

1947

History of the XVI Corps from its activation to the end of the war in Europe

United States Army

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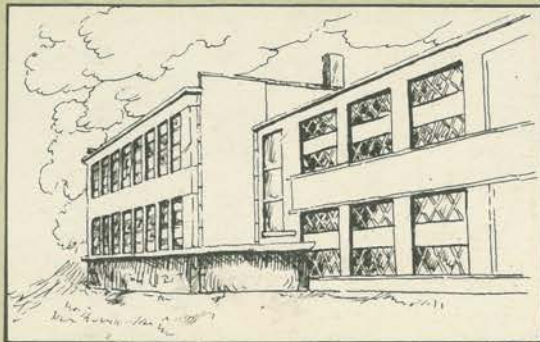
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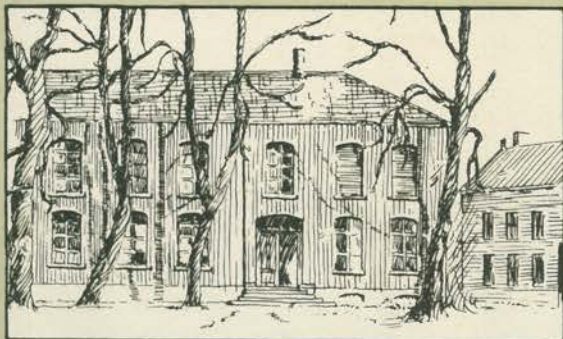
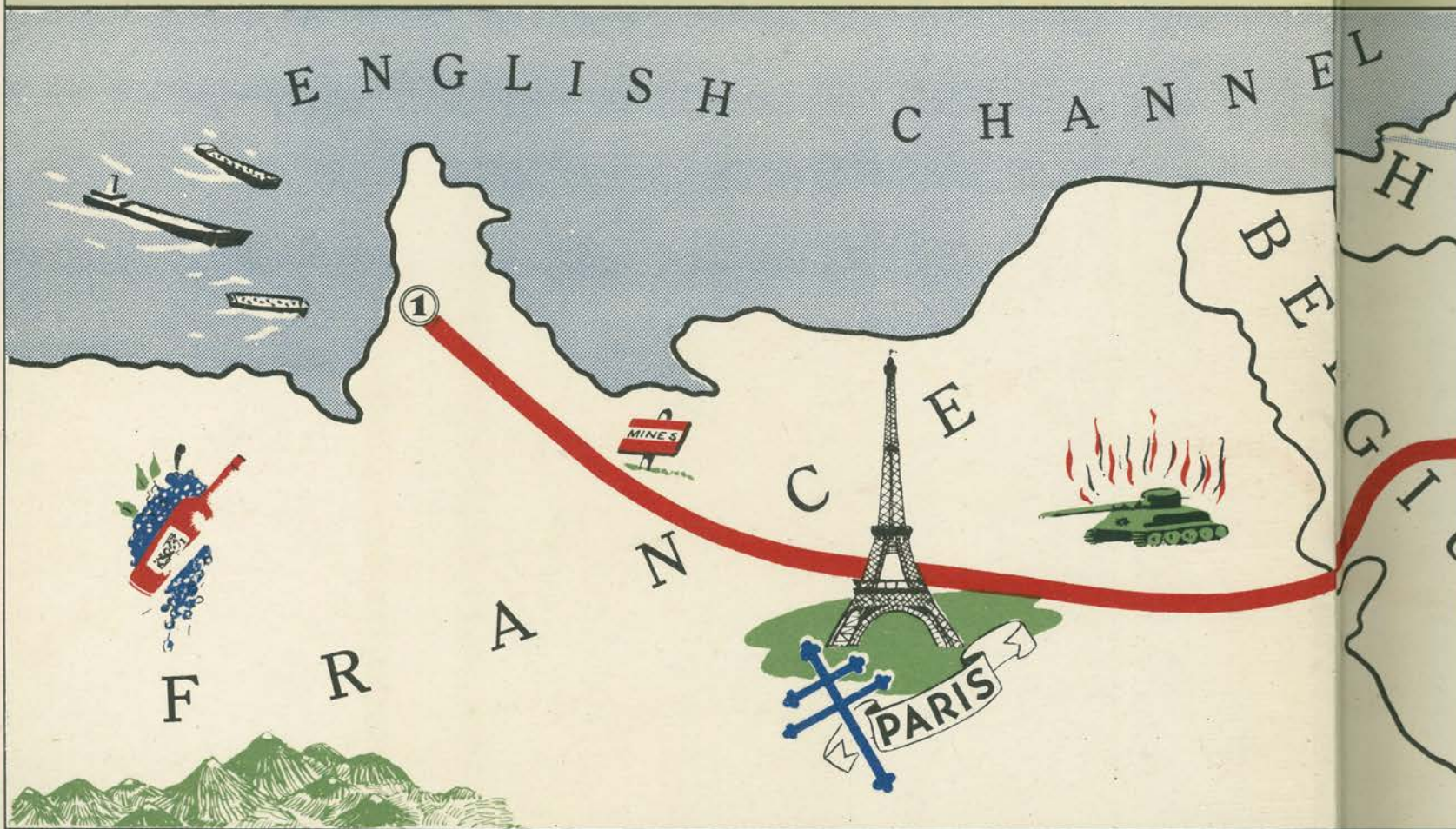
① CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
BARNEVILLE, FRANCE
28 Sept.-28 Nov. 1944



② CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
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30 Nov.-22 Dec., 1944



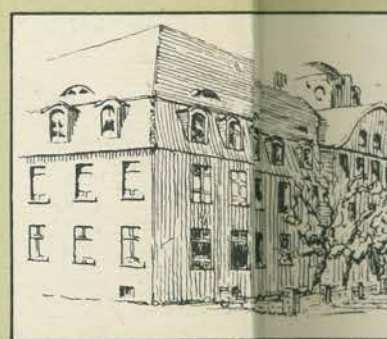
③ CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
HEERLE, HOLLAND,
22 Dec., 1944-2 Feb., 1945



⑥ CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
NIEUKIRK, GERMANY,
8 Mar.-19 Mar., 1945



⑦ CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
LINTFORT, GERMANY,
19 Mar.-28 Mar., 1945



⑧ CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
LETKAMPSF, GERMANY,
28 Mar-April, 1945



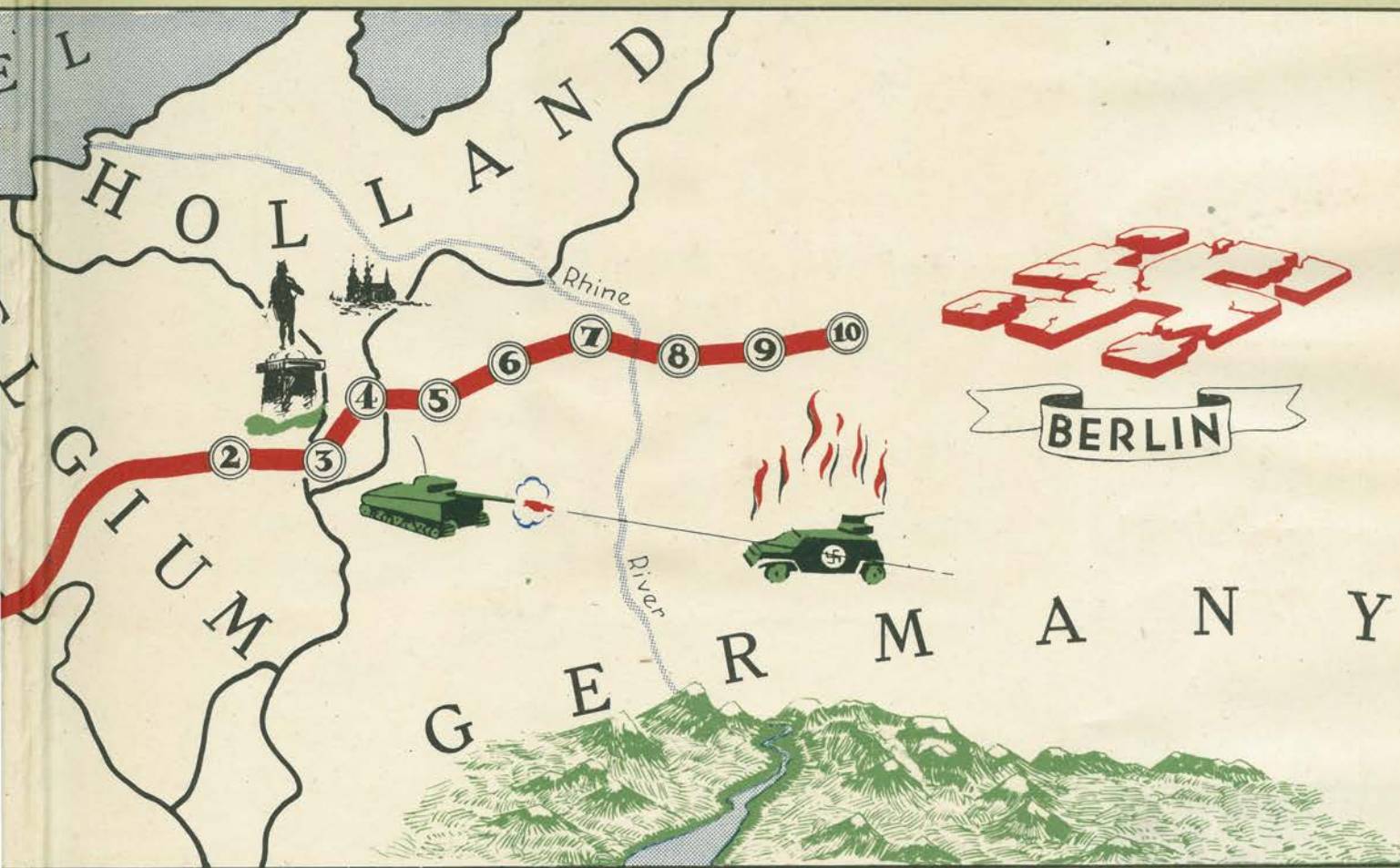
HEADQUARTERS AT
VEN, HOLLAND,
1 Feb. - 2 Feb., 1945



④ CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
SITTARD, HOLLAND,
2 Feb.-3 Mar., 1945



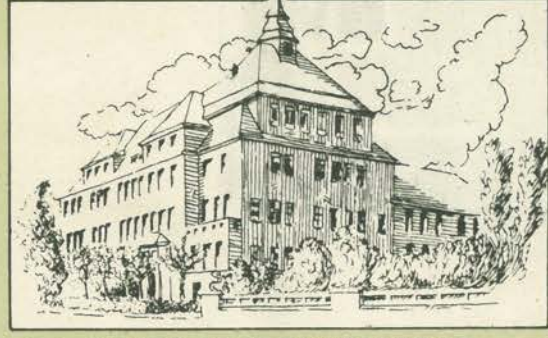
⑤ CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
KALDENKIRCHEN, GERMANY,
3 Mar.-8 Mar., 1945



HEADQUARTERS AT
HOF, GERMANY,
1 April - 7 April, 1945



⑨ CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
RECKLINGHAUSEN, GERMANY,
7 April - 28 April, 1945



⑩ CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
BECKUM, GERMANY,
28 April - June 5, 1945

HISTORY OF THE XVI CORPS



British
7th Armored Division



U.S.
79th Infantry Division



U.S.
75th Infantry Division



U.S.
8th Armored Division



U.S.
35th Infantry Division



U.S.
15th Cavalry Group



U.S.
30th Infantry Division



U.S.
29th Infantry Division



U.S.
17th Airborne Division



U.S.
95th Infantry Division

HISTORY OF THE XVI CORPS

*From Its Activation to the End of
The War in Europe*



WASHINGTON
INFANTRY JOURNAL PRESS

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For information address Infantry Journal Press, 1115 17th Street NW, Washington 6, D. C.

FIRST EDITION
FEBRUARY 1947

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FORMER
OF THE
INFANTRY JOURNAL
PUBLISHED BY
INFANTRY JOURNAL INC.

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The services of the following agencies and individuals, through which publication of this volume was made possible, are greatly appreciated: The Army Pictorial Service and the photographers associated with it, for the photographs reproduced herein; Col. Samson Z. Abelow, AGD, for supervising the writing of the original draft; Lieut. Col. Norman D. King, GSC, for proofreading the final draft; Major Paul F. Lueth, Jr., GSC, for preparation of the final draft and lay-out; T/Sgt. Walter H. Croft, T/4 Elwood P. Engel and Travers E. Dowling and T/5 Russell H. Hadden, for artistry and drafting; Cpl. Henry S. Ehle, for conducting the necessary research on official files and for the preparation of the original draft. And last, but not least, much credit is due to Colonel Harold G. "Doc" Furlong for his work as secretary and treasurer of the XVI Corps Historical Association.



MAJOR GENERAL JOHN B. ANDERSON
Commanding General, XVI Corps

Maj. Gen. John B. Anderson was born in Parkersburg, Iowa, on 10 March 1891. He attended schools there, entered the United States Military Academy at West Point and was graduated as a 2d lieutenant of Field Artillery in 1914. Assigned to the 6th Field Artillery at El Paso, Texas, he saw three years of service in Texas and Arizona and then sailed with the 6th Field Artillery for France in 1917 as a captain.

He saw combat service as a regimental adjutant in the Sommerville sector southeast of Nancy in October and November 1917, and served with the British Expeditionary Forces at Ypres, Belgium, in February and March 1918. He then became Adjutant of the 1st Field Artillery Brigade and served in the sector north of Toul, France, and later served as battery and battalion commander with his old outfit, the 6th Field Artillery, at Cantigny.

General Anderson was ordered back to the United States for an assignment at the Army War College, Washington, D. C., on 15 May 1918, and from there he reported to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for a short tour of duty before being assigned to the Office of the Chief of Field Artillery. By this time he had risen to the temporary rank of lieutenant colonel. This tour of duty lasted for four years, and then came a series of school and troop assignments both at home and abroad.

In 1923 and 1924 he commanded the 83d Field

Artillery; during 1925-1927 he served with the 24th Field Artillery in Manila; and from 1928 to 1932 he was on the War Department General Staff, during which he represented the War Department at the International Conference on Sick and Wounded Soldiers and Prisoners of War, at Geneva, Switzerland, in 1929. Between these tours of duty, he attended the Advanced Course of the Field Artillery School in 1923; the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, from which he was graduated with honors in 1925; and finally the Army War College, Washington, D. C., in 1928. He was assigned to the 13th Field Artillery Brigade at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in 1932, and in 1934 he returned to Fort Leavenworth for a four-year tour as an instructor at the Command and General Staff School.

Completing his assignment as an instructor, the General was assigned to the Office of the Chief of Field Artillery until 1941, when he returned to Texas as Division Artillery commander in the famous 2d Infantry Division at Fort Sam Houston, holding the temporary rank of brigadier general. In June 1942, he left the 2d Infantry Division to organize and command the 102d Infantry Division at Camp Maxey, Texas. He was promoted to the temporary rank of major general on 4 August 1942, and he received orders on 28 December 1943 to command the XVI Corps at Fort Riley, Kansas.



BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES C. BROWN
Commanding General, XVI Corps Artillery

Brig. Gen. Charles C. Brown, born in Houston, Texas, 3 January 1890, was graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1910 and, after attending a course of training at the First Officers' Training Camp at Fort Riley, Kansas, he was commissioned captain of Infantry, Officers' Reserve Corps, on 15 August 1917. He served overseas with the 92d (colored) Division, first as Adjutant (captain), and subsequently as battalion commander (major) of the 317th Ammunition Train. He was promoted to major of Infantry, Officers' Reserve Corps, on 28 September 1918. Vacating his temporary commis-

sion as major, he was appointed a captain in the Regular Army and assigned to the Quartermaster Corps in July 1920, and in February 1924 he was transferred in grade to the Field Artillery. He was promoted to major, Regular Army, in 1935; to lieutenant colonel, Regular Army, in 1940; and on 24 December 1941, shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, to colonel (temporary) Army of the United States.

As Corps Artillery commander, he was promoted to the temporary rank of brigadier general on 4 September 1944.



COLONEL GEORGE R. BARKER
Chief of Staff, XVI Corps

Col. George R. Barker, born in Atlanta, Georgia, on 16 February 1894, was graduated from the Marist Military College and the Georgia School of Technology and was commissioned a 2d lieutenant of Cavalry on 22 March 1917. Later transferred to Infantry, he attained the permanent grade of captain on 20 December 1918, served in Panama from 1920 to 1923, and was assigned to duty with the 76th Division, then Organized Reserves, from 1924 to 1927. He attended the Field Officers' Advanced Course at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia, from 1927 to 1928, served with the Headquarters Company, 18th Brigade, from 1928 to 1930, and, promoted to major, he then attended the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. From 1932 to 1936, he served as an in-

structor in the G-3 and G-4 Sections at the Command and General Staff School.

Stationed at the University of Florida from 1936 to 1939, he served as instructor and Professor of Military Science and Tactics, and, promoted to lieutenant colonel, he served from 1939 to 1940 as Deputy Chief of Staff and G-3 of the Third Army. In his capacity as G-3, Colonel Barker organized and operated control groups for the first great American army maneuvers since World War I, maneuvers in which more than 70,000 troops participated. He was promoted to colonel, Army of the United States, on 14 October 1941, and served as Chief of Staff of the VIII Corps from June 1942 to December 1943. He assisted in the organization of the XIV and VIII Corps, as well as the XVI Corps.

HISTORY OF THE XVI CORPS

I: PRELUDE TO COMBAT

With the activation of the XVI Corps on 7 December 1943, the War Department added another fighting Corps to its rapidly expanding Army of the United States, a Corps that was destined within little more than a year to make an historic assault across Europe's Rhine River and to play an important part in the United States Ninth and First Armies' encirclement of the vital Ruhr industrial area and the total defeat of Nazi Germany. Under the command of Maj. Gen. John B. Anderson, Corps commander since shortly after its organization, the XVI Corps proved in training and in combat operations its right to a place among the leading Corps of the United States armies. It conducted an efficient training program in preparation for combat prior to its departure from the United States. Arriving in France, it assumed the responsibility of processing troops as they arrived on the European Continent and protected the Normandy beaches from possible counter-attacks by hostile forces on the nearby Channel Islands. The XVI Corps protected the Ninth United States Army's northern flank in the Roer River assault, driving the German foe from the Roer to the Rhine River so relentlessly that enemy units in the north were unable to aid the hard-pressed German forces being hammered on other sectors of the Ninth Army front. It smashed across the Rhine in a great inland amphibious operation and drove inexorably onward to assist in trapping crack German Armies in the Ruhr valley. The Corps swept the Germans from the big industrial cities north of the Ruhr River, including Essen, Dortmund, Duisburg, and Gelsenkirchen, swinging south as the Ninth and First Armies combined to crush all enemy resistance in the Ruhr. Then, turning from tactical operations to other duties, it directed the military occupation and government of the greater section of the German provinces of Westphalia, Lippe, and Schaumburg Lippe.

Organized at Fort Riley, Kansas, the new Corps received its officers from almost all sections of the United States and from a few overseas stations. They wore the shoulder sleeve insignia of practically as many different branches, services, and units of the Army as there were individuals. The majority of the enlisted men were obtained through a cadre transferred from Headquarters III Corps, although a number were from various other organizations.

In the absence of a commanding general, Col.

(later Brig. Gen.) Charles C. Brown, Field Artillery, as the senior officer present for duty assumed command of the Corps on 7 December 1943. On 4 January 1944, Maj. Gen. John B. Anderson, United States Army, joined and assumed command of the Corps, and Colonel Brown swung his full attention to his duties as commander of the XVI Corps Artillery. At the same time, Col. George R. Barker, General Staff Corps, arrived to become the Corps Chief of Staff. The original chiefs of the General and Special Staff sections, with their ranks at date of appointment, were:

Deputy Chief of Staff, Col. Marion P. Echols, (Appointed 26 Feb. '44).

A. C. of S., G-1, Col. Harry Knight.

A. C. of S., G-2, Lt. Col. Clarence C. Clendenen.

A. C. of S., G-3, Col. Frank G. Davis.

A. C. of S., G-4, Lt. Col. Otto L. McDaniel.

Adjutant General, Lt. Col. Clarence M. Virtue.

Inspector General, Lt. Col. Harold R. Booth.

Finance Officer, Col. James H. Dickie.

Judge Advocate, Lt. Col. Lawrence C. Case.

Ordnance Officer, Lt. Col. Horace F. Bigelow.

Quartermaster, Lt. Col. Charles Cavelli, Jr.

Signal Officer, Lt. Col. John V. Tower.

Engineer Officer, Col. John W. Wheeler.

Chemical Officer, Col. Arthur T. Brice.

Surgeon, Lt. Col. Harold A. Furlong.

Special Service Officer, Lt. Col. Raymond Givens.

Chaplain, Lt. Col. Hamilton H. Kellogg.

Headquarters Commandant and Provost Marshal,
Lt. Col. Ernest F. Walker.

Changes in these assignments since organization of the Corps have been few. Col. Jesse B. Wells, General Staff Corps, became Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, on 30 May 1944, succeeding Colonel Davis, who in turn on that date succeeded Colonel Echols as Deputy Chief of Staff. On 3 July 1944, Colonel Frederic de L. Comfort, General Staff Corps, succeeded Lt. Col. Clendenen as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2. With the addition of the fifth General Staff Section on 26 September 1944, Lt. Col. Randall J. Larson, General Staff Corps, was appointed Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, and on 19 December 1944, he was succeeded by Col. John K. Cunningham, General Staff Corps. Lt. Col. Samson Z. Abelow, Adjutant General's Department, became Adjutant General on 11 June 1944,

with the reassignment of Colonel Virtue. Lt. Col. Roy L. Jones, Ordnance Department, became Ordnance Officer on 19 July 1944, following the transfer of Lt. Col. Bigelow. Lt. Col. Thad A. Broom, Quartermaster Corps, was appointed Quartermaster on 29 July 1944, to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Lt. Col. Cavelli, and Lt. Col. James E. Lewis, Infantry, took over the duties of Headquarters Commandant and Provost Marshal on 1 July 1944, on the reassignment of Lt. Col. Walker. Retaining his appointment as Provost Marshal, Lt. Col. Lewis turned over the duties of Headquarters Commandant to Capt. James J. Freda, Infantry, on 10 May 1945. Major Fred G. White, Army of the United States, succeeded Lt. Col. Givens as Special Service Officer, and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Eugene L. Nixon, Chaplains Corps, succeeded Colonel Kellogg as Corps Chaplain.

First units were assigned to the Corps as of midnight on 1 January 1944, and the Corps immediately embarked on a training mission that was accomplished so enthusiastically and thoroughly that it was selected for overseas service ahead of other corps activated many months earlier. With troops under its control stationed throughout six scattered states, the Corps met and successfully solved the problems of directing the training of all types of combat units at Camps Carson and Hale, Colorado; Camp Chaffee, Arkansas; Camp Crowder, Missouri; Camp Gruber, Oklahoma; Camp Phillips and Fort Riley, Kansas; and Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. Devoting careful attention to each unit under its command, the XVI Corps was engaged from 1 January through 16 July 1944, in giving its troops every possible type of training that would fit them to win victory for American arms in the historic days to come when they would throw their might into the battle in fighting fronts throughout the world.

Winter maneuvers were conducted by the Corps at Watersmeet, Michigan, from 16 February to 15 March 1944, as important tests to determine the worth and wisest application of tactical doctrines for operations under conditions of snow and extreme cold and to determine the suitability of the new type of Army clothing and equipment for troops fighting under such conditions. The 76th Infantry Division was used as the chief component in the maneuvers under the careful direct supervision of Corps Staff officers. In other operations conducted at Land o'Lakes, the Corps gave the first tactical tests of the

Weasel, since famous amphibious tracked vehicle which was used later to such advantage by American forces in the battle of the Ardennes and in other outstanding operations on the Western Front. Division exercises were conducted for the 10th Light Division at Camp Hale, Colorado, for the 71st Light Division at Camp Carson, Colorado, and for the 76th Infantry Division at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. In addition, division Army Ground Forces tests were held for the 104th Infantry Division at Camp Carson, Colorado, and the 44th Infantry Division at Camp Phillips, Kansas. Other Army Ground Forces tests, such as battalion field exercises, battalion combat exercises and artillery firing tests were also conducted by the busy but untiring officers of the Corps.

Particular attention was given by the Corps during all this time to the physical conditioning of all troops under its command to fit them to withstand the greatest possible extremes of temperature and all types of weather. Physical fitness tests were given to attached units under the supervision of the Corps Special Service Office during the period from February through July 1944. Corps units averaged 87½ per cent, a high average for such tests and a figure indicative of the soundness of the physical conditioning program which had been incorporated in the Corps training schedule.

The XVI Corps by this time was becoming well known as the Compass Corps, owing to the fact that it had adopted a shoulder sleeve insignia consisting of a large white compass rose with a blue center and sixteen points imposed upon an olive drab shield. This insignia, officially approved by the



War Department on 10 April 1944, was designed by T/Sgt. Howard M. Sargeant of the Corps Artillery Headquarters. Employing the Corps colors, blue and white, in the shield, the compass design was considered indicative or symbolic of the readiness of the Corps personnel to serve their country in any part of the world.

This readiness was soon to be given a fitting test. As a result of its outstanding record in training, the XVI Corps was ordered to prepare for overseas service in accordance with a directive from Headquarters Second Army, which assigned a readiness date for movement from home station of 1 September 1944. At midnight on 16 July 1944, the Corps turned over its training mission to the newly activated XXXVI Corps and began final preparations for its role in the great clash of the armies of Democracy with the armed might of tyranny on whichever of the world's battlefields it might be destined to fight.

The Corps headquarters moved into the field on the Fort Riley reservation on 21 July 1944, for a command post exercise conducted by Second Army, with Maj. Gen. Jonathan W. Anderson, XXXVI Corps commander, as director and Col. George R. Barker, XVI Corps Chief of Staff, as deputy director. In these important tests, which continued until 1 August 1944, the Corps staff again demonstrated its fitness for active combat operations and its ability to conduct such operations swiftly and skillfully to a successful termination. The Corps' preparation for overseas movement was intensified during August, and long hours were devoted to training, personnel processing, and preparation of equipment for shipment overseas. Considerable time was devoted to the firing of individual weapons. An intensive physical conditioning program was instituted for Corps headquarters personnel, and many hours were consumed in other extended training that the Corps deemed it advisable for its personnel to have.

The advance detachment for the overseas movement of the Corps, consisting of 11 officers and 11 enlisted men under the command of Col. Frank G. Davis, Deputy Chief of Staff, left on 9 August 1944 by rail from Corps headquarters at Fort Riley. It reached its eastern seaboard destination, the staging area at Fort Hamilton, New York, on 11 August 1944, and six days later it boarded the steamship *Ile de France* at the New York Port of Embarkation for the transatlantic crossing. Reaching Gourock, Scotland, on 25 August 1944, the detachment moved out almost at once to the marshalling area near Winchester, England, and on 28 August 1944, it sailed from Southampton, England, for the European Continent. Landing at Utah Beach on the Normandy Coast on 30 August 1944, the detachment eagerly began its mission of making arrangements for the arrival and reception of the main body, a

mission it accomplished with dispatch, efficiency, and a high order of success.

The "Compass was boxed" on 4 September 1944, at a farewell dinner at the Polo Bungalow, Cavalry Replacement Training Center, Fort Riley, Kansas, attended by the Corps commander, his General and Special Staffs, officers on duty at Corps and Corps Artillery headquarters, and a number of distinguished guests, including the XXXVI Corps commander and his Chief of Staff, the Commanding General of the Cavalry Replacement Training Center and several of his staff, and the Commandant of the Cavalry School at Fort Riley.

The Corps Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Military Police Platoon, Corps Artillery Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, and the 216th Counterintelligence Corps Detachment entrained on 6 September 1944 for the staging area at Fort Slocum, New York, arriving there on 8 September 1944. They left Fort Slocum in the late afternoon of 19 September 1944, by harbor boat for the docks of the New York Port of Embarkation and boarded the steamship *Queen Mary* there for the transatlantic voyage. Pausing in the outer harbor to take aboard Mr. Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain, and his party, the huge ship cleared New York on 20 September 1944, and, crossing the ocean without undue incident, dropped anchor in the Firth of Clyde, off Greenock, Scotland, on 25 September 1944. Corps officers and men disembarked by harbor boats at Gourock, Scotland, on 26 September 1944, boarded two trains for an overnight journey to Southampton, England, arrived there the following morning, and marched to the wharves. There they boarded the steamships *Neuralia* and *Isle of Guernsey*, crossed the Channel, and dropped anchor on 28 September 1944 off the northeast coast of the Normandy Peninsula. Transferred to landing craft, Corps personnel moved ashore over Omaha Beach and proceeded by motor to prepared billets at Barneville-sur-Mer, France. There, at Barneville-sur-Mer, France, at 2230 hours on 28 September 1944, the XVI Corps officially opened its first command post in the European Theater of Operations and initiated preparations to begin the first of several increasingly important missions in the war against Germany. On arrival in the theater, the corps was assigned to Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's Ninth Army.

Assisting the III Corps in the processing of troops arriving on the Normandy Peninsula and later as-

suming sole responsibility for that task upon the departure of III Corps from Carteret, France, on 11 November 1944, the XVI Corps played an essential part in welding together the magnificent fighting forces that were to drive the enemy steadily backward in the next few months to his early ignominious defeat. In fulfilling this mission, the Corps established early contact with incoming troops at the point of entry, and supervised the reuniting of troops with their equipment, which arrived separately.

The XVI Corps also assumed the vital responsibility of protecting American supply lines in the rear area from any possible thrusts by an estimated hostile force of 20,000 to 25,000 troops on the nearby Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey, a task which aided our steadily advancing armies as they hammered the foe ceaselessly backward mile by mile toward Berlin and certain defeat. Beaches on the west coast of the Normandy Peninsula from Cap de la Hague to Coutainville were defended by the Corps so efficiently that at no time were these important supply lines threatened by enemy action.

Marking the first step in the undertaking of a new mission while still proceeding with the fulfillment of its previously assigned task, the Corps moved its command post from Barneville-sur-Mer, France, to Tongres, Belgium, opening there at 0800 hours on 30 November 1944. A rear detachment, consisting of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 20th Tank Destroyer Group, and several staff officers and men from the Corps headquarters, remained behind to complete the Corps processing mission.

The 78th Infantry Division was attached to the Corps on 1 December 1944, and the 106th Infantry Division was attached on the following day, but, owing to changes in plans, both were relieved from attachment on 5 December 1944. The 75th Infantry Division was then attached to the Corps on 9 December 1944. Having already established an outstanding record in its performance of previously assigned missions, the XVI Corps was selected to relieve the British XII Corps and on 16 December 1944, was ordered to prepare plans for that relief and for tactical operations to be launched in a sector adjacent to the Ninth Army area on the north.

In eager anticipation of this opportunity to strike its first combat blow, the Corps sent a planning group to Beek, Holland, to complete the staff work for the impending operation. These plans were of necessity changed as a result of the German break-

through in the Ardennes, and the Corps planning group was recalled on 20 December 1944. Moving its command post from Tongres, Belgium, to Heerlen, Holland, on 22 December 1944, the Corps continued planning for proposed operations. The XVI Corps Artillery Fire Direction Center began operations at Immendorf, Germany, under control of XIII Corps Artillery.

Maj. Gen. Anderson, Corps commander, was ordered to Headquarters XVIII Airborne Corps in the Ardennes as deputy corps commander on 26 December 1944, as the Allies moved to stem the great German breakthrough. Accompanied by representatives from the Corps G-2, G-3, Signal, and Artillery sections, General Anderson proceeded at once to the XVIII Airborne Corps to assist in the direction of strategy to halt the enemy. Changing conditions enabled General Anderson to return to the direction of XVI Corps plans on 29 December 1944, but other XVI Corps staff representatives remained to assist the XVIII Airborne Corps until 9 January 1945.

Harassed only by isolated bombing and strafing during the latter part of December, the Corps pushed training and planning activities and sent representatives from certain staff sections of its headquarters to operate with and in the XIII and XIX Corps staff sections for the purpose of gaining staff experience with an operational unit. The Corps mission of processing troops for combat was unofficially completed on 22 December 1944, when the 75th Infantry Division was relieved from attachment to the Corps, and this mission was officially declared as having been completely accomplished on 8 January 1945.

The drafting of plans for future operations of Corps and higher echelons was intensified in January as indications became more and more evident that the Corps would soon be given the chance to match its power and strategy with the German foe. While the Corps headquarters remained non-operational, its Artillery Headquarters and Headquarters Battery continued to assist the XIII Corps through the operation of its Artillery Fire Direction Center in the XIII Corps zone of action at Immendorf, Germany.

A complete training program was instituted during this period by the Corps headquarters for all its personnel by the daily preparation of simulated operational and administrative reports, such as situation and periodic reports and estimates of the situation, for simulated submission to higher headquarters.

These reports were based on the tactical situation as it existed on the XIII Corps zone.

Plans for operations were being brought to completion rapidly, and in accordance with them, the 5th Armored Division was attached to the Corps on 29 January 1945, the 35th Infantry Division was attached on 31 January 1945, and preparations were initiated to move the Corps forward echelon to Sittard, Holland. The 5th Armored Division was relieved from attachment on 1 February 1945, but it was replaced the same day by the 8th Armored Division. The XVI Corps Artillery Fire Direction Center, which had been operating under the XIII Corps since 22 December 1944, reverted to XVI Corps control on 1 February 1945. The 349th and 407th Field Artillery Groups became operational under XVI Corps control on 2 February 1945, to remain as anchor units of the Corps Artillery until

after the cessation of hostilities. The 291st Field Artillery Observation Battalion joined the Corps at the same time to contribute invaluable assistance in all combat operations by its superior collection and dissemination of survey, meteorological, and hostile battery data.

Directed to assume control of a sector held by the British XII Corps, the XVI Corps was assigned an important zone of responsibility on the left flank of the U. S. Ninth Army, a zone that gave the Corps a front line of approximately sixteen miles from the vicinity of Linne, Holland, just below Roermond, southeast to Randerath, Germany, facing the enemy's fortified Roer River and Siegfried Line. It was at 1200 hours on 6 February 1945 that the XVI Corps became operational under the control of the Ninth Army in the European Theater of Operations.



II: THE ROER RIVER CROSSING

The XVI Corps, in its first combat operation, turned a comparatively small role into a major battle offensive by the outstanding strategy it employed and the brilliant and exceedingly swift execution of its plans. It established its own bridgehead over the Roer River when operational difficulties made it impossible for the XIII Corps to make a bridgehead available as originally planned. Sweeping over the Roer, it smashed into and through the famous and vaunted Siegfried Line with its heavy network of concrete shelters, pillboxes, dug-in emplacements, and other formidable defensive obstacles. The Corps moved north to establish and maintain contact with the Canadian First Army. It smashed to the Rhine River in a furious, irresistible drive and joined with British elements in crushing the German's Wesel bridgehead where the enemy was making last desperate efforts to evacuate his troops to the east of the Rhine River. It ably protected the Ninth Army's northern flank throughout the entire offensive, hammering the enemy so relentlessly that he was unable to render assistance to other German forces being driven back so successfully on other sectors of the Ninth Army front. In its successful accomplishment of this mission, the XVI Corps enabled the remainder of the Ninth Army to sweep ahead without any possible interference from the German forces in the north.



In preparation for important events to come the British 7th Armored Division was attached to the Corps on 6 February 1945, maintaining its position on the line, and the 35th Infantry Division relieved the British 52d Infantry Division on the 7th Armored Division's right, the XVI Corps' right flank. The 8th Armored Division was maintained in Corps reserve as it prepared for future operations.

Through January and most of February 1945, the trafficability of soil on the entire Ninth Army front

was such that a coordinated infantry-armored attack would have become a costly venture.

A crossing of the Roer River was quite impractical, for the river had become 2,000 yards wide at points as a result of flood conditions and the German control of two Roer River dams, one at the confluence of the Roer and Erft Rivers and the other, the tremendous Schwammenauel Dam, a short distance farther north. With recession of the flood waters and seizure of the dams by United States forces, however, these obstacles to the assault across the Roer were removed, and the Corps moved to hurl its might forward into the steel-and-concrete breastworks of the famous Siegfried Line.

Additional forces were placed under XVI Corps direction for the river crossing. The 15th Cavalry Group, consisting of the 15th and 17th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mechanized), was attached on 15 February 1945, and two days later, the battle-scarred 79th Infantry Division was attached to the Corps. On 20 February 1945, the 252d Field Artillery Group began its service with the Corps. Until the cessation of the Corps combat role, this field artillery group manipulated its heavy artillery with such skill as to furnish another lesson in power politics to the "Supermen." The relief of the British 7th Armored Division and the 1st Commando Brigade on their sector of the front by the 8th Armored Division's Combat Command B began on 17 February and was completed by 21 February 1945.

THE SITUATION

The XVI Corps front, on the eve of its first major combat operation, extended from Linne, Holland (K7486), southeast to Randerath, Germany (K9169), facing an intensely fortified sector of the Siegfried Line in which the enemy was expected to make assault forces pay heavily in blood and sweat for every foot they might be able to gain. The most heavily defended area extended from Roermond southeast to Melick (K7986), a veritable maze of trenches, fortifications and mines, with a defense zone 3,000 yards deep at Roermond. Two spur lines of fortifications from Melick to the Maas (Meuse) River below Roermond and from Melick northwest along the southern bank of the Roer River blocked XVI Corps access to the Roer in that sector.

Besides this triangle of land between Melick, the Meuse River and Roermond, the enemy maintained



A British Commando describes the field of fire to two American infantrymen taking over a machine-gun position (*left*), and a British officer orients an American officer on enemy dispositions (*right*), as the U.S. 8th Armored Division relieved the British 7th Armored Division and 1st Commando Brigade.

footholds on the south bank of the Roer River at Morsel (K820839), Triest (K828839), Vlodrop (K8483), Karken (K8379), Kempen (K8578), Kivit (K9073), and Hilfarth (K9372). Across the Roer, additional defenses extended from Melick east to Herkenbosch (K8385), and then southeast to Ophoven (K8679), Ratheim (K9175) and the area across from Hilfarth. Behind this line running generally north from an anchor point at Wassenburg (K8979) was a main section of the Siegfried Line proper, with unknown fortifications in the Elmpter Wald, a heavily wooded area between the Meuse, Roer and Niers Rivers. With the advantage of terrain, observation, and previously prepared positions along the Roer River, the enemy was fully capable of turning fiercely upon his assailant with furious limited objective attacks.

The strength of the enemy defenses and his power to strike back at any attacking force failed to daunt Maj. Gen. John B. Anderson, XVI Corps commander, and his staff, and they, putting in many long hours, had perfected carefully laid plans for an assault that would send the Germans reeling back, never able to regain their balance under the repeated sledgehammer blows of XVI Corps forces.

The reinforced 35th Infantry Division had been regrouped on the XVI Corps right flank, ready to smash toward the Roer with the able support of the 15th Cavalry Group. The 314th Regimental Combat Team of the 79th Infantry Division stood ready to attack in the center of the Corps sector after having relieved the 35th Division's 137th Infantry Regiment

on that portion of the line. Combat Command B of the 8th Armored Division remained in positions on the Corps left flank. The 35th Division's 137th Infantry Regiment had been withdrawn and placed in Division reserve, and it was contemplated that it would be the first unit to cross the Roer River in the bridgehead which was to be secured by the XIII Corps. 79th Infantry Division forces, with the exception of the 314th Regimental Combat Team, were held in Corps reserve.

Opposing the XVI Corps were elements of the German 8th Parachute Division and the 176th and 183d Volksgrenadier Divisions, about 7,500 men as far as could be determined, with units of an unidentified infantry division, about 6,000 men, in reserve.

The 183d Volksgrenadier Division had seen long service in Russia, had been reorganized in Austria, and had been in heavy action on the Western Front in November. The 176th Volksgrenadier Division, while originally a depot division consisting of *Ersatz* units, had been greatly strengthened with replacements. The 8th Parachute Division was one of the units that battled the September 1944 allied airborne landings in the vicinity of Arnhem so successfully.

H-hour and D-day were 0330 hours on 23 February 1945, for the Ninth Army's "Operation Grenade." Briefly, the plan for that operation insofar as the XVI was concerned, proposed that the initial crossing of the Roer by the Corps would be made in a bridgehead which was to be provided by elements of the XIII Corps. The XVI Corps was then to ad-

vance almost directly north, and initial tactical boundaries were assigned in keeping with the Corps' mission of clearing out the Venlo-Roermond-Hilfarth triangle only.

THE ASSAULT

23 February 1945. Watches steadily ticked off the minutes and seconds early in the morning of 23 February 1945, as tense troops waited for the time to attack. The tremendous artillery preparation preceding the assault began at 0245 hours, and at 0330 hours the barrage lifted and dimmed. XVI Corps forces started moving forward in coordination with the XIII and XIX Corps and smashed quickly to the Roer River, crushing opposition from small arms, machine guns, mortar fire, and mines, and clearing the pockets of enemy resistance west of the Roer River left by the British XII Corps. Artillery batteries followed up their barrage with close support, counterbattery, neutralization, and smoke missions, battering the enemy throughout the day in close cooperation with the 35th Infantry Division and the 314th Regimental Combat Team attacks, and firing a total of 893 missions.

Advancing Corps units met their first opposition in Brehin (K8777), Unterbruch (K8776) and Oberbruch (K8874), but quickly seized the towns, along with Porselen (K9072), Kempen (K8578), and Eckholderdriesch (K8478). The enemy held stubbornly at End (K8480), Karken (K8379), Schanz (K9073), Kranzes (K8974), Kivit (K9073), and Hilfarth (K9372), but Karken, Schanz and Kranzes fell before the end of the day to the Corps' surging drive.



