

ORIGINAL UNIT

On September 2, 1942 the Commanding General of Headquarters, Army Ground Forces, Army War College, Washington, D.C. wrote to Commanding Generals of the Second and Third Armies at Tank Destroyer Center, Camp Hood, Texas authorizing the activation of the 9th and 8th Tank Destroyer Groups. In his letter Lt. General McNair stipulated that the Headquarters and Headquarters Companies of the two groups would be organized under Table of Organization, 18-10-1, January 5, 1942, at the earliest practical date in October of that year.

On call of Commanding General, Tank Destroyer Center, the 643rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, controlled by Third United States Army, was to furnish one officer and Table of Organization cadre of 18 enlisted men for the 9th Tank Destroyer Group. The activating letter pointed out that cadremen need not hold the grades indicated in the Table of Organization but must be qualified to perform the duties of the position for which he was selected. Promotions to cadre grades and to fill vacancies were to be made by source units immediately. The enlisted cadre, trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, reported to the Group on October 17, 1942. Balance of the men came from the following sources:

- 2 Basic Training, IRTC Camp Roberts, Cal., Nov. 7, 1942
- 6 Basic Training, AUTC, Camp Hood, Tex., Oct. 29, 1942
- 2 Trained, Hq. AUTC, Camp Hood, Tex., Nov. 24, 1942
- 1 Trained, Hq. Co., 706th TD Bn. Nov. 12, 1942
- 8 Trained, Acad. Regt. Camp Hood, Tex., Jan 2, 1942
- 8 Trained, Hq. Co., AUTC, Camp Bowie, Tex., Jan. 4, 1942
- 52 Recruits, Recp. Cen., Ft. McPherson, Ga., SO 338, 22 Dec 1942
- 75 Recruits, Recp. Cen., Ft. Jackson, S.C., Dec. 26, 1942

The activating letter stated that commissioned personnel as far as practical would be furnished from units under control of Tank Destroyer Center. First commanding officer of the 9th Tank Destroyer Group, Lt. Col. William M. Hutson, came from the 706th Tank Destroyer Battalion, which he commanded until his transfer. Other officers of the original group came from the following already activated units:

- Major William P. Davis, III, 628th TD Bn.
- Capt. James W. Bidwell, 802nd TD Bn.
- Capt. Chester W. Brown, 608th TD Bn.
- Capt. Clifford W. Butt, 771st TD Bn.
- Capt. George E. Cilley, 644 TD Bn.
- Capt. Howard B. Crandall, 807th TD Bn.
- Capt. Whitford T. Fry, Cav. Hq., TDC, AUTO
- Capt. Paul H. Mische, 706th TD Bn.
- 1st Lt. Willis V. Johnson, 827th TD Bn.
- 1st Lt. Edwin S. Martin, TDTC No. 2
- 2nd Lt. Richard D. Edmond, Hq. TDC, AUTO
- Capt. John J. Kelly, 633rd TD Bn.
- 1st Lt. L. William Hochheimer, 643rd TD Bn.
- 2nd Lt. Gayle Griffin, Hq. TDC, AUTO
- 2nd Lt. Sidney H. Young, Jr., IRTC, Cp Roberts, Cal.
- 2nd Lt. Louis L. Jaker, TDC, OCS
- 2nd Lt. Charles W. Steele, TDC, OCS
- 2nd Lt. Benjamin F. Stepan, TDC, OCS
- 2nd Lt. Donald A. Swan, TDC, OCS
- 2nd Lt. Ralph W. Thomas, TDC, OCS

Original assignment of officers in the Group Staff was as follows:

Executive Officer:	Major William P. Davis
S-1	Capt. James W. Bidwell
S-2	Capt. Howard B. Crandall
S-3	Capt. John J. Kelly
S-4	Capt. Paul H. Mische
Liaison Officer:	Major Clifford W. Butt
Motor Officer:	Capt. Chester W. Brown
Communication Officer:	1st Lt. Willis V. Johnson
Company CO	1st Lt. L. W. Hochheimer

Upon activation the Group was assigned to Tank Destroyer Center, Advanced Unit Training Center, Camp Hood, Texas. 23 October 1942.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 9th Tank Destroyer Group was activated on 13 October 1942 under T/O and T/E 18-10-1, dated 5 January 1942 with a strength of 16 officers and 114 enlisted men, per General Order 28, Tank Destroyer Center, Camp Hood, Texas. The same General Order assigned the unit upon activation to Tank Destroyer Center, Advanced Unit Training Center.

Following the activation of the organization, promotion of several staff officers took place. Lt. Col. William M. Hutson donned the eagle of full colonel on 4 November. On November 30, Capt. Howard B. Crandall became Major. Capt. Paul H. Mische was promoted to Major on December 9 and Capt. James W. Bidwell became Major on December 10. Capt. George E. Cilley became Major on January 9, 1943 and on December 29 2nd Lt. Sidney H. Young changed the color of his bar to silver.

774th Tank Destroyer Battalion and 810th Tank Destroyer Battalion were attached to the 9th Tank Destroyer Group per Par. 1, Unnumbered Memorandum, AUTC, 16 November 1942. While at Camp Hood, Texas, Headquarters Company was organized and trained with two battalions attached for training purposes.

On 19 November General Order was issued shuffling officers in their staff duties. The following changes were made by order of Col. Hutson:

Capt. Howard Crandall	S-1	vice Capt. James W. Bidwell
Capt. George E. Cilley	S-2	vice Capt. Howard Crandall
Capt. James W. Bidwell	S-3	vice Capt. John J. Kelly
Capt. John J. Kelly	Asst S-3	vice 1st Lt. Edwin S. Martin
1st Lt. Edwin S. Martin	Ln. O.	vice Capt. George E. Cilley

On December 1, 1942 the 774th Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 810th Tank Destroyer Battalion were detached from the Group and three days later the Group left Camp Hood for temporary station at Camp Bowie, Texas. Arriving at the new area on the same day, the organization was attached to Basic Unit Training Center by verbal orders of BUTC Commanding Officer, confirmed later by Unnumbered Memo AUTC dated 1 December 1942. At the time the group was attached to the BUTC it had a strength of 16 officers, 29 enlisted men and 11 enlisted men attached for training. The 100-mile trip was covered without accident or casualty. While enroute a message commending the appearance of the column was dropped by liaison plane.

When training started for the group at Camp Bowie, the battalions were called upon to furnish cadremen to train members of the new unit. 610th TD Battalion sent Cpl. Derr and Cpl. Mickols; 816th TD Battalion was represented by Cpl. Juffie and Sgt. Swanson; Sgt. Gibbons and Sgt. Newman came from the 612nd TD Battalion; from the 814th came Sgt. Murray and Cpl. Chute; and S/Sgt. Groome came from the 815th TD Battalion. These men were on temporary duty for three months with Group until training was completed.

Training Memorandum Number 4, issued 22 December 1942 by BUTC at Camp Bowie attached the 610th, 612th, 814th, 815th, and 816th TD Battalions to Headquarters, 9th Tank Destroyer Group for training only. On 14 January 1943 Training Memorandum Number 10 issued by BUTC attached the 808th TD Battalion to the group for training.

