
 * S-E-C-R-E-T *
 * In: CG, XIX Corps *
 * Init: *11* *
 * Date: 24 January 1946 *

HEADQUARTERS
 SECOND TANK DESTROYER GROUP
 APO 339, U. S. Army



- UNIT HISTORY -
 (Period 1 January 1944 to 31 December 1944)

1. Original Unit:

- a. Designation: Second Tank Destroyer Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Company.
- b. Date of Organization: 15 March 1942.
- c. Place of Organization: Fort Sam Houston, Texas.
- d. Authority of Organization: Ltr, WD, AG 320.2 (2-18-42) SR-M-C, subj: "Organization of Ground Force Units", dated 3 March 1942. (See Annex No. 1)
- e. Personnel Sources: One (1) Officer (1st Lt) and eighteen (18) Enlisted Men transferred from the 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, per SO No. 63, Headquarters, Second Infantry Division, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, dated 15 March 1942. (See Annex No. 2)

2. Changes in Organization: Reorganized under T/O and S 18-10-1, dated 30 December 1943 with G1, 15 March 1944, G2, 26 April 1944 and G3, 6 August 1944.

3. Strength:

- a. Beginning of period: Thirteen (13) Officers and forty-seven (47) EM.
- b. Net increase each month:
 - (1) April Two (2) Officers; twelve (12) Enlisted Men.
 - (2) July Two (2) Officers; two (2) Enlisted Men.
 - (3) October Six (6) Enlisted Men
 - (4) November One (1) Officer; one (1) Enlisted Man.
 - (5) December Two (2) Enlisted Men.
- c. Net Decrease each Month:
 - (1) May One (1) Officer.
 - (2) August One (1) Officer; one (1) enlisted man.
 - (3) October Eight (8) Enlisted Men.
 - (4) November One (1) Officer.
 - (5) December One (1) Enlisted Man.
- d. At end of period: Fifteen (15) Officers and fifty-eight (58) Enlisted Men.

S E C R E T

(Unit History, 2 TD, p, period 1 Jan 44 to 31 Dec 44 cont'd)



4. Stations of Unit:

a. Date of Arrival:

- (1) Arrived Liverpool, England on or about 081500B January 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (2) Arrived Hainaker Manor House, vicinity Chichester, England 100500B January 1944. (Permanent Change).
- (3) Arrived Camp Maugersbury, vicinity Stow-on-the-Wold, England 101300B March 1944. (Permanent Change).
- (4) Arrived Camp Knook, Wilts, vicinity Warminster, England 101500B March 1944. (Permanent Change).
- (5) Arrived Tilshead, England, 201030B April 1944. (Temporary change for ten (10) day maneuvers in England.)
- (6) Arrived Camp Knook, vicinity Warminster, England 301230B April 1944. (Returned from maneuvers to permanent station).
- (7) Arrived Southampton, England at 181000B June 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (8) Arrived aboard SS "John Merrick" 181830B June 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (9) Arrived on the coast of Normandy, France (Omaha Beach) 182200B June 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (10) Arrived Castilly, France 261400B June 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (11) Arrived Ste Marguerite d'Elle, France 181700B July 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (12) Arrived vicinity Canisy, France 301530B July 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (13) Arrived vicinity Beaucoudray, France 041400B August 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (14) Arrived vicinity Monthray, France, 061700B August 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (15) Arrived vicinity St. Manvisu Bocage, France 121300B August 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (16) Arrived vicinity Barenton, France 141945B August 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (17) Arrived vicinity Tourcouvre, France 191800B August 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (18) Arrived vicinity Dampierre, France 201830B August 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (19) Arrived Acon, France 221100B August 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (20) Arrived vicinity Angerville La Campagne, France 241600B August 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (21) Arrived vicinity Grenelle, France 271130B August 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (22) Arrived vicinity Les Mureaux, France 291630B August 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (23) Arrived Sandricourt, France 011200B September 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (24) Arrived Bray-sur-Somme 021700B September 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (25) Arrived Rongy, Belgium 031900B September 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (26) Arrived Rixensart, Belgium 071745B September 1944 (Temporary Change).
- (27) Arrived St. Trond, Belgium 101130B September 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (28) Arrived Genoels Elderen, Belgium 151140B September 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (29) Arrived Gulpen, Holland, 201045A September 1944. (Temporary Change).

S E C R E T

Unit History, 2 Top, period 1 Jan 44 to 31 Dec 44 (Cont'd)



4. Stations of Unit: (Cont'd)

a. Date of Arrival: (Cont'd)

- (30) Arrived vicinity Maastricht, Holland 271045A September 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (31) Arrived Kinrooi, Belgium 282000A September 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (32) Arrived Heerlen, Holland 031330A November 1944. (Temporary Change).
- (33) Arrived Kornelimunster, Germany 221425A December 1944. (Temporary Change).

b. Dates of Departure:

- (1) Left H. M. T. "Sanaria" 091400B January 1944.
- (2) Left Halnaker Manor House, vicinity Chichester, England 080930B February 1944.
- (3) Left Stow-on-the-Wold, England (Camp Kaugersbury) 100900B March 1944.
- (4) Left Camp Knock, Wilts, vicinity Warminster, England 200100B April 1944. (Ten (10) day maneuvers in England).
- (5) Left Tilshead, England 301230B April 1944. (Return from maneuvers).
- (6) Left Camp Knock, England 160700B June 1944.
- (7) Left Southampton, England 181830B June 1944.
- (8) Left SS "John Merrick" 251230B June 1944. (Landed Normandy, France).
- (9) Left Castilly, France 181600B July 1944.
- (10) Left Ste Marguerite d'Elle, France 301430B July 1944.
- (11) Left vicinity Canisy, France 041220B August 1944.
- (12) Left vicinity Beaucoudray, France 061600B August 1944.
- (13) Left vicinity Montbray, France 121215B August 1944.
- (14) Left vicinity Manvieu Bocage, France 141740B August 1944.
- (15) Left vicinity Barenton, France 191215B August 1944.
- (16) Left vicinity Tourouvre, France 201620B August 1944.
- (17) Left vicinity Dampierre, France 221000B August 1944.
- (18) Left Acon, France 241430B August 1944.
- (19) Left vicinity Angerville Le Campagne, France 271030B August 1944.
- (20) Left vicinity Grenelle, France 291310B August 1944.
- (21) Left vicinity Les Mureaux, France 011000B September 1944.
- (22) Left vicinity Sandricourt, France 021010B September 1944.
- (23) Left vicinity Bray-sur-Somme, France 031140B September 1944.
- (24) Left vicinity Rongy, Belgium 071145B September 1944.
- (25) Left vicinity Rixensart, Belgium 101940B September 1944.
- (26) Left vicinity St. Trond, Belgium 150930B September 1944.
- (27) Left vicinity Genocla Elderen, Belgium 200945A September 1944.
- (28) Left Guipen Holland, 270945A September 1944.
- (29) Left Maastricht, Holland 281730A September 1944.
- (30) Left Kinrooi, Belgium 031200A November 1944.
- (31) Left Heerlen, Holland 221225A December 1944.