Corps artillery units fired a 45-minute barrage to open the Roer offensive, raining shells on enemy positions, rocking his strongpoints, and battering his will to withstand the crashing assault.

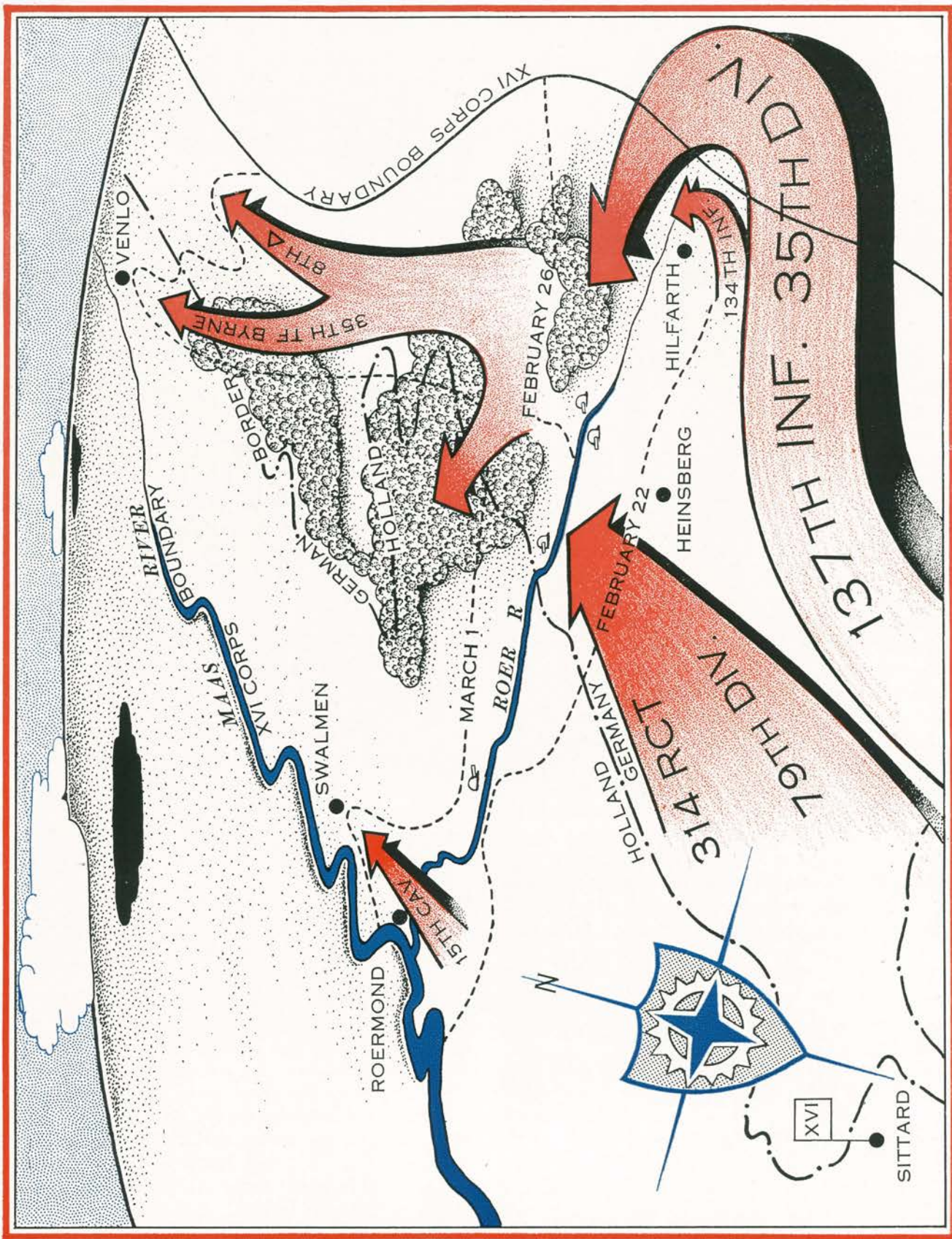
24 February 1945. The 314th Regimental Combat Team cleared End, despite small-arms fire and the use of antipersonnel mines and booby traps by the enemy, while a 35th Division (320th Infantry Regiment) patrol occupied Kivit that night after having found the town evacuated by the hard-pressed enemy. German troops continued to hold Hilfarth, turning small-arms fire on our patrols attempting to penetrate the town. Enemy artillery pounded towns in the Roer River valley in harassing missions. The XVI Corps Artillery blasted German positions, firing 472 missions for advancing Corps troops and delivering counterbattery fire to support the XIII Corps on the right flank. The 8th Armored Division began sending patrols into the area southwest of Roermond reconnoitering for bridge sites.

25 February 1945. The 134th Infantry Regiment (35th Division) attacked Hilfarth, pushing through a heavy minefield to reach the outskirts of the town, but was stopped there by automatic-weapons fire. Units of the 8th Armored Division patrolled both sides of the river, and the Division's Combat Command B occupied Morsel (K820839) and Triest (K828839) without resistance other than the usual mines and booby traps. Troops of the 314th Regimental Combat Team captured a ten-man enemy patrol and drove off two other patrols in small boats as it cleaned up and consolidated positions on the west bank of the Roer in accordance with original battle plans. Corps artillery units shelled the enemy throughout the day, firing 452 missions in supporting XVI Corps troops and delivering interdiction fires for the XIII Corps as German artillery threw light-caliber rounds into St. Odilienberg (K7884), Porselen (K9072), and Paarlo (K8184). The 211th and 777th Field Artillery Battalions supported an air attack on Rheindahlen (F0384) with a counterflak mission.

THE CROSSING

At the banks of the Roer with a powerful fighting force waiting only for a means across the river to continue its battering drive, the XVI Corps learned that unexpected resistance and difficulties of operation had made it impractical for the XIII Corps to provide a bridgehead for its use.

Major General Anderson and his staff, as a result, swiftly laid plans for the XVI Corps to make a bridgehead of its own, mapping strategy for a feint river crossing to mislead the enemy, and for a main assault



Perspective sketch of Roer River crossing and advance into Venlo, Holland

to ram into his defense line before he could recover from his efforts to repel the faked crossing. The Corps ordered the 79th Division's 314th Regimental Combat Team to make the feint crossing attempt and assigned the 35th Division to the main assault task.



26 February 1945. The feint river crossing was staged by the 314th Regimental Combat Team (79th Infantry Division) in the vicinity of Kempen (K8578). Beginning at 0545 hours, this activity continued for one and a half hours. Artillery units shelled the Germans. Assault boats were brought up to the stream and prepared for a crossing. Smoke pots poured out their thick, artificial fog, and automatic weapons ripped into enemy positions. Everything necessary was done to impress the enemy that the 314th was about to crash over the stream and draw his attention to that area and away from the main effort already well under way farther south in the Hilfarth sector where the 35th Division had prepared its blow.

The 35th Division's 137th Infantry Regiment, held in reserve, passed through left flank elements of the XIII Corps (the 84th Division), advancing in the vicinity of Linnich to Doveren, and attacked toward Klein Gladbach (K9476), northwest across the Corps front. The 134th Infantry Regiment attacked Hilfarth and slugged through a curtain of small-arms and machine-gun fire and a viciously arranged mass of booby traps. Entering the town, the Regiment cleared it by 1000 hours and crossed the Roer River over its own bridge at Hilfarth. It then advanced on Huckelhoven (K9473).

Initial crossings in the XVI Corps sector were made by footbridge rather than assault boats. Two bridges were put across the river first about a half kilometer downstream from Hilfarth, followed closely in the same vicinity by an infantry support bridge taking up to five-ton loads. By noon a highway bridge at Hilfarth, although damaged to some extent, was captured intact, and XVI Corps vehicles and tanks



Initial crossings of the Roer River at Hilfarth were made by footbridge. At top, machine-gun crews fire a protective screen as engineers hasten bridging operations. Below, infantrymen of the 35th Infantry Division cross on the completed bridge under enemy fire.

started rolling over it early in the afternoon. Two M2 treadway bridges were constructed during the afternoon, one in the vicinity of the infantry support bridge, and the other one about 150 yards upstream from the highway bridge.

XVI Corps forces began pouring through the bridgehead established at Hilfarth and by 2400 hours the 35th Division had moved five platoons of the 784th Tank Battalion and five platoons of the 654th Tank Destroyer Battalion across the Roer in addition to its infantry regiments. Artillery units fired 543 missions in supporting the bridgehead operation. The 692d Field Artillery Battalion fired 30 rounds per hour for 36 hours in the vicinity of the highway bridge at Hilfarth to block the enemy as much as possible from placing demolitions. The 8th Armored



By 27 February, troops and equipment were moving across the Roer River in a steady stream. At left, elements of the 35th Infantry Division approach crossing sites near Hilfarth to cross the completed treadway bridge shown at right.

Division demonstrated along its front in conjunction with the 35th Division attack, and its Combat Command B advanced some distance but withdrew for consolidation after meeting heavy antitank fire from across the river.

27 February 1945. With troops and equipment moving across the Roer River in a steady stream, the 35th Infantry Division launched a drive at 0600 hours to the north and northwest into the Wassenburg sector, anchor point for the main Siegfried Line running northward and additional defenses running southeast to Jülich (A0359) and east to Oerath (K995780). The 134th Infantry Regiment struck at Huckelhoven (K9473) and encountered small-arms, automatic-weapons and mortar fire, mines, and booby traps, as the enemy put up a stubborn defense. The Regiment cleared the town, however, and then pushed on to the northwest to clear Millich (K9274), and Gendorf (K9175) and fought its way from house to house through Schaufenberg (K9375). Its drive still unchecked, it swung against Orsbeck (K8877) and Wassenberg (K8979) and seized the two towns from garrisons of about a hundred men each who poured small-arms and mortar fire at the assaulting infantrymen in their efforts to hold their positions. The 137th Infantry Regiment cleared Klein Gladbach (K9476), Gerderath (K9378), Myhl (K9178) and Gerderhahn (K9579). Artillery units continued to pound the enemy, with three of the 35th Division artillery battalions firing from positions established after crossing the Roer.

The 8th Armored Division rolled through the 35th Division bridgehead and advanced on the 35th's right to exploit the breakthrough upon being relieved of its section by the 15th Cavalry Group.

28 February 1945. Forging an arc to the northwest the 35th Division, supported by the 8th Armored Division, drove with an irresistible force to flank the area around Roermond and force the enemy to evacuate the city if he wished to avoid being caught in a pocket. The 35th's Infantry regiments swept through Ophoven (K8580), Birgelen (K8979) and Wildenrath (K9282), and then captured Steinkirchen (K8580), Effeld (K8581), Station-Vlodrop (K8984), and Rodgen (K9183). Troops met a stiffer defense, however, in the form of small-arms and automatic-weapons fire at Herkenbosch (K833852). Combat Command A of the 8th Armored Division swiftly captured Tetelrath (K9688), and the Division's Combat Command B rolled to a point 1,000 yards north of Arsbeck (K9383). Squadrons of the 15th Cavalry Group, relieved from attachment to the 35th Division on 27 February 1945, conducted active patrolling on both sides of the Roer, and XVI Corps Artillery units continued to pour shells at enemy positions. The completion of a heavy ponton bridge across the Roer River at Ratheim (K9175) and a 600-foot M2 treadway bridge at Orsbeck (K8877) permitted a rapid transfer of troops to the east side of the river to support advancing elements.

1 March 1945. Task Force Byrne, a crack 35th Infantry Division Combat Team, swung into action in a furious, smashing drive to the north that pushed the enemy back over far greater distances than was anticipated. Welded into a single striking force designed to deliver a crushing blow, the 35th Infantry Division's 320th Infantry Regiment (Motorized) had been combined with the 216th Field Artillery Battalion; the 275th Armored Field Artillery Battalion; the 784th Tank Battalion (minus Company A);



Elements of Task Force Byrne mount their vehicles just prior to their entry into Venlo, Holland (*left*), and, having cleared the city, armored vehicles of this task force move out to continue their attack (*right*) as the XVI Corps zone of action was extended.

Company C of the 654th Tank Destroyer Battalion; Company C of the 60th Engineer Combat Battalion; and Company C of the 110th Medical Battalion for the record-shattering operation. Attacking at 0700 hours, Task Force Byrne crushed enemy resistance at every critical terrain feature as it hurtled north to occupy Venlo (E9109). It rolled through Elmpt (K9091), Bracht (K9299), and Kaldenkirchen in a sweeping drive and moved into Venlo after meeting and smashing all the opposition the enemy could muster in the path of its charging advance.

To the south, Herkenbosch was found evacuated by the enemy, and the 137th Infantry Regiment pressed northward in the wake of the hard-hitting task force, reaching Venlo (E9109) at 2400 hours.

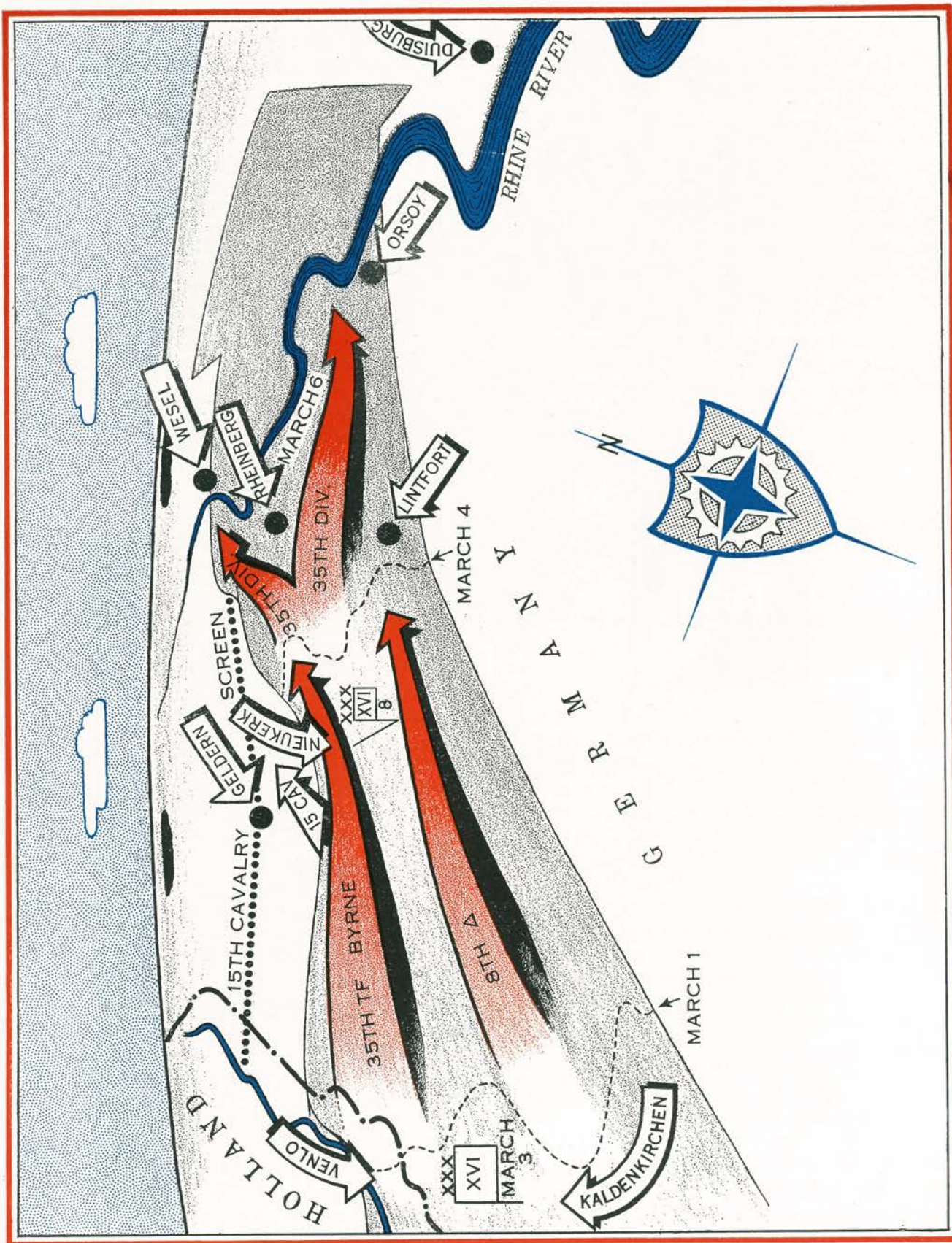
Troops of the 15th Cavalry Group swept into Roermond during the early morning hours, finding the city unoccupied but very heavily mined. They were told by civilians that German forces had fled during the night after executing demolitions of public utilities. The 17th Cavalry Squadron pulled out of line and at 1300 hours advanced north to Swalmen (K8193), followed by the 15th Cavalry Squadron.

The 8th Armored Division encountered small-arms and automatic-weapons fire at scattered points along roads and road junctions, but after the clearing of Amern-St. George (K9694), there was a general slackening of enemy resistance. The Division's Combat Command A cleared Waldniel (K9891) and rolled on north to Flothend (E983002) where it was held up by a roadblock.

Heavy minefields and massive roadblocks impeded the progress of practically all Corps units, but were efficiently overcome with a minimum of delay by the skillful direction of unit commanders. Only remnants of enemy units apparently remained on the XVI Corps front, and these were in a disorganized state due to the rapid advance and strategic maneuvers of Corps units. Prisoners of war, fairly intelligent for the most part but somewhat reticent about talking, said they knew very little about the general situation but agreed that it was very much confused.

A CHANGE IN MISSION

Moving to employ this general momentum of the XVI Corps drive to full advantage, the Ninth Army quickly revised its operational scheme, arranged changes in boundaries between the Ninth Army and British and Canadian units on the north, and provided for XVI Corps a zone clear to the Rhine River, with orders to attack onward. This change in tactical plan moved the boundary between the Ninth Army and the British northeast so that it met the Rhine River in the vicinity of Rheinberg, providing a corridor down which the Corps could pursue the broken enemy forces to a crashing climax on the west bank of the Rhine. It gave the Corps a zone of advance to the Rhine River between British and Canadian forces on the left flank and the XIII Corps on the right flank. Enemy forces being driven into this sector by Canadian gains on the north and by the XIII Corps on the south were



Perspective sketch of Corps advance from Venlo to Rhine River

steadily increasing the number of troops which the XVI Corps would engage. Units and men from seven different divisions, the 180th and 190th Volksgrenadier Divisions, the 406th zu Besonderer Verwendung (special purpose unit), and the 7th Parachute Division, in addition to the 176th and 183d Volksgrenadier Divisions and the 8th Parachute Division, were identified on the Corps front during ensuing days. The presence of numerous small artillery and service units were also revealed. Of them all, the 190th Volksgrenadier Division offered the greatest resistance.

With the extension of the XVI Corps sector, the 75th Infantry Division and its attached units, the 440th Antiaircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion and the 772d Tank Destroyer Battalion (but minus the Division's 289th Infantry Regiment) were attached to XVI Corps effective 1 March 1945. The 79th In-



fantry Division and its attached units, held in Corps reserve, were released from Corps attachment and attached to the XIII Corps. With this transfer of the 79th Division, the 314th Infantry Regiment was released from Corps control and returned to its parent division.

2 March 1945. Resistance continued apparently disorganized, although enemy troops attempted in vain to defend stream crossings, road junctions, and other critical features with small-arms fire, scattered mortar and artillery fire, and obstacles. Task Force Byrne swept forward more than twelve miles in a roaring onslaught from Venlo, clearing Straelen (E9717), Nieuwkirk (A0518), and Sevelen (A0922) after only brief delays due to small-arms and occasional harassing artillery fire.

The 137th Infantry Regiment battled German forces at (E955080) just south of Herongen, receiving mortar and small-arms fire. The enemy continued to cling to Geldern (A0225), and, from positions along an east-west line south of the Geldern-

Issum road, denied the Corps advance to the north in this sector by small-arms, mortar and self-propelled artillery fire. Movement to the east, however, was unopposed, and the usual small-arms and mortar



fire was the only resistance encountered in the vicinity of Stenden (A105145).

A synthetic oil plant and supplies of ammunition, rifles, and optical and signal equipment were captured as the 8th Armored Division cleared Wachten-donk (A025130). The Division's Combat Command Reserve cleared Grefrath (A0205), and its 88th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized) cleared Wegberg (K9883). Both the 35th Infantry Division and 8th Armored Division Artillery operated under decentralized control, and generally Corps artillery battalions remained silent. The 75th Infantry Division moved toward Echt, Holland (K6980), to establish its command post there.

3 March 1945. The withdrawal of enemy troops grew more organized, but considerable quantities of guns, ammunition, and supplies were taken intact. In falling back, the enemy had prepared extensive demolitions, but many were not executed because of the rapidity and force of the Corps' advance. The 15th Cavalry Group swept north to Walbeck (E9623) and established contact there with troops of the Canadian First Army, a contact it was to maintain throughout the rest of the offensive as it protected the Corps northern flank. Task Force Byrne struck forward one mile to Oermten (A1122) against stiffening resistance. Enemy troops re-entered part of the town of Sevelen (A0922) and fought unsuccessfully with small-arms, mortar and self-propelled-artillery fire to regain the town. Elements of the 134th Infantry Regiment, which had been moving northward behind Task Force Byrne, attacked Geldern (A0225) jointly with troops of the Canadian First Army after making contact with the Canadians, and seized a third of the town against stiff resistance.



Infantrymen of Task Force Byrne (35th Infantry Division) advance through the town of Sevelen, Germany (*left*), and after capturing this community, pause in the town to service their vehicles (*right*) prior to moving on to new objectives.

The 8th Armored Division captured Aldekerk (A0816) and was then pinched out by the change in the Corps right boundary, leaving the 88th Cavalry Squadron (Mechanized) to mop up resistance east of Aldekerk. The 8th Armored Division assembled in the vicinity of the town as Corps reserve. The 75th Infantry Division moved into the area northwest of Venlo and the reconnaissance elements screened the Corps north flank in that vicinity. The XVI Corps command post was closed at Sittard, Holland (K6968), and opened at Kaldenkirchen, Germany (E9203), at 1800 hours as a result of the swiftly moving advance of Corps units.

4 March 1945. Slackening their resistance north of Sevelen, the Germans withdrew to the northeast bank of the Nenneper River, destroying all bridges behind them and blocking the cavalry's advance. A furious drive on Lintfort (A1722) was opened by



Vehicles of the 35th Infantry and 8th Armored Divisions line the streets of Lintfort, Germany, as these forces capture the city on 5 March 1945, in the XVI Corps drive to the west bank of the Rhine River.

Task Force Byrne and the 137th Combat Team, organized by combining the 35th Division's 137th Infantry Regiment; the 219th Field Artillery Battalion; the 692d Field Artillery Battalion; Company A of the 784th Tank Battalion; Company B of the 60th Engineer Combat Battalion; and Company A of the 110th Medical Battalion. Task Force Byrne pounded two miles toward Lintfort in the left sector of the 35th Division's zone, while the 137th Regimental Combat Team ground forward in the right sector against small-arms, mortar and self-propelled-artillery fire from high ground in the vicinity of Kamp (A1523). The 88th Cavalry Squadron completed the clearance of all enemy resistance in the former zone of the 8th Armored Division. The 35th Division's 134th Infantry Regiment closed in an assembly area near Hartefeld (A0522). The 15th Cavalry Group screened the Corps left flank in the vicinity of Geldern (A0225)-Issum (A0927), while the 75th Infantry Division continued to screen the northern positions in the Venlo area.



5 March 1945. A two-mile advance against intense enemy machine-gun and harassing artillery fire was completed by Task Force Byrne and the 137th Regimental Combat Team as they continued pushing to-



A column of 35th Division infantrymen move through Rheinberg, Germany, under enemy mortar fire (*left*), while an armored vehicle supporting the attack rolls past a knocked-out German antitank gun in the city (*right*).

ward Lintfort. The 8th Armored Division's Combat Command B, which had been attached to the 35th Infantry Division, joined in the attack at 0800 hours, and the city was cleared by 1100 hours. Combined to form Task Force Murray, the 137th Regimental Combat Team and the 8th Armored Division's Combat Command B smashed into Rheinberg (A2128) near the west bank of the Rhine and began battling for the town against desperate German forces employing every available weapon to hold their ground.

6 March 1945. German forces, overwhelmed by the Corps' relentless drive, blew bridges over the Alter Rhein and fell back from Rheinberg. Task Force Murray cleared the town, and with its capture and subsequent advance to the Rhine River's west bank, the XVI Corps completed its assigned mission.

A NEW TASK

A new task, however, was in the offing as it became evident that the enemy was attempting to evacuate his largest group of troops across the Rhine River over bridges in the Wesel area. The Corps' north boundary was again extended so as to include the Wesel area in its zone of advance, and XVI Corps moved to smash the enemy's last foothold on the west bank of the Rhine. This Wesel bridgehead was of primary importance to the Germans because it was the only escape route open to their forces. It was imperative that the enemy maintain that bridgehead and he was prepared to resist fiercely and strongly all attacks as he used every available means of transportation to evacuate his troops to the river's east bank.

The 35th Infantry Division was aimed at vital

objectives, chief among which was the road junction at (A168336) where the Geldern-Issum-Wesel road crossed the Xanten-Rheinberg highway, and the Division's battle-scarred forces opened what was to become a relentless drive, grinding the enemy area smaller and smaller and forcing him back step by step to his complete collapse on 10 March 1945. As Task Force Murray cleared Rheinberg, Task Force Byrne drove forward two miles in the left sector of the 35th Division's zone. The 88th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron cleared out isolated pockets of resistance in Budberg (A2426), Eversael (A2528) and sixteen other small nearby towns and patrolled the west bank of the Rhine River from the vicinity of Rheinberg to the southern border of the Corps territory. The 8th Armored Division maintained security patrols in the vicinity of its assembly area while remaining in Corps reserve. Additional forces were placed under XVI Corps control with the attachment of the 30th Infantry Division and its semi-organically attached 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, 531st Antiaircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion, and 843d Tank Battalion.

7 March 1945. Onward-driving 35th Division forces met heavy resistance from small-arms, automatic-weapons, mortar, and antitank fire from cellars, buildings, and dug-in positions along the general line Ossenbergl (A1930)-Millingen (A1830)-Huck (A1631)-Alpon (A1531), as the enemy clung stubbornly to his bridgehead. Task Force Byrne gained a mile in the left sector of the zone, while Task Force Murray advanced to the outskirts of Ossenbergl in the right sector and initiated the assault on the town. One hundred Lancaster bombers attacked Wesel,

and five flights of fighter-bombers hit targets in the ground troops' line of advance, strafing and bombing Borth (A184335) and Wallach (A193338). The 88th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (8th Armored Division) maintained active patrols on the west bank of the Rhine River from Rheinberg to Orsoy (A2725) until relieved by elements of the 75th Infantry Division's 291st Regimental Combat Team. The 75th Division reduced isolated pockets of enemy resistance in the Corps rear area; the 8th Armored Division remained in its assembly area as a part of Corps reserve; and the 30th Infantry Division closed in an assembly area near Echt to begin training and preparation for future operations.

8 March 1945. Fighting from house to house, Task Force Murray captured Millingen (A1830) and occupied Ossenbergl as the enemy held tenaciously to his lines. Task Force Byrne made slight gains against the stiffest type of resistance. A decrease in German artillery fire was offset to a great extent by its increased accuracy, and shelling late in the day from east of the river indicated that some artillery units had moved across the Rhine. The enemy also employed considerable *Nebelwerfer*, mortar and some 20mm. antiaircraft fire against Corps forward elements. Hostile tanks in the Millingen area and the capture of prisoners from the 116th Panzer Division confirmed the continued presence of that division west of the Rhine. Corps artillery units shelled twenty enemy batteries during the day and also pounded three towns, firing 429 missions. Other XVI Corps units remained in reserve, policing areas and training for the crossing of the Rhine. Many units attached to other forces for operations were released to parent groups. The 79th Infantry Division with its attached 463d Antiaircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion, 717th Tank Battalion and 813th Tank Destroyer Battalion, were again attached to the Corps. The XVI Corps command post was moved from Kaldenkirchen (E9203) to Neukerk (A0518) at 1200 hours.

9 March 1945. Task Force Byrne and Task Force Murray gained about a mile against continued strong opposition. With 11 battalions participating, Corps artillery supported their attack greatly, beginning with a thirty-minute preparation at 0600 hours and maintaining continuous harassing and interdiction fire throughout the day. Firing 344 missions, artillery units shelled Drupt (A1732), Borth (A1833) and Wallach (A1933) as well as barge assembly



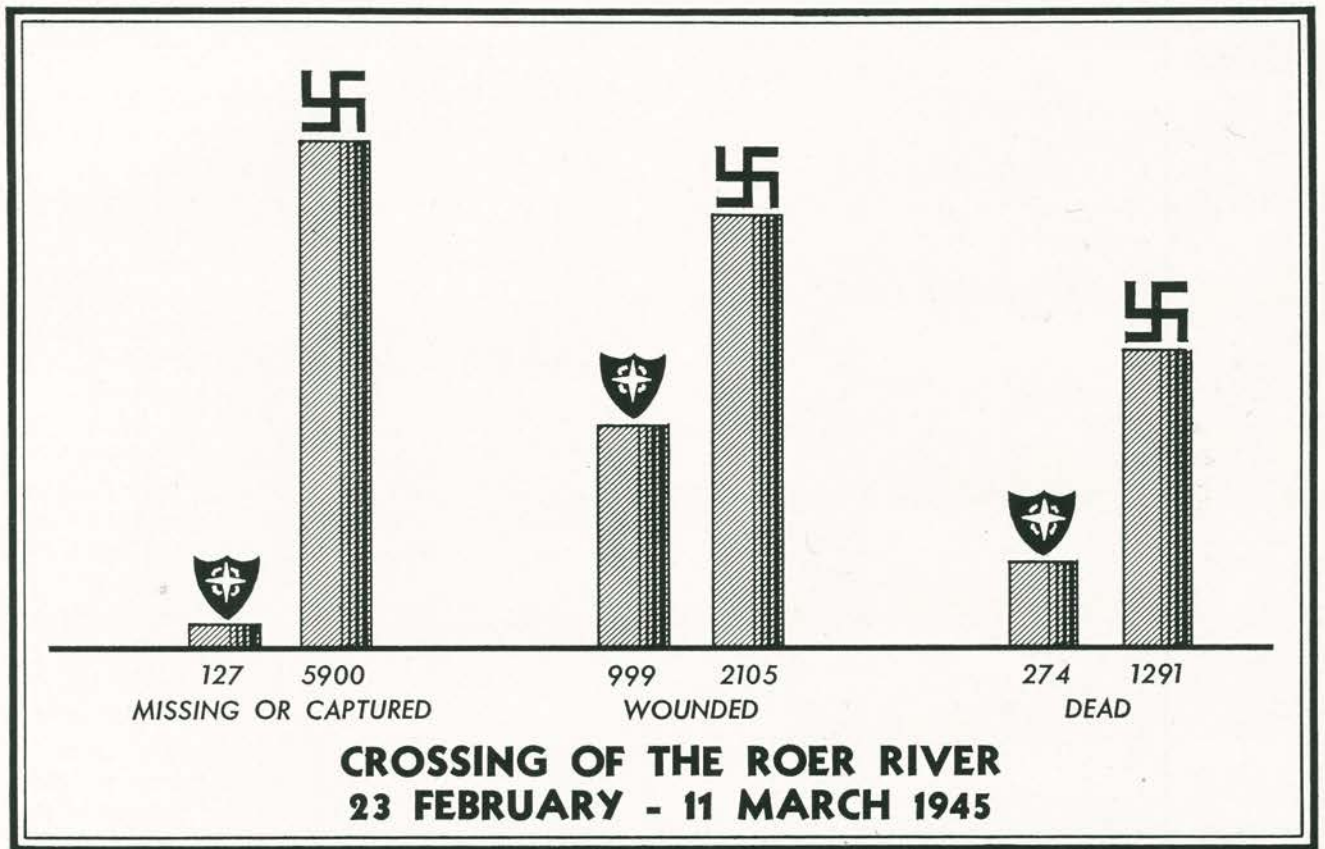
Having taken the town, combat soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division move out of Borth, Germany, to continue the advance to the north.

points on the east bank of the Rhine. Enemy artillery increased its shelling in support of the slow withdrawal of Nazi troops across the Rhine, with Orsoyberg (A2524) as the principal target. The 291st Regimental Combat Team continued defense of the west bank of the Rhine in the Corps zone, and the 15th Cavalry Group cleaned up isolated pockets of resistance in the area centering around Neukerk (A0518). The 8th Armored Division and the 30th, 75th and 79th Divisions remained in assembly areas.

10 March 1945. The enemy's destruction of the Wesel bridges early in the morning proved the forerunner of swiftly moving events. Passing through Task Force Byrne, the 35th Infantry Division's 134th Infantry Regiment attacked to the northeast at 0630 hours. The 1st Battalion cleared Borth (A1833) while the 3d Battalion cleared Drupt (A1732), a factory district at (A179359) and then Buderich (A2037), advancing approximately four miles against weakening resistance. Task Force Murray advanced to Wallach (A1933), its final objective, and cleared the town by noon. Task Force Byrne supported the attack of the 134th Infantry by fire, and when the 134th had passed through, Task Force Byrne was dissolved. Elements of the 3d Battalion, 134th Infantry, pushed to within a hundred yards of Fort Blücher (A2139) by 2400 hours. Corps Artillery, supporting the day's attack, poured shells into Drupt, Borth, Hillmannshof (A1732), and Ork (A2133). Artillery also pounded enemy artillery positions and hit barges in the Rhine River, firing 419 missions. The 75th Infantry Division's 289th Regimental Combat Team assumed responsibility for defense of the west bank of the Rhine.



During the seventeen days' duration of the Corps offensive, the enemy suffered heavy losses in casualties and prisoners while Corps losses were relatively few. A comparison of over-all losses for this operation is illustrated graphically below.



11 March 1945. A garrison holding Fort Blücher surrendered at 0837 hours to the 134th Infantry's 3d Battalion and, with their surrender, the XVI Corps completed its role in Operation Grenade during which it smashed 45 miles from positions west of the Roer River to the Rhine River and then north



along the Rhine in sixteen historic days. This combat operation accomplished the crossing of the Roer River, the drive across the Cologne Plain, and the closing of the last gap, the Wesel pocket along the Rhine River.

Troops of the XVI Corps held a 23,500-yard front along the Rhine River at the close of the operation as a result of the outstanding performance of its units and a brilliantly directed drive that grasped and exploited to the fullest extent every opportunity that arose, even though the original plan did not propose to have the XVI Corps included in the Ninth Army zone on the west bank of the Rhine. In the accomplishment of the furious offensive, the attached units performed their assigned tasks with skill, daring, and highly commendable employment of military tactics. The task of driving the enemy toward the Rhine was very commendably accomplished by Task Force Byrne and Task Force Murray of the 35th Infantry Division.

The aid rendered by the 15th Cavalry Group on the left or north flank of the Corps was invaluable. That Group maintained excellent liaison between



The German garrison at Fort Blücher surrendered to XVI Corps forces on 11 March 1945, marking the successful completion of the Corps' role in Operation Grenade.

the British and Canadian forces and the XVI Corps throughout the drive. In accomplishing this mission, it utilized only secondary roads and made its own routes of advance. It was the first to contact the Canadians on 3 March 1945 in the town of Walbeck, and until the Wesel bridgehead was eliminated, it maintained constant contact between British and American troops.

The task of the 35th Infantry Division, the 8th Armored Division, and the 15th Cavalry Group had been doubly difficult because of the narrowness of the Corps sector, which restricted the maneuvering of troops and utilization of all units available, plus the fact that the roadnet in the Corps zone was pitifully inadequate for the job that was being accomplished. The antiaircraft protection afforded Corps troops and installations by the 18th Antiaircraft Artillery Group, the skillful performance of all Corps engineer units, and the invaluable assistance rendered by all supporting service units contributed immeasurably to the success of this operation.



III: THE RHINE RIVER CROSSING

Great events in the history of mankind were in the making, and the XVI Corps was selected to write a very important chapter by its spearheading the U. S. Ninth Army's drive across the Rhine River to open the route to Hannover, Magdeburg, Leipzig, and Allied victory. This elaborate operation was part of the strategy involving the entire British 21st Army Group. The British Second Army was to cross the Rhine River in the vicinity of Xanten and Rees, capture Wesel, and advance to the east. The First Allied Airborne Army, utilizing the U. S. XVIII Airborne Corps and two airborne divisions, was to make an airdrop northeast of Wesel. The Ninth Army was to cross the Rhine River in the vicinity of Rheinberg to secure that portion of the Army Group's bridgehead within its zone. In the Ninth Army's "Operation Flashpoint" the XVI Corps was selected to make the main effort, and of the Army's three corps, it alone was to cross the great river barrier on D-day in one of the most outstanding inland amphibious operations ever conceived.

Carefully considered plans for the operation, extending to the most minor details, were begun by Maj. Gen. John B. Anderson, Corps commander, and his staff, as early as January 1945. Long hours were devoted to arrangements for the movement and massing of tens of thousands of tons of assorted equipment, the determination of the type and num-



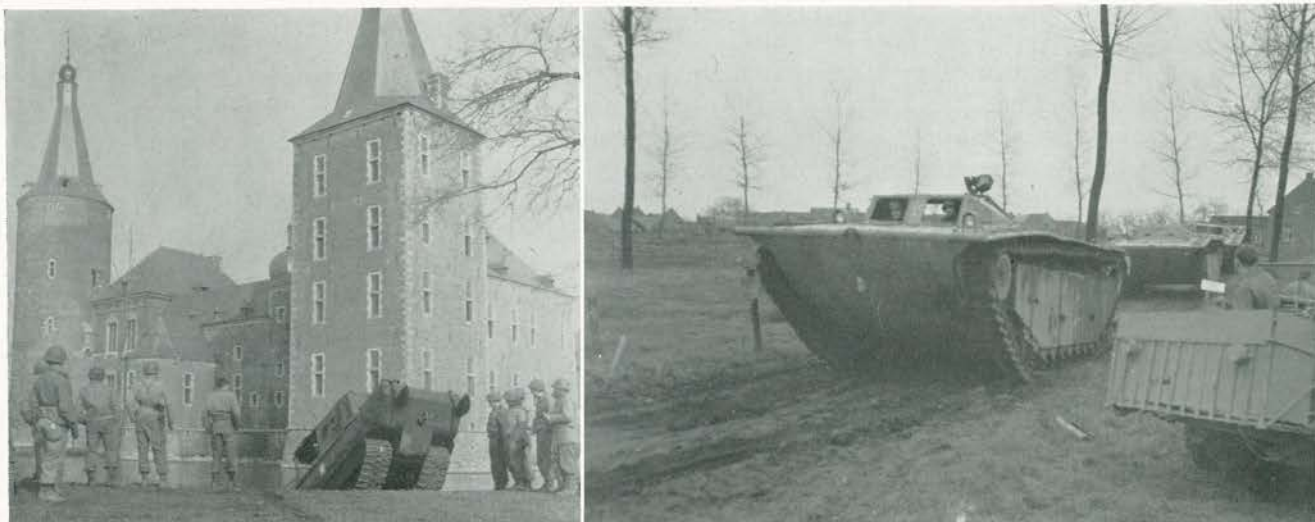
Field Marshal Montgomery, commander of British 21st Army Group, Major General Anderson, Commanding General of XVI Corps, and Lieutenant General Simpson, Commanding General, Ninth Army, walk between buildings of the XVI Corps command post at Neukirk, Germany. During this visit, the entire Corps plan for the Rhine River crossing was explained in detail to Field Marshal Montgomery.

ber of troops to be employed, the study of currents, river bottoms, and flood data for the selection of crossing sites, and finally, taking all these factors into account, to mapping a strategic battle plan that would cover every possible exigency that might arise.

Preliminary training for the execution of these plans was initiated while the Corps was still driving toward the Rhine from its Roer River bridgeheads in Operation Grenade. The 30th and 79th Infantry Divisions, selected to make the assault crossing for the Corps, completed ten days of amphibious training on the Maas (Meuse) River in Holland, as they prepared their troops under Corps direction for all phases of the river-crossing operation. The 35th Infantry Division moved into an assembly area following the conclusion of Operation Grenade on 11 March 1945. After rest and refitting, this division, along with the 8th Armored Division, began preparations for the impending blow across the Rhine. The 75th Infantry Division, with the 15th Cavalry Group attached, continued to patrol the XVI Corps sector on the west bank of the Rhine, probing German positions across the Rhine, and defending Corps positions from any possible thrust by the enemy.

Units of many types were added to the Corps' strength as the days of preparation passed and plans for the tremendous operation grew to completion. One of the greatest artillery concentrations in the history of warfare had been massed in the Corps sector to blast the way for the infantry divisions and attached units and to support them as they drove forward. The 34th Field Artillery Brigade with its heavy artillery battalions, and the XIX Corps Artillery Fire Direction Center with attached field artillery groups, functioned directly under the XVI Corps Artillery headquarters. The massed artillery included nine field artillery groups and the artillery from five divisions, totalling in all, 54 field artillery battalions. Participating were the 119th, 219th, 223d, 252d, 258th, 349th, 404th, and 422d Field Artillery Groups. Two field artillery observation battalions, the 291st and 14th, furnished highly accurate survey, meteorological, and hostile battery data. In addition, the XIII Corps Artillery assisted by powerful concentration on the densely populated area opposite the southern portion of the XVI Corps zone.

