bn given order to take Tillet starting at 2400. German patrols were active around our positions. Weather--cold and clear. Casualties--pretty heavy. Regtl CP moved to Remagne, Belgium at 1345. 2d Lt Glenn J. Doman, Co "K" was recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor for duties beyond the call of duty in actions in the town of Tillet. Lt Doman voluntarily led three patrols into the town, taking prisoners and obtaining valuable information. He also directed effective artillery fire on the town. Because of the shortage of ammunition and heavy fire from the enemy, Lt Doman got permission to withdraw.

- 2 -

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After Action Report, Hq 346th Inf, 5 Feb 45 (Contd)

8 January 1945

Night operations at Tillet unsuccessful due to hostile enemy fire. Our troops were unable to move at all due to stable enemy positions. Continued slow move to Tillet during day, held up by enemy MG fire and small arms fire, but later "K" and "I" Companies moved to south and south-east edge of Tillet. Co "L" remained in Gerimont. 2d Bn occupied positions on high ground east of Tillet, but advance was stopped by heavy fire from the enemy. First Bn moved to north edge of woods south of Gerimont. Mines laid along roads N, NW and NE of Tillet. Co "L" drove to NE of Tillet, but was driven back. Casualties were rather heavy. 1st Sgt John E Conley, Co "A" was recommended for a Battlefield Commission.

9 January 1945

Two prisoners from whom valuable information was gotten were taken by Company "E" during night. Co "E" received two counterattacks at about 0830 hours, but they were stopped by artillery. Enemy patrols were used in front of our 2d Bn during night. 1st and 2d Bn's jumped off in coordinated attack at 1000. 3d Bn mission was to contain Tillet. Mission failed. 2d Bn began receiving heavy firing from enemy in late afternoon. 1st and 2d Bn's reached their objective shortly after noon and started digging in. Due to the frozen ground and heavy fire received from the enemy, digging in was very slow. Just before dark the enemy attacked with tanks. The foxholes were not adequate to protect men against the enemy tanks. Artillery could not be directed because of the lack of communications and observation. No Tank Destroyers could reach the positions. Thus an unorganized withdrawal occurred. Second Bn withdrew to their original positions. Attack stopped by 1st Bn after their being put back into their positions. Much equipment was abandoned by enlisted men on withdrawal. Investigation directed by CG. Casualties for day were heavy.

10 January 1945

Bn's reorganized and improved positions. Remained in defensive positions. Co "I" supported by one Plat Co "L" took the town of Tillet. Co "K" continued protection of right flank of Div in vicinity of Chisogne. The recommendation for award of the Bronze Star to Pfc Thomas H. Hamlin was returned from Division for further investigation. The Div Board decided that the award was much under rated and recommended the DSC. Pvt Peter J. Hennigan, Med Det, was awarded the Bronze Star by the CG of the Division on the field of battle for evacuating two of his wounded comrades while he himself had a temperature of 103°. Casualties for the day were light. The Regt CP was moved to Rondu, Belgium at 1700 hours.

11 January 1945

During night, 2d Bn 345 Inf relieved 346th Inf, less Cn Co. We moved to new assembly area in Div Reserve. Casualties were light. Weather snow and cold. Morale, excellent.

- 3 -

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After Action Report, Hq 346th Inr, 5 Feb 45 (Contd)

12 January 1945

Closed in at new assembly area in Div Reserve. 3d Bn moved to Neuvillers. Counterattack plans made. Ready to move out on Div order against possible enemy penetrations. Forward CP 346th Regt was the scene today of formal ceremony at which time the CG made the following awards: 2d Lt W.F. O'Donnell, Silver Star; Pfc Isaac H. Saltz, Co "L" Medic, Silver Star; S Sgt Malizia, Co "K", Silver Star; Pvt C.F. Bickwarmer, Co "L" Medic, Silver Star; Pvt H.E. Matteson, Co "H" Medic, Silver Star; Pfc L.A. Magruier, Co "M", Silver Star (posthumously); Pfc G.B. Felson, Co "L" Medic, Silver Star; Pfc Atkinson, MD, Bronze Star; Pfc Hosteter, MD, Bronze Star; Pvt Fee, MD, Bronze Star; Pvt Katz, MD, Bronze Star; Pvt Fritts, MD, Bronze Star; Lt Spear, Co "H", Silver Star; Tec 5 Lane, MD, Bronze Star; Pfc Colburn, MD, Bronze Star; Pvt Hennigan, MD, Bronze Star.