5. Marches:

- a. From New York to Liverpool, England. (From 28 Dec. 43 to 8 Jan. 44)
 - (1) Purpose: Overseas movement.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately 33000miles.
 - (3) Weather: Excellent entire voyage.

Inventory, 2 TD Op, period 1 Jan 44 to 31 Dec 44 (cont'd)



Marches: (Cont'd)

- b. From Liverpool, England to Chichester, England. (9 - 10 January 1944)
 - (1) Purpose: To meet advance detachment and establish billets.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately 185 miles.
 - (3) Weather: Rainy. (Movement made by rail).
- c. From Chichester, England to Stow-on-the-Wold, England (Camp Mangersbury). (8 February 1944)
 - (1) Purpose: To assume responsibilities for Camp Mangersbury.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately ninety (90) miles.
 - (3) Condition of Roads and Weather: Excellent - cold.
- d. From Stow-on-the-Wold, England to Warminster, England. (Camp Knock) (10 March 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Permanent Change of Station and attachment to XIX Corps.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately forty (40) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - cold.
- e. From Camp Knock, England to RCRP Camp No. 21 via Southampton, England. (Marshalling Area). (16 June 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Short Sea Voyage (Channel crossing).
 - (2) Distance: Approximately thirty-five (35) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - warm.
- f. From RCRP No. 21 to Port of Embarkation. (Southampton) (17 June 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Channel crossing.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately four (4) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - Excellent.
- g. From Southampton to Coast of Normandy, France. (19 June 1944)
 - (1) To join XIX Corps on beachhead.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately eighty (80) miles.
 - (3) Weather: Cold and windy.
- h. From Omaha Beachhead to Transit Area No. 2. (25 June 1944)
 - (1) Purpose: De-waterproofing and instructions.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately eight (8) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Dusty - warm.
- i. From Transit Area No. 2 to Castilly, France. (26 June 1944)
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately twenty-six (26) miles.
 - (3) Roads and weather: Good, dusty - warm.
- j. From Castilly, France to Ste Marguerite d'Elle, France. (18 July 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately twelve (12) miles.
 - (3) Roads and weather: Good, dusty - warm.



Marches: (Cont'd)

- k. From Ste Marguerite d'Elle, France to Canisy France: (30 July 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately twelve (12) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Dusty - cloudy with clearing skies.
- l. From Canisy, France to Beaucaudray, France: (4 August 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately eleven (11) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Dusty - cloudy, intermittent showers.
- m. From Beaucaudray, France to Montbray, France: (6 August 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately nine (9) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Good - cloudy, cool.
- n. From Montbray, France to St Manvieu Bocage, France: (12 August 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately twelve (12) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - warm, clear.
- o. From St Manvieu Bocage, France to Barenton, France: (14 August 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately twenty-five (24) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - warm, clear.
- p. From Barenton, France to Tourouvre, France: (19 August 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately forty (40) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - warm, cloudy.
- q. From Tourouvre, France, To Dampierre, France: (20 August 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Fifty (50) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - cloudy to clear.
- r. From Dampierre, France to Acon, France: (22 August 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately twelve (12) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - warm, clear.
- s. From Acon, France to Angerville, France: (24 August 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately twenty-three (23) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - raining.
- t. From Angerville, France to Grenelle, France: (27 August 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately ten (10) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - clear and warm.



History, 2 TD up, period 1 Jan 44 to 31 Dec 44 (cont'd)

Marches: (Cont'd)

- u. From Grenelle, France to Les Bureaux, France: (29 August 1944)
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately fifteen (15) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - rainy.
- v. From Les Bureaux, France to Sandricourt, France: (1 September 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately thirty (30) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - moderate and clear.
- w. From Sandricourt, France to Bray-sur-Somme, France: (2 September 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately sixty-eight (68) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - intermittent showers.
- x. From Bray-sur-Somme, France to Rongy, Belgium: (3 September 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately forty-five (45) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - clear.
- y. From Rongy, Belgium to Rixensart, Belgium: (7 September 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately forty-eight (48) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - windy and rainy.
- z. From Rixensart, Belgium to St Trond, Belgium: (10 September 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately thirty-five (35) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - cool and clear.
- aa. From St. Trond, Belgium to Genoels Elderen, Belgium: (15 September 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately eighteen (18) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - cool and clear.
- bb. From Genoels Elderen, Belgium to Gulpen, Holland: (20 September 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately thirty (30) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - cloudy and cool.
- cc. From Gulpen, Holland to Maastricht, Holland: (27 September 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately twelve (12) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - cool and rainy.
- dd. From Maastricht, Holland to Kinrooi, Belgium: (28 September 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately forty-two (42) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - clear and cool.

S E C R E T



Unit History, 2 TD Gp, period 1 Jan 44 to 31 Dec 44 Cont'd

5. Marches: (Cont'd)

- ee. From Kinrooi, Belgium to Heerlen, Holland: (5 November 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately sixty (60) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - cloudy and cold.
- ff. From Heerlen, Holland to Kornelimunster, Germany: (22 December 1944).
 - (1) Purpose: Bivouac.
 - (2) Distance: Approximately sixteen (16) miles.
 - (3) Condition of roads and weather: Excellent - cold and cloudy.

