The 144th Field Artillery Group, commanded by Colonel Clifford B. Cole of Pacific Grove, California, has its origin in the 144th Field Artillery Regiment, known as the California Grizzlies in World War I. The last fully volunteer regiment in the United States army, the Grizzlies were mustered in at the old Monterey race track and began their training at Camp Canby. After service on the Mexican border the regiment moved to France where they went into action near Mess and moved on to the Rhine with the army of occupation. Over 1,000 officers were graduated out of the regiment and when it was mustered out of service at the Presidio of San Francisco former members organized the 144th Field Artillery Association. The latter organization is still active and numbers among its members Frank Jordan, Secretary of State of California; Fletcher Bowron, Mayor of Los Angeles, and many other notables.

When the War Department accorded to the 144th Field Artillery Regiment (155mm Gun) of the California National Guard the colors and honors of the 144th organization the Grizzlies were again a part of the army of the United States, an outgrowth of Battery B, 143rd Field Artillery, which was organized about 1932 at Santa Barbara, California, the 144th Regiment was activated in August 1940 with headquarters at Santa Barbara and subordinate units at Santa Maria, Ventura, Oxnard, Santa Monica, Riverside and Bakersfield. The 144th was induced into Federal Service on February 3, 1941 and moved to Fort Lewis, Washington for training.

With the outbreak of hostilities on December 7, 1941, the First Battalion of the regiment was placed on coast defense in the Grey's Harbor Sector of Washington, and the Second Battalion was rushed to defend vital points along the coast of Southern California. The regiment remained split in this manner until October of 1942 when the Second Battalion was relieved of coast defense duty in California and joined the regimental headquarters and the First Battalion, also relieved of coast defense duty, at the Field Artillery Firing Center at Yakima, Washington.

On February 17, 1943 the regiment was reorganized as the 144th Field Artillery Group with its two battalions becoming the 980th Field Artillery Battalion and the 981st Field Artillery Battalion attached to the Group. On April 16, 1943 the Group headquarters and its two attached battalions along with other units of the 76th Field Artillery Brigade were moved to the California-Arizona maneuver area. After an intensive training period of four months on the desert the group and its battalions moved to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where it was stationed and trained for about three months.

On November 20, 1943 the group moved to a staging area in preparation for overseas service, and sailed from the Port of Boston for the United Kingdom on December 29, 1943, arriving in Liverpool, England in January. Leaving the 980th and 981st Field Artillery Battalions in England the Group Headquarters and the 144th moved to North Ireland on January 11, 1944. After four months of training among the peat bogs and at the firing range of the Sperrin Mountains in North Ireland, the 144th moved to Bigpool Common, near Ross-on-Wye, England. Several trips were made to the Scunthorpe Firing Ranges in Wales and on July 16, 1944, the group landed on the coast of Normandy, France.

Upon its arrival in the United Kingdom, the 144th was assigned to XV Corps and because of its long experience with heavy artillery became the long-range group of the XV Corps Artillery. It landed in France as part of the XV Corps and the Third army at Utah Beach on July 16, 1944. The Group with the 96th, 97th, and 98th Field Artillery battalions, and the 99th Field Artillery Battalion as attached battalions went into a bivouac with other corps artillery units in the vicinity of Sotteville, France.

The Corps became operational on July 29th, and on August 6th, the Group with the 96th, 97th, and 99th Field Artillery Battalions attached moved out of Contence - A vancing through with the XV Corps and the Third Army.
The Corps became operational July 29th, and on August 4th, the Group with the 268th, 989th, and 999th Field Artillery Battalions attached, moved out through Caen to join the 4th Infantry Division on the right side of the Third Army. The 270th Field Artillery Battalion was attached August 5th, 1944. The Corps Artillery marched with the 79th Infantry Division on the right side of the Third Army through the area of Falaise, Leval, Le Hoc, then north to close the so-called "Falaise Gap." The 999th Field Artillery Battalion was detached from the Group on August 9, 1944.

The first fires against the enemy were placed in the Forêt de Périsgion on August 12, 1944. Up until this time the fires of the heavy artillery had not been needed. The 999th Field Artillery Battalion was detached on August 13, 1944 and the 20th Field Artillery Battalion on August 14, 1944.

On August 15, the Group with the 270th Field Artillery Battalion attacked, again following the 79th Division, pulled out of the "Falaise Gap Sector" and on August 19, 1944 reached the area in the vicinity of Mont-de-Hassey and positions were occupied to harass the enemy crossing the Seine, and interrupt traffic on the other side. The 20th Field Artillery Battalion was again attached on August 24, 1944.

Commencing August 27, 1944 the XV Corps was relieved by the XX Corps, and Corps troops moved to a bivouac area to the south. On September 1, the 270th Field Artillery Battalion was detached from the group and on Sept 8th, the Group headquarters and the 209th Field Artillery Battalion moved south and east of Paris to Brienne-le-Château and thence to Faye, where the 267th Field Artillery Battalion was attached to Group. From there the Group and its Battalions moved to positions near Dieville to support theRSSeille River bridgehead at Charmes.

On September 19 the Group moved to positions to support the attack of Luneville and later the Forêt de Parney.

The Group has had under its control a total of over twenty battalions and has operated under assignment to the First, Third and Seventh Armies. It has been attached to the XV Corps artillery most of the time since arriving in the European Theater, except for a short period of assignment to the XX Corps artillery in January 1945.

The Group participated in the XV Corps drive which liberated Strasbourg, in November 1944, following that drive it took up positions near Enchenberg where its battalions played a prominent part in the reduction of the forts surrounding Bitsche. When the XV Corps was moved westerly following the German counter-attack of December, the 14th Group moved to Puttelange. In March 1945 the Group left Lévyiller and shortly thereafter was marching with the rest of the XV Corps artillery in the drive through Meerbruch to the Rhine.

(Passed for publication by the Field Press Censor R.C. 285 4/25/45)
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**HEADQUARTERS**
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**ARC 403, US ARMY**

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11 Mar 45  208 (155 Gun), 190 (155 Gun), 991 (155 SP How),
             932 (8" How)
13 Mar 45  208 (155 Gun), 190 (155 Gun), 932 (8" How)
16 Mar 45  208 (155 Gun), 190 (155 Gun), 932 (8" How),
             991 (155 SP How)
20 Mar 45  208 (155 Gun), 190 (155 Gun), 932 (8" How)
25 Mar 45  208 (155 Gun), 190 (155 Gun), 932 (8" How),
             278 (240 How)
27 Mar 45  208 (155 Gun), 932 (8" How)
  5 July 45  208 (155 Gun), 932 (8" How), 202 (155 How),
             772 (4.5" Gun)
  8 July 45  208 (155 Gun), 932 (8" How), 202 (155 How),
             961 (155 How)
21 July 45  (First Date) 208 (155 Gun), 202 (155 How),
             932 (8" How), 961 (155 How)
14 July 1944, Dorchester, England
"alerted for departure"

15 July 1944, aboard LSTS Prince Henry
"Embarked at Dorchester, England (Weymouth Harbor) at 1400 hrs."

16 July 1944, Nov 1
Utch Beach, near B St. Germain Virves, France
"Disembarked 1710 hours, marched 7 miles to area "B"

17 July 1944, Nov 2
Sorbonville, France
"Marched via motor 35 miles, arriving bivouac area 1100 hours."

29 July 1944,Become Combat Operational"

31 July 1944, Nov 3
Tripoli, France
"Left Sorbonville, France, at 0900 hours via motor march. Traveled 40 miles, arrived Tripoli at 1300."

4 August 1944, Nov 4
St. Germain, France
"Left Tripoli 0100, stopped over at St. James until 1900. Arrived St. Germain 2200; Distance traveled 90 miles."

6 August 1944, Nov 5
St. Quen des Toits, France
"Left St. Germain 0630; Distance traveled 40 miles, arrived 1700."

7 August 1944, Nov 6
Leval, France
"Left St. Quen des Toits at 1730. Arrived at 2100; Distance traveled 11 miles."

8 August 1944, Nov 7
St. George Du Bois, France
"Leval 0830; Arrived 2200; Distance traveled 29 miles. (Through La Fens.)"

10 August 1944, Nov 8
Chanteclou, France
"Left St. George Du Bois 1130; Occupied position at Chanteclou 1930; Distance traveled 29 miles."

11 August 1944, Nov 9
St. Aignan, France
"Left Chanteclou 1130; Arrived 2130; Distance traveled 10 miles."

12 August 1944, Nov 10
La Guillotière, France
"Left St. Aignan at 1030; Arrived 2130; Distance traveled 68 miles"
15 August 1944, Route 11
Challot, France
"Left Le Guillouisiere 1500; arrived 2230; Distance traveled 9 miles."

