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 By MC/NARA Date 7/18/09

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HEADQUARTERS 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
 Office of the AC of S, G-3.

14 April 1945.

G-3 OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1944

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SECTION I

THE MOVE FROM NEW ZEALAND TO NEW CALEDONIA.

On January 25, 1944, a warning order issued by the Commanding General, USAFISPA, alerted the 25th Division for movement to New Caledonia to continue its training there. The following day the Assistant G-3 flew to New Caledonia with other members of the advance party to select camps and training areas. The areas selected were between Oua Tom and Bouloupari on the west side of the island and north of the city of Noumea. Locations for each Regimental Combat Team were sufficiently separated to allow adequate space in their immediate vicinity for small arms ranges and other necessary training grounds.

On February 1, 1944, orders were issued by Headquarters, USAFISPA, directing that the movement take place. The first elements of the Division sailed from Auckland, New Zealand, on February 3, 1944 and the remainder of the Division followed as assigned shipping was made available until March 15, 1944, when the last contingent of troops debarked at Noumea. As units of the Division debarked at Noumea they were moved on trucks provided by the Service Command to their camp areas where necessary tentage and other housekeeping equipment was waiting. Comfortable camps were quickly established by each unit. As soon as camps were completed all attention was focused on the intensive training program which had been outlined by the Division Commander, Major General Charles L. Mullins, Jr., and little time was lost in getting underway.

SECTION II

GENERAL TRAINING PROGRAM.

The training program as outlined by the Division Commander called for intensive training of individuals and small units. Each man in the division was expected to become expert at his assigned job. This program was to be further augmented by schools, tests, problems and maneuvers designed to bring out all

INVESTIGATION CHARGED TO:  
**CANCELLED**  
 BY JOHN H. MORRIS OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
 DATED 5 MAR 46

325-3-G-3 History - 25th Inf. Div. - 1944

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deficiencies in training and knit these expert individuals and small units into a smooth functioning team. All basic subjects such as marksmanship, weapon functioning, scouting and patrolling, map reading, first aid, tactics and technique, first echelon maintenance, physical conditioning, tables of organizations, and enemy principles were included for all personnel. In addition the Division Commander directed that each unit of the Division conduct parades on the Oua Tom Air Strip on selected Sunday mornings to further improve the discipline of the Division.

Certain individuals, sections or units were given necessary specialists training. Each Regimental Cannon Company was equipped with and trained to use the M-7 105mm self-propelled howitzer. Flame thrower men, "Bazooka" teams, radio operators, mechanics, bulldozer operators, vehicle drivers, armorers, gas officers and non-commissioned officers and all other special personnel were given training designed to make them expert at their particular assignment.

The training of the Artillery units of the Division was prescribed and supervised by the Division Artillery Commander and his staff. Excellent firing ranges were established on Bourake Peninsula and in the Ouenghi Area. In addition, the participating in all Division problems and maneuvers, many firing problems and demonstrations were held by the Artillery Battalions. Fortunately, adequate ammunition was available to enable the artillery battalions to fire in all phases of their training. The 223rd Field Artillery Battalion was attached to the 25th Division for training supervision by the Commanding General, USAFISPA, shortly after arriving in New Caledonia.

Training in New Caledonia began in February as each unit completed construction of camp areas. General training for February placed emphasis on individual weapons, scouting and patrolling and physical conditioning. During March, April, and May, intensive individual training was continued and units began conducting platoon and company exercises and other problems. In June training reached its peak and was extended to include problems in organization of strong points, coordination of fires, and organization of defense in depth. The training for the month was climaxed by two Division two sided field maneuvers, the first starting June 15th and the second starting June 27th.

In July, the vigorous training program was somewhat relaxed. Only the hours between 0645 and 1145, Monday through Saturday were devoted to training. The rest of the time was given over to organized athletics and other recreation. During training hours, special emphasis was placed on correcting deficiencies brought out in the Division maneuvers. At the direction of the Division Commander a Platoon Leader's Test for each rifle and reconnaissance platoon in the division was started in the latter part of the month. These tests continued into the month of August until all were completed. Other training for the month of August was designed to correct deficiencies evidenced in these tests.

