

HEADQUARTERS 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff G-4  
APO #80, U. S. Army

22 November 1944

MEMORANDUM:

TO : Chief of Staff, 80th Infantry Division.

PERIODS FOR HISTORICAL RECORDINGS  
1 OCTOBER to 31 OCTOBER 1944

1. Defensive Operation - Vicinity of Dieulouard

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1. Defensive Operation - Vicinity of Dieulouard (1 Oct. to 31 Oct.)

a. The operations during this period were entirely stable and the consumption of "B" rations was encouraged. Some operational rations were necessary in feeding those personnel engaged in front line positions. An increase in the factor for coffee provided sufficient hot beverages and "B" ration supplements of fresh meats, bread, fresh and dehydrated vegetables added variety to the meals. The automatic issue of Post Exchange rations was generally short this period.

b. Artics, woolen sweaters and sleeping bags were received and issued to the Infantry. These issues were not complete, however, it was contemplated that in the not too distant future 100% would be issued to complete the Infantry and the balance of the Division. Of the initial issues of Artics approximately 15% received were of the small sizes which could not be used. There was a definite shortage of the large common sizes. The sleeping bags were generally liked, except for front line troops. There was some doubt that front line troops could get out of the sleeping bags quickly enough in the event of counter-attack, also the question of this item becoming extremely soiled from muddy shoes, resulted in the use of sleeping bag being left discretionary with the organizational commander. In the issue of woolen sweaters first priority was to the Infantry.

c. The supply of Class III was controlled by Division and the daily allocation from Corps varied from 3,750 to 10,000 gallons during this period. The daily Division and attached Units consumption generally exceeded the average 5,000 gallon daily allocation. Muddy terrain and bivouac areas and the necessity for four wheel drive a great portion of the time, in part accounts for the increased gas consumption. The 80th Division Quartermaster operated an advance Class III DP, transported the gasoline from an Army Supply Point (2½ miles South of Nancy) and issued to Units as per Division breakdown. The organization allotment was determined from a required daily "Gasoline on Hand" report. Strict supervision of all vehicular dispatching was required to reduce needless driving. Prior to the offensive 31,000 gallons of gasoline was needed and allocated by Corps to top off tanks and T/E cans of organic and attached Units.

d. Basic loads of Ammunition were brought up to prescribed levels and maintained. Essentially targets of opportunity only were fired upon, harassing and interdicting fires being held to barest minimum. Just prior to the offensive a Chemical Mortar Company was attached to the Division. In anticipation of larger expenditures of 4.2" WP ammunition two (2) Quartermaster trucks were used to bring up the additional rounds needed. Ammunition Officers of all Units reported some difficulties in drawing from ASP #29. One complaint was to the effect that it was impossible to draw ammunition at night, frequently ammunition vehicles were compelled to wait all night prior to receiving ammunition. The most frequent and critical complaint was the receipt of artillery ammunition in many Lot numbers and with small number of rounds in each lot thus necessitating constant readjustment for accurate fire. The following expenditures of ammunition per gun were effective for periods indicated:

<u>Item</u>	<u>5-13 Oct*</u>	<u>5 Oct - 7 Nov</u>
Shell, 81mm Mortar, light	120.6	78.8
Shell, 81mm Mortar, heavy	30.2	41.8
Shell, 81mm Mortar, WP	15.1	44.1
Shell, 105mm How, M3, HE	157.4	78.7
Shell, 105mm How, M3, WP	2.3	2.9
Shell, 105mm How, M2, HE	314.6	240.9
Shell, 105mm How, M2 WP	None	.54

\* Rescinded 14 Nov 44

e. Traffic and Transportation - One (1) CT of the 26th Infantry Division was attached to the 80th Division during this period. The plan for guiding this CT to its detrucking area follows. MP's were posted from Division Rear Boundry through Pont-a-Mousson to the detrucking area in the vicinity of Atton. The detrucking area was a "turn around" ideal for detrucking and for dispatch of vehicles to the equipment storage area west of Pont-a-Mousson. Time for completing the operation was five (5) hours.

f. A list of shortages as of the end of the period is attached. Special note is made of the very critical shortage of tires, tubes and patches, particularly tubes, both 600 x 16 and 750 x 20. At present a large percentage of vehicles are operating without spares, some vehicles without outer duals and many trailers are immovable, all because of the shortage of one or the other of the three items.