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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTIETH SIGNAL COMPANY
APO #80, U. S. ARMY

8 SEPTEMBER 1944

SUBJECT: REPORTS AFTER ACTION AGAINST ENEMY.

TO : THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, WASHINGTON D.C.
THRU ADJUTANT GENERAL, 80TH INF. DIV., APO 80, U.S. ARMY.

1. IN COMPLIANCE WITH PAR. 10, AR 345-105, AS AMENDED BY CHANGE 3, HERewith IS SUBMITTED "REPORTS AFTER ACTION AGAINST ENEMY" OF 80TH SIGNAL COMPANY FOR CALENDAR MONTH OF AUGUST, 1944.

SECTION 1

TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH SECTION FUNCTIONED SMOOTHLY DURING THE EARLY PART OF THE MONTH OF AUGUST, BUT AS THE DRIVE ACROSS GAINED MOMENTUM MUCH OF THE NORMAL TELEPHONE TRAFFIC HAD TO BE HANDLED BY RADIO. THIS WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT COMBAT TROOPS WERE ADVANCING SO RAPIDLY THAT WIRE TEAMS WERE UNABLE TO LAY WIRE AS FAST AS THE TROOPS ADVANCED.

RADIO NETS WERE DELUGED WITH TRAFFIC THAT NORMALLY WOULD HAVE BEEN HANDLED BY TELEPHONE. DESPITE THE FACT THAT RADIO EQUIPMENT FUNCTIONED PROPERLY, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, TRANSMISSIONS WERE SLOW IN MANY CASES AND MANY MESSAGES WERE SLOW IN BEING DELIVERED DUE IN PART TO ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS BUT MAINLY BECAUSE OF "JAMMING" OF RADIO FREQUENCIES BY THE ENEMY. THERE WERE SOME BREAK-DOWNS OF EQUIPMENT DURING THE MONTH, BUT REPAIRS WERE MADE PROMPTLY.

IN THE RAPID MOVEMENT ACROSS FRANCE DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST THE CONSTRUCTION SECTION LAID A TOTAL OF 670 MILES OF FIELD WIRE. THE SECTION ALSO UTILIZED AND REPAIRED APPROXIMATELY 400 MILES OF OPEN WIRE. THIS PRACTICE OF USING OPEN WIRE WAS FOLLOWED CLOSELY THUS RELIEVING THE BURDEN ON THE SUPPLY LINES.

THE TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH REPAIR GROUP IN HEADQUARTERS SECTION WAS HANDICAPPED IN MAKING REPAIRS TO TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT DURING THE MONTH BY THE INABILITY TO GET NEW PARTS FOR TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT, ESPECIALLY HAND-SETS. MUCH IMPROVISING WAS DONE TO GET DISABLED TELEPHONES IN OPERATION. IN THIS CONNECTION USE WAS MADE OF SMALL PARTS, SUCH AS NUTS, BOLTS, ETC., FROM CAPTURED GERMAN TELEPHONE SETS.

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SECTION 1
(CONT'D)

THE RADIO REPAIR GROUP IN HEADQUARTERS SECTION, ALONG WITH THE TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH REPAIR GROUP, SUFFERED FROM THE SHORTAGE OF REPAIR PARTS FOR ALL TYPES OF RADIO SETS USED BY THE DIVISION AND ATTACHED UNITS. MUCH SWITCHING OF PARTS FROM SETS BEYOND REPAIR TO REPAIRABLE SETS WAS RESORTED TO TO KEEP AS MANY SETS AS POSSIBLE IN OPERATION. MUCH CAPTURED GERMAN WIRE WAS USED IN MAKING RADIO SET REPAIRS, BUT THERE WERE VERY FEW PARTS IN CAPTURED GERMAN RADIO SETS THAT COULD BE UTILIZED.

THE MOTOR SECTION HAD LITTLE DIFFICULTY WITH THE COMPANY'S VEHICLES DURING AUGUST MAINLY BECAUSE MOST OF THE COMPANY'S VEHICLES WERE PRACTICALLY NEW. GASOLINE WAS OBTAINABLE IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES TO KEEP ALL VEHICLES WELL SUPPLIED. THERE WERE SEVERAL MINOR MOTOR FAILURES, BUT THEY WERE QUICKLY CORRECTED.