2nd Lt. Gayle Griffin was promoted to 1st Lt. per Special Order 35, 24 February 1943. 1st Lt. Edwin S. Maxson was transferred to IGD, Hq., 8th Service Command in February. Later in the month 2nd Lt. Charles W. Steele and 2nd Lt. Donald A. Swan were assigned to 10th Tank Destroyer Group. 2nd Lt. Richard D. Edmond and 2nd Lt. Benjamin F. Stepan were assigned to 11th TD Group at Camp Bowie. 1st Lt. Willis V. Johnson and 1st Lt. William Hochheimer went to TDKTC Officer Pool. In March Major Clifford W. Sutt was assigned to Hq. BUTC at Camp Bowie. Major George E. Gilley moved to the 14th TD Group and on the following day Captain Whitford T. Fry reported for duty with the 39th Air Freight Wing, Patterson Field, Ohio.

On the 5th March 1943, 9th Tank Destroyer Group returned to its permanent station at Camp Hood and was assigned to Tank Destroyer Center, Advanced Unit Training Center, Camp Hood with several battalions attached for training only. Special Orders Number 54, issued by TDC and dated 3 March 1943, authorized the movement and stipulated that it be made "overland by motor." Effective upon their arrival at Camp Hood, the following Tank Destroyer Battalions were assigned to the 9th TD Group by AUTC Memorandum of 6 March 1943: 846th TD Battalion, 814th TD Battalion, 816th TD Battalion, 817th TD Battalion, 814th TD Battalion, and 825th TD Battalion. By the same authority, the group was assigned to the 2nd Tank Destroyer Brigade.

Thirteen men of the original cadre transferred from the Group to BUTC, Camp Bowie, on 10 March. On 13 March Captain William B. Sprague, Jr. was assigned the Group from 2nd TDTG. Major Howard B. Crandall left two days later reporting for duty with 18th TD Group.

A special order from Tank Destroyer Center relieved Captain John J. Kelly from duty with the group and assigned him to the 18th TD Group on 19 March 1943. 1st Lt. John N. McDonald was relieved from duty with Tank Destroyer Replacement Training Center and assigned to the 9th Tank Destroyer Group on 31 March. Major William P. Davis, III was promoted to Lt. Col. on 8 April. Four days after his promotion, Lt. Col. Davis attended the 13th General Staff Course C and GS School, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. Headquarters, AUTC, issued Special Order 83 on 28 April relieving 2nd Lt. Louis L. Loker from duty with the 9th Tank Destroyer Group and assigning him to 816th TD Battalion.

On 8 June a TDC Special Order sent T/5 William A. Jeffords, Jr., T/5 Lawrence Howard, Pfc. Robert L. Neff, and Pfc. Mason A. Phillips to Army Specialized Training at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, College Station, Texas.

Prior to moving to Camp Hood, Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 9th Tank Destroyer Group was reorganized under T/O and T/S 16-10-1 with a strength of 3 officers and 40 enlisted men and designated as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 9th Tank Destroyer Group.

## TENNESSEE MANEUVERS

On 10 June the 9th Tank Destroyer Group left Camp Hood, Texas for permanent change of station to Camp Atterbury, Indiana, with temporary station at Gallatin, Tennessee, for Second Army Field Exercises, more commonly called "Tennessee Maneuvers." Before personnel of the group boarded 2 1/2-ton trucks for transport to Temple, Texas, where they boarded the train, the group was visited by Major General Orlando F. Ward, commander of Tank Destroyer Center who inspected the troops.

Headquarters and headquarters Detachment, 9th Tank Destroyer Group was reorganized under T/O and T/E 18-10-1, dated 26 May 43, with a strength of 12 officers and 47 enlisted men and designated as headquarters and headquarters Company, 9th Tank Destroyer Group per General Order No. 6, headquarters, 9th Tank Destroyer Group, AFU 402, Nashville, Tennessee, dated 17 July 1943. While in Tennessee for the 2nd Army Field Exercises the 9th Tank Destroyer Group with the 773rd, 772nd, and 626th TD Battalions attached participated in a number of motor marches and problems within the maneuver area, during the period 18 June to 29 August.

During the maneuvers the assignment of officers was as follows:

Executive Officer	Lt. Col. William P. Davis, II
S-1, S-4	Major Paul H. Mische
S-2	Capt. William B. Sprague, Jr.
S-3	Major James W. Bidwell
Liaison Officer	1st Lt. John N. McDonald
Hq. Co.; Commander	Capt. Chester W. Brown
Hq. Co., Executive Off.	1st Lt. Gayle Griffin

Lt. Col. William P. Davis, III, was relieved from the Group and assigned to the Office of Strategic Services, Washington, D.C. on 4 August 1943.

On 9 August Headquarters IV Armored Corps, Camp Campbell, Ky., published General Orders No. 13 which in part relieved the following from assignment to Second Army and reassigned to IV Armored Corps and attached to 9th Tank Destroyer Group with permanent station at Camp Atterbury, Indiana: 608th TD Bn, 610th TD Bn, and 773rd TD Bn. The Maneuver Director at headquarters Second Army in Nashville, Tennessee, directed on 21 August the headquarters and headquarters Detachment, 9th Tank Destroyer Group move from present temporary station in the maneuver area to home station. Movement made by motor was supplemented by necessary minimum rail transportation on the morning of 29 August.

820th TD Battalion, 821st TD Battalion, and 822nd TD Battalion, all of Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky, were assigned to the IV Armored Corps and attached to the 9th TD Group in accordance with General Orders No. 17 dated 30 August 1943 and issued by Headquarters, IV Armored Corps with station at Camp Campbell, Kentucky. On the same day this headquarters announced the appointment of Col. William M. Nutson, as Tank Destroyer Officer of the IV Armored Corps in addition to his other duties.

On 25 September special orders issued by TDC relieved the following officers from TDC and assigned them to 9th TD Group; 2nd Lt. David L. Gott, 2nd Lt. David J. Shafer, 2nd Lt. Seymour S. Shuffman, and 2nd Lt. Clifford L. Wolfskill. On 4 October Capt. Gerald W. Zuck and Capt. Glen Rose were assigned to the group and relieved from assignment to TDC.

Effective upon date of arrival of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Tank Destroyer Brigade at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky, the following units at that station were relieved from attachment to the 9th TD Group and attached to the 2nd TD Brigade per General Order No. 24, 6 October 1943, IV Armored Corps: 820th TD Battalion, 821st TD Battalion, and 822nd TD Battalion.

In October the following men were promoted to the grades indicated:

Sgt. Stephen G. Smith to Staff Sergeant  
T/4 Frank A. Douglas to Sergeant  
T/5 Jack S. Anderson to Sergeant  
T/5 Peter Corno to Sergeant

Capt. Franklin A. Dickford, 9th TD Group was appointed President of the mess Council of the Consolidated Tank Destroyer Officer mess. On 22 October Special Order 131 promoted T/5 Clyde E. Kelley to the temporary grade of T/4.

Chaplain Victor J. Milot was relieved from temporary duty at the Chaplains' School, Harvard University and assigned to the Group by War Department Special Order No. 28.

