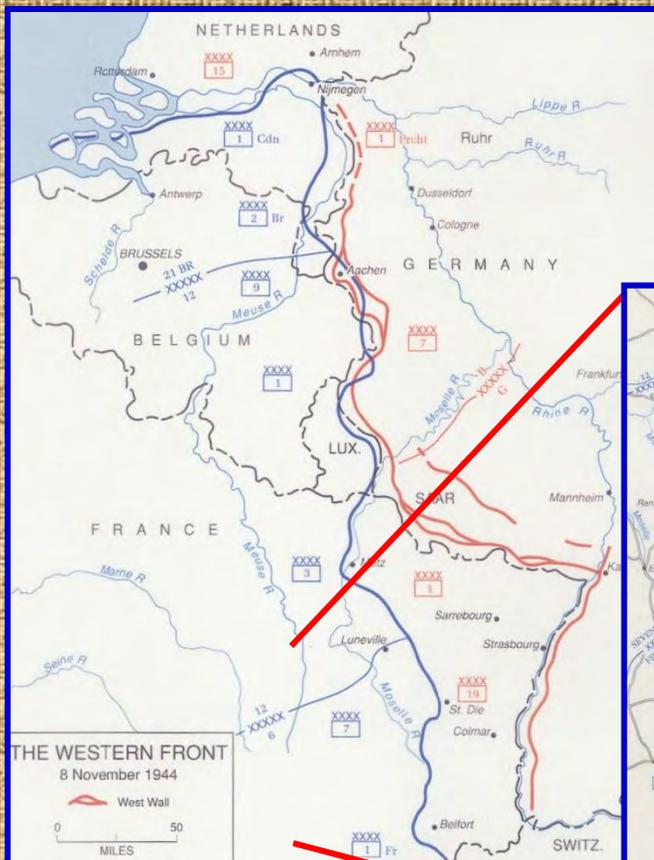


BATTLEBOOK

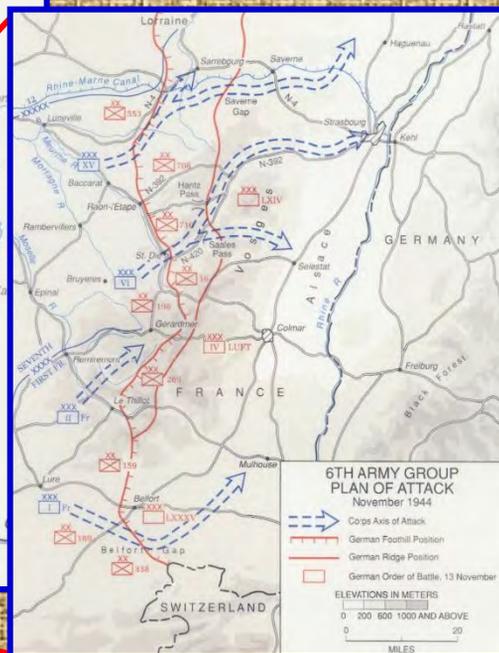
**Commanding General,
United States Army
Europe & Seventh Army**



Senior Leader Staff Ride



Alsace



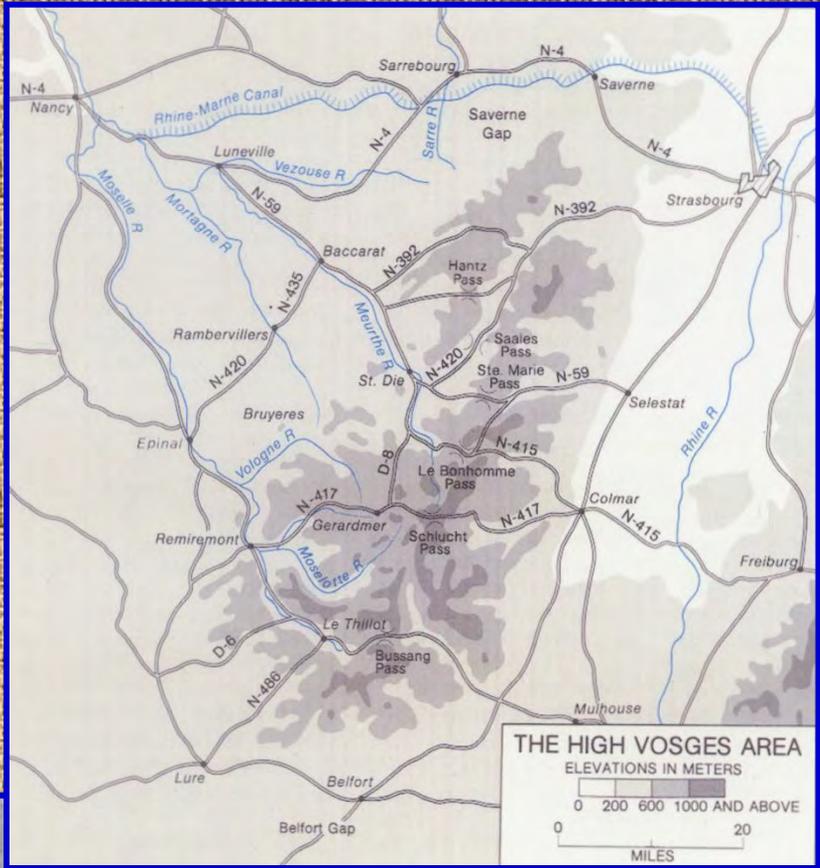
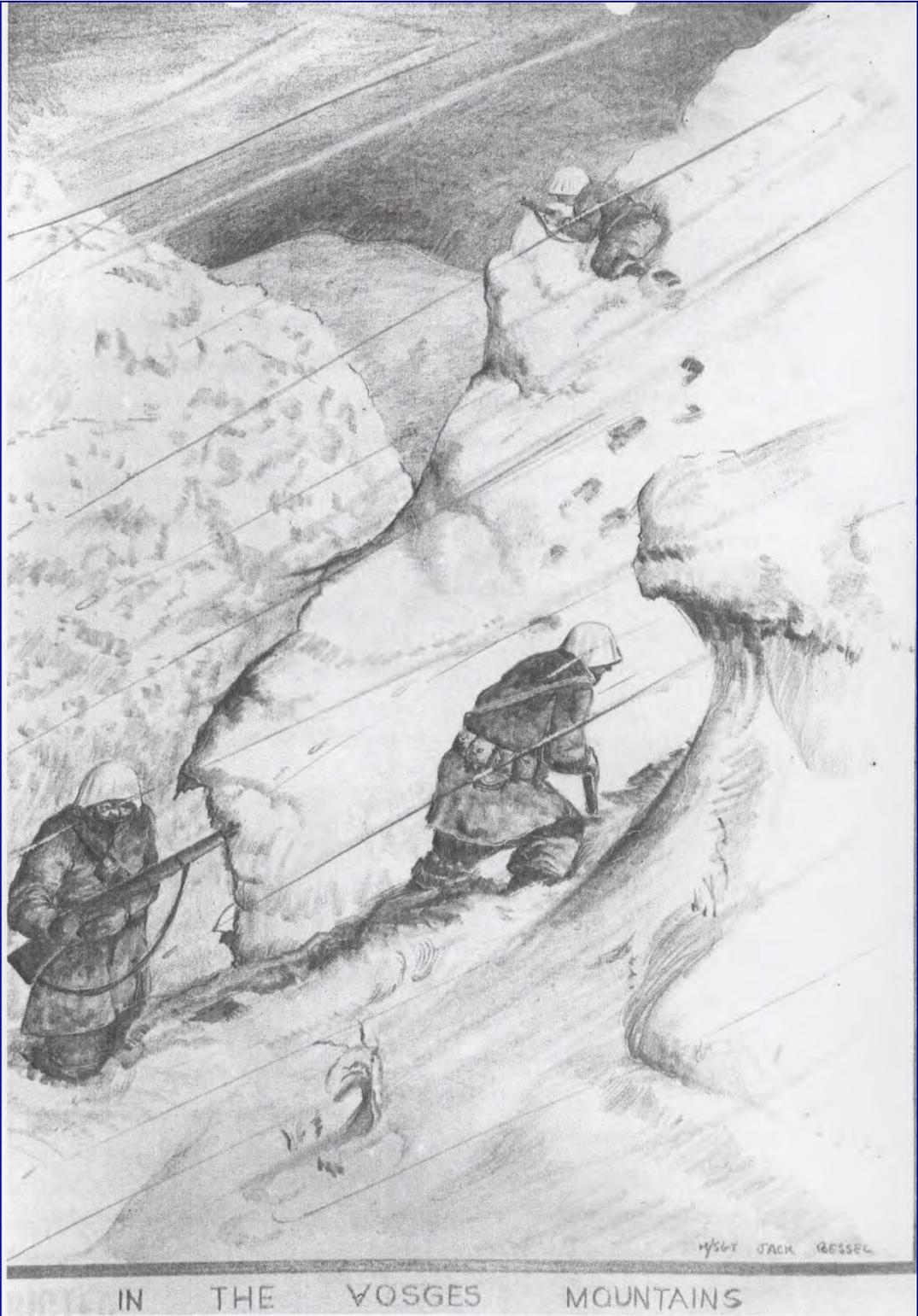


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Tab A

Concept & Objectives



French & US Officers Confer

Purpose:

To provide a leadership case study from the Allied and German experiences by examining the Fall-Winter 1944-'45 Alsace Campaign as part of the Commanding General's professional development program.

Concept:

This Staff Ride will begin with an evening seminar introducing the main themes we will explore together. The discussion will focus at the intersection of the strategic and operational levels of war. Key considerations are the continuing challenges of senior leadership – planning, organizing, and integrating complex operations; training and equipping individuals and units; building, leading, and rebuilding effective teams; the constant need for resolute moral leadership under stress; the meshing of ideas and technology; and the inculcation of the qualities essential to “fighting through”.

Using the Hotel l'Europe in Colmar, France, as a base of operations, we will travel by bus each day to various “stands”, and from our study and initial explorations of “war on the map” determine what actually happened on the ground. We will follow LTG Jacob Devers' Sixth Army Group in their drive through the Vosges Mountains into the Rhine River valley of Alsace in the final push to extricate the German Army from this region of France. We will track, in turn, operations of the Seventh US Army through the Vosges to the capture of Strasbourg, and First French Army's smashing through the Belfort Gap to be “First to the Rhine”. We will conclude the ride with the difficult combined fight to reduce the Colmar Pocket. Each stand has been carefully chosen to illustrate a key objective, to emphasize the difficult challenges faced by both sides, to track the decisions of the senior leaders and to follow the fight on the ground. Throughout the Staff Ride we will be emphasizing the role of the leader to shape the future, to build and sustain teams, to manage process, and to nurture learning.

We will conclude each day with a seminar highlighting observations and insights of the day, discussing selected additional topics, and setting the stage for the following day. The Commanding General will lead an After Action Review at our last stop in Colmar.

Objectives:

This rich and engaging battlefield metaphor will provide a perfect setting for the USAREUR Senior Leader Team to study, discuss, and reflect on:

- Assessing the situation; the role of strategic and operational leadership in battle,
- Dealing with the unexpected; decision making under uncertainty,
- Leadership, unit cohesion, and morale,
- Joint and Combined planning and operations,
- Innovation; initiative, imagination and improvisation—American ingenuity at work,
- Fighting through; qualities of leadership and adaptability,
- Generalship; Identifying, Recognizing, Shaping, and Transforming.

Tab B

Schedule of Events



SOLDIER AND PACK MULE MAKE THEIR WAY IN HEAVY SNOWFALL, *Vosges*, 1944.

We provide a schedule of events as a guide for our activities, but only as a general guide. The weather and other local conditions as well as the developing needs of the group to pursue particular issues may influence us to modify this plan.

Tuesday, 25 September

- 1500- Participants arrive by air, check in to *Hotel l'Europe*
- 1600-1700 Commanding General's Welcome
- 1700-1900 Introductory Seminar
- 1900- Dinner & Social Time

Wednesday, 26 September

- 0700-0745 Breakfast in hotel
- 0800-1200 Travel by bus, stopping at several stands examining Seventh US Army's fight into the *Haut Vosges* at the onset of the Alsace Campaign
- 1200-1300 Lunch at the *Lion d'Or Restaurant* in La Petite Pierre
- 1300-1600 Stop at several more stands following Seventh Army's breakthrough at the Saverne Gap culminating in the capture of Strasbourg
- 1600-1630 Return to hotel
- 1730-1830 Second Seminar
- 1900- Dinner & Social Time

Thursday, 27 September

- 0700-0745 Breakfast in hotel
- 0800-1200 Travel by bus, stopping at stands examining First French Army's forcing the Belfort Gap into the Rhine River plain
- 1200-1300 Picnic lunch at the *152d Infanterie Regiment* Monument west of Seppois
- 1300-1600 Stop at several more stands tracking First Army's fight to the banks of the Rhine
- 1600-1630 Return to hotel
- 1730-1830 Third Seminar
- 1900- Dinner & Social Time

Friday, 28 September

- 0700-0745 Breakfast in hotel, check out
- 0800-1230 Travel by bus to stands reviewing the fight to reduce the Colmar Pocket
- 1230-1400 Lunch at the *Hotel l'Europe* in Colmar
- 1400-1500 AAR & Command Seminar
- 1600- Depart by air

Tab C

World War II Chronology

"But war is a ruthless taskmaster, demanding success regardless of confusion, shortness of time, and paucity of tools. Exact justice for the individual and a careful consideration of his rights is impossible. One man sacrifices his life on the battlefield and another sacrifices his reputation elsewhere, both in the same cause. The hurly burly of the conflict does not permit commanders to draw fine distinctions. To succeed, they must demand results, close their ears to excuses, and drive subordinates beyond what would ordinarily be considered the limit of human capacity. Wars are won by the side that accomplishes the impossible. Battles are decided in favor of troops whose bravery, fortitude, and especially, whose endurance surpasses that of the enemy's: the army with the higher breaking point wins."

