

RESTRICTED

# REPORT OF OPERATIONS

(FINAL AFTER ACTION REPORT)

## 12TH ARMY GROUP

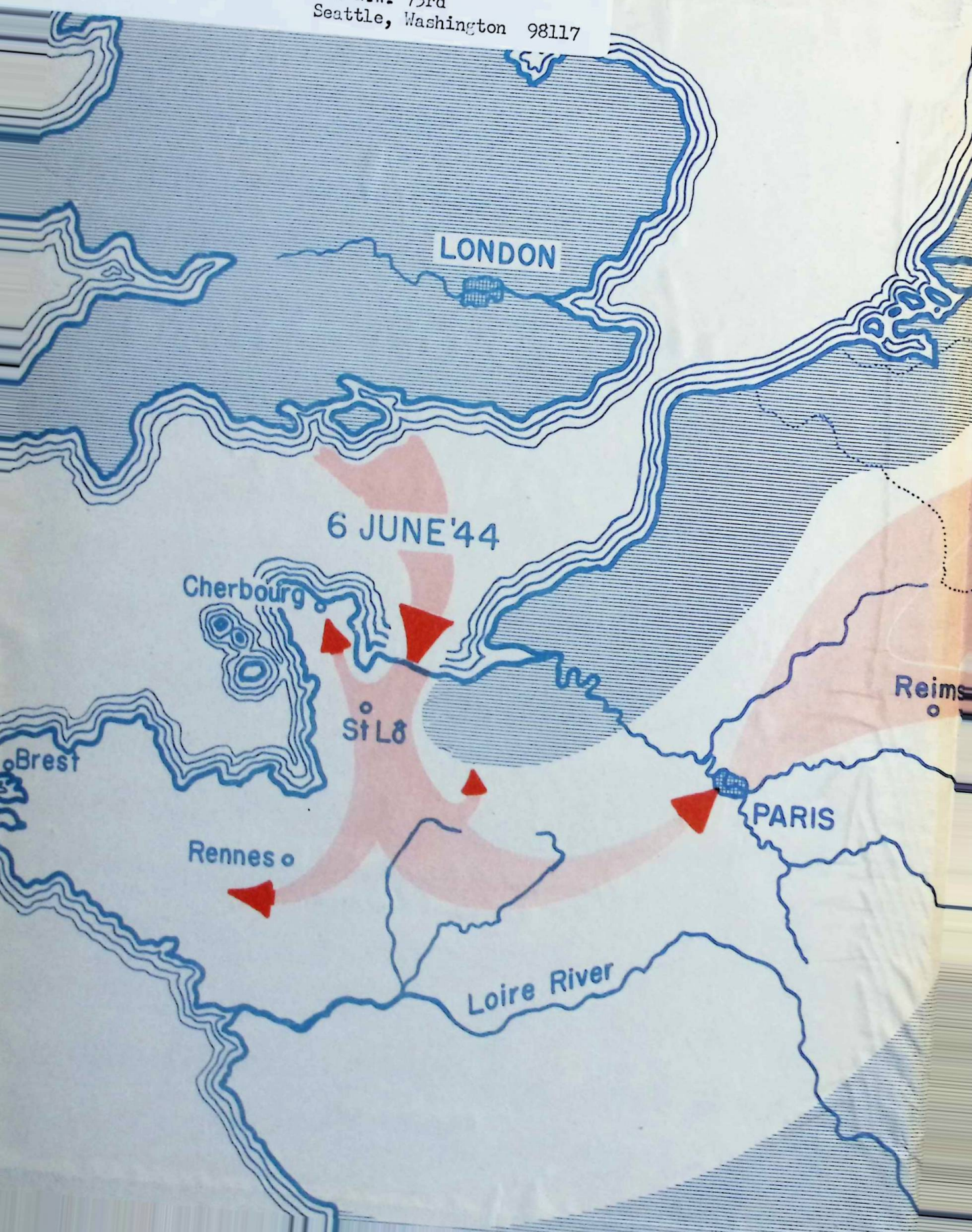
VOL. IX

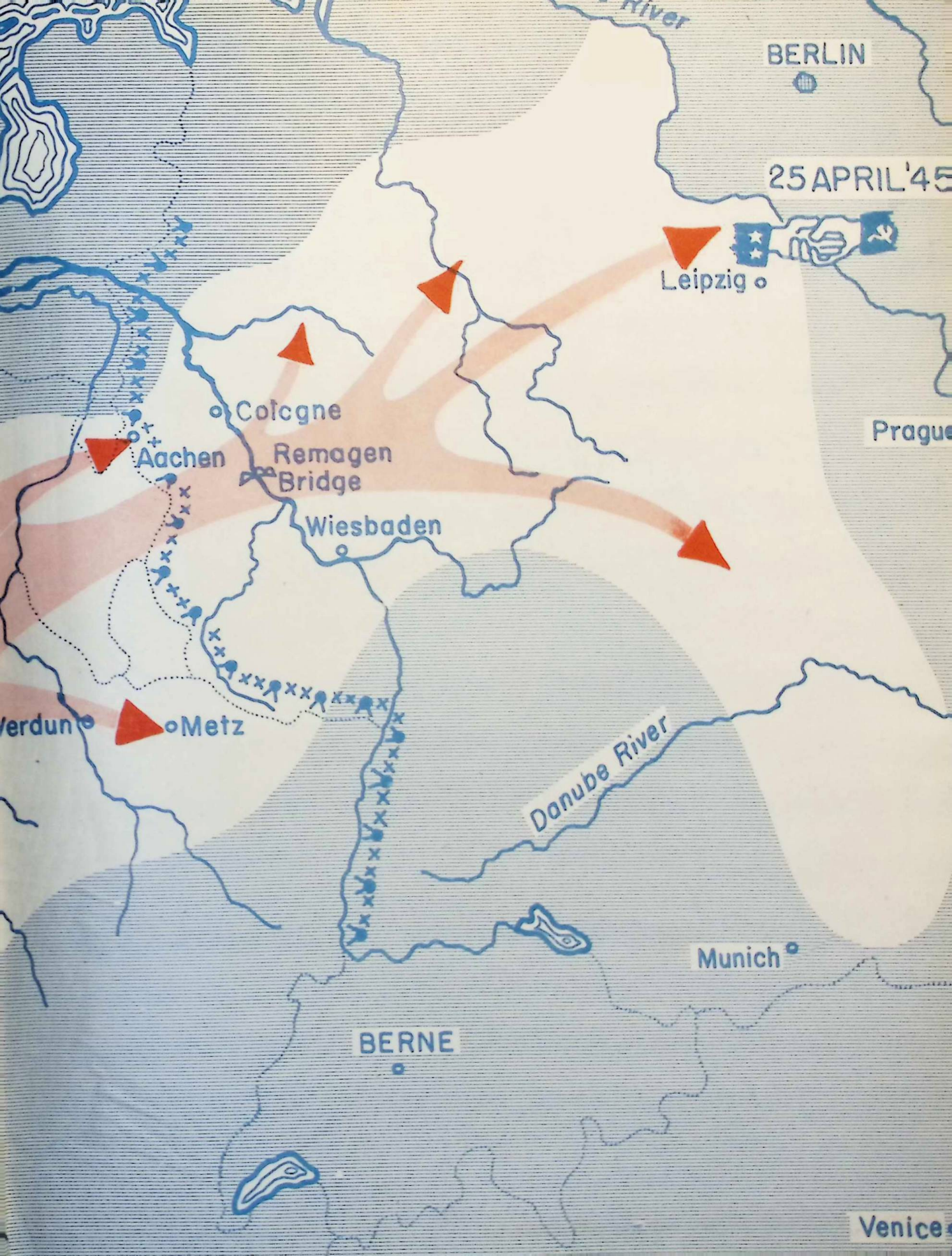
*Headquarters Commandant Section  
and Special Troops*

RESTRICTED

roperty of:

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BERLIN

25 APRIL '45

Leipzig

Cologne

Aachen

Remagen Bridge

Wiesbaden

Metz

Verdun

Donube River

Munich

BERNE

Venice



HEADQUARTERS COMMANDANT SECTION  
AND SPECIAL TROOPS

**12<sup>TH</sup> ARMY GROUP**

REPORT OF OPERATIONS  
(FINAL AFTER ACTION REPORT)

VOLUME IX



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGES
SECTION I — Headquarters Commandant Section Report . . . . .	1
SECTION II — Headquarters Special Troops Report . . . . .	9





SECTION I

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDANT SECTION

12TH ARMY GROUP

REPORT OF OPERATIONS

(FINAL AFTER ACTION REPORT)



FINAL AFTER ACTION REPORT  
HEADQUARTERS COMMANDANT SECTION

A. Establishment of the Headquarters.

1. When Headquarters, First US Army Group, was activated, the Headquarters Commandant was confronted with the problem of setting up the framework for the operation and administration of an army group, for which there was no table of organization, table of equipment or precedent of any kind. He immediately made an estimate of the requirements for office space, office furniture, and equipment and set out to procure them. The headquarters was established in Bryanston Square, London, occupying twenty buildings initially, and later an additional ten buildings. It was necessary to establish a headquarters company, which could provide service functions for a headquarters, the size of which was still undetermined. It was decided that the table of organization for an army headquarters would be followed initially. At that time, the Headquarters Commandant was responsible for all troops who serviced the headquarters. An enlisted mess to feed about fifteen hundred troops and an officers' mess to feed five hundred officers were established. Both messes were operated very successfully.

2. In January 1944, Headquarters, Special Troops, was activated, which relieved the Headquarters Commandant from administrative responsibility for all troops. The Headquarters Commandant retained operational control of Headquarters Company, Car Company and Utilities Platoon. The table of organization for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, First US Army Group, was prepared by the Headquarters Commandant.

B. Preparation for Movement to Continent and Field Operation.

In planning for the movement of the headquarters to the Continent, the Headquarters Commandant was confronted with an entirely new problem of organization, equipment and supply. A special list of equipment was prepared and revised continuously. A tentative plan for operation and movement in the field was prepared which divided the headquarters into three echelons, consisting of a Tactical echelon, Main echelon, and Rear echelon. Practice field operations were held at Warfield Park. A great many difficulties in setting up a headquarters were observed on these practice field operations, particularly with regard to messing, camouflage and layout.

#### C. Movement to the Continent.

On 5 July 1944, the advance party left London for the Continent to prepare accommodations for the headquarters. Colonel Karakas accompanied this party. The remainder of the headquarters was moved in three increments of about equal size, the third and last increment arriving on the Continent 5 August 1944. It was found that the equipment, in general, was sufficient. However, it became necessary to procure additional generators and some additional kitchen equipment. The headquarters originally set up at Colombieres, France, from which location it moved into a main and rear echelon near St. Sauveur Lendelin and Periers, respectively, on 31 July 1944. It was at this location that the third increment joined the headquarters.

#### D. Subsequent Moves of the Three Echelons.

While Main echelon was at St. Sauveur Lendelin and Rear echelon was at Periers, TAC echelon was formed and moved to St. James. TAC echelon operated from the following locations during the remaining months of the European War: Laval, Chartres, Doue, Verdun, Luxembourg, Namur (Belgium), Luxembourg, Wiesbaden (Germany), and Bad Wildungen (Germany), where the echelon was operating on V-E day. Main echelon moved from St. Sauveur to Laval, thence to Versailles, thence to Verdun, and finally to Wiesbaden, where it was located on V-E Day (see Incl 2).<sup>\*</sup> Rear echelon made the same moves as Main echelon, but operated as a distinct and separate echelon in the same locality until it reached Wiesbaden.

#### E. Return of Headquarters to Single Echelon.

On arrival of Main and Rear echelons at Wiesbaden, the headquarters was again combined into one echelon, operating in much the same manner as in London. TAC echelon rejoined this combined echelon as of 1 June 1945. Since the mission of the headquarters had been accomplished, all field equipment was turned in and the headquarters prepared for disbandment. All installations and a large percentage of headquarters equipment were turned over to Headquarters, United States Forces, European Theater.

<sup>\*</sup> See page 7

HEADQUARTERS 12TH ARMY GROUP  
OFFICE OF THE HEADQUARTERS COMMANDANT  
APO 655

LIST OF KEY DATES IN LIFE OF HEADQUARTERS COMMANDANT SECTION

Date	Event
19 October 1943	Headquarters, First U. S. Army Group, activated. Lt. Colonel HARRY J. KARAKAS named Headquarters Commandant and Commanding Officer, Special Troops.
13 January 1944	Commanding Officer, Special Troops, and Headquarters Commandant separated. Headquarters Commandant relieved of administrative responsibility for troops.
14 March 1944	Incendiary raid causes damage to certain headquarters buildings.
20 April 1944	Detachment FUSAG, 21 Army Group, Main, formed.
16 May 1944	Detachment FUSAG, 21 Army Group, Rear, formed.
22—30 May 1944	Practice field operation at Warfield Park.
15 June 1944	First "buzz bombs" land in London.
5 July 1944	Advance party, FUSAG, leaves London for Continent.
7 July 1944	Detachment FUSAG, 21 Army Group, Rear, disbands, rejoins FUSAG.
9 July 1944	First increment, FUSAG, leaves London for Continent.
14 July 1944	First U. S. Army Group becomes 12th Army Group.
20 July 1944	Second increment, 12th Army Group, leaves London for Continent.
22 July 1944	Headquarters, 12th Army Group, closes London, opens near Colombieres, Normandy, France.
30 July 1944	Third increment, 12th Army Group, leaves London for Continent.
31 July 1944	Headquarters, 12th Army Group, moves from Colombieres, forming a Main echelon at St. Sauveur Lendelein, and a Rear echelon at Periers.
1 August 1944	12th Army Group becomes operational.
4 August 1944	Headquarters, 12th Army Group, formed into three echelons TAC, Main, and Rear for future operations. Headquarters Commandant, up to this time part of Special Troops, 12th Army Group, becomes a staff section of Headquarters, 12th Army Group.
5 August 1944	Third increment of the headquarters arrives Continent, and joins the headquarters at St. Sauveur Lendelein and Periers.
7 August 1944	Detachment, 12th Army Group, 21 Army Group, Main disbands, rejoins 12th Army Group.
14 August 1944	TAC echelon separates from the headquarters, moves to St. James
21 August 1944	TAC echelon moves from St. James to Laval.
21—22 August 1944	Main echelon moves from St. Sauveur Lendelein to Laval.
23—25 August 1944	Rear echelon moves from Periers to Laval.
24 August 1944	TAC echelon moves from Laval to Chartres.

Date		Event
24 August	1944	TAC echelon moves from Laval to Chartres.
2 September	1944	Main echelon moves from Laval to Versailles.
4 September	1944	TAC echelon moves from Chartres to Doue.
5 September	1944	Rear echelon moves from Laval to Versailles.
13 September	1944	TAC echelon moves from Doue to Verdun.
17 September	1944	Main echelon moves from Versailles to Verdun.
18 September	1944	Rear echelon moves from Versailles to Verdun.
12 October	1944	TAC echelon moves from Verdun to Luxembourg.
27 January	1945	TAC echelon moves from Luxembourg. to Namur.
2 April	1945	TAC echelon moves from Namur to Luxembourg.
10 April	1945	TAC echelon moves from Luxembourg to Wiesbaden.
29 April	1945	TAC echelon moves from Wiesbaden to Bad Wildungen.
1 May	1945	First increment, Main and Rear echelons, moves from Verdun to Wiesbaden.
4 May	1945	Second increment, Main and Rear echelons, moves from Verdun to Wiesbaden.
1 June	1945	TAC echelon moves from Bad Wildungen to Wiesbaden.







SECTION II

HEADQUARTERS SPECIAL TROOPS

12TH ARMY GROUP

REPORT OF OPERATIONS

(FINAL AFTER ACTION REPORT)

## INDEX

	PAGES
PART I. HEADQUARTERS SPECIAL TROOPS . . . . .	13
A. S-1 Section . . . . .	13
B. S-2 Section . . . . .	15
C. S-3 Section . . . . .	16
D. S-4 Section . . . . .	17
E. Billeting Section . . . . .	19
F. Engineer Section . . . . .	20
G. Information — Education Section . . . . .	20
H. Ordnance Section . . . . .	22
I. Post exchange . . . . .	22
J. Provost Marshal Section . . . . .	24
K. Special Service Section . . . . .	24
L. Inspector General Section . . . . .	26
M. Office of the Staff Judge Advocate . . . . .	28
N. Transportation Section . . . . .	29
O. Office of the Chaplain . . . . .	30
P. American Red Cross Field Office . . . . .	32
Annex A — Roster of Officers, Headquarters Special Troops, 25 July 1945 . . . . .	33
PART II. Headquarters Company Special Troops, 12th Army Group . . . . .	35
PART III. WAC Detachment, Special Troops, 12th Army Group . . . . .	43
PART IV. Army Photo Interpretation Detachment . . . . .	46
Annex A — Organization Chart APID . . . . .	50
Annex B — Photo Interpretation Area* . . . . .	51
Annex C — Photo Distribution Chart . . . . .	51
Annex D — Combined Courier Service Chart . . . . .	52
PART V. Engineer Reproduction Detachment . . . . .	53
PART VI. 4th Medical General Dispensary . . . . .	55
PART VII. 18th Finance Disbursing Section . . . . .	56
PART VIII. 43d Signal Heavy Construction Battalion . . . . .	58
PART IX. 67th Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad (Separate) . . . . .	63
PART X. 72d Publicity Service Battalion . . . . .	65
PART XI. 2d Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company . . . . .	67
PART XII. 3d Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company . . . . .	72

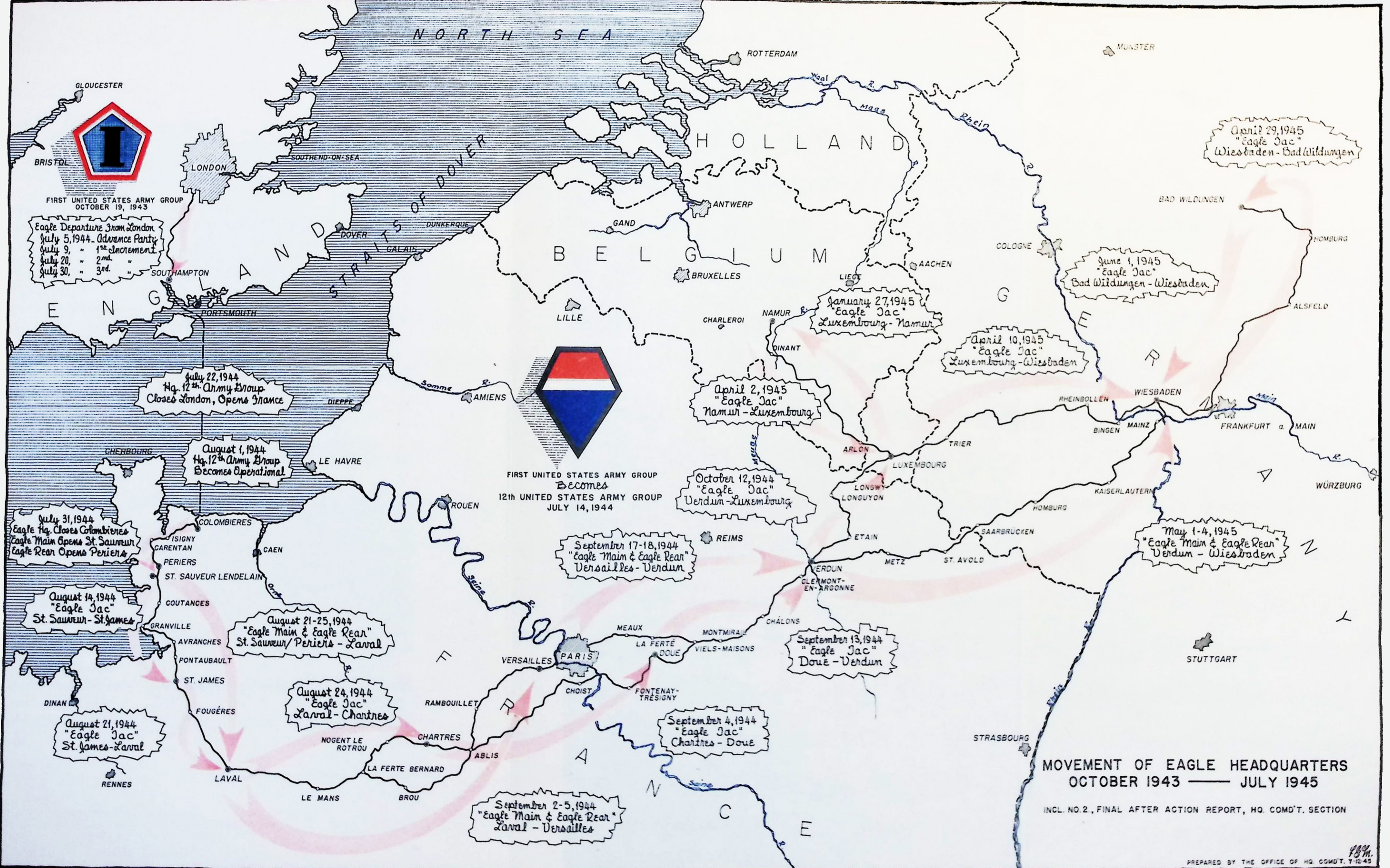
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PAGES

PART XIII.	5th Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company . . . . .	74
PART XIV.	104th Army Ground Force Band . . . . .	77
PART XV.	114th Signal Radio Intelligence Company . . . . .	78
PART XVI.	116th Signal Radio Intelligence Company . . . . .	81
PART XVII.	135th Army Postal Unit . . . . .	82
PART XVIII.	135th Quartermaster Truck Company . . . . .	83
PART XIX.	143d MP Composite Platoon . . . . .	88
PART XX.	144th MP Composite Platoon . . . . .	89
PART XXI.	203d Military Police Company . . . . .	90
PART XXII.	255th Signal Light Construction Company . . . . .	92
PART XXIII.	257th Signal Light Construction Company . . . . .	96
PART XXIV.	285th Signal Pigeon Company . . . . .	98
PART XXV.	507th Quartermaster Car Company . . . . .	100
PART XXVI.	526th Armored Infantry Battalion . . . . .	101
PART XXVII.	585th Army Postal Unit . . . . .	111
PART XXVIII.	749th AAA Gun Battalion . . . . .	114
PART XXIX.	Battery A, 749th AAA Gun Battalion (SM) . . . . .	115
PART XXX.	Battery B, 749th AAA Gun Battalion (SM) . . . . .	117
PART XXXI.	820th QM Sterilization Company . . . . .	119
PART XXXII.	825th Tank Destroyer Battalion . . . . .	121
PART XXXIII.	1099th Engineer Utilities Detachment . . . . .	124
PART XXXIV.	1776th Engineer General Service Company . . . . .	125
PART XXXV.	3137th Signal Motor Messenger Company . . . . .	126
PART XXXVI.	3146th Signal Service Group . . . . .	129
PART XXXVII.	3187th Signal Service Battalion . . . . .	132
PART XXXVIII.	3257th Signal Service Company . . . . .	135
PART XXXIX.	3264th Signal Photographic Company . . . . .	136
	Annex A — Unit Movements August 44 — May 45* . . .	
PART XL.	3299th Signal Service Company (Rad Relay Sta) . . . .	139

\* Not available for this edition

PART XLI.	3527th Ordnance MAM Company . . . . .	140
	Annex A -- Monthly Work-Order Output . . . . .	142
PART XLII.	3907th Signal Service Battalion . . . . .	143
PART XLIII.	47th Liaison Squadron . . . . .	145
PART XLIV.	Signal Security Detachment "D" . . . . .	146
PART XLV.	12th Army Group Liaison Detachment (SIAM) . . . . .	149
	Annex I -- Source of Tactical Information . . . . .	153
	.    Supplying 12th A G Ln Det (SIAM) . . . . .	
PART XLVI.	12th Army Group Interrogation Center . . . . .	154
PART XLVII.	6871st District Information Service Control Command . . . . .	157
PART XLVIII.	Additional Units . . . . .	167



**FIRST UNITED STATES ARMY GROUP**  
OCTOBER 19, 1943

Eagle Departure from London  
July 5, 1944 - Advance Party  
July 9, " 1st Increment  
July 20, " 2nd  
July 30, " 3rd

July 22, 1944  
Hq. 12th Army Group  
Closes London, Opens France

August 1, 1944  
Hq. 12th Army Group  
Becomes Operational

July 31, 1944  
Eagle Hq. Closes Colombieres  
Eagle Main Opens St. Sauveur  
Eagle Rear Opens Periers

August 14, 1944  
"Eagle Jac"  
St. Sauveur - St. James

August 21-25, 1944  
"Eagle Main & Eagle Rear"  
St. Sauveur/Periers - Laval

August 21, 1944  
"Eagle Jac"  
St. James - Laval

August 24, 1944  
"Eagle Jac"  
Laval - Chartres

September 2-5, 1944  
"Eagle Main & Eagle Rear"  
Laval - Versailles

September 17-18, 1944  
"Eagle Main & Eagle Rear"  
Versailles - Verdun

September 4, 1944  
"Eagle Jac"  
Chartres - Doue

September 13, 1944  
"Eagle Jac"  
Doue - Verdun

October 12, 1944  
"Eagle Jac"  
Verdun - Luxembourg

April 2, 1945  
"Eagle Jac"  
Namur - Luxembourg

January 27, 1945  
"Eagle Jac"  
Luxembourg - Namur

April 10, 1945  
"Eagle Jac"  
Luxembourg - Wiesbaden

June 1, 1945  
"Eagle Jac"  
Bad Wildungen - Wiesbaden

April 29, 1945  
"Eagle Jac"  
Wiesbaden - Bad Wildungen

**FIRST UNITED STATES ARMY GROUP**  
BECOMES  
**12th UNITED STATES ARMY GROUP**  
JULY 14, 1944

**MOVEMENT OF EAGLE HEADQUARTERS**  
OCTOBER 1943 — JULY 1945

INCL. NO. 2, FINAL AFTER ACTION REPORT, HQ. COMD'T. SECTION

## PART I

### FINAL AFTER ACTION REPORT HEADQUARTERS SPECIAL TROOPS

The history of Special Troops, 12th Army Group, is one of service, of a kind so omnipresent that its importance was often overlooked in a war which saw millions of men and machines locked in the struggle which finally resulted in the strangulation of the once-vaunted German war machine. It is only in retrospect that the part played by Special Troops can be truly measured and given its fitting place.

Headquarters Special Troops, First US Army Group (which later became 12th Army Group), was activated on 19 October 1943, with the mission of providing housekeeping facilities for the army group headquarters.

Special Troops had a strength of 3 officers and 11 enlisted men on its activation day and their duties were few. But as the group headquarters grew, so did Special Troops. Its functions increased and so did its strength, and on 25 July 1945 there were 42 officers and 207 enlisted men assigned and attached to the organization (See Annex A).\*

Following are the histories of the Special Troops staff sections and those of the units assigned and attached to the headquarters during its 21-month existence:

#### A. S-1 SECTION

On 19 October 1943, Headquarters Special Troops, First US Army Group, was assigned its first Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Harry J. Karakas. The acting adjutant was Second Lieutenant Ernest B. Connor Jr, and with 11 enlisted men the organization began operations. The headquarters, as established, called for an adjutant and a Personnel Officer to administer the S-1 Section, but with organization in an embryo stage, the duties of the S-1 were not yet apparent. However, it was realized that the adjutant would set forth policies and precedents, and that the Personnel Officer would be responsible for the supply and administration of enlisted personnel of the headquarters and of units assigned to Special Troops.

The headquarters received its first table of allowances on 22 April 1944, an authorization for 21 officers and 38 enlisted men. The headquarters was also authorized a brigadier general as its Commanding Officer. On 13 January 1944,

\* See page 33

Colonel Herbert H. Harris was assigned to Special Troops and assumed command, remaining in that position until 11 May 1944, when Brigadier General Charles R. Doran was named Commanding General. Colonel Harris was then designated Executive Officer.

The S-1 Section, under its table of allowances, included not only the Adjutant's Office and Personnel Sub-section, but also a Message Center, and Reproduction, Files, and Publications Sub-sections. The Files Sub-section maintained complete files for the entire headquarters. It was the duty of the Files Sub-section to supply to units assigned to Special Troops "New Units Files" which included all pertinent data and regulations pertaining to the headquarters. Upon the activation or assignment of new organizations, the Files Section was responsible for supplying current sets of Army Regulations, as well as all necessary publications needed for operations. The Message Center of Special Troops was responsible for the distribution of mail and publications to all units and detachments of Special Troops, a command which grew to more than 18,000 persons — larger than a division. The Reproduction Sub-section, under the control of the S-1, reproduced all publications, special orders, and administrative bulletins for the entire headquarters. In addition, it was the function of this section to maintain complete distribution on all War Department forms, theater forms, and various special forms.

The Personnel Sub-section, under the direction of the Adjutant, was in turn divided into branches. There was a Morning Report Branch, a Locator File Branch, a Correspondence Branch, and a Miscellaneous Personnel Branch. At first the units assigned to Special Troops were few, but with the growth of the headquarters, the personnel problems became complex. The personnel Sub-section maintained a locator card system on approximately fifteen-thousand persons assigned or attached.

While in England, the headquarters was granted General Courts-Martial jurisdiction, and since it was not authorized a Staff Judge Advocate, it became the task of the Adjutant to prepare and review all except general courts-martial.

When the headquarters arrived on the Continent, new problems arose in the S-1 office. One of the greatest was the securing of personnel. Personnel had to be secured for the three echelons of Headquarters, 12th Army Group, and in addition, the strength of Special Troops increased to approximately sixty units, with a total personnel of more than 18,000. The S-1 devised a procedure whereby requisitions were hand-processed to the advance echelon of the Ground Forces Reinforcement System and personnel were picked up at designated forward reinforcement battalions and companies.

In addition to the functions outlined, the S-1 Office was responsible for passes, furloughs, and leaves.

The S-1 Office established a system whereby personnel from all units, regardless of location, were assembled in a central area and then transported to the leave or rest areas. Troops were sent to the US, England, Ireland, Iceland, Paris, the Riviera, Brussels, and Switzerland.

Operations of the section were normal and routine until 9 May 1945, when Germany capitulated. At this time "R Day" was established and the redeployment and readjustment of troops became the new mission for S-1. In addition to the readjustment and redeployment of troops as units, quotas were established for the return of personnel with critical scores of over 85 points to the US. This critical score was an interim total and when records were complete, the Personnel Section found it necessary to maintain complete rosters showing the status of the personnel of the entire headquarters and all the units assigned and attached to Special Troops. These records set forth in detail the critical score, military occupational specialty, and physical profile of all personnel, and once prepared, had to be kept up-to-date. By 13 July 1945, all possible readjustment within the organizations was completed.

#### B. S-2 SECTION

On 25 March 1944, the S-2 Section was activated with a mission of maintaining security of Headquarters Special Troops and to coordinate security measures with units of Special Troops and with 12th Army Group Headquarters.

During the move to the Continent, S-2 cooperated with the Transportation Section in planning bivouac areas in Normandy for the Special Troops units. Convoy routes were planned in the sweep across France, and to facilitate this work, up-to-date situation maps were maintained.

S-2 Section worked in close cooperation with G-2, 12th Army Group, during the war and after its termination. It maintained close contact with the S-2 Sections of Special Troops units, disseminating pertinent information from 12th Army Group and higher headquarters on security matters.

A map library was maintained to service the staff sections of this headquarters.

When Headquarters Special Troops became operational during the Battle of the Bulge, S-2 Section maintained constant liaison with French Army organizations in the vicinity of Verdun and with intelligence officers of adjacent units. The S-2 also made frequent trips to outlying towns to check on numerous reports of landing of airborne agents.



Other miscellaneous activities included cooperation with Bomb Reconnaissance Squad, and Bomb Disposal Squad, Passive Air Defense, and routine loyalty checks on applicants for Officer Candidate School, Warrant Officer, and direct commission.

After each move of the headquarters, S-2 was responsible for the establishment of a fire plan.

After the end of the war, the section's principal function was the clearance of German civilians for employment with units of Special Troops and cooperation with the 273th Infantry Battalion and the 526th Armored Infantry Battalion in maintaining the security of units in Wiesbaden and vicinity.

### C. S-3 SECTION

The S-3 Section, Headquarters Special Troops, conducted training, movements, redeployment, and Information-Education activities of units assigned and attached to the headquarters. These troops served the group headquarters through its planning phase in the United Kingdom and its operational phase on the Continent.

Initially, the primary mission of the section was reception of units to form Special Troops, FUSAG, in London, England, and at the same time, organizations were assigned the specific tasks for which they had been procured. Physical and mental conditioning of personnel coupled with technical training for conduct of field operations on the Continent supplemented the daily service functions of each unit during this phase. Preparation for cross-Channel movement required supervisory instruction in the accomplishment by units of showdown inspections, waterproofing, loading, and briefing on security, defensive measures, and sanitation.

One air raid by the enemy in March 1944, disrupted normal operations, but only temporarily. Local security against enemy air-borne saboteurs became effective with the placing of headquarters and military police troops on a semi-alert status, during the period around "D" Day. Liaison with the British Home Guard resulted in a combined force prepared to function jointly in the event of disaster by V-bombs, which, fortunately, never caused direct damage to the headquarters.

Field operations on the Continent bore the fruits of training in the United Kingdom, although frequent adjustments to plans were necessary to meet unforeseen contingencies. This was especially true in the case of outer defenses, where the needs changed with every re-location of the headquarters. In addition,

units were constantly being added with strength reaching 12,000 by September 1944, and increasing to 18,000-plus by May 1945.

Re-location of Headquarters 12th Army Group and accompanying Special Troops units (approximately 7,000) was organized, planned, and effected by S-3. Reconnaissance determined routes and traffic control, road clearances were obtained from armies, and the security measures were prescribed for convoys.

A combat mission, not normally a function of Special Troops, was assigned the headquarters during the Ardennes Offensive from 23 to 27 December 1944. The sectors Charney to Commercy, France, along both sides of the Meuse River, plus the whole of the city of Verdun were reconnoitered, defenses emplaced, and operationally controlled 24-hours daily. Employment of roadblocks, anti-tank guns, traffic control posts, bridge guards, bridge demolitions, and bazooka and machine gun strong points were augmented by mobile patrols, air reconnaissance and liaison with local AAA units for intelligence purposes plus possible assistance in their secondary role of ground fire.

Redeployment of units after V-E Day was managed and accomplished within a minimum of time. Fifteen units were dispatched from unit stations-ten directly, five indirectly. Combined staff inspections of all phases of POM requirements were coordinated under S-3.

Ceremonies for presentation of French, British, Luxembourg and American awards to members of the army group staff and Special Troops were arranged and conducted under the supervision of S-3.

#### D. S-4 SECTION

On 19 October 1943, Captain Frank P. Sweeney and T/Sgt. B. C. Crawford reported to Headquarters, FUSAG, from V Corps to begin the organization of supply for the first group headquarters in the history of the army.

At this time there was no organization, no supplies on hand and the mechanics of procuring such supplies had not been set up, nor was sufficient personnel available physically to accomplish all of these tasks. But in spite of these handicaps Captain Sweeney (later promoted to Major) and Sergeant Crawford (later commissioned and promoted to 1st Lieutenant) began the knitting together of an efficient supply organization.

On 25 December 1943, Major Fred Lardin was assigned to the section as S-4 and by February 1944, it was servicing approximately 45 officers and 1074 enlisted men. By May 1944, this figure had increased to 351 officers and 6196 enlisted men.

In March 1944, the office and warehouse was subjected to enemy action, resulting in the loss of approximately \$ 16,000 worth of critical supplies as well as all office records.

Captain Sweeney and one enlisted man moved on 5 July 1944, to the Continent with Advance Detachment, Headquarters, FUSAG. As the headquarters moved across France, and the communication lines became longer, the problem of supply became more acute, particularly in Class III and IV items. Although Class I was difficult and at times trucks travelled a distance of approximately 400 miles daily, food was available on the Continent when it could be found. At no time since this section became operational did the headquarters, or the units drawing rations from it, fail to serve three meals a day, nor was there any time when sufficient Class III supply was not on hand to meet all emergencies.

While the headquarters was located at Versailles this section assumed a new responsibility, that of hiring and paying civilian labor as well as paying cash for commodities and supplies. At the peak of operations there were 131 civilian employees on the payrolls, an expenditure of \$ 5,524.74 per month for civilian help alone. During operations on the Continent the section expended a gross amount of \$ 30,997.17 in cash for labor and supplies.

Based on the last quarter of 1944, the Class III Gasoline requirements of units served by the section amounted to approximately 3,000,000 gallons per year and Class III solid fuels (coal) about 20 tons per day.

On 1 May 1945, the headquarters became operational in Wiesbaden, Germany, where many of the supply problems enumerated above were reencountered, and where several new projects were added, namely:

- a. The operation of a steam laundry processing about 800 bundles per day.
- b. A dry cleaning plant turning out 1000 pieces a day.
- c. An ice plant producing 20 tons of ice per day.
- d. An ice cream plant producing 50 liters per day.

All of the above was in addition to the daily handling of 60 tons of coal, 10,000 gallons of gasoline, 13,000 rations and all Class II and IV equipment.

At the close of operations this section was supervising the activities outlined above with the following personnel:

4 Officers
47 Enlisted Men
99 Civilians
<hr/>
150 Total

## E. BILLETING SECTION

The first job of the Billeting Section headed by Major Harold E. Kuhn consisted of installing the personnel of Special Troops, First United States Army Group into the heart of London, in the vicinity of Bryanston Square.

Major Kuhn departed for France with the first echelon of First United States Army Group and disposed the units of Special Troops around the perimeter of group headquarters at its first CP in the vicinity of Colombieres. This location was hedge-row and orchard country and presented a considerable problem in dispersal and camouflage to insure the safety of the troops.

Major Kuhn again was the advance reconnaissance agent of Special Troops on its move to Periers and St. Sauveur-de-Lendelin early in August, where the organization first split into two echelons.

Major Kuhn was transferred to the G-3 Section, Normandy Base Section, while Special Troops was located at Periers and St. Sauveur Lendelin, and Lieutenant Colonel Charles M. Schwab became Billeting Officer. He was the advance agent for the move to Laval about the middle of August. Here again the units of Special Troops were divided into two echelons, and for the first time troops were quartered indoors. The French Army casernes were in a deplorable condition and had to be cleaned before occupancy.

At this time the armies of 12th Army Group were advancing across France at a rapid rate. Lieutenant Colonel Schwab departed on a reconnaissance to St. Cyr, the French West Point, with the purpose of determining if this installation would be suitable for billeting Special Troops, but discovering that city to be a pile of rubble, he proceeded to Versailles. Here 150 French civilians were employed to clean up the debris which filled Camp de Satory, and the camp was in a spotless condition when the troops arrived.

