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5th ARMY - ADMIN. INSTRUCTIONS

Aug. 1944

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. #464, U. S. Army

JHK/RHT/whp
2 August 1944

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS NO. 56

BATTLEFIELD SALVAGE AND UTILIZATION OF CAPTURED ENEMY MATERIEL

1. Reference:

- a. Letter, Headquarters Fifth Army, file AG 000.51-2, subject: "Illegal Disposition of Government Property", (Par. 4 a (2) (d)) dated 11 April 1944.
- b. Section V, MATOUSA Circular No. 64, dated 5 May 1944.
- c. MATOUSA Circular No. 18, dated 13 February 1944.

2. Definitions.

- a. Salvage. - Salvage is defined as excess, abandoned, discarded or condemned property. In addition to scrap, salvage may be, and often is, composed of new, used, reclaimed, unserviceable, repairable property.
- b. Captured Enemy Materiel. - For the purpose of this directive captured enemy materiel includes all equipment, stores and supplies previously belonging to all arms and services of the Ground Forces of the enemy, such as cartridge cases, scrap iron, rags, lumber, textile and rubber goods, and metal articles.

3. Responsibility.

- a. A Captured Enemy Materiel (C.E.M.) Section is attached to this Headquarters and is responsible for the assignment of serviceable and repairable captured enemy materiel.

- b. The A. C. of S., G-3, this Headquarters, will assign priorities for captured enemy materiel.

- c. The C.E.M. Section will:

- (1) List, separately, serviceable and repairable materiel and obtain allocation instructions from G-3.

- (2) Receive all demands for allocations of captured materiel and process such demands to G-3 for allocation instructions.

- (3) Issue disposition instructions based on G-3 allocations.

- d. The instructions contained herein are not to be interpreted in any way as relieving commanders of all echelons of their responsibility for collecting, sorting, classifying, safeguarding and evacuating salvage and captured enemy materiel to established collecting points and dumps.

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4. Requests for Captured Enemy Materiel - will be addressed to the Commanding General, Fifth Army (Attn: A. C. of S., G-3).

5. Report of Captured Materiel (Intelligence Channels).

a. Report of captured enemy materiel will be made as a paragraph in the Daily Intelligence Summary, submitted through intelligence channels to the A. C. of S., G-2, this Headquarters.

b. Report will include:

(1) Major items of equipment.

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(2) Dumps or other stocks of materiel.

c. Report will give a brief description of the items, an estimate of the quantity captured and the location (give coordinates).

6. Report of Captured Materiel (Administrative Channels). - Information will be included in the Weekly G-4 Report as indicated in Section II, Administrative Instructions No. 47, dated 20 May 1944.

7. Retention of Captured Materiel.

a. Vehicles (Includes trailers):

(1) Units will not retain captured enemy vehicles without specific authority from this Headquarters, which will be given only under the following conditions:

(a) Against a deficiency on the authorized Table of Equipment of a unit, and if it is operationally desirable that such a vacancy be so filled.

(b) Provided the vehicle is allocated a W - number.

(c) On the understanding that NO captured vehicle may be shipped out of the Theater. In the event of a unit leaving the Theater, captured vehicles must be turned in to Ordnance.

(d) Retention of captured technical vehicles may be authorized by Commanding General, NAFOTUSA only if no similar vehicle is available from Allied sources.

(2) The Army Provost Marshal has been instructed to have Military Police stop all captured vehicles, and if authority for retention is not available, a description of the vehicle, name of the driver and organization will be forwarded by the Provost Marshal to the Army Ordnance Officer. The Army Ordnance Officer will take necessary steps to have the vehicle so reported turned in to Ordnance stock.

(3) Requests for Retention.

(a) All captured enemy vehicles will be immediately turned in to the supporting Ordnance unit, unless such vehicles are desired to fill existing T/E shortages of similar type.

(b) When captured vehicles are desired as substitutes to fill T/E shortages, requests to retain these vehicles will be made in writing to the Commanding General, Fifth Army, Attention G-4.

(c) All requests for the retention of captured enemy vehicles in excess of T/E will be submitted to this Headquarters in accordance with Administrative Instructions No. 34, dated 23 February 1944.

(4) Procedure after Receiving Approval.

(1) Units will not retain captured enemy vehicles without specific authority from this Headquarters, which will be given only under the following conditions:

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(b) Provided the vehicle is allocated a W - number.

(c) On the understanding that no captured vehicle may be shipped out of the Theater. In the event of a unit leaving the Theater, captured vehicles must be turned in to Ordnance.

