

HEADQUARTERS
824th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
(TORO)

Camp Bowie, Texas
14 March 1944

STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURE

I. Intelligence

1. Information:

- a. Information must embody time observed, time reported, source, and location of action in addition to 4 "W's".
- b. Daily intelligence plan to subordinates.
- c. All facts evaluated and interpreted, posted on situation map and in log-journal upon receipt. All written messages filed in message file. All items cross-referenced.
- d. Information disseminated to higher and adjacent headquarters. Intelligence disseminated to Command Post Group and lower units and/or attached units immediately.
- e. Continuous estimate of situation to Commanding Officer and staff.
- f. Unit report (par. 1 form 19) to higher headquarters at 1800 daily.
- g. Periodic reports (form 16) only as specifically requested.
- h. Periodic annex to subordinate units as situation demands.

2. Counterintelligence:

- a. Continuous vigilance over all channels of communication and message center.
- b. Dissemination of classified material in accordance with AR 380-5 only.
- c. Continuous plan for destruction of documents, codes, maps and cryptographic devices. Individual sections to maintain order of destruction lists.
- d. Constant check on camouflage discipline.
- e. Constant check on internal security, guards and sentries.
- f. Adequate CIC cooperation.
- g. Daily counterintelligence plan to subordinates.

3. PWs and Captured Documents and Material.

- a. PWs to be searched for weapons, silenced, segregated as to rank, marched back under guard to nearest Regimental IP team for interrogation. All facts pertinent to capture to accompany PWs with guard. Strict silence to be observed. No destruction of documents permitted.

3. PIs not to be allowed near their own vehicles or equipment, kept away from all command posts, message centers or critical installations.

4. Captured documents or found documents to be sent to 2 with data as to time, place and circumstances of acquisition. No documents to be taken from PIs.

5. Captured or abandoned enemy material to be turned over to 2, as soon as possible.

II. Operations:

1. movement

a. Marches - Non-tactical Order of March

1. 1st Recon platoon
2. In Commanders party and CP group
3. Company "A"
4. Company "B"
5. Company "C"
6. Headquarters Company

b. Tactical Order of March

1. 1st Recon platoon
2. 2nd Recon platoon
3. Company "A"
4. In CO and CP Group
5. Company "B"
6. Company "C" less third platoon
7. Headquarters Company
8. Third platoon of Company "C"

c. Warning Order

Upon receipt of warning order for move, each company will send six (6) road guides and two (2) ton vehicles to In CP. Company commanders will turn companies over to executive officers and report to Battalion CP for instructions.

d. Security

All companies will provide own security during march. All machine guns will be manned and vehicle commanders alert. Combat vehicle commanders will stand. Anti-aircraft and anti-mechanized sentries will be posted.

e. Motor Columns

1. Day Marches - Tactical

Each company will comprise one serial with 3 minutes between serials. Second reconnaissance platoon and CP group will march with Company "A". Minimum distance - 75 yards. Speed of leading vehicle announced prior to move.

2. Night marches - tactical

Each company will comprise one serial - 3 minutes between serials. Second reconnaissance platoon and CP group will march with Company "A". Distance 20 yards. All vehicle commanders will stand and assist driver. Vehicle commander will lead vehicle dismounted when conditions warrant.

3. Leading vehicle of each serial maintains speed as accurate as circumstances permit and does not attempt to make up lost time by increasing the prescribed speed.

2. Fire Missions

a. Direct Fire Missions

1. Companies will be furnished overlays showing positions and routes thereto.
2. Company Commanders, platoon leaders and reconnaissance sergeants will make daylight reconnaissance if possible.
3. Upon occupation of position, companies will send overlay to S-3 showing exact position of each gun.
4. Upon occupation of positions guns will be dug in and position continuously improved.
5. Guns will be bore sighted and range cards prepared.
6. Security and anti-aircraft and anti-tank warning not to be established by inter-company liaison.

b. Indirect Fire Missions

1. Concentrations and schedule of fires will be forwarded companies by S-3.
2. Upon occupation of position companies will send out forward observers.
3. Upon occupation of position, companies will send exact coordinate location of forward observer and overlay of gun positions to the S-3.
4. Upon registration, companies will prepare observed fire chart.
5. If field artillery units have not surveyed position fire charts will be corrected upon completion of survey.

3. Command Posts

Location and change of CPs will be reported to higher units and companies. CP will be located where practicable near CP of higher unit.

4. Perimeters

Dispersed, perimeter defense, CP toward center. Anti-aircraft guns provided. Warning system provided, anti-tank guns sited, fox holes provided all personnel. Overlay of company positions sent to battalion CP.

III. Supply

1. General

Status of supply will be submitted to appropriate headquarters with daily unit report.

2. Rations

a. Each vehicle will carry a two day supply of C rations. D or K rations will be requisitioned when necessary.

b. Ration cycle will begin with supper.

c. As per strength return rations for following day will be picked up at rail head after 1800 or as ordered by higher headquarters. Rations will be broken down and delivered to each kitchen in the rear echelon.