General George Marshall

Date	Global Events	Western Front	Mediterranean	Eastern Front	Southwest Pacific	Central Pacific	China/Burma/India
1939							↑
Sep	UK & FR declare war on GE			GE & USSR invade, divide Poland			Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945)
	British Army deploys to France			Russo-Finish War begins			↓
1940							
Apr	Churchill becomes Prime Minister	GE occupies Denmark, invades Norway					
May		GE invades NL, BE, FR		USSR occupies disputed Romanian territory			
Jun		FR falls; British Army evacuated from Dunkerque	Italy declares war on UK, FR				
Jul		GE begins air attacks against UK	British Fleet attacks IT Fleet				
Aug		Battle of Britain	Italy invades Egypt from Libya				
Sep		↓			JA invades Indo-China		
Oct	GE, IT, JA form Axis Pact		IT invades Greece	GE troops enter Romania to protect oil fields			
Nov	HU, RO join Axis Pact		UK attacks IT fleet at Trianto				
Dec			GE reinforces IT in Greece				
			British open drive in North Africa				

Date	Global Events	Western Front	Mediterranean	Eastern Front	Southwest Pacific	Central Pacific	China/Burma/ India
1941							
Mar	US passes Lend-Lease						
Apr	Russo-JA non-aggression pact		GE invades Yugoslavia				
			BEF withdrawn from GR				
			GE reinf IT in North Africa; Rommel's 1 st Offensive				
May			GE attacks Crete				
Jun				GE invades USSR			
Jul	US declares oil embargo vs JA						
Sep		GE torpedo atk on USS Green opens undeclared war in North Atlantic					
Oct	Lend-Lease extended to USSR						
Dec	GE, IT declare war on US			German offensive stopped before Moscow	JA Atks Philippines	JA Atks Pearl Harbor	JA alliance with Thailand
	Anglo-Amer Conf (Arcadia)		British drive for Tobruk	Leningrad besieged			
1942							
Jan	UN declaration signed by 26 nations		Rommel's 2d Offensive begins	Soviet Winter Offensive makes limited gains	US & Filipino defenders withdraw to Bataan		
	Combined Chiefs of Staff activated				JA captures Br N. Borneo, Invades Solomons		
Feb					Singapore surrenders		JA occupies Burma
					Gen MacArthur reaches Australia		
Mar					Surrender of Bataan		
Apr						Doolittle Raid (on Tokyo)	
May					US surrender in Philippines		
					Battle of Coral Sea		

Date (1942)	Global Events	Western Front	Mediterranean	Eastern Front	Southwest Pacific	Central Pacific	China/Burma/India
Jun			Rommel opens drive into Egypt	GE Summer Offensive in southwest USSR		Battle of Midway	
			Tobruk falls to Axis				
Jul	BR-US decision to invade N. Africa			GE captures Sevastopol	JA invades New Guinea		
Aug		Allies raid Dieppe, France			US landings on Guadalcanal		
Sep				Battle of Stalingrad begins			
Oct			BR attack at El Alamein		US Naval victory in Solomon Islands		
Nov			Allied landings at Casablanca, Oran, Algiers		Buna-Gona		
		GE moves into unoccupied FR	French resistance in N. Africa ends				
1943							
Jan	Allied Conference at Casablanca	US Air Force joins bombardment of GE		Russian Leningrad Offensive			
Feb			Rommel breaks through Kasserine Pass, Tunisia	Battle of Stalingrad ends Russian Campaign in Ukraine	JA resistance ends on Guadalcanal		
				Siege of Leningrad lifted			
Mar			Allied counteroffensive	GE counteroffensive			
May	Trident Conference in Washington		Axis forces in N Africa surrender		Allies attack New Guinea		
Jul			Allies invade Sicily				
Aug	Quadrant Conference in Quebec			GE abandon Kharkov			
	Fall of Mussolini		Allied victory in Sicily				
Sep			GE reinforces IT				
Oct	IT declares war on GE		Allied landings in Salerno		Australian victory at Finschhafen, New Guinea		Stillwell's Burma Campaign begins

Date (1943)	Global Events	Western Front	Mediterranean	Eastern Front	Southwest Pacific	Central Pacific	China/Burma/India
Nov	Cairo-Teheran Conferences. UN Relief and Rehabilitation Administration established		Winter Line Campaign		Allies invade Bougainville & Tarawa		
Dec				Soviets begin Winter Offensive			
1944							
Jan			Landings at Anzio	Soviet offensive enters Estonia			
			Unsuccessful Allied attack at Rapido River (IT)				
Feb		Allied bombing focuses on GE aircraft production				Invasion of Marshall Islands (Kwajalein)	
Mar			Attack on Cassino	Soviets drive into Ukraine	Rabaul falls	Attacks on Truk in Caroline Islands	Merrill's Marauders advance into Hukwang Valley
					Invasion of Admiralty Islands		Japanese Imphal-Kohima Offensive
Apr	UN Organization for Educational and Cultural Reconstruction formed	Strategic bombing priorities shift to support Normandy Invasion	Allies attack Gustav line in IT	Odessa retaken by Soviets	Allied landings in New Guinea		Myitkina airfield captured by Allies
Jun		Normandy Invaded	Rome liberated	Major Soviet offensive in Central Region and in Finland	JA fleet loses heavily in Battle of Philippine Sea	Strategic bombing campaign against Japan begins	
		GE launches first V weapons against UK					
Jul	UN Monetary and Financial Conference (Bretton Woods); creates IMF and World Bank	Breakout from Normandy Beachhead	Florence liberated	Warsaw uprising		Marianas invaded	Slim's Burma Offensive begins

Date (1944)	Global Events	Western Front	Mediterranean	Eastern Front	Southwest Pacific	Central Pacific	China/Burma/India
Aug		Allies rush for Seine River Crossings	Allies land in Southern France	Romania surrenders		Guam liberated	JA invaders driven back from Indian frontier
				Soviets reach East Prussia			
Sep	UNRRA allocated \$50m to IT -- first commitment to former enemy	Brussels liberated Market Garden		Soviets declare war on Bulgaria		Landings in Caroline Islands	
	OCTAGON Conference (Quebec)	German defense of German soil begins					
Oct	Dumbarton Oaks lays permanent UN groundwork	Forces from Southern France link up with Forces from Normandy		Soviets reach Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and Poland	Leyte Invasion; JA Fleet suffers major losses		Begin final major offensive
		Allied Offensives bog down					
Nov						Saipan airfields open for Allied bombing campaign	
Dec		GE counteroffensive Battle of the Bulge					

Date	Global Events	Western Front	Mediterranean	Eastern Front	Southwest Pacific	Central Pacific	China/Burma/India
1945							
Jan				Soviet Winter Offensive liberates Warsaw	US landings on Luzon		
Feb	Yalta Conference	Allies defeat Colmar pocket; end Battle of the Bulge	5th Army offensive in northern IT	Budapest liberated	Battle for Manila begins	Landings on Iwo Jima	
Mar		US 9th Army drives to Rhine; 9 th Arm Div crosses at Remagen		Soviets capture Danzig	Manila liberated		
		Köln falls		Soviets advance in Czech, Hungary, Austria	Landings on Mindanao		
Apr	Roosevelt dies; Truman US President	US, UK forces cross Rhine in force	5th Army crosses Po River	GE resistance in East Prussia ends			
	San Francisco conference drafts UN Charter	US units reach Elbe River		Vienna falls			
May	V-E Day	War ends	War ends	Soviets capture Berlin; war ends	Resistance ends on Mindanao	Resistance ends on Okinawa	British capture Rangoon
Jul	Potsdam Conference					Carrier based planes join attack against Japan	
	Clement Atlee replaces Churchill						
Aug	Atomic bombing of Japan						
Sep	Japanese surrender accepted				war ends	war ends	war ends

Tab D

World War II Allied Conferences



"Never in history was there a coalition like that of our enemies, composed of such heterogeneous elements with such divergent aims... Even now these states are at loggerheads, and, if we can deliver a few more heavy blows, then this artificially bolstered common front may suddenly collapse with a gigantic clap of thunder."

Adolf Hitler

(upon ordering the attack through the Ardennes)

The first involvement of the United States in the wartime conferences between the Allied nations opposing the Axis powers actually occurred before the nation formally entered World War II. In August 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met secretly and devised an eight-point statement of war aims known as the Atlantic Charter, which included a pledge that the Allies would not accept territorial changes resulting from the war in Europe.

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the wartime conferences focused on establishing a second front. At Casablanca in January 1943, Roosevelt and Churchill agreed to fight until the Axis powers surrendered unconditionally. In a November 1943 meeting in Egypt with Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek, Roosevelt and Churchill agreed to a pre-eminent role for China in postwar Asia. The next major wartime conference included Roosevelt, Churchill, and the leader of the Soviet Union, Josef Stalin. Meeting at Tehran following the Cairo Conference, the "Big Three" secured confirmation on the launching of the cross-channel invasion and a promise from Stalin that the Soviet Union would eventually enter the war against Japan.

In 1944, conferences at Bretton Woods and Dumbarton Oaks created the framework for international cooperation in the postwar world. In February 1945, the "Big Three" met at the former Russian czar's summer palace in the Crimea. Yalta was the most important and by far the most controversial of the wartime meetings. Recognizing the strong position that the Soviet Army possessed on the ground, Churchill and an ailing Roosevelt agreed to a number of compromises with Stalin that allowed Soviet hegemony to remain in Poland and other Eastern European countries, granted territorial concessions to the Soviet Union, and outlined punitive measures against Germany, including an occupation and reparations in principle. Stalin did guarantee that the Soviet Union would declare war on Japan within six months.

The last meeting of the "Big Three" occurred at Potsdam in July 1945, where the tension that would erupt into the cold war was evident. Despite the end of the war in Europe and the revelation of the existence of the atomic bomb to the Allies, neither President Harry Truman, Roosevelt's successor, nor Clement Attlee, who mid-way through the conference replaced Churchill, could come to agreement with Stalin on any but the most minor issues. The most significant agreement was the issuance of the Potsdam Declaration to Japan demanding an immediate and unconditional surrender and threatening Japan with destruction if they did not comply. With the Axis forces defeated, the wartime alliance soon devolved into suspicion and bitterness on both sides.

World War II Conferences & Treaties

Conference /Treaty	Date	Participants	Highlights
Molotov-Ribbentrop Treaty	August 23, 1939	Germany, Soviet Union	Hitler and Stalin sign non-aggression pact which meant the Soviets would not intervene if Poland were invaded. Hitler later invaded Russia (June 22, 1941).
Atlantic Conference	August 1941	Great Britain, US	FDR and Churchill approve the Atlantic Charter that supported self-determination, a new permanent system of general security (a new League of Nations), and the right of people to regain governments abolished by dictators.
Moscow Conference	September-October 1941	Great Britain, US, Soviet Union	Allied aid to Soviet Union systematized.
Washington Conference (ARCADIA)	December 1941-January 1942	Great Britain, US	Agreement to follow Churchill's "Europe First" strategy; Declaration of the United Nations.
Washington (2d) Conference	June 1942	Great Britain, US	Agreed to give higher priority to peripheral strategy over cross-channel invasion of Europe; agreed to share as "equal partners" in A-bomb research.
Casablanca Conference (SYMBOL)	January 1943	Great Britain, US	FDR and Churchill agree to step up Pacific war, invade Sicily, increase pressure on Italy and insist on an unconditional surrender of Germany.

Washington Conference (TRIDENT)	May 1943	Great Britain, US	Plans for invasion of Italy, stepped-up Pacific war, increased air attacks on Germany.
Quebec Conference (QUADRANT)	August 1943	Great Britain, US	D-Day Set for May 1, 1944; Southeast Asia command reorganized for war on Japan; Gilberts and Marshalls set as first objectives in central Pacific offensive.
Moscow Conference	October 1943	Great Britain, US, Soviet Union, China	Tentative plans for cooperation in postwar Europe; Joint 4-power declaration includes China; Chiang-Kai-shek invited to a meeting at Cairo.
Cairo Conference (SEXTANT)	November 1943	Great Britain, US, Soviet Union, China	Agreement on military operations in China against Japanese; promise of postwar return of Manchuria to China and of freedom for Korea.
Teheran Conference (EUREKA)	November 1943	Great Britain, US, Soviet Union	Plans for two-front war against Germany, for later Russian participation in war against Japan, and for postwar cooperation.
Cairo (2d) Conference	December 1943	Great Britain, US, Turkey	Anakim postponed, Ike command.
Bretton Woods	July 1944	Delegates of 44 nations	Establishment of International Monetary Fund and Bank.
Dumbarton Oaks	August 1944	Great Britain, US, Soviet Union, China	Agreement on establishment of U.N., disagreement on veto in Security Council.

Quebec (2d) Conference (OCTAGON)	September 1944	Great Britain, US	Broad plans for global war; FDR agreed to Churchill plan for Greece and Istrian attack, due to fear of Russia in Balkans; FDR agreed to continue Lend-Lease to rebuild Britain's economy; tentative agreement on Morgenthau Plan for postwar Germany; FDR still unwilling to recognize De Gaulle.
Yalta Conference (ARGONAUT)	February 1945	Great Britain, US, Soviet Union	Plans for dealing with defeat of Germany; Stalin agreed that Poland would have free elections and that the Soviets would attack Japan within three months of the collapse of Germany. Soviets receive territory in Manchuria and several islands.
San Francisco Conference	April 22, 1945	Delegates of 46 nations	United Nations Charter approved establishing a Security Council with veto power for the Big Five (US, Great Britain, France, China, and Soviet Union) and a General Assembly.
Potsdam Conference (TERMINAL)	July – August 1945	US, Great Britain, Soviet Union	Pres. Truman met with Stalin and Churchill (Attlee after British election) and agreed that Japan must surrender or risk destruction; Atomic bomb successfully tested on July 16 and then dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945; agreement on principles governing treatment of Germany.