THE MESS SECTION ISSUED "10 IN 1" AND "K" RATIONS DURING THE MONTH. DUE TO THE TACTICAL SITUATION "CLASS B" RATIONS WERE NOT OBTAINABLE. BEFORE THE COMPANY ARRIVED IN FRANCE EACH SECTION WAS ISSUED COLEMAN STOVES WHICH WERE USED TO COOK "10 IN 1'S" AND TO HEAT THE BEVERAGES IN THE "K" RATIONS. ISSUANCE OF "10 IN 1" RATIONS ENABLED THE COMPANY'S PERSONNEL TO HAVE HOT MEALS DURING THE GREATER PART OF THE MONTH. HOWEVER, AS THE MONTH WORE ON, THE NOVELTY OF COOKING MEALS BY SMALL GROUPS IN THE COMPANY WORE OFF AND BOTH OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN LOOKED FORWARD TO THE REISSUANCE OF "CLASS B" RATIONS.

THE MESS SECTION KEPT THE COMPANY PLENTIFULLY SUPPLIED WITH DRINKING WATER AND HOT WATER FOR CLEANING MESS KITS. THE MESS SECTION ALSO BUILT A "SHOWER BATH", USING ONE OF THE IMMERSION TYPE STOVES FOR THIS PURPOSE.

SECTION 11

AS MANY AS FIVE GUARD POSTS WERE MAINTAINED AT VARIOUS TIMES DURING AUGUST DEPENDENT ON WHETHER OTHER UNITS WERE BIVOUACED IN ADJACENT AREAS. WHEN IT BECAME NECESSARY TO HAVE EITHER THREE, FOUR OR FIVE GUARD POSTS, PERSONNEL HAD TO BE DRAWN FROM RADIO REPAIR, TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH REPAIR, COMPANY SUPPLY AND MESS GROUPS IN THE BIVOUAC. THIS PROCEDURE AT TIMES HINDERED THE NORMAL FUNCTIONING OF THOSE GROUPS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MESS. A LARGER GROUP OF BASICS (MOS 521) WOULD HAVE ELIMINATED THIS DIFFICULTY. UNDER THE PRESENT T/O & E, DIVISION SIGNAL COMPANIES ARE ALLOTTED ELEVEN BASICS.

SECTION 11
(CONT'D)

WHILE ON DUTY PROTECTING A RELAY RADIO NEAR RUMONT, FRANCE, ON 30 AUGUST, 1944, TECH. 5TH JOSEPH J. ROCCO, OF THE 80TH SIGNAL COMPANY, APPREHENDED A FRENCH-GERMAN COLLABORATIONIST. CPL. ROCCO DISARMED HIM AND TURNED HIM OVER TO THE FREE FRENCH OF THE INTERIOR. THE COLLABORATOR WAS QUESTIONED BY A F.F.I. OFFICER WHO FOUND HIM GUILTY OF COLLABORATION WITH THE GERMANS.

SECTION 111

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A SHORTAGE OF CLASS THREE SUPPLIES AT THE END OF THIS PERIOD, DUE TO PROPER RATIONING THE OPERATIONS OF THE COMPANY WERE NOT MATERIALLY AFFECTED. VARIOUS BRANCHES OF SUPPLY WITHIN THE DIVISION FUNCTIONED VERY SMOOTHLY THROUGH THE ENTIRE PERIOD. DUE TO THE RAPIDLY CHANGING SITUATION AND WIDE SEPARATION OF SIGNAL TEAMS AND MILITARY POLICE ATTACHED FOR RATIONS IT WAS IMPRACTICAL TO SERVE HOT MEALS FROM THE COMPANY MESS DURING THIS PERIOD.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE INITIAL ISSUE OF P.X. SUPPLIES, SUBSEQUENT ISSUES WERE SUFFICIENT TO COVER THE NEEDS OF THE COMPANY AND ITS ATTACHMENTS.

ALTHOUGH SOME SETS OF SIGNAL EQUIPMENT WERE SUPPLIED AS REPLACEMENTS FOR THOSE LOST IN COMBAT, ONLY A FEW REPAIR PARTS FOR RADIO AND TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT COULD BE OBTAINED.

ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS REGARDING SUPPLIES WAS THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING EITHER RADIOSSETS SCR-300 OR PARTS FOR THOSE SETS FROM THE SUPPLY DEPOTS. RADIO SET SCR-300 IS USED BY THE INFANTRY DIVISIONS.

SECTION 1V

DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1944, THE 80TH SIGNAL COMPANY LOST THREE ENLISTED MEN TO HOSPITALS, ONE OF WHICH WAS A BATTLE CASUALTY. THEY WERE:

PVT JOE E. HILLMAN, 33659917, (MOS 521) SENT TO HOSPITAL 7 AUGUST 1944. DIAGNOSIS UNKNOWN.

PVT ALVIN E. BELL, 35550408, (MOS 641), SENT TO HOSPITAL 21 AUGUST AS RESULT OF SHRAPNEL WOUND RECEIVED WHILE LAYING COMMUNICATION LINES DURING THE BATTLE FOR ARGENTAN. PVT. BELL WAS AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART.

PVT. WILLIAM D. MELEDONES, 11130340, (MOS 097), LOST TO HOSPITAL 27 AUGUST AS RESULT OF BURNS (NBC).

SECTION 1V
(CONT'D)

PVT. JAMES J. MC COTTER, 15105127 (MOS 641) LOST TO HOSPITAL AS RESULT OF BROKEN ARM. (NBC).

PVT. JOHN F. OTTEN, 39621698, (MOS 641), WAS ASSIGNED TO AND JOINED THE COMPANY FROM THE 72ND REPLACEMENT BATTALION, COMPANY 348 ON 26 AUGUST 1944.

MAJOR SAMUEL W. CARDER, O-327832, ATTACHED FOR RATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION, AIR SUPPORT PARTY #17, 4TH TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, WAS KILLED IN ACTION ON 29 AUGUST 1944.

PVT. CLAUDE E. COLLAR, JR., 12025290, ATTACHED FOR RATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION, AIR SUPPORT PARTY #17, 4TH TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, WAS KILLED IN ACTION 29 AUGUST 1944.

CPL. CORNELIUS SPOELSTRA, 36169109, AIR SUPPORT PARTY #17, 4TH TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, ATTACHED FOR RATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION, AIR SUPPORT PARTY #17, 4TH TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, LOST TO HOSPITAL DUE TO FRACTURED LEG, 14 AUGUST 1944.

PERSONNEL FROM FOLLOWING UNITS WERE ATTACHED FOR RATIONS DURING AUGUST 1944:

4 OFFICERS,	81 EM 80TH M.P. PLATOON.
1 OFFICER,	4 EM SIGNAL PHOTO ASSIGNMENT UNIT, 166 SIG. CO.
1 OFFICER,	16 EM 56TH SIGNAL BATTALION.
	16 EM 80TH DIVISION BAND.
	13 EM 93RD SIGNAL BATTALION.

SECTION V

COMMENT

MORALE:

THE MORALE OF ALL PERSONNEL OF THIS ORGANIZATION IS EXCELLENT AT THE END OF THIS PERIOD.

RECOMMENDATIONS

CAPTURED EQUIPMENT:

IT HAS BEEN OBSERVED THAT BETTER USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF CAPTURED GERMAN MATERIAL, PARTICULARLY SIGNAL EQUIPMENT, SHOULD BE MADE. A LARGE AMOUNT OF MATERIAL IS GENERALLY DAMAGED IN ITS EXAMINATION BY UNAUTHORIZED TROOPS. LARGE QUANTITIES OF THIS EQUIPMENT IS BEING CARRIED OFF BY TROOPS BEFORE PROPER GUARDS ARRIVE. AFTER TAKING THIS MATERIAL THE TROOPS FIND THEY ARE UNABLE TO USE IT AND HAVE NO PLACE TO CARRY IT AND THEN THEY DISCARD IT. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ALL USEABLE GERMAN SIGNAL EQUIPMENT BE ISSUED THROUGH NORMAL SUPPLY CHANNELS WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

Walter E Short
WALTER E. SHORT
1ST LT., SIG. C.
COMMANDING.