

HEADQUARTERS 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff G-4
APO 80, US Army

MEMORANDUM

5 April 1945.

: Chief of Staff, 80th Infantry Division.

PERIOD FOR HISTORICAL RECORDING
1 FEBRUARY to 38 FEBRUARY 1945

SECTION I - GENERAL

SECTION II - EVACUATION

SECTION III - TRAFFIC

SECTION IV - SERVICE TROOPS

SECTION V - MISCELLANEOUS

ERLAND L. SANDBERG
Lt Colonel, GSC,
AC of S, G-4.

SECTION I

1. Class I

a. During the period 516,000 rations were drawn by the Division and attached organizations, of which 76% were "B" rations. In view of continued offensive type operations, this reflects a concerted effort to serve the more palatable variety of food.

b. RAC Kits were received consistently on a basic factor of five (5) packs of cigarettes per man per week.

c. A Class "X" ration was received from Army and issued to organic and attached organizations of the command.

2. Class II

a. No improvement was noted in the resupply of Ordnance parts, Engineer, Quartermaster and Signal items during the period. Receipts were barely sufficient to cover losses, with the result that the status of critical items of Class II supply at the end of the period was much the same as at the start of the period.

b. Medical and Chemical material continued in good supply.

c. For a complete list of material in critical supply at the end of the period see Annex "A".

3. Class III

a. Items of gasoline and lubricants were in good supply throughout the period.

b. Operation of a Division CI III SP was continued on the same basis as mentioned in previous reports with daily issues amounting to approximately 9,000 gallons.

c. The supply of coal throughout the period was barely sufficient to meet the demand.

4. Class IV

a. The following items of special winter equipment were received but were too late for the winter season:

- (1) White Garnishing for Artillery pieces.
- (2) Ski runners for litters.
- (3) Winter triggers for the M-1 rifle.

b. Six (6) M-29 Cargo Carriers were received and proved a real worth in the crossing of the Our and Sauer Rivers and the assault of the Siegfried Line.

c. The attached Tank Battalion received 12 4.5 Rocket Launchers which were mounted on their tanks by supporting Ordnance units. These Launchers each consisted of sixty (60) barrels and are capable of firing sixty (60) rounds in thirty (30) seconds. The fact that no resupply vehicles were received to transport the resupply for these launchers posed an additional problem in transportation for this Battalion.

d. During the period, in anticipation of the assault on the fortifications of the Siegfried Line the Division Engineer received two (2) air riveting guns to be used in sealing the pillboxes and forts. It proved more practical to demolish these fortifications using approximately six hundred (600) pounds of TNT per Fort.

e. Request was made for additional welding equipment to be used in sealing Ports, but the request was rejected by higher headquarters.

f. Each Artillery Battalion received one (1) British twenty-five pounder gun. These guns were received without prime movers.

g. The Engineer Battalion was issued a mine sweeper mounted on the front of a 1/4-ton truck. The operation of this item was not considered too satisfactory.

h. A magnetic road sweeper was built by the 780th Ordnance (LM) Company and turned over to the Engineer Battalion. This machine averaged 2 lbs of scrap metal per mile of operation on the main roads within the Division Sector.

5. Class V

Supply of ammunition and explosives throughout the period remained satisfactory with minor exceptions. Only through the aggressiveness of the Division Ammunition Officer was the Division able to acquire sufficient 81mm Mortar ammunition to meet operational requirements. The supply of 76mm High Velocity Armor Piercing shells was and remained critical throughout the period.

SECTION II

EVACUATION

1. Personnel

Evacuation up to the crossing of the international boundary into Germany was normal. Due to flood conditions of the Our and Sauer Rivers, and the persistent defense of the troops manning the Siegfried Line considerable difficulty was encountered in evacuating casualties of the assault echelons. The M-29 Cargo Carriers received early in the period were used to good advantage on the far shore. However, this difficulty in evacuation was anticipated and Battalion Aid personnel with additional medical equipment were crossed early in the assault. Bunkers on the far shore were converted into aid stations for the treatment of personnel awaiting evacuation.

2. Material

a. Organizational and Division Battlefield Recovery Teams continued their operations with excellent results.

b. The Division CI V disposal team collected large quantities of ammunition, some of which was in critical short supply. Serviceable ammunition was placed in dumps from which reissue was made to organizations of the division.

SECTION III

TRAFFIC

1. Roads

The road net within the Division sector throughout the period was extremely limited and consisted in the main of second and third class roads. As a result of spring thaws and heavy traffic, considerable difficulty was encountered in maintaining the roads. Civilian road officials were hired to supervise the work of prisoners employed in the maintenance of the roads.

2. Circulation

To eliminate unnecessary wear on the roads, the following practices were instituted:

- a. 1-1/2 width roads were incorporated in a one-way circulation plan to eliminate wear on the shoulders of the roads and to prevent dragging mud onto the roads.
- b. Maximum speed limits within the sector were placed at twenty-five miles per hour.
- c. Rigid control of all convey movements.
- d. More aggressive action on the part of Military Police to prevent parking on supply routes.
- e. Military Police escort on all conveys.

SECTION IV

SERVICE TROOPS

1. The organic service organizations of the Division were augmented throughout the period by the support of:

2nd Plat, 60th Field Hospital
129th Ordnance (MM) Company
Quartermaster Laundry and Bath Units
Quartermaster Graves Registration Detachment

2. The Laundry service during the early part of the period was most unsatisfactory. Considerable back log accumulated at the laundry point with a resultant slow down in the service rendered the division. At the end of the period laundry service was again normal.

SECTION V

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Supply and evacuation of the assault echelons against the Siegfried Line was exceedingly difficult as a result of the flood stage of the Our and Sauer Rivers which delayed bridging operations 72-96 hours. Battalion dumps were established on the near shore from which supplies were moved by boat and raft to the far shore as the tactical situation permitted. Consistent enemy artillery fire on the crossing sites resulted in a high loss of supplies and boats during the initial phase of the operation. Air supply, using the liaison planes of Division Artillery was employed to deliver approximately 2900 lbs of miscellaneous supplies to a battalion of the 319th Infantry. It was found that the average lift capacity of these planes is 80 lbs and that mortar, bazooka, and rifle grenade ammunition cannot be dropped with satisfaction. An air resupply mission was requested by Army but was cancelled when the need for air resupply no longer existed.

2. During the period there was attached to the Division a Field Range and Gasoline Lantern repair team. This team completed the conversion of field range fire units to the new type filter.

3. Assistance was given G-1 in the movement of reinforcements during the period which Army was unable to move with transportation allotted for this purpose.

4. Considerable activity existed throughout the period in the processing of request for accommodations. The partial support of the VIII Corps from the Division sector plus the movement of XII Corps CP into the Division Sector and the movement of the 6th Armored Division into and through the sector taxed to the limit available accommodations.

5. A school for the training of operators for the M-29 Cargo Carriers was conducted by the Division Ordnance Officer.

6. For Administrative Orders and Messages issued during the period see Annex "B".

ANNEX "A" - Critical Shortage List as of 28 February.

ANNEX "B" - Administrative Orders No. ____ to No. ____ incl.
Administrative Messages No. ____ to No. ____ incl.