Training highlights for the month of September and October were Battalion assault problems, the third two sided Division maneuver, crew-served weapons tests and amphibious training. The crew-served weapons test was designed as a spot check to determine the state of training of various weapons crews. Weapons included in the test were the M-7 self-propelled 105mm howitzer, the 37mm anti-tank gun, the 50 caliber machine gun, the 30 caliber heavy machine gun, the 30 caliber light machine gun, and both the 60mm and 81mm mortar.

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Upon the completion of amphibious training at the end of the second week in November most training was discontinued while units were engaged in preparations for the M-1 operation.

### SECTION III

#### COMMAND POST EXERCISES.

The first Division CPX was held starting April 25, 1944, for the purpose of developing teamwork and technique in the functioning of the command network with particular emphasis on communications, intelligence and staff procedure. The given situation involved the establishment of a beachhead and an advance on an important tactical objective following landing operations on a hostile shore. Those participating in the exercise included staffs down to and including Battalions, all communication and intelligence personnel, and other selected personnel to represent forward elements of infantry units and forward observers for artillery battalions. The problem was controlled and developed by messages and information passed to appropriate staff and intelligence agencies by umpires. The problem was continued until the displacement of the Division CP and each Regimental CP became necessary at least once.

The second Division CPX was held on May 18, 1944, for the purpose of further perfecting the occupation and organization of a command post area by the Forward Echelon of Division Headquarters. Only elements of Division Headquarters participated in this exercise.

The third Division CPX was held on September 20, 1944. Personnel participating in this exercise included the radio and message center sections of all units down to and including companies or the equivalent, wire sections of Regiments, Headquarters Division Artillery, 25th Signal Company, two non-commissioned officers from each headquarters to represent the S-3 and S-2 sections, and one officer from each Battalion or higher headquarters to represent the commanding officer of that unit. The problem given was a situation involving a Division in an attack requiring the sending of numerous messages. The entire exercise was designed to keep increasing the number of messages sent in order to test the ability of communications personnel to the breaking point.

### SECTION IV

#### DIVISION MANEUVERS.

Three Division two-sided maneuvers designed to test the state of training of small units within the Division and provide further training in large scale operations were held during 1944.

In the first maneuver which commenced on June 15, 1944, opposing elements of the Division were employed in a meeting engagement problem. The Blue Force commanded by Brigadier General Bradford, consisted of Division Headquarters (Forward Echelon), 27th Infantry Regiment (Co C 25th Medical Battalion attached), the 35th Infantry Regiment (Co B 25th Medical Battalion attached), 25th Division Artillery (less 89th Field Artillery Battalion), and the 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop. The Red Force, commanded by Colonel Dalton, consisted of the 161st Infantry Regiment (Co A 25th Medical Battalion attached), 65th Engineer Combat Battalion, the 89th Field Artillery Battalion, and the 223rd Field Artillery Battalion.

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The area selected for this problem was between La Foa and Bouloupari. The Red Force assembled on the North with the mission of advancing and seizing the Ouenghi River line and driving all enemy to the Southeast thereof. The Blue Force assembled on the South with the mission of advancing and seizing the Ouaya River line and holding the enemy to the Northwest thereof until 1800, June 16, 1944. Units were ordered to move to their respective assembly areas prior to 1600, June 14, 1944. The restraining line was lifted at 0600, June 15, 1944 and the problem continued with as much free maneuvering as possible allowed until it was terminated by the Division Commander.

