

97TH INFANTRY DIVISION MONTHLY NARRATIVE HISTORICAL REPORT
FOR OCTOBER, 1945

During the month of October the 97th Division rolled up its sleeves and pitched into the task of placing its units in the most strategically convenient locations for the carrying out of their occupational duties. Already our division was occupying more territory than any other division in Japan. The 97th had jurisdiction over four Japanese Prefectures consisting of approximately 10,000 square miles in which lived over four million Japanese as well as thousands of Chinese and Koreans. The job necessitated a delicate handling and placement of personnel, both native and occupational, in order to secure its objectives with the least possible friction. Higher headquarters made its decisions only after an intensive study of terrain, population, and location of Japanese military and industrial installations. It should be mentioned that the initial phases of the occupation were carried out by the 97th Division with a minimum amount of discomfort to the troops and in such a way that a high degree of cooperation was gained from the Japanese, themselves.

During this early part of the month the 169th Infantry Regiment of the 43rd Division was readying for shipment back to the United States. Troops with fewer than 60 points in the 43rd Division were exchanged for high point men from the 97th Division. This move was made to expedite shipment homeward of the men eligible for discharge and at the same time allowed the 97th Division to remain at effective strength.

The 386th Infantry Regiment, with the Third Battalion of the 303rd Infantry Regiment attached, was assigned Saitama Prefecture. The 387th Infantry Regiment was directed to prepare plans for the occupation of Gumma Prefecture. An example of the thoroughness with which the division acted may be seen in the extensive reconnaissance made of the prefectures before the troops moved in. The 387th Infantry Regiment was readied for reconnaissance at once, and the first party entered Gumma Prefecture at 0600 on September 28th for the purpose of reconnoitering tentative occupational areas, locating Japanese military installations, and securing basic economic and political data from the prefectural authorities.

In anticipation of taking over Nagano Prefecture the 97th Division Artillery sent reconnaissance patrols into that prefecture. On October 3rd the 303rd and the 365th Field Artillery Battalions had closed to Mizurahara Airfield. On October 5th the 97th Division Artillery took over the duties and areas of the 43rd Div-

ision Artillery which departed for Yokohama on October 6th, and on October 9th began moving into Nagano Prefecture to take up their permanent positions there. The 365th Field Artillery Battalion began moving into Nagano Prefecture on October 11th and had completed its move two days later. The 922nd Field Artillery Battalion began its move into Nagano Prefecture on October 15th and was fully established two days later.

On October 6th the last elements of the 303rd Infantry Regiment closed to Mizusahara Airfield. This Regiment assumed the guard and responsibility of this airfield from the 386th Infantry Regiment on October 9th. At the same time the Third Battalion of the 303rd Infantry Regiment effected the relief of the First Cavalry Division in Saitama Prefecture.

The Second Battalion of the 386th Infantry Regiment assumed control of Takahara Airfield, and the Third Battalion of the same regiment occupied installations in the vicinity of Oshi.

On October 9th advance elements of the 387th Infantry Regiment began moving by shuttle movement into Gumma Prefecture, to Maebashi and Ota to take over their permanent occupational zones. By October 10th the 386th Infantry Regiment had completed the relief of the 387th Infantry Regiment in Saitama Prefecture, which had closed in its new location, assuming occupational responsibilities at 1800L. This regiment immediately commenced reconnoitering known intelligence and salvage targets within its regimental zone. Here again was an example of the speed and efficiency with which the troops moved and settled into new locations.

Major General H.F. Kramer, commanding the 97th Division, of October 12th, assumed command of the XI Corps during the temporary absence of Lieutenant General E.P. Hall.

On October 17th the 106th Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad was attached to our division for the identification and recommendation of disposition of all Japanese munitions where safe handling and transportation was questionable and for destruction of ammunition that was too dangerous to transport.

The 303rd Infantry Regiment, less the First and Third Battalions, moved into Yamanashi Prefecture on October 24th, and less than a day later had closed in its new location and had assumed full command and occupational responsibilities for this prefecture. Check points were maintained at various railroad stations and important road junctions to turn back all unauthorized personnel.

Following a disturbance caused by Chinese laborers at Otaki a conference was held at Fukushima on October 25th which produced an agreement between Japanese officials and Chinese workers that

resulted in granting the Chinese the same rights and privileges as the Japanese. The 922nd Field Artillery Battalion was dispatched to Fukushima to prevent any Chinese uprisings and to search for military equipment. At Matsukawa in this vicinity a Japanese bombsight was found patterned after the B-24 bombsight which is believed to be the first one to be completed by the Japanese.

The 97th Division Counter Intelligence Corps personnel discovered, among various military supplies in a warehouse at Saki, 299 fifty-pound bars of silver bullion. At Omiya units of our division discovered forty-five tons of silver, about 9000 carats in diamonds, and huge quantities of platinum.

Ashes of seventeen unidentified American airmen missing from a B-29 mission early in 1945 were recovered by men of the 97th Division at Yumazaya in Saitama Prefecture. No evidences of atrocities were found: The bodies of all the airmen had been cremated by the Japanese, placed in small boxes, and enshrined. Also, the twisted wreckage of the planes was recovered in which the men had crashed. All of the men were given honorable military burials.

On about the 26th of October, intelligence personnel attached to the 97th Division discovered an elaborate underground network of cemented rooms and tunnels near Narano. The excavation, honey-combing the mountains in that area, was believed planned as a Japanese army headquarters if the Allied invasion of Japan had necessitated a last-ditch stand for the Japanese in a defence of their homeland. The underground maze was so extensive that even the caretakers refused to go inside for fear of becoming lost.

By this time the entire 97th and all units attached were settled into permanent barracks and were working to establish themselves comfortably in preparation for the coming winter. The troops made excellent use of Japanese labor and materials and by working long hours on their own time, managed to erect luxurious living quarters and recreational facilities. Day rooms, theatres, kitchens, and sleeping quarters were cleaned, decorated, and furnished with the inevitable ingenuity that is so characteristic of the American soldier. Volley ball, basketball, and handball courts were laid out and used with an enthusiasm that bespoke a high degree of morale. At the same time the 97th Division instituted an educational program that was second to none among the occupational units.

Division Headquarters and the Special Troops with the First Battalion of the 303rd Infantry Regiment and the 303rd Field Artillery Battalion were situated at the Mizusashara Airfield in Saitama Prefecture. The 303rd Infantry Regiment less the First and Third Battalions was occupying Yamanashi Prefecture. Since

debarcation at Yokohama, the Third Battalion of the 303rd Infantry Regiment had been attached to the 386th Infantry Regiment which was occupying Saitama Prefecture. Gumma Prefecture was occupied by the 307th Infantry Regiment. The 97th Division Artillery, the 92nd Field Artillery Battalion, and the 365th Field Artillery Battalion plus the 97th Recon Troop and Company E of the 303rd Infantry Regiment were occupying Nagano Prefecture.

The missions and operations of the occupying troops remained as ordered previously. They consisted of: the surveillance and security of enemy property; the reconnoitering, inventorying, and salvaging of known intelligence targets; the patrolling and guarding of all Japanese installations; and the maintenance of guards along the borders of the respective prefectures to prevent entering or leaving by unauthorized personnel.

Thus it may readily be seen that the 97th Division was taking an integral participation in the occupation of Japan. It had taken a huge share in the establishment and maintenance of the peace following the Japanese surrender. During the phase of inventorying and salvaging before consolidation began, the division was guarding and supervising a total of 292 known intelligence targets. These targets included hundreds of war industries and military installations as well as numerous peacetime producing factories, including all types of plants from ball-bearing factories to silk looms. In addition to these known targets the 97th Division was responsible for locating and confiscating huge amounts of bullion, medical and clothing supplies, and foodstuffs. Much of the latter was controlled and distributed among the Japanese people by way of easing the strain of starvation and hence easing the long-term task of occupation. The terrain included within the divisional zones of occupation varied from rugged mountains to flat plains. This fact in itself increased the number and variables of the problems to be met and solved by way of providing administration and handling of both troops and natives.