A few days later, Lieutenant Colonel Schwab again moved towards Metz, but when that city did not fall, he made a reconnaissance of Verdun, and informed the Commanding General, Special Troops, that facilities were adequate.

Captain Arthur J. Thomas was detailed as the Billeting Officer on 1 November 1944. During the Battle of the Bulge, transient units were accommodated at Eagle Rear, at times as many as 1,200 men a night being fed and billeted. Captain Thomas accompanied Colonel J. E. Daly and Colonel H. J. Karakas to Arlon, Liege, Charleroi, and Munchen Gladbach on reconnaissance trips, but the re-locations failed to materialize.

On 28 March, Major Thomas and a "task force" of 65 persons, eight fully manned scout cars and numerous service vehicles moved to Wiesbaden, Ger-

many, to arrange for occupancy of the city by Headquarters, 12th Army Group. Here the Billeting Officer personally captured eleven German soldiers, and was responsible for the apprehension of many more. Comfortable quarters for approximately 7,000 soldiers of Headquarters Special Troops, 12th Army Group, were selected and eventually occupied in Wiesbaden.

#### F. ENGINEER SECTION

The Engineer Section, was activated in January 1945, at Verdun, France, with the mission of supervising the work of the engineer units and furnishing engineer service to other units of Special Troops. At that time, the Engineer units consisted of the 1776th Engineer General Service Company and the 1099th Engineer Utility Detachment.

Besides the important general utility and maintenance work for the 12th Army Group Headquarters offices and billets, these units maintained the road net around the headquarters, built and maintained the air strips for the Liaison Squadron and functioned as an engineer supply and equipment depot for lighting fixtures, paint, nails, lumber, roofing, etc., so that other units of Special Troops might be able to improve their facilities.

More than 2,000 orders for work were handled by the Engineers in the set-up and improvement of group headquarters and Special Troops. This work consisted of the installation of all electric lighting and appliances, power generation, signwork, plumbing repair and maintenance, tinsmithing, carpentry, heavy building construction, roof and road repairs.

#### G. INFORMATION — EDUCATION SECTION

The Information — Education Section of Headquarters Special Troops, 12th Army Group, was created on 13 October 1944, with the assignment of Major Howard D. Brooks as IE Officer. Necessary assistance was obtained as the program expanded until the section reached its present size of two officers and three enlisted men. The gradual development of IE activities made possible a careful selection of well qualified officers and enlisted men, all of whom had experience in education at levels ranging from elementary school to university.

Initially, the main effort of the section was to energize and implement the then current aspects of the IE program, with planning and organization for a post-hostilities period relegated to a position of secondary importance. Accordingly, many conferences were held and instructions issued to further the scheduling of practical and interesting orientation and discussion periods. This

trend continued although its emphasis later was somewhat overshadowed by the increasing demands of the education program.

The initial barrier to the education program was the lack of knowledge and understanding of the services available through the USAFI. Corrective emphasis and publicity paid dividends in a sharply rising enrollment, with the satisfying knowledge that there were many who were now using their spare time to advantage. Coincident with this, there was a great demand for educational advisement, which was gradually diverted to the IE Officers of lower units as they became more familiar and conversant with their work.

Following the initial period outlined above, it was felt desirable to expend greater effort in augmenting the educational activities and in more detailed and careful preparation for the post-hostilities organization. To meet existing needs, many off-duty study groups were formed, while the requirements of the command as a whole were studied through educational interest, illiteracy, and instructor surveys. From this study, the organization and responsibilities for command and unit schools were established.

The problem of planning involved a large number of independent and geographically separated units varying in size from battalions to small detachments of a few men, and so, the following policies were developed: command schools would be organized on a battalion level, with nearby small units attached when possible; authority was delegated to the 3146th Signal Service Group for the control and coordination of signal units; and a central school was projected for personnel of Headquarters 12th Army Group, Headquarters Special Troops, and all units in the vicinity. Accordingly, the IE Section had a dual responsibility, planning the operation of a central school and supervising and advising units of the command in their local programs. This plan, with a few minor modifications proved feasible and was followed.

Finally there was a period of intensive detailed preparations for the opening of the central school and of the unit command schools. An opening date of 16 July 1945, was set for the central school and for one of the unit schools, with other units rapidly completing final preparations. Previously established personal contacts here proved invaluable since both instructors and students were from units still carrying heavy operational loads. This situation caused awkwardness in registration which was first solved by first ascertaining the individuals' desires and then obtaining their releases, where possible, from the unit commander concerned.

From the experience obtained, it was concluded that unit schools can be organized successfully and operated for service units with continuing oper-

ational loads, providing they are in permanent locations, and if the necessary supplies and facilities are made available.

#### H. ORDNANCE SECTION

An Ordnance Section was created and added to the staff of Headquarters Special Troops, 12th Army Group, effective 1 November 1944.

The primary function of this section was to direct operational control of ordnance maintenance facilities attached to this headquarters, then consisting solely of the 3527th Ordnance Medium Automotive Maintenance Company.

When the number of vehicles attached and assigned to the headquarters increased more than one hundred per cent beyond the normal maintenance capacity of a medium automotive maintenance company, and when all echelons of maintenance were performed in lieu of fourth echelon facilities, equipment and the supply of automotive parts became a major problem of this section.

An ordnance detachment was placed on detached service in the United Kingdom to facilitate and expedite the supply of parts for British impressed sedans within this headquarters and finally to secure critical items required to maintain a minimum vehicle deadline within 12th Army Group.

Air transport was further arranged and controlled by this section to afford a weekly minimum load of 5,000 pounds of automotive supplies and parts to be air-lifted from the United Kingdom to the headquarters at a time when supply and ground transport were greatly over-taxed. In numerous instances it was necessary to increase this load of supplies to maintain a stock of parts and in one week of operation alone, 85,000 pounds of automotive supplies and parts were procured and air-lifted to the maintenance company.

On 28 April 1945, the 739th Ordnance Heavy Automotive Maintenance Company reported to the headquarters at Wiesbaden, Germany. However, this unit did not have a basic load of parts and operational maintenance was virtually impossible.

This section requisitioned and processed a portion of the basic load of parts for the unit, but on 29 May 1945, the company was alerted for redeployment. It immediately became non-operational and departed on 19 June 1945.

#### I. POST EXCHANGE

Activated 26 May 1944, the Post Exchange grew from a small one-room store in London, England, to facilities in Wiesbaden, Germany, which included one of the largest department stores of that city, a cafe, and the former Hamburg-Amerika Line Building.

Organized as a separate detachment to serve FUSAG, men were "farmed out" to existing exchanges in London for training in PX work. When the doors of the Eagle Exchange opened on the 26 of May, approximately 2,000 men of the headquarters were being served.

The detachment left London 1 August, and arrived in Periers, France on 5 August 1944. On 10 August, the Exchange opened the first PX store on the Continent and on 11 August, the second store was opened at Main Echelon.

In Verdun, France, the exchange settled down and began its expansion. Permanent stores were operated at both Main and Rear Echelons, and a traveling store was sent to TAC Echelon two days a week. Here also, a warehouse was started to serve bulk rations to Special Troops units not located near any of the three echelons, and a beer bar was opened at Rear in December. During the first months at Verdun the supply problem was extremely acute; at various times supplies were procured from Omaha and Utah Beaches, Sommesous, Paris, Rheims, Chalons sur Marne, Luxembourg, Charleroi, and Brussels. At this time, between 13,000 and 15,000 rations were distributed weekly.

On 1 November 1944, the detachment was disbanded as such and the officers and enlisted men were assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Special Troops, 12th Army Group.

The Exchange moved into Wiesbaden, Germany on 17 April 1945, and a few days later opened its main unit in Karzentra, a five-story department store. In May, the former Hamburg-Amerika Line Building was opened as the Officers' Branch of the Exchange, and the Park Cafe was opened as a G. I. Beer Garden for enlisted personnel in the vicinity of the city.

By July 1945, Eagle Exchange had distributed approximately 4,812,000 packages of cigarettes, 4,120,000 bars of candy; and of the more critical items: 2,250 wrist watches, 5,560 cigarette lighters, and 2,100 fountain pens.

Indefinite plans in July called for the transfer of the exchange as a unit to USFET, the opening of an Officers' Clothing Store, a brewery, and additional cafes to supplement the existing one.

During the eight months at Verdun and Wiesbaden, the exchange operated one of the three largest PX's on the Continent. With a staff never exceeding twenty-seven men, it managed not only the facilities, but also procured all supplies, sending out convoys which at times included 23 vehicles and covered up to 1100 miles.



## J. PROVOST MARSHAL SECTION

The Provost Marshal Section came into existence on 25 October 1944, in Verdun, France, with Major James B. Anderson assigned as Provost Marshal. One of the first undertakings of the section was to supplement the Military Police strength of Special Troops. The only Military Police organization at that time was the 203d Military Police Company, which it was believed was not sufficient and particularly would be insufficient when Headquarters 12th Army Group moved into Germany. To meet this need, the War Department authorized the activation of the 143d and 144th Military Police Composite Platoons, the first a police and the second a scout car platoon, and the authorized Military Police strength of the command became seven officers and approximately 225 enlisted men plus six scout cars.

During the German breakthrough in December 1944, the Military Police were called upon to perform an important part in the defense of the Verdun area and the section coordinated with S-3 in their employment.

The stature of the section increased considerably when it obtained on 12 January 1945, the services of two trained Criminal Investigation Division agents from Third US Army, who were used in investigating and solving numerous serious crimes.

On 1 May 1945, when the army group headquarters moved to Wiesbaden, the problems became more numerous and complex. This was a city of 140,000-odd Germans plus 10,000 American troops, and there was no city police force available. A Military Police Headquarters was established on a twenty-four hour basis from which all operations were conducted and close liaison maintained with the local civilian police, Military Government, CIC and other agencies. A two-way police car radio system was obtained and installed.

## K. SPECIAL SERVICE SECTION

Special Service Section commenced operations as a part of Special Troops in December 1943, with Lieutenant Horace R. Bolen as section chief and three enlisted men detailed as his assistants. While group headquarters was located in London, the work of the Special Service Section was simple in scope since the requirements for recreation and entertainment were small, and varied facilities were available to the troops in that locality. The main function of the Special Service Section during that time was the formation of the Special Troops Dance Orchestra. However, the musicians in this orchestra were actually detailed to other duties during the day and participated in the band during their

free hours. It was not until November 1944, that the Special Troops Dance Orchestra was relieved of all other duties and devoted its full time to band rehearsals, performances and dances. There was some allocation of Special Service supplies and equipment to lower units but the amount of available material was quite small.

After group headquarters moved to the Continent, Special Service assumed the responsibility of furnishing Special Troops units in the field with moving picture entertainment. This was accomplished by employing roving operators on routed schedules with portable 16 mm projectors. Upon movement to Verdun, France, there were regular showings of movies at Eagle Main, Rear and Eagle TAC thrice weekly in addition to the above schedule. At the same time, a film library was established in October 1944, to supply units which had previously been issued projection machines. This film library was expanded to include 17 different prints distributed on a weekly schedule.

The development of the film library was a result of the numerous problems connected with furnishing shows to units which were almost constantly on the move. This change came about when the Special Service Section was expanded and reorganized in January 1945. At that time, the section was divided into four component departments, consisting of Administration, Athletics, Recreation and Supply. Captain Bernard E. Gray was assigned as Special Service Section Chief and additional personnel were added to the indicated departments. It was then, and during the months prior to the move to Germany, that units were supplied with moving picture machines, oriented on a systematic procedure of supply requisitioning and informed of athletic facilities and activities.

Special Service acted as a source of supply for recreational and athletic equipment to the units of the command. With the establishment of a supply procedure, units were required to submit monthly requisitions based on their personnel strength. Requisitions were consolidated and supplies were drawn each month, initially from Headquarters Com Zone and later from depots in Paris, France, and Boom, Belgium.

While in Verdun, the athletic program expanded sufficiently to provide two basketball courts, a swimming pool and a dance hall. These recreational facilities were in operation early in October 1944. Later, with the expansion even further of the section's activities, two softball fields were made available for the use of Special Troops units and volley ball courts were set up. A program of inter-unit athletic competition was begun in volley ball, softball and basketball.

After movement to Wiesbaden, Germany, in May 1945, the scope of Special Service activities multiplied quickly. There were many problems connected with the furnishing of recreation and entertainment to the personnel of the command in a country where the individual soldier was required to remain aloof from the civilian population. The physical facilities of recreational value had been exposed to the ravages of war and had to be repaired before they could be used. Captain Peter Wachtler was assigned as head of the Athletic Department and additional personnel were added to the entire section. A baseball field, four softball fields, seventeen tennis courts, a golf course, eight volley ball courts, an outdoor swimming pool, two track fields and four badminton courts were repaired and placed in operation. In addition, units having athletic facilities near them were permitted to repair them for their own use. A diving meet was held at the Eagle Swimming Pool on 4 July 1945; a Volley ball Tournament was organized among the units of Special Troops, and a baseball league and four softball leagues were in full competition.

In addition to the increase in the athletic program, Special Service expanded its entertainment functions after moving to Germany. From 27 May 1945 to 1 June 1945, the Special Troops show "It Beats Me!", (begun and rehearsed in Verdun) was performed at the Walhalla Theater. Then the theater was renovated and equipped with 35 mm film. However, until the presentation on 18 July 1945, of the Seventh US Army Show, "Carmen," scheduled to run until 1 August 1945, the Walhalla Theater was used by this section almost exclusively for 35 mm film entertainment. On 19 July, the Thalia Theater, previously repaired, was opened for the showing of 35 mm film. The Entertainment Department secured entertainment from whatever sources available. Band concerts supplemented the moving pictures at the Walhalla Theater; USO and GI shows were booked into the American Red Cross Eagle Club; and the Special Service Dance Orchestra continued its policy of playing for surrounding units and organizations in the command and the area.

#### L. INSPECTOR GENERAL SECTION

The Inspector General's Section was activated on 18 November 1944, headed by Major Robert S. Russell, IGD.

The primary mission of the Inspector General was to assist the Commanding General of Special Troops in administrative matters. This was accomplished by supplying information when appropriate and by suggesting ways and means of improving conditions. In cooperation with other members of the staff, constant

inquiry was made into all matters pertaining to the efficiency of the command, including the conduct, discipline, living conditions, and morale of units and individuals; the state of condition of arms, equipment, and supplies; and the expenditure of funds and property.

In the application of these duties, a policy of helpfulness and friendliness in contacts with units of this command served to create an understanding and a closer working relationship by all concerned.

The units themselves were frequently located at great distances from the headquarters, throughout liberated areas and occupied Germany, and regular detailed inspections were made only where operational employment and time permitted. However, in the furtherance of the policy of helpfulness, frequent visits were made to organizations to determine their needs and requirements and to render assistance needed in the accomplishment of their missions. This type of visit brought to light and helped solve problems of supply, administration, and morale for units operationally engaged at distances from 60 to 200 miles from the headquarters. It was a matter of policy to spend sufficient time with an organization to include meals and to become as familiar as possible with its problems. Enlisted men were allowed to air their complaints, and most of the adjustments and corrections of irregularities were, with the aid of the unit commander, corrected on the spot.

During this same period, 16 reports of investigations were made to the Commanding General. A study report was also made during this period on the "Employment of Civilian Labor" and submitted to the Commanding General.

Opinions were rendered on numerous inquiries concerning administrative matters, and frequently similar aid was given to units other than those assigned to this command.

Upon the cessation of hostilities with Germany, this section was immediately engaged in conducting POM inspections for those units of Special Troops alerted for redeployment. In anticipation of the POM inspections, this section devised and mimeographed six forms to be used in connection with preparing the organizations for redeployment. The personnel of the Inspector General's Section was augmented at this time by the loan of two additional men from Personnel Section and the assignment of an additional enlisted man. Administrative inspections were handled on an assembly line basis with units called upon to furnish additional help. Individual check forms, upon completion of inspection, were attached to the service record. These were turned over to the unit personnel officer for necessary corrections and a recheck made upon completion of alterations Subsequent to V-E Day and during the period in which

this office was engaged in POM inspections, two additional officers were assigned to this section on a non-T/O basis, as well as four additional enlisted men, facilitating the handling of inspections and investigations.

The accomplishment of the mission with which the Inspector General and his staff were charged necessitated travel to widely scattered sections of liberated countries and conquered territories, including France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, and Germany.

#### M. OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

Upon the activation of Headquarters Special Troops, 12th Army Group, no jurisdiction over general courts-martial cases was vested in the Commanding General, and cases of a serious nature had to be referred to General Courts-Martial appointed by Base Section and Group Commanders.

On 30 July 1944, General Court-Martial jurisdiction was delegated to the Commanding General, Special Troops, 12th Army Group, and on 5 October 1944, a Staff Judge Advocate Section was established.

On 2 November 1944, Captain C. B. Maynard, IAGD, reported for duty with this headquarters.

During the course of operations of this section, monthly reports of activities were made to the Commanding General, Special Troops, and to the Commanding General, 12th Army Group. On 30 June 1945, a report for the year was made to the Judge Advocate General. Each month, a report of significant courts-martial sentences was published and disseminated among the units of the command for its deterrent effect.

In order to increase the efficiency of this office and to carry out the functions thereof in proper fashion, the following forms and publications were produced: Immigration forms, Petition for Issuance of Visa, Affidavit of Soldier re: Support, Affidavit of Sponsor, Request for transportation, Affidavit of Banker, Statement of Commanding Officer, File Index Sheet, Request for Personal History, Request for Records, Power of Attorney, Request for Medical Examination, GCM and SCM Office Chronology Sheet, Report of SJA, Military Justice Memo No 10 and Military Justice Memo No 4.

During the existence of the section, 203 enlisted personnel and officers of this command and of other organizations in the vicinity called upon the Staff Judge Advocate for legal advice and assistance with personal problems. These included marital affairs, applications for visas for alien wives, general and special powers of attorney, probate proceedings preparation of wills, paternity claims, marriage rights, citizenship and change of name proceedings.

Realizing the importance of maintaining a high morale among the troops and that worries and fears created by personal problems jeopardized the quality of performance by men under mental strain, the officer assigned to this section let it be known that military personnel were free to take advantage of his experience and training and invited discussions of their problems with him.

A total of 31 General and 43 Special Courts-Martial trials were conducted by courts appointed by this command. A total of 275 Special and 555 Summary Courts-Martial cases, tried by courts appointed by subordinate units of this command, were reviewed, approved and filed in this office. Forty-three officers of the command were subjected to disciplinary action by the Commanding General.

#### N. TRANSPORTATION SECTION

The Transportation Section, Special Troops, FUSAG, was established in London, England, and began operation on 26 May 1944. Prior to activation of the section, however, units with approximately 1600 vehicles had been assigned to Special Troops and due to the impending Continental operation, additional service units were rapidly being earmarked for the headquarters. Therefore, the early weeks were consumed in assembling accurate logistics on vehicles.

Although the mission of the section was ostensibly to supervise and control service transportation employed by Headquarters FUSAG and to advise and assist units of Special Troops in establishing a firm maintenance program, one of the first tasks assigned was that of compiling data on lift required for trans-channel displacement of the headquarters. This task was infinitely complicated by constantly changing staff section strengths by addition of special equipment and by frequent changes in movement orders.

The time between the landing of troops in France on D-Day until the middle of July was marked by final preparation for the movement of the headquarters to the Continent. The advance party, consisting of twenty vehicles left London 24 June 1944. Increments followed in rapid succession -- the first departing 13 July 1944, another on 19 July 1944, and the third and last on 6 August 1944.

During the first two months' stay on the Continent the problem of supply of all types was acute. Hauls were long, for the most part from depots established near the beaches. To maintain continued operation of Special Troops units it was necessary to establish a POL dump and to pool the transport resources of the organization in order to insure adequate stocks of all classes of supply. Hauls frequently were as long as 250 miles one way.

The transportation and maintenance facilities originally provided for the headquarters consisted of one QM Car Company, one QM Truck Company and one Ordnance MAM Co. As the headquarters increased in size and its operations were extended, it was necessary for additional vehicles to be added to both transportation companies. By September, the car company had increased to more than double its authorized strength, and it was deemed advisable to inactivate an AAA gun battery and reorganize it to assume a portion of the burden. During the stay at Verdun, communication lines became greatly extended, and the transportation demands exorbitant. By this time, the headquarters had been divided into three echelons which further complicated control. Ordnance facilities were greatly overtaxed by the addition of a great number of vehicles, particularly the sedans.

The composition of the Transportation Section, Special Troops, was originally one officer and one enlisted man. Demands had become so exacting by November 1944, that an additional officer and two enlisted men were added. From the early days of Special Troops, on French soil until suspension of activities, severe complications arose in regard to servicing vehicles of foreign liaison and of paramilitary installations attached to the headquarters.

#### O. OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

On the eve of "D" Day, 5 June 1944, the Chaplain Section of Special Troops, became operative through the arrival of Chaplain Johnstone Beech at FUSAG Headquarters. A man of warm heart and attractive personality, Chaplain Beech assembled the equipment necessary to the section and made the command aware of the section's existence and opportunities the section offered for religious and moral welfare. The service schedules he established in London, of providing for a Mass for Catholics and an early communion for Protestants followed later in the morning by a General Preaching Service characterized the headquarters' services from then until the close of operations, even although he, himself, was not to remain with the headquarters for long.

The Chaplain was especially alert to aid the morale of the command during the days of preparation for the Channel crossing and during the tented life of Special Troops at Colombieres and Pepiers. At the latter location he was joined by Chaplain V. J. Hines of the Catholic Diocese of Hartford, Connecticut. Father Hines made himself an invaluable member of the headquarters, not alone for his human gifts of understanding and friendship but as well for his gifts of language and his wide acquaintance with the European scene. After

this valuable strengthening of the section, on 7 August 1944, a truck crashed into the jeep in which both chaplains were riding leaving Chaplain Hines with minor injuries and Chaplain Beech and his driver Tec 5 Robert C. Cooley in a serious condition. Evacuated by air to England, Chaplain Beech's vacancy was taken by Chaplain F. A. McDonald. Chaplain Hines was succeeded in July 1945, by Chaplain B. J. Dobrzynski.

The casernes of Laval, Versailles, and Verdun became the next homes of headquarters troops, but the rapid expansion of the command made it clear to the chaplains that they had responsibilities far afield that they must try to discharge. The strategy developed was that of first, providing all necessary services for TAC, Main, and Rear echelons of 12th Army Group (which always remained the responsibility of Special Troops Chaplain by a memorandum given to General Doran by the Deputy Chief of Staff), and then, visiting units scattered through the armies, holding services for them, or placing them in touch with chaplains of other units who were located in their vicinity.

The several moves of the 12th Army Group echelons and the mercury-like fluidity of signal units gave unusual variety to the work of chaplains. In so far as practicable it was the desire of chaplains to provide men with services of worship such as had been their spiritual climate at home. Special services for those of the Hebrew faith, for those who were followers of Christian Science, or members of the Church of Latter Day Saints were arranged for as well as regular ministrations for Protestants and Catholics. A careful religious census was made, corrected and kept timely. Lay leadership was encouraged, and it is interesting to note that in response to a questionnaire sent from the Chaplain's Office, 34 replies signifying that the signers were interested in studying for the Ministry, Priesthood, or Rabbinate were received.

A listing of all the locations in which services were held would in itself give some insight into the variety which belongs to the experiences of Special Troops Chaplains. Apple orchards, world famous cathedrals and well known shrines, garages, moving picture houses, and stables, historic court churches, day rooms, and mess halls; magnificent private chapels, dingy billets, and in the bombed out ruins of what had once been churches, are just half the story of where our men knelt or stood with their heads bowed. The services were held in times of fair weather and bitter cold, in times of quiet and in times when gunfire could be plainly heard.

There were some special services which had a meaning of their own. Catholic and Protestant Chaplains with their respective choirs made the first memorial in five years for our fallen men buried in Meuse-Argonne US Military



Cemetery of World War I. Coast-to-coast broadcasts by Special Troops Chaplains were made at Christmas and on VE Day, the latter Service being attended by the Twelfth Army Group Commander and his staff.

In January, Chaplain Wm. V. V. Goldie joined the section and was placed on detached service with the 526th Armored Infantry Battalion where he earned the affection and esteem of officers and men as he shared fully with them in the vigorous and frequently dangerous tasks which fell to their lot. He also cared for neighboring Special Troops units, even when the "neighbor" units were as much as 200 miles away.

The traditional work of the Army Chaplain in counselling was carried out by keeping evening office hours as well as the regular working day. Literature was distributed and religious guilds organized. The happiness of bringing men into a new spiritual relationship through baptism, the joy of setting the single into family life through marriage, contact with tragedy and loss through the duty of taking funeral or memorial services was part of the ministry of each chaplain in this section.

#### P. AMERICAN RED CROSS FIELD OFFICE

The American Red Cross Field Office opened on Friday, 1 December 1944. During the ensuing month it opened 210 new cases and closed 157 old cases as well as giving brief service to 25 men and brief interviews to 30 more.

During the month of January 1945, this office was able to provide sweaters to a full company for one organization which had suffered heavy losses of personal equipment in the Bulge Campaign, and also provided the men with razors, blades, soap and cigarettes.

The physical movement in May 1945, of this office to Germany and the resetting period following tended to cause a slight decrease in total cases, but the cessation of hostilities caused an influx of men desiring reports on home conditions in order to make up their minds regarding possible discharges or emergency returns. During May, 288 new cases were opened, and 236 old cases were closed marking a 25% increase over the previous month.

Personal and family problems continued to increase during the month of June. The office opened 260 new cases, closed 225 old cases, and gave 315 brief interviews and 91 brief services, marking an increase of about 10% over May. Thus the business of this office jumped from a total of 265 cases in December 1944, to 686 cases in June 1945.

From December 1944 to July 1945, this office was able to assist, in some form, 3,389 men and officers in their problems.

Staff of HEADQUARTERS SPECIAL TROOPS on 25 July 1945.

NAME	RANK	SERIAL	No	Branch	D-O-R	DUTIES
Doran, Charles R.	Brig Gen	05891		USA	17 Mar 43	CG.
Harris, Herbert H.	Col	011817		INF	1 Jan 43	Ex O
Boy, Pierre D.	Lt Col	0382781		INF	1 Nov 44	Adj
Brown, Marion L.	Lt Col	0342781		INF	1 Nov 44	S-4 (HqProcur Agt P&CO SummCT SpC)
Jones, Russell G.	Lt Col	0326963		FA	1 May 44	Asst Ex O (Summ Ct GenCM Pres PX Coun Pres SpCM Sol Vot O Clams O)
Shine, George W.	Lt Col	0382506		CAC	1 Mar 45	S-3 (Gen CM)
Tice, Clarence E.	Lt Col	0396764		FA	1 Oct 44	Trans O
Anderson, James B.	Maj	0415394		CAC	1 Oct 44	PM (Summ Ct GenCM)
Brooks, Howard D.	Maj	0329428		CAC	22 Feb 43	Asst S-3 I&E 0(SCM)
Maynard, Copenitus B.	Maj	0921595		JAGD	1 Feb 45	JA
McDonald, Frederick A.	CH(Maj)	0494302		USA	1 Dec 44	Chaplain
Russell, Robert S.	Maj	0274796		IGD	25 Mar 43	IG
Satterlee, Harry A.	Maj	0905310		ORD	1 Feb 45	Ord O
Sites, Eugene	Maj	0396857		QMC	1 Feb 45	Asst Trans O (GCM)
Thomas, Arthur J.	Maj	0453713		INF	1 Feb 45	Bill 0 (Asst S-3 Summ Ct GCM)
Agee, Young E. JR	Capt	10586404		QMC	1 May 45	Asst S-4 (Graves Reg O SCM P&C O)
Davison, William D.	Capt	0386427		INF	7 Jan 44	S-2 (Asst Bill O Det CO)
Dobrzynski, Boleslaus J.	CH (Capt)	0518886		USA	15 Apr 44	Chaplain
Fick, Armin F.	Capt	0405086		CE	30 Apr 43	Engr O (Fire Marshall)
Foster, Ethel L., JR.	Capt	0416016		QMC	12 Jul 43	Asst S-4
Goldie, William V. V.	CH (Capt)	0525998		USA	15 Apr 44	Chaplain
Gray, Bernard E.	Capt	0451288		CAC	22 Feb 43	Sp Sv 0 (Gen CM PRO)
Lowe, Jerome A.	Capt	0315902		IGD	30 Jun 44	Asst IG
Panneck, Theodore W.	Capt	0407704		IGD	16 Apr 43	Asst IG
Wachtler, Peter J.	Capt	01170236		FA	1 Aug 44	Athletic O
Bailey, William W.	1st Lt	01313949		INF	17 Jan 45	Asst PX O
Bolen, Horace R.	1st Lt	02941078		INF	15 Jun 44	Asst SpSvO (PubRel O)
Clayton, Thomas S. III	1st Lt	01182799		FA	1 Dec 44	PX O

ANNEX A

Volume, IX, 12th Army Group Final After Action Report

NAME	RANK	SERIAL	No	Branch	D-O-R	DUTIES
Crawford, Bernard C.	1st Lt	01996706	AUS	16 Jun 45	Asst S-4	
Griese, George G., Jr.	1st Lt	0507648	INF	14 Sep 43	Aide to CG	
Handler, Morton D.	1st Lt	01004600	AUS	15 Sep 44	Asst S-3	
Weil, Seymour	1st Lt	01996710	AUS	1 Jul 45	Asst Adj	
Crabtree, Arch L.	2d Lt	02026488	AUS	17 Jun 45	Pers O (Cl A Agt-Ins)	
Levinson, William	2d Lt	02026491	AUS	6 Jul 45	Asst PM (& War Bd O)	

ATTACHED

Frank, Seymour L.	Capt	0422090	MC	20 May 43	Med O
Kaplan, Bernard	Capt	0521111	DC	1 May 43	Dental O
Rathbun, Sanford M.	Capt	0522649	MC	22 May 43	Med O
Shubert, Roman J.	Capt	0416718	MC	5 Mar 43	Med O
Steinhardt, Roger W.	Capt	0440321	MC	26 Oct 43	Med O
Thompson, George E.	Capt	0464028	MC	1 May 44	Med O
Cort, Arthur H.	1st Lt	01546187	MAC	1 Feb 44	MA O
Johnson, Roscoe W.	2d Lt	02001138	AUS	15 Jan 45	Asst I & E O

## PART II

### HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

The history of Headquarters Company, Special Troops, dated from 16 October 1943, when, pursuant to GO No. 74, Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, it was activated in London, England, as an adjunct to Headquarters, First United States Army Group.

The establishment and operation of a unit of this type was a wholly untried venture. The mission of the organization was that of serving the largest ground force headquarters overseas. Specifically, this embraced numerous responsibilities. Some of these were: to establish and operate messes for officers of the headquarters, to provide them with orderly service and miscellaneous facilities and to administer to all enlisted personnel working in the headquarters. The last-named responsibility alone was no small task. It called for the acquisition and maintenance of billets, the operation of messes and the training, disciplining, clothing and paying of the enlisted personnel.

A delineation of the structure of the organization serves to demonstrate the nature and size of the mission which was entrusted to the company. Headquarters Company was divided into platoons, each having its specific task. The integration of these varied duties comprised the mission of the unit as a whole.

A Headquarters Platoon, comprising the Orderly Room and Personnel Sections, was established to take care of routine administration and the records of all enlisted personnel of Headquarters Company, Headquarters Detachment and attached units.

The Service Platoon was the company work platoon. It furnished orderly service for officers of the headquarters and personnel for fatigue details. It also provided barbers, tailors and carpenters to service the headquarters.

A Security Platoon was organized to provide the interior guard for the headquarters. It was also entrusted with six scout cars to be used for the protection of the commanding general. Members of this platoon were exclusively guards, exempt from all other duties within the company.

The Mess Platoon was comprised of two sections. The Officers Mess Section operated messes capable of accommodating nearly 1,000 officers, and the Enlisted Mess Section operated messes capable of providing for approximately 2,000 enlisted men.

The Supply Platoon consisted of group Supply, whose job it was to procure and issue office equipment and stationery supplies for the headquarters and to equip staff section officers, and Company Supply to procure and issue all the clothing and equipment for assigned and attached enlisted personnel.

The Motor Platoon furnished mechanics and drivers for organizational transportation. There were sufficient vehicles to serve the organization in a static location. Vehicles assigned to the company, also, included eighteen command post vans for general officers of the headquarters.

Two Special Platoons, each comprising mess and orderly teams, were organized to take care of any emergency that might arise.

On 2 November 1943, the actual functioning of the organization began, Major J. Masse (then Captain) became the first company officer and was appointed Company Commander. A group of twenty-eight enlisted men, obtained from the 10th Replacement Depot, Lichfield, England, comprised the company. S/Sgt. Charles Simpson was appointed Acting First Sergeant.

The formative and growing phase in the history of the company presented varied problems. Chief among these were:

- (1) The requisitioning of able officer personnel.
- (2) Procurement of all impediment necessary for operation.
- (3) Rapid growth of Headquarters Company and Headquarters Detachment with all the attendant administrative responsibilities.
- (4) Organization and training of platoons.

It was not until March 1944, that the organization acquired sufficient officer personnel. During that month eleven officers were assigned, bringing the total officer strength to eighteen.

A Standard List of Equipment was drawn up soon after the organization was activated. Designed as a field unit, plans were soon under way to procure the requirements for all future eventualities. Arms and equipment for approximately 1,500 men had to be acquired. In January, the first organic transportation, twelve jeeps and three 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trucks, was procured.

The organization grew rapidly. By the end of the first month of operation there were 103 enlisted men in Headquarters Company and 155 in Headquarters Detachment, a total of 263. A steady increase in strength added nearly 1,000 men to the total of assigned personnel within a six-month period.

The platoons of Headquarters Company were organized to do specialized jobs. Platoons, consequently, required training for their designated assignments. The Transportation Platoon established a motor pool and dispatchers' office and acquired sufficient maintenance facilities. After a period of training

the Security Platoon relieved Company "F", 156th Infantry, and assumed the interior guard of the group headquarters. The Mess Platoon, at first possessing a limited number of trained personnel, was able, with the help of a few experienced and energetic non-commissioned officers, to train highly efficient and successful mess teams within a short time. Supply and Headquarters Platoons, for the most part also made up of personnel with limited experience, soon trained men in their jobs and these platoons were soon establishing admirable records for efficiency in spite of the ever increasing amount of work. Capable non-commissioned officers were found in a relatively short time to direct the activities of the Service Platoon.

The training of assigned and attached personnel was the responsibility of the company. Accordingly, in December 1943, the organization inaugurated a training program for all personnel. Training was in progress five days a week, and was conducted by company officers. Twenty percent of company personnel and a like percentage of the enlisted personnel of the staff sections of the detachment and of the attached units attended sessions daily. Training was scheduled to permit all enlisted personnel under the jurisdiction of Headquarters Company to attend one day per week. The program was comprehensive, including basic military subjects, drill and road marches, range firing, aircraft identification, defense against incendiary attacks, chemical warfare, mines and booby traps and other subjects likely to be of particular importance to the organization during field operations. Inasmuch as the headquarters was situated in the center of London, the training program had its limitations. Most difficulties were circumvented by utilizing nearby Hyde Park for certain periods of training requiring more space than city streets could afford.

The winter of 1943-44 in London witnessed the renewal of German air attacks against London. On the night of 14 March 1944, the headquarters and enlisted mens' billets were hit by scores of incendiaries. Three billets, housing enlisted personnel of the organization, were destroyed and four were damaged. A high explosive bomb fell in the vicinity of a number of billets but failed to explode. Organized fire teams effectively dealt with billet fires, but the blaze spread in the Security Guard billet when members of the platoon were pressed into service at group headquarters to save and guard valuable papers and equipment, and at that juncture city fire-fighting equipment had not yet arrived in sufficient quantity to bring fires under control. In consequence the blaze spread to two adjacent billets.

Personnel of the company won high commendation for their organization and efficiency displayed during the emergency. Commendations were received

from Lt. General Omar N. Bradley, Commanding General, First US Army Group, the Borough Council of Marylebone, the National Fire Service and the Swiss Legation, where personnel assisted in saving the building in which the legation was housed. London newspapers gave recognition to the part played by military personnel.

Pfc Rudolph Povich, Headquarters Company, and T/Sgt James A. Williams, Headquarters Detachment, were awarded Purple Heart Medals for injuries sustained during the attack. Two company officers, Major Robert N. Abbott (then Captain), Duty Officer and Lieutenant Dudley J. Manuel, Officer of the Day, rendered valuable service in directing activities during the emergency.

Life in London was not without its lighter side, however. Two basketball teams, the "Masso Maulers" of Headquarters Company and a quintet of Headquarters Detachment enlisted men known as "Hq" team figured prominently in London basketball competition and were both awarded plaques at the end of the season.

Crowds packed Porchester Hall at two gala dances which highlighted the company-sponsored entertainment schedule in London. The Central Base Section dance band furnished music for both occasions.

Headquarters Company and Headquarters Detachment adopted two British war orphans, Sheila and Maureen B., daughters of an English soldier killed in the Sicilian campaign. The adoptions were made possible through the voluntary contributions of the personnel of the command. On Sunday, 28 May 1944, the two small sisters, age five and seven, were guests of the organization.

As the headquarters itself grew in size the activities of the company were extended. In April 1944, a detachment of 32 enlisted men from the company was formed to service American Personnel on duty with Main Headquarters, 21st Army Group (British). The detachment was under the command of Captain Charles E. Adams Jr. who was assisted by Lieutenant Manuel. The following month a similar detachment was established for duty with Rear Headquarters of the 21st Army Group. This group was commanded by Captain Edgar D. Landreth Jr., and included Lieutenant Thomas S. Clayton III.

The Spring of 1944, witnessed an increase in the responsibilities of the organization through the attachment of a number of units. The Personnel Section withdrew from the personnel offices of Headquarters Special Troops, where the personnel work of the company was originally done, and a separate section which was an integral part of the company established. Most important of the units which were subsequently attached to the company at that time were the MIS Detachment, commanded by Captain James J. Drislane, and the WAC De-

tachment, commanded by Captain Alice M. Maroney (later Captain Alice M. Masso). Other units attached included: 1699th Engineer Utilities Detachment, 37th Machine Records Unit, 18th Finance Disbursing Section, 585th Army Postal Unit, Engineer Topographic Service Detachment, Post Exchange Detachment, Engineer Reproduction Detachment, Enemy Equipment Identification Unit and the Visitors' Bureau, which later became a part of AG Section, Headquarters Detachment.