Engineer units selected to support the Corps in this special mission included the 1103d, 1148th and



Troops of the assault divisions witness amphibious maneuvers of a Weasel in the moat of Hoensbroeck Castle (*left*), and Alligator crews practice land operations (*right*). All XVI Corps troops involved in the initial assault crossing of the Rhine spent ten days of intensive training in an area adjacent to the Maas (Meuse) River in Holland in preparation for this operation.

1153d Engineer Combat Groups. These groups, in turn, supervised the activities of two light ponton companies, two heavy ponton battalions, three tread-way bridge companies, nine combat battalions, and four amphibious truck companies of the Transportation Corps, as well as a naval unit and a harbor craft company detachment. Other units placed under the Corps' direction for the impending operation included the 12th Tank Destroyer Group, which coordinated the operations of six tank destroyer battalions, and six separate tank battalions with companies from two other tank battalions. Antiaircraft protection was furnished by the 18th and 26th Antiaircraft Artillery Groups, which directed the operations of six separate antiaircraft artillery battalions and a searchlight battery. A chemical smoke generator battalion with two smoke generating companies, and several miscellaneous small units completed the Corps combat troop list totalling 120,000 men, a tremendous number seldom placed under the direction of a single corps.

Plans and preparations for the great river-crossing operation were arranged in such detail that every man was provided sample situations that he would probably meet in the actual crossing and subsequent action on the east bank. Infantry, armor, artillery, engineer, signal, and all other arms and services were given thorough training in all of the details involved. In the divisions, this orientation was extended down to the assistant squad leader. Nothing was left to chance. Every corporal was instructed in the mission

and objective of his squad, what he was going to carry, the number of the craft he would cross in, who would be in the vessel with him, what German town or terrain feature they were to attack, what time the attack was to be launched, and many other similar details.

Patrol activity by both XVI Corps and enemy units marked the period between the elimination of the enemy's Wesel bridgehead on 11 March 1945 and the opening of the new offensive on 23 March 1945. Seventy-six prisoners of war were seized, most of them members of German patrols seeking information. Patrols from the 75th Infantry Division met intense small-arms and machine-gun fire and large



Prior to the Rhine crossing, all participating troops were thoroughly oriented on every detail with which they would be concerned. Here, by the use of a terrain table, an officer of the 8th Armored Division reviews details of impending operations with his men.

numbers of hand grenades from dug-in positions as they probed the German line along the east bank of the river, seeking information to supplement facts already known on the disposition of German troops and strength of their defenses. These night patrols frequently suffered heavy casualties or were unable to accomplish their mission because of the tense alertness of enemy outposts anxiously awaiting to discover the first indication of any American offensive. However, one of these patrols which landed at (A227307) south of Mehaum succeeded in penetrating as far inland as the first dike and encountered what appeared to be a strong outpost line, well established with reliefs.

Scattered enemy artillery batteries shelled towns along the west bank of the Rhine held by XVI Corps units, laying down harassing fire on Ossenbergl, Millingen, Repelen, Borth, Rheinberg, and Wallach, and repeatedly on Orsoy. Spasmodic air assaults supplemented the artillery attacks. This artillery fire from enemy batteries began to show indications of a build-up south of the Wesel area (A2240) by 20 March 1945, generally along the road from Wesel to Letkampshof (A3232). Four bridges over the Lippe-Seiten Canal south of Wesel were destroyed by enemy demolition squads.

Identifications of prisoners of war seized by 75th Infantry Division units indicated that elements of the 2d Parachute Lehr Group held the east bank of the Rhine between Walsum (A2926) and Duisburg (A3117), and that elements of the 180th Volksgrenadier Division were entrenched in the northern part of the front facing the XVI Corps. It was also indicated that the 116th Panzer Division was being held in reserve. In addition to these major units, there were a number of artillery, antiaircraft artillery and replacement battalions, some Volksturm units, and organizations made up of policemen and members of the Duisburg fire department opposing the Corps. The 180th Volksgrenadier Division, which was to take the initial brunt of the Corps assault across the Rhine, had been strengthened, it was later learned on contact, by the addition of the former 588th Regiment of the Volksgrenadier Division *Gross Hamburg*, and by the addition of one *Ohren* (Ears) and one *Magen* (Stomach) battalion. The 2d Parachute Division, despite the priority of parachute divisions on replacements, was still understrength as a result of its losses on the western side of the Rhine. The 116th Panzer Division had received a large number of replacements since its commitment west

of the Rhine, although some of its armor had been destroyed by Allied fighter-bombers in assembly areas, cutting its potential power to some degree.

Saboteurs were seized on 16 March 1945, near Grefrath (A0305), and it was learned that there were possibly ten other detachments of saboteurs in the Corps area ready to strike vital blows at any vulnerable point that might present itself. Seizure of his agents showed the enemy still lacked definite knowledge of the XVI Corps situation, but that he was not completely ignorant of the activity of the Corps and of the British Second Army on the north. The tempo of enemy air activity showed a steady increase, with hostile aircraft bombing and strafing of forward elements. A group of twelve enemy aircraft swept over the area west of Lintfort (A1722) on 18 March 1945, and other small groups made forays on other occasions. Enemy parachutists were seen falling behind XVI Corps lines on 19 March 1945, after enemy aircraft had been spotted overhead just a few hours after the Corps had moved its command post from Neukirk (A0518) to Lintfort.

Capture of a German officer, only survivor of a five-man patrol, on 22 March 1945, revealed that an order outlining detailed instructions for defense of the east bank of the Rhine had been issued by the German LXXXVI Corps. This order indicated the possibility of an airborne landing in cooperation with a river crossing and revealed that the enemy erroneously expected the crossing would be attempted between Emmerich (K9761) and Wesel, accompanied probably by a feint attack south of Wesel. The officer reported that a defensive position had been prepared but not occupied along the Wesel-Dinslaken railroad, that the first and main defense line had been dug in at the rear of the slopes of the dikes, with machine guns emplaced to fire onto the west bank. He further stated that there were barbed-wire entanglements in front of the dikes, and rolls of concertina wire placed behind the dikes for emergency use, and that large numbers of antitank and antipersonnel mines were being laid in the sector.

Enemy railroad traffic grew steadily greater, and air observation disclosed the movement of armored equipment into the sector across the Rhine from XVI Corps. Long, heavily loaded trains had been observed for days moving toward the Ruhr Valley. Intense activity was noted in Ruhr marshalling yards, practically all of which were filled to capacity, with the overflow parked on sidings and along main lines. Many trains had multiple engines, indicating the



Giant trucking operations were under way in the XVI Corps sector just prior to the river-crossing operation, as heavy Ordnance vehicles moved up road- and bridge-building materials, storm and assault boats, and landing craft. At left, landing craft that had been set ashore at LeHavre, France, are trucked forward to the vicinity of Lintfort, Germany.

heavy character of the loads carried. Barge traffic, quiet during the day, was apparently active at night, judging from sightings of moored craft all along the Lippe-Seiten Canal and the appearance of a rather formidable balloon barrage about the juncture of the Lippe-Seiten and Dortmund-Ems Canals at (A7440).

The XXIX Tactical Air Command, working in cooperation with the Corps, hammered enemy road and rail traffic east of the Rhine River and conducted aerial reconnaissance flights deep into the German sector. Ground troops of XVI Corps that were selected to lead the attack across the river began moving forward under cover of darkness from the Maas (Meuse) River training areas. During the period of 21-23 March 1945, the 30th and 79th Infantry Divisions closed into forward assembly areas, the 30th into an area southwest of Alpen (A1531)

and the 79th into a sector below Rheim (A2021). The two divisions' assault regiments then moved into advanced positions on 23 March 1945. The emplacement and registering of additional artillery units continued in such a manner that there was little or no indication of this activity. Positions were dug into the west bank river dikes for the hull-down emplacement of tank destroyers for direct fire on the far shore. A huge smoke screen, 68 miles in length and emitted from thousands of smoke pots, shrouded the west bank of the Rhine River and all Corps operations as well as those in sectors above and below the Corps front.

The XVI Corps front on the Rhine River extended from the vicinity of Buderich (A2037) on the north to the vicinity of Homberg (A2118) on the south, a distance of approximately 12 miles. The date of 24 March 1945 was set as D-day for the operation, and



Many routes had to be widened and cleared of debris for the passage of the heavy vehicles transporting equipment to the west bank of the Rhine River for the crossing operation. At left, a bulldozer clears a route through Alpen, Germany. At right, Alligators are being unloaded in the vicinity of Rheinberg, Germany.



Personnel of smoke-generating companies were busily engaged in the operation of their equipment. A huge smoke screen, 68 miles in length and emitted from thousands of smoke pots, shrouded the west bank of the Rhine River and all XVI Corps operations, as well as those in sectors above and below the Corps front.

H-hour was 0200 hours for the 30th Infantry Division and 0300 hours for the 79th Infantry Division. Plans for Operation Flashpoint provided that the 30th Division would cross the Rhine at three crossing sites in the northern portion of the Corps zone and the 79th Division would cross at two crossing sites in the southern portion. The 75th Division and the 15th Cavalry Group would hold the west bank of the river, and the 8th Armored and 35th Infantry Divisions would remain in Corps reserve, guarding vital roads and bridges and providing security in the Corps rear area. All troops not participating in the assault crossing were to be prepared to assemble in pre-designated localities and cross the Rhine River on Corps order to exploit the bridgehead gained by assault elements. Attempts to deceive the enemy as to actual crossing sites were to be made by having the XIII Corps on the south stage feints and demonstrations and execute false preparations in its zone. Lending strength to this deception, supporting engineer units waited until the night of 23-24 March 1945 before they brought forward their bulldozers to cut through the dikes. The many weeks of thorough, careful planning, intensified and detailed training, and extensive preparations were thus brought to a powerful climax. The eve of this great undertaking was at hand.

23 March 1945. Commanders of all echelons checked plans once more detail by detail for the last time, made certain that every man understood the task he was to perform, and that every preparation possible had been made to meet and overcome any contingency that might arise.

General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the European Theater of Operations, and Lieut. Gen. William H. Simpson, commanding the U. S. Ninth Army, visited the XVI Corps headquarters, observed initially the firing of heavy artillery in a bombardment of Wesel, and then proceeded to an observation point to witness from there the preparations for the great offensive and the initial operations of the historic smash across the Rhine. Generals Eisenhower and Simpson walked with the infantrymen as they moved up to their positions and talked with several of them. Both commanders in later comments paid tribute to these men and the attitude they displayed as they prepared to hit the opening blow in the great assault.

The 9th Bombardment Division of the XXIX Tactical Air Command, operating in conjunction with the Corps, blasted Dinslaken (A3129). Corps Artillery maintained a light harassing program during the day. With the arrival of dusk, XVI Corps forces swiftly put in motion those details of preparations that were delayed until the last moment to mislead the enemy as to the power massed against his front for the impending drive. Infantry commanders prepared to move their troops to the waiting assault craft. Artillery units made certain everything was set to open their great barrage. Engineers brought up their bulldozers ready to cut through the dikes. Truckloads of road-building and bridging equipment were lined up behind the embankments to roll to the river as soon as the bulldozers opened the way. The stage was set to the smallest detail for the grand opening of Operation Flashpoint. The

30th and 79th Infantry Divisions were poised. Every unit of every description that constituted the Corps' great force of 120,000 men was ready to do its part. The British Second Army and the First Allied Airborne Army had already struck in the north.

24 March 1945. The Corps' mighty mass of artillery opened the thunderous attack with a sixty-minute preparation that will long be remembered throughout the Rhineland, as field and self-propelled pieces, tank destroyer guns and mortars cut loose in a veritable cyclone of sound. The heavy guns rumbled and roared turning the night into a bedlam of destruction for the stunned and shaken enemy as artillerymen slammed shell after shell into the weapons. The brown German earth trembled with the concussion and recoil as the big guns roared away, rocking the eardrums of men on both sides of the river. Each minute, 1,087 shells, ranging in weight from 25 to 325 pounds, were sent crashing across the Rhine for a total of 65,261 rounds or 1,820 tons for the one-hour preparation barrage. This rate of artillery fire was followed in the succeeding four hours by a continued heavy volume of shells, raising the total to 131,450 rounds or 3,865 tons for the period from H minus 1 to H plus 4 hours, a rate of 547 rounds per minute. The Corps and Division artillery units continued to blast the enemy at a heavy rate throughout the ensuing twenty-four hours. Altogether, 218,727 rounds, or 6,309 tons were fired during the period from H minus 1 to H plus 28 hours, at an average rate of 148 rounds per minute.

Ten thousand planes, striking from Britain, France, and advanced bases inside the Reich, ranged over the German front and far behind it, bombing and strafing enemy airfields and road and rail communications. One thousand and fifty Flying Fortresses and Liberator bombers pounded twelve airfields within range of the XVI Corps front, and 450 other bombers struck later at four enemy night-fighter bases nearby. This mighty artillery bombardment and accompanying air attacks were described by German forces as the worst *Feverzauber* they had ever experienced, a primary contributing factor to the success of the assault across the Rhine River.

Infantrymen of the 30th Division began moving up to the storm and assault boats which were assembled near the river, with their 55-horsepower motors warmed up and covered to keep them from cooling and stalling. Infantry and engineers together moved the craft to the water's edge, and from



General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the European Theater of Operations, poses for a picture at the XVI Corps command post in Lintfort, Germany, on the eve of the crossing of the Rhine River. (top).

General Eisenhower is pictured below commenting on the crossing operations as he witnessed them from an observation point on the Corps front at the time of the assault.



A battery is shown in action during its participation in the great barrage. One of the greatest concentrations of artillery pieces ever assembled, including 1,050 weapons ranging in caliber from 75 to 240 millimeters, was arrayed on the XVI Corps front for participation in the preparation fires that opened the Corps' drive across the Rhine River. These guns were emplaced over 20,000 yards of front, providing a coverage of 19.5 yards per weapon, which was reduced to 15.6 yards per weapon with the employment of 252 guns of three tank and two tank destroyer battalions attached to the assault divisions.

there they could see the enemy installations on the far side of the river being pounded by artillery. The hour for the assault was at hand, and the crash of artillery on the opposite shore lifted. The assault battalions jumped off, each in four waves with two-minute intervals between waves. Each stormboat carried 2 engineers and 7 infantrymen, and each double assault boat transported 14 infantrymen and 3 engineers. Heading across the river and propelled at a rapid rate, these vessels were swallowed up in the smoke screen that hovered over the crossing sites. The men hugged the bottom of the boats and ducked the spray. Boundaries for the crossing lanes of the first wave were marked by machine guns firing tracer ammunition. After the initial wave landed, aircraft control lights were placed to mark crossing

boundaries of succeeding waves. As bottoms of the craft scraped the far shore, the infantrymen leaped out and moved up rapidly toward the enemy positions with elements of three regiments abreast. Remaining battalions of these assault regiments followed in rapid succession, crossing in vehicle and personnel, medium, tank, and other available landing craft. The loss of amphibious craft through enemy action or mechanical failure during the entire operation was negligible, and more than sufficient water transportation was continually available for movement of infantry and supporting troops to the rapidly expanding beachhead. Tanks were launched within one-half hour after the jump-off and were beached on the far side of the river in less than three hours. Combat elements continued to pour across the Rhine, and the rafting of tanks and tank destroyers was well under way.

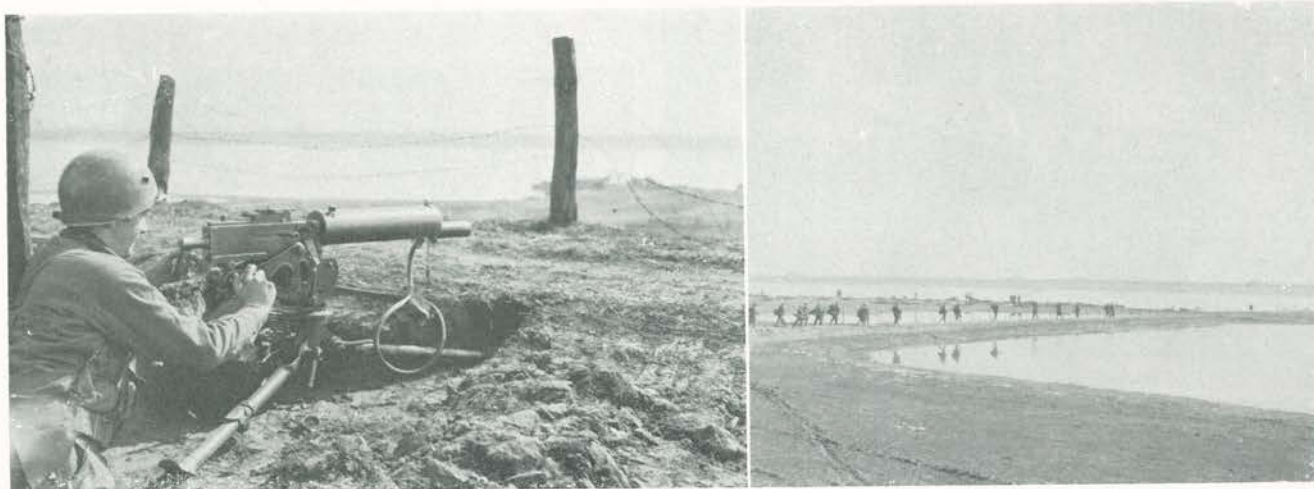
First waves of the 79th Infantry Division started to cross the Rhine at 0305 hours in the southern portion of the Corps zone, using the same type of landing craft employed by the 30th Division. The 79th Infantry Division crossed at two crossing sites with the 313th and 315th Infantry Regiments abreast. All boundaries for this assault were marked by colored lights. Difficulties associated with the construction of roads from the dikes to bridge and ferry sites, the launching of landing craft, and the maintenance of beach and water traffic discipline were skillfully surmounted by the Corps engineer units. Their teams functioned so efficiently that by 0600 hours they had transported eight infantry battalions of the 30th Division and five infantry battalions of the 79th Division to the Rhine's east bank. German



At left, a portion of the large stocks of ammunition assembled to feed the guns is shown, while at right is pictured the emplacement of one of the 8-inch rifles of the 34th Field Artillery Brigade.



Engineer operations in the XVI Corps Rhine River crossing.



A 30th Infantry Division machine gunner occupies a position on the west bank of the Rhine to assist in protecting crossing operations (*left*), and infantrymen of that division file toward a loading point on the river bank prior to their assault crossing (*right*).

troops were found dazed from the artillery bombardment and rapid assault by the 30th and 79th Divisions' infantry elements. Prisoners related that XVI Corps troops overran their positions before they had time to emerge from their dug-in positions.

Construction of the first bridge, an M2 treadway, across the Rhine River at Wallach was begun by engineers at 0630. Even though at 0830 hours it was found necessary to change the alignment of the bridge one hundred yards in order to take advantage of the existing roadnet on the far side, this 1,150-foot bridge was completed by 1530 hours. Construction of east-bank approaches began at 1045 hours, and by 1600 hours the bridge was open to traffic. Here, as in other phases of the operation, detailed planning and advance preparation contributed greatly to the

speed and success of accomplishment. Floats for this bridge were inflated, assembled, and loaded on vehicles for movement to the water's edge well in advance. The plan for construction involved the use of three section assembly sites on the west shore in addition to the actual bridge construction site, and the completion of this structure under enemy fire in nine and one-half hours was a remarkable feat.

The towns of Mehrum (A2231), Götterswickershamm (A2532), and Ork (A2133) were captured by 30th Infantry Division troops by 0600 hours. Opposition was light, and these troops continued their assault against increasing resistance, clearing Mallen (A2732), Vorde (A2633), Lohnen (A2533), Stockum (A2534), and Friedrichsfeld (A2537). Elements of the 119th Infantry crossed the Lippe-



Riflemen of the 30th Infantry Division hug the ground as German machine guns open up on them in Stauforst, near Spellen, Germany (*left*). Other infantry elements of the same division, who participated in the assault crossing of the Rhine River, advance along a road to Vorde, Germany (*right*).



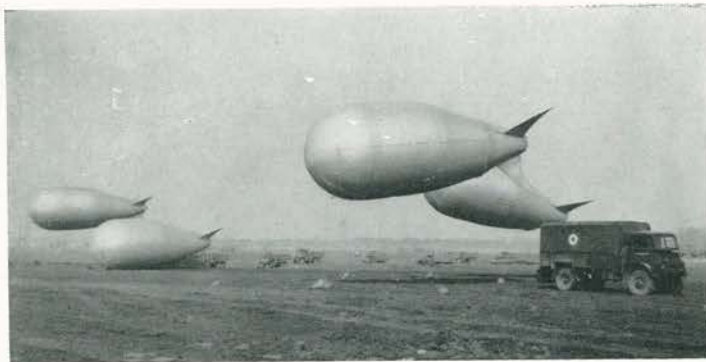
Tanks of the 79th Infantry Division move through the town of Overbrüch, Germany (*left*), while infantrymen of the same division who captured the town move on to new objectives.

Seiten Canal at (A225373), directly north of Spellen, and advanced north to the Lippe River. By 2400 hours, the 30th Infantry Division's advance elements were driving along the southern border of the Lippe River toward Dorsten. Units of the 79th Infantry Division seized Walsum (A2826), Overbrüch (A2927), and Dinslaken (A3129) in a steady advance against generally light resistance which increased in intensity at prepared strong-points. At the close of the day, this division's advance units were approaching the outskirts of Hamborn (A3322) on the southern edge of the Corps bridgehead and were closing in on the *Autobahn*, a superhighway running along the northern edge of the Ruhr industrial area.

The 75th Infantry Division and the attached 15th Cavalry Group supported the assault across the Rhine by fire from their west bank positions, and, after the 30th and 79th Divisions had passed through them, they protected the bridge and crossing sites west of the river. The 1st Battalion, 290th Infantry

Regiment, crossed the Rhine at 1954 hours to protect bridging operations at (210343) slightly north of Wallach, and at (A212337) almost directly east of Wallach. The Division established a log boom across the river in the vicinity of (A270295) across from Dinslaken, but it was destroyed by enemy fire. The 35th Infantry Division and the 8th Armored Division remained in assembly areas as Corps reserve. The 8th Armored Division maintained security of the Corps rear area, while the 35th Division infantrymen patrolled roads and guarded bridges in their sector.

By the end of this eventful day, the 30th Infantry Division had moved nine infantry battalions, two tank battalions, one tank destroyer battalion and two field artillery battalions to the east bank of the Rhine. The 79th Division had transferred nine infantry battalions, one tank battalion, and one tank destroyer battalion to the far side, and one infantry battalion of the 75th Division had crossed. The results of careful planning, meticulous attention to details, and



Antiaircraft units attached to XVI Corps engaged enemy aircraft and operated barrage balloons to protect sites where bridges were rapidly being constructed by engineer units. At left, barrage balloons are ready to be launched for protection of a bridge over the Rhine River at Ossenbergl. At right, having dug in their position near the Rhine, a gun crew of an automatic weapons battalion is prepared to open up on any hostile aircraft coming in range.



Prime Minister Winston Churchill crosses the Rhine in the XVI Corps zone. At the extreme left is Maj. Gen. John B. Anderson, Corps commander. Next to him are Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson, Ninth Army commander and Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, commander of 21st Army Group. The British officer at the extreme right is Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, Chief of Staff of the British Army.

skillful execution of this hazardous operation by all units was again revealed in the extremely small number of casualties suffered by troops under the XVI Corps; such losses included 38 killed, 426 wounded and 3 missing. Elements of the Corps captured 1,896 prisoners of war, and it was estimated that the enemy lost 250 killed and 430 seriously wounded.

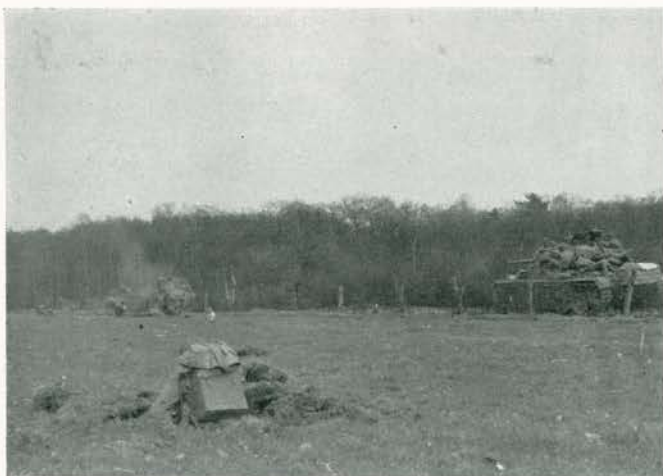
The Corps Artillery fired 3,378 missions in support of ground operations and in a counterflak mission as assistance for the airdrop north of Wesel. The XXIX Tactical Air Command flew missions throughout the day for XVI Corps, providing air cover over crossing and bridging sites and completing aerial reconnaissance missions deep into enemy territory.

A bridgehead had been established by the British on the north, the XVI Corps' left flank, and a Commando brigade had occupied Wesel (A2240). The U. S. 17th Airborne Division and the British 6th Airborne Division, operating under the U. S. XVIII Airborne Corps, had made an airdrop north of Wesel

and had established contact with elements of the British XII Corps. The XIII Corps on the XVI Corps' right flank, had continued defense of the west bank of the Rhine River in their zone and had supported the XVI Corps attack with artillery fire.

25 March 1945. The Corps continued to enlarge its bridgehead east of the Rhine River as the completion of additional Class 40 bridges hastened the movement of all types of units, equipment, and supplies across the water barrier. Construction of a heavy ponton bridge (reinforced) just south of the original M2 treadway bridge was completed by 0100 hours, and this 1,150-foot span was opened to traffic by 0630 hours. Completion of the M1 treadway bridge at Mehrum was delayed by observed enemy artillery fire on the bridge site, but this route was also open to traffic at 0830 hours.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain; General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the European Theater of Operations; General Omar



Tank destroyers roll along a road beyond Haulthausen, Germany, as 30th Division infantrymen advance on the flanks (*left*). The town of Dinslaken, Germany, was severely attacked by Allied aircraft and artillery prior to its capture by men of the 79th Infantry Division (*right*). This is a typical street scene in the town after its capture. Note that only one civilian appears in the street.

N. Bradley, commander of the U. S. 12th Army Group; Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, commander of the British 21st Army Group; Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson, commander of the U. S. Ninth Army; and Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, British Chief of Staff, visited XVI Corps headquarters to witness the Rhine crossing operations as Corps forces continued to forge ahead. Accompanied by Maj. Gen. John B. Anderson, commander of the XVI Corps; Brig. Gen. Charles C. Brown, XVI Corps Artillery commander; and Col. George R. Barker, Corps Chief of Staff, they had a picnic luncheon in the field and then proceeded to an observation point on the banks of the Rhine where they observed bridging and ferrying operations.

While they looked on, 14 more field artillery battalions, five more infantry battalions and a cavalry reconnaissance squadron crossed the river on ferries and bridges as the 30th and 79th Infantry Divisions expanded the Corps bridgehead to a depth of eight miles and a width of seven miles in continued attacks to the east against generally light to moderate resistance, and the 35th and 75th Infantry Divisions began moving east of the river to join in the offensive.

The 30th Infantry Division cleared Buderich Island between the Lippe River and the Lippe Canal in the vicinity of (A2338) with little difficulty, but troops of the division battled with every resource for positions in the vicinity of the *autobahn* north of Brückhausen (A3134) as the enemy directed antiair-



Fighting men of the 79th Infantry Division push forward through wooded terrain to new objectives beyond Dinslaken, Germany, in the face of enemy mortar and artillery fire.

craft guns at Corps ground troops from previously prepared positions. The 15th Cavalry Squadron crossed the Rhine River to hold Buderich Island after it had been seized.

Units of the 79th Infantry Division fought a furious engagement in Dinslakener Bruch (A2931) and captured Letkamshof (A3232) as other units consolidated positions on the Corps south flank. A



small force of enemy tanks, believed to be the nucleus of a counterattack being formed north of Wehofen (A3220), delayed the 79th's advance for a time, but was effectively suppressed by supporting aircraft and artillery fire laid down three hundred yards ahead of the infantry. The XXIX Tactical Air Command furnished a squadron of fighter-bombers each hour to assist each division, strafing and bombing enemy defenses in a record total of 829 sorties. Thousands of Eighth and Ninth Air Forces and Royal Air Force planes maintained an unprecedented air pace for ground troops, attacking three underground oil depots believed to be supplying enemy vehicles defending the area north of the Ruhr River. The Corps



Troops and supplies continued to move eastward over XVI Corps bridges as German prisoners were moved to inclosures on the west side of the Rhine.

Artillery laid down a heavy harassing and interdiction program in supporting the Corps attack and the bridging and crossing operations, firing 1,272 missions. The XIII Corps Artillery fired 410 missions in support of XVI Corps operations.

Little small-arms fire was encountered by the ground troops during the day, but heavy mortar and infantry howitzer fire more than made up for that lack of fire power in the enemy ranks. Enemy artillery was largely scattered and uncoordinated, although interdiction fire was placed on the southern bridge site at (A290295), across the Rhine from Dinslaken. Eighty-five enemy aircraft strafed Corps units and attacked barrage balloons over the bridging sites, but Corps antiaircraft artillery units engaged them, destroying several and forcing others to disperse.

The success of crossing operations and continued



Infantrymen of the 30th Division pass a knocked-out German ambulance as they move hurriedly eastward through the Wesel Forest en route to Kirchelen, Germany (*left*), and combat soldiers of the same division pass a German 240mm. howitzer taken during their advance near Hunxe, Germany (*right*).

rapid expansion of the bridgehead east of the Rhine is evidenced by the fact that at the end of the day the Corps had moved 24 infantry battalions, 19 field artillery battalions, five tank and tank destroyer battalions, and many other supporting units to the east side of the Rhine River.

26 March 1945. The 30th and 79th Infantry Divisions moved steadily onward in spite of opposition offered by newly committed German elements, and the Corps bridgehead was extended to a total depth of twelve miles through gains of two to four miles to the east and southeast. The 35th Infantry Division completed movement of its forces across the Rhine and the 8th Armored Division, with the 75th's 290th Infantry Regiment attached, began moving into the bridgehead to play its part in the sweeping offensive. The 1,260-foot M2 treadway bridge at Milchplatz was completed at 1645 hours and opened to traffic at 1800 hours, considerable difficulty in construction and maintenance having been encountered as a result of enemy artillery fire on the site. Additional infantry elements, two chemical mortar battalions, six more field artillery battalions, and six antiaircraft artillery battalions crossed the Rhine River in a steady stream to add their strength to the swelling tide of XVI Corps forces driving steadily forward.

Difficult, heavily wooded terrain and stubborn opposition from anti-tank, tank, automatic weapons, and artillery fire failed to stop the 30th Division. Advancing three regiments abreast, the Division gained four miles and seized Hunxe (A3339). The 119th Regiment cleared a large portion of Gahlen



(A4041) against very heavy resistance. A counter-attack attempted in the vicinity of (A380348) about three miles east of Brückhausen at 0930 hours by hostile infantry and tanks was effectively repelled. Isolated enemy groups laid down heavy small-arms and automatic-weapons fire, as the 79th Division

forged onward in the southern part of the Corps sector through open fields of farm land and small settlements of houses, with the smokestacks of the Ruhr industrial area dimly apparent off to the south. The 35th Division's 134th Regimental Combat Team (Task Force Miltonberger) advanced through the 79th Division area and attacked to the east at 0800 hours under the temporary operational control of the 79th Division. Gains of more than two miles were made against 20 mm. and self-propelled artillery fire. The 79th Division's 314th Infantry Regiment attacked on the left flank, keeping abreast of the 134th Regimental Combat Team, while the 313th Regiment consolidated positions and protected the division's right flank north of the Rhein-Herne canal. A counterattack mounted by the enemy near (A338276) east of Barmingholten about 1915 hours following heavy artillery and machine gun preparation was broken up by Corps Artillery.

The 15th Cavalry Squadron made contact with elements of the British 1st Commando Brigade at Lippendorf (A2338) after elements of the 75th Infantry Division's 291st Regiment took over responsibility for the defense of Buderich Island. The 75th Infantry Division made a new unsuccessful attempt to establish a log boom across the Rhine at the Homberg railroad bridge. The 35th Division's 137th and 320th Infantry Regiments closed in forward assembly areas east of the Rhine and conducted reconnaissance for future operations. Several of the field artillery groups attached to the XVI Corps for the crossing operation were released, their mission accomplished. The XXIX TAC attacked enemy gun positions and motor- and horse-drawn vehicles in their continued close cooperation with the Corps drive.

Eighteen out of 44 enemy aircraft strafing ground troops and flying reconnaissance missions were shot down by the Corps antiaircraft artillery units. Enemy artillery, mostly single pieces of light caliber, continued to shell the Corps' southernmost bridge and south sector of the bridgehead. Two regiments of the German 116th Panzer Division had joined in the fray during the day, plugging the holes torn in the ranks of the 180th Volksgrenadier Division by the Corps drive. Corps troops took a heavy toll of the new foe, however, capturing many hundreds.

At the close of the third day of crossing operations, the XVI Corps had transferred three complete infantry divisions, numerous groups and separate battalions, and a host of service units to the huge bridgehead east of the Rhine River.

27 March 1945. Gains of one to three and one-half miles were carved out all along the Corps front as elements of the 30th, 35th and 79th Infantry Divisions pushed forward. The 116th Panzer Division committed some of its tanks to support German infantry in the northern sector, while elements of the long-missing 190th Volksgrenadier Division joined in the battle in the south.

The 30th Infantry Division attacked, three regiments abreast, and beat back heavy resistance from small-arms, machine-gun, tank and artillery fire. The Division cleared the remainder of Gahlen (A4041) by 1330 hours. Elements of the 117th Regiment cleared Besten (A4139) later in the afternoon against stubborn opposition. The 320th Regiment (35th Division) captured a field artillery battery intact.



The 35th Division's 134th and 137th Infantry Regiments pushed forward, the 137th passing through the 79th Division's 314th Regiment, for gains of one thousand yards south and six thousand yards east through wooded terrain against small-arms, mortar, and artillery fire. Infantrymen of the 79th Division struck into the northern edge of the Ruhr industrial area along the Rhine River. The 313th and 315th Regiments attacked south advancing up to four thousand yards against light resistance. The 314th Regiment, on being passed through by the 137th Regiment, assembled and attacked eastward, gaining up to two thousand yards against dug-in 88 mm. guns. Troops cleared Wehofen (A3326), Horsterbruch (A3126), and Holten (A3525). Six thousand five hundred persons, including a thousand children, were found crowded into the three short subterranean passageways of a Wehofen mine shaft, waterless and foodless for three days. Ten of them were dead, four from Nazi machine-gun bullets fired into their group when they attempted to surrender earlier to 79th Division elements.

The 75th Infantry Division's 289th Regiment con-

tinued to defend the west bank of the Rhine, while the Division's 291st Regiment guarded bridges across the river. The 8th Armored Division completed moving its combat commands and attached units across the river, increasing Corps strength east of the Rhine by 2400 hours to 3 infantry divisions, 1 armored division, and Corps attached units consisting of 9 field artillery battalions, 3 antiaircraft artillery battalions, 4 engineer combat battalions and 2 cavalry reconnaissance squadrons. XVI Corps Artillery silenced several enemy batteries and a big railroad gun during the day, firing 845 missions. Twenty-six enemy planes attempting to attack Rhine crossing sites were effectively engaged by Corps antiaircraft artillery units.

28 March 1945. Corps forces cut the *Autobahn* near Duisburg, reached the Rhein-Herne Canal, and drove to within a mile of Dorsten as the enemy's 190th Volksgrenadier Division and elements of the 2d Parachute Division, reinforced by artillery, fought for every foot of ground. The 8th Armored Division, with the 290th Regimental Combat Team of the 75th Infantry Division attached, passed through the 30th Infantry Division and drove eastward two to five miles against heavy small-arms and direct antitank fire from dug-in positions along the Dorsten-Bottrop (A4326) road, and mines and infantry fire at Kirchhellen (A4334). The Division's Combat Command Reserve entered Zweckel (A4833) and its Combat Command A advanced to within a mile of Dorsten.

Following up the 8th Armored Division, the 35th Infantry Division mopped up by-passed pockets of resistance and seized Ostrich (A4240) in a two-mile advance. A four-mile stretch of the *Autobahn* was



German residents of Bottrop line the streets as these infantrymen of the 35th Division enter the town.



Combat men of the 79th Infantry Division (*left*) advance over rough terrain toward enemy-held positions southeast of Dinslaken. At right, a mortar crew of the 79th Division goes into action as its members lob 81mm. shells into Waldteich, Germany.

seized by the 35th Division as it swung forward, cleared Rentfort (A5431) and swept to the outskirts of Gladbeck (A4831).

The 79th Infantry Division moved into Hamborn and through the sea of twisted girders, wrecked machinery, and churned-up masonry that was once the enormous Thyssen Steel Works, armorers for Hitler's conquering legions. The infantrymen pushed on, found Ruhrort (A3218) evacuated, extended the Corps southern flank to the Rhine-Herne canal (A3520) southeast of Hamborn, and then ran into heavy concentrations of light artillery and intense small-arms, self-propelled-artillery, automatic-weapons, and mortar fire from strong positions along the *Autobahn* running north from the canal.

The 75th Infantry Division continued to provide rear area security and local protection of bridges across the Rhine. The XVI Corps Artillery fired 850 missions in supporting the Corps advance. Anti-aircraft and engineer groups were released from Corps attachment, their missions completed. Continuing to move forward, the XVI Corps closed its command post at Lintfort and opened at Letkams-hof (A3232) at 1200 hours.

29 March 1945. Additional objectives, including Dorsten (A4640), Gladbeck (A4830), and Sterkrade (A3824), were seized by XVI Corps forces as they drove forward against moderate to heavy resistance. Eleven artillery battalions opened the assault on Dorsten, pouring hundreds of shells into the town from 0600 to 0615 hours. Infantry elements of the 8th Armored Division's Combat Command A and

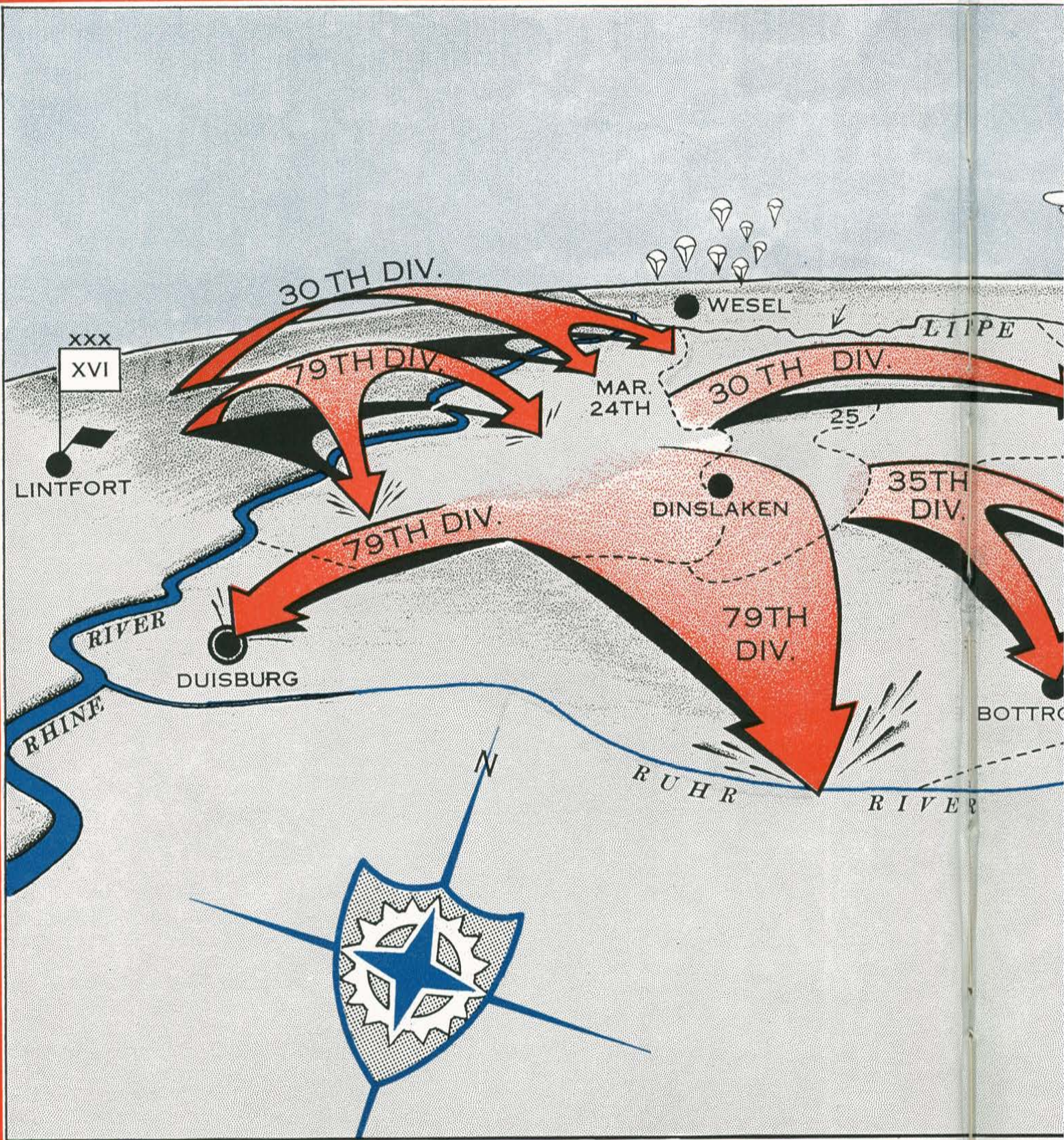
Combat Command Reserve then struck from the south and west, clearing the town by 1110 hours in the face of extensive use of mines, mortar, artillery,



and antitank fire by the enemy. These two combat commands were then regrouped into five task forces, continued the attack eastward, cleared Feldhausen (A4735), and Ulfkotte (A4837), and opened a battle for Scholven (A5033), advancing approximately four miles.

