

HEADQUARTERS 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO #80, U.S. Army

G-4

16 September 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO : Chief of Staff, 80th Infantry Division.

PERIODS FOR HISTORICAL RECORDING
3 AUGUST TO 31 AUGUST 1944

1. Concentration (Continent)
2. Movement to South
3. Movement to Sille Le Guillaume
4. Operation at Sille Le Guillaume and Evron
5. Movement to Argentan
6. Operations at Argentan
7. Movement to Chalons
8. Operations at Chalons and Occupation

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HISTORICAL REPORT ** G-4 SECTION

1. Concentration (3 Aug 44 to 8 Aug 44) at St Jores, France

a. Method - To facilitate an efficient method of unloading the Division, tow teams were organized under the jurisdiction of the G-4 Section, i.e. Traffic Control and Beach Liaison. Traffic Control and the guidance of the Division into the allocated concentration areas was performed by the 80th Division Military Police Platoon. The Beach Liaison, Beach Traffic Control and loading of impedimenta was performed by a representative of the G-4 Section.

b. Supply - During this period Class I and III were resupplied and reserve stocks brought back to prescribed levels from a supply point 5 miles NE of St. Saureur le Vicomte. Operational rations ("C" and "K") were received throughout this period.

c. A list of critical items that were unavailable in the United Kingdom and that the Division was still short upon arrival in France is attached as an inclosure to this report. (See Appendage I)

2. Movement to the South (9 Aug 44 to 13 Aug 44) to the General vicinity of Soule, Anne and St. Mars Du Desert

a. To facilitate movement to the South, items not required for the forthcoming operation were stored in two (2) warehouses located at Avranches and Montsurs under Division guard. The items stored consisted of Chemical Warfare Equipment, including Gas Masks and Duffel Bags. The bags contained overcoats, blouses, winter underwear and other items as directed by Organizational Commanders.

b. The March Table for the move from Concentration Area to the Assembly Area in the vicinity of Soule is attached. (See Appendage II)

c. There was no variance in the supply procedure. The units during this movement had drawn upon their reserves. Resupply was expected from Army Supply Points in the vicinity of Chemiere De Roi.

3. Movement to Evron and Sille Le Guillaume (13 Aug 44 to 15 Aug 44)

a. Supply installations and other administrative instructions were given to Units by Administrative Order. See Inclosure 1) Class I, II and IV items were distributed from Division Supply Points truckhead distribution, while Class III and V, were drawn direct from Army Supply Point by Units as indicated on overlay.

b. Because of the rapidity of move and the distance of the move away from Supply Points, resupply of Class I and III was particularly difficult. The round trip from Division area to Army Supply Points in vicinity of Chemiere Le Roi was approximately 60 miles.

c. The March Table for this movement is attached as Appendage

4. Operation at Sille le Guillaume (15 Aug 44 to 16 Aug 44)

a. The Division Class I supply during this period consisted primarily of "C", "L" and "U" (10 in 1) rations. R.A.C. Kits or Post Exchange Rations were received and issued to the Units with Class I. These R.A.C. Kits consisting of cigarettes, candy, soap, tooth powder, razor blades, and tobacco are packaged in large boxes containing one ration for 200 men for one day.

b. Army Supply Points remained in the vicinity of Chemiere Le Roi resulting in continuance of difficult lengthy supply lines while in this sector.

c. Expenditures of all types of Class V for this sector were

generally small. During this period the supply of small arms was critical. The ASP was poorly stocked in grenades and small arms ammunition.

5. Movement to Argentan (18 Aug 44)

a. Prior to movement organizations were directed to restock basic loads and reserves in all Classes of Supply.

b. At this time 80th QM trucks were being used to motorize foot elements of the Infantry, thereby necessitating Units to draw Class I, truckhead distribution from Army Supply Point vicinity Chemiere Le Roi.

6. Operation at Argentan (19 Aug 44 to 24 Aug 44)

a. Initially Army supported the operation with the same Supply Points in vicinity of Chemiere Le Roi. The supply route was excessively long, roads were poor and the round trip for supply vehicles was approximately 100 miles. During the later part of the operation Army moved Supply Points to vicinity of Sees which eased the supply problems considerably.

b. Operational type rations were used throughout the operation, however upon completion of the mission a "B" ration supplement was received. The weekly issue of R.A.C. Kits was also received.

c. A QM Fumigation and Bath and a QM Laundry Unit was made available to the Division for the period 23-26 Aug 44. Both services were widely used and greatly appreciated. The laundry unit had a limited stock of clean clothing on hand which they issued in exchange for soiled clothing to those desiring this service.

d. Enemy material captured during this action consisted mainly of individual weapons and equipment taken from prisoners of War.

e. The Shortage List of Critical Items (Appendage I) was still due at this time as no items of any consequence had been received.

f. Evacuation - The Collecting Station supporting the 318th Infantry was unable to get closer than two (2) miles. This was due to the open terrain which afforded the enemy maximum and effective observation. A system of Forward Ambulance Loading Points was employed, this provided rapid evacuation for casualties. (Nine ambulances were used in this system). This Collecting Company handled more than 200 casualties during one twenty-four period. As a consequence of the rapid filling to capacity of the one evacuation hospital supporting the Division the Field Hospital Platoon attached to the Division was used for a period of time as an emergency evacuation hospital for all casualties. This arrangement solved the situation pending the arrival of a second Evacuation Hospital.