During the entire initial phases of debarking, closing, and organizing into the respective occupational zones, there was no resistance encountered with the enemy. No sabotage and no secret or hazardous activities were discovered. The only troublesome occurrences known during this phase consisted of a few isolated incidents of attempts by individual Japanese to steal food, fuel, or clothing. These cases were dealt with immediately and without undue complications. The entire task of occupation as assigned to the 97th Infantry Division was met with the rapidity, smoothness, and efficiency that had characterized the activities of the 97th throughout its entire history.

97TH INFANTRY DIVISION MONTHLY NARRATIVE HISTORICAL REPORT
FOR NOVEMBER, 1945

The month of November was a busy one for the Trident Division. The numerous and difficult wrinkles in the task of occupation were rapidly being ironed out as the division gained in experience and enhanced its adreitness in the execution of its assigned mission.

This mission consisted of complete occupational control of the four prefectures of Yamanashi, Saitama, Gunma and Nagano, comprising over ten thousand square miles and more than five and a quarter million people. In the closing days of November, the Division was preparing to relinquish the prefecture of Yamanashi to the First Cavalry Division and to assume occupational control of Fukushima, Niigata and Tochigi Prefectures. This move represented an addition of twelve thousand square miles and an additional five million people. To assist in the control of Tochigi, the 158th Regimental Combat Team was to be attached to the Division for occupational control.

In accordance with demobilization plans from higher headquarters, all troops with 60 points became eligible for discharge as of the first of November. The Division expedited the transfer of these men to redeployment centers so that the majority of them were on their way homeward during the scheduled month. Sixty-seven officers and 190 enlisted men were sent to the 4th Replacement Depot for release from active service. Also during this period 125 officers and 1311 enlisted men were received as replacements. The majority of these men coming into the Division were received from the 4th Replacement Depot, but 115 enlisted men were received from the Americal Division when it deactivated in September and 23 enlisted men were received from the 43rd Division Rear Echelon in Manila.

The location of Japanese military installations and military equipment continued during the month of November. Also included were the duties of surveillance and security of enemy property; the reconnoitering, inventorying and salvaging of known intelligence targets; the patrolling and guarding of all Japanese installations; and the maintenance of guards along the borders of the respective prefectures to prevent entering or leaving by unauthorized personnel. Japanese war materials were located and consolidated from all sorts of odd places such as a Girls' High School, railroad stations, mines and vacant lots.

Agents of the 97th CIC Detachment discovered in an inconspicuous warehouse behind a department store which was advertising souvenirs for American troops, 299 bars of silver bullion, each weighing fifty pounds. Discovery of the bullion was made while these men were tracing documents and possessions of German nationals. Guards were immediately placed on the warehouse by the 387th Infantry Regiment.

A short time previous to this, other valuables consisting of huge quantities of captured Chinese silver coin, 6700 karats of commercial diamonds, 580 kilograms of platinum-radium alloy, and other precious metals in various forms, including platinum buddhas, from the Independent Arsenal of Tokyo at Iwahana had been located and confiscated by elements of the Division. In accordance with instructions from XI Corps, the bullion and other valuables were moved by special train under guard to Ueno Station, Tokyo, and a guard from the First Cavalry Division joined the 97th Division detail in moving the silver to the Bank of Japan. At that time, responsibility passed to Eighth Army Military Government section. In addition to this, the 922nd Field Artillery Battalion discovered and shipped to the Bank of Japan, 1113 bags of lump silver, 438 bags in wooden cases and 675 bags of silver in bulk.

As a result of an inventory made by the S-2 of the 97th Division Artillery in the area of Nagano City, quantities of narcotics were discovered and collected. This included over 3000 kilograms of opium and large quantities of cocaine and morphine. A more complete list later revealed some small amounts of less common drugs. All of the narcotics, totaling over 13 tons, were turned over to the 29th Medical Depot at Yokohama.

On 5 November, instructions were sent to each of the Infantry Regiments and Division Artillery to compile lists of all Chinese nationals in their respective zones, either laborers or prisoners of war, desiring to return to China. These instructions were given in accordance with directions from higher headquarters issued 3 November regarding possible repatriation of all such Chinese nationals. Three officers of the Chinese Army, accompanied by an officer of the G-5 section, made an inspection of camps in the Division area that were or had been occupied by Chinese prisoners of war. A consolidated report was submitted to XI Corps and final tabulation showed that there were over 1900 Chinese in six labor camps, four camps located in Nagano Prefecture and the remaining two in Gumma Prefecture. During the latter part of November all Chinese desiring to return to their homeland were moved by rail to Southern Honshu in preparation for their being shipped back to China, and the installations were closed. The only Chinese nationals left in the Division area were those who requested to remain due to business or other commercial reasons. In Nagano Prefecture, 121 Chinese prisoners of war were evacuated from the camp at Kashiwabara; 169 from the camp at Otaki; 374 from the camp at Agematsui; and 496 from the camp at Sateymobone (one mile east of Matsumoto). In Gumma Prefecture, 553 Chinese prisoners of war were evacuated from the camp at Numata and 231 from Ota. Prior to the time that the camps were placed under the protective custody of our army personnel, living conditions at the camps were reported as very poor with a serious shortage of food, clothing, bedding and medical supplies. Such conditions were remedied at the instigation of our occupational control. In the Ota camp evidence of barbaric treatment was found in the persons of 49 Chinese prisoners of war who had been blinded with sulfuric acid during their incarceration.

One disorder in Nagano Prefecture, occasioned by a revolt of Chinese laborers against Japanese civilians was immediately suppressed. Division troops maintained control over the troubled area during November until the Chinese were evacuated. There were no outstanding incidents of military or civilian disturbances in the divisional occupational zone during the month.

On 1 November, the 97th CIC Detachment and the 46th Area CIC Team were withdrawn from Divisional jurisdiction and reformed into area teams segregated from tactical units under the new CIC policy emanating from GHQ, Tokyo. On 7 November, the Special Investigative Section was created within the G-2 Section. The purpose in establishing this section was to form an agency which would be available to undertake any G-2 investigative work that might arise in the Division area. Apart from routine investigations this section engaged in investigating details of crashes of Allied airmen that took place within the Division area. The body of an American pilot was recovered outside the village of Kawai in the vicinity of Itwatsuki. The pilot's single engine fighter plane crashed on 28 July, 1945. A company of Japanese soldiers stationed in the area proceeded to the scene and shot the pilot, burying him in the same area. Conflicting reports exist between several persons familiar with the incident as to whether or not the already-wounded pilot resisted capture.

A priest who remembered the number "24" painted on the wings and tail of a B-29 which crashed in Takashina, four miles south of Kawagoe on 24 April, 1945, furnished information which led to the recovery of the bodies of three American airmen which had been taken from the wreckage of their plane by the Japanese and buried near the village. Five other American airmen parachuted from the plane and were taken prisoners by Japanese Military Police. The three bodies recovered reportedly carried no identification.

The Japanese Army Headquarters at Kofu, Yamanashi Prefecture, and at Maebashi, Gunma Prefecture, were investigated by the 303rd and the 387th Infantry Regiments respectively. The object of the inquiries was the examination of these offices to determine their legitimate status as agencies in the demobilization program of the Japanese Government. These cases were terminated after certain irregularities were corrected.

