

HEADQUARTERS 387TH INFANTRY  
APO 445

St. Sedliste, Czech.  
11 May 1945

SUBJECT: After Battle Report. (21 Apr 45 - 8 May 45)

TO : Commanding General, 97th Infantry Division,  
APO 445, c/o Postmaster, New York, New York.

ATTN : Historian.

1. Submitted herewith is the After Battle Report for the 387th Infantry Regiment covering its participation in the Battle of Germany.

2. With the victorious completion of hostilities in the Ruhr Pocket, the 387th Infantry departed from the vicinity of OPLADEN, Germany, on 21 Apr 45 for an unknown destination and a new mission.

The leading elements of the 387th Infantry arrived at MARKTREDWITZ, Germany, on 22 Apr 45, and all troops closed in the new assembly area in this vicinity on 23 Apr 45. Immediate plans were initiated for the relief of elements of the 2d Cavalry Group. Reconnaissance was immediately instituted and contact made with the 42d Cavalry Squadron to effect relief. Orders were issued to battalion and attached company commanders to expedite this relief. Preparations were made to attack in order to prevent relief or assistance of the CHEB garrison, and to be prepared to seize CHEB on order.

Intelligence reports of 23 Apr 45 estimated that enemy forces on the Division front numbered approximately 1300. The 2d Panzer Division was identified in this sector, and it was assumed that most of the troops in this vicinity were under its command. It was ascertained that recent operations of the enemy were confined to the construction of road blocks, demolition of roads and bridges, and the preparation of mine fields. It was also reported that the Czechoslovakian border had been previously fortified with some prepared defensive installations consisting of concrete pillboxes.

The 387th Infantry move forward to the vicinity of WALDSASSEN, Germany, on 24 Apr 45. Patrols were put into operation in the BRITNA, DOLZANDOV and CHEB sectors to determine any concentration or troop movements of the enemy.

Relief of the 42d Cavalry Squadron was initiated by the 2d Battalion on the left of the Regimental Zone. Light resistance was encountered in this sector, but steady progress was made. The 3d Battalion on the right met heavy mortar, automatic weapons, and 20mm fire on the northern outskirts of WALDSASSEN which delayed their advance toward CHEB. It was necessary for the 3d Battalion to make a forced night march through the woods west of WALDSASSEN - CHEB highway in order to avoid delay from resistance on this road. By this means the 3d Battalion had at daylight 25 Apr 45 secured jump-off positions on the high ground south of CHEB and east of the main highway.

Relief of the 42d Cavalry Squadron was completed at 1825 24 Apr 45 in this sector. Company G was ordered to clear the woods east of WALDSASSEN to HUNDSBACH, Germany, so that the 3d Battalion could be supplied over this route. Company G moved forward at 0130 25 Apr 45. Progress was slow due to enemy snipers, mortar and automatic weapons fire.

The 3d Battalion moved into position for the attack in the woods east of UJEZO SV KRIZE, where they surprised German soldiers sent there at dawn to install defensive positions. Resistance was encountered from a factory in the southwest portion of CHEB, Czechoslovakia, and artillery was called to reduce it in the morning. The attack continued with Company I advancing to determine the strength of the enemy. Approximately 500 yards from the edge of town Company I received considerable enemy fire, and a tactical withdrawal was made according to plan. The artillery laid down a concentration of fire according to Plan Zebra and Company I advanced on the left with Company K on the right, while Company L provided flank protection. Light resistance was encountered until Company I reached the edge of town, at which time the enemy slowed the advance with automatic weapons fire from dug-in positions. This resistance was soon overrun, and by 2000 hours CHEB was occupied in the south third, to the south edge of the park.

Difficulty was encountered in opening the main supply route, but our infantry and tanks overran the town of HUNDSBACH, Germany which resulted in the road being secured at 2030. Enemy resistance was light in number, but they fought with determination and were cleverly emplaced, making full use of all means available to them.

During the early morning hours of 26 Apr 45 the enemy staged a counterattack on the 3d Battalion Command Post, using an estimated three platoons of approximate strength of 45 men each, which resulted in the capture and evacuation by the enemy of the 3d Battalion Aid Station, Lt. WILSON STANLEY from Company H, and 6 EM. It is believed that this counterattack was staged to cover the withdrawal from the town of CHEB of some high-ranking military personnel and Nazi party officials.

During the period 26 Apr - 27 Apr 45 our troops continued to mop up enemy resistance in this area, with the 3d Battalion in CHEB, and the 1st and 2d Battalions to the rear. The enemy continued harrassing artillery and rocket fire in CHEB and the 2d Battalion area. Contact with the 386th Infantry was made in north CHEB at 1815 26 Apr 45. 713 prisoners were taken in this action, and they comprised miscellaneous troops from various organizations. 1st Battalion relieved elements of the 386th Infantry on the line FRANT LAZNE - CHEB north of the OHRE River during daylight hours on 27 Apr 45.

Plans were made on 28 Apr 45 for the 3d Battalion to attack the CHEB airfield at 1500. The attack was to be preceded by an artillery concentration at H - 15 to H Hour. Company L plus two platoons from Company A, 820 Tank Destroyer Bn and 13 tanks from Company C, 782 Tank Battalion, were to be used in this attack. Resistance continued to be generally light with no definite enemy

line established other than enemy defensive installations at the airfield northeast of CHEB, Czechoslovakia.

