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HEADQUARTERS XX CORPS
APO 340 U. S. Army

7 September 1944

AG 314.7

SUBJECT: Action Against the Enemy, 1 August through 31 August 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(Through Channels)

1. XX Corps became operational under Third United States Army at 1200 hours, 1 August 1944.

2. Operations during the period 1200 hours 1 August 1944 through 5 August 1944 consisted of concentrating the Corps south of the SELUNE River in the Third Army Zone prepared to operate to the south or southeast.

3. On 6 August 1944, in compliance with directive Third United States Army, XX Corps consisting of 5th and 35th Infantry Divisions, and 2d Armored Division (French), commenced movement to concentration areas in the vicinity VIÈRE per Field Order #1, Headquarters XX Corps. On 7 August when enemy forces in contact with First United States Army placed heavy pressure in the west sector of First Army, elements of the 35th Infantry Division were committed in the direction of MORTAIN, and succeeded in reinforcing that point. 80th Division was attached to the Corps on 7 August earmarked for employment by Third United States Army on 8 August; on the same date the 35th Infantry Division and the 2d Armored Division (French) were released by Army order.

4. 5th Infantry Division commenced operations against ANGERS on 7 August, capturing the city at 2200 hours, 10 August 1944. 7th Armored Division was attached XX Corps 9th August 1944 and moved to assembly area in the vicinity LE MANS, prepared to attack north from LE MANS. 3d Cavalry Group joined XX Corps on 9 August and was assigned the mission of reconnoitering between the 5th Infantry Division at ANGERS and First Infantry Division on the north. 5th Infantry Division moved to assembly area vicinity ST CALAIS on 13 August 1944. 80th Infantry Division attacked north from area west of LE MANS on 13 August to seize the line SEES -- ARGENTAN, and had advanced near its objective when it was pinched out by the XV Corps. The division was ordered to reassemble in the vicinity of LE MANS and to protect the LE MANS bridgehead, with RCT 319 moving to ANGERS TO protect that bridgehead.

5. During the 13th and 14th of August, 35th Infantry Division rejoined XX Corps earmarked for employment by Third Army, and was ordered to concentrate southeast of LE MANS prepared for action to the east. At 1200 14 August, XX Corps attacked on the axis LE MANS -- NOGENT le ROTROU -- DREUX -- MANTES GASSICOURT to seize the line of the SEINE River in that vicinity with 7th Armored Division leading, 5th Infantry Division following; RCT 2 of the 5th Division initially in Corps Reserve. The 80th Division continued concentration and mopping up operations in the LE MANS area. 3d Cavalry Group

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Ltr Hq XX Corps (Col. 'd)

commenced reconnaissance to the line ORLEANS -- PARIS (exclusive) -- LOURIES, protecting the right flank of the Corps. At 2010 hours 14 August, Third Army ordered a change of direction to the east with the initial objective of CHARTRES. This change of direction in darkness with columns moving was none the less effected, and by evening 15 August leading elements of the 7th Armored Division had reached the town of CHARTRES, and the 5th Infantry Division commenced assembling south of CHARTRES. 7th Armored Division attacked the city, and during the 16th and 17th of August was mopping up within the city. On 18 August, in compliance with directive from Third United States Army, 7th Armored Division moved north to relieve elements of XV Corps in the DREUX bridgehead, being relieved, in turn, at CHARTRES, by the 5th Division which completed mopping up operations in the city.

6. On 21 August at 0700, in compliance with directive from Third United States Army, XX Corps attacked east to seize bridgeheads over the SEINE River at MEIJUN and MONTEREAU with the 7th Armored Division on the north, 5th Infantry Division on the south. By noon of 22 August, the 5th Division had advanced to a line PRUNAY sur ESSONNE -- LA CHAPELLE LA REINE -- ETAMPES and by the afternoon of the 23d, the Corps had reached the SEINE River with the divisions preparing to attack for their bridgeheads at 1500 hours. The Corps bridged the SEINE at PONTTHIERRY -- FONTAINEBLEAU and MONTEREAU on the 24th of August crossing its elements over the river and preparing to move to the east or northeast. 90th Infantry Division was attached to the Corps in this area.