During the month of November, routine G-2 operations continued in the inventorying of documents within the Division area by way of assisting Technical Intelligence teams from higher headquarters on special missions and in the supervision of map distribution throughout the Division.

Investigation was made by an officer of the 175th Language Detachment regarding certain Japanese underwater harbor defenses in Tokyo Bay. A detailed written report was forwarded to XI Corps on 14 November. The source of the investigation was a former Japanese army officer who revealed the following information: merchant ships were adapted at either Yokosuka or Yokohama to contain several watertight compartments. When construction and armament were completed, these ships were towed to designated locations and sunk by blasting open other compartments. This produced, in effect, an underwater pillbox. Three such pillboxes are known to have been installed at the Mouth of Tokyo Bay, in depths of about twenty meters. Equipped with three traversable torpedo tubes and sound detectors, each such pillbox was divided into three sections; living quarters, torpedo room, and water chamber - the latter designed for admitting members of the crew in diving suits.

A series of underground caves and warehouses were found and investigated in the vicinity of Matsushiro. These elaborate excavations were believed to be a Japanese army general headquarters but no equipment was found to substantiate this suspicion.

The Muzata Army Broadcasting and Weather Station was investigated by our troops, who found large field type transmitters, an extensive library of telegraphy, and a complete set of United States weather records for the past twelve years.

Supplies of hidden food in a warehouse belonging to a Farmers' Association were uncovered in the isolated village of Ishita near Konosu. Civilians reported that these food supplies were stored by Japanese Army personnel in anticipation of a future food shortage in case of an expected Allied invasion of the Japanese homeland.

The G-5 Section, created by WCCG when the Division landed at Yokohama in September, with one officer and one enlisted man, had seen its work increase by 1 November that it then had on duty with it six officers and four enlisted men. The primary mission of the G-5 Section was to serve as a liaison section between the Division and the Japanese Government, and to perform the military government functions of the Division pending the arrival of Military Government Companies for semi-permanent occupational duties.

During the month of November, the principal duties of the Section in the four prefectures under Division control fell into five main categories:

(1) Reconversion of Industry.

This work started in the Division area in October and was pushed to a maximum in November. The Kanto Plain area of Saitama and Gumma Prefectures is a heavily industrialized area and had produced a vast amount of material for Japan's war effort. The war factories were permitted to reconvert to peacetime production only after inspection - under G-5 supervision - by Division Engineering Officers, following the factories' written applications to reconvert. After inspections had assured demilitarization, permits to manufacture were issued by the G-5 Section of Division Headquarters.

During the month of November a total of 82 factories in the Division area were granted permits to reconvert, distributed in the prefectures as follows:

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| Saitama | 56 |
| Gumma | 14 |
| Nagano | 10 |
| Yamanashi | 2 |

The permits which were granted authorized the production of items ranging in variety from can openers, pots, and pans to cement mixers and ships engines in factories employing a total of more than 30,000 persons which had formerly produced airplanes, guns, and tanks for the Japanese military forces with a capitalization running into uncounted hundreds of millions of yen. In all cases proper safeguards were taken to insure demilitarization before permits were issued.

The paralysis of Japanese industry in this area, which was a result of strategic bombing and the surrender, was slowly broken during November, and employment gained as reconversion began to gain momentum.

(2) Labor Procurement

Japanese civilian labor required by units of the 97th Infantry Division in occupational areas was furnished by the Japanese Government on requisition made by the units of the Division to local Japanese officials who were authorized by the Japanese Government to furnish the needed labor.

A total of 128,970 Japanese laborers were utilized in the Division area during November, working a total of over a million man-hours.

Former Japanese Army vehicles were collected and turned over to the Kumagaya Police Chief for use in hauling laborers from distant points to the Division Headquarters at Mitsugahara Airfield in Saitama Prefecture. A labor pool was begun for skilled workers at Division Headquarters on 18 November, and the program was extended to include all workers on 25 November. Responsibility for furnishing transportation for that labor to the Mitsugahara Labor Pool was placed upon the Japanese. Special arrangements were made for work on two Mitsugahara buildings: the Field House and the Officers' Club. Work began on the Officers' Club on 9 November.

On 30 November Labor Chiefs and Mayors of Ushi, Kumagaya, and Fukaya were contacted to furnish Japanese girls to be used in the American Red Cross Club.

(3) Price Control

When the G-5 Section started a campaign to control the prices of souvenirs about the 17th of October, the only official directive covering Price Control was Operational Directive 8, Annex 8 from Headquarters XI Corps dated 8 October 1945. This directed that prices be frozen as of 15 August 1945. Inasmuch as no official orders to this effect had been given to the Japanese Government, it was easy for the Japanese merchants to sell souvenirs at any price they could get.

About 20 October, Major General Kramer acting CG, XI Corps, ordered that any excessive increases in prices would be called to the attention of local Prefecture Officials who would be responsible for corrective measures in conjunction with local civilian authorities; and also ordered that positive control over prices of souvenirs sold to American troops would be maintained. Acting on this directive, the Division Price Control started a Price Control campaign. Since Saitama Prefecture had more souvenir shops than any of the other prefectures, the initial work was done in that prefecture. At a meeting of representatives of the G-5 Section with the Chief of Economy and Commerce of the Prefecture and 52 souvenir shop owners, the following requirements were set forth:

- a. All stores in Saitama Prefecture selling souvenirs to Military personnel were required by the Prefectural Government to have all items tagged showing the sales price.
- b. Tags on material and cloth items must show quality of material.
- c. Tags must be securely attached to the item and clearly visible at all times.

Although maximum prices could not be accurately established due to the variation in quality of Japanese merchandise, the tagging of all items greatly reduced the opportunity for merchants to raise the price of an item when a person showed interest in it. The program established in Saitama Prefecture was put into effect in Gumma Prefecture by the 387th Regimental Commander. The effectiveness of the Price Control Campaign was evident when the PX Tokyo opened and prices of souvenirs being sold in Saitama and Gumma were very much lower than the price of similar souvenirs in Tokyo.

(4) Assembling of Statistics on Japanese Industry, Farming, and Mining

A survey was made of the lumber industry in all four prefectures. The largest number of lumber mills were found in Nagano with 149 mills, followed by Saitama with 104, Gumma and Yamanashi having 95 and 30 respectively.

A complete survey of all cleaning and pressing establishments in the Division area was made.

A survey was made of industry and manufacturing in the four prefectures which included the number of plants in operation, production per month, percentage of plant capacity, and number of serviceable plants not in operation. At this time the manufacture of clothing, home appliances, and farm equipment had the highest production.

A survey of the complete food situation of the prefectures was made showing the basic products now on hand, the expected harvest through June 1946, and the amount of food rationed to the people.

An investigation was made of Hosumi Hospital, owned by Dr. Hosumi at Omiya, to determine a new location as the prefecture planned widening the road.

An investigation of the food situation at Karuizawa was made.

(5) Advice and Action on Status of Allied Nationals and Prisoners of War

There was a fluctuating total of approximately 40,000 Koreans in the Division area due to their continuous movement toward ports of repatriation or in search of homes or work. Approximately 1000 other Foreign Nationals from America, Canada, Russia, England, and Germany were also in the Division area.

On 1 November there were a total of 754 Allied Nationals, Neutrals, and Stateless persons in Karuizawa, one of the largest European colonies in Japan. In addition to these, there were about 700 Germans and a large group of diplomats of all nationalities. The Commanding General of the 97th Division directed that an issue of potatoes and other fresh perishable food crops be made by the Japanese before freezing weather to these persons living in Karuizawa, and also made available certain Division transportation facilities to get Red Cross food issued from Tokyo to Karuizawa.