Infantrymen of the 35th Division's 134th Regiment cleared Gladbeck against moderate resistance in a 2½-mile advance to the east. The Division's 320th Regiment drove over a mile southeast against heavy small-arms, mortar, and artillery fire and captured Jolster (A4025).

Sterkrade was captured by the 79th Division's 314th Regiment after a severe battle in which the Germans employed intense mortar and some direct artillery fire. Eighty-eight-millimeter guns were found later emplaced in concrete fortifications, proof against light and medium artillery fire. The Division's 315th Regiment advanced from the *Autobahn* along the north bank of the Rhine-Herne Canal



XXX
XVI

LINTFORT

30 TH DIV.

79 TH DIV.

MAR.
24TH

WESEL

LIPPE

30 TH DIV.

25

35TH
DIV.

DINSLAKEN

79TH DIV.

79TH
DIV.

DUISBURG

RHINE
RIVER

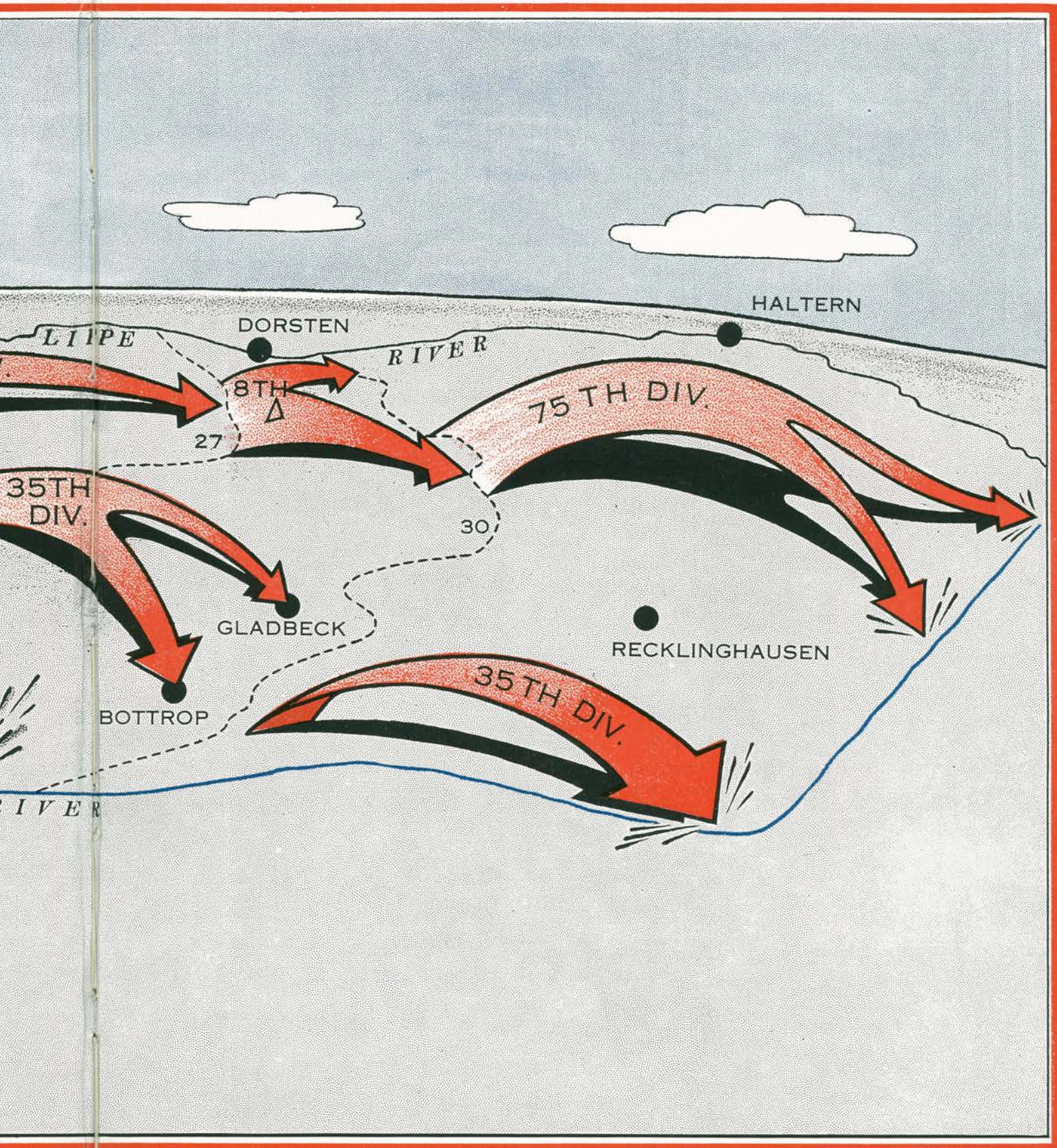
RUHR

RIVER

BOTTRICH

N





Perspective map of Rhine Crossing operations

against light resistance. The 313th Regiment patrolled across the canal into Duisburg.

The 75th Infantry Division began moving to a forward assembly area west of Dorsten prior to joining in the Corps offensive, and the 30th Infantry Division was placed in Corps reserve. The 29th Infantry Division, with the 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion, the 554th Antiaircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion, and the 747th Tank Battalion attached, located at Rheydt, Germany, was attached to XVI Corps. Artillery with the Corps fired 514 missions, including the attack on Dorsten. Enemy artillery decreased about fifty per cent during the period, the bulk of which came from the northern part of the sector. It was of light caliber, delivered against front lines and critical road intersections. Poor weather prevented any air cooperation by the XXIX Tactical Air Command.

30 March 1945. Moving ahead on a twelve-mile front, the Corps cleared numerous important towns in the Ruhr valley, gaining two to six miles, extended its front along the Rhine-Herne Canal to thirteen miles, and probed south into metropolitan Duisburg. The 8th Armored Division cleared Polsum (A5236) and Buer Hassel (A5234), advancing one and one-half miles through minefields against artillery, antitank and mortar fire. Division combat commands repulsed an enemy counterattack and destroyed five tanks. Elements of Combat Command Reserve reached Westerhold (A5434) during the morning, but heavy antitank fire forced a withdrawal of a thousand yards. Regiments of the 35th Infantry Division swept ahead four to six miles, reached the Rhine-Herne Canal and cleared Kol Welheim (A4726), Buer (A5231), Bottrop (A4326), and Eigen (A4427).

Infantrymen of the 79th Division's 314th Regiment attacked southeast at 0600 hours, met light opposition, and completed the Division's mission of clearing the area to the Rhine-Herne canal by 1415 hours. The regiment cleared Osterfeld (A4123), and a 313th Regiment patrol crossed the canal into Duisburg and entered houses there without opposition. Men of the 313th Regiment captured three submarine hulls in drydock on the canal just above Duisburg.

The 30th Infantry Division and 15th Cavalry Group were relieved from attachment to the Corps, the 29th Infantry Division prepared to move east of the Rhine, and the 75th Infantry Division assembled

west of Dorsten in preparation for future operations. Corps Artillery fired 682 missions in support of the day's attacks. XXIX Tactical Air Command pilots cooperated closely with the Corps on aerial reconnaissance missions. Enemy planes made eight raids during the day, bombing and strafing the area between Dorsten and Gladbach. Corps antiaircraft units destroyed at least one. Enemy artillery activity continued to decrease.

31 March 1945. Four- to five-mile gains were made against resistance that grew more and more determined, the closer the Corps drove to the Nazi political stronghold of Recklinghausen (A6335). Prisoners seized during the day said the town was a fortress and that a main line of resistance extended from Recklinghausen north and west generally along the railroad to Haltern (A6149).



The 75th Infantry Division, passing through the 8th Armored Division with two regiments abreast, struck five miles eastward into Drewer Nord (A5641) and captured a huge synthetic-rubber plant and large supplies of raw materials near the town, at (A560435). The 289th Regiment seized Drewer Nord, Marl (A5439), and Kol Brassent (A5440). The 291st Regiment captured Sickingmuhle (A5744) and Drewer Mark (A5543). The 8th Armored Division's Combat Command Reserve gained four miles despite heavy resistance from small infantry-tank-artillery teams and high-velocity antitank fire at critical terrain points. The division's Combat Command B began moving across the Lippe River, en route to Selm (A8144).

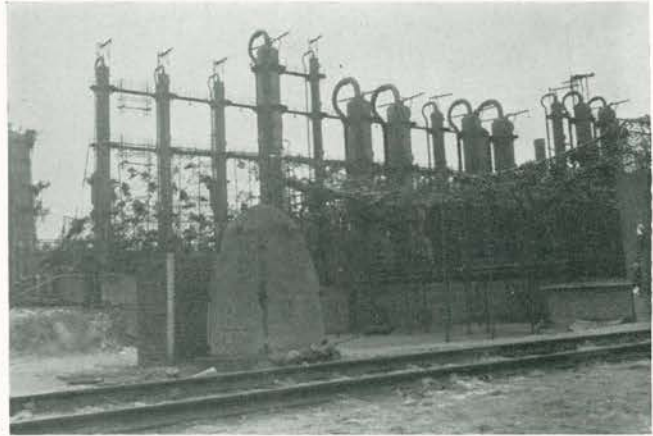
The 35th Infantry Division, in a four-mile advance, cleared the area north of the Rhine-Herne Canal to a point at (A548276) opposite Gelsenkirchen. The 320th Infantry crossed the Emscher Canal to clear the factory area between the two canals and seized Karnap (A4925) and Horst (A5026). The 137th Infantry cleared Buer-Erle (A5529), while the

134th Infantry cleared Buer Resse (A5631), Herten (A5832) and Stuckenbrisch (A5934). The 79th Infantry Division defended the Corps southern flank on the north bank of the Rhine–Herne canal, with elements of the 315th Infantry relieving the 320th Infantry Regiment (35th Division) on the line. Both the 35th and 79th Divisions' right flank elements were subjected to harassing small-arms and artillery fire from south of the Rhine–Herne Canal.

Four Corps Artillery battalions fired a preparation barrage from 0530 to 0630 hours for the 75th Division attack. A total of 767 missions was fired by artillery batteries during the day, as they maintained a heavy harassing and interdiction program. The XXIX Tactical Air Command blasted tanks, heavy guns, and motor transport in close cooperation with the efforts of ground troops. Marshalling yards in the Ruhr industrial district were reported to be very active, with long trains pulling eastward. The 29th Infantry Division began assembling within the Corps zone east of the Rhine River.

1 April 1945. Recklinghausen fell to the 35th Infantry Division as it made a six-mile advance with close artillery support. Other Corps units made substantial gains as they cleared the greater portion of the Haltern Forest and extended front lines along the Rhine–Herne Canal to 25 miles. The German 116th Panzer Division, it was learned from prisoners, withdrew during the night to the northeast, leaving the defense of its sector to inferior troops. Resistance was scattered and noticeably weak, although mortar fire and self-propelled and fixed artillery fire was laid down on the Corps right flank elements from enemy positions south of the Rhine–Herne Canal. In addition to Recklinghausen, troops of the 35th Division cleared Rollinghausen (A6531) and Suderwich (A6735).

The 75th Infantry Division's 289th and 291st Regiments advanced four to seven miles on a six-mile front and cleared Hamm Bossendorf (A6247), Fläsheim (A6547), Lenkerbeck (A5940), Huls (A5840), and Speckhorn (A6238). The 79th Infantry Division's 315th Regiment swept the enemy from between the Emscher and Rhine–Herne Canals in the vicinity of (A4422). The 8th Armored Division was relieved from operational control of the Corps, and its Combat Command Reserve was relieved on line by the 75th Division's 290th Regiment. The 79th Division's 315th Regiment relieved the 35th Division's 320th Regiment on line and assumed



A view of the synthetic rubber plant captured intact by elements of the 75th Infantry Division on 31 March 1945. The plant was capable of producing 30,000 tons of rubber a year, and was damaged only slightly by a bombing in 1943.

responsibility for the added regimental sector. The 29th Division's 116th Regiment moved into the 75th Division sector as 75th Division reserve, and the remainder of the 29th Infantry Division closed in the Corps area from Rheydt, Germany.

Corps artillery generally maintained a heavy harassing and interdiction program as it supported the Corps advance to the east, firing 597 missions. Enemy activity consisted of the firing of single guns and tended to confirm a build-up of light weapons in the area south of the Rhine–Herne Canal.

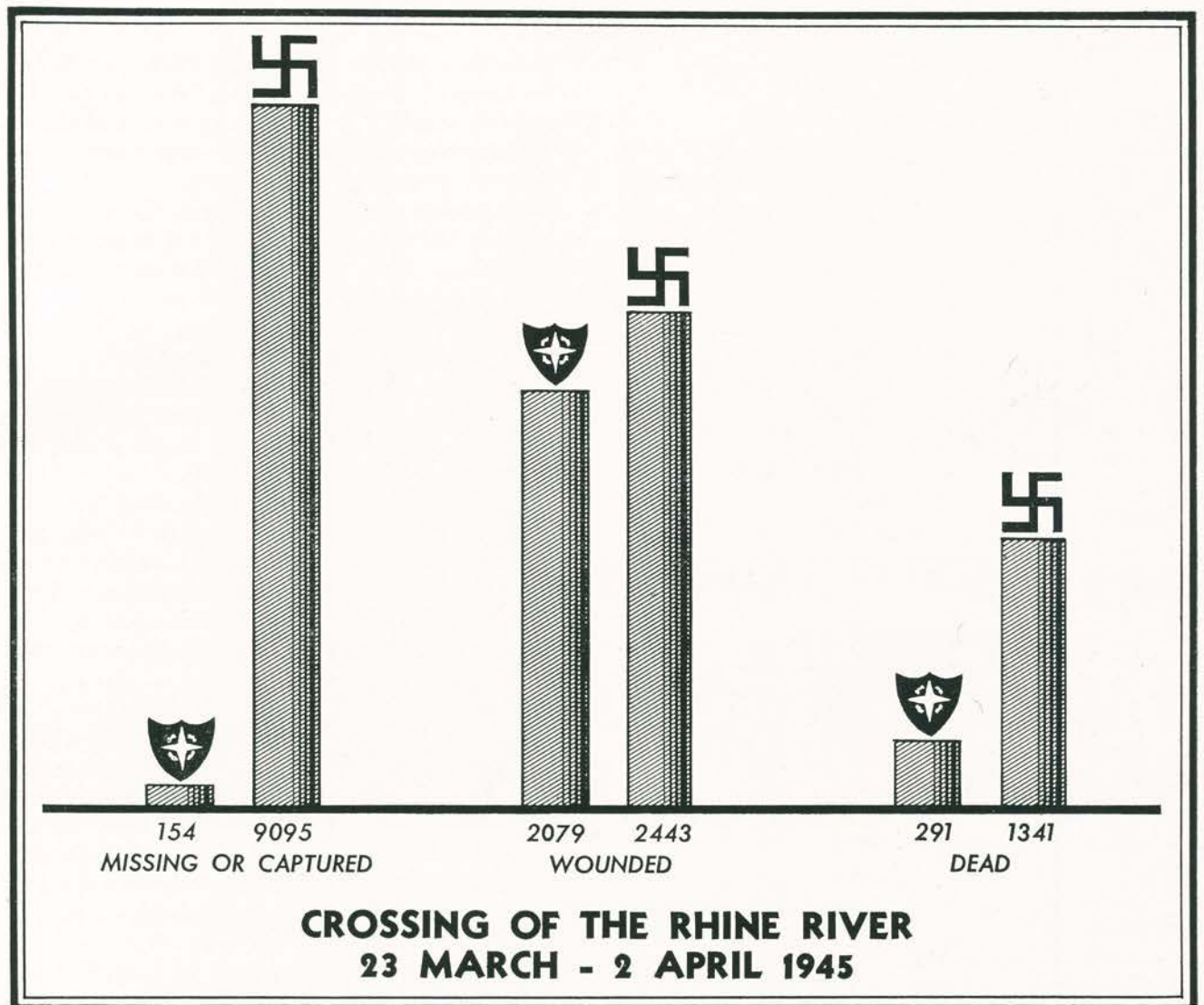
Elements of the XIX and the XIII Corps, having passed through the bridgehead established by the XVI Corps, moved north of the Lippe River and took over a zone from the British.

The XIX Corps' 2d Armored Division, climaxing a steady advance on the XVI Corps' left flank, contacted elements of the 3d Armored Division moving up from the south at Lippstadt (B4241), and the encirclement of the vital Ruhr industrial area, in which the XVI Corps played such an important role, was completed.

2 April 1945. The 75th and 35th Infantry Divisions drove through light, scattered resistance to the west bank of the Zweig and Dortmund–Ems Canal, and, with their advance, the XVI Corps accomplished its mission assigned for Operation Flashpoint. The 75th Division met stubborn resistance in Datteln (A7239) but cleared the town and the balance of the division sector south of the Lippe River. Contact was established and maintained with XIX Corps

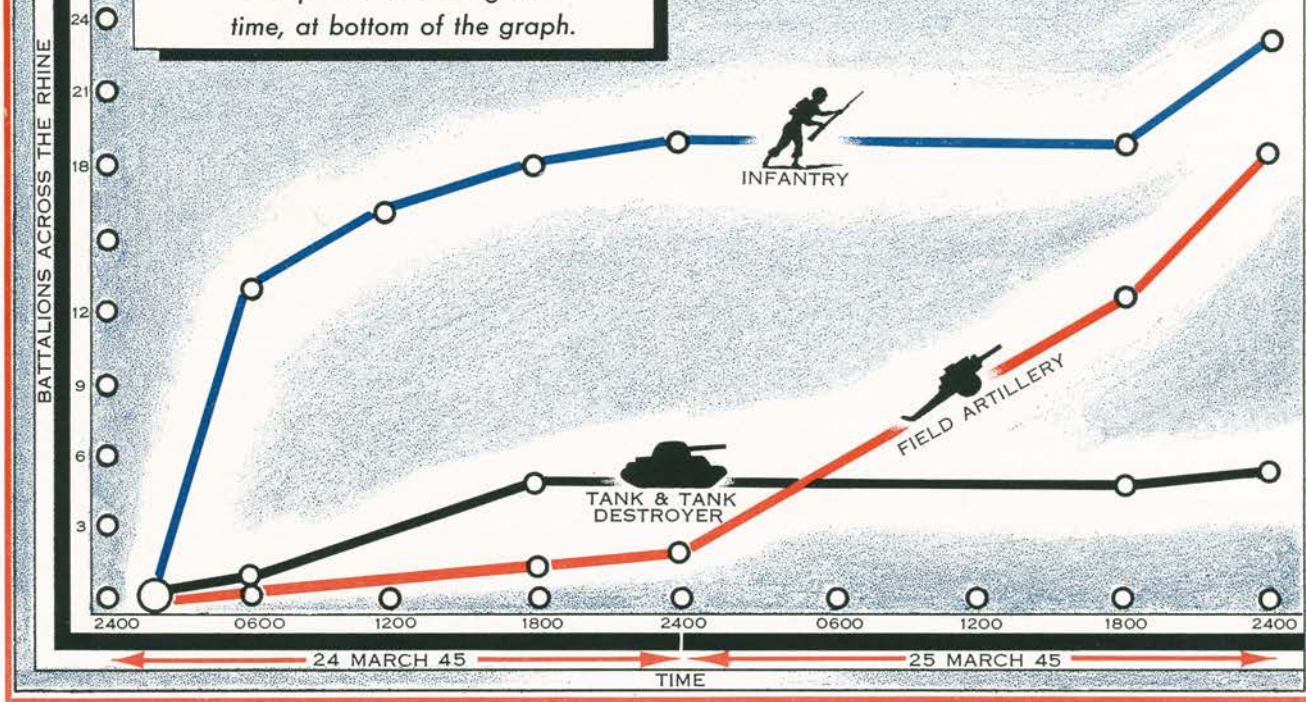


A large group of prisoners taken during the Rhine crossing operations near Wallach, Germany, are marched to an inclosure. Out of its 120,000 troops involved in this operation, the Corps suffered comparatively few losses, as depicted in the chart below.



MOVEMENT OF TROOPS ACROSS THE RHINE RIVER DURING THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE ASSAULT

Battalions across the Rhine are plotted at left against time, at bottom of the graph.



elements along the Lippe River, and all regiments sent patrols east of the Dortmund-Ems Canal. Patrols from the 79th Infantry Division probed the sector across the Rhine-Herne Canal. A division officer, an interpreter, and the *Bürgermeister* of Hamborn proceeded to Duisburg to attempt to arrange a surrender of the German forces there, conferred with regimental officers, but were informed that the Germans would not give up. Corps Artillery maintained a heavy harassing and interdiction program, firing a total of 548 missions.

In its swift ten-day drive, the XVI Corps dealt a fatal blow to the enemy as it spearheaded the U. S. Ninth Army's attack across the Rhine River and hemmed in the great Ruhr industrial area so essential to Germany's continued prosecution of the war. Over nine thousand prisoners were taken during the operation, while Corps casualties were remarkably few. Thousands of displaced persons were liberated and the complex problems associated with their feeding, housing, and categorization were skillfully solved. Tremendous quantities of enemy matériel were overrun or destroyed, and a partial list included:

| | |
|--|----|
| Tanks and halftracks | 15 |
| Artillery pieces (150mm. to 75mm.) | 22 |
| Antiaircraft artillery (88mm. to 20mm.) .. | 36 |
| Antitank guns (75mm.) | 12 |
| Mortars (120mm. to 81mm.) | 6 |
| Searchlights | 14 |

As the Corps drove steadily eastward from its bridgehead area on the Rhine River, it encountered an increasingly heterogeneous and motley arrangement of enemy troops supporting the 180th and 190th Volksgrenadier, 2d Parachute and 116th Panzer Divisions. Identified among the enemy front-line troops were elements of naval, Luftwaffe, construction and service troops, limited-service units and a large number of poorly trained or untrained Volkssturm. The Volkssturm were an especially unhappy lot, taken from war jobs, poorly trained for two weeks, and given obsolete arms and an armband; they had no desire, inclination or willingness to fight. The area swept out by the Corps formerly had been a part of the great "flak belt" which constituted a portion of the antiaircraft defenses of the industrial

cities to the south. The permanently emplaced, high-velocity, antiaircraft weapons scattered throughout this zone were dual-purpose, and their use against the Corps' ground troops presented a menace not commonly found elsewhere. Through the use of capable officers, the enemy put up a determined defense, and it was only because of the great power brought to bear upon him, coupled with the detailed XVI Corps plans and preparations for all problems and exigencies that could arise, that he was completely overwhelmed on the Corps front.

Over 850 convoys including 84,893 vehicles were cleared for movement by the XVI Corps traffic headquarters in preparing for the great Rhine drive and in the prosecution of the offensive. Much of the traffic control, especially the movement of field artillery battalions and huge amounts of special engineer equipment into forward assembly areas, was efficiently accomplished despite the fact it had to be done at night to assure safety of the moving elements and conceal their presence from the enemy.

The outstanding success of the Corps drive brought a tribute and commendation from Lieut. Gen. William H. Simpson, commander of the Ninth Army, to the officers and men of the XVI Corps, in which the Army commander said of the Corps:

The successful crossing of the Rhine and ensuing operations to the eastward constitute the high point of accomplishment in the history of Ninth Army to date. Similarly, the occasion provides me the opportunity of congratulating you and your fine staff upon the splendid achievements that you have accomplished during your period of association with this command.

In reviewing the record of your organization, I am cognizant of the outstanding work done during the latter part of 1944 in processing and moving units from the beaches to the Ninth Army zone of action. I feel sincerely that your work in that connection contributed materially to the successes that have ensued. I have noted, also, the skill and dispatch with which your organization carried out its first operational role in the drive from the Roer River to the Rhine.

Most gratifying to me, however, is the achievement of your command in the Rhine crossing and establishment of the bridgeheads which permitted the Army to assemble its full power for the drive to the eastward. To your Corps goes

the major credit for the success of the crossing. I was impressed with the enthusiasm which characterized the planning of the operation, carried on at the same time you were conducting operations, and I feel that the speed with which the crossing was consummated may be attributed to the thoroughness of your plans and preparations.

The speed and skill demonstrated in the crossing operation were matched on the far shore by the deft manner in which troops were assembled for the build-up and by the power with which you exploited the initial success. By your timely and accurate perception of the vital objectives and prompt seizure of the same, you made possible the crossing and expeditious build-up of all the participating forces. I am particularly appreciative of the successful coordination effected between your command and the Second British Army in solving the many and complex problems of mutual concern that arose during the build-up period. As you well know, the accomplishment of one task in war leads but to another; I am confident that the new mission upon which you are now engaged will be performed in the same thorough manner that has characterized your past accomplishments.

I wish to commend you and your command upon the splendid record of the XVI Corps to date, and it is my desire that you personally transmit to every officer and man of your organization my sincere appreciation of their individual contributions.

A statement by General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the European Theater of Operations, issued on 3 April 1945, stressed the importance of the accomplishments of the XVI Corps and other Army units. General Eisenhower said:

The encirclement of the Ruhr by a wide pincer movement has cut off the whole Army Group B and parts of Army Group H, thus forming a large pocket of enemy troops whose fate is sealed and who are ripe for annihilation. The most vital industrial area is denied to the German war potential. This magnificent feat of arms will bring the war more rapidly to a close. It will long be remembered in history as an outstanding battle—the battle of the Ruhr.

With the successful completion of this important mission, new boundaries were announced for the XVI Corps which directed it toward a possible movement on the Ruhr industrial area to the south. Corps units, losing no time, were sending patrols into the area, ready for their next clash with the enemy.



IV: ELIMINATION OF THE RUHR POCKET

With a record of outstanding accomplishments and skillful employment of all available forces to the utmost advantage, the XVI Corps swung southward on 3 April 1945, under a new important mission, to eliminate the enemy in the Ruhr industrial area, the most densely populated region of Germany. From a 37-mile front along the Rhine–Herne and Dortmund–Ems Canals, the XVI Corps in the next twelve days wiped out every shred of enemy resistance in its drive to the Ruhr River through such big metropolitan centers as Essen (population 670,000), Gelsenkirchen (317,000), Oberhausen (190,000), Mulheim (136,000), and Dortmund (540,000), veritable fortresses with elaborate shelters against shellfire and bombing, fixed anti-aircraft artillery emplacements capable of direct fire upon ground troops, and thousands of buildings providing ideal havens for enemy snipers. During this phase of operations the Corps captured many notorious prisoners including well known military leaders, industrialists, and Nazi politicians. It seized or destroyed huge supplies of enemy equipment and liberated an estimated 200,000 displaced persons from slavery as still another combat mission was successfully completed.

Trapped by a steel ring which the XVI Corps had played an instrumental part in forging with its forceful drive across the Rhine River, desperate German armies in the Ruhr pocket were ready to battle for their lives, knowing they had only the alternatives of surrender or annihilation. Twenty-one enemy divisions, including more than 300,000 German troops, were encircled within an area of approximately five thousand square miles when the Ninth Army spearhead joined on 1 April 1945, near Lippstadt (B4242), a First Army thrust, launched from the vicinity of Bonn on the Rhine River. Hostile forces surrounded in this pocket included the German Army Group B, two corps of Army Group H, the German Fifteenth Army, the Fifth Panzer Army, and numerous scattered divisions.

Allied strategy provided for the reduction of the pocket through the use of three corps. The XVI Corps was to attack south from the Rhine–Herne and Dortmund–Ems Canals to the Ruhr River. The First Army's III Corps was to attack to the west, with its right flank defined as the Ruhr River, and the XVIII Airborne Corps, also under the First Army, was to attack northwest from the Sieg River to the juncture of the Rhine and Ruhr Rivers.

Ten thousand regular German troops and many additional thousands of Volkssturm, supported by divisional artillery, anti-aircraft, and miscellaneous units, held the German sector opposite the XVI Corps' broad front. They included remnants of the 2d Parachute Division, the 180th and 190th Volksgrenadier Divisions, and the 4th Anti-aircraft Division. The 2d Parachute Division, cut to 4,000 men by the Corps assault across the Rhine, was believed to be occupying the area south of the Rhine–Herne Canal from the Rhine River to the vicinity of Gelsenkirchen. The 190th Volksgrenadier Division, numbering only 3,500 men as a result of its great losses in earlier battles with XVI Corps forces, was believed to be defending a continuation of this line to the vicinity of the Zweig Canal, with the 180th Volksgrenadier Division, about 2,500 men, holding the remainder of the line. Attempts to break through the XVI Corps front were quite probable and even indicated later, and it was necessary for adequate precautions to be taken to be ready at all times to crush such an attempt. The enemy artillery situation was still somewhat obscure, since recent fire had been scattered and confined mainly to single guns.

Forces under XVI Corps, regrouping for their new mission, included the 35th and 79th Infantry Divisions in line along the north bank of the Rhine–Herne Canal, the 75th Infantry Division in the northern part of the sector along the Dortmund–Ems Canal, and the 29th Infantry Division in Corps re-



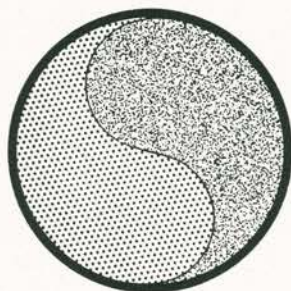
In their task of reduction of the Ruhr industrial area, XVI Corps troops were faced with 88mm. high-velocity weapons such as this, once used for anti-aircraft defense of the area and later turned against the assaulting ground forces.



At left, engineer troops supporting the 75th Infantry Division's attack complete a by-pass over the Zweig Canal near Ickern, Germany. At right, men of the 35th Infantry Division employ a captured German 75mm. antitank gun against Germans entrenched in a building across the Rhein-Herne Canal.

serve. The 34th Field Artillery Brigade served with skill as the Corps Artillery Fire Direction Center for the western portion of the Corps sector, and the 40th Field Artillery Group, consisting of three 155 mm. gun battalions, added its death-dealing blows to the Corps effort.

3 April 1945. Opening the Corps' new drive that would wipe out the last throb of militarism in the industrial heart of Germany, the 75th Infantry Division sent combat patrols across the Dortmund-Ems Canal and secured a bridgehead on the division's left flank. One company passed through the bridgehead, penetrated enemy lines, and returned with 55 prisoners. The division assumed responsibility for an additional sector of the Corps front as its 290th Infantry Regiment relieved elements of the 35th Infantry Division. Both the 35th and 79th Divisions maintained and improved their positions along the northern bank of the Rhine-Herne Canal and conducted active patrolling south of the canal. Corps artillery laid down a heavy harassing and interdiction program, firing 426 missions.



4 April 1945. Attacking at 0100 hours with three regiments abreast, the 75th Infantry Division, with the 116th Regimental Combat Team of the 29th

Infantry Division attached, crossed the Dortmund-Ems Canal for a swift five-mile advance on a seven-mile front. Resistance, scattered in the open, but stiffening in built-up areas, indicated clearly the enemy's intention of taking full advantage of all suitable positions, throwing all odds and ends available into a defense of the Ruhr area. The 291st Regiment on the north met little opposition. The 116th Regiment in the center and the 289th Regiment on the south, however, advanced against intense small-arms, automatic-weapons, and self-propelled-artillery fire. Crushing heavy resistance southeast of the city, the 116th Regiment cleared Waltrop (A7636) by 1800 hours. The 289th Regiment smashed through enemy strongpoints in the northern and northwest outskirts of Ickern (A7333) and cleared the town. The 35th and 79th Infantry Divisions continued their patrolling south of the Rhine-Herne Canal. The 29th Infantry Division, in Corps reserve, provided security for the Corps rear area. Artillery with the Corps battered enemy strongpoints, firing 836 missions.

5 April 1945. Resuming its attack at 0700 hours, the 75th Infantry Division advanced a mile against light resistance, and the 116th Regiment cleared Braumbauer (A7933). The 79th Division, maintaining its defensive positions, destroyed locks on the Rhine-Herne Canal. Having been attached to the XVI Corps, the 17th Airborne Division moved into the 79th Division's sector and prepared to relieve that division. The 35th Infantry Division continued defense of its sector and improved its positions. The 29th Infantry Division began movement out of the Corps area prior to its being relieved from attachment to the Corps. In its continued assault on cities and other important targets, the Corps artillery fired 689 missions.

6 April 1945. As it forged ahead against delaying action at strongpoints and small-arms and automatic-weapons fire from built-up areas supported by direct high-velocity fire, the 75th Infantry Division drove to within two miles of Dortmund as other Corps elements regrouped to join in the attack. Heavy-caliber antiaircraft guns harassed assaulting elements with air-bursts. An enemy counterattack northeast of Castrop-Rauxel (A7028) was successfully repulsed. The 79th Division moved into the 35th Division sector, relieved the 320th Infantry Regiment on line, and prepared to attack south. The 320th Regiment began movement to the 75th Division sector. The 17th Airborne Division assumed responsibility for the 79th Division area, and the 29th Division was released from attachment to the Corps. Corps artillery



assisted in repulsing several small counterattacks as it supported the 75th Division's drive, firing 542 missions.

7 April 1945. Aided through a demonstration by the 17th Airborne Division and supported by fire

from both the 17th Airborne Division and 35th Infantry Division, the 79th Infantry Division struck south across the Rhine-Herne Canal toward Essen at



0300 hours. Attacking as German troops were moving east to bolster forces on the 75th Division's front, the 79th Division effectively split the 2d Parachute Division.

German artillery shelled treadway bridges being swiftly constructed across the Rhine-Herne Canal by Corps engineer units in the sector west of Gelsenkirchen, but 79th Division troops, the 313th and 315th Regiments abreast, pushed onward to establish a bridgehead two miles deep and three miles wide. The 75th Division, with the 35th Division's 320th Regiment attached, moved into the outskirts of Dortmund and into Castrop-Rauxel (A7028). A strong enemy counterattack launched northwest along the railroad from Dortmund was repulsed by division troops, artillery fire, and XXIX Tactical Air Command planes working in close cooperation with Corps ground troops. Corps artillery continued to pour shells into the Ruhr cities, supporting the 75th and



At left, 79th Division infantrymen move toward the Rhine-Herne Canal near Neuessen, Germany, while at right, troops of the 79th Division's 315th Infantry Regiment hurry over the Rhine-Herne Canal dikes as they attack south to block the eastward movement of enemy forces defending the Ruhr industrial area.



Fighter-bombers of the XXIX Tactical Air Command, working in close cooperation with XVI Corps ground troops, assisted in repulsing a strong German counterattack on 7 April 1945. A 500-pound bomb effectively knocked out this enemy tank as it was moving along the *Autobahn* northwest of Dortmund.

79th Infantry Divisions' attack with a heavy harassing and interdiction program. In addition to assisting the 79th Division, weapons of the 35th Division also supported the 75th Division assault with fire. At the close of the day, the Corps troops were arrayed on a front of approximately 45 miles in length, and even though engaged in offensive operations, the 75th Infantry Division held 13 miles of this front. Moving to maintain closer contact with its units, the XVI Corps closed its command post at Letkampshof (A3232) and opened at 1200 hours in Recklinghausen (A6235).

8 April 1945. The 79th Infantry Division cut the Essen-Gelsenkirchen railroad and isolated Essen from the east as troops continued to push south and heavy weapons rolled over the Rhine-Herne Canal on Bailey and treadway bridges to assist in the attack.



Division assault elements smashed to a point almost directly east of Essen and south of Gelsenkirchen by 2200 hours, extending the division's bridgehead two miles southward.

The 17th Airborne Division's 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment crossed the Rhine-Herne Canal in the 79th Division sector, passed through the 315th Infantry Regiment, and advanced a mile southeast against light opposition. Two heavy howitzer battalions laid down a stiff thirty-minute preparation barrage, after which the 75th Division drove



forward three miles to the south and one mile to the west. The division repulsed two counterattacks and cleared Castrop-Rauxel, as well as several small towns nearby. Corps artillery rained shells on the enemy throughout the day, battering every apparent German strongpoint, and firing 1,005 missions.

9 April 1945. Progressing so successfully in its advance to the Ruhr River, the XVI Corps was assigned an additional sector to the east and was given control of the 8th Armored Division, the 95th Infantry Division, the 194th Glider Infantry Regimental Combat Team (17th Airborne Division), the 15th Cavalry Group, and their attached units, as well as additional Corps artillery units. The Corps hurled



Vehicles of the 79th Infantry Division roll across a newly constructed Bailey bridge spanning the Rhine-Herne Canal near Essen, on 8 April 1945, as the Division continued its drive on Essen.



At left, infantrymen of the 17th Airborne Division move into the outskirts of Essen, Germany, capturing the great industrial center on 10 April 1945. At right, 79th Infantry Division troops pass through a portion of Essen on their way to Mulheim, which fell to them on 11 April 1945.

the 35th Infantry Division into the attack, and, with four infantry divisions, an armored division, an airborne division, and a mechanized cavalry group pounding forward, it drove to destroy the vestiges of German resistance remaining north of the Ruhr River.

The 35th Division's 134th and 137th Infantry Regiments attacked across the Rhine-Herne Canal north of Herne at 0630 hours and swiftly established two bridgeheads against spotty resistance to a depth of two miles along an eight-mile front. The 134th Regiment outflanked Gelsenkirchen on the east, and patrols entered the city.

With the pressure on its flanks relieved by the 17th Airborne and 35th Infantry Divisions' attacks, the 79th Division thrust rapidly south to the Ruhr River, seizing Steele (A5418) and cutting German forces north of the Ruhr into two swiftly closing pockets. Enemy troops poured small-arms fire at division units from the north and northeast outskirts of Essen, while enemy artillery south and southeast of the city shelled assault elements.

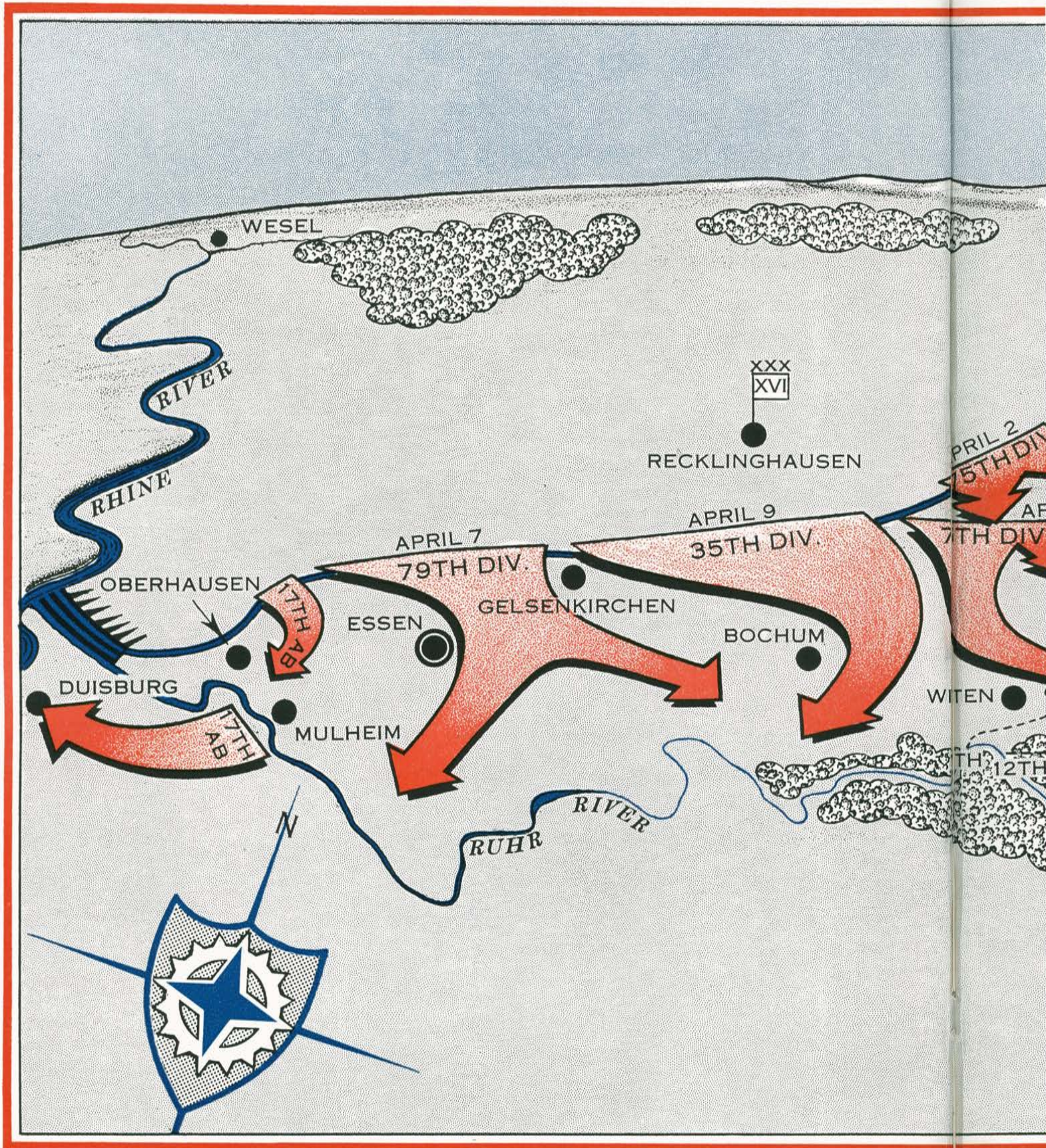
Supported by artillery, German forces again counterattacked across the Dortmund-Ems Canal northwest of Dortmund and in the area south of Castrop-Rauxel, but the 75th Infantry Division's troops repulsed them without loss of ground. Able to make only slight gains, the 75th Division consolidated its earlier advances and cleared scattered resistance in rear areas.