7. On 25 August at 1400, XX Corps attacked east with the mission of seizing and securing NOGENT sur SEINE and by 1520 26 August the Corps objective was captured by the 5th Infantry Division; the Corps prepared to move north on REIMS on 27 August.

8. At 1400, 27 August XX Corps attacked north with the 7th Armored Division advancing in a broad zone followed by the 5th Division on the east and the 90th Division on the west. CHATEAU THIERRY was taken at 0850 29 August by CCA of the 7th Armored Division, and the 5th Infantry Division entered REIMS at 2130 hours the same day. The 90th Division moved up to relieve the 5th Division in the REIMS bridgehead while the Corps prepared to attack east in the direction of VERDUN.

9. At 1600 hours on 30 August XX Corps attacked to seize bridgehead across the MEUSE River in the vicinity of VERDUN, formation column of divisions, 7th Armored Division leading, 5th Infantry Division following, and 90th Division remaining in the REIMS bridgehead to secure that bridgehead and protect the north flank and rear of the Corps. VERDUN was seized at 1255 hours 31 August by elements of CCA, 7th Armored Division; the bridges were found intact due to action by FFI personnel who disrupted enemy demolitions.

10. French Forces of the Interior rendered valuable support to the Corps during the period in many ways, making possible fullest utilization of the Corps combat elements.

For the Commanding General:

CONFIDENTIAL

Robert E. Cullen
ROBERT E. CULLEN,
Colonel, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.

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AUTH: CG, XX CORPS.
INITIALS: *Relb*
DATE: *9 Oct 44*

HEADQUARTERS XX CORPS
APO 340 U S Army

9 October 1944

SUBJECT: After Action Report, 1 September through 30 September 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.
(Through: Channels)

HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMY
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1. During the period September 1-5, inclusive, XX Corps prepared to continue the attack East from its VERDUN bridgehead, upon the receipt of adequate quantities of Class III and Class V supplies. RCT 359 of the 90th Division remained initially in protection of the REIMS bridgehead, closing into the VERDUN area on 5 September.

2. In compliance with directive Third US Army dated 5 September 1944, XX Corps issued FO 10 which was executed at 1400 hours 6 September. This order to drive to the RHINE RIVER, and capture FRANKFURT, started the 7th Armored Division East in multiple columns, followed by the 5th Infantry Division on the South and the 90th Infantry Division on the North.

3. When the 7th Armored Division ran into very heavy resistance along the MOSELLE RIVER, South of METZ, the 5th Infantry Division was passed through it, on 7 September, assuming command of Combat Command "B". RCT 2 of the 5th Infantry Division was attached simultaneously to 7th Armored Division. During the period of 7-11 September, numerous attempts to cross the MOSELLE were made, with the first fully successful crossing in strength finally achieved on the night 10-11 September by RCT 10 of the 5th Infantry Division in the vicinity of ARNAVILLE. Elements of the 11th Infantry and 43d Armored Infantry Battalion who had previously crossed in the vicinity of ANCY'sur MOSELLE and had sustained very heavy casualties, were withdrawn across the river. The river was bridged under continuous fire, by XX Corps Engineers, with substantial casualties and loss of equipment, and additional bridges were ultimately put in at PAGNY and VANDIERRES to the South of ARNEVILLE. Bridge maintenance under heavy fire continued in highly efficient manner.

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The 7th Armored Division continued, during this period, to assault METZ from the Northwest, having only local successes against the fortifications in its zone, and mainly succeeded in driving in the fortress outposts and the capture of several field fortifications.

The 90th Infantry Division in its Zone cleaned out the enemy West of the River capturing THIONVILLE. In this operation it destroyed the major strength of the 106 Panzer Grenadier Brigade and captured a portion of the Maginot Line which had, generally, not been defended.