17 August 1944, Route 12
Le Boullay Thierry, France
"Left Chantinet at 2100; arrived 2230; Distance traveled 9 miles."

18 August 1944, Route 13
Le Petit Terre, France
"Left Le Boullay Thierry 1800; arrived 2230; Distance traveled 31 miles."

21 August 1944, Route 14
Rue De La Vallee, France
"Left Le Petit Terre 1500; arrived 1600; Distance Traveled 6 miles."

29 August 1944, Route 15
Brechamps, France
"Left Rue De La Vallee 1200; arrived 1600; Distance traveled 31 miles."

31 August 1944, Route 16
Gevry, France
"Left Brechamps 0005; arrived 0930; Distance traveled 106 miles."

8 September 1944, Route 17
Breilien Le Chateau, France (German ammunition dump)
"Left Gevry 0600; arrived 1130; Distance traveled 90 miles."

10 September 1944, Route 18
Pays, France
"Left Breilien Le Chateau 1400; arrived 1600; Distance traveled 30 miles."

11 September 1944
"Embarked to new station. Left Pays 1730"

12 September 1944, Route 19
Biarville, France
"Arrived 0500; Distance traveled 29 miles."

19 September 1944, Route 20
Bynaux, France
"Left Biarville, 0200; arrived 1800; Distance traveled 10 miles."

24 September 1944, Route 21
Chaufontaine, France (Lunoville)
"Left Bynaux 1730; arrived 1615; Distance traveled 10 miles."

12 October 1944, Route 22
Mareviller, France
"Left Chaufontaine 1200; arrived 1230; Distance traveled 7 miles."

2
13 October 1944, Move 23 & 24
St. Clement, France
"Moved 7 miles from Lorraine, split position, stayed one
night and returned to Lorraine."

(Distance traveled to date 804 miles)

19 November 1944, Move 25
Arrascourt, France
"Left Lorraine, France 1130; arrived Arrascourt 1530; Distance
traveled 12 miles."

21 November 1944, Move 26
Aspach, France
"Left Arrascourt 1000; arrived 1100; Distance traveled 17 miles."

22 November 1944, Move 27
St. Jean, France
"Left Aspach 1230; arrived 1330; Distance traveled 16 miles."

21 November 1944, Move 28
Hochfelden, France
"Left St. Jean, 1745; arrived 2000; Distance traveled 19 miles."

25 November 1944, Move 29
Wehlenheim, France
"Left Hochfelden, 1130; arrived 1200; Distance traveled 6 miles."

27 November 1944, Move 30
Phalsbourg, France
"Left Wehlenheim, 1130; arrived 1200; Distance traveled 24 miles."

29 November 1944, Move 31
Hirschland, France
"Left Phalsbourg, 1300; arrived 1300; Distance traveled 14 miles."

5 December 1944, Move 32
Tiffenbach, France
"Left Hirschland 1530; arrived 1730; Distance traveled 11 miles."

12 December 1944, Move 33
Emchenberg, France
"Left Tiffenbach 1315; arrived 1410; Distance traveled 15 miles."

21 December 1944, Move 34
Emchenburg, France
"Left Emchenberg, 0900; arrived 1100; Distance traveled 21 miles."

23 December 1944, Move 35
Futtelange, France
"Left Emchenburg 1100; arrived 1145; Distance traveled 6 miles."

23 January 1945, Move 36
Leyviller, France
"Left Futtelange 1610; arrived 1645; Distance traveled 6 miles."

9 March 1945, Move 37
Rimiclier, France
"Left Leyviller 1000; arrived 1200; Distance traveled 28 miles."
11 March 1945, Page 38
Bising, France
"Left Reiffelder 1330; Distance traveled 2 miles."

(Total Distance to date: 1007 miles)

16 March 1945, Page 39
Oestrichen, France
"Left Bising 1950; Arrived Oestreich 1730; Distance traveled 13 miles."

23 March 1945, Page 40
Machheim, Germany
"Left Oestreich 0800; Arrived Machheim, Germany 1630; Distance traveled 82 miles."

24 March 1945, Page 41
Offstein, Germany
"Left Machheim 1300; Arrived 1330; Distance traveled 6 miles."

27 March 1945, Page 42
Lorsch, Germany
"Left Offstein 1330; Arrived Lorsch 0900; Traveled 2 miles; Left Lorsch 1900; Arrived Lorsch 2030; Distance traveled 13 miles."

29 March 1945, Page 43
Konig, Germany
"Left Lorsch 0800; Arrived Konig 1830; Distance traveled 40 miles."

30 March 1945, Page 44
Seckmauen, Germany
"Left Konig 1430; Arrived 1745; Distance traveled 12 miles."

31 March 1945, Page 45
Kasten, Germany
"Left Seckmauen 1500; Arrived 1615; Distance traveled 9 miles."

3 April 1945, Page 46
Kasten, Germany
"Left Kasten 1450; Arrived 2345; Distance traveled 40 miles."

7 April 1945, Page 47
Thulba, Germany
"Left Kasten 0930; Arrived 1600; Distance traveled 32 miles."

9 April 1945, Page 48
Reiterswassen, Germany
"Left Thulba 1445; Arrived 1530; Distance traveled 12 miles."

11 April 1945, Page 49
Kleinhunster, Germany
"Left Reiterswassen 1705; Arrived 1850; Distance traveled 23 miles."

12 April 1945, Page 50
Steinpold, Germany
"Left Kleinhunster 1715; Arrived 1930; Distance traveled 12 miles."

13 April 1945, Page 51
"Steinpold, Germany
"Left Steinpold 1715; Arrived 1830; Distance traveled 21 miles."
11 April 1945, Love 52
"Left Weisendorf 1700; arrived 1800; Distance traveled 10 miles."
Hermendorf, Germany

15 April 1945, Love 53
Zekern, Germany
"Left Hermadorf, 1900; arrived 2030; Distance traveled 10 miles."

16 April 1945, Love 54
Wechtor, Germany
"Left Zekern 1730; arrived 1930; Distance traveled 14 miles."

20 April 1945, Love 55
Zimtorf, Germany
"Left Wechtor 1900; arrived 2320; Distance traveled 20 miles."
(Total distance traveled to date - 1383 miles)

21 April 1945, Love 56
Voitsaurach, Germany
"Left Zimtorf 1200; arrived 1740; Distance traveled 17 miles.

22 April 1945, Love 57
Wernfels, Germany
"Left Voitsaurach 1900; arrived 2330; Distance traveled 10 miles."

23 April 1945, Love 58
Sausenhofen, Germany
"Left Wernfels 1300; arrived 1500; Distance traveled 14 miles."

24 April 1945, Love 59
Wemding, Germany
"Left Sausenhofen, 0315; arrived 1900; Distance traveled 25 miles."

25 April 1945, Love 60
Balerfeld, Germany
"Left Wemding 1850; arrived 1805; Distance traveled 9 miles."

26 April 1945, Love 61
Breisbach, Germany
"Left Balerfeld, 1100; arrived 1500; Distance traveled 7 miles."

28 April 1945, Love 62
Willreishursch, Germany
"Left Breisbach Q,00; arrived 1800; Distance traveled 21 miles."

29 April 1945, Love 63
Lauterbach, Germany
"Left Willreishursch, 1610; arrived 1930; Distance traveled 36 miles."

30 April 1945, Love 64
Lochhausen, Germany
"Left Lauterbach 1140; arrived 1210; Distance traveled 19 miles."

1 May 1945, Love 65
Argel, Germany
"Left Lochhausen, Germany at 1805 hours via motor march; arrived Argel 2000. Distance traveled 34 miles."
2 May 1945, No. 66
Bad Nüdling, Germany
"Left target 1900; arrived 2100; Distance traveled 38 miles."

7 May 1945, No. 67
" Ald, Austria
"Left Bad Nüding, Germany 0900; arrived at Vals, Austria at 1230. Distance traveled 59 miles.

7 May 1945, No. 68
Thakham, Austria
"Left Vals, Austria 1230; arrived 1315; Distance traveled 18 miles."

WAR ENDS MAY 9 1945

TOTAL DISTANCE TRAVELED TO DATE 1900 MILES.
SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

To: Colonel Clifford B. Cole, Jr., C.O. Troops, SC 179

1. Association with the Officers and men of this draft has been a privilege and a pleasure. Without exception all ships functions have been excellently performed. The Guard has been more efficient and better instructed than others of previous twenty-eight voyages. The sanitation of all troop areas has been superior. Officers of the Army, Navy Corps and pod crew have attained a normal attitude of respect for the Services of Government, which has been an unattained ideal prior to this draft. To mention any of the above matters will be my privilege to report to the Commanding General of the European Theater of Operations.

