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HEADQUARTERS
BLACK TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

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 AUTH: G4 26 Inf Div
 DATE: 1 February 48
 LIMIT: *AS E* JCS, AAJ.
 1818th TD Battalion

APO 434, US Army
 1 February 1948

SUBJECT: After Action Against the Enemy Report.

**TO: 1 Commanding General,
 26th Infantry Division,
 APO 26, US Army.**

In compliance with paragraph 10, change 4, AR 945-108, the following report is submitted for the period 1 January 48 to 31 January 48 inclusive:

1. PERSONNEL:

- a. Total effective strength at beginning of period:
 41 O 1 WO 889 M
 At end of period:
 38 O 1 WO 847 M
- b. Killed in action: 2 M
 Wounded in action: 1 O 10 M
 Missing in action: None.
- c. Reinforcements received: 15 M.

2. ENEMY:

a. The following enemy units were identified during the period in the Luxembourg sector of the 26th Div:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| (1) 9 TD Div | 47th Reg Brig |
| 5 Para Div | 276 TD Div |
| Fuehrer Gren Brig | 167 TD Div |
| 120 Pz Lehr Div (M) | 240 TD Div |
| 24 Pz Div (M) | 26 TD Div |
| 75 TD Div (on our rt flank) | |
| (2) Saarlandern sector of the 26th Division: | |
| 719th Inf Div | |
| 247th Inf Div (M) | |
| 778th TD Div (M) | |



b. After 1 Jan 48 the enemy's attitude in the **ARSDENNES** salient was strictly defensive. The above divisions or elements were identified at different times during the period. There were a few small scale counter attacks. Artillery fire was light to medium. Numerous mines were encountered and operations were greatly hindered by heavy snow, poor roads and extreme cold. Few tanks were employed by the enemy during the period. However, in addition to elements of the 120 Pz Div and 24 Pz Div identified in the division sector, it was known that 9 SS Pz Div, 12 SS Pz Div, 1 SS Pz Div, 2 SS Pz Div, 9 Pz Div and 118 Pz Div were in the **ARSDENNES** salient and were capable of counterattacking in force at any time. Enemy air activity was negligible. In the **SARRELABOUR** sector no enemy tanks have been reported. The closest panzer unit is the 11th Pz Div approx 18 miles to the NW. The 21 Pz Div has been identified approx 40 miles to the SE. In the **SARRELABOUR** sector the enemy's attitude is strictly defensive, there is little activity and very light artillery and mortar fire.

- c. Estimate of enemy losses during period as a result of TD action only:
 3 Tanks
 4 SP guns
 1 towed gun
 1 Cond car
 2 MG nests
 1 Church steeple (M)
 3 Strong points
 Casualties - 75 (est)

d. Prisoners captured: None

e. In the **ARSDENNES** sector, **ammunition** morale, though high during the initial phases of the enemy offensive, continued to get lower and lower during the period. The enemy was generally **short of** there were numerous examples of a shortage of gasoline and in **many** **cases**, **food** **ammunition** was generally sufficient.



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little is known of the enemy in the **SAARLAUFEN** sector except that they seem content to hold their **SIGFRID LINE** positions with as little activity as possible.

3. OWN OPERATIONS:

a. Forces Engaged: Throughout the period up until 29 Jan 45 the 516th TD Bn was attached to the 26th Inf Div, assigned to III Corps, Third Army. From 29 Jan 45 to the close of period the 516th TD Bn was attached to the 26th Inf Div, assigned to IX Corps, Third Army. Up until 3 Jan 45 the 26th Inf Div was on our left flank, and from that date to close of period the 5th Cav Group was on our left for a few days and the 90th Inf Div. The III Corps was on our right flank with the 90th Inf Div on their left.

b. Reserves: During most of period one pl of the TD Co not in the line was in reserve. The organic AF guns of the Div and tanks of the 750th Tr Bn gave additional support to the operations.

c. Summary of Operations: During the greater portion of the period the 516th TD Bn was attached to the 26th Inf Div which was counter-attacking the Southern flank of the German offensive in the northern part of **LUXEMBOURG**, commonly known as the **ARDENNES** salient.