7. Movement to Chalon (25 Aug 44 to 27 Aug 44)

a. On the move SE from Argentan the G-4 Section was represented in the advance party for the purpose of establishing contact with XII Corps G-4, to arrange for the resupply of G1 I and G1 III and layout of Division Service Troops Area. Service Troops bivouacs and location for Division Supply Points were initially selected in vicinity of Bordeaux. The following afternoon the Division concentration area was changed and new locations were selected in vicinity of Cheroy. The sites selected in the vicinity were never occupied inasmuch as the Division Service Elements did not arrive until after the Division received orders to continue the march to the new concentration area vicinity of St Flavy. March bivouac was established however in the Cheroy area, for a major portion of the Division for purposes of gasoline resupply. The march for this move as

initially scheduled to vicinity of Bordeaux was approximately 180 miles, however the distance actually covered when the Division finally closed in area S of St. Martin was 300 miles. Although the major portion of the Division made the trip without difficulty, there were in addition to individual vehicles the track laying vehicles all of which had to be resupplied enroute. The 702nd Tank Battalion (attached) encountered the most difficulty. Since basic load of Class III provides for a maximum of 150 miles of operation a Liaison Officer was dispatched to higher headquarters to arrange for reconstitution of basic load of Class III. This solution was satisfactory, however the Battalion was considerably delayed enroute.

b. Supply lines during this period were exceedingly long. During the short stay in vicinity of Cheroy resupply was effected from Army Supply Points at Prefontaine and 80 mile round trip for supply vehicles. While in the St Flavry area Army Supply Points were in vicinity of Sens a round trip of 180 miles. Requests to move Supply Points, within closer supporting distance never materialized.

c. For other administrative instructions see Administrative Order No. 4.

8. Operations at Chalon

a. The most prevalent supply problem which developed during this phase was the critical shortage of gasoline. None was available through normal channels at the Supply Point vicinity of Sens. The shortage was alleviated however by the capture of approximately 80,000 gallons of German gas in railway tank cars at Goolus. The 80th QM established a Class III DP with its portable dispensers and resupplied the Division and attached Units from this source. As the supply of gasoline within the Division was practically nil approximately 40000 gals were used for resupply. The balance on hand was taken over by XII Corps and allocated by Corps G-4 to Corps Units.

b. Throughout most of this operation Army Supply Points remained in the vicinity of Sens as noted by Administrative Order. This tremendous extended supply line was subsequently reduced when Army moved the Supply Points to vicinity of Sommisons. Requests to Corps to have Supply Points moved closer to better support the Division were acknowledged as essential, but difficult to accomplish.

c. A list of enemy supplies captured at Chalon and vicinity follows:

GENERAL LIST OF CAPTURED ENEMY MATERIEL

<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
32 Carloads (Est 90 tons)	Foodstuffs: Butter, lard, cheese, jam, meats, flour, sugar, candy, cigars, cigarettes	Bouy
42 Carloads	Ammunition (4 cars), 88mm's 88mm Long Rifles, 105mm How, 105mm Long Rifles, 50mm At Gun	"
4 Carloads	Lumber	"
3 Box Cars	Empty	
3 Flat Cars	Empty	

GENERAL LIST OF CAPTURED ENEMY MATERIEL

<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
15 Carloads	Parachutes	St Hilaire
100	Airplane Motors and Airplane Parts	Chalons
4 1/2 Carloads	Miscellaneous Signal Equipment	Chalons
258	Airplane Engines, all types	"
27 Cartons	Spark Plugs	"
79 Boxes	Miscellaneous spare parts for airplane engines	"
1 Carload	Miscellaneous Medical supplies	"
34 Carloads	Parachutes	St Hilaire
2 Box Cars	Musical Equipment	"
6	Switch Engines	"
1	Locomotive	"
55 Carloads	Assorted Equipment	"
1 Warehouse	Communications materiel	"
3 Box Cars	Artillery Ammunition	"
4 Field Guns	Long Tom type	"
2	105's	"
2	40mm How	"
	Miscellaneous China and Kitchenware, Buildings filled with bombs, maps, electrical equipment	Mourmelon Le Gra
7 Carloads	Flour	Athis
11	ME 109's	Army Camp (T675645)
1	In Plane, some ammunition	"
2	Cannons	Souy
80,000 gal	Gasoline	Coolus

Capturing Units were responsible initially for guarding captured stores until relieved by higher headquarters or guards furnished by Civil Affairs.