2. We are especially indebted to Colonel Clifford B. Cole, Jr., Senior Line Officer and Staff, Lt. Col. Robert S. McShane, Jr., and Major James J. Shaug, Jr., for their administration of the troops aboard. These Officers and the five Army Generals, Colonel R. H. Borden, Lt. Col. Vaughn J. Fred, Major Kenneth McLaughlin, Major Joseph H. Ryle, and Lt. Col. Karl F. Uhler, have produced the excellent results mentioned.

3. On behalf of the ships permanent staff we wish all personnel success in their operations on the beach and a safe return to the U.S. of America.

/s/ W. S. Dunaway, Jr.,
/s/ W. G. H. B., Jr.,
Lt. Col., U.S.
Transport Commander.
SUBJECT: Commandation.

TO: Officers and enlisted men of the AV Corps.

1. It is with extreme pride that I publish to you the following commendation of the Army Commander on the historic movement of the AV Corps around the German armies in Northern France during which the Corps advanced against resistance a distance of approximately 180 miles in nine days, and stopped only because of order from higher authority.

"Please accept for yourself and transmit to the officers and men of your command my sincere appreciation and commendation for the masterly manner in which the Corps has pressed relentlessly forward, executed difficult changes of direction, and taken calculated risks with the utmost daring. The whole performance on the part of yourself, and your officers and men, has been very superior."

2. You have done a fine job. You have whipped the German wherever you have met him. You have stripped the country-side with the wreckage of his equipment. You have captured thousands of prisoners. With the experience gained in this campaign you will be able whatever lies ahead of us with confidence and ease. My heartfelt thanks and best wishes to you all.

S/H. B. E. 1
S/H. B. E. 1
Major General, US Army
Commanding

Headquarters, AV Corps, Army, APO 126, U.S. Army, 30 August 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 144th FA Group, APO 126, U.S. Army.

1. The above commendation of the Commanding General's Third US Army and AV Corps are forwarded with great pleasure.

2. I feel that the zeal, resourcefulness, and energy exhibited by all ranks of the AV Corps artillery have made it possible to give the Corps the artillery support which it needed. I hope that the satisfaction of knowing the job was well done will be in some measure a compensation for the tremendous effort made by all.

3. It is desired that copies of this commendation be published down to batteries inclusive.

S/H. E. S. O'h
S/H. E. S. O'h
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Commanding
HE D. U. ARTY, 144th F. Group, AFO 436, U. S. Army, 1 September 1944

TO: Commanding Officer, Hq Btry 144th F. Group, AFO 436, US Army

1. Transmitted with pleasure are the foregoing expressions of praise by our higher commanders. You, yourselves know you have done a good job but the acknowledgement of the fact and appreciation by those above should arouse still greater self-satisfaction.

2. I want each of you to feel that this is a personal message to you, I, who was much closer to you, can say no more than that you played the game; usually in darkness, on strange grounds, and in the rain, and you were in there pitching at all times.

/s/ Clifford B. Cole
/t/ CLIFFORD B. COLE
Colonel, Field Artillery
Commanding

3rd Ind.

HE D. U. ARTY, BATTERY 144th F. Group, AFO 436, US Army, 6 September 1944

TO: All personnel of Headquarters Battery 144th F. Group, AFO 436 US Army

1. Transmitted to you with pleasure the above commendation from the Army Commander and Corps Commander with very favorable incident by the Corps Artillery and Group Commanders.

2. May the satisfaction of a job well done and the lessons learned from the same spur us on as we continue with the task before us.

/s/ Merlin H. Anderson
/t/ MERLIN H. ANDERSON
1st Lt 144th F. Group
Commanding, Hq Btry
SUBJECT: Commendation

TO: Commanding General, XV Corps Artillery

1. It is a great pleasure to publish the following commendation from the Commanding General, Third United States Army:

"1. YOUR CORPS HAS LOST EXPEDIENTIously ACCOMPLISHED ITS MISSION OF SECURING A POSITION IN THE VICINITY OF LANTES GASSICOURT, HOLDING A BRIDGEHEAD EAST OF THE SIBE RIVER AT LANTES GASSICOURT, AND DENYING THE USE OF CROSSING SITES TO THE ENEMY AS FAR NORTH AS LOUVIERS.

"2. THE AGGRESSIVE AND EFFICIENT MANNER IN WHICH THIS MISSION HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON THE CORPS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGH TRADITIONS OF THE SERVICE AND UPON YOU AS ITS COMMANDING GENERAL. YOUR ABILITY TO ACCEPT CALCULATED RISKS WITHOUT BECOMING INVOLVED IN UNNEEDED DELAYS HAS CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE SUCCESSFUL ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE MISSION.

"3. YOU AND THE PERSONNEL OF YOUR COMMAND ARE HEREBY HIGHLY COMMENDED FOR YOUR SPLENDID ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THIS MISSION."

2. I desire personally to thank you and every member of your command for the splendid accomplishment of every task assigned. Your achievement as a first class fighting unit is playing a large part in the liquidation of the German army which is our eventual goal. My best wishes to you and your command for continued success.

/s/ Wade H. Haislip
/s/ Wade H. Haislip,
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding.

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, XV CORPS ARTILLERY, APO 436, U.S. Army 9 Sept 1944

TO: Commanding Officer, 144th F. Group, APO 436, U.S. Army

1. The commendation and sentiments from the Commanding Generals, Third U.S. Army, and XV Corps are transmitted to you with a great deal of pleasure and with much pride in the splendid accomplishment of the field artillery in the actions concerned.
2. I feel that the operations of the Corps artillery were so successful because of a burning desire to assist our infantry and armor to the utmost in the achievement of a total victory over the Germans; and because all ranks of the Corps artillery proceeded not vigorously and intelligently to train to this desire into acts which would give our suggested troops every help even though it had been expected or hoped for. With such a high purpose, I feel that our future training will continue to make the tasks of our men less severely and less costly.

3. It is desired that this letter be distributed through channels to include the troops.

// Signed S. Ott
// Maj. Gen. S. Ott
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Commanding

2nd Ind.

Headquarters, 11th A. A. Brig., 143rd, U. S. Army, 15 September 1944

To: Commanding Officer, 2nd Ind., 11th A. A. Brig.

1. I am glad to transmit to you another commendation from our commanders. This time for the part we played in the accomplishment of the field artillery in the Antwerp Campaign area.

2. These words of praise are meant for and individual. You did the job and I regret that the situation at hand prevents me from personally delivering this message.

3. When the task is set before us by our higher commanders, I know that for our part the mission will be accomplished. The confidence I have in your ability and the fine spirit with which the job is tackled, which are necessary to accomplish the mission, is my word of praise to you.

O. E. Cole
Colonel, U. S. Army
Commanding
SUBJECT: Performance of Combat Duty.

TO: Commanding Officer, 208th FA Gp
173rd FA Gp
10th FA Gp
1146th FA Gp
3rd Ft. Obca Fm
Eq Btry, XV Corps arty

1. Recently there was received an order awarding the Bronze Star to five enlisted men of XV Corps artillery.

2. These men were, for a period when the battalions were attached to or reinforcing a division of the XV Corps.

3. The following extracts from a personal letter from the artillery commander covering the activities of the division order are published for the information of the command:

"The corps artillery of yours, by the way, has a fighting spirit. They composed no end for their local security and would fight at the drop of a hat, as all good artillerymen should. The occasion of these words was probably the first time in history when the flanks of a division was protected by a medium battalion and heavy battalion in direct support. This situation continued part of one day and during that day the 561st Fm, still pointing east at 1000, was suddenly shifted to the northeast at 1100, to the northwest at 1200, and again position to 1000 to get under the support line and prepared to fire north. I don't think they fired a round of artillery movement during this period, but the threats to our flanks were real. Nevertheless, the only threat developed was broken up by the heavy battalion. The 693rd didn't do so badly either. If I remember correctly they captured around 200 prisoners. On the occasion they were attacked by joining their machine guns and in the corps the following the 693rd and two battalions to the left, accounted for five dead Germans, seven wounded, one nineteen prisoner."

4. Such high credit is placed on this division artillery Commander should be a source of satisfaction to all of the XV Corps artillery who took part in the breakthrough from Normandy; that our standard in high is well met by the brave marks; that we are up to our standard is evidenced by the words given these five enlisted men.
Adolf Hitler fought in the Forest of Parroy back in World War I, and at whatever cost, he wouldn’t give it up in World War II. In the area east of Nancy and Limeville, Parroy is a spot of great tactical importance and it was necessary to throw the well-entrenched Heimat out. That this task was given to the XV Corps — which achieved its objective — was not unusual, for tough jobs have been its lot since it exploited the original American break-through out of Normandy and threw a dagger into the heart of the German Seventh Army.