Combined into a powerful task force, the 95th Infantry Division, the 8th Armored Division, the 194th Glider Infantry Regimental Combat Team, and the 15th Cavalry Group drove on Dortmund

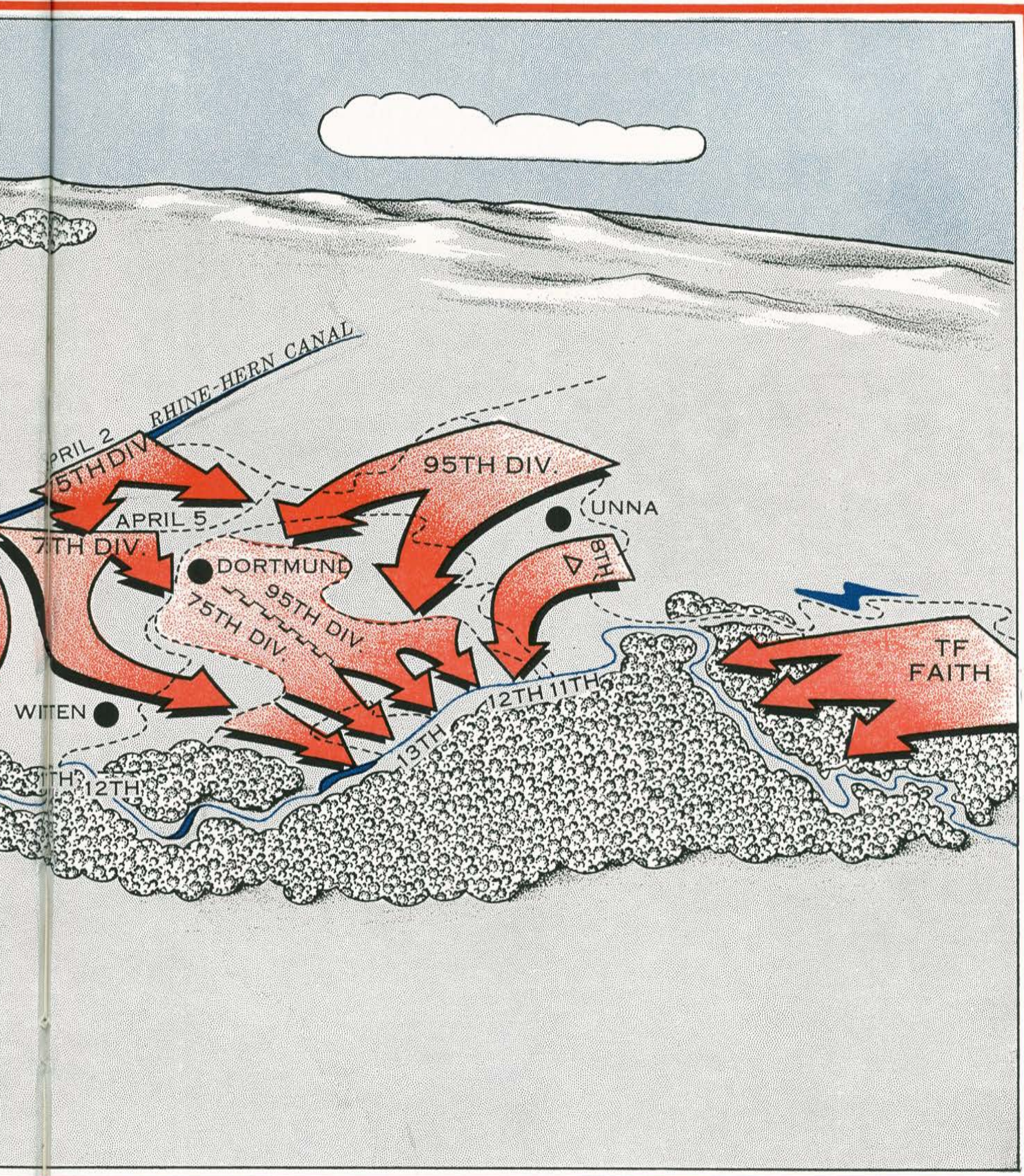
from the east to sweep the foe from that great industrial center. The 95th Division's 377th Infantry Regiment and the 194th Glider Infantry Regimental Combat Team were combined to form Task Force Faith, and they operated as a unit along with the remainder of the 95th Division, the 8th Armored Division, and the 15th Cavalry Group under Task Force Twaddle. Moving steadily toward Dortmund, these elements drove to meet the 75th Division. The 8th Armored Division reached the outskirts of Wickede (B0922) and moved to within three miles of Unna (A9626). The 95th Division pushed west six miles through numerous small towns and over rugged and wooded terrain on an eight-mile front. The 194th Glider Infantry RCT mopped up enemy resistance in its sector despite numerous mines and booby traps left by the enemy, and the 15th Cavalry Group patrolled north of the Lippe River, protecting the Corps' north flank.

Corps artillery, its effective power increased by the addition of six battalions accompanying and supporting Task Force Twaddle, fired 1,181 missions as it continued to batter German forces. Over two thousand prisoners were seized in the day's operation, and interrogation revealed that several new battalions had been thrown into the enemy's desperate defense.

10 April 1945. The great industrial city of Essen, with its mammoth, sprawling Krupp Steel Works smashed into rubble by bombs and artillery shells, fell to the XVI Corps as the enemy evacuated the battered armament city, blowing up or blocking scores of intersections and underpasses in increas-



Sketch of Ruhr Pocket operations



RHINE-HERN CANAL

APRIL 2
5TH DIV.

APRIL 5

7TH DIV.

DORTMUND

95TH DIV.
75TH DIV.

WITTEN

9TH
12TH

12TH 11TH

13TH

95TH DIV.

UNNA

8TH

TF
FAITH

ingly conclusive evidence that the Germans were withdrawing their forces south of the Ruhr River to escape destruction at the hands of the Corps' troops. Elements of the 17th Airborne Division occupied the eastern portion of Essen without opposition. The 35th Division's 134th Infantry Regiment cleared Gelsenkirchen (A5524), and its 137th Regiment cleared Herne (A6427). The 79th Division drove east between the 35th Division on the north and the Ruhr River on the south and cleared Wattenscheid (A5820) and the western half of the large city of Bochum (A6320) against moderate resistance.

Seeking to save forces in Dortmund from entrapment before they could be evacuated south of the Ruhr River, the enemy fought desperately as Task Force Twaddle, the 8th Armored and 95th Infantry Divisions abreast, advanced to within two miles of contacting elements of the 75th Division. Tiger tanks and several hundred men were employed in a furious counterattack early in the evening, but the 8th Armored Division repulsed the effort quickly and effectively and pushed onward. The 8th Armored Division advanced to within a mile of Unna and the outskirts of Frondenberg (B0219), and cleared Wickede (B0922). While the 95th Division's 378th Regiment advanced up to eight miles along the Lippe River, its 379th Regiment entered Kamen (A9432) and fought to within one mile of Unna. The 377th Regiment advanced five miles in its zone.

The 194th Glider Infantry Regimental Combat Team practically completed its mission of clearing scattered resistance in its zone and established contact with elements of the III Corps on the south bank of the Ruhr River. The 15th Cavalry Group



screened the Corps north flank along the Lippe River, and Corps artillery fired 1,031 missions in support of Corps attacks. Enemy artillery south of the Ruhr River shelled southern elements of the



By the time XVI Corps troops took Essen, the famous Krupp steel works in the city had been pounded to rubble by aerial bombardment and concentrated artillery fire. Shown here is a portion of the wreckage of the plant as seen from the air.

79th Division and the 8th Armored Division. Again the Corps captured over 2,500 prisoners.

11 April 1945. Sweeping the entire industrial Ruhr clear of German troops except for the enemy bridgehead in the Dortmund area, XVI Corps forces captured Mulheim (A4014), Oberhausen (A3919), Bochum (A6420), Unna (A9726), and Witten (A7115), occupied the remainder of Essen, seized Ruhr River bridges intact at Mulheim, Witten, and Kettwig (A4407), and established positions along the north bank of the Ruhr River for 42 miles from its confluence with the Rhine east to the vicinity of Witten and from Frondenberg (B0219) east to Arns-



berg, where it was in contact with the First Army's III Corps.

Clearing Mulheim after a swift eight-mile advance, the 17th Airborne Division established a small bridge-



At left, vehicles of the 8th Armored Division roll into Unna, Germany, to take the city on 11 April 1945. At right is pictured the ruins of Witten, Germany, at the time this city was seized by 75th Infantry Division troops.

head south of the Ruhr River with its capture of the Mulheim bridge intact. The 35th Division drove through Bochum in advancing four to five miles to the Ruhr River, and the 79th Division, capturing the Kettwig bridge, established a position south of the Ruhr against heavy small-arms, self-propelled and anti-aircraft artillery fire. The 75th Division's 291st Regiment maintained positions west of Dortmund, and the 289th and 290th Regiments drove to the Ruhr River and entered Witten.

A force of 800 to 1,000 Germans fought bitterly to hold Unna, hurling antitank, self-propelled, anti-aircraft, heavy-caliber mortar and artillery fire at 8th Armored Division forces attacking the city under Task Force Twaddle. The 8th Armored Division swept through the city by 1400 hours, however, and continued onward for an advance of four miles. The 95th Infantry Division, under Task Force Twaddle, moved to within three miles of Dortmund from the east, establishing contact with elements of the 75th Division and shifting the axis of its advance to the



south. The 194th Glider Infantry Regiment completed its drive to the Ruhr River and then moved to the 8th Armored Division sector to assist its advance to the west.

Prisoner totals soared to 3,240 for the day, and fourteen tanks and heavy guns were captured or destroyed. Corps artillery supported the divisions' drives with a heavy harassing and interdiction program, firing 872 missions.

12 April 1945. Forging a mighty steel pincers around Dortmund, the XVI Corps drove the prongs to within four miles of encircling the great metropolis as the enemy battled with all available might to hold open his escape route across the Ruhr River south of the city. The 75th Division, containing Dortmund on the west, cleared Witten and continued its advance against heavy resistance over difficult terrain.

The 95th Infantry Division entered the northern and eastern edges of Dortmund in a four-mile advance through a sector studded with minefields and roadblocks. Mortars and artillery pounded Corps troops from positions south of the Ruhr River.

The Corps began a regrouping of troops preparatory to releasing the 8th Armored and 35th Infantry Divisions. The 17th Airborne Division assumed an additional sector on the north bank of the Ruhr and sent strong combat patrols into Duisburg, where they were told by civilians that German troops had fled from the city two or three days earlier. Corps artillery fired 474 missions. The 15th Cavalry Group assumed responsibility for patrolling the north bank of the Ruhr River from Neheim to Wickede, and in the vicinity of Arnsberg. The 29th Infantry Division was again attached to the Corps and it continued its mission of security and occupation of the Corps and Army rear area.

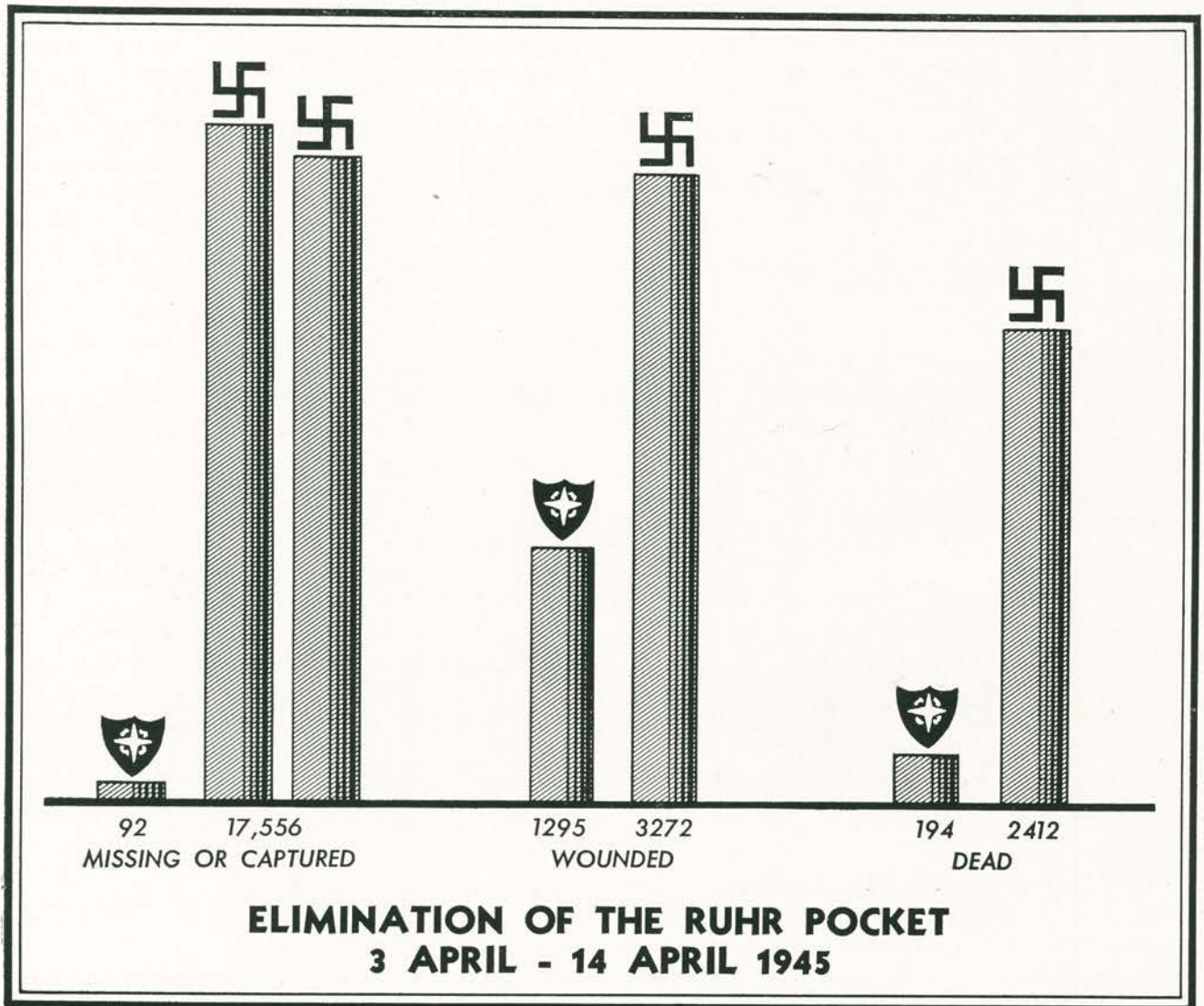
13 April 1945. Climaxing the combined efforts

of the 75th Infantry Division, Task Force Twaddle, and Task Force Faith, the 95th Infantry Division's 378th Regiment clinched tight the pincers around Dortmund, clearing the city by 1630 hours. The 95th's 379th Regiment drove to high ground overlooking the Ruhr River, the 377th Regiment relieved elements of the 8th Armored Division on the line east of the 379th Regiment's positions, and with the achievement of their objectives, Task Force Twaddle and Task Force Faith were dissolved.

The 75th Division's 290th and 291st Regiments advanced to the Ruhr, clearing Wetter (A7610) and Herdecke (A7811) and captured intact railroad and highway bridges across the Ruhr west of Westhofen. The Corps continued regrouping of troops and released from attachment the 8th Armored Division

and 35th Infantry Division, with the exception of the 134th Infantry Regiment, which was placed under control of the 79th Infantry Division. The 17th Airborne Division occupied metropolitan Duisburg without opposition, and patrols penetrating as far south as Lintorf (A367045) were informed by Volkssturm that it was believed German troops had withdrawn from Düsseldorf. Corps artillery fired 479 missions, carrying out registration and neutralization assignments, and destroyed an ammunition dump some distance north of Hagen across the Ruhr River. The 29th Infantry Division continued security missions in the army area.

Of particular interest is the information that was revealed later on interrogation of Lt. Gen. Fritz Bayerlein, Commanding General of the German





At left, Alfred Krupp von Bohlen, owner of the great Krupp steel works in Essen, poses for his picture. At right, Franz von Papen is shown shortly after he was taken into custody by 95th Infantry Division troops. Von Papen served as military attaché in the United States prior to World War I, Chancellor of Germany during President Von Hindenburg's regime, and Vice Chancellor, Minister to Austria, and Ambassador to Turkey, during Hitler's rule.

LIII Corps and formerly commander of the German Panzer Lehr Division. General Bayerlein related that following the capitulation of Dortmund and Unna, on the night of 13-14 April, he received an order from Field Marshal Model to try to break out of the Ruhr pocket to the west with everything he had available. This order was never acknowledged, answered, or obeyed.

14 April 1945. The 95th Infantry Division's 379th Regiment wiped out the last organized resistance in its sector by 1900 hours, and the XVI Corps completed its mission of reducing organized enemy resistance in the densely populated area north of the Ruhr River and prepared to undertake a new mission—the occupation, military government, and "T" force activities in a sector of the Ninth Army's rear area as far east as the Weser River. Regrouping its troops, the Corps provided defense of the Ninth Army's southern flank during the ensuing days until First Army troops of the III Corps and XVIII Airborne Corps, already in contact with XVI Corps,

completed their task of wiping up enemy resistance south of the Ruhr River on 18 April 1945.

Prisoners seized during the day numbered 1,685, and Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Haltern, chief executive of the vast Krupp works, and Just Dilgard, *Oberbürgermeister* of Stadtkreis Essen, honorary *Oberstführer* SS and Reichsminister for Coke and Gas, were also taken into custody by XVI Corps forces.

15-18 April 1945. The Corps maintained defensive positions along the north bank of the Ruhr River, protecting the Ninth Army's southern flank, as the First Army's III Corps advanced steadily northwest toward the river and the XVIII Airborne Corps drove north to form a joint front with the XVI Corps along the Ruhr River line. On 18 April 1945, the last enemy resistance in the Ruhr pocket was eliminated as the XVIII Airborne and III Corps uncovered all XVI Corps positions along the river, wiping out the famous pocket and completing their missions. The 29th Infantry Division was released from attachment to the Corps, and the regrouping

of other Corps units was speeded for the occupation and military government of the Corps area and the Ninth Army's rear area under the Corps' newest mission.

In these four days the Corps seized 9,241 prisoners, increasing its enemy casualties since it became operational on 6 February 1945, to 42,930 prisoners, 5,247 enemy killed (estimated), and 8,136 enemy wounded (estimated). Personages taken into custody on 15 April included Fritz Schlessmann, acting *Gauleiter* of Essen since 1942. Lt. Gen. Josef Harpe, commanding the Fifth Panzer Army, was captured by the 17th Airborne Division on 16 April 1945, as he attempted to cross the Ruhr River near Mulheim with his aide on his way to Holland to join German forces fighting there. An ardent admirer of Hitler, he had commanded the XLI Panzer Corps, the German Ninth Army, and the Army Group A on the eastern front and was accused by the Russian high command of extreme cruelty at Zhlovion. A highlight in the events of 15 April 1945, was the public announcement that troops of the 194th Glider Infantry Regiment had seized Franz von Papen, former German Chancellor and one of the Reich's foremost diplomats, with his son, Captain Franz von Papen, Jr., and his son-in-law, Max von Stockhausen, on 10 April 1945, at Stockhausen's estate about ten miles west of Hirschberg. Great supplies of enemy war matériel were seized by XVI Corps troops during these operations and included:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Tanks | 20 |
| Self-propelled guns | 11 |
| Howitzers and mortars (150mm. to 81mm.) | 202 |
| Antiaircraft guns (105mm. to 20mm.) .. | 476 |
| Antitank guns (75mm. and 50mm.) .. | 16 |

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Machine guns | 1,035 |
| Rifles (estimated) | 14,530 |
| Motor vehicles | 311 |
| Searchlights | 14 |
| Halftrack vehicles | 13 |
| <i>Panzerfausts</i> | 44 |

In an order of the day to the American forces on 19 April 1945, General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the European Theater of Operations, hailed the Ruhr victory as a fitting prelude to the final battle to crush the ragged remnants of Hitler's armies in the west, "now tottering on the threshold of defeat." Outlining the envelopment of the vital industrial area, he said Allied forces fully encircled German Army Group B and two corps of Army Group H, wiped out twenty-one divisions, including three panzer, one panzergrenadier, and three parachute divisions, and seized more than 317,000 prisoners. Twenty-one generals and one admiral were captured in the entire operation, and many tanks and more than 750 guns were destroyed or captured. General Eisenhower praised the speed and determination "with which this brilliant action was executed" and said that as a result the divisions of Marshal Model were smashed, enabling all Allied army groups to continue without pause in their drive eastward.

With an enviable record established in two months of continuous combat, the XVI Corps already had begun a new important task, the occupation and military government of a portion of the Ninth Army area, and on 18 April 1945, it swung its full attention to the fulfillment of that mission, undertaking the task so ably that it would soon be given the assignment of administering the greater portion of the large German province of Westphalia.



V: OCCUPATION AND MILITARY GOVERNMENT

Its combat operations accomplished swiftly, efficiently, and with greatest success, the XVI Corps on 18 April 1945, undertook its next mission, a task of strategic importance in assuring the complete collapse of Germany just three weeks later, and in destroying her capacity and inclination to wage another war. Activities related to military government and occupation were the direct concern of G-5 sections provided in divisions and higher echelons of command. Working with them were two important agencies—Military Government detachments, and Counterintelligence Corps detachments.

Military Government detachments under Corps control initiated and conducted the de-Nazification of the occupied area, removing public officials identified in any way with the Nazi Party or any of its many types of organizations and appointing in their places new officials to conduct the civil administration of city and state affairs. Theirs, also, was the task of organizing and supervising all civil administration, and of installing agencies for public welfare, education, religious activities, and the preservation of historical monuments and documents. They established and supervised the operation of civil police and fire departments as well as Military Government and German civil courts for trial of appropriate cases and preparation of records for review. These detachments reviewed the financial status and

directed the reopening and operation of banks and other financial agencies and established control over German foreign exchange and enemy property. Military Government detachments fostered the production of goods and maintenance of services essential to the military and civilian needs and initiated and assisted in the revival of German agriculture to meet the vital food requirements of displaced persons and German civilians. They formulated and maintained ration scales for food and other civilian supplies, guided the restoration of public utilities and established public health organizations, maintaining close control over sanitation and the prevention and cure of disease among civilians, as well as the collection and utilization of public health records necessary to that control.

The Counterintelligence Corps personnel skillfully performed the arduous task of screening civilians to determine their character, loyalty, and suitability for use or employment on military government projects. These detachments maintained a system for continuous checking of such individuals to insure that their actions were in keeping with Allied forces' policy. They conducted numerous investigations of varying nature and participated in countless searches and raids. Interpreters were supplied by this group, and the staff of linguists in the Corps' 216th Counterintelligence Corps Detachment was augmented by



At left, a German civilian who participated in the beating of slave laborers is questioned by an enlisted man of the Counterintelligence Corps. At right, a prisoner-of-war interrogation officer examines a German female soldier picked up on the streets of Kempen, Germany, in civilian clothes. On the desk are her papers bearing her name and military status.

the addition of military intelligence interpreters, prisoner-of-war interrogators, and photo-interpretation personnel. The services of this group in this connection were particularly valuable in interrogation work at concentration camps and in the later demobilization of prisoners of war.

This task of military government was not entirely new, since the Corps had been concerned with these problems during its entire period of combat, and XVI Corps troops had already achieved recognition for strict control and able administration of territory under their temporary jurisdiction. The Corps and its Military Government agencies assumed their first occupation and administrative responsibilities when Corps Military Government detachments replaced British XII Corps detachments on 6 February 1945, the date the XVI Corps became operational under the Ninth Army.

6-23 February 1945. Civil Affairs teams were deployed in Sittard, Susterseel, Echt, and Brunssum in South Limburg Province, Holland, and one Military Government detachment was deployed to administer portions of the Corps' area in Germany. The Corps spearhead detachment supervised the transfer of the Sittard refugee and displaced persons center from British to Dutch authorities and cooperated in operation of the center. A plan was effected to facilitate civil administration in a German "colony" in the five towns of Millen, Tuddern, Schallbrück, Havert, and Isenbouch, and the assignment of German refugees from forward areas to that colony.

In Holland, city officials cleared by the British Field Security were approved by the Corps Counterintelligence Corps Detachment and were authorized to begin the rehabilitation of their communities. Impetus was given to the restoration of educational programs and was evidenced by the opening of elementary and high schools in Brunssum. Curfew hours in Holland were established from 2200 hours to 0630 hours.

In the German area, acting civilian officials were appointed for the "colony" towns after proper screening and clearance, and they were empowered to enforce military restrictions, supervise rationing, and carry out administrative functions. Circulation of civilians in the German area was restricted to 0700 hours to 0800 hours and 1700 hours to 1800 hours for essential civilian workers and to 1100 to 1200 hours and 1500 hours to 1600 hours for women procuring

food and fuel. Greater restrictions were placed on civilian travel; border crossings were prohibited; and horses seized by Dutch border guards were returned to their owners in Stein, Germany. Policemen, unarmed, were selected from older and more responsible men of the areas and were appointed after being checked by Counterintelligence Corps personnel. A military government court was opened at Susterseel, Germany, to emphasize strict enforcement of military enactments. At the first trials, attended by *Bürgermeisters* of the nearby German communities, eight persons were convicted of border and curfew violations, fined from 200 to 250 *reichsmarks*, and sentenced to sixty to ninety days in the Military Government jail in Aachen, Germany.

Two Corps projects were initiated to salvage food and cattle fodder from evacuated areas, and the importation of civilian supplies into Germany to feed German civilians was suspended. These projects resulted in the recovery of enough food to support the civilian population for several weeks, and operating reserves were established. Forty tons of food and 4,340 liters of milk were collected by German civilian work parties in a few days and were rationed by acting *Bürgermeisters* on the basis of 1350 calories per person per day. Many tons of cow beets were salvaged from evacuated German farms by Dutch civilian work parties and were rationed through the Sittard distribution center for the feeding of 3,000 cattle. A grain mill at Susterseel was put into operation to handle wheat and oats stocks as they were removed from mined fields.

Restoration of public utilities was begun, with teams clearing mines from water, gas, and electric power rights-of-way. Medical clinics and hospitals were opened for civilians, displaced persons, and refugees in Tuddern, Millen, Gangel, and Sittard. A survey of clothing needs was made and distribution of American Red Cross clothing to needy refugees was begun. During February, 890 Dutch refugees and 275 displaced persons were processed at the Sittard center. One hundred and fifty-seven Dutch refugees were sent to their homes, and 254 Germans were transferred to the "colony."

23 February-23 March 1945. With the Corps' crossing of the Roer River and its subsequent advance to the Rhine River, boundaries defining areas of responsibility were changed, and three additional Military Government detachments were attached to the Corps to replace those left behind. Such detach-



At left, a part of the German propaganda plan in occupied countries was the painting of signs on various buildings in conspicuous places. This sign, painted on one of the main streets of Echt, Holland, reads, "Germans—Think of your home! Think of Aachen!" Military government agencies took appropriate steps to have such signs obliterated. At right, these Dutch civilians are moving back to the center of the newly liberated town of Venlo, Holland. They stop for a moment to chat with friends. It was the task of Allied Military Government to administer and supply the basic needs of such people as these.

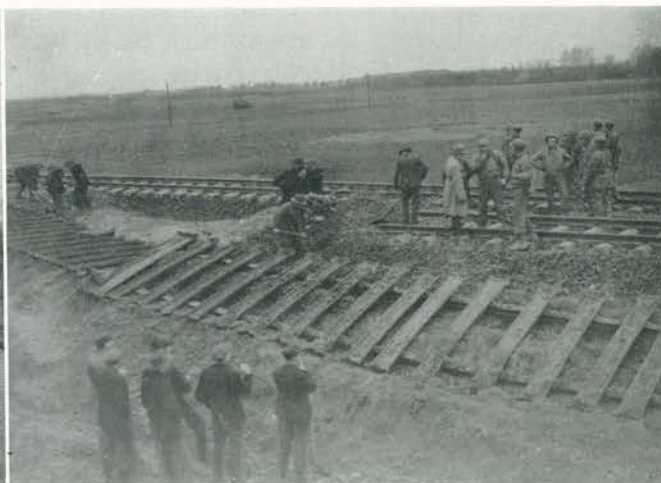
ments were established at Kaldenkirchen and Strälen, Germany, and Roermond, Tegelen, and Venlo, Holland. Owing to their limited number, it was necessary that each detachment supervise many additional towns, and military government was established in three or four additional communities each day.

Proclamations were posted, and *Bürgermeister*s and auxiliary police were screened by Counterintelligence Corps personnel and appointed before these teams moved on to the next town. Military Government officers then checked their areas daily to insure that proclamations were being observed. Prior to the fall of Roermond and Venlo, food and medical supplies were assembled to be rushed to these cities. Dutch administrative personnel, auxiliary police,

bomb disposal squads, and a fire brigade moved into these cities to begin their tasks as soon as the areas were liberated.

Division spearhead military government detachments carried with them special undated editions of *Die Mitteilungen* (*Sharing the News*), a weekly newspaper printed in German by the 12th Army Group, for distribution to civilians as quickly as German towns were overrun. This paper was also distributed to displaced persons, and they, as well as the German civilians, showed an outstanding eagerness for news.

One of the greatest military government problems involved in the Roer River crossing operation was the handling of displaced persons. Transit centers were established at Roermond, Venlo, Kal-



In this town in Holland (*left*), these Dutch civilians, hired by Military Government, are working on a road used by American forces. One of the jobs given to the civilians was to repair their own railroads (*right*). Military Government agencies continually stressed the prompt restoration of lines of communication vital to both military operations and essential civilian needs.



At left, an infantryman of the 75th Division notices the sign on the door of a home in Moers, Germany, which reads, "Here are only civil persons." At right, a white flag of surrender appears above a civilian air-raid shelter in Lintfort, Germany, while an inscription on the outside of the shelter informs the soldier: "No soldiers. Here are living women and children." Such notices were found as Military Government officials conducted a thorough search for former members of the German armed forces hiding out throughout the area to escape capture and internment.

denkirchen, and Strälen, and these were turned over to Ninth Army as the Corps moved forward to establish new centers in Germany at Neukirk, Kempen, and Lintfort. A survey conducted on 18 March 1945, revealed the presence of 3,170 displaced persons in the Corps' area.

Threshing was begun in the "colony" area to establish a surplus supply of flour for the section, and summer wheat was threshed for seed. A class of German civilian volunteers was instructed by Corps engineers in the detection and removal of mines to clear the land for civilian use. Restoration

of utilities was continued in Holland, with Dutch mine-disposal squads clearing rights of way. Electric power was restored in Echt, and work was pushed to provide water and power in Roermond and cities to its north. Civilian welfare organizations were formed at Susteren, Echt, Montfort, Sittard, and Stevensweert to assure an equitable distribution of American Red Cross clothing to refugees. A forty-bed civilian hospital was opened at Echt. The *Bürgermeisters* of Issenbruch and Havert were removed on Counterintelligence Corps findings of Nazi affiliations.



At left, civilians hastily move out of Lintfort, Germany, making use of horse and buggy to transport their belongings. At right, infantrymen of the 75th Division ride herd with a jeep on cattle near Rheinberg, Germany, in an effort to evacuate them to safer areas in the rear. A total of 13,300 persons and 2,500 milk cows were evacuated in thirty-six hours from the 75th Division forward area along the west bank of the Rhine River, prior to the Corps' inland amphibious assault across the river. Two hospitals and 90 patients were also moved to rear areas from Rheinberg and Orsoy on the west bank of the Rhine.



At left, a Military Government bulletin is read by a German civilian of Rheinberg. At right, a mobile radio broadcast unit enters the town of Hunxe, Germany, to inform its citizens of the rules and regulations of Military Government in that area. Military Government made use of several such mediums through which they told German civilians what was expected of them.

Moving ahead in its sweeping drive to the Rhine River, the Corps deployed Military Government detachments at Neukirk, Sevelen, Kempen, Lintfort, Rheinberg, and Moers. *Bürgermeister*s at Neukirk, Aldekirk, and Breyul, and several other civic officials appointed by military government officers during the combat phase, were dismissed after Counterintelligence Corps screening revealed former Nazi Party activities. Civil administration was expedited by lengthening hours of circulation from 1000 to 1300 hours daily for general civilians, with an extra hour each morning and evening for essential workers to travel to and from their jobs. Circulation hours of 0600 to 1800 hours were established for farmers on their own land.

Violations of laws were largely curfew violations. A Military Government jail was established at Wachtendonk, and additional auxiliary police were appointed in Moers and Lintfort to handle increased population resulting from the evacuation of forward areas prior to the Rhine River crossing. Military Government summary court officers were named at Lintfort, Moers, and Wachtendonk. Two civilians convicted of looting were fined 400 *Reichsmarks* each and sentenced to sixty days in prison, while nine curfew violators were fined 20 to 1000 *Reichsmarks* and sentenced to up to thirty days in prison.

The reopening of banks in various communities continued, and coal mines were opened in several towns. Civilians continued work on the huge task

of restoring utilities throughout the area. Street names relating to Nazi personages or the Party were renamed, and the former *Bürgermeister* and other Nazi sympathizers at Hinsbeck were put to work painting out Nazi propaganda on buildings. The Hitler-Jugend center at Lintfort was converted to house displaced persons.

24 March–18 April 1945. With its assault across the Rhine River and drive through the heavily industrialized and densely populated Ruhr valley, the XVI Corps met and successfully solved a tremendous problem in the collection, segregation, and control of displaced persons, Hitler's former slave workers. Many thousands were liberated each day the Corps moved forward and on 16 April 1945, 207,981 displaced persons had been placed in camps in the Corps' area.

Three thousand displaced persons were found in a gymnasium in Sterkrade, one of the suburbs of metropolitan Duisburg. Two thousand were found in Gladbeck, and 20,000 were liberated in Essen from camps adjacent to the Krupp coal mines. Seven thousand were freed in Neheim, 19,000 in Dortmund, and 5,000 in Duisburg. In the confusion of combat, these displaced persons broke out of their camps and began to migrate throughout the area. Looting and food riots were prevalent. Troops quickly brought these riots under control and swiftly rounded up 5,000 to 6,000 displaced persons who broke out of twelve camps in the Mulheim area be-



An acute water shortage existed in many of the cities of the Ruhr industrial area. Here, citizens of Witten, Germany, scoop water out of the street adjacent to a broken water main. Appropriate notices were posted to warn these people of the dangers arising from such practices, and action was taken to restore water service as soon as possible.

for the arrival of American forces. Disorders were brought under control and civilian rioting and looting were halted.

In addition to rounding up and segregating displaced slave laborers, Corps forces supervised the care of 7,000 German civilians who took refuge in a mine near Wehafen and a like number of persons found living in bunkers in Bottrop. Food and medi-



Many cities had been destroyed and homes reduced to rubble during combat. Civilians, working under military government supervision, cleared roads and streets of cities and later began to dispose of the debris in order to restore proper conditions of sanitation to their communities.

cal supplies were provided for these individuals, and they were removed to homes and other shelters. Large cities had been battered and smashed by shells and bombs. Thousands of homes had been destroyed, and large areas of many cities were reduced to rubble. The great dislocation of German urban population provided serious problems which Corps officers successfully solved despite the critical food and housing situations involved. Warehouses of food discovered in the area were guarded for allocation under Corps direction, and a food warehouse for displaced persons was established at Recklinghausen. To alleviate an increasingly critical situation, one million rations were drawn from the Ninth Army civilian supply depot. A ten-day survey of the XVI Corps conducted by military agricultural specialists revealed a serious shortage of planting seed, particularly feed beets, and plans were made to alleviate that situation.

Action was taken to smash terror bands consisting of former *Waffen-SS* troops from Holland and France who were reported to be engaged in sabotage and espionage in Recklinghausen and Gladbeck. In a round-up of 25 civilians in Erkenschwick who were



United States military personnel removed all street signs bearing names related to the Nazi State or its leaders. Military Government adopted this policy in all communities to impress the local population with the thoroughness of de-Nazification.



At left, a German policeman, wearing his distinguishing armband, chats with a law-abiding citizen in the window of his home in Jüchen, Germany. These civilian police were sworn into office by Military Government authorities to assist in enforcing curfew and other restrictions. At right, a combat soldier of the 29th Infantry Division halts a civilian to check his credentials. These troops assisted Military Government authorities by establishing roadblocks and checking all passing personnel to detect roving displaced persons, former members of the German armed forces, and other individuals moving about without proper authority.

reported to have attended a Nazi sabotage school, hidden stores of munitions were uncovered and turned over to Ordnance. Records of Nazi anti-Semitic and anti-religious activities were located in the possession of the Dinslaken *Bürgermeister* and were taken into custody by Military Government detachments for safe keeping pending investigation by representatives of the War Crimes Commission. A new police chief was designated for Essen, and six hundred special police were appointed following their Counterintelligence Corps screening. Temporary *Bürgermeister*s were named in Essen and Mulheim, and the Duisburg police chief was removed and the police force replaced. The former *Bürgermeister* had fled, and the acting *Bürgermeister* was retained temporarily until a suitable replacement could be found, despite his former Nazi affiliations. It was learned that the police president of Dortmund had committed suicide on 12-13 April 1945.

Essen, it was discovered, had been without water since October 1944, and owing to bomb and shell damage, it had no sewer system in operation. Notices were posted on sewage disposal and latrines, and civilians in Dortmund and Essen were warned to

boil all water from canals and wells. Partial resumption of electric power was effected in Dortmund within a week after its capture, and it was expected that power would be restored in Essen within two weeks, and water service in three to five weeks. Arrangements were made for hospital facilities in Essen and Dortmund after learning that ten hospitals in Essen had been damaged and all hospitals in Dortmund had been partially destroyed in the great barrages and air raids that battered the cities.

18 April-9 May 1945. With full assignment to an occupation and military government role, the XVI Corps assumed responsibility for an area 155 miles long and from 30 to 60 miles wide, extending between the Rhine and Weser Rivers from north of the Lippe River to a point south of the Ruhr River, including the industrial heart and most densely populated section in Germany. Adjustments during the next several days transferred a sector immediately east of the Rhine, including Essen, Mulheim, and Duisburg to the control of the U. S. Fifteenth Army, and extended XVI Corps control to include a vast area south of the Ruhr River extending to the

southern tip of the province of Westphalia, some distance below Siegen. Still later, adjustments in Corps boundaries were made in conformity with territorial borders of Westphalia to facilitate coordinated government activities at higher levels.

Corps troops began the difficult task of locating and seizing thousands of former German soldiers, high army officers, and Nazi Party members and officials who were hiding or seeking refuge in the area in an effort to avoid internment and possible punishment. They maintained heavy guards over all prisoner-of-war and displaced-persons camps, and provided necessary security for bridges and key points on lines of communications, as well as hospitals housing Allied and enemy prisoners of war. To accomplish this mission efficiently, the entire Corps area was divided into five sectors, with each of the Corps' major units charged with security and military government responsibilities in its assigned area. These units, on 18 April 1945, included the 17th Airborne Division, the 75th Infantry Division, the 79th Infantry Division with the 18th Antiaircraft Artillery Group attached, the 95th Infantry Division with the 20th Tank Destroyer Group attached, and the XVI Corps Artillery, with the 15th Cavalry Group attached.

The 17th Airborne Division passed to the control of XXII Corps on 25 April 1945 as that headquarters assumed responsibility for a portion of the XVI Corps zone. The 55th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade was attached to XVI Corps on 22 April 1945,

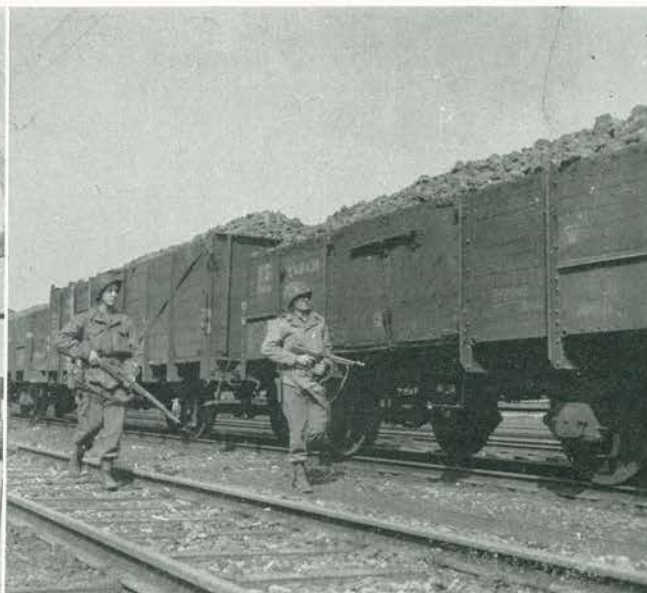
and units were regrouped to provide this brigade with an area of responsibility to allow the Corps to assume responsibility for that portion of Westphalia south of the Ruhr River and west of the Lenne River from the 8th Infantry Division (XVIII Airborne Corps). The 5th Infantry Division was attached to XVI Corps on 22 April 1945, but was released from attachment on 25 April 1945, when the 75th Infantry Division relieved it of responsibility for control of a sector south of the Ruhr River. The 29th Infantry Division was attached to the Corps for a special mission on 5 May 1945.