ENCLOSURE # 2MARCH TABLE

<u>Ser No.</u>	<u>No. of March Units</u>	<u>Seria* CO and Troops</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Cross IP</u>	<u>Route to IP</u>
1	14	Col Cameron CT 317	8	0600	N803
2	14	Col McHugh CT 318	7	0721	GC 138A N803
3	4	Lt Col Hardy Div Hq & Hq Co Div Arty Hq Hq Stry 80 Sig	2	0842	GC-138 N803
4	14	Col Davidson CT 319	6	0909	GC 138 GC24
5	4	Col Burge 315 FA Bn	3	1030	N803
6	1	Capt Hill 80 Rch Tr	2	1054	GC 138- GC 24
7	1	Maj McCollam 305 Engr (-)	1	1106	N803
8	3	Lt Col Mitchell 305 Med Bn (-) 80th QM Co 780th Ord Co	5 9 10	1119	GC 67 GC 24
9	2	Lt Col Trone Div Hq (rr)	4	1143	GC 67- GC 24

Note: To facilitate the movement the following companies were attached to the 80th Division:

Co F 388th Eng Regt
Co A 388th Eng Regt
643d QM Trk Co
3396 QM Trk Co
3870 QM Trk Co

ENCLOSURE # 3MARCH TABLE

<u>Ser No.</u>	<u>Ser CO and Troops</u>	<u>No of March units</u>	<u>Cross IP</u>
1	Capt Hill Rcn Tr 1 Plt Co "A" 305 Eng	2	H-60
2	Brig Gen O. Summers Rcn Parties: Div Hqs Div Arty 610 TD 633 AAA 702 Tank Adv M/C	1	H-23
3	Lt Col Snowden 3d Bn 318th 1 Btry 314 FA Bn 1 Plat 610 TD 1 Co 305 Eng (- Plt w/CT 318 and Hvy Equip)	3	H
4	Col McHugh 318 Inf (-) 3d Bn & 2 Rifle Cos 1 Co 610 TD less 1 Plt 314 FA Bn (- 1 Btry) 305 Eng Bn (- 1 Co and 2 Pits)	5	H / 52
5	Lt Col Burdge 315 FA Bn	3	H / 137
6	Lt Col Herold 610 TD Bn (- 1 Co)	4	H / 189
7	Lt Col Maeze Hvy Guns, 2 Btrys 633 AAA Co B 305 Med Bn 1 Plat Co D 305 Med Bn 1 Plat 60th FH 1 Sec L Am Plat 495 Med Coll Co atchd	2	H / 246
8	Lt Col Hardy Div Hq & Hq Co	5	H / 326
9	Lt Col Norman 1/2 317th Inf (organic mtzd)	4	H / 504
10	Lt Col Smith 80th QM Co 780 Ord Co	3	H / 410

<u>Ser No.</u>	<u>Ser CO and Troops</u>	<u>No of March units</u>	<u>Cross IP</u>
11	Lt Col Murray 1/2 317 Inf (organic & mtzd elmts)	4	H / 572
12	Lt Col Ellery 313 FA Bn 1st Plt Co A 305 Engr Co "A" 305 Med Bn 1. Btry 633 AAA Bn 1 Plat Co D 305 Med (1 Sec of Amb Plat 495 Med Col Co sthd)	5	H / 640
13	Lt Col Talbert 3 Cos 702 Tk Bn 2 R Cos 318 Inf to ride on tanks	3	H / 719
14	Maj James Remainder 702 Tk Bn Hvy Guns 1 Btry 633d AAA	2	H / 784
15	Col Cameron 317 Inf (organic mtzd & foot elmts)	2	H / 1120

NOTES: 20 minutes between serials, 10 minutes between march units, 1 hour between serial 7-8 and between 9-10. Units halt for 10 minutes before every even hour. 20 minutes halt will be made at 1200 and 1800.

ENCLOSURE #4MARCH TABLE

Ser No.	No. of March Units	Ser Comdr & Troops	No of Veh	Hd Cross Army IP Carrouges	Tail Head Army Div IP	Tail Div IP
1	2	Capt Hill Rcn Tr	43	0600	0607	0500
2	6	Maj Crawford Co I 319th Div Hq & Co Hq & Hq Btry 80 Sig Co	161	0615	0643 0455	0515
3,4,5	14	Col McHugh CT 318	416	0651	0893	0551
6,7,8	14	Col Cameron CT 317	416	0831	0953 0701	0721
9	3	Maj McCollam 305 Eng (-)	72	1011	1023	0901
10	6	Lt Col Burdge 315th FA Bn 633 AAA Bn	165	1031	1059	0921
11	4	Lt Col Smith 305 Hed Bn 80 QM Co 780 Ord Co Plt 60th FH	119	1107	1126	1007
12	5	Maj Jeffrey 610 Tn Bn	155	1134	1158 1014	1034
13	6	Maj James 702 Tk Bn	187	1236	1306 1046	1106

NOTES:

10 min halt each even hour on the hour
 20 min halt at 1200 and 1800
 3 min between MU, 8 min between serials
 Rate March 15 mph to Carrouges - then 25 mph

Atchd Truck Co's to facilitate the movement:

80th QM Co	25 Trucks
3905 QM Trk Co	46 Trucks
443 QM Trk Co	44 Trucks
642 QM Trk Co	44 Trucks
445 QM Trk Co	39 Trucks