

HEADQUARTERS
9TH TANK DESTROYER GROUP
APO 403, U. S. Army

22 June 1945

TO: All Officers and Enlisted Men of the 9th TD Group:

From time to time, during the course of operations in Western and Central Europe, this organization individually, and as a part of the US XII Corps and Third Army, has received various commendations upon the part it has played in this campaign.

It is with a feeling of pride and gratification that I, as your commanding officer, pass these commendations on to you. Inasmuch as it was only by the wholehearted and untiring efforts of each member of this command as Tank Destroyers and soldiers, that our successes were possible, it is most fitting that each one of you share equally the praises and thanks of our commanders.

To these, I wish to add my own heartfelt thanks to each of you for your unswerving devotion to duty and tireless efforts, without which the successful operation of this headquarters would not have been possible.

In whatever the future may hold, my warmest and sincerest good wishes go with each one of you, whether it be as a soldier or a civilian.

Clarence K Darling
CLARENCE K. DARLING
Colonel Cav. (TD)
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS
9TH TANK DESTROYER GROUP
APO 403, U.S. Army

6 June 1945

SUBJECT: Commendations Received.

TO : All Officers and Enlisted Men of the 9th Tank Destroyer Group.

21 June 1944

Message from His Majesty King George VI to all troops:

"Today I have visited the beaches of Normandy which will be forever famous. All that I saw on my journey and on soil of France has moved me deeply. I have come home feeling an intense admiration for all those who planned and organized this vast project and for the gallant and successful execution of it in all its varied phases by everyone of those engaged in this great battle".

19 August 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation.

Please accept for yourself and express to the officers and men of your Corps congratulations and thanks for the magnificent performance of all of you as evinced by your rapid advance and capture of CHATEAUDUN and ORLEANS.

The manner of performance by all concerned is superior and you are hereby highly commended.

/s/ G. S. Patton, Jr.,
/t/ G. S. PATTON, JR.,
Lieut. General, U. S. Army,
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS XII CORPS
Office of the Commanding General
APO 312, U. S. Army

16 October 1944

Lt. Colonel James W. Bidwell
Commanding, 9th TD Group
APO 403, U.S. Army

Dear Colonel Bidwell:

The fighting of the last few weeks has punched home to us one point so obvious and so clean cut, that I want every soldier and every officer in the Corps to realize its full significance.

That point is this: The Germans, even the best and most experienced of them, are visibly frightened of us. They are frightened by the superior equipment, the more skillful tactics, and above all, by the magnificent courage and will to win shown by the troops of this corps.

We are now between rounds of a fight to the knockout. The last round saw the Boche stagger back into his corner. While we are gathering our strength for the kill, he is hanging on the ropes. He cannot last another -- he is bound to go down. I am confident when the next round comes up, that the troops of the 9th TD Group will show the same courage, the same skill, and the same driving determination to get this war won, that have won for us our successes to date.

I congratulate the 9th TD Group on its performance in the past -- I wish it Godspeed and early victory.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ M. S. EDDY

/t/ M. S. EDDY

Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

SUBJECT: Congratulations from General Marshall.

24 November 1944

"Congratulations on the capture of Metz and the splendid advance your Corps are making in spite of floods and mud and bitter enemy resistance. My very personal congratulations to Eddy and Walker on the grand show their troops are putting on towards bringing this war to a triumphant conclusion."

I personally wish to add my commendation and congratulations for the splendid advance which you and your Corps have made. With such troops, the triumphant conclusion of the war is inevitably near.

/s/ G. S. Patton, Jr.,

/t/ G. S. PATTON, JR.;

Lieutenant General, U.S. Army,
Commanding

28 November 1944

TO: Commanders, all units attached or assigned XII Corps.

I know you will share my pride and pleasure in General Marshall's and General Patton's generous expressions. Be sure they reflect my own feelings towards you, your troops, and the magnificent part they are playing in hastening our victory over Germany.

/s/ M. S. Eddy

/t/ M. S. EDDY

Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

8 December 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation.

1. Today marks the end of thirty days of relentless and victorious action against a well-posted and determined enemy in the face of appalling conditions of terrain and weather.

2. Please accept for yourself and pass on to the heroic officers and men of your command my deep appreciation of your magnificent performance.