On 16 November 1945, Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 76th, 77th, 78th, and 79th Military Government Companies arrived at Yokohama. Company 76 was assigned to Yamanashi, Company 77 to Gumma, Company 78 to Nagano, and Company 79 to Saitama Prefecture. Each Company consists of 12 officers and 60 enlisted men.

During the month of November, the Division Artillery with its command post in the city of Nagano was in control of the Prefecture of Nagano. Attached to Division Artillery were the 97th Reconnaissance Troop Mechanized and "E" Company of the 303rd Infantry Regiment. On 24 November a reconnaissance party left Division Artillery for Niigata prior to taking over occupational duties of that prefecture from the 27th Infantry Division. By 1800 on 30 November the 2nd Battalion of the 303rd Infantry Regiment had closed in the city of Niigata prior to being attached to Division Artillery.

The 303rd Infantry, less the 3rd Battalion, was located at Kofu while occupying Yamanashi, but on 30 November it relinquished the prefecture to the 1st Cavalry Division. On 24 November a reconnaissance party left for Fukushima for the purpose of coordinating with the 27th Infantry Division the plans for assuming occupational duties in Fukushima. By 1800 on 30 November the 1st Battalion and Regimental Hq & Hq Co had closed in Fukushima prior to assuming their duties there.

The 386th Infantry Regiment, plus the 3rd Battalion of the 303rd Infantry Regiment, was charged with continued securing and surveillance of enemy property in Saitama Prefecture. The Regimental command post was located in Omiya.

The 387th Infantry Regiment, with its command post located at Ota in Gumma Prefecture, continued to supervise the investigation of enemy targets and guarding of equipment.

Specific occupational operations of Division Artillery consisted of locating, in the 9th Jap Military District at Matsukawa, electrical research equipment and a Japanese bombsight patterned after the B-24 bombsight, believed to be the first bombsight of this type to be completed by the Japanese. This bombsight was not the last equipment of that nature to be found by Division Artillery, for on 29 November the 922nd Field Artillery Bn located the Nippon Kagaku Kogo Co at Matsuo which manufactured Gordon bombsights. In addition to the destruction of Japanese gliders, airplanes, arms and ammunition, Division Artillery returned enormous amounts of food, clothing, and medical supplies to the Japanese Home Ministry. On 9 November the records of the Imperial Forest Reserve were placed under guard at the city of Fukushima, Nagano Prefecture, by the 922nd.

The Infantry Regiments together controlled the prefectures of Gunma, Saitama, and Yamanashi, a total of 5626 sq miles. Occupational duties for the regiments were much the same as those of Division Artillery with the routine destruction of enemy equipment and guarding of Search List items. Guards were established by the 387th on the Imperial Palace at Ikaho.

By the end of November the Trident Division carried the following attachments:

UNIT

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| 1346th Engineer Combat Battalion | 97th Inf Div |
| 238 Chemical Service Platoon | 797th Ord Co |
| 106 Bomb Disposal Squad | 797th Ord Co |
| 4th Platoon, 316 QM Bakery Company | 97th QM Co |
| 347 QM Laundry Detachment | 97th QM Co |
| 1st Platoon, 158 QM Bakery Company | 97th Div Arty |
| 1st Platoon, 12th Sp Sv Co | Hq Co, 97th Inf Div |
| 4th Platoon, 12th Sp Sv Co | 303rd Inf Regt |
| 175th Language Co | Hq Co, 97th Inf Div |
| 668 Medical Clearing Co | 97th Div Arty |
| 63 Malaria Control Detachment | 97th Div Arty |
| 422nd Malaria Survey Detachment | 97th Div Arty |
| Hq and Hq Co, 77th Military Govt | 387th Inf Regt |
| Hq and Hq Co, 78th Military Govt | Hq, 97th Div Arty |
| Hq and Hq Co, 79th Military Govt | 386th Inf Regt |
| 4th Platoon, 636th QM Laundry Co | 322nd Engr Cn Bn |

As far as supply is concerned, the most important development during the month was the establishment of the QM installation at Tatebayashi Airfield. All supplies and equipment were moved into the new location on completion of the railroad spur, and all QM functions were handled at the new location after 20 November. The 4th Platoon of the 316th QM Bakery Co was placed in operation at Tatebayashi during the month and began regular bread production for the entire division.

Supply lines up to 150 miles long were required to handle all units in the four prefectures. The more distant units were handled by rail through development of a regular freight rail shipping schedules, and adjacent units were supplied by truck. Passenger service was set up for the entire division to handle traffic between Hq and field units. Additional service was arranged to Tokyo.

In addition to regular Class I and III issues during the month, QM made distribution of a large quantity of woolen clothing. Special winter clothing was requisitioned for troops in the mountainous and colder areas. Issue of Kodal 1941 stoves was made on the basis of one stove per every ten men. Approximately fifteen carloads of excess and unserviceable clothing and organizational equipment was shipped to the 71st QM Depot. Most of this material was received from the 43rd Division.

A total of 41 truck loads of Ordnance supplies was picked up during the month of November. As a result, Ordnance developed a fairly complete supply of parts. This was an absolute necessity because of the tremendous amount of repair needed on vehicles taken over from the Americal and 43rd Divisions. It was found necessary to use Japanese sources for some items, including 200 tarps for $\frac{1}{2}$ ton trucks and trailers.

Because of the narrow and deteriorated conditions of most all of the Japanese roads, the Engineers worked steadily throughout the month on road repair and maintenance. In addition, the engineers built a railroad spur into Tatebayashi Airfield; repaired and strengthened bridges and bridge approaches; performed salvage operations; constructed numerous pre-fabricated billets; and operated a gravel pit and stock pile. By using Japanese as well as Army sources, the engineers built up a good supply of construction materials. Lumber, glass, cement, asphalt, plumbing, and electrical fittings were received in large quantities.

In addition to performing their regular duties in supplying units with medical supplies, the Surgeon's Office received and checked inventories from Japanese medical installations and handled return of excess equipment to the 29th Medical Depot.

During the month of November over 160 million pounds of food and 900,000 pieces of clothing were returned to the Japanese through QM. 253 carloads of ammunition were shipped to the coast to be dumped into the sea. 400 airplanes and 1500 airplane engines were destroyed along with countless quantities of small arms and small arms part

One of the important aspects of occupational pastime was the extensive educational program instituted and encouraged by the Division. It carried the distinction of being the first unit to enroll in the United States Armed Forces Institute after its branch was set up in Japan, and during the month of November the total number of enrollees increased to approximately 6000. Another indication of the same educational policy is seen in the opening of the Unit Schools which are instructing some 1000 students. All of this is in accord with the Army's desire to enhance the soldier's preparation for future civilian life.

Eight Silver Stars, 46 Bronze Stars, one Soldier's Medal, and fourteen Purple Hearts were awarded throughout the division for action against the enemy in the European Theatre of Operations.

Thus it is evident that the month of November was a record month as concerns the activity and tremendous amounts of work accomplished. The Trident Division had rapidly adjusted to the task of occupation of Japan. By this time all troops had full knowledge of their responsibilities and were performing their duties in their usual commendable manner.

97TH INFANTRY DIVISION MONTHLY NARRATIVE HISTORICAL REPORT
FOR DECEMBER, 1945

The month of December found the Occupational Zone of the Trident Division more than double that of previous months. Nevertheless, it continued to function smoothly, fully adjusted to its task in the occupation of Japan.

