Military Police Operations in World War II: Extending the Division's Operational Reach

A Monograph

by

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The Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) commenced in October 2001. The US Army changed their paradigm from conventional warfare between states to counter-insurgency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The US Army Military Police Corps adapted their doctrine and organization in response to anomalies in the GWOT at the expense of conventional capabilities. As the US Army transitions from a counter-insurgency paradigm back to the paradigm of large-scale combat operations, military police must adapt their doctrine and organization to remain relevant and ready.

The historical case study of Operation Overlord in World War II is an example of how military police supported large-scale combat operation. First Army and Third Army executed a forcible entry operation against heavy German opposition on the beaches of Normandy in the summer of 1944. Military police extended the division's operational reach in World War II through traffic control, prisoner of war operations, and pilferage prevention. These three missions are critical in future large-scale combat operations as the US Army responds to the trends of urban warfare and strategic competitor's investment in anti-access and area-defense technology.

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Abstract

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The historical case study of Operation Overlord in World War II is an example of how military police supported large-scale combat operation. First Army and Third Army executed a forcible entry operation against heavy German opposition on the beaches of Normandy in the summer of 1944. Military police extended the division's operational reach in World War II through traffic control, prisoner of war operations, and pilferage prevention. These three missions are critical in future large-scale combat operations as the US Army responds to the trends of urban warfare and strategic competitor's investment in anti-access and area-defense technology.

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Acronyms

BCT	Brigade Combat Team
CID	Criminal Investigation Division
FM	Field Manual
GWOT	Global War on Terrorism
MOSs	Military Occupational Specialties
MP	Military Police
SOF	Special Operations Forces
TO&E	Table of Organization and Equipment

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Introduction

> It is self-evident that military police Table of Organization and Equipment requirements are too rigid and stereotyped. The Table of Organization and Equipment should be more flexible, according to the mission assigned. It is felt this policy could best be determined by the Theater Commander.
>
> — Major Elmer C. Dale, Technical Intelligence Report on
> Military Police Activities in European Theater, 1945

In the early morning of June 6, 1944, 16,000 American and 8,000 British paratroopers jumped into southern France under heavy German anti-aircraft fire.[1] Concurrently, 125,000 Allied Soldiers loaded onto 4,000 landing vessels in preparation for the largest amphibious landing in history.[2] D-Day of Operation Overlord had commenced. The 1st Military Police (MP) Platoon crossed the channel with two officers and fifty enlisted. When the traffic section was about to land on Omaha beach, an enemy shell exploded on the landing craft deck wounding fifteen military policemen.[3] Lieutenant Charles M. Conover, although wounded by indirect fire, immediately established traffic control points on the beach. Afterward, he personally conducted a reconnaissance of vehicle routes off the beach until he collapsed from blood loss. Lieutenant Conover received the Silver Star for his valor on Omaha Beach. Individual military policemen directed traffic under enemy fire and were critical to First Army's success. By the beginning of 1945 in France, the Allies had landed 90,000 vehicles, processed over 600,000 prisoners, and recovered supplies worth $117,979.09. [4]

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[1] Max Hastings, *Overlord: D-Day and the Battle for Normandy* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1984), 73-74.

[2] Eisenhower Foundation, *D-Day* (Lawrence, KS: The University Press of Kansas, 1971), 82-83.

[3] F. J. Zaniewski, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Unit Historian, 1st Infantry Division Memorandum for Record, Unit History for Month Ending June 30, 1944, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number N9321.

[4] US Army Service Forces, Office, Provost Marshal General, Technical Intelligence Report on Military Police Activities in the Communication Zone, European Theater of Operations, 1945, 64 and 272, CARL Document Number N10975; Colonel A. B. Johnson, Executive Officer of the Provost Marshal General, Report to the Commandant, Command and General Staff College, 1945, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number NZ7201-B. Report focused on prisoner of war operations.

Military police conducted the same types of missions in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) and in World War II but changed the techniques to align with the US Army's paradigm at the that time. A paradigm is a set of related beliefs that give the stock of knowledge for a group.[5] In World War II, US Army's paradigm of war was conventional warfare fought by states. The US Army experienced a paradigm shift in the GWOT when the profession could not evade the anomaly of al-Qaeda, a non-state actor.[6] Counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism became the new doctrine that underpinned the US Army's paradigm in the GWOT.

The US Army Military Police Corps adapted their doctrine and organization in response to the anomalies in the GWOT at the expense of conventional capabilities. As the US Army transitions back to a paradigm of large-scale combat operations, military police must adapt their doctrine and organization to remain relevant and ready. Operation Overlord illustrates the role of MPs in large-scale combat operations. Military police extended the division's operational reach in World War II through traffic control, prisoner of war operations, and pilferage prevention. These three missions are critical in future large-scale combat operations as the US Army responds to the trends of urban warfare and strategic competitor's investment in anti-access and area-defense technology.

Operational reach is the distance and duration a unit can maneuver away from their base of operations.[7] Military police aid the commander in balancing the tension between endurance, momentum, and protection. Traffic control maximizes the flow of vehicles to the front lines and enables the commander to maintain momentum. Momentum is the seizure of initiative and the high-tempo of operations that overwhelm the enemy's ability to react. Prisoner of war operations

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[5] Peter L. Berger and Thomas Luckman, *The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge* (Garden City, NY: Anchor Books, 1967), 41.

[6] Thomas S. Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 1996), 6.

[7] US Department of the Army, Field Manual (FM) 3-0, Operations (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2017), 1-22.

relieves the division of prisoners that impede movement which extends the commander's endurance. Endurance is ability to employ combat power for a protracted period. Pilferage prevention ensures the prompt arrival of supplied to front lines. It increases protection of docks and rail yards and increases endurance through the dependable arrival of supplies. Protection is the mitigation of enemy actions or environmental factors that may disrupt operations. Military police assist the commander in increasing the tether between the forward line of troops and their base of operations.

The historical case study of Operation Overlord in World War II is an example of how military police supported large-scale combat operation. First Army and Third Army executed a forcible entry operation against heavy German opposition on the beaches of Normandy in the summer of 1944 with enormous support from the Navy and Air Force. Forcible entry is the seizure of military lodgment under armed opposition in a denied area to accomplish the mission.[8] Military police braved enemy fire and directed traffic to keep the beach landing areas clear. After Third Army's St. Lo breakout, traffic control on the "Red Ball Express" enabled commanders to maintain momentum and retain the initiative. Military police were on the front lines to guard and escort German prisoners to the rear area to preserve combat power. First and Third Armies' line of communication grew longer as they advanced towards Germany. These extended lines of communication were vulnerable to theft. Military police prevented the pilferage of supplies and ensured they reached the front lines. Traffic control, prisoner of war operations, and pilferage prevention were key to extending the division's operational reach in World War II.

Military police doctrine in World War II was succinct and focused on how to conduct specific MP tasks of traffic control and prisoner of war operations. At the start of World War II, there was a MP platoon organic to divisions. By the end of the war, there was a MP company organic to the division. The evolution of this increase was in response to challenges in the European Theater.

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[8] US Army, FM 3-0 (2017), 5-20.

The GWOT commenced with Operation Enduring Freedom as a Special Operations Forces (SOF) campaign supported by air power. Operation Iraqi Freedom commenced with a conventional ground invasion with little MP support. Military police adapted how they conducted traffic control, prisoner of war operations, and pilferage prevention in response to the unique challenges in the GWOT.

The US Army Military Police Corps changed their doctrine and organization in response to anomalies in the GWOT. Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan did not require divisions or armies. The number of personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan peaked at 181,000 in 2008 versus two million in the European Theater of World War II.[9] The US Army focused on small unit operations in an ambiguous environment. MP doctrine described theory and no longer prescribed detailed procedures reflecting the recent environment. As of 2013, MP units are not organic to a division or brigade.[10]

Military police will provide direct support to divisions in future large-scale combat operations. As the US Army transitions to large-scale combat operations, military police must adapt their doctrine and organization to remain relevant and ready. The historical case study of Operation Overlord illustrates likely continuities in a future war.

Military Police in World War II kept the Army Rolling Along

> Division cannot function efficiently with less if you have less. You cannot take untrained men from combat elements to do the same work as military policemen as GI cannot handle traffic.
>
> — Colonel H. J. P. Harding, Infantry Observer

Operation Overlord is a historical example of a large-scale forcible entry operation in France against prepared German defenses. First Army landed on the beaches of Normandy with

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[9] Amy Belasco, CRS R40682, *Troop Levels in the Afghan and Iraq Wars, FY2001-FY2012: Cost and Other Potential Issues* (Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, 2009), 4.

[10] Staff Sergeant Jason D. Hull, "2nd BCT deactivates BSTB, activates 37th Brigade Engineer Battalion," November 19, 2013, accessed November 5, 2017, https://www.army.mil/article/115308 /2nd_bct_deactivates_bstb_activates_37th_brigade_engineer_battalion.

over 125,000 Soldiers with vehicles and supplies.[11] They faced prepared German defenses on the beaches and a limited road network. The keys to First Army's success were rapid movement off the beach to flank the defenders and operational reach towards Germany. Military police played a crucial role in supporting First and Third Army's breakout and maneuver through traffic control, prisoner of war operations, and pilferage prevention.

The Royal Air Force Bomber Command and US Eighth Air Force flew 22,000 sorties combined over France in the three months prior to Operation Overlord.[12] They dropped 66,000 tons of ordinances on key bridges, railroad intersections, and railroad yards. The destruction of French roads and railways was a double-edged sword. It degraded Germany's ability to move personnel and supplies from Germany to France but also impeded allied movement into France. To disguise the actual landing location, allied air conducted two sorties in Pas-de-Calais for every one sortie in Normandy. The German High Command believed that Normandy was a feint as late as July 8, 1944.[13]

German Army Group B, commanded by Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, defended the northern French coast against an expected Allied cross channel invasion. Field Marshal Rommel arrayed thirty-two infantry divisions in prepared defenses along the coastline with two airborne divisions and seven panzer divisions in reserve.[14] The infantry divisions were below authorized strength and composed of Soldiers recovering from wounds received on the Eastern Front. Army Group B was low in priority for supplies, equipment, and reinforcements. Germany's strategic focus was on the Eastern Front where they fought the Soviet Union for close to three years. As of June 1, 1944, Germany had 147 infantry divisions and eighteen panzer divisions arrayed against

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[11] Eisenhower Foundation, *D-Day*, 82-83.

[12] Ibid., 66.

[13] Eisenhower Foundation, *D-Day*, 69-70.

