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The "Lucky Seventh" Armored Division was in reserve north of Aachen when the German offensive started. The division was alerted on the 16th by General Bradley and was ready to move in only two hours. The division was sent to St. Vith and CCR missed bumping into Kampgruppe Peiper on the way by only minutes as both groups passed through the same intersections unaware of each other's presence. The division arrived in St. Vith late in the day on the 17th and then held the town for almost a week before finally withdrawing under threat of encirclement. A month later, the 7th Armored recaptured St. Vith as part of the American counteroffensive to eliminate the "bulge".