

HEADQUARTERS  
COMMUNICATIONS ZONE  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
Office of the Chief Quartermaster  
APO 887

*"Operational Rations"  
General.*

Quartermaster Field Observation Report No 1

U.S. EQUIPMENT

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EXTRACTS \*\*\*\*\*

II. CLASS 1

A. K Ration -- In a period of 10 days the 3rd Armored Division overdrew 66,000 K Rations. The men were eating nothing but K rations and were in contact with the enemy at the time. It was explained that the men were awake for long periods and felt the need of more than the allowed ration. Individuals would eat 4, 5 and more units a day. The 1st Division also overdrew on K rations. Every officer and enlisted man interviewed suggested that additional coffee units be put in the K ration. These could either be used at regular mealtime or at other periods during the day when they had an opportunity to make coffee. As evidence of the desire for more coffee, many men have written home asking that coffee be sent them. Because of the fact that troops are on the K rations for several days at one time, it was suggested that the K rations be given more variety. It was found that with these men the Breakfast Unit was the most popular, Dinner Unit next and Supper Unit third. The man favored the light cracker over the dark in the K ration.

B. C Rations -- Units interviewed on the new type C ration seemed very pleased with the spaghetti unit which was the only one immediately available. All troops are looking forward to the receipt of additional new type C rations. The same comment as regards additional coffee the K rations is equally applicable to the C ration. The cocoa Unit is popular with several of the men. The orange and lemon crystals are the least favored beverages and many were not used. A typical comment appears in Stars and Stripes of 4 Oct 1944 :

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C. 10-in-1 Ration-- The 10-in-1 Ration was very popular. Comments were received for the inclusion of additional coffee, fruit juices, jams and milk. The cereal in this ration was found to be very popular. It is possible that this was due to operations in colder weather and a hot cereal was most desirable. The English style stew was universally disliked. The hard cracker or biscuit has caused considerable dental trouble because of its hardness. The Medical Officer of the 33d Armored Regiment (3d Armored Division) stated that at least 10 dental plates in his organization were broken over a period of 2 months.

D. B Ration-- This ration is issued troops as far as forward as conditions permit and can be obtained by combat units on 48 hours 'not

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E. RAC Kit-- This item is extremely well-liked. The method of packing facilitates issue. However, the tooth powder, which is at present packed in a paper container, does not stand up under the conditions it is subjected to, mainly rough handling and dampness. A few comments were received upon the lack of single-edge razor-blades. It was reported that whenever a tank, half track or similar vehicle was knocked out, invariably many men lost all their belongings including toilet articles. It is evident that some thought should be given to a method of replacing toilet articles either in the RAC Kit, or by some other means.

F. Camouflaging of Inside Ends of Cans-- All comments received on this subject indicated that camouflaging the inside ends of cans was unnecessary.

G. General Comments on Rations-- The rations were generally well-liked. Most suggestions for improvement were requests for more variety. The U.S. Ration has been and is being supplemented by use of captured subsistence including frozen carcass beef, canned fruits and vegetables, flour and sugar.

25 Jan. 1945.