

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

20 November 1944

(5-1)/SEPTEMBER

Subject: After Action Report, Personnel Administration, 1 Sep 44 to 30 Sep 44.

To : Adjutant General, Washington, D.C., through Commanding General, 30th  
Infantry Division, APO # 80 U. S. Army

1. The first few days of the extremely difficult and severe fighting up to and including the first attempt at crossing the Moselle River developed a sudden, extremely heavy number of casualties. As the fighting in this sector continued to be severe for many days, the number of casualties to be accounted for created a problem in proper reporting, maintaining the desired degree of accuracy and at the same time, submitting all reports as rapidly as possible. The company clerks who had been designated to prepare the casualty report and maintain the casualty accounting were faced with the problem of keeping up with the development of a great deal of work in the reporting and preparation of records for their own companies. The personnel Sergeant Major had great difficulty in maintaining immediate supervision of Casualty Reporting and keeping current with the rapidly increasing volume of work required of him. A former clerk in the personnel section, who had been serving in battle as an aid man with a rifle company, was secured from the Division Convalescent Station, where he had been sent to recuperate from a serious case of Battle Fatigue. This clerk would no longer be able to perform the duties of aid man with the fighting troops and therefore, was assigned the duty to control the accounting for casualties, including the preparation of casualty reports, as a sole duty. This clerk at the present time maintains all records, prepares all reports and accounts for all casualties of this regiment. At times when casualties are heavy, he is assisted in the preparation of reports by the clerk of that company which is enjoying the least volume of work. This method has established a definite duty for no man and provided a reliable method for controlling the reporting and accounting for all casualties. The results to date have been more than satisfactory.

2. A continuous policy of indoctrination and education of first sergeants in the importance of proper, accurate casualty reporting must be conducted at every opportunity. Strong emphasis must also be placed on speed in conjunction with accuracy.

  
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