On 23rd day of October the staff was reshuffled with the following arrangement following Special Order No 152:

Lt. Col. James W. Bidwell on Special Duty, Tennessee Maneuver Area.

Major Paul H. Mische acting Executive Officer  
Captain Chester W. Brown acting S-1 and S-4  
Captain Gerald W. Zuck assistant S-3  
Captain Glen Rose SSO and Assistant Adjutant  
2nd Lt. David L. Gott acting Hq. Co. CO

Special Order 133, issued 25 October ordered Capt. Gerald W. Zuck to report to Camp Forest, Tennessee, for temporary duty with Director of 2nd Army Mine School for approximately 10 days. On the same order T/Sgt John E. Ward was promoted to M/Sgt as communication chief for the group.

OCTOBER 27, 1943

"Organ ization Day" First anniversary of the activation of the 9th Tank Destroyer Group was celebrated on 27 October with an entire day devoted to commemoration of that occasion. Capt. Bickford had charge of the reveille parade which featured the combined Drum and Bugle Corps. Breakfast was served at 0700 hours, followed by special religious services, conducted by Chaplain Charles E. Pitts.

After lunch Capt. Glenn Hesse conducted organized recreation and games. From 1630 to 1730 hours the group held review with the IP being the corner of 15th and Burnside Streets, Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Headquarters Company of the 9th TD Group acted as Guard of honor to Colonel Hutson, Lt. Audrey James, Lt. David Shafer and Lt. John C. Gordon marched with Headquarters Company. Order of march was made up of the combined drum and bugle corps, the 503rd TD Battalion, massed colors, and the 773rd TD Battalion which paraded before the reviewing stand. In the stand were Colonel Hutson, Major Mische, Capt. Richmond, Capt. Rose, Capt. Sprague, Chaplain Pitts, and 1st Lt. Gayle Art. P.M. Lt. Col. Arbury was commander of troops with Capt. Brown and Capt. Zuck staff officers to him.

Capt. Bickford read the original order of activation over the public address system then presented Good Conduct Awards to 20 enlisted men.

The following men were awarded the American Defense Service Ribbon under the provisions of Circular 104, War Department 1942:

M/Sgt Robert L. Butts  
1st/Sgt Charles L. Cavunaugh  
S/Sgt George D. Ballassi  
S/Sgt Sophocles J. Ballussi  
T/Sgt John S. Ward  
T/4 Audrey Bain  
T/4 Albani J. Desrochers  
Pvt. Dale D. Bennett

During the ceremony 16 enlisted men were awarded the Motor Vehicle Drivers and Mechanics Badge as prescribed in Section II, Paragraph 1, War Department Circular 248, dated 28 July 1942.

After the awards had been conferred upon the enlisted men, Colonel Hutson addressed troops under his command.

Dinner for the group headquarters officers and men was served in the company mess hall between 1830 and 1930 hours with co-eds from Franklin Junior College, Franklin, Indiana, and wives as special guests. S/Sgt George Ballassi acted as master of ceremonies. Jack and Robert Anderson sang a duet and dedicated it to Mrs. William Hutson, wife of the commanding officer. T/5 Jessie H. Green introduced Pvt. Elmer G. Spencer and Pvt. Herbert L. Goldsmith, new members of the company who arrived while the dinner was being served.

Colonel Nutson carved the three-tiered cake, baked and decorated by Mrs. Charles F. Pitts, wife of the group Chaplain. Officers introduced their wives. Mrs. James W. Siawell was also present although Lt. Col. B. Siawell was acting as umpire in the Tennessee maneuvers.

After the evening meal, officers and their wives and guests attended the officers' party and dance in the officers' club while members of headquarters company and their wives and guests attended a dance in the Tank Destroyer Recreation Club. Lt. David Gott was in charge of the banquet and Capt. Glen Rose headed the Officers' Dance and Party Committee.

At the time of its first birthday the group had a strength of 16 officers and 50 enlisted men.



CAMP ATTENDANCE

On 6 November Pvt. William Crow, Jr., was ordered to report to Camp Hood, Texas to attend Enlisted Radio Electricians' and Technicians' Course, Class No. 56.

Capt. William B. Sprague, Jr. was ordered to report to Camp Breckenridge to attend the Gas School conducted by XX Corps. The next special order sent 2nd Lt. David L. Gott to the Gas School of the XX Corps. On the same order of November 7, T/5 Stanley Coccia was sent to Camp Hood to attend the Enlisted Weapons School.

On 15 November 1st Lt. John C. Gordon replaced 1st Lt. John N. McDonald as commander of the headquarters company. On the same order Pvt. Orion G. Hankins came into the group from 773rd TD Bn.

Pvt. Anton J. Sabot went by rail to Tank Destroyer Center, Camp Hood, Texas to attend Class No. 3 on Enlisted Communications per special order No. 148, 27 November. T/4 Clyde E. Kelley was ordered to report to Camp Hood to attend Class No. 1 of Enlisted Radio Repairman's Course on 18 December per Special Order 149, issued 29 November. On the same order Pvt. Clyde A. King was ordered to Camp Hood on 25 December to attend Enlisted Communications Class No. 4. Pvt. George F. Petermann attended Class No. 67, Enlisted Weapons Course at Camp Hood by authority of Special Order 151, 3 December.

Special Orders 153, issued 12 December, transferred three men into the group from 608th TD Battalion. Coming into the unit were T/5 Paul W. Brennan, T/4 James J. Cannon, and Pvt. Robert Morrison to replace the following men transferred to the 608th TD Battalion: T/4 Audrey M. Bain, Pvt. Lester K. King, Pvt. Walter L. Ellis, and Pvt. Robert A. Lasalle. Another exchange of personnel between the headquarters company and the 608th TD Battalion came by order 155, issued 17 December, when 1st/Sgt Charles L. Cavanaugh, T/4 Carleton F. Peterson, Sgt. Peter Corso, and T/5 John H. Duskin into the battalion. The following men came into the group: 1st/Sgt. Brooks F. Glover, T/4 Walter F. Rauscher, T/5 Aloysius E. Dombrowski, and T/4 Andrew Fiedor. In December T/5 John B. Molloway and T/5 Jon H. Drafts were promoted to Corporal. Benjamin Walling was advanced from Corporal to T/4. Technician Sergeant stripes were sewed on the sleeves of Staff Sergeant Stephen G. Smith after the publishing of Special Order 158. On this order of 29 Frank W. Douglas added a rocker to his sergeant's stripes.

In compliance with telegram, XX Corps dated 31 December, Capt. Carroll M. Hendrix and Capt. William L. Boylston from the inactivated 608th TD Battalion transferred into the group. Following the transfer of the two officers into the group, the staff was rearranged in the second special order of 1944:

Capt. William Boylston assigned Asst. S-2 and Liaison Officer.

Capt. Carroll Hendrix assigned CO Hq Co. and Com Officer.

1st Lt. Gayle Griffin from Asst S-2 and In O to SSU and Asst S-1.

1st Lt. John C. Gordon from CO to Exec Off of Hq Co.

2nd Lt. David L. Gott from SSU and Asst S-1 to Asst S-4.

2nd Lt. David J. Shafer from Exec O to Co Off, Hq Co.