[14] Hastings, *Overlord,* 62.

the Soviets.[15] The allied air sorties neutralized the German Luftwaffe through attrition which led

to the Luftwaffe's refusal to conduct reconnaissance along the coastline. This failure coupled with

allied deception operations resulted in tactical surprise when Allied forces initiated naval

bombardments of coastal fortifications. If Germany had prioritized their defense against a cross

channel invasion, Allied casualties would have been even higher.
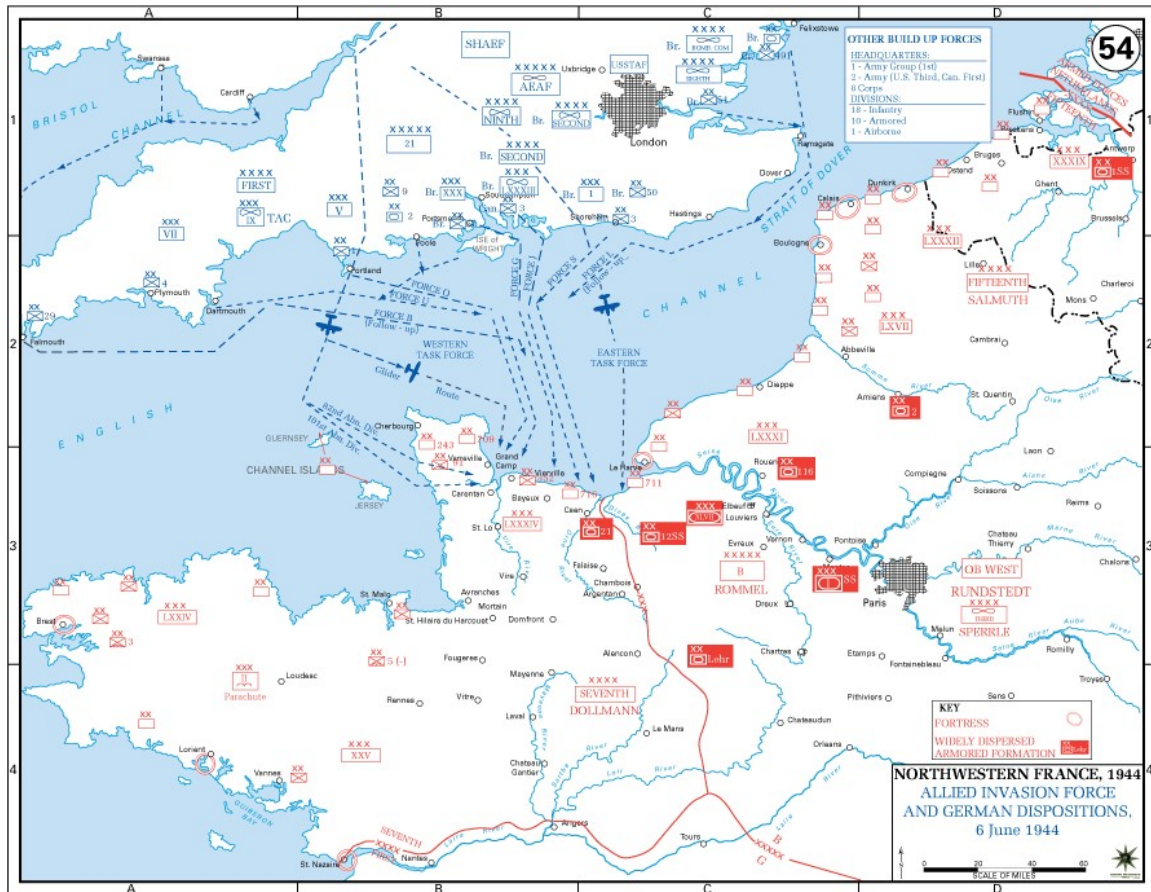
Figure 1.   German Dispositions in Northwestern France on June 6, 1944.
Source: West Point Department of History, "Allied Invasion Force and German Dispositions,
June 6, 1944," accessed March 9, 2018, https://www.westpoint.edu/history/sitepages
/wwii%20european%20theater.aspx.

On D-Day, the 4th Infantry Division waded onto Utah Beach under minimal enemy fire.

The German 709th Infantry Division quickly surrendered as they did not expect allied forces to

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[15] Ibid., 60.

land near them.[16] Major Frank H. Dowler, a former Illinois State Policeman, commanded the

4th MP Platoon in Operation Overlord.[17] The month before D-Day, his platoon's personnel

strength increased from seventy enlisted to 150 enlisted. The division commander believed that

the authorized Table of Organization and Equipment (TO&E) was inadequate to support the

division's amphibious landing. The Major Dowler waded ashore on D+3. His first priority was to

move vehicles off the beach and clear landing space. Soldiers from the 4th MP Platoon directed

traffic over one hundred miles of hardball roads. Major Dowler's second priority was German

prisoners. The 4th MP Platoon processed 9,957 German prisoners of war between June 8 and

June 29, 1944.[18] Major Dowler realized he did not have enough military policemen and requested

support.

Sergeant Leon Ripkowski served in the 202nd MP Company and supported the 4th

Infantry Division.[19] Sergeant Ripkowski attended infantry basic training before arriving in

England. He transferred to the 202nd MP Company along with a hundred other Soldiers. They

did not receive any police training. Sergeant Ripkowski hated his fellow military policemen. He

believed the majority of them transferred because of unsatisfactory performance in their previous

units. Sergeant Ripkowski remembered multiple examples when his security team of five military

policemen guarded 2,000 prisoners of war. He thought German prisoners preferred to surrender to

Americans over the British due to better rations. Ironically, he finally attended a two-week MP

[16] Hastings, *Overlord,* 88.

[17] US Army Service Forces, Technical Intelligence Report, Report Number 2091, July 16, 1945, Interview with Major Frank H. Dowler, commander of military platoon, 4th Infantry Division, on his experiences in France in 1944, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number NX-9321.

[18] Major Frank H. Dowler, Memorandum for Record, After Action Review, 4th Military Police Platoon Infantry Division, July 21, 1944, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number NX-9321, 1.

[19] US Army Service Forces, Report on Military Police Activities in the Mediterranean and European Theater, Report Number 407, April 13, 1945, Interview with Sergeant Leon Ripkowski, 202nd Military Police Company, on his experiences in North Africa, Italy, Southern France from April 5-October 13, 1944, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number N9090, 1.

course at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, in December 1944, after he had returned home from the European Theater!

The 1st Infantry Division landed on Omaha beach under heavy direct and indirect fire from the German defenders. The naval bombardments had not softened up the coastal defenses. The 1st Infantry Division took ten times more casualties on D-Day then the 4th Infantry Division a few miles away.[20] By D+1, Omaha Beach was an enormous traffic jam of vehicles and equipment.[21] 1st MP Platoon left England with two officers and fifty enlisted. When the traffic section was about to land on Omaha Beach, an enemy shell exploded on the landing craft deck wounding fifteen military policemen.[22] Private Allen swam one hundred yards under machine gun fire to rescue his wounded friend and bring him to shore. Lieutenant Charles M. Conover, although wounded by indirect fire, immediately established traffic control points in an attempt to move vehicles off the beach. Afterward, he personally conducted a reconnaissance of vehicle routes off the beach until he collapsed from blood loss. Lieutenant Conover received the Silver Star for his valor on Omaha Beach. This is an example of the bravery military policemen displayed on the beaches of Normandy and why they were critical to First Army's breakout.

First Army landed 75,000 total vehicles on the beaches of Utah and Omaha.[23] The 509th MP Battalion and the 518th MP Battalion supported First Army's landings. Prior to D-Day, allied air bombers destroyed bridges, roads, and railways in France. These bombings were effective in preventing German reinforcement but also impeded First Army's movement. The terrain did not support off road movement of heavily laden trucks and tanks, which constrained First Army's maneuver corridor. The lack of routes severely hampered First Army's initial momentum as they were initially unable to maneuver rapidly. MP battalions extended First

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[20] Hastings, *Overlord*, 88.

[21] Ibid., 96.

[22] Zaniewski, Combined Arms Research Library, Document Number N9321.

[23] US Army Service Forces, Military Police Activities in the Communication Zone, 272.

Army's operational reach through maximizing traffic efficiency on the limited roads. During movement off the beach, the hourly flow of traffic at intersections ranged from 1,000 vehicles to 1,700 vehicles in daylight.[24] At night, the flow of traffic slowed slightly, but never stopped due to the number of vehicles on the beachhead. The twenty-four hour operations taxed the limited number of military police. Traffic control was the most essential MP mission at the start of Operation Overlord.
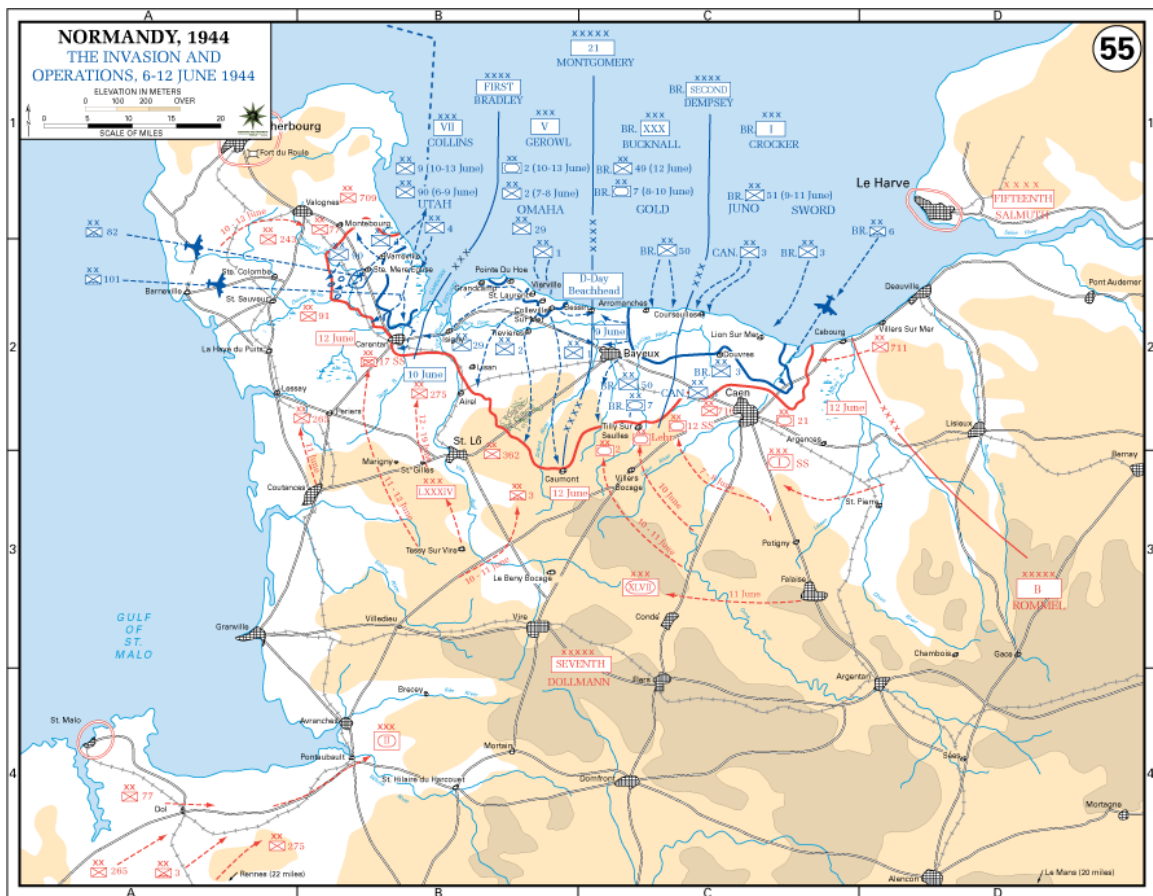

Figure 2.   Operation Overlord, June 6-12, 1944.
Source: West Point Department of History, World War II European Theater, "The Invasion and Operations, June 6-12, 1944," accessed March 9, 2018, https://www.westpoint.edu/history /sitepages/wwii%20european%20theater.aspx.

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[24] US Army Service Forces, Military Police Activities in the Communication Zone, 272.