On 23 May 1944, the company and the headquarters engaged in a practice move to a bivouac area at Warfield Park, near Bracknell, England. A large part of the company encamped for approximately ten days to service the various staff sections of group headquarters as they moved to the area for two-day periods. There was a rotation of company personnel, including all mess teams, to enable as many groups as possible to function under field conditions.

Before the historic landing of Allied troops on the beaches of Normandy, the organization had been alerted for departure. The few weeks following the invasion of France was a busy period during which final preparations for the movement of the organization to the Continent had to be made. It was a period, too, during which London was subjected to a new type of warfare from the air, the robot bomb attacks.

It was planned to move to France in four groups. A small Advance Detachment, whose enlisted personnel were commanded by Captain Bernard E. Gray, left London on 5 July. On 10 July, the group crossed the Channel from Southampton to Omaha Beach on a Liberty ship, the S. S. Joseph T. Johnston. It was not until two days later, however, that the Advance Party disembarked and moved a few miles inland to the site of the new camp. Preparations for the arrival of the increments were begun at once.

The first increment, comprising 5 officers and 105 enlisted men and commanded by Major Masso, departed from Southampton for Omaha Beach on the SS. Wetmore on 13 July and joined the Advance Party the following day.

The second increment consisted of 5 officers and 350 enlisted men and was commanded by Captain Abbott. This increment consisted of two elements, a riding unit and a marching unit. The riding unit which utilized organic transportation left Southampton on the Liberty ship S. S. John Steele on 19 July, but rough weather in the Channel prevented disembarkation until 24 July. The marching unit sailed on the S. S. Castle on 19 July and two days later joined other elements of the organization at the Colombieres camp.

Prior to the movement of the third increment there were a number of developments at the headquarters in France. With the arrival of the first increment



the headquarters was designated as Headquarters, 12th Army Group, and the company became Headquarters Company, Special Troops, 12th Army Group. On 1 August, group headquarters became operational and at that time the company came under the operational control of the Headquarters Commandant, 12th Army Group, and under the Commanding General of Special Troops for administrative control.

On 1 August, the main element of the company departed from Colombieres and established itself one mile south of Periers. At this juncture the headquarters was divided into echelons. Main echelon was set up about six miles south of Periers, near the village of St. Sauveur Lendelin. Rear echelon was established at the Periers camp. The company formed two echelons, about equal in size, to serve both camps.

Two weeks later a third element of the headquarters, known first as Advance and later as TAC echelon, was established near St. Sauveur. The company supplied personnel to service it. Dissolution of the two detachments which were on duty with Headquarters, 21st Army Group, helped solve the problem of supplying personnel which the operation of the three echelons required. TAC echelon was comprised of the men who had served at Main Headquarters, 21st Army Group. Personnel from the second detachment with the British were distributed to other echelons to aid the personnel shortage which operating in the field brought about.

On 5 August, the third increment, comprising 3 officers and 250 enlisted men under the command of Captain Carmello Falconier, arrived in France. The increment, divided into a riding and a marching unit, made the crossing from Southampton on the Greek ship, S. S. Amerki, and a Dutch ship, the S. S. Zuckland.

Performing the housekeeping duties for group headquarters under field conditions required many adaptations and increased labor. Obtaining food and supplies was frequently a difficult problem, for the headquarters moved across France rapidly. The organization had grown to an unprecedented size. Assigned and attached personnel numbered in excess of 1500 before the organization departed for the Continent. The administrative responsibilities of caring for so bulky a group in the field presented numerous new problems.

Main and Rear echelons moved approximately 100 miles to Laval on 24 August. On 5 September, the organization moved to Versailles, a distance of 175 miles, and on 18 September, another move was made to Verdun, 185 miles east of Versailles. Meanwhile TAC echelon had moved from St. Sauveur to St. James, thence to Chartres, Chateau Thierry, Verdun and Luxembourg City.

In spite of the frequency of the moves Headquarters Company was highly successful in fulfilling its mission of servicing group headquarters. At each location every platoon adapted itself to meet new conditions. Problems of personnel administration, of mess, transportation, and security and the laborious task of setting up facilities for the headquarters at each site were solved in an exemplary manner.

Main and Rear echelons in Verdun and TAC echelon in Luxembourg City were destined to remain in their locations for a number of months. Accordingly, recreational and athletic programs for the enlisted men during off-duty hours were initiated. Day rooms were opened, athletic fields constructed, and at Main echelon classes in a number of diversified subjects were begun. A series of weekly dances at which the company played host to WAC and French civilians was inaugurated.

Voluntary contributions at Main and Rear brought more than enough to hold Christmas parties for Verdun war orphans and children of impressed workers. The parties were attended by prominent military, civil and church leaders. It was planned to use excess proceeds to sponsor the adoption of two French war orphans.

During December and January, there were numerous air alerts and on several occasions enemy planes strafed and bombed the Verdun area. The enemy counteroffensive during this period called for increased activity in the organization. For a time it was believed that TAC echelon would have to be evacuated from Luxembourg City. The company stood by to furnish aid in that event. Additional protection for the security of the headquarters at TAC echelon was dispatched from the Security Guard in Verdun. In Verdun, the Security Platoon was supplemented by other company personnel to strengthen the interior guard. Scout cars of the company patrolled the city.

In January, a policy of granting thirty days' temporary duty in the United States for "rehabilitation, recuperation and recovery" was put into effect and eventually 2 officers and approximately 30 enlisted men were sent home under the plan.

Battlefield promotions to the grade of 2nd Lieutenant were awarded to M/Sgts George H. Close, Enlisted Mess Supervisor, Lloyd E. Jagdfeld, Supply Sergeant, and T/Sgt Wallace B. McDonell, Platoon Sergeant of the Service Platoon.

Through the Spring of 1945, in Verdun, the company continued its un spectacular but vital routine service functions. On 2 April, General Omar N. Bradley inspected Headquarters Company and the WAC Detachment, and was a guest at several mess halls operated by the company.

Policies providing furloughs to the United Kingdom and to the French Riviera and passes to Paris were put into effect. On 8 April, Headquarters Company men were hosts to their two adopted French war orphans, Gabriello and Guy, both of whose fathers were killed in action against the Germans.

Preparations were made to move Main and Rear echelons to Wiesbaden Germany. Meanwhile TAC echelon moved from Luxembourg to Namur, Belgium, thence back to Luxembourg and on to Wiesbaden and Bad Wildungen, Germany.

On 1 and 4 May, the organization moved in separate increments to Wiesbaden, Germany, a distance of approximately 200 miles from Verdun.

At the new location the duties of the company were further extended. Personnel were billeted in a score of billets in different areas of Wiesbaden. The number of messes operated by the company rose to twelve. Added facilities for officer and enlisted personnel increased the demand for Service and Mess Platoon personnel for their operation and maintenance.

The end of hostilities in Europe called for a number of adjustments in the organization. A Special Service and Information-Education Section became an enlarged group within Headquarters Platoon. A company dance band was formed and began to make public appearances.

The readjustment plan providing for discharge of personnel with high adjusted service rating scores was put into effect and 2 company officers and approximately 120 enlisted men were transferred to Reception Stations in the United States. Among those transferred were Major Abbott, Executive Officer, Lieutenant Ralph W. Vernon, First Sergeant Thomas J. Hohman and his successor, First Sergeant James G. Thompson.

Early in June, TAC echelon was dissolved at Bad Wildungen, Germany, and personnel returned to the organization in Wiesbaden.

The company continued to acquire new facilities for its personnel. Some of these were: a photo shop for assigned and attached personnel and for officers of the headquarters, a radio repair shop, and ice-cream plant, two houses providing mineral baths, and two enlisted mens' clubs.

To a large extent the record Headquarters Company has achieved during its twenty-one months of operation contributed to the successful functioning of the headquarters. The job the company performed, though unheralded because of its routine nature, well may serve as an example of efficiency and as a guide for similar units in the future.

## PART III

### WAC DETACHMENT SPECIAL TROOPS

On 1 May 1944, Company 3, Detachments P, Q, and R, were activated at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, and began overseas training.

On 21 May 1944, the company was alerted and on the following day arrived at Camp Shanks, New York. After a six day training period, the unit was alerted and left Camp Shanks 30 May 1944. The women boarded the Queen Elizabeth in New York harbor that same evening, and watched the New York skyline disappear on the morning of the 31st.

The Detachments disembarked on 6 June, amid excitement occasioned by the news that the invasion had begun, and proceeded to the 10th Replacement Depot at Lichfield, England. Captain Alice M. Moroney (later Captain Alice M. Masso) was designated Commanding Officer of Detachment R, later to become WAC Detachment, 12th Army Group. On 9 June, the entire Detachment assembled in London at 29, 30 and 31 Bryanston Square, and the unit was activated.

After a three-day orientation program, initiated to familiarize the detachment with the work of Headquarters, First United States Army Group, assignments to staff sections were made and on the morning of 13 June 1944, the women reported for duty.

First Lieutenant Ruth R. Gorton joined on 11 June 1944, as Executive Officer, and at the end of June there were two officers and 89 enlisted women in the Detachment.

A training program in preparation for cross-Channel movement was initiated in July, and continued throughout the month. In addition, daily work increased steadily as the war on the Continent progressed.

The first and second increments of Headquarters, 12th Army Group, left London for the Continent in July, and were followed by the third increment, of which the WAC Detachment was a part, on 1 August 1944. The detachment debarked on Omaha Beach at 1500 hours, 4 August 1944, and was convoyed to Periers.

On 24 August, the detachment moved with the rear echelon from Periers and proceeded 100 miles east to Laval, living there in a former French military installation. On 5 September, the detachment moved again with the rear echelon from Laval to Versailles, resuming operations there in a former artillery school situated opposite the Palace of Versailles. Passes to Paris and conducted tours of the Palace made the stay in Versailles a pleasant one.

The third major move of the headquarters and the WAC Detachment took place on 18 September, to Verdun, France.

Social events of the month included a USO Show, starring Bing Crosby and a dance given for the WACs by the TAC echelon of the headquarters.

During October, the WACs attended many dances given in the Town Hall, Verdun, and most of the detachment enjoyed a sightseeing trip to battle fields and cemeteries of the last war on 15 October. During this month, 167th Signal Photo Company began a movie of the unit, depicting the life of a WAC under field conditions. Stars of the film were Tec 3 Mary H. Lacour, Tec 4 Frances M. Thornton, Tec 3 Emma Dale Newell, Tec 5 Jane L. Wolford, Tec 5 Joy M. Caldaronello and Tec 5 Helen E. Sellers. Tec 4 Patricia V. Coffey assisted in preparation of the script. In November, the WAC TAG Club was officially opened, and served as a club room for the women and their friends until the detachment left Verdun.

Christmas was observed with a party given for 400 French children of Verdun by members of the headquarters on 21 December, with parties held by staff sections on the afternoon of the 24th, and open house in the WAC billets on Christmas eve.

Three day passes to Paris were authorized for all members of the detachment in February 1945, with a quota of 7 women leaving every four days. Seven day furloughs to the UK went into effect during March, with two enlisted women leaving every two weeks, and a quota of two enlisted women per week was set up for 7-day furloughs to the Riviera, with transportation by air furnished both there and back.

The last major move of the headquarters was accomplished on 1 May 1945, when the first increment of WACs left Verdun for Wiesbaden, Germany, with the second increment following on 4 May. The Bellevue Hotel on the Wilhelmstraße, Wiesbaden, became billets for the detachment, and the women, long unaccustomed to hot running water, bathtubs, beds and comfortable chairs, felt at home in a short while.

In order to accommodate expected increases in detachment strength, the unit moved on 18 May from the Bellevue Hotel to the Metropole Hotel, which in peace time was the luxury hotel of Wiesbaden.

Colonel Anna W. Wilson, ETO Staff Director, visited the detachment on 7 May, and remained for three days, granting interviews to the women, inspecting the billets, and providing information on discharge.

Detachment strength at the end of May was 3 Officers and 89 Enlisted women.

On 4 June 1945, a training program, including reveille, daily physical training, and formal open-ranks inspection was initiated, and two hours of orientation weekly were scheduled.

The first appointment to warrant officer within the detachment was that of Tec 3 Ruth I. Idwins, on 16 June 1945.

The Bronze Star Medal, for meritorious service, was awarded to Tec 3 Nellie E. Widman, G-1 Section, and Tec 3 Isabel M. Boulter, AG Section in June.

The break-up of the original detachment began on 11 July 1945, when three members left Wiesbaden for discharge in the United States.

Detachment strength on 11 July 1945, was 3 Officers and 105 enlisted women.

## PART IV

### ARMY PHOTO INTERPRETATION DETACHMENT

#### HISTORICAL RECORD

On 27 May 1944, the Army Photo Interpretation Detachment was established as a provisional unit, per ltr, Headquarters First United States Army Group, dated 27 May 1944. At that time Captain B. H. Backlund and Captain R. C. Jacobson, G-2 (Air) section, First US Army Group, were working on the T/O and T/E for this organization as an organic part of the army group, and a T/O for an Army Photo Interpretation Detachment was established on 27 May 1944. The detachment was assigned to Headquarters Special Troops, FUSAG, and stationed at Chalgrove, England. Captain M. H. Shepard was assigned as commanding officer on 19 June 1944.

Photo interpretation at the time was done in connection with the Third US Army and the unit performing the work was called TUSA/FUSAG APID. This unit was stationed at Chalgrove. After the activation of FUSAG APID a split was made and each unit acted independently. On 16 June 1944, only one Officer and nine enlisted men were assigned, but five (5) Photo Interpretation Teams consisting of ten (10) Officers and twenty enlisted men were attached. While the unit was stationed at Chalgrove, England, personnel records were kept by Headquarters Special Troops, and one clerk was on duty with that headquarters in London, England.

The detachment arrived on Omaha Beach, France, on 18 July 1944, and bivouaced at Le Molay, France, on 19 July. The unit became operational 1 August 1944.

The rapid advance of the armies necessitated moving to Laval on 23 August 1944, to Versailles on 2 September, and to Verdun on 17 September, and to Luxembourg City on 17 October. Here the situation became stabilized and the unit remained for six months before moving on to Wiesbaden, Germany, on 17 April 1945.

Major C. B. Stack assumed command of APID on 24 September 1944, and remained with the unit until 14 April 1945, when Capt. R. P. Leitner assumed command.

APID at army group level had as its mission the furnishing of such intelligence as was obtained from the study of aerial photographs to supplement other intelligence agencies in planning for future ground operations. It also

worked on the selection of aerial targets for tactical and strategic bombing. It provided armies with a background of correlated intelligence in areas to be taken over from army group and provided specific intelligence as requested by G-2 and/or G-2 agencies.

The mission outlined above was best accomplished by dividing the APID into separate sections with each section engaged in one or more functions to achieve the overall objective: (Annex A) \*

The general interpretation section provided continuous interpretation of areas beyond the immediate concern of armies, recording information on 1:100,000 map sheets for G-2, 12th Army Group. In addition, 1:25,000 or 1:500,000 maps were kept up to date to be turned over to the armies when they were ready to assume interpretation responsibility. The section published routine and special reports of new installations of military significance, and recorded changes in activity of installations previously reported. A total of 180 Daily Reports was submitted to the various agencies for the months of September 1944 to May 1945 inclusive.

The special interpretation section was a targets section which interpreted photographs of areas and installations specifically requested by specialized agencies. This interpretation was concerned mainly with the development of targets for close support programs of the tactical air force or of targets deeper in enemy territory for the strategic air force. The specialization thus acquired was used to advantage in supplying detailed information of particular installations for other purposes. A total of 1154 Target Reports was submitted to the various agencies from September 1944 to May 1945 inclusive.

Terrain section had as its mission the study of terrain areas assigned by the Terrain and Defense Group of G-2. It had at its disposal a complete library of strategic photographic cover; and therefore was able to make special studies to support airborne operations in strategic areas. In addition it was able to make road and river studies for fast moving situations where photographic cover was not immediately available. Stereoscopic examination of photographs was found to be revealing with respect to relative terrain conditions.

A special requests section made studies as requested by G-2 and G-3 agencies. This work included the selection of bivouac areas or headquarters, preparation of mosaics for particular areas, confirmation or negation of information obtained from ground sources and from the interrogation of prisoners of war, bomb damage assessment and the preparation of cover traces. A total of 208 Special Reports was submitted to the various agencies for the months September 1944 to May 1945, inclusive.

\* See page 50



The function of this section was to furnish engineer intelligence to army group Engineers. The information derived from photographs included coastal studies for invasions, material for the correction of maps, and special railroad, road and river studies. During Continental operations it was found that this was best accomplished by having two Photo Interpretation Teams attached to the Engineer Section at Communication Zone Headquarters.

Closely coordinated with both Interpretation and Distribution Sections, the Plotting Section and Library frequently came under direct control of the Operations Section.

The Plotting Section was utilized for the execution of all drafting and restitution required by APID, and the Library housed file copies of all photo cover of the Army area with complete and systematic reference files.

In addition to the preparation of plots of photo cover, APID Plotting Section was required to process gridded oblique sorties. Initially gridded in printing by the air corps, gridded obliques were then oriented to the map for artillery use.

With the ever-increasing use of aerial photos line troops as map supplement, APID Plotting Section perfected various means for easier orientation of photos with both ground and map. Most widely used was the system of superimposing the basic map or theater grid on the photos selected for mass distribution. While not overly accurate due to photo distortion, this grid served as a quick means of orientation.

Generally functioning in close cooperation with the Plotting Section were the Photo and Map Libraries. The APID Photo Library was the control repository for all cover of interest to the army. It was the central source of photos for all army sections and units, as well as for APID interpreters. Maintained on various sets of overlays were plot files of cover at hand, and by reference to one set of overlays or the other, one could find successive records of day-by-day flying or, on another set, a compilation of all "A" quality sorties covering the map sheet in question. On another set of traces was kept small-scale cover, while still a different set of traces showed the location of cover adjacent to the army areas and flown in support of armies or another army group. Kept up daily by the Plotting Section these cover reference overlays were designed to furnish immediate and accurate information on photos available.

As was the case with all intelligence, the immediate and efficient dissemination not only of APID interpretations; but also of new cover and of cover for mass distribution was the final and probably most important phase of APID's mission. Working in most cases directly for the Operations Section,

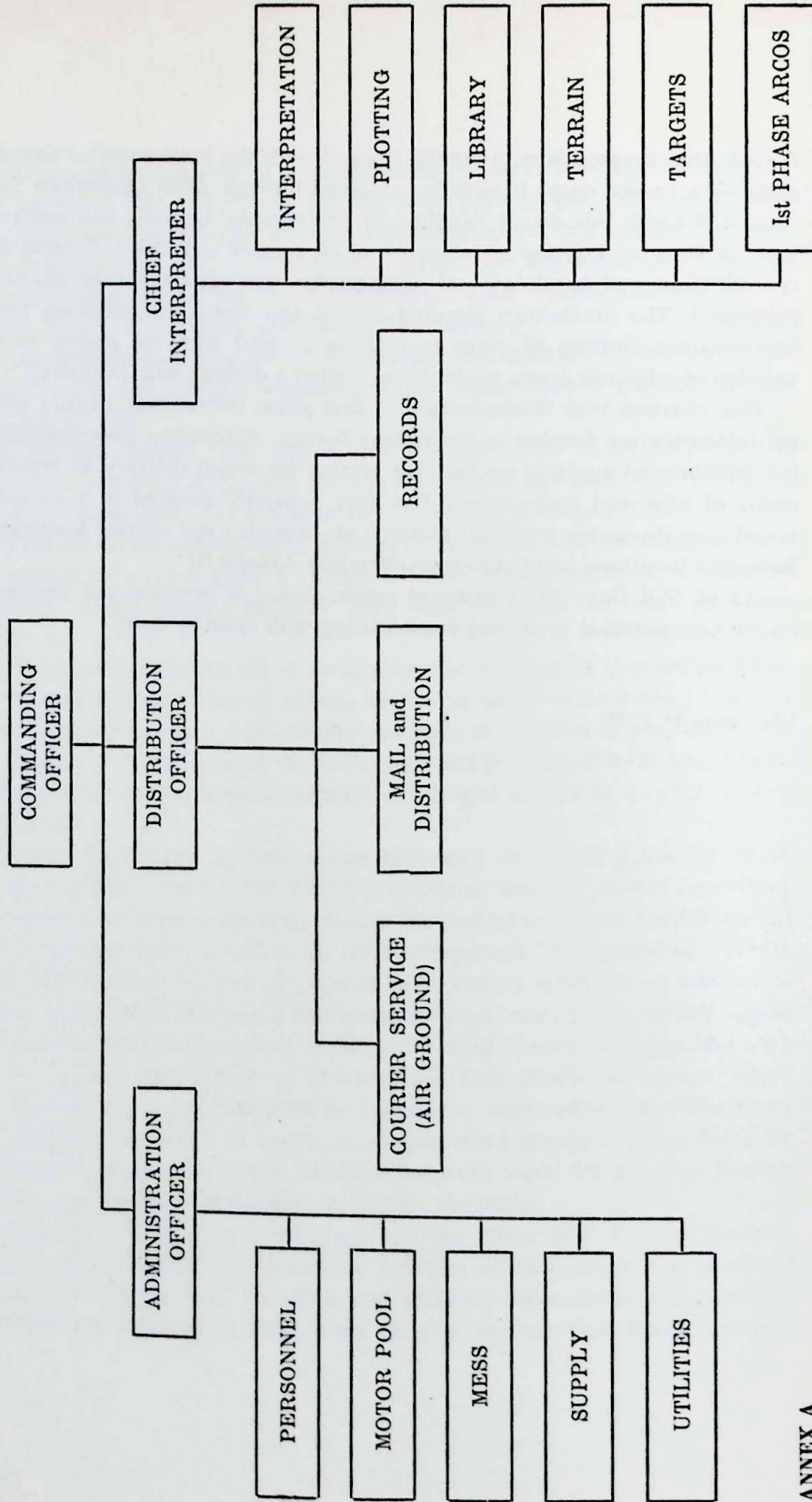
Distribution Section was primarily charged with the breakdown of new cover according to the corps boundaries received through APID Operations Section from G-2 (Air). All actual handling of photography between the multiprinter and APID as well as the maintenance of all records and files pertaining to the reproduction and breakdown of photography was carried out by distribution personnel. The breakdown required careful and systematic planning, because the constant shifting of corps boundaries coupled with the policy on cover overlap of adjacent areas, made this operation a difficult one. (Annex C) \*

Not charged with dissemination of first phase information, usually handled by Interpretation Section or Operations Section, distribution personnel planned for and briefed couriers on the best routing for actual delivery to armies and corps of new and basic cover. This duty generally resulted in a virtual monopoly on the motor pool and required an extensive and current knowledge of both unit locations and road communications. (Annex D) \*

As of V-E Day, APID assumed responsibility of securing and plotting the entire occupational area, and consolidating with existing cover.

\* See page 51 + 52

APID  
12TH ARMY GROUP

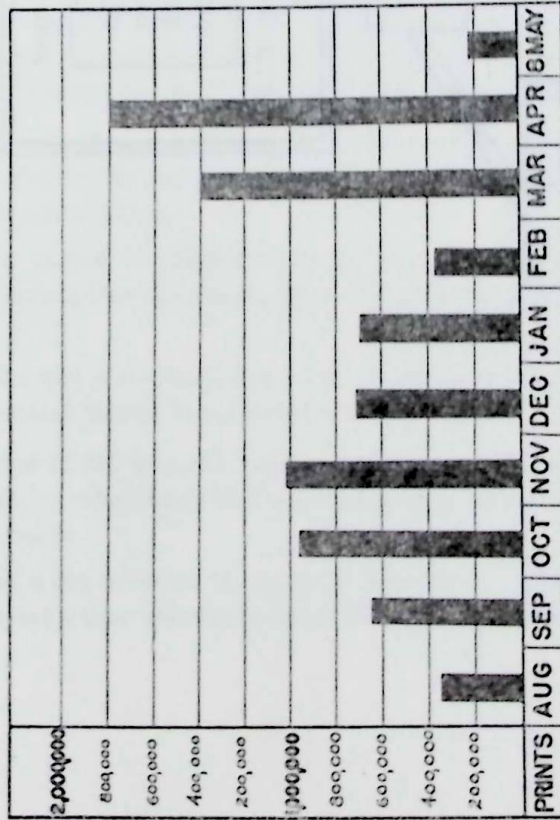


# APID 12<sup>TH</sup> ARMY GROUP

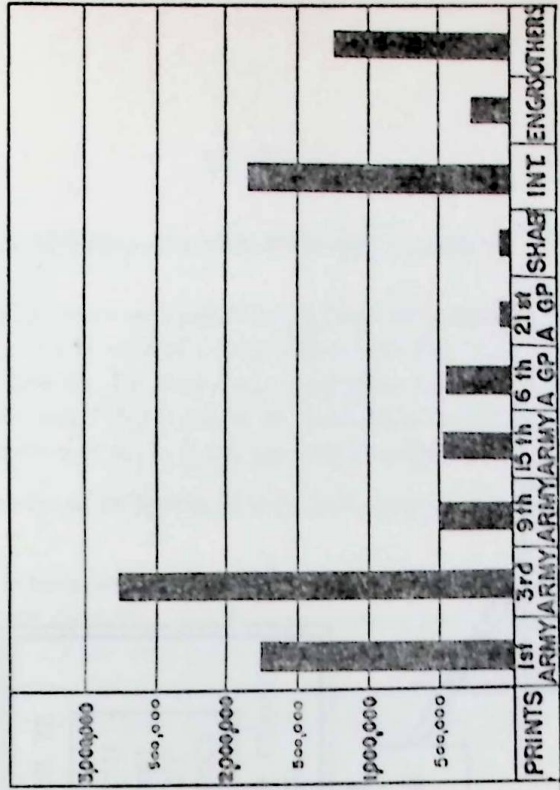
Distribution of Photography

1 August 1944 - 8 May 1945

Monthly Distribution



Distribution To Units



\*Photography distributed & forwarded to  
9th Bomb Div, XVIII (AB) Corp, 9th Div, 66th Div

COMBINED  
COURIER SERVICE  
FROM  
APID 12 AGP/DOR, 9th AF  
TO  
ARMIES/RCN GROUPS

Legend  
 AIR COURIER OPERATED  
 BY DOR, 9TH AF WHEN NECESSARY  
 BY APID GROUND COURIER  
 OPERATED BY 325TH PWR

325TH  
REPRODUCTION &  
INTERPRETATION  
CENTER

325TH  
PHOTO WING  
RCN.  
U. K.

A 82

APID  
12TH ARMY GROUP  
 COMBINED  
DISTRIBUTION  
CENTER  
 DOR, 9TH AF

APID  
1st A  
67th GP

APID  
3rd A  
10th GP

9TH TAG  
RECCE  
GROUP

APID  
9th A  
363rd GP

APID  
15th A

## PART V

### ENGINEER REPRODUCTION DETACHMENT

The Engineer Reproduction Detachment began operations in April 1944, in London, England, and was officially activated on 26 May 1944, commanded by Captain Jeddie D. Lowder, CE, with First Lieutenant James R. Houdeshell, CE, reproduction officer; and T/Sgt Frederic M. Pannebaker in charge of operations. The non T/O strength was set at 2 officers and 32 enlisted men.

The unit was assigned to Special Troops and attached for operations to the Engineer Section.

Originally the detachment was set up as a base plant but was changed to a complete mobile train consisting of a Harris Press in a 2½-ton van; a Rutherford 20" x 24" Camera in a 4-ton van, and a plate and layout in a 10 ton semi-trailer with three 5 KW generators furnishing power. This detachment was organized to perform all the reproduction requirements of the 12th Army Group Headquarters.

The Engineer Reproduction Detachment departed from London, England on 16 July 1944, and arrived in France on the 22 July, and proceeded to the first station at Colombiers. Production began the same day on a 24 hour basis and continued without interruption up to the end of 12th Army Group operations.

On 30 July, the unit moved to St. Saver Lendelin, and to Laval 21 August. On the 29th, Cpl Phillip Middleton died from injuries received in a vehicle accident 10 miles south of Laval.

The detachment moved to Versailles on 2 September 1944, and then to Verdun on 17 September. The last station move was to Wiesbaden, Germany on 30 April 1945.

On 9 May 1945, the unit was detached from the Engineer Section and attached to the Adjutant General Section for technical control.

During the period of the war, the primary mission of this detachment was the preparation and reproduction of Military Operational Maps, usually turned out in from 2 to 5 colors.

There was never a day in which the train did not operate. All station moves were made in one day's time and the train set in operation before midnight of

that day. With over four million impressions run off from two thousand jobs, there was never time lost due to mechanical breakdowns.

The following is a breakdown of the production record of the detachment up to 12 July 1945:

IMPRESSIONS	BLACK & WHITE PRINTS	LITHO RUN JOBS
4,138,870	1,290	1,471
CONTACT PRINTS	MULTILITH PLATES MADE	POSITIVES & NEGATIVES
734	322	449

## PART VI

### 4TH MEDICAL GENERAL DISPENSARY

The 4th Medical Dispensary was assigned to Headquarters Special Troops, on 17 June 1944, and joined the Headquarters in London on 26 June, charged with providing medical and dental care for Headquarters First US Army Group.

When the headquarters moved to the Continent and expanded, the duties of the dispensary were correspondingly increased. Main and Rear echelons were organized early in August 1944, and separate dispensaries were established for each. Another one opened when 12th Army Group TAC left the main body later that month.

Lieutenant Colonel Bernard J. Manning was named Commanding Officer of the dispensary on 27 November 1944; and, less than three weeks later, the unit received its first taste of operations under near-combat conditions. With the German Army breaking through the Ardennes to within a few miles of TAC echelon, the Dispensary's operations were put on an emergency basis. Aid stations were established and maintained and provision was made for evacuation of wounded.

By January 1945, the dispensary was operating five branches, one at each of the three echelons of Headquarters 12th Army Group, one at "T" Force and another with Signal Security Detachment "D". The last was transferred to the 3906th Signal Service Battalion upon its activation a month later.

The dispensary's staff, besides providing the usual care for sick and injured, also conducted periodic physical examinations, inspected mess and sanitary facilities of Special Troops units, and gave inoculations, thus providing direct medical attention for an average of more than 7,000 troops. In addition, it conducted special physical examinations in connection with the manpower survey during the winter and spring of 1945, and supervised the "profiling" of all Special Troops personnel shortly after V-E Day. The Commanding Officer of the Dispensary also acted as surgeon of Special Troops, advising the Commanding General on matters pertaining to the health of the command.

The organization was redesignated the 4th Medical General Dispensary in April 1945. The following month, when 12th Army Group Headquarters consolidated its three echelons and "T" Force was disbanded, the unit reorganized its facilities to provide two dispensaries in Wiesbaden, one for enlisted men and one for officers, and a sub-dispensary at the 3906th Signal Service Battalion.

The 4th Medical General Dispensary was alerted for direct redeployment on 31 May 1945 and left the headquarters on 16 June 1945.



## PART VII

### 18TH FINANCE DISBURSING SECTION

A. Movements. The 18th Finance Disbursing Section made movements as follows since joining Special Troops, FUSAG, now 12th Army Group:

- 3 Feb 1944 Left Wilton, England; arrived London, England, same day.
- 6 Aug 1944 Left London, England; arrived Periers, France, 10 Aug 1944.
- 19 Aug 1944 Left Periers, France; arrived Laval, France, same day.
- 5 Sept 1944 Left Laval, France; arrived Versailles, France, same day.
- 18 Sept 1944 Left Versailles, France; arrived Verdun, France, same day.
- 27 Apr 1945 Left Verdun, France; arrived Wiesbaden, Germany, same day.

B. Mission. This organization's mission was to assist in maintaining a high state of morale by paying troops and individuals regularly and promptly, to receive collections and to furnish advice on all technical matters pertaining to finance.

C. Types of Finance Service. The following types of finance service were furnished by this organization:

Voucher disbursements were made to US Military personnel, US Navy personnel, British and Canadian Military personnel, US Civilians (War Department employees), French, Belgian, Dutch, Luxembourgian, and German Nationals, and local firms through P & C Officers.

Checks and/or "Advances of Pay" cashed for US Military personnel, British Military personnel, UNRRA personnel, and Red Cross personnel.

Approximately 400 French Military personnel attached to 6th and 12th Army Group units were paid through "Spearhead Deposits". Collections were received for sales of field rations, lost government property, captured enemy funds, sales of war bonds, soldiers' deposits, spearhead deposits, transmission of money to the United States or within the theater and overpayments.

All mutilated German Reichsmark and Allied Military Marks or Certificates of Destruction for the same received by Finance Offices in the theater were cleared through this organization, and exchange service was provided in thirteen currencies as follows: US dollars, Canadian dollars, pound sterling, French francs, Belgian francs, Swiss francs, Dutch guilders, Austrian shillings, German marks, Danish kroner, Czech kroner, Norwegian kroner, and Italian lire.

Advice on finance matters was continuously furnished to unit clerks and Purchasing and Contracting Officers in the preparation of payrolls and other technical finance matters.

D. Operations. During the period from 3 February 1944 to 30 June 1945, this organization made 140,751 payments to military personnel totaling \$ 7,887,428.59. During this same period collections amounted to \$ 4,315,650.18. The tremendous increase in business of this organization is shown below by comparison of March 1944 and June 1945 transactions:

	Organization Personnel	Disbursements	Collections	Number of Payees
June 1945	26	\$ 954,282.45	\$ 843,314.94	15,830
March 1944	20	136,977.85	14,167.04	2,200 (Estimated)
Increase	6	\$ 817,304.60	\$ 829,147.90	13,630

E. General. This unit never had a case of VD nor was there ever a Court-Martial case. The high morale of the unit was evidenced by the manner of dress and cleanliness of the quarters of the enlisted men. The unit received many compliments from individual officers on the efficiency and cooperativeness of the individual members.

## PART VIII

### 43D SIGNAL HEAVY CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

The 43d Signal Heavy Construction Battalion was activated on 7 February 1944, from personnel of the 159th Field Artillery Battalion and the 3d Signal Troops, both formerly a part of the 2d Cavalry Division, Fort Clark, Texas.

On 23 July 1944, the organization arrived in England, was assigned to Advance Section, Communications Zone, ETOUSA, and began preparations for duty in France.

On 9 August 1944, the unit debarked on the coast of France under the command of Lieutenant Colonel James M. Orman, and on 12 August 1944, was assigned its first operational assignment in the theater.

Two Spiral-Four cables were strung for eighteen miles from Headquarters Advance Section, Communications Zone to Avranches, France. The work was completed on 13 August 1944, with no difficulties encountered.

On 13 August 1944, this organization was relieved from assignment with Advance Section, Communication Zone, and assigned to 12th Army Group, Special Troops, and on the same date was attached to the Third US Army.

Operations with the Third US Army, from 13 August 1944 to 13 September 1944, entailed the stringing of Spiral-Four and field wire circuits from Third US Army Headquarters to army troops. Daily work orders were issued, and twenty-four construction teams in the battalion were kept busy. Teams that were not assigned to new construction were assigned to the reclamation of wire in the Third US Army rear area.

On 16 September 1944, this organization was recalled for duty with 12th Army Group and assigned a section of the Open Wire line being built from Verdun to Metz, France. The assigned section was under almost constant shell fire from the forts defending Metz, but line survey and distribution of material was carried forward as far as practicable. With two days' work accomplished this project was abandoned, and on 22 September 1944, the battalion was assigned a seven mile section between Verdun, France and Aubange, Belgium.

After completion of one arm, five circuits, of wire to Aubange, eight additional miles of this same line was added to the seven mile section already assigned and the second arm of wire was strung by this organization for fifteen miles.

A third arm of wire was then added and this unit was given twenty-five miles of the line to equip and string.

On 15 October 1944, work on OWL 8114 was completed. Progress on this project was hampered by incessant rains that made the land almost impossible to negotiate with vehicles, and wire work on the entire job was made difficult by the shortage of transposition brackets. Inverted locust pins were used for drop brackets, and the accumulation of water in the inverted insulators caused excessive, though high resistant, grounds on all wires.

From 16 October to 5 November 1944, this organization completed 17 miles of two arm, twenty wire, open wire lead between Bastogne and Jemelle, Belgium.

One half of the poles for this line were obtained from the nearby forest, trimmed and framed by the construction companies.

From 5 November 1944 to 1 December 1944, this organization worked in France between Verdun and Nancy on open wire line 8128. In addition to building two miles of new pole line of ten circuits, nine miles of one arm were built on existing German pole line. Four circuits of French telephone line along the railroad between Commercy and Nancy, France, were rehabilitated for use by Wire Office, 12th Army Group. During the same period twenty miles of two Spiral-Four cables were constructed from Boncourt to Toul, France in order to supply communications from 12th Army Group to Third US Army Headquarters. This cable was jumped at Boncourt, to the completed open wire lines from Verdun to Concourt.

The French open wire lines were never satisfactorily cleared of wet weather grounds, and German open wire lines were found after testing to be unsatisfactory for use with carrier.

From 1 December to 19 December 1944, this organization was assigned the job of constructing ten open wire circuits between Metz and Saint Avold, France, a distance of twenty-eight miles. On 19 December 1944, with this construction sixty-eight percent complete, the battalion was moved to Belgium to work on cable between Aubange and Rodange. Four Spiral-Four cables were strung between Aubange Repeater Station and the Arlon Central office between the 20th and 23d of December, a distance of ten miles.

Five Spiral-Four cables were constructed between Aubange and Rodange, Belgium, a distance of three miles on 20 December 1944.

On 26 December 1944, Lieutenant Colonel James M. Orman was relieved from the battalion and Major Ezra T. Pope Jr. assumed command.

Between 21 December 1944 and 13 January 1945, one twenty-seven quad nineteen gauge non-loaded lead covered cable was constructed between Aubange and Rodange, Belgium, a distance of three miles.

From 5 January to 11 January 1945, two additional Spiral-Four cables were constructed between Aubange and Arlon. This work entailed the stringing of a 6M messenger strand and placing the four existing Spiral-Four cables and the two new cables in rings on the messenger.

On 16 January 1945, orders were received for this organization to rehabilitate the open wire line between Aubange and Bastogne, which had been cut and damaged by the German counter-attack of December 1944. This rehabilitation was completed on 29 January 1945, although sections of the line were in use by various Third US Army units and it was necessary to re-locate working circuits in order properly to reconstruct sections of the line.