On 1 Jan 45 Co A 2d pl moved to position 3 of **WYVERN** at **F671800**; 1st pl in position at **NAVIGNE F648487**; 2d pl at **BONVAL F673488** in defense of Div CP. Co B 1st pl fired 200 rds 80 cal on enemy foot troops and MG from its position via **BUNNICHEN F718496**. Results unknown. One section of 2d pl at **BUNNICHEN**, other section attached to 26th Rec Tr at **NAVIGNE**. 3d pl in pos 3 of **KOELLINGEN F681518**. Co C 1st pl in **KAUENHOF F682422**; 2d & 3rd pl in position in **NAVIGNE** guarding road net. Rec Co 1st pl moved to vis of **HIEBERLE F703481** and began manning OP's via **NORTHEN F671800** and via **MORON-REMERHOF F684488**. 2d pl manning OP's via **WILDERHOF F707489**. 3d pl moved to vis **ROCH-RE-LE-SUR F708492** and continued with road security patrols between Div and Regt's OP's.

On 2 Jan 45, Co A 2d pl relieved 3d pl and took up pos at **F682802**. 1st pl took over defense of Div CP at **BONVAL**. Co B 2d pl attached to 2d Bn, 104 Inf Regt and moved in support of Inf to positions NE of **NORTHEN** at **F673488**. The 2d sec 2d pl was also attached to 2d Bn, 104 Inf Regt and moved to positions NE of **WYVERN** at **F673487**. One destroyer of 2d pl Co C moved at 0900 hrs with Inf Co of 26th Inf Regt to pos at **F680804** to furnish flank guard. This gun fired 20 rds 81 and 200 rds 80 cal into an Inf and MG nest located **F680613** destroying 2 MG's and inflicting an estimated 20 casualties, killed and wounded.

On 3 Jan Co A 2d pl placed in support of 2d Bn, 104 Inf Regt, 1st sec of 2d pl remained at **F670800** and 2d sec moved N of **WYVERN** to pos at **F682811**. Co C 2d pl for concentration of mortar fire in **NAVIGNE** killing Cpl William E. Diamond and wounding Sgt Jim E. Meredith and Pvt John L. Cannon. Rec Co 2d pl manning OP's via **WILDERHOF F707489**, via **BUNNICHEN F708492** and at **F720488**, SW of **BUNNICHEN**. On 4 Jan 26th Inf Regt in process of relieving 101 Inf Regt. Co A 2d pl fired 23 rds 81 into town of **WILK** w/ unknown results. Co C attached to 26th Inf Regt placed 1st pl in direct support of 1st Bn. 2d pl in dir spt of 2d Bn moved to vis **MORON-REMERHOF F684488**. 3d pl in direct support of 2d Bn moved to pos 3 of **NORTHEN** at **F670800**. Co A retained pls, 1 moved to **F673487**. 2d sec of 2d pl and 2d pl moved to **BUNNICHEN F718496**. One destroyer of 2d sec 2d pl Co B hit by arty fire wounding Lt Henden who was evacuated.

On 5 Jan 1st pl Co A attached to 27 BATTN to guard left flank of Div. 2d pl remained in **NAVIGNE**. Two burst over one destroyer of 2d pl Co A seriously wounding Alex A. Kossire (Pvt). Co B 1st pl moved to pos NE of **WYVERN** at **F682811**. 2d pl moved to pos 3 of **NORTHEN** at **F671810**. One destroyer from 2d pl at 1230 hrs fired 13 rds 81 from hull down pos at **F670810** at a camouflaged pos at **F682817** from which an M tank had been firing into friendly infantry positions. Black smoke was seen to come from the position and personnel from 2d Bn 26th Inf Regt confirmed an M tank was knocked out. 2d pl moved at 1730 hrs to **KAUENHOF w/2d Bn** which was placed in Regt's reserve. During day 2 destroyers of 2d pl hit by mortar fire but damage was slight - no casualties. Rec Co 2d pl CP at **BUNNICHEN** directed arty fire disabling one enemy OP gun, destroyed one enemy tank (type unknown), and knocked out one towed gun (cal unknown).