During the 12-day leave of absence granted Colonel William M. Watson in January, Lt. Col. Herold assumed command of the group and his first act was to assign Capt. Edward H. Skiffington as assistant S-2 and Liaison Officer in the group headquarters.

T/5 Harry Bleszczard transferred from the 610 TD Battalion to headquarters and Headquarters Company.

On January 25 Capt. Chester W. Brown signed the General Order making 25 enlisted men eligible to wear the Good Conduct Ribbon.

On 27 January in General Order 3, Colonel Lansing McVickar assumed command of the group, relieving Lt. Col. Herold. Colonel McVickar reswitched the staff making Lt. Col. James W. Bidwell, returning umpire of the maneuvers, executive officer. Major Paul Mische assumed duties of S-1 and S-4. Capt. Chester W. Brown became assistant S-3.

On 1 February two more promotions were announced. T/5 Paul W. Brennan was advanced to T/4 and Pvt. William P. Cole was appointed T/5. During the month of February a large turn-over in group personnel and a number of changes in rank took place.

Special Order No. 8, 17 February, was authority for the reorganization of headquarters and headquarters Company, 9th TD Group. Under authority of telephone communication February 16, confirmed in telegram XXII Corps, dated 17 February, this organization was reorganized as of 16 February under T/O and T/E 18-10-1, with an authorized strength of 13 officers and 57 enlisted men.

On 18 March an advance detail consisting of Lt. Col. James W. Bidwell, Major Paul M. Mische, 1st Lt. Gayle Griffin, M/Sgt Robert L. Butts, and M/Sgt Stephen G. Smith left Camp Atterbury under secret orders. On 22 March they sailed for England from New York City, arriving 10 April. While in England, the advanced detail made arrangements for the arrival of the 9th TD Group. Capt. Chester W. Brown became acting S-1 and S-4 in the absence of Major Mische. Major William K. King was assigned S-2 and Summary Court Officer for headquarters and headquarters Company.

Before the group left Camp Atterbury, T/5 Irvin Koris and Pvt. William Edmond were added to the company rolls.

On 29 March the Group moved from Camp Atterbury to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. As the unit boarded the train at Camp Atterbury siding the Atterbury band played marches. Colonel Modisette, camp commander, was present to bid the group farewell.

CAMP HILMER, NEW JERSEY

headquarters and headquarters Company, 9th Tank Destroyer Group arrived at Camp Hilmer, New Jersey, on the morning of 31 March 1944. While in the staging area here, the Group had APO No. 9976, New York City. Changes in rank were made. Jack S. Anderson rose to S/Sgt. John B. Holloway and T/5 Cole were advanced to Sergeant. T/5 Joseph Mueller removed the "T" from his stripes. On May Day Dental Technician William K. Shelton was upped to the grade of T/5. In accordance with Par. 15, sub-par (a), AR 615-5, 1st/Sgt Brooks F. Glover and T/4 Omer F. O'Nara were reduced in grade to private on 3 May. A training schedule was met each morning. Seven-mile runs were made twice weekly.

Private James M. Sullivan and Private Robert L. Archer, Jr., joined the unit before the organization left for the port. T/5 Andrew J. Walling, who had been removed to the hospital while en route to New Jersey, rejoined the company at Camp Hilmer.

On 1 May an advance detail from the company, under Capt. Barnabas M. McAlarney, boarded U.S.S. Highland Monarch in New York Port of embarkation to act as special service for the ship and make arrangements for programs and other entertainment during the voyage. Other members of the group boarded the British ship just at dusk on the evening of May 2.

At 0500 hours on the morning of 3 May, the 9th Tank Destroyer Group left the harbor of New York City. The following men and officers were with the group sailing for overseas: Col. McVickar, Major King, Major Sprague, Capt. Brown, Capt. Debaki, Capt. Reese, Capt. Skiffington, Capt. McAlarney, Capt. Zuck, Capt. Hendrix, Capt. Pitts, 1st Lt. Gordon, 1st/Sgt Glover, T/Sgt Douglas, S/Sgt Kilpatrick, Sgt. Higgins, T/4 Brennan, T/4 Desrochers, T/4 Doyle, T/4 Fiecor, T/4 Walling, Cpl. Harris, Cpl. Holloway, T/5 Bennett, T/5 Bradford, T/5 Coccia, T/5 Cole, T/5 Courtney, T/5 Cummings, T/5 Fischebach, T/5 Green, T/5 Harper, T/5 Koris, T/5 Meister, T/5 Monette, T/5 Morrison, T/5 Nelson, T/5 Overturf, T/5 Wickham, Pfc. Edmund, Pfc. Muckabee, Pfc. Matthews, Pvt. Christ, Pvt. Goldsmith, Pvt. Hankins, Pvt. Petermann, Pvt. Mills, Pvt. Shelton, Pvt. Spencer, M/Sgt Ward, Sgt. Anderson, T/4 Chitwood, T/4 Domorowski, T/4 Gannon, T/4 Domorowski, T/4 Gannon, T/4 Muescher, T/5 Bieszczad, T/5 Miller, T/5 Mueller, Pfc. Anderson, Pvt. Crow, Pvt. King, Pvt. Nutgrass, Pvt. Prutzman, and Pvt. Saout.

While on board U.S.S. Highland Monarch, members of the Communications Platoon operated the ship's radios for inter-convoy communication and other enlisted men participated in other activities of the ship's administration and special services. Capt. Brown was Ship's Adjutant.

Approximately 60 ships were in the convoy throughout the trip. After 13 days at sea, the Highland Monarch docked at Avonmouth Port, England, on 16 May. That evening members of the group set foot on the shores of England and moved by rail from the port to Swedley, Worchestershire, England. At Swedley, the group climbed into 2 1/2-ton trucks and rode to Birmingham and on to Camp Swedley.

ENGLAND

First permanent station on the British Isles was Camp Bwedley, near the villages of Bwedley-on-Stourport and Kidaeminster.

While in Camp Bwedley, the group went through training and received equipment. At this time the unit was assigned to XII Corps, Third United States Army.

A special order issued 20 May remade Pvt. Glover 1st/Sgt. On the same order Pvt. Crow and Pvt. Nutgrass were appointed to the rank of T/5. On June 9, 1st Lt. Gayle Griffin, Adjutant, signed General Order No. 9 authorizing enlisted men to wear the Good Conduct Ribbon.

On 16 June the group moved by motor convoy from Camp Bwedley to Birmingham where members lived in homes in the residential section of Mossley Village. Headquarters for the group were in a three-story Victorian mansion located on Wake Green and Yardley Wood Roads. Hazelmere and Haghenden, homes occupied by headquarters were on St. Agnes Road.

Capt. Skiffington and Cpl. Harris attended Order of Battle Course in London, reporting to the Administrative Officer, Military Intelligence Research Section, 40 Hyde Park Gate on 19 June. Upon completion of the 5-day course, they returned to the unit. Capt. Hendrix reported to England RAJAT Commandant, Engineer Bridge School, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, APO 647, on 18 June to attend a 12-day course of Mine and Booby Traps. Chaplain McAlarney left Birmingham on 21 June to attend a two-day Chaplain's Orientation school. Capt. Desaki went to Shivenham, England, on 3 July for the purpose of attending MFS Course. Capt. Brown attended a 27-day school of Military Intelligence at Shivenham, England.