The second Division maneuvers which commenced on June 27, 1944, was designed as a combination full equipment inspection and two-sided maneuver. The area selected for this problem was Bourake Peninsula. The purpose of the problem was to give practice in establishing a defensive perimeter following an assault landing on a hostile shore to include plans for landing with full field equipment in three echelons; assault, forward, and rear. Units of the division were ordered to move administratively to their designated beaches with all assault and forward echelon equipment. Where necessary, equipment was crated with the contents of each crate marked. Rear Echelon equipment was listed so it could be checked and left in camp areas. When each unit reached its designated area equipment was disposed to simulate the results of an accomplished landing and assault troops were deployed on their initial objectives in defensive positions. On the second day, following a check of all equipment, orders were issued by Division Headquarters to advance, occupy and prepare defensive works on the next assigned objective. Forces opposing this advance consisted of the 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, with each Regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon attached under the command of Captain Ferriter. The Division was under command of Brigadier General Brown. When the next objective had been reached, units were given forty-eight hours prior to the main counterattacks for the construction of defensive positions. Thereafter improvements were to be made as the situation permitted. All foxholes, pillboxes, shelters, and other obstacles were to be fully constructed. During the time that these positions were being prepared the 35th Infantry Regiment, commanded by Colonel Larsen, was withdrawn from the Division and moved into position to attack the defensive line at the termination of the forty-eight hour deadline. When each sector of the prepared defenses had been subjected to attack this problem was terminated and all units returned to base camp.

For the third and final Division maneuver commencing on September 19, 1944 opposing elements were again employed in a meeting engagement problem. The area selected was the same area used for the previous meeting engagement problem. The Red Force, commanded by Colonel Dalton, consisted of the 161st Infantry Regiment, the 89th and 223rd Field Artillery Battalions, Co A 65th Combat Engineer Battalion, Co A 25th Medical Battalion, and the 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop less the 1st Platoon. The Blue Force commanded by Brigadier General Eledsoe, consisted of the 25th Division less those units assigned to the Red Force.

The Blue Force was assembled South of the Ouamini River and was given the mission of advancing rapidly to the North to seize the road net at La Foa to prevent the juncture of enemy forces. The Red Force was assembled in the vicinity of Fonwary and given the mission of advancing rapidly to the Southeast to engage and hold enemy forces Southeast of the Me Tombere--La Foa hill mass pending the arrival of reinforcements (assumed) in La Foa not later than September 21, 1944.

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The termination of this problem on September 21, 1944, concluded the last Division maneuver for the year. A fourth maneuver was planned for the 27th to 30th of September but it was necessary to cancel this problem due to preparations for amphibious training.

Following each maneuver a Division critique was held, for the entire Division, in which each Regimental Commander, the Division Artillery Commander, the Assistant Division Commander, and the Division Commander gave their comments and observations.

#### SECTION V

##### THE PLATOON LEADER'S TEST

In the month of July, the Division Commander directed that a platoon leader's test, based on an Army Ground Force Training Directive, dated June 7, 1943, be prepared and given to each rifle platoon and reconnaissance platoon of the Division. Brigadier General Bradford was appointed as director for supervision and control of all testing. The test was prepared by G-3 and was designed to require from four to six days for completion and included check points or control stations covering each of the following subjects:

- a. Known distance firing and gunner's test.
- b. Combat firing.
- c. Chemical warfare training.
- d. Passage of mine fields.
- e. Laying, marking, and reporting of minefields.
- f. Reduction of road blocks.
- g. Practical application of first aid.
- h. Reconnaissance.
- i. Preparation of an ambush.
- j. Action when subjected to an ambush.
- k. Bivouac defense.
- l. Terrain appreciation.
- m. Route reconnaissance and sketch.
- n. Cross country endurance march.
- o. Map reading.

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Initial instructions were issued to each platoon leader at his base camp by a representative of the G-3 office following an inspection of each individual's equipment and a complete physical check by a medical officer. Thereafter, as the platoon progressed from one control point to the next the necessary orders and instructions for continuation of the test were given by umpires accompanying the platoon or by officers in charge of the particular test being given. Execution of the test required that each platoon carry rations and the necessary equipment for six days in the field. For the first two days the platoon was motorized. Thereafter, until the completion of the test, all movements were cross country and on foot. As each platoon reached the final control point of the test, another complete check of equipment and the physical condition of the men was made. Every platoon was given a grade of superior, excellent, very satisfactory, satisfactory or unsatisfactory for each phase of the test. All platoon grades were compiled and presented to the Division Commander and the Unit commander of the unit furnishing the platoon. The results of this test formed the basis for subsequent training to correct all deficiencies brought out. In spite of the strenuous nature of the test, many platoon commanders voluntarily voiced the opinion that it was one of the most beneficial training tests they had ever undergone.

