

REPORT OF OPERATIONS - NORTHEAST FRANCE

PART IV - MONTH OF DECEMBER

REPORT ON SUPPLY AND EVACUATION

I - SUPPLY:

a. Supply Operations:

(1) Supply operations during this period were extremely difficult as the Saar River crossing and subsequent withdrawal took place. Carrying parties were organized on both sides of the river to get supplies forward to the troops. These parties had to operate under cover of darkness due to constant enemy small arms, mortar and Artillery fire. The Engineers assisted greatly in this operation by the use of ferries, foot bridges and assault boats. At no time during the operation was a vehicular bridge installed, thereby making the supply of troops very difficult. However, a continuous flow of critical supplies were gotten to the troops permitting the Division to carry out this operation successfully.

b. Class I:

(1) Truckhead distribution was made to all Division units and attached troops. Regt'l dumps were established prior to the crossing and ferried to advance dumps on the far shore. Supplies were distributed on the following basis for the period:

"B"	335,847
"C"	31,000
"K"	135,756
"10-1"	43,710
"D" (Not included in total)	<u>13,584</u>
TOTAL	546,313

(2) The Division and attached units received a total of twenty-five (25) days issue of PX rations during the month of December. Five issues were made, each of which was for a five day period.

(3) Type "K", "C" and "10-1" were supplemented by issues of coffee, milk and sugar.

(4) Water was plentiful and was easily accessible to the troops.

c. Class II:

(1) Clothing and equipment were available in sufficient quantities to provide for the Division and attached units. The following list includes special items issued to the troops during the period:

(Apt. of Operations - N. E. France, cont.)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Undershirt, wool	7,234	Shovel, intrenching	954
Trousers, wool	8,231	Can, meat	2,053
Gloves, wool	12,948	Packboards	122
Socks, wool	60,149	Bag, carrying ammo	213
Sweater, wool	10,405	Tent, pyramidal	96
Drawers, wool	7,456	Stove, tent M-41	37
Shirt, wool	6,356	Carrier, shovel Int.	1,122
Trousers, HBT	4,754	Tent, shelterhalf	1,275
Gloves, heavy leather	1,000	Towel, bath	8,345
Handkerchief	9,200	Can, water 5 gal	1,191
Shoes, service	1,460	Lantern, Kerosene	64
Overshoes	1,191	Mittens, asbestos	136

d. Class III:

(1) Gasoline consumption averaged 3.3 gals per gas-consuming vehicle per day. The following is a total of all gasoline, oil and lubricants issued to the Division and attached units during the month:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Gasoline, 80 Oct.	244,440 gal.
Oil, Diesel	7,930 "
Oil, Engine, Det. SAE #10	1,415 "
Oil, Engine, Det. SAE #30	1,770 "
Oil, Engine, Det. SAE #50	55 "
Universal Gear Lube #90	270 "
Grease, GP #1	1,275 lb.
Grease, GP #2	900 "
Grease, GP #3	0 "
Grease, GP #4	30 "

- (2) This is a decrease of 22,090 gals of gasoline issued over last month.
 (3) Total consumption of gasoline since "D" day is 1,486,530 gals.

e. Class IV:

(1) There were approximately eighteen (18) tons of cleaning and preserving material issued to the Division during this period, this includes soap, toilet paper, brushes, brooms etc.

(2) Approximately three (3) tons of stationery and office supplies were issued to the Division and attached units.

f. Personal Effects:

(1) Personal effects of 166 officers and enlisted men were processed during this period.

g. Remarks:

(1) The Division Signal Supply section was attached to the QM Co during the period.

(2) The mobile Officers' Sales Store visited the Div once during the month.

(3) Laundering of socks was continued, and 146,592 prs were laundered.