1st/Lt. Gayle Griffin, Sgt. Holloway, T/5 Bieszczad, and Pvt. Petermann received instructions in General Small Arms at Depot O-642 Warminster, Wiltshire, England. Major William K. King transferred to European Civil Affairs Division on June 22.

On July 5 Special Order 53 was published making 1st Lt. Griffin assistant S-3 and Capt. Hendrix was replaced as company commander by 1st Lt. John C. Gordon. Capt. Hendrix assumed duties as assistant S-1 and Special Service Officer.

More promotions of enlisted men in headquarters company were made public in Special Order of 7 July 1944: T/4 Rauscher and Sgt. Cole became S/Sgt and Pvt. Ward was promoted to the grade of T/4.

Pvt. Goldsmith, Pvt. Higgins, and Pvt. Sabot were transferred to replacement Depot Number 18 on 14 July.

T/Sgt Douglas, T/4 Doyle, Cpl. Harris, T/5 Miller, Pfc. Hucksbee, Pvt. Mills and Pvt. Archer attended Light Rescue Parties School, directed by Seventh Ord MA Company, for five days. Capt. Zuck reported for studies in Bomb Reconnaissance School in July.

1st Lt. Gayle Griffin went to Queen's College, Edgbaston, Birmingham on 19 July to attend a three-day course in Incident Control Covering Direction of Activities of Rescue Squads. On completing the course he returned back to the unit.

Promotions of the following were published in Special Orders No. 60, 24 July:

S/Sgt Mutschler to Master Sergeant  
T/4 Fiedor to Sergeant  
T/5 Fischback to T/4  
Cpl. Harris to T/4  
T/5 Walling to Corporal  
Pfc. Christ to T/5  
Pfc. Prutzler to T/5  
Pvt. Hankins to T/5

On the 18th day of July the 9th Tank Destroyer Group departed from Birmingham, England, to No Man's Land, Hampshire, England, and was billeted in Lyburn House, formerly owned by an English aristocrat. 1st Lt. James V. Stewart, Jr. joined the organization at Lyburn as executive officer.

On 28 July the Group left for Marshalling Area C-16, Winchester, England, one of the many areas designated by headquarters, 2TD, as assembly area for troops destined for the continent. Equipment and records were checked and made ready for landing on the continent. Early in the morning of 29 July the group moved by motor convoy from the Marshalling Area to Southampton. Arriving at 0500 hours, the convoy parked on the dock and waited instructions on loading equipment.

At 0700 first steps of loading were begun and by 1400 all equipment, vehicles, and personnel were aboard the US SS William Pepperrell. Under cover of dusk, the ship chugged into the English channel at 2000 hours. Arriving at Utah Beach, Normandy France, at 1800 hours on 30 July, the ship laid off shore during the night. The Group disembarked at 0900 hours on 31 July. Members of the company hiked across Utah Beach to Transit Area B-233 vicinity of St. Mere Eglise. For two nights the Group stayed in pup-tents.

making its first tactical motor march in France, the group left the Transit Area arriving at its new destination 5 miles northwest of Bricquebec at 1900 hours. The unit was assigned to XII Corps, Third Army.

After a 10-day stay in the area the group made a security move to a bivouac area 3 1/2 miles southeast of Bricquebec. Col. McVicker returned from XII Corps Headquarters on 12 August and alerted the organization in case the unit were called upon to help squelch Nazi forces threatening to break through at Avranches. The alert did not come and the company set up its bivouac.

Moves while on the Normandy Peninsula were frequent with stops of the over-night variety. On August 13 the group moved to Sartilly, France, near the city of Le Mans. The strength of the group at this time was 14 officers and 55 enlisted. 28 men and 4 officers moved to vicinity of St. Calais, France at 1100 hours, 15 August to set up a forward Command Post. Remainder of the unit joined the forward unit in Fontain, at 1500 hours, 16 August. The following day the entire organization moved by motor convoy to Binas, France.

With the assignment of XII Corps Advanced Information Center, the unit moved to Neuville-aux-Bois on 21 August with 14 officers and 56 enlisted men. They moved to Boiscummun the next day.

From 1300 to 1500 hours the Group moved deeper into the heart of Jeanne D'Arc land.

On 25 August the group moved by motor to Souppes, leaving Boiscummun at 1300 hours. 9th TD Group still acting in the capacity of Information Center made frequent moves in order to carry out its mission. On the following day the unit advanced to Sens, completing the three-hour march at 1100 hours. Here for the first time since operations on the continent began for the unit, members took bathé in one of the hotels in Sens.

Moving deeper into the Marne River Territory, the unit traveled to Etaisac on 27 August. Here Special Order No. 61 was published on the 28th of the month making S/Sgt William B. Cole a Technical Sergeant and Technician Fifth Grade Eugene Wickam a Technician Fourth Grade. On the last day of the month of August the Group moved to Blacy. Private Brooks F. Glover was sent to the 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, which was attached to this unit at the time. Private Richard A. Ferrell was brought into the group from this Battalion.

While at Blacy the group bivouaced in the wooded area just outside the village. Colonel McVicker lead the group in a search for enemy tankmen near the village. For seven days the group stayed at Blacy, but on 7 September changed its location to Ligny-en-Barrois, where it camped beside the Barrois River in the park. The roads for the trip were good and the weather excellent, so the 12 mile march was covered in one hour.

On 9 September the group changed location of the Cp and bivouac from Ligny to Pagny beside the Marne-Moselle canal. The motor march covered 24 miles over good roads and with excellent weather. On 13 September the group moved again, going to Chamois, a distance of almost 50 miles. The march was made between 1600 and 1930 hours. On this day the group crossed the Meuse River south of Nancy, France, with CCB, 4th Armored Division. The group had the mission of supporting the attack of CCB to the east in the direction of Chateau Salins. The 602nd TD Battalion attached to the 9th TD Group, crossed the river on the night of the 12th and moved to the vicinity of Chamois. The advance progressed northeast to Vibrumont crossing the Meurthe River. From Vibrumont the advance turned North to Sonville, here the group was relieved of attachment to CCB and attached to 2nd Cav. Group.

Over slick and muddy roads and through rainy weather, the group went to Authelypt on 15 September. Pushing continued, so on September 17 the unit moved to Courboisieux. The short motor march covered only 9.5 miles. During this entire period, the group made short minor moves almost daily. On 18 September a 6-mile move was made to Sorneville and on the following day the group traveled to Vitrimont, a distance of 13 miles. Keeping up with the steadily pushing Third Army, the group moved from its woodland bivouac into Luneville, France. This thirty-minute ride over 2.5 miles took the organization into one of its most unforgettable areas. With the mission of coordinating the relief of CCA 6th Armored Division in Luneville by the 79th Infantry, the 9th TD Group had the 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 691st TD Battalion and one Cavalry Troop of the 2nd Cav. Sq. When the group moved into Luneville, the town was receiving intermittent harassing fire. Armor was moving out the northwest section and the 313 Inf. Regt of the 79th Infantry Division was moving in from the south. At approximately 0615 hours the vicinity of the Group CP and the CP of the 602nd TD Battalion received a concentration of artillery fire in which several 602 Battalion personnel were wounded. Harassing fire continued.

