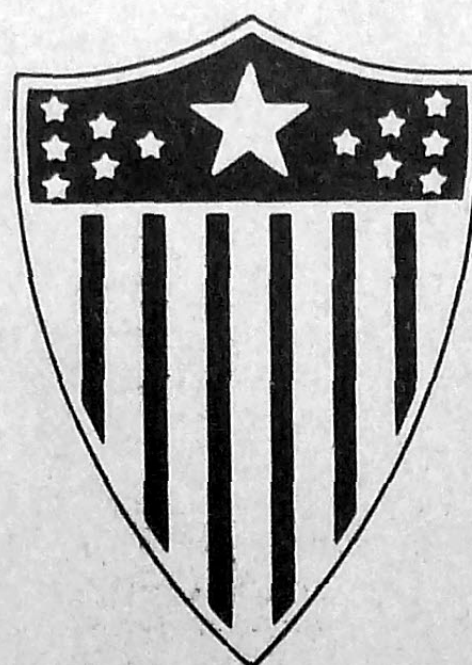


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**WAR DEPARTMENT**  
**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE**  
**WASHINGTON**

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A/A Ppt - 106th Inf Div



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HEADQUARTERS 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
A.P.O. #143, U. S. Army

27 January 1945

319.1/401 (X)

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Report After.

TO : The Adjutant General,  
Washington, D. C.

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1. a. Enclosed are the After Action Reports and Journals of the following units and General Staff Sections of the 106th Infantry Division, covering action against the enemy during the month of December 1944:

424th Infantry Regiment Report  
106th Division Artillery Report  
61st Engineer (C) Battalion Report  
331st Medical Battalion Report  
106th Division Special Troops Report  
G-1 Report  
G-2 Report  
G-3 Report  
G-4 Report

Incl #1

Incl #3

Incl #4

Incl #5

Incl #6

Incl #7

Incl #8

Incl #9

Incl #10

b. The commanding officers and staffs of the 422d Infantry Regiment, 423d Infantry Regiment and the 106th Reconnaissance Troop are missing in action. Their records are presumed to have been destroyed and are not available. The action of these units is covered, but not completely, in the reports and journals of the General Staff Sections. The 14th Cavalry Group was attached to the division from 111900A to 181300A December. Its action, in part, during this period is included in the reports and journals of the General Staff Sections. After 181300A December, it was attached to the 7th Armored Division.

2. Summary of action against the enemy for December 1944:

The 106th Infantry Division moved from ENGLAND to FRANCE and closed in its concentration area in the vicinity of LIMESEY, FRANCE, 6 December 1944. The division then moved by motor from LIMESEY, FRANCE to ST. VITH, BELGIUM, completing the move at 101830A December 1944.

In compliance with an VIII Corps order the 106th Infantry Division, with attachments, relieved the 2d Infantry Division in place. The Commanding General, 106th Infantry Division assumed responsibility for the defense of the sector (Sketch No 1) at 111900A December 1944. The major units attached to the division at this time were: 14th Cavalry Group, 820th Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 634th Antiaircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion (M).

Early 16 December, the enemy launched a coordinated infantry-tank attack with an estimated two infantry divisions and elements of two panzer divisions.



preceded by an extensive artillery preparation. Captured documents taken by the division indicated the scope of the German attack. The undertaking "GREIF" appeared to be part of this large scale counter-offensive.

The German attack increased in fury and continued, generally along the whole sector, during the day. Reports indicated that the divisions to the north and south of the division sector were likewise receiving strong attacks and that the enemy had effected some penetrations. Local reserves were used to expel the enemy and to limit penetrations in the division sector. The 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was released to the 14th Cavalry Group at 160705A. The 1st Battalion, 424th Infantry was committed at 161145A to eject the enemy from the center of the sector of the 424th Infantry and then to hold WINTERSPELT. The 14th Cavalry Group fell back in the northern sector, exposing the north flank of the 422d Infantry. At 161700A, the 2d Battalion, 423d Infantry, in division reserve, was committed in the gap between the 14th Cavalry Group and the 422d Infantry to stop the German advance around the exposed flank. By 162000A the original positions were generally intact except in the northern sector where the 14th Cavalry Group was back on the line ANDLER - HERRESBACH - WERETH.