Arriving in France early in July, the Corps, commanded by Major General Wade H. Haislip (Jan Br, t. C-1 in 13), really started moving on July 31st. Tearing down from Normandy, it amazed the enemy with the daring break-through beyond Arromanches. It was easy to follow the course of the Corps in August — front pages in newspapers. The world recorded its activities as spectacular headline advances. General Patton was frequently at Corps Headquarters and the bulk of Third Army correspondents were daily visitors at the quickly changing scenes of advance to the east. Launay, Bayonne, le Mans, Alençon, Argentan, Sainte-Gemermont, Droux — these are just some of the names that highlighted an epochal advance of XV Corps. 960 miles push from Normandy to the initial crossing of the Seine River made by American troops. Perazed and accomplishments, veteran war correspondents said this campaign out-flit all German blitzes and even broke the Russian records. Participating during the drive which eventually resulted in the liberation of Paris, were the 79th and 90th Divisions, the 5th armored Division, the 2nd French armored Division, the 106th Cavalry Group and various other crack army units.

Missions frequently required river crossings, speedy advance through ideal defensive terrain, and often were without hope of assistance on either flank. Sharp angle thrusts necessitated maneuvering and rockfelling that called for military finesse and daring, and required operational efficiency of superior skill. Courage, gallantry and fighting fitness sparked vigorous drives that would not stop short of success.

Corps units formed the southern flank of the famed Argentan-Falaise pocket and caused huge losses to enemy personnel and matériel. Later, the clipping claw was widened closer to Paris and once again the Germans could not break out of the second pocket rigidly held by the famous Fifteenth. Still later, the first bridgehead over the Seine was enlarged and defended to clear the way for the general advance of American and British forces west of the river. The troops were very close to Paris and they insisted to go in, but including tactical objectives overruled the glamorous call and the Corps kept going.

General Patton liked the Corps and said so. In expressing his commendation he wrote General Haislip, "Please accept for yourself and transmit to the officers and men of your command my sincere appreciation and commendation for the masterly manner in which the Corps has pressed relentlessly forward, executed difficult changes of direction, and taken calculated risks with the utmost daring. The whole performance on the part of yourself, and your officers and men, has been very superior."

(Continued on p 2)
Mostly in the Third Army, for a few days under First Army now under Seventh Army, the Furioso Fifteenth still gets the rugged jobs to do. The Furioso of Parvo is just another reason why, in a recent visit to Corps Headquarters and the front lines, General George C. Marshall said to the troops of the XV Corps, "You are doing a wonderful work and we in Washington know it and appreciate it!"

END
NOTE: The following material, as a XV Corps Public Relations release, was passed for publication by 6th Army Group field press censors on 23 Nov 1944.

With the XV Corps in France — A co-ordinated attack begun a week ago has seen units of the powerful XV Corps smash their way to a singularly vital segment of the outer ring protecting Germany. As a boxer measures his opponent, slugs, feints, jabs and makes ready for a series of finishing punches — as a master chess player maneuvers his chessmen to strangle his opponent's moves, so Major General Wade H. Haislip, Commanding General of the Corps, has skillfully fashioned a pattern in which the units of his command have been able to achieve an important break-through in the area near Saverne and Strasbourg in sight of the Rhine.

The Corps started to push at a jumping-off point each of Luneville with the 14th Infantry Division on the left of its advance. Commanded by Major General Robert L. Sprague, who gained fame at Guadalcanal, this was the 4th American division to disembark at the port of Cherbourg. On the Corps' right was Major General Leo T. Wycher's veteran 79th Infantry Division, an outstanding, hard-made history in Normandy and throughout western France. Protecting the northern flank was the 106th Cavalry Group, whose Colonel Kennard Wilson is one of the "fightingest" men in the U.S. Army. Right back of the 79th and to its right flank was another "Furious Fifteenth" stand-by, the colorful 2nd French armored Division of General Jacques Leclerc, an organization with one of the best combat records compiled in France. The massed fire power of Corps artillery was skillfully employed by Brigadier General Howard E. Ott. There were other units also — groups and battalions of engineers, tank destroyers, antiaircraft, and other arms and services.

The Germans employed natural terrain to every advantage and supplemented it with cleverly constructed fortifications and emplacements. Particularly between the Rhine-Marne Canal and a prominent Vosges Mountain height to the south, the enemy had built a defense line with which he confidently expected to appreciate delay or perhaps entirely halt the expected American attack. What the Germans did not anticipate was a puncturing XV Corps offense which, left, by every weakness and every strength and then knifed through with a series of complicated outflanking maneuvers that stunned the Germans. Then, at precisely the right moment, the hard riding tanks of the 2nd French armored flashed their mobile power to give wings to the ground attack and General Haislip's calculations bore fruit in producing a spectacular break-through. Caught off balance, the communications disrupted and troop morale shattered, the Germans were routed all along the Corps front.

It was a dramatic event whose repercussions will hammer home beyond the outer ring protecting Germany and will go through the Noel rule to spike the rotten core of the foe of all humanity.
GENERAL ORDER:

NUMBER......1114

OFFICER IN CHARGE FOR WESTERN DIVISION

OBSIDATIONS AT END OF THE DAY TELL OF THE CONFIDENCE OF THE COMMAND. Assigned the task of forcing the S.W.N.W. G.F. and throwing the enemy back from their strongly defended positions in the Vegesack Mounts. In these actions you have accomplished your mission and achieved decisive successes far beyond those which were required of you. The divisions of your command have routed the enemy everywhere; he has been thrown back in disorder and has lost much valuable equipment and hundreds of prisoners.

Having overwhelmed the enemy and scattered his forces, you prevented him the opportunity to regroup and make a stand west of the Vegesack. Without pausing for rest you continued your tireless pursuit of the enemy, capturing the highly important stronghold of several within eight days after launching your initial assault.

This difficult assault and tireless pursuit has contributed significantly to the success of the Allied Forces in western Europe. It indicates a high state of discipline, as well as a plan soundly conceived and energetically executed. You can justly proud of your outstanding achievements.

/s/ A. E. Pich

/s/ A. E. P. T.G.

Lieutenant General, U. S. A.

Commanding.

DISTRIBUTION: III

OFFICIAL COPY
HEADQUARTERS 100TH INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO: Commanding General, AV Corps

The Corps artillery of the AV Corps has been outstanding in its effectiveness, cooperation and competence to render maximum support at all times since we have been engaged in combat with the AV Corps. I should like to express my deep appreciation and commendation to the Corps artillery Command, Brigadier General Lawrie S. Ott, his immediate assistants, and the officers and men of his command for the splendid job they have done for the 100th Division. Our infantry has the utmost confidence in their accurate firing.

/s/ [Signature]

Major General, U. S. Army

Commanding

1st Inc.

HEADQUARTERS AV CORPS, APO 436, U. S. Army, 24 December 1944

TO: Commanding General, AV Corps Artillery

It is with pleasure that I forward this well earned commendation from the Commanding General, 100th Infantry Division, for the splendid performance of you and your staff.

/s/ [Signature]

LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. Army

Commanding.
Ltr, Hq 100th Inf Div, Subj: "Commendation", OTD 19 December 1944

AG 201.22 - (a) 2nd Ind.
(19 Dec 44)
HQ QM, XV CORPS, 4TH ARMY, AMC 436, U.S. ARMY, 1 January 1945

TO: Commanding Officer, 14th Field Artillery Group, AMC 436, U.S. ARMY

1. It should give every member of the XV Corps artillery units a feeling of deep satisfaction to realize that his own individual efforts and his teamwork with his comrades have resulted in such a fine performance of duty as to warrant the above commendation.

2. Of particular note is the last sentence of the original letter, "Our Infantry has the utmost confidence in their accurate firing." Such a trust is priceless.

/s/ Edward S. Ott
/t/ 2nd Inf Div
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding

AG 201.22 - (a) 3rd Ind.
(19 Dec 44)
HQ QM, XV CORPS, 4TH ARMY, AMC 436, U.S. ARMY, 1 January 1945

TO: Commanding Officer, 203rd Field Artillery, AMC 436, U.S. ARMY

1. I am particularly pleased to forward to you this commendation, inasmuch as your battalion has a great deal to do with the reduction of Fort Schiessel in the 10th Division sector.

2. I also feel that this commendation should extend to Captain Kollum and the officers and men of "B" Battery who so energetically handled the 112 self-propelled gun in the 10th Division sector, and which probably had a small part in the reduction of Forts 7 & 8 in the Schiessel group.

