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Auth: CG, 87 Div  
Init: R.A.M.  
Date: 6 Apr 45 HEADQUARTERS 346TH INFANTRY  
APO 448 U S Army

L-580

6 April 1945

Subject: After Action Report.

DECLASSIFIED

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

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD Letter, Apr. 12, 1974

By 7 NARS, Date 11/6/75

Following is the After Action Report for period 1-31 March 1945:

1 March 1945

Continued movement toward high ground north of Ormont, Germany. 2d and 3d Bns resumed attack at 0800, were met by MG, small arms, and mortar fire, which slowed advance. Many mines and booby traps encountered. Difficulty experienced in bringing up tanks and TD's due to mines and abatis. Tanks and TD's late -- ran into road block covered by fire. Some advance made. Many casualties suffered.

2 March 1945

1st Bn relieved 3d Bn. 3d Bn closed into assembly area (089924) from which to attack to the NW. 1st Bn repulsed enemy counterattack without loss of ground. Still encountering heavy booby traps. S/Sgt M Perkins, Co C, received Silver Star. 2d Lt Ira Smith, Co C, received Silver Star for gallantry in action.

3 March 1945

Attack resumed at 0630 and advances made against heavy resistance and obstacles. Many pillboxes taken. Effective support furnished by tanks and TD's. Sweeping roads of mines continued throughout period. Advance slowed by small arms, MG, and mortar fire. 3d Bn took objective at 1405 against heavy enemy opposition. 1st Bn continued advance against heavy small arms fire. 2d Bn advanced slowly and received small arms fire. At 1700 companies dug in for night and consolidated positions. Contact made and security posts established.

4 March 1945

Bns moved out on time and received small arms fire. 1st Bn took objective at 0900. 3d Bn reached final objective, Kerschenbach, at 1007. 2d Bn ran into minefields and abatis. 1st Bn moved forward at 1400 in the direction of Kronenberg, supported by tanks and TD's. 1st Bn stopped at edge of town of Kronenberg by small arms and artillery fire. 2d Bn reached final objective at 1115. Bn's remained in position for night, establishing contact between themselves and units on right and left. Arrangements of defense and consolidation of positions continued. Mines and booby traps swept and mine fields and road blocks being removed. Nine pillboxes taken. Casualties were heavy. T/Sgt Alex P. Ferguson, Co C, 346th Bn, received Silver Star. Appointment as Second Lieutenant.

CLASSIFICATION

**CANCELLED**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
*Henry J. Smith, Capt. H. L. ...*  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 20 May 1946

Incl # 2

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After Action Report, Hq 346th Inf, 6 Apr 45

5 March 1945

After occupying all assigned objectives, 346th Inf reorganized and re-equipped forces in position. 2d and 3d Bns received light artillery fire on positions during period. 1st Bn received small arms fire from high ground beyond Kronenberg. 3d Bn mopped up pillboxes in area and took several PW's. Vigorous patrolling continued. Company "G" moved out at 1630 to infiltrate by squads into Stadkyll. Some rifle fire received. Took Stadkyll at 1900 with slight resistance. 1st Sgt Charles Register, Co I, received Battlefield Appointment as 2d Lt.

6 March 1945

Mission: To continue attack at 0700 to destroy hostile resistance in zone to Kyll River. Company "I" moved out at 0245 to go to Stadkyll area. Relief of 1st Bn with 6th Cav started during early hours of period. Company "C" arrived in assembly area at 0640. Companies "A" and "B" withdrew under mortar fire. 3d Bn started moving out at 0705. 2d Bn jumped off on time. At 0810, leading elements of 3d Bn were in Stadkyll. At 1000 leading elements of 3d Bn had passed town of Stadkyll, bridges being repaired and roads cleared of mines and abatis. 2d Bn moved forward and took town of Schuller at 1305. Bn continued through Schuller to cross Kyll River. 3d Bn went forward from Stadkyll and were successful in getting some elements across river. 2d Bn moved across river and into Junkerath where enemy opposition was encountered. 3d Bn received resistance in town of Glaadt.

7 March 1945

1st Bn remained in assembly area during period until 0900, when they jumped off to take Esch. 2d Bn jumped off at 0900. 3d Bn reported Glaadt taken at 0910. To east of Glaadt, Company L met resistance. 1st Bn secured town of Esch at 1345. The 2d Bn relieved 3d Bn, 347th Inf, in Feusdorf and secured the town. Regtl CP moved from Kerschenbach to Schuller. T/Sgt J. B. D'Amico, Co L, received Battlefield Appointment as 2d Lt.

8 March 1945

Vigorous patrolling conducted throughout period. Roads cleared and road blocks and mines removed. Improvement and consolidation of positions conducted after 3d Bn secured dominating terrain on Div left flank in vicinity North and East of Kyll River. Regtl CP moved from Schuller to Junkerath.

