

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS, 317TH INFANTRY
APO 80, U. S. Army

L 576

3 March 1945

Subject: After Action Report (S-4), 1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945.

To : The Adjutant General, Washington D. C., through Commanding General,
80th Infantry Division.

Feb 45

1. At the beginning of February the Regiment was still enjoying and profiting by the rest period begun the latter part of January. Emphasis was directed to training and rehabilitation of men and the improvement and replacement of equipment.
2. Every effort was devoted throughout the month to provide the troops with the maximum of "E" type rations. Operations that developed the latter part of February required the utilization of 32,496 operational type rations. At no time were the Supply Echelons unable to deliver rations to the troops. On several occasions however considerable difficulties were encountered. One Battalion crossed the Sauer River in assault boats prior to the completion of a bridge. Prompt measures were initiated to establish a three day reserve of rations and other classes of supplies on the far shore. The initial ferry load of rations - 90 cases - was lost in the river when the ferry broke up in the seventeen mile an hour current. Additional rations were obtained and the proper reserves established.
3. The enemy thoroughly demolished the meager road net and several times carrying parties were called upon to hand carry rations to the advancing troops.
4. Prior to commitment in action against the Siegfried Line particular attention was devoted to the Status of Supply and condition of that equipment valuable in the attack of fortifications. The resupply of Rifle Grenade Launchers and Rocket Launchers among the weapons and wire cutters among the individual equipment was pressed. These efforts were partially successful. Prior to attacking, the entire T.E. allowances of Rocket Launchers were in the hands of the troops and adequate numbers of wire cutters had been obtained and issued. Grenade Launchers were more difficult but shortly after operations began, substantial reduction in this shortage was achieved.
5. Prior to crossing the Sauer River delivery of two (2) M-29 Cargo Carriers (Wessels) was received, and these proved useful in traversing soft ground which would have been otherwise impassable to our vehicles.
6. Class III supply was normal. Class V resupply presented no difficulties. Attention was given to the inclusion in the basic loads of adequate quantities of ammunition and demolitions suitable for employment against fortifications.

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7. Evacuation during the month of February presented the usual problems associated with a poor road net. For the first time Cargo Carrier M29 was available for evacuation purposes and proved itself in cross country work. The policy of spotting this vehicle where it is ready for use by any of the battalion surgeons is a sound one and should be continued. Trench Foot again became a problem and close cooperation was maintained between the Regimental Supply Officer and the Regimental Surgeon in working out means of solving the problem. Collecting Company "A" performed in it's usual efficient manner.

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APPROVED:

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