6. Campaigns:

- a. Normandy France Campaign No. 1 (See Annex No. 3)
 - (1) Duration: 26 June to 24 July 1944.
- b. Northern France Campaign No. 1 (See Annex No. 4)
 - (1) Duration: 25 July to 14 September 1944.
- c. Germany
 - (1) Duration: 15 September 1944 to (not completed).

7. Awards and Decorations:

- a. Colonel George G. Elms, O-12391, Commanding Officer, Second Tank Destroyer Group, awarded the Silver Star Medal 7 August 1944 and Bronze Star Medal 20 July 1944. (See Annex Nos. 5 and 6).
- b. Lt. Col. Alfred G. Seitz, O-524662, Executive Officer, Second Tank Destroyer Group awarded Bronze Star Medal 14 November 1944. (See Annex No. 7).
- c. Major Lawrence A. Green, O-555753, S-4, Second Tank Destroyer Group, awarded Bronze Star Medal 16 November 1944. (See Annex No. 8)
- d. Major Fred A. Smith, O-408731, S-3, Second Tank Destroyer Group, awarded Bronze Star Medal, 18 November 1944. (See Annex No. 9)
- e. Captain Victor D. Walogn, O-460393, Communications Officer, Second Tank Destroyer Group awarded Bronze Star Medal 16 November 1944. (See Annex No. 8).
- f. Technician Fourth Grade Julian (NMI) Parker, 38223105, Radio Technician Second Tank Destroyer Group, awarded Bronze Star Medal 25 November 1944. (See Annex No. 10).

GEO. G. ELMS,
Colonel, Cavalry,
Commanding

S E C R E T

S E C R E T



Annex No. 1, to Unit History, 2 TD Group, period 1 Jan 44 - 31 Dec 44)

**HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMY
Smith-Young Tower**

San Antonio, Texas
March 12, 1942

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 26) E X T R A C T

1. Pursuant to instructions contained in War Department Letter, AG 320.2 (2-18-42)MR-M-C, "Organization of Ground Force Units", dated March 3, 1942, the units listed below will be activated at the stations and on the dates indicated. Upon activation they will be attached as shown below:

Attached for
Administration
and supervision of
training

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>STATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>Attached for Administration and supervision of training</u>
Hq & Hq Co, 2nd TD Group	Ft Sam Houston, Tex	March 15	VIII Corps
X	X	X	X

By command of Lieutenant General KNEUGER:

ALFRED M. GROENTHER,
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

JOHN A. KLEIN,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General

I certify that this is a true extract copy less signatures.

Lawrence A. Green
LAWRENCE A. GREEN,
Major, Infantry,
Acting Adjutant, 2nd TD Group

S E C R E T

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 63)

HEADQUARTERS 2D INFANTRY DIVISION
Fort Sam Houston, Texas, March 15, 1942

E X T R A C T

X X X X X X X X
6. Pursuant to instructions contained in War Department Ltr., AGO, File AG 320.2 (2-18-42) MR-M-C, subject: "Organization of Ground Force Units", dated March 3, 1942, and 1st Indorsement, Headquarters Third Army, File AG 320.2-General (3-3-42)E-5, same subject, dated March 6, 1942, and 2nd Indorsement, Headquarters VIII Army Corps, file: AG 320.2-General (3-3-42)E-5 (G-M), dated March 9, 1942, the following named enlisted men, from the 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, are transferred, in grade, to the Cavalry, assigned to Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 2d Tank Destroyer Group, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and will be sent to report to the Commanding Officer thereof for duty:

Master Sergeant	ANTHONY F. OPALNSKI,	R-128756,	Co. "B",	Sergeant Major
Master Sergeant	CLIFFORD G. WEBB,	6260674,	Hq. Co.,	Operations Chief
Master Sergeant	EARNEST H. STRICKLAND,	6250448,	Hq. Co.,	Communications Chief
1st Sergeant	MORRIS L. MACK, Sr.,	6250868,	Co. "B",	1st Sergeant
Staff Sergeant	JAMES J. AUSSANT,	6121556,	Co. "B",	Supply Sergeant
Staff Sergeant	REX H. GRAYSON,	6246416,	Co. "C",	Message Center Chief
Staff Sergeant	LESTER G. BURTON,	6275285,	Co. "A",	Platoon Sergeant
Staff Sergeant	LEO A. TAYLOR,	6261351,	Co. "A",	Motor Sergeant
Staff Sergeant	WILLIAM M. FUDGE,	53010227,	Co. "B",	Intelligence Sgt.
Staff Sergeant	ONES SIMON,	6262504,	Co. "B",	Mess Sergeant
Sergeant	JOE C. MARTINEZ,	18012917,	Co. "C",	Section Leader
Technician Gr-4	JOHN D. PRIGER,	6283991,	Co. "C",	Radio Electrician
Technician Gr-4	HYMAN GLICKSMAN,	32060347,	Hq. Co.,	Radio Operator
Technician Gr-4	JIMMIE L. BIRDWELL,	18013440,	Co. "B",	Supply Clerk
Technician Gr-4	WENDELL R. NICKERSON,	37086845,	Pioneer Co.,	Cook
Corporal	FRANCIS P. DONNELLY,	33020269,	Hq. Co.,	Clerk
Technician Gr-5	ANGELO CASCIO,	18008841,	Pioneer Co.,	Radio Operator
Technician Gr-5	CHARLES E. GREGORY,	18009973,	Co. "C",	Cook

The pro rata share of Company Funds will be transferred in accordance with existing regulations. (Par. 16, AR 210-50 C-1).

X X X X X X X X
8. Pursuant to authority contained in WD Ltr., File: AG 320.2 (2-18-42)MR-M-C, 3 March 42, 1st Indorsement, Headquarters Third Army, File: AG 320.2 - General (3-3-42)E-5, 6 March 42, and 2nd Indorsement, Hq VIII Army Corps, File: AG 320.2 - General (3-3-42)E-5 (G-M), 9 March 42, 1st Lieutenant FRED S. BALL, Jr., O366588, Field Artillery, is reld fr asgmt to and duty with the 602nd Tank Destroyer Bn., eff 15 March 42, is then asgd to Hq & Hq Company, 2d Tank Destroyer Group, activated 15 March 42, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and will report for duty accordingly.
X X X X X X X X

By command of Major General LEE:

OFFICIAL: (Seal)
L. C. BOINEAU
Lt. Col., Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General

FRANK A. KEATING,
Colonel, G. S. C.,
Chief of Staff

I certify that this is a true extract copy less signatures.

