

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

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MEMORANDUM

TO : Chief of Staff, 80th Infantry Division

PERIODS FOR HISTORICAL RECORDING  
1 DECEMBER to 31 DECEMBER 1944

1. Rest Period at St. Avold
2. Movement to vicinity of Sarre Union
3. Movement from Sarre Union to vicinity of Luxembourg
4. Operations in Luxembourg
5. Miscellaneous
6. Evacuation

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1. Rest Period at St Avoild - 1 December - 18 December 1944.

a. The operations during this period were initially defensive, followed by a rest period in which all tactical organizations participated.

b. The period offered excellent opportunity to make a thorough check of clothing and equipment and to adjust shortages. Repair and maintenance of vehicles and weapons was stressed. The Division Ordnance Officer placed teams in St Avoild, Marlbach and Hombourg to assist motor transport and weapons personnel in the maintenance, repair and inspection of equipment.

c. Laundry and Bath Units were assigned to the Division for entire rest period. Both services were used extensively. Each individual receiving a shower was given clean set of underwear and socks on an exchange basis. The 319th Infantry Regiment obtained permission to use civilian showers. To make available the same underwear exchange, the Quartermaster Bath Unit initially furnished this regiment with 400 sets of clean underwear as an operating basis.

d. "B" rations were consumed practically 100% throughout the period.

e. The supply of Class III was adequate.

f. The supply of Class V was adequate. Basic loads were brought up to prescribed levels.

g. During the period Corps Quartermaster transportation was made available to the Regiments for the purpose of moving barracks bags to the general vicinity of St. Avoild.

h. As a means of recovering equipment abandoned and lost in the course of operations Infantry Regiments, Artillery Battalions and the Engineer Battalion were directed to organize Battlefield Recovery Teams. Teams were to consist of at least four (4) men per Battalion and to be equipped with necessary transportation to facilitate their operation. Weekly reports of equipment recovered to be submitted weekly to this headquarters.

i. To facilitate billeting and to prevent overcrowding in small towns within the Division area an Accomodations Officer was assigned to maintain a record of and approve billets. Any Unit entering the sector was required to obtain permission from this Officer prior to entry. The Accomodation Section of XII Corps made it mandatory to report an analysis of the towns and cities within the Division sector.

2. Movement to vicinity of Sarre Union - 18 December - 19 December 1944

a. The Division moved from St. Avoild to the vicinity of Sarre Union in two (2) shuttles and over two (2) routes. Traffic control points were established at critical points and the XII Corps Provost Marshall assisted with his personnel in the movement. The following truck assignment table was effected:

FIRST SHUTTLE - 18 December

<u>TRUCKS</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
9 - 2½-ton, LWB	3905th QM Trk Co	317th Infantry
30 - 2½-ton, LWB	318th Infantry	317th Infantry
19 - 2½-ton, SWB	313th FA Bn	317th Infantry
19 - 2½-ton, SWB	314th FA Bn	317th Infantry
19 - 2½-ton, SWB	905th FA Bn	317th Infantry
47 - 2½-ton, LWB	443rd QM Trk Co	319th Infantry
35 - 2½-ton, LWB	3905th QM Trk Co	319th Infantry

SECOND SHUTTLE - 19 December

<u>TRUCKS</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
47 - 2½-ton, LWB	443rd QM Trk Co	318th Infantry
35 - 2½-ton, LWB	3905th QM Trk Co	318th Infantry
9 - 2½-ton, LWB	3905th QM Trk Co	Rear Echelon
23 - 2½-ton, LWB	319th Infantry	Rear Echelon
12 - 2½-ton, LWB	317th Infantry	60th Field Hosp.
5 - 2½-ton, LWB	317th Infantry	Reinforcement Co
6 - 2½-ton, LWB	317th Infantry	Clearing Company

Organizations receiving and furnishing trucks provided a representative to accompany such trucks to insure efficient control for each group of trucks listed above. This liaison was a very satisfactory method to effect a successful shuttle movement.

b. An Advance Party preceded the Division to secure billeting space. Undue difficulties were experienced in locating adequate accommodations for the service elements of the Division since in the sector assigned most billets were occupied by Units previously assigned to the sector.