In accordance with demobilization plans set forth by the War Department, all troops with 55 points were eligible for discharge as of the first of December. Under this plan, 87 officers and 1519 enlisted men were sent to the 4th Replacement Depot for release from active service. The majority of these men were on their way homeward during the scheduled month. Fourteen enlisted men received dependency discharges. Four officers and 34 enlisted men received emergency furloughs. 135 officers and 747 enlisted men were received as replacements. The majority of these men came from the 27th Infantry Division upon its inactivation. The Congressional Medal of Honor was awarded posthumously to Pfc Joe Hastings. Five Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts were awarded members of the Division for action against the enemy in the European Theatre of Operations.

During the period, G-2 operations continued in the supervision of map distribution throughout the Division. Map supply was affected by the expansion of the Division occupational area. Search was continued for documents of special intelligence value. Assistance was rendered to technical and special intelligence teams from higher headquarters.

One disorder occurring in Okegawa on 27 December involved approximately 24 Japanese and Koreans. It was suppressed by the Japanese civilian police. There was no outstanding incident of military or civil disturbance in the Division occupational zone during the period.

The location of Japanese military installations and military equipment continued. The Special Investigative Section discovered and made preliminary investigation of two light tanks and meteorological equipment. The tanks had been stripped of armament and turned over to civilian agencies in Gumma Prefecture to be used in highway maintenance work. The meteorological equipment had been given to civilian agencies prior to the effective surrender date. This equipment was found in the possession of schools in Omama, Kiryu, Azuma, and Numata. It was consolidated and placed under guard at Ota.

The Division Artillery located and placed under guard the Japanese Board of Communications at Naikano. It contained radio transmitters and parts. Division Artillery also placed a guard on a signal warehouse at Shiojiri. This place contained a huge amount of signal equipment. The 386th Regt withdrew guards from five installations.

On 5 December it was reported that former Japanese prisoners of war in China were returning to Japan with U.S. military clothing and equipment. These items had been issued to them prior to their repatriation from China. Cases of this type were most numerous in Gumma Prefecture. Japanese police were instructed to aid our military police in confiscating such clothing.

Investigation of four airplane crashes in Saitama Prefecture was continued. Six airplane crashes were investigated in Fukushima. The investigations concerned crashes of U.S. Army and Navy planes which participated in bombing raids on Japan prior to the end of the war.

More than 190 million pounds of foodstuffs and 180,000 pairs of boots and shoes

were returned to the Japanese through the QM. 600 carloads of ammunition were shipped to the coast to be dumped into the sea. Many weapons and tons of high explosives were also destroyed. 296,000 carats of industrial diamonds and much platinum, silver bar, coins, and silver wire were shipped to the Bank of Japan. 150 airplanes, 56 airplane engines, and 169 bombsights were destroyed. At the end of the month, all prefectures except Saitama and Gumma had been cleared of ammunition.

During this period the 158 RCT turned over to 71st QM Depot, 1714 personnel parachutes, 894 medical parachutes, and 2025 cargo parachutes. They turned over to Home Ministry over 1000 tons of all types of scrap metals, 190 electric motors, 235 tons of miscellaneous QM items, and 35 tons of miscellaneous office supplies. The 158 RCT also turned back to the Home Ministry many electric motors and generators, clothing, 160,000 bales of government owned tobacco, and many other items.

Baking of sweet items such as pastries, cookies was placed on a regularly scheduled basis. Laundry service was made available to all units.

A temporary railhead was set up at Niigata to handle Class I and III stocks turned over by the 27th Infantry Division. During the time the railhead was in operation it issued rations and Class III stocks to the 2nd Bn, 303rd Inf, and approximately 2500 attached and rear echelon troops of the 27th Division. Surplus stocks were packed and shipped to the 71st QM Base Depot. Rail operations increased as supply lines lengthened. The Tatebayashi railhead received more than 500 cars and shipped out over 500 cars to units in the field. The use of oil burning stoves increased Class III requirements.

The engineers worked steadily throughout the month on road maintenance and construction of quonset huts. Construction of 102 huts in Div Hq area is about 50% complete. Cement, lumber, nails, wire, putty, roofing, paint, rope, and tin were received in large quantities from both Army and Jap sources.

The 1st of December found troops in new locations. 1st Bn Hq & "D" Co, 303 Inf, were at Koriyama. "B" Co, 303 Inf, was located at Wakamatsu, "A" and "C" Cos, 303 Inf, had moved to Fukushima, AT, Sv Co, 303 Inf, and Co "A", 322 Med Bn, moved to Mitsugahara Airfield, and Regtl Hq & Hq Co, 303 Inf, closed in Fukushima. On 3 December "E" Battery of 303 FA Bn closed into Takada. On 5 December Service Company of 303 Inf departed from Mitsugahara Airfield to join its parent organization at Fukushima.

On the 7th of December the 67th MG Hq & Hq Co, located in Niigata Prefecture, was attached to Div arty. On December 10 the 389th FA Bn moved from Mitsugahara Airfield to Nagano. On the same day, the 3rd Bn, 303 Inf, moved to Takamatsu from West of Saigo. The 77th MG Hq & Hq Co moved to Maebashi. Co "E" of 303 Inf moved from Nagano to Niigata on the 14th. Also on this date the 80th MG Hq & Hq Co was attached to the 158th RCT. Co "A", 322 Med Bn, departed for Fukushima from Mitsugahara Airfield on 19 December.

During the period, the activity of the G-5 Office increased so greatly that an increase in personnel to ten enlisted men and eight officers was necessary.

On 29 November 1945 we were relieved of the occupational responsibility in Yamanashi Prefecture. Occupational responsibilities of three additional

prefectures were added, resulting in the following organization:

| <u>Prefecture</u> | <u>Mil Govt Unit</u> | <u>Population</u> | <u>Area (Sq. miles)</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Gumma | 77th | 1,544,865 | 2438 |
| Nagano | 78th | 2,121,050 | 5233 |
| Saitama | 79th | 2,150,000 | 1468 |
| Tochigi | 80th | 1,545,404 | 2489 |
| Niigata | 87th | 2,389,316 | 4861 |
| Fukushima | 88th | 1,951,243 | 5319 |

Thus, the 97th Infantry Division was charged with the occupational responsibility of an area of 21,808 square miles having a population of approximately 11,701,878 people. This area is roughly equivalent to the land area of West Virginia, and a population equal to that of Pennsylvania.

During the month of December additional attention was given the shortage of civilian housing and construction materials. The housing shortage in some sections remained acute. The greatest barrier to rebuilding is the lack of lumber and skilled labor.

The repatriation of Foreign Nationals, mostly Koreans, continued during December. The following are statistics for Koreans departing during the month:

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Nagano Prefecture | 888 |
| Tochigi Prefecture | 355 |
| Fukushima Prefecture | 60 |
| Niigata Prefecture | 3260 |

Thus, giving a total of 4563 Koreans repatriated from the four prefectures. It is estimated by the Korean Association that by June 1946 all Koreans in this area will be repatriated.

The repatriation of Formosans, Okinawans and Ryukuans is progressing more slowly because these people are not as well organized as the Koreans, and because repatriation of the Koreans started first. This office maintains a complete check on all Foreign Nationals. It is also a function of the G-5 Office to examine all cases of the arrest and incarceration of Foreign Nationals.

Industrial reconversion in December resulted in 35 additional reconversion permits, distributed as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Gumma Prefecture | 12 |
| Niigata Prefecture | 18 |
| Saitama Prefecture | 3 |
| Tochigi Prefecture | 2 |

As compared with the month of November, the issuance of industrial permits was cut by approximately 45%. This drop being due largely to changes in methods of processing caused by changes in Eighth Army Directives.

The men, officers, and units of the Trident Division continued to perform their duties in their usual commendable manner.