Prisoner of war operations was the second most important mission during Operation Overlord. Sergeant Hugh F. Ferry served in the 1st MP Platoon from May 1942 until he contracted Malaria in May 1945.[25] He vividly remembered when his security section of eight had to guard 10,000 prisoners of war. Four military policemen searched the prisoners and four military policemen guarded a five-story building in which the prisoners lived. Military police processed 62,945 prisoners of war in Normandy between June and July 1944.[26] The enormous number of prisoners strained First Army's sustainment capacity.

On July 6, 1944, Lieutenant General George S. Patton secretly landed in France to take command of the Third Army.[27] He observed First Army's struggle to expand beyond the beachhead. To mitigate the problem of traffic control, four MP battalions deployed with Third Army. They directed over 500 companies on limited and narrow hardball roads.[28] General Patton's priority was to breakout from the beaches, swing east to protect First Army's right flank as they attacked toward St. Lo, and rapidly advance towards the Seine River. Third Army quickly advanced beyond their logistical tether due to limited hardball roads, damaged railroads, and distance from their base of operations. According to the US Army Transportation School, a single Infantry Division in World War II required 300,000 gallons of gasoline a day and an Armor Division needed 700,000 gallons of gasoline.[29] Third Army was near their culminating point of attack due to a shortage of fuel and ammunition. General Patton did not have the ability to sustain

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[25] US Army Service Forces, Technical Intelligence Report, Report Number 776, June 22, 1945, Interview with Sergeant Hugh F. Ferry, military police platoon, 1st Infantry Division, on his experience in Africa, Sicily, and France in 1944, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number NX-9321, 1.

[26] US Army Service Forces, Military Police Activities in the Communication Zone, 303.

[27] US Third Army, After Action Report, August 1, 1944-May 9, 1945, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number N11480-17-3, 16.

[28] Ibid., 101.

[29] US Army Transportation Museum, "The Red Ball Express, 1944," accessed November 3, 2017, http://www.transchool.lee.army.mil/museum/transportation%20museum/redballintro.htm.

his army beyond the Seine River. For an idea of how long and complex Third Army's supply routes were, see Appendix.

First Sergeant Marion M. Shirmer served the 512th MP Battalion as a company First Sergeant for four years.[30] His company waded ashore on D+33. First Sergeant Shirmer supervised traffic control in support of Third Army's breakout at St. Lo. His battalion of 540 men directed 15,000 vehicles in bumper to bumper traffic. The 512th MP Battalion solely conducted traffic control at the exclusion of all other tasks such as law enforcement. He recalled one armored infantry regiment with over 10 percent of the formation drunk. The regimental commander ordered the MPs in the intersection to arrest four of his Soldiers for drunken insubordination. First Sergeant Shirmer instructed his Soldier to disregard the Colonel's order. First Sergeant Shirmer thought the Colonel displayed a lack of moral courage in command. General Patton was a strict disciplinarian who zealously enforced a policy of no fraternization with German women. First Sergeant Shirmer recalled General Patton's order to punish violators of the fraternization policy and their commanding officer. General Patton ordered every Soldier in his command to watch newsreels which depicted German atrocities to make them ashamed to fraternize. First Sergeant Shirmer believed this method was very effective and reduced the amount of fraternization in the army.

Private Glenn H. Lee also served in the 512th MP Battalion from March 1944 to March 1945.[31] Private Lee arrived in France on July 16 to support Third Army's rapid movement. Lee thought General Patton moved too fast and left behind too many Germans in the rear area. He vehemently complained about the requirement for traffic control personnel to wear white sleeves.

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[30] US Army Service Forces, Technical Intelligence Report, Report Number 1606, June 25, 1945, Interview with First Sergeant Marion M Shirmer, 512th Military Police Battalion, Third Army, D+33–May 45, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number NX-9321, 1.

[31] US Army Service Forces, Technical Intelligence Report, Report Number T/PFI-2218, June 13, 1945, Interview with Private Glenn H Lee, Company A, 512th Military Police Battalion, operations in France and Germany from March 1944-March 1945, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number NX-9321, 1.

These white sleeves made military police extremely conspicuous at night and a target for enemy snipers. Private Lee recounted multiple examples of when bypassed Germans shot at hit him while he conducted traffic control. He noted that Japanese Soldiers were better marksman and hoped that military policemen in the Pacific did not wear white sleeves. Private Glenn Lee was wounded in Germany on March 13, 1945, and returned to the United States after eight weeks in a hospital.

Third Army's rapid penetration toward the Seine River consumed the excess supplies stockpiled in France. To support First and Third Army operations beyond the Seine River, the Advance Section's Motor Transport Brigade planned to stockpile 100,000 tons of supplies (excluding fuel) near Chartres by September 1, 1944.[32] The hastily repaired railroads could only handle about 18,000 tons, leaving 82,000 tons to be trucked in.[33] To accomplish this herculean task, the "Red Ball Express" was created. The name stemmed from a railroad concept of through freight expedited to its destination. The Red Ball Express was a transportation operation which used access-controlled routes. The Motor Transit Brigade received operational control over 118 truck companies and exclusive use of two parallel highways between St. Lo and Chartres.[34]

The Red Ball Express started on August 25, 1944. On the first day, sixty-seven truck companies delivered 4,482 tons of supplies. Five days later, 132 truck companies; with a total vehicle strength of 5,958 vehicles delivered 12,342 tons of supplies.[35] Military police played a crucial role in ensuring those supplies reached Soldiers on the front line. The 783rd MP Battalion, 769th MP Battalion, and 518th MP Battalion conducted traffic control along the Red Ball

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[32] Roland G. Ruppenthal, *Logistical Support of the Armies: Volume I: May 1941-September 1944* (Washington, DC: Center of Military History, 1953), 558-559.

[33] Ibid., 558.

[34] Ibid., 560.

[35] Ibid.

Express. Sergeant Walter A. Suchara served in the 518th MP Police Battalion.[36] His traffic control section carried the 1903 Springfield rifle without a bullet loaded in the chamber due to fear of a negligent discharge. Sergeant Suchara thought the US Army issued too much traffic control equipment and hated using permanent route signage. He once received a reprimand for a lost sign. Instead, he used cardboard from C-Ration to make temporary signs which he did not have to collect when his unit moved to a new area. Sergeant Suchara complained that drivers would park their trucks along the route and walk into a town. Sergeant Suchara would patrol the local brothels, arrest service members in various stages of dress, and escort them back to their trucks. As drivers arrived near the front lines, many would disable their trucks just outside of the enemy's artillery range. The more dishonorable drivers sold their cargo on the French black market.[37]

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[36] US Army Service Forces, Technical Intelligence Report, Report Number 715, July 18, 1945, Military Police Activities in European Theater, Interview with Sergeant Walter A. Suchara, 518th Military Police Battalion, First Army, on his experiences in England, France, and Belgium between December 1943-January 1945, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number NX-9321, 2.

[37] Ruppenthal, *Logistical Support of the Armies*, 571.
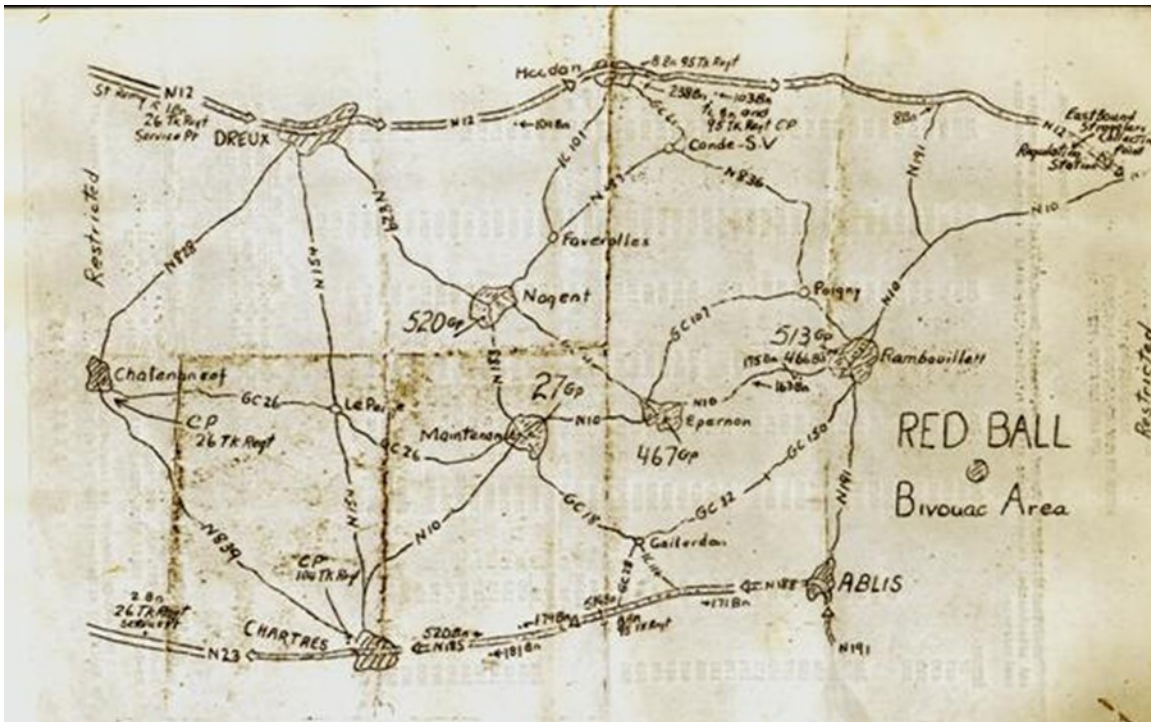
Figure 3.   Photograph of a hand drawn map detailing routes on the "Red Ball Express."
Source: US Army Transportation Museum, "The Red Ball Express, 1944," accessed November 3, 2017, http://www.transchool.lee.army.mil/museum/transportation%20museum/redballintro.htm.

The lack of a speed-limit on the Red Ball Express; was another major issue. Inexperienced drivers, overloaded trucks, and high speeds resulted in a high number of accidents.[38] Military police tried to reduce the number of accidents through traffic control points and route signage. They struggled to ensure only authorized military vehicles were on the Red Ball Express. Four MP battalions were not sufficient to prevent civilian vehicles and horse drawn carts from moving against the stream of traffic.[39] Military police placed route signage to reduce confusion at confusing intersections. Sergeant Ripkowski, 202nd MP Company, developed an innovative solution for route signage. He obtained five-gallon gasoline cans and punched holes in

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[38] US Army Transportation Museum, "The Red Ball Express, 1944."

[39] Ruppenthal, *Logistical Support of the Armies*, 564.

them in the shapes of arrows or to spell words such as "slow," "danger," or "slick road."[40] The cans were placed at key points with kerosene lamps inside of the cans to illuminate them to vehicles but not to aircraft. Military police also acted as guides during confusing parts of the route to ensure did not intentionally or unintentionally become lost. The Red Ball Express met its initial goal of delivering 89,000 tons on September 5, 1944.[41] Due to Third Army's momentum, the operation continued until mid-September and resulted in the transportation of a staggering total of 135,000 tons.

While traffic control was the primary way military police extended a division's operational reach, pilferage prevention was another method to extend endurance. The enormous amount of supplies transported every day was susceptible to theft. Technical Sergeant 5 Joseph G. Salm was a Criminal Investigation Division (CID) agent attached to the 802nd MP Battalion.[42] He was born in Egypt to American parents and spoke fluent English, Arabic, and French. Technical Sergeant 5 Salm observed that US Army weapons and ammunition accounted for over 25 percent of black market sales. The remaining 75 percent of black market items transactions were luxury items such as cigarettes and coffee. Salm believed that black market sales resulted from inadequate guards at supply depots, docks, and railyards.