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Ltr Hq XX Corps dtd 9 Oct 44 (Cont'd)

Minor expansion of the Corps bridgehead continued against very heavy resistance, with progress very slow and costly.

4. On 14 September FO 11 became effective. The 90th Infantry Division contained the river line from THIONVILLE to the South with RCT 358 (-3d Battalion) and relieved the 7th Armored Division Northwest of METZ, continuing local efforts to improve positions, and prepare for a major coordinated assault on the fortress.

3d Cavalry Group (-3 Cavalry Squadron) (reinforced) patrolled from THIONVILLE to the North maintaining contact with the 90th Infantry Division and the 5th Armored Division of V Corps. 3d Cavalry Squadron covered a gap between the 5th Armored and 90th Infantry Division.

The 7th Armored Division assembled 14-15 September, in the vicinity of CHAMBLEY and at 1655 hours on 15 September was committed to an attack through the 5th Infantry Division bridgehead. RCT 2 was released to the 5th Division and Combat Command "B" reverted to the 7th Armored Division East of the MOSELLE. As a result of slow progress through the bridgehead, the 7th Armored Division was assigned a zone of the Southern half of the bridgehead with the 5th Infantry Division retaining the Northern half of the bridgehead.

During this period supplies, particularly Class V were in such short supply, that full scale offensive action could not be maintained and ultimately this short supply crystallized in the form of a rationing system.

By the close of the 21st of September, the combined efforts of the 5th Infantry and 7th Armored Divisions had seized a line just West of the SEILLE River. Attempts to cross the SEILLE were then initiated.

5. On 21 September the 83d Infantry Division was assigned to the Corps, and in compliance with Third US Army directive was ordered to the vicinity of LUXEMBOURG. A new boundary was established with the First Army, extending the Corps Zone of responsibility to the North a short distance beyond the existing boundary. The 83d Division moved North from the vicinity of ORLEANS, finally closing in its new area and relieving V Corps elements on 25 September.

During this period the 7th Armored Division continued abortive efforts to cross the SEILLE River, while the 5th Infantry Division seized the towns of POUJOL LA CHETIVE and COIN sur SEILLE.

6. On 25 September, on order of Third US Army, the 7th Armored Division was withdrawn from its portion of the Corps bridgehead, being relieved by the extension of the 5th Infantry Division to the South. From assembly areas in the vicinity of SPONVILLE, the 7th Armored Division was moved to LONGUYON where it passed to control of the First US Army, at 2010 hours on 26 September.

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Ltr Hq XX Corps dtd 9 Oct 44 (Cont'd)

Reserve Command of 6th Armored Division was attached to XX Corps and arrived in assembly areas vicinity of BRIEY on 26 September, where it passed to Corps Reserve. On the 29th of September, Reserve Command 6th Armored Division was relieved by Third US Army and reverted to XII Corps control.

7. At 1400 hours 27 September, following an air attack and with artillery support, 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry attacked FORT TRIANT (U774549). Fire from pill boxes and field fortifications within the Fort caused the battalion to withdraw, and plans for another assault were immediately instituted.

On 27 September 3d Cavalry Group (-3d Cavalry Squadron) (reinforced) relieved the 358th Infantry in the THIONVILLE area and the Regiment was moved to the vicinity of VIONVILLE.

8. From 27th through 30th September the 83d Infantry Division (with 3d Cavalry Group (reinforced) attached) continued operations to drive the enemy East of the MOSELLE in its Zone and made very satisfactory progress, particularly in the area from REMICH to the North.

The 90th Infantry Division continued local assaults in the vicinity of GRAVELOTTE, bettering its position gradually.

The 5th Infantry Division continued patrol actions in its bridgehead and prepared plans for a fully coordinated assault on FORT TRIANT.

For the Commanding General:

Robert E. Cullen
ROBERT E. CULLEN,
Colonel, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.



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