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

101P

2 February 1945.

Subject: After Action Report (S-4), 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945.

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

JAN 45

1. Supply during January 1945 was largely routine although accomplished in extreme cold and heavy snow. The Regiment made only one move that made necessary the displacement of all supply installations. It is true that during the early part of the month supply would have been more convenient if service installations could have been closer to the units served. The tactical situation dictated such an arrangement of unit sectors that the ideal arrangements of installations could not be achieved.

2. The weather was extremely cold. Troops were necessarily exposed to the elements for long periods of time. It was the rule that all troops were supplied hot meals at least twice a day. Those in billets subsisted entirely on "B" rations. The general character of this ration has been good but of late a high proportion of pressed type luncheon meat, hash etc. has been included. This is undesirable and partially defeats the change from operational type rations.

3. Class II supply saw the introduction of shoepacs and new type gloves equipped with trigger finger arrangement and heavy woolen mitten inserts. These gloves are superior to the ordinary issue woolen leather palmed glove, but are considered rather bulky and clumsy. 1000 pair were drawn and issued to the rifle companies. 1920 pair shoepacs have been issued. There is a difference of opinion about the desirability of shoepacs, but tests reveal that when properly worn they are effective for the purposes intended. A total of 838 snow suits were drawn during the period. Material for camouflaging vehicles white was applied to the organic transportation.

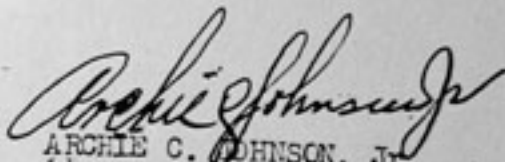
4. Class III, IV and V were routine. A stringent ration of 8mm mortar ammunition was in effect, but no difficulty was experienced in maintaining basic loads. The end of the month finds the Regiment with few shortages of principal and secondary weapons. During the month the T/E allowance of nine BAR per rifle company was increased to fifteen. The additional rifles were drawn and issued. T/E change authorizes six light machine guns per Battalion Headquarters Company. All but six of these have been issued.

5. Evacuation for the month presented the most difficult problems yet encountered. Snow, cross country operations and extremely poor roadnets caused a marked delay in evacuation. In one operation twenty-four reinforcements were pressed into service as litter bearers. In a second operation it took eight man litter squads between eight and ten hours to evacuate one casualty to a Battalion Aid Station. In static situations evacuation proceeded normally with no unusual difficulties.

After Action Report (S-4) Hq 317th Inf, 1 Jan 45 to 31 Jan 45 Cont'd.

6. It was observed that because of the extremely low temperatures many individual weapons failed to function initially; a clear indication that ordinary gun oil is not suitable for use under such climatic conditions.

7. Special equipment is advisable to facilitate supply and evacuation where extreme cold, snow and mountainous terrain prevail.



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