Tab E

Alsace Campaign Chronology

"But war is a ruthless taskmaster, demanding success regardless of confusion, shortness of time, and paucity of tools. Exact justice for the individual and a careful consideration of his rights is impossible. One man sacrifices his life on the battlefield and another sacrifices his reputation elsewhere, both in the same cause. The hurly burly of the conflict does not permit commanders to draw fine distinctions. To succeed, they must demand results, close their ears to excuses, and drive subordinates beyond what would ordinarily be considered the limit of human capacity. Wars are won by the side that accomplishes the impossible. Battles are decided in favor of troops whose bravery, fortitude, and especially, whose endurance surpasses that of the enemy's: the army with the higher breaking point wins."

General George Marshall

1944

- June 6 - Operation Overlord, Allied forces invade French coast in Normandy.
- **July 3 - Field Marshall Günther von Kluge replaces Gerd von Runstedt as CINC-West.**
- July 25 - Operation Cobra, US First Army breaks out of coastal enclave.
- August 1 - HQ, 12th Army Group activated, LTG Bradley commander; LTG Hodges assumes command US FIRST Army, (V, VII & XIX Corps); US THIRD Army activated, LTG Patton commander, (VIII, XII, XX, & XV Corps).
- August 15 - US VI Corps-MG Truscott lands in southern France in Operation Anvil-Dragoon.
- August 16 - US SEVENTH Army CP, LTG Patch is established ashore. French Army B (II Corps) begins landing over VI corps beaches.
- **17 August - Field Marshall Model replaces von Kluge as Commander OB West.**
- 23 August - French II Corps reaches Toulon and Marseille.
- **28 August – Most German NINETEENTH Army forces escape “Montelimar trap”. Garrisons of Toulon and Marseille surrender, ports are largely undamaged.**
- 31 August - HQ 6th Army Group, LTG Devers, comes ashore. VI Corps speeds up the Rhone valley towards Lyon. *French Army B, GEN de Lattre de Tassigny, assumes command of I & II Fr Corps.*
- 1 September - GEN Eisenhower (SHAEP) assumes direct command of 12th Army Group from GEN Montgomery. VI closes on Lyon.
- 2 September – *LTG de Monsabert takes command of Fr. II Corps, 1st Fr. AD and 1st Fr. ID.*
- 3 September – *Fr. II Corps seizes Villefranche, make contact with “OVERLORD” forces.*
- **4 September – Field Marshall von Runstedt reappointed CINC West.**
- 5 September - HQ, US Ninth Army, LTG Simpson, activated. Assumes command of VIII Corps and mission to secure Brittany Peninsula and port of Brest.
- 6 September - *Fr. I Corps, GEN Bethouart commanding, becomes operational. Units are 3 Algerian ID, 9th Colonial ID, & 2nd Moroccan ID.*
- 10 September – French II Corps makes contact with US Third Army. GEN Bradley orders attack on 14 Sept thru West Wall: First Army seize crossing over the Rhine Cologne-Bonn-Coblenz; Third Army at Mannheim. Plans are aborted because of supply difficulties. V Corps arrives line Regné-Bastogne-Longvilly-Wiltz-Selagne-Arlon-Luxemburg City.
- 11 September - Recon patrol of 5th AD makes first entry into Germany.
- 12 September - V Corps' 4th ID takes St. Vith. 28th ID crosses Our River and takes Sevenig and positions west of Grosskampengerg.
- 13 September – US VII Corps penetrates West Wall vic. Roetgen and Rott, begins fight to isolate Aachen.

- 14 September – US 9th ID begins fighting in Huertgen Forest.
- 15 September - 6th Army Group operational at 0001, made subordinate to SHAEF. *French Army B made autonomous and on par with US Seventh Army. French II Corps directed advance east to left of I Corps, in center of 6th Army Group line.*
- 16 September - **Hitler makes initial decision to conduct counteroffensive, directs planning to begin with 1 November as attack date.**
- 17 September - Operations Market and Garden begin; goal is to secure route across the Rhine River. 4th ID V Corps attempts to take Schnee Eifel and Brandscheid.
- 19 September – *French Army B is renamed French FIRST Army. LTG Devers convenes commanders' conference at Lyon to plan future operations.*
- 20 September – VI commander LTG Truscott issues orders cross Moselle R, assault Vosges to open way to Alsatian Plain and the Rhine R. 45th ID to take Saverne Gap; 36th ID St. Die and Saales Gap; 3RD ID towards Gerardmer and Schlucht Pass. *Fr. FIRST Army holds sector to right of SEVENTH Army, II Corps in new sector on left of I Corps.*
- 21 September – **GEN Blaskowitz replaced as commander Army Group "G" with LTG Hermann Balck.** VI Corps begins crossing the Moselle R. Fr. II Corps begins movement to contact.
- 22 September - Supply difficulties force GEN Eisenhower to make Antwerp principle objective for Allied Forces. All other attacks are to be limited. 45th ID Continues to expand bridgehead over Moselle.
- 23 September - *GEN de Lattre revises orders to I Corps for attack towards Belfort due to SEVENTH Army being main attack.*
- 25 September – **GnL Wiese, Cdr 19th Army orders 198th ID counterattack against US 36th ID. Begins at 1200 and bends back lines of US 142 and 141 IRs, but fails reach Moselle. Called off next day.** US VI Corps' 45th ID breaks out of Epinal bridgehead, and 3rd ID establishes bridgehead over Moselle S of Remiremont. *Fr. II Corps 1st AD and 1st ID begin limited attack.*
- 26 September - US Ninth Army assigned sector on south of First Army, VIII Corps begins movement from Brest. **Wiese orders withdrawal of LXVI and 716th ID of LXIV corps to line Rambervillers-Grand Villers-St Ame.**
- 29 September – XV Corps passed to Seventh Army. **Balck and von Manteuffel (FIFTH Panzer Armee) reorganize FIFTH PzA, move boundary 11 miles S of Rambervillers.**
- 4 October - VIII Corps relieves V Corps in Ardennes. V Corps shifts left towards Monshau-Losheim. XV and VI corps attacks continue slowly.
- 6 October - MG Gerow returns from testifying in Washington, resumes command V Corps.
- 15 October – Newly arrived 9th AD is assigned to VIII for training.
- 14 October – *Fr. 3rd Algerian takes Cornimont, too weakened to continue offensive.*
- 16 October – **FIFTH PzA passed to AG "B" control, leaving AG "G" with only FIRST and NINETEENTH Armies.**

- 17 October – *French II Corps (1st AD and 3rd Algerian) attacking German defenses in Vosges suffer such high casualties offensive is called off. GEN De Lattre decides attack I Corps area towards Belfort.*
- 18 October - GEN Eisenhower issues plan for offensive. 21st Army group priority is open Antwerp. 12th Army group is to cross Rhine vic. Cologne between 1-5 November.
- 20 October– 100th and 103rd IDs arrive at Marseille.
- 21 October - GEN Bradley orders US First and Ninth Armies attack 5 November; US Third Army attack 10 November. **Aachen garrison surrenders.**
- 22 October - US Ninth Army reassigned sector north of US First Army with XIX Corps.
- 23 October – GEN Eisenhower directs LTG Devers and 6th AG to protect S flank of 12th AG in coming offensive.
- 24 October – 44th ID relieves 79th ID, exhausted after clearing the Parroy forest. *GEN de Lattre issues Operation INDEPENDENCE, I Corps attack towards Belfort. Approved on 27 Oct by LTG Devers, it will coincide with general November offensives.*
- 25 October –MG Brooks replace LTG Truscott at VI Corps.
- 26 October – 3rd ID attacks towards St. Die. 36th ID relieves isolated 141st IR.
- **28 October – HQ, LVIII PzK, FIRST Army, sent to AG “B”. LXIV boundary moved N.** LOI for reduction of Germans west of Rhine and capture of Strasbourg issued by 6th AG.
- **31 October – Balck approves withdrawal to line Montigny-Vacqueville-Bertrichamps as realizes unable hold either assigned line. Units will be unable to hold in face of Allied attacks.** Fr. 2nd AD launches surprise drive thru Montigny and Merviller.
- 1 November – XV – Fr 2 AD completes capture Baccarat, drives to R. Blette at Herbeville and Migneville. 117th Cav takes Bertrichamps. VI – 100 ID arrives in sector to relieve 45th ID. 15 IR takes La Bourgonce NW of St. Die. **Balck reluctantly approves further withdrawal to Weststellung positions in the Vosges Foothills Position. To be completed by 15 November, this is a major redeployment and includes deliberate scorched earth tactics.**
- 2 November – US First Army begins new offensive in Hürtgen. Elements of VI begin relieve Fr. 2 AD (XV) in XV sector. 100 ID begins relief 45th ID, 399 IR replacing 179th IR in line. 15th IR takes Nompattelize w/o opposition, enemy keeps La Salle.
- 3 November – *Fr FIRST Army, II Corps, 3rd Algerian Div attacks towards Gerardmer. Combined with Fr. Deception measures, Balck convinced that Fr. FIRST Army main attack is across Vosges.*
- 4 November – 3rd ID continues to clear Foret de Mortagne west of St Die. La Salle now clear. 36th ID clearing Foret Domaniale de Champ, pushes towards Corcieux.
- 5 November – 7Army directive directs reduction enemy W of Rhine, & capture Strasbourg. XV to attack on D-Day taking Saarebourg, force Saverne Gap. VI NLT D+2 attacks through Vosges passes take Strasbourg. 45th ID, w/ 100 ID units, pushes towards Raon-l’Etape. 3rd ID continues clear region W of Meurthe

from St. Die to N. 36th ID still in Foret Domaniale de Champ. II/Fr. FIRST 3 Algerian gains Rochesson & Menaurupt.

- 7 November – II/Fr FIRST beating counterattacks SW Gerardmer. Other elements move S, prepare I Corps attack towards Belfort. **NINETEENTH Army's boundary adjusted N to align exactly with US 6th AG, along the Rhine-Marne Canal.**
- 8 November – XV issues field order for offensive 13 Nov. 44 & 79 ID to breach, Fr 2 AD to exploit.
- 9 November - THIRD Army begins major attack towards Sarre. In VI, 100th ID finishes relief 45th ID on N flank and clearing Raon-l'Etape. 45th ID moves to rest under SEVENTH Army. 103rd ID relieves 7th IR.
- 10 November – VI, enemy resistance weakens W of Meurthe. 15th IR takes Etival. 103rd ID relieves 30th IR. 142nd IR 36th ID takes Vanemont and La Houssiere.
- 11 November – I/FIRST Fr. Army get permission to postpone INDEPENDENCE from 13th to 14th.
- 12 November – In VI 100th ID attacks on N flank to outflank Raon-l'Etape with 399th and 297th IRs. 398th IR remains along Meurthe. 103rd ID assumes sector W of St. Die between 15th IR and 36th ID.
- 13 November – 82d A/BD is relieved in Holland and moves to reserve and reconstitute. XV attacks NE towards Sarrebourg, 44th ID on left, 79th ID in center, and 106th Cav screening N flank. 44th ID, w/324th and 71st IR attacks towards Avricourt from Leintrey. 79th ID w/ 314th and 315th IRs from Montigny towards Ancerville. VI, 100th ID on N flank delayed by counterattack. **Germans begin burning St. Die preparing for withdrawal.** Churchill and De Gaulle visit de Lattre at Besancon. Fr I corps attack delayed by blizzard.
- 14 November - 8th ID begins replace 28th ID in Hürtgen; 28th starts move to VIII Sector to reconstitute. **Corps Dehner assumes responsibility for LXXXV portion of front facing Fr. II Corps. Renamed LXIII Corps on 18 November.** XV, 44th ID fighting vic. Leintrey, 79th ID captures Ste Pole and Ancerville. Fr. FIRST Army attacks at noon astride Doubs R to seize Belfort gap w/ 2nd Moroccan and 5th AD on left, and 9th Colonial Div on right. Tactical surprise leads to gains.
- 15 November – XV, 44th ID advances towards Avricourt. 79th ID clears Hallowville. VI, 100th ID penetrates enemy position N of Raon-l'Etape. 103rd ID prepares for 1st offensive clear hill SW of St. Die. II/Fr FIRST Army 3rd Algerian on S and 1st ID on N advance. 3rd AID reaches Le Tholy. I Corps slowed only along Swiss border. 2nd MID/5th AD beyond Arcey, 9th CID captures Colombier-Frontaine, Ecot, and Ecurcy. **Attempted counterattacks against US 79th ID fail, successful defense of LXIV positions in Vosges Foothill Position appear desperate. In LXIII area (MG Schack) Fr. attacks force calls for reinforcements and lead Weise to direct withdrawal 338th ID without permission.**
- 16 November - First and Ninth Armies open Operation Queen to close to Rhine River. XV Corps area, 79th ID overruns Barbas. VI 103rd ID clears part hill SW St Die, Fr. I Corps overruns Ste Marie pushes towards Montbeliard and Roches-

les-Blamont. **OKW directs OBW that French breakthrough in Belfort Gap to be prevented at all costs.**

- 17 November - SEVENTH Army units reach Avricourt (44th ID), Blamont-Cirey (79th ID), begin crossing Vezouse R. 2nd Fr. AD takes Badonviller. VI Corps units finally enter St. Dir and Corcieux, which has been torched.

