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

1 January 1945.

Subject: After Action Report. (S-4) / *December*

To : The Adjutant General, Washington D. C. (Thru Channels).

1. At the beginning of December the Regiment was in a reserve position out of immediate contact with the enemy. Serious attention was directed to the further familiarization of personnel in the use of their weapons. At this time and continuing through the Regiment's stay in St Avold the constant attention of the supply echelon was directed to supplying of training ammunition, the elimination of shortages in weapons and the maintenance of ordnance.
2. The greater part of the month the Regiment was in a position to enjoy "B" type rations. The use of operational rations was kept to the minimum consistent with the tactical situation. There is a growing and insistent clamor against the "C" type operational ration. This feeling is practically universal and is expressed concerning the new type "C" ration as well as the old type.
3. Immediately prior to moving into billets at St Avold, a showdown shortage inspection of T.E. 21 clothing and equipment was held. Requisitions submitted were filled with a few exceptions. Gloves, Field Jackets, and Artic overshoes have been impossible to obtain in necessary quantities. Requisitions for field jackets have recently been filled by the issue of wool blouses. The principal difficulty with overshoes lies in insufficient stocks of the larger sizes. The durability of the woolen gloves is very poor and has resulted in a very high rate of salvage requiring replacement.
4. While in St Avold the Ordnance (weapons) was submitted to ordnance inspection and repair teams. Reports of the inspectors indicated an excellent state of maintenance throughout the Regiment. During the same period the Regimental Commander conducted a command inspection of the vehicles of the Organization.
5. On 6 December 1944 Regimental and Battalion salvage teams were formally organized. It is their full time duty to closely follow their units and recover all equipment for reissue or salvage. The duffle bags of the Regiment have twice been moved this month. December 4th they were removed from Rospey, France to Valmont, France. December 30th they were removed from Valmont to Lintgen, Luxembourg.
6. On 23 December the individual GWS equipment including gas

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6. Continued.

masks was removed from storage and distributed to all personnel. Material necessary to complete the organizational CWS equipment was drawn from Chemical Warfare supply points and is presently held on hand in the Regimental Service Echelon.

7. Resupply of Class III and Class IV was normal throughout. No difficulty was experienced in resupply of Class V.

8. The Regiment entered the last week of the month fully equipped as respects all weapons. Severe fighting resulted in the loss of some BAR and Rocket Launchers. All other weapons were on hand in T.E. quantities at the close of the month.

9. Twice during the month the Regiment moved motorized. The necessary transportation for these moves was furnished by outside sources.

10. During the month of December, evacuation presented no unusual problems. The cold weather made it imperative that evacuation times be as short as possible. Battalion sections operated in towns where the patients could be kept warm and where there was adequate space to hold patients. This system often kept them at a distance from their Battalion but liaison was always maintained. A total of 1145 casualties were evacuated through the combat team installations. This figure is that of the 317th personnel alone. There were no shortages affecting the efficiency of medical care.

11. It is recommended that serious consideration be given to the reduction in or complete elimination of the issue of "C" type ration to the Infantry. Its present compulsory issue when operational rations are requested results in wasted material and highly unsatisfactory rationing of the troops. It is the consensus of opinion that the present winter uniform leaves much to be desired from a practical viewpoint. Experience indicates that the so called combat jacket and trousers, at present a limited issue to the Armored Forces, would much more efficiently clothe the combat Infantryman. Its issue is strongly desired by all concerned. The results obtained from the operations of the unit salvage teams has been very satisfactory and has resulted in the recovery of substantial quantities of equipment that otherwise would have been lost to the war effort.

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