On 6 Jan Co B 2d pl moved one sec to positions N of **NORTHEN** at **F670810** and at 1000 hrs one destroyer fired 200 rds of 80 cal at an M tank destroying it and killing its two occupants. At 1030 hrs one destroyer from 1st pl Co C fired 20 rds 81 from positions at **F682802** at an activity in vis of woods at **F682519**. Results

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unknown. 2d pl Co C moved to positions via MUCKER BUNKER. On 7 Jan Co A (less one pl) attached to 101st AF as per Frag O 236 at 0900 hrs. On 8 Jan 48 Co A CP and 1st pl A moved to sector of ST 101. CP to BACHLEIN, 1st pl in pos at F612494. 2d pl moved to pos around MUNDENY for defense of Div CP. As per FO S of 0900 hrs, 101st AF dissolved and Co A (less 2d pl) attached to 17th AVN in present location. As per FO S Co B (less 2d pl) attached to 104th Inf Regt. The 2d sec of 2d pl and 2d pl took over pos of 1st pl at F675817. 1st pl moved to MUNDENY. 2d pl moved at 0800 hrs to MUNDENY in reserve pos. As per FO S Co C (less 2d pl) attached to 25th Inf Regt, 2d pl moved to MUNDENY in reserve under 2d Control, 2d pl Co B also under 2d control. Then Co 2d pl withdrew CP from MUNDENY and pl CP moved with Co CP at WEISSEL L WALK.

On 9 Jan 25th Inf Div and 17th AVN jumped off in atk at 1000 hrs Co A 2d pl in spt of 2d Bn, 17th AVN, moved to pos at F6-9807. One Destroyer struck AT mine and temporarily damaged. 1st sec 2d pl Co B moved to pos via MUNDENY at 1400 hrs in res under 2d control. Co C (less 2d pl) attached to 25th Inf Regt sptd atk of Inf. As per Frag O 236 one sec of 2d pl Co C attached to 25th Res Tr and moved to via MUNDENY. Then Co 1st pl moved to MUNDENY and established CP's in sector of 17th AVN F614494 and F618504. 2d pl moved to via MUNDENY and continued to man CP's via MUNDENY F675803 and via MUNDENY F708303. On 10 Jan Co A rotated 2d & 2d pl's in pos. 2d pl in MUNDENY in defense of Div CP. 2d pl in pos at F618503. Co B 2d pl and 2d sec of 2d pl moved in spt of Inf to pos at F675817. Co C 1st pl moved to pos covering road network at MUNDENY in spt of 1st Bn 25th Inf Regt from pos at F642523. On 11 Jan 48, Co A 1st pl in spt of 2d Bn, 101st Inf Regt moved to pos at F618507. Co C 1st pl moved to pos via MUNDENY F670803; 2d pl moved itpos to F672522. Then Co 1st pl withdrew CP at F614494 and established CP's at F618504 and F618501. 2d pl CP at MUNDENY moved to F675803.

On 12 Jan, Co A 2d pl sptd 2d Bn, 101st Inf Regt in mopping up area to final objective. As per Frag O 240 at 1230 hrs, Co A (less 2d pl) raid fr attached to 101st Inf Regt and reverted to 2d control. Co A 2d & 1st pl's moved to assembly area at BACHLEIN. Co C 2d pl moved in spt of Inf and took up pos at F675809. Then Co 1st pl withdrew CP's at F618504 and F618501 and established an CP at F675809. On 13 Jan 48, Co A (less 2d pl moved at 0900 hrs to assembly area via MUNDENY F642523. As per Frag O 247, 1 sec Co A attached to 25th Res Tr and 2d sec of 2d pl moved at 1600 hrs to MUNDENY. Co C CP moved to DAVIGNY at 1700 hrs. 1 sec of 2d pl moved to positions at F625814, other sec to pos of readiness in DAVIGNY. One sec 1st pl moved to pos covering road network at F642524, one sec moved to pos of readiness in DAVIGNY. As per Frag O 247, one pl Co C in Div Res reverted to Co control and one sec of Co attached to 25th Res Tr moved to reserve pos at MUNDENY. As per same order 2d pl Co B reverted to Co which was attached to 104th Inf Regt. 1st & 2d sec of 2d pl Co B rotated positions, first sec to F675817 & 2d section to MUNDENY. Then Co 1st pl withdrew its CP's and moved to PLATE F708303. 2d pl moved to MUCKER BUNKER F665497. One t-ben vehicle 2d pl strafed by unidentified aircraft, damaging it. No casualties. 2d pl raid fr mission of road patrol.

