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U.S. ARMY, 82nd AIRBORNE DIVISION:
After action reports, 1943-46 (Microfilm)

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The microfilm copy of the after action reports of the 82nd Airborne Division was sent to the Eisenhower Library by the Modern Military Branch of the National Archives in January 1964.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied:	4
Number of reels of microfilm:	62

Literary rights in the official records of the 82nd Airborne Division are in the public domain. These records were processed in accordance with the general restrictions on access to government records as set forth by the National Archives.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The 82nd Airborne Division, also known as the “All American Division,” was the most active American airborne division in World War II. It received training in North Africa and saw combat in Sicily and Italy prior to moving to England to prepare for the Normandy Invasion. On D-Day the Division dropped behind enemy lines to cut off enemy reinforcements. Later the Division participated in Operation Market-Garden, one of the largest airborne operations in history. The Division also participated in the Ardennes Campaign, better known as the Battle of the Bulge.

During their many months of combat duty, the organic units and staff sections which comprised the Division prepared extensive reports which described their activities. The original copies of these reports were sent to the War Department where they became part of the files of the Adjutant General’s Office. The Departmental Records Branch of the Adjutant General’s Office developed and elaborate arrangement scheme by which the records were organized.

When the after action reports were transferred to the National Archives, the Archives staff found that portions of the reports had been microfilmed by the War Department in 1948. A copy of the film of the records of the 82nd Airborne Division was sent to the Eisenhower Library by the Archives in January 1964. It is not known if the film contains the complete records of the Division. Records of some elements, particularly the G-1 and G-4 staff sections, are very fragmentary, and it is possible that additional records of the Division exist at the National Archives which are not on this microfilm.

Paper copies of a few items are also at the Eisenhower Library as part of the U.S. Army Unit Records collection. These items appear to be carbon copies of the after action reports which the Division staff retained among their office files in the field. Researchers should examine both sets of files to obtain as complete a record as possible of the activities of the Division.

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