C. B. Cole
Colonel, 14th Fd Gp
Commanding
HEADQUARTERS, 44TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO Mid., c/o Fort Meade, New York, NY

26 December 42

SUBJECT: Neutralization of Fort Sinnerhoff

TO: Commanding General, XV Corps Artillery. (Through Channels)

I am happy to pass on to you the following report on the excellent work done by the XV Corps Artillery during the neutralization of Fort Sinnerhoff:

"1. With reference to actions of the Corps Artillery in the neutralization of Fort Sinnerhoff, the following facts are submitted:

"a. The heavy howitzers and guns of the Corps Artillery normally require a minimum of twelve hours to displace and position as high as thirty-six hours. Due to the superior efforts of all those in the chain of command of Corps Artillery, batteries were displaced considerable distances to the right and left, firing after midnight on one night so that the bulk of the batteries were ready to fire when visibility permitted the next morning."

"b. This displacement was found necessary because a study of stereo pairs of airplane photo verticals indicated that the faces of the various units of Fort Sinnerhoff were quite at an angle to the normal fire. The prompt displacement and excellent firing done by Corps Artillery units are believed to have aided materially in the neutralization of this fort. Particular appreciation is expressed of the full cooperation and rapidity of displacement of the various elements of the Corps Artillery."

"/s/ Wm. A. Beiderlinden
// Robert L. Sorensen
Brigadier General, U. S. Army"

// Robert L. Sorensen
Major General, United States Army
Commanding.
Ltqr Hq 44th Inf Div, Subj: "Neutralization of Fort Sibert, 22", 26 Dec 1944

Ltr HQ 44th Inf Div, Subj: "Neutralization of Fort Sibert, 22", 26 Dec 1944

1st Ind. 

110/4

The splendid results achieved in this difficult and exacting task fully justify the highest praise. It is with pleasure that I forward this commendation of the Commanding General, 44th Infantry Division Artillery.

/s/ Col. H. Heitling

2nd Ind.

/br/. Maj. H. Heitling

Commanding

Maj. General, US Army

2nd Ind. 

(26 Dec 44)

TO: Commanding Officer, 44th Field Artillery Group, HQ 436, US Army, 1 January 1945

1. That the success of this operation was made possible only by the determination and sustained effort of every rank in the Corps Artillery is evident from the original letter. Let each man take personal pleasure in the recognition of a difficult task accomplished in superior fashion.

2. An army which can do the impossible, can never lose.

/s/ Edward S. Ott

3rd Ind.

/br/. Maj. Edward S. Ott

Brigadier General, US Army

Commanding

Ltr HQ 44th Inf Div, Subj: "Neutralization of Fort Sibert, 22", 31 Dec 1944

3rd Ind. 

(31 Dec 44)

TO: Commanding Officer, 29th Inf Div, HQ 436, U. S. Army

1. I am greatly pleased to forward to you this commendation from General E. M. Albritton. Your and the Officers of your command are rightfully deserving of the highest praise for this excellent piece of work.

2. It is also gratifying that the superior accomplishment of this mission has received recognition from our higher commanders. Their comments reflect the greatest confidence in you, a trust to be highly prized by every rank.
HEADQUARTERS XII CORPS
AFO 514, US Army

Office of
Commanding General

28 December 1944

Major General W. H. McAlpin,
Commanding, XV Corps
AFO #136, U. S. Army

Dear Gen: McAlpin,

The energy and helpfulness with which our artillery was relieved was amazing. As a result of this quick action and fine cooperation, we were able to get into action here in record time. As a matter of fact, a delay of 24 hours might have produced a critical situation. As it was, we were able to regain a strong position before the build-up became excessive.

I want to express my appreciation for this fine Army spirit and hope you will convey my thanks to Stanley Ott.

Best regards,

/ / H. B. Eddy
/ / W. H. HAGN
Major General, US A
Commanding

AG 201122 - (a) -
(28 Dec 44)
HEADQUARTERS XV CORPS, AFO #136, U. S. Army, 10 January 1945

TO: Commanding General, XV Corps Artillery.

It gives me genuine pleasure to forward a commendation of this nature. Such attention to duty is in keeping with the high traditions of the Army and I express my own appreciation for work well done.

/ / W. H. HAGN
/ / W. H. HAGN
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

AG 201122 - (a) -
(28 Dec 44)
HEADQUARTERS XV CORPS ARTILLERY, AFO #136, U. S. Army, 15 January 1945

TO: Commanding Officer, 114th Field Artillery Group, AFO #136, U. S. Army.

1. Seldom are the results of our own operations made so apparent to us; for evidently in this instance, the speed and efficiency with which the XV Corps artillery affected the relief of XII Corps artillery units in our present sector directly contributed to the stopping of the German offensive near RESTANEL.

2. The appreciation expressed by the Corps Commander extends alike to commanders and commanders.

/ / Edward S. Ott
/ / Edward S. Ott
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Commanding
Basic: Ltr Hq XII Corps, std 28 Dec 44, Commendation of XV Corps Artillery, U. S. Army

AG 201.22 - (a) (28 Dec 44)
3rd Ind.
HEADQUARTERS, 144TH FA GROUP, sPQ #436, U. S. Army, 28 Jan 45

TO: Officers and Men, 144 Fa Group Btry.

1. This commendation, in addition to warning you, should make you aware that others besides myself and those familiar with you have also noted your ability to put out and to deliver when the chips are down.

2. I personally appreciated what you did on this occasion and who knows but that your work in this critical period may have been the cause which resulted in the failure of the German attack at Bastogne.

/s/ C. E. Cole
/t/ G. E. Wllm
Colonel, 144 Fa Gp
COMMANDING.
TO: Officers and men of the XV Corps

1. It is with a feeling of great pride that I transmit to you the following letter from the Chief of Staff of the Army, General George C. Marshall. To receive such praise from him means that you have truly earned it.

"WASHINGTON

December 1944

Dear Heislip:

When the accomplishments of the closing year are reviewed, your score will be among the highest. You and your people have done great things, and you are still doing them. I have full confidence that your Corps will continue to handle every situation that will arise, and with great credit to America.

May you find some opportunity to enjoy the Christmas season with its age-old promise of better things to come.

Faithfully yours,

G. C. Marshall

Major General Wade H. Heislip,
Commanding General, XV Corps
APO 4136, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York."

2. In thanking the Chief of Staff for his fine letter, I shall tell him that the XV Corps will continue to do its utmost to destroy the enemy in our front, and that he may rest assured that our effort will not lessen until final victory is attained.

/s/ Wade H. Heislip
/t/ W.H.B. HAYS
Major General, U. S. Army Commanding.
SUBJECT: Commandation.

TO: See Distribution.

The following is a copy of a teletype message received from Major General Wade H. Haislip, XV Corps Commander:

SINCE THE NIGHT OF MARCH ONE THIRTY THREE FORTEY FOUR OUR GERMAN FORCES HAVE BEEN ATTACKING OUR POSITIONS WITH ALL THE STRENGTH THEIR DOGGED FANATISM AND A DESPERATE DESIRE TO PENETRATE OUR LINES CAN BUSTLE INTO THEIR USE OF ARTILLERY. IN THE LAST SEVENTY FIVE HOURS TO TWO HUNDRED AND LIGHT M.41 ON OUR TRENCHES AND INSTALLATIONS IF THEY HAVE ATTACKED US WITH THE AIR FORCE IN NUMBERS NOT HERETOFOR SEEN BY THIS CORPS. FD DESPITE THESE DESPERATE EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THE ENEMY CIA. YOU CIA. OFFICERS AND MEN CIA. HAVE CIA. BY YOUR COURAGE CIA. MAJOR CIA. AND DEVOTION TO DUTY CIA. REFUSED HIS EVERY ATTACK FD. YOU HAVE INFESTED UNTO THE ENEMY TREMENDOUS LOSSES IN PERSONNEL AND MATERIAL FD. SKILFULL PLANNING OF DEFENSIVE ORGANIZATIONS AND EXECUTION OF CORRECT OPERATIONS HAVE RESULTED IN REASONABLE LIGHT LOSSES TO OUR OWN TROOPS FD I CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE SUCCESSES YOU HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR.

HAILSTON COMMAN

DISTRIBUTION:

1. EK Group
2. Hq Btry, XV Corps Art
3. 3rd Fd Oben En
1. En En 164 Fd G

/s/ John A. Berry, Jr.
/5/ JOHN A. BERRY, JR.
ORDER OF THE DAY

TO: All Officers and Men of the Seventh Army.

The Army Commander has just received a letter of congratulations from the Supreme Allied Commander over the successful recent operations of this army.

My congratulations to all concerned for such high achievements which have elicited these expressions from the Supreme Allied Commander.