- 18 November – 79th ID assaults Fremonville. 100th ID attacks Raon-l'Etape. 36th ID closing on Muerthe R and overlook Gerardmer. *Fr. I Corps, 5th AD and 2nd MID close on Belfort from N. 1st AD and 9th Colonial drive 7 miles between Rhine-Rhone Canal and Swiss border to Delle. Recon towards Rhine thru Faverois, Courtelevant, Suarve, and Jonchery.*

19 November - 8th ID completes relief of 28th ID. XV Corps' 44th ID takes Ibigny and St. Georges towards Saarebourg. 79th ID collapses German positions and takes Fremonville, to secure S flank of corps. CCL, Fr. 2nd AD begins drive for Saverne Gap. VI closes on Muerthe R. CCA, 14th AD is attached to corps. 100th ID advances to Raon. Recon troops arrive Badonviller without opposition. *I/Fr FIRST Army 2nd Moroccan and 5th AD reach Chalonvillars suburb of Belfort. 1st AD tries open route to Dannmarie, gets recon elements along three routes to Rhine at Rosenau at 1830. Seppois is first Alsatian town liberated by French forces.* **Von Runstedt opposed to giving up Belfort without major fight.**

Directs AG "G" to hold city and counterattack S to cut French penetration.

- 20 November – CCD, Fr. 2nd AD on N flank of corps to outflank Saverne Gap there as CCL continues on S. CCD in two columns, one towards Phalsbourg, one towards La Petit Pierre. CCL encounters resistance vic. Wolfsberg Pass, so CV is committed there. VI, 3rd ID crosses Muerthe at 0645 beginning drive on Strasbourg via Saales. Heavy arty and XII TAC prep stun enemy who offer ineffective resistance. 3 ID takes Le Paire, Hurbache, and La Voive. *Fr. I Corps' 2nd Moroccan and CC6, 5th AD break into Belfort. In II Corps area 2nd Algerian takes Gerardmer without opposition. 1st AD elements reach outskirts of Mulhouse. St Louis, suburb of Basle is cleared.* **Counterattack by 198th ID S from Belfort to Delle; encounters CC2, Fr. 1st AD and 9th Colonial vic. Suarce, stopped. 30th SS gets almost to Seppois, forced withdraw.**

- 20-21 November – **Remnants of 553rd ID led by MG Hans Bruhn escape along Rhine-Marne Canal to Arzwiller. Attempt rebuild defenses of Saverne Gap. Von Runstedt realizes danger, directs AG "H" send 256th (arrives Hagenau 26 Nov) and 245th (finally arrives 3 Dec) VGDs to FIRST Army, Earlier requests for Pz Lehr Division granted, starts moving S at 1800. Balck told use for counterattack into N flank of US XV corps penetration; to be released NLT 28 November.**

- 21 November – SEVENTH Army permits either XV or VI Corps to take Strasbourg; was objective VI, but not moving as fast as XV. Both are to be prepared to cross Rhine R id opportunity presents. TF-CCD, 2nd Fr. AD drives thru La Petit Pierre to Bouxwiller. Other is stopped at Phalsbourg. CCL crosses Wolfsberg Pass, arrives Birkenwald. 44th ID takes Sarrebourg. In VI Corps 100th ID advances towards Senones. 3rd ID takes St. Jean d'Ormont. 36th ID's gains vic. St. Die make German positions untenable. 36th ID advances towards Fraize. *I Fr. Corps almost halted by violent German counterattacks which force 5th AD*

out of Suarce and Lepuix, and severs Delle-Basle road near Courtelevant. **Main body 198th ID arrives Courtelevant.**

- 22 November – In XV Area, 2nd Fr. AD columns converge on Saverne from Bouxwiller and Birkenwald. VI Corps' 100th ID takes Senones and advances on St. Blaise. 3rd ID closes on St. Blaise and Saales. St. Die falls to 103rd ID. VI releases 45th ID and CCA 14th Ad to XV. *Fr. II Corps' 1st ID takes Giromagny, piercing enemy line along Savoureuse. I Corps recovers lost ground and drives into Mulhouse.* **Corps Command Vosges, a provisional corps HQ assigned to consolidate defenses of Strasbourg. Wiese orders 198th ID (reinforced with 654th AT Bn) push to Swiss border, cutting French advance. 308th Grenadiers reach Rechesy and Pfetterhouse on border, stopped inroute to Seppois. 30th SS halted in large Valley N of N-463. Threaten but unable close N463 throughout day.**

- 23 November – XV Corps' 2nd Fr. AD drives into Strasbourg and clears all but small bridgehead at Kehl. Germans abandon Phalsbourg. VI Corps takes Saulzures and Saales. 100th and 103rd IDs overrun passes in high Vosges. *Fr. II Corps takes chateau-Lambert, n=but not much else. Ordered open route for CC6, which with 2nd Moroccan now under corps command. Road vic. Seppois cut for second time.* **Pz Lehr at Sarre Union and ready at 1600 (10 hrs late). Launches two pronged attack towards Baerendorf and Eyewiller, mission to cut American attack into Alsace. After dark push aside US 106th Cav and reach Rauwiller and Schalbach. In south, 30th SS unable advance. 308th Grenadiers reach Swiss border and establish roadblock 2 miles W of Seppois. 106th Pz Bde crosses Rhine R at Chalampe, enroute reinforce 198th ID; diverted bypass Mulhouse on E, cross Huningue Canal, bypass Altkirch and move Seppois. Meets 1st Fr. AD enroute Mulhouse, stopped.**

- 24 November – GEN Eisenhower begins inspection of 6th Army Group front. At commander's conference directs clearing west bank of Rhine before crossing. SEVENTH Army is to turn N to help THIRD Army. Fr. FIRST Army is to reduce enemy vic. Colmar. In XV Corps area, CCB 4th AD crosses Sarre R at Fenetrange and attacks Pz Lehr at Baerendorf, takes it by afternoon. 71st IR (44th ID) retakes Rauwiller before dark. Fr. armor in Strasbourg call for infantry help. 3rd ID reaches Rotthau, 103rd ID clears Lubine, 36th reaches La Croix-aux-Mines. *Both Fr. I and II Corps are ordered to converge on Burnhaupt to pocket enemy forces in Alsace. II Corps clears Grosmaigny and Petit-Magny. I Corps under heavy pressure concentrates on keeping routes open to Rhine.* **Pz Lehr mission changed to blocking N-4. Remnants of 308th Grenadiers cross into Switzerland and are interned. Weise recommends to Balck that his S boundary be readjusted E and N immediately. Balck recommends to Von Runstedt withdraw to line Ballon d'Alsace-Dolleren-Rougemont-le Chateau-Montreux. Too late, so recommends new line 10 miles further back: Thann. Mulhouse, Harth forest Rhine R. In evening per Von Runstedt, NINETEENTH Army must fall back to avoid destruction. Hitler refuses. Late OBW authorizes NINETEENTH Army to new lines that become Colmar Pocket**

- 25 November – Boundary between XV and VI Corps is moved N of Strasbourg. In XV Corps, elements of 44th ID and 106th Cav halt enemy advancing on Schalbach after minor withdrawals. 79th and 45th IDs consolidate N and NW of Strasbourg. CCA, 14th AD contacts 3ID of VI near Schirmeck and is attached to VI. In VI area 100th ID on N captures Ste Marie; gains control of roads to Selestat and Ribeauville. *Fr. II Corps finds most enemy forces on its front have withdrawn. I Corps makes slow progress towards Burnhaupt. Pz Lehr attacks Baerendorf and Rauwiller; by evening judged a failure and withdrawn N.*
- 26 November – XV Corps still under heavy pressure. VI halts 100th ID. It will move to XV Corps. 3rd ID emerges onto Alsatian Plain. Fr. FIRST Army continues efforts to close pincers at Burnhaupt. **Petersen's IV Luftwaffe Corps renamed XC Corps. German cut Fr. I Corps communications to the Rhine for third time.**
- 27 November - 101 A/BD is relieved in Holland and reverts to reserve for reconstitution. GEN Eisenhower orders SEVENTH Army to attack N to help HIRD Army gain Saar Basin. Boundary between 6th and 12th Army Groups is moved N narrowing zone of 12th AG. In XV Corps 100th ID arrives Sarrebourg area and relieves elements 44th ID. German threat subsiding. Fr. 2nd AD passes to VI control. In VI, elements 3rd ID relieve Fr. 2nd AD in Strasbourg. French prepare drive S along Rhine. CCA 14th AD advances SE thru Obernai towards Barr and Erstein to block exits from Vosges. 103rd ID pushes towards Garr-Selestat road, taking Le Hohwald. 36th ID drives E from Ste Marie towards Selestat.
- 28 November - Antwerp begins operations as major source of supplies for Allied Armies. Fr, 2nd AD starts drives S in 2 columns, reaches Erstein. 14th AD also meeting firm resistance Erstein. 36th ID meets no resistance Liepvre and Koenigsbourg Chateau. *Fr. I (CC4, 5th Fr. AD) and II (CC6, OPCON to 2nd Moroccan) corps meet at Burnhaupt at 1430, closing pocket on enemy forces.*
- 1 December – 44th ID, XV Corps, meeting strong resistance vic. Tieffenbach. 45th ID opposed in Zinswiller and Mietesheim. 79th ID reinforced by 94th Cav Gp clears Schweighausen. Fr. 2nd AD of VI corps fights S along Rhine. 103rd and 36th IDs converging on Selestat.
- 2 December – LTG Devers orders us SEVENTH Army to regroup NLT 5 December for main assault N. French to have full responsibility for Colmar Pocket. In XV, 44th ID takes Waldhambach. 45th ID drives into Entwiller and clears Meitesheim. In VI, Fr. 2nd AD halted in Kogenheim-Freisenheim area and reverts to Fr. FIRST Army. 103rd and 36th IDs clearing house-to-house in Selestat. *Fr. FIRST Army reinforced by US 36th ID. GEN de Lattre orders converging drives against Colmar from N and S aimed at Rhine at Neuf-Brisach.*
- ~5 December – **XC Corps HQ moved from NINETEENTH Army to FIRST Army; operational 10 Dec.** US SEVENTH Army begins general attack N towards Maginot Line and West Wall. XV on left is 44th ID, 79th ID, and 12th AD. VI Corps on right is 3rd, 45th, 79th and 103rd IDs and 14th AD. Reach line Ratzwiller, Wimmenau, Wingen, Mertzwiller.

- 7 December – SEVENTH Army reaches line Enchenberg (44th), Mouterhouse (100th), Gamsheim 79th+). 103rd ID committed between 45th and 79th IDs. *Fr. I corps attacks Cernay and Thann. 2nd Moroccan takes Bischwiller and establishes bridgehead at Pont d'Alspach. II Corps busy with German counterattacks Ostheim, Guemar, and Mittlewihr.*
- 8 December – In XV, 12th AD completes relief of 4th AD in place. 44th ID fighting in Encherberg; 100th ID in Lemberg. VI begins deception plan make enemy expect Rhine crossing vic. Strasbourg. 45th ID attacks Niederbronn. 79th ID clears Gamsheim. *Fr. II Corps still being attacked. In Fr. I Corps, US 36th ID attack towards Kayserberg. Foothold in Thann gained.* **LXXXIX Corps HQ renamed Group Hoehne (LTG Gustav), placed under AG "G" as army-level HQ. Commands 361st, 245th and 256th VGDs, Division Raessler, and 21st PzD. Faces primarily US VI Corps.**
- 9 December – CCA, 12th AD takes Singling. 44th ID takes Enchenberg; and 100th ID takes Lemberg. In VI, 45th clears Niederbronn, and 79th clears Bischwiller and reaches edge Haguenau. *Fr. I Corps' 2nd Moroccan clearing Thann. 4th Mtn D fighting in Lutterbach.*
- 10 December – Elements newly arrived 63rd and 42nd IDs are organized as TF Harris and TF Linden. **245th and 256th VGDs allowed withdraw new line Nehwiller-Rhine, losing Haguenau and Haguenau Forest. Hitler appoints Heinrich Himmler to command Army Group Oberrhein, including NINETEENTH Army.**
- 11 December – 106th ID, with 14th Cav Gp attached, relieve 2d ID in Ardennes. Haguenau falls to 79th ID
- 12 December – XV corps is halted by Maginot forts voc. Hottville-Bitsch. CCA 12th AD reaches Bettwiller. 14th AD committed between 103rd and 70th AD. 79th AD enters Soufflenheim. *GEN de Lattre alters plan; calls for capture of Colmar and Cernay, defers drive on Rhine vic. Neuf Brisach. II Corps to make main effort Colmar-Rouffach. I corps to Cernay. I corps so spent suspends offensive to 15th.* **In Gp Hoehne area 245th VGD collapses. Breakthrough barely prevented by 192nd PzG (21st PzD).**
- 13 December - V Corps' 2d ID, 78th ID, and 99th ID attack to take Roer and Urft Dams. US THIRD Army begins assault over Sarre Rive at Sarrelautern. 44th ID attacks Fort Simserhof, vic. Hottwiller.
- 14th December – in XV Corps, 100th ID stopped by enemy fire vic. Fort Schiesseck, near Bitche.
- 15 December – Both 45th and 103 IDs cross into Germany. **LTG Hoehne recommends immediate withdrawal into West wall defenses. Balck approves at 2045. Too late, Von Runstedt tries to halt. Himmler replaces Wiese with LTG Siegfried Rasp at NINETEENTH Army.**
- 16 December - **Battle of the Bulge begins with attacks by Sixth & Fifth Panzer and Seventh Armies.**
- 19 December - Allied commanders conferring at Verdun decide to halt offensives toward the Rhine and concentrate on reducing enemy salient in the Ardennes. Because of Ardennes counter-offensive, Field Marshal Montgomery orders XXX Corps, to assemble in Louvain-St Trond-Hasselt region to hold

Meuse R line. US Ninth Army is ordered to go on the defensive. US SEVENTH army ordered on defensive. 44th ID finds enemy has abandoned Simserhof.

- 20 December - 21st Army Group takes operational control of US forces N of Ardennes breakthrough, US NINTH and FIRST Armies. The newly arrived 70th ID, as TF Herren, is attached to SEVENTH Army. 100th ID finishes taking Fort Schiesseck. XV Corps extends to W to St. Avold relieving XII Corps for Ardennes action.