United States Army equipment sold at a very high profit on the black market. Technical Sergeant James H. Hutchinson served as the Provost Sergeant of the 3263 Ordinance Base Depot

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[40] US Army Service Forces, Report on Military Police Activities in the Mediterranean and European Theater, Report Number 407, Interview with Ripkowski.

[41] Ruppenthal, *Logistical Support of the Armies*, 560.

[42] US Army Service Forces, Technical Intelligence Report, Report Number T/PFI-2232, June 14, 1945, Military Police Activities in European Theater, Interview with Technical Sergeant Joseph G Salm, CID Investigation, 802 Military Police Battalion, Middle East Command on black market operations, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number NX-9321, 1.

Company in Fontainebleau, France.[43] Hutchinson was a World War I veteran and he observed a radical shift in the French economy between World War I and World War II. He studied black market activities in France out of academic interest as his civilian job included merchandising and price control. Hutchinson observed the French citizen belief that the Franc will lose all its value in inflation. As a result, French citizens bought or traded for American or British currency. The official currency exchange rate was fifty Francs to one US Dollar while the black market exchange rate was 250 Francs to one US Dollar. Black market sales were five time more profitable for US service members. Currency manipulation was a common activity. Hutchinson observed US Army personnel routinely requested a United States money order then sold the currency as a rate of one hundred Francs to one US Dollar. Normally, US officials approved money orders only in amounts up to a service member's base pay. The one exception to this rule was money won in a poker game. Hutchinson wryly noted that every Soldier he met seemed to have won last night's poker game. Four years of German occupation reduced the supply of luxury and necessity items which made black market activities both respectable and necessary to survive.[44] French society normalized theft and black market operations which made it acceptable to continue when the US Army arrived.

Black market activities reduced the amount of supplies that reached the front lines which lowered morale. Master Sergeant Albert C. Farnue served as the Operations Sergeant of 6th Field Artillery Battalion, 37th Infantry Division.[45] He felt that rear echelon Soldiers stole cigarette

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[43] US Army Service Forces, Technical Intelligence Report, Report Number 796, European Theater, June 15, 1945, Interview with T/SGT James M Hutchinson, Provost Sergeant, 3263 Ordnance Base Depot Company, Fontainebleau, France, on black market sales in France, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number NX-9321, 1.

[44] US Army Service Forces, Military Police Activities in the Communication Zone, Section F Black Market Operations, 64.

[45] US Army Service Forces, Technical Intelligence Report, Report Number 1575, Information from Field Artillery Operations Sergeant, June 19, 1945, Interview with Master Sergeant Albert C. Farnue, Operations Sergeant, 6th Field Artillery Battalion, 37th Infantry Division on his experience in Bougainville and Luzon between July 1942-April 1945, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number NX-9321, 1.

cases and sold them on the black market. Master Sergeant Farnue strongly believed this theft was why his front-line Soldiers only received one pack every two days. One case of cigarettes (fifty packs) sold for $1,000 and twenty pounds of coffee sold for $12.[46] The high profit margin on pilfered goods was a hard temptation for civilian day workers on docks to resist.

The United States shipped almost two million tons of supplies to England in preparation for Operation Overlord.[47] First Lieutenant Leonard J. Pietkowski served as the Ship Transportation Officer aboard the S/S JOHN H. B. LATROBE, a Liberty cargo vessel.[48] These large shipments of supplies arrived daily and required thousands of civilian day workers to unload the equipment. Lieutenant Pietkowski watched incredulously as longshoremen loaded cases and crates of supplies in cargo nets and dropped them on the ground on the Le Havre Dock. When the crates and cases of supplies hit the ground, a few of them would break each time. Workers placed the broken crates out of sight and continued to unload the ship. When Pietkowski inspected the broken crates, he realized the civilian laborers had slowly pilfered their content. Lieutenant Pietkowski noticed longshoremen wore long socks over the bottom of their pants which turned their pant legs into a hiding place. Workers also hid goods in their large lunch pails and walked out of the dockyard without any searches. Pietkowski observed a common method of pilferage was to load the cargo nets in a way that resulted in bags of flour to fall into the water. The bags of flour floated downstream where French canal barges waited to retrieve them.

The high number of stolen goods from the Liverpool Docks resulted in the 295th MP Company's assignment to the dockyard. Private First Class Howard R. Cook served in the

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[46] US Army Service Forces, Office, PMG, Semi Annual Report: June 6, 1944-December 31, 1944, Criminal Investigations Branch, European Theater of Operations, 1945, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number N9993.

[47] Clodfelter, *Warfare and Armed Conflicts*, 487.

[48] US Army Service Forces, Technical Intelligence Report, Report Number 794, Pilferage Modus Operandi at Le Havre, June 15, 1945, Interview with First Lieutenant Leonard J. Pietkowski, Ship Transportation Officer, S/S John H B LATROBE, on supply pilferage in docks, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number NX-9321, 1

295th MP Company from October 1942 to February 1945.[49] Private Cook believed that if a guard was not within sight of the supplies, workers would steal them. The 295th MP Company assigned two guards to each ship and each pile of broken crates. The high number of guards required for the Liverpool Docks resulted in the company receiving 175 more Soldiers.

Racism was prevalent during this period. African-American Soldiers unloaded ships when too few civilian workers were available. Private Cook suspected that African-American Soldiers were dangerous and stole significantly more than the longshoremen. Private Cook carried a loaded rifle when African-Americans worked but only a club only when longshoremen worked. Guards searched every civilian worker and African-American Soldier when they left the dockyard. English civilian police officers paired with the American military policemen at the dock exits and arrested English day workers that tried to steal supplies. Private Cook respected the English Bobbies as they were extremely professional and experienced, unlike the majority of his company. Guards also prevented workers from using cargo nets to unload supplies. These two measures reduced the pilferage of supplies.

Dockyards were not the only area vulnerable to theft. African-American Soldiers and day laborers loaded supplies onto rail cars when they arrived in France. The supply dumps at railroad marshalling yards were mostly unguarded. Plain clothed military police and CID agents investigated thefts at the largest railyards to deter theft. Pilferage prevention became a priority due to the high amount of equipment loss. Between June 6 and December 31, 1944, the US Army recovered supplies worth $15,243.43 from civilians and $102,735.66 from US Soldiers.[50] With an exchange ratio of 250 Francs to one US Dollar, those recovered supplies were worth 29,494,772.5 Francs on the black market. The value of those supplies adjusted for inflation is $1,633,970.63 as

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[49] US Army Service Forces, Technical Intelligence Report, Report Number 642, Military Police Activities in England and France, June 26, 1945, Interview with Private First Class Howard R. Cook, 295th Military Police Company, on preventing pilferage of supplies in docks from October 1942 - February 1945, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number NX-9321, 1.

[50] US Army Service Forces, Military Police Activities in the Communication Zone, Section F Black Market Operations, 64.

of December 2017.[51] As the Allies approached Berlin in 1944, the amount of supplies unloaded in Europe increased to support the enormous number of prisoners of war.

At the end of 1944, German units began to surrender in mass as Allied forces closed in on Germany. As of January 31, 1945, the European Theater had control of 342,371 prisoners of war and already shipped 305,473 German prisoners of war to the United States.[52] The number of Germans surrendering increased as Allied forces advanced closer to Germany.

One extreme example was the surrender of Field Marshal Walter Model's Army Group B in the Ruhr region of Germany in April 1945. Lead elements of General Omar Bradley's 12th Army Group and Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery's 21st Army Group completed a massive encirclement of Army Group B on April 1, 1945.[53] Field Marshal Model received new of Germany's defeats on the Eastern Front and lost hope that Germany could win the war. His duty would never let him surrender his army, but he could not let his men die in vain. Field Marshal Model decided to dissolve Army Group B. He first discharged youths and older men on April 15. Two days later, he ordered combat troops to return home without their weapons.[54] His army correctly interpreted the orders as implicit authorization to surrender.

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[51] US Department of Labor. "Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator," accessed December 30, 2017, https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm.

[52] Colonel A. B. Johnson, Executive Officer of the Provost Marshal General, Report to the Commandant, Command and General Staff College, 1945, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number NZ7201-B. Report focused on prisoner of war operations.

[53] Charles B. MacDonald, *The Last Offensive: United States Army in World War II: The European Theater of Operations* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1973), 358-359.

[54] Ibid., 369.
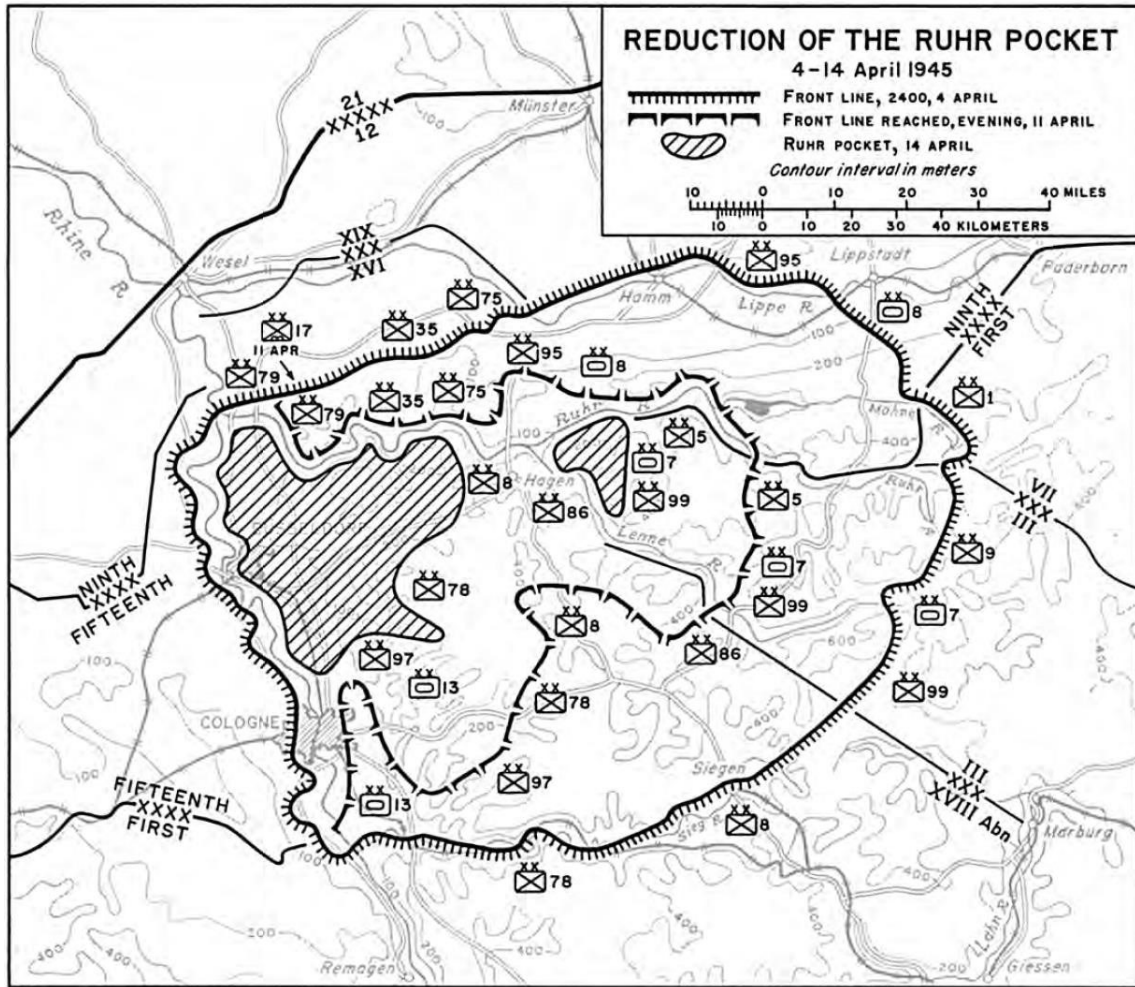
Figure 4.   Encirclement of German Army Group B in the Ruhr Pocket, April 4-14, 1945. *Source*: Charles B. MacDonald, *The Last Offensive: United States Army in World War II: The European Theater of Operations* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1973), 363.

