

More on the 1st Infantry Division: **Sniperscope and Snooperscope available,** **March 1945**

Carbine Club newsletter 368 contained a feature article on Sniperscopes and Snooperscopes during the last major battle of WWII, the campaign to take the island of Okinawa, April - June 1945. Researched and written by Don Hillhouse, this article stands as the most thoroughly detailed and documented discussion of this subject known. At the time it was written, virtually no documentation had been discovered concerning use of the infrared light devices in other theaters of the war. The only such report that Don found was written by the "New Developments Division," dated 18 September 1944. It stated:

"General Borden reported that he had inspected the Engineer teams at Fort Belvoir that will introduce the snooperscopes and sniperscopes to various theaters of operation. These night viewing devices are completely interchangeable, differing only in that the snooperscope is hand-held, while the sniperscope is attached to a carbine. Both have a range of approximately 125 feet. The Corps of Engineers has taken special steps to insure that proper quantities of spare parts and maintenance equipment are supplied concurrently.

The teams will train units overseas in the employment and maintenance of these devices.

Shipments are scheduled as follows:

Southwest Pacific Area	50 each	30 September 1944
Pacific Ocean Areas	25 each	23 September 1944
European Theater	25 each	23 September 1944
China-Burma-India	25 each	30 September 1944

Complete theater requirements are under production as a result of the requisitions submitted through the Jungle Warfare Mission and New Weapons Board. All will be completed by the end of 1944, except the ETO requirements, which run into January 1945.”

As discussed in newsletter 368, IR training was conducted as early as November 1944 with Army and Marine troops scheduled to participate in the Okinawa invasion (Pacific Ocean Areas). Also, video footage has been found that shows familiarization training with the Sniperscope being conducted in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations in late 1944 or early 1945. These IR devices were likely used in the battles to retake the various Philippine Islands (Southwest Pacific Area), but documentation is lacking. Nothing had been found to indicate any use of the IR devices in Europe.

However, Don recently found a G-4 (Division Logistics Officer) Journal that documents the availability of at least one Sniperscope and Snooperscope with the 1st Infantry Division at Grove, Germany on 1 March 1945. See item #15 on the second page of the below report (DOO in the text indicates Division Ordnance Officer). Whether any IR devices were actually used in combat in the ETO remains a mystery.

Research continues.

Marty Black

INSTRUCTIONS: Make msgs brief as possible, insuring that numbers are used consecutively and, where msgs pertain to previous msgs, that reference is made to previous msg number. Draw line after each msg.

G-4 JOURNAL

Hq 1st US Inf Div
APO 1, US Army

FROM 0001 1 March 1945 TO 2400 1 March 1945
(time & date) (time & date)

LOCATION (F-135380) vic Drove, Germany
(complete as possible)

No.	Time	Contents of Message	Action taken
1	0840	Sig Co reported they expect to be closed in at Kreuzau by noon.	
2	0900	Directed Engrs to make run of roads also recommendation for change in MSR due to damage caused by 9th Armd Div.	
3	0910	Called 9th Armd Div about them changing routes without our knowledge and requested we be advised of changes in the future. Due to this change some of our communications were injured.	
4	1015	QM requested prisoners to help unload rations.	Directed to contact PM.
5	1025	Called Corps Traffic about AAA units moving into our area without any clearance from this office.	Will check into this matter.
6	1050	PM reported the Corps MP's will relieve his men west of the Roer River at noon tomorrow.	
7	1110	26th Inf & 33rd FA Bn moving in convoy without clearance from this office.	Discussed with G-3
8	1120	Directed DCO to check on 18th Inf reporting capturing eight 88's and a battery of 105's.	
9	1225	Div Engr reported South route still best one for our MSR.	(Ref Item #2)
10	1235	Rec'd C #2 to Corps ADM O #7.	Journal File.
11	1240	PM reported a fire in Kreuzau which is spreading due to the high wind and may threaten our service installations.	Called Fire Fighting Platoon (Code name Mica) thru Army. G-4 left to investigate this fire.

No.	Time	Contents of Message	Action taken
12	1400	Authorization given to 26th Inf to draw 800 rds 4.2 ammo for the Cal Wons Co attached to them.	
13	1815	Div Engr reported on roads & bridges.	
14	1820	Corps Ord called stating they had a request from our Ord for an Ord (M) Co to be atchd to them.	Checked with DCO who stated he did not make this request. So informed Corps.
15	1820	Informed DCO to hold on to the sniper scope and snoperoscope and keep a record of where they are sent - are for training purposes.	
16	1830	Informed 16th Inf that Army is going to move into a Chateaux which is being guarded by 16th Inf men - directed to remove the guard.	
17	1950	Msg from G-3 regarding boundary change between 18th and 26th Inf. Also giving new Div boundary.	Journal File.
18	2030	Informed Col Waters of Div Arty that any bridges forward of the regimental CP's are under control of the regiments.	
19	2045	"A" Co WP at 197385.	
20	2045	9th Armd Hq given clearance to go into Soller.	

301-4.2: G-4 Journal and File by 1st Inf Div by (ETO), 1 Jan 45 by 80 May 45, Collection: Historical Records of the First Infantry Division and its Organic Elements, WWII
RRMRC Digital Collection