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(c) All requests for the retention of captured enemy vehicles in excess of T/E will be submitted to this Headquarters in accordance with Administrative Instructions No. 34, dated 25 February 1944.

(4) Procedure after Receiving Approval.

(a) After approval to retain a captured vehicle has been received, unit will paint the vehicle O.D. color and submit a request to Army Ordnance Officer for the assignment of a War Department number. Request for assignment of a W.D. number will include the following information:

1. Make of vehicle.
2. Engine number.
3. Type of vehicle.
4. Size of tires.

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(5) Proof of Authority to Retain Captured Enemy Vehicles.

(a) The assignment of a W.D. number by the Fifth Army Ordnance Officer will be sufficient evidence that authorization to retain vehicle has been received. To avoid question and confusion the letter assigning the W.D. number or a certified true copy thereof will be carried by the driver of the vehicle at all times.

b. All Other Materiel. - Authority to retain captured enemy materiel (other than vehicles) may be requested by furnishing the following information to the Commanding General, Fifth Army (Attention: A. C. of S., G-4):

- (1) Description of item and number desired.
- (2) Availability of captured item.
- (3) Similar U.S. Army issue item, with number authorized and on hand.
- (4) Statement of operational necessity and purpose for which required.
- (5) Length of time required.
- (6) Statement that use and movement of the item will not require additional personnel or transportation.

c. Souvenirs. - The provisions of Section V, MATJUSA Circular No. 64, dated 5 May 1944 as regards the collection and retention of captured enemy materiel by military personnel for personal souvenirs will be strictly complied with.

8. Aircraft Salvage.

a. Recent salvage operations have revealed that many crashed aircraft have been pilfered of all useful equipment, such as, pilot's hoods, pilot's seats, instrument blind flying panels, pilot's harness, fuel tanks, cowlings and transparent paneling.

b. There is an acute shortage of this equipment and unless repair units can obtain damaged items to overhaul, the replacement of aircraft will be impaired and operations seriously affected.

c. Much valuable intelligence data has been lost through the destruction and stripping of name plates and retention of documents, weapons, radios and other items as trophies. Commanders of all echelons will insure that all personnel are instructed that enemy materiel is not to be stripped of identification marks on equipment, or documents taken by souvenir hunters until clearance is given by the proper authority. Violations will subject personnel apprehended to prompt disciplinary action.

9. Evacuation. - The following procedure will obtain in the collection and return **37** to proper supply channels of all salvage and captured enemy materiel.

a. Regiments or smaller units while actually engaged in combat will mark and report the location of salvage and captured enemy materiel to the next higher head-

- (2) Availability of captured item.
- (3) Similar U.S. Army issue item, with number authorized and on hand.
- (4) Statement of operational necessity and purpose for which required.
- (5) Length of time required.
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9. Evacuation. - The following procedure will obtain in the collection and return 37 to proper supply channels of all salvage and captured enemy materiel.

- a. Regiments or smaller units while actually engaged in combat will mark and report the location of salvage and captured enemy materiel to the next higher headquarters. Evacuation to nearest salvage collecting points will be performed at such time as it will not interfere with operations.

(1) Regiments or smaller units in rest or rear areas will mark, guard and report the location of salvage and captured enemy materiel to the next higher headquarters and evacuate same to the nearest salvage collecting points with the least practicable delay.

- b. Divisions will establish salvage collecting points and evacuate to Army Class I installations, or Army Base Salvage Dump, except for Class V (including expended ammunition cases) which will be returned to Ammunition Supply Points. Full use will be made of available U.S. and Italian Service Units.

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c. The Army Quartermaster and Ordnance Officer are responsible for segregating received salvage and captured enemy materiel and processing through proper supply channels.

d. Units of all echelons will utilize empty transportation moving to the rear for removal of salvage and captured enemy materiel to established collecting points. It is imperative that trucks have a full pay load on every run.

e. Any items or materiel which the particular echelon involved cannot physically handle because of size, weight, shape or quantity, will be appropriately marked and reported to higher headquarters by means of the Quartermaster Daily Telegram.

10. The prompt collection, recovery and classification of salvage and captured enemy materiel and the early return to service of new and reclaimed property, together with the early shipment of certain strategic scrap metals to the United States, will contribute immeasurably to the successful prosecution of the war. To accomplish this, a continuous and concerted effort must be made by commanders of all echelons to collect all useful materiels and insure that personnel in their commands are "salvage conscious".

11. Section I, Administrative Instructions No. 50 is hereby rescinded.

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