3. All ranks of the XII Corps are hereby highly commended for their superhuman and victorious efforts.

/s/ G. S. Patton, Jr.
/t/ G. S. PATTON, JR.,
Lieut. General, U. S. Army,
Commanding

1 January 1945

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE THIRD ARMY

From the bloody corridor at Avranches, to Bastogne, thence across France to the Saar, over the Saar into Germany, and now on to Eastogone, your record has been one of continuous victory. Not only have you invariably defeated a cunning and ruthless enemy, but also you have overcome by your inimitable fortitude every aspect of terrain and weather. Neither heat nor dust nor floods nor snow have stayed your progress. The speed and brilliancy of your achievements is unsurpassed in military history.

/s/ G. S. Patton, Jr.
/t/ G. S. PATTON, JR.,
Lieut. General, U. S. Army
Commanding

5 February 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

1. The superior tactical skill and audacity which you and your command displayed in breaking the southern shoulder of the German penetration will ever rank as an outstanding feat of intelligent planning and valorous execution.

2. You and the officers and men of your Command are hereby highly commended for a superior performance.

/s/ G. S. Patton, Jr.,
/t/ G. S. PATTON, JR.,
Lieut. General, U. S. Army,
Commanding

8 February 1945

TO: Commanders, Officers and Men of XII Corps.

With the greatest satisfaction and pride I indorse General Patton's message to you. Again your gallant achievements deepen my confidence in the certainty that the officers and men of the XII Corps will keep high in future combat the enviable standards of courage and teamplay you have set in the past.

/s/ M. S. Eddy
/t/ M. S. EDDY,
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

23 March 1945

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE THIRD ARMY

In the period from January 29 to March 22, 1945, you have wrested 6,484 square miles of territory from the enemy. You have taken 3,072 cities, towns, and villages, including among the former: TRIER, KOBLENZ, BINGEN, WORMS, MAINZ, KAISERLAUTERN, AND LUDWIGSHAEN.

You have captured 140,112 enemy soldiers, and have killed or wounded an additional 99,000, thereby eliminating practically all of the German 7th and 1st Armies. History records no greater achievement in so limited a time.

This great campaign was only made possible by your disciplined valor, unswerving devotion to duty, coupled with the unparalleled audacity and speed of your advance on the ground; while from the air, the peerless fighter-bombers kept up a relentless round-the-clock attack upon the disorganized enemy.

The world rings with your praises: better still, General Marshall, General Eisenhower, and General Bradley have all personally commended you. The highest honor I have ever attained is that of having my name coupled with yours in these great events.

Please accept my heartfelt admiration and thanks for what you have done, and remember that your assault crossing over the Rhine at 2200 hours last night assures you of even greater glory to come.

/s/ G. S. PATTON, JR.
/t/ G. S. PATTON, JR.,
Lieut. General, U. S. Army
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS XII CORPS
Office of the Commanding General
APO 512, U. S. Army

20 April 1945

TO THE MEMBERS OF MY STAFF:

I am relinquishing command of the XII Corps today. The doctors have made my decision simple - they have given me no choice but to return to America for rest. Believe me, it is one of the most inexpressibly difficult facts I have ever faced in my life.

Before I leave, I want each of you, each officer and each soldier of my headquarters, to know how deeply grateful I am for what I consider to be a remarkable performance. You have left little for a commander to desire. You have adapted yourselves to new and difficult situations with extraordinary speed and resourcefulness. You have given the Corps, and me personally, unstintingly of your hours and of your energies. I commend to each section, to the Headquarters Company, and particularly to the Military Police, your high standards of efficiency and esprit. Perhaps more than any of these, I shall cherish your loyalty the longest.

I wish I could say good-bye to each of you personally. I can tell you only in this manner of my pride in your superb accomplishment of every job I have given you, and of my affection for you in our common experiences. No commander, with you as his staff, can fail to complete the XII Corps' final mission. My warmest good wishes to you all.

/s/ M. S. Eddy
/c/ M. S. EDDY
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

20 April 1945

Message:

A year ago the XII Corps began to collect its strength to strike. Eight months ago, against an enemy still strong and dangerously aggressive, we struck. We struck with a boldness and a viciousness that have never failed us in nearly constant combat through three countries. Today, as we prepare for the final kill, there can surely be no corps in Germany ~~more~~ feared than the XIIth. Here is your record.