With the initiation of a phase which approximated post-hostility conditions, 19 American and 19 British military government units were placed under Corps control, but many of these were later transferred to meet greater needs in other sections of the Reich. The loss of all but four of the American detachments concurrently with an increase in an area of responsibility and the complexity of military government problems arising from a post-hostility phase created an operational problem of great magnitude, but it was successfully solved by the ingenuity of the Corps' units.

Located at Recklinghausen during the first stage of this mission, the XVI Corps command post opened at Beckum, Germany on 28 April 1945, in a more centralized locality with respect to its area of responsibility. Corps troops seized 30,748 German officers and soldiers seeking to escape internment in the twenty-one days between 18 April and 9 May



At left, the crown jewels of Charlemagne are shown as they appear on exhibition at XVI Corps headquarters after their discovery in a cache in the Corps' area. These jewels are exact replicas of the originals and were made for Kaiser Wilhelm II in 1912-13. They are valued at approximately one million gold marks. Stones in the various pieces came from religious vestments of the Greek Church and are cut exactly like the originals. The original jewels, which belonged to Emperor Franz Josef of Austria, were made about the twelfth century and were used only for the coronation of emperors of the Holy Roman Empire. At right is shown the castle of Count Wilderich von Spee, near Brilon, Germany, storage site for many German treasures of art, found by the 75th Infantry Division.



At left, a supply of food, stored in an underground warehouse in Bottrop, Germany, was uncovered by the 79th Infantry Division. At right, coal cars abandoned by the Germans in the Ruhr industrial area, are seized and guarded by 75th Infantry Division personnel. Occupation and military government responsibilities included strict control over such commodities to insure equitable distribution throughout the area.

1945. First positive steps toward resumption of civil government at a provincial level were taken during the latter part of April with the installation of a British Provincial Detachment in Münster to begin a coordinated administration throughout Westphalia. Tactical deployment of troops was studied and readjusted when it was found that artificial military boundaries tended to impede resumption of a coordinated government at higher levels. Civil administration at *Stadtkreis* and *Landkreis* levels continued to show increased improvement as screened officials became more and more aware of their functions and powers under military government, and the general public appeared to be gaining confidence in their new administration.

Bitterness and hatred for the Nazi régime was manifested in various areas, although it was too early for an accurate analysis of German political thought. Many were bewildered and confused politically and looked to Military Government as an agency to protect them from the wrath of displaced persons, while they apparently felt no subjective guilt for the presence of these slave laborers. Public officials and citizens alike cooperated with the military government, and some former Nazis turned informants, seeking leniency at the hands of the conquerors.

Extensive investigations continued; countless arrests were made; and all subversive activities were promptly checked. Several caches of ammunition

and explosives were discovered and seized. Treasures, including furniture, paintings, jewelry, and other historic masterpieces that had been looted by the Germans from nations they had previously occupied were seized by Allied occupation forces and placed under guard for safe keeping, to be returned to their rightful owners later.

Agricultural enterprises were encouraged, and many coal mines within the area were reopened. Repairs to factories were pushed whenever possible for the production of essential goods to meet occupa-



This group of former German slave laborers was liberated in Essen. They lived together in the shabby buildings enclosed by a barbed-wire fence shown in the background. To convince these displaced persons to remain in place so that they could be efficiently housed, fed, clothed, and given adequate medical attention until they could be returned to their homelands was a major concern of military government agencies.



In celebration of the Allied victory in Europe, the XVI Corps staged appropriate ceremonies in Beckum, Germany. At left, Maj. Gen. John B. Anderson, Corps commander, and his staff salute as the National Anthem is played. At right, a Corps chaplain leads the assembled military and civilian personnel in prayer.

tion and civilian needs. Work on the clearing of streets and highways and the repair of water, gas and electric-power systems continued, and some railroad lines were placed in operation. Bridges that had been knocked out during combat were replaced by civilian labor. To correct a serious condition arising from food shortages, arrangements were made to establish a control food commission. Collection of food stocks stored in mines throughout the area was begun, and surplus food stocks existing in one locality were transferred to areas where shortages existed. Rationing offices, including the provincial rationing department, were reopened, and price-control systems were placed in effect.

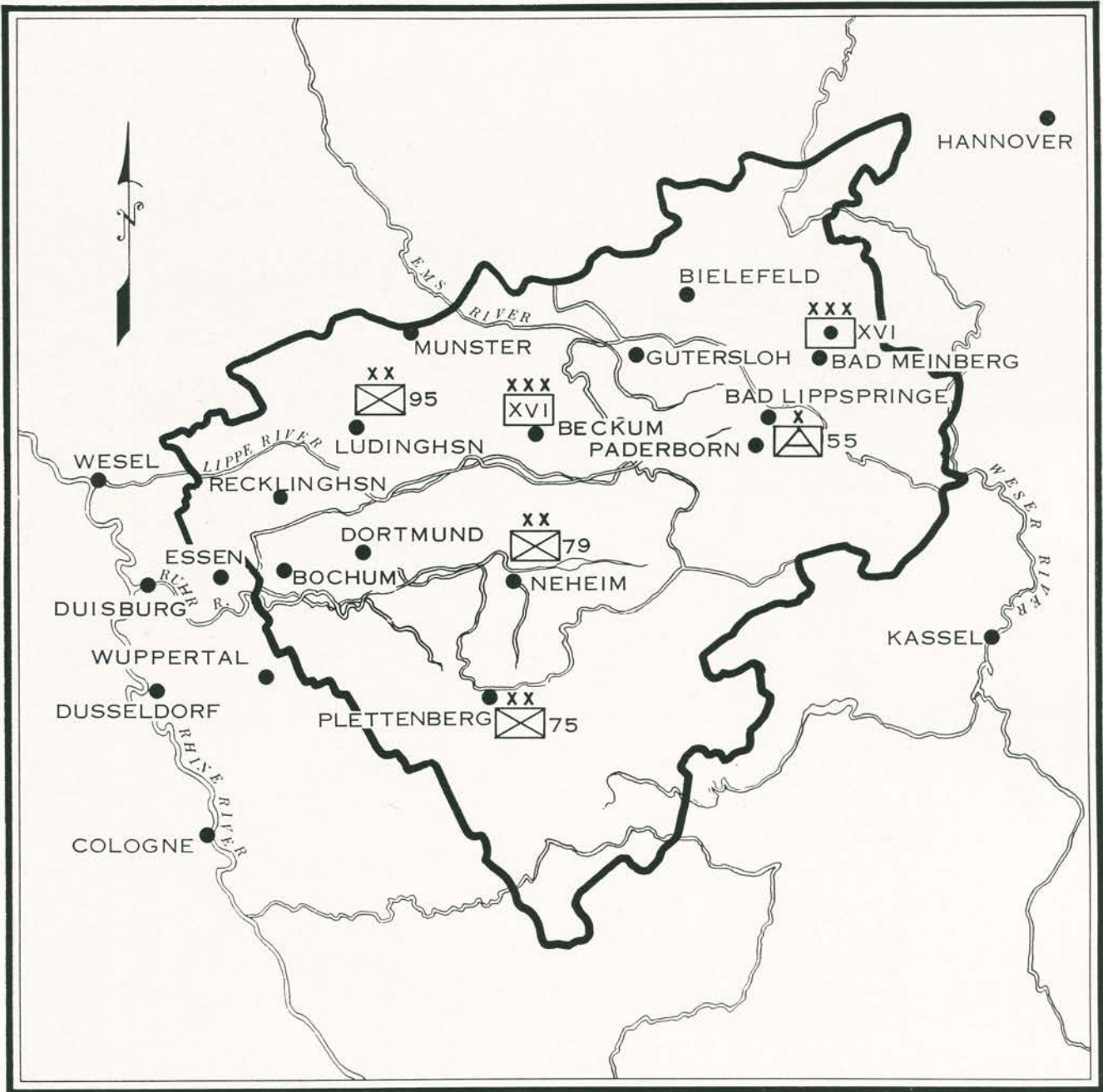
Showing a steady incline daily since the Rhine crossing, the number of displaced persons collected in the Corps area reached 350,000 on 26 April 1945. Under efficient administration, initial problems of collection and provision of bare necessities were successfully solved and a program of registration and discipline followed. The number of these displaced persons, by nationality, collected in camps within the Corps area on 18 April and on 8 May 1945, is depicted in the following table:

| Nationality | Displaced Persons in Camps | |
|--------------|----------------------------|---------|
| | 18 April | 8 May |
| French | 15,433 | 11,056 |
| Belgian | 7,320 | 5,588 |
| Dutch | 6,074 | 4,351 |
| Russian | 91,113 | 185,895 |
| Polish | 21,660 | 55,205 |
| Italian | | 19,588 |
| Others | 69,362 | 37,015 |
| Undetermined | 4,120 | 7,105 |
| Total | 215,082 | 325,803 |

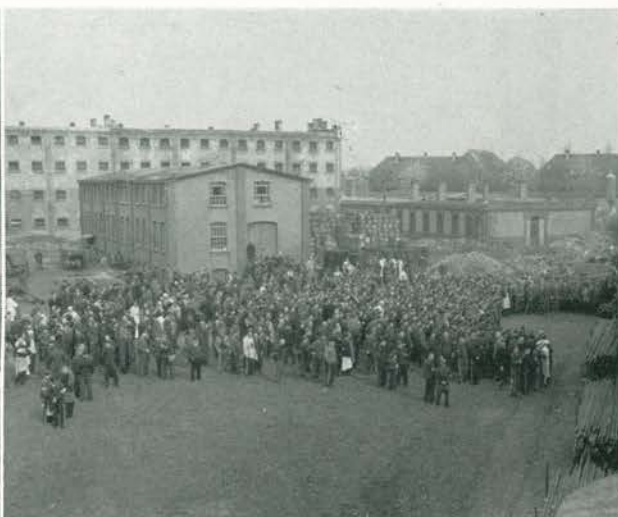
Improvement in the organization of displaced-persons camps and the posting of heavier guards resulted in a reduction in the number of cases of these persons breaking away to loot and assault Germans. Evacuation and repatriation of Western Europeans were put on a daily basis, averaging about 1,500 French, Belgian, and Dutch daily. A total of 28,377 had been evacuated by 30 April 1945.

VE-Day. Shattered and disillusioned, their power and glory only a memory of the past, German armies in the meantime had been driven steadily backward. It was at 0241 hours (ETO time) on 7 May 1945, that Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, then head of the Reich, surrendered all German forces unconditionally to the United Nations. The instrument of surrender was officially signed by Colonel General Gustav Jodl, German Chief of Staff and head of the German delegation, at the headquarters of General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the European Theater, in a red-brick industrial college in Reims, France. At 0001 hours on 9 May 1945, the cease-fire order became effective throughout Europe, stilling the crash of guns, the whistling of bombs, and the cries of the dying which Hitler had invoked six years earlier, on 1 September 1939, when he sent his conquering German armies across the Polish frontier.

Appropriate ceremonies marking the unconditional surrender were conducted by the XVI Corps in Beckum, Germany, to celebrate the great Allied victory and to acquaint the citizens with official news of the Reich's complete defeat under the crushing weight of Allied might. The 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division, veterans of many



Occupation area of XVI Corps



At left, a soldier of the 75th Infantry Division discovers and takes into custody a German soldier found in civilian clothes in the Ruhr industrial area. At right, Nazi political prisoners and criminals are shown in a prison at Werl, Germany. Prisoners and guards are waiting in the open yard for first count by military police.

battles and heroic deeds, paraded through Beckum streets. Hundreds of townsfolk lined the streets to witness the parade and then proceeded to the Wilhelmsplatz to see and hear the victory ceremonies. The Corps staff proceeded from the Corps headquarters by vehicles to the Wilhelmsplatz to view the ceremonies. Enlisted personnel of the Corps Headquarters and Headquarters Company who could be spared from pressing duties marched to the scene in a body. Maj. Gen. John B. Anderson, XVI Corps commander, rode in the parade in his official car. At the Wilhelmsplatz, proclamations were read in English and German, and the band played the American National Anthem, together with the national anthems of Great Britain, France, and Soviet Russia, while hundreds of assembled Germans stood solemnly by. General Anderson spoke briefly to the troops and civilians, and the Corps chaplains offered prayers.

On 10 May 1945, Lieut. Gen. William H. Simpson, commander of the U. S. Ninth Army, issued a victory proclamation to all officers and men, praising them for their great advance through Germany which, he declared, would rank among the greatest military achievements of all time. "Significant milestones in that advance," he said, "were the operations in the western Rhineland, the crossing of the Roer River, the crossing of the Rhine, the reduction of the northern half of the Ruhr pocket, and the dash across Germany to the Elbe." All operations, with the exception of the last, were operations in which the XVI Corps had played an instrumental part.

9 May-12 June 1945. New pages were added to its record of accomplishments as the XVI Corps continued its occupation and military government mission and at the same time initiated and conducted a readjustment and redeployment program vital to American victory in the Pacific. The Corps' area of responsibility for security and governmental control covered approximately 6,300 square miles and contained about 4,950,000 people. It included the provinces of Länder-Lippe, Schaumberg-Lippe, and the greater portion of Westphalia.

Corps units, continuing their search for fugitive Nazis and all dangerous elements in the occupied area, jailed some 2,000 Germans for known or suspected subversive activities. Those individuals included Nazi Party leaders as well as officers and members of military organizations, the Gestapo, and the Hitler-Jugend.

The processing and administration of displaced persons in the area continued to be a major problem. Displaced persons administrative staffs were augmented to include four Russian liaison officers, eight Polish liaison officers, five Polish displaced-persons teams, four French teams, and two UNRRA (United Nations Rehabilitation and Relief Administration) teams. Only constant alertness of Corps units in rounding up displaced persons and in maintaining close control over them prevented the occurrence of many cases of violence by slave workers in which the embers of hatred had smoldered for years during their long and cruel subjection to the "Master Race." Living conditions and facilities for these



At left, a Military Government officer issues orders to a German civilian in Lippstadt to get his local gas plant in operation as 95th Infantry Division units assume responsibility for such activities in that city. At right, the local Deutsche Bank in Lippstadt is opened by Military Government as local civilians crowd around.

people were continually improved. On 17 May 1945, a plan previously arranged between the Ninth Army, the XVI Corps, and the VII Corps, was put into effect, providing for the repatriation of large numbers of Russian displaced persons from the XVI Corps area. The plan provided for the hauling of 3,000 Russians daily from the XVI Corps area to camps at Mulhausen and Nordhausen in the VII Corps area. In exchange, a like number of Western Europeans were brought back to the Ninth Army railhead at Mecklenbeck, southwest of Münster. These Western Europeans were turned over to a Ninth Army team at the railhead for feeding, delousing, and entraining for shipment to Liège, Belgium. Utilizing rail and motor transportation, this exchange program operated for a period of ten days from 17-27 May 1945, during which time 26,900 Russians were evacuated from the XVI Corps area. The Corps also continued its evacuation of Western Europeans through channels already established, and the following table reflects the extent of these activities during this period:

| Nationality | Displaced Persons | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Evacuated during period 9 May-6 June | Remaining in Area on 1 June |
| French | 18,346 | 62 |
| Belgian | 8,669 | 114 |
| Dutch | 8,161 | 746 |
| Russian | 26,900 | 139,852 |
| Polish | | 51,057 |
| Italian | | 45,959 |
| Others | 1,787 | 8,758 |
| Total | 63,863 | 246,548 |

Thus, during its entire period of occupation and military government, the XVI Corps collected and

segregated approximately 400,000 displaced persons, and repatriated 101,090 of them.

Prior to 6 June 1945, the Corps liberated approximately 300,000 Allied prisoners of war, and at the time it was relieved from duty in the area, it had repatriated over 100,000 of these unfortunate Allied soldiers. At the time of their liberation these Allied prisoners of war were scattered throughout the entire area in small groups, and the retreating Germans left them without food, shelter, or medical attention. Immediate measures were taken to collect these individuals, segregate them by nationality, and concentrate them in as few camps as possible consistent with available facilities in order that they could be efficiently fed, clothed, housed, administered, and given necessary medical attention prior to return to their own countries. Those tasks were accomplished so well by the XVI Corps that governments concerned have publicly expressed their appreciation of the work done by the Corps in conjunction with Allied prisoners of war.

On 15 May 1945, the Corps was given the responsibility for processing and discharging many German prisoners of war. These discharges were to be effected to overcome a great shortage of civilian labor and to provide the early release of men most vitally needed for certain types of skilled trades. Coordination was effected with the Ninth and Fifteenth Armies and other corps on the type and number of men to be discharged, and discharge areas to be established. All prisoners of war in the area were moved to the XVI Corps inclosure at Eselheide, Germany (B6464), and prisoner personnel were utilized to assist the processing staff in the mission. The first



German civilians (*top*) restore their own local power lines while military bomb-disposal squads (*below*) continue their work of removing all unexploded bombs and shells from the area.

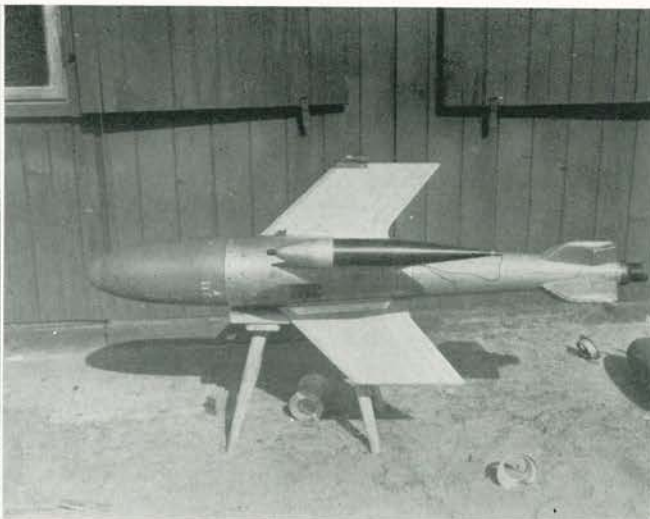
prisoners, 1,198 of them, were released on 21 May 1945, for employment in agriculture, mining, and transport. Another 1,800 were released later in the week. Altogether, the Corps staff screened 14,279 German prisoners and processed 6,759 for discharge.

It disapproved for discharge and transferred to internment camps a total of 970 others. Discharged prisoners were transported to the capitals of the *Landkreise* in which they lived, and there they were required to report at once to the labor office, the food office, and to the police for registration.

During this phase, the 75th and 79th Infantry Divisions continued to occupy the *Regierungsbezirk* of Arnberg; the 55th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade and XVI Corps Artillery occupied the *Regierungsbezirk* of Minden, and the 95th Infantry Division (later the 35th Infantry Division) occupied the *Regierungsbezirk* of Münster. These area commanders remained responsible for the care, control, and repatriation of displaced persons and the preservation of military order. Close liaison was established between tactical units and Military Government detachments to insure maximum efficiency in the performance of their respective missions. The laborious task of reorganizing provincial and *Regierungsbezirk* departments was begun. Difficulties previously encountered in finding experienced non-Nazi personnel to fill key positions in *Stadtkreis* and *Landkreis* administrations were multiplied at higher levels of government where Nazi Party members had held a monopoly on official positions. Local government showed satisfactory progress, and *Bürgermeisters* appeared to be developing initiative in dealing with local problems of food, transport, utilities, and labor.

Banks and post offices were reopened, and rapid progress was made on their resumption of normal business. Permission was granted many churches to reoccupy property confiscated by the German State. Additional coal mines were reopened, and several factories as well as small shops were permitted to resume operations for essential needs in accordance with directive priorities. Rapid progress was made on the restoration of all types of public utilities, and routes of communication were restored to a satisfactory condition for use. Military courts were functioning smoothly, and law and order was established throughout the area.

Under War Department plans to shift American military might to the Pacific Theater as efficiently as possible, the XVI Corps was assigned the responsibility of extensive personnel readjustment in all its units and of the preparation for redeployment of certain units that had been alerted for movement out of the theater. Large numbers of individuals were transferred between units, and those organizations that were alerted were given special attention with



At left, a soldier of the 95th Infantry Division stands guard at a U-boat yard in Bremen harbor. After its capture by the British the XVI Corps supervised the occupation of the Bremen Enclave area by the 95th Infantry Division and later by the 29th Infantry Division. At right, in conjunction with its occupation duties, the 55th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade discovered a factory in its area which manufactured this self-propelled radio-controlled rocket. The inventor of this new flying bomb was captured, and the manufacturing facilities were seized.

respect to the various requirements they had to meet prior to departure from the Corps area.

The XVI Corps also directed the relief of British troops and the establishment of American forces in the Bremen enclave area. Under plans which provided for occupation of this zone by the 95th Infantry Division, the Corps directed the movement of the division's 378th Infantry Regiment to Bremen, where it passed to the control of the British 21st Army Group and was attached to the British Second Army and further attached to the British XXX Corps for operations. These original plans, however, were subsequently changed, and the 29th Infantry Division was finally selected for the task. As a result, the 29th Infantry Division, with its semi-organically attached units, was attached to XVI Corps and moved into an assembly area near Münster. The 29th Division's 115th Infantry Regiment moved into the Bremen area on 6 May 1945, relieving the 378th Regiment so it could rejoin the 95th Division. The Corps then moved remaining units of the 29th Division into the enclave area, completing relief of all British elements by 24 May 1945. The movement of Communications Zone, naval and air force units into the Enclave Military District was coordinated by the Corps, and on completion, control of the area was transferred to the Ninth Army.

Procedures were established with the British I Corps during the latter part of May for the early transfer of the XVI Corps area to British control. On 30 May 1945, the British I Corps relieved the

XVI Corps of all responsibility for military government in the entire XVI Corps zone, and on 2 June 1945 it assumed responsibility for the occupation and security of the western half of the Corps area. On 6 June 1945, the British I Corps assumed responsibility for the remainder of the Corps area. All units attached to the Corps were relieved on various dates ranging from 25 May to 10 June 1945. The Corps maintained close liaison with its subordinate units during this busy time, alerting them, issuing movement orders, and assisting them in all essential activities prior to movement from the area. This done, the XVI Corps was ready for its next mission, another important part in America's war program.

Millions of American troops, tested combat veterans, were marking time in thousands of cities and villages throughout Western Europe, their great conflict with Hitler's legions successfully ended, their new task, the crushing of Japanese military might, waiting to be done. Service forces within the theater were not sufficient to execute their redeployment with the speed desired without assistance from the field forces. General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the European Theater, selected three combat units, the 66th, 75th, and 89th Infantry Divisions, for this important task. On the basis of the efficiency with which the XVI Corps had conducted its processing and its redeployment missions in addition to its greatly successful combat missions, General Eisenhower selected the XVI Corps to assume the control and di-

rection of the administration, discipline, welfare, and morale of these divisions designated for redeployment work. Fully aware of the importance of this mission, the Corps moved to begin its new assignment. Effective 12 June 1945, the XVI Corps was relieved from assignment to the Ninth Army, was assigned to the Theater headquarters, and was designated as a major command within the theater. At the same time it opened a new command post in Chantilly, France.

Lieut. Gen. William H. Simpson praised the XVI Corps and the divisions which had served under it in a letter which the Commanding General of the Ninth Army transmitted to his command prior to his departure from the European Theater of Operations:

I have nothing but praise for the work of the XVI Corps, from your initial mission of processing and moving troops from the beaches to the Army's zone, through your rapid integration into the Rhineland operations, your brilliantly executed crossing of the Rhine as the Army spearhead, and your subsequent reduction of the Ruhr Pocket.

Of the divisions and other units that had served under the XVI Corps, General Simpson said:

From a command which has included so many outstanding

divisions, it would be difficult indeed for me to select any one unit for special commendation above the others. However, certain of the divisions have been more or less continuously associated with Ninth Army during the past nine months. Hence it is that I wish at this time to make special mention of my appreciation of the work done by the 29th, 30th, . . . Infantry Divisions during this continued period. Ever ready and waiting for new missions, you never failed in your objectives, but in each successive operation further distinguished yourselves and added to your long records of outstanding accomplishments.

No less impressive is the work that has been done for this command by the . . . 35th, 75th, 79th and 95th Infantry Divisions and the . . . 8th Armored Division during the periods of your assignment to the Ninth Army.

General Simpson also added:

I wish also at this time to make record of my appreciation of the support afforded both the Army Headquarters and the command as a whole by the many units of the arms and services carried as Army troops, and I regret that time and space make it impracticable to mention each of you by name. However, the outstanding records established in their respective fields of operations by the 34th Field Artillery Brigade and the 55th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade prompt me to make special mention of your superior performance in all assigned missions.



VI: SUPPORTING SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Realizing that success in battle results only from the coordinated efforts of a great many arms and services, the XVI Corps utilized the services of several units and directed countless activities which contributed greatly to its success in combat. The complex and specialized scheme under which our armed forces are organized provides a mission for these services and activities which is no less important than the role of the combat soldier.

G-1 ACTIVITIES

Awards and Decorations. The Corps was ever mindful of the heroic deeds and meritorious service being performed by individuals throughout the command, and in recognition of these achievements, a great many medals and decorations were awarded. The Corps processed a total of 1,485 recommendations for awards, many of which, including 5 recommendations for the Medal of Honor, were forwarded to higher command echelons for final approval. The XVI Corps approved and authorized for presentation to individuals under its command the following awards earned during the period 6 February to 9 May 1945:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Distinguished Service Cross..... | 13 |
| Silver Star Medal..... | 31 |
| Soldier's Medal..... | 20 |
| Bronze Star Medal..... | 486 |
| Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star Medal..... | 33 |
| Air Medal..... | 43 |
| Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal..... | 45 |
| Purple Heart Medal..... | 6 |
| Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart Medal..... | 1 |
| Certificate of Merit..... | 95 |
| Total..... | 773 |

Governments other than our own also recognized the battle deeds of XVI Corps troops, and twenty medals were authorized for presentation by the French government, while six British medals were awarded.

Leaves and Furloughs. Realizing that a break in his combat routine contributed greatly to the efficiency and well-being of the soldier, the Corps and its subordinate commands utilized every opportunity to lift the strain and burden of combat duty from their troops to permit them to enjoy the finer style

of life available in rest and leave centers throughout the theater. Three-day passes to Paris, France, and Brussels, Belgium, for the combat soldier were frequently provided. Thousands of XVI Corps soldiers were given the opportunity of enjoying a week of luxurious living in the United States Riviera Recreational Area, the famous playground of Europe, while an equal number were sent to the United Kingdom on furlough or leave.

Mail. Perhaps one of the greatest single factors contributing to the high morale of XVI Corps troops was their mail. Even during the height of combat, every effort was made to keep mail delivery to combat troops continuous. Mail for divisions was processed by their own postal sections. For XVI Corps and its assigned and attached non-divisional troops, the 266th Army Postal Unit operated a command army post office. When, during the Rhine River crossing, the Corps strength included over 120,000 troops, an additional army postal unit was employed to assist in handling mail, and the Corps' own postal unit serviced 125 per cent more troops than it was normally designed to service. The 266th Army Postal Unit performed for the Corps in the field all the functions of a local post office. Each member of the armed services wrote an average of 6.4 letters per week, and the Corps postal unit, during the period 4 October 1944 to 30 June 1945, sent 9,869,400 soldiers' letters to their destination, while it received and delivered to Corps troops 15,839,600 letters from friends and families at home. At the same time, these soldiers purchased stamps valued at \$89,886.00 and invested their earnings in 29,468 postal money orders valued at \$1,381,177. Parcels as well as letters were eagerly received by all soldiers overseas, and during this same period, the Corps postal unit delivered 440,500 parcels to troops which it serviced, while it received from its patrons for dispatch a total of 175,000 packages of all sorts.

Special Services. During periods when its troops were out of the line in rest or assembly areas, the Corps provided special services of a wide variety for the benefit of these men. The greatest medium of entertainment was the motion-picture service. Projection teams from special service companies, equipped with 16 mm. sound-projection equipment, were dispatched throughout the Corps to provide



At upper left, combat men of the 8th Armored Division receive communion from a division chaplain in a little church in Grefrath, Germany. An Army chaplain (*upper right*) administers communion to one of the former inmates of a slave labor camp at Ickern, Germany, in the 75th Infantry Division's area. A search was later made for clergymen and seminarians among these displaced persons. Several were found and provided with the necessary supplies and equipment with which to carry on this ministry. Below, men of the 35th Infantry Division attend Protestant services in a shell-torn church in Obspringen, Germany. In addition to the conduct of services such as these, chaplains in the Corps worked continuously at medical collecting company sites and battalion aid stations to provide spiritual aid to wounded men when it was needed most. During the crossing of the Rhine River, chaplains of the assault divisions crossed with their medical detachments in order that wounded men of these assault elements might not lack the services of their unit chaplain.



At left, an enlisted man of the XVI Corps' 266th Army Postal Unit cancels mail, while the unit's commanding officer inspects it. At right, enlisted personnel of the unit sort a portion of the large volume of XVI Corps mail which they processed daily. In their rapid and efficient servicing of the mail, these men contributed a great deal to the high morale of the fighting soldier.

movies on a wide scale and under varying conditions. In Germany, civilian theaters with 35 mm. sound-projection equipment were taken over for military use exclusively.

The American Red Cross clubmobiles dispensing coffee and doughnuts were extremely popular and a welcome sight to any soldier in the European Theater. The XVI Corps employed two sections, consisting of 35 Red Cross girls manning these clubmobiles and doughnut dugouts. These clubmobiles

made daily trips to front-line units under the Corps, and each served as many as 1,000 men per day.

Live shows contributed greatly to the Corps entertainment program for its troops. A large number of USO Camp Shows and similar types of programs appeared before audiences of Corps troops during its operations. These included the Lightner-Grand-Marco Show, the Fred Stritt Show, the Don Rice Show, and the Dretser Show, as well as the major league baseball players—Frankie Frisch, Mel Ott,



Private Mickey Rooney enjoys a joke while having chow with medical men of the 35th Infantry Division at Braunsrath, Germany. Rooney was entertaining front-line troops with his Jeep Show (*left*). Jascha Heifetz (*right*), celebrated violinist, signs his autograph for XVI Corps troops after giving a USO Camp Show concert in Beckum, Germany. Most of the soldier audience asked for the musician's autograph on captured German reichsmarks. Units under the XVI Corps during combat enjoyed many shows which featured such outstanding entertainers as these.



An aerial photographer prepares for take-off in a liaison type aircraft to photograph enemy terrain opposite the XVI Corps front. Aerial photography played an important part in the gathering of combat intelligence in all operations.

Dutch Leonard, and Bucky Walters. Such headliners as Katherine Cornell, Brian Aherne, Marlene Dietrich, Mickey Rooney, Bobby Breen, Jascha Heifetz, Andre Kostelanetz, and Lily Pons contributed their talents for the entertainment of combat troops.

Through the medium of post exchanges, athletics, libraries, dance bands and orchestras, and countless other facilities made available through special services, the life of the soldier overseas was enhanced and his morale maintained at a high level.

INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

Enemy Order of Battle. When the Corps became operational on 6 February 1945, relieving the British XII Corps on the south Holland front, the enemy order of battle opposing it from west to east, consisted of the 8th Parachute Division and 176th and 183d Volksgrenadier Divisions. While the two infantry divisions had been in the line for some time, the 8th Parachute Division had only recently been created by interchanging its staff with that of the 606th zBV (*zu Besonderer Verwendung*, a special purpose division) and taking over the troops under command of that division. This seemed logical as these troops were actually parachute units. Thus Regiments *Muller* and *Hübner* became the 22d and 23d Parachute Regiments. Regiment *Hermann*, the third regiment of the 606th, for some obscure reason never received a number and continued fighting independently. The attack of the British XXX Corps on 17 February drew elements

of 8th Parachute Division to the scene of more imminent danger. Its former position was taken over for a few days by three Parachute *Lehr Gruppen* which in turn were relieved by 406th zBV Division.

The most likely enemy reserves believed to be in supporting distance of our front at this time were the 2d and 116th Panzer Divisions, 2d and 15th Panzergrenadier Divisions and one unidentified infantry division persistently reported in the vicinity.

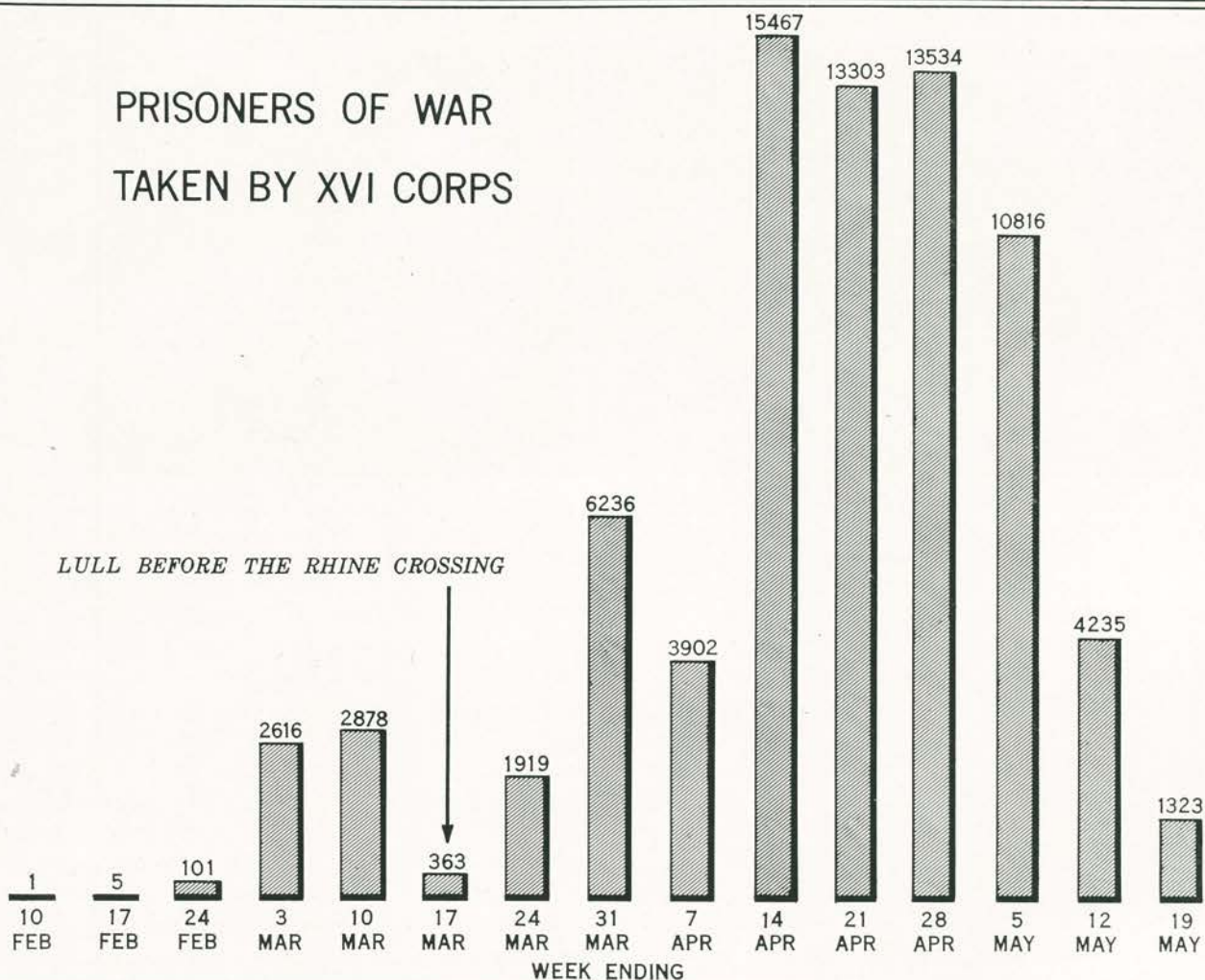
Although the vigorous and successful initiation of Operation Grenade caused the movement of major elements of both 176th and 183d Volksgrenadier Divisions to the south to oppose early advances of the XIII Corps, the remainder of these divisions continued to oppose our advance toward Venlo and Geldern but by 3 March they had been "mowed down" under the steamroller.

Before contact was gained with the Canadians at Walbeck on 3 March, the 406th zBV Division, falling back from their position on the Maas River was encountered and pushed aside at Melick on 1 March. As our attack moved on, the enemy order of battle began to show signs of disintegration with the usual phenomenon of miscellaneous units coming more and more into the spotlight. As our drive continued eastward, the 180th and 190th Volksgrenadier Divisions were contacted by 3 March and contact with elements of the 2d, 6th and 7th Parachute Divisions and a formidable *Kampf Gruppe* (Battle Group) of the 116th Panzer Division soon followed as our forces rapidly approached the Rhine where the enemy was making a frantic effort to prolong his Wesel bridgehead which finally resulted in its collapse on 11 March with our capture of Fort Blücher and the elimination of all German resistance west of the Rhine.

During the lull until 24 March when Operation Flashpoint was launched, the enemy identifications east of the Rhine were becoming more firmly established. The 180th Volksgrenadier Division was holding the sector north of Dinslaken with the mysterious Regiment Hamburg eventually identified as its third regiment. Elements of 2d Parachute Division had replaced a miscellaneous Parachute *Lehr Kampf Gruppe* and was holding the southern part of our sector.

As our attack progressed the major opposition on the front of the 79th Division was from miscellaneous battle groups and the 2d Parachute Division which fought a delaying action into the Ruhr, where its well trained units were to be used to bolster the de-

PRISONERS OF WAR TAKEN BY XVI CORPS



fense put up by the heterogeneous units encountered in the Pocket. Such mixed, hurriedly organized units were encountered east of the Rhine River in ever-increasing numbers as operations progressed. The 180th Volksgrenadier Division was thrown into battle on 24 March against the 30th Infantry Division but by 26 March was badly mauled and the major opposition fell to the 116th Panzer Division. Elements of the 180th appeared thereafter in the Ruhr pocket but as a combat division its annihilation had been completed by 26 March. The 190th Volksgrenadier Division supported 2d Parachute Division in the delaying action withdrawal into the Ruhr, as 116th Panzer Division reeled south from the hammer blows of the Ninth Army's two-corps power drive to the Elbe, which was then getting under way, as XIII and XIX Corps began their end-run through the hole made by XVI Corps, which maneuver was to take them to the Elbe in such a short time.

The action was by now (5 April) contracted into the Ruhr pocket and here the 4th AA or Flak Division made its debut and played its futile and final role. Of the 317,000 prisoners of war taken in the pocket there were represented hundreds of units, a motley horde of parts and pieces swept into the gigantic eddy-flotsam on the sea of battle.

The 116th Panzer Division, a worthy opponent by any standard, made a strong effort to get out of the circle and at one time (5 April) was actually "half out and half in" but its momentum was blunted on the sharp drive of Task Force Twaddle (U. S. 95th Division) and it returned to the fold for its last stand.

The only familiar faces in this "Last Roundup" were 116th Panzer Division; 2d Parachute Division; 180th Volksgrenadier Division and 190th Volksgrenadier Division, since 4th AA Division was considered a recent and uninvited guest. The rest of the



At left, a member of a photo-interpretation team checks newly taken aerial photographs to locate changes in known enemy positions in Germany. He is using the stereoscopic viewer which enables the observer to evaluate and calculate contours. At right, aerial photographs are fitted together into mosaics, and then enemy positions are plotted on the master maps.

units encountered here ran the gamut of the Wehrmacht from A to Z, and made G-2's hair turn grey overnight.

Of the 317,000 prisoners of war taken out of the Ruhr pocket, Corps units accounted for approximately 65,000, the rest being taken by elements of U. S. First Army pushing relentlessly toward the north. The chart shows the weekly prisoner-of-war totals. They represented every imaginable type of unit but a large percentage was AA and Volkssturm.

As the structure of the Nazi war machine fell apart, here was the final showdown, here were "the ashes of the empire!"



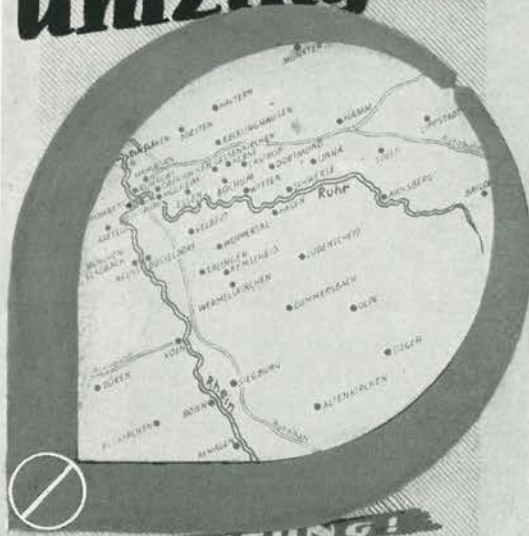
A loudspeaker truck is about to broadcast an invitation to German troops to surrender. Note that the vehicle is parked behind a camouflage net to hide it from Germans who have direct observation into the town. The XVI Corps frequently made use of this particular type of psychological warfare during its combat operations.

Counterintelligence. The counterintelligence activities of Corps began in Normandy. The security of the Corps CP, the ever-present threat of raiding parties and enemy agents from the nearby Channel Islands (where the 319th Infantry Division retired in June after the breakthrough at Avranches) and the large numbers of German prisoners of war in the peninsula, all combined to pose a problem of no small proportions. This was to be the proving ground for maneuver and textbook training received in the States. Results were obvious when the Corps entered operations in February, and the take-over from the British XII Corps was effected without any knowledge being obtained of it by the enemy. In fact, it was not until the Corps reached the Rhine River that the German GHQ listed XVI Corps in its Order of Battle. And the oversight was not intentional.

