

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

22 February 1945.

MEMORANDUM

TO : Chief of Staff, 80th Infantry Division.

PERIOD FOR HISTORICAL RECORDING  
1 January to 31 January 1945

SECTION I - SUPPLY

SECTION II - EVACUATION

SECTION III - TRAFFIC

SECTION IV - SERVICE TROOPS

SECTION V - MISCELLANEOUS

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## SECTION I - SUPPLY

### 1. Class I

a. During the period 563,126 rations were drawn by the Division and attached organizations, of which 425,258 were "B" rations. This reflects a percentage of 79% "B" rations drawn, which in view of the offensive nature of operations shows a concentrated effort to serve "B" type rations under all but impossible conditions. "B" rations were supplemented by the issue of fresh meats, butter, bread, coffee and "D" bars. The special ration issued for consumption New Years was well balanced and of fine variety.

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

c. During the period an improvement in the availability of "K" type rations was noted. Substitutions in the past of "C" type rations for "K" rations requested has been unsatisfactory in that "C" rations are not favorably received.

### 2. Class II

a. Three thousand (3000) sleeping bags were received and issued to tactical organizations of the division in exchange for two blankets per individual previously equipped with four blankets. General satisfaction was expressed with the bag with the exception of troops occupying front line positions who found them inconvenient for use in fox holes.

b. The arctics required to completely equip the division were received during the period.

c. A shipment of six thousand six hundred (6600) pairs of shoe pacs was received and issued to individuals of the division who had been unable to receive replacement of EE size shoes, artillery forward observers, combat engineers, and infantrymen. The shoe pacs were well received and greatly appreciated, the only other comments being that they arrived so late in the winter and in insufficient quantity.

d. The resupply of EE size shoes remained critical throughout the period. A predominate percentage of combat boots were received as replacements for shoes.

e. Theater approval of the discretionary allowance whereby the authorized quantities of Browning Automatic Rifles and Light Machine Guns within the regiments were increased to 135 and 36 respectively, was received. By the close of the period the additional BAR's and LMG's had been received.

f. All shortages of tires and tubes, size 750 x 20 were received during the second week, however redepts of other tires, tubes and patching materials continued in short supply at the end of the period.

g. For all items in critical supply at the end of the period see Annex No. 1.

### 3. Class III

a. The supply of gasoline and lubricants was satisfactory throughout the period with the exception of SAE 10 oil, the supply of which at times was not equal to the demand.

b. Throughout the period resupply of Class III items for organizations equipped with general and special purpose vehicles was through the Division Class III Supply Point.

4. Class IV

a. A total of 3565 snow suits was received during the period, with the predominate portion of the snow suits being received during the latter days of the snow season. Vehicles operating in forward areas were painted with white camouflage paint which was available in good supply.

5. Class V

a. The supply of ammunition throughout the period was good with only minor items in short supply.

b. New items of Ordnance ammunition were received as follows:

60mm White Phosphorus Shells  
76mm High Velocity Armor Piercing Shells  
2.36" White Phosphorus Rockets  
Colored Smoke and WP Rifle Grenades  
3" Illuminating Shells  
155mm Colored Smoke Shells

c. Artillery ammunition was rationed for seventeen (17) days of the period with a daily average of 35 rounds per gun for the light battalions and 23 rounds per gun for the medium battalion.

SECTION II - EVACUATION

1. Personnel

As a result of an exceedingly limited road net and rough terrain, difficulty was encountered in front line evacuation from the valley of the Sure River. Considerable hand carry was necessary, particularly during the period when the ground was covered by snow. Improvised sleds, ski runners, and captured horses were used where the terrain permitted. Skis were requisitioned but were not available until after the snow had melted.

2. Materiel

a. Throughout the period fourteen (14) organizational battlefield recovery teams were employed policing the battlefield with two (2) QM salvage teams working in the division train areas. Quantities of materiel were recovered, a predominant portion of which was reissued to troops.

b. An ammunition disposal team was organized and placed under the supervision of the Division Ordnance Officer. This team consisting of one (1) officer and fourteen (14) enlisted men was organized in an effort to collect and dispose of all ammunition both US and enemy left behind by the attacking troops, thereby effecting a considerable economy in ammunition and denying the use of scattered ammunition to would-be saboteurs.

c. The success of the salvage efforts received the commendation of higher headquarter, as evidenced by Annex N. 2.

SECTION III - TRAFFIC

A. Heavy snow fall and high winds caused considerable drifting of snow on the roads, which, added to the limited road net, made movement exceedingly difficult.

b. Units failing to clear movements through traffic headquarters in several instances caused traffic tie-ups. However, corrective action taken has eliminated to a large extent this hinderance to the flow of traffic.

c. The road net in the division sector throughout the period, in addition to being limited in scope, was composed to a large extent of narrow 1 and 2 way roads of 2nd and 3rd class.

#### SECTION IV - SERVICE TROOPS

The organic service units of the division were augmented during the period by the support of the following organizations:

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

#### SECTION V - MISCELLANEOUS

The 780th Ordnance Company and the 129th Ordnance Company instituted a division wide tire inspection program. The inspections were conducted at unit motor pools and were followed up by a report of findings and recommendations to the organization commanders. It was found that the greatest percentage of deficiencies was the presence of foreign objects imbedded in the tire casings. To eliminate this the Division Ordnance Officer at the end of the period was building a road sweeping machine to be used in removing nails, shell fragments, scrap metal, etc. from the roads in the division sector.

Annex No. 1 - List of Critical Shortages  
No. 2 - Commendation on Battlefield Recovery