In August 1944 you launched a drive through Northern France which must rate as one of the most spectacular coups of this war. Your bloody battle of the Saar basin breached the Maginot line, and was leading you well into the Siegfried defenses when the German Ardennes offensive began. Your magnificent forced march to Luxembourg and your spirited defense of the Duchy are now in history. In February you crossed the Sauer and smashed the Siegfried line against the bitterest possible conditions of flood, winter cold, and stubborn enemy resistance. Your lightning drive to the Rhine, and vigorous exploitation of its west bank, prepared you for what was probably the first assault crossing of this ancient barrier in military history. Your dash into central Germany, well ahead of any other allied unit, proceeded to electrify our nation. You have advanced some 600 miles into the heart of Nazi Germany, conquering some 12,000 square miles. Since entering Germany alone, you have captured over 125,000 prisoners, taken such prizes as Frankfurt and Worms, seized enormous stores of military equipment, rolling stock, and supplies, including what must have been the bulk of German's gold reserve, released thousands of Nazi slaves and allied prisoners, and driven a beaten enemy into his last stronghold.

14 April 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

It gives me very great pleasure to transmit to you, and through you to your magnificent officers and men, the high approbation of our peerless leader, General Eisenhower.

After his recent visit to our front, he said "Please tell your officers and men of my great admiration for the skillful and veteran behavior of all units, both combat, supply, and administrative. I was particularly impressed with the self-confidence and ease with which all the staffs of the various units function. Nothing could be more admirable and inspiring."

/s/ G. S. Patton, Jr.,
/t/ G. S. PATTON, JR.,
Lieut. General, U. S. Army
Commanding.

APO 312, U. S. Army
19 April 1945

Colonel Clarence K. Darling
Commanding 9th Tank Destroyer Group
APO 403, U. S. Army

My Dear Colonel Darling:

I cannot tell you what a wrench it is to relinquish command of the XII Corps. Today the doctors have ordered me to return to America for rest.

Before I leave, I want you to know of my admiration for your splendid troops and of my gratitude for their magnificent contribution to the successful operations of our Corps. It is difficult to overestimate the skill and courage and fidelity with which our Tank Destroyers have operated during the last few crowded months.

Please accept for yourself, and convey to your command, this expression of appreciation. I wish I could be with you for the kill. Good luck - and Godspeed!

Sincerely yours,

/s/ M. S. Eddy
/t/ M. S. EDDY
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

I congratulate you upon a glorious record. I share the pride which every officer and every soldier of the XII Corps has a right to feel for it. The XII Corps has always been a spearhead unit of a spearhead army. It has never failed to accomplish its missions with dash and courage and skill. Your final mission is at hand. God speed you to it.

/s/ M. S. EDDY,
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

21 April 1945

MESSAGE: ORDER OF THE DAY ISSUED BY THE SUPREME COMMANDER.