/s/ M. L. Patch

Lt. Gen., U.S. Army
Commanding.
HEADQUARTERS
AV CORPS UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

AG 206-5 (A)

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO: Officers and Men of the AV Corps

1. It is with utmost pride that I publish to you the following commendations from the Commanding General, Sixth Army Group and the Commanding General, Seventh Army, on the recent accomplishments of the AV Corps:

HEADQUARTERS
SIXTH ARMY GROUP
Office of the Commanding General
APO 23

27 March 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO: Commanding General, AV Corps

THRU: Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 736, U.S. Army

Since the morning of 15 March, the AV Corps has achieved new and magnificent successes. Acting as the spearhead of the Seventh Army's attack on that date, you launched a blow at the enemy forces in your sector which resulted in the ultimate destruction of the major part of two German Armies.

On the second day of the attack you captured the heavily fortified city of Eltobbe. Continuing your advance you breached the Siegfried defenses and on 20 March captured the cities of Zweibrücken and Homburg. In conjunction with the other Corps of the Seventh Army, and the Third Army, you completed the mopping up of the Saar pocket, and closed to the Rhine River.

Without pause you crossed the Rhine and established a firm bridgehead on the east bank. From that bridgehead the Seventh Army will be able to assist in launching the final blow at Nazi Germany.

Your actions have been bold, thoroughly planned, and efficiently executed. The combination of brilliant leadership and stalwart fighting men has paid rich dividends.

I am proud of the AV Corps and I desire that you express to your divisions...
Ltr Hq XV Corps, file AG 200.6 (A), subj: Commendation, std 8 April 1945 (Con't).

AG 200.6-A
(8 Apr 45)
HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY, APO 758, US Army 31 March 1945

TO: Commanding General, XV Corps, APO 136, US Army

I wish to add my commendation of the Commanding General, Sixth Army Group, and to express my congratulations and admiration for the magnificent achievement of the XV Corps.

/s/ A. H. Patch
/s/ A. H. Patch
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding

2. I desire to thank you personally for the splendid accomplishments of every task assigned. Your aggressive spirit and outstanding efforts in contributing to the defeat of the German forces opposing the advance of the XV Corps have done much towards the achievement of final victory. My sincere thanks and best wishes to you all.

/s/ Wade H. Haislip
/s/ W. H. Haislip
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:
"A" & "B"

AG 201.22-A
(8 Apr 45)
HEADQUARTERS XV CORPS ARTILLERY, APO 136, U.S. Army, 14 April 1945

TO: Commanding Officer, 114th Field Artillery Group, APO 758, U.S. Army

The part played by the XV Corps Artillery in the attack, which is the subject of this commendation, is a source of great pride to me. Your actions and your accomplishments have been truly outstanding and worthy of this commendation.

/s/ Edward S. Ott
/s/ Edward S. Ott
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding
With the XV Corps in Germany -- Commemorating the spectacular capture of Nurnberg units of the XV Corps participated in a color-filled review in the heart of the old, moated city. Organized resistance had come to an end the day before mid the bright sunshine of what, appropriately enough, was Hitler's 56th and possibly his last birthday.

After crossing through the Siegfried Lines, Maj. Gen. Wade H. Haislip's XV Corps troops had led the Seventh Army's crossing of the Rhine and had broken some records in bridge construction and speedy personnel movements to accomplish that feat. A rapid dash through city and town, over mountain, hill and flat, through forest and plain, finally brought the Corps to the city -- Nurnberg Nazi Party intellectual center and frequent scene of Fascist heresy by Hitler, Goebbels, Goering, Himmler, Hess and other propaganda laden spotters. The site of the German War College, of Tank Gunnery, Anti-Tank, and Tank Destroyer schools, the city was filled with enthusiastic cedets, 33 and Wehrmacht troops and an assorted crowd of semi-military battalions, all of whom had pledged themselves to fight to the death in defense of fascism's ideological capital.

Representative units of all XV Corps organizations attended the short celebration in Adolf Hitler Platz in honor of a world-famed victory. A Hollywoodian appearance -- sternly realistic background of rubble and ruin bore striking testimony of the destruction wrought by American artillery fire and aerial bombardment and symbolized the decline of Nazi military might. Composite infantry battalions were present and passed in review, as did companies of engineers, batteries of Long Tom and anti-aircraft artillery, sections of Tank Destroyers, and a tank company. The 33rd Infantry Division band played martial airs at the left of the reviewing stand and at the right were massed Regimental and Group Colors. Doughboys marched to the band's stirring rendition of "Der Fuehrer's Face." Brig. Gen. Edward S. Ott, Corp Artillery Commander, was in command of troops who participated in the ceremonial exercise.

Following the presentation of troops and their inspection by the Corps Commander, General Haislip delivered a short forthright address, parts of which were immediately cabled back to the United States in Associated Press dispatches. The Stars and Stripes was
formally raised over the heart of the city, and then lowered to half-mast in honor of the late President Franklin D.
Roosevelt and of soldiers of XV Corps units who had fallen on the road to victory.

Lt. Gen. Alexander H. Patch, who was on the reviewing
stand, expressed his "profound thanks and gratitude for the
splendid work" of the Corps and its divisions. Additional off-
icers on the stand included commanders of divisions and of
other organizations within the Corps and members of General Hais-
lip's staff.

The text of General Haislip's address follows:

GENERAL HAISLIP'S ADDRESS

Nurnberg, Germany 21 April 1945

To the General Officers, Officers and Men of the XV Corps:

Here we stand today amid the tumbled ruins of Nurnberg — amid the ruins of a city which gave its name to the infamous
dictator whose name to the infamous
laws that violated every concept of human decency. Here Hitler
reigned and strutted, and here he shouted at the multitudes of
adoring Germans was used to gather in propaganda-filled stup-

ific. In this city fascism flourished. We have conquered
Nurnberg, and we have destroyed it just as thoroughly as we shall
destroy fascism and every evil thing connected with it.

The capture and destruction of this city mark the end of
the campaign of which we all can be rightfully proud. We started
on March 15 and have made an average advance of approximately
260 miles. Let's review for a moment what was accomplished
during that advance. The first big step was to cross through the Siegfried Line and capture Zweibrucken and Homburg. Then
proceeded along with the Third Army to the Rhine. The crossing
of the Rhine, I believe, is an epic. Within 66 hours of the
time the first assault boat started across the river in the
face of the enemy machine gun fire, the Corps had built four
bridges, each approximately 1,000 feet in length, and had moved
120,000 men across with everything that goes with them, including
about 23,000 vehicles of all sizes and description. While the
3rd and 45th Divisions continued their dash towards the Main
River, the 44th Division on the south took Mannheim. The Main
was crossed with great rapidity, and the German made one of his
worst mistakes when, facing the 45th Division, he decided to
fight it out at Aschaffenburg. The Boche asked for it and we
gave it to him. We destroyed his city, killed 1,500 soldiers
and took 3,000 prisoners. The enemy was stubborn at Baben-ger,
also, and he paid dearly for his error in judgment. On we went,
mile after mile, and finally arrived at Nurnberg. Here the Ger-
man made another mistake. He again decided to fight it out with
the result that many hundreds of Nazis were killed and what was
left of the city was destroyed. We gave Hitler a bitter birthday
present because yesterday, on his birthday the fight was over.
I want to thank you for your truly remarkable accomplish-
ments and to tell you that my pride in you is unlimited. And I
know that the Army Commander, the Army Group Commander and the
entire nation are proud of you.

From here we are going on to victory. We must give the
enemy no rest whatever. We must prove to him completely and
conclusively that his way of life is not what the civilized world
wants. This we shall do.

The Stars and Stripes will now be raised over the heart of
the city of Nurnberg.
HEADQUARTERS, SEVENTH ARMY

MG 758

22 December 1944

MG 33011 disc

SUBJECT: Supreme Commander's "Order of the Day".

TO: All units, Seventh Army

The following "Order of the Day" issued by the Supreme Commander is to be delivered to every member of all headquarters and units under your command:

"To Every Member of the A.E.F.

"The enemy is making his supreme effort to break out of the desperate plight into which you forced him by your brilliant victories of Summer and Fall. He is fighting savagely to take back all that you have won and is using every treacherous trick to deceive and kill you. He is gambling everything; but already, in this battle, your gallantry has doomed him to fail his plans. In the face of your proven bravery and fortitude, he will completely fail.

"But we cannot be content with his mere repulse.

"By rushing out from his fixed defenses the enemy may give us the chance to turn his great gamble into his worst defeat. So I call upon every man, of all the Allies, to rise now to new heights of courage, of resolution and of effort. Let everyone hold before him a single thought - TO DESTROY THE Führer ON THE GROUND, IN THE AIR, EVERYWHERE - Destroy him united in this determination and with unshakeable faith in the cause for which we fight. We will, with God's help, go forward to our greatest victory."