CC"B", 9th Armored Division was attached 161120A at PAYMONVILLE. As soon as the unit could be contacted preparations were made for its early employment against the enemy's penetration in the northern sector. Later the division commander was notified that the 7th Armored Division was also attached and would arrive vicinity of ST. VITH by 170700A. Plans were then made for the morning of 17 December to use CC"B", 7th Armored Division to contain and eliminate the enemy penetration in the northern part of the division sector while CC"B", 9th Armored Division was to be used in the sector of the 424th Infantry, where the enemy had intensified his efforts to secure a breakthrough.

At 170630A December, the enemy succeeded in penetrating the sector of the 423d Infantry in the vicinity of BLEIALF. He pushed some forces north from BLEIALF while other enemy forces advanced south from ANDLER, the two forces effecting a junction in the vicinity of SCHONBERG during the morning. This cut direct communication by road and wire between the units east of the BLEIALF - SCHONBERG ROAD and the remainder of the division. The units cut off were the 422d Infantry, 423d Infantry, 590th Field Artillery, part of the 589th Field Artillery, Company B, 81st Engineer (C) Battalion, Company B, 331st Medical Battalion, Company C, 820th Tank Destroyer Battalion and Battery D, 634th Antiaircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion (M). Radio communication was maintained with these units until late 18 December. Arrangements were made for supplies to be dropped by air but the weather was non-operational.

The 7th Armored Division did not arrive by 170700A as scheduled. The Commanding General of CC"B", 7th Armored, and some reconnaissance elements of the division arrived at ST. VITH at 171520A. The reconnaissance elements were disposed in the late afternoon north and northeast of the town to protect the deployment of the division when it arrived.

Meanwhile, the Germans had pushed on through SCHONBERG towards ST. VITH. The remaining combat elements available to the division (the 81st Engineer (C) Battalion, less two companies, with part of the 168th Engineer (C) Battalion, the Defense Platoon of Division Headquarters Company and one platoon of tank destroyers attached) were committed to the east of ST. VITH. This force stopped the German



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advance two kilometers east of the town at 171700A.

In the meantime, in the sector of the 424th Infantry, the enemy renewed his attack and by 170830A had occupied WINTERSPELT and pushed northwest towards STEINEBRUCK. This cut off the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop and Troop B, 18th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron in vicinity of MUTZENICH. CC"B", 9th Armored Division, was committed in a counterattack when it arrived early 17 December, to stop and throw back this German thrust. This counterattack was successful in securing the crossing of the OUR RIVER at STEINEBRUCK and advancing to the north edge of WINTERSPELT, but against continuously increasing enemy resistance. To the north and south of WINTERSPELT the enemy continued to push in with tanks and infantry and he also was meeting with success in the sector of the 28th Infantry Division to the south of the 424th Infantry. At 171600A, CC"B" was ordered to withdraw to a defensive position northwest of the OUR RIVER and the 424th Infantry was ordered to withdraw and defend west of the OUR RIVER on the south of CC"B".

After the arrival of the Commanding General, CC"B", 7th Armored Division and his advance elements during the afternoon of 17 December, he was placed in command of a sector to the north of CC"B", 9th Armored Division, including ST. VITH. Elements of the 106th Infantry Division already in defensive positions around ST. VITH were placed under his command. A counterattack to the east in the direction of ST. VITH - SCHONBERG - AUW was planned for 18 December.

At 180215A, the 422d Infantry and 423d Infantry were ordered to move to the northwest and west against the enemy force in vicinity of the SCHONBERG - ST. VITH ROAD and then continue to the area ST. VITH - WALLERODE - WEPFELER. They were not successful in breaking through the German forces to their rear.

The enemy continued probing during the night of 17 - 18 December and early on 18 December renewed his attack. Tank and infantry units advanced against ST. VITH from the east, northeast and north. A company of tanks and a company of tank destroyers were moved from CC"B", 9th Armored Division to the north of ST. VITH to hold the enemy until the arrival of the combat elements of CC"B", 7th Armored Division, which committed its elements as they arrived, so that by 180930A one battalion of armored infantry and two companies of medium tanks had been deployed. The engineer force east of the town maintained its position against repeated enemy assaults. The fight for ST. VITH continued during the day but all German attacks were repulsed.

In the southern part of the division sector, CC"B", 9th Armored Division and the 424th Infantry completed their withdrawal to the west of the OUR RIVER and there maintained their positions during 18 December. CC"B", 9th Armored Division defended the sector just south of ST. VITH and the 424th Infantry on its south. Contact was made with the 112th Infantry (28th Division) which had been separated from the remainder of its division. At 181300A, boundaries were changed by VIII Corps giving the 7th Armored Division that portion of the 106th Infantry division sector north of the line HOUFFALIZE - ST. VITH, (both inclusive to 106th Infantry Division). The 14th Cavalry Group was attached to the 7th Armored Division effective 181300A. Dispositions at 182400A was as shown on Sketch No 2.

