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File: Hq 317, S-4 A/A MARCH 45

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

3 April 1945.

Subject: After Action Report (2-4)

To : Adjutant General, Washington, D. C., thru Commanding  
General, 80th Infantry Division, APO 80, U. S. Army.

The following After Action Report (2-4) is submitted for  
the month of March 1945:

Once again the beginning of a month found this organization  
virtually out of contact with the enemy after a period of severe  
fighting.

The Regiment remained stationary from 1 March 1945 to 10  
March 1945 in the vicinity of Biersdorf, Germany. Supply efforts  
were directed to rehabilitation of equipment and the improvement  
of the living conditions of the troops.

Class I drawn consisted of "B" type rations. As the tempo  
of the war it of the enemy increased during the latter part of  
March an increasing proportion of operational rations were re-  
quired. Even during the pursuit stages when kitchen trucks were  
often used to shuttle troops diligent efforts insured the location  
of kitchens sufficiently close to the troops to permit the feed-  
ing of at least one and often two hot meals each day.

This policy was maintained throughout the month. "B" rations  
available for issue from Army stocks just sufficient to complete  
the month. However, efforts on Army transportation requiring the  
elimination of trailers of "B" rations and the exclusive transpor-  
tation and issue of operational rations until further notice.

The principal noteworthy item of class II was the replace-  
ment of sheepskin by the issue of combat boots or service shoes.  
Warm weather and extensive marching made it imperative that this  
be accomplished without delay. Successful exchange was accomplish-  
ed by each Battalion Supply Officer as the opportunity presented  
itself.

The daily exchange of socks continued successfully, a total  
of 76,372 pair of clean socks were issued and 70,647 soiled socks  
turned in during the month. In addition 16,503 pair were salvaged.

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After Action Report (S-4) for March 1945 continued.

Class III resupply presented no difficulties although the consumption greatly increased because of the extensive movements of the organization by motor. Within the last week resupply has become of considerable concern because of the greatly extended supply lines.

Class V supply has not been difficult. No unusual quantities of ammunition have been expended. At the present time if a considerable demand for Class V developed resupply would be difficult. Great distances must be traveled to supply points requiring from twenty-four to thirty-six hours to complete the round trip.

Evacuation for the month of March presented no unusual problems except those of keeping abreast of a fast moving and fluid situation. The peak of casualties occurred at the Rhine Crossing at Mainz, Germany which was well handled in view of the short time for planning. In future river crossings, it will be standard procedure to set up as many advanced collecting posts as possible, manned with competent personnel, because we found the main problem occurred on the rear bank in evacuation and treatment of casualties from engineer and similar units.

There were no epidemics during the month and no unusual diseases.

Operations during March reminded of the headlong races through France last summer and fall. Heavy transportation was strained to the limit to fulfill the many missions assigned. Often it was necessary to operate the 2 1/2 ton trucks twenty-four hours a day in constant shuttling operations to maintain organic loads and supply installations in their proper location relative to the tactical units. These missions were invariably accomplished. As the month drew to a close a rise in deadline vehicles became apparent but a slight slackening in operations provided the necessary respite and the deadline curve was successfully controlled.

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APPROVED:

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