On 31 January 1945, this unit began a refresher basic and technical training program which was concluded on 24 February 1945. While the battalion was billeted at Bertrix, Belgium, during this period, a serious fire destroyed the building occupied by Headquarters Company and Company "B". Almost all personal and organizational property was lost, but no serious casualties were suffered.

From 25 February to 18 March 1945, this organization constructed 20.5 miles of open wire lead, two-arms, twenty wires, between the City of Luxembourg and Trier, Germany.

The city of Trier was captured by the American Armies on 2 March and ten open wire circuits were in operation from Luxembourg to Trier on 16th March.

Heavily mined fields were crossed by the route of the line and it was necessary to clear a fifty foot right-of-way in front of the survey party. The 1303d Engineer Regiment, Third US Army, supplied mine sweepers for this work.

On 16 March 1945, ten Spiral-Four cables were installed from the repeater station at the end of the open wire lines in Trier, Germany to the Trier telephone building in the center of the city, a distance of one mile, by 1st Platoon, Company "B".

On 19 March 1945, this organization started construction on OWL 8185 between Trier and Wittlich, Germany, a distance of twenty-three miles. On March 21, Company "B" was assigned a job of constructing twenty-four miles of five Spiral-Four cables from Trier to Thalfang for the Third US Army, completed its assignment on 28 March and started construction on a line to Wittlich on 29 March.

The evening of 29 March, this organization was notified to discontinue work on the Trier-Wittlich line and to move to Kaiserslautern, Germany.

From 1 April to 14 April 1945, this organization constructed twenty-two miles of standard open wire pole line, 20 wires, between Kinsbach and Rockenhausen, Germany on the Saarbrücken-Frankfurt line. A total of twenty-eight and one-half company days were expended on this construction for an average of .77 miles "build" per company day.

From 15 to 17 April 1945, the battalion strung, sagged and tied wire on the pole line constructed by the 25th Signal Heavy Construction Battalion between Rockenhausen and Kreuznach, Germany, part of the Saarbrücken-Frankfurt line. One hundred percent of the ten and one-half miles of line was strung and eighty-five percent of the wire was sagged and tied in by this organization.

From 18 to 22 April 1945, this organization constructed 10.5 miles of standard open wire pole line, between Wiesbaden and Frankfurt, Germany on the Saarbrücken-Frankfurt line. A total of ten company days were expended on this construction for an average of 1.05 miles per company day. Spiral-Four circuits from Eagle TAC to the VHF station at Frankfurt, Germany, a total of two miles.

From 22 April to 2 May 1945, the 43d constructed 23.2 miles of standard open wire pole line between Lang-Gons and Marburg, Germany on the Frankfurt-Jessberg line, averaging 1.20 miles of build per company day.

For this job, battalion vehicles traveled seven hundred miles round-trip to pick up wire and from four to five hundred miles to pick up other line materials.

From 4 May to 9 May 1945, the unit constructed 6.7 miles of standard open wire pole line, between Lohr and Partenstein, Germany. Difficult terrain was experienced on this assignment and it was necessary to do most of the work without the aid of special vehicles.

From 12 May to 26 May 1945, the battalion constructed 26.5 miles of standard open wire pole line, between Wiessen and Detmold, Germany. Although the unit was seriously handicapped due to lack of sufficient material when it was required, this assignment was completed with an average of .88 miles per day.

From 2 June to 13 June 1945, this organization constructed 19.39 miles of standard open wire pole line, between Neubrückhan and Bremen, with an average daily progress of 1.76 miles. Four miles of this line crossed marshland and one mile was built within the city limits of Bremen. A 463 foot span special construction was built where the line crossed the Weser River. It was during

the building of this crossing that Tec 4 George H. Pruitt and Tec 4 Leroy E. Kemp were drowned.

From 19 June to 5 July 1945, this organization constructed 25.9 miles of standard open wire line between Frankfurt and Pfungstadt, Germany, including the crossing of Main River south of Frankfurt. This river span, six hundred feet long, was constructed by Company "B".

After the completion of the Frankfurt assignment this organization was given no missions except training and administrative work. The battalion assembled in Schwanheim, Germany, awaiting further assignment.

## PART IX

### 67TH ORDNANCE BOMB DISPOSAL SQUAD (SEPARATE)

The 67th Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad (Separate), joined Special Troops in London, England, on 27 June 1944, departing soon afterward from England with units of Special Troops, arriving at Omaha Beach, France, on 13 July 1944.

On arrival in France, the squad went to work with a First US Army squad that had landed on "D" Day, to assist in clearing the areas around Omaha Beach. The squad removed its first "hot" bomb (a 250 pound general purpose bomb) on 15 July. Much was learned about enemy material during the stay at Omaha Beach which was to prove invaluable later on when the squad was on its own.

On 30 July, the squad moved with Special Troops to St. Sauveur Lendelin, France, and began removing bombs and explosives from areas occupied by group troops. In addition, a great deal of work was done for returning French civilians.

The 15th of August found the squad in Laval, France, cleaning up an airfield and again clearing houses and areas for troops. It was in Laval that the most "infamous" event of the unit's history occurred. Someone wanted a safe blown open. It was in a chateau belonging to a Countess and occupied by Eagle Main. After assuring everyone from the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Countess that everything would be all right and no windows would be affected by the blast, the charge was touched off. All the windows in the chateau fell out and it is rumored that the General's van moved two feet. While removing unexploded bombs from an insane asylum near Laval, two crews of "nuts" assisted the unit, probably establishing an all time record for "field expedients" in bomb disposal work.

Arriving at Versailles on 26 August, the squad had the usual job of checking buildings and removing abandoned enemy munitions, and in addition received a rush call to remove bombs from the main railroad line leading to Paris. The squad was given two days to do the job and finished it on time.

On 7 September, the squad arrived in Verdun, France, where large quantities of explosives were removed. The squad remained in Verdun from 7 September until 29 March 1945. Much time was spent answering calls from outlying units to investigate or pick up explosives, and in arranging demonstrations of enemy boobytraps and explosives for the education of troops.



On 20 March 1945, an unexploded bomb detonated, killing Tec 5 Joseph F. Fedele of this squad.

The squad moved to Wiesbaden, Germany on 29 March 1945, and found there over two hundred unexploded bombs in the city and large quantities of ammunition. German bomb disposal squads were organized and put to work removing the bombs, an ammunition squad was put to work on the removal of explosives and ammunition, and a demolition squad set about blasting houses considered dangerous to passers-by. On 13 June, the city was clear of bombs for a radius of three miles and clear of ammunition for a radius of five miles. The German squads were then turned over to the Military Government for supervision.

## PART X

### 72D PUBLICITY SERVICE BATTALION

Headquarters, 72d Publicity Service Battalion, was activated in the United Kingdom on 28 December 1943. Its primary mission during the campaign against Germany was to act as the administrative headquarters of the operation of Publicity and Psychological warfare, and for this purpose, it had assigned to it, Headquarters Company, 2d and 3d Mobile Radio Broadcasting Companies and the P&PW Detachment.

The P&PW Section, 12th Army Group was the policy headquarters. The P&PW Detachment was composed of personnel who were considered to be operational personnel, and was broken down into Public Relations, Press Censors, and Psychological Warfare. The actual operation of P&PW was done by those individuals in the above mentioned companies and the P&PW Detachment. Later during the campaign, the 5th Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company was attached.

Upon activation of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the required personnel were furnished from Replacement Centers and trained in Clevedon, England, from the activation date to 5 May 1944. The company was composed of two platoons. One platoon consisted of service type personnel, drivers, cooks, and clerks. Their main job was to furnish transportation for Public Relations personnel and War Correspondents, and to provide them with necessary messing facilities. From D-Day to 12 May 1945, this platoon averaged 25,000 miles per vehicle. The other platoon was a signal platoon. It operated the P&PW communication net. A section of the platoon together with a section from the service platoon called "A Team" were attached to the armies in order to operate a press camp. At D-Day, there were two such teams: One operating at First US Army and one operating at Third US Army. Upon the arrival of Ninth and Fifteenth US Armies, the organization was augmented by two more such teams.

The signal platoon also furnished a section of personnel operating base group which remained at the United Kingdom Base transmitting P&PW communication to the United States. The platoon, also, operated the net control at army group level.

At the close of the campaign, there were six press camps, one operating at each of the four armies, one at Bremen and one at Tactical Headquarters of 12th Army Group. The signal platoon handled over twenty-eight million words during the entire campaign. There were four men killed in action, and twenty-two men wounded. Seven individuals were awarded the Bronze Star medal for meritorious service.

## PART XI

### 2D MOBILE RADIO BROADCASTING COMPANY

The Second Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company was assigned to Special Troops on 14 July 1944, but did not join until the first week of August at Periers, France.

At the time, the only combat psychological warfare operations in effect were the activities of loudspeaker units at St Malo, Brest, Lorient and St Nazaire. Dissemination of information to the French people in liberated areas was being carried on by a company mobile radio station at Cherbourg and was to be done by a fixed radio station still in the process of installation at Rennes. Another company mobile unit was with the First US Army Press camp broadcasting commentator's stories from the front to BBC and ABSIE.

The second company had just completed an indoctrination into the problems of combat psychological warfare as the only such unit to be active in the Normandy campaign. That period's operations, embracing the employment of artillery-disseminated surrender leaflets, combat loudspeaker appeals and tactical radio broadcasts plus liberated area information control, had brought out many inadequacies of training and equipment that would need rectification were maximum assistance to be available to the armies when contact was once more established.

It was to test the ability of a small detachment to provide adequate psychological warfare support in the field, that a twenty men team was sent to Brittany in mid-August to service VIII Corps, taking with it a leaflet printing section, a combat loudspeaker unit, a mobile radio section (Third Company) and operations and service personnel. Activities were to be directed against the enemy strongholds of Brest, Lorient, and St Nazaire with complete operational freedom.

Soon after the arrival of the company at Periers, Psychological Warfare Branch, 12th Army Group had started using company personnel to initiate its own psychological warfare operations in the form of leaflets and the tactical newspaper "Frontpost" for air drop, as well as intelligence gathering from prisoner of war and civilian interrogation and monitoring of all important enemy and allied radio transmissions.

About the middle of August, it was learned that spearheads were nearing Paris, so PWB assembled and sent forth a "Task Force Paris" including among others some second company leaflet editorial, intelligence and radio recon-

naissance and communications personnel and equipment. This team was to enter the city with the advance forces and secure all installations and facilities of psychological warfare interest.

The company moved to Laval on 25 August 1944. The leaflet editorial section had moved from its plant at Rennes to Le Mans with the advance of the air fields. During August, this group had borne the burden in the originating and editing of PWB leaflets. Six editions (375,000 copies) of "Frontpost" had been produced, four at Rennes, and two at Paris, and nine tactical leaflets (1,974,000 copies), all distributed by air over enemy troop concentrations and centers of resistance.

At the end of August, the mobile radio rejoined the company from Cherbourg, having turned the job there over to the Army Information Service.

On 2 September, the company moved to Versailles where a reorganization occurred. Personnel were detached from the second to the third company and vice-versa until all propaganda men were in the second and all technicians in the third.

In the first week of September, intelligence and radio reconnaissance personnel were sent with PWB's "Task Force Luxembourg" which captured Radio Luxembourg intact and by the end of September, with the help of more company personnel, was turning out programs beamed at the enemy.

An interesting incident in the company's history was the participation of a company recording-truck and loudspeaker unit in the surrender of General-Major von Elster and 20,000 troops in the area south of the Loire River and the first recording of a large scale German surrender.

On 20 September, the company moved to Verdun as little more than administrative headquarters with most of its personnel in the field.

The last big shift of men came in mid-October when the Rennes, Lorient, and Brest groups were dissolved and the personnel returned to the company. The printing section went to the Ninth US Army Team and the radio people to Luxembourg.

From then on the company devoted itself to providing personnel for the operations, intelligence, monitoring, publications, and administrative sections of PWB. Activities included programming and technical assistance at Radio Luxembourg, the writing and editing of leaflets and tactical newspapers such as "Feldpost" and "Frontpost", and the collection and assimilation of intelligence from all sources.

The second company moved to Wiesbaden in late April, and continued to perform the same functions for PWB, then at Bad Nauheim.

After victory, all field detachments were recalled and reassigned to tasks in line with PWB's occupation mission which included civilian interrogation; radio at Luxembourg, Frankfurt, Munich, and Stuttgart; German language newspapers and dissemination of information to displaced persons.

For its service and accomplishments the second company was commended by the P&PW Officer, 12th Army Group, and individual achievements were rewarded by 12 Bronze Star Medals, 5 Croix de Guerre, 2 Orders of the Purple Heart and many letters of commendation. Six (6) members were commissioned to carry on information control tasks in the occupation of Germany. No fatal casualties were suffered.

Following is a detailed account of the company's operations:

#### Brittany Campaign

BREST. On or about 15 August 1944, the group known as FWB VIII Corps set up near Brest for operations, leaving the radio section near Lorient. Requests for psychological warfare assistance immediately started coming in from corps, three divisions, and three task forces through the intelligence liaison NCO. Leaflet loaded artillery shells were delivered to battery positions and the loudspeaker unit, soon so badly shot up that it had to be replaced, made surrender appeals almost daily.

The most important action took place on 16 September 1944, after the American VIII Corps commander received a dramatic refusal to a letter he had written to the German General Ramke in Brest, requesting that he surrender his forces and avoid further bloodshed. "Ramke's Reply" was made the basis of a leaflet as well as loudspeaker announcements which impressed the German soldiers greatly with their commander's lack of consideration for them.

Loudspeaker appeals preceded by fifteen minutes the final successful attacks at Brest and the Crozon Peninsula on 18 and 19 September, respectively.

After some intelligence investigations at Brest, the group returned to the company on 10 October 1944.

LORIENT. The field radio station went on the air for the first time on 12 August 1944 as "Der Amerikanische Feldfunk vor Lorient" directing programs at the enemy soldiers and marines in Lorient and St Nazaire.

With tips from deserters, a range of programs was designed from world, local news and gossip and entertainment. This was all under the direction of a second company NCO who pretended to be a German-American Army Officer with a sympathetic attitude toward any soldier in a hopeless position.

This idea of hopelessness was cleverly woven through all of the broadcasts and influenced many of the enemy to desert.

A detailed questionnaire, filled out by each new prisoner, provided this experimental station with "laboratory" data for studying the effectiveness of its transmissions.

Operations were suspended on 14 October 1944, when the personnel went to Radio Luxembourg.

In Brittany, approximately 2025 artillery shells were fired, containing over a million copies of the twenty leaflets produced. More than 150 deserters were credited to the loudspeaker unit, and field radio made 104 transmissions in its 62 days of operation, gaining an audience of several thousand and causing desertions which rose to as many as twenty a day toward the end of the period.

#### RADIO RENNES

The one-kw. station at Rennes went on the air for the first time on 19 August 1944, as "Radio Bretagne", with a one hour relay to BBC, one hour of ABSIE and one and one quarter hours of local "origination", constituting a source of information and entertainment to the liberated people. A local 40 kw station was repaired by the French and substituted for the company unit, allowing the group to return to headquarters in mid-October.

#### PRINTING SECTION AT NINTH US ARMY

The company's five men mobile printing section and van joined the Ninth US Army Team in mid-October and continued with it from Maastricht to Braunschweig, returning to headquarters after V-E Day. Thirty leaflets were produced at the first location and seven more afterwards. More than 4,000,000 copies were turned out on the mobile presses, while the largest order, for 2,500,000 five-language displaced persons hand-bills, as well as about a million and a half miscellaneous jobs, were done in local shops.

#### PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE COMBAT TEAM, FIRST US ARMY

The original team of twenty officers and enlisted men to First US Army in mid-September was intended only as a nucleus for the much larger group that included, at times, 65 officers and men with a printing section, leaflet, intelligence, operations, loudspeaker, and liaison sections. The team was equipped to furnish air and artillery leaflets, and loudspeakers and had con-

nection with higher headquarters for special requests such as radio broadcasts or strategic leaflet drops.

Largest coordinated operation was at Aachen in early October when air and artillery leaflets were used to carry the American surrender ultimatum to that city in coordination with the broadcasts of frontline loudspeaker units and Radio Luxembourg, each timed for its maximum effect on the soldiers and civilians. Many desertions resulted and the military and the people of the city were set against one another by this psychological attack.

From then on, activities consisted of supplying front line units with leaflets and loudspeaker appeals, while the team moved with army, backward in the Ardennes Offensive and then forward again across the Roer and the Rhine to Weimar in Central Germany where it was dissolved. Personnel returned to the company following V-E Day.

Important was the development of the three medium tank-mounted loudspeaker units which were instrumental in the rounding up of thousands of enemy soldiers in the armored drives across the Rhine following the Rhineland fighting.

The First US Army Team caused the placing on the enemy of 118,000,000 leaflets. In doing this, 25,000 rounds of 105 mm shells and 1635 bombs were prepared by the group's members for release on the enemy. Over 500 surrender and information control appeals were made by fifteen loudspeaker units, resulting in the surrender of several thousand of the enemy. The recording unit forwarded over 250 field made "spots" to Radio Luxembourg for use in that station's broadcasts to the German people, while the intelligence section kept higher headquarters constantly informed as to the morale of enemy units.



## PART XII

### 3D MOBILE RADIO BROADCASTING COMPANY

On 29 December 1943, this unit was formed at Camp Ritchie, Maryland, and shortly afterward moved to Camp Sharpe, Gettysburg, Pa. Here, for the next several months, personnel were trained for their part in Psychological Warfare activities. Immediately after docking in Scotland the company moved to Clevedon, Somerset, England, where six weeks were spent drawing equipment and training personnel. Civilian supervisors were added and by the end of June the company was ready for shipment to the Continent. Assigned to the 72d Publicity Service Battalion and attached to the Third US Army, it landed at Omaha Beach, France on 18 July 1944.

The first bivouac area was at Nehou, France and here the company was for the first time split into operational sections: radio, leaflet, combat loudspeaker, and intelligence.

The various phases of activities are best described by dividing them into groups.

**RADIO SECTION.** An SCR 399 transmitted daily to the German garrison at Lorient throughout the siege of that bastion. This crew included a script writer, German speaking announcers, and technicians. After taking Radio Luxembourg, company personnel played an integral part in the operation of this station. Technicians, linguists, announcers and script writers were furnished.

**RECORDING UNITS,** in October 1944, a fleet of vehicles was converted into recording units. Dispatched to the armies, they made "on the spot" recordings of speeches of Nazi officials captured by Allied forces. These discs were then returned to Luxembourg where they were processed, "beautified" and then used over Radio Luxembourg.

**COMBAT PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM.** To reach the Nazi line soldier directly the combat loudspeaker crews and vehicles were brought into play. From ten to fifteen vehicles were used for this phase. All along the front, operating under the instructions of the division G-2s, these crews persuaded the German line soldiers to surrender. In late April, a loudspeaker public address system team consisting of Pvt. Paul A. Eisler and T/5 Charles Leveille, was hit by a Nazi bazooka shell while operating on the First US Army front. Eisler sustained severe injuries and Cpl. Leveille died shortly after being hit. This was the company's only enlisted fatality.

**PRINTING SECTION.** The company printing unit became operational late in August 1944, when attached to the PW department of 21 Army Group. This unit prepared, printed and distributed to the RAF and Royal Artillery several million leaflets. These were carried or fired over the enemy troops and were responsible for the capture of several thousand enemy soldiers and officers. While leaflets dropped over German cities helped to prevent disorder and rioting when the Allied troops marched in. At the close of hostilities, this section withdrew from British control and the personnel involved became engaged in the publication and distribution of American controlled German newspapers.

**INTERROGATION.** At all of the prisoner of war enclosures maintained by 12th Army Group, a Psychological Warfare interrogating team operated. Enlisted men interrogated captured German enlisted men and officers and sent their reports to Psychological Warfare Headquarters, where they were used as a basis for subsequent scripts.

Although activities of the company caused personnel frequently to visit front line positions, only two fatalities were sustained. One was the death of T/5 Charles E. Leveille and the other the death of First Lieutenant J. T. Collette. While on a reconnaissance mission for the Third US Army Psychological Warfare Detachment, Lieutenant Collette and T/5 Peter Todoroff were ambushed by a German machine gun nest in the Mainz area. Lieutenant Collette was killed instantaneously and T/5 Todoroff seriously injured and subsequently returned to the United States.

**ADM.NISTRATION.** Company headquarters joined 12th Army Group at Ferriers, France in August 1944. Several short moves were made with the headquarters to Laval and Versailles, France before the entire headquarters reached Verdun, France in September 1944. This camp was maintained until April 1945, the entire headquarters moved to Wiesbaden, Germany.

Playing a much less spectacular, but equally important role was the personnel stationed at the company headquarters. In spite of the fact that the company's personnel was spread throughout Europe, the supply section at all times managed to keep all members supplied. In addition to issuing of supplies, this section kept a constant check on all company property, maintaining it in operating condition at all times.

## PART XIII

### 5TH MOBILE RADIO BROADCASTING COMPANY

The mission of the Fifth Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company was the same as that of any other branch of the armed forces: to bring about the destruction of the enemy. It engaged in a new type of war, however, Psychological Warfare, which was actually assault on the mind of the enemy. Weapons were the controlled dissemination of news, facts, and ideas through the media of press and radio.

Headquarters of the company reached Verdun, France, on 13 December 1944, to perform its phase of Psychological Warfare's mission.

Detachment "A" served as headquarters for P & PW Detachment, of the Ninth US Army in Maastricht, Holland. It produced and designed propaganda leaflets to be showered on the enemy; its three public address trucks made appeals whenever the tactical situation called for them. Thousands of German prisoners were interrogated by this detachment's interrogation team and their findings were consolidated into G-2 reports for the armies.

Detachment "B" operated a Signal Center Psychological Warfare Division at headquarters in Paris. With their 1 KW transmitter they served as a relay station for PWD Rear in London to PWD Forward in Luxembourg, and at one time handled traffic of upwards of 40,000 words daily.

Detachment "C" joined the First French Army to aid in their Psychological Warfare Campaign against the enemy. This detachment was the Printing Section of the company and its equipment consisted of two Webbendorfer and two Davidson presses, photographic reproduction equipment, and other items needed to complete a mobile printing plant. With the French this detachment printed millions of leaflets-in the month of March alone three million. A sixty-page book was also produced by this detachment.

Another unit on detached service from the company was a SCR 399 radio truck complete with a 350 watt transmitter and accessory receiving equipment, set up to serve in a radio communications net. Sent to Forward Press Camp, 6th Army Group, the unit relayed press releases back to Paris.

On 23 December 1944, the Fifth was placed under direct administrative control of the 72d Publicity Service Battalion.

New Year's Day found the company in convoy again, this time enroute to Mouzay, France, a little village some 30 miles from Verdun.

General Patton's Third US Army was on the move again in the latter part of January and consistent with tactical operations was the need for more public address units and personnel. The Fifth Mobile Radio Broadcasting CO answered the Third US Army's urgent call by dispatching a unit with two men to Luxembourg, then the army's headquarters. The unit consisted of 3/4 ton weapons carrier on which was mounted two large amplifiers connected in series, two mammoth eight unit speakers, a power system and a microphone, and was manned by two specialists: an announcer who wrote and made the appeals in German through the system, and the technician whose primary job was the maintenance of the equipment. The speakers had to be placed in positions so that the greatest number of the enemy could hear the appeals. Many times these positions were under direct enemy observation but on clear days a range of 3 miles could be obtained. It was with 4th Armored Division that the Fifth Company personnel gave birth to the "Talking Tank". The equipment was placed in a light tank and was used to spearhead the division's attacks. On its first mission, the "Talking Tank" was credited with 125 PW's. Soon the word got around and a demand was made by the First and Ninth US Armies for more technicians and announcers to man "Talking Tanks", and "Hollering Half-Tracks". An acute shortage of technicians resulted and on 3 February, the 3174th Signal Radio Repair Detachment was assigned to the Fifth. They immediately began the herculean task of repairing damaged and used PA equipment returned from the field not only by the Fifth teams, but teams from all of PWD. Meanwhile, the Fifth's motor pool continued to maintain its 64 vehicles. Three 2½ ton trucks and drivers were on temporary duty with 21 Army Group in Brussels delivering leaflet-loaded shells to artillery units at the front. In the Third US Army sector, a crew of four 2½ ton trucks were doing the same job for that army and also helped get millions of rounds of live ammo through.

13 February found this organization's SCR 698-1 KW radio station, complete with mobile studio at Spa, Belgium then First US Army's headquarters. Carrying a crew of 6 enlisted men and one officer, it served as a relay station for the American Forces Network in this area. Along with the transmitter and crew went the Rigging Section to erect the huge 192 foot steel tower, the unit's antenna. In a period of three months, the crew erected and took down some 10 towers for other organizations.

In April, the Fifth proceeded to Bad Nauheim, Germany, to set up headquarters for future operations in defeated Germany. With the end of the struggle in Europe, the Fifth automatically shifted into phase II of Psychological Warfare. Detachment A and C returned, and a stream of writers, technicians, and announcers returned from detached service with other organizations. With the aid of members of this unit, eight German newspapers were printed in the American controlled sector of Germany. The vast job of control of information and news dissemination then began.

## PART XIV

### 104TH ARMY GROUND FORCE BAND

The 104th Army Ground Force Band reported to Headquarters Special troops, 8 May 1945, and began its duties by playing a concert at the Red Cross band shell on 13 May 1945.

Upon receiving orders for ten men with critical scores to return to the United States, the band began reorganization. During this time a small dance band played for numerous functions and on 26 June, the newly organized 104th AGF Band played for its first review at which Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery presented British decorations to officers and enlisted men of 12th Army Group.

After that the Band played at numerous concerts and ceremonies, including a review 29 June, for the 325th Tank Destroyer Bn., and one on 6 July, at which Prince Felix of Luxembourg, assisted by General Bradley, decorated high ranking American officers.

## PART XV

### 114TH SIGNAL RADIO INTELLIGENCE COMPANY

An infantry company knows the battles it has won and can assess its contribution to total victory; an artillery battery has knowledge of the equipment and vital targets it has damaged or destroyed; a quartermaster company has record of the tons of necessary supplies it has delivered; and even a signal service company can take pride in the number of miles of wire it has laid and kept in operation for communications which knit divisions into corps and corps into armies. The accomplishments and contributions of a radio intelligence company, on the other hand, cannot be measured quantitatively and even the results of its work, for security purposes, remain obscure or forever unknown.

From the time of its attachment to 12th Army Group, the mission of the 114th Signal Radio Intelligence Company was to intercept certain types of messages passed by lower echelons of the German Army, to identify the units, and by means of direction finding equipment to locate and follow the movements of various enemy formations. This mission the 114th Signal Radio Intelligence Company accomplished.

An indication of the volume of German radio traffic copied by the Intercept Platoon operators is offered by the records for the months from June 1944, through May 1945. During this period approximately 55,000 messages were copied and the senders of a very large proportion were definitely or tentatively identified by the Traffic Analysis Platoon which directed operators concerning the nets to be copied. At the same time the direction finding platoon took bearings on identified German stations, and its efforts resulted in more than 10,000 reported bearings between August 1944, and May 1945.

More specifically the work of this company is illustrated by one of the comparatively few known results of its work. In the course of the operational day, intercept was directed by Traffic Analysis to listen for messages sent by a known outfit which, it was believed, would transmit on a given frequency and use predicted call signs. Messages intercepted revealed the presence and location of a large enemy gasoline dump which our forces were thus able to capture intact. This large supply of gasoline was of more than ordinary value at the time to the Third US Army because the rapid advance of its tanks had been slowed down by lack of fuel. Similar operations at another time resulted

in the discovery and location of a large ammunition dump which our planes subsequently destroyed.

Equally valuable intelligence frequently was supplied by Direction Finding Platoon. Its work corroborated and, during bad weather, substituted for intelligence from aerial reconnaissance concerning important movements of Panzer units, and its routine operations showed the location of CP's of infantry, supply, and artillery organizations.

Both the quantity and quality of the extraordinary accomplishments of the Intercept, Direction Finding, and Traffic Analysis platoons were materially aided by other platoons who worked "back stage" and too infrequently were not accorded due praise and credit.

Much of the equipment furnished the Intercept Platoon and Direction Finding Platoon was unsatisfactory, if not totally inadequate, for the company's mission. The Radio Repair Section modified and rebuilt much of it so that it would produce the required results. Throughout the months of continuous, round the clock, operations, the Radio Repair Section also kept the equipment in good working order and maintained and serviced the electric generators without which no radio sets could have operated.

The success of the company's operations depended to a large degree on its distance from the enemy's lines. (It was found that the optimum was seven to twenty miles.) In a mobile war where lines were constantly shifting, it was necessary to move frequently and without unnecessary delays. It was imperative, therefore, to maintain motor vehicles so that they could move at all times. This was done by the Motor Maintenance Section, and the company moved when and as required with a minimum of delays and breakdowns. To accomplish this task, however, motor repairs which rightfully should have been done by higher echelons were carried out in the company. Had not the work of the Motor Maintenance Section been of the high calibre it was, it is doubtful that the company's retreat during the Ardennes offensive could have been completed so successfully.

The real value of most of the intelligence which this company was able to gather from enemy radio transmissions depended on the speed with which it could be transmitted to headquarters. To insure rapid and satisfactory communication with headquarters, Wire Platoon maintained constant telephone and at least daily courier service except times when the company was moving. For telephone connection commercial lines were utilized whenever possible, but in spite of this the Wire Platoon laid and maintained a total of 758 miles of wire between August 1944 and June 1945. When headquarters was close enough to



permit, two couriers a day were sent there, but at least one courier per day always made the trip even when the distance was 200 miles. When conditions permitted, teletype was also installed, and within the company more than thirty telephones for operational and administrative purposes were maintained.

The morale, and therewith the successful performance of duties, is greatly influenced in any company by the physical and social conditions under which the men live. Thus, the Supply Section contributed to the company's achievement by securing promptly, and in spite of many difficulties, all clothing and equipment which would increase the men's comfort and help them in the execution of their duties. The company mess deserved the very highest praise for its cleanliness, good cooking, and for the variety in meals in spite of the limited and frequently similar rations received. The best possible billets available in each area were secured for the men, and passes and entertainment were provided whenever possible.

Circumstances under which a radio intelligence company must operate seldom provide opportunities for heroism and the display of extraordinary bravery such as those in the infantry, but the officers and men of the 114th Signal Radio Intelligence Company are none the less worthy of praise for qualities of mind and character which are basically responsible for the company's distinguished accomplishments. It was no easy task for radio operators to copy enemy traffic through the deafening roar of static day after day with no relief from the monotony. The test of mind and character for men operating out-stations for D. F. sometimes miles from the company was of a different but scarcely less severe nature. The strain of working efficiently and with great accuracy in spite of cramped quarters and the ever present pressure of time was known to men in the Traffic Analysis Platoon; members of the Wire Platoon knew the rigors of wire-laying and maintainance in all kinds of weather, freezing wind, and on dangerous roads on long courier runs. To be sure, some men performed their duties with greater constancy and sacrifice than others, but neither one particular platoon nor any few members of the company could be singled out as men who definitely contributed or suffered much more than others. The fundamental cause for the company's distinguished contribution of intelligence can be found only in the devotion and fortitude with which all members of the 114th Signal Radio Intelligence Company labored and cooperated with one another and in their untiring efforts to produce the information needed by the G-2 of the 12th Army Group.

## PART XVI

### 116TH SIGNAL RADIO INTELLIGENCE COMPANY

The 116th Signal Radio Intelligence Company was activated at Camp Crowder, Missouri, on 19 May 1942, with a primary mission of intercepting enemy radio transmissions, and locating by means of radio direction finders the source of these enemy radio transmissions. While in England, the unit was assigned to Special Troops, 12th Army Group, 14 July 1944.

The company left Lymington, England, 6 August 1944, and arrived on Omaha Beach 8 August 1944. Upon arrival on the Continent, the unit was placed under operational control of Signal Security Detachment "D", a detachment of Signal Intelligence Division, ETOUSA. The first command post was set up near Coutances, Normandy, on 9 August 1944, the company proceeding in convoy from the beach in total blackout, a distance of approximately fifty miles.

The unit was fully mobile, operating a total of fifty-four vehicles. Operations were conducted according to plan and although personnel were lacking in experience, minor problems encountered and shortcomings overlooked in England were overcome. As time went on and it was found that equipment provided by T/BA was inadequate, equipment under special authority was issued over and above T/BA with the result that shuttle moves became necessary to re-locate the unit.

One casualty was sustained by the unit as a result of enemy action when a vehicle of the wire section ran over a mine 4 April 1945, at Lommersum, Germany.

Technical aspects of this unit's history were highly classified and were submitted monthly to the Chief Signal Officer, 12th Army Group.

## PART XVII

### 135TH ARMY POSTAL UNIT

The 135th Army Postal Unit joined Headquarters, 12th Army Group (Rear), at Verdun, France, on 16 October 1944, and assisted the 585th Army Postal Unit in the operation of APO 655, including Units 1 and 2 located at Main and TAC respectively. Accomplishments and data pertaining to the operations mentioned in above is incorporated in the history of the 585th APU.

Three EM were detailed to assist the 13th PRS, located at Verdun, France, from 10 December 1944 to 5 January 1945, in handling the huge volume of Christmas mail in transit at that time.

All equipment of the unit was utilized in the operation of APO 655, from 16 October 1944, to the close of operations.

## PART XVIII

### 135TH QUARTERMASTER TRUCK COMPANY

The 135th Quartermaster Truck Company was assigned to Headquarters Special Troops, First United States Army Group, effective 5 March 1944, by letter, Headquarters ETOUSA, 5 March 1944, file AG 322 Op GC, Subject: "Troop Assignment (NO 31)".

The unit at the time was billeted in Bowden, Cheshire, England, and was drawing equipment and organizing for duties yet to be determined. The days were spent in checking and servicing vehicles, reviewing basic training and general housekeeping duties.

The advance detachment arrived in London on 6 March 1944, and readied billets at Old Windsor, Berks. The company arrived on 13 March. On the 14th the second platoon was stationed in London to perform maintenance and housekeeping duties for the headquarters. A warm reception was held that night for them when the Luftwaffe acted as hosts. Incendiary bombs caused some damage to quarters and equipment but there were no casualties.

The war was rapidly becoming personal.

Routine duties were supplemented by a physical training program and special schools. A camouflage school was held in London attended by all personnel. In April, the platoon attended waterproofing school at Beddeford on the Irish Sea and waded the vehicles at nearby Wilhcombe Beach.

Meanwhile the unit had moved from Old Windsor to Warfield Park, Bracknell, Berks. and was brought to full strength in men, equipment and vehicles. On 14 April 1944, one squad went on detached service with the 47th Liaison Squadron at Cheltenham. There they kept busy hauling personnel and equipment and moving the 47th to Heston, near London.

On 21 April, a section was relieved from duty in London and put on detached service with 21 Army Group, in bivouac near Portsmouth, Hants. There they lived, ate and slept with English troops, and in the course of the association, made many friends and acquired a deep respect for their comrades-in-arms. At Camp SK, as the bivouac was called, high ranking civilian and military men were frequent visitors. Air Marshal Tedder and Generals Eisenhower and Montgomery were familiar figures and Prime Minister Churchill, King George and the Princesses also visited.

D-day came and went and the unit was still doing general maintenance and housekeeping duties. At last the break came, and one squad was provided for transportation for FUSAG Advance Detachment. On 7 July, the advance detachment moved into the staging area at Southampton and on 11 July, Eagle Advance moved from Omaha Beach into bivouac at Colombieres, France. Another platoon arrived with the first increment and this group did general duty in maintaining the advance detachment and preparing for the rest of the headquarters.

All of the advance motor transport, including vehicles of the 507th QM Car Co., 203rd MP Co., 302nd Sig Opn Bn and 47th Ln Sqdn, as well as the 135th QM Trk Co., were serviced, maintained, and dispatched by this unit. As succeeding increments joined the headquarters, vehicles ran day and night bringing troops and equipment off the beach.

Meanwhile the balance of the unit, both at Warfield Park and at Portsmouth, were preparing to move to France. Both were in areas under prolonged and severe attack by buzz bombs, but despite many close calls, there were no casualties and only slight damage to vehicles.

The unit moved to France via Southampton on 4 August, joining the advance parties at St Sauveur Lendelin. The section on DS with 21 Army Group debarked from an LST at the floating pier at Arromanches. They also rejoined at St Sauveur.

During the first four months of service with FUSAG in England, the company drove 130,000 miles, maintained both 21 Army Group and FUSAG and were instrumental in setting up FUSAG and units attached to Special Troops.

As soon as the unit was reassembled the third platoon was detached to TAC and remained there until after the war's end. The company remained with Rear throughout the war.

In addition to the unglamorous job of maintaining the 12th Army Group, as it was now called, the company provided a major part of the transportation for four movements in forty-one days. These were to Periers, on 7 August; Laval, 25 August; Versailles, 5 September; and Verdun, 18 September. Some vehicles were also furnished for transportation of critical items to the armies under the 12th Army Group. A detail of men with vehicles established an advance gas dump in Versailles while the city was being cleared. Others took part in the liberation of Paris and for a time were under machine gun and small arms fire.

On 15 August, while at Periers, ten 2½-ton trucks above the T/E strength were assigned to meet the increased need for transportation, and were formed into "X" platoon.

While in Versailles, the fuel situation became critical and responsibility of maintaining the POL dump was delegated to the unit in addition to regular transport duties.

Bulk tankers were improvised for 2½-ton GMCs with captured enemy equipment and the pressure was on. Daily details took off with rations and bedrolls and their only orders were to return loaded. No definite source was in existence at that time, so the trucks travelled from pipeline to railhead and ranged the countryside. In the thirteen days' stay at Versailles, fuel was drawn at Chartres, Dormfret, St Lo, La Haye du Puits, and even Omaha Beach. A daily average of 5000 gallons was consumed at Versailles, yet after the first two days, the supply plus a safety margin were maintained.

During the period from 4 August to 12 September, the platoon at TAC moved the headquarters no less than five times and maintained it continuously.

After the unit reached Verdun, and the advance of the Allied Forces was slowed, maintenance and housekeeping again became main duties. Until a Comzone dump was established, the company maintained the POL dump by drawing from Somme Sous, Rheims, and Paris. Regular supply runs to Cherbourg, Isigny, and Paris were made all during the winter months. For this record of service the unit was awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Award and the Commanding Officer was awarded the Bronze Star and Croix de Guerre. At the same time T/5 W. H. Bolton was awarded the Croix de Guerre for his work as driver for the Joint Wire Group from D plus 1.

