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Auth: CG 87th Div
Init:
Date: 6 June 1945

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HEADQUARTERS 346TH INFANTRY
APO 448 U S ARMY

6 June 1945

Subject: After Action Report.

To: Commanding General, 87th Inf Div, APO 448, U S Army
(ATTN: AG of S, G-3)

Following is the "After Action Report" covering period from 1 May to the end of hostilities, 8 May 1945.

1 May 1945

Troops continued mission of holding defense line in rear of "No Fire Line" in anticipation of the approach of the Russian forces. 2d Bn patrol went to Rodewisch and observed no enemy activity there whatsoever. 1st Bn patrol returned from vicinity Auerbach unable to locate tanks reported by PW; patrol was engaged in fire fight at the edge of town on their return.

NGO school was held on "Actions and Orders of Leaders" of the squad and the platoon in the attack. Other troops received training in "Riot Duty in Guerilla Warfare" and in "Small Unit Tactics".

2 May 1945

Troops continued to hold positions along defense line, patrol activity continuing. Patrol from F Co sent to determine Enemy activity vicinity Rodewisch, engaged in fire fight with enemy patrol, killing two Jerries and suffering no casualties themselves. Training schedules continued in small unit tactics, map reading and other basic subjects.

Two German Majors entered our lines under flag of truce at 0820 requesting that we lift our artillery fire on Rodewisch. They returned through our lines at 1445 with instructions that either the German garrison at Rodewisch surrender and march in under white flags or we would send them an inducement in the form of an artillery TOT. With the majors went two American ambulances to pick up the allied PW's in the hospitals of Rodewisch. The ambulances returned at 1630 with 20 Allied PW's including 4 Americans. 1645 passed without a white flag. A 42 pound TOT was fired on Rodewisch at 1820.

3 May 1945

Continued mission of holding positions, guarding all bridges in the area. Contact patrols contacted the 89th Division and 347 Infantry throughout the night.

4 May 1945

F Co fired on enemy patrol attempting to get through our lines and in the morning found explosives of all types left behind by the patrol. Russian forces thought to have been contacted by radio but no definite plans for a meeting were arranged.

387-1NF(346)-03

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE
27 May 1964
J. D. Miller

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Miller

Sub #

5 May 1945

Continued to hold positions. Orders received for a limited objective attack in the morning. Patrol returned from Falkenstein bringing in 9 PW's and 2 English PW's. Patrol engaged in fire fight in Falkenstein when taking machine gun position.

6 May 1945

3d Bn jumped off at 0800 meeting small arms fire in the towns of Dorfstadt Falkenstein, Eliefeld and Beernheide. 1st Bn took towns of Rodewisch, Rutzengrun and Vogelsgrun with only slight resistance from small arms fire. 2d Bn took town of Rebesgrun, Rotenbach and Auerbach. About 25 rounds of artillery fire near Rodewisch and a few rounds of mortar fire received in Dorfstadt was the only artillery and mortar fire received throughout the day. CP moved to Bebesgrun. Patrols sent to Wildenau, Wernesgrun, Schonheide. Patrol to Wernesgrun sighted eleven enemy troops on edge of town and were told by civilians that armor was in the town.

7 May 1945


Plans for the day's attack were stopped at 0525 hours by a message from the Commanding General, as follows, "Sit tight, hold what you have, accept any surrenders". Troops were redeployed, outposts were established and constant patrolling conducted between posts. At 0945 following message was received from the Division Commander: "Representatives of the German High Command signed the unconditional surrender of all German land, sea, and air forces in Europe to the Allied Expeditionary Forces and simultaneously to the Soviet High Command at 070141B May 1945, under which all forces will cease active operations at 090001B May 1945. Effective immediately all offensive operations will cease. Troops will remain in present positions. Moves involved in occupational duty will continue. Due to difficulty in communications, there may be some delay in similar orders reaching enemy troops, so full defensive precautions will be taken. No release to the press pending announcements by the head of the three governments (All units of 346th CT were notified that the war in Europe had ended).

Commander of German Artillery Battalion comes through lines to arrange surrender of his battalion to our 2d Bn at 0500 in the morning. German Colonel Deyrick did not know at the time of the surrender that the war had ended. Regtl CP moved to Auerbach.

8 May 1945

Accepted surrender of Artillery Battalion at 0500 as previously arranged. Other prisoners flowed into the outposts and were processed through PW channels. At 1715, Division cages were filled and orders were received to hold all prisoners in Regtl cages. This ended the action for the 346th Inf in the European Theater of Operations.

For the Commanding Officer:


LEM W SHIELDS
Major, Infantry
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