The allied armies were unprepared for the mass surrender of 317,000 Soldiers in Army Group B.[55] This influx of prisoners strained the sustainment capacity of US 12th Army. Engineers did not have the construction materials or time to build temporary housing. Military policemen initially strung a few strands of barbed wire around large open fields and directed German prisoners of war to them. Soon, military policemen directed German prisoners into open spaces off the roads and left them unguarded. German prisoners stayed in these open fields until escorted to the rear area.

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[55] MacDonald, *The Last Offensive*, 372.

Figure 5.   A picture of German prisoners of war in the Ruhr Pocket.
Source: Charles B. MacDonald, *The Last Offensive: United States Army in World War II: The European Theater of Operations* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1973), 371.

First Lieutenant James E. Lynn commanded the 417th MP Escort Guard Company from January 1944 to April 1945.[56] He joined the US Army in 1928, when he was fifteen years old. He worked his way up to First Sergeant of a training company before he commissioned as an officer. The 417th MP Escort Guard Company arrived in France on August 16, 1944, with three officers and 132 enlisted. Lieutenant Lynn's company escorted German prisoners of war from the front line to the prisoner holding areas near Paris. Lieutenant Lynn complained of low morale in his

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[56] US Army Service Forces, Technical Intelligence Report, Report Number T/PFI-2348, June 25, 1945, Interview with First Lieutenant James E. Lynn, 417th Military Police Company Commander, January 1944-April 1945, on prisoner of war operations in Europe, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number NX-9321, 1.

company due to the requirement to paint their leggings, helmets, gloves, and equipment white. He believed that the white equipment and clothing made his Soldiers a target for snipers. Also, the white clothing and equipment was very labor intensive to keep clean. The 417th MP Escort Company did not have a permanent headquarters. Instead, they received orders to support different divisions based upon need. Lynn believed these temporary relationships resulted in unfeasible and risky orders.

Private First Class George R. Stickelmaier served in the 377th MP Escort Guard Company from January 1944 until he received a Purple Heart in France on November 1944.[57] He trained at the Florence Internment Camp in Arizona which housed Italian prisoners of war. Private Stickelmaier felt very fortunate to receive this realistic training and believed it prepared him for every situation he experienced in France. He was one of the very few military policemen to receive extensive training on prisoner of war operations. Stickelmaier's company operated near the front lines. The company temporarily supported at various times the 3rd Infantry Division, 36th Infantry Division, and 45th Infantry Division. Escort guard companies were always the first echelon to process German prisoners at the point of capture. Private Stickelmaier never set up prisoner quarters due to the fluid forward line of troops. Instead, his platoon strung barbed wire in fields off the road and directed prisoners into them. Prisoners received a shovel to dig a fox hole for their own protection as the German Army frequently shelled prisoner of war enclosures. Stickelmaier ensured his prisoners received a raincoat to protect themselves from the weather and the same medical care as US Soldiers. German prisoners of war ate the same C or K rations that he did. When his platoon gathered enough prisoners, they would march them to permanent stockades in the rear area.

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[57] US Army Service Forces, Technical Intelligence Report, Report Number 671, July 5, 1945, Interview with Private First Class George R. Stickelmaier, 377th Military Police Escort Guard Company, January 1944-November 1944, on prisoner of war operations in Europe, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number NX-9321, 1.

There were too few military policemen to handle to exponential growth of prisoners. Commanders tasked units from other MOSs with military police missions. Artillery and tank destroyer battalions guarded prisoners of war and conducted traffic control.[58] In recognition of this deficit of military policemen, the US Army raised sixteen new MP battalions between the fall of 1944 and spring of 1945.[59] To create these units, the US Army transferred Soldiers from other MOSs with battle exhaustion and light duty profiles. Experienced military policemen left their old units to form a core cadre in the new units. This method reduced the effectiveness of all units involved. The Soldiers transferred to serve in these MP battalions created personnel shortages in their original units.[60]

Operation Overlord was the military way to achieve a political aim of final victory. It was successful because of Allied logistical preparation and individual Soldiers bravery under fire along with a distracted German army. Military policemen were crucial to quickly direct First Army off the beaches. First and Third Army's advance towards Germany relied on long lines of communication back to the beaches. Prisoner of war operations preserved a division's combat power. Pilferage prevention extended the division's endurance. First and Third Army maintained their rapid momentum and prevented early culmination in Operation Overlord. If Germany had invested more in coastline defenses, Allied success would have been even more reliant upon rapid maneuver off the beaches. In a future forcible entry operation against a strategic competitor, military police support will be critical to a division's capacity to rapidly seize lodgment and maintain momentum.

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[58] US Army Service Forces, Military Police Activities in the Communication Zone, 230.

[59] Ibid., 112.

[60] US Army Service Forces, History of the European Theater Provost Marshal, 9.

World War II Military Police Doctrine and Organization Analysis

> The relation of motor transport to combat effectiveness emphasizes the importance of good traffic control. Mobility is the basis of all operational success. Unless tactical movements of troops can be executed quickly and supply operations maintained in the necessary manner, the striking power of an army is severely restricted and its security from enemy attack is greatly impaired.
>
> — Field Manual 29-5, *Military Police*

Doctrine

The US Army Military Police Corps is one of the youngest branches in the US Army. The Secretary of War activated the US Army Military Police Corps on September 26, 1941.[61] Infantry and cavalry soldiers and officers received orders for the newly established US Army Military Police Corps. While detailed to the military police, they remained members of their original branch. The tradition of temporarily standing up provost units or constabulary units to keep law and order dates to the Revolutionary War in 1776. Military police in World War II needed doctrine that was practical and easy to understand.

The MP Corps did not have adequate leadership or infrastructure to publish doctrine. The Chief of Infantry supervised the activation of the MP Corps and published Field Manual (FM) 29-5, *Military Police*, on December 8, 1941.[62] The Chief of Infantry believed that the primary tasks of military policemen were traffic control, prisoner of war operations, and law and order. The new manual was a practical guide for immediate application by Soldiers transferred into MP units. FM 29-5 focused only on the basic knowledge a new military policeman needed. Prior to the formalization of operational art's definition, military policemen understood that traffic control aided the commander in the arrangement of tactical actions in time and space. For military police,

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[61] US War Department, Memorandum AG 320.2, Organization of the Corps of Military Police, September 26, 1941, accessed February 13, 2018, https://history.army.mil/html/faq/branches/AGO-AG_320.2(9-26-41)-SAB_26_Sep_1941(amended).pdf.

[62] US War Department, Basic Field Manual (FM) 29-5, *Military Police* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1941), 26.

time considerations are how many vehicles can most efficiently pass through an intersection and how long between convoys. Space considerations focus on the most efficient use of road networks, one-way routes, and underpasses. Traffic control was over half of the field manual, the next largest part focused on prisoners of war.

Field Manual 29-5 focused on the initial capture and evacuation of prisoners of war. Front line troops disarmed prisoners and escorted them to the division collection point located on terrain feature behind the front line. Military policemen at the division collection point searched the prisoners, temporarily guarded them, and escorted them to the rear. It does not give specific instructions on how to search prisoners of war or how set up a division collection point. This lack of step by step instructions hampered military policemen at the start of World War II.

On June 14, 1944, FM 19-5, *Military Police*, became the capstone MP manual and incorporated many lessons learned after three years of war. The manual focused on traffic control and prisoner of war operations. The extended lines of communication and enormous number of vehicles on the road required a synchronized traffic control plan to limit congestion at chokepoints. FM 19-5 reiterated the essential role military police play in supporting the division's maneuver and highlighted the military police's most important responsibility which was to keep traffic moving.[63] The new manual corrected FM 29-5's biggest weakness through explicit tactics, techniques, and procedures on prisoner of war operations. The formalized procedure to evacuate prisoners front the front line to prisoner camps is FM 19-5's legacy.

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[63] US War Department, Basic Field Manual (FM) 19-5, *Military Police* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1944), 8.
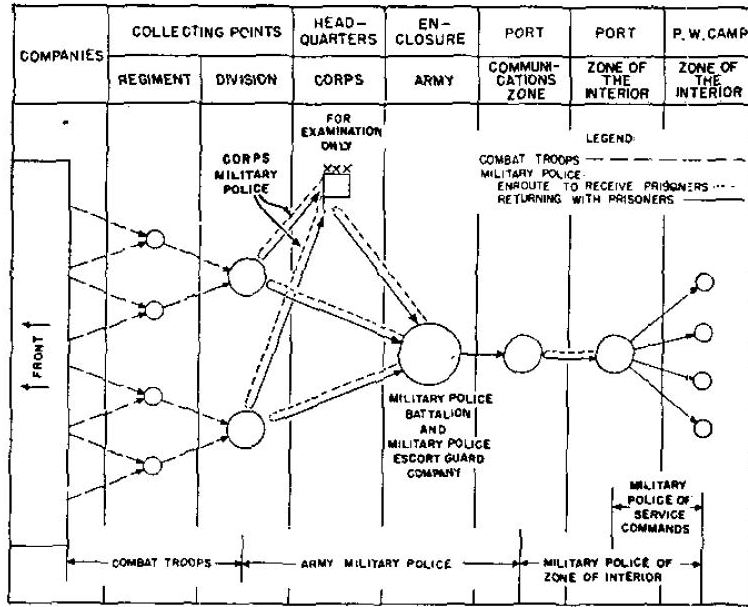
Figure 41. Evacuation of prisoners of war—schematic.

Figure 6.   FM 19-5 Schematic of Prisoner of War Evacuations.
Source: US War Department, Basic Field Manual (FM) 19-5, *Military Police* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1944), 166.

Field Manual 19-5 incorporated lessons learned from three years of prisoner of war

operations and gave a step by step process. It also incorporated new traffic control techniques.

FM 19-5 added a chapter on Military Police in occupied territory that gave steps to prevent

pilferage and reduce black market transactions. These changes were a substantial improvement

over FM 29-5, because they gave practical procedures for untrained military policemen to follow.

Organization

At the start of World War II, divisions had an organic MP platoon. A division MP

platoon's authorized TO&E strength was sixty-nine enlisted and four officers.[64] MP companies

and platoons routinely exceeded their personnel authorization due to the enormous manpower

requirement of traffic control and prisoner of war missions. Senior commanders internally

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[64] US Army Service Forces, Technical Intelligence Report, Report Number 776, Interview with Sergeant Hugh F. Ferry, 2.

increased the personnel in their MP units through internal transfers of Soldiers to MP units without any training.