Lawrence A. Green
LAWRENCE A. GREEN,
Major, Infantry,
Acting Adjutant, 2nd TD Group



S E C R E T

Annex No. 5, to Unit History, 2 TD Gp, period 1 Jan 44 to 31 Dec 44)

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS XIX CORPS
APO 270

GENERAL ORDERS)

20 July 1944

NUMBER 23)

E X T R A C T

- I. AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR MEDAL.
- II. AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL.

X X X X

II. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, and under authority contained in Circular Number 66, Headquarters First United States Army, 18 May 1944, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded the following officers and enlisted men:

COLONEL GEORGE G. ELMS (Army Serial Number 012391), Cavalry, United States Army, for meritorious service in England from 27 February 1944 to 31 May 1944 as Commanding Officer, 2d Tank Destroyer Group, in connection with military operations against the enemy. Entered United States Military Academy from Pennsylvania.

X X X X X

By command of Major General CORLETT:

H. E. MAQUIER
Colonel GSC
C of S

OFFICIAL:

s/C. M. Wells
T/C. M. WELLS
Col AGD
AG

R E S T R I C T E D

I certify that this is a true extract copy.

Lawrence A. Green
LAURENCE A. GREEN,
Major, Infantry,
Acting Adjutant, 2nd TD Group



S E C R E T

Order No. 6, to Unas History, 2 TD Gp, period 1 Jan 44 to 31 Dec 44)

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS XIX CORPS
APO 270

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 32)

7 August 1944

E X T R A C T

- I. AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR MEDAL.
- II. AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL.
- III. AMENDMENT TO SECTION III, GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 28.

I. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, and under authority contained in Circular Number 66, Headquarters, First United States Army, 18 May 1944, as amended, the Silver Star Medal is awarded the following officers and enlisted men:

X X X X

COLONEL GEORGE G. ELMS (Army Serial Number 012391), Cavalry, United States Army, for gallantry in action against the enemy on 19 July 1944, in Normandy, France. As Commanding Officer 2d Tank Destroyer Group, charged with the responsibility of coordinating Tank Destroyer fires of the corps, Colonel Elms, although exposed to heavy enemy fire, displayed courage and leadership by continuing to organize the tank destroyer defenses of the corps zone without regard for his personal safety. Entered United States Military Academy from Pennsylvania.

X X X X

By command of Major General CORLETT:

H. E. MACUIRE,
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

s/L. R. Garrison,
t/L. R. GARRISON
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General.

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R E S T R I C T E D

I certify that this is a true extract copy.

Lawrence A. Green
LAWRENCE A. GREEN,
Major, Infantry,
Acting Adjutant, 2nd TD Group



R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS XIX CORPS
Office of the Commanding General
APO 270

GENERAL ORDERS)

14 November 1944

NUMBER 62)

E X T R A C T

- I. AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL (POSTHUMOUS).
- II. AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL.
- III. BRONZE STAR MEDAL - Correction in General Orders.

X X X X

II. AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, and under authority contained in Memorandum Number 34, Headquarters, Ninth United States Army, 8 September 1944, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded the following officers and enlisted men:

LIEUTENANT COLONEL (then Major) ALFRED G. SMITH (Army Serial Number 0324662), Field Artillery, 2d Tank Destroyer Group, United States Army, for meritorious service in France, Belgium, and Holland, from 18 June 1944 to 21 September 1944, in connection with military operations against the enemy. Entered Military Service from New York.

X X X X

By command of Major General McLAIN:

OFFICIAL:

H. B. MAGUIRE,
Brigadier General, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff

s/L. R. Garrison,
t/L. R. GARRISON,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General

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- CG, Ninth US Army (Awards & Decorations Br, AG-M) - 1
- Each individual - 1
- 201 file - 1

R E S T R I C T E D

I certify that this is a true extract copy.

Laurence A. Green
LAWRENCE A. GREEN,
Major, Infantry,
Acting Adjutant, 2nd TD Group



R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS XIX CORPS
Office of the Commanding General
APO 270

GENERAL ORDERS)

16 November 1944

NUMBER 64)

E X T R A C T

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, and under authority contained in Memorandum Number 34, Headquarters, Ninth United States Army, 8 September 1944, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded the following officers and enlisted men:

X X X X

MAJOR LAWRENCE A. GREEN (Army Serial Number 0355753), Infantry, 2d Tank Destroyer Group, United States Army, for meritorious service in Belgium and Holland from 28 September 1944 to 3 November 1944, in connection with military operations against the enemy. Entered Military Service from California.

X X X X

CAPTAIN VICTOR D. WALDGA (Army Serial Number 0460393), Infantry, 2d Tank Destroyer Group, United States Army, for meritorious service in Belgium and Holland, from 28 September 1944 to 3 November 1944, in connection with military operations against the enemy. Entered Military Service from New York.

X X X X

By command of Major General McLAIR:

H. E. MAGUIRE,
Brigadier General, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

s/L. R. Garrison,
t/L. R. GARRISON,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:

- "A-1" plus "B-1" plus
- Div - 2
- TAG, Washington, (25) D.C. - 3
- CG, European T of Opns (Awards & Decorations Br, AG Mil Pers) - 2
- CG, Ninth US Army (Awards & Decorations Br, AG-M) - 1
- Each individual - 1 201 file - 1

R E S T R I C T E D

I certify that this is a true extract copy.

Lawrence A. Green
LAWRENCE A. GREEN,
Major, Infantry,
Acting Adjutant, 2nd TD Group



S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY

S E C R E T

Auth: CG, European T
of Operations

Initials: s/S. G.

Date: 16 Nov 1944

RBL/LWS/mw

E X T R A C T

AGO 337
16 Nov 44

AG 200.6 GpGA

SUBJECT: Battle Participation Awards - Normandy Campaign (No 1)

TO : Commanding Generals:
Each Army

1. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 12 b (2), AR 200-10, G13, 1 November 1943, announcement is made of units awarded battle credit for participation in the campaign "Normandy" as established by the War Department:

X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hq/Hq Co, 2nd TD Gp						

X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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2. Attention is invited to paragraph 7b, Section I, Circular 195, War Department, 16 May 1944, regarding eligibility of individuals to wear a bronze service star on the theater ribbon.