- **21 December – OKW realize US 6th AG weakened, and Ardennes offensive losing momentum, start planning Operation NORDWIND.**

- **22 December – GEN Blaskowitz replaces Balck at AG “G”.**

- 24 December – 6th AG warns that enemy massing for offensive.

- 25 December – Advance elements of US XXI Corps (MG Frank Milburn) arrive in SEVENTH army area.

- 26 December - In US FIRST Army area, army halts enemy's westward drive short of the Meuse. **German supply lines are now overextended, and stalled armor becomes a lucrative target for aerial attacks.** US SEVENTH Army finishes regrouping. XV Corps (106th Cav, 1103rd, 44th and 100th IDs) is from St. Avold to Bitche. VI Corps (TF Huddelson, 45th and 79th IDs) is Bitche to Rhine.

- 27 December – XXI Corps (36th ID and 12th AD) is operational. VI reinforced by TF Harris and TF Linden. **Initial NORDWIND plan approved. XII SS Corps opposite US XV Corps, XC Corps vic. Bitche, and LXXXIX Corps in east. XXXIX Panzer Corps in reserve.**

- 28 December - GEN Eisenhower and Field Marshal Montgomery meet at Hasselt (Belgium) to plan offensive.

- 30 December – 6th AG reiterates warning of enemy attack. TF Harris moved to XV Corps.

- **1945**

- 1 January - US THIRD Army continues Ardennes counteroffensive with VIII and III Corps. **Germans launch Operation NORDWIND, against US SEVENTH Army.** In XV Corps area, two-pronged enemy thrust forces I06 Cav Gp, 44th ID, and 100th ID to give ground. 44th ID bears brunt of enemy's fight flank drive, which penetrates positions NW of Rimling. 100th ID, caught between the 2 attack forces, withdraws its right flank, exposed by withdrawal of TF Hudelson (VI Corps); enemy Infiltrators are cleared from Rimling, on left flank. Elements of TF Harris (63d ID) help check enemy. 141st IR, 36th ID, moves up to plug gap between XV and VI Corps. In VI Corps area, enemy drives salient into left flank of corps S of Bitche. TF Hudelson's thin line is pushed back on left to Lemberg-Mouterhouse area. 45th ID contains enemy along line Philippsbourg-Neuhoffen-Obersteinbach and mops up infiltrators in Dambach. Reinforcements from TF Herren (70th ID) and 79th ID are rushed to 45th ID, whose boundary is moved W. CCB, 14th AD, moves to guard Vosges exits. 79th ID's right flank is extended to include Rhine sector from Schaffhouse to Gambenheim area.

- 2 January - US SEVENTH Army CP is moved from Saverne to Luneville. In XV Corps area, enemy pressure forces 44th ID's right flank back past Gros Rederching and causes 100th ID's right flank to fall back farther. In VI Corps

area, Germans maintain pressure against reinforced 45th ID, particularly on its W flank, former zone of TF Hudelson. Fighting occurs at various points along Bitche salient. TF Herren's 276th IR takes up switch positions in Wingen-Wimmenau-Rosteig area. CCA, 14th AD, organizes outposts at Vosges exits around Bouxwiller. Center and right flank units of corps begin withdrawal to prepared positions on Maginot Line. 79th ID takes over S portion of Rhine R line held by TF Linden (42d ID).

- 3 January - US FIRST Army starts counteroffensive to reduce enemy's Ardennes salient from N. VII Corps attacks SE toward Houffalize. 6th Army Group is assigned defense of Strasbourg. In US SEVENTH Army area, XV Corps withstands further pressure and on left slightly improves positions. **Germans deepen penetration at boundary of 44th ID and 100th ID, entering Achen, from which they are ousted in counterattack.** CCL, Fr 2d AD, pushes into Gros Rederching but is unable to clear it. Attempt by 44th ID to relieve French there fails. 36th ID (-RCT 141) assembles near Montbronn. In VI Corps area, **enemy expands Bitche salient, entering Wingen and Philippsbourg.** 45th ID withstands pressure against Reipertsweiler, NW of Wingen, and contains attacks in Sarreinsberg-Meisenthal area. Center and right flank elements of corps complete withdrawal to Maginot positions.
- 4 January - In Br SECOND Army area, XXX Corps opens offensive W of the Ourthe R, protecting US First Army right. In US SEVENTH Army's XV Corps area, 44th ID tries vainly to clear Frauenberg and Gros Rederching. In limited attack, 36th ID takes hill between Lemberg and Goetzenbruck. In VI Corps area, 45th ID, continuing fight to reduce Bitche salient, drives to outskirts of Wingen; attacks NE across Wingen-Wimmenau road to ease pressure on Reipertsweiler; fights to open Reipertsweiler-Wildenguth road, taking Sagmuhl and making contact with elements cut off in Wildenguth; clears about half of Philippsbourg. TF Linden's line along the Rhine is extended to include zone held by TF Herren
- 5 January -. Fr FIRST Army is to take responsibility for defense of Strasbourg upon relief of US elements in that area by French. Relief is scheduled for 2400 but is interrupted by enemy attack. In US SEVENTH Army area, XV Corps clears Germans from Frauenberg and Gros Rederching. VI Corps makes slow progress against Bitche salient in 45th ID sector. Most of Wingen and rest of Philippsbourg are cleared. **On corps right flank, Germans establish bridgehead across the Rhine in Gambenheim area, crossing between Kilstett and Drusenheim and overrunning Offendorf, Herrlisheim, and Rohrweiler.** TF Linden, hit while executing reliefs, launches two-pronged assault toward Gambenheim: TF A moves from Weyersheim to W bank of Landgraben Canal; TF B attacks from Kilstett but is stopped just N of there.
- 6 January - US FIFTEENTH Army becomes operational. MG Ray E. Porter is in command. In US SEVENTH Army's XV Corps area, attack to restore MLR on right flank of 44th ID halts on line extending along Sedge of Bois de Blies Brucken to area just N of Gros Rederching. In VI Corps area, 45th ID makes slow progress against left and center of Bitche salient and on E contains counterattacks on Philippsbourg. **Germans continue build up W of the Rhine on E flank of corps.** 79th ID clears Stattmatten (where encircled elements of TF

Linden are relieved), Sessenheim, and Rohrweiler; reaches edge of Drusenheim. Further efforts of TF Linden to gain Gamsheim are fruitless.

- 7 January - In XX Corps area, CG 94th ID takes command of sector previously held by 90th ID. Boundary between US SEVENTH Army and Fr FIRST Army is shifted N, giving French responsibility for Strasbourg area. In US Seventh Army's VI Corps area, 45th ID, on left flank of Bitche salient, reaches heights overlooking Althorn and overcomes final resistance within Wingen. On corps E flank, 79th ID organizes TF Wahl (elements of 313th IR, 315th IR, and 222d IR; CCA of 14th AD; 827th TD Bn) to operate in N part of div front since enemy threat to Maginot Line positions S of Wissembourg is serious. **Germans drive back outposts at Aschbach and Stundweiler.** In Gamsheim bridgehead area, efforts of 314th IR, 79th ID, to clear Drusenheim are unsuccessful; *Fr 3d Algerian Div takes over attack toward Gamsheim from Kilstett.*
- 8 January - In US SEVENTH Army's XV Corps area, **Germans enter Rimling.** 100th ID and 36th IDs improve positions in local attacks. In VI Corps area, 45th ID makes slight progress against W flank of salient; TF Herren becomes responsible for E flank. 79th ID withstands pressure near Aschbach and moves reinforcements to Sultz-Rittershoffen area. Enemy checks efforts to reduce Gamsheim bridgehead. 314th IR is unable to advance in Drusenheim or SE of Rohrweiler. CCB, 12th AD, attacks with 714th Tank Bn toward Herrlisheim.
- 9 January - US Seventh Army's XV Corps area, local attack by 100th ID gains Hill 370, S of Rimling, but since this region is becoming untenable, div withdraws left flank to Guising to tie in with 44th ID. VI Corps makes very slow progress against Bitche salient, but TF Herren's 276th IR occupies Obermuhlthal. **On NE flank of 79th ID, German tank-infantry attack against 242d IR, TF Linden, overruns Hatten and reaches Rittershoffen;** counterattack drives Germans back to Hatten and partly regains that town. In Gamsheim bridgehead region, CCB of 12th AD seizes part of Herrlisheim, but 79th ID is still thwarted in Drusenheim and SE of Rohrweiler. Elements of 232d IR along canal E of Weyersheim are ordered back to organize Weyersheim for defense.
- 10 January - In US SEVENTH Army's VI Corps area, elements of 45th ID enter Althorn, on left flank of Bitche salient, but are unable to clear it. Otherwise, the salient is unchanged despite continued fighting about its perimeter. On 79th ID's N flank, indecisive fighting occurs at Hatten; bn of 315th IR is committed there and 2d Bn, 242d IR, recalled; another bn of 315th IR assembles in Rittershoffen. **To S, enemy maintains Gamsheim bridgehead.** Elements of CCB, 12th AD, are virtually surrounded at Herrlisheim, but tanks sever enemy lines in order to reinforce infantry within the town.
- 11 January - In US SEVENTH Army's VI Corps area, 45th ID clears Althorn, at W of Bitche salient, but falls back under enemy pressure in Wildenguth-Sagmuhl-Reipertweiler region. 276th IR makes limited gains on heights between Lichtenberg and Obermuhlthal. **Enemy renews attacks against 79th ID's Maginot positions S of Wissembourg, reinforcing troops in Hatten, where 2d Bn of 315th IR is enveloped, and wresting about two thirds of**

Rittershoffen from 3d Bn, 315th IR. Elements of CCA, 14th AD, counterattack from Kuhlendorf but are stopped short of Rittershoffen. CCB, 12d AD, withdraws from Herrlisheim and takes up defensive positions W of Zorn R.

- 12 January - In US THIRD Army's VIII Corps area, enemy continues withdrawing. In US SEVENTH Army's VI Corps area, enemy has shifted from aggressive offensive to stubborn defensive in Bitche salient. Efforts of 45th ID to regain ground lost on 11th are only partly successful. 14th AD attacks to relieve 315th IR, 79th ID, in Hatten and Rittershoffen; CCA clears part of Rittershoffen. Situation in Gamsheim bridgehead is unchanged.

- 13 January - In US SEVENTH Army area, XXI Corps (MG Frank W. Milburn) becomes operational, assuming responsibility for defense of left flank of army and taking control of 106th Cav Gp and 103d ID in place. It is to continue organization of defensive positions. In VI Corps area, 45th ID makes minor gains against Bitche salient. TF Herren (- 274th IR) moves to right flank of corps. 14th AD takes command of Hatten Rittershoffen sector, assisted by 79th ID: CCA and 3d Bn of 315th IR continue to fight in Rittershoffen; CCR secures W third of Hatten and makes contact with 2d Bn of 315th IR; efforts of CCB to cut roads N and NE of Hatten fail.

- 14 January - In XX Corps area, 94th ID opens series of small-scale attacks to improve defensive positions in Saar-Moselle triangle S of Wasserbillig, a strongly fortified switch position of West Wall; 376th IR takes Tettingen and Butzdarf. 95th ID moves two bns to objectives in Saarlautern bridgehead area and then withdraws them as planned. In US Seventh Army's XXI Corps area, 142d IR of 36th ID moves to 103d ID zone to cover relief of that div by TF Herren. **In VI Corps area, enemy continues vigorous defense of Bitche salient.** 45th ID makes slight gains along its perimeter. 14th AD battles enemy in Rittershoffen and Hatten.

- 15 January – 6th Army Group issues preliminary instructions for attack on Colmar Pocket by Fr. FIRST Army. US SEVENTH Army's VI Corps patrols around Bitche. 14th AD fights for Rittershoffen and Hatten.

- 16 January – US VII and VIII Corps meet at Houffalize, cutting the Bulge salient in the middle. LTG Gerow assumes command of US FIFTEENTH Army. 28th ID is attached to US SEVENTH Army, operating under control of Fr. FIRST Army. In VI Corps sector 45th ID defends against pressure near Obermuhlthal. CCA, 14th AD is halted near Rittershoffen, and CCR loses ground in Hatten. The 70th ID Forces German forces from Dengolsheim towards Dahlhunden. 12th AD attacks the Gamsheim bridgehead.