Enemy patrols later fired on the Group CP from the Northeast with machine pistols and other automatic weapons. Personnel of Headquarters Company returned fire with one .30 cal. MG and one .50 cal. MG. Patrols were then taken under fire by the Cavalry at a roadblock just east of the Group Command Post on La Vezouse River. All night the enemy kept up his harassing fire. The Cavalry, 602nd, and 691st TD Battalions succeeded in beating off attacks during the night with small losses in personnel.

Cpl. Ben Walling was first casualty of the group. Seriously injured when a piece of shrapnel entered his shoulder, Cpl. Walling was given first aid and evacuated. He received the Purple Heart.

On 22 September while the group was repulsing enemy attacks, S/Sgt William Kilpatrick was injured when shrapnel from an 88 shell landed close to the building in which he was taking cover. Sgt. Kilpatrick was evacuated to the rear and received the Purple Heart.

Purple hearts were also awarded to T/5 Willard Bradford, Cpl. Joseph Mueller, and Lt. Col. James Bidwell for scratches received when the CP was shelled. They received treatment at the 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion Aid Station. Lt. Col. James Bidwell and Capt. Reese were awarded Silver Star Citations for service at Luneville during the period 20 September to 23 September.

Receiving Bronze Star awards for the Luneville incident were S/Sgt Fiedor, T/4 Overturf, T/5 Prutzman and T/4 Ward who worked on a half-truck and radio under fire of the enemy.

On the morning of 22 September the Group pulled out from Luneville and rode 7-7 miles to the vicinity of Arracourt with 602nd TD Battalion and 691st TD Battalion attached to support CCA, 4th Armored Division, in an attack on Dieuse. 691st TD Battalion protected right flank of Corps with the Cavalry and 602nd TD Battalion striking on the right flank of CCA's attack. Omer O'Hara received the Purple Heart on 1 October.

With Lt. Col. James W. Biawell assuming command upon the 9th TD Group's relief from Col. McVickar, the group left its knee-acceptance bivouac and moved into the village of Champenoux. This hour-and-five-minute march was made mid-afternoon, 25 September. The 9th TD Group was billeted in Champenoux and with the 602nd TD Battalion (-a Company) was held in Corps reserve. The unit was only a few miles from Nancy, so passes to that city were issued. Special Orders No. 64 previous for the promotion of the following:

Tech. Sgt. Cole to 1st/Sgt  
T/4 Chitwood to S/Sgt  
T/5 Overturf to T/4

Four days later another special order followed making Pvt. Elmer C. Spencer T/5. Official orders came from Third Army making the transfer of Col. McVickar and T/5 Bradford to the 50th Infantry official.

More promotions were announced 26 October. Special Orders 72 of that date made:

Sgt. Flemer a S/Sgt  
T/4 Harris to Sergeant  
T/5 Cummings to T/4  
T/5 Monette to T/4  
Pfc. Matthews to T/5  
Pvt. Ferrell to T/5

On 27th day of October the 610th TD Battalion was attached to the group relieving the 602nd TD Battalion. Platoons of 610th TD Battalion fired indirect fire missions reinforcing 775th TD Battalion in the vicinity of Sivry.

Promotion of two officers was announced by XII Corps while the unit was stationed in Champenoux. 1st Lt. John C. Gordon was upped to Captain and Capt. Chester Brown became major. Vocal order of Commanding General of the Third Army brought Lt. Col. Darling to the group as commanding officer.



OCTOBER 27, 1944

Second anniversary of the activation of the 9th TD Group was celebrated while the group was in Champenoux, France.

In honor of the occasion a USO troupe presented a show in the auditorium above the mess hall. After the show, Lt. Col. Bidwell read a letter of commendation from Maj. Gen. Eddy. Lt. Col. Bidwell then presented Purple Heart awards to Pvt. O'Mara and Cpl. Mueller for injuries received in Luneville.

APPROACHES TO GERMANY

On Armistice Day the group moved to Salmunac. From 1540 to 1625 hours the Group made a motor march which carried it into the smoldering ruins of the village, close upon the advancing heels of American doughboys.

On 19 November the group traveled to Baronville. When Engineers found dynamite and other explosives under one of the bridges in the village, Corps issued an order for the unit to evacuate the borough. After the group had slushed through constant showers and ploughed through mud into Gros-Tenquin, dynamite under another culvert in Baronville exploded doing considerable damage to the MSR which passed through the village. Capt. Gerald W. Zuck went to Headquarters III Corps Artillery, on 5 December with Special Order 281, Third Army as authority. On 6 December the group moved deeper and deeper into Alsace territory.

Attached to the 26th Infantry Division, the Group plunged toward the crumbling Reich when it rode into Villeneuve, across the river from Sarre-Union, on 8 December. Forward echelon of the unit moved into Oerningen to command 602nd TD Battalion ("C" Company) and 610th TD Battalion (less "B" Company) in their support of the 26th Infantry Division. "A" Company of the 610th TD Battalion worked with 104th Infantry Regiment and "C" Company supported the 328th Infantry Regiment. On 13 December the rear echelon went to Oerningen and the forward pressed into Achen. Attached to 87th Infantry Division, the group supported the attack of that unit. The attack progressed so well the forward CP moved into Gros-Roderching on 15 December. Here the 602nd TD Battalion was relieved from attachment to group. On the following day the rear echelon moved into Achen. "A" company of 610th TD Battalion was held in mobile reserve; "B" company continued to support 345th Infantry Regiment; and the 2nd platoon minus one section operated with reconnaissance elements of 87th Infantry Division. On 18 December 704th TD Battalion was attached to group but was relieved the following day. On that day three enlisted men, T/4 Mesrochers, Pfc. Holland, and Pvt. Edmond, were transferred to the 26th Infantry Division for training at Metz. The 691st TD Battalion was attached to the unit on 20th of December; but on the next day the group was relieved from attachment to 87th Infantry Division and lost the battalion when it was relieved from the Infantry Division.

## LUXEMBOURG

Von Kunstent struck and steadily pounded his wedge into the American line, answering the call for help, Patton's Third Army headed northward to pinch the bulge. On 21 December the 9th TD Group left Achen, France, and between 0730 and 1440 hours pushed forward into its third foreign nation. The group set up its CP in the Cessingen School in the village just under shadows of Luxembourg City spires.

While in Cessingen, members of the unit celebrated a white Christmas with a party in the Mess Hall. Various contributions by Officers and Enlisted Men made the party successful. Lt. Col. Darling presented Pfc. Robert Anderson with an imitation Honorable Discharge.

On the day after Christmas promotions of the following men were announced:

T/5 Ferrell to T/4  
Pvt. Berg to T/5  
Pvt. Kelley to T/5  
Pvt. Catherman to T/5  
Pvt. Omer O'Hara to T/5

Communication section members were attached to various field artillery battalions acting in the liaison and serenade-net capacity. Staff officers carried on their normal duties with the group in corps reserve. Units of this group destroyed 16 enemy tanks during the period. News summaries carried stories of the death of Col. McVickar, commanding officer of 318th Infantry Regiment and former commander of the 9th TD Group.