The attack jumped off as planned, and the opposition continued to be light. Automatic weapons and Panzerfausts were employed by the enemy, but the positions were soon overrun by our tanks. The towns of REICHERSDORF and DOL-SCHON, Czechoslovakia, located in the vicinity of the airfield, were taken, and the airfield, along with the commanding ground in this area, was secured by our troops by 1815. 541 prisoners were taken in this action, and large quantities of materiel were captured, including 100 machine guns, 15 40mm AA guns, and ammunition. 30 enemy dead were counted on the field. Our losses in this action were extremely light, with 8 EM being slightly wounded, and 2 EM seriously wounded; none were killed.

With the capture of the airfield and surrounding villages, the possibility of counterattacks was eliminated as the enemy had no organized forces left in this sector. No definite front line was established by the enemy and contact after this action was lost. Our front extended along line FRANT LAZNE - CHEB - BALD-SASSEN - PFAFFENREUTH.

Enemy units committed in this sector consisted of the Combat Teams Ludwig and Schultz, both of which were replacements for the 13th Landeschutz Battalion and the Combat Team Horst, attached. The Jaeger Horst Eger were Air Corps troops organized as infantry, and the 2d Company Panzer Jaeger detachment, organized from the Hungarian artillery school at Eger (CHEB), Czechoslovakia, were identified.

Conferences and reconnaissances were initiated with the advance elements of the 18th Infantry to take over our sector, and with the 2d Cavalry Group for their relief in our new sector. Preparations were made on 28 Apr 45 for the new mission, and the 387th Infantry was relieved of responsibility in the old sector at 1230 29 Apr 45. The 387th Infantry moved to the vicinity of ESLARN, Germany, on this date, via VOHNSBERAUBS-LEIDEN, relieving the 42d Cavalry Squadron, 2d Cavalry Group, on the front SV KATERINA - N VES - FLES.

The initial operation in the new sector consisted of patrol activity and screening which resulted in the capture of a German Colonel with his headquarters and staff, who was in command of the "Werewolf" organization in this vicinity. His capture resulted in the subsequent roundup of the members of this organization.

It was reported that the enemy was active in the towns of BEZDEKOV and DUBEC, Czechoslovakia, and immediate plans were made to attack at 0730 1 May 45 with three battalions abreast, on a front of 2400 meters. The attack jumped off on schedule, and the 1st Battalion reached its objective at 1520, with Company B meeting light resistance in the towns of BEZDEKOV and DUBEC. The 2d Battalion advanced against very light resistance, and by 1630 had extended the 1st Battalion's flank from BELA N RABD to MUTE-NIN. The 3d Battalion advanced against light resistance and at 1930 all companies were on their objective with right flank at

SCHONAU, with the exception of Company K, which had run into resistance from 2 MG's and a self-propelled artillery piece in the vicinity of SIDLAKOV. By 2110 Company K had taken this town and halted there for the night, continuing its advance in the morning and reaching its final objective at 0840 2 May 45.

The 23d Infantry relieved CT 387 on 3 May 45 and assumed responsibility for this sector at 1140 3 May 45. All elements of the 387th Infantry closed into Division reserve in the vicinity of NEUSLADT, Germany, by 1555 3 May 45. The 387th Infantry, after 36 hours rest, closed into a new assembly area in the vicinity of ST SEDLISIE, Czechoslovakia, still as Division reserve. On 5 May 45 the 3d Battalion attacked in the direction PAVLOVITZ - ZADUB - KONSTANTINOVY - NECPINY. Vehicles were forced to join battalion by detour over route N HOSPODA - SVOLISIN - CERNOSIN. On 6 May 45 the 2d Battalion remained in the vicinity of ST SEDLISIE, as Division reserve, and the 1st Battalion, also in Division reserve, departed for a new assembly area in the vicinity of CERNOSIN, at which point Regtl Forward CP was located.

The attack of the 3d Battalion jumped off at 0600 6 May 45, and progress was slow due to numerous road blocks and blown bridges which were encountered enroute. The advance continued against no resistance and the leading elements reached the final objective at 2020. The remainder of the battalion closed in at 2130. The enemy continued to surrender in large numbers, our troops taking 2185 prisoners in this action.

This attack resulted in the capture of a 16-car hospital train with medical personnel, in the vicinity of NIZKA; capture of 13th German Army Corps Headquarters at PENAREC, Czechoslovakia, commanded by Lt. Gen WEISBERGER; and numerous small units in the vicinity of NECPINY. Also captured in NECPINY was Colonel KARL FRIEHL, General Staff Corps, 13th German Army Corps. The 1st, 2d, and 3d Btry's of the 44th Arty Ren Bn were captured at SKUPEC.

The 387th Infantry moved to the vicinity of CIHANA, Czechoslovakia, on 7 May 45 to tactical quartering areas in accordance with verbal orders from Division. The main effort in this area consisted of the control and handling of prisoners and displaced persons.

With the surrender of Germany on 8 May 45 the 387th Infantry had fully completed its combat mission against Germany.

The 387th Infantry remained in the vicinity of CIHANA until 10 May 45 when the Regt was relieved by elements of the 16th Armcd Division. 69th Armcd Inf Bn relieved the 1st Bn of the 387th Infantry; 26th Tank Bn relieved the 3d Bn; and the 397th Armcd FA Bn relieved the 2d Bn. The relief was completed at 1445 on 10 May 45. The battalions, as relieved, moved by motor shuttle to an assembly area in the vicinity of ST SEDLISIE, Czechoslovakia.

For the Commanding Officer:

/s/ EUGENE A. BUCKLEY, JR.  
/t/ EUGENE A. BUCKLEY, JR.  
Capt., 387th Infantry  
Adjutant