Signed: Dwight D. Eisenhower

By command of Lieutenant General Patch:

/s/ W. C. Caldwell,
/s/ W. G. Caldwell,
Colonel, Adj. General,
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION: "G"
AG 221.22(A)

SUBJECT: Order of the Day

TO : See Distribution

The Supreme Allied Commander has directed that the following Order of the Day issued by the Supreme Commander be delivered to every member of all headquarters and units under your command:

"30 April 1945

"To Every Member of the AEF:

The whole Allied Expeditionary Force congratulates the 7th Army on the seizure of Munich, the cradle of the Nazi Beast. Signed Dwight D. Eisenhower."

/\ / A. E. Patch
/: A. E. Patch
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

Distribution: "O"
HEADQUARTERS, SEVENTH ARMY  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 2753  
US Army  
9 May 1945

AG 201.22-A

SUBJECT: Order of the Day

TO:  

See Distribution.

1. I have received the following cable from the Secretary of War:

"I join a grateful nation in applauding the heroic part you and your men have taken in our triumph. Each soldier of the Seventh Army shares in congratulations for success gained through magnificent courage at the front. You can be proud of a distinguished accomplishment."

2. Observe you glorious men of the Seventh Army, our efforts and exploits are not unrecognized in our country. To you who have done the fighting, I send my deepest and most patriotic thanks.

/s/ A. M. Patch  
/s/ A. M. PAtch  
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army  
Commanding.

DISTRIBUTION: "C"
and the efforts of each have contributed to the outcome. This we shall remember, and in doing so we shall be revering each honored grave, and be sending comfort to the loved ones of comrades who could not live to see this day.

Signed Dwight D. Eisenhower.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL PAUCH:

OFFICIAL:

/s/ W. G. Caldwell
/t/ W. C. Chandler
Colonel, AE
Adjutant General

GEORGE A. WHITE
Major General, G3G
GSO of Staff
HEADQUARTERS THIRD US ARMY

9 May 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER 98

SOLDIERS OF THE THIRD ARMY

During the 281 days of incessant and victorious combat, your penetrations have advanced farther in less time than any other army in history. You have fought your way across 24 major rivers and innumerable lesser streams. You have liberated or conquered more than 82,000 square miles of territory, including 320 cities and towns, and some 12,00 inhabited places. Prior to the conclusion of active hostilities, you had captured in battle 850,000 enemy prisoners and killed or wounded at least 700,000 others. France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia bear witness to your exploits.

All men and women of the six corps and thirty-nine divisions that have at different times been members of this army have done their part. Each deserves credit. The enduring valor of the combat troops has paralleled and made possible the often unpublicized activities of our supply, administrative, and medical services of this army and of the Communications Zone troops supporting it. Nor should we forget our comrades of the other services and of the Air Force, particularly of the Ninth Tactical Air Command, by whose side or under whose wings we have had the honor to fight.

In proudly contemplating our achievements, let us never forget our heroic dead whose graves mark the course of our victorious advances, nor our wounded whose sacrifices aided so much to our success.

I should be both ungrateful and wanting in honor if I failed to acknowledge the debt we owe to our Chiefs of Staff, Generals Stillwell and Geary, and to the officers and men of the General and Special Staff Sections of Army Headquarters. Without their loyalty, intelligence, and unremitting labors, success would have been impossible.

The termination of fighting in Europe does not remove the opportunities for other outstanding and equally difficult achievements in the days which are to come. In some ways the immediate future will demand of you more fortitude than has the past because, without the inspiration of combat, you must maintain—by your dress, deportment, and efficiency—not only the prestige of the Third army but also the honor of the United States. I have complete confidence that you will not fail.

During the course of this war I have received promotions and decorations far above and beyond my individual merit. You won them; I as your representative wear them. The one honor which is mine and mine alone is that of having commanded such an incomparable group of Americans, the record of whose fortitude, audacity, and valor will endure as long as history lasts.

/s/ G. S. Patton Jr.

G. S. Patton Jr.

General
Commander in Chief,

The following personal message has been received by General Eisenhower from His Majesty, the King. It is the Supreme Commander's desire that this message be brought to the attention of every member of this command.

"Eleven months ago, you led the Allied Expeditionary Force across the English Channel, carrying with you the hopes and prayers of millions of men and women of many nations.

"To it was entrusted the task of annihilating the German armies in western Europe, and of thus liberating the peoples whom they had enslaved.

"All the world now knows that, after fierce and continuous warfare, this force has accomplished its mission with a fidelity achieved by no other such expedition in history.

"On behalf of all my peoples, I ask that you, its Supreme Commander, will tell its members how deeply grateful we are to them, and how unbounded is our admiration for the courage and determination which, under wise leadership, have brought them to their goal of complete and crushing victory.

"I would ask you also to convey a special message of congratulations to my own forces now under your command.

"Throughout the campaign, they have acquitted themselves in all services, with valour and distinction for which their fellow countrymen will forever hold them in honour. Signed George VI, 7 May 1945." G-1
HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY

BULLETIN )
NUMBER 69 )

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

It is the desire of the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, that the following congratulatory messages be brought to the attention of all members of this command.

1. Message from the President, Harry S. Truman:

"In recognition of the unconditional and absolute surrender of the Nazi barbarians please accept the fervent congratulations and appreciation of myself and of the American people for the heroic achievements of your Allied Army, Navy and Air Forces; by their sacrifices, skill and courage, they have saved and exalted the cause of freedom throughout the world. All of us owe you and to your men of many nations a debt beyond appraisal for their high contribution to the conquest of Nazism.

"I send also my personal appreciation of the superb leadership shown by you and your commanders in directing the valiant legions of our own country and of our allies to this historic victory.

"Please transmit this message to the appropriate officers of your command and publish it to all Allied Forces in your theater of operations."

2. Message from the Secretary of War:

"In this hour of victory I join with all peace-loving peoples of the world in sending my most heartfelt thanks to you, your staff and commanders, and to every member of your Allied Armies."

3. Message from the Secretary of the Navy:

"The United States Navy send to you and your commanders its congratulations and admiration for the superb accomplishments of the American armies in achieving in conjunction with our allies the destruction of Nazi Germany.

"To you personally goes my unbounded admiration for your great accomplishment in terms of military strategy, leadership and above all those qualities of will, patience and tenacity which have earned for you the unswerving support of our own forces and those of our allies."
Bul 69, Hq Seventh Army,
11 May 45, Con't.

4. Message from Admiral King:

"On behalf of the officers and men of the U. S. Navy, I extend hearty and sincere congratulations to you and all officers and men under your able command on the victory attained in Europe.

"The unselfish devotion to duty demonstrated by your forces will serve as an inspiration to renew our determination to hasten the day of victory over Japan."

5. Message from Admiral Nimitz:

"The smashing victory of American and Allied Arms over Germany ends the reign of brute force and terror in Europe. Millions of the world's people are beholden to you and the superb forces under your command for the restoration of their right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

"The victory confirms the wisdom of our world strategy which required the use of the bulk of our strength against Germany while holding Japan and driving them back when possible. Now the whole overwhelming weight of our forces can be turned upon our treacherous enemy in the Pacific. Japan deserves and from now on will receive our united and undivided attention.

"My sincere congratulations to you, your staff and all the men of your command on the completion of a formidable task supremely well done.

6. Message from the Queen of the Netherlands:

"Please accept my most sincere congratulations on the great and decisive victories which have caused the final downfall of a powerful and ruthless enemy. Together with me and my peoples, grateful thanks to you and all the armies under your supreme command, the, by their unflawing bravery and sacrifices, have brought about the triumph of our common cause and the liberation of the Netherlands."

7. Message from the Prime Minister of Canada:

"I send to you and to the forces under your command the heartfelt congratulations of the government and people of Canada upon the final defeat of the military might of Nazi Germany to which defeat the Allied Expeditionary Forces contributed so decisively. We are indeed proud that Canadians have so worthy a place in the great company of the forces of liberation which under your supreme command have achieved so complete a victory."

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL PATTCH:

OFFICIAL:
/e/ W. G. Caldwell
/t/ W. G. CALDWELL
Colonel, A & D
Adjutant General

ARTHUR A. WHITE
Chief of Staff
With the XV Corps in Austria, General Jacob L. Devers, Commanding the Sixth Army Group, has enthusiastically congratulated the XV Corps for its "great record" which contributed so outstandingly to the defeat of Germany.