Lt. Col. James W. Bidwell transferred to 704th TD Battalion and assumed command of that unit per order Commanding General, XII Corps. Capt. James M. Motley was assigned to 9th TD Group from 602nd TD Battalion on Christmas Day but on the 21st of January was transferred to XII Corps Anti-tank Section. 1st Lt. Gayle Griffin was promoted to Captain 1 January 1945.

On 7 January Sgt. Holloway was presented the Bronze Star Medal by Lt. Col. Darling as representative of Major General Eddy, XII Corps Commander. The presentation was made before Sgt. Holloway left for a 30-day rest in the United States. Sgt. Holloway was awarded the bronze star for heroism on 26 August 44 when he made it possible for seven ambulances carrying wounded to pass through a mine field without the aid of a mine detector.

On various times while the unit was located in Cessingen, officers went to Paris to attend the I and M School. Capt. Edward Skiffington, Major Sprague, Capt. Griffin, and Capt. Hendrix attended the school. The organization lost Chaplain Pitts when he left for a hospital. Later he transferred to 6th Armored Division.

Attached to 2nd Cavalry group, the 9th TD Group moved to Oetrange, Luxembourg, to assume command of Task Force Head Reserves. Designated as Combat Team Darling, the staff officers of the unit carried on combat training of the 284th Engineer Combat Battalion and the 1258th Engineer Combat Battalion. Group radios and operators were attached to Field Artillery Battalions. On Jan. 26 Cpl. Walling left for ten days rest and recuperation in the United States.

On 4 February the group moved to Dalheim, with the 284th Engineer Combat Battalion and the 808th TD Battalion attached, Combat Team Darling maintained defensive positions guarding the west bank of the Moselle river and coordinating the withdrawal of XII Corps with the arrival of the 10th Armored Division. Training completed for the 284th and 1258th Engineer Combat Battalions, they reverted to control of 2nd Cavalry Group, being replaced by the 285th and 1252nd Engineer Combat battalions. Regular reconnaissance of the west bank of the Moselle river was made by reconnaissance Company of 808th TD Battalion while "B" company was prepared to fire on targets of opportunity with 4.3" guns in indirect fire positions.

While the group was at Dalheim General Patton, commander of the Third Army, visited the Command Post to inspect defensive plans of Combat Team Darling.

Promotions were announced on 10 February for the following enlisted men:

Cpl. Mueller to Sgt.  
Pfc. Peterman to Cpl.

1st Lt. Claudius S. Pierce joined the unit from 38th Replacement Battalion and was assigned duties as assistant S-1.

On 22 February the group moved to Flaxweiler where it continued to command reserve forces of Task Force Reed. Company 3 of the 10th Belgian Fusiliers was attached to CT Darling and was placed in villages throughout the area as guards. On 25 February the CP was moved to Wecker where the group was relieved from attached to 2nd Cavalry and reverted to XII Corps. While the group was located here, Pvt. Loyal T. Swindle joined the unit from 17 Replacement Depot.

Departing from Wecker on 4 March the convoy arrived at Echternach the same day. Members of the communications platoon were attached to 4th Armored Division, CCA, CCB, and 17th Armored Group to help launch spearheads deep into the Reichland. The group had a new mission, so it painted SG on helmets and became headquarters for XII Corps Security Guard.

The 9th TD Group crossed the Sauer river and weaved through Dracon's teeth near Sittburg to make Germany the number four country in which it set foot. On 9 March the unit located its CP in Messerich, Germany.

1st Lt. Claudius A. Pearce attended Army Athletic Staff School, Cite Universitaire, Boulevard Jourdan, Paris, while the unit was in messerich.

Once inside the German lines, the allied push assumed the momentum which characterized its movement in early summer. Moves again became numerous with stopping at places being short stays. Acting as headquarters for XII Corps Security Guard and with "A" Battery of 115 AAA Battalion attached, the group moved to Urmersbach, Germany on 13 March. This five-hour and fifteen-minute ride was made by motor convoy. One week later the group traveled along the banks of the terraced Moselle river and moved into Alotzkumbd. Two days later the group convoy left Alotzkumbd and moving into Gutenberg near the city of Simmern. Four days later the group, keeping the speed of early summer, trotted for five hours across the Rhineland and the Rhine River into Dornheim. The unit had hardly cleared out a GP when they received march orders, so vehicles headed toward Huesenstamm. Three field officers of the organization, Major Paul E. Mische, Major William B. Sprague, Jr., and Major Chester W. Brown, with clerks as court reporters, operated Military Government Summary Courts at this time. The unit as a whole commanded Security Guards whose duty it was to mop up the small groups of enemy personnel cut off and isolated by the rapid advance of XII Corps across its sector of Western Germany. Security Guards eliminated this potential problem to supply lines and detained suspected espionage agents.

On 3 April the Group moved to Bad Salzschlirf and as Patton's armor struck deeper into the very homeland of Germany shoved off again. Leaving Bad Salzschlirf at 1215 hours on 7 April, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company completed a motor march to Volkerhausen at 1520 hours.

The first general order of 1945 awarded Good Conduct Medals to 8 enlisted men.

1st Lt. Col. Darling was promoted to Colonel per Special Order 88, sq. STUSA, dated 29 March.

On 7 April authority was received in letter Headquarters, Third Army, for the 9th TD Group to reorganize under provisions of Table of Organization and Equipment 18-10-1, dated 31 October 1944. This new T/O & E had an authorized strength of 15 officers and 61 enlisted men. To bring the T/O up to strength several promotions were made. On 8 April Pfc. Clyde King was promoted to T/5, and on the following day the following promotions were made:

Sgt. Joseph Mueller to S/Sgt  
T/5 Clyde Kelley to T/4  
Pfc. Royce Muckabee to T/5  
Pvt. Bernard Durlakoff to T/5

From Volkerhausen the group moved to Mariefeld on 10 April. The group was designated as headquarters, XII Corps Military Government Guards. On 14 April the unit moved to Kloster Vellecof. Later the same day the group moved to Dorfler closing at 1815. Attached to the unit at this time were Battery "C", 244 Field Artillery Battalion, Battery "B", 731st Field Artillery Battalion, and Battery "A", 273rd

Field Artillery Battalion. Relieved from attached to 9th TD Group on 14 April, "C" Troop, 2nd Cavalry Squadron was replaced by 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion.

On 14 April, "B" Battery of 244 Field Artillery Battalion was relieved from attached to the group and the whole of 273rd Field Artillery Battalion was attached to act as Military Government Guards. Assigned from the 48th Reinforcement Battalion, M/Sgt Bernard Wiener, Cpl. Vincent Mactola, Pfc. James Burke, Pvt. William Keener, and Pvt. William O'Loughlin joined the unit on 18 April. On 19 April Capt. Debaki and M/5 Morris transferred to 76th Infantry Division in accordance with Special Orders 101, Rescued by Third Army. On 22 April the Group moved to Lindach near Bayreuth, scene of annual Wagnerian Festivals. While the group was here Special Order Number 22 was signed by Lt. Pierre promoting Sgt. Morris to Technical Sergeant and Pvt. Augustine Fraotta to M/5. The company moved to Kronberg on 25 April after stopping at Garmisch. Cpl. Clyde McDowell joined the group from the 48th Reinforcement Battalion.