On 14 Jan Co A CP moved to MUCKER BUNKER F665497, 2d pl moved to via MUNDENY. 1st pl raid 2d pl in pos via MUNDENY for defense of Div CP. 2d pl moved to via MUNDENY. 2d sec 2d pl Co B moved to pos at F665497 and 1st sec joined it at same point in spt of 1st Bn 104th Inf Regt. 2d pl moved at 1400 hrs to MUNDENY. Co C 1st pl in pos covering road network at F665497; 2d pl moved to via MUCKER F661870; 2d pl moved to DAVIGNY F665497 at 1800 hrs. Then Co CP and 1st pl moved to LUTTERBACH F674471; 2d pl moved to WEISSEL L WALK to perform maintenance; 1st pl moved to MUNDENY F665497 at 1800 hrs. 2d pl continued to man CP's at F675803 and via MUNDENY F708303; 1st pl established CP at F665497. On 15 Jan Co A 2d pl moved to pos at F665497. 1st sec 2d pl Co C raid 1st pl in pos at F665497 and 1st pl moved to pos of readiness at DAVIGNY. Then Co 1st pl began camouflage (snow) painting of 2d vehicles. On 16 Jan, 1st sec of 2d pl Co C raid 2d pl at MUCKER F661870 at 1700 hrs. 2d pl returned to pos of readiness in DAVIGNY F665497. Then Co 2d pl raid 2d pl and began manning CP's at F675803 and via MUNDENY F708303. 2d pl moved to WEISSEL L WALK to perform maintenance.

On 17 Jan as per Frag O 254 of 0900 hrs, Co A (-) raid from attached to 101st Inf Regt; one sec 2d pl raid fr attached to 25th Res Tr; 1st pl raid fr attached to 25th Div Hq Co, and entire company attached to 104th Inf Regt. 1st pl moved to pos at F665497, 1 sec of 2d pl moved to MUNDENY and joined rest of pl. 2d pl moved to MUNDENY F665497. Co A CP moved to MUNDENY. As per Frag O 254, Co B raid fr attached to 104th Inf Regt; one pl attached to 25th Div Hq Co, one sec attached to 25th Res Tr; &

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remainder of Co B placed under Co control. 1st sec 1st pl attached to 26th Reg Tr and remained in ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. 2d pl moved to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and took up pos in defense of Div CP. The 3d sec of 1st pl moved to assembly area via ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. As per Frag O 254, 1st pl Co C attached to 101st Inf Regt and 1st pl moved to pos 3 of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ at 0800 hrs.