In an acclamatory letter to Lt. Gen. Wade Haislip, General Devers acknowledged the "spectacular deeds" of the XV Corps from the time the organization joined the Sixth Army Group's Seventh Army until the "hour of triumph". He hailed the bold maneuvers of the Corps which resulted in the capture of Forney Forest, the Savorne Gap, and Strasbourg, the breaching of the Maginot and Siegfried Lines, the conquest of Zweibrücken, the crossing of the Rhine, the victories of Oppelnburg, Ferdinand, Innsbruck and Salzburg and the breaking of "the last remnants of German resistance".

Previously, while under General Patton's Third Army command, the XV Corps had exploited the Normandy break-through, spearheaded the drive through western France, made the first allied crossing of the Seine River, opened the gateway to Paris, and subsequently made contact with the joined Seventh Army forces who had moved north from Lorraine.

"Your country has every reason to name the XV Corps among its military greats," wrote General Devers to General Haislip.

The full text of the letter of commendation follows:
SUBJECT: Commendation

TO: Commanding General, XV Corps, SHAEF, US Army

In the glorious victory which we have just won, you and the officers and men of your Corps may well be proud of your great record as part of the 6th Army Group. As spearhead in many of Seventh Army's drives, you have borne the brunt of the attack, and the impressive success of that Army borne witness to the effectiveness of your efforts. Your country has every reason to name the XV Corps among its military greats.

You joined my command at the time when an attack through the treacherous French Forest in Northern Alsace was underway. After swiftly clearing this area, your forces composed the main effort of the Seventh Army to break through the naturally strong line of the Vosges to the Rhine. By a series of bold maneuvers, the Siegfried Line was breached and Strasbourg was taken in a breath-taking dash to the Rhine. You then turned north to the Siegfried Line and were proceeding against the German border when the Ardennes offensive forced a halt on your front. In late December and early January, you were required to hold a greatly extended line against determined enemy attacks, but your troops repulsed every thrust.

When on the entire Western Front an offensive was launched early this spring, your Corps once again boreed the brunt of the Seventh Army's breaking the Siegfried Line, after bitter fighting you took Mulhouse and Strasbourg and broke through to the Rhine. This famous river, once considered an impregnable barrier, proved no obstacle to your troops. Precise planning and perfect execution made possible a successful assault on 26 March 1945, as you plunged across with almost no pause.

In your drive deep into Germany, Aschaffenburg and Nürnberg were encircled and captured. Munich, one of the last sacred of German cities to the Nazis, was assaulted and seized in a decisive action. Several days later Salzburg fell to your troops, as they entered Austria and broke the last remnants of German resistance before you.

In our hour of triumph, I salute you and the officers and men of the XV Corps. Your spectacular deeds, exemplifying the courage and resolution of the American soldier, give your country, as well as myself, the greatest of pride and satisfaction. That the XV Corps was part of my command in the struggle now ended will always be a source of deep inspiration to me.

J. C. L. DeWitt,
General, U. S. Army
Commanding
SUBJECT: Indoctrination for Return to US.

TO: All Units, European Theater of Operations, USA.

1. In compliance with current policies for rotation of armed forces overseas, it is directed that, in order to maintain the high standard of character of the American soldier and to prevent any dishonor to reflect on the uniform, all individuals eligible for return to the United States under current directives will undergo an indoctrination of demilitarization prior to approval of this application.

2. The following points will be emphasized in the subject indoctrination course:

a. In America, there are a remarkable number of beautiful girls. These young ladies have not been liberated and many are gainfully employed as stenographers, sales girls, and beauty operators or welders. Contrary to current practices they should not be approached with, "How much?". A proper greeting is, "Isn't this a lovely day?", or "How much?". THEN ask, "How much?"

b. A guest in a private home is usually awakened in the morning by a light tapping on his door and an invitation to join the host in breakfast. It is proper to say, "I'll be there shortly" NOT say, "Blow it out your --- --- ---".

c. A typical American breakfast consists of such strange foods as cantelope, fresh eggs, milk, ham, etc. These are highly palatable and though strange in appearance are extremely tasty.

ibir, made from cream, is often served. If you wish some butter, you turn to the person nearest to it and say quietly, "Please pass the butter". YOU DO NOT say, "Throw me the goddam grease".

d. Very natural urges are apt to occur in a crowd. If it is found necessary to defecate, one does NOT grasp a shovel in one hand and paper in the other and run for the garden. At least 90% of American homes have one room called the "bathroom", i.e., a room that, in most cases, contains a bathtub, wash basin, medicine cabinet, and a toilet. It is the latter that you will use in this case. (Instructions should make sure that all personnel understand the operation of a toilet, particularly the lever or button arrangement that serves to prepare the device for re-use).

e. In the event the helmet is retained by the individual he will refrain from using it as a chair, washbowl, footbath, or bathtub. All these devices are furnished in the average American home. It is not considered good practice to squat Indian fashion in a corner in the event all chairs are occupied. The host will usually provide suitable seats.

f. Belching or passing wind in company is strictly frowned upon. If you should become momentarily forget about it, however, a belch in the presence of others, a proper remark is, "Excuse me". DO NOT say, "It must be the lousy chow we've been getting".

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g. American dinners in most cases consist of several items, each served in a separate dish. The common practice of mixing various items, such as corned beef and pudding or lima beans and peaches, to make it more palatable will be refrained from. In time the "separate dish" system will become enjoyable.

h. Americans have a strange taste for stimulants. The drinks in common usage on the Continent, such as under-ripe wine, alcohol, and grapefruit juice mix, or gasoline bitters and water (commonly known by the French term "Cognac") are not ordinarily acceptable in civilian circles. These drinks should be served only to those who are definitely not within the inner circle of one's friends. A suitable use for such drinks is for one's landlord in order to break an unbearable lease.

i. The returning soldier is apt to often find his opinions differ from those of his civilian associates. One should call upon his reserve of etiquette and correct these acquaintance with such remarks as "I do believe you have made a mistake", or 'I am told you are in error on that". DO NOT say "Boucher, you've really f---ed up". This is considered impolite.

j. Upon leaving a friend's home after a visit, one may find his hat misplaced. Frequently it has been placed in a closet. One should turn to one's host and say, "I don't seem to have my hat." Could you help me find it?" DO NOT say, "Don't anybody leave this room, gone S.O.P. has stolen my hat."

k. In traveling in the U.S., particularly in a strange city, it is often necessary to spend the night. Hotels are provided for this purpose and almost everyone can give directions to the nearest hotel. Here, for a small sum, one can register and be shown to a room where he can sleep for the night. The present practice of entering the nearest house, throwing the occupants into the yard, and taking over the premises will cease.

l. Whiskey, a common American drink, may be offered to the soldier on social occasions. It is considered a reflection on the uniform to snatch the bottle from the hostess and drain the bottle, cork and all. All individuals will be cautioned to exercise the extreme of control in these circumstances.

m. In motion picture theaters, seats are provided. Seats are not required. It is NOT considered good form to whistle every time a female over 8 and under 80 crosses the screen. If vision is impaired by the person in the seat in front, there are plenty of other seats which can be occupied. DO NOT hit him across the back of the head and say, "Love your head, jerk, I can't see through wood".

n. It is not proper to go around hitting everyone of draft age in civilian clothes, as might have been released from the service for medical reasons. Ask for his credentials, and if he does not show any, then go ahead and slug him.
2. Upon retiring, one can find a pair of pajamas laid out on the bed. These garments should be explained as two piece garments which are donned after all clothing has been removed. The soldier, confronted by these garments, should assume an air of familiarity and not, as though he were used to them. A casual remark such as, "Hey, what a delicate shade of blue," will usually suffice. Under no circumstances say, "How in hell do you expect me to sleep in a get-up like that?"

3. Natural functions will continue. It may be necessary frequently to urinate. Do not walk behind the nearest tree or automobile you see to accomplish this. Toilets (see "c." above) are provided in all public buildings for this purpose.

4. Beer is sometimes served in bottles. A cap remover is usually available and it is not good form to open the bottle by the use of one's teeth.

5. Air raids and enemy patrols are not encountered in America. Therefore, it is not necessary to wear the helmet in church or at social gatherings or to hold the weapon at the ready, locked and cocked, when talking to civilians in the street.

6. Always tip your hat before striking a lady.

7. Every American home and all hotels are equipped with bathing facilities; when it is desired to take a bath, it is not considered good form to find the nearest pool or stream, strip down, and indulge in a bath. This is particularly true in heavily populated areas.

8. All individuals returning to the U.S. will make every effort to conform to the customs and habits of the region visited and to make themselves as inconspicuous as possible. Any actions which reflect upon the honor of the uniform will promptly be dealt with.

By order of the Commanding General:

/s/ A. J. Blank
/sgt/ A. J. Blank
Col., A.J.D.,
Adj. Sch.