#### SECTION VI

##### BATTALION ASSAULT PROBLEMS.

During the month of September, each infantry battalion in the division was required to execute a combat firing problem involving an assault of a fortified position. For the conduct of this problem the infantry battalion was to be reinforced with elements of the Regimental Cannon Company and Anti-Tank Company as prescribed by the Regimental Commander and supported by one battalion of 105mm howitzers and one battery of 155mm howitzers. On the day preceeding the date set for the problem, the infantry battalion and supporting artillery were moved into their selected attack positions. The Regimental Commander then gave the Battalion Commander the general and special situations for his problem and a Regimental order for an attack at daylight the following day. The Battalion Commander was then allowed the remainder of the day to make his personal reconnaissance, prepare his fire plan and issue his attack order. Since combat ammunition was used by all elements participating in the problem it was impossible to have actual opposition. However, pillboxes, wire, and other defensive emplacements were fully constructed to test the accuracy of fires and fire coordination and control. Each problem was carried through until the assigned objective had been taken and completely organized in preparation for counter-attack. Following each problem a critique was held in which the Battalion Commander outlined his plan of attack and the Regimental Commander offered his comments and observations.

#### SECTION VII

##### AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING.

During the first week of October, Amphibious Training Unit No. 2 reported to Division Headquarters at Oua Tom, New Caledonia, to assist in and supervise the amphibious training of the Division. Prior to the arrival of the training unit, The G-3 section had made extensive reconnaissance of all beaches on the island and had selected two very excellent beaches on Presquile de Uitoe in the St. Vincent area for this training. The training period was to require six

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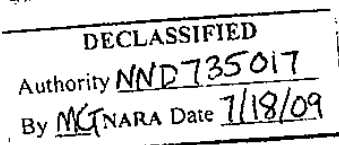
weeks which was divided into three two-week periods. In the first period, the 161st Regimental Combat Team plus certain attachments of Division Troops was trained with the 3rd Battalion of the 27th Infantry Regiment acting as Shore Party Battalion. The second period was given to the 27th Regimental Combat Team plus certain attachments of Division Troops with the 3rd Battalion of the 35th Infantry Regiment as Shore Party Battalion. In the final two-week period, the 35th Regimental Combat Team plus the remainder of Division Troops, with the 1st Battalion of the 161st Infantry Regiment as Shore Party Battalion, received training. As each Regimental Combat Team with its attachments moved to the beach area for training the supporting Shore Party Battalion was moved into position and given necessary special instructions. Concurrent with the training of the units, medical personnel, communication personnel and officers selected as Transport Quartermasters received special training. The entire training program went very smoothly until its end in the second week in November. As each period of training for a Regimental Combat Team ended, members of Amphibious Training Unit No. 2 held a critique for all officers and selected non-commissioned officers. The work and cooperation of Amphibious Training Unit No. 2 was of the highest order.

#### SECTION VIII

##### SPECIALISTS SCHOOLS.

Training during the entire year of 1944 included numerous schools for specialists and to provide additional training in certain subjects for selected personnel. The following is a list of schools which were held under Division supervision:

- a. Mine and booby trap school.
- b. Cannon Company school.
- c. Map and aerial photograph school.
- d. Flame thrower school.
- e. Malaria control school.
- f. Gas school.
- g. Armorer and artificer's school.
- h. Radio communication school.
- i. Tractor and bulldozer operator's school.
- j. Preventive maintenance school.
- k. Demolition and explosive school.
- l. Division command and staff school.
- m. Tire maintenance school.
- n. Motor movement school.
- o. Air liaison school.



These schools were conducted concurrently with other normal unit training activities. In addition to the schools listed above which were carried on under Division supervision, each unit conducted numerous schools of its own which were only applicable to that unit.