97TH INFANTRY DIVISION MONTHLY NARRATIVE HISTORICAL REPORT
FOR JANUARY, 1946

The month of January found a still efficient 97th Div, in spite of the fact of great losses of men and officers.

In accordance with demobilization plans set forth by the War Department, all troops with 45 points or 30 months of active service, as of 30 April, were eligible for discharge. Under this plan, 137 officers and 4600 enlisted men were sent to the 4th Replacement Depot for release from active service. All of these men were given an early start on their trip homeward. Eleven enlisted men received dependency discharges. Two officers and 42 enlisted men received emergency furloughs. 124 officers and 818 enlisted men were received as replacements. The majority of these men came from the 81st Infantry Division and 112 RCT. Four Bronze Stars were awarded members of the Division for action against the enemy in the European Theatre of Operations.

The location of Japanese military installations and military equipment continued during the period. An employee of the Road Commissioner of Gumma Prefecture was found to have in his possession 30,000 blasting caps, 30,200 meters of fuse, 307 kilograms of 200 gram explosive powder, and 3525 kilograms of 600 gram explosive powder. This supply, obtained from the 2nd Arsenal of Tokyo, was intended for highway construction and maintenance work, but had not been reported by the Prefecture government. This supply was released to the Prefecture government for the purpose indicated above and a policy of accountability was established with Military Government for use of the explosives.

On 15 January 100 boxes of explosive powder, a box of dynamite, percussion caps and fuse trains were found at Hirai-kura. These explosives were formerly the property of a Japanese ordnance unit stationed in the area and had not been previously reported in accordance with the terms of surrender. Stores of previously unreported bombs were also discovered in Tochigi Prefecture in the vicinity of Suwa Village, on 14 January. In storehouses in this area were found twelve 500 kilogram and 232 one hundred kilogram bombs.

On 17 January employees of the Kanto Electric Company in Utsunomiya circulated pamphlets throughout the city demanding shorter working hours and increased wages. The next day approximately 100 workers marched through the city streets displaying banners. The demonstration was orderly.

A fight occurred at Taira on 25 January between a Korean laborer and a former Japanese slave labor official. This was followed the same evening at 2200 by a fight between four Koreans and three Japanese. Three Koreans and two Japanese were injured before police intervened. At 0100 on 27 January approximately 300 Korean coal miners assembled at Taira and staged a demonstration. In an attempt to suppress the demonstration, Japanese police arrested 40 Koreans. Military Government officers and a platoon of infantry from the 303rd Inf Regt were dispatched to the scene. The troops arrived on 28 January, and at 0900 on 29 January a conference of Japanese police, the Koreans, and Military Government personnel settled the dispute. Division troops were withdrawn from Taira on 29 January, and Military Government personnel remained to supervise the settlement.

On 10 January at 1600 hours a fire broke out in one of the warehouses of the Yorii Arsenal. The installation contained parachute flares, small arms ammunition and 20mm shells. Approximately 400 Japanese with mobile fire

fighting equipment responded to fight the blaze. The fire burned itself out in the early morning of 11 January, after having spread to an adjacent building.

On 14 January at 1930 hours a British airplane, flying from Shanghai to Atsugi Airfield outside of Tokyo, made a forced landing on Sado Island off the coast of Niigata Prefecture. The plane carried ten passengers including high ranking Army and diplomatic officials. From Ryoju, the pilot contacted the British Embassy at Tokyo.

On 20 January a Russian fishing vessel drifted ashore at Aikawa, Sado Island. The vessel had developed engine trouble on 6 January and had been adrift since that date. One person died and was buried at sea, and the other ten were suffering from malnutrition. U. S. medical aid and supplies were dispatched to the Russians. A Russian Major from Tokyo is handling the evacuation of the Russian personnel.

On 15 January a Major Omine, who formerly commanded the Japanese 27th Independent Engineer Regiment, reported that a small remote-controlled tank, which was in the experimental stage at the end of the war, was being tested by his unit. The Major claims that 300 such tanks were sunk in the Tone River. A diver from Tokyo is expected to investigate the first week in February.

A roster of officers who had been held as prisoners of war at Hiraoka was uncovered. The roster gave the name, rank, serial number and branch of service of officers of the British Army, Navy, and Air Force. This roster was sent to the Legal Section, Investigative Division, GHQ, SCAP, Tokyo.

On 3 January 1946, 3rd Bn, 387th Inf Regt moved to Utsunomiya preparing to effect the relief of the 158 RCT. At 050001 Jan 46, 3rd Bn, 387th Inf Regt, assumed occupational responsibilities for Tochigi Prefecture with headquarters in Utsunomiya. The 158 RCT continued preparations for inactivation and return to the United States.

The 3rd Bn, 387th Inf Regt, resecured several targets in Utsunomiya formerly cleared by the 158 RCT. Interior guard and motorized patrols were continued in Tochigi Prefecture.

97th Bn Tr Mecz was relieved of attachment to 97th Division Artillery and moved to Mitsugahara Airfield. "A" Co, 322 Med Bn moved to Mitsugahara Airfield.

Due to a decrease in number of personnel per company, the 386th Inf Regt began consolidating Bns at centrally located billets in order to facilitate occupational duties. Required guards were maintained on all targets and motorized patrols were established.

An eight week Training Schedule was distributed to units of the 97th Inf Div in compliance with Training Memorandum, No. 10, Hq Eighth Army, dated 1 Dec 45. This schedule was made primarily for the purpose of training new replacements and the increasing number of men released from guard duty by the clearance of targets.

The enormous area occupied by the Division with its long supply lines, created

a supply problem requiring very careful planning and considerable foresight. In spite of the greatly increased burdens each month has brought, the Division was adequately supplied.

Fresh fruits and vegetables in quantity were received and distributed. All units in the Division received regular distribution of bread and pastry items from the Quartermaster bakeries.

Japanese supplies and equipment were disposed of as follows:

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>UNIT</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> | <u>DISPOSITION</u> |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Quartermaster</u> | | | |
| Oil and Kerosene | Gal. | 584,476 | Ret to Japs |
| Gasoline | Gal. | 129,293 | Ret to Japs |
| Misc. Clothing | Pcs. | 1,840,754 | Ret to Japs |
| Boots and Shoes | Prs. | 255,215 | Ret to Japs |
| Misc. Cloth and Fabrics | Yds. | 8,586,857 | Ret to Japs |
| Misc. Foodstuffs | Tons | 2,742 | Ret to Japs |
| <u>Engineer</u> | | | |
| Steel | Tons | 362 | Ret to Japs |
| Brass | Tons | 82 | Ret to Japs |
| Iron | Tons | 56 | Ret to Japs |
| Lead | Tons | 66 | Ret to Japs |
| Copper | Tons | 135 | Ret to Japs |
| <u>Ordnance</u> | | | |
| Air Corps Bombs | Tons | 2,284 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Dumped at Sea |
| Bulk HE | Tons | 3,023 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Burned or dumped at Sea |
| Artillery, grenade, Mortar ammo | Tons | 1,516 | Dumped at Sea |
| Small Arms Ammo | Tons | 456 | Dumped at Sea |
| Raw Materials | Tons | 3,156 | Ret to Japs |
| Automotive Parts | Ea | 198,965 | Ret to Japs |
| Machine Tools | Ea | 229 | Ret to Japs |
| Small Arms Parts | Ea | 29,185 | Destroyed |
| Ammo Components | Ea | 419,089 | Destroyed |
| <u>Air Forces</u> | | | |
| Airplane Tires | Ea | 77,496 | Ret to Japs |
| Aircraft | Ea | 156 | Destroyed |

The Akodo Factory of the Second Tokyo Military Arsenal was cleared of all explosives on the 28th of January when the last of 753 tons of Nitro-Cellulose was shipped.