- 17 January – US V Corps' 1st ID attacks the Onderval Gap to clear a way for 7th AD's attack towards St. Vith. US FIRST Army reverts to 12th AG control at 2400. In SEVENTH Army's area XXI Corps's TF Herren takes command of 103rd ID sector. In VI Corps area 103rd ID takes over TF Herren's sector, including the 274th IR left in position. 1-315th IR, attached to 14th AD, attacks towards Rittershoffen. **Germans attack 232nd IR (79th ID) vic. Roeschwoog, Dengolsheim, Stattmatten, and take Sessenheim. Stop CCB 12th AD SE of Rohrweiler. At Herrlisheim stop 17th AIB, and destroy 43rd TB.**

- 18 January – 12th AG continues fight to eliminate Bulge. 6th AG directs Fr. FIRST Army to begin double envelopment of Colmar Pocket on 20 January. In VI Corps area 3-157th IR (45th ID) is isolated near Reipertsweiler. Relief attempts fail. Indecisive and costly fighting vic. Rittershoffen-Hatten, and TF Linden's positions in Sessenheim and the Bios de Sessenheim are overrun. 12th AD continues losing battle against Gamsheim bridgehead. CCA loses hold on Herrlisheim; attack to relieve CCA elements trapped in town fails. *In Fr. FIRST Army's II Corps area US 28th ID begins relief of US 3rd ID.*
- 19 January – In US SEVENTH Army area 157th IR (45th ID) contains German counterattacks from the Bitche salient. Efforts of reach the encircled 3rd Bn continue. **German pressure prevents 14th AD from improving positions vic. Rittershoffen-Hatten; surround 2-314th IR in Drusenheim, but are unable to prevent some elements from escaping; mount strong attacks S of Hatten.** 25th Tank Bn (14th AD) moves to Hotelmen to prevent loss of Haguenau. 79th ID attacks towards Sessenheim with attached elements of 103rd ID, enters Sessenheim, but is driven out. 12th AD withdraws for relief; contains enemy attacks at relief line. 143rd IR (36th ID) takes defensive positions Rohrweiler-Weyersheim.
- 20 January - In US SEVENTH Army area, US VI Corps begins orderly withdrawal to new defensive positions along Rothbach-Rau-Moder River line at nightfall. 45th ID makes unsuccessful attempt to reach 3-157th IR. Elements of 3-157th IR exfiltrate to join main body. Most of 2-314th IR reported missing in action in Drusenheim. *Fr. FIRST Army attacks with I Corps from the S. to eliminate the Colmar Pocket. The 4th Moroccan Mtn (W) and 2nd Moroccan ID (E), reinforced with Fr. 1st AD tanks on the axis Cernay-Ensisheim. Weather is abominable, and progress is slow. Ensisheim is reached early February. In Fr. II Corps area US 28th ID completes relief of US 3rd ID vic. Sigolsheim-Le Valtin; prepares to join offensive.*
- 21 January – XV Corps area, CCB 10th AD closes NE of Fenetrange. VI Corps closes on new MLR, line Althorn-Rothbach-Niedermodern-Hagenau-Bischwiler. 79th ID's OPL in Camp d'Oberhofefen is pushed back by enemy.
- 22 January - The 101st A/B, XV Corps, closes on Drilingen-Sarraltroff area. VI improves defenses. OPL of 103rd ID withdrawn from Offwiller; OPL of 79th ID pull back to Moder R line. *Fr. II Corps attacks south between Selestat and Ostheim to envelop Colmar Pocket. Attacking divisions are: US 3rd ID (leads off at 2100 across Fecht R at Guemar), Fr. 5th AD, and 1st Moroccan ID. Fr. 2nd AD defends Rhine Plain. US 28th ID to W conducts raids.*
- 23 January - In VI Corps area, German attacks force left flank of 103rd ID back past Rothbach. *In Fr. II Corps, 1st Moroccan crosses III R between Illhaeusern and Illwald. Supporting vehicles use bridge at Illhaeusern, tho the town is not completely cleared for several days. US 3rd ID continues towards Canal de Colmar: 7th IR clears Ostheim; 30th IR crosses III R and reaches edge Holtzwihr, but supporting armor is unable to cross and infantry is forced back to Maison Rouge. Elements of 254th IR, attached to 3rd ID, drive to Weiss R near Sigolsheim.*

- 24 January – in VI Corps area enemy forces 45th ID outposts from Sagmuhl. 103rd ID repels German attempts to penetrate MLR at Bischoltz and Muhlhausen, tho it must readjust it OPL. In 79th ID sector, German attacks cross the Moder R between Neubourg and Schweighausen, penetrate 222nd IR MLR, and seize W portion of Schweighausen. *In Fr. II Corps area attacking troops fight to expand III bridgehead. French stopped by enemy tanks in woods near Elsenheim. US 3rd ID continues towards Canal de Colmar. 15th IR relieves battered 30th IR, attacks from Maison Rouge and reaches edge of woods near Riedwihr.*
- 25 January – XV Corps assumes command of XXI sector and units (106th Cav Gp, 275th and 276th IRs of TF Herren, and 10th AD less CCB). In VI Corps area Germans penetrate 103rd ID positions at Schillersdorf and Nieffern, and force OPL back from Schillersdorf. On L of 79th ID line TF Wahl is reorganized as result; now consists of 222nd IR, 314th IR, 232nd IR, CCB 14th AD, Recon troop and elements of 781st Tank Bn. This force clears Schweighausen and part of the Bios de Ohlungen. German attacks across the Moder R between Haguenu and Kaltenhausen against 242nd IR are driven back across river. *In Fr. FIRST Army area, US XXI Corps HQ are attached. In II Corps French forces make slow progress in Elsenheim woods against German armor. 7th IR enters Houssen assisted by tanks. 15th IR renews attack on Riedwihr, gets into town late that night. 254th IR, relieved along Weiss R by US 28th ID, attacks towards Jebnheim.*
- 26 January – VI Corps area, 45th ID virtually out of contact. Enemy activity subsides on 79th and 103rd ID fronts. 103rd ID clears enemy from Schillersdorf and restores MLR. TF Wahl restores 79th ID MLR. 101st A/B closes on Hochfelden. *Fr. II Corps' 1st Moroccan ID is clearing Illhausern-Jebnheim road. Fr. 5th AD prepares attack towards Breisach, US 3rd ID makes substantial gains: 7th IR clears Houssen and Rosenkranz; 15th takes Riedwihr; 254th gets into Jebnheim.*
- 27 January – VI Corps makes light contact with enemy. 101st A/B assumes control Moder R sector from Schweighausen to 103rd ID boundary. TF Linden (-242nd IR) closes on Chateau Salins area and reverts to army reserve. *Fr. II Corps area, French clear Elsenheim road and forest and head for Jebnheim. 30th IR takes Holtzwihr and Wickerswihr. 254th IR clears large portion of Jebnheim.*
- 28 January – US FIRST Army opens drive on West Wall and Euskirchen, secures St. Vith. US THIRD Army closes on Our R. *In Fr. FIRST Army area US XXI Corps assumes tactical control on new zone between Fr. I and II Corps, has mission assist reduction of Colmar Pocket by attacking towards Breisach and meeting Fr. I Corps. US 28th and 3rd IDs are attached in place, and strengthened by attachment of Fr. 5th AD and US 75th ID. 28th ID (W) maintains positions from Le Valtin to III R, 2 miles NE of Colmar; US 3rd ID is clearing region N of Canal de Colmar from its juncture with III R east to Wickerswihr; Fr. 5th AD assembles in 3rd ID zone; 75th ID CP opens in Ribeauville. 254th IR unable take S part of Jebnheim. Fr II Corps assigned new mission to drive E to Rhine on axis Guemar-Markolsheim.*
- 29 January – *Fr. FIRST Army's US XXI Corps' 3rd ID crosses Canal de Colmar: 7th IR reaches Bischwihr and 15th IR gets N edge of Muntzenheim.*

Enemy remnants hold out in Jepsheim. 254th IR clears to canal S of town and attacks toward Rhone-Rhine Canal E of town

- 30 January – US FIRST Army's V Corps attacks to breach the West Wall vic. Monshau. US THIRD Army clears W bank of Our R. In Fr. FIRST Army area US XXI Corps' 28th ID gets to E-W road N of Colmar. US #rd ID, supported by Fr. 5th AD, continues attack: 7th IR takes Bischwihr and Wigh-en-Plaine; 15th IF clears Muntxenheim, Fortschwihr, and Urschenheim; 254th IR overcomes final resistance in Jepsheim, but cannot reach junction of Colmar and Rhone-Rhine Canals. In Fr II corps area enemy main body is withdrawing across corps front. 1st Moroccan ID clears woods E of Illhaeusern.

- 31 January – VI Corps' 36th ID attacks 2100 on axis Oberhoffen-Drusenheim to clear region W of Rhine to south. In Fr. FIRST Army area US 3rd ID supported by Fr 5th Ad continue attack. 7th IR clears Horbourg, on edge Colmar, with Fr. Armor continuing beyond the town; 15th IR is unable to take Durrentzen. 254th IR reaches Rhone-Rhine Canals W of Beltenzenheim. Attack of 75th ID through 3rd ID, scheduled for this date, is postponed.

- 1 February – XV Corps continues improve positions. TF Harris is dissolved and 63rd ID (-253rd, 254th, and 255th IRs) is attached to corps. In VI Corps 36th ID continues towards Rhine: 2-142 IR crosses Moder and enters Oberhoffen. CCB, 14th AD attached to 36th ID, makes diversionary attack E of Oberhoffen, withdrawing at dusk. 117th Cav Rcn Sq, attached to 36th ID, clears Stainwald woods, N of Gamsheim. Rest of corps' front is static throughout February, activity being confined to aggressive defense, occasional raids across the Moder R, and training. Fr. FIRST Army continues operations against Colmar Pocket. II Corps, facing disorganized resistance, completes clearing Rhine Plain from Erstein (N) to Artzenheim(S), overrunning Artzenheim. 3rd ID's 15th and 30th IR, with French armor supporting, drive S along the Rhone-Rhine Canal toward Neuf-Brisach, getting N of town. 75th ID, with two regiments abreast, drives S towards Andolsheim from ex-3rd ID sector. 28th ID, on Corps W flank, starts S towards Colmar at 2100. I corps continues to clear region S of Thur R between Cernay and Ensisheim, taking neither

- 2 February – VI Corps continues to fight for Oberhoffen, and attacks Rohrwiler. 142nd IR (-) with tank and TD assistance clears S and SE Part of Oberhoffen; CCB, 14th AD pushes NE from Bischwiller to help at Oberhoffen, but is held up by enemy fires. 143rd and 142nd IRs wade the Moder R and make coordinated attack on Rohrwiler, capture it and the bridges to the SE. Further S, 141st IR prepares to attack Offendorf and Herrlisheim, but movement along the Weyersheim-Gamsheim road is slowed by floods. In Fr. FIRST Army area, US XXI Corps's 7th IR, with tank support, drives S through Artzenheim astride the highway between the Rhone-Rhine Canal and the Rhine R towards Biesheim, NE of Neuf0Brisach. The 75th ID overruns Andolsheim and moves SE towards Neuf-Brisach. At the edge of Colmar the 28th ID pauses to let Fr.5th AD enter first; city is captured though mopping up continues.

- 3 February - IN US XV Corps TF Herren is dissolved into 70th ID. In VI Corps 142 IR (36th ID) continues clearing Oberhoffen, then is relieved by CCB 14th AD. 143rd IR (+) seizes, then loses the Drusenheim Woods. In Fr. FIRST Army

area US XXI Corps' 3rd and 75th IDs continue towards Neuf Brisach. 7th IR clears Bliesheim, but 75th makes slow progress in Foret Domaniale. 12th AD attacks thru 28th ID at Colmar. CCB takes bridgeheads across Ill R. vic. Sundhoffen and Ste Croix en Plaine; CCR drives S. astride Colmar-Rouffach road. Once 28th ID finishes clearing Colmar, it joins Fr. Armor blocking along the Vosges W and S of Colmar. I Corps finishes clearing S bank Thur R between Cernay and Ensisheim, prepares to attack N across Thur to make contact with US XXI Corps.

- 4 February – In VI Corps area combat subsides on 36th ID front: CCB 14th AD holds all but NW corner of Oberhoffen, and elements of 142IR and 143IR clear Drusenheim woods. In Fr. FIRST Army area, 3rd and 75th IDs improve positions near Neuf Brisach: 3rd between the Rhine R and the Rhone-Rhine Canal; 75th between the Rhone-Rhine Canal and the Ill R. CCB 14th AD holds bridgeheads across the Ill until relieved by 109th IR (28th ID). CCA captures Hattstatt on Colmar-Rouffach road. CCR meets strong opposition and is unable to move to NW. 28th ID and Fr. 10th Div continue to block along Fecht R on corps west flank. Fr. 2nd AD is attached to XXI with mission to attack S on E flank on order. I Corps attacks N across flooded Thur R towards XXI Corps, makes good progress. 4th Moroccan Mtn D overruns Guebwiller and reaches S edge of Rouffach after dark. Cernay is found empty of Germans. Preparations are made for an assault on Ensisheim.

- 5 February – VI Corps regroups and continues towards Rhine R. 79th ID is relieved by 36th ID and 101st A/B. 103rd ID assumes old 506th PR sector. Slow advances towards Oberhoffen. 117th Cav Rcn Sq relieves 141 IR of Zorn Canal outposts; patrols find Offendorf free of enemy. In Fr. FIRST Army area Colmar Pocket is cut in half as US XXI and Fr. I corps make firm junction. **Enemy W of Ill are isolated remnants and offer slight resistance.** CCA 12th AD jumps too early, drives S from Hattstatt, enters Rouffach at 0512. Quickly makes contact with 4th Moroccan Mtn (I Fr. Corps) on S edge of town. CCR clears Herrlisheim-pres-Colmar, and is relieved by 28th ID. On W, 28th ID continues improving positions along Ill S of Colmar and along Fecht R west of Colmar. 75th ID overruns Appenwihr, Hettenschlag, and Wolfganzen. On corps E flank, 30th IR starts S between Rhone-Rhine Canal and Rhine R, bypassing Neuf-Brisach; 1-30 left to recon Neuf-Brisach. I corps meets XXI along line Ill R at Oberentzen to W. 9th Colonial attacks Ensisheim, entering city at 2230.

- 6 February – In XV Corps area 63rd ID takes control of sector and command of 253rd IR and 255th IRs, formerly attached to 44th ID. 255th IR conducts limited attacks to improve positions. Advance party of 101st Cav Gp arrives in 106th Cav Gp sector. In VI Corps' 36th ID front, the 68th AIB fights hard for Oberhoffen, but gains little ground. 143IR occupies Herrlisheim without opposition; relieves 117th Cav Rcn Sq in Offendorf. Both towns heavily mined. Fr. FIRST Army begins final phases against Colmar Pocket. US XXI Corps completes S movement and turns E towards Rhine R. 3rd ID clears zone on N flank of corps and seizes Neuf-Brisach. Elements of Fr. 1st AD pass thru 3rd ID and drive S between Rhone-Rhine Canal and Rhine R towards I Corps, clear Oberaasheim. 75th ID pivots SE around 3rd ID, reaches Rhone-Rhine Canal line S of Neuf-Brisach and send elements to relieve French at Oneraasheim. 28th ID passes thru 12th AD on S

flank of Corps drives to Rhine-Rhone Canal. 12th AD Provides fire support to 28th ID, blocks exits from the Vosges Mountains, and eliminates isolated pockets of enemy. Fr. 5th AD, in reserve, assists with Vosges pockets of enemy. In r. I Corps area Fr. 1st AD pauses along Ill R between Oberentzen and Requisheim to await bridging; has 2nd Moroccan pass thru to drive Meyenheim-Requisheim and E to Canal, capturing Hirtzfelden. 9th Colonial captures Ensisheim at dawn, attacks E on Corps S flank to edge Harth woods. Other elements N of Mulhouse drive N from Modenheim to Baldersheim. On W flank, 4th Moroccan blocks Vosges exits.