3. Movement from Sarre Union to vicinity of Luxembourg, 20-21 December

a. The advance party from the service elements of this movement consisted of representatives of the G-4 Section, Division Quartermaster, Quartermaster Company, Division Ordnance Office, DAO and Medical Battalion. To assist in the road march such as road service, vehicle breakdown, tire troubles, gas shortages, etc. an Ordnance wrecker team and two (2) Quartermaster trucks of gasoline were attached to trail the column.

b. To facilitate the move to Luxembourg four (4) truck companies were assigned the mission of transporting the Division in addition to the two (2) that had been attached previously. The truck assignment table for the movement was as follows:

<u>Truck Company</u>	317th	318th	319th	FH	MP	Sig	DHQ	Total
3597th QM Trk Co			16	24	3	3	1	46
4051st QM Trk Co			47					47
3805th QM Trk Co		38	18					56
3905th QM Trk Co	38		2					40
3327th QM Trk Co		46						46
443rd QM Trk Co	43							43
<b>Total -</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>278</b>

The above breakdown was affected at an assembly area at Puttrelange, France. Representatives of the Units concerned were given charge of the vehicles as they reported in to the control point. The organizations were instructed to maintain control of all trucks assigned and at the completion of the movement to send the Truck Company representatives to the G-4 Section for further instructions.

#### 4. Operations in Luxembourg, 20 December - 31 December 1944

a. Initially there was a shortage of the "B" rations but this existed temporarily and was soon alleviated. The "B" ration was supplemented by "D" ration bars, fresh meat, butter, bread, and coffee. The Christmas Day ration was an excellent menu which consisted of turkey with all the holiday components. The automatic issue of Post Exchange supplies was normal and the holiday issue included an extra allotment of cigars and candy.

b. A directive from higher headquarters made it mandatory for the inspection and issue to individuals of gas masks. It further provided that all individual chemical warfare equipment (mask, covers, eyeshields, ointment, etc) was to be carried at all times by the individual.

c. The continued problem of obtaining large size articles and EE shoes was prevalent and the seriousness of the EE shoe situation threatened evacuation of some individuals unless a stock was soon received.

d. A small number of camouflage suits were initially received. These were divided between the Infantry Regiments and the Reconnaissance Troop. 200 bolts of white material were recovered by the salvage team and turned over to Corps to be manufactured into suits for the Division.

e. To alleviate the shortage of field jackets, organizations desiring them were furnished Coats, wool, OD (Blouses) in lieu of field jackets. This was a temporary solution not favorably accepted by the Division.

f. Class III supply was adequate. The 80th Quartermaster Company operated an Advance Class III Supply Point throughout the period.

#### 5. Miscellaneous

a. Coal was made available on the basis of two (2) pounds per in-

dividual per day. Issue being executed on request to the Division Quartermaster and obtained by the organizations at the Army Coal Supply Point.

b. The supplement organizational Salvage Teams two (2) Division Salvage Teams were organized which were composed of two (2) NCO's, sixteen (16) enlisted men. These teams functioned under the jurisdiction of the Division Quartermaster and at present two (2) trucks of the Division Quartermaster truck fleet are being utilized but these two (2) vehicles will be supplemented by captured transportation when it becomes available.

c. Sixteen (16) trucks were made available to each Infantry Regiment to assist them in the movement of their barracks bags from the old locations. These trucks were obtained from the XII Corps Fleet. Four (4) of the vehicles and a good portion of the cargos were destroyed when the column was attacked by enemy aircraft.

d. During the period the 80th Division Quartermaster furnished vehicles to the APO for the purpose of transporting the mail. The Christmas mail was of such volume that it became necessary to supplement Third Army service with four (4) to ten (10) trucks daily.

e. A list of the shortages as of the end of the period is attached. Tires, tubes and patching material were most critical. One Infantry Unit reported forty-five (45) punctures prior to the movement to Luxembourg and encountered as many enroute.

## 6. Evacuation

a. The evacuation during the period was normal.

b. When the 80th Division was transferred into the Luxembourg sector one (1) platoon of ambulances accompanied the movement. Although the number of casualties were moderate in the early phases of the operation, one (1) platoon of ambulances was inadequate. This can be attributed to an excessive evacuation route to Thionville, France. A request was made to III Corps for additional ambulances, however, this request was not favorably considered since additional ambulances were not available.

c. The result became evident when a backlog of patients in the Clearing Station caused undue difficulties. Throughout this twenty-four (24) hour emergency the organic transportation of the 305th Medical Battalion augmented the limited ambulance transportation. The situation was alleviated when supporting ambulances were made available.