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AUTH: Etr, 5 AD,

DATE: 19 Oct 44

Init: *PH*

HEADQUARTERS  
85TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECHANIZED  
APO No 255, U S Army

3 December 1944

SUBJECT: Letter Of Transmittal.

TO : Commanding General, 5th Armored Division, APO No 255,  
U. S. Army.

Forwarded herewith is Report After Action Against the  
Enemy for month of November 1944.

For the Squadron Commander:

PAUL E. HOBBS,  
1st Lt, Cav  
Adjutant

dup

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Auth: Ltr 5thAD 19 Oct 44  
Date: ~~19 Oct 44~~ 1 DEC 44  
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HEADQUARTERS  
85TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECHANIZED  
APO 255

1 December 1944

REPORT AFTER ACTION AGAINST THE ENEMY  
(Reference: Par 10, AR 345-105, C3)

NOVEMBER 1944

SECTION I - The Enemy and Elements Affecting Action.

1. Enemy Situation.

a. The Siegfried line to our front was manned by second grade troops. Besides occupation of the pillboxes, the enemy had dug in, mined all likely approaches and had a few pieces of believed to be self propelled artillery which he fired sporadically as harassing fire. The enemy was content to remain passively defensive and little contact was had.

2. Terrain and Weather.

a. Terrain was wooded and hilly and offered little observation to our outposts or patrols. The enemy was equally limited in his observation and gained little information about our disposition.

3. Civilian population.

a. During the first nine days of the month, squadron occupied an area which had been evacuated of civilians so no problem was presented. During the rest of the period, while civilians were in the area, the CAC and CIC had previously screened all civilians and were very successfully controlling circulation. No difficulty with civilians was experienced in our immediate area.

4. Air Activity

a. Enemy air was inactive during the period but his V-1 weapon passed over our area as often as eight to ten times a day, generally moving in the direction of Liege, Belgium. Several fell short and detonated within several miles of our troops but no casualties or damage were suffered.

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- 1 -

**SECRET**

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## SECTION II - Action.

### 1. Mission.

a. Prior to 9 November 1944 the Squadron mission was one of screening and counter-reconnaissance in its assigned zone immediately south of Hofen, Germany.

b. After 10 November 1944 the Squadron mission was to be prepared to effect a delaying action on the Eupen - Monschau road and the Rotgen - Monschau road should the enemy succeed in penetrating the line held by the 102nd Cavalry Group.

2. Plan of Action - Positions were taken on both roads and defenses set up so as to deny the enemy use of these highways.

a. Troops A and B with Troop E (minus two platoons) established a series of prepared road blocks on the Eupen - Monschau road. Trees were notched and charges prepared for immediate use. Fire blocks in all were thus made ready. Defensive positions were chosen and intrenchments dug where necessary.

b. Troop D with one platoon of assault guns from Troop E in support prepared several culverts on the Rotgen - Monschau road for blowing of craters. Large charges of TNT were prepared and kept in readiness. A feasible delaying action was evolved and practiced diligently.

c. Narrative of Action - No action involving contact with the enemy took place during the entire month, excepting a small amount of enemy artillery fire in our sector prior to our move on 9 November 1944.

d. Principal activity consisted of making initial plan to accomplish mission and subsequently improving positions and preparing for future operations. A weekly training schedule was followed.

### 3. Headquarters to which attached; Command Post Locations.

a. On 1 November 1944 the Squadron was relieved from CCR and attached to CCE. No change in mission or position involved. CP continued in Kalterherberg, Germany at K929134 and there was no alterations of position of our troops in that vicinity. F Company attached to GCA.

b. On 9 November 1944 the Squadron minus F Company relieved by 2nd Bn, 895th Regt, 99th Inf. Div., relief effective 1200A. Squadron moved to assembly area vicinity Schoppen, Belgium (897009).

SECRET

3. On 10 November 1944 Squadron reverted to Division being relieved from GCB by verbal orders of the Chief of Staff at approximately 1800A.

d. Squadron move to new location vicinity of Eupen, Belgium completed 11 November 1944 at 1830A. C.P. located on the Eupen - Monschau highway at 826245. Troop C attached to CCR.

4. Assistance from Supporting Units.

a. These consisted of other division troops namely CCA and GCB both of whom were prepared to support the Squadron in the event of an enemy breakthrough in this area.

5. No special weapons used.

6. Communications - Radio silence for tactical purposes was in effect throughout the month. All normal communication by wire and liaison agents.

7. Supply and evacuation - Normal.

8. Summation

a. The month was quite inactive, there being no enemy contact and the entire sector generally quiet. Troops were rested and vehicular maintenance was brought up to par.

b. A number of cases of trench feet were uncovered and a total of thirteen men evacuated because of it. A continuing effort is being made to educate the troops in so-called preventative measures but it is believed that the ultimate solution lies in 100% issue of overshoes to troops.

SECTION III - Summary of Strength and Casualties, November 1944.

	Asgd Strength 1 Nov			Asgd Strength 30 Nov		
	OFF	WO	HM	OFF	WO	HM
Headquarters	9	1	46	9	1	46
Headquarters & Service Troop	3	2	78	3	2	78
Troop A	4	0	131	4	0	132
Troop B	4	0	133	4	0	129
Troop C	4	0	133	4	0	125
Troop D	4	0	137	4	0	133
Troop E	3	0	103	4	0	99
Company F	5	0	89	5	0	86
Medical Detachment	2	0	12	2	0	12
TOTALS	38	3	862	41	3	840
CASUALTIES (85th-)						
	OFF	WO	HM			
Killed	0	0	1			
Wounded	0	0	6			
Known Captured	0	0	0			
Missing	0	0	0			
TOTALS	0	0	7			

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Enemy Prisoners of War Captured by Our Forces: 0.

SECTION IV - COMMANDING OFFICERS November 1944.

Squadron Commander: 1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944 - MAJOR  
GEORGE C. BENJAMIN, 023422, Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE TROOP: 1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944 -  
CAPTAIN PAUL O. PETERSON, 01010111, Cavalry.

TROOP A: 1 November 1944 to 1200, 24 November 1944 - 1ST LT. FRED  
A. FORSGREN, 01010173, Cavalry.

1200, 24 November 1944 to 30 November 1944 - CAPTAIN  
SEYMOUR B. SCOTT, 0306958, Cavalry.

TROOP B: 1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944 - CAPTAIN KENNETH M.  
HAYES, 01010128, Cavalry.

TROOP C: 1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944 - 1ST LT. GEORGE W.  
BASQUEZ, 01012910, Cavalry.

TROOP D: 1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944 - 1ST LT. EDWARD J.  
MC GANN, 01012641, Cavalry.

TROOP E: 1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944 - 1ST LT. PETER M.  
SCUTTER, 01012549, Cavalry.

COMPANY F: 1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944 - CAPTAIN JOHN T.  
SCHWARZ, 01010398, Cavalry.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT: 1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944 - CAPTAIN  
MEYER FRIEDENTHAL, 0485804, Medical Corps.

*George Benjamin*  
GEORGE C. BENJAMIN,  
Major, Cavalry  
Commanding.

- 2 Incls.
- Incl 1 - Unit Journal.
- Incl 2 - File of Incoming and  
Outgoing Messages.

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