During the Ardennes Campaign, another platoon was sent to TAC in Luxembourg to assist in case of a quick evacuation. The trucks remaining at Verdun, mounting .50 Cal machine guns, assisted in the perimeter patrol of Main and Rear Headquarters.

In January, TAC Headquarters became active and moved to Namur, Belgium. That move was one of the most difficult small moves that the unit ever made. It required five round trips to complete, and driving conditions were of the worst. The convoys travelled through the Ardennes, traversing part of the area covered by the Battle of the Bulge. Snow was piled up to six feet, roads were torn up by heavy travel and artillery fire and were, for the most part, covered with glare ice. To add to the hazards, the terrain was mountainous and debris littered the roads. Yet in spite of these conditions, the move was made without casualties or damage.

TAC Headquarters three times in twenty-seven days: Luxembourg on 2 April 1945, Wiesbaden on 10 April 1945, and Bad Wildungen on 29 April. These moves were undertaken in fair weather and although the roads were very poor, all were accomplished safely and on schedule.

Sgt Paul Hirsch was motor sergeant of the platoon at TAC Headquarters during the entire period of its service there. For his consistently excellent performance in disciplinary control and vehicle maintenance, his ready assumption of responsibility when no officer was in charge, and his able and efficient planning and execution of three moves of TAC he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service on 31 May 1945.

On 10 April, a detail of seven 2½-ton GMCs was detached to the 1776 Engineers at Wiesbaden, Germany. Working under the Engineers and Special Troops S-4 from 10 April until 5 May, when the company came to Wiesbaden, the detail did the following:

1. Hauled 1200 tons of coal from Frankfurt to the Wiesbaden power plant.
2. Transported 75,000 gallons of gasoline plus lubricants and diesel oil from Bad Homburg and Hanau to establish a class III dump.
3. Established a ration dump to sustain approximately 15,000 men, drawing rations from Bad Homburg.

On 4 March, the company was assigned thirty ¾-ton weapons carriers to be used exclusively for transportation of "T" Branch personnel. This forced the creation of yet another line platoon called "T" Platoon. The principal work of "T" Platoon was transporting G-2 and G-5 personnel throughout Europe. They ranged from Italy, Austria and Czechoslovakia to Berlin, Holland, Belgium, and France. The venereal, accident and disciplinary records of this group who were almost entirely absent from direct organizational control were universally excellent, and worthy of commendation.

The bulk of the company again became busy with the movement of Rear and Main Headquarters from Verdun to Wiesbaden. This 190 mile trip is one of the toughest grinds the company has made. The advance party arrived in Wiesbaden 15 April, and from that time on, trucks were constantly shuttling back and forth. The roads were rough and traffic always heavy. Most of the trips were made with heavy overload, which made the trip over the mountainous terrain a long, tiring task. All increments, however, were moved without accident and on schedule.

Once established in Wiesbaden, the housekeeping and maintenance routine was resumed. VE Day brought a change in rhythm but increased the volume

of work. After 8 May, the company was assigned six busses which transported men going on pass, on furloughs or being processed for discharge. The unit also furnished recreation trucks and shuttle service for troops of the headquarters.

Since coming to the Continent, this company participated in sixteen moves of Main, Rear and TAC Headquarters. In the fifteen and one half months of assignment to Special Troops, 12th Army Group, the unit drove 1,525,131 miles, all but 130,000 on the Continent.

The men of the organization are justly proud of the fact this mileage was accomplished with a minimum of accidents and turn-over of equipment. Only seven trucks were evacuated because of accident and wear, including trucks which had seen service in Iceland before being shipped to the company. The standard of maintenance was consistently high and no one was surprised when a truck received as a replacement proved to be one which had been turned in by the unit before leaving the United States with a record of over 30,000 miles.



## PART XIX

### 143RD MILITARY POLICE COMPOSITE PLATOON

The 143rd Military Police Composite Platoon was activated at Verdun, France, on 22 January 1945, with Brigadier General Charles R. Deran, reading the War Department letter of activation.

The platoon was designed, together with its sister platoon, the 144th MP Composite Platoon, to supplement the military police strength of Headquarters, 12th Army Group, particularly after it moved into Germany.

The original cadre of the platoon of one officer and eighteen enlisted men came from the 203rd Military Police Company. First Lieutenant Clifford E. Motsinger was assigned as commanding officer.

While Headquarters 12th Group remained at Verdun, France, the platoon was attached for quarters and rations to the 203rd MP Company and operated under its control in providing guards for the external security of the headquarters, town police patrols, escorts for distinguished visitors and various other military police tasks.

However, on 1 May 1945, the platoon moved with Headquarters 12th Army Group to Wiesbaden, Germany and commenced there an independent life under the direct control of the Provost Marshal of Special Troops. Its billets, mess and administration were independent of the 203rd MP Co. It was assigned the task of the foot patrols of the city of Wiesbaden, and a vice squad was organized.

The platoon continued to perform these duties until 8 June 1945, when its personnel climbed aboard "40 - and - 8 s," bound for the Pacific Theater.

## PART XX

### 144TH MILITARY POLICE COMPOSITE PLATOON

The 144th Military Police Composite Platoon was activated on 22 January 1945, as a scout car platoon. Its personnel and six scout cars were lined up abreast at Headquarters 12th Army Group at Verdun, France, when Brigadier General Charles R. Doran, performed the activation ceremony for it and the 143rd MP Composite Platoon.

The majority of the original personnel of the platoon was drawn from Headquarters Company, Special Troops, 12th Army Group, but the key non-commissioned officers and the Commanding Officer, First Lieutenant, James R. Maddox, came from the 203rd MP Company.

As in the case of the 143rd MP Composite Platoon, the platoon was attached to and operated under the 203rd MP Company while Headquarters 12th Army Group remained at Verdun, France. The primary mission in organizing this mobile platoon was to provide adequate strength for the external security of Headquarters 12th Army Group after it moved into hostile territory and on 29 March 1945, it had its first chance to perform this important mission when it moved to Wiesbaden, Germany, with the advance reconnaissance party of the headquarters. From that date it performed its mission of protecting the headquarters and its personnel.

When its sister platoon arrived in Wiesbaden, on 1 May 1945, the two platoons were billeted and messed together and operated independently of the 203rd MP Company directly under the operational control of the Provost Marshal, Special Troops, 12th Army Group.

A two-way police radio system was installed in its vehicles and a mobile town patrol was organized.

On 8 June 1945, the platoon departed with the 143rd MP Composite Platoon for the Assembly Area Command in preparation for direct redeployment to the Pacific Theatre.

## PART XXI

### 203rd MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

The 203rd Military Police Company left V Corps and joined Special Troops, FUSAG, in London, on 1 February 1944.

Immediately after joining the headquarters, the company was assigned security posts in the area and was also assigned to police the Boroughs of Paddington and Marylebone in London. In the month of May 1944, the 203rd joined forces with the 787th MP Bn. and the 32nd MP Co. in the drive to round up all the AWOL's and Deserters who were hiding in the London vicinity. These were the chief duties performed by the company, but a vigorous training schedule was followed during the stay in London.

Three men were selected from the company, and attached to the British 21 Army Group as personal escorts of Field Marshal Montgomery on 26 April 1944.

During July, the company moved in three increments from London through the port at Southampton, England, to France, landing on Omaha Beach.

In France, the company performed traffic control in the headquarters area, interior and exterior guard, policed nearby towns and enforced blackout, traffic, and disciplinary regulations.

On 10 August, 29 men and one officer were assigned to TAC echelon of 12th Army Group.

When the headquarters moved from Periers to Laval, from Laval to Versailles and from Versailles to Verdun, traffic control points were set up to insure the smooth flow of traffic and to allow the convoy serials to reach their destination on schedule.

In Verdun, France, the company was billeted at the Main echelon, and again provided the traffic control and perimeter guard for both Eagle Main and Rear. Foot Patrols were sent into Verdun daily to assist the 713th M. P. Bn. in policing the town, and jeep patrols enforced traffic regulations on all highways leading into town and provided necessary road information and traffic control.

During the "Battle of the Bulge", the company was called upon to increase its activities. Jeep patrols covered an area with a five-mile radius from Verdun including all country roads and villages. Later the company was responsible only for the area west of the Meuse River, and check points were set up in Verdun and at strategic road junctions. This emergency lasted forty days, in which

the company operated on a twenty-four hour a day basis. After the emergency ended, the company gradually resumed its normal duties.

On 14 January 1945, by a War Department Order, a cadre was taken from the company to form the 143rd and 144th M. P. Composite Platoons. They were attached to the 203rd M. P. Company for duty assignments.

The headquarters moved to Wiesbaden on 1 May 1945, and the company provided traffic control along the route. Shortly after entering town the company set up a system of foot and jeep patrols which worked out of the Military Police Headquarters, and traffic posts and check points were set up.

The company was divided into traffic, police, guard and investigation sections. All jeep patrols were equipped with radios and reports of violations and disorders were handled quickly and efficiently.

Among those escorted at one time or another by the 203rd MP's were Winston Churchill, James Byrnes, General Marshall, General Patton and Field Marshal Montgomery.

In the early part of August 1944, 29 enlisted men and one officer were selected from the company, and were sent to an area 1½ miles from St. Saveur where TAC Echelon was formed. These men did traffic control in the TAC area, furnished interior and exterior guards for the Commanding General's CP and provided escorts for visiting dignitaries. A picked squad of men from the MP Detachment escorted Generals Eisenhower and Bradley on their first visit to Paris.

On 13 October 1944, General Bradley set up his CP in Luxembourg. During the "Bulge", the company directed elements of the 10th Armored Division through Luxembourg to Bastogne to relieve the beleaguered 101st Airborne. The 203rd MP's also directed elements of the 5th, 26th, 80th and 87th Divisions when those Divisions were rushing northward to "pinch off" the German attack. When Luxembourg was threatened, military police took up security posts in front of General Bradley's CP and living quarters.

While in Namur, as a result of a later move, the MP Detachment aided in arresting the leaders of several black market rings.

## PART XXII

### 255th SIGNAL LIGHT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

On 1 August 1944, the 255th Signal Light Construction Company was assigned to Headquarters 12th Army Group.

The unit was immediately assigned to constructing open wire pole lines from St Sauveur Lendelin, France toward the south, and on 16 August 1944, was given the job of maintaining open wire circuits from "Billboard Switch" near St Sauveur to Laval, a total of 800 circuit miles of open wire line. On 19 August 1944, work was started on the open wire line from Laval toward Paris. While engaged in this work, the teams were frequently fired upon by snipers, but no casualties were incurred. From the time the unit began work at St Sauveur Lendelin, until it left Laval, a total of 280 circuit miles of open wire line were constructed.

On 27 August 1944, this unit, less maintenance teams, moved to St Cyr L'Ecole, and on 2 September 1944, the maintenance teams moved to the company headquarters. Between 2 September 1944 and 6 September 1944, 75 men were detailed to maintain French open wire telephone lines from Chauny, France to Thuin, Belgium, a total of 320 circuit miles of open wire line. On 6 September 1944, and 8 September 1944, 22 men were sent on detached service to Eagle TAC for an indefinite period to handle various maintenance and construction jobs, and 6 men were sent to First US Army for the same purpose.

The company moved to Verdun, France on 10 September 1944. The unit was then assigned to inspect all open wire telephone lines built by units of the 12th Army Group, and that assignment remained in effect until July 1945. More than 1400 miles of pole line were walked and inspected.

From 10 September 1944, until 1 May 1945, the First Construction Platoon was assigned the maintenance of 3850 circuit miles of open wire line, 930 circuit miles of spiral four lines, and 220 miles of underground cable, while the Second Construction Platoon was assigned various construction jobs. The company built 220 circuit miles of open wire line and strung 150 circuit miles of spiral four lines. Two lead covered aerial cables were installed between Eagle Main and the Verdun Repeater Station, and 1 cable from Eagle Main to Eagle Rear. On 5 November 1944 until 19 December 1944, a detachment of the unit was

engaged in storm-guying open wire leads containing 12th Army Group circuits. More than 320 miles of open wire line were guyed, and over 3300 guy anchors were installed. On 3 December 1944, a small detachment was sent to Luxembourg City to erect four 75 foot steel lattice towers for the antennas of Radio Luxembourg, but all material was expended after three towers were erected and the detachment was recalled for other work.

On 21 December 1944, 6 Armored Cars were issued this organization to be used for protecting the maintenance crews patrolling lines in the Ardennes Area. Two of the vehicles working out of the Jemelle Repeater Station were cut off and unable to return to Jemelle, but they continued on duty between Marche, Belgium and Liege, Belgium and for two days worked with the 84th Infantry Division, then garrisoning Marche. On 24 December, the three-man cable maintenance crew of this unit, located at Jemelle Repeater Station, was ordered by the Wire Officer, Signal Section, Headquarters 12th Army Group, to withdraw, after German patrols had advanced to within 200 yards of the repeater station.

During the month before Metz was captured, spiral-four maintenance teams were obliged to repair cable under artillery fire and several times remained at their work until ordered by the Wire Officer, 12th Army Group, to withdraw.

Various construction jobs were completed during the month of January 1945. Two 50-foot radio antenna poles were erected at Fort De Bois Bourrus, west of Verdun. Three open wire lines and the Nancy-St Avold lead were reterminated at the Nancy Repeater Station, and reconstruction work was done on the Verdun-Metz open wire line, replacing poles and storm guying. Three open wire lines which crossed the Meuse River at Verdun were rock-crebbed to guard against possible flood damage.

On 8 February 1945, a crew was sent to Houget, Belgium to construct an aerial cable lead from Houget to Headquarters Fifteenth US Army, and completed the job on 22 February. On 14 February 1945, a crew went to Aubange, Belgium to rehabilitate an aerial cable lead from Aubange to Rodange, Luxembourg, while the remainder of the month was spent in reterminating open wire lines at the Verdun Repeater Station.

On 8 March 1945, a crew was sent to Aubange, Belgium to reterminate open wire lines and the Aubange-Conflams line, including the re-transposition of several miles of line. On 12 March 1945, another crew was sent to Metz to reconstruct the Metz-St Avold open wire line. A crew was also sent to Luxembourg City to re-terminate open wire leads at the Luxembourg Carrier Station.

Between 3 April 1945 and 9 April 1945, the company headquarters moved to Wiesbaden, Germany. Maintenance teams were relieved of all duties in France and were given a new assignment, covering 2000 circuit miles of open wire line and 210 miles of underground cable in Germany west of the Rhine river. Two construction teams were assigned duties in the vicinity of Wiesbaden to prepare the communication system for the move of the 12th Army Group Headquarters. These teams strung 260 circuit miles of spiral four cable, 8000 feet of 5-pair rubber covered cable, 10,000 feet of 10-pair rubber covered cable, and 500 feet of 118-pair lead-covered aerial cable. Two teams, sent to work with the 1st Signal Cable Co, rehabilitated German underground cable in the vicinity of Saarbrücken, and Fulda, Germany, and another team rehabilitated 32 circuit miles of German open wire lines.

During the third week in April 1945, one team from this unit completed the first American-installed submarine cables across the Rhine river. These six cables, 1100 feet long, were pulled across the bed of the river near Rüdeshheim on Rhine, Germany. The assistance of the Commandant, US Navy Base, near Mainz, was obtained to furnish Navy-operated LCI's and other marine equipment. These cables replaced German equipment destroyed by Allied bombing.

The month of May 1945, found the maintenance teams still operating in the same areas. The construction teams strung 235 circuit miles of spiral four cable, placed another submarine cable crossing over the Rhine at Bingen, Germany, and pulled 92,000 feet of 52-quad armored cable into duct in Frankfurt, Germany. The team with the 1st Signal Cable Co continued rehabilitation of underground cable near Bamberg, Nürnberg, Munich, and Mainz, Germany.

On 5 June 1945, this unit was relieved of all open wire maintenance west of the Rhine River, and the cable maintenance crews were relieved of all assignments, and assigned to cover 3,000 circuit miles of open wire line extending from Wiesbaden to Engers, and from Frankfurt to Bremen.

The company headquarters moved to Bad Wildungen on 9 June 1945, in order to be in a central location with respect to its outlying detachments. A crew was sent to Frankfurt to re-terminate open wire lines at the Frankfurt Repeater Station, and the cable rehabilitation crew continued work in the vicinity of Nürnberg and Munich. A third submarine cable was put across the Rhine River near Mainz.

A summary of the most important duties assigned this unit since 1 August 1944 includes:

1. Maintenance of 9,900 circuit miles of open wire line.
2. Maintenance of 930 circuit miles of Spiral-four cable.
3. Maintenance of 420 miles of underground cable.
4. Construction of 500 circuit miles of open wire line.
5. Construction of 540 circuit miles of Spiral-four cable.
6. Laying of the first six submarine cables across the Rhine River.
7. Re-termination of open wire lines at six major repeater stations.
8. Operation of armored cars for protection of all 12th Army Group communications in the Ardennes area.
9. Walking and inspection of 1,400 miles of open wire line.
10. Installation of 3,300 storm guys.



## PART XXIII

### 257TH SIGNAL LIGHT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

The 257th Signal Construction Company, commanded by Captain Lester H. Clark, was assigned to and joined 12th Army Group on 1 August 1944, at Periers, France. In the subsequent eleven months, the company built 292 miles of double crossarm, ten physical circuit open wire pole line and installed 317 miles of Spiral Four cable.

On 16 August 1944, the Eagle Signal Construction Dump was established at St Jean, France, and responsibility for the maintenance, operation and movement of the dump was delegated to this company by the Wire Group, Signal Section, 12th Army Group. From 16 August to 9 September, the company moved the dump from St Jean to Chartres to Brie-Comte-Robert to Chalons to a point 12½ miles east of Verdun, France, a total of 376 miles, with other signal construction units furnishing part of the transportation. The company was relieved of the dump on 18 October 1944.

All material, both pole line and spiral four cable, used by 12th Army Group signal construction units during this period passed through this dump which was supplied from the beach by Com Z trucking units. The handling of the Signal dump was in addition to work as a construction unit.

The most critical periods for the company were the months of October and November 1944. During this time the company was living in pup tents in the woods near St Mihiel, France, and constructing a double arm, ten physical circuit pole line along the Meuse River Valley from Verdun to Commercy, France. The Meuse River was at the highest flood stage of thirty years, overflowing its banks and inundating the valley.

The men worked under great handicaps, but construction was successfully concluded through the use of boats, "weasels" and "alligators". Two men were lost, one from drowning and one from a Teller mine.

During this period, men were thoroughly soaked daily by the constant rain, and unable to dry their clothes, suffered from colds and trench foot. The Quartermaster was unable to issue the company suitable tentage and stoves. Brigadier General Charles Doran visited the bivouac area and immediately made arrangements for the company to draw adequate tentage and stoves from headquarters units of Special Troops quartered in billets.

During the Ardennes Campaign, the unit worked on the main axis of communication from Verdun to Saarbrucken, the latter part of the "build" through 6th Army Group area. Extensive mine fields, consisting of German home made mines, Schu-mines, Teller mines, Regal mines, Plastic mines and Anti-Personnel mines were encountered, but only one man was killed and one officer wounded. Due to the urgent need for engineers in other areas, it was necessary for company officers to locate the mine fields and in several instances, clear the fields in order to continue the construction of lines.

The company often worked under enemy observation and was, the greater part of the time, within sound of the artillery from the time of landing in France on 6 July 1944, to the German withdrawal from Saarbrucken on 20 March 1945. On that date, the company was billeted in Forbach, France, which underwent an intensive rocket barrage covering the German withdrawal.

Lieutenant Lowell T. Ottinger assumed command of the company 20 February 1945, when Captain Clark was transferred to the 43rd Signal Heavy Construction Battalion.

## PART XXIV

### 285TH SIGNAL PIGEON COMPANY

The 1311th Signal Pigeon Company (Avn) was activated on 5 May 1943, at Salem Army Air Field, Oregon, and assigned to Headquarters Army Air Forces. Arriving at Liverpool, England, on 22 August 1944, the unit was assigned to the Ninth US Army. On 26 September 1944, the company debarked at Omaha Beach and subsequently was attached to III and XVI Corps. It was redesignated 285th Signal Pigeon Company by Ninth US Army General Order # 35 dated 26 October 1944.

On 1 November 1944, the 285th Signal Pigeon Company was assigned to Headquarters 12th Army Group, attached to Headquarters Communications Zone for operational control, and further attached to Normandy Base Section for supply and administration. However, the unit continued to carry administrative reports and messages for the XVI Corps until 26 November 1944. A total of 40 messages were carried to the Corps Headquarters at Barneville, France.

On 27 December 1944, a detachment of two lofts was placed on detached service with the 156th Infantry Regiment, assigned the mission of defending a portion of the Contentin Peninsula, against the German occupied Channel Islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, and Alderney. It was necessary to keep one platoon alerted at all times for defense against raiding parties from the islands.

While the unit was located at Barneville, France, from 17 November 1944 to 5 April 1945, 299 messages were carried for the 156th Infantry Regiment, approximately 2000 pigeons were delivered to the armies of the 12th Army Group as reinforcements, and experimental work was carried on with findings reported to higher headquarters. During December, recommendations were made to the Theater Chief Signal Officer and concurred by the Signal Officer 12th Army Group on a plan to control or destroy enemy pigeon communications. In January, the Company Veterinarian experimented with a treatment for articular abscesses (wing boil) caused by paratyphoid infection.

From 6 April 1945 to 22 May 1945, the unit was located at Congy, France, and attached to Oise Intermediate Section for supply and administration. During this period 4500 pigeons were received from the Signal Pigeon Center, ETO and 581 from 284th Sig Pgn Co. Deliveries of birds were made to the First US Army, Ninth US Army, and First French Army.

The Company, less Det "F" and First Platoon, moved into Germany, establishing the Headquarters Platoon at Wurgendorf, 22 May 1945; the Second Platoon at Gummersbach 20 May, and the Third Platoon at Neuenrade on 18 May 1945, to engage in the intercepting and controlling of enemy pigeon communication. The first platoon joined the company mission on 26 June 1945, establishing headquarters at New Isenburg, and establishing detachments at Weinheim, Hemsbach, Heppenhein, Bensheim, Pfungstadt, Wixhausen. Neu Isenburg, Frankfurt, Vilbel, and Friedberg.

The second platoon moved from Gummersbach to Weilburg, Germany, 15 June locating detachments at Ehrenbreitstein, Neuhausel, Scheuren Montaubaur, Wallmerod, Hadamar, Runkel. Weilburg, Braunfeld, and Ehringhan. The third platoon moved from Neuenrade to Bad Wildungen, Germany, 11 June 1945, establishing detachments at Geismer, Frankenau, Hundsdoff, Bad Wildungen. Zuchen, Wabern, Fritzlar, Gurdensburg, Grossenritte, and Kassel.

Up to 11 July 1945, seven German pigeons were trapped by screening detachments, 1724 towns and villages investigated, 547 pigeon lofts discovered and 8297 homing pigeons put under control by clipping the primary flight feathers of one wing. A total of 372 outstanding German homing pigeons were confiscated to be used for breeding purposes.

Detachment "F", 285th Signal Pigeon Company (then known as 1311th Signal Pigeon Company) was organized on 7 November 1944, at Barneville, France, and sailed for the Signal Pigeon Center, ETO, Tidworth, England, to carry out the mission of producing replacement pigeons for the parent organization.

The First Combat Platoon, 285th Signal Pigeon Company was attached to the Third US Army, 1 January 1945, and further attached to XII Corps to furnish it with pigeon communication until relieved to join the parent organization on 26 June 1945.

PART XXV

507TH QUARTERMASTER CAR COMPANY

The 507th Quartermaster Car Company was assigned to Special Troops in January 1944, and immediately assumed the job of providing light car transport for Headquarters First US Army Group.

Although the organization had its full complement of vehicles, these proved insufficient to meet the demands of the headquarters, and 50 British-impressed sedans were put into use. The company moved cross-Channel in July 1944, transporting headquarters staff officers to the marshalling area at Southampton on the way.

On the Continent, as the size of the headquarters grew and as distances became greater, the company was forced to expand in both personnel and vehicles, until by September, it had more than doubled. In that month, a provisional car company was organized and the 507th reduced to its authorized strength.

The company was redeployed in June 1945.

## PART XXVI

### 526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION

On 26 October 1944, the 526th Armored Infantry Battalion, assigned to the 10th Armored Group, was located in the vicinity of Granville, Normandy, France. This battalion claimed the distinction at that time, and still does, of being the only separate armored infantry battalion in the army. On that day orders came in for the battalion to move to Verdun and become a part of Special Troops of 12th Army Group. From Verdun, the battalion departed for destinations in Belgium and Luxembourg. Company "C" was designated as the guard company for Eagle TAC and the remainder of the battalion was to be employed by "T" Force, 12th Army Group.

From 30 October to 17 December 1944, the battalion was "permanently" stationed with the headquarters at Harze, Belgium. Here the battalion trained for its mission with "T" Force. The training consisted of hand-to-hand combat, intelligence, searching prisoners, dealing with civilians, learning German, and fighting in cities. A few problems were held in street fighting among ruins in Liege.

It was here that the battalion received its first taste of buzz bombs and V-2's. In one incident a bomb landed 500 yards away from the battalion CP and broke windows and damaged the building.

At 1600 hours Sunday, 17 December, the battalion was ordered by First US Army to move to Malmedy, Belgium, with Company "A", 825th TD Bn attached, and to join the 99th Inf Bn at Remouchamps en route. At 1900, the battalion was formed on the Aywaille-Remouchamps road and waiting to fall in with the 99th Inf Bn at Remouchamps. The 99th Inf Bn failed to show up by 2100 so this battalion was ordered to move alone at once, picking up Company "A", 825th enroute at La Reid, Belgium. It was during this period that the Luftwaffe suddenly came to life, strafed and bombed roads between Spa and Liege and dropped flares between Spa and Malmedy.

The battalion plus Company "A", 825th TD Bn, then proceeded on to Malmedy. Road conditions were bad and it was exceedingly difficult to maintain control in the blackout. En route one rifle squad half-track and one half-track with a towed 57mm AT gun dropped out of the column as a result of accidents. The 57mm AT gun and half track, in following, took the road to Trois Ponts and engaged an enemy column of 18 tanks, knocking out the lead

tank which blocked the advance. However, the 57 was, in turn, knocked out and two men killed.

Shortly after midnight of 17-18 December, a message was received from First US Army that enemy tanks were approaching Stavelot and ordered one rifle company and one platoon of TD's dispatched there to form road blocks and hold the enemy. Company "A" with 1st Platoon, Company "A", 825th TD Bn, attached was selected for this assignment and the Executive Officer was placed in command of the task force.

The balance of the force continued on to Malmedy. On arrival it immediately began to set up road blocks and defensive positions. This battalion, plus the TD's, was the first combat unit to take up positions for the defense of Malmedy. The 99th Inf Bn arrived immediately following the arrival of the 526th and took positions in and around the town. The 117th Inf began to arrive about daylight on the morning of 18 December.

Company "A", plus the platoon of TD's, reached Stavelot at 0400 hours and two rifle platoons with one section of TD's were sent across the river (L'Ambleve) to set up road blocks. At 0500 contact was made with the enemy and in the ensuing fight the town of Stavelot changed hands several times. As a result of this engagement the enemy was prevented from going on into Spa or accomplishing his mission.

At Stavelot was a gasoline dump with an estimated three million gallons, and in his drive to the west, Marshal Rundstedt had relied heavily on capturing gasoline and other supplies for his forces. Some of this gasoline was destroyed by the task force to prevent it from falling in the hands of the enemy and to form a road block, and the Germans never got beyond this block which was covered by fire of Company "A" weapons. Spa was only about 11 miles away and with no other combat troops to stop the enemy, this one company with the attached platoon was possibly the only force that saved First US Army Headquarters from capture by the Germans. The casualties for this small force were heavy but the mission was accomplished.

Meanwhile the situation in Malmedy consisted of strong enemy reconnaissance in force and by fire but all attacks were repulsed with heavy losses. The Germans were attempting to take Malmedy in order to complete a road net for their spearheads into Liege, but never succeeded in getting more than a few patrols into the city, and they were either captured or annihilated. The assault gun, machine gun, and mortar platoons of headquarters company were on the lines continuously and fired thousands of rounds.

On 3 January 1945, the battalion was ordered to make a limited objective attack on the high ground a few thousand yards to the front. This attack was to be made by one rifle company supported by a platoon of tanks and artillery with a rifle platoon protecting the left flank at Baugnez. It was to be made in conjunction with a general attack by the forces on the northern side of the Bulge. Since the battalion was near the hinge of the bulge it was a diversionary attack to draw the attention of the enemy from the main attack farther west. The attack was successful in that the enemy drew his reserves away from the main effort in order to meet the push at this point. However, the cost to the attacks was high and out of approximately 250 men who participated, 65 were casualties. Nineteen were killed and eighteen were missing.

On 17 January, the battalion was relieved from First US Army and ordered to return to duty with "T" Force. The battalion had been in the line for 31 days.

During the period of combat at Malmedy and Stavelot casualties were 33 killed, 58 wounded, and 24 missing. The orders were to hold Malmedy and Stavelot at all costs. The two towns were held and the enemy did not gain use of the road nets offered by them. Losses in vehicles were as follows: for the 526th, 2 half tracks, one 1/4 ton trucks and two 57 mm AT guns, for the 825th, 3 half-tracks, one 1/4 ton truck and three 3-inch towed TD guns.

From 17 January, until the first week of March, the battalion was engaged in training at Marneffe, Belgium for its mission with "T" Force. On 2 March, the battalion was ordered to move to Eschweiler, Germany, and on 6 March the battalion entered the city of Cologne and immediately began operations, seizing targets of intelligence value.

By 9 March, the enemy was being pushed across the Rhine in the vicinity of Koblenz, so a "sub-T-Force", with Company "B" as the combat element, was formed and moved out of Cologne for Koblenz. The remainder of the battalion continued operations in Cologne until 25 March, when it moved to Plaidt enroute to Frankfurt where Company "B" rejoined. The next day the battalion moved on and reached Frankfurt-on-Main on 27 March, deploying along the south bank of the Mainz River.

It was here that the battalion received its most intense concentration of artillery since the breakthrough in the Ardennes. The enemy let go with rockets, 88's and other types of artillery and one medium tank and two half-tracks were knocked out.

The next day the battalion crossed the river and set up its Command Post in the Excelsior Hotel, one of the few buildings left intact by the air force.



On 12 April, Company "B" was left at Frankfurt for mopping up operations while the rest of the battalion moved out, arriving at Dillenburg, Germany in the afternoon and progressively moving forward as the situation permitted. Luttringhausen was chosen for the battalion command post during the Ruhr operation.

Headquarters company was made responsible for Dellbruck and Ludenscheid and also furnished the guard and mess for the battalion headquarters and "T"-Force.

Company "A" was initially responsible for targets in Remscheid, Rummenahl, Dahl, Hagen, Solingen, Schwelm and Gevelsberg, but on 19 April, with Dusseldorf opening up, part of Company "A" along with the anti-tank platoon of Company "B" moved in. Company "B" stretched out and took over part of Company "A"'s targets, as well as targets in Barmen, Elberfeld, Langenberg, Velbert, Solingen, Herbede and Iserlohn.

On 4 May, all T-Force operations were completed and the battalion was released from "T"-Force and ordered to report to Wiesbaden for new duties. The movement to Wiesbaden was made on 4 May, with the battalion arriving in the early afternoon after a 125 mile trip.

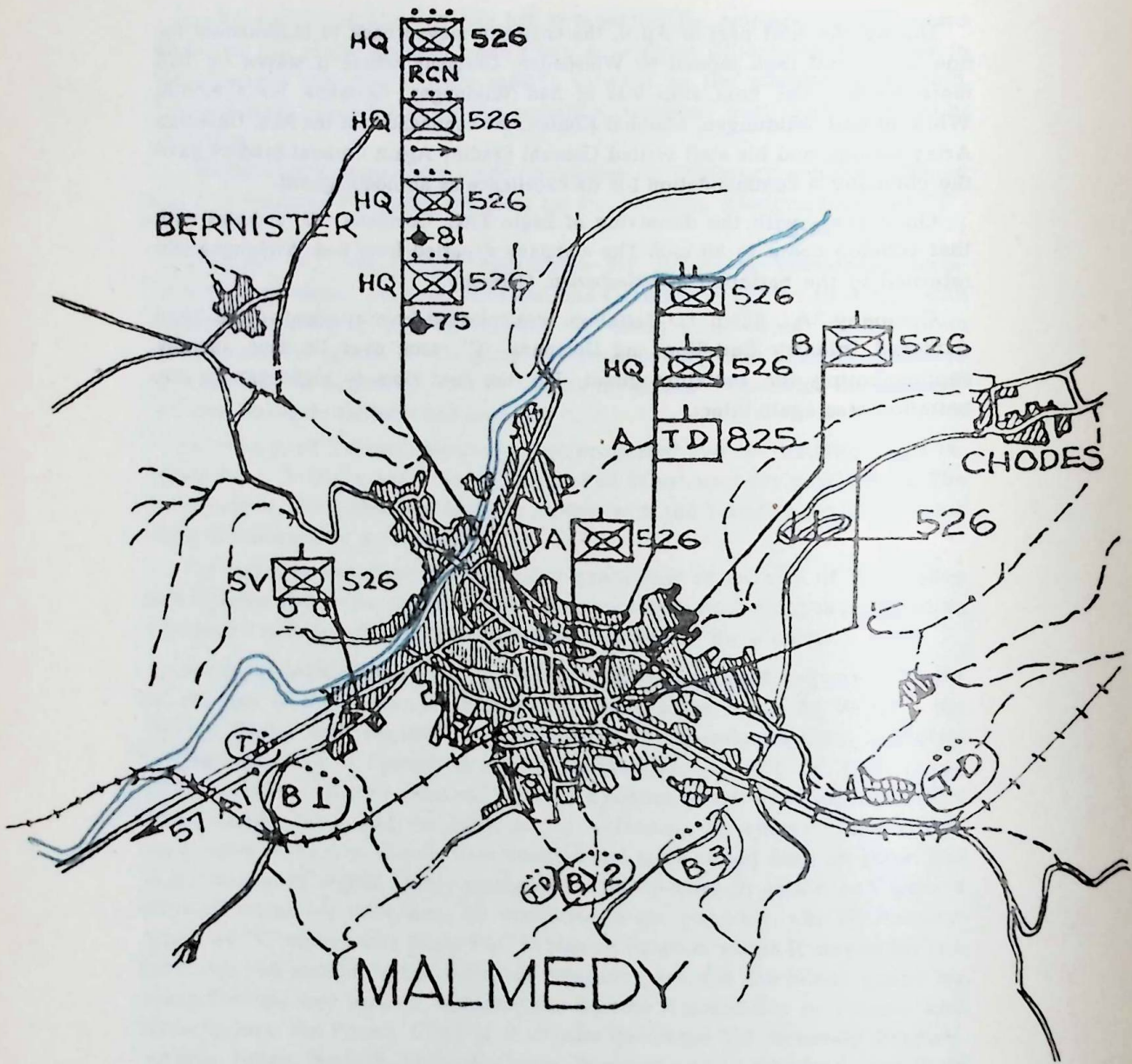
The battalion was given the mission of guard duty in the city of Wiesbaden and vicinity. This territory was divided into zones with each company, including Company "A", 825th TD Bn, then attached, responsible for a zone.

When the battalion departed from Verdun on 30 October, Company "C" was at the rear of the column. Approximately thirty miles north of Verdun, the column divided and Company "C" proceeded on to Luxembourg City. Its duties included guarding of General Bradley's headquarters, as well as TAC living quarters and the officer's quarters. This was a routine guard with approximately sixteen posts, but during the battle of the Ardennes, the enemy came within three miles of the city. Guards were doubled and some pulled duty on three and four consecutive nights. Enemy planes and artillery were in action and were a constant threat but there were no casualties in the company. On 27 January, Company "C" moved with Eagle TAC to Namur, Belgium where it stayed for the following two months. While there the company provided the honor guard for many distinguished persons, including the Russian Ambassador to France, and General Juin, the French Chief of Staff who decorated US Generals Bradley, Hodges, Patton, Doolittle, Simpson, Gerow, Brereton, and Vandenburg. For their honor guard performance each man received a written commendation from General Bradley.

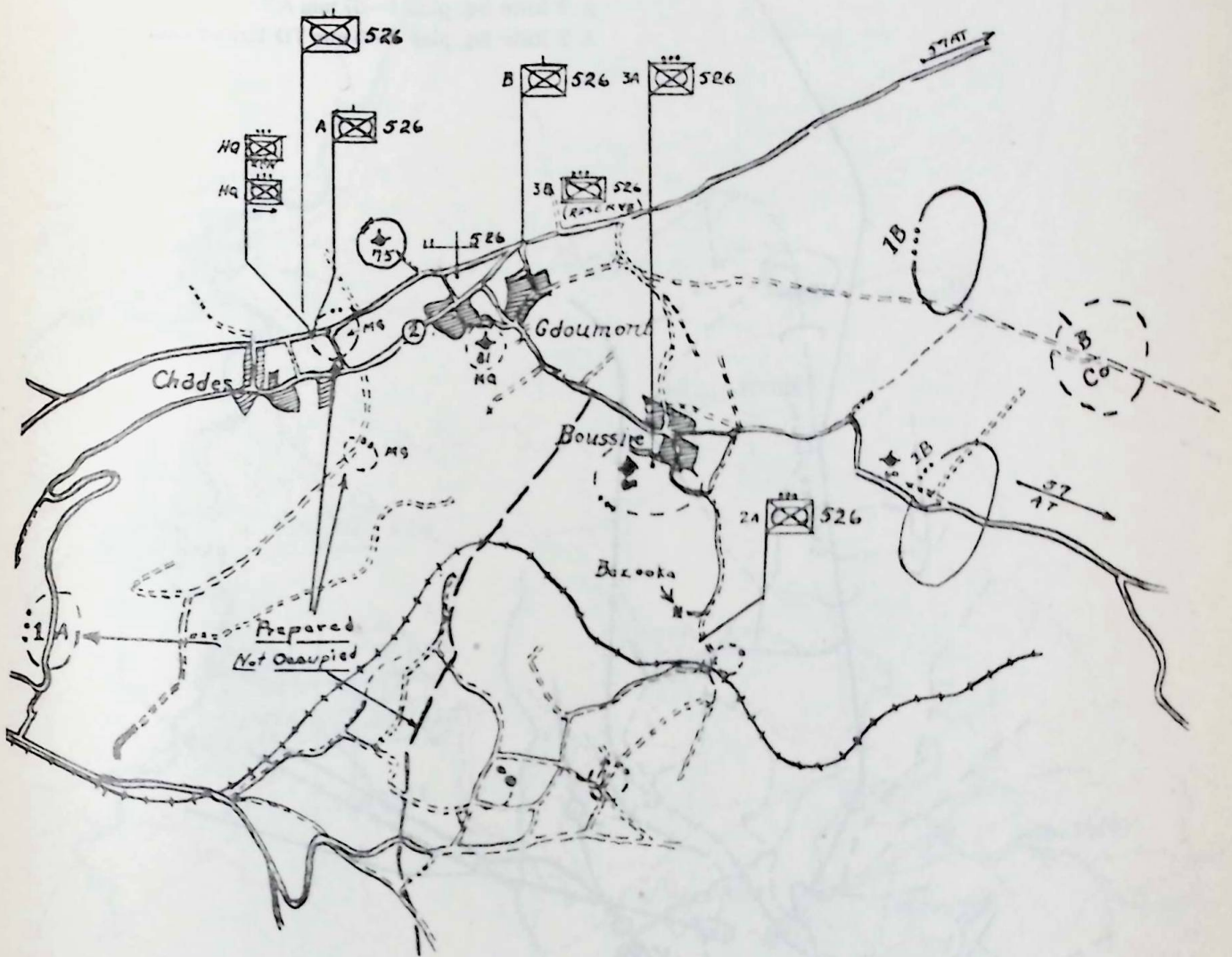
During the first part of April, the company moved back to Luxembourg for one week and then moved to Wiesbaden, Germany where it stayed for two more weeks. The next stop was at Bad Wildungen, Germany, for a month. While at Bad Wildungen, Marshal Koniev, the commander of the First Ukrainian Army Group, and his staff visited General Bradley. Again General Bradley gave the company a commendation for its excellence as an honor guard.