3. In compliance with paragraph 8, Circular 62, War Department, 11 February 1944, necessary entries will be made on service records (WD AGO Form No 24) of enlisted personnel, and on qualification cards (WD AGO Form No 66-1) of officers and warrant officers, whose eligibility to wear a bronze service star on the theater ribbon is established.

By command of General EISENHOWER:

s/R. B. LOVETT
t/R. B. LOVETT,
Brigadier General, USA,
Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION: "A" and "D" plus
TAG, Wash, D.C. (3)
Supreme Cmdr, AEF (2)
CG, ETOUSA (5)
CO, each unit concerned (2)
ACQM(Sup Div, Clothing Br) (2)
AG Opns (2)

-13-

S E C R E T

I certify that this is a true extract copy.

LAWRENCE A. GREEN,
Major, Infantry,
Actg. Adjutant, 2nd TD Group



-10-

S E C R E T

R E S T R I C T E D
HEADQUARTERS XIX CORPS
Office of the Commanding General
APO 270

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 66)

13 November 1944

E X T R A C T

- I. AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR MEDAL.
- II. AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL.
- III. AIR MEDAL - Correction in General Orders.

X X X X

II. AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, and under authority contained in Memorandum Number 34, Headquarters, Ninth United States Army, 8 September 1944, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded the following officers:

MAJOR FRED A. SMITH (Army Serial Number 0408731), Field Artillery, 2d Tank Destroyer Group, United States Army, for meritorious service in Belgium and Holland from 28 September 1944 to 3 November 1944, in connection with military operations against the enemy. Entered Military Service from Iowa.

X X X X

By command of Major General MOJAIN:

H. E. MAGUIRE,
Brigadier General, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

s/L. R. Garrison
t/L. R. GARRISON,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

- WAR-1 plus "B"-1 plus
- Div - 2
- TAG, Washington (25) D. C. - 3
- CG, European T of Opns (Awards & Decorations Br, AG Mil Pers) - 2
- CG, Ninth US Army (Awards & Decorations Br, AG-M) - 1
- Each individual - 1
- 201 File - 1

R E S T R I C T E D

I certify that this is a true extract copy.

Lawrence A. Green
LAWRENCE A. GREEN,
Major, Infantry,
Acting Adjutant, 2nd TD Group



R E S T R I C T E D
HEADQUARTERS XIX CORPS
Office of the Commanding General
APO 270

GENERAL ORDERS)
:)
NUMBER 69)

25 November 1944

E X T R A C T

- I. AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL.
- II. AWARD OF THE AIR MEDAL (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER).

I. AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, and under authority contained in Memorandum Number 34, Headquarters, Ninth United States Army, 6 September 1944, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded the following officer and enlisted men:

X X X X

Technician Fourth Grade Julian Parker (Army Serial Number 39223106), Field Artillery, 2d Tank Destroyer Group, United States Army, for meritorious service in France, from 1 July 1944 to 26 July 1944, in connection with military operations against the enemy. Entered Military Service from Louisiana.

X X X X

By command of Major General McLAIR:

H. E. MAGUIRE,
Brigadier General, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

s/L. R. Garrison,
t/L. R. GARRISON,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:

- "A-1" plus "E-1" plus
- Div - 2
- TAG, Washington (25) D. C. - 3
- CG, European T of Opns (Awards & Decorations Br, AG Mil Pers) - 2
- CG, Ninth US Army (Awards & Decorations Br, Ag-M) - 1
- Each individual - 1
- 201 file - 1
- BRU - 2

R E S T R I C T E D

I certify that this is a true extract copy.

Lawrence A. Green
LAWRENCE A. GREEN,
Major, Infantry,
Acting Adjutant



S E C R E T

No. 4, to Un History, 2 TD Gp, period 1 Jan to 31 Dec 44)

S E C R E T

**HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY**

S E C R E T
Auth: CG, European
T of Opns
Initials:
Date: 1 Dec 1944
RJC/LWB/job
AFD 887
1 December 1944

E X T R A C T

AG 200.6 OpGA

SUBJECT: Battle Participation Awards - Northern France Campaign (No 1)

TO : Commanding Generals:
US Strategic Air Forces in Europe
Each Army Group
Communications Zone
Each Army
XVIII Corps (Airborne)
Southern Line of Communications
European Division, Air Transport Command
Section Commanders, Communications Zone
Commanding Officers:
European Civil Affairs Division
Military Intelligence Service
Commandant, American School Center
Headquarters Commandant, European Theater of Operations, AFD 887

1. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 12 b (2), AR 250-10, 013, 1 November 1945, announcement is made of units awarded battle credit for participation in the campaign "Northern France" as established by paragraph 3, Section VI, General Orders 80, War Department, 5 October 1944:

X X X X
Hq/Hq Co, 2nd TD Gp
X X

2. Attention is invited to paragraph 7b, Section I, Circular 195, War Department, 18 May 1944, regarding eligibility of individuals to wear a bronze service star on the theater ribbon.

3. In compliance with paragraph 3, Circular 62, War Department, 11 February 1944, necessary entries will be made on Service records (WD AGO Form No 24) of enlisted personnel, and on qualification cards (WD AGO Form No 68-1) of officers and warrant officers, whose eligibility to wear a bronze service star on the theater ribbon is established.

By command of General EISENHOWER:

DISTRIBUTION: "A" and "D" plus
TAG, Wash, D.C. (3)
Supreme Cndr, AEF (2)
CG, MFOUSA (5)
CO, each unit concerned (1)
OCQM (Sup Div, Clothing Br) (2)
AG Opns (2)

s/R. B. Lovett,
t/R. B. LOVETT,
Brigadier General, USA,
Adjutant General

S E C R E T

I certify that this is a true extract copy.