9 March 1945

Vigorous patrolling continued throughout period. Contact established with adjoining units. Improvement and consolidation of positions continued. T/Sgt C. A. McAllister, Co B, received Battlefield Appointment as 2d Lt.

10 March 1945

Cleaning, repairing and inspecting of weapons, clothing and equipment being carried on in all companies. T/Sgt Oscar J. Walsh, Co E, and T/Sgt F. B. Mariner, Co H, received Battlefield Appointment as 2d Lt. Sgt R Elpert, Co I, received Silver Star.

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DD Form Letter, Apr. 12, 1974  
7, NARS, Date 1/16/75

11 March 1945

Regt continued present mission, utilizing time and facilities for maintenance and training. Following awards received: 2d Lt Robert J Watson, Co I, Silver Star; T/Sgt Wardlaw Watson, Co I, Silver Star; S/Sgt H Inzer, Co K, Bronze Star; Major Maurice R. Schuh, Regtl Hq, Bronze Star.

12 March 1945

Regt still in Div Reserve, using time for maintenance and training.

13 March 1945

The 346th Inf with Co B and 1 Plat Co D, 735 Tank Bn, 312th Med Bn, Water Unit 312th Engr Bn attached, moved from vicinity of Junkerath to vicinity of Rubenach, Germany. Given mission to defend the river line within its zone, patrols would be very active. Cannon Company supported the Regt by fire from positions near Wolken. 336th FA Bn supported the Regt by fire. 87th Rcn Tr patrolled all roads in Div sector from Bassenheim East to the Rhine River and South to the Mosel River. Very active patrolling maintained at all times by units holding the river line. Patrols will be so regulated that the entire river line is patrolled at least once every hour, day and night. Regtl CP moved to Rubenach.

14 March 1945

Sector to our north held by 6th Cavalry. Our first Bn located at Bubenheim, 2d Bn at Wolken, Third Bn at Rubenach. South of us the 90th Div has begun attack to cross River. Our mission to patrol along Rhine and Mosel Rivers. Regtl Comdr directs that patrols cover every part of river bank at least once per hour. Patrol schedules to be checked very closely. Information is gathering slowly. 4th Armd Div says that German 34th Div is in barracks on E side of Rhine. Information gotten from a Polish captive related that enemy is 200 strong on the small island in Rhine River at the northern part of our sector. PW states that every night an enemy patrol crosses Rhine in vicinity of island to contact civilians there. Attitude of enemy found to be aggressive. Area around Coblenz is covered by open field positions. 4th Armd had identified the German 6th SS Rcn Bn across Mosel in southern part of sector. Bn is approximately 400 strong--believed to be reinforced by one additional company. Lt Col Davis, formerly CO of 2d Bn, (now WIA), received Bronze Star for meritorious service.

15 March 1945

Active patrolling continued throughout period toward front. Positions improved and consolidated. Arty and mortar fire received on some positions during period. Patrols on lookout for suitable places for crossing river.

16 March 1945

Improvement and consolidation of positions continued. Active patrolling maintained throughout period. Patrols sent across Mosel River--found very little activity in Coblenz.

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17 March 1945

Upon being relieved by 6th Cav Gp, Regt moved to new assembly area. 2d Bn moved into assembly area vicinity Wolken. No patrols during period. En Artillery fire received in some positions. Improvement and consolidation of positions. 1st and 3d Bns continued defensive operations in sector during period. Prepared for offensive action on Div order. Responsibility for protection of bridges at Kobern and Winnigen.

18 March 1945

1st Bn continued defense in zone. 3d Bn continued outpost details on west bank of Rhine River. Guard detail from our Regt took over responsibility of guarding bridges at Winnigen and Kobern. Two rifle platoons and one weapons platoon took over security of Niederfeld. 1st Bn relieved in position by 28th Div. All Bns moved to new assembly areas. Regtl CP moved to Kobern. 1st Bn moved to vicinity of Winnigen, 2d vicinity Kobern, 3d Bn vicinity Gondorf. Regiment now in Div Reserve. Capt DeAlton Posey, Hq 2d Bn, received Bronze Star.

19 March 1945

Still in Division Reserve. Training continued by all units throughout period. Special training given Tiger Patrol in river crossing. Regtl CP moved to Kobern, Germany at 1430. Following awards received: Lt Col Joseph R Russ, Regtl Exec O, Bronze Star; Lt Col Donald Claymen, formerly Regtl Comdr (now evacuated), Silver Star; Capt John Swanson, Co I, Bronze Star.

20 March 1945

Training schedule still in progress. Regt in Div Reserve.

