

## Logistics Group Two: Fuel

Meeting the transportation needs for members of the armed forces is a fundamental challenge for all military organizations. Fueling an army on the move requires extensive logistical planning and coordination. Gasoline is required to move motorized vehicles into battle as well for transporting supplies to the front lines. Fuel sources are highly flammable and clear enemy targets.

As a group, discuss the following questions:

What do you think it takes to fuel an army on the move? (Consider amounts, storage, delivery, changing locations).

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What systems or supports would need to be in place to provide fuel?

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What are some specific challenges you could predict for fueling an army on the move?

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Predict what consequences could result if an army on the move has inadequate fuel supply.

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Early Finisher Vocabulary Challenge! Write a three or four word definition for the word logistics.

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Next Steps: As a group, examine each of the following sources to answer the prompts for each. Remember your assigned role during this activity. When you answer the prompts, cite evidence from the sources.

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## Logistics Group Two: Source A

Study the photograph from *United States Army in World War II: The Technical Services: The Quartermaster Corps: Operations in the War Against Germany* and answer the following prompts.



What type of source is this? \_\_\_\_\_ When was it created? \_\_\_\_\_

Who created it? \_\_\_\_\_

What repository is the source housed in? \_\_\_\_\_

(Where do they keep it?)

# Logistics Group Two: Source A

Visual elements	Inferences
Who is pictured in this image?	What emotions have been captured by this image? Cite your evidence.
What objects do you see in the image?	Based on the objects depicted, what do you know about this moment in time? Cite your evidence.
What actions are captured in the image?	Based on the actions you see, what observations do you have about fueling an army? Cite your evidence.

What can you infer about fueling an army on the move from this source? Cite evidence to support your position.

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## Logistics Group Two: Source B

Poster, *Fuel Fights! Save Your Share*, 1943

Hennepin County Library (MPW00173)

**Fuel Fights!**  
***SAVE YOUR SHARE***

- 1** Keep temperature at 65° F. during day - lower at night.
- 2** Don't heat unused rooms.
- 3** Keep windows closed.
- 4** Draw window shades at night.
- 5** Shut off heat when weather permits.
- 6** Keep heating plant in top condition.
- 7** Use less hot water.

*Saving fuel also saves manpower, material, equipment*  
**CONSERVE COAL, OIL, GAS... FOR WAR**



© U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1943 - O - 354712

# Logistics Group Two: Source B

What type of source is this? \_\_\_\_\_ When was it created? \_\_\_\_\_

Who created it? \_\_\_\_\_

What repository is the source housed in? \_\_\_\_\_

(Where can you find this source?)

Images	Words
List people, places and objects depicted on the poster.	Are there printed words on the poster? If so, what is written?
What symbols are depicted on the poster?	What is the message that the words are trying to portray?
What do you notice about the colors and design?	Who published the source? When it was published?

What emotions does the poster generate? Cite evidence to support your position.

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## Logistics Group Two: Source C

*"Around 1 April [1945], increasing distances and congestion on the floating bridges across the Rhine caused the turnaround time of trucks moving between Trier and the advanced areas of the Third Army to reach thirty-six hours. Colonel Busch of Third Army was hesitant about setting up a Class II and IV depot at Frankfurt. It would probably be too far to the rear before it began to operate. He summarized his view in a letter to General Littlejohn: 'Only God and General Patton know where the Army is and whither bound.' Meanwhile the First and Ninth Armies were no better off; trucks were traveling 400 miles to pick up and deliver gasoline, and the monthly mileages reported were the highest in the history of continental operations. Divisions were calling for gasoline deliveries to the forward truck-heads, and to help make this possible a pipeline was laid under the Rhine behind each army and ADSEC decanting farms were opened east of the Rhine. But these expedients quickly proved inadequate as the supply lines lengthened. The armies having run far beyond the limits of the pipelines, their receipts of gasoline were threatened by a shortage of jerricans, an almost inevitable byproduct of rapid pursuit. Jerricans were not only dispersed; they were wearing out from hard usage. In March, Littlejohn estimated that 50 percent of all jerricans would have to be replaced by June."*

Excerpt from *United States Army in World War II: The Technical Services: The Quartermaster Corps: Operations in the War Against Germany*

What type of source is this? \_\_\_\_\_ Who is credited with this quote? \_\_\_\_\_

Summarize the excerpt in your own words:

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What was Littlejohn's biggest concerns? Cite evidence to support your position.

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This quote provides a unique perspective. What can you infer about the importance of fuel to the from the perspective of an officer? Cite evidence to support your position.

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What can you infer about fueling an army on the move from this source? Cite evidence to support your position.

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## Logistics Group Two: Group Activity Analysis

Reflect on all three sources and answer the following prompts. As a group discuss how you will share these sources with the class.

What types of sources did you evaluate?

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How did the sources relate to each other?

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After analyzing all three sources how would you explain the challenges of fueling an army on the move?

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Based on your analysis, what logistical planning and systems are required to fuel an army on the move?

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Rank the following supply lines from most important to least important for maintaining an army on the move.

Ammunition _____	Clothing _____	Food _____	Gas _____	Water _____
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Explain your reasons for the ranking.

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