Lawrence A. Green
LAWRENCE A. GREEN,
Major, Infantry,
Acting Adjutant, 2nd TD Group



S E C R E T

II, to Unit History, 2 TD Gp, period 1 Jan () to 31 Dec 44)

- NARRATIVE -

The first day of 1944 found the Second Tank Destroyer Group, commanded by Colonel George G. Elms, aboard the SS "SAMARIA", enroute to the European Theater of Operations. As senior officer present, Colonel Elms was Commander of Troops, and, assisted by the Group Staff, so conducted the daily shipboard life that no untoward incidents occurred during the entire voyage. The SAMARIA docked at LIVERPOOL on 8th January, where the Group disembarked, and moved by train to HALMAKER MANOR HOUSE, in the vicinity of CHELCHESTER, ENGLAND. The estate belonged to the McKenna family, and Lady Cecelia was still in residence on our arrival, but left shortly thereafter for London.

On 8th February the Group moved to CAMP MAUGERSBURY, adjacent to STOW-ON-THE-WOLD, ENGLAND, where Colonel Elms was Camp Commander.

On 10th March the Group moved to CAMP KNOCK, near WARMINGTIER, becoming attached to the XIX Corps, commanded by Major General Charles H. Corlett, whose headquarters were at the same camp. From here the Group supervised training in indirect fire at BEECH RANGE, and direct fire at KIMBERIDGE RANGE, of the 702nd, 703rd, 821st and 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalions. Considerable pioneer work was done in artillery training, coordinating Tank Destroyer indirect fire technique with that of Divisions and Corps Artillery sections. The period 20 - 30 April was spent at TILSHED on maneuvers with the Corps Artillery, commanded by Brigadier General George D. Shea. The Group remained here until 16th of June when it left for SOUTHAMPTON. While at Camp Knock, Colonel Elms and certain key members of his staff were "digged" and worked on plans for the invasion of Normandy, under which plan, called "OPERATION NEPTUNE", the Group was scheduled to arrive in Normandy on D plus 11. For his part in this planning, Colonel Elms was later awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

The Group remained at SOUTHAMPTON for two days until the 18th of June at which time it embarked on the SS "JOHN MERRICK". The trip to the Normandy Coast was without incident, anchor being dropped the following morning. However, the historic storm which destroyed the beachhead landing facilities struck that day, making it impossible to land for seven days, during which time the "JOHN MERRICK" lay off shore. On the 23rd of June Colonel Elms with his S-2, Major A. G. Seitz, and S-3, Major Fred A. Smith, disembarked by "duck" and proceeded to the Headquarters of the XIX Corps at CASTILLY, FRANCE. The remainder of the Group, under command of Lt. Col. Bell, Executive Officer, landed on June 25 on OMAHA BEACH, near FORIGNY, NE of ISIGNY, FRANCE, and moved to XIX Corps Headquarters where the Group commenced operations immediately.

The XIX Corps, commanded by Major General Charles H. Corlett, at this time was holding the central sector of the American front on the CHERBOURG PENINSULA, with V and VII Corps on its left and right respectively, all of which comprised the United States First Army. The XIX Corps at this time consisted of the 28th Infantry Division with, the 803rd and 821st Tank Destroyer Battalions attached, the 30th Infantry Division with the 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion attached, in addition to its own artillery, tanks, 703rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, and other troops. The Second Tank Destroyer Group's mission was the coordination of the antitank defenses within the Corps, Colonel Elms functioning both as Group Commander and as antitank officer on General Corlett's special staff.



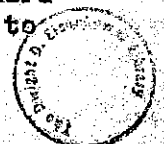
No. 11 (Cont'd.)

The entire Corps sector was in the "Bocage" area of France and the necessity of fighting from hedgerow to hedgerow was greatly to the German's advantage. The Group dug itself into the hedgerows and began a foxhole existence which was to continue for the next three months.

On July 7th the Corps attacked from the line of the VIRE RIVER and VIRE-LT-TAUTE CANAL to reduce the salient W of the river which reached up to within three or four miles of CARENTAN. The 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion fired 4,000 rounds in preparation, and crossed the VIRE CANAL at ARIEL under heavy enemy fire immediately behind the assaulting infantry. By July 16th the 30th Infantry Division and 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, the 3rd Armored Division and 703rd Tank Destroyer Battalion had wiped out the salient, boundaries were re-drawn making the VIRE RIVER our right boundary, and transferring the two mentioned Divisions to the VII Corps. In the meantime, on July 7th the 35th Infantry Division, with 654th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was attached to the Corps, on July 9th this Division and the 29th Infantry Division and 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion commenced the series of attacks which ended with the capture of ST LO, ending operation "ALLIANCE", and making possible the planning and regrouping antecedent to the break-out from the peninsula. No massed tank attacks had been made against us during the period, the bulk of enemy armor being engaged with the British in the vicinity of CAEN. Small groups of from four to eight tanks from the 2nd Panzer Division, the 2nd SS Panzer Division, and the 116th Panzer Division made frequent appearances however, but the antitank defenses invariably stopped these attacks, frequently with considerable loss to the enemy. Infantry Divisions opposing us were the 275th Division, 362nd Division, 553rd Division, 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division, and the 3rd Parachute Division, the latter being particularly stubborn in resisting our advance. On the 16th of July ST LO was taken, after some of the bitterest fighting of the war. "B" Co. of the 803rd Tank Destroyer Battalion was with the Task Force that captured the town on July 18th, and held stubbornly despite strong attacks by hostile air, artillery, mortar fire and infantry. Captain Vincent, Commander of "B" Co. was killed here on July 19th. The 803rd Tank Destroyer Battalion was relieved by the 654th Tank Destroyer Battalion, which assisted in holding the town for several days under the same conditions. It was here at ST LO that Colonel Elms won the Silver Star Medal, "for gallantry in action . . . although exposed to heavy enemy fire" displaying "courage and leadership by continuing to organize the tank destroyer defenses of the Corps zone without regard for his personal safety".

On July 18th the Group moved to STE MARGERITE D'ELLE, where it immediately began organizing the antitank defense necessary for the next operation.