21 March 1945

Training in river crossing conducted in addition to regular training schedule. The following awards received: Pfc L. Blake, Co C, Silver Star; Pfc Milton Bloom, Co D, Silver Star; Pfc T Scoles, Co I, Bronze Star.

22 March 1945

Regt still in Div Reserve vicinity of Winnigen, Kobern and Gondorf. Training schedule continued. Following awards received: 1st Lt A Schwartz, Co M, Bronze Star; Capt Robert P Feder, Sv Co, Bronze Star; Pfc D. Newman, Med Det, Silver Star; Sgt R Parker, Hq Co 2d Bn, Bronze Star; Tec 5 F. Freed, Hq Co 3d Bn, Bronze Star; 2d Lt Chas. Register, Co I, Bronze Star.

23 March 1945

Moved to new assembly area at 0300. 1st Bn vicinity Zilhausen, 2d Bn vicinity Heyweiler, 3d Bn vicinity Dorweiler. Regtl CP moved to Saberhausen, Germany.

24 March 1945

Still in new assembly area. Patrols established in town and around Bn areas. Awaiting orders. Regtl CP moved to Oppenheim. 1st Lt A Schwartz, Co M, Silver Star.

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25 March 1945

Regt moved to new assembly area in vicinity surrounding Oppenheim. Established patrols and outposts. Regt still in Div Reserve. Our Company "K" joined Task Force Sundt, commanded by Lt Col Sundt, for employment east of Rhine River. Mission to be clearing area of PW's and spearheading attack with armor.

26 March 1945

At 0200, 346th Inf (less 2d Bn and Co K) moves by marching so as to reach crossing site vicinity Boppard at daylight 26 March. Crossed Rhine River and moved to assembly area. Passed through leading Elements 345 Inf and seized objective. Cleared woods and trails and moved to NW to protect north flank of Regt. Regtl CP opened at Osterspai, Germany at 1230

27 March 1945

Continued attack and captured Schweighausen, Becheln and Hinterwald. 3d Bn captured Kehlbach 1030. Resistance very light. Attacked in a column of Bn's in road march formation, 3d Bn leading. Casualties very light. Regtl CP moved to Schweighausen at 1415.

28 March 1945

Continued attack led by 1 Plat Co D, 735th Tank Bn as spearhead followed by the 3d Bn, 1st Bn, and 2d Bn respectively. 3d Bn took Singhofen completing mopping up operations at 0010. All Bns assembled around Singhofen for jump-off at 0600. 2d Bn cleared Frucht as of 0040. Jumped off from assembly area vicinity Singhofen at 0747 in road march formation. Slight resistance reported from towns taken and great number of PW's taken. Towns cleared: Kordoff, 1100; Biebrich, 1200; Schonborn, 1207; Attenhausen; Birlenbach. Contacted First Army tanks on left flank vicinity Diez. CP mobile during entire day, permanent CP being established at Lindenholzhausen. Bn's moved into assembly area vicinity Limberg; the reserve Bn (2d Bn) moving up from its position at Frucht.

29 March 1945

Ordered to continue advance to Div objective vicinity Geissen. 3d Bn moved out in same road march formation, 735th Tank Bn and 607th TD Bn spearheading attack. Moved out at 1100 but advance stopped pending army boundary change. All roads blocked by elements of 9th Armd Division, therefore unable to complete mission. Ordered by Division to reassemble and be prepared to move as soon as transportation problem cleared.

30 March 1945

Div orders movement to begin at 0600 to previous objective. Regt moves out in march units as road and towns along route have been cleared by advance of other units. Elements of 28th Cav using route in our sector thereby causing delay in our advance. 3d Bn relieves Task Force Sundt at Lang Gons at 1140. Ordered to move back to assembly area vicinity Kraftsolms. Regtl CP established Kraftsolms at 1300.

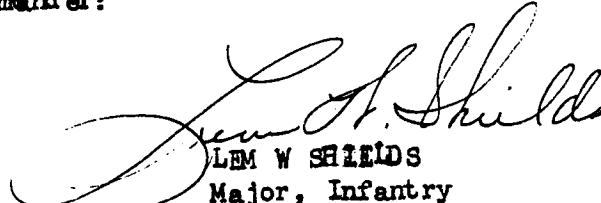
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31 March 1945

Receive mission of clearing assembly area of Enemy. Each battalion area combed and only 3 PW's taken. Patrols active throughout zone running into scattered groups of enemy, finding PW's easy to take. Regt instructed to be on look-out for enemy groups which on several occasions have attacked single vehicles at night. Orders given for no one to venture out alone and no single vehicles to be out at night.

For the Regimental Commander:

  
LEM W SHIELDS  
Major, Infantry  
S-3