#### SECTION IX

##### PLANS FOR M-1 OPERATION.

In October, 1944, a tentative field order for planning purposes was received at Headquarters, 25th Division from the Commanding General, Sixth Army, directing the Commanding General, 25th Division, to prepare plans for participation in the Luzon Operation. This order placed the 25th Division in Army Reserve afloat and directed the Division to be prepared to:

1. Reinforce either the I or XIV Corps in the Lingayen Gulf area with:
  - a. One Regimental Combat Team on S / 2.
  - b. The remainder of the division by S / 4.
2. To reinforce the 158th Regimental Combat Team in its initial objective area with one Regimental Combat Team.
3. Land in the Dagupan-Mabilao area, commencing on S / 2 and move to an assembly area in the general Binalonan area.

Numerous staff and commanders conferences were held by the Division Commander following the receipt of the Army order. The G-3, G-4, and Division Signal Officer were called to Headquarters Sixth Army, in Hollandia, New Guinea, on two occasions for further conferences. The final large staff and commanders conference was attended by Major General Charles L. Mullins, Jr., at Sixth Army Headquarters on Leyte in early December. As a result of these conferences and of staff and commanders' recommendations it was decided to load each Regimental Combat Team and Division Troops on the assigned shipping in such a way that any element could be withdrawn, unloaded and employed separately without affecting the remainder of the Division. The Division Commander further directed that each Regimental Combat Team be prepared to execute an assault landing if necessary.

As planning progressed, other tentative orders were received from Sixth Army Headquarters embodying necessary changes in plans until the final order, Field Order # 34, Headquarters, Sixth Army, dated November 20, 1944, was received. At this time Field Order # 1, Headquarters, 25th Infantry Division, dated November 25, 1944, was published assigning Regimental Combat Teams the following missions:

- a. 35th Regimental Combat Team prepared:
  - (1) To reinforce the 158th RCT in objective area on S / 2.
  - (2) Initially in 25th Division Reserve afloat, to land in zone of action of either the I or XIV Corps when ordered by CG, 25th Division, at any time between S / 2 and S / 4.
  - (3) To land in I Corps zone of action when ordered by CG, 25th Division, prepared to move to Division assembly area vicinity of Binalonan.

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b. 27th Regimental Combat Team prepared:


- (1) To land in reinforcement of XIV Corps on S / 2.
- (2) To land in I Corps zone of action when ordered by CG 25th Division, at any time between S / 2 and S / 4.
- (3) To land in I Corps zone of action when ordered by CG 25th Division, prepared to move to Division assembly area vicinity of Binalonan.

c. 161st Regimental Combat Team prepared:

- (1) To land in reinforcement of I Corps on S / 2.
- (2) To land in XIV Corps zone of action when ordered by CG 25th Division, at any time between S / 2 and S / 4.
- (3) To land in I Corps zone of action when ordered by CG 25th Division, prepared to move to Division assembly area vicinity of Binalonan.

In order to comply with the Division Commander's directive that the Division be prepared to make an assault landing if necessary, an advance party flew to Headquarters, Fifth Island Command at Guadalcanal prior to the sailing date set for the Division convoy, and made arrangements for a rehearsal assault landing on beaches in the Tetera area. Headquarters, Fifth Island Command, cooperated in every possible way and contributed materially to the success of the rehearsal landing.

The loading of the Division shipping for the M-1 Operation began on November 21, 1944, and continued as assigned ships arrived at Noumea Harbor until December 16, 1944, when the last troops and equipment were embarked. The convoy sailed on December 18, 1944 and arrived off Tetera Beach, Guadalcanal, the morning of December 21, 1944. H-hour for the rehearsal assault landing was set at 0930, December 21. Following the landing of assault troops, unloading continued until 1730 that afternoon. All personnel remained on shore December 22 and reboarded the ships late the afternoon of December 23. On the last day of the year 1944 the entire Division convoy lay at anchor off Manus Island in the Admiralty Group where all personnel were permitted ashore for a short rest prior to sailing for Lingayen Gulf.

  
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