The movement of troops up to the river for the assault required much preparation to insure that the enemy was kept in doubt as to our intentions. Movement of the assault troops, massing of the artillery, and assembling of river-crossing equipment were shrouded in secrecy. One group of enemy agents, put across the river to secure information, was apprehended intact, and other lone agents were also rounded up. As future events were to prove, the enemy had little inkling of our plans. He anticipated a crossing attempt but expected it north of Wesel where the Canadians crossed.

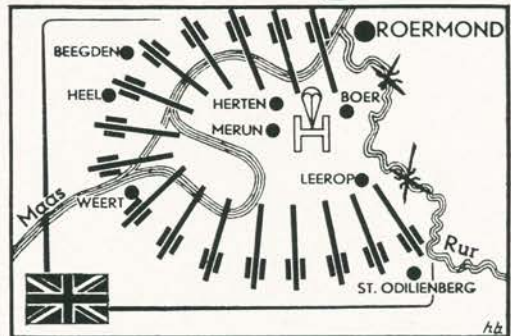
Events moved so rapidly after the river crossing was forced, that counterintelligence measures were always in a state of flux. With the disintegration of the Nazi war machine under way, the rounding up

Ruhrgebiet umzingelt!



ACHTUNG!
VERHALTUNGSMASSREGELN FÜR ZIVILPERSONEN:
 Hängt eine weiße Fahne heraus zum Zeichen, dass das Haus nicht verteidigt wird. — Wird das Haus von deutschen Soldaten verteidigt, so wird es zerstört.

Lebendige --



-- Zielscheiben

Soldaten der Regimenter „HÜBNER“ und „MÜLLER“! Ihr seid lebendige Zielscheiben. Anglo-amerikanische Geschützrohre sind von drei Seiten auf Euch gerichtet. Eure eigene Ari nimmt Euch unter Feuer. Es kann kein Zweifel darüber bestehen, dass Ihr in einem bereits verlorenen Krieg auf verlorenem Posten steht. Die Rote Armee steht in Frankfurt a/O und in Küstrin, im Vorfeld von Berlin. Der Russe hat die Oder nördlich und südlich Breslau überschritten. Ostpreussen ist verloren.

Wofür kämpft Ihr noch?
 Für Euer Leben? Noch könnt Ihr es retten.

Feldpost

Number 34 - 12 AG
 2nd ISSUE - April

PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES ARMY IN WESTERN EUROPE

Americans Across the Weser

PARIS. — The decisive offensive of the Allies is rolling with lightning speed into the heart of Germany and is threatening to split Germany into two parts. On the northern sector of the front the Allies have reached the Weser on a 60 km front and have already crossed the river south of Hameln. Allied units are already within 45 km of Bremen and Hanover. The 100,000 Germans who are encircled in the Ruhr area are being further hemmed in. Slagen and Recklinghausen were captured by the Americans and fighting is taking place on the



approaches to Dortmund, Osnabrueck, Muenster and Minden were captured and fighting is going on in Hamm. Canadian troops entered Arnhem. They advanced to within 50 km of the Zuider Sea and are threatening to cut off 50,000 Germans who are still in Holland. During the Allied advance into Central-Germany the cities of Detmold, Herford and Muehlhausen were captured. Gotha, Kassel, Fulda and Suhl were cleared of German troops. Other American troop units are advancing in the Neckar valley and are within 50 km of Nuremberg.



DEAD LINE THE RHINE

The Corps' first leaflets were unloaded during February 1945, into the German "island" south of Roermond (top right). Parachute units were surrounded on three sides, hence the graphic sketch. The heading "Living Bull's-eyes" refers to their plight. The leaflet at the top left was employed in the Ruhr Pocket and illustrates graphically the caption on the leaflet, which, translated, reads: "Ruhr District Encircled." At the lower left is shown a copy of Psychological Warfare's newspaper for the German troops, shot at them in artillery shells. In most instances, it was the only news they had of the situation in Germany. This sample is in English. Theirs, of course, was in German. The enemy used leaflets on us, too! At lower right is one we got while sitting on the west bank of the Rhine awaiting the signal to launch the attack across the river. Surprisingly enough and despite the warning in the leaflet, our losses in the crossing operation were extremely light.



At upper left, a 97th Signal Battalion sign painter gets an OK from his first sergeant marking the location of communications cable across the Rhine River from Borth, Germany. At upper right, a Signal Battalion cableman identifies pairs on a German underground cable used to carry telephone conversations on the XVI Corps front near Borth, Germany. At lower left, linemen roll a reel of submarine cable ashore on the east bank of the Rhine River after the cable had been laid across the river by means of the amphibious vehicle in the background. At lower right, spiral-four cable, commonly used throughout all XVI Corps operations for wire communications, is buried with a cable plow as wire communications men of a signal battalion run lines up to forward positions near Rheimberg. Cable was buried to provide greatest protection from interruptions during combat. The continuous painstaking efforts of the Corps signal battalion in providing efficient and uninterrupted communications service throughout the Corps contributed immeasurably to its success.

of automatic arrestees (*i.e.*, those on a previously prepared black list), war criminals and enemy troops masquerading as civilians, required the full attention of all our facilities. The infamous Nazi diplomat, Franz von Papen, was taken as well as Alfred Krupp von Bohlen, head of the Krupp works. At one time the Corps was the unwilling host to twenty-four generals of the Wehrmacht and eventually the concentration camp at Recklinghausen contained almost 10,000 thugs and hoodlums of high and low degree.

Other Intelligence Activities. Psychological warfare made its debut in World War II, and while it is impossible to calculate the accomplishments of this new weapon, there were many instances where the prompt employment of Publicity and Psychological Warfare, or P&PW as it was called, saved Allied lives and induced enemy pockets to surrender. Leaflets were fired into enemy lines, and newspapers giving latest news on their then deplorable situation were furnished the German troops by courtesy of our artillery. The enemy also retaliated in kind with their leaflets via plane and shell. Psychological warfare equipment and facilities were invaluable to Military Government as the quickest means of issuing instructions to the civilian population, and the sound trucks were very much in demand.

Photo interpretation continued all during operations. Photos were being taken continuously and master maps were kept up to date hour by hour. Enemy installations as identified were published in G-2 periodic reports daily and as required overlays and overprinted maps were furnished to the front-line troops. Patrols received photographs to supplement maps of areas they were to cover.

Information obtained by IPW (Interrogation of Prisoners of War) and MII (Military Intelligence Interpreters) was published to all troops daily and telephoned if the urgency of the situation warranted it. On one occasion our MII teams obtained valuable data on a minefield outside End in late February which enabled our troops to by-pass the danger area. A surprisingly accurate amount of enemy information was secured through these agencies.

Little can be told of the more secret activities of G-2 but agents were active through enemy lines, and deception forces, as well as Underground assistance for escapers and evaders (PW&X we called it) performed their appointed tasks cheerfully and at great risk. No public recognition can be made for their work but only those permitted an insight into this

phase of operations can ever appreciate what they did. As Lord Tennyson said, and with apologies for the paraphrasing, "theirs but to do—or die."

SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS

Signal communications within the Corps command post and to its lower and adjacent units was provided by its organic 97th Signal Battalion. This battalion installed and maintained wire, radio, and several other types of communications for the Corps during its entire operations, and these services were an outstanding contribution to the success of every mission. A tribute to the 97th Signal Battalion is the fact that at no time during combat was the Corps out of telephone communication with any of its divisions for more than two hours, and radio communication was continuous.

During the Corps' crossing of the Roer River, an elaborate system of spiral-four wire cable lines was installed and maintained under unfavorable conditions. Maintenance of cable interrupted by enemy shell fire was difficult owing to conditions of heavy road traffic and wet weather. Cablemen continued their outstanding work in locating and repairing existing commercial underground cables to supply alternate routes for wire communication within the Corps. During this operation, as well as those following, particular difficulties were experienced in establishing communications with British units on the Corps left flank. The non-interchangeability of American and British signal equipment made it necessary for the signal battalion to place its own equipment and operating personnel with these British units. At one time the Corps spearhead division, the 35th, had displaced forty miles in advance of the Corps command post, yet efficient communications were effectively maintained over these extended distances.

The period just prior to and during the Rhine River crossing brought a peak load for all means of communications. From 1 to 31 March 1945, the signal battalion processed a total of 91,000 messages. All electrical messages sent in Germany of necessity were cryptographed, and the battalion's code personnel performed an outstanding service in their prompt and efficient servicing of these operational messages. The Corps forward echelon switchboard serviced as many as 850 telephone calls per hour. The performance of motor messengers during this phase was particularly outstanding. Frequent changes in attachment of units and in their location made their



Left, the XVI Corps class III truckhead near Herongen, Germany, where class III supplies were issued to Corps troops. Right, a Quartermaster laundry operates in the field for XVI Corps troops near Klinkhammer, Germany.

mission an extremely difficult one, yet they never failed to deliver their messages with the least possible delay.

A novel feature of Corps communications was the use of a combat information radio net operated by signal battalion personnel for the Corps liaison section. Liaison officers were provided with a Signal Corps Radio 193 and the necessary operating personnel. Equipment and personnel were transported in a weapons carrier and accompanied Corps liaison officers to front-line regiments where information of the current situation was radioed back to the Corps headquarters. Five of these teams operated on the Corps front during operations, providing the Corps commander with timely information concerning progress made or difficulties encountered by front-line units.

Communications problems of a somewhat different nature were successfully solved during the Corps engagement in an occupation and military government mission. The work of the signal battalion changed from rapid installation of spiral-four wire cable to the rehabilitation of German commercial cable to tie in the various Corps units which were dispersed throughout an area approximately the size of New Jersey. Telephone carrier systems were used to the extent of their availability, and extensive use was made of German repeater equipment already in place in the various towns and cities of the area. Difficult technical problems not ordinarily encountered by a Corps signal battalion were met and solved to the end that a heavily loaded telephone system was available to meet the military needs of the Corps. As an indication of the volume of traffic encountered, 110,000 messages were processed by the 97th Signal Battalion during the month of May.

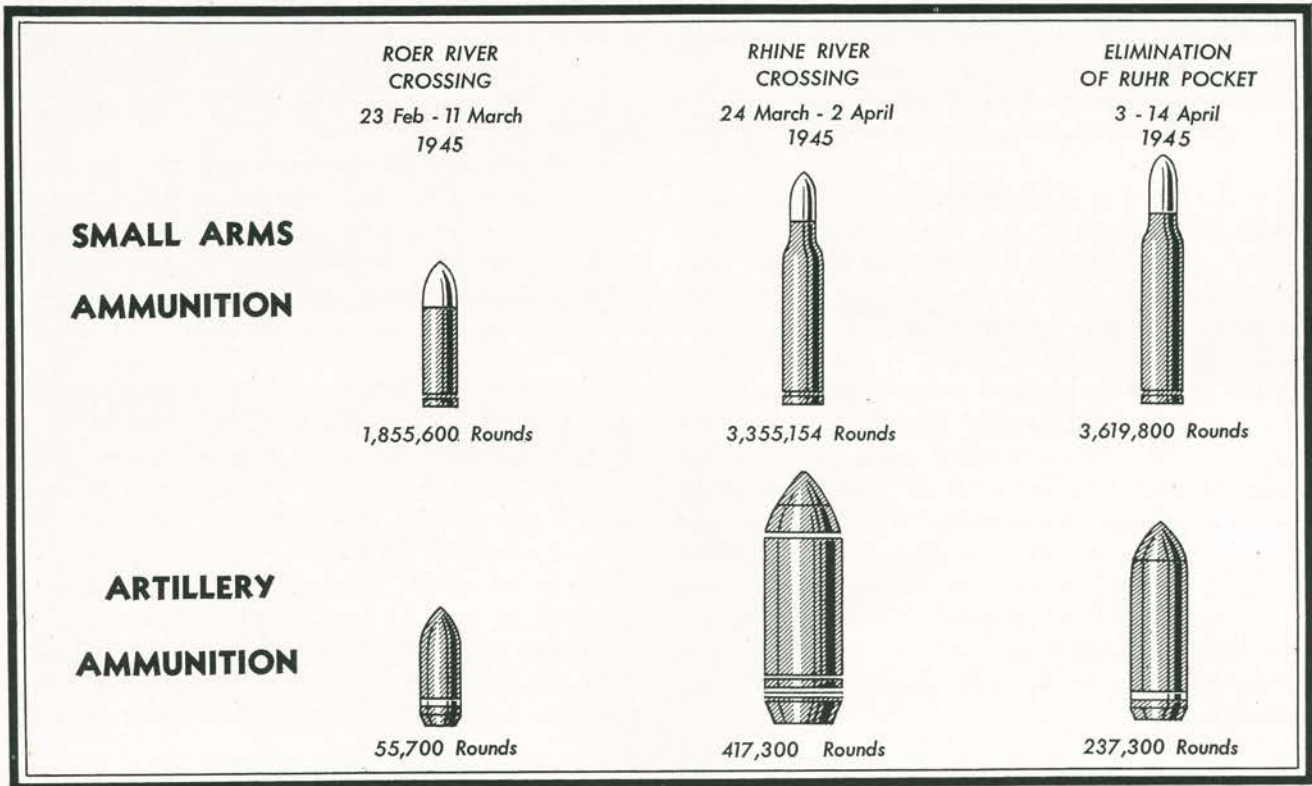
G-4 ACTIVITIES

Though a Corps is a tactical organization concerned primarily with combat operations, the XVI Corps directed many activities related to supply and evacuation for its non-divisional Corps troops. The rapid movement of supplies in quantities required for satisfactory performance by combat troops was an essential phase of every operation, and the successful performance of these functions contributed in great measure to the victories won by the Corps.

Quartermaster. A concerted effort was continually made to provide all troops with the best possible meals under existing circumstances. Approximately eight out of every ten rations issued to Corps troops during the period from February to May 1945 were the A type, the remaining being of the emergency type. Special rations were supplied for holiday meals for the troops' celebration of these special occasions. To combat impairment of the troops' efficiency by winter weather, the Corps issued winterized clothing including sleeping bags, arctic overshoes and mittens, fur-lined and sheeplined jackets, mufflers, ponchos, and cotton field trousers for the comfort of its soldiers. The Corps operated a salvage team which, during its operational period, recovered a tremendous quantity of ammunition and supplies. A fumigation and bath unit functioned continually to provide showers to troops where bathing facilities were not available. Both in Holland and Germany this unit operated showers in local coal mines to give maximum service to troops, and a total of 302,890 showers were given during the Corps' operational period. A clean uniform, as well as a bath, contributed almost as much to a soldier's morale as his mail and hot



Left, the small-arms repair section of an Ordnance medium maintenance company repairs a mortar tripod and a carbine. Right, the interior of a typical Ordnance medium automotive maintenance company's shop truck is pictured. Ordnance units supporting the Corps during combat worked ceaselessly and diligently to keep our troops' superior materiel in perfect mechanical condition. Below is graphically depicted the small-arms and artillery ammunition expended by XVI Corps in its three principal operations.





Military police of the XVI Corps played an important role in all activities of the Corps, providing efficient security and traffic control throughout the Corps' area.

meals, and Corps quartermaster facilities laundered 1,446,310 pieces of clothing, amounting to almost two million pounds. In addition to these services, other quartermaster units and agencies provided adequate facilities for gasoline and oil supply, clothing and shoe repair, labor and trucking, and burial and graves registration.

Engineers. Engineer troops supporting the XVI Corps played a major role in two of the Corps' important operations, the crossing of the Roer and Rhine Rivers. The quantity of engineer supplies required for these operations was tremendous. Approximately two hundred truckloads of engineer material were obtained for the Roer crossing, and the Rhine River crossing operation required ten times that amount.

For the crossing of the Roer River by XVI Corps, a forward engineer dump was selected at Geilenkirchen, a focal point in the roadnet 9,000 yards from the principal crossing sites of the 35th Infantry Division. In advance, specific allocation of materials with a tentative time schedule of departure from Geilenkirchen was made in order to facilitate traffic planning and to aid detailed planning by the three engineer battalions concerned with the crossing. Bridge and road material left Geilenkirchen to go directly to construction sites only with sufficient time to reach construction sites—and no sooner, lest there be traffic jams on the narrow, restricted roads. For this crossing, all types of fixed and floating bridges were built by Corps engineer units, and the lessons learned proved valuable in the Rhine and later river crossings.

For the crossing of the Rhine River, the engineer supply problem was a major one. Hundreds of tons of bridge equipment, materials, and supplies had to be assembled, distributed, and subsequently stored in the final assembly dump. Captured enemy stocks provided a source of most of this material, and neighboring Corps engineers rendered all possible assistance with men, supplies, and equipment. Over 10,000 feet of steel cable, 200 anchors, 500,000 linear feet of lumber, 1,000 logs, and tons of steel were located, collected, and used. Lintfort was selected as the site of the engineer dump, where all these materials were collected and stored. Smaller dumps and bridge trains were located in the vicinity.

Not only was this material collected, but much of it was assembled in the dump prior to use. Eight thousand feet of prefabricated road material was made by fastening 2-inch lumber to Sommerfeld track. Two hundred anchors were made from Bailey bridge panels. Bows were manufactured for double assault boats. One of the more difficult tasks was that of assembling the Sea Mules, and one engineer combat battalion worked on a 24-hour schedule to complete this job. Another major task was the moving of the amphibious equipment to be used in the operation to its final assembly points, which, due to security reasons, had to be accomplished during hours of darkness. Using tank transporters, Corps engineers moved 185 huge amphibious craft and equipment a distance of one hundred miles to the final assembly areas in eight days.

In addition to all these preliminary operations, engineer troops of the Corps performed a very remarkable service in their support of assault troops, in actual bridging operations and in engineer maintenance during these operations and thus contributing immeasurably to their overwhelming success.

Miscellaneous. The scope of this history does not permit detailed descriptions of the activities of all the special staff sections. All deserve commendation for the efficient manner in which they performed their functions. All contributed to the success of the operations of the Corps.

Worthy of special mention and commendation are the Medical and Provost Marshal Sections. Their operations were always marked by careful and thorough planning, and by effective and efficient execution. The highlights of their performances occurred

at the crossing of the Rhine. In this operation, the planning, the foresight, and the careful consideration of every detail, no matter how minor, produced outstanding results. Traffic control, under extremely difficult conditions of roadnet and congested bottle-necks, worked perfectly and no serious traffic problems arose. The rapid build-up of troops east of the Rhine, and the prompt delivery of supplies of all

kinds, were directly attributable to the thorough understanding by the Provost Marshal Section of their duties and functions. Equally successful was the Medical Section's planning and execution. At all times, and in spite of the Rhine River barrier, casualties were promptly evacuated, and received medical attention and care within a minimum of time.



APPENDIX

UNITS UNDER COMMAND OF XVI CORPS IN OPERATIONS

ORGANIC CORPS TROOPS

Headquarters & Headquarters Company, XVI Corps
Headquarters & Headquarters Battery, XVI Corps Artillery
97th Signal Battalion
291st Field Artillery Observation Battalion
667th Engineer Topographic Company (Corps)

DIVISIONS

5th Infantry Division
5th Armored Division (US)
7th Armored Division (British)
8th Armored Division (US)
17th Airborne Division
29th Infantry Division
30th Infantry Division
35th Infantry Division
75th Infantry Division
79th Infantry Division
95th Infantry Division

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

54th Machine Records Unit
266th Army Postal Unit

AIR CORPS

Flight C, 125th Liaison Squadron

ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY

2d Antiaircraft Artillery Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
18th Antiaircraft Artillery Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
26th Antiaircraft Artillery Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
38th Antiaircraft Artillery Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
55th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
124th Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion
127th Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion
131st Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion
132d Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion
141st Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion
3d Platoon, Battery A, 226th Antiaircraft Artillery Searchlight Battalion
Battery B, 357th Antiaircraft Artillery Searchlight Battalion
379th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion
440th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion
446th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion
448th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion
459th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion
463d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion
473d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion
531st Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion
547th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion
553d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion

554th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion
556th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion
562d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion
571st Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion
597th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion
749th Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion

ARMORED

10th Armored Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Company

CAVALRY

15th Cavalry Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Troop
15th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron
17th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron

CHEMICAL

27th Chemical Smoke Generating Battalion, Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment
74th Chemical Smoke Generating Company
83d Chemical Smoke Generating Company
89th Chemical Mortar Battalion
92d Chemical Mortar Battalion

ENGINEER

17th Engineer Treadway Bridge Company
70th Engineer Light Ponton Company
73d Engineer Light Ponton Company
2d & 3d Platoons, Company C, 84th Engineer Camouflage Battalion
149th Engineer Combat Battalion
171st Engineer Combat Battalion
180th Engineer Heavy Ponton Battalion
187th Engineer Combat Battalion
202d Engineer Combat Battalion
208th Engineer Combat Battalion
234th Engineer Combat Battalion
250th Engineer Combat Battalion
252d Engineer Combat Battalion
258th Engineer Combat Battalion
280th Engineer Combat Battalion
292d Engineer Combat Battalion
Company A, 551st Engineer Heavy Ponton Battalion
554th Engineer Heavy Ponton Battalion
582d Engineer Dump Truck Company
1st & 4th Platoons, Company D, 604th Engineer Camouflage Battalion
625th Engineer Light Equipment Company
633d Engineer Light Equipment Company
989th Engineer Treadway Bridge Company
999th Engineer Treadway Bridge Company
1103d Engineer Combat Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Company
1146th Engineer Combat Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Company
1148th Engineer Combat Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Company

1153d Engineer Combat Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Company
 1254th Engineer Combat Battalion
 1276th Engineer Combat Battalion
 1355th Engineer Dump Truck Company
 1468th Engineer Maintenance Company
 2d Platoon, 1503d Engineer Water Supply Company
 2950th Engineer Technical Intelligence Team

FIELD ARTILLERY

14th Field Artillery Observation Battalion
 25th Field Artillery Battalion
 34th Field Artillery Brigade, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
 40th Field Artillery Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
 65th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
 70th Field Artillery Battalion
 119th Field Artillery Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
 203d Field Artillery Battalion
 210th Field Artillery Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
 211th Field Artillery Battalion
 215th Field Artillery Battalion
 219th Field Artillery Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
 228th Field Artillery Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
 228th Field Artillery Battalion
 252d Field Artillery Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
 256th Field Artillery Battalion
 258th Field Artillery Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
 258th Field Artillery Battalion
 265th Field Artillery Battalion
 269th Field Artillery Battalion
 272d Field Artillery Battalion
 275th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
 280th Field Artillery Battalion
 349th Field Artillery Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
 351st Field Artillery Battalion
 404th Field Artillery Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
 407th Field Artillery Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
 422d Field Artillery Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
 516th Field Artillery Battalion
 547th Field Artillery Battalion
 548th Field Artillery Battalion
 549th Field Artillery Battalion
 666th Field Artillery Battalion
 691st Field Artillery Battalion
 692d Field Artillery Battalion
 695th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
 696th Armored Field Artillery Battalion

739th Field Artillery Battalion
 743d Field Artillery Battalion
 745th Field Artillery Battalion
 748th Field Artillery Battalion
 751st Field Artillery Battalion
 754th Field Artillery Battalion
 758th Field Artillery Battalion
 777th Field Artillery Battalion
 788th Field Artillery Battalion
 793d Field Artillery Battalion
 959th Field Artillery Battalion
 963d Field Artillery Battalion
 967th Field Artillery Battalion
 978th Field Artillery Battalion
 979th Field Artillery Battalion

FINANCE

54th Finance Disbursing Section
 167th Finance Disbursing Section

MEDICAL

1st Medical Group, Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment
 48th Field Hospital
 183d Medical Battalion, Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment
 185th Medical Battalion, Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment
 415th Medical Collecting Company
 430th Medical Battalion, Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment
 442d Medical Collecting Company
 445th Medical Collecting Company
 462d Medical Collecting Company
 481st Medical Collecting Company
 488th Medical Ambulance Company
 500th Medical Collecting Company
 566th Medical Ambulance Company
 626th Medical Clearing Company
 627th Medical Clearing Company
 666th Medical Clearing Company

MILITARY POLICE

795th Military Police Battalion
 823d Military Police Company (Corps)

NAVY

Naval Unit 122.5.3

ORDNANCE

39th Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad
 51st Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad

QUARTERMASTER

4th Platoon, 23d Quartermaster Car Company
 7th Quartermaster Battalion, Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment
 398th Quartermaster Truck Company
 463d Quartermaster Laundry Company
 559th Quartermaster Battalion, Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment

664th Quartermaster Truck Company
 872d Quartermaster Fumigation & Bath Company
 3420th Quartermaster Truck Company
 3454th Quartermaster Truck Company
 3658th Quartermaster Truck Company
 3694th Quartermaster Truck Company
 3864th Quartermaster Truck Company
 4404th Quartermaster Service Company

SIGNAL

3d Platoon, 278th Signal Pigeon Company
 3257th Signal Service Company

TANK

701st Tank Battalion
 709th Tank Battalion
 717th Tank Battalion
 Company C, 736th Tank Battalion
 Company A, 739th Tank Battalion
 Company B, 739th Tank Battalion
 Company C, 739th Tank Battalion
 743d Tank Battalion
 744th Tank Battalion
 747th Tank Battalion
 761st Tank Battalion

784th Tank Battalion
 B Squadron, 1st Lothians & Border Yeomanry (British)
 B Squadron, 1st Fife & Forfar Yeomanry (British)

TANK DESTROYER

12th Tank Destroyer Group, Headquarters & Headquarters
 Company
 20th Tank Destroyer Group, Headquarters & Headquarters
 Company
 605th Tank Destroyer Battalion
 654th Tank Destroyer Battalion
 772d Tank Destroyer Battalion
 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion
 807th Tank Destroyer Battalion
 809th Tank Destroyer Battalion
 813th Tank Destroyer Battalion
 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion
 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion

TRANSPORTATION CORPS

Detachment C, 329th Harbor Craft Company
 458th Amphibious Truck Company
 459th Amphibious Truck Company
 461st Amphibious Truck Company
 469th Amphibious Truck Company

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

20 September 1944 to 1 June 1945

of

Headquarters and Headquarters Company XVI Corps;
Headquarters and Headquarters Battery XVI Corps
Artillery; Medical Detachment; Military Police
Platoon; 216th CIC Detachment

Roster of

Headquarters and Headquarters Company XVI Corps
Medical Detachment, Military Police Platoon,
216th CIC Detachment

OFFICERS

| Name and Rank | Branch | ASN | Name and Rank | Branch | ASN |
|------------------------------------|--------|----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| *Abelow, Samson Z., Colonel | AGD | 0187897 | *Filip, Jerold J., Major | MAC | 0416519 |
| *Anderson, John B., Maj Gen | USA | 03686 | Fitzgibbons, James J., Lt Col | INF | 017752 |
| Bagley, Leo B., Lt Col | FA | 0384166 | *Ford, Harold R., Major | INF | 0375120 |
| *Barker, George R., Colonel | GSC | 04972 | Fox, Osman G., 2d Lt | CE | 0555378 |
| Belcher, John R., Major | FA | 01166897 | *Freda, James J., Major | INF | 01285032 |
| *Benchley, Walter K., Jr., Major | INF | 0373639 | *Frederick, William M., Major | CAV | 0262226 |
| *Bohn, Gordon A., Major | MAC | 0450714 | *Furlong, Harold A., Colonel | MC | 0158405 |
| *Booth, Harold R., Colonel | IGD | 0114180 | *Givens, Raymond, Lt Col | ORC | 0275830 |
| *Brice, Arthur T., Colonel | CWS | 0167877 | *Greenberg, Jerome, 1st Lt | FA | 0520744 |
| *Broom, Thad A., Colonel | QMC | 018246 | *Greenberg, Marvin, WOJG | USA | W2127997 |
| Cahill, Edward G., 1st Lt | CAV | 01032005 | *Hall, Dennis W., Major | ORD | 0283574 |
| *Carlson, Carsten D., 1st Lt | INF | 01306812 | Hall, Reuben A., Captain | INF | 01293247 |
| *Carty, William J., Lt Col | CH C | 0300340 | Hanson, Donald G., 1st Lt | CE | 01113238 |
| *Case, Lawrence C., Colonel | JAGD | 0335454 | Harrington, John J., 1st Lt | FA | 01184062 |
| *Castleman, Harry W., Major | FA | 0315134 | *Harris, Earnest N., Captain | AGD | 01003250 |
| *Chase, Theodore W., Major | INF | 0358637 | Hicks, William E., Captain | CAC | 0451792 |
| Childs, Royce, Captain | ORD | 0346016 | *Hobbs, Daniel J., Major | INF | 0363710 |
| *Ciminelli, Dante J., Captain | SIG C | 0373621 | *Hollingsworth, David L., Captain | CAV | 019578 |
| *Clapp, Lester L., Major | QMC | 0217678 | *Hoover, Robert M., Major | FA | 0316422 |
| *Comfort, Frederic deL, Colonel | GSC | 014714 | Howell, Dillard W., 2d Lt | AUS | 02012099 |
| Coney, John B., Lt Col | INF | 0297801 | Hundley, Bevilly T., Captain | QMC | 01573297 |
| *Conley, Joseph G., Lt Col | GSC | 0286588 | *Hunnell, Charles H., Major | CE | 0345867 |
| *Corbett, Walter, Captain | INF | 0399199 | *Hunter, Robert C., Jr., Lt Col | MC | 023680 |
| Cunningham, John K., Colonel | GSC | 0277284 | *Jacobus, Philip F., 1st Lt | CAC | 01061435 |
| Davenport, William A., Jr., 1st Lt | CMP | 01323669 | *James, Harold R., Lt Col | AGD | 0347506 |
| *Davis, Frank G., Colonel | GSC | 012380 | *Jones, Roy L., Colonel | ORD | 0336206 |
| *Davis, Vernard O., Lt Col | ORD | 0310143 | Kalman, Jack H., 1st Lt | INF | 01312942 |
| *Davis, William C., Jr., Captain | QMC | 0908097 | *Kellogg, Hamilton H., Colonel | CH C | 0257163 |
| *Devine, Daniel J., Major | SIG C | 0279605 | *Kelly, Walter L., Major | INF | 0331042 |
| *Dickie, James H., Colonel | FD | 015026 | *King, Norman D., Lt Col | GSC | 0203021 |
| Dougherty, John L., 2d Lt | AUS | 02012100 | *Knight, Harry, Colonel | GSC | 010104 |
| Dwan, Robert D., 1st Lt | CAV | 026052 | Lamb, John A., 1st Lt | INF | 01175777 |
| Edwards, Charles W., Jr., 1st Lt | INF | 0403463 | Lechner, William W., 1st Lt | FA | 01182413 |
| Eicher, Edward E., 1st Lt | TC | 01945349 | *Lewis, James A., Lt Col | INF | 010892 |
| Emerson, John D., Captain | FA | 0229925 | Leudde, Henry W., Major | CAC | 0321238 |
| Evans, Richard B., Colonel | CAV | 015217 | *Lueth, Paul F., Major | CAC | 0378550 |
| *Eveland, Wilbur C., Jr., Captain | MI | 01590440 | Lundy, Richard P., Captain | ORD | 01551052 |
| *Feild, Gordon S., Jr., Captain | SIG C | 0376305 | McAuliffe, John F., 1st Lt | SIG C | 01635059 |
| *Felchlin, Howard L., Major | INF | 024041 | McAuliffe, Vincent J., Captain | MC | 0348026 |
| Ferrall, Samuel B., Captain | QMC | 01577153 | *McDaniel, Otto L., Colonel | GSC | 011846 |
| Field, Winston L., Lt Col | AC | 0266922 | *McFall, Guy R., Captain | INF (ADC) | 0442158 |

*Departed from United States with XVI Corps on 20 September 1944 for overseas service.

HISTORY OF THE XVI CORPS

| <i>Name and Rank</i> | <i>Branch</i> | <i>ASN</i> | <i>Name and Rank</i> | <i>Branch</i> | <i>ASN</i> |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| McGonagle, Joseph C., 1st Lt | INF | 01314810 | Schwenk, Gordon H., 1st Lt | CE | 0485028 |
| *Melcher, Richard, 1st Lt | CMP | 0402276 | Shubow, Joseph S., Captain | CH C | 0537696 |
| *Miller, Richard S., Lt Col | QMC | 0244345 | *Simmons, Mack, Captain | MC | 025166 |
| *Mize, Henry H., Major | JAGD | 0302121 | *Smith, Edward G., Major | FA | 0346580 |
| Morris, James M., 2d Lt | INF | 0546994 | Spencer, Max R., 1st Lt | FA | 0516664 |
| Mowry, Ross E., Captain | INF | 0373019 | Stafford, John M., Captain | JAGD | 0414553 |
| Nixon, Eugene L., Colonel | CH C | 0280998 | *Streicher, Frederick, Lt Col | GSC | 0211663 |
| Oliver, John P., Lt Col | JAGD | 0274223 | *Stude, Helmuth F., Major | IGD | 0319495 |
| O'Neill, William A., 1st Lt | CE | 01587513 | *Swinney, William B., Major | ORD | 0924056 |
| *Oreskovic, Ray, Captain | CE | 0456373 | *Terry, Evan R., CWO | USA | W2127977 |
| *Owendoff, Robert A., Major | CWS | 0382324 | *Tower, John V., Colonel | SIG C | 015956 |
| Peirano, Joseph M., Captain | CMP | 01797344 | *Tsenes, Angelo J., CWO | USA | W2127973 |
| *Phillips, Noel F., Captain | CMP | 0262075 | *Urschel, Charles F., Jr., Major | FA (ADC) | 0373416 |
| *Pieper, William J., Captain | CE | 0319446 | Van Dusen, Hugh G., 1st Lt | CMP | 01798658 |
| *Potter, James D., CWO | USA | W2127976 | Walker, John L., Captain | CE | 01105248 |
| Pratt, Laurence A., Captain | ORD | 0292220 | Wallace, Milton I., Lt Col | CE | 021467 |
| *Ragsdale, Gerald H., Major | INF | 022217 | *Wells, Jesse B., Colonel | GSC | 015580 |
| *Rees, Richard D., Major | FA | 0357159 | Werlein, Eugene R., 2d Lt | CE | 0554584 |
| *Richardson, William H., Captain | DC | 0473912 | *Wheeler, John W., Colonel | CE | 0118291 |
| *Roberts, Gordon E., Lt Col | GSC | 0235801 | *White, Fred G., Major | AUS | 0562336 |
| *Roberts, Harold, Captain | CAV | 0450155 | Wickwire, Parker C., Captain | CMP | 0299074 |
| *Robbins, Calvin L., WOJG | USA | W2124483 | *Wight, George H., Captain | INF | 0363555 |
| *Roselli, George F., CWO | USA | W2126576 | Yearous, Glenn, Major | AC | 0182566 |
| *Rushon, George A., Major | AGD | 0393787 | *Yerkes, Paul E., Captain | FD | 0395896 |
| *Sanders, Ernest C., Lt Col | IGD | 0267867 | *Zahn, Melvin S., Captain | FA | 0394498 |
| *Schmieder, Ralph J., WOJG | USA | W2128090 | *Zweifel, Fred A., Captain | ORD | 0359054 |
| | | | Zwiegel, Donald L., Captain | QMC | 01585123 |

AMERICAN RED CROSS

*Miller, Grady W., Civilian

Field Director

ENLISTED MEN

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Rank</i> | <i>ASN</i> | <i>Name</i> | <i>Rank</i> | <i>ASN</i> |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------|------------|
| *Abbott, Paul L. | Pfc | 39199521 | Bassett, William D. | Pfc | 32130573 |
| Ablauf, Francis M. | Pfc | 33268869 | *Beach, Orin G. | Tec 3 | 36459447 |
| *Adcock, George | M Sgt | 6316094 | *Beel, Edward J., Jr. | Tec 5 | 35791847 |
| *Albaugh, Elmo G. | Tec 5 | 39210470 | Beeunas, George M., Sr. | Pvt | 33460963 |
| Aldridge, Virgil M., Jr. | Pvt | 44057004 | Belikoff, Samuel | Pfc | 39278611 |
| *Ames, Daniel V. | Tec 5 | 36877808 | Bell, Kenneth D. | Pfc | 37134283 |
| *Anderson, Clarence R. | Cpl | 37659887 | *Bell, Walter | Tec 4 | 32623036 |
| *Anderson, Harry W. | S Sgt | 34202152 | *Benner, Richard N. | Tec 4 | 33344986 |
| *Anderson, Wilbur C. | Pvt | 32582364 | *Bennett, Thomas S. | Tec 5 | 36368896 |
| Anthony, Edward J. | Pvt | 33598497 | Benton, Roland S. | Tec 5 | 13018267 |
| *Antonaros, Johnny | S Sgt | 39227264 | Berezin, Frederic C. | Cpl | 15332896 |
| Arnold, Sheldon E. | Pfc | 20725965 | Berry, Jim | Pfc | 38111416 |
| *Arnone, George H. | Tec 4 | 33108034 | Berry, Johnny J. | Pvt | 35247168 |
| *Aronovich, Louis M. | M Sgt | 39678881 | *Berry, Robert L. | Pfc | 38564795 |
| Arslanian, John R. | Pvt | 31418592 | *Blanchard, Jack A. | Pvt | 38346393 |
| Ashley, Henry J. | Pvt | 44037923 | Blansfield, Harry C., Jr. | Pvt | 32757692 |
| *Ashton, Robert | Tec 5 | 36566906 | Bloom, Leon S. | Pfc | 12143484 |
| Austin, James R. | Cpl | 37194799 | *Bockel, Alan | Pfc | 15132154 |
| *Badewitz, John | Tec 5 | 32436945 | *Bolch, Leonard E. | S Sgt | 6401737 |
| *Bailey, Lee O. | Pfc | 34612912 | Bonner, Franklin L. | Pvt | 14011046 |
| *Bailon, John A. | Tec 4 | 35913125 | *Bonter, Willard A. | Pfc | 36877779 |
| Bak, Martin W. | Pfc | 36679577 | Box, Floyd A., Sr. | Pvt | 44047872 |
| Banner, William S. | Pvt | 42177362 | *Boze, Harold E. | Pfc | 15104760 |
| *Bardwell, Paul E. | Tec 5 | 14172029 | Breeding, James B. | Pvt | 38682265 |
| *Barnes, James M. | Tec 3 | 34804831 | *Brennan, John J. | Pfc | 12182814 |

*Departed from United States with XVI Corps on 20 September 1944 for overseas service.