3. Water

- a. Upon receipt of administrative overlay from division, reconnaissance of routes to water point will be made.
- b. Gas and oil corporal will be responsible that water supply is maintained.
- c. Each load will be divided between the four kitchens in order to maintain an even supply.
 1. Line companies and CP Group will replenish their supply from respective kitchens in the rear.
 2. One empty container must be replaced by a full can removed from rear echelon.

4. Fuel and Lubricants

- a. Upon receipt of administrative overlay from Division, routes to fuel supply dump will be reconnoitered.
- b. Gas and oil corporal is responsible that ample supply of gas and oil is maintained in rear echelon. Advance truck head will be established when weather, roads and situation warrant.
- c. Gasoline and oil will be picked up by companies immediately after movement. One empty gasoline can will replace each full can removed from rear echelon dump.

5. Ammunition

- a. Battalion Commander and S-3 will receive information at Higher Headquarters concerning fire mission and location of gun positions. S-4 will be notified.
- b. Division Ammunition Officer will furnish allocation of ammunition.
- c. Ammunition Sergeant or Supply Officer will accompany train to Division Ammunition Officer and to Ammunition Supply Point on first run.
 1. Companies, upon call from Supply Officer, will furnish tonnage necessary.
 2. Battalion transportation and company transportation will be used on initial run.
 3. Additional ammunition will be delivered to gun positions when situation requires.
 4. Subsequent runs will be made by battalion trains from ammunition supply point to rear echelon or forward echelon or forward truck head. Company transportation will maintain supply at the gun positions.
 5. All ammunition runs will be made during the hours of darkness except in emergencies.
 6. Companies will submit ammunition situation report to S-3 immediately after each fire mission. S-3 will submit daily report to S-4 by 1300. Report will be as of 1200 hours.

6. Other Supplies

Prescribed levels will be maintained by requisition and salvage.

IV. Evacuation:

1. Personnel Casualties

a. Injured personnel will be given immediate first aid by members of their own vehicle crews using such facilities as are at hand. As soon as the situation permits, wounded will be given additional first aid by the aid men attached to their companies. Men who are able to do so will remain with their vehicles until their unit reaches the reorganization position where the battalion surgeon will arrange for their evacuation. Men who are seriously injured and are unable to continue in their vehicles, will be placed in a sheltered location and such aid as is possible will be rendered to them. Their position will be reported immediately to their company headquarters and battalion surgeon. The battalion surgeon will arrange with nearest collecting agency for the removal of seriously injured personnel to the rear. He or the assistant surgeon will personally ascertain that all injured men reported to him have been evacuated by the collecting agency.

b. The battalion medical detachment will establish an aid station in the park or bivouac area. When the combat echelon moves forward to a position of readiness, personnel and vehicles to establish a forward aid station will accompany it. This forward aid station will be established at a point near the battalion CP. The battalion surgeon recommends a suitable location.

c. Company aid men are assigned to each company and will remain with the companies to which assigned. They render first aid to men in the company to which they are attached and notify the battalion surgeon of the location of wounded or injured men who are left in sheltered locations.

d. Locations of casualties when sent back by radio will be sent in code only. Secrecy will be maintained.

2. Vehicle Casualties

a. Company maintenance personnel and equipment will remain in combat area with own unit, continually performing inspections, servicing and recovery.

b. The battalion maintenance recovery section will be composed of a sergeant and four mechanics. This section will be available for emergency recovery work where company maintenance sections lacks proper equipment. The recovery section will rush damaged or recovered friendly equipment to the nearest maintenance agency which has facilities for repairing that equipment.

c. During motor march the company maintenance section will be component part of march unit and will make repairs and recovery of disabled vehicles. Drivers will remain with vehicles until recovered.

d. The battalion maintenance platoon will be notified of disabled vehicles by company messenger or radio using proper name of vehicle to designate make of vehicle and pertinent codes of the hour in designating location.

e. The battalion maintenance platoon will have daily liaison with combat units that it serves to determine its requirements and efficiency.

V. Orders:

1. Signal Communication

a. See current Signal Operation Instructions

b. In movement and in combat, command net will operate continuously and will be prepared to receive flash warning messages.

Upon movement of gun companies from positions of readiness to combat position, radio silence will be maintained except for reconnaissance platoons, then only for enemy information and unless otherwise directed.

c. Messages:- Battle information which will reveal to the enemy intended operations in sufficient time for him to profit thereby sent in code; other battle information which requires prompt action in the clear.

2. Liaison

Liaison detachments consisting of one Officer with necessary transportation and communication equipment will be sent to Group Headquarters, Division Headquarters, Division Artillery Headquarters and combat teams when attached to these units. Liaison must be established with self-propelled battalions when towed battalion is acting as pivot of maneuver.

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Plans and Training