Private First Class Howard R. Cook vividly recalled an example of when his company received a large influx of untrained Soldiers. [65] He trained as an Engineer and deployed to England with an Engineer Company in October 1942. Private Cook transferred to the 295th MP Company shortly after he arrived. He learned through experience on the job. The 295th MP Company arrived in England with personnel strength of one hundred enlisted and four officers. Private Cook complained that the company did not have enough military policemen to guard the Liverpool docks. The 295th MP Company soon received 175 additional enlisted, bringing the personnel total to 275 Soldiers. The new Soldiers received zero police training and had to quickly conduct hands on training.

Colonel H. J. P. Harding was an Infantry Observer in the Italy Campaign from January 29 to February 16, 1944.[66] Colonel Harding noticed a standard practice of a thirty-person MP platoon attached to each Infantry Regiment. The authorized personnel strength of a divisional MP platoon was sixty-nine enlisted and four officers. He visited the division G-1, Lieutenant Colonel H.W. Dobbyn, to inquire of this novel innovation. Dobbyn explained the division trained 250 military policemen before the Italy campaign based on after action reports from earlier campaigns. The division quickly learned that each infantry regiment required an organic MP platoon to support their operations. The detachment of three platoons left the division with a company of 160 military policemen. Colonel Harding was so impressed with the results of this effective organization that he recommended the Department of the Army formalize the practice in

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[65] US Army Service Forces, Technical Intelligence Report, Report Number 642, Interview with Cook.

[66] US Army Service Forces, AGF Board Report, NATO, A-127; OPD #144, Lessons from Cassino and Anzio: Corps of Military Police, April 17, 1944, Interview with Colonel H. J. P. Harding, Infantry Observer, Italy, January 29-February 16, 1944, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number N7209, 1.

an updated TO&E. In early 1945, divisions received an organic MP company with a TO&E of 120 enlisted and four officers due to complaints from senior officers such as Colonel Harding.[67]

After Germany surrendered to the Allies, the US Army established a General Board for the European Theater of Operations on June 17, 1945.[68] The General Board's purpose was to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the US Army's strategy, tactics, and organization in the European Theater. The study focused on the challenges each military occupational specialty faced in the European Theater and provided recommendations to solve them. The General Board published 131 reports total.

The European Theater Board sent a survey on Military Police TO&Es to all divisions and up in the European Theater.[69] Every division, corps, and army reported that the current TO&E was not large enough to support their requirements. Division commanders informally solved this problem by transferring Soldiers from infantry, engineer, field artillery, and cavalry units. This informal solution reduced the strength of combat units and reduced the effectiveness of MP units that did not have time to train the influx of personnel. The European Theater Board proposed a change to the basic MP company authorization from 158 enlisted Soldiers to 202 enlisted Soldiers in TO&E 19-37. The new TO&E organized a platoon into three squads of sixteen Soldiers led by a Lieutenant and Staff Sergeant. This proposed change to four squads of twelve Soldiers to increase flexibility in assigning tasks. The European Theater Board also recommended and addition of two trained agents from the CID to each platoon. The addition of two trained CID agents would give platoons the capability to conduct technical investigations in support of divisions.

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[67] US Army Service Forces, Technical Intelligence Report, Report Number 2091, Interview with Dowler.

[68] US Army Combined Arms Center, "Reports of the General Board, U.S. Forces, European Theater," February 18, 2018, accessed March 13, 2018, https://usacac.army.mil/organizations/cace/carl/eto.

[69] US Army Forces, European Theater Board, "Table of Organization and Equipment Number 19-55, Military Police Battalion," Study No 104, Bad Nauheim, Germany, 1945-1946, Exhibits 9-11.

Table 1.   Military Police Company proposed TO&E 19-37.

PROPOSED T/O 19-37, MILITARY POLICE COMPANY, ARMY

Section 1 - Organization

		Unit	Technician grade	3 M. P. platoons (each)				
				Co headquarters	Plat headquarters	3 squads (each)	Total platoon	Total company
1		Captain		1				1
2		First lieutenant		1	a1		1	4
3		Total commissioned		2	1		1	5
4		First sergeant		1				1
5		Staff sergeant, including		4	1		1	7
6		Mess (824)		(1)				(1)
7		Motor (813)		(1)				(1)
8		Operations		(1)				(1)
9		Supply (821)		(1)				(1)
10		Military police (677)			(1)		(1)	(3)
11		Sergeant, including		1		1	3	10
12		Clerk, company (405)		(1)				(1)
13		Military police (677)				(1)	(3)	(9)
14		Corporal, including				1	3	9
15		Military police (677)				(1)	(3)	(9)
16		Technician, grade 4		4				4
17		Technician, grade 5 including		9	3		3	18
18		Private, first class		3	5	b2	11	36
19		Private		9		b12	36	117
20		Armorer-artificer (511)	5	c(1)				(1)
21		Clerk, general (055)		(1)				(1)
22		Clerk, typist (405)			d(1)		(1)	(3)
23		Cook (060)	4	(3)				(3)
24		Cook (060)	5	(3)				(3)
25		Cooks helper (062)		(3)				(3)
26		Mechanic, automobile (014)	4	(1)				(1)
27		Mechanic, automobile (014)	5	e(1)				(1)
28		Mechanic, motorcycle (138)	5	(1)				(1)
29		Military police (677)			d(1)	b(2)	(7)	(21)
30		Military police (677)				b(12)	(36)	(108)
31		Motorcyclist (378)	5	(1)	(3)		(3)	(10)
32		Motorcyclist (378)		(1)	(3)		(3)	(10)
33		Truckdriver, light (345)	5	f(2)				(2)
34		Truckdriver, light (345)		d(1)				(1)
35		Private, basic (521)		(6)				(6)
36		Total enlisted		31	9	16	57	202
37		Aggregate		33	10	16	58	207

Source: US Army Forces, European Theater Board, "Table of Organization and Equipment Number 19-55, Military Police Battalion," Study No 104, Bad Nauheim, Germany, 1945-1946, Exhibit 9, 1.

At the end of World War II, the General Board for the European Theater of Operations

proposed a TO&E of 202 enlisted and five officers for an MP company. The US Army did not

fully implement TO&E 19-37. Instead, it raised the authorized enlisted strength to 164. Recently,

the organization of the US Army Military Police Corps changed in response to operations in Iraq

and Afghanistan.

Global War on Terrorism: 2001 through 2003

> From countering the IED threat to fundamentally reshaping detention and interrogation
> operations to revamping contingency contracting procedures to training the Iraqi army
> and police, they led a transformation of the way in which the U.S. military prepares for
> and conducts 21st-century conflict.
> — General George W. Casey, *Strategic Reflections: Operation Iraqi Freedom*
> *July 2004-February 2007*

American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center on

the morning of September 11, 2001. Almost thirty minutes later, United Airlines Flight 175

crashed into the Southern Tower and American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon. A

fourth flight, United Airlines Flight 93, crashed into an open field in Pennsylvania after

passengers resisted the hijackers. The attacks killed close to 3,000 civilians and injured thousands

more.[70] Intelligence analyst identified Al-Qaeda, a radical Islamic terrorist organization founded

by Osama bin Laden, as responsible for the attacks. American SOF infiltrated Afghanistan

twenty-six days later and conducted attacks against the Taliban regime and their Al-Qaeda

allies.[71] These attacks were the start of Operation Enduring Freedom and the opening act in the

United States' Global War on Terrorism.

Prior to the GWOT, the US Army's paradigm of war was conventional warfare fought by

states. Counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism became the new set of beliefs that underpinned

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[70] Donald P. Wright et al., *A Different Kind of War: The United States Army in Operation Enduring Freedom, October 2001-September 2005* (Fort Leavenworth, KS: Combat Studies Institute Press, 2006), 1.

[71] Ibid., 51.

the US Army's new paradigm. The US Army Military Police Corps adapted their traditional tasks in response. Prisoner of war operations were the priority for military police, but with a different focus. The focus was on long term detention operations instead of short-term operations at the point of capture. Traffic control was the second priority and focused specifically on security of logistic convoys. The third priority for military police was the prevention of looting and maintenance of order in cities.

General Tommy Franks commanded US Central Command and spearheaded the plan and execution of Operation Enduring Freedom. This campaign was unique as it relied upon a small footprint of SOF collaborated with local anti-Taliban militias and supported by air power. The most powerful of these militias was the Northern Alliance composed of Tajiks, Uzbeks, and Hazara ethnic tribes. The Northern Alliance seized the regional Taliban center of power, Mazar-e-Sharif, on November 9 with help from American SOF and air strikes.[72] The Northern Alliance pressed their advantage and seized the strategically important cities of Taloqan and Konduz two weeks later. By the end of November, northern Afghanistan was firmly under Northern Alliance control.

Sergeant Tony Rosado was in the Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course when the World Trade Center fell.[73] Two months later, his MP platoon from Fort Hood, Texas, landed at Bagram Air Field. Sergeant Rosado's platoon set up a temporary prisoner holding area which consisted of four concertina wire enclosures with latrines and wooden towers for observation. The Northern Militia initially processed the majority of Taliban prisoners. US Army Military Police only guarded the most important prisoners labelled high-value targets. The platoon processed one to fifteen prisoners a day in November and transferred them to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Sergeant Rosado always searched prisoners thoroughly as he routinely found grenades and pistols hidden

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[72] Wright et al., *A Different Kind of War*, 79.

[73] Gordon Cucullu and Chris Fontana, *Warrior Police: Rolling with America's Military Police in the World's Trouble Spots* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2011), 18.

in clothing. The Northern Alliance fighters never searched their prisoners and trusted them. A few weeks after Sergeant Rosado's arrival, there was a massive Taliban prisoner revolt at Quala-i Jangi.

Over 3,000 Taliban fighters surrendered to the Northern Alliance and promised not to engage in further hostility.[74] The Northern Alliance trusted the Taliban to honor their agreement as part of Afghan culture. The Northern Alliance did not search the 1,000 Taliban prisoners when they entered the makeshift Quala-i Jangi prison.[75] Quala-i Jangi was an old fortress located six miles west of Mazar-e Sharif. The prisoners revolted on November 25 and seized control of the facility. Mike Spann, an officer in the Central Intelligence Agency, died during the revolt and was the first American casualty. American and British SOF called in air strikes and flooded the basement with water until the Taliban surrendered six days later.[76] The Quala-i Jangi prisoner revolt was a crisis that illustrated the need for more military police to conduct prisoner of war operations. A few weeks after the revolt, multiple MP companies received orders for Afghanistan.[77] The prisoner holding area at Bagram moved into a two-story aircraft hangar to house the larger number of prisoners.

Colonel David Phillips was the director of security for the Pentagon on September 11 and led initial recovery efforts.[78] He recalled a sense of frustration on how quickly the Pentagon returned to mundane meetings and endless trivialities. Colonel Phillips quickly recognized that there were very few trained prison guards as identified by the 31E Military Occupation Specialty. Every military policeman received training on short term prisoner of war operations focused on point of capture to the prisoner holding area. The military policeman with a 31E designator

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[74] Wright et al., *A Different Kind of War*, 79.

[75] Cucullu and Fontana, *Warrior Police*, 24.

[76] Wright et al., *A Different Kind of War*, 84.

[77] Cucullu and Fontana, *Warrior Police*, 25.