On 3 May the group moved to Regen, Bavaria. The move which took the unit across the Danube River was made between 0900 and 1530 hours. In an intelligence annex to the After Enemy Action Report, the group announced that in the execution of its mission as XII Corps Military Government Guard, the organization had taken into custody 2,379 prisoners of war and detained for C.I.O. investigation numerous enemy agents. M/Sgt Stephen G. Smith went to the United States for rest and recuperation.

The war in Europe ended.

In a retreat ceremony held in front of the command post in Regen T/4 Gannon was awarded the bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement as radio operator. The award was made by Col. Darling. The following day Sgt. Gannon left for the states under provisions of the Redeployment Point System. 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion was relieved from its attachment to the group on 14 May and on 17 May the 273rd Field Artillery Battalion left group control and was attached to 183rd Field Artillery Group.

Technical Sergeant Frank Douglas was appointed Master Sergeant on May 22, 1945. On May 25 the group moved to its permanent area, Finance Building Number 4, Landshuter Strasse, Regensburg, Bavaria. On May 28 Corporal McDowell and Pvt. O'Loughlin were awarded Good Conduct medals.

At retreat ceremonies, 1 June, Bronze Stars were presented to the following officers and men by Col. Darling:

Meritorious Service: Major Niehe, M/Sgt Rauscher, M/Sgt Douglas, S/Sgt Fiedor, T/4 Overturf, T/5 Prutzman, Pfc. Jessie Green, and T/5 Ward.

Capt. Griffin received the bronze Star for heroic action. Capt. Neese was awarded the Silver Star.

A week later bronze Stars were awarded to T/4 Cummings and 1st/Sgt Cole. In special retreat ceremonies, T/5 Morrison received his bronze Star award before leaving for the States under the Redeployment Point System.

The first two weeks of June brought many changes in personnel of the 9th TD Group. 2nd Lt. John A. Lamb and 2nd Lt. Dwight A. Howland transferred from 17th Reinforcement Depot. Pfc. Jack Anderson and Pfc. John Ward were promoted to T/5. Cpl. Petermann and T/5 Harper were upped to S/4. Capt. Hendrix received his majority on 5 June by Special Order 15, sq., Third Army. Cpl. Ben Walling and Sgt. Holloway rejoined the unit after recuperating and resting at their homes in the United States. Capt. Russell G. Blixt joined the group as assistant S-4 from 705th TD Battalion. Pfc. Garth F. Hughes, Pvt. Franklin Kissinger, Pvt. Chester Krankowicz, and Pvt. John Fick came to the unit on 9 June from 17th Reinforcement Depot. On 10th June T/5 Hopkins, Pvt. Westburg, and Pfc. Lowrey were assigned to the organization from 648th TD Battalion.

"D" Troop, 25th Cavalry Squadron was relieved from attached to the organization on 7 June. Major Brown transferred to 17th Armored Group and Pfc. Kessler went to 4th Armored Division for redeployment. Pfc. Penio transferred to the group from the 704th TD Battalion. T/5 Andrew Walling went to Headquarters, XII Corps for redeployment on 16 June. On 17 June T/5 Charles Catherman went to 4th Armored Division for redeployment. Major Niehe flew to Paris on 18 June to take up duties in the office of Chief Quartermaster, ETOUSA.

Major Sprague was promoted to Lt. Colonel on 20 June by General Order No. 165, Third Army. 1st Lt. James Stewart was promoted to Captain on the same order.

Pfc. Frederick L. Curds transferred to the group from 704th TD Battalion on 23 June. Pfc. William O'Loughlin went to Headquarters, United Kingdom Base, for duty with General Purchasing Agent on 23 June. T/4 Charles Cummings was promoted to S/Sgt per Special Order No. 41, dated 23 June. On 29 June Pvt. John Fick, Pvt. Franklin Kissinger, and Pvt. Chester Krankowicz were promoted to Pfc by company order.

On 30 June 1945 the advanced party of Major Hendrix, Pfc. Jessie Green, and Pfc. Oriana Hankins left Regensburg for the Assembly Area Command's Camp Chicago, France.

On July 1 M/Sgt Robert Butta, M/Sgt Gaucher, S/Sgt Mueller, T/5 O'Hara and T/5 Shelton were transferred to 648th TD Battalion in the weeding out of "80-pointers" before the unit went to the states. T/4 Luavic Uherek, T/5 John Hayes, Cpl. Felix Laroche, Pfc. Eugene Dorn, and Pfc. Odis Stone came into the group from the 648th TD Battalion. On the same date, 2nd Lt. John Fielden was assigned from 773rd TD Battalion.

1st Lt. Arthur M. Arisak was assigned from the 610th TD Battalion on 2 July. Capt. Bernard Piotrowski replaced Capt. Wallace Reese who transferred to Iowa Field Hospital.

On 2 July the following promotions were announced:

S/Sgt Marvin B. Chitwood to M/Sgt  
Tec 4 George F. Peterman to T/Sgt  
Sgt. John B. Holloway to S/Sgt  
Tec 4 Aloysius Dombrowski to S/Sgt  
Tec 4 Fred M. Harper to S/Sgt

T/5 Jack Anderson to Sgt  
T/5 John Melster to T/4  
T/5 Edwin Berg to T/4  
Pfc. Orion Hawkins to T/5

Lt. Fielden was assigned as assistant S-3 and Lt. Krisak became assistant S-4 on the group staff.

On 3 July the group moved from Regensburg to the vicinity of Aschaffenburg, Germany enroute to Camp Chicago. Enroute to the assembly area the group spent the second night in Cœssingen, Luxembourg. On 5 July the convoy arrived at Camp Chicago, Loucy, France, and made preparation for movement to the port of embarkation.

While in Camp Chicago, 2nd Lt. Lamb and 2nd Lt. Howland were promoted to 1st Lt. per SO 194, Hq. U.S. Forces, ETO, dated 12 July 1945. 1st Lt. Pierce was promoted to Captain per SO 197, Hq. U.S. Forces, ETO, dated 16 July 1945.

On the morning of 23 July the group moved by motor convoy to Cuperly, France, and departed by rail en route to Camp Top Hat, Antwerp, Belgium. The unit arrived at Camp Top Hat on 24 July 1945. 2nd Lt. Fielden received his promotion to 1st Lt. per SO 195, Hq. Third Army, 16 July 1945.

On 26 July the group moved to Antwerp Port of Embarkation and boarded SS Wm. S. Young. During the voyage Col. Darling was troop commander. Capt. Skiffington and members of the 9th TD Group acted as special service for the troops on board. Capt. Pierce was ship's adjutant.

The ship docked at Hampton Roads, Virginia on 9 August and the unit traveled by motor convoy to Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia from which men and officers were sent to separation for recuperation leaves and furloughs.

Advanced detail arrived at North Camp Hood, Texas, assembly area of the group on 12 September. Bulk of the unit arrived at the assembly area between 16 September and 20 September.