On July 26th, General Bradley launched operation "COBRA". XIX Corps now had the 28th, 29th, and 30th Infantry Divisions, and the 2nd Armored Division, with the mission of preventing enemy reinforcements moving from the E to interfere with the drive on COUTANCES and AVRANCHES being made by the VIII Corps. Attached to these Divisions were the 630th, 821st, 823rd, and 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalions. Just N and W of TESSY-SUR-VIRE two of Hitler's crack armored outfits, the 2nd and 116th Panzer Divisions were encountered. This encounter with enemy armor in force again proved the efficacy of the Corps antitank defense as after terrific fighting both these divisions were fought to a standstill and forced to retreat to the S and N, with heavy losses of both men and equipment. The Corps took up the pursuit, with the mission of securing VIRE and the high ground W of that city. This was of critical importance as General Eisenhower's plan called for the First and Third United States Armies to pivot on VIRE, attacking NE, then N, and finally NW to





battle up the German Seventh Army in the now famous PALAISE - ARGENTAN gap. TESSY-SUR-VIRE and PERCY fell on August 1st, by August 5th, XIX Corps troops had covered 13 miles of hedgerow country and were assaulting VIRE, which was finally captured by the 29th Infantry Division with the 621st Tank Destroyer Battalion attached, on the 7th of August. During this period the Group had moved on July 30th to GARENY, on August 4th to BEAUCOURRAY, and on August 6th to MONTERRAY.

Progress was slow during the following week. The Germans had moved all their Panzer Divisions from the British to the American front in an all-out effort to drive a wedge from MORTAIN to AVERANQUES, splitting the American First and Third Armies. This most serious threat was repulsed at MORTAIN by the 30th Infantry Division, 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion attached, now with the VII Corps. The 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion distinguished itself during this action bearing the brunt of the German attack and hurling them back to defeat. The Germans now tried to withdraw their units to the NE to avoid encirclement, and the XIX Corps also changed its direction of attack from SE to NE, maintaining constant heavy pressure on the German rear, forcing them to leave several divisions behind to fight rear guard actions. These divisions were subsequently caught in the noose of the PALAISE-ARGENTAN pocket, and captured. Our Group Headquarters moved to ST MARVIN BOGAGE on August 12th and to BARSIMON on August 14th, continuing its coordination of the Corps antitank defense.

Although close to 100,000 German troops were bottled up in the pocket, some units escaped and by 19th August were desperately trying to cross the SEINE RIVER. The XIX Corps was given the mission of driving NW from the vicinity of BREAUX to BLISEUF on the SEINE. On August 18th and 19th the 2nd Armored Division with the 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion attached, and the 30th Infantry Division with the 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion attached were moved 65 miles to the new sector, and on August 20th launched an attack across the AVRE, being joined by the 28th Infantry Division with the 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion attached, on August 22nd. EVREUX was captured on the 23rd of August and BLISEUF fell two days later. The advance covered 60 kilometers in five days and effectively prevented the Germans from crossing the SEINE at BLISEUF or any point N thereof. The Cavalry units spearheading this advance were reinforced by one company of the 803rd Tank Destroyer Battalion and at EVREUX and BLISEUF the 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion destroyed its first Tiger Tank. During this period our headquarters moved to TOUROUVRE on 19th August, DAMPIERE, 20th August, ACON, 22nd August, AIGNIVILLE-LE-CAMILLAGE, 24th August.

On 28th August the boundary between the British and the First United States Army was moved to run from approximately BANTE-GASSICOET on the SEINE to LILLE near the Belgian Border, with XIX Corps composed of the 2nd Armored Division and 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, 30th Infantry Division with the 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, and the 79th Infantry Division with the 613th Tank Destroyer Battalion on the right of the British.

The Corps crossed the SEINE RIVER N of PARIS on August 28th with the mission of driving NW as quickly as possible. Here the 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion met and destroyed the First Tiger II, or King Tiger Tanks to be encountered. The German army was retreating as fast as possible to avoid further encirclement and to gain time to organize the defense of the homeland. Only rear guards were left behind, but it was impossible to determine where the Germans would defend in force. In this situation a remarkable advance was made. On September 1st the SOMME RIVER was crossed, on September 2nd at 0930 advance elements crossed the Belgian Border, the same day TOURNAI was captured and by nightfall three-fourths of the Corps was across the border. These were the first allied troops to enter BELGIUM.

S E C R E T

No. 11 (Cont'd)

By this time however, supply lines had been so extended that several days had to elapse before further movement was possible. As soon as gasoline was received part of the troops again began to move, this time to the E. By September 8th, Cavalry Reconnaissance elements had driven completely across Southern Belgium and reached the ALBERT CANAL. The 2nd Armored Division and 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion could get only enough gasoline to move one Combat Command at a time, while the 30th Infantry Division had to cover the ground on foot. The Germans made good use of this breathing spell to reorganize their forces and prepare an initial defensive line E of the MEUSE RIVER, with a main line of resistance at the WEST WALL. They had not time to man and refit the famous fortress of EBBEN EMAEL which was captured without a fight by the 30th Infantry Division and the 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion on September 10th. On 9th September the Group employed one company of the 803rd Tank Destroyer Battalion in reconnaissance of the area in the vicinity of VALENCIENNES. On September 14th, Group personnel were formed into Task Force "Victor", under command of Captain Victor D. Waloga, and captured ten prisoners in the woods in vicinity of NODUZZ, BELGIUM. During this period the Group moved to GRUNELLE on 27th August, LES MUREAUX the 29th August, SANDRICOURT the 1st of September, BRAY-SUR-SOMME the 2nd September, RONGY the 3rd of September, RIXENSART the 7th of September and ST TROND the 10th of September.

All bridges across the ALBERT CANAL and the MEUSE RIVER had been blown by the Germans. Crossings were effected, however, and on September 12th, the 30th Infantry Division troops and the 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion entered HOLLAND, the first allied troops to enter the country. Next day MAASTRICHT fell, and on 14th September VALKENBURG was captured and advance elements of the 30th Infantry Division and 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion entered HORRACH, GERMANY. On September 16th an attack was made to smash the WEST WALL before the enemy could thoroughly man its defenses. It took hard fighting to break through the positions the enemy had organized between VALKENBURG and the MEUSE, but on September 17th, HEERLEN was captured and two days later the Corps front faced the SIEGFRIED LINE. The Group Headquarters had moved to GENOELS BLDEREN, and later established itself in GULPEN CASTLE, Gulpen, Holland on 20th September.