Industrial reconversion permits were issued during January as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Gumma Prefecture | 41 |
| Nagano Prefecture | 3 |

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Saitama Prefecture | 26 |
| Tochigi Prefecture | <u>1</u> |
| Total | <u>71</u> |

This represents an increase of 50% over the month of December. Most of these permits were issued by the Military Government in the respective Prefectures and were reviewed in the G-5 Office.

The repatriation of Foreign Nationals continued during January. The following are statistics for Koreans departing during January:

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Gumma Prefecture | 795 |
| Nagano Prefecture | 920 |
| Saitama Prefecture | 1236 |
| Tochigi Prefecture | 990 |

Thus, giving a total of 3941 Koreans repatriated from four prefectures. During January 145 Formosans were repatriated from Tochigi Prefecture. The number of Koreans and Formosans remaining in six prefectures under control of the 97th Infantry Division as of 31 January is as follows:

| <u>Prefecture</u> | <u>Koreans</u> | <u>Formosans</u> |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Gumma | 8,520 | 192 |
| Nagano | 10,054 | 207 |
| Saitama | 8,551 | 128 |
| Tochigi | 4,800 | 148 |
| Niigata | 4,320 | 163 |
| Fukushima | 7,696 | 131 |
| Total--- | 44,141 | 969 |

The traffic safety campaign, conducted with the aid of the civilian police, was continued in January. This program was supervised by the G-5 Section. Speed limit and railroad crossing signs were erected in Japanese characters. Instructions were given the Japanese police in traffic control, and traffic violators were punished.

The labor office of the G-5 Section has had an important job since the inception of the section in September 1945. The labor section consolidates labor reports from all Military Government units in the Division area, and has charge of furnishing labor for all installations at Miitsugahara Airfield. A branch labor office was established to break-down daily labor requisitions for the using units at the airfield.

The recreational activities of the 97th Inf Div contained a great amount of professional entertainment with the appearance of three U.S.O. shows in the Division within the month. The shows were distributed through the division so that the maximum amount of personnel would have the opportunity to see these shows. A large number of men took part in such activities as skiing, hunting and other recreational activities that are provided through the Division area.

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97TH INFANTRY DIVISION MONTHLY NARRATIVE HISTORICAL REPORT
FOR FEBRUARY, 1946

The month of February found the 97th Infantry Division entering the final phases of its assigned occupation mission and preparing for inactivation.

In accordance with demobilization plans from higher headquarters, 35 officers and 1246 enlisted men were sent to the 4th Replacement Depot for release from active service. Also 1051 enlisted men were sent to the 5th Fighter Command and Military Government Units. The Division received 8 officers and 166 enlisted men as replacements. The majority of these replacements came from the 1346 Engineer Battalion. Five officers and 19 enlisted men received emergency furloughs and four enlisted men received dependency discharges during the month of February. Five Silver Stars, 27 Bronze Stars, and five Purple Hearts were awarded members of the Division.

The location of Japanese military installations and military equipment continued during February. A Japanese remote-controlled tank was reassembled from parts salvaged from the Tone River by a diver. Revelation that more than 300 such electrically-operated tanks were burned and dumped into the river sometime during the month of August, was made by a former member of the Japanese Army. A search which involved a week of diving in various sectors of the river was conducted. The large "Mother" tanks, which generated power for the baby charge-carrying tanks, were blown up by the Japanese in August. The tanks are now being held for Technical Intelligence investigation.

Two Japanese approached the Niigata Prefectural officials and requested permission to buy a wooden Japanese mine-sweeper, which was sunk in Niigata Harbor five months ago. After spending 50,000 yen in the operation, they were stopped on 7 February by the Japanese Minesweeping Commission which stated that the ship was under the Second Japanese Demobilization Ministry in Tokyo. The Japs are now approaching the Demobilization Ministry through Prefectural channels in an attempt to obtain ownership of the sunken mine-sweeper. The ship is believed, by the 27th Military Government Company, to be of no value except for commercial use. Seven other mine-sweepers are still in operation in Niigata Harbor.

On 3 Feb 1946 XI Corps informed G-3 97th Inf Div, that a quantity of ivory in Nagano Prefecture had been reported to Eighth Army Headquarters and was being held by units of the 97th Infantry Division. XI Corps desired a report on the status of the ivory and the reason for holding it. 97th Division artillery made a thorough search of the vicinity and located the ivory at Osata, a small town near Kormoro. It had been brought to Japan from Hongkong, China, by the Japanese Navy and turned over to the Japanese Government and amounted to approximately 18,000 pounds. Pending orders for disposition, the 365th FA Bn placed guards at the location.

Other Japanese equipment and supplies were disposed of as follows:

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>UNIT</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> | <u>DISPOSITION</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|
| <u>Quartermaster</u> | | | |
| Boots & Shoes | Prs | 704,537 | Returned to Japs |
| Misc. oil | Gals | 539,820 | Returned to Japs |
| Gas, alcohol, kerosene | Gals | 280,096 | Returned to Japs |
| Misc. foodstuffs | Tons | 2,585 | Returned to Japs |
| Misc. clothing | Pcs | 1,951,135 | Returned to Japs |
| Life jackets & equipment | Pcs | 74,736 | Returned to Japs |

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>UNIT</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> | <u>DISPOSITION</u> |
|---|-------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| <u>Ordnance</u> | | | |
| Air Corps Bombs (Class X) | Ton | 167 | Dumped at Sea |
| Bulk HE (Class B) | Ton | 482 | Burned |
| Ammunition (Class X) | Ton | 111 | Dumped at Sea |
| Small arms parts | Ea | 15,185 | Destroyed |
| Weapons & parts | Ea | 16,330 | Destroyed |
| <u>Engineer</u> | | | |
| Lumber | BFM | 18,162 | Returned to Japs |
| Metals (Incl. scrap) | Ton | 493 | Returned to Japs |
| Surveying instruments, drawing instruments, etc. | | | To Engineer Base Depot |
| <u>Signal</u> | | | |
| All signal equipment has been returned to Home Ministry with the following exceptions: | | | |
| Equipment listed as capital equipment in arsenals, aircraft factories and laboratories. | | | |
| Meteorological equipment. | | | |
| <u>Chemical</u> | | | |
| Misc. chemical equip. | Pcs | 129,697 | Destroyed |
| <u>Air Force</u> | | | |
| Parachute accessories | Ea | 2,087,000 | Returned to Japs |
| Scrap | Ton | 10 | Returned to Japs |
| Misc. aircraft instruments | | | Scrapped and Returned to Japs |

Precautionary warnings were issued after receiving many reports of death due to the drinking of certain whiskeys containing large amounts of methyl alcohol. A truck load containing approximately 1,900 bottles of such whiskey was discovered by Military Police of the 97th Infantry Division in Kumagaya. This whiskey was found through analysis to contain 0.3 milligrams of methyl alcohol per milliliter. The three Japanese on the truck were turned over to civil authorities for prosecution.

Approximately 50 Koreans staged an orderly demonstration early in the month, at the Kitsuregawa Railroad Station in demand of Japanese Army clothing stored nearby. Civilian police intervened and, after a short consultation, the Koreans dispersed without making further demands. There were no outstanding incidents of military or civil disturbances in the Division occupational zone during the month of February.