THE BATTLE OF THE RUHR HAS ENDED WITH COMPLETE SUCCESS. FOLLOWING HARD UPON THE FINAL DESTRUCTION OF THE GERMAN FORCES WEST OF THE RHINE, THE TWENTY FIRST ARMY GROUP THRUST POWERFULLY ACROSS THAT RIVER WITH THE US NINTH ARMY UNDER COMMAND. SIMULTANEOUSLY, RAPID DRIVES ACROSS THE RHINE AND FROM THE REMAGEN BRIDGEHEAD BY TWELFTH AND SIXTH ARMY GROUPS PROVIDED THE SOUTHERN ARM OF A GREAT DOUBLE ENVELOPMENT WHICH COMPLETELY ENCIRCLED THE ENTIRE GERMAN ARMY TWO CORPS OF ARMY GROUP, WHOSE MOBILITY WAS RENDERED ALMOST ZERO BY OUR MAGNIFICENT AND TIRELESS AIR FORCES. THEREAFTER, IN THE POCKET THUS CREATED THE TWELFTH ARMY GROUP ELIMINATED TWENTY ONE ENEMY DIVISIONS, INCLUDING THREE PANZER, ONE PANZER GRENADIER AND THREE PARACHUTE DIVISIONS. OVER THREE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN THOUSAND PRISONERS OF WAR WERE CAPTURED INCLUDING TWENTY FOUR GENERALS AND ONE ADMIRAL. MANY TANKS AND MORE THAN SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY GUNS WERE DESTROYED OR TAKEN. BOOTY IS IMMENSE AND STILL BEING COUNTED. THE ENEMY'S TOTAL LOSSES IN KILLED AND WOUNDED WILL NEVER BE ACCURATELY KNOWN. THE RAPIDITY AND DETERMINATION WITH WHICH THIS BRILLIANT ACTION WAS EXECUTED TORE ASUNDER THE DIVISIONS OF FIELD MARSHAL NODEL, AND ENABLED ALL ARMY GROUPS WITHOUT PAUSE TO CONTINUE THEIR DRIVE EASTWARDS INTO THE HEART OF GERMANY. THIS VICTORY OF ALLIED ARMS IS A FITTING PRELUDE TO THE FINAL BATTLES TO CRUSH THE RAGGED REMNANTS OF HITLER'S ARMIES OF THE WEST, NOW TEETERING ON THE THRESHOLD OF DEFEAT (SIGNED) DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

27 April 1945

ORDER OF THE DAY.

"SOLDIERS OF THE FIRST, THIRD, NINTH, AND FIFTEENTH AMERICAN ARMIES, 1640 HOURS ON APRIL 25, 1945, IN THE TWENTY NINTH MONTH OF OUR LAND WAR AGAINST THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT, AMERICAN TROOPS OF THE TWELFTH ARMY GROUP JOINED FORCES WITH SOVIET ELEMENTS OF MARSHAL KONIEV'S FIRST UKRAINIAN ARMY GROUP. THESE ARMIES HAVE COME TO YOU FROM THE RUINS OF STALINGRAD AND SEVASTOPOL ACROSS THE SCORCHED CITIES OF THE UKRAINE. IN TWO YEARS THEY HAVE SMASHED 1400 MILES THROUGH THE GERMAN ARMIES TO DRIVE THE ENEMY FROM RUSSIA AND PURSUE HIM TO THE ELBE. THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS - AND THEY HAVE GIVEN IMMORTALITY TO A PEOPLE THAT WOULD NOT BE CONQUERED - ARE MADE MORE MEANINGFUL BY YOUR OWN DEEDS. ACROSS THREE THOUSAND WIGHT HUNDRED MILES OF AN OCEAN SUPPLY LINE, YOU HAVE FORCED A COAST THE ENEMY HAD BEEN YEARS PREPARING AGAINST YOU. WITHIN FOUR MONTHS AFTER LANDING YOU DESTROYED WHOLE ARMIES - TO TAKE PARIS, FREE FRANCE, AND GIVE THE WORLD A SYMBOL OF FREEDOM. WHEN THE ENEMY RAISED A NEW ARMY AND THREW IT INTO THE WINTER BATTLE OF ARDENNES, YOU SMASHED IT AND FLUNG ITS REMNANTS BACK. YOU HAVE BEATEN AND BROKEN DOWN HIS MIGHTY SIEGFRIED LINE, YOU CROSSED THE RHINE IN YOUR STRIDE, ENCIRCLED AND REDUCED THE RUHR WHILE DEMONSTRATING NEW LESSONS IN NOBILE WARFARE, YOU HAVE ANNIHILATED WHOLE GROUPS OF GERMAN ARMIES IN THE WEST ON THEIR OWN GERMAN SOIL. IN 10 MONTHS YOU HAVE FOUGHT YOUR WAY SEVEN HUNDRED MILES FROM THE BEACHES. THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE SECURED BY YOUR COURAGE, YOUR RESOURCEFULNESS, AND BY YOUR COMRADES WHO DIED TO ACHIEVE THEM. YOU HAVE SHARED IN THE LIBERATION OF FOUR NATIONS, GIVEN HOPE TO OTHERS, AND CONQUERED HALF OF GERMANY. THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA, WHO ARMED YOU, HAVE HAD GREAT FAITH IN YOU. YOU HAVE JUSTIFIED THAT FAITH AS YOU WILL IN THE BATTLES THAT FOLLOW. SIGNED BRADLEY, GENERAL, U. S. ARMY COMMANDING".