Organized resistance in the Vosges ceases.

- 7 February – In VI Corps, 36th ID sector, 68th AIB fights in NW Oberhoffen until relieved by 1-142IR. 143 IR consolidates positions in Bois de Druseheim, advances from Herrlisheim and Offendorf. In Fr. FIRST Army area US XXI Corps closes on Rhine R from Balgau N. Fr. 2nd AD seizes Heiteren, Balgau, advances on Fessenheim. 75th ID relieves French forces in Heiteren. Mopping up continues. Fr. I Corps' 1st AD crosses Ill R on bridge constructed at Ensisheim, overtakes infantry along Rhine-Rhone Canal. 9th Colonial closes on Canal to S.
- 8 February – In XV area OPL of 276th IR (70th ID) are forced back by enemy fires. In VI Corps area enemy continues stubborn resistance against 142IR (36th ID) in NW Oberhoffen. 143 IR outposts far edge of Bois de Drusenheim. CCB 14th AD reverts to parent unit from attachment to 36th ID. In Fr. FIRST Army area US XXI Corps reaches Fessenheim, finds Fr. 1st AD (Fr. I Corps) already there, finishing offensive. Mopping up continues. Fr. 1st AD drives E to Fessenheim, the S along Rhine R towards Chalamps, capturing Blodelsheim. Other elements to S clear Harth Forest and reach Rhine near Hombourg and Petit Landau. **Final German bridgehead is villages of Rumersheim, Bantzheim, Chalampe, and Ottmarsheim.**
- 9 February – In XV Corps area 101st Cav Gp begins relief of 106th Cav Gp. CCB 10th AD reverts to parent unit from corps control. In VI Corps area mostly quiet except for Oberhoffen, where 1-142IR is in house-to-house fighting. Fr. FIRST Army completes reduction of Colmar Pocket. **German 19th Army is virtually destroyed as an effective fighting force. Final German elements W of Rhine blow final bridge at Chalampe and attempt to regroup W of Rhine. Major element has been attacks of US XII TAC and Fr. 1st Air Corps.**

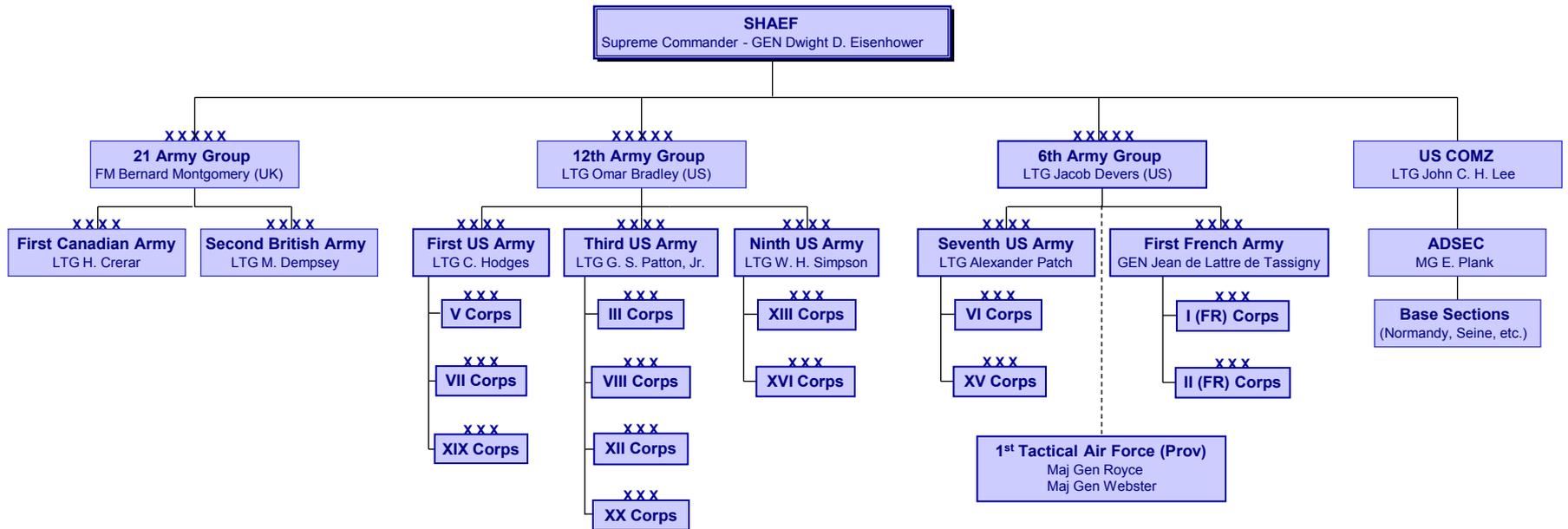
Tab F

Allied Command Architecture & Order of Battle

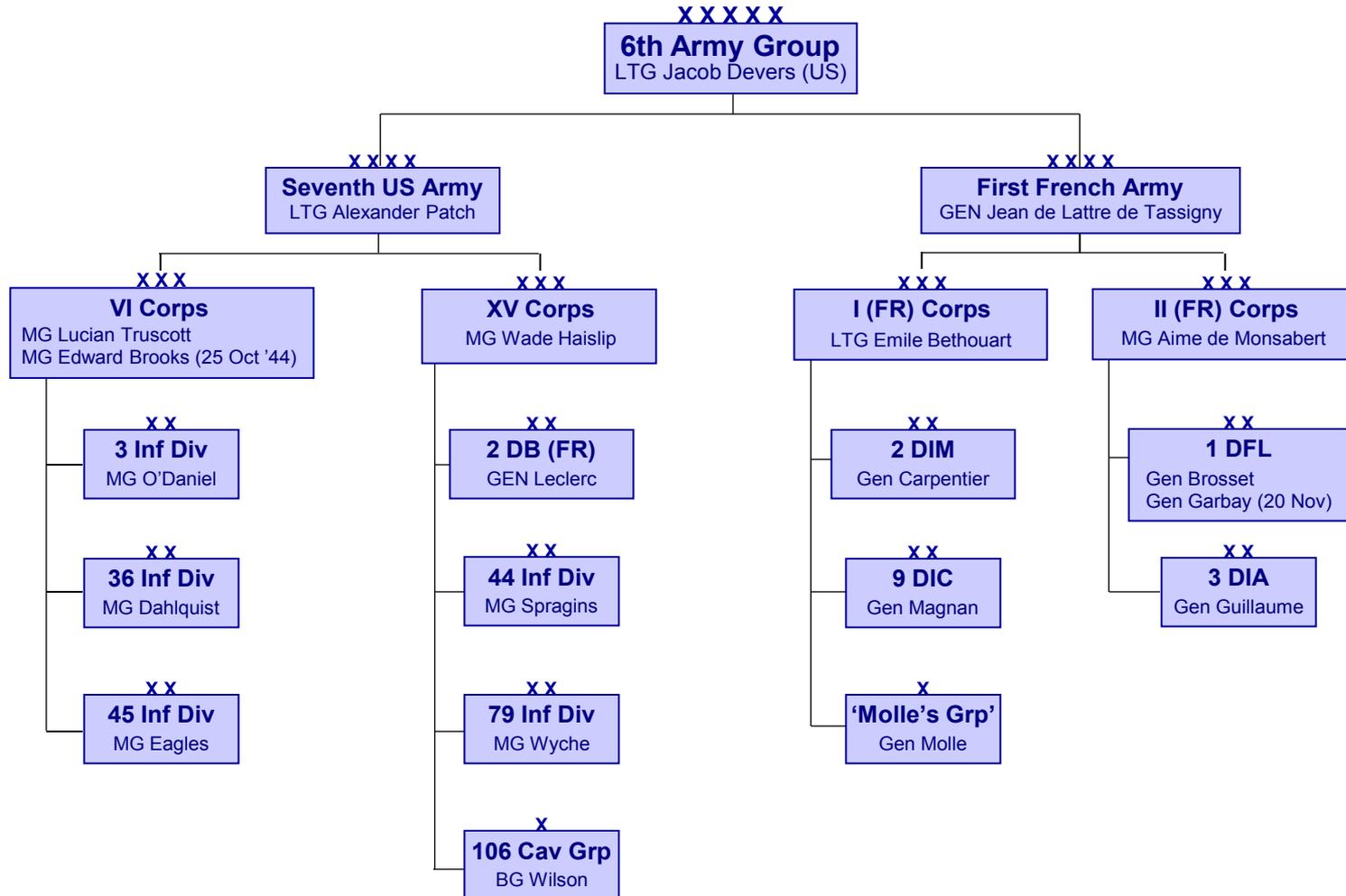
"Thus a dramatic crisis ended satisfactorily. It ended in strengthening the bonds of friendship and confidence with our American allies, bonds which the action was about to bring to a degree of closeness never previously realized. In fact, the solidity of the coalition and its efficacy were never more remarkable than in the month of January 1945. For though the Americans had been able, during these anxious days, to see our resolution for themselves, they had also been able to appreciate our loyalty. And for ourselves, we were going to have the opportunity to admire their magnificent sense of fair play."

Gen d'Armee Jean de Lattre de Tassigny, First French Army, The History of the French First Army, 1952, p. 313

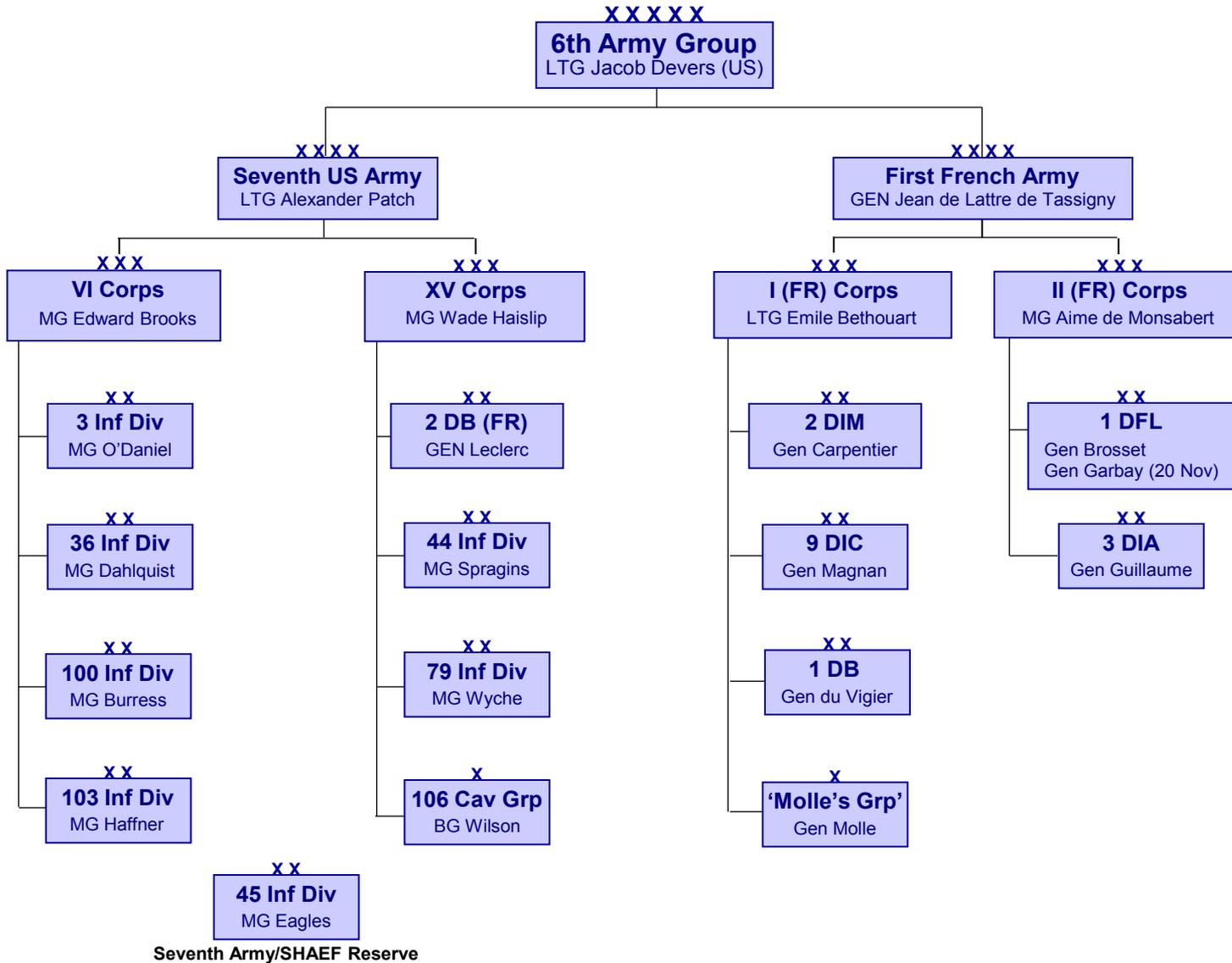
Allied Command Architecture & Order of Battle