[78] Ibid., 4-29.

received intensive training on the long-term detainment of prisoners in a permanent facility. The US Army almost cancelled the 31E program in 1999. He believed the need for detainee operations required specialized instruction and would increase exponentially. Military policemen were not located at the point of capture similar to World War II. Instead, most MP units worked in large detention centers on bases. Anti-Taliban forces seized Kandahar in December. Kandahar was significant as it is the birthplace of the Taliban. Military police built a large detention facility in Kandahar to house the thousands of Taliban prisoners. Colonel Phillips intuition was right. There were over 4,000 Taliban prisoners in MP custody by December 2001.[79]

Route security was the next major priority for MP units. Afghanistan is completely landlocked with a very limited road network. Truck convoys from Pakistan delivered the majority of supplies. Staff Sergeant Andrew Chessner conducted route security from the border with Pakistan, through the Khyber Pass, to Kabul.[80] His platoon escorted fifty to one hundred supply trucks and routinely fought through Taliban ambushes in the narrow Khyber Pass. Staff Sergeant Chessner felt like military police performed mechanized infantry tasks.

In early 2003, Colonel Phillips commanded the 89th MP Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas. He received a phone call from a senior Pentagon official who asked him to prepare a battalion to deploy to Iraq.[81] President George W. Bush's Administration believed Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and supported terrorism. Colonel Phillips studied Desert Storm and came to three conclusions. The first conclusion was the Iraqi Army would likely surrender in mass. Second, he believed traffic control on Iraq's limited roads would be critical due to the large invasion force. Third, Colonel Phillips thought military police needed to be with the lead units when they enter cities to conduct law and order. Prior to the US invasion, Saddam Hussein released all prisoners in Iraq which included murderers, thieves, and rapists. Colonel Phillips

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[79] Wright et al., *A Different Kind of War*, 219.

[80] Cucullu and Fontana, *Warrior Police*, 33-35.

[81] Ibid., 38-40.

worried that the Iraqi police would hide and there would be a large amount of looting and violence from the released convicts. The 18th MP Brigade from Germany and the 720th MP Battalion from Fort Hood deployed to Kuwait in preparation for the ground attack.[82]

On March 17, 2003, President Bush issued an ultimatum. Saddam Hussein and his sons must leave Iraq within forty-eight hours or face the US Military. Saddam Hussein ignored the ultimatum. Air strikes started on March 19 and averaged over 1,500 sorties a day.[83] Ground forces initiated their advance into Iraq from Kuwait on March 20 with limited MP support. The 720th MP Battalion from Fort Hood finally crossed the berm on April 4 and drove to Baghdad. The 18th MP Brigade left Kuwait on April 12. They arrived too late to prevent the mass looting and violence that Colonel Phillips feared.[84] Thieves stole Iraq's National Museum's collection of 170,000 ancient Islamic texts and Babylonian artifacts.

There were too few MP companies with the initial invasion force. Journalist broadcasted videos of the widespread looting and violence in Baghdad which led to criticism of the war. The 720th MP Battalion and the 18th MP Brigade could have prevented the mass looting and violence in Baghdad. Pentagon planners realized their mistake by mid-April and ordered over 2,000 additional military policemen to Iraq.[85] The problem was the lack of local forces to collaborate with. In Afghanistan, the Northern Coalition had legitimacy and secured occupied areas. There was no such group in Iraq. The Iraqi military and police were poorly paid, trained, and equipped. They hid when the invasion started, and the US Army was unprepared to maintain order in cities.

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[82] Cucullu and Fontana, *Warrior Police*, 44-47.

[83] E. J. Degen, Gregory Fontenot, David Tohn, *On Point: United States Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom* (Fort Leavenworth, KS: Combat Studies Institute Press, 2004), 86.

[84] Cucullu and Fontana, *Warrior Police*, 48.

[85] Ibid., 49.

On May 21, Paul Bremer, President Bush's personal envoy to Iraq, disbanded the Iraqi army and police.[86] The coalition struggled to provide security in major cities. Iraqi soldiers and police had few honorable ways to feed their families. Many of them resorted to banditry and violence. Colonel Phillips lamented the slow deployment of military police. He believed it was a lost opportunity to show Iraqis a better way of life.[87] Instead, life in Iraq became a nightmare for many ordinary people. The insurgency and sectarian violence in Iraq emerged from this violent and disorderly environment. The number of military police in Iraq swelled to 13,000 by the end of the year.[88]

Operation Enduring Freedom begun as a SOF campaign supported by air power. The small footprint in Afghanistan required very few military vehicles, which was a very different kind of war. The US Army shifted their paradigm from conventional wars fought by states to counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism. The US Army Military Police Corps adapted their techniques to align with the US Army's new paradigm. The only traffic control requirement was to secure supply trucks from Pakistan through the Khyber Pass. The Northern Alliance processed the majority of Taliban prisoners and only transferred a few High Value Targets to American custody. The small number of detainees required a few specially trained military policemen with the 31E designator. Operation Iraqi Freedom started with a conventional ground invasion but had very little MP support. This lack of MP support resulted in widespread looting and violence in Baghdad. The US Army was unprepared to operate in an urban environment like Baghdad. By the time senior leaders realized the capabilities of military policemen to maintain order in cities, it was too little and too late.

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[86] Cucullu and Fontana, *Warrior Police*, 56.

[87] Ibid., 63.

[88] Ibid., 55.

Evolution of Military Police Doctrine
and Organization in GWOT

> To better deal with the type of detainee operations that the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) requires, the US Congress passed the 2005 Detainee Treatment Act that sets clear standards for detainee treatment. . . . This new doctrine is an excellent foundation, but future individual and collective training should continue to reinforce the lessons learned in places like Kandahar and Bagram by placing Soldiers in realistic settings and giving them serious problems to solve.
>
> — Dr. Donald P. Wright et al, *A Different Kind of War*

Doctrine

The US Army published FM 3-39, Military Police Operations, at the height of the GWOT. Military police faced very ambiguous circumstances that the conventional war checklist could not solve. Field Manual 3-39 provides fundamental principles but does not give techniques or procedures. It emphasized the core missions of police operations, detention operations, and security and mobility support.[89] These three core missions are how military police support maneuver. Doctrine focused on the theory of principles and removed the tactics, techniques, and procedures. The US Army Military Police Corps expects experienced military policemen to creatively apply their training and experience to solve problems.

Current MP doctrine provides theory but not applicable procedures. In a future large-scale combat operation, there will likely be too few military policemen available. Soldiers assigned to MP units from other MOSs will not have the necessary training or experience. Doctrine can mitigate this risk through the addition of techniques and procedures along with the fundamental principles.

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[89] US Department of the Army, Field Manual (FM) 3-39, Military Police Operations (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2013), iv.
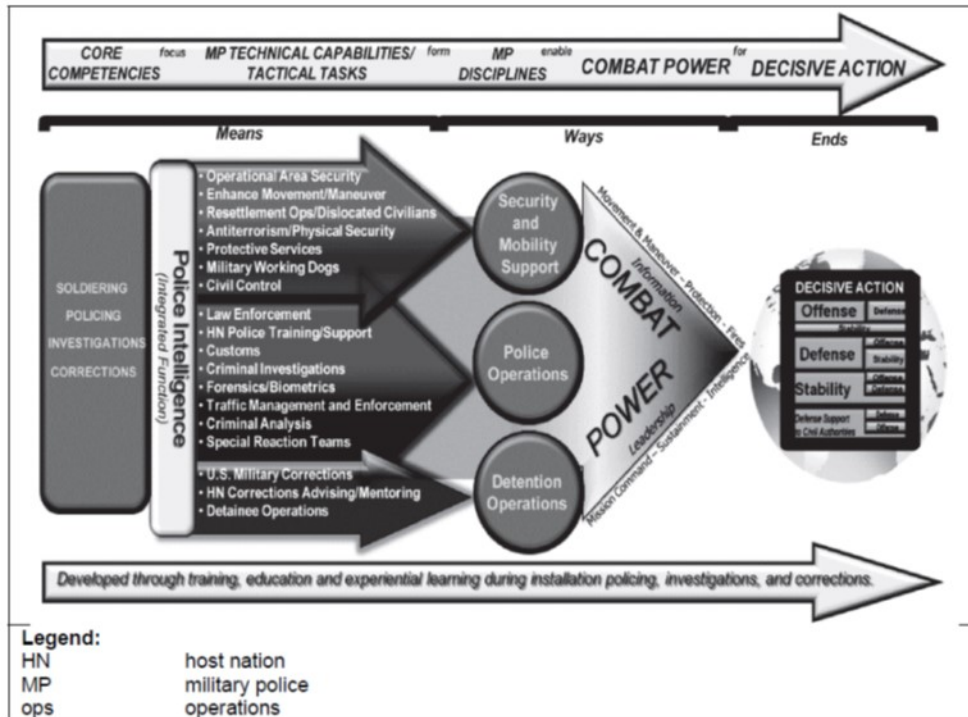
Figure 7.   Military Police Support to Decisive Action.
Source: US Department of the Army, Field Manual (FM) 3-39, Military Police Operations (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2013), 1-2.

Organization

There are no MP units organic to divisions, infantry regiments, or brigade combat teams. In 2007, the US Army restructured into modular Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs), that would operate independently from the division. The divisional MP company inactivated and each BCT received an MP platoon.[90] The BCT MP platoon had three squads of twelve soldiers each, with a Lieutenant, Sergeant First Class, and their driver and gunner, for a total of forty-one enlisted and one officer. The BCT MP platoon was a continuity of the infantry regiment's MP platoon.

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[90] Lieutenant Colonel Eric Belcher, "Military Police Transformation," *Engineer*, April 2005, accessed November 5, 2017, http://www.wood.army.mil/engrmag/pdfs/April%2005/Belcher-MP%20Transformation.pdf.

The BCT's MP platoons were inactivated in 2013 as part of the BCT 2020 initiative.[91] In order to build trust and cohesion, MP brigades and battalions have tried to establish habitual direct support relationships between specific MP companies and a specific BCT. The 89th MP Brigade recommended these habitual relationships to the III Corps Commander, Lieutenant General Sean McFarland, who implemented them in an operations order for all III Corps.[92] These habitual relationships are non-doctrinal and do not apply when BCTs deploy overseas and need MP support the most. The largest complaint from BCTs on Fort Hood; was that MP companies arrive in theater with limited experience of supporting a BCT. MP soldiers do not understand the BCT's standard operating procedures and struggle with establishing trust.

Current personnel authorizations for MP combat support companies is, five officers and 164 enlisted Soldiers, for a total strength of 169. It has three platoons of forty-one enlisted and one officer. Each platoon has three squads of twelve Soldiers. The company headquarters has cooks, mechanics, and supply personnel organic along with a large operations section. There are no CID agents assigned to the MP company, although there are non-commissioned officers who have previously served as MP investigators that can provide limited investigation capability.

Military police adapted their doctrine and organization in response to the GWOT. Divisions had an organic MP company from the end of World War II to 2007. In 2007, the US Army recognized the need for modular brigades to deploy independently. In this re-organization, the division lost their MP company and the BCTs received an organic MP platoon. Six years later, the BCTs lost their organic MP platoon. MP companies do not have a permanent relationship with the unit they support in Iraq or Afghanistan.

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[91] Staff Sergeant Jason D. Hull, "2nd BCT deactivates BSTB, activates 37th Brigade Engineer Battalion," November 19, 2013, accessed November 5, 2017, https://www.army.mil/article/115308 /2nd_bct_deactivates_bstb_activates_37th_brigade_engineer_battalion.