8 May 1945

ORDER OF THE DAY

"Men and women of the Allied Expeditionary Force: The crusade on which we embarked in the early Summer of 1944 has reached its glorious conclusion. It is my special privilege, in the name of all nations represented in this theater of war, to commend each of you for valiant performance of duty. Though these words are feeble, they come from the bottom of a heart overflowing with pride in your loyal service and admiration for you as warriors. Your accomplishments at sea, in the air, on the ground, and in the field of supply have astonished the world. Even before the final week of the conflict, you had put five million of the enemy permanently out of the war. You have taken in stride military tasks so difficult as to be classed by many doubters as impossible. You have confused, defeated, and destroyed your savagely fighting foe. On the road to victory you have endured every discomfort and privation and have surmounted every obstacle ingenuity and desperation could throw in your path. You did not pause until your front was firmly joined up with the great Red Army coming from the East, and other allied forces, coming from the South.

"Full victory in Europe has been attained.

"Working and fighting together in a single and indestructable partnership you have achieved a perfection in unification of air, ground, and naval power that will stand as a model in our time.

"The route you have travelled, through hundreds of miles, is marked by the graves of former comrades. From them has been exacted the ultimate sacrifice. Blood of many nations - American, British, Canadian, French, Polish, and others - has helped to gain the victory. Each of the fallen died as a member of the team to which you belong, bound together by a common love of liberty and a refusal to submit to enslavement. No monument of stone, no memorial of whatever magnitude could so well express our respect and veneration for their sacrifice as would perpetuation of the spirit of comradeship in which they died. As we celebrate victory in Europe, let us remind ourselves that our common problems of the immediate and distant future can be best solved in the same conceptions of cooperation and devotion to the cause of human freedom as have made this expeditionary force such a mighty engine of righteous destruction.

"Let us have no part in the profitless quarrels in which other men will inevitably engage as to what country, what service, won the European war. Every man, every woman, of every nation here represented, has served according to his or her ability, and the efforts of each have contributed to the outcome. This we shall remember - in doing so we shall be revering each honored grave, and be sending comfort to the loved ones of comrades who could not live to see this day.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER"

9 May 1945

SOLDIERS OF THE THIRD ARMY, PAST AND PRESENT

During the 281 days of incessant and victorious combat, your penetrations have advanced farther in less time than any other army in history. You have fought your way across 24 major rivers and innumerable lesser streams. You have liberated or conquered more than 82,000 square miles of territory, including 1500 cities and towns, and some 12,000 inhabited places. Prior to the termination of active hostilities, you had captured in battle 956,000 enemy soldiers and killed or wounded at least 500,000 others. France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia bear witness to your exploits.

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

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

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

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

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

/s/ G. S. Patton, Jr.,
/t/ G. S. PATTON, JR.,
General

11 May 1945

Message from the President, Harry S. Truman:

"In recognition of the unconditional surrender of the Nazi barbarians please accept the fervent congratulations and appreciation of myself and of the American people for the heroic achievements of your allied army, navy and air forces by their sacrifices, skill and courage. They have saved and exalted the cause of freedom throughout the world. All of us owe to you and to your men of many nations a debt beyond appraisal for their high contribution to the conquest of Nazism.

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

"Please transmit this message to the appropriate officers of your command and publish it to all allied forces in your theaters of operation."

Message from the Secretary of War:

"In this first moment after one of the greatest military victories in all history, I find it most difficult to express to you in words the thankfulness which fills the hearts of millions of your countrymen for all that the victory means to them.

"In this great hour of victory I join with all peace loving peoples of the world in sending my most heartfelt thanks to you, your staff and commanders, and to allied armies."

Message from the Secretary of the Navy:

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

"To you personally goes my unbounded admiration for a great accomplishment in terms of military strategy, leadership and above all those qualities of will, patience and tact which have earned for you the unswerving support of our own forces and those of our allies."

Message from Admiral King:

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

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

Message from Admiral Nimitz:

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

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

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

Message from His Majesty the King to all Troops:

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

Message from the Prime Minister of Canada:

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