Launching a powerful offensive, the XIX Corps cracked the concrete and steel positions of the SIEGFRIED LINE, opened a hole eleven miles wide and four miles deep and driving S out the last escape route from AACHEN. The high velocity guns of the Tank Destroyer units were used to great advantage here firing direct fire on enemy pillboxes and other strong points. The Corps was originally scheduled to attack the SIEGFRIED LINE on September 20th, but poor visibility, and a decision to wait the arrival of the 29th Infantry Division returning from BRIST, delayed this attack until October 2nd. On September 27th Headquarters were established in MAASTRICHT.

While the XIX Corps was advancing E on the American N flank the British on their left were attacking NE. To establish firmer contact between the two armies the Belgian Brigade of the British Army moved to the vicinity of KINROY, BELGIUM, defending E of the WESSEM CANAL and W of the MEUSE RIVER. On 28th September, XIX Corps constituted TASK FORCE "ELNE", consisting of the Second Tank Destroyer Group, "A" Co., and one platoon 803rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, "B" Co., 747th Tank Battalion (Med), and "B" Co. 744th Tank Battalion (L). This force was attached to the Belgian Brigade and moved to the vicinity of KINROY, leaving Captain D. M. Sunderland behind, later replaced by Lt. Col. A. G. Seitz, to act as antitank officer for the Corps in the absence of the Group. Headquarters being established at KINROY, reconnaissance

S E C R E T

11 (Cont'd)

made, and plans coordinated with the Belgian Brigade for an attack on WESSEM which was made on October 2nd, but due to restricted visibility was unsuccessful. Advanced headquarters were established at HEBRITTER on October 1st, and plans made for the support of the Brigade by direct and indirect fire. Maximum use was made of air OP, both for indirect fire, and observation. There was much patrol activity on both sides, and frequent targets presented themselves. On 27th October the force secured the right (E) flank of the brigade and on 27th of October one medium tank platoon supported the 3rd Belgian Motor Company in an attack on enemy in the vicinity of WESSEM, resulting in the capture of 30 Germans, killing three, and wounding six. On 31st October the task force was relieved of attachment to the 1st Belgian Brigade and attached to the 53rd Infantry Division (Welch), further attached to the 71st Infantry Brigade, with the mission of covering the concentration of this Brigade and the withdrawal of the 1st Belgian Brigade. On November 1st the Group was relieved of all responsibility for the defense of the sector, moving to KINROY, the following day. On November 3rd the Group was relieved from attachment to the 53rd Infantry Division (Br) and moved to HEBERLEN, HOLLAND, releasing the attached companies to their parent units.

While the group was on this task force mission the Corps had made some progress in their advance toward COLOGNE. On the 2nd of October the 30th Division and the 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion attacked, and by nightfall had crossed the WURM RIVER, occupied FALLENBERG, and on the following day cleaned out GRACH. On October 4th four serious German counterattacks were repulsed, although supported by greater LUFTWAFFE forces than had ever been used before in this theater. On October 5th the 2nd Armored Division with the 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion attached, began an attack to the NE, but next day this was discontinued as General Hodges now ordered General Corlett to make early contact with the VII Corps E of AACHEN. The attack to the SE met with bitter opposition but on October 16th the 30th Division and the 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion made contact with the VII Corps and AACHEN was encircled. While the VII Corps was making its difficult advance through the HURTGEN FOREST on the right of the XII Corps plans were made and supplies accumulated for the drive to the ROER RIVER, the last great natural obstacle before the RUINE. The drive commenced on November 16th and met with stubborn resistance. A great concentration of armor was thrown against the 2nd Armored Division and the 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion. In addition to the 3rd Panzer Grenadier Division which was in contact, the enemy brought up the 506th and 207th GHQ Tank Battalions and the 516th AT Battalions, making an estimated 150 enemy tanks which were used to support 15 counterattacks against our advance. By the time the ROER RIVER was reached an estimated 124 enemy tanks had been destroyed.

During this period it had been decided to convert the 821st and 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalions from towed to self-propelled gun units, which was accomplished under Group supervision. The Battalions lacked the facilities necessary to train their personnel in the radically different weapon, so, although all the other work incidental to the organization and coordination of the Corps antitank plan continued as heretofore, the Group established a separate school for drivers and mechanics at HOENSPROER, HOLLAND, on 15th November, later moving to TREWISSLIEN, assigning the Group Executive (Lt. Col. A. G. Seitz) and the Assistant S-3 (Captain D. M. Sunderland) to this duty, using the Group rear echelon for all necessary administration, procurement, and maintenance assistance. During the period November 16th - December 21st this school trained 93 drivers, 34 mechanics, and one complete platoon in gunnery and tactics of small units. This anticipation of requirements turned out to be of



S E C R E T

Annex No. 11 (Cont'd)

critical importance, for when the Germans made their breakthrough in the ARDENNES the men trained at this school were able to use the new material effectively, substantially aiding in the canalizing of the breakthrough and subsequent reduction of the salient.

The breakthrough in the ARDENNES made a regrouping of the American Armies necessary and the XIX Corps, with the Second Tank Destroyer Group, moved to KORNELIMUNSTER, GERMANY on December 22nd taking over the sector formerly held by the VII Corps, with the 104th, 8th, and 79th Infantry Divisions, with the 692nd, 617th and 893rd Tank Destroyer Battalions attached, S and E of AACHEN in the HUNTEREN FOREST region, where the year end found the Group engaged in their usual assignment of organizing the Corps antitank defenses.

During the year the Silver Star Medal and Bronze Star Medal were awarded to Colonel George G. Elms and Bronze Stars were also awarded to Lt. Col. Seitz, Major Fred A. Smith, Major L. A. Green, Captain V. D. Waloga, and Technician Fourth Grade J. Parker. In view of the small number of personnel comprising the Group Headquarters, varying between 13 officers and 47 enlisted men at the beginning and 16 officers and 58 enlisted men at the end of the period, the percentage of awards is indicative of the high quality of the results achieved.

Battle stars have been earned by the group for participation in three campaigns, NORMANDY, NORTH ERM FRANCE, AND GERMANY. Members of the Group may well claim the right to use the old quotation, "all of which I saw, part of which I was".



S E C R E T