On 3 June, with the dissolving of Eagle TAC, Company "C" 's duties with that echelon came to an end. The company departed from Bad Wildungen and returned to the battalion at Wiesbaden, Germany.

Company "A", 825th TD Battalion, was released from attached to the 526th Armored Infantry Battalion and Company "C", took over its zone, thereby supplementing the battalion guard. For the first time in eight months the battalion was again intact.



526th Armored Infantry Battalion  
 Scale: 1:25,000  
 Positions occupied at Malmédy,  
 Belgium, 180600 December 1944.



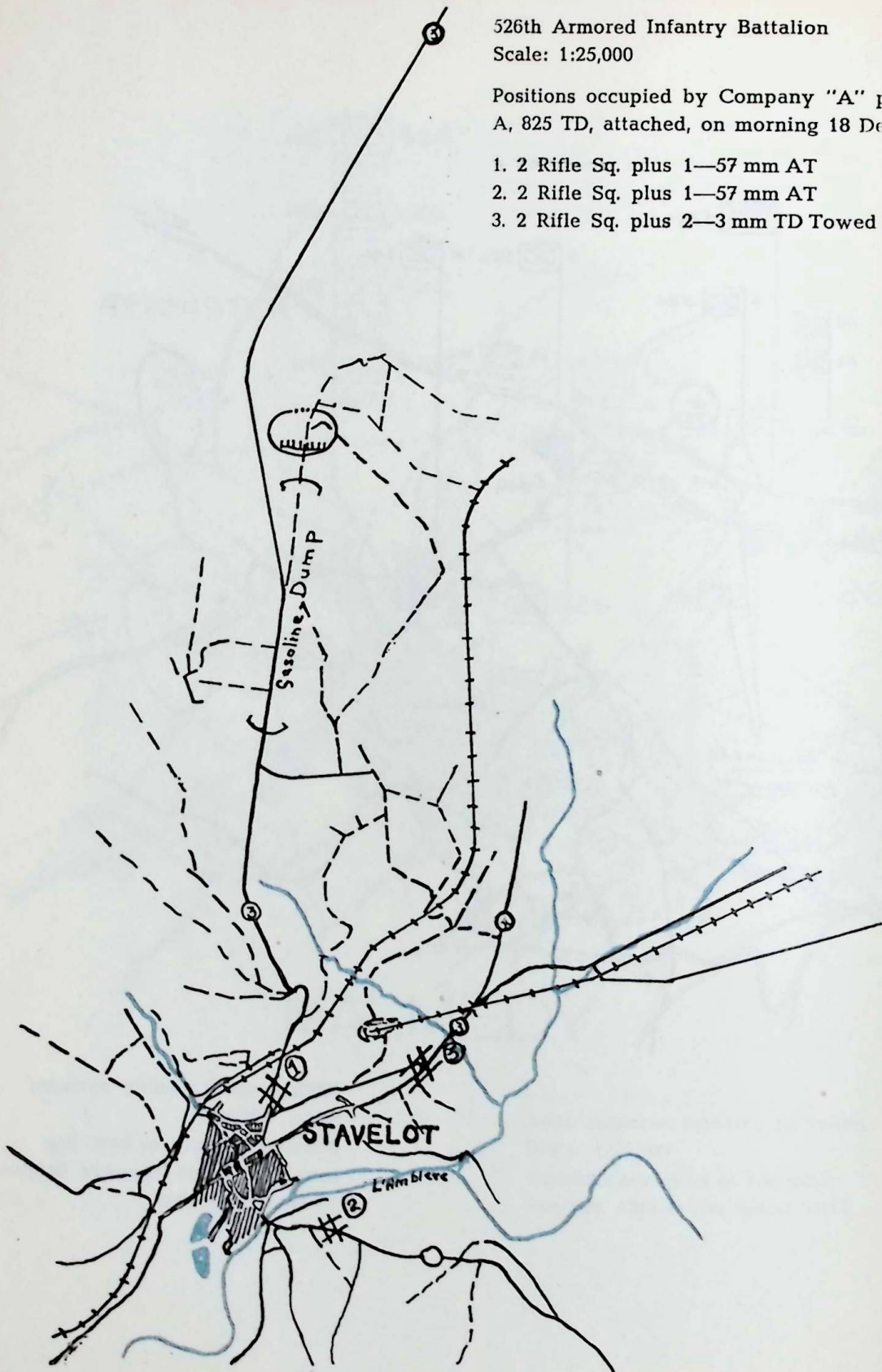
526th Armored Infantry Battalion  
 Scale: 1:25,000  
 Positions occupied as front line  
 battalion West of Malmédy, Belgium  
 5-17 January 1945.

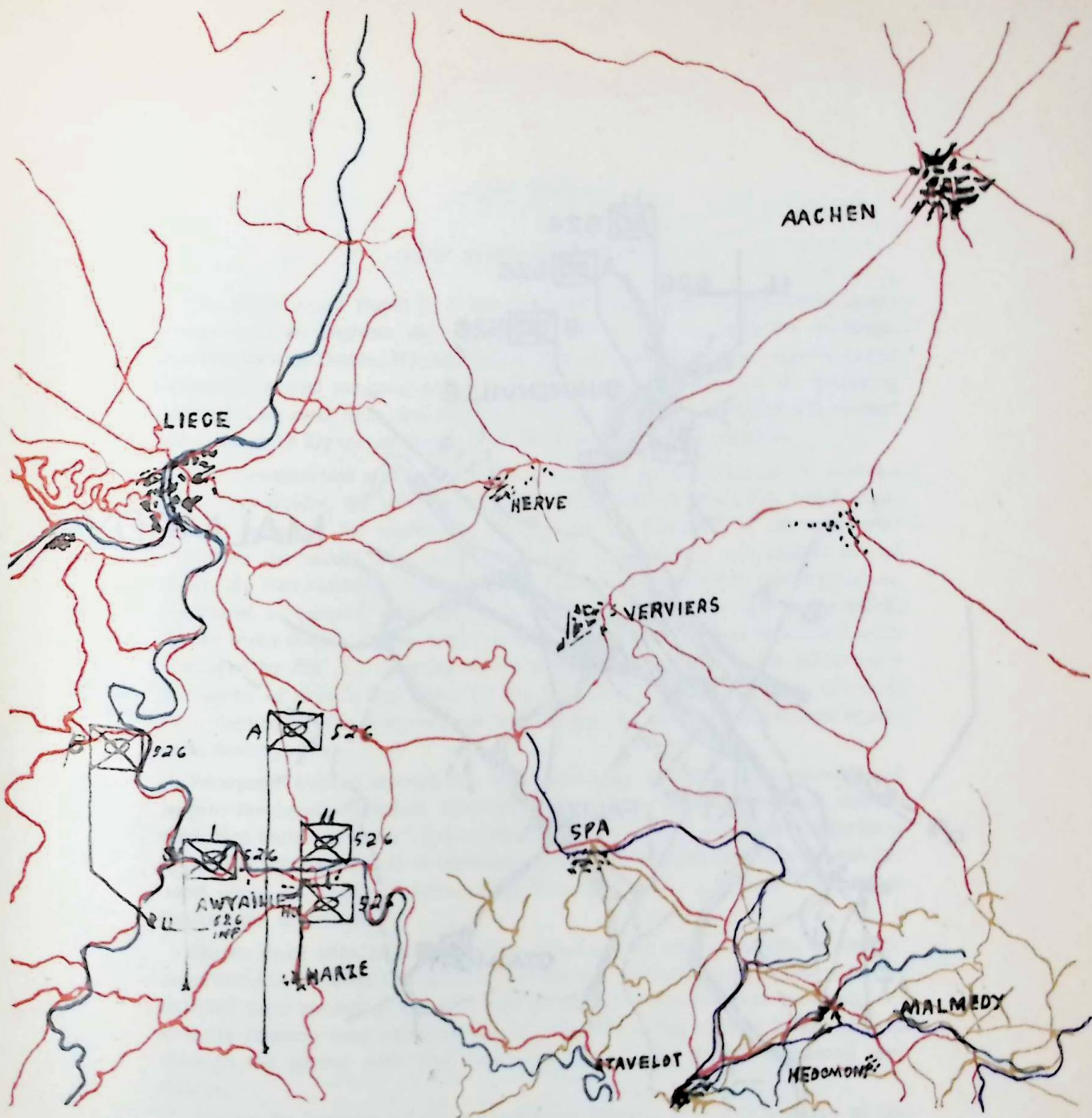
526th Armored Infantry Battalion

Scale: 1:25,000

Positions occupied by Company "A" plus 1st Plt. Co. A, 825 TD, attached, on morning 18 December 44.

1. 2 Rifle Sq. plus 1—57 mm AT
2. 2 Rifle Sq. plus 1—57 mm AT
3. 2 Rifle Sq. plus 2—3 mm TD Towed Guns





MAIN ROADS —

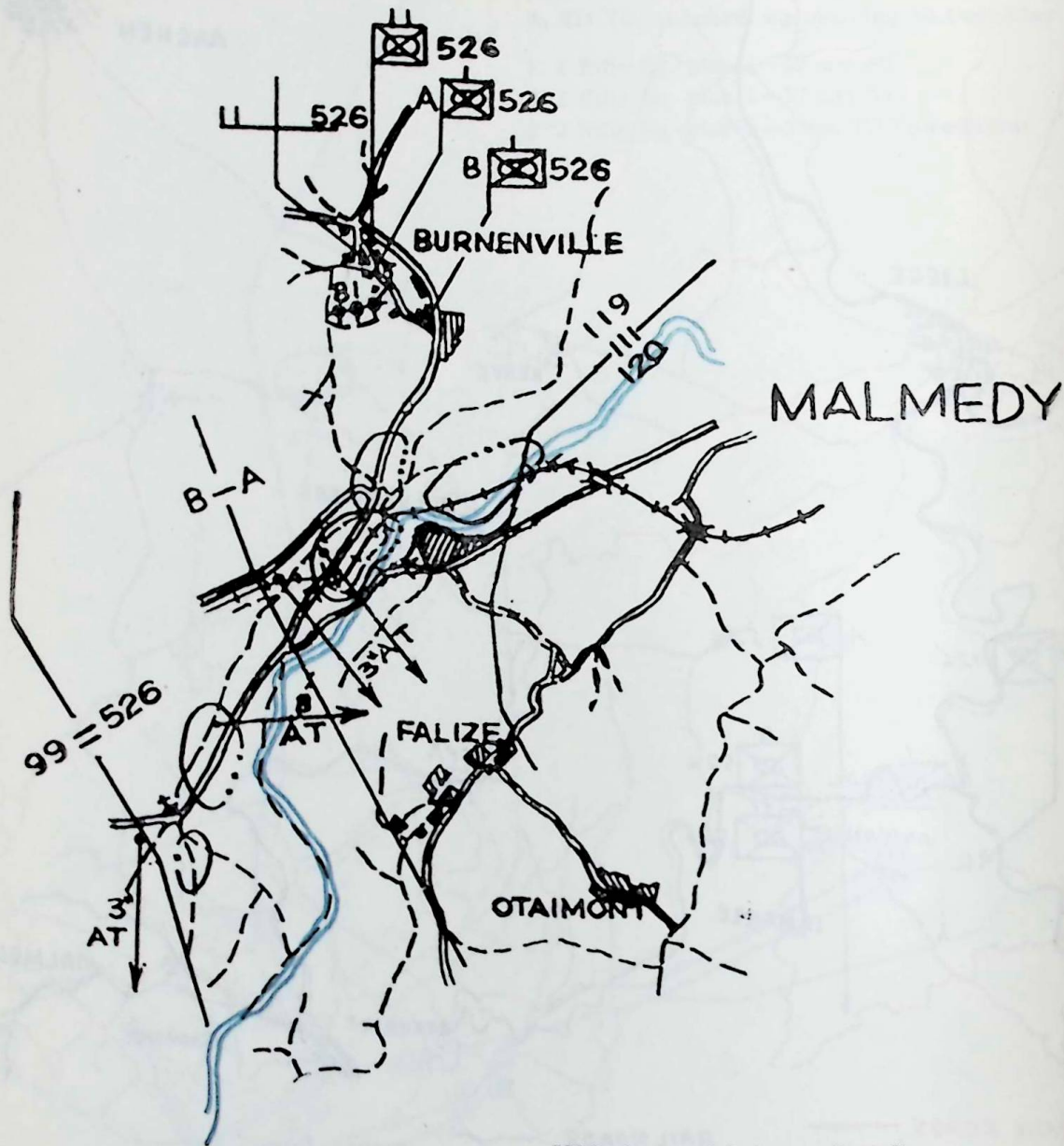
RAILROADS —  
RIVERS —

SMALL ROADS —

526th Armored Infantry Battalion

Scale: 1:250 000

Location of Battalion 30 October—17 December 1944.



526th Armored Infantry Battalion  
 Scale: 1:25,000  
 Positions occupied as Regimental Reserve,  
 120th Inf., N. E. of Malmedy 29 December—  
 5 January 1945.

## PART XXVII

### 585TH ARMY POSTAL UNIT

The 585th Army Postal Unit was attached to the First United States Army Group, London, England, on 7 February 1944, and further attached to Headquarters Special Troops, FUSAG, for the mission of supplying mail service to the headquarters and assigned and attached units. The unit handled the incoming and outgoing mail from that date to 1 March 1944, when the APO 655 opened officially at 19 Bryanston Square with complete Post Office facilities.

The headquarters was heavily struck on the night of 14 March by German incendiary bombs, the APO building receiving several direct hits which completely destroyed the workroom, but due to the alertness of the men, who witnessed the attack from their billet a few blocks away and rushed to the scene, the loss sustained was negligible. None of the personnel was injured, no registered or insured mail, funds, money order forms, postage stamp stock, money order stamps, scales, mail lock keys, typewriter or essential records were destroyed by fire. All outgoing mail had been dispatched from the APO, but a few sacks of parcels and about 12 letters, which had been awaiting delivery, were destroyed. The directory file was burned and some organizational equipment destroyed.

Personnel worked through the night salvaging equipment and records, and despite the losses sustained, APO 655 was open for business the next day on time. Not quite "as usual", but in one end of the vehicle dispatchers' shacks in Bryanston Square. Letters of commendation were received from Lieutenant General Omar N. Bradley, commanding FUSAG, and W. J. Means, Post Office Department inspector.

On 20 April 1944, it was necessary to open Unit One, APO 655, at Detachment FUSAG, 21 Army Group Main (British) near Portsmouth, England, with two enlisted men operating the unit and providing complete APO facilities. For security reasons, mail could not be sent directly to the unit, so it was cleared through the parent APO and forwarded through the British registered mail system.

During the invasion of German-occupied France, APO 655 was one of the few postal installations that operated continuously during the move from the United Kingdom. On 16 July 1944 an advance party of five enlisted men commanded by First Lieutenant James H. Fielder moved forward with the second



increment of the headquarters and set up operation in Colombieres, France. Five enlisted men, with Sgt Donald S. Lamond in charge, remained in London to service the remaining personnel and forward mail to those already across the Channel. Thus was established the unprecedented procedure of an eleven man unit operating three widely separated APO's simultaneously, two in the UK and one in France. This system was mandatory because it was impossible to "scheme" the mail to Portsmouth and Colombieres.

Unit One and the rear detachment rejoined the organization at Periers, France, on 6 August 1944. Unit One started operating at Eagle Main, the headquarters having commenced operating tactically in three echelons.

Mail for TAC was forwarded daily by courier although the volume of mail and personnel served quadrupled, only three special duty men had been added to the unit at this time. At Laval and Versailles the outgoing mail became a tremendous problem. Versailles saw a flood of souvenirs which flooded the APO, then located in a stable of a former French artillery garrison. Chanel No 5 was flowing like water with captured helmets, bayonets, etc., running a close second. Ordinary requisitioning channels were not sufficient to maintain the stamp stock, and it was necessary to dispatch a man directly to Cherbourg to obtain stamps to keep the mail moving.

Unit One continued with Eagle Main until the consolidation of the various echelons. Unit Two joined Eagle TAC at Luxembourg City 25 October 1944, and remained with that echelon through Namur, Belgium, Wiesbaden, and Bad Wildungen, Germany, joining the parent APO on 3 June 1945 at Wiesbaden. Enlisted men of the unit delivered mail to TAC daily through the Battle of the Bulge.

On 10 December 1944, the unit was reorganized under column 8 T/O and E 12 605, dated 8 February 1944, and redesignated the 585th Army Postal Unit, Type K, with a strength of two officers and twenty-two men. The enlisted replacements were obtained through Headquarters 12th Army Group, S, Sgt Lamond was commissioned a second lieutenant to fill the officer vacancy.

Because of this augmentation of personnel and the assignment of the 135th APU to assist in operations, the enormous Christmas mail at Verdun, France, was delivered as quickly as the Postal Regulating Section could sort it to the APO. The truck driver was kept continually on the road between the PRS, and the APO, and 300 sacks of parcels and ten to twenty pouches of first class mail were common daily receipts.

Pertinent statistics showing the technical operation of the APO from 1 March 1944 through 14 July 1945 follow:

Number of money orders written	56,205
Value of money orders written	\$ 2,659,269.68
Value of stamps and envelopes sold	164,491.91

During the period 11 December 1944 through 14 July 1945:

- 4,287 pouches of first class mail were received;
- 6,036 pouches of first class mail were dispatched;
- 26,867 sacks of parcel post were received;
- 16,904 sacks of parcel post, mostly souvenirs, were dispatched;
- 3,590 of the parcels were insured, while
- 8,444 of the first class items were registered, and
- 7,717 registered items were received.

Through the entire operation the unit maintained a superior state of morale. There were no courts-martial, unauthorized losses of time, or disciplinary action

## PART XXVIII

### 749TH AAA GUN BATTALION

The 749th AAA Gun Battalion (Less Battery "A", which had been previously assigned on 14 July 1944) was assigned to Special Troops, 12th Army Group on 9 August 1944, but did not join and on 27 August 1944, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Battery "C", Battery "D" and the Medical Detachment were relieved of assignment to Special Troops and attached to First US Army. Battery "B" joined Special Troops on 28 August 1944.

The Battalion (less Batteries "A" and "B") was attached to First US Army from 27 August 1944 until 23 October 1944, when the organization was attached to Ninth US Army, which attachment lasted until 9 June 1945. During the period 27 August 1944 to 9 June 1945, this battalion by a succession of tactical moves, travelled across France, Belgium and Holland and into Germany and was officially given credit for 5 enemy planes destroyed and 2 probably destroyed, and captured 310 prisoners.

On 9 June 1945, the 749th AAA Battalion (less Batteries "A" and "B") was relieved of attachment to Ninth US Army and reassigned to Special Troops, 12th Army Group, joining Special Troops at Wiesbaden, Germany on 13 June 1945. Since that date Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, and Battery "C" supplemented Battery "A" in its mission as a service company, while Battery "D" was reorganized into a car company supplementing Battery "B".

Separate histories have been prepared by Battery "A" and Battery "B" and follow.

## PART XXIX

### BATTERY A, 749TH AAA GUN BATTALION (SM)

Battery "A", 749th AAA Gun Battalion, having arrived in England from duty in Iceland, was stationed temporarily in Leek, England with the expectation of remaining a part of the 749th AAA Gun Battalion as a gun battery. However, on 10 July 1944, the organization received notification to pack equipment (minus all guns) and report to Wargrave, England. This was accomplished without incident and the organization arrived in Wargrave, England on the morning of 11 July 1944.

The next ten days were spent in securing equipment for personnel and bringing in organizational equipment to fill the T/E. While securing these supplies, the organization received notification that it was being assigned to Special Troops, Headquarters FUSAG. On 14 July 1944, Battery "A", 749th AAA Gun Battalion was assigned to Special Troops, Headquarters FUSAG, per Troop Assignment No. 21, Headquarters FUSAG and instructed to report to London, England on 20 July 1944. This move of some 30 miles was accomplished without incident and the organization arrived in London 20. July 1944.

Upon arriving in London, the organization was informed that current plans called for the forming of two platoons, one of which could serve as a car platoon and the other as a service platoon. However, this was not intended to take place until arrival on the Continent and in the meantime the whole organization was used as a service company to help move Headquarters FUSAG, to France. This detail continued until 8 August 1944, during which time the organization was quartered and performed all duties under the constant bombardment from German V-1's. However, no personnel or equipment was lost due to enemy action and on 5 August 1944 the organization received orders to pack and move to France with the rear echelon of Headquarters FUSAG, arriving on 9 August 1944.

In France, the battery proceeded to Periers, France and went into bivouac. While stationed in Periers, the battery received orders to send 30 enlisted men and one officer to duty with the 507th QM Car Company, for training as a car platoon. The remaining platoon in the meantime, was assigned duties as a service platoon which consisted of assisting the Engineers in setting up the headquarters and furnishing men for guard.

On 16 August 1944, the battery received orders to send 30 enlisted men and one officer forward to prepare the new location for Headquarters 12th

Army Group at Laval, France. The service platoon of Battery "A" again assisted engineers in preparing roads, cleaning up debris and setting up the various offices of the headquarters. This detail lasted until 19 August, when the main body of the headquarters arrived. The service platoon there upon rejoined the battery and continued with various details in helping maintain the headquarters.

On 29 August 1944, Battery "A" again moved forward, this time to Versailles, France, and immediately began assisting in setting up the headquarters. During this period the plans which called for Battery "A" to furnish one platoon for a car platoon and one platoon for a service platoon were changed and it was decided to group the whole battery into a service company. This necessitated a change in personnel within the battery and resulted in the transfer of Captain William E. Urann, Jr., who had been in command of the organization since its arrival in England, First Lieutenant Curtis E. Beason and 44 EM to a replacement depot, leaving Second Lieutenant William E. Harell, as the only officer in the Battery. Captain Charles E. Adams, Jr, was transferred into the organization and assumed command, and a few days later Second Lieutenant William W. Bailey was transferred into the organization, making a total of three officers.

The battery remained in Versailles with Headquarters 12th Army Group until 9 September 1944, when it moved to Verdun, France. At this station the battery was assigned a multitude of new duties, i. e., operating and maintaining the headquarters gas dump, assisting at the S-4 ration breakdown point, general police of the headquarters area, and hauling fuel. During this period the battery also sent 12 EM forward with Eagle TAC, then located in Luxembourg. These men remained on temporary duty until the end of the war. Two enlisted men were also sent to the 12th Army Group Liaison Section with 21st Army Group where they also remained until after the end of the war.

The battery remained in Verdun, France until 20 April 1945, making it the longest stay in one location since arriving on the Continent. On 20 April 1945, the battery advanced to Wiesbaden, Germany, and was given the responsibility of managing the various recreational centers for both officers and enlisted men under the supervision of Special Service. These facilities included the Army Theater, officers and enlisted men's tennis courts, Eagle Golf Course, and Eagle Swimming Pool, and personnel were furnished to help build and repair those establishments which had been damaged. In addition to these responsibilities, Battery "A" continued to furnish men for duty at the S-4 ration breakdown point and for miscellaneous other duties.

## PART XXX

### BATTERY B, 749TH AAA GUN BATTALION (SM)

At 0815 hours, 28 August 1944, Battery "B", 749th AAA Gun Bn (SM) began its career as a unit of Special Troops, 12th Army Group. At this time it left the transit area, Utah Beach, France, and travelled by truck convoy to Laval, where its commanding officer, Captain Roger B. Hodgson, reported to the Commanding General, Special Troops, 12th Army Group for further orders. These orders marked the end of the unit's role as a combat antiaircraft artillery battery, for its new assignment called for its reorganization into a provisional car company to furnish transportation for Headquarters, 12th Army Group.

Preliminary plans were drawn up at this time and following the unit's movement with the headquarters on 5 September 1944, to Versailles, the actual work of the reorganization was completed. 90 guns were turned in and in exchange the unit was equipped with sedans, command and reconnaissance cars, jeeps, weapons carriers and assorted vans required for the mobility of the headquarters.

A large part of the unit (73 men) was transferred out this time in order that they might continue to serve in other AA units in the capacity for which they were best fitted, and a nucleus of trained drivers and mechanics were transferred in from the 507th QM Car Co and other Special Troops units to serve with the battery in its new role. In the course of the next two weeks, every effort was devoted to completing the job of making a transportation company out of an AA battery. Drivers were trained, the shop was set up, equipment was put in order and the dispatch routine perfected.

When the outfit moved with the headquarters to Verdun, France, on the 18th of September 1944, it had lost all connection with its former mission and was well on the road toward establishing its mark as a transportation company. In Verdun, accommodations in the Caserne Niel were excellent. The battery occupied stone barracks in a separate area and had its shop and motor pool immediately adjacent. Verdun proved to be its winter quarter since it remained here until the first of May.

The length of the stay in this one location permitted considerable development and improvement of the billets, mess, and motor pool area. Opportunities for recreation were afforded by the hospitality of the French townspeople, by local trips to points of scenic and historic interest, and an organized Special Service program within the headquarters.

Not too much time was devoted to playing, however. The nature of the mission required plenty of hard and dangerous work on the part of many of the drivers and placed a tremendous load upon the unit shop. While the battery headquarters was enjoying the relative comforts of a rear area unit most of the drivers were travelling all over the Continent, oft times in and out of the front lines, and they became well acquainted with the rigors of life in the field. During the winter months alone, members of the unit drove over a million passenger-miles under the worst of road conditions, living in the field, eating in the field and maintaining their vehicles as they went.

The success of operations in the Spring brought the final move on 1 May 1945 to Wiesbaden, Germany. Here the battery occupied the Opel Garage for billets and shop and the railroad station directly across the street for mess and motor pool area. Accommodations were ideal and provided ample room for expansion of the unit to nearly double its size. On 11 June 1945 it took over operations handled by the 507th QM Car Co when that outfit left the headquarters. This marked the peak in its career, for from that date on, as operations of 12th Army Group on the Continent declined, unit operations declined. The mission was over.

Over the entire period, operating an average of 150 vehicles, the unit delivered nearly two million passenger-miles of transportation service under the worst of road conditions without a single serious accident.

Headquarters 12th Army Group was essentially the "brain" behind the major military accomplishments of the American armies on the Continent. In efficiently performing its mission as a provisional car company furnishing transportation to the staff officers of that headquarters, "B" Battery, 749th AAA Gun Bn (SM) made an important contribution to the final defeat of Germany.

## PART XXXI

### 820TH QM STERILIZATION CO

The 820th Quartermaster Sterilization Company, although not administratively assigned to the 12th Army Group until 2 July 1945, had been with Eagle Main and Rear since September 1944, and attached to the Medical Section, 12th Army Group operationally since March 1945. This organization, in performance of its primary mission of showering troops and prisoners of war, had detachments in Verdun, Givet, St. Mihiel, Toul, Commercy, Metz, France; Luxembourg City, Luxembourg; and Ehrang, Germany.

Large static shower facilities were operated by members of this organization in addition to swimming pools for the use of rest troops in the Metz and Luxembourg areas. In the period ending 14 March 1945, a total of 342, 378 troops had been bathed since operations commenced on the Continent but this was not only a record on the Continent — it is believed to be a record for all sterilization companies for a like period.

In order to control typhus fever and to prevent its introduction into western Europe by displaced persons from central Germany, SHAEF directed that a "Cordon Sanitaire" be established along the natural barrier of the Rhine River. The 820th QM Sterilization Co was assigned the task of setting up and manning this "Cordon Sanitaire" by letter Headquarters 12th Army Group, file 710 (Med), dated 3 April 1945.

Ports of entry had to be set up by all the armies, which necessitated the close cooperation between army surgeons and 820th officer personnel. Although schooled in the use of dusting with 10% DDT powder, personnel of the 820th had further to train in the use of power dusters — a new and untried machine. Shower detachments were recalled and only two men were left with each unit, all of which were placed on detached service with another sterilization company. Five man teams were formed and immediately placed at the disposal of the Surgeon, 12th Army Group, for use by the armies. Each team proceeded to an established port of entry to insure that no one passed the cordon without first being thoroughly dusted to prevent possible typhus infected carriers from crossing the Rhine. They worked in conjunction with a medical team which inspected the displaced persons for actual signs of disease.

After a brief orientation these teams were sent to established points in Kastel, Koblenz, Oberkassel, Bruck, Cologne, Dusseldorf and Duisburg, all of which were located along the Rhine River. They were charged with the responsibility



of checking all persons attempting to cross the Rhine from east to west. The importance of Typhus Control was understood by the men of this organization and they worked long hours without complaint. They kept power machines in operation despite the lack of spare parts, and they dealt competently with administrative difficulties caused by the distance from their headquarters. Operating with only NCOs in charge, teams overcame handicaps such as dealing with foreign persons and trying to teach them to participate in the dusting procedure even though they could not converse with them.

Additional teams were sent to concentration camps such as Buchenwald, Wuppertal, Dachau, Ebensee and Mauthausen to avert the spread of typhus then prevalent in these and other camps. Mechanical flaws discovered in the power dusters during operations were studied by organizational engineers and recommendations were forwarded to the manufacturers to enable the correction of future production.

When army boundary lines were rearranged, teams which had been operating in areas far east of the Rhine River in Munster, Brunswick, Dessau and Leipzig were shifted south to southern Germany and Austria to help control typhus among displaced persons being shifted about the Continent east of the Rhine. Teams operated in the Munich area, Aschaffenburg, Ebensee, Linz, Bamberg, Heidelberg, Ulm, Regensburg, Salzburg and Innsbruck. The number of displaced persons dusted passed one million early in July, with mobile units still showering army troops. The commendations received from armies, corps and divisions pay tribute to the men of this organization who took "Typhus Control" for exactly what it meant. A commendation in the form of a commendation for a meritorious service unit plaque, initiated by the Surgeon, 12th Army Group, paid tribute to the men of the organization for the services they rendered.

## PART XXXII

### 825TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

The 825th Tank Destroyer Battalion, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Rudolph H. Mieding, was assigned to the 12th Army Group on 15 September 1944, at Verdun, France. The organization was charged with furnishing perimeter defense for 12th Army Group installations and with providing an escort for the personal protection of the group commander during his frequent inspection tours of the front. In addition, Company "A" was placed on detached service with "T" force of the army group.

The allocation of local security for vital signal installations was quickly accomplished by the battalion commander, although this necessitated the deployment of small detachments of the organization over an area that included France, Luxembourg and Belgium. This scattering of troops naturally presented complex problems of supply and maintenance and before the end of the European campaign the transportation companies travelled approximately 200,000 miles in servicing the out-posts.

During October 1944, the battalion transferred its CP from Verdun to Luxembourg City, and shortly after arriving, the city was subjected to shelling by heavy German artillery, but no casualties were inflicted upon battalion personnel. In the meantime, Company "A" had located in LaReid, Belgium, where it was engaged in the important task of plotting the German V-1 weapon to points of origin.

The counter-offensive launched by the Nazis on 16 December, caused the alerting of all members of the command, and the 2d Reconnaissance Platoon prepared to evacuate the Commanding General from his CP if necessary.

Two days later, Lieutenant Jack Doherty of Company "A" engaged the enemy with two gun crews at Stavelot, Belgium. An armored spearhead appeared on the scene in this sector, and Doherty and his men took up firing positions beside a small bridge. Fighting against heavy odds, the two gun crews succeeded in delaying the Panzer column for six hours, until American reinforcements arrived. The accurate fire of this unit knocked out four "Tiger Royals" during the engagement and was instrumental in stemming the German advance in that sector.

Further east, other elements of Company "A" had also contacted the enemy in Stavelot. Here, the Germans had set up machine guns at vantage points in houses, and were directing heavy fire into American ranks. Captain Joseph

Dibert placed one 3-inch gun so as to fire into the fixed enemy positions and succeeded in setting fire to six houses, while causing heavy damage to ten others. At this point the enemy brought his armor into play and another section of the company took the tanks under fire. Two squads trained their guns on the Panzers, and in the ensuing battle each knocked out two tanks. A "Tiger Royal" then appeared on the scene, but was damaged by several hits. In seeking to withdraw to safety, the tank ran blindly into a nearby building and became pinned in the wreckage. Three days later another enemy attack was launched in the same sector, and in this battle the guns of Company "A" accounted for several transports and one Mark VI tank, besides inflicting heavy casualties. In addition to this, a number of American vehicles were re-captured from the enemy.

On 23 December, elements of Company "B" working in conjunction with troops of the 335th Infantry, contacted the enemy in Rochefort, Belgium. The battle was launched at approximately 2200 hrs, when Sergeant John Cavanaugh opened fire upon about fifty infantry men who had attempted to infiltrate into town and set up machine guns in front of the CP. All light weapons were trained on the enemy simultaneously with Cavanaugh's opening burst, and completely destroyed the initial German assault. Light fire continued at intervals throughout the night while the enemy waited until day-break to launch another attack. In the morning the battle opened with renewed vigor, as the Germans poured a heavy curtain of artillery and mortar fire into the town. The Nazis then attempted to take the CP with their armor, and 3-inch gun crews broke up the thrust with several direct hits, forcing the enemy to withdraw. With their guns located in the center of the street, and devoid of any protection other than the shields, the crews displayed a courage that was surpassed only by their accurate fire. A direct hit demolished one of the guns, and after caring for the wounded, the remaining members of the crew assisted in the operation of the remaining weapon. Finally, the superior weight of enemy numbers asserted itself; and after more than twentyfour hours of continuous fighting, the men were ordered to withdraw from the town. Statistics of the engagement disclosed an estimated fifty enemy dead, one tank destroyed and another possibly destroyed, and also one locomotive knocked out. Our own casualties listed four wounded and ten missing in action.

Meanwhile, the enemy break-through had seriously endangered both the 12th Army Group and the battalion command posts in the city of Luxembourg. Faced with the constant threat of parachutists, it became necessary to form several "emergency squads" from the personnel of Headquarters Company.

Serving under the command of Captain John McCord, these squads tracked down all reports of enemy activity behind the American lines, and instituted a pattern of "Bazooka Posts", in the event of an armored entry into the capital city. Although the threat never materialized, the squads resulted in the apprehension of a number of suspicious persons, subsequently turned over to the CIC.

In January, Company "C" was attached to Task Force "REED" at Montfort, Luxembourg. The company took up firing positions to guard possible tank approaches from the east and southeast and rotated platoons engaged in laying down harassing and indirect fire from a position east of Oetrange, Luxembourg. On 27 January, two platoons moved to positions on the west bank of the Moselle River at Maternach, Luxembourg. From here they fired into fixed enemy positions on the other side of the river.

During the period from 23 April through 27 April, other elements of Company "C" under the command of S/Sgt. Sam J. Villane, supplemented by troops of Company "L", 311th Infantry, were engaged by the enemy in the vicinity of their post at a radio station. The men were successful in preventing this vital communications point from falling into enemy hands, and during the course of the battle captured 114 men and killed 3.

## PART XXXIII

### 1099TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT

The 1099th Engineer Utility Detachment joined Headquarters 12th Army Group (then FUSAG) 10 April 1944, and was immediately assigned to Special Troops. Under the international agreement between the US Government and Great Britain, all buildings housing US troops were repaired and maintained by British civilian personnel, as were the utilities supplied to those buildings. Because of this policy, the detachment personnel did not function as a true utilities organization while the group was in London. Instead, functional furniture and equipment were manufactured and repaired for use in the many offices of the headquarters. The principal mission before movement to the Continent was the manufacture of the great number of packing cases and crates necessary to cover all the office equipment of the headquarters.

In addition to necessary marking of the T/E office equipment and cases, a great amount of unit equipment including trucks, graders, dozers etc. had to be properly marked as well as the personal equipment of the officers and men of the headquarters such as helmets, hand bags and foot lockers.

Each staff section was equipped with a complete set of large, portable map boards complete with crates.

Arriving on the Continent, the detachment supplied, operated and maintained all utilities during the operations of the headquarters. Fifteen power generators were added to the electric lighting facilities. Eight portable shower units were obtained to supply bathing facilities. In addition to supply and maintenance of sanitary, lighting and heating facilities, much repair and construction was done by the blacksmiths, welders, carpenters and repairmen. Two sign painters constantly worked on the huge sign requirements of the headquarters, and a squad of highly trained, well equipped firefighters maintained strict fire security throughout the operational period. By establishing and maintaining a complete system of fire points in all installations, setting up an efficient alarm system, and prompt effective action on all calls, accidents of this category were kept to a minimum. Not one large fire or major loss was sustained by the headquarters.

The 1099th Engineer Utility Detachment was re-deployed on 14 June 1945.

## PART XXXIV

### 1776TH ENGINEER GENERAL SERVICE COMPANY

The men and officers of the 1776th Engineer General Service Company were attached to Special Troops in July 1944, as Company "E" 341st Engineer GS Regiment which participated in the construction of the Alaskan Military Highway. This organization was assigned on 21 October 1944, and redesignated the 1776th Engineer GS Company. Coming to France in the early days of June 1944, these veterans were well equipped to maintain Headquarters 12th Army Group.