Upon recommendation of Co Cmdr, Co B Div approved policy of placing a TD Co in direct support of attacking Inf Regts, the remaining TD Co in general support thereby increasing flexibility of TD Co and fixed responsibility. Consequently, on 18 Jan 45, as per Frag O 257 of 1100 hrs, Co A reld fr attached to 104th Inf Regt and placed in direct support of Regt. As per same order Co B 2d pl reld fr attached to 26 Div Hq Co, but remained at ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ to guard Div CP, 1st sec 1st pl reld fr attached to 26th Reg Tr and placed in spt of Troop; and remainder of Co B placed in general spt of Div. As per Frag O 257 Co C reld fr attached to 26th and 101st Inf Regts and placed in direct spt of Regts. Then Co 2d pl moved CP from ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ to F705493 and continued to man CP at F674305. 1st pl remaining CP at F655233. On 19 Jan Co C 2d pl of 2 M10's and 1st sec of 2d pl moved at 0900 hrs to indirect fire pos at F651202 in spt of 26th Reg Tr. At 1400 hrs pl began 2 A I firing unobserved on 10 concentrations. At close of period this pl had fired 40 rds HE. On 20 Jan Co A 1st pl moved to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, 2d pl to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, 3d pl to F645506 to spt atk of 101 Inf Regt. Co B 2d pl moved w/ Div Hq Co to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, 1st pl moved w/ 26th Reg Tr to via ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. Co C 1st, 2d, and 3d pls moved to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, prepared to support atk of 26th Inf Regt. 2d pl and 1st sec 2d pl fired 56 rds HE indirect fire before being reld at 1400 hrs. Then Co withdrew CP at F705493 and established CP's at F660642 and F677202.

On 21 Jan 45 Co A in spt of 101 Inf Regt moved 1st and 2d pls via bridge at F655545 to F660642 and F 662042. Co B 1st pl in spt of 26th Reg Tr moved to F715475, 2d pl to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, Co C CP moved to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. Co C CP moved to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and all pls crossed river at F655545 in spt of 26th Inf Regt. 2d pl fired 6 rds HE at enemy foot troops firing from F649220 at 500 yds range. Results unknown. Then Co manned CP's at F660642, F662042, and F667202, maintained liaison with adjacent units. Pic pl cleared roads via F662042. On 22 Jan 45, Co CP and Hq Co moved to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ at 1400 hrs. Then Co's advanced forward in spt of Inf; no enemy contacted. Then Co established CP's at F672202, F667202, F662042, and F665523. On 23 Jan 45, Co CP moved to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ at 0900 hrs. Sgt Houston Baxter, Co A, killed by shell fragments at F715540. On 24 Jan 26th Inf Div continued attack at 0900 hrs. Co A 2d pl fired 20 rds HE at enemy para from via F725572. Results could not be observed. Pl later fired 4 rds HE and 2 rds APG at range of 4000 yds at 2 enemy vehicle. Friendly troops reported 2 vehicles, believed to be CP guns, knocked out. At 1300 hrs Co C 1st pl fired 12 rds HE into enemy troops and houses in ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, range 3000 yds. Houses left burning and there were several casualties. Later 1st pl fired 2 rds APG at enemy tank located at F725572, range 2500 yds, and tank was left burning. At 1300 hrs 2d pl fired 2 rds APG and 3 rds HE at tank, range 2500 yds. Results unknown. Then Co established CP's at F725572, F725572, and F725572.

On 25 Jan 45, Co A 2d pl destroyed one CP gun, and unknown at F725572. Then Co had two 4-ton vehicles shot up by 21 & M2 fire at F747612. Vehicles were recovered with slight damage. On 26 Jan Co B 2d pl fired 7 rds APG and 5 rds HE into church steeple and houses in town of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, destroying church steeple and neutralizing fire coming from houses. Then Co 1st pl established CP at F622202. As per Frag O 260, Co B attached to 104th Inf Regt at 2200 hrs. On 27 Jan 45, Co A moved to assembly area via ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. Co B began move w/ 104 Inf Regt at 1400 hrs to via ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, France. Co C 1st & 2d pls moved to assembly area via ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ at 1000 hrs. Then Co reld at 1800 hrs and entire Co moved to via ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~.