During the next three days (19, 20 and 21 December) a seesaw battle was in progress throughout the division sector. Heavy fighting continued around ST. VITH and to the south. The 112th RCT, having been pushed back and cut off completely from its division, was attached to this division at 191600A. It was moved to the northeast and tied in with the southern flank of the 424th Infantry, so that two regiments held the shoulder of the German breakthrough to the south of the division sector. The 106th Infantry Division passed to the control of XVIII (Airborne) at 201600A. All enemy attacks were repulsed and the positions



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held with only minor changes throughout the sector.

By the night of 21 - 22 December, the fall of ST. VITH became imminent and all units of the 106th Infantry Division and 7th Armored Division were pulled back on Corps order to form a perimeter defense west of ST. VITH and east of the SALM RIVER (see Sketch No 3). This defensive position was maintained during 22 December.

Late on 22 December, Corps ordered the 106th Infantry Division and the 7th Armored Division to withdraw west of the SALM RIVER, through the 82d Airborne Division which had taken up a defensive position along the SALM RIVER and the road running west from SALMCHATEAU. This withdrawal was effected on 23 December and the division moved to the vicinity of WERBOMONT. CC'B\*, 9th Armored Division and the 112th RCT then passed to control of the XVIII Corps (Airborne). The 592d Field Artillery continued in general support as part of a Corps artillery group.

During the withdrawal west of the SALM RIVER, a task force from the division, composed of elements of the 589th and 590th Field Artillery Battalions, stopped and held the German advance to the north at BARACQUE DE FRAITURE and protected the right flank of the 82d Airborne Division and the XVIII Corps (Airborne), until relieved by elements of VII Corps.

On 24 December, the 424th Infantry was attached to the 7th Armored Division and was again committed in the vicinity of MANHAY, where it took part in the final stopping of the German advance on LIEGE.

On 25 December, the 591st Field Artillery Battalion and some of the service elements of the division were attached to the 7th Armored Division. The 592d Field Artillery was attached to the XVIII Corps (Airborne) Artillery.

By 30 December, all detached units except the 591st and 592d Field Artillery Battalions had reverted to division control. At the end of the month, the division was assembled west of the OURTHE RIVER in the vicinity of ANTHISNES for reorganization and resupply.

✓ 3. It is presumed that the 422d Infantry Regiment, 423d Infantry Regiment, 589th Field Artillery Battalion, 590th Field Artillery Battalion and the 106th Reconnaissance Troop were eventually overpowered by the German forces east of ST. VITH and the bulk of the personnel captured about 19 or 20 December. The strength of the German attack in the division sector and the forces available to the division at the time prevented their being relieved. Attempts to supply the units by air failed because of the weather, although, as learned later, two drops were made but not within their reach. It is known that they were still in the fight early 19 December. It is also known that prisoners were taken by the Germans. However, the final chapter in the defense of the SCHNEE EIFFEL penetration of the SEIGFREID LINE held by these units is not now known.

4. The estimated losses sustained during this period were 8490, including 415 killed in action, 1254 wounded in action and 6821 missing in action. A large part of the organizational equipment and most of the individual clothing and equipment of CT 422, CC 423 and the 106th Reconnaissance Troop were lost when these units were cut off in the SCHNEE EIFFEL region. It is believed that the bulk of the equipment was destroyed.

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5. On 27 December, First U. S. Army stated that the division would, until further action, consist of the 106th Infantry Division less the 424th Infantry, 424th Infantry, 559th Field Artillery Battalion, 559th Field Artillery Battalion and the 106th Reconnaissance Troop. The authorized personnel strength of the division would be 407 officers, 50 warrant officers and 6170 enlisted men, or a total authorized strength of 6627. On 31 December, the actual strength of the division was 5534.

For the Commanding General:

*J. H. Paul*  
F. I. Paul,  
Lt. Colonel, A.C.D.,  
Adjutant General.

**Items:**

- #1 - 424th Infantry Report
- #2 - 106th Division Artillery Report
- #3 - 51st Engineer (C) Battalion Report
- #4 - 51st Medical Battalion Report
- #5 - 106th Division Special Troops Report
- #6 - G-1 Report
- #7 - G-2 Report
- #8 - G-3 Report
- #9 - G-4 Report