In compliance with Training Memorandum No. 10, Hq XI Corps, dtd 1 December 1945, a Company Officer Administrative School was set up at Division Headquarters under the supervision of the G-3 Section with Lt. Col. Benjamin T. Harris as School Director and 1st Lt. Kern P. Pitts as School Adjutant. The school term was of six days duration. The first term began 11 Feb 46 and the third and last term will close 2 March 46. Fifty-six company grade officers from units of the 97th Infantry Division attend weekly.

All units in the Division were regularly supplied with perishable foods, bread and "B" rations. Increased supplies of meats and citrus fruits allowed greater variety in menus. Cakes, cookies, pastries and doughnuts were produced by the Quarter-master bakeries in addition to regular production of bread. A total of 154 cars of Class 1 was shipped to units in the three prefectures supplied by rail.

Issue of petroleum products continued to be heavy. A large share of gasoline and diesel fuel shipments were made directly from depot to individual unit, but issues from the stock at Tatebayashi Airfield totalled as follows: V-80 gasoline, 28,960 gals; V-62 gasoline, 11,915 gals; diesel fuel, 32,635 gals; kerosene, 5,170 gals; lubricating oil, 640 gals.

The transportation Section handled freight as follows: Received -- 57 refrigerator cars, 31 cars Cl I, 41 cars Cl II, 30 cars Cl III, and 30 cars of empty drums and barrels; Shipped -- 25 refrigerator cars, 129 cars Cl I, 24 cars Cl II, 15 cars Cl III, 25 cars empty drums and barrels.

Assistance was given all units in the Division in preparing Ordnance equipment for turn-in. Set-ups for processing Ordnance equipment were checked by Ordnance representatives. Inspection teams were active, as assurance that vehicles would be in proper shape for turn-in.

Engineer construction activities included completion of erection of Quonset Huts for the 77th ME Co and the Red Cross. At the same time all the larger installations of prefabricated buildings such as "Hut City" were being dismantled and turned in. All components were crated and packed so as to make one complete unit and were shipped out by flat car. Other activities included the building of bleachers and installation of lights in the field house, and the construction of a water tower for the 98th Evacuation Hospital.

Road repair and maintenance included grading and gravelling of roads between Ota and Iseaki, Ota and Maebashi, Koizumi and Tatebayashi, Koizumi and Ryumai and the Kumagaya loop. Gravel was stock piled along all these roads.

Miscellaneous activities included box construction for units in the Division, with 170,000 bd ft of lumber hauled and made into shipping crates. Sample boxes and packing and crating materials were sent to every unit in the Division. All drains in the entire drainage system were inspected, cleaned and repaired.

Authorization was received from XI Corps to turn in excess supplies and equipment in advance of the inactivation date. In order to properly control turn in with units so widely scattered, a Division Regulating Station was set up at Omiya. This station was operated by the G-4 Section and included facilities for unloading and checking freight cars, checking truck shipments and billeting and feeding personnel on duty at the Regulating Station and transients. The turn in schedule was set up and regulated through this station and the G-4 Office. Each technical branch sent representatives to the Regulating Station, in addition to setting up processing centers within their own units.

During the month of February, 43 industrial reconversion permits were issued by the Military Government Companies. The permits issued during February were distributed as follows:

| | |
|---------|----|
| Tochigi | 1 |
| Guama | 12 |
| Nagano | 8 |
| Saitama | 22 |
| Total | 43 |

Most of the industrial permits issued during February were granted for the manufacture of household accessories, commercial chemicals, processed foods, electric appliances, motor and automobile parts, farm implements, footwear, optical instruments, and finished metals.

The G-5 Office, through the Military Government Companies, advises on repatriation of Koreans, Formosans, and Chinese from Japan. Repatriation was considerably retarded during the month due to the disinclination of many of the repatriates to travel until warmer weather arrives; many others are awaiting final settlement of their financial affairs with former employers. A large number of the problems arising from this condition involves Koreans, as most of them were brought to Japan as war laborers. During the month, the following numbers of Koreans and Formosans departed for repatriation centers:

| <u>Koreans</u> | | <u>Formosans</u> | |
|----------------|------|------------------|-----|
| Nagano | 258 | Nagano | 236 |
| Saitama | 569 | Saitama | 128 |
| Tochigi | 781 | Tochigi | 145 |
| Niigata | 496 | | |
| Total | 2124 | Total | 509 |

In order to determine the number of foreign nationals within the Division area, a questionnaire was sent to each Military Government Company, and information was compiled from this. According to these reports, upon assumption of occupational duty by the 97th Infantry Division, there were in that area 134,154 Koreans, 925 Formosans, 3395 Chinese, 14 English, 671 Germans, and 1832 other nationals. The present figures are, as of 28 February 1946, 36,955 Koreans, 806 Formosans, 636 Chinese, 11 English, 528 Germans, and 334 other nationals. Remaining in the area and desiring repatriation are 25,120 Koreans, 598 Formosans, 332 Chinese, 9 English, and 83 Germans. Repatriation and interprefectural movement explain the difference. According to reports submitted by the Military Government Companies, the following are the numbers of Koreans and Formosans desiring repatriation, and the total number now in each prefecture:

| <u>Prefecture</u> | <u>Koreans</u> | | <u>Formosans</u> | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>Desiring Repatriation</u> | <u>Total No. Koreans</u> | <u>Desiring Repatriation</u> | <u>Total No. Formosans</u> |
| Guama | 1,578 | 6,316 | 130 | 198 |
| Nagano | 8,000 | 8,000 | 208 | 208 |
| Saitama | 6,905 | 8,646 | 157 | 180 |
| Tochigi | 2,185 | 4,026 | 14 | 27 |
| Niigata | 3,137 | 4,320 | 15 | 69 |
| Fukushima | 3,279 | 6,641 | 79 | 132 |

It is expected that the repatriation of Koreans will be completed by June 1946.

Reports from the Military Government Companies were consolidated and forwarded to XI Corps. The branch labor office continued to function smoothly in supplying Japanese labor for U.S. forces. Reports from the Military Government Companies passing through this office disclosed an increasingly complex labor situation facing the labor officers in these companies. Long standing abuses of workers in the Japanese labor scene, scarcity of food, growing black market, sub-standard wage scales, and wide spread unemployment have caused unrest among the Japanese workers. Motivated by these factors, and, for the first time in Japanese history, encouraged and protected by law, Japanese labor has begun to organize and seek to improve its position through collective bargaining on an unprecedented scale. In order to define and categorize resulting problems with a view toward formulating assistance to the various Military Government labor officers, several field trips were made by Lt. Moran, labor officer of the G-5 Section. The results of this investigation did much to define the problems and suggest methods of meeting them. It is clear that this survey could be profitably continued and extended. Reasonable attainment of occupational objectives in the field of labor, as in all others, will require definite and consistent attitudes on the part of the labor officers in all Military Government Companies.

Variety programs and musicals highlighted the entertainment in the Division during February. Talent, consisting of Japanese artists and groups of musicians, gave performances for the troops throughout the Division area. The 12th Special Service variety show made a circuit of the Division. The 97th Band closed the month by presenting four programs in the Artillery and Special Troops areas.

Basketball continued as the major sport in the Division during the period. Increased activity was reported by the units sponsoring skiing and hunting parties each week-end. Horseback riding was initiated into the recreation program of the 303rd Infantry during the latter part of the month.

An ample supply of books, magazines, and other recreational equipment was distributed to all units by the Special Service Office.

During our last month of occupation, a total of 164 targets were cleared and returned to the Japanese Home Ministry. This left but five targets, which required U.S. Troops as guards, to be turned over to the 1st Cavalry Division. At 010001H March 1946, elements of the 1st Cavalry Division relieved the 97th Infantry Division of occupational responsibilities for Niigata, Fukushima, Nagano, Tochigi, Gunma, and Saitama Prefectures.