[92] MAJ Early Howard Jr, "89th Military Police Brigade Establishes Habitual Relationships," *Military Police* (Spring 2016): 9-10, accessed November 5, 2017, http://www.wood.army.mil/mpbulletin/.

Conclusion and Recommendations

> I will gladly take a military police company with me. I have missions where I can absolutely use their skill sets, but it has to be the unit we trained with at Fort Carson and took to the National Training Center.
> — Colonel Gregory Sierra, Commander, 3d Armor BCT, 4th Infantry

The historical role of military police was to extend the division's operational reach. The case study of Operation Overlord in World War II illustrates how military police supported the US Army's paradigm of large-scale combat operation. First Army and Third Army executed a forcible entry operation against heavy German opposition on the beaches of Normandy in the summer of 1944. Military police braved enemy fire and directed traffic to keep the beach landing areas clear. After Third Army's St. Lo breakout, traffic control on the "Red Ball Express" enabled commanders to maintain momentum and retain the initiative. Military police guarded German prisoners on the front lines and escorted them to the rear area to preserve combat power. First and Third Armies' line of communication grew longer as they advanced towards Germany. These extended lines of communication were vulnerable to theft. These three tasks overwhelmed available MP units due to their insufficient TO&E.

Newly assigned military policemen at the beginning of World War II received FM 29-5 to learn traffic control and prisoner of war operations. On June 14, 1944, FM 19-5 became the capstone MP manual and incorporated many lessons learned after three years of war. The manual focused on traffic control and prisoner of war operations. The extended lines of communication and enormous number of vehicles on the road required a synchronized traffic control plan to limit congestion at chokepoints. The new manual corrected FM 29-5's biggest weakness by providing explicit tactics, techniques, and procedures on prisoner of war operations. The formalized procedure to evacuate prisoners from the front lines to prisoner camps is a legacy from FM 19-5. Both FM 29-5 and FM 19-5 provided step-by-step procedures for inexperienced Soldiers to follow. These manuals were simple, illustrated, and focused on the end user for immediate application.

At the start of World War II, divisions had an organic MP platoon. As the war progressed and the requirements for traffic control and prisoners of war increased, divisions received an organic MP company. MP units received Soldiers from other MOSs prior to an operation. These transfers received no police training. They relied upon doctrine that was easy to read and apply. At the end of World War II, the General Board for the European Theater of Operations proposed a TO&E of 202 enlisted and five officers per MP company. The US Army did not fully implement TO&E 19-37. Instead, it raised the authorized enlisted strength to 164. Recently, the organization of the US Army Military Police Corps changed in response to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The GWOT was a different type of war and required a different approach. The US Army changed its paradigm from conventional warfare to counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism. Operation Enduring Freedom begun as a SOF campaign supported by air power. The initial footprint in Afghanistan required very few military vehicles. The only traffic control requirement was to secure supply trucks from Pakistan through the Khyber Pass. The Northern Alliance processed the majority of Taliban prisoners and only transferred a few High Value Targets to American custody. The small number of detainees required a few specially trained military policemen with the 31E designator. Operation Iraqi Freedom commenced with a conventional ground invasion with little MP support. Traffic control was a low priority initially due to the desert environment of Iraq. Many Iraqi Soldiers and police went into hiding at the start of the war. The US Army quickly paroled Iraqi prisoners as they were conscripts. Military police were not on the front lines at the point of capture. Instead, MP units received orders to create long-term detention facilities for the few remaining prisoners considered a threat. The lack of military policemen with the initial invasion force resulted in widespread looting and violence in Baghdad. By the time senior leaders realized the capabilities of military policemen, it was too little and too late. The insurgency and sectarian violence in Iraq emerged from this violent and disorderly environment.

Leaders used the fundamental principles in doctrine to understand the complex challenges they faced in Iraq and Afghanistan. The simple checklist in World War II doctrine did not work in the GWOT. The US Army Military Police Corps expected experienced military policemen to creatively apply their training and experience to solve problems. In a future large-scale combat operation, there will likely be too few military policemen available. Soldiers assigned to MP units from other MOSs will need a manual with practical procedures to mitigate their lack of training and experience. World War II doctrine gave untrained and inexperienced military policemen concise procedures to immediately apply on the battlefield.

The division MP company lasted from World War II until the army modernization in 2007. The GWOT was a different war and full of ambiguity. Combat operations did not require a division but small agile units instead. With the establishment of modular BCTs, division MP companies inactivated and the BCT's organic MP platoons activated. In 2013, with the BCT 2020 initiative, the organic BCT MP platoon inactivated. Currently, there are no organic MP companies or platoons in the division or BCT. Although efforts such as the 89th MP Brigade to habitually align MP companies with BCTs have been successful in garrison, they do not transfer to a theater of operations. In a future conventional fight, trust and cohesion between military police and the supported division and BCT will be critical.

Three Recommendations based on Likely Continuities from World War II

First, re-activate division MP companies. Currently, MP companies deploy out of the forces available pool. In Iraq and Afghanistan, incoming MP companies have time to conduct left seat-right seat rides with the outgoing unit and learn the standard operating procedures. In a "fight tonight" scenario, there will not be extra time to build relationships and mutual trust. On the beaches of Normandy in World War II, divisional MP platoons conducted traffic control under fire. Sleep deprived and in constant danger, military police kept the division moving. The division supported an hourly flow of traffic at intersections of 1,700 vehicles in daylight and 1,000

vehicles at night.[93] Military police could only carry out this incredible feat due to their elevated level of skill and the trust between the division and the MP platoon. MP companies will deploy and immediately conduct traffic control, process prisoners of war, and pilferage prevention in a future large-scale combat operation in direct support of a division. But will they have the experience, training, and trust to conduct those essential tasks?

Second, add one more platoon to the MP company's authorization. The European Theater Board recommended a significant increase to MP company authorizations in TO&E 19-37. This increase reflected the continuity with division commanders doubling the personnel in MP companies through the transfer of infantry, cavalry, and artillery Soldiers. These personnel did not receive any MP training. One solution to prevent these types of transfers is to add a fourth MP platoon. MP platoons should keep their organization of three squads of twelve enlisted plus a platoon headquarters for a total strength of forty-one enlisted and one officer. The addition of a fourth MP platoon would increase the number of enlisted Soldiers from 164 to 205 and the number of officers from five to six. The additional MP platoon would increase a MP company's capabilities by 33 percent.

Third, revise MP doctrine to balance fundamental principles with tactics, techniques, and procedures. Doctrine is too focused on descriptive principles (theory) at the expense of techniques (application). Doctrine provides a large breadth of tasks with very little depth. Senior MP leaders in World War II correctly anticipated that many Soldiers from other branches would transfer to MP units. These transfers did not receive any formal MP training and often arrived a day or two before a large operation. MP doctrine in World War II was concise and gave immediately applicable instruction for essential MP tasks. The US Army Military Police Corps should rebalance doctrine by reducing theory and adding proven techniques.

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[93] US Army Service Forces, Military Police Activities in the Communication Zone, 272.

As the US Army transitions from a counter-insurgency paradigm back to the paradigm of large-scale combat operations, military police must adapt their doctrine and organization to remain relevant and ready. Military police extended the division's operational reach in large-scale combat operations through traffic control, prisoner of war operations, and pilferage prevention. These three missions are critical in future large-scale combat operations as the US Army responds to the trends of urban warfare and strategic competitor's investment in anti-access and area-defense technology.
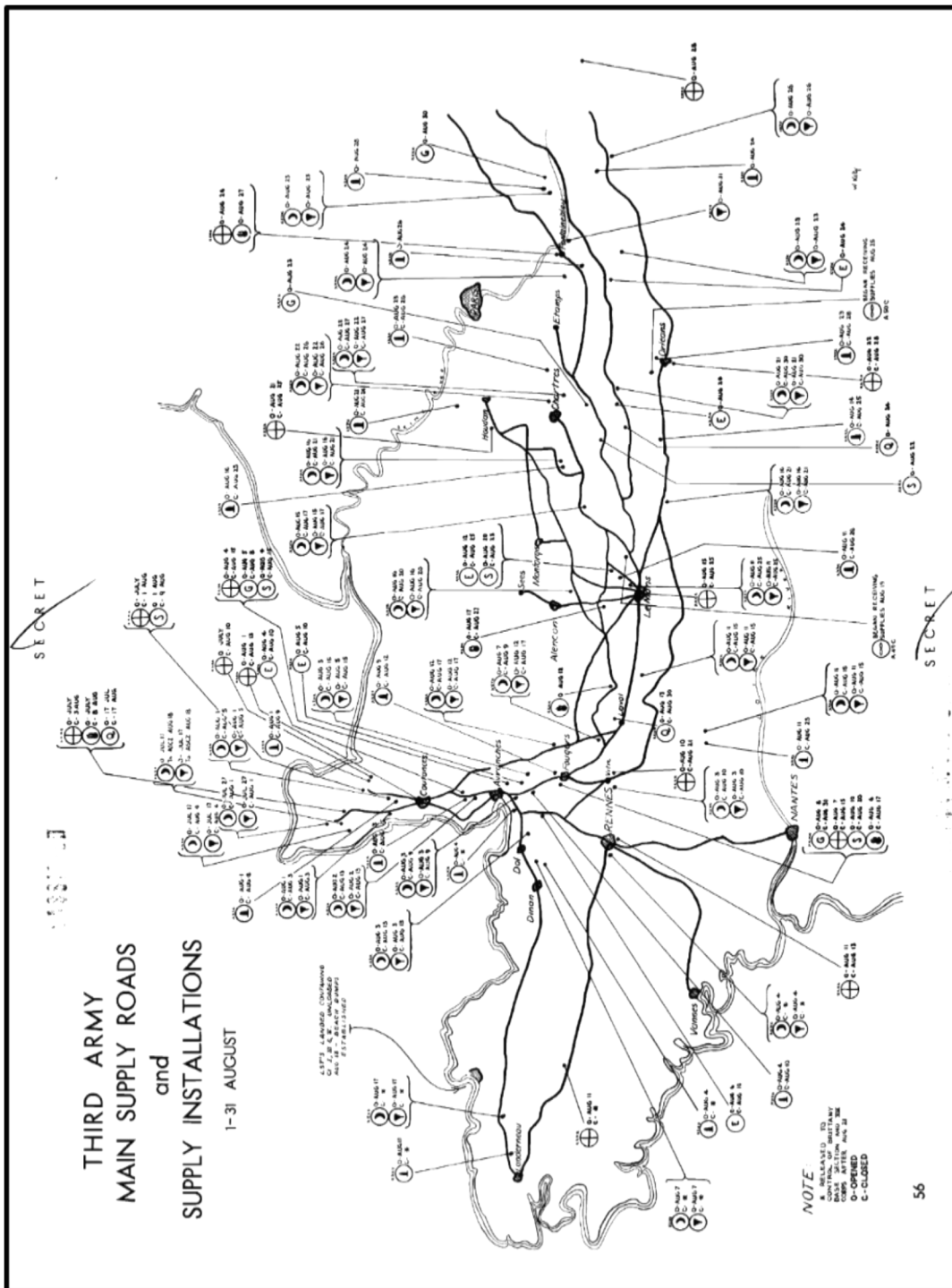
Appendix

Figure 8.   Third Army Main Supply Roads and Supply Installation, August 1-31, 1944.
Source: US Third Army, After Action Report, August 1, 1944–May 9, 1945, 56, Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Document Number N11480-17-3.

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