On 28 Jan, Co A attached to 101 Inf Regt moved from ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ to assembly area via ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, France, at 1515 hrs Co B reld elements of Co C, 207th TD Bn in ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, Germany at 1830 hrs. Co B CP located at ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~; one sec 1st pl took up ready pos at ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, 2d sec at ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~; one sec of 2d pl took up ready positions at ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, 2d sec at ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~; 2d pl took up ready pos at ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. Co C attached to 26th Inf Regt moved w/ Regt to assembly area via ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, Germany. Co CP, Hq Co & Reg Co left ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ at 1700 hrs and moved by way of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, Germany, approximately 25 miles. On 29 Jan 45, Co's A, B, & C reld fr attached to Regts. Co A placed in general spt of Div; Co B placed in direct spt of 104th Inf Regt; Co C in direct spt of 26th Inf Regt. On 30 Jan 45, Co A moved to assembly area via ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ at 1300 hrs. Co C 2d pl moved to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. Then Co 2d pl moved to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and established CP at ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. Pic Pl camouflage painting Co vehicle. On 31 Jan 45,

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Co's A, B, & C - no change. Reg Co 2d pl moved to DIFFERENT QUARTERS at 0900 hrs and established OP in vic WARTENBURG QUARTERS.

d. Results: At end of period the situation was more or less static with very little activity on our or enemy part. The 26th Inf Div had a 17,000 yd frontage including the SAARLAUTHEM bridgehead which required defensive positions on the part of its troops. During the period, the 116th TD Bn provided anti-tank protection for the 26th Inf Div at all times and supported the attack of the Div closely with direct fire, destroying 2 enemy tanks (type unknown), 3 SP guns, 1 command car, 2 MG nests, and 1 observation post besides inflicting many casualties upon the enemy. Our Reg Co OP's observed and directed Arty fires destroying one enemy tank (type unknown), 1 SP gun and 1 towed gun (cal unknown). The forced march of the 116th TD Bn of over 90 miles from vic SAARLAUTHEM, Germany during night of 20 Dec 1944 and the immediate engagement the following day with the 26 Inf Div was directly instrumental in stopping the ARDENNES salient, containing it, and through subsequent Corps attacks in hurling the Germans back into the WINTERLINE. The close support of the Reg'l Combat teams by the TD Co's was a major factor in the success of the operations. At close of operations, TD Co's were astride the Skyline Ridge paralleling the LUXEMBOURG-GERMAN frontier. Without opportunity for preparation this Bn in two months supported the 5th Inf in its capture of METZ, their attack to drive the Germans east out of France, the enlargement of the SAARLAUTHEM bridgehead in the WINTERLINE, a forced march of 90 miles and immediate employment with the 26th Inf Div against the ARDENNES salient in severe winter weather, the reduction of this salient and the return on 28 Jan 1945 to vic SAARLAUTHEM, Germany. These accomplishments attest to the combat efficiency, morale, maintenance and administrative efficiency and has established a standard believed unsurpassed.

4. SUPPLY AND EVACUATION:

a. Summary of supply activity during period and factors affecting flow of supply. The period covered by this report, the Bn was attached to the 26th Inf Div. The various supply agencies of the Div supplied the Bn with the exception of Class III, Class V, and Ordnance Class II which were obtained from the nearest Corps or Army installations. Ordnance requisitions, repair and replacements were handled by the 363rd Heavy Truck Co of the 24th Ordnance Bn. Rations for the month averaged 68% A and 32% B in 1. Rations were issued to the Co's daily. A ration was consumed by all personnel when conditions warranted. Co's requisition on Bn for all supplies which are secured as rapidly as possible from the proper supply agencies. Motor maintenance and parts supply was handled by the Bn Motor Officer. The replacement of M19's or motors for same have been very critical. At the close of the period the Bn is short 2 each M-19's. The 363rd Ordnance Heavy Truck Co provided third echelon maintenance, first and second echelon maintenance was performed by the Bn Motor maintenance pl and Co motor sections. Ammunition basic load maintained by replacement as expended. Some winter clothing was provided most needy troops.

b. Status of Supply and Evacuation at close of period:

BRANCH	ON HAND
Ordnance	70%
Quartermaster	100%
Medical	100%
Chemical Warfare	100%
Engineer	100%
Signal	85%



Major critical items short are as follows: 2 each M-19's and 2 each trucks, 1/2-ton.

c. Altho supply and evacuation have been under extreme condition of snow, cold, and distances, there were no instances of failure. This close and resourceful support has been an immeasurable factor in the success of the operations.

C. L. Hail

S. L. HAIL,
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry,
COMBATING.

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