13 January 1945

Still in Div Reserve in vicinity of Rondu, Belgium. 1st Bn alerted and available for possible counterattack. Lt Col Olson, Exec O, relieved of duties and transferred to 345th Inf. Maj Lem Shielde relieved of duties as Regtl S-2 and trfd to Hq 1st Bn as Exec Officer. Capt Schuh, Regtl S-3, changed to Regtl S-2. Maj Mignon K. Evans, Hq 1st Bn joined as Regtl S-3. Lt Col Davis and Lt Col Aycock arrived at 1530 and were oriented and sent to 2d and 3d Bns respectively, as CO. T Sgt W. Larson, Co "L", was recommended for battlefield promotion for outstanding work as platoon leader. Regtl CP moved to Aspelt, Luxembourg at 1415.

14 January 1945

Received orders to move Regt to new sector. S Sgt Watson, Co "I", for distinguished service against the enemy, was recommended for the DSO. Received 271 reinforcements today.

15 January 1945

Regiment closed in at new assembly area. 2d Bn closed in at Buiver at 2230; 3d Bn at Wecker at 2230; 1st Bn at Wecker, Co "B" 312th Med Bn at Wecker, and Anti-Tank Co at Buiver at 2400. Regtl CP opened at Betzdorf, Luxembourg at 1130. Received 137 reinforcements today. Morale -- excellent.

16 January 1945

Assumed command of 8th Infantry, 4th Div sector at 0930. Spent day improving defensive positions. Many strong patrols sent out. Outposts and listening posts established. Sector west of Mosel River, bordered on left by 347th and on right by 2d Cavalry. Troops located in vicinity of Mompach, Lillig and Herborn, Luxembourg. T Sgt Doulos, Hq Co 3d Bn, recommended for battlefield commission for outstanding work as acting platoon leader. Casualties--low.

- 4 -

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After Action Report, Hq 346th Inf, 5 Feb 45 (Contd)

17 January 1945

Still holding defensive positions. 1252d Engr Bn attached to us. Training schedule initiated for reserve Bn, depending upon weather and tactical situation. Casualties were low.

18 January 1945

Continued defensive positions. Vigorous patrols started at midnight. 2d Bn Tiger Patrol sent into village of Hinkel to capture PW's and create noise as well as simulated attack. Co "A" had one platoon simulate river crossing at Born. A platoon of Co "B" sent to clear Wasserbillig, but was ambushed by MG and small arms fire. Mission of patrols was not accomplished. Operations were failure. No PW's were taken. S/Sgt C F Sheup recommended for Congressional Medal of Honor to be awarded posthumously for knocking out a machine gun nest and saving life of men in his company while under heavy small arms fire. Casualties were low.

19 January 1945

Two eight-man enemy patrols were active in vicinity of Co "G". Friendly planes passed over our area all night. Regiment still in defensive positions, which were improved and strengthened. Patrols went into Hinkel and Born and reported that both are unoccupied. Bn's using facilities for training and maintenance. Weather was cold with snow and rain. Visibility was poor. Casualties--low.

20 January 1945

Two patrols sent out during the night. Second Bn sent patrol to Born. Third Bn patrol sent into Moersdorf gaining much valuable information. Third Bn patrol was led by Lt Robertson. Regiment continues to defend in same sector, 2d Bn on left, 1st Bn on right, 3d Bn in reserve. Training of reserve Bn still in effect. 1st Sgt Register, Co "I", and T/Sgt Carlun, Co "K" were recommended for a battlefield promotion to 2d Lt today for outstanding leadership. Casualties for today were low.

21 January 1945

Reconnaissance patrols sent into Born. Reported no activity in village. Patrol sent into Wasserbillig. First Bn relieved 3d Bn during hours 1600 to 2400. Regiment still maintaining and improving present defensive positions. Weather--cold and clear. Casualties--low.

22 January 1945

Patrol sent into Moersdorf. Found no activity there. Also no activity found by patrol in Born. We continued defensive positions. Morale of troops found to be excellent. Third Bn Tiger Patrol given mission of observing town of Langeur. Casualties--low.

- 5 -

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After Action Report, Hq 346th Inf, 5 Feb 45 (Contd)

23 January 1945

Town of Wasserbillig was captured today by strong patrol at 0205. Regiment continued to defend and improve positions of defense. Combat efficiency--excellent. Weather--cold. Casualties--low.

