

**111 Fd Regt Arty Group Operational Instruction No. 1**  
**SECRET**  
**17th March 1945**

AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE

1)

- a) In this sector we have Arty superiority over the enemy. It is important that this superiority should be maintained in order to hamper enemy movement, reduce his arty and mortar activity and make his positions as uncomfortable as possible. At the same time ammunition is severely limited and expenditure must be carefully controlled. This instruction states the policy regarding the engagement of targets.

2)

- a) Opportunity Targets e.g. movement of personnel or vehicles, whenever seen by any observer will be immediately engaged with his own guns. Normally only one troop (U.S. Bty) should be used. Expenditure will be at the discretion of the observer but limited to that necessary to achieve the object i.e. to inflict casualties and disperse the enemy. It is not desired to impose any other restriction but it may be necessary to do so if the strictest economy is not observed. One or two ranging (adjusting) rounds will often prevent waste of ammunition caused by putting down cones which miss the target, especially on hillsides.
- b) Suspected enemy localities, where movement cannot be seen, will NOT be engaged without prior reference to Group HQ. They may however be registered.
- c) Unobserved targets will not be engaged.
- d) Registration. The amount of ammunition expended daily on opportunity targets and on registration and datum point (check point) firing should not exceed half the ammunition allotment for the day. When this figure (known as basic allotment) has been reached, NO further registration will be carried out without authority from Group HQ.

e) The present allotments are:-

	<u>Total Daily allotment</u>	<u>Basic allotment</u>
(i) 25 Pdr	10 rpg	5 rpg
(ii) 5.5" How	5 rpg	2.5 rpg
(iii) 40mm	No restrictions	
(iv) US Equipts	As authorised by unit commanders.	

f) Counter Battery and Counter Mortar. Bombards will be ordered only by Counter Battery Officer (CBO) 17 Medium Regt, who may order any unit to engage such targets. TOT crashes scale 1 will normally be used. Expenditure will be governed by the accuracy of the identification and the amount of enemy activity.

g) Harassing Fire. Will be ordered by Group HQ based on requests from infantry units and CBO.

h) Defensive Fire. Enemy movement heard at night may be engaged by order of Liaison Officers with infantry units, but should be severely restricted to the essential minimum. Such targets are usually difficult to locate accurately and as the results cannot be observed much ammunition may be wasted. More than one troop should NOT be used unless an actual attack is suspected. Judicious use of this fire however may often disperse enemy patrols and undoubtedly assist the morale of our own troops.

i) In case of enemy attack all ammunition restrictions are lifted and liaison officers will order whatever fire their Btn commanders consider necessary to restore the situations, including fire plans to support immediate counter-attack. Such over-expenditure of ammunition will have to be justified later and Btn commanders should be informed that only in the case of actual attack is over-expenditure permitted. Expenditure to counter the thrust of an enemy attack can only be authorised by the Regt C.O.

3) It is important that a small "credit balance" should be built up to enable special fire plans to be put into operation from time to time. A running account of ammunition expenditure is kept at Group HQ. British units will report to Group HQ immediately they exceed the allotment for the day, giving the reason. The expenditure by US units will be controlled by the unit commander, who is responsible that the authorised allotment is not exceeded.