

111 Fd Regt Arty Group Operational Instruction No. 3

SECRET

29th March 1945

AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE

1. The allotment of ammunition in this sector has now been slightly increased. The general policy for engagement of targets remains as laid down in Group Operational Instruction No. 1, as modified by the following instructions.
2. A reserve of ammunition will be built up to allow more ambitious fire plans in support of infantry raids to capture PoW and neutralise enemy strong points; and also to allow for a co-ordinated programme of neutralisation of enemy installations which have been located with sufficient accuracy to merit engagement. These forms of fire, together with harassing fire, will be ordered by Group HQ.

Depending upon the amount to be kept in reserve, and the probable requirements for CB and CM fire, Group HQ will notify units periodically the amount of their "basic allotment" which may be used for observed shooting by ground and Air OPs without further reference.

3. Observed shooting. Any movement seen by group or air OPs will be engaged more heavily than before, and heavy concentration put down on any worthwhile target. The balance for the day's "basic allotment" will be used for registration and for the technical training of observers, targets for the latter being known or suspected enemy localities. Fire on opportunity targets will NOT be withheld or delayed because the "basic allotment" has been exceeded, but Group HQ will be notified as soon as practicable.
4. Counter battery
 - a) The CBO will order immediate retaliation on any active enemy Btys. When the offender cannot be identified, bombardments will be ordered all several likely HBs in area indicated on a "two to one"

ratio.

- b) CBO will also order Air OP shoots on known enemy gun positions whose continued occupancy is indicated. The number of these shoots daily will be ordered by Group HQ.
- 5. Counter mortar. Liaison Officers with infantry Btns will order immediate retaliation on enemy mortars firing into their sector. To facilitate this, CBO is issuing lists of mortar groups, each with a code word and specified units to engage each target. If the offending mortar cannot be identified, a scale/crash will be fired on the most likely group. Btn Liaison Officers will normally order these bombards direct in order to save time, and will notify the CBO what targets have been engaged. It is important that the bombards should be fired while the enemy mortars are still active and detachments vulnerable. Air burst HE will normally be used.
- 6. Liaison Officers with infantry Btn should continually stress the obligations of the infantry to send in prompt Shelreps, if retaliation is to be effective.
- 7. Defensive fire - no change.