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

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| Name | Rank | ASN | Name | Rank | ASN |
|-------------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------|-------|----------|
| *Britanak, George F. | S Sgt | 32157198 | *Cunningham, John A. | S Sgt | 33033807 |
| *Brockelbank, Donald L. | Pvt | 36877184 | *Curia, Guy J. | Pfc | 36362857 |
| *Brown, George B. | Pfc | 33699320 | *Curtin, Raymond F. | S Sgt | 42005672 |
| Brown, William S. | Pvt | 38734106 | *Cuzman, Nicholas J. | M Sgt | 36002306 |
| *Bryan, Judson H. | Tec 4 | 20756613 | D'Agostino, Domenic G. | Pvt | 31449233 |
| Bryant, Mack M. | Pvt | 34912935 | *Daiker, Robert C. | S Sgt | 35454094 |
| *Buccino, Lorenzo C. | T Sgt | 36003010 | Dales, Oliver J. | Cpl | 6930862 |
| *Buchanan, John F., Jr. | Tec 5 | 35874765 | Damron, Youngy B. | Pfc | 35784482 |
| Buck, Lee B. | Pfc | 35345414 | *Davis, Fred E. | Tec 3 | 35354268 |
| *Bulmer, John H. | Pfc | 36241953 | *Davis, Paul L. | Tec 3 | 33145186 |
| *Burke, John J. | Cpl | 31224531 | *Davis, Victor E. | Tec 4 | 39917855 |
| *Cain, George L. | T Sgt | 6965947 | Davison, Lamar | Pvt | 44021545 |
| Calavano, Anthony | Pvt | 32275786 | Dean, Wilson T. | Tec 4 | 6971491 |
| Call, Booker N. | Pvt | 37649406 | *Decker, Philip S. | S Sgt | 32371542 |
| *Callahan, Alvan G. | Tec 4 | 35808075 | *Dedrick, Ira J. | Pfc | 37514677 |
| Calahan, Harold | Pfc | 34682798 | Dees, Leroy N. | Pvt | 36776728 |
| *Callaway, George F. | Cpl | 33158232 | Defibaugh, Charles W. | Pvt | 37755578 |
| Calvert, Athel | Pfc | 34198206 | Dennis, Clifford R. | Pvt | 37755763 |
| Camden, Robert L. | Pvt | 33348554 | *Derbes, Maxime J., Jr. | Tec 5 | 38499578 |
| Campbell, John W. | Tec 5 | 36060969 | *Derning, Don R. | Pvt | 16175406 |
| Cannady, Ernie L. | Pvt | 35817698 | DiBenedetto, Anthony J. | Cpl | 32148171 |
| Carmel, Bert R. | Pvt | 37376262 | DiBiaso, Theodore | Pvt | 31173674 |
| Carroll, Joseph P. | Cpl | 33320547 | *Diekow, Edwin A. | Tec 4 | 36286814 |
| Carter, David L. | Pvt | 35800693 | *Dietz, Harry N. | S Sgt | 42012677 |
| *Cassinelli, Jack P. | Tec 4 | 39123957 | DiMascio, Francesco M. | Pfc | 31387406 |
| Cates, Thomas M. | Cpl | 34008971 | DiSandro, Antonio | Pvt | 33936266 |
| Catlett, Forrest L. | Tec 5 | 37372264 | Diznoff, Robert | S Sgt | 33150872 |
| *Cavanah, John M., Jr. | M Sgt | 34687252 | Dodson, Thomas B. | Pfc | 35807175 |
| Cenowa, Valentine A. | Sgt | 36110512 | Dompier, Dewight L. | Pvt | 36873187 |
| Centamore, Sebastian P. | Pvt | 31437387 | Donaldson, John H., Jr. | Tec 5 | 34835406 |
| Chandler, Noah K. | Pvt | 38733475 | *Doolittle, James L. | Pvt | 12239931 |
| *Charnesky, Walter J. | Tec 4 | 36548979 | *Dowd, Willie T. | Pfc | 34574924 |
| Chavez, Epifanio | Pvt | 38014549 | *Dowling, Travers E. | Tec 4 | 34446501 |
| Chiles, Charley E. | Pvt | 37649356 | *Downing, Clifford L. | Pfc | 39136734 |
| *Chorba, John M. | Pfc | 33355144 | Dumas, Glin C. | Tec 5 | 38447268 |
| Ciullo, Anthony J. | Pfc | 33465585 | *Eager, Leonard E. | Pfc | 37564136 |
| *Clare, Otto J. | Pfc | 36686501 | Ehle, Henry S. | Cpl | 36901958 |
| *Clark, Michael W. | S Sgt | 19058241 | *Ellis, John J. | Tec 4 | 35152506 |
| *Clark, Wilber E., Jr. | Pfc | 39139319 | *Ellis, Patrick J. | Tec 3 | 35157183 |
| *Clatterbuck, Edward F. | Pfc | 33635753 | *Engel, Elwood P. | Tec 4 | 36167387 |
| Clevenger, John E. | Pfc | 34146592 | Enyert, Robert D. | Pfc | 35898118 |
| Clifford, Charles W. | Tec 5 | 35227855 | *Epton, Abner J. | T Sgt | 36320175 |
| *Coates, Lawrence S. | Tec 4 | 37483142 | Esch, Francis I. | Pfc | 36925187 |
| Coates, Waymon L. | Cpl | 38234042 | *Fallaw, Fletcher L. | Tec 5 | 34842278 |
| Colbath, James A. | Tec 4 | 11079255 | Farmer, Milton J. | Pvt | 44014788 |
| *Collins, John W. | Pfc | 36883533 | Fauvel, Andre T. | Pfc | 31074725 |
| *Combs, Richard C. | Tec 4 | 39152204 | Fennell, Orville G. | Pfc | 20272299 |
| Condit, Leslie E. | Pfc | 37220363 | *Ferguson, Daniel M. | T Sgt | 31087323 |
| *Conner, Leonard | Tec 4 | 11070725 | *Fernandez, Antonio | Pfc | 38442191 |
| *Conrad, Sheldon O. | T Sgt | 39339059 | Finch, Robert M. | Pfc | 39171432 |
| *Corio, Anthony F. | Pfc | 32646400 | Finley, Glen T. | Pvt | 35785715 |
| Cortese, Louis P. | Pfc | 32607434 | Fischer, Wilfred A. | Pvt | 37180066 |
| Cory, John J. | Pvt | 36883548 | *Fisher, Louis S. | S Sgt | 6557800 |
| *Coughenour, Walter C. | Pfc | 33254127 | *Fitzsimmons, Henry J. | Tec 4 | 32614379 |
| Covington, Woodrow O. | Pvt | 20539613 | Fix, Raymond | Pvt | 37649428 |
| *Croft, Walter H. | T Sgt | 32264893 | Flanagan, David T. | S Sgt | 37410383 |
| Crosby, William O. | S Sgt | 6347209 | Fluegge, Elmer W. | Tec 5 | 37398427 |
| Cross, Eric M. | Sgt | 39139844 | *Foss, David A. | Pvt | 36833271 |

*Departed from United States with XVI Corps on 20 September 1944 for overseas service.

HISTORY OF THE XVI CORPS

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Rank</i> | <i>ASN</i> | <i>Name</i> | <i>Rank</i> | <i>ASN</i> |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Franklin, Thomas J., Jr. | Pvt | 38637746 | Hewson, Glenn E. | Cpl | 37070625 |
| Frechette, Marcel R. | Pfc | 31263474 | Hileman, Robert R. | Pvt | 37683980 |
| Fresch, Henry J. | Pfc | 35853256 | Hixson, Leroy E. | Tec 5 | 39419580 |
| *Fritch, Henneth G. | Tec 3 | 37375066 | Hoffer, Buell A. | Tec 5 | 35253632 |
| Frye, Gale C. | Sgt | 37002757 | *Holland, John J. | Tec 5 | 31370398 |
| *Gaines, McPherson W. | Tec 4 | 33543116 | Horne, Carl S. | Pfc | 34317461 |
| *Gajda, Mitchell | Tec 5 | 36710720 | House, Arthur L. | Tec 5 | 32022071 |
| Garner, Harold W. | Pfc | 35744691 | *Howard, Paul C. | S Sgt | 37723313 |
| Garr, Victor L. | Pfc | 35253748 | Howard, Richmond | Pvt | 35782427 |
| *Garrett, Lytle C. | S Sgt | 37507502 | *Howe, Clarence E. | Tec 3 | 32959016 |
| Gehrmann, Carl W. | Pvt | 33203158 | Humphrey, John T., Jr. | Pfc | 12240010 |
| Gelfman, Meyer | Pfc | 32901961 | Hunt, Woodrow W. | Pfc | 35496491 |
| *Germond, Paul M. | Tec 4 | 32706386 | *Hurlbut, Vernon W. | Sgt | 37452720 |
| *Gibbs, Caroll D. | Tec 4 | 34776611 | *Hurry, Gordon W. | Pfc | 36877946 |
| Gibson, Ernest G. | Pvt | 38669716 | Hurt, Robert E. | Pfc | 35458926 |
| Gierke, Herbert W. | Sgt | 32973848 | *Husted, Linwood H. | Sgt | 33226052 |
| *Gillen, James J. | Tec 5 | 36687560 | Hutchens, Jack D. | Pvt | 44016413 |
| Gillette, Wayne L. | Pfc | 20815978 | Hux, Henry C. | Pvt | 44014778 |
| Gilmon, Cleo | Pvt | 35782583 | *Ivey, James W. | Tec 3 | 14139516 |
| Goetz, Peter W. | Pfc | 18061678 | Jackson, Charlie L. L. | Pvt | 44011645 |
| *Goggin, Robert E. | Pfc | 31269931 | *James, Robert C. | Pfc | 35914758 |
| *Goodsell, Raymond A. | Sgt | 36222492 | *Jameson, Miles W. | Pvt | 38446118 |
| Goransson, Oscar F., Jr. | Tec 5 | 31213626 | *Johnson, Hubert | Tec 4 | 39139112 |
| Graham, John M. | Pfc | 34504563 | Jones, Daniel D. | Tec 5 | 37583544 |
| Graham, Ross F. | Pvt | 34939871 | Jones, Henry J. | Pfc | 12003061 |
| *Granich, George S. | Cpl | 36008961 | Jordan, Lloyd L. | Pvt | 35385374 |
| *Gray, Donald S. | Tec 5 | 31365431 | Jurgenson, Herbert F. | Tec 3 | 37018799 |
| *Graziani, Nello P., Jr. | Tec 5 | 31380348 | *Karasiewicz, Roman P. | M Sgt | 36219865 |
| Greene, James T. | Tec 4 | 34689741 | Keay, Stuart H. | Tec 5 | 31374899 |
| *Gress, Charles V. | Tec 5 | 37445047 | *Kelly, Patrick J. | Pfc | 32793154 |
| *Griffith, Clarence M. | Sgt | 35203326 | *Kerr, Alexander | T Sgt | 33161513 |
| Griffith, Clinton W. | Tec 5 | 13067512 | King, Derrell | Pvt | 38733091 |
| Grindstaff, Lyda T. | Pvt | 44016737 | King, John T. | Pfc | 39142790 |
| Grogan, James F. | Pfc | 34684716 | Kirby, Joseph E. | T Sgt | 31354860 |
| Gullett, Harry | Pvt | 35782333 | Kittrell, Willie F. | Pvt | 44037595 |
| Gum, Jacob | Pvt | 35909695 | Klaus, Stanley E. | Tec 5 | 37637887 |
| Gunter, Leonard | Pvt | 44039157 | *Kline, Walter G. | Tec 4 | 33230350 |
| *Hadden, Russell H. | Tec 5 | 37560639 | *Kneer, Clifford T. | Cpl | 32387692 |
| *Hagle, Elliott D. | M Sgt | 16068628 | Knight, Otho D. | Pfc | 37677975 |
| *Halpin, Richard M. | Tec 4 | 11016196 | *Knoll, Robert W. | Tec 5 | 6932293 |
| *Hamilton, Alexander C. | M Sgt | 38009542 | *Knudson, Conrad W. | Pvt | 36776194 |
| *Hammond, Raymond E. | Tec 4 | 31048282 | Kors, Lawrence W. | Pfc | 36692438 |
| *Hamner, Clarence F. | Tec 4 | 19048789 | *Kosse, Benjamin E. | Tec 5 | 37278887 |
| *Hanson, Kenneth I. | Cpl | 39339315 | *Kramer, William | Tec 4 | 37032521 |
| Harden, Clayton H. | Pvt | 35492798 | *Kreykes, Eugene J. | Tec 5 | 39563473 |
| *Hardin, Larry J. | Pfc | 37065797 | Krill, Albert | Tec 5 | 35919844 |
| Harges, Marvin E. | Sgt | 36647451 | *Kromer, Robert R. | T Sgt | 35540886 |
| Hassan, Schander G. | Pvt | 13039503 | *Kronengold, Melvin | Cpl | 42014240 |
| *Havens, Richard M. | Tec 4 | 33698907 | *Lach, John L. | Tec 5 | 16172247 |
| *Hayes, George W. | M Sgt | 37018522 | Laflamme, Leo J. | Tec 4 | 6115644 |
| Haynes, General G. | Pvt | 34935209 | *Lamb, Otho E. | Pfc | 35204434 |
| Hazard, Rowland K. | T Sgt | 32885999 | Lambert, Curtis R. | Sgt | 36229169 |
| Heffernan, Thomas R. | Pfc | 42034456 | Lane, William P. | Pvt | 33664189 |
| Heibel, Victor F. | Pfc | 33295315 | *Lange, James H. | Tec 5 | 35557260 |
| *Heinrich, George R. | Tec 5 | 12225455 | *Lange, Richard F. | Tec 5 | 37664935 |
| Herr, Walter J. | T Sgt | 35412583 | Langston, Jesse L. | Pvt | 38211835 |
| *Herrndobler, William F. | Tec 5 | 36347606 | *Lauridsen, Linwood L. | T Sgt | 39002141 |
| *Hewitt, John C. | Pfc | 31382576 | Leach, Dale E., Sr. | Pfc | 33608628 |

*Departed from United States with XVI Corps on 20 September 1944 for overseas service.

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

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| Name | Rank | ASN | Name | Rank | ASN |
|-----------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Leach, James O. | Pfc | 34989863 | Neceda, Joseph H. | Pvt | 12004469 |
| Leary, James C. | T Sgt | 32311449 | Neiman, Joseph | Tec 5 | 32646568 |
| Leeper, Ray M. | Pfc | 36557312 | *Neiman, Lawrence | T Sgt | 32345789 |
| Leonard, Edward H. | Pfc | 35775452 | Nelson, Albert E. | Pfc | 36981780 |
| Leonard, Harry E. | Tec 5 | 35144651 | Newman, John J. | Pfc | 36681625 |
| *Levie, Ernest M. | Cpl | 33203773 | *Nichols, William H., Jr. | Pfc | 35331059 |
| Lillard, William C. | Tec 5 | 39031639 | *Nordstrom, Louis T. | Tec 4 | 32009390 |
| *Lillie, Charles J. | Tec 4 | 35062930 | Norman, Robert L. | Tec 5 | 39216729 |
| Lincoln, Harold C. | Pfc | 36612366 | *Ohrenberger, Charlie W. | Tec 5 | 36877785 |
| *Little, Howard N. | T Sgt | 35459063 | *Oliver, William P., Jr. | Pfc | 16175319 |
| *Little, Willis D. | Tec 4 | 14138781 | *Owen, Wayne L. | Pfc | 35710340 |
| *Littrell, Clark, Jr. | Tec 5 | 39701765 | *Palen, Charles W. | Pfc | 36591949 |
| Locklear, Edward | Pvt | 44011438 | Palladino, Dominick | Tec 4 | 32893416 |
| Locklear, John D. | Pvt | 44013153 | *Parker, Arthur G. | Sgt | 20429155 |
| *Lopez, Matias | Pvt | 38459177 | *Parker, William L. | Tec 3 | 36118615 |
| Lowery, Hethrow | Pvt | 44011615 | *Parker, Winston E. | S Sgt | 34760062 |
| *Lynn, Ted B. | Tec 4 | 39831055 | *Pascoe, Neil C. | S Sgt | 42007021 |
| *Mager, Walter F. | Tec 3 | 36484867 | *Pasek, Albert T. | Tec 4 | 16127241 |
| *Maguire, Charles A. | S Sgt | 39002159 | Patterson, Donald E. | T Sgt | 35421855 |
| *Maimone, Dominic | Tec 4 | 33741979 | Patterson, Francis M. | Tec 4 | 35169575 |
| *Maloney, Edward J. | S Sgt | 36040033 | *Patton, Johnie C. | Pvt | 38529186 |
| *Manheim, Theodore | Tec 4 | 36857468 | Peffer, Richard H. | Pfc | 32367100 |
| *Manis, James D. | Pfc | 34498696 | Pelletier, Joseph A. | Pfc | 31264458 |
| Manley, Elmer A. | Pfc | 36874196 | *Penno, Benjamin E. | Pfc | 31291863 |
| *Marshall, Clark Y. | Tec 5 | 16010551 | *Percha, George A. | Cpl | 36116060 |
| Martel, Ben S. | Pvt | 38081265 | Peterson, Marvin J. | Pfc | 37575832 |
| Martin, Thomas B. | Pvt | 44021530 | Petrick, Paul | Pvt | 32936517 |
| *Masters, Clyde G. | Pvt | 39305476 | *Phipps, Frank | Tec 5 | 38532922 |
| Mattingly, Arthur W. | Sgt | 35802944 | Pierce, Floyd A. | Pfc | 20726227 |
| Maxwell, Robert B. | Pvt | 6252596 | Piojda, Thaddeus | Tec 5 | 35283832 |
| *McAleese, Robert M. | Tec 5 | 16175569 | Plaster, Raymond | Pfc | 38691804 |
| McCabe, Walter J. | Pfc | 32997489 | *Poirier, Albert J. | Tec 5 | 20139661 |
| McCarrell, John M. | Pvt | 36925023 | *Polaski, Charles W. | Pfc | 36255242 |
| *McDearis, J. C. | Tec 4 | 34353832 | *Ponton, Peter R., Jr. | Pfc | 33535478 |
| McDermott, Bernard J. | S Sgt | 37039291 | *Poradzisz, Valentine W. | Pvt | 36710838 |
| McGlynn, Edward M. | Tec 5 | 31453454 | Praxmarer, Edward L. | Pfc | 36641646 |
| *McGranahan, James J. | Pfc | 32145208 | *Pyles, Samuel P. | Pfc | 38341621 |
| McGrath, Lloyd E. | Pfc | 31368456 | *Radu, Aurel W. | Tec 4 | 39860411 |
| McGregor, Fred | Pfc | 38097614 | Rafaeli, Alexander | Sgt | 33750563 |
| Milewski, Chester C. | Pfc | 35560807 | *Rannou, Charles R. L. | Sgt | 32792468 |
| Miller, Dupreville | Pfc | 38617017 | Raw, Patrick J. | Cpl | 37502392 |
| *Miller, Jack E. | Pfc | 38430976 | *Rayl, Richard W. | Pvt | 35347645 |
| Miller, Loyd B. | Pvt | 39721674 | Redmerski, Alexander R. | Tec 5 | 33134142 |
| Miller, Robert G. | S Sgt | 11066829 | *Reed, Eddie | Pvt | 38488305 |
| Minter, Clinton E. | Pvt | 34799362 | *Reiner, Albert I. | Tec 4 | 32785682 |
| Misenko, Charles S. | Pfc | 33174577 | *Reiss, Israel L. | Tec 5 | 32796761 |
| *Mitchell, Eugene D. | Pfc | 35584669 | *Renfro, John W. | M Sgt | 19028424 |
| Mitchell, James J. | Pvt | 42171576 | Rich, Norman | Pfc | 32646508 |
| *Mooney, Daniel J. | Tec 4 | 39573008 | Richardson, Gerald M. | Tec 5 | 31174983 |
| *Moore, Frank J. | S Sgt | 20245438 | Riechman, Gerald C. | Pfc | 36769136 |
| Moore, Paul S. | Pvt | 31188080 | Riffle, Heber H. | Pfc | 35660310 |
| Moore, Thomas P. | S Sgt | 37545018 | *Rittersporn, Bernard A., Jr. | Tec 5 | 17144263 |
| *Morgan, Charles E. | Tec 5 | 42006780 | Roberts, Russell L. | Cpl | 35405208 |
| Moriarty, James F. | Cpl | 32148524 | *Robertson, Thomas B. | Pfc | 34128777 |
| *Morris, Alfred C. L. | Tec 3 | 39010780 | Rogers, Glen D. | Pvt | 36784914 |
| Morrison, Melvin L. | Pvt | 36442573 | *Roosa, Arthur T. | Tec 4 | 32097160 |
| *Murphy, John D. | Cpl | 37621399 | *Rosen, Bertram | Tec 3 | 12110786 |
| *Nail, Charles E. | Tec 5 | 34689842 | *Roth, Martin M. | T Sgt | 33053779 |

*Departed from United States with XVI Corps on 20 September 1944 for overseas service.

HISTORY OF THE XVI CORPS

| Name | Rank | ASN | Name | Rank | ASN |
|-------------------------|-------|----------|------------------------------|---------|----------|
| *Rowell, William E. | Tec 3 | 12077631 | Symanski, Henry A. | Pfc | 35917893 |
| Ruben, Jack | Pvt | 39567611 | *Taisey, Vernon J. | S Sgt | 19096683 |
| Rudolph, Raymond J. | Pfc | 15313109 | Terranova, Salvatore W., Jr. | Pfc | 36761543 |
| Ryan, Joseph T. | Pfc | 35298208 | Thacker, Harry J. | Pfc | 35226578 |
| *Salyers, Homer P. | Pfc | 35437223 | *Thiebaut, Frank J. | S Sgt | 19012000 |
| Schenkel, Simon | T Sgt | 32884265 | Thomas, Charles W., Jr. | Pfc | 39228087 |
| *Schneider, John | Pvt | 32653461 | *Tietjen, Marvin H. | Cpl | 37243429 |
| *Schneider, John I. | M Sgt | 35408622 | *Tobin, Daniel, Jr. | Tec 5 | 18231764 |
| *Schreiner, William J. | S Sgt | 33323334 | Tomlin, Carlos C. | Pfc | 35773215 |
| *Schuler, Vincent J. | Pfc | 12190068 | Treen, Keith C. E. | Pvt | 35217902 |
| Schumacher, Harold O. | Tec 5 | 37299245 | Trent, Samuel W., Jr. | Cpl | 33530192 |
| *Schumacher, William G. | M Sgt | 39152263 | Trevano, Julius | Pfc | 38558339 |
| *Schuster, Lawrence L. | Pfc | 35790747 | Trulock, Chauncey A. | Pvt | 36751270 |
| *Scott, Charben B. F. | Pfc | 38564494 | *Turner, Don V. | M Sgt | 36055720 |
| Shally, John P. | Tec 5 | 39146750 | *Ulery, Carl L. | Sgt | 39076789 |
| *Sharp, Charles E. | M Sgt | 39227660 | Ullman, William J. | Pfc | 37580785 |
| *Shaw, John W. | Pfc | 33794903 | *Utterback, Leonard J. | Sgt | 39418315 |
| *Shearer, Charles B. | Tec 3 | 33170694 | *Valentine, Julian A. | Pfc | 37537266 |
| Shelton, Homer B. | Tec 5 | 37710119 | Vallelunga, Salvatore J. | S Sgt | 39325203 |
| *Shreiner, Charles F. | Tec 4 | 35787601 | *Van Every, Leo B. | T Sgt | 19119668 |
| Shumway, Richard W. | Pfc | 31010470 | Volpe, Michael L. | Pfc | 42088705 |
| Simms, Arthur H. | S Sgt | 32870281 | Ward, James V. | Pfc | 34974865 |
| Simpson, Gregg | Tec 4 | 38537979 | *Ward, Walter R. | T Sgt | 33176282 |
| Sinko, Alex | Pfc | 37589974 | Warner, Maxwell | Pfc | 42051643 |
| Sireno, James L. | Pfc | 33347106 | Waters, Lloyd H. | Pvt. | 34670663 |
| *Sjostrand, George W. | S Sgt | 19090684 | *Watkins, Walter | Tec 4 | 34088767 |
| Skippon, Joseph W., Jr. | Pfc | 32716268 | *Waugh, Thomas F., Jr. | S Sgt | 39858669 |
| *Smith, Julian G. | Tec 4 | 36689581 | Webb, George C. | Tec 5 | 33721428 |
| *Smith, Robert J. | M Sgt | 19050509 | Weihrauch, Joseph H. | Sgt | 36059826 |
| *Smith, William D. | T Sgt | 34689738 | *Welsh, Robert N. | Tec 4 | 35430502 |
| *Smoter, Edmond J. | Pfc | 33336968 | *West, Reginald | Pfc | 38488306 |
| *Snyder, James R. | Pfc | 35588179 | *Whay, Vernon A. | Tec 4 | 33548416 |
| Sobczyk, Frank J. | Pvt | 36719245 | *White, Gene O. | Pfc | 37671442 |
| Sprouse, Marvin F. | Tec 5 | 38041805 | Whitten, Arlie | Pvt | 6550997 |
| Spurgeon, Charles A. | Pfc | 35222956 | Whittington, William E. | Tec 5 | 33713533 |
| *Squires, James R. | T Sgt | 35539881 | *Whittaker, Gilbert S. | Cpl | 38498435 |
| *Stanley, David J. | Tec 5 | 39339250 | Wicks, James E. | Pfc | 38033499 |
| *Stellman, Glenn J. | M Sgt | 6575088 | *Williams, Fred L. | Pfc | 35871295 |
| *Stewart, William H. | Tec 4 | 35541994 | *Willis, Eric B. | Pfc | 38465755 |
| *Stolzenberg, Louis P. | Sgt | 6939904 | Wilson, Charles F. | S Sgt | 34081096 |
| Stone, Duane G. | M Sgt | 36058519 | *Wilson, Howard S. | S Sgt | 35618787 |
| Summers, Grady L. | Pvt | 38626379 | Wines, Melvin G. | Pfc | 33846773 |
| Sumner, Samuel S. | S Sgt | 14005097 | *Wood, William W. | Tec 4 | 32903330 |
| *Sunderland, Harry R. | Tec 4 | 35207293 | Woodby, Clyde | Pvt | 34375814 |
| *Swain, Rodney E. | Pfc | 6623407 | *Wright, Lee A. | Tec 4 | 37094637 |
| Swanson, Reinold L. | Pvt | 15063502 | *Wright, Raymond J., Jr. | Pfc | 15336049 |
| *Sweeney, John H. | Pfc | 32281845 | *Young, George V. | 1st Sgt | 6633772 |

Roster of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery XVI Corps Artillery

OFFICERS

| Name and Rank | Branch | ASN | Name | Branch | ASN |
|--------------------------------|--------|----------|----------------------------------|--------|----------|
| *Askenase, David I., 1st Lt | FA | 01182756 | *Franggos, James L., Captain | FA | 0374229 |
| *Breckheimer, Robert A., 2d Lt | FA | 05484436 | Gelvin, Philip D., 1st Lt | FA | 0466794 |
| *Bridges, Samuel T., WOJG | USA | W2128111 | *Grove, William R., Jr., Colonel | FA | 015185 |
| *Brown, Charles C., Brig Gen | USA | 08042 | *Hallstein, David W., Major | FA | 0393007 |
| *Buttery, Edwin B., Captain | FA | 023966 | Harris, Eldred, Captain | FA | 01168272 |
| Chase, Robert B., Captain | FA | 0418364 | Hart, James P., Jr., Lt Col | FA | 0257422 |
| *Cooley, Gordon S., Captain | FA | 01172814 | *Isted, Raymond E., Captain | FA | 0417314 |

*Departed from United States with XVI Corps on 20 September 1944 for overseas service.

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

111

| Name | Branch | ASN | Name | Branch | ASN |
|-------------------------------|--------|----------|-------------------------------|--------|----------|
| *Jacobson, John, Jr., Colonel | FA | 0102326 | Rodeheffer, Allen W., Captain | FA | 024602 |
| *Jillson, Stuart F., Major | FA | 0341959 | *Smith, Edward W., Major | FA | 0353889 |
| *Johns, Russell T., Captain | FA | 01175473 | *Stephens, William T., 1st Lt | FA | 01182011 |
| *Lillis, Hersel J., 1st Lt | FA | 01183349 | *Thurman, William A., Major | FA | 0331141 |
| *Marshall, Albert B., Major | FA | 0341172 | *Welter, Thomas R., 1st Lt | FA | 01172713 |
| *Ohsiek, Leroy E., Lt Col | FA | 0346546 | Williams, Claude H., Captain | FA | 01168523 |
| *O'Steen, James E., Lt Col | FA | 0283066 | *Williamson, James G., 1st Lt | FA | 01184969 |

ENLISTED MEN

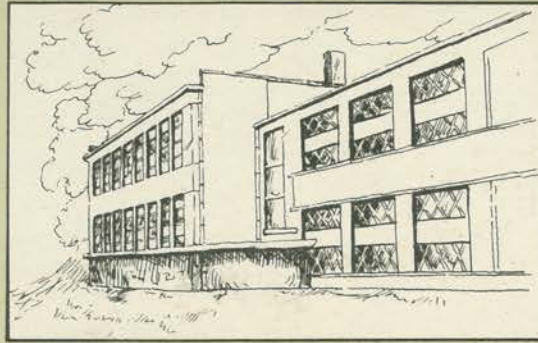
| Name | Rank | ASN | Name | Rank | ASN |
|-------------------------|-------|----------|--------------------------|---------|----------|
| Abramowitz, Jack | Pfc | 32704569 | *Linn, Harold E. | Pfc | 37533066 |
| Allen, George E. | Pvt | 39241414 | *Loranger, Leo A. | Cpl | 20140227 |
| *Allen, George W., Jr. | Tec 5 | 34241856 | *Maltais, Maurice F. | Tec 5 | 20139747 |
| *Allin, Tilden C. | S/Sgt | 20139698 | *Martin, Carl G. | T/Sgt | 33111844 |
| *Anderson, Clifford R. | S/Sgt | 37664589 | Mayes, Thomas C. | Sgt | 20725911 |
| *Atkin, George A. | Tec 4 | 39409605 | *McDonald, Arthur J. | Pvt | 20139737 |
| *Bair, Charlie N. | Tec 5 | 34241766 | *McKinnon, Howard C. | Tec 4 | 20139738 |
| *Baker, Glenwood E. | Tec 3 | 31012681 | *Michaud, Charles L. | Pvt | 6288643 |
| *Baldor, Miguel | Tec 5 | 31012872 | *Moneta, Martin J. | Cpl | 39409686 |
| *Barthlow, George | Cpl | 34241888 | *Morin, Albert J. A. | Tec 4 | 31012774 |
| *Battista, Eugene A. | Pfc | 39409679 | *Morrissette, Normand K. | Pfc | 20140411 |
| *Bauknight, John H. | Tec 5 | 34241646 | *Oakes, Elmer C. | Tec 5 | 34190599 |
| *Bean, Thomas J. | Pfc | 39175575 | *Pay, Othel L. | Cpl | 39919024 |
| *Berman, Roy | Pfc | 32978765 | *Perez, Rodolfo Z. | Pvt | 39560302 |
| *Brown, Edward, Jr. | S/Sgt | 20139703 | *Piatek, Edward | Tec 4 | 20140630 |
| *Bruns, Bernard A. | Sgt | 35618386 | *Pierce, James L., Jr. | Tec 5 | 20448376 |
| *Carpenter, Hubert W. | Pvt | 35631314 | *Pilch, Frank P. | Tec 3 | 36355608 |
| *Clark, William J. | Tec 4 | 32206824 | *Pinard, George A. | Pfc | 20139743 |
| *Cochran, James | Tec 5 | 34177426 | *Pope, Ralph A., Jr. | S/Sgt | 34179184 |
| *Cohen, Frederick L. | Tec 5 | 42049710 | *Rasmussen, Donald C. | Pfc | 36417325 |
| *Daneault, Edward | Tec 5 | 20139691 | *Reap, John E. | Tec 4 | 32118588 |
| *De Stefano, Joseph G. | Pvt | 33358429 | *Reich, Wilbert P. | Pfc | 37560113 |
| *Farmer, Quinton B. | Pvt | 39039305 | *Richardson, Edward R. | Tec 5 | 31239233 |
| Ford, Michael A. | Tec 5 | 33139014 | *Rochette, Robert J. | M/Sgt | 20140031 |
| *Gagnon, Aime A. | Tec 4 | 20139716 | *Rush, Elbert R. | Pvt | 35706887 |
| *Gallagher, Arthur J. | Tec 4 | 20139717 | *Santy, Gerald B. | Tec 4 | 31012802 |
| *Gaudreault, Aime C. | Sgt | 20139718 | *Sargent, Howard M. | T/Sgt | 20140451 |
| *Gaudreault, Francis L. | Cpl | 20139753 | *Sayre, Vernon L. | Pvt | 39410059 |
| *Gazda, Stanley J. | Tec 4 | 20139719 | *Sharrard, Douglas I. | Pvt | 36587637 |
| *Gott, William E. | M/Sgt | 20139686 | Shearer, Charles B. | Tec 5 | 33170694 |
| *Greco, William E. | M/Sgt | 12124623 | *Sheedy, Francis T. | Pfc | 31012787 |
| *Harden, Clayton H. | Pvt | 35492798 | *Silva, Ernest G. | Pvt | 39039318 |
| *Harrison, George K. | S/Sgt | 20428728 | *Skov, Burt T. | Tec 5 | 39123521 |
| *Hask, Roy | Pvt | 38001413 | *Smith, Paul F. | T/Sgt | 20140616 |
| *Hefty, Ernest F. | Pfc | 39409648 | *Sortman, Everett W. | Tec 5 | 35218231 |
| Hensley, Glen R. | Pfc | 37230304 | *St. Hilaire, Rosaire J. | S/Sgt | 31012883 |
| *Hladik, Douglas A. | Tec 4 | 36361332 | *Swanson, John W. | 1st Sgt | 20140188 |
| *Hokanson, Carl H. | M/Sgt | 20140106 | *Tamaroff, Nathan M. | Pfc | 12141339 |
| *Howell, Briggs D. | Pfc | 39410085 | *Tenney, Keith A. | S/Sgt | 20140619 |
| Huff, Herbert M. | Pfc | 35035142 | *Truesdell, Clarence D. | Tec 5 | 39123605 |
| *Humphrey, Fred | Pfc | 35121557 | *Turk, Keith J. | Tec 5 | 39409616 |
| *Johnston, Edward J. | Tec 5 | 36779674 | *Wajda, Frank J. | Tec 4 | 20140623 |
| Jordan, Lloyd L. | Pfc | 35285374 | *Whilden, Leslie | Pvt | 32479831 |
| *King, Leon J., Jr. | Tec 5 | 32987163 | *White, Richard T. | Cpl | 20140624 |
| *Kucher, Robert E. | S/Sgt | 36225764 | *Whitmore, George V. | Tec 5 | 39693411 |
| *Laliberte, Robert E. | Tec 4 | 31013049 | *Wilson, Donald D. | Pvt | 20140626 |
| *Lanouette, Roland | Tec 4 | 31013077 | *Wolff, William | Pfc | 39123489 |
| *Larson, Herbert O. | Pfc | 37262011 | *Zander, Robert E. | T/Sgt | 36110784 |
| *Levoy, Claud | Pfc | 34241859 | Zarecki, John | Pvt | 33148348 |
| *Lewit, Theodore L. | Pfc | 32808869 | | | |

*Departed from United States with XVI Corps on 20 September 1944 for overseas service.

U.S. Army, 16th Corps
" Me



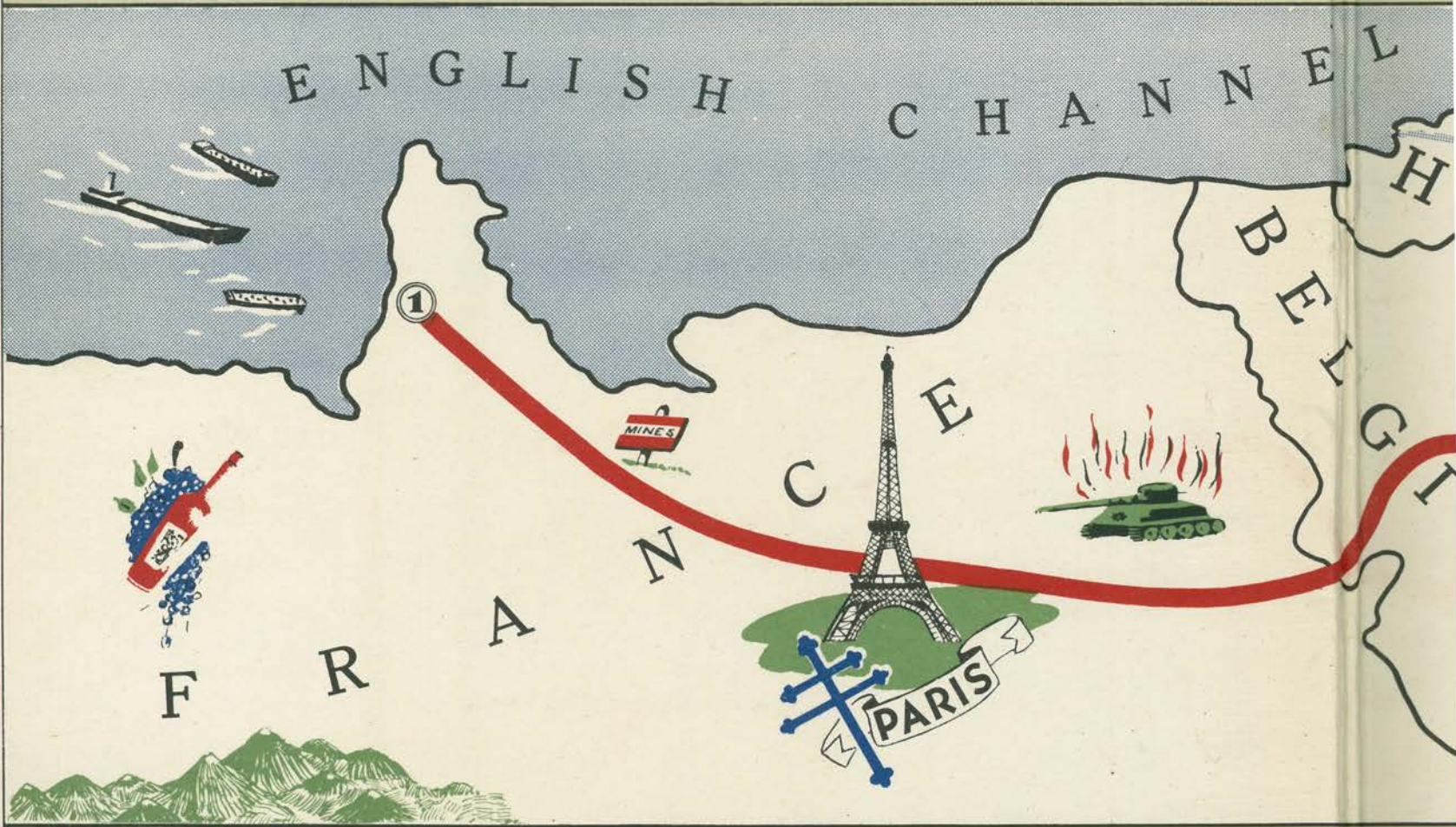
① CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
BARNEVILLE, FRANCE
28 Sept.-28 Nov. 1944



② CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
TONGRES, BELGIUM
30 Nov.-22 Dec., 1944



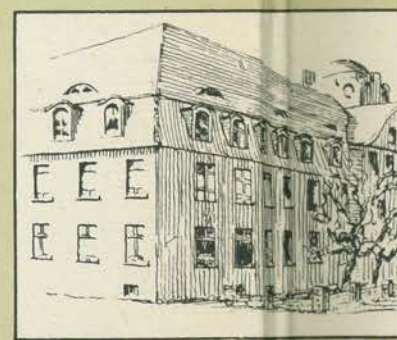
③ CORPS HEADQUARTERS
HEERLEN, HOLLAND,
22 Dec., 1944. - 2 Feb., 1945



⑥ CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
NIEUKIRK, GERMANY,
8 Mar.-19 Mar., 1945



⑦ CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
LINTFORT, GERMANY,
19 Mar.-28 Mar., 1945



⑧ CORPS HEADQUARTERS
LETKAMPSHOF, GERMA
28 Mar.-7 April, 1945



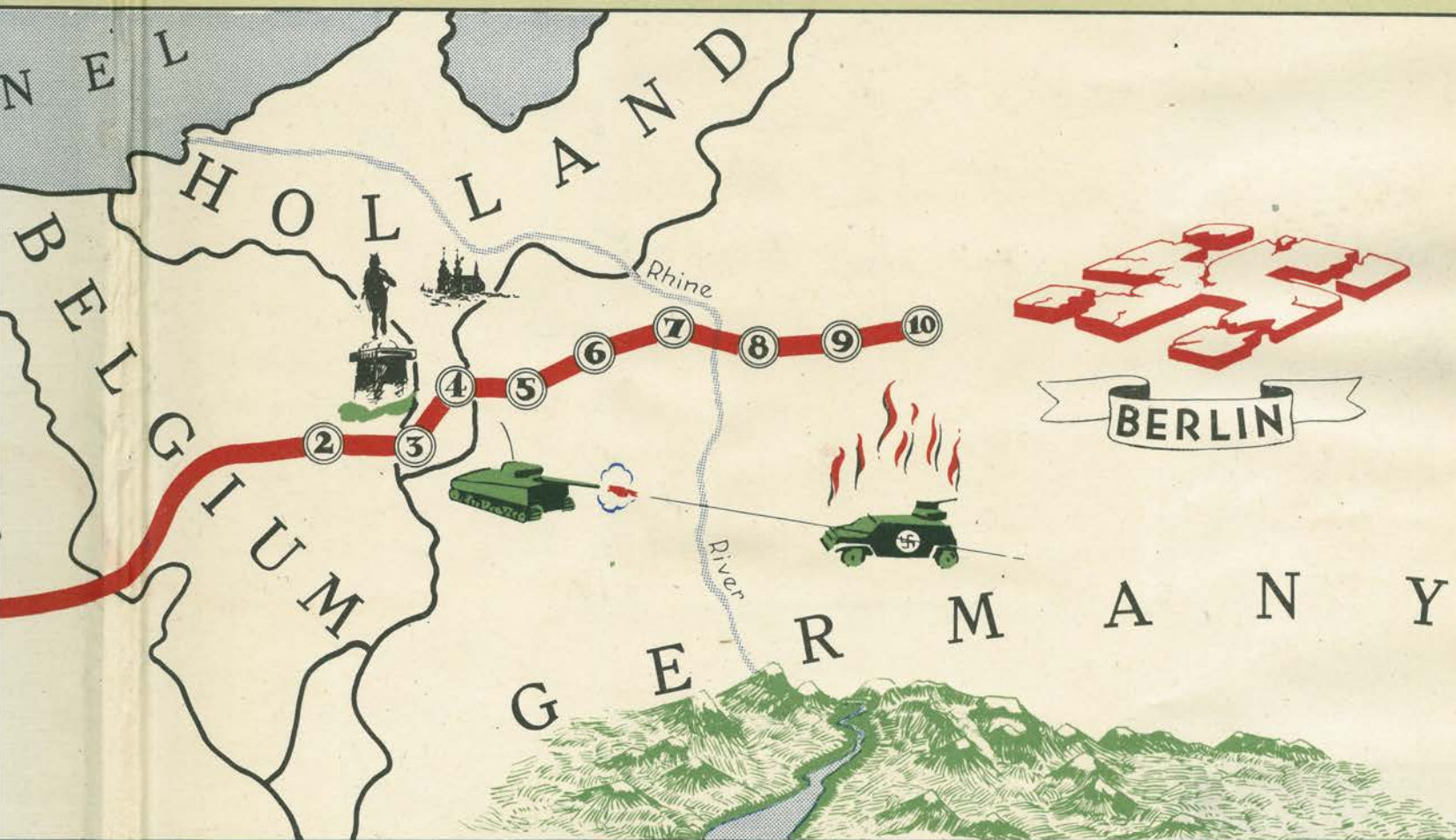
CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
HEERLEN, HOLLAND,
22 Dec., 1944. - 2 Feb., 1945



4 CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
SITTARD, HOLLAND,
2 Feb.-3 Mar., 1945



5 CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
KALDENKIRCHEN, GERMANY,
3 Mar.-8 Mar., 1945



CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
ETKAMPSHOF, GERMANY,
28 Mar.-7 April, 1945



9 CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
RECKLINGHAUSEN, GERMANY,
7 April-28 April, 1945



10 CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT
BECKUM, GERMANY,
28 April-June 5, 1945