From time to time the unit was given assignments other than maintaining group headquarters. One of these was the removal of mines south of Aachen when the Germans started their push in the Ardennes area. During the Ardennes thrust, the remainder of the company at Verdun, France was called upon for the defense of the Main and Rear echelons of the army group headquarters. Hasty barricades and check points were set-up, and defenses of bridges, machine gun and bazooka posts and patrols established.

The third platoon of the company constructed and maintained air-strips for the 12th Army Group Liaison system. Eight air strips were constructed totaling more than seven miles, one of these of steel matting. The air-strip at Versailles was used also by SHAEF during its stay there.

The accomplishments of the 1776th Engr. GS Company, when added make impressive figures. The Engineers constructed, repaired, or maintained 109 miles of road. More than 15 miles of wire barricade were erected; 1021 gallons of paint were smeared between Periers, France and Wiesbaden, Germany; 21,290 cubic yards of stone material were excavated and spread (enough to cover a city block to a depth of more than 6 feet); 15,195 windows or 37,115 window panes were installed; 4,968,000 board feet of lumber were used in construction (enough lumber to lay a board walk, two feet wide from Washington DC, to Detroit, Michigan), and 24,318 light bulbs were added to original lighting systems along with the necessary sockets, switches and 314 miles of wiring. (Including original lighting plus lights added for operational use, enough current was used by group headquarters to furnish power for an ordinary city with a population of 20,000).

## PART XXXV

### 3137TH MOTOR MESSENGER COMPANY

The assigned mission of this organization was that of supplying motor messenger service to the 12th Army Group from November 1944, until July 1945. When this organization received orders to join its parent organization, it was located at Maastrich, Holland, attached to the Ninth US Army, awaiting further orders and instructions. The unit reported on 24 October 1944, to the 3146th Signal Service Group, as well as to the Commanding General of Special Troops, 12th Army Group, at Verdun, France.

On 3 November 1944 the unit started operations as motor messenger service for the 12th Army Group and on 4 November the first messenger run was taken over. By 10 November complete operations were functioning. At this time, four detachments consisting of thirty-one enlisted men and one officer, with 12 vehicles each, were sent to the First, Third and Ninth US Armies, to supplement the messenger service from those headquarters forward to corps and lower echelons. The Ninth US Army, in addition, was holding two detachments for the Fifteenth US Army, to be used when it became operational.

Full time complete messenger service was conducted from 10 November 1944, until the present date, using command and reconnaissance cars, weapons carriers, jeeps and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trucks, the choice of vehicle depending on such factors as the length of the trip, amount of mail to be carried, proximity to enemy action and weather conditions. The messenger trips varied in length from approximately 700 miles to advance army headquarters, to short four mile shuttle runs between local offices and nearby air-strips. It was often necessary to change routes and schedules due to the exigencies of land warfare and unfavorable road conditions such as heavy snow, ice and mud. A relay station was established to eliminate night-time lay-overs.

Although enemy action was only infrequently encountered, messengers were strafed by enemy planes on trips between 20 December 1944 and 26 January 1945, during the German offensive. On 21 November 1944, a messenger and assistant driver with the Third US Army detachment had their vehicle blown up by land mines near Metz while in pursuance of normal operations. The driver and assistant driver distinguished themselves by recovering the mail and carrying it three miles back although both were seriously injured and the driver temporarily blinded.

On one occasion, while travelling in Germany, a driver and his assistant were halted by an armed person whom they first believed to be an American outguard. Upon stopping, however, they found themselves covered by a German soldier who forced them to dismount and had the driver surrender his clothes. After threatening the assistant driver and leaving him in a deserted locality, he ordered the driver to continue toward a village, some few miles away in which, he disclosed during the course of the ride, were a number of German soldiers, including a Nazi officer. He even volunteered the information that their ultimate aim was to make their way back to their lines. During the course of the forced drive the messenger overhauled an American convoy and, after passing the head of the column, proceeded to attract attention to his plight by driving into the ditch. As the vehicle overturned the German soldier made his escape in the confusion of the accident.

Despite numerous mishaps of various nature no delays in operations were encountered. This was due to the fact that on night trips and on trips of any length or in such a direction as to be close to possible enemy action, two vehicles were dispatched, one as a guard vehicle and to supplement the other in case of mechanical failure or road accident.

In addition to the messenger service, this organization also furnished Signal Dispatch Service for 12th Army Group. This was accomplished by furnishing the officers-in-charge of the message center and duty officers as well as message center clerks. Their work included, besides routing and checking individual mail and pouches as to destination and safe arrival, the job of planning new and alternate routes for the messengers between the various message centers. They also were required to keep in close touch with the various Signal Centers of installations serviced, co-ordinating schedules and service.

The operational equipment of the organization consisted of 112 vehicles. The supply situation was not always favorable, but additional clothing beyond authorized allowances was requisitioned and partially received in order to keep messengers warmly clothed during the height of the winter.

Well over one and one-half million miles were travelled by vehicles in the messenger service during the eight months of operations and much of the credit for such an accomplishment must necessarily be given to the motor section of the unit which performed maintenance and service. Constant stress of motor discipline and first echelon maintenance made possible uninterrupted service. Never at any time was there an accident attributable to mechanical neglect or deficiency.



Several members of the organization were awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received as the result of enemy action in Belgium and Germany.

Below is a computation of mileage travelled and amounts of mail serviced by the headquarters detachment of the unit located at Eagle Main. The figures shown do not include those of four detachments and the complete total for the organization is necessarily much greater.

MAIL SERVICED	MILEAGE	MONTH
15,000 pouches	88,000	December 44
5,200 individual pieces		
18,190 pouches	117,640	January 45 .
5,636 individual pieces		
16,225 pouches	80,000	February 45
4,472 individual pieces		
17,800 pouches	105,458	March 45
4,102 individual pieces		
14,540 pouches	162,000	April 45
5,412 individual pieces		
21,583 pouches	160,543	May 45
1,579 individual pieces		
26,103 pouches	215,986	June 45
1,603 individual pieces		

## PART XXXVI

### 3146TH SIGNAL SERVICE GROUP

The 3146th Signal Group Headquarters was activated at Colombieres, France, on 29 July 1944, with a strength of three officers and with Colonel Eugene J. FitzGerald commanding. The headquarters was assigned the mission of providing administrative control for Signal Corps units in Special Troops, 12th Army Group.

On 1 August 1944, the organization moved to Periers where on 2 August 1944, two enlisted men were assigned. On 5, 6, 10, and 14 August the rest of the officers and enlisted men were assigned and the organization was brought to full strength — four officers and eighteen enlisted men.

On 25 August 1944, the organization moved to a new location at Laval, France. On this move all personnel were moved into billets for the first time since activation.

The 3146th Signal Group Headquarters was disbanded and reactivated as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 3146th Signal Service Group effective 27 August 1944, per paragraph 17, letter, Headquarters ETOUSA, file AG 322 OPGC, subject: Troop Assignment (No 106), assigned to 12th Army Group and further assigned to Special Troops.

On 5 September 1944, the headquarters moved from Laval to Versailles, France, where it was billeted in a former French Army Officer Candidate School.

On 8 September 1944, the headquarters was divided into two parts. The S-3 (Operations) Section, with the Commanding Officer and S-4, moved to the Main Headquarters of 12th Army Group, and the S-1 (administration) Section remained with Headquarters, Special Troops.

Major Ezra T. Pope, Jr, was assigned to this headquarters and assumed the duties of Executive Officer on 14 September 1944.

On 9 October 1944, while at Verdun, this organization was authorized additional non T/O grades and ratings (2-Captains; 1-1st Lt; 2-Grade 5; 2-Grade 6), and on 29 October 1944, the two sections (Operations and Administration) were brought together again. This move was made so that the entire headquarters could work more closely with Signal Section, 12th Army Group, at Main Headquarters, 12th Army Group.

Colonel Eugene J. FitzGerald, Commanding Officer of this headquarters, was dropped from the rolls to the 34th Evacuation Hospital on 11 November 1944, and Major Pope assumed command on 16 November 1944.

Colonel Chester A. Clark was assigned and joined this headquarters as Commanding Officer, on 26 November 1944. Major Pope was again given the principal duty of Executive Officer, until his assignment as Commanding Officer.

The availability of Signal equipment and supplies improved considerably during January 1945. Items which had not been available, especially spare parts, were being secured from the spare parts depots established by Com Zone, but a shortage of certain critical tubes, especially those used in rectifiers still existed and it was still necessary to form convoys for the purpose of picking up equipment and supplies. During the month of January 1945, approximately 77,947 ton-miles of Signal equipment and supplies were transported by convoys formed from vehicles of organizations assigned this group.

The availability of winter clothing and equipment improved also and the majority of the units were equipped with shoe pacs, mittens, mufflers, and overshoes. A special issue of fur-lined coats for motor messengers was completed.

During the month of March 1945, the following units were placed under administrative control of this headquarters:

3186th Signal Service Bn L/Dets  
45th Signal Heavy Construction Bn  
25th Signal Heavy Construction Bn  
3263d Signal Service Co

Colonel Chester A. Clark, Commanding Officer, was admitted to the 193d General Hospital on 31 March 1945, and Major Orville E. Scull assumed command, in the absence of Lieutenant Colonel Tilton D. McNeal, who was on leave to England. Lieutenant Colonel McNeal returned on 7 April 1945, and assumed command on 10 April 1945. On 15 April 1945, Lieutenant Colonel McNeal was relieved from assignment to this headquarters, and assigned to the 10th Reinforcement Depot. Major Scull reassumed command on 16 April 1945.

An advance detachment of two officers and five enlisted men departed from Verdun, France for Wiesbaden, Germany, to secure billets for the headquarters on 20 April 1945.

Eagle Signal Depot #1 moved from Verdun, France, to Kostheim, Germany, from 12 to 22 April 1945, with a total of 440 tons of Signal supplies and equipment being moved by trucks from Signal units of the group.

In May, the remainder of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 3146th Signal Service Group arrived and started operations in Wiesbaden, Germany.

They were met by the advance detachment, who had arrived on 20 April 1945, and had already set up offices and billets.

The 36th Signal Heavy Construction Battalion was relieved from assignment to this headquarters and assigned to the Fifteenth US Army on 1 May 1945.

Inspections of the following units were made in conjunction with preparation for Overseas Movement during May and June 1945:

25th Signal Heavy Construction Bn  
45th Signal Heavy Construction Bn  
3103d Signal Service Bn  
167th Signal Photographic Co

The 12th Army Group Signal Depot (Provisional) was closed out 31 May 1945, and four detachments assigned to the depot for operations were returned to parent organizations.

Lieutenant Colonel Carl H. Sturies, joined this headquarters and assumed command on 5 June 1945.

The following units were alerted and departed on dates indicated:

	Alerted	Departed
3103d Signal Service Bn	21 May 1945	7 June 1945
167th Signal Photographic Co	23 May 1945	11 June 1945
25th Signal Heavy Construction Bn	13 May 1945	2 June 1945
45th Signal Heavy Construction Bn	29 May 1945	16 June 1945
3186th Signal Service Bn	5 June 1945	17 June 1945
305th Signal Operation Bn	5 June 1945	27 June 1945
3906th Signal Service Bn	7 June 1945	16 June 1945
40th Signal Light Construction Bn	7 June 1945	28 June 1945

PART XXXVII

3187TH SIGNAL SERVICE BATTALION

The 3187th Signal Service Battalion reported for duty to Headquarters, 12th Army Group, in five different echelons and a detachment as follows:

	OFFICERS	EM	DATE
Det, Co B, 3187th Sig Sv Bn	11	54	9 Sep 44
Echelon #1	31	452	15 Jan 45
Echelon #2	7	86	15 Jan 45
Echelon #3	5	55	15 Jan 45
Echelon #4	4	191	15 Feb 45
Echelon #5	0	15	7 Feb 45
Remainder of Battalion	12	221	23 Mar 45

Missions of the organization were many and varied.

Personnel of this battalion were placed on temporary duty with the First, Ninth, Third, and Fifteenth US Army. Radio teams were dispatched for duty with the 66th Infantry Division when that division cleared out the St. Nazaire pocket. Carrier and Repeater teams and toll installation teams were employed throughout 12th Army Group Area rebuilding and operating repeater stations and operating mobile stations. The ten cable teams repaired German cable lines frequently close to where the actual fighting was taking place, and often working day and night installing cable to keep up with the fast advancing armies. Several thousand miles of cable were rehabilitated up to V-E Day. Operation of the 12th Army Group Signal Center in conjunction with the 302d Signal Operations Battalion was another major job of the battalion.

There was hardly a sector in the vast 12 Army Group area in which there were no personnel of this battalion.

The following shows the disposition of all teams of this battalion on V-E Day:

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Battalion & Headquarters Comp	Headquarters	Hq 12th Army Group
Medical Detachment . . . . .		Hq 12th Army Group
5 Automotive Maintenance Teams . . . . .		Hq 12th Army Group
Headquarters Company Mess Team . . . . .		Hq 12th Army Group
1 Radio Boehme Operation Augmentation Team		Hq 12th Army Group
1 Radio Tel. Fixed Station 3-Position Team .		Hq 12th Army Group
1 Radio Carrier Terminal Team . . . . .		12th Army Group TAC
3 Radio Link Repeater Terminal Teams . . .		12th Army Group TAC

COMPANY A

Company Headquarters . . . . . Hq 12th Army Group  
 Company A Mess Team . . . . . Hq 12th Army Group  
 Radio Repair Team . . . . . Hq 12th Army Group  
 14 Radio Tel Fixed Station 1-Position Team . Hq 12th Army Group  
 4 Radio Tel Fixed Station 1-Position Team . TDY 17th Sig Opn Bn  
 1 Mobile Radio Team . . . . . TDY 114th Sig RI Co  
 1 Mobile Radio Team . . . . . TDY 116th Sig RI Co  
 3 Mobile Radio Team . . . . . TDY Third US Army  
 4 Mobile Radio Team . . . . . TDY Fifteenth US Army  
 1 Mobile Radio Team . . . . . TDY XIX TAC Air Force  
 1 Mobile Radio Team . . . . . TDY XXIX TAC Air Command  
 1 Mobile Radio Team . . . . . TDY IX Bombardment Div  
 1 Mobile Radio Team . . . . . TDY IX TAC Air Command  
 4 Mobile Radio Team . . . . . TDY Ninth Air Force Adv  
 1 Mobile Radio Team . . . . . TDY 67th Reconnaissance Group  
 1 Mobile Radio Team . . . . . TDY 10th Reconnaissance Group  
 1 Mobile Radio Team . . . . . TDY 363d Reconnaissance Group  
 1 Mobile Radio Team . . . . . TDY 66th Infantry Division  
 7 Mobile Radio Team . . . . . TDY 3186th Sig Sv Bn  
 1 Mobile Radio Team and 1 Officer . . . . TDY Halle, Germany  
 26 Mobile Radio Team . . . . . Hq 12th Army Group

COMPANY B

Company Headquarters . . . . . Hq 12th Army Group  
 Company B Mess Team . . . . . 1/2 TDY Ninth Army  
 Company B Mess Team . . . . . 1/2 TDY Fifteenth Army  
 1 Message Center Team . . . . . Hq 12th Army Group  
 1/2 Message Center Team . . . . . TDY Ninth US Army  
 1/2 Message Center Team . . . . . TDY Fifteenth US Army  
 3 1-Position Switchboard Teams . . . . . TDY Ninth US Army  
 3 1-Position Switchboard Teams . . . . . TDY Fifteenth US Army  
 4 1-Position Switchboard Teams . . . . . Hq 12th Army Group  
 1 Switchboard Operating Team . . . . . TDY Ninth US Army  
 1 Switchboard Operating Team . . . . . TDY Fifteenth US Army  
 1/2 Teletype Team . . . . . TDY Ninth US Army  
 1/2 Teletype Team . . . . . TDY Fifteenth US Army  
 1 Teletype Team . . . . . Hq 12th Army Group

COMPANY C

Company Headquarters . . . . . Furth, Germany  
Company Mess Team . . . . . Furth, Germany  
1/2 Telephone Carrier & Repeater Team . . . TDY Oberstein, Germany  
1 Telephone Carrier & Repeater Team . . . TDY Ninth US Army .  
1/2 Telephone Carrier & Repeater Team . . . Furth, Germany  
4 Telephone & Telegraph Installation Teams . Operating Repeater Station  
throughout Germany  
10 Cable Repair Teams . . . . . TDY 26th Sig Cons Bn

PART XXXVIII

3257TH SIGNAL SERVICE COMPANY

The 3257th Signal Service Company was assigned to Special Troops, 12th Army Group on 26 June 1945, after having moved from the Enclave at Bremen, Germany, to Frankfurt, Germany, on 8 June 1945.

Normally a radio intelligence company, all radio operators and intelligence personnel had been transferred from the unit, leaving only the headquarters section with the mission of administrative headquarters for what was formerly the 1st Signal Cable Company (Prov.)



## PART XXXIX

### 3264th SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICE COMPANY

The 3264th Signal Photographic Service Company was activated two months after it was committed. Activation came on 13 September 1944, after the original six photo units had covered First and Third US Armies in Brittany, across France, Paris' liberation and as far as Aachen, Germany. Activation was in a sense, adoption of hitherto nameless children.

This adoption furnished 12th Army Group with additional combat photographic coverage. Units of one officer and four men were sent from group to armies, as the situation required, and from armies, units were further assigned to divisions and corps.

Activation orders further promised that an additional six units would be forthcoming, thus making the company complete. These units joined the organization in February 1945, taking over the coverage of any future airborne operations.

Unusual by virtue of size, fourteen officers and sixty enlisted men, and also by its ratio of officers to men, the company was blessed with further abnormality: three vehicles for each five-man team.

From their original assignments in First and Third US Armies, the units, less one lost in combat, were shifted north to the growing Ninth US Army in November. There, these units, plus some from the 167th Signal Photographic Company, did the work of the Ninth US Army photographic company which had not yet arrived: covering daily activities of divisions on the line, coordinating from corps the various photographic assignments within the corps sectors, handling special assignments at army headquarters, and finally, maintaining a laboratory where non-news assignments were processed for local use.

Thus the greater part of the company covered the slow advance of the Ninth US Army to the Roer River, while one unit worked in snow suits and cold to photograph the 1st Infantry Division as it plodded through the Huertgen Forest.

General von Rundstedt's December pre-Christmas surprise upset the original plans, and three units were involved in the frigid task of photographing the elimination of the Bulge, while one unit had to travel 400 miles to cover an assignment normally only a hundred miles away.

In February 1945, with the successful wiping out of the Bulge and the simultaneous arrival of the six additional units, the company reached full strength. These new units undertook covering of the airborne divisions. Mean-

while, the other, older units stayed on or returned to the Ninth US Army and accompanied its divisions across the Roer River and in the Roer-Rhine sweep.

The airborne strike across the Rhine River saw the first action in which an entire photographic unit went into action by glider, while other units were assigned to the airborne divisions, the airborne corps and the airborne army headquarters. Two units photographed take-offs at an airfield in France, while a fourth was on constant alert in Paris, France. In this operation one photographic officer was killed when the C-47 he was riding was hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire.

Two units worked on the flanks of the Ruhr pocket until it was closed, while other units of the company were following their respective divisions across central Germany.

In this phase, one unit made a complete story on the Hadamar Concentration Camp, liberated by the 13th Armored Division. The story and the shots, including some of the staff which was captured intact, were rated as "terrific" by a usually non-committal Army Pictorial Service film editor in London. Other units turned in stories of additional concentration camps and atrocities, thus furnishing the American press and screen with proof of the Nazi war guilt.

V-E Day found the units spread farther than they had ever been before. One unit had driven up the mountains to Berchtesgaden and photographed Hitler's "Eagle's Nest"; another was northwest of Berlin, at Ludwiglust; and another was in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. One unit faced the Russians in Steyr, Austria, further east than any other American troops, and still another was in the Lorient-St. Nazaire sector. One unit was in Paris (See Annex A). \*

Thus, when the war ended in the European Theatre the company's photographic units had worked for extended periods of time with twenty-five organizations in seven countries.

The armies included the American First, Third, Seventh, Ninth and First Allied Airborne and the British Second. Smaller units covered included: 101st, 82d, 17th, and 13th Airborne Divisions; the 1st, 4th, 8th, 28th, 29th, 66th, 78th, 79th, 71st, 80th, 83d, 84th, and 95th Infantry Division; the 5th and 7th US Armored Divisions; the 2d French Armored Division and XV, XVIII, XIX and XX Corps.

While serving with these organizations four men were killed, two captured and two wounded. First casualty occurred on the date of activation when one photographic officer, his motion-picture non-com and a still photographer were

\* Unavailable for this edition

fired on by a German machine gun placed to protect a road-block. The still photographer was killed immediately and the other two captured. They were both home months later, one by way of Moscow.

The next casualty occurred when a motion-picture photographer was hit by shell fragments after he had jumped off the American tank from which he had been photographing German fox-holes raked by tank's fire. Then followed the loss of two inseparable photographers, both killed by a German artillery shell which hit an infantry battalion command post. Next casualty was the loss of the photographic officer in the Rhine Airborne Crossing at Wesel, Germany. The last casualty was a still photographer, who was shot three times by an SS soldier.

PART XL

3299TH SIGNAL SERVICE COMPANY (RAD RELAY STA)

Effective 20 June 1945, this unit was relieved from assignment to Special Troops, 6th Army Group, and assigned to Special Troops, 12th Army Group.

On 11 June 1945, at 1200 hours, Radio Team No 1, located at Heidelberg, Germany, took over the terminal station at Heidelberg which was being operated by personnel from SHAEF Advance in a link between 6th Army Group Headquarters at Heidelberg, SHAEF Advance at Frankfurt and Metz switch at Metz.

Except for minor changes in personnel on the Radio Teams, due to the redeployment of enlisted men to the United States, this unit was expected to continue to establish communication to whatever points necessary for further occupation of Germany.

## PART XLI

### 3527TH ORDNANCE M. A. M. CO.

The 3527th Ordnance M. A. M. Co. was relieved from assignment to ETOUSA and assigned to First United States Army Group, per par 5, Troop assignment #31, Headquarters ETOUSA, dated 5 March 1944, and assigned to Special Troops, FUSAG per par 2, Troop assignment #4, dated 12 March 1944.

The organization, consisting of 4 officers and 116 enlisted men, was transferred from Bowden, Lancashire, England, to Warfield Park, Berkshire, England, on 22 March 1944, where all echelons of automotive maintenance were performed for Headquarters Special Troops, FUSAG.

On 16 July 1944, 1 officer and 15 enlisted men were placed on temporary duty with the 12th Army Group advance party then moving to France, to perform necessary automotive maintenance.

On 7 August 1944, the organization consisting of 3 officers and 98 enlisted men traveled by motor to Southampton, England, and embarked on the SS Walter Hines Page for Omaha Beach, France. The organization arrived at Omaha Beach, France, on 9 August 1944, debarked, and traveled by motor to Periers, France, joining the advance party of the organization there.

The unit moved on 23 August, to Laval and on 5 September, to Versailles, where, in each location the organization immediately set up for operation and performed automotive maintenance for Headquarters Special Troops and assigned units.

Maintenance operations were performed for two weeks in this location under ideal conditions when orders to move again were received. The organization moved by motor to Verdun, France, on 17 September, where it was billeted in a French Army Camp and the shop located in a factory building. Maintenance conditions were very satisfactory, and evacuation of wrecked vehicles was simplified by location of a H. A. M. Ordnance Co. in near vicinity.

The organization here performed all echelons of automotive maintenance for Headquarters 12th Army Group for seven months. It was difficult to secure necessary automotive parts to keep vehicles operational and utmost use was made of a salvage yard in Verdun, France.

Captain Harry A. Satterlee was relieved of command of the organization and assigned to Headquarters Special Troops, 12th Army Group, as ordnance officer on 1 November 1944, and First Lieutenant Raymond F. Doyle was designated Commanding Officer.

The Meritorious Service Unit Plaque was awarded the organization, "for superior performance of duty in the accomplishment of exceptionally difficult tasks" and "for the achievement and maintenance of a high standard of discipline during the period 10 August 1944 to 10 December 1944", per General Order #4, Headquarters 12th Army Group, dated 25 January 1945.

A detachment of the company consisting of one officer and 31 enlisted men was detailed on 15 February 1945 to perform motor maintenance for 12th Army Group's TAC Headquarters at Namur, Belgium, and remained with that echelon on future moves to Luxembourg on 1 April and to Wiesbaden, Germany, on 8 April.

The headquarters of the organization moved from Verdun, France, to Wiesbaden, Germany, on 25 April 1945, joining the advanced detachment, while 1 officer and 30 enlisted men remained at Verdun, France, to perform motor maintenance for Main and Rear Headquarters 12th Army Group. The rear detachment joined the organization at Wiesbaden 2 May 1945.

This organization performed usual automotive maintenance for Headquarters 12th Army Group during the months of May, June and July and carried out ordnance inspections for units being re-deployed.

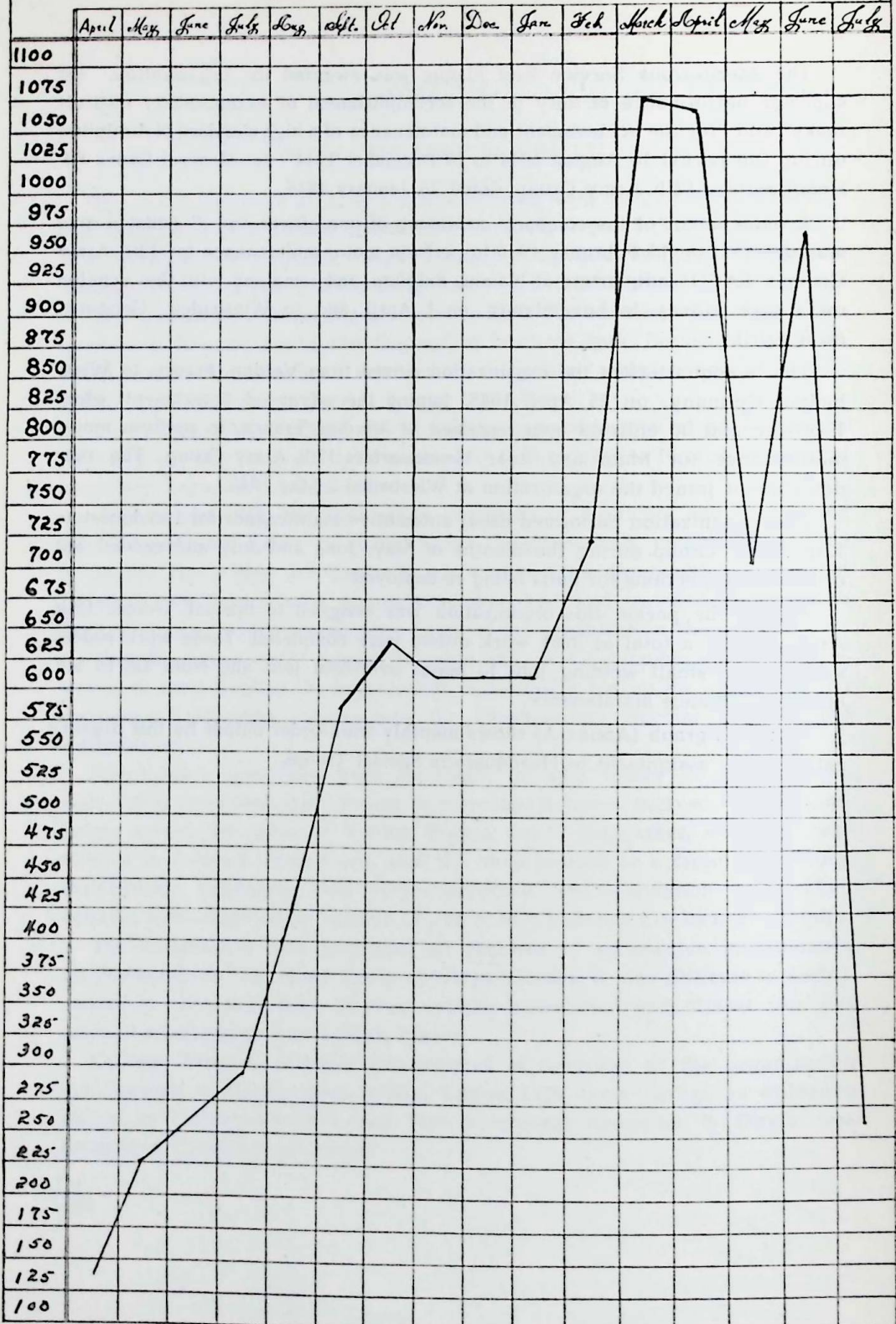
During the period this organization was assigned to Special Troops, 12th Army Group, a total of 9181 work orders were completed. These work orders varied from small welding jobs to major over-haul jobs and from 1st to 5th echelon ordnance maintenance.

Attached graph (Annex A) shows monthly work-order output by this organization since assignment to Headquarters Special Troops.

3527 Ord. MAM. Co.

# Monthly Work Order Output

April, 1944 to July 10, 1945



PART XLII

3907TH SIGNAL SERVICE BATTALION

Headquarters 3907 Signal Service Detachment was activated on 17 January 1945, as a point of administration for separate signal companies of Headquarters 12th Army Group per Ltr 322 (AG-0) Headquarters 12th Army Group, 17 January 1945. The original staff comprised:

Lieutenant Colonel Tilton D. McNeal	Commanding Officer
Captain Albert J. Bloom	Executive Officer
First Lieutenant George A. Logan	Adjutant
CWO Walter C. Jackson	Supply Officer (DS from Signal Section Headquarters 12th A Gp)

Enlisted cadre was furnished by the 302d Signal Operation Battalion and Headquarters 3146th Signal Service Group.

Organizations attached to this headquarters on its assumption of control on 1 February 1945, were the following:

- 255th Signal Construction Company
- 167th Signal Photographic Company
- 3264th Signal Service Company (Photographic)
- 3137th Signal Motor Messenger Company
- Det B 819th Signal Service Company (Port)

All units under this headquarters continued to function operationally under their respective branches of the Signal Section, Headquarters 12th Army Group, but all administrative functions of these units were coordinated by this headquarters from 1 February 1945 to the end of group operations:

During the month of February 1945, the Commanding Officer was relieved of assignment to the headquarters and assigned to the Ground Force Replacement System for return to the United States. Lieutenant Colonel William H. Waldschmidt, assigned from the Signal Section, Seventh US Army, assumed command 1 March 1945.

CWO Walter C. Jackson was appointed Second Lieutenant on 12 March 1945, and assigned to this headquarters where he continued in the capacity of Supply Officer.



The headquarters moved from its location in Verdun, France, to its present location, Wiesbaden, Germany, on 23 April 1945.

Major Alfred R. Braddock assumed command of the battalion on 16 May 45 when Lieutenant Colonel Waldschmidt was transferred to Camp Atterbury, Indiana, under the redeployment system.

The 167th Signal Photo Company and Det B 819th Sig Sv Co (Port) were relieved from attachment to this headquarters during June 1945. The 285th Signal Pigeon Company was attached in May 1945, and the 3138th Signal Motor Messenger Company was attached in July 1945.

## PART XLIII

### 47TH LIAISON SQUADRON

The 47th Liaison Squadron, assigned to Special Troops in June 1944, furnished air transportation for the army group while in England, ferried some personnel across the Channel when the headquarters moved to the Continent, carried official mail, and weather permitting, maintained air liaison with other major commands during the European campaign.

In November 1944, while located at Verdun, rapid rise of the Meuse River to flood stage inundated the squadron's landing strip, and washed away mechanics' tools and airplane parts. The 1776th Engineer General Service Company laid down another strip and operations were only temporarily halted.

Another mission was added to the squadron's duties in December 1944, when half of the organization's photo section was placed on detached service with XII Corps to perform photographic laboratory work. The squadron also helped combat crewmen and fighter pilots of the 8th and 9th Air Forces to reach their own units after forced landings.

During the Ardennes counter-offensive, the squadron engaged in daily reconnaissance of the triangle bounded by Metz, Commercy and Stenay for the Commanding General, Special Troops, and later, for the 17th Airborne Infantry when it assumed responsibility for defense of the area. On 22 January 1945, Sgt. Kenneth E. Haralson became the organization's first overseas fatality, crashing into a hillside near Losy-en-Brie, France. On the other hand, another L-5 pilot saved a lost B-17 and its crew from possible death by guiding it to a nearby emergency landing field.

In April, with good weather and the end of the war imminent, the squadron flew 2,555 hours, a record for one month for the organization. Destinations on these flights from Verdun and from TAC Echelon in Luxembourg included such distant points as the Riviera, Munich, Bremen and St. Sauveur-de-Lendelin in Normandy.

## PART XLIV

### SIGNAL SECURITY DETACHMENT "D"

Signal Security Detachment "D" was activated provisionally on 10 June 1944, as a self-sufficient operational unit to provide signal intelligence and signal security for 12th Army Group (then First US Army Group). The detachment was, in actuality, an advanced echelon of the Theater Signal Intelligence Service, since the War Department did not authorize a separate signal intelligence unit for the army group headquarters. It was technically responsible to the Director, Signal Intelligence Division, Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Headquarters ETOUSA, but operationally responsible directly to the Signal Officer of 12th Army Group.

Due to the two different activities, signal intelligence and signal security, it was desirable to separate the two types of work in the early part of August 1944, in order effectively to accomplish the 12th Army Group signal intelligence mission. The intelligence activities remained with the detachment, but all security activities were attached (together with the operating personnel) to the Signal Section, 12th Army Group. Intelligence activity was the primary function of Signal Security Detachment "D" from that date until 1 July 1945, when the 12th Army Group signal intelligence mission was completed.

Results of tactical signal intelligence activities were made directly available to the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, 12th Army Group. Technical activities of the detachment were coordinated by the Signal Intelligence Branch, Signal Section, 12th Army Group, but all administrative matters were handled directly by Headquarters Special Troops, 12th Army Group, to which the unit was attached.

In order to accomplish the mission of 12th Army Group, this detachment was made technically responsible for the coordination of the signal intelligence activities of First, Third, Ninth and Fifteenth US Armies and the corps units within those armies when they operated under the technical direction of 12th Army Group. It was made operationally and technically responsible for the two army group Signal Radio Intelligence Companies, the 114th and 116th Signal Radio Intelligence Companies, which supplied the detachment with intercept materials and direction finding data required to provide signal intelligence to the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, 12th Army Group. These companies moved across the Continent in coordination with the detachment so that, actually, the three organizations comprised one operational entity.

On 16 June 1944, the first increment of detachment personnel and equipment landed in France and proceeded to Carentan and Cherbourg to commence operations and prepare for later increments. Subsequent groups of personnel and equipment followed in echelons until 19 August 1944, when the entire organization was gathered near Periers in close proximity to the army group headquarters. By this same date, the 114th and 116th Signal Radio Intelligence Companies had also arrived and from that date operations continued without interruption.

From Periers, France, the detachment moved to the following locations in France: Fontenay Sur Eure near Laval, La Haute Maison near Meaux and Mangiennes near Verdun. It is interesting to note that in the last named location the detachment personnel were the first American troops to enter the village and, as a result, the local citizenry welcomed the detachment as its officials liberators. Subsequent moves brought the detachment to Luxembourg City. From there, the unit moved to Malonne and then to Dolhain, both in Belgium. Subsequent re-locations were all in Germany: Sindorf near Cologne, Linz near Bonn, Bad Wildungen, Forchheim and, finally, Russelsheim near Wiesbaden. In these moves in the execution of detachment activities, the unit's motor vehicles travelled 330,000 miles with only three accidents.

Throughout the period the detachment maintained constant radio contact with the First, Third and Ninth US Armies signal intelligence units. It also maintained radio contact with the Signal Intelligence Division, Headquarters ETOUSA; Headquarters 21 Army Group (British), and 6th Army Group. Teleprinter contacts were maintained throughout the period of active operations as were telephone circuits to all field units. The total number of code groups passed over these communication links was 1,165,000 with 70,000 the highest total for a single week. The greatest activity existed in late December 1944 and January 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge.

The detachment was originally assigned to operate with the Main Headquarters of 12th Army Group. However, owing to technical difficulties encountered in operating from such a rearward position and the fact that the AC of S, G-2, 12th Army Group whom the detachment served was located and moved with the army group tactical headquarters, permission was secured in September 1944, for the detachment to function with the TAC headquarters. In February 1945, even this forward echelon of Headquarters 12th Army Group was too far behind the rapidly moving combat lines and thus permission was again secured for the detachment to move as far forward as corps headquarters. As a result, this unit normally operated much on its own.

The performance of the many-faceted function of supplying signal intelligence to the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, 12th Army Group, remains a matter of record, technical aspects of which are included in the technical history of the detachment submitted through signal intelligence channels to the War Department. The vast technical experiences and data compiled were constantly put to use and should serve as a basis for future planning for operations of a like nature. Signal Security Detachment 'D' was scheduled to revert from 12th Army Group to its parent organization on or about 15 July 1945, to be converted to the Signal Intelligence Service for the army of occupation.

## PART XLV

### 12TH ARMY GROUP LIAISON DETACHMENT (SIAM)

The 12th Army Group Liaison Detachment (SIAM) was established on 19 January 1945, by letter Headquarters 12 Army Group, with personnel drawn from a non-T/O allotment of grades and ratings of 8 officers and 71 enlisted men furnished by the European Theater of Operations. Equipment was drawn on a special list of equipment, and the detachment was attached to Headquarters Special Troops, 12th Army Group, for administration and supply.

The assigned mission of the detachment was to furnish the Army Group Commander and his staff with timely tactical information from the armies in the army group. The means of transmission of the information was to be by radio using a high-grade secret code. Briefly, this was to be accomplished by establishing a team at each army and maintaining team and Detachment Headquarters at army group headquarters for the reception of information from the army teams. The team was to function by having the officer in charge of the team contact the army staff and the SIAM Company serving that army for information and then sending it to the team at army group which processed it and made it available to the army group commander. There was to be a SIAM Company in each army with the mission to get tactical information from the divisions and corps for the army commander.

At the time of the establishment of this detachment there were two SIAM Companies assigned to 12th Army Group in training in the United Kingdom. Two other SIAM Companies were in the Zone of Interior earmarked for assignment to 12th Army Group.

Shortly after D-Day it was apparent that the flow of information to 12th Army Group was relatively slow. At the same time, it was found that the flow of the information to the 21 Army Group from its armies was considerably faster. The principal reason for the difference was determined to be GHQ Liaison Regiment (Phantom), which was functioning in 21 Army Group.