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h. Ammunition:

(1) Ammo expended for the period was 2739 tons. The following tabulation, based on E T O U S 4 unit of fire, dated 10 Dec '43, is a breakdown of the above tonnage:

<u>Small Arms:</u>	<u>No. of Weapons</u>	<u>Av. Rds Per Won</u>	<u>Total Rds</u>	<u>U/F</u>
Carbines	5279	42.8	225,300	1.17
Cal. .30, M1903A4 5/clip	81	22.0	1,804	.8
Cal. .30, BAR 5/clip	243	141.1	34,286	1.27
Cal. .30, 3/clip	6416	132.1	847,859	5.5
Cal. .30, MG	157	3175.4	498,700	11.8
Cal. .45, Pistol	1155	5.6	6,555	2.83
Cal. .45, SMG	93	1339.2	124,545	15.5
Cal. .50	236	730.6	173,795	2.92
Gren. Hand Frag			13,755	9.6
Rocket AT 2.36"	558	9.7	5,418	7.9
<u>Mortar:</u>				
60mm Mortar	90	126.5	11,387	2.08
81mm Mortar	54	761.7	41,136	10.1
<u>Gun, 57mm:</u>				
57mm	57	108.1	6,166	2.7
<u>Artillery:</u>				
105mm How. M3	18	279.1	5,025	4.6
105mm How. M2	36	1580.8	56,911	12.6
155mm How. M1	12	705.5	8,466	9.4

(2) Critical Items: Anti-tank mines, anti-personnel mines, trip flares M48-M49, and rocket, AT, 2.36" were critical during the entire period. Smoke, Harmless, cloud and smoke, white phosphorus were available in very limited quantities during approximately one half the period, and were critical during the remainder of the period.

II - ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE & SUPPLY:

(1) 3rd Echelon maintenance of motor vehicles was extremely heavy, due to inferior roads, muddy bivouac areas and the double crossing of the Saar river.

(2) Ten (10) vehicles or .5% of the Division T/E allowance were lost due to enemy action.

(3) Small arms, crew served weapons and Arty pieces, were inspected and repaired.

III - EVACUATION:

(1) The evacuation of casualties has continued to be effected in a satisfactory manner although much difficulty was experienced during and after the Saar River crossing.

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(2) On one occasion, the casualties of one battalion could not be evacuated for nearly two days having been isolated by the enemy. However, soon afterwards, all casualties were brought back across the river in surprisingly good condition. At no time during this entire maneuver was a vehicle bridge established and consequently all casualties were transported across the river by means of assault boats, ferries and a foot bridge and almost exclusively under cover of darkness.

(3) Medical supplies for this same isolated Battalion had to be flown over and dropped by fighter bombers during this critical period. Otherwise supplies were delivered to medical units across the river in adequate quantities. Additional medical supplies were easily obtainable from medical supply units in the rear and no shortage existed.

(4) All casualties were evacuated during the withdrawal back across the Saar. Small amounts of medical equipment which had to be abandoned were destroyed.

(5) Report of casualties for the period 1 Dec to 31 Dec '44 inclusive:

	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Disease</u>	<u>Injury</u>	<u>Exhaustion</u>	<u>Total</u>
Division Total	787	1128	233	153	2301
Evacuated	759	825	195	104	1883
Returned to duty	28	303	38	49	418
Allies Total	125	281	46	26	478
Evacuated	121	144	40	15	320
Returned to Duty	4	137	6	11	158
Civilian Total	18	13	2	0	33
Evacuated	17	13	2	0	32
Discharged	1	0	0	0	1
Prisoner Total	100	0	0	0	100
Evacuated	100	0	0	0	100
Grand Total	1030	1422	281	179	2912

IV - BURIAL:

(1) There were 215 American dead and 62 enemy dead evacuated by the Graves Registration Section during the period.

V - SALVAGE & CAPTURED MATERIAL:

(1) Approximately fifty-six (56) tons of salvage were turned in to the Army Salvage point by the Div QM.

(2) The amount of salvage reclaimed and reissued to the Div and attached units is estimated to be sixteen (16) tons.

(3) To date 258 fire units for field ranges have been modified by addition of the new type generator.

(4) A large number of German armored vehicles were destroyed or captured during the period, including ten (10) MK IV and two (2) MK V tanks.

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(5) Thousands of rounds of German ammo of all calibers were gathered up in the Division area and destroyed.

VI - TRAFFIC:

(1) The main roads in the Division area required constant maintenance and repair due to narrow roads and demolished bridges. Roads were slippery due to mud and heavy rains.

VII - SERVICE TROOPS & TRAINS:

Service troops and trains were handicapped due to the lack of suitable bivouac sites and accommodations far enough forward to supply the troops efficiently.

BOOKS

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73