

**HEADQUARTERS 473rd INFANTRY**  
**APO #464 US ARMY**  
**18 March 1945**  
**OPERATION MEMORANDUM NUMBER 2.**

COUNTER BATTERY AND COUNTER MORTAR

- 1) 17 Medium Regt is now responsible for the counter battery and counter mortar organization in this sector. This instruction explains the system in force.
- 2) The object of the organization is to retaliate as quickly as possible on enemy arty and mortars which are shelling our troops and thus neutralize them. The organization depends on two things
  - a) As much information from as many sources as possible.
  - b) Speed in passing the information, which enables the time between shelling and our retaliation reduced to a minimum.
- 3) SHELREPS (Shelling reports) provide information required and must be initiated by all units who can see or hear where the gun or mortar is firing from or where the shells are landing. They should contain as much as possible of the following information, in the standard form:
  - a) Unit reported by
  - b) Location of observer
  - c) Grid azimuth (or bearing) of sound or flash
  - d) Time from
  - e) Time to
  - f) Area shelled
  - g) Damage
  - h) Number of rounds and type of fire
  - i) Number and type of guns or mortars firing
  - j) Remarks (e.g. time between flash and bang, etc).

It is unlikely that any observer will be able to report all the above and unknown items should be omitted. But it is important

that ALL observers who can report ANY of the above items should do so, even if it is only the time, number of rounds and area shelled. Reports from several observers will enable the CB office to piece together all the information required.

- 4) The quickest means of getting Shelreps to the CB office is usually by Arty communications. Shelreps should therefore be passed to the nearest Arty OP, Liaison Officer, or HQ who will see that it is passed directly to "17 Med Counter Battery". Infantry Btns can rely on their Arty Liaison Officers to pass Shelreps for them quickly and need not pass them to Regt CP.
- 5) 17 Med Regt Counter Battery Office will collect the information and order "bombards" (TOT) to silence the enemy guns and mortars as soon as they have sufficient information to bombard, the reports may tie in with later information and enable the enemy to be identified. 17 Med Regt will keep the Arty Liaison Officer and Regt CP informed of hostile battery and mortar activity and of retaliation.
- 6) The efficiency of the organization depends on FREQUENT, ACCURATE and SPEEDY SHELREPS and it is every soldier's duty to send these in whenever he can. Send in the Shelreps and the Artillery will do the rest.

By order of Colonel YARBOROUGH