In August 1944, one US officer and 21 US enlisted personnel (radio operators and code clerks) were assigned to work with the British Phantom Patrols, then operating with corps of 12th Army Group and at Headquarters 12th Army Group Main and TAC echelons. During this assignment, these men became expert with the special code used and the Phantom methods. The men became the original enlisted men in the 12th Army Group Liaison Detachment (SIAM).

In September 1944, the G-3 Section of 12th Army Group, selected 7 officers to study the British Phantom information service with the ultimate aim of establishing a similar organization in 12th Army Group. This group spent a month working with the Phantom units in 21 Army Group, from the regimental headquarters army group level to the smallest patrols at division and brigade levels. At the completion of this service, the group of officers was sent to the Seventh US Army to observe the 3151st SIAM Company in operation there. They next observed the Army Information Service operated in the Third US Army by the Sixth Cavalry Group. Pending approval of a T/O by the War Department, some of the officers were sent to England to the SIAM Companies in training there, and conducted a two-week school. Early in January, the SIAM Companies' officers came to the Continent and were taken to observe Phantom, Seventh US Army's SIAM Company and Third US Army's Army Information Service in action in the field. The itinerary for this training was supervised and coordinated by the officers who had instructed them in the United Kingdom.

The officers then returned to Verdun, but due to difficulty in procuring trained personnel and the lack of equipment, it was decided to have the enlisted men continue on duty with the Phantom units at 12th Army Group Main and TAC until the detachment became large enough to replace these British units. Meanwhile, the establishment order had allotted an augmentation of officers and enlisted men for the temporary use of the detachment, this augmentation to pass to the SIAM Companies when they became operational.

The G-3 Sections of First and Third US Armies were approached and asked if they were interested in furnishing officer personnel for training as combat liaison officers, such officers to be used in the SIAM Company which would operate in the particular army from which the officers came. Third US Army assigned twelve officers and First US Army placed six officers on detached service with this detachment and five more officers were obtained from the Army Ground Force Reinforcement Command. A one-week course of instruction was held for these officers at Verdun and a three-week program of observing Phantom, 3151st SIAM Company and AIS in operation in the field followed the schooling. At the completion of this training, the officers were reassigned to the SIAM Company in which they were to serve.

Prior to the establishment of the Liaison Detachment, one of the officers and several of the NCO's had been working on a new code book. This code was fashioned after the Phantom code, but was changed to include American terminology and some desirable phrases which had not been included in the

British code book. This code was approved by the European Theater of Operations and released for use to the SIAM Companies as well as to the 12th Army Group Liaison Detachment (SIAM). Three officers and one NCO of the detachment spent the entire month of February and part of March in field problems for the companies and generally helping to mould them for the job they were to do.

An increase of ten enlisted men was realized during the month of February and requisitions were placed for twenty more. The men received had to be trained in the code and the radio operators had to build up speed. This was accomplished by setting up a code school and a key for the radio operators in the billets. As the skill of the men increased, they were allowed to take shifts in the Phantom operations room at Verdun.

During the month of March, personnel was increased by twenty enlisted men. This figure included radio operators, code clerks, teletypewriter operators and message center clerks. Most of this personnel needed considerable training before being able to step into a regular shift, so the training school was continued. It had been decided that the Army Group Liaison Detachment would not go into operation to the exclusion of Phantom until the two SIAM Companies were situated at the armies, but an inspection of the SIAM Companies revealed that they would not be ready for operation until the middle of April.

The SIAM Companies arrived on the Continent about the middle of April and reported to their respective armies. With their arrival, two teams were organized by this detachment and sent to First and Third US Armies to send back information gathered by the SIAM Companies and furnished by the army staff. A loan of three radio teams was arranged with 3103rd Signal Service Battalion and 23rd Headquarters Special Troops to help build up the detachment's strength. Two more radios had been received, meanwhile. The team at First US Army functioned well and sent information back, but its activity was restricted as the situation in the First US Army became static about a week before the end of hostilities. The Third US Army's drive into southern Bavaria and Austria gave the SIAM Company an opportunity to send back information from the spearheads to the army headquarters over exceptionally long distances. On many occasions normal communications were not functioning, particularly with armored units.

During this time, Fifteenth US Army asked to have a team sent there. Personnel was not available for a full-size team, but an officer and three code clerks were attached to instruct Fifteenth US Army personnel in the use of the code



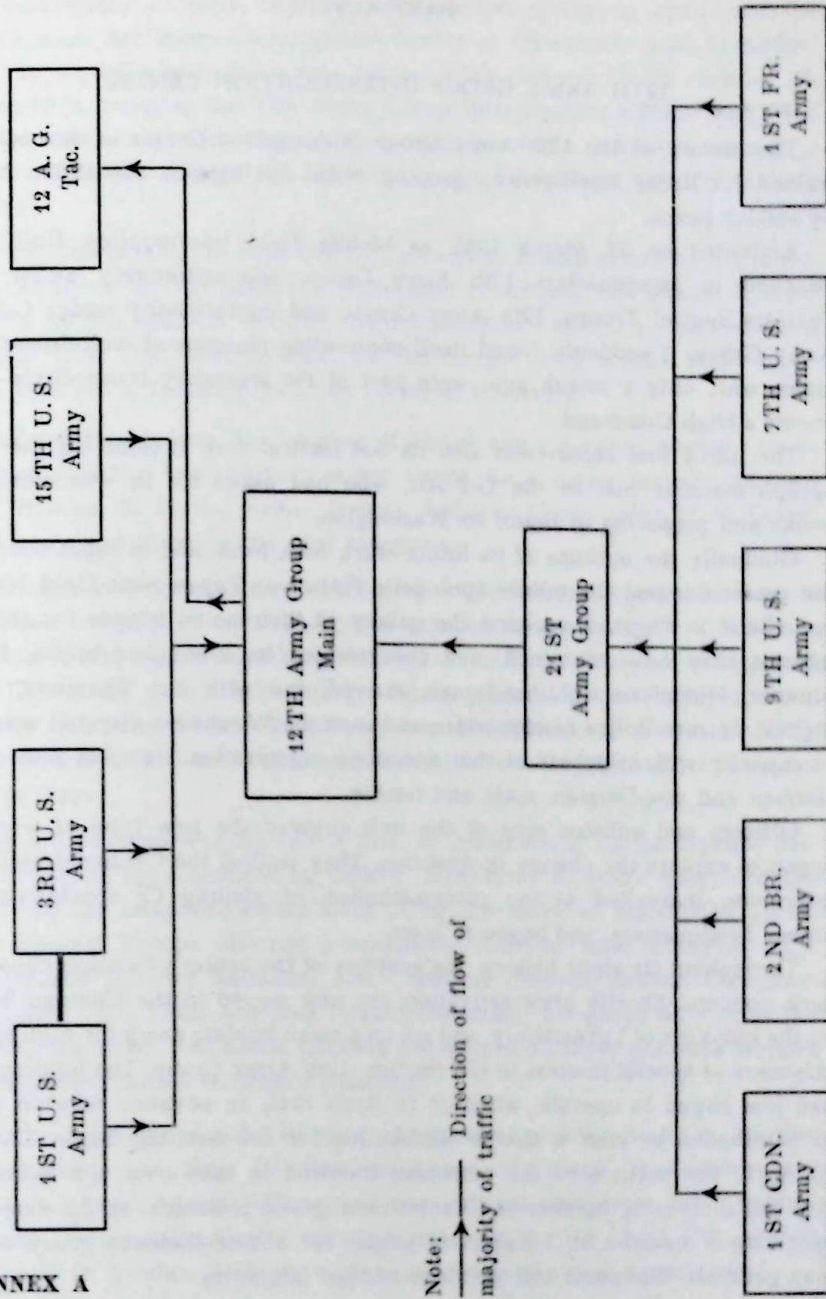
with the intention of running the code over a teletypewriter from 12th Army Group to the army, and having their personnel decode the messages. One of the radio teams borrowed from Headquarters 23rd Special Troops was sent to Fifteenth US Army for about two weeks but was recalled at the cessation of hostilities. A team was set up at 12th Army Group TAC and became operational one day before the end of the war.

The attached diagram (Annex A) pictures the information service available to the army group commander through the 12th Army Group Liaison Detachment (SIAM) at the close of the war.

The personnel borrowed from the 3103rd Signal Service Battalion and 23rd Headquarters Special Troops were recalled at the end of hostilities by their parent organizations, leaving the detachment without sufficient operators to maintain teams at the armies.

Source of Tactical Information Supplying 12th A.G. Ln. Det. (SIAM)

ANNEX A



Note: Direction of flow of majority of traffic

## PART XLVI

### 12TH ARMY GROUP INTERROGATION CENTER

The history of the 12th Army Group Interrogation Center is that of a unit trained for battle intelligence, groping with intelligence demands imposed by sudden peace.

Activated on 27 March 1945, as Mobile Field Interrogation Unit No 4, attached to Headquarters 12th Army Group, administratively under Headquarters Special Troops, 12th Army Group, and operationally under G-2, 12th Army Group, it suddenly found itself confronting platoons of well-dressed Germans, who, only a month ago, were part of the legendary inner circle of the enemy's High Command.

The unit's first report was also its last tactical one. It came off the mimeograph machine just as the G-2 Air, who had asked for it, was closing his books and preparing to report to Washington.

Gradually the outlines of its future work took form, and in rapid succession the center dumped the mildly apologetic Franz von Papen, sent Field Marshall von Kleist to England, scanned the galaxy of their noted friends for the little interest they now contained, and concentrated on a tougher brood. Kaltenbrunner, Himmler's right-hand man, arrived, and with him Skorzeny, of the highest German Police headquarters, and soon the Wiesbaden city jail was filled to capacity with members of that notorious organization, its spies and agents, German and non-German, male and female.

Officers and enlisted men of the unit enjoyed the new type of work and began to explore the change in direction. They studied the Counter-Intelligence directives, marvelled at the professionalism of visiting CI specialists from higher headquarters, and began to learn.

Throughout its short history, the problem of the center's location caused the main concern. Shortly after activation, the unit moved to the Chateau Beggen, on the outskirts of Luxembourg, and set up a small holding camp for high ranking prisoners of special interest to G-2 Section, 12th Army Group. The holding camp had just begun to operate, when on 10 April 1945, an advance echelon moved to Wiesbaden to man a similar installation for G-2 Section, Eagle TAC. On 23 April, the balance of the personnel followed to take over the Wiesbaden city jail increasing number of Counter-Intelligence prisoners, at the same time operating a mansion at 2 Bodenstedtstrasse for a miscellaneous group of German generals, diplomats and members of Nazi ministries.

The inadequacy of these facilities was realized almost at once, and the former German Air Force Interrogation Center at Oberursel, near Frankfurt, became the logical choice for a new center. With General Order Number 29, of 3 June 1945, merging the 12th Army Group Interrogation Center with 6824 DIC-MIS operationally and bringing the personnel of the combined units to a projected total of 70 officers and 225 men, the need for larger quarters became imperative.

Although the bulk of the 6824 DIC-MIS personnel remained at Revin, France, pending the move to Oberursel, the Wiesbaden contingent was almost doubled in strength by the addition of three Photo Intelligence teams, a small advance detachment from DIC, and, on July, by the merger with Mobile Field Interrogation Unit No 1, formerly with the Fifteenth US Army.

By the middle of June, the number of actual and projected mergers made it apparent that the interrogation center would be a major installation, and Colonel William R. Philip, former Deputy Artillery Commander of V Corps assumed command to guide the final integration.

The change-over from battle intelligence to Counter-Intelligence, as well as the physical merging of units, brought a number of administrative problems. The Mobile Units had always been dependent on PW camps for rations and guards. 12th Army Group Interrogation Center always worked independently and had to improvise a house-keeping system. No sooner had a mess by PW's been set up, when the number of messes needed to feed the unit and its prisoners jumped to three.

The guard problem was difficult at first. In Luxembourg, all intelligence personnel, including the Commanding Officer, took turns at guard duty, and the Adjutant ran the telephone switchboard. After the move to Wiesbaden, Headquarters Special Troops attached successively platoons from Company "C", 526th Armored Infantry Battalion, 31st Chemical Decontamination Company, and Company "B", 526th Armored Infantry Battalion, for guard duty with the center, and the strain was eased. Officers and men of all three platoons worked in close harmony with intelligence personnel.

From the intelligence point of view, the greatest problem was the briefing of interrogators and their Counter-Intelligence education. The center was fortunate in absorbing one officer and one enlisted man from the Counter-Intelligence Interrogation Center operated previously by the Chief, CIB, of 12th Army Group in Verdun. Both were of great help to the new organization.

Others who helped guide the work in the first days were several officers from the SHAEF CI war Room in London, and OSS agents with 12th Army Group.

Later the center sent its own personnel to London for work and training in the CI War Room, and information gathered by these officers had an immediate beneficial effect on the work of the organization.

During its three months' period of operation, the center produced 138 Counter-Intelligence preliminary reports, 31 full-length Counter-Intelligence reports, 50 preliminary reports and 10 full-length reports of other than Counter-Intelligence interest.

## PART XLVII

### 6871ST DISTRICT INFORMATION SERVICE CONTROL COMMAND

The 6871st District Information Services Control Command (DISCC) was attached to Headquarters Special Troops, Twelfth Army Group, on 30 March 1945, for administration, from Headquarters Command, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force. On operational policy matters, this command was directed by the Psychological Warfare Division (PWD-SHAEF). The Publicity and Psychological Warfare (P & PW) Officer, Headquarters, 12th Army Group, became the operational echelon under which this command functioned.

A. MISSION: The mission of PWD-SHAEF was set forth in the SHAEF directive as follows:

1. Short-term (primarily military). To facilitate the military occupation of Germany by assisting in the immediate prohibition of all German information services all will assist the military commanders in maintaining order by:

- a. Publicizing (Military Government) rules and regulations.
- b. Countering rumors with announcements and information.
- c. Supplying a selected world news and information services, such as will serve to clarify the relation of the individual German to the occupying forces, to the community and to the world at large.

d. Supervising the resumption by Germans of cultural and largely non-political activities (such as music and the theater) which the military situation required.

2. Long-term (primarily political). To eliminate Nazism and German militarism from any influence on German information media by:

- a. The destruction of all that remains of the Nazi or militarist influence.
- b. The re-establishment of German information services initially under close Allied supervision — completely purged of both these influences. The phasing of the overall PWD mission is as follows:

Phase I: Prohibition of German information services. This was effected by Military Government Law 191.

Phase II: Use of Allied information services and reconnaissance of German information services. Psychological Warfare Branch (PWB), Headquarters, 12th Army Group, was charged with the production and distribution of Allied newspapers in the American Zone with minor exceptions. 6871 DISCC was charged with all other Phase II activities in the Western District.

Phase III: Gradual transition, varying from region to region and from medium to medium, to German information services directed by Germans under Allied supervision. This command was charged with all Phase III activities in the Western District.

#### B. ORGANIZATION.

The table of organization was set up to provide for an operational and administrative headquarters having under it a group of outposts in the various target areas designated for this command. As of 15 July 1945, there were 165 personnel assigned and attached (T/O 86% complete), of whom 82 were continuously at outposts and approximately 20 more on missions taking them into the field for a day or so at a time. Illustrative of the size of the task which faced information control personnel working in target areas is the estimate that DISCC outpost personnel in a two-month period screened well over a thousand Germans in connection with information services activities and general pertinent intelligence. This command had outposts in the following target cities: Bremen, Kassel, Marburg, Frankfurt, Heidelberg, and Stuttgart. Other personnel on specific missions were located at Aachen, Bad Nauheim, Bad Homburg, Mannheim, Darmstadt, and Karlsruhe. In addition to the outposts, a system of liaison had to be established with the Military Government detachments in order to determine priorities for DISCC activity in outlying areas not covered by target town, and to keep the detachments fully informed of DISCC activities and facilities available for use by Military Government.

The table of equipment, which proved inadequate, was originally set up to enable a large part of each "media" section to be mobile. The necessity for mobility is indicated by the fact that of 48 vehicles allotted in the T/E, 36 were employed directly in conjunction with operations at the various outposts, and some of the remainder were constantly on the road servicing outpost personnel. Based on gasoline consumption figures for the headquarters vehicles only (which probably traveled less than the outpost vehicles), a conservative estimate of the distance covered weekly by all the vehicles of this command is 30,000 miles.

#### PART I

History from activation through 25 March 1945. 6871 DISCC was activated at Chateau Les Mesnuls, France, on 15 February 1945, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel William G. Downs, who subsequently became Executive

Officer when Colonel B. B. McMahon took command on 9 April 1945. At activation there were 7 officers and 84 enlisted men assigned, making the T/O 47.4% complete.

*Recruitment.* The officers and men had been recruited from four general groups:

- a. PWD Missions which had been completed.
- b. Personal knowledge of qualified personnel.
- c. By the Propaganda Branch, G-2, War Department.
- d. By requisition from limited service personnel.

*Training.* Aside from the fact that all personnel had to be specialists in their fields to be acceptable, there was no formal training period for this organization beyond a study of directives and intelligence. As much groundwork in the internal functioning of the organization as was possible prior to entering operations was accomplished. However, since the mission of this command was unique in the history of military operations, much of the planning had to be improvised as the mission developed.

Personnel for this command had been assembling at Chateau Les Mesnuls for several weeks prior to activation. By 5 March, the entire command had closed at Maxeville, France, a suburb of Nancy.

Colonel B. B. McMahon reached Versailles from England with 7 officers and 6 enlisted men on 8 March 1945. On 29 March, he established a forward headquarters for the command at Luxembourg, in order to be as close as possible to the area in which DISCC personnel would operate initially, and at the same time to keep in touch with PWB and the P&PW Officer, 12th Army Group, whose headquarters was at that time at the studios of Radio Luxembourg, also a PWD installation.

## PART II

History from 30 March through 31 May 1945. On 30 March 1945, 6871 DISCC was attached to Headquarters, Special Troops, 12th Army Group, but it was not until 28 April 1945, that the various elements of the command (Nancy and Luxembourg) had closed at the present and permanent headquarters, Schloss Hohenbuchau, Georgenborn, Germany, about 8.5 kilometers northwest of Wiesbaden. On that date the strength of this command was 30 officers and 84 enlisted men assigned and 8 US civilians attached, making the T/O 62% complete. Lieutenant Colonel John B. Stanley succeeded Colonel McMahon as Commanding Officer on 21 May 1945. The latter was assigned to command the 6870th DISCC, which had the same mission as this command for the Eastern District.



*Press Control Section:* The first mission of this command was the establishment at Cologne, of an Allied newspaper, and on 31 March a press reconnaissance team left Luxembourg to manage and operate the plant of the Koelnische Zeitung, previously requisitioned by P & PW, First US Army. The Koelnischer Kurier was first published on 2 April, as a weekly, having a total circulation of 304,000, based on an estimate of one paper per ten inhabitants.

The Koelnischer Kurier was not the first newspaper to be published in Germany, however. The Aachener Nachrichten, which pioneered in all phases of the press operation, was the first published on 24 January 1945, as a weekly, distributing through the postal system to the Regierungsbezirk Aachen. The personnel responsible for this pioneering operation all subsequently became members of 6871 DISCC. Unique amongst Allied newspapers being published in Germany, the Aachener Nachrichten remained under the control of this command continuously throughout Phase II. Initially, the Phase II press operation came under the dual control of this command and PWB, 12th Army Group; but conditions indicated a speed-up in paving the way for the Phase III operation, and this command withdrew all its personnel from the Allied newspaper operation, the more efficiently to concentrate on its original mission. Certain technical personnel remained on loan to PWB for its press operation as long as they were required by that organization.

In the course of the period of dual control, a series of press reconnaissances resulted in newspapers being established in Kassel, Braunschweig, Essen, Frankfurt, and Heidelberg, and by the end of May, the total circulation of Allied newspapers in Germany jumped to over 3,000,000. At this time a considerable part of the P & PW, 12th Army Group operation extended into what is now British and French territory; for this reason there were attached to 6871 DISCC from the information control unit in B, L. A. Headquarters, several liaison officers both from Press and Radio Section.

*Radio Control Section:* A reconnaissance party left Nancy 6 April, to determine the condition of the primary radio installation of this command: Radio Stuttgart. The transmitter for the station, which is situated at Muhlacker (37 kilometers northwest of Stuttgart), was still under artillery and small-arms fire when the reconnaissance party reached it. It was discovered that German troops had spent five and a half hours sabotaging the transmitter. Fortunately, though the damage done was extensive, it was superficial, since the saboteurs did not know the critical targets to be destroyed in such an installation. (The Cologne transmitter was systematically destroyed by retreating Germans.)

Subsequent to the clearance of the city of Stuttgart by French forces, the entire Radio Control Section of this command moved to the P. T. T. building in that city preparatory to the reconstruction and operation of this station.

*Publications Control Section.* As in other sections, the first task of the Publications Control Section was to make a reconnaissance of the whole area. This mission included not only investigation of book publishers and printers, but also a check on the stock of all booksellers, all of whom were closed down in accordance with Military Law 191. Objectionable books were sold by owners to old-paper dealers for pulping. Subsequently, acceptable book sellers were allowed to re-open their stores. During this period, 181 bookshops were inspected.

*Film, Theater and Music Control Section.* This section also undertook extensive reconnaissance during this period. Approximately 4,000 films were impounded at the various film dumps which section personnel located and examined. Deutsche Film Vertrieb and other film exchanges located in Frankfurt were also inspected. During this period the section checked 46 cinemas.

### PART III

#### Operations from 1 June through 15 July 1945

*Radio Control Section.* On 3 June 1945, an informal ceremony marked the return of Radio Stuttgart to the air. In less than two months American engineers had accomplished the task of repairing the transmitter, a task which German engineers had estimated would take a year. A mobile studio (696) was brought from Luxembourg to Stuttgart to serve until such time as a permanent studio could be built at the P. T. T. Building. Radio Stuttgart's original studio at Bad Mergentheim had been damaged beyond repair by the Germans in their retreat.

Radio Stuttgart, a station of the Military Government, operated in what was, until 8 July, French territory. The French Military Governor of Wuerttemberg, who throughout the period of his residence in Stuttgart made every effort to facilitate the work of the personnel of this command, did not feel authorized by the French authorities to make use of the facilities of the station. On 8 July, when American troops moved into Stuttgart, the American Military Governor of Wuerttemberg spoke over the station to the German people in his area.

Radio Stuttgart, under the Nazis, operated two 100-kw transmitters. The more modern of the two was first repaired. The American transmitter engineers began work on repairing the second for use as an American Forces Network transmitter as soon as the first went on the air.

*Press Control Section.* The outstanding event of this period was the issuance to the publisher of the Aachener Nachrichten, of the first Phase III license in the Allied Zone. In a formal ceremony held at Aachen on 27 June, Brigadier General Robert A. McClure, Chief PWD, presented Information Control License No. 1 to Heinrich Hollands. He had served as general manager in the Aachen plant under the original PWD Press Control Team which started the Aachener Nachrichten, in January.

Meanwhile, press reconnaissance in the various target areas developed potential licensees in nearly every city. A board of seven men was licensed on 13 July to operate the new Frankfurt Phase III newspaper. License applications of similar boards were shortly to be submitted for Stuttgart, Heidelberg and Kassel.

The organization of balanced editorial boards for papers in Bremen, Marburg, and Wiesbaden progressed to a point where within a few weeks license applications were to be submitted for them as well.

The press operation in the university town of Marburg developed into a three-fold project: in addition to a "think" monthly paper, a daily wall-sheet of news bulletins and a weekly newspaper were being projected.

*Publications Control Section.* During this period, 22 potential licenses were investigated, of whom 16 were rejected on grounds of lack of honesty and political integrity in the past. Several license applications were submitted for final consideration, one of which, that of a Heidelberg publisher, had been approved at this writing. This section made every effort to encourage new groups to apply for publishing licenses.

An unofficial distribution system was established, pending the re-establishment of normal communications and transport.

Cooperative groups were formed to allow mutual and equitable benefit for all from the sale of overt Allied publications.

The Boersenverein (the fair-trade organization of the German publishing industry) was introduced into this area, and with headquarters in Wiesbaden, having been brought from Leipzig. Arrangements were made for the revival of the house organ of the Boersenverein, which would list approved dealers' new books, and all other information pertinent to the book trade.

During this period, 98 bookshops were inspected.

*Film, Theater, and Music Control Section.* The first license to be issued in this phase of 6871 DISCC's operation was to the Stadtintendant of the Stuttgart

theater, on 8 July, the day the Americans took over in Stuttgart. On that day, for first time, a German symphony concert was recorded and broadcast by Radio Stuttgart, as a demonstration to the people of that area of the interest of the American Occupation Authority in German cultural activities. Similar licenses were granted in Wiesbaden and Frankfurt. Extensive reconnaissance continued in all fields of entertainment: 393 cinemas and legitimate theaters were inspected in 205 cities and towns, and 1440 films were impounded. The possibilities of establishing a central distribution agency for the Western District were being studied.

*General.* During this period DISCC briefed all Military Government detachments in this area on the registration procedure outlined in Information Control Regulation No. 1, which stated that non-creative persons (printers, booksellers, film exhibitors, etc.) must be registered by Military Government before they could operate. Registration under this regulation progressed throughout the Western District.

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## PART XLVIII

### ADDITIONAL UNITS

In addition to the above units, there were more than 60 other organizations either attached or assigned to Headquarters Spezial Tropps at various times during its 21-month history, most of which were under operational control of other headquarters.

The following assigned units provided signal facilities for 12th Army Group under the direction of Signal Section, 12th Army Group:

167th Signal Photo Company; 36th Signal Heavy Construction Battalion; 40th Signal Construction Battalion; 246th Signal Operations Company (attached Third Army); 302d Signal Operations Battalion; 305th Signal Operations Battalion; 2d Signal Center Team (attached 305th Signal Operations Battalion); 3d Signal Center Team (attached 302d Signal Operations Battalion); 6th Signal Center Team (attached First Army); 7th Signal Center Team (attached Third Army); 3186th Signal Service Battalion; 3906th Signal Service Battalion; Company C, 54th Signal Construction Battalion; 135th Signal Radio Intelligence Company; 3103d Signal Service Battalion; 280th Signal Pigeon Company; 282d Signal Pigeon Company; 45th Signal Heavy Construction Battalion; 3112th Signal Service Battalion; 3263d Signal Service Company; 25th Signal Heavy Construction Battalion; and Detachment A, 3190th Signal Company.

Attached signal units, also controlled by Signal Section, 12th Army Group, were:

No. 2 Special Cipher Section (Type M); No. 6 Sec., No. 1, Special Wireless Group; 13th Wireless Tel. Det. (Type M); 30th WGI Section, Mobile Section No. 1, Special Wireless Group; Mobile Section No. 1, Signal Wireless Group; and 110th Special Wireless Section, Type B; all of which were assigned to Royal Signal Corps (British).

Additional attached units, controlled by Signal Section, 12th Army Group, included:

RCM Detachment (assigned 3103d Signal Service Battalion); Phantom Detachment (British) (assigned 302d Signal Operations Battalion); Mobile Direction Finding Team (attached 114th Sig RI Company); 29th Signal Construction Battalion (assigned ADSEC, attached 3146th Signal Service Group); 259th Signal Construction Company (Assigned AdSec, attached 3146th Sig Sv Gp); 267th Signal Construction Company (assigned AdSec, attached 3146th Sig Sv Gp); 270th

Signal Construction Co (assigned AdSec); 179th Signal Repair Company (assigned Com Z, attached 167th Signal Photo Company); Detachment F, 999th Signal Service Co (assigned Com Z, attached 305th Sig Ops Bn); Det H/H, 3159th Sig Sv Co (assigned Com Z, attached 305th Sig Ops Bn); Detachment, 5th Headquarters Signals (British) (assigned SHAEF, attached 305th Signal Ops Bn); Enemy Equipment Intelligence Service Detachment No. 2 (assigned ETOUSA, attached 305th Sig Ops Bn); 50th, 52d, and 53rd Pigeon Detachments; Troop Carrier Wing, 9th Troop Carrier Command (assigned USAF, attached 2nd Platoon, 280th Signal Pigeon Co); Signal Security SF Detachment No. 12 (assigned OSS, attached 305th Sig Ops Bn); 137th Signal Radio Intelligence Co (attached Sig Sec Det "D", assigned 9th Army); Detachment, 188th Signal Repair Co (assigned 9th Army, attached 167th Sig Photo Co); 819th Sig Port Sv Co (assigned Com Z); 980th Sig Sv Co (attached 305th Sig Ops Bn); 3163rd Sig Sv Co (assigned ETOUSA); No. 12, Multi-Channel Sec, 5th Hq Sig (British) (assigned SHAEF, attached 305th Sig Ops Bn).

Other units assigned to Special Troops for administrative control included 23rd Headquarters and Headquarters Company, and its components, 3109th Signal Company (Special), 603rd Engineer Camouflage Battalion (Special), 406th Engr Cam Bn (Sp) and the 3132nd Sig Sv Co (Sp). These organizations were under operational control of G-3, 12th Army Group.

31st Chemical Decontamination Company was also assigned to Special Troops but came under control of G-2 Section, 12th Army Group, which employed the company as a headquarters and service unit for T-Force. In May and June 1945, however, company personnel were employed as security guards in Wiesbaden.

The 3rd Psychological Warfare Detachment was assigned to SHAEF and attached to Special Troops 72nd Publicity Service Battalion. Photo Interpretation Detachment No. 46, attached to Special Troops, was assigned to MIS, ETOUSA. Headquarters, B and C Batteries, 226th AAA Searchlight Battalion, assigned Com Z, was attached to Special Troops, as were the 34th, 40th and 163rd Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squads, all assigned to 15th Army. Company A, 298th Engineer-Constructions Co was attached to Special Troops while engaged in cleaning-up operations in Wiesbaden under control of the Headquarters Commandant, 12th Army Group. The 279th Army Ground Force Band and the 739th Ord HAM Co were assigned to Special Troops in April 1945 but were redeployed before either became operational.

The 37th Machine Records Unit (Type Z), which operated under control of the Adjutant General's Section, 12th Army Group, was attached to Special

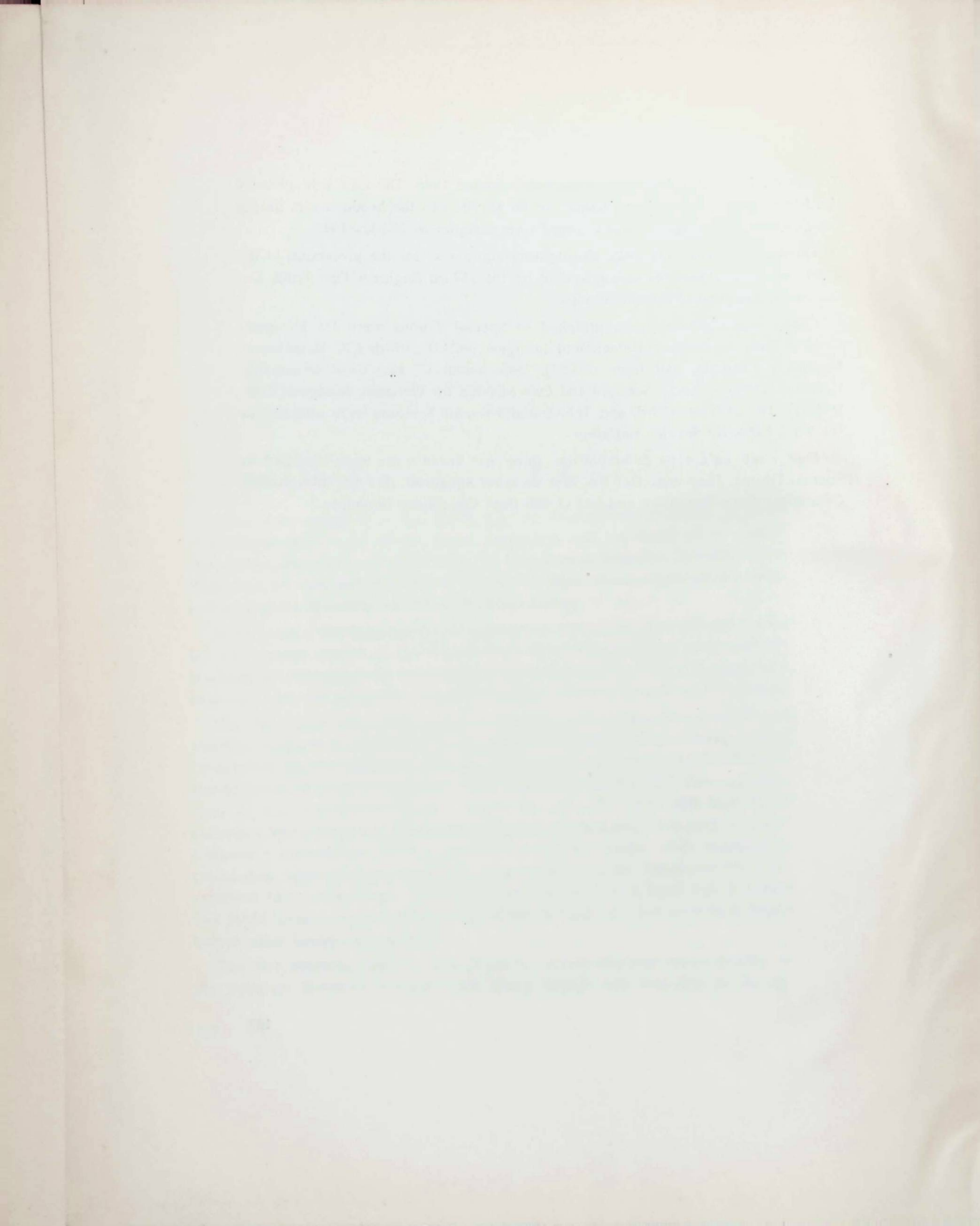
Troops on 1 January 1944, and assigned in March 1945. The unit was awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque for its services to the headquarters during the European campaign, It was relieved from assignment 25 May 1945.

During June and July 1945, fire-fighting equipment for the protection of the army group headquarters was provided by the 2873rd Engineer Fire Truck Detachment, assigned to Special Troops.

Other miscellaneous units attached to Special Troops were 1st European Civil Affairs Accounting Detachment (assigned ECAD), 970th CIC Detachment (assigned ETOUSA and later USFET), Detachment C, Hq. Civil Censorship Division (assigned Seine Section) and OSS Mission for Germany (assigned OSS, USFET). The 3171st, 3173rd, and 3174th Radio Repair Sections were attached to the 72nd Publicity Service Battalion.

One week before its de-activation, three Air Force units were attached to Special Troops. They were Det AA, 21st Weather Squadron; Det AA, 40th Mobile Communications Squadron, and Det O, 9th Base Operations Squadron.









LONDON

6 JUNE '44

Cherbourg

St. Lô

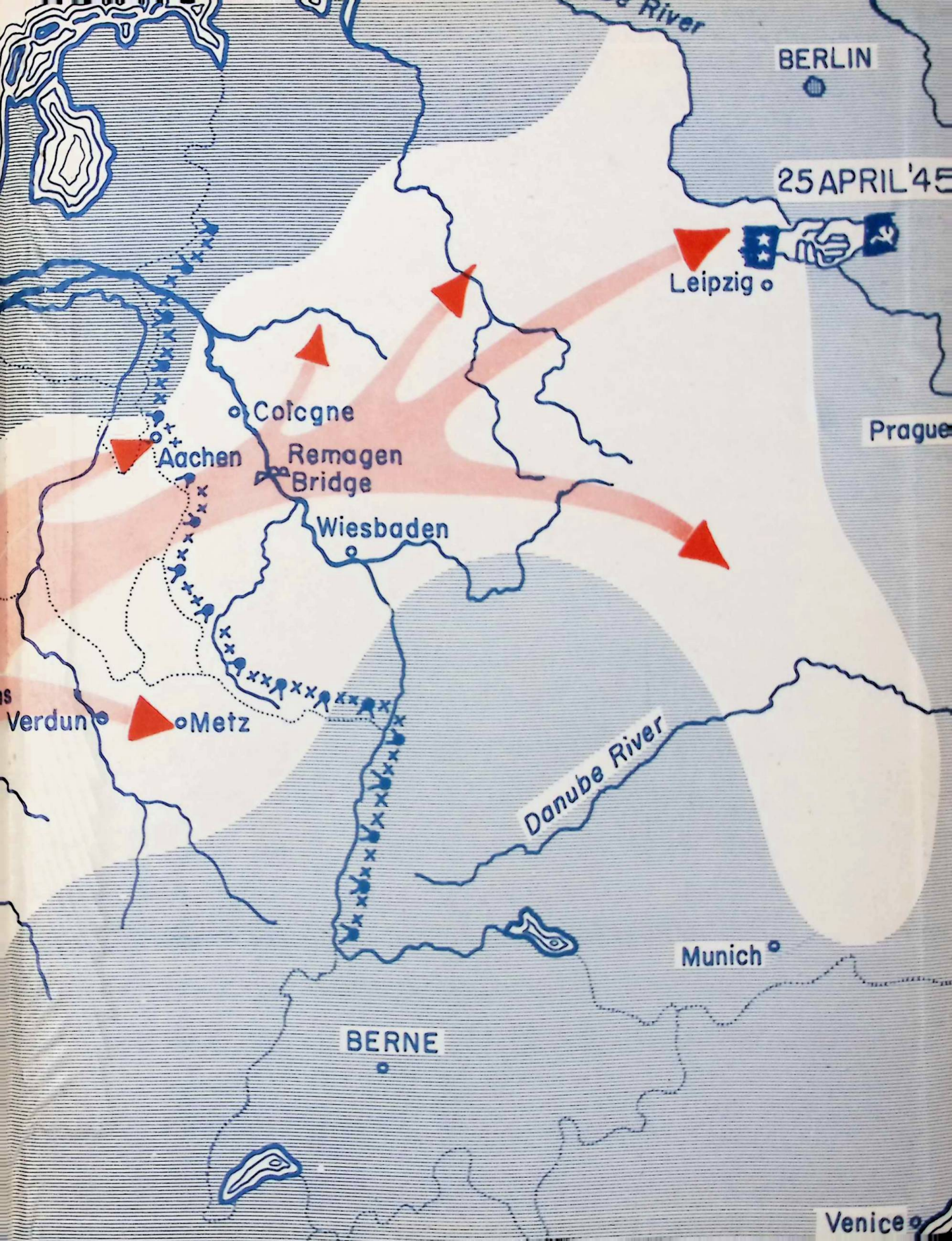
Brest

Rennes

PARIS

Loire River

Rein



BERLIN

25 APRIL '45

Leipzig

Cologne

Aachen

Remagen Bridge

Wiesbaden

Verdun

Metz

Prague

Danube River

Munich

BERNE

Venice