24 January 1945

Our patrols were active along the Saur River. Patrol sent into Born. Patrol also observed Mesenich. Found no activity. OP sent up opposite Langeur to determine movements and strength of enemy in the town. Defensive positions of Regiment were strengthened and improved during the day. Wasserbillig was occupied by our troops today. Maj Evans was relieved as Regtl S-3 today and transferred to Hq 3d Bn as Exec Officer. Maj Reilly was trfd to Regtl Hq from Hq 3d Bn to act as Regtl S-3. T Sgt J.B. D'Amico, Co "L", was recommended for battlefield promotion to 2d Lt for outstanding leadership. Casualties for day were low.

25 January 1945

Regiment moved from area along Sauer River to area in vicinity of Hautbellain, Belgium. Col Richard B Wheeler relieved of command as of 2000. Lt Col Donald C Clayman from 35th Div assumed command. Regimental I & R patrol sent to Durier.

26 January 1945

Bn's moved into assembly areas. 346th Combat Team, with Co "C" 312th Engr Bn attached and Co B, 811th TD Bn and 761st Tank Bn in direct support, relieved elements of XVIII Airborne Corps, 513th Parachute Regt and 193d Glider Regiment, in vicinity of St Vith. Weather--cold and snow. Visibility--limited. First Bn closed in at Hautbellain; remainder closed in vicinity of ~~Wasserbillig~~ and Hautbellain. Regimental CP moved from Betzdorf, Luxembourg to Hautbellain, Belgium at 1245.

27 January 1945

First Bn took town of Thommen at 0830, with little resistance. many prisoners were taken by us today. Second Bn occupied Dueler as of 0510 today. Moving on to occupy town of Gruflange. First Bn took Gruflange at 1100. Regimental CP moved from Hautbellain to Lingree at 0930 and from Lingree to Espeler at 1530. Casualties--not too high

28 January 1945

Second and Third Bn's moved forward into St Vith and closed in during night. Contacted elements of the 7th Armored Div in vicinity of St Vith. First and Second Bn's prepared to move on to east upon Div order. Combat efficiency--excellent. Weather--cold, cloudy and snow. Visibility--poor. Casualties--slightly high.

- 6 -

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After Action Report, Hq 346th Inf, 5 Feb 45 (Contd)

29 January 1945

One platoon of Co "C" 761st Tk Bn, one platoon 602 TD and one platoon Co "B" 312th Engrs attached to us. Given mission to make wide envelopment of enemy's flank, to destroy all enemy and cut them off, continuing attack to East. Day's attack was successful. Combat efficiency considered excellent. Casualties were rather high.


30 January 1945

Regiment passed through 82d Airborne Division sector. Task force moved out of St Vith and closed in at new assembly area, Herresbach, at 0600. Third Bn attacked from assembly area and advanced toward Andler. They met slight resistance. Regtl CP moved to St Vith at 1000. Casualties for day were rather high.

31 January 1945

L Lt Col Clayman was seriously wounded at 1315 today. He was wounded in left hand and lost considerable blood. Lt Col Russ was ordered to assume command of Regiment. 2d Bn captured 60 prisoners today. Major Reilly, Regtl S-3, was captured by enemy today at 2100. One of our men, Cpl Bender, Regtl Hq Co, who was also captured, got away. Capt Shanley assumed duties of S-4 and Capt Feder assumed duties as S-3, temporarily. Div Artillery fired leaflets into Germany. Third Bn jumped off at 0900 to take town of Andler. Heavy machine gun and mortar fire encountered. 2d Bn moved forward to take town of Schonberg. Took it at 0135, with slight resistance. 1st Bn passed through 3d Bn at 0400 and entered Andler. 1st Bn recd counterattack at 1345, but it was repulsed by artillery. Casualties for day were rather high. The following awards were made today by the Commanding General: Silver Stars were awarded to Pvt Cassita, Co K, Pvt Tappan, Co K, Pvt Fee, MD, Tec 5 Pistone, MD, Pvt Davis, MD, 1st Sgt Register, Co I, T Sgt McGahran, Co B, Lt O.C. Williams, Co A; Bronze Stars were awarded to Pvt Myer, MD, Pfc Joiner, MD (posthumously) Pvt Margitan, Co B, Sgt Rollins, Co K, Pfc Erbe, Co I, Pfc Milligan, Co I, Pfc Bernier, Co I, S Sgt Etzel, Co A, S Sgt Hammer, Co D, S Sgt Valentine, 1st Sgt Conley, Co A, 2d Lt Watson, Co I, Maj Reilly, Regtl Hq, Capt Hale, Co M, & 2d Lt Robertson, Co F.

For the Regimental Commander:

  
VINCENT USERA  
Major, Infantry  
S-3

- 7 -

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