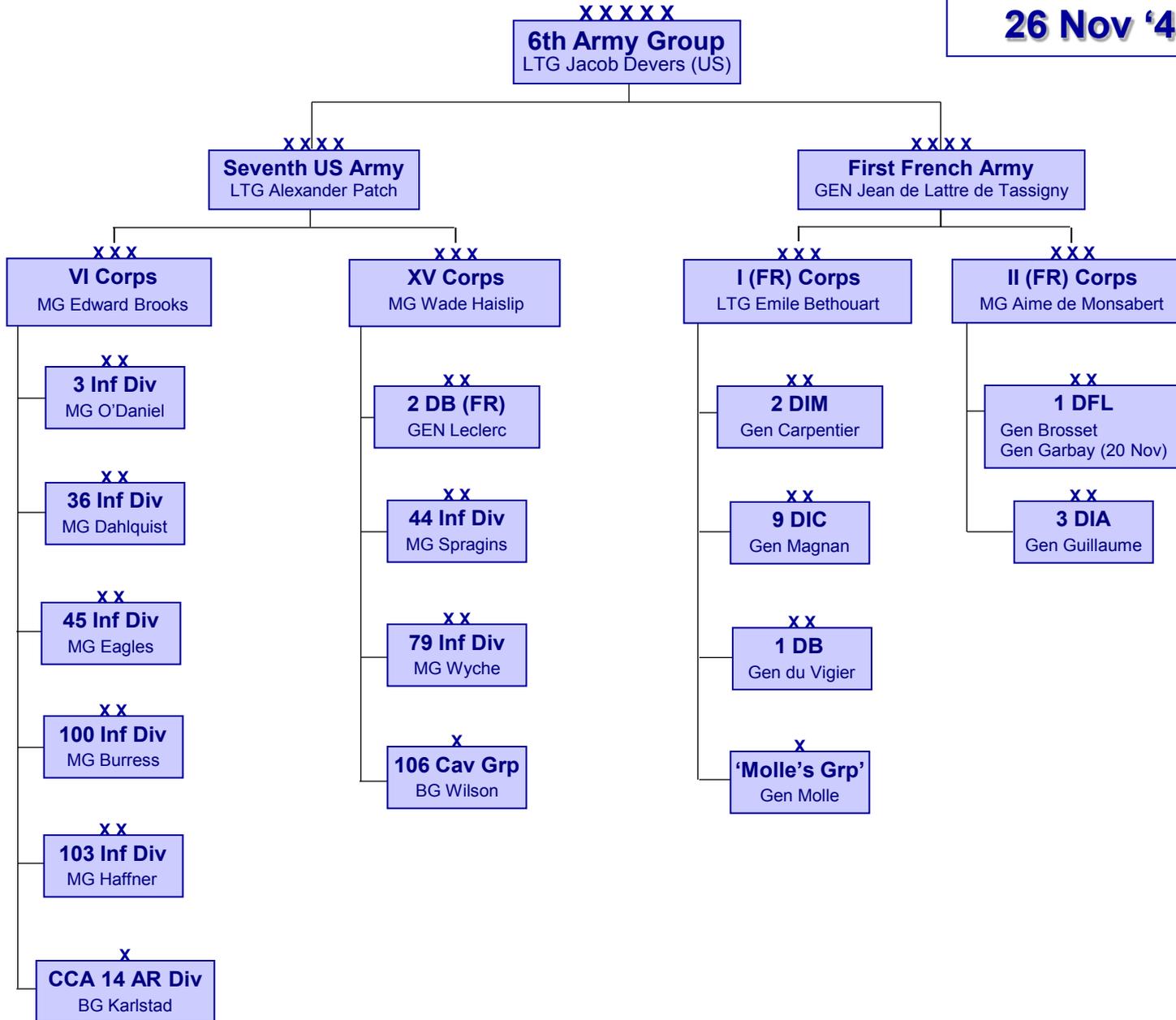
Order of Battle 5 Nov '44



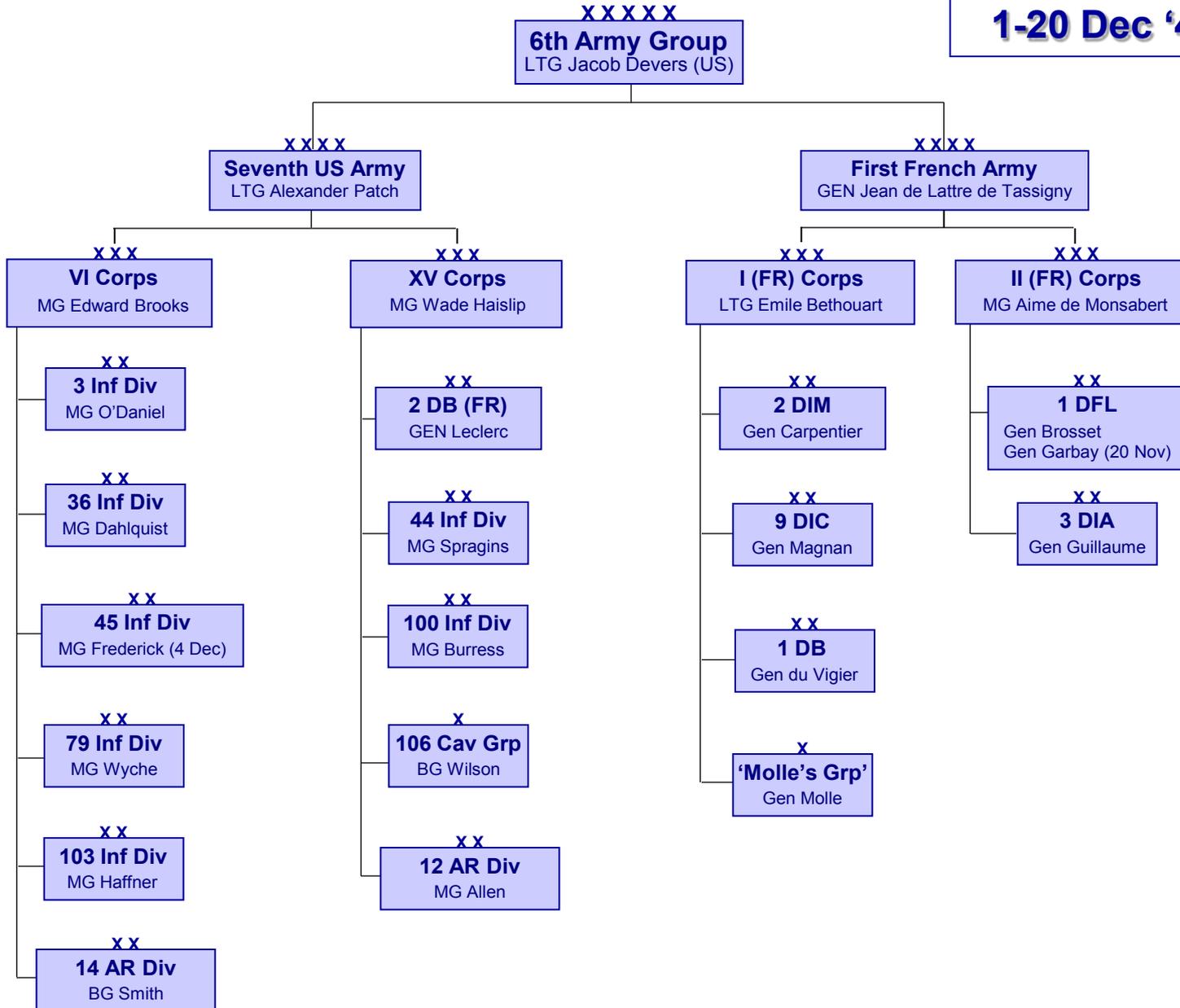
Order of Battle 12-25 Nov '44



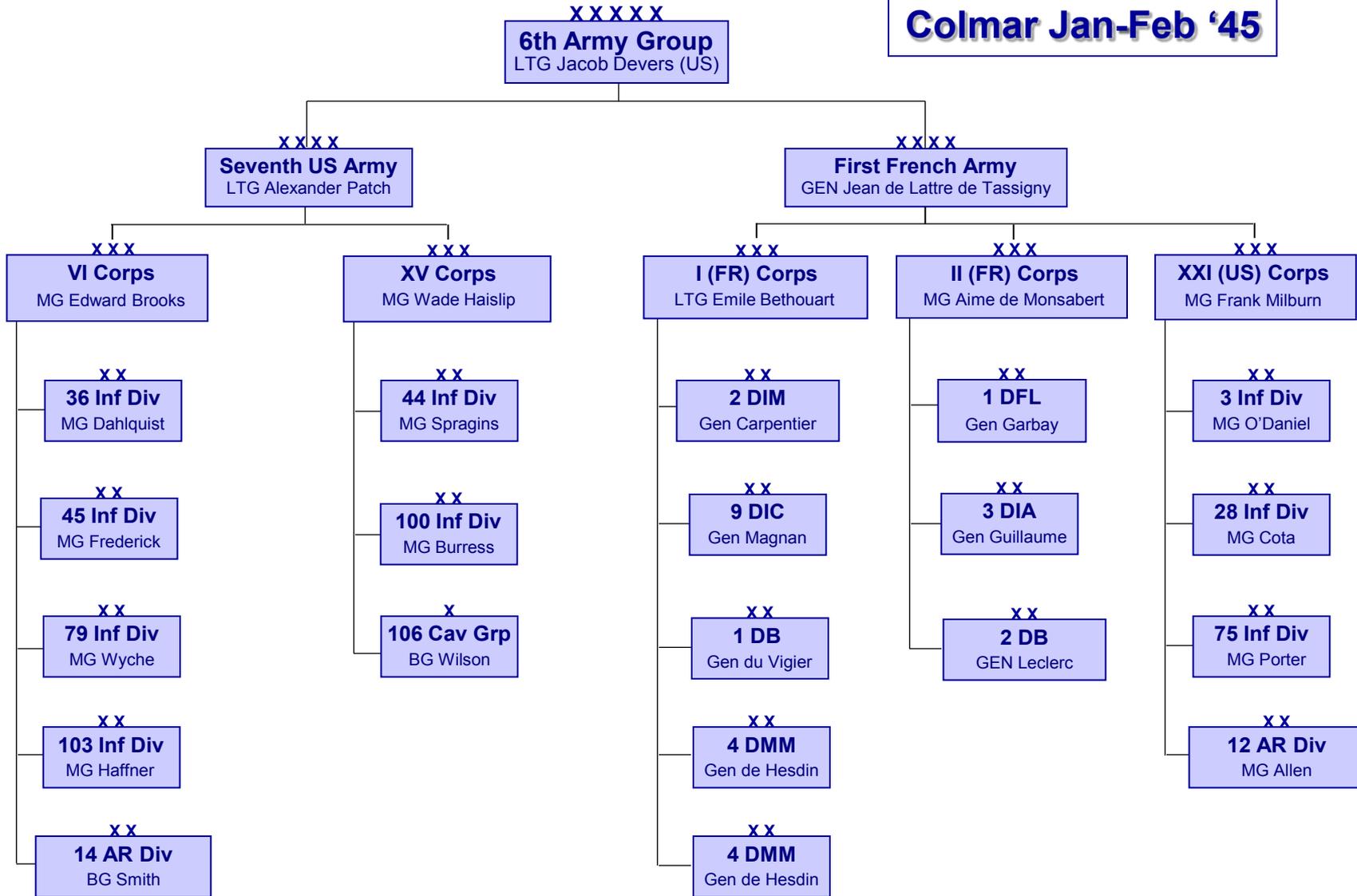
Order of Battle 26 Nov '44



Order of Battle 1-20 Dec '44



Order of Battle Colmar Jan-Feb '45



Tab G

The US Army in December 1944



83D CHEMICAL (MORTAR) BATTALION, 45TH DIVISION, fire 4.2-inch mortars, Grand-villers area.



4.2-INCH MORTARS HIT LE THOLY

THE UNITED STATES ARMY IN DECEMBER OF 1944

The US Army in the winter of 1944-45 was the mightiest force the United States had ever raised. In his 12th U.S. Army Group, General Omar N. Bradley commanded more soldiers than any American general had ever led before. Bradley's three field armies were arrayed across the front lines along the German borders: the Ninth Army, under Lt. Gen. William Simpson in the extreme north (not directly involved in the Ardennes battle), the First Army, under Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodges in the center, and the Third Army, under Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., in the south. Arriving from the invasion of Southern France, the 6th U.S. Army Group, under command of Lt. Gen. Jacob Devers, had also fallen into line with its Seventh Army, under Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch, and the French First Army. By the fall of 1944, the Army had grown to a strength of almost eight million soldiers, a staggering number considering that the service had counted only about 180,000 on its rolls in 1939.

Nonetheless, in the fall of 1944, the Army had a serious personnel problem. The 81 rifle squads of a typical infantry division numbered a total of only 3,240 riflemen. The remainder of the 14,000 soldiers of the division performed other tasks. Some, including the artillery, armor, tank destroyer units, and others, were of the combat arms. The remainder handled the essential supply and administrative tasks to keep the division in action. The situation in the division repeated itself at higher echelons. At the field army level (roughly 350,000 men), about one soldier in seven was in the front line. In the European theater as a whole, Omar Bradley estimated that only one soldier out of fifteen fought with a rifle. Although riflemen were the minority in the Army, they suffered the highest casualty rate--83 percent in Normandy. Bradley later reported that three out of every four casualties came from a rifle platoon, and that the rate of loss in rifle platoons was 90 percent. Thus there began in Normandy and continued through December of 1944 a severe infantry shortage in Europe, compounded by Army decisions to send more riflemen to the Pacific. As the Battle of the Bulge started, Bradley was working hard to solve the problem, and found that the only way was to assign men from other skills--including antiaircraft artillerymen, now that the German Air Force seemed largely defeated--to the infantry.

The Army was far more lavishly equipped than its enemy, but in almost every category of weaponry, the Germans had superior hardware. Tanks are the best example. Until 1935 in American doctrine, the tank was essentially a machine-gun carrier that accompanied the Infantry. Experiments with mounting heavy guns in tanks did not get very far, the Chief of Infantry in 1938 declaring that a 75-mm. gun was useless in a tank. In 1940, both the rival armies fought the Battle of France with tanks armed to a 75-mm standard, and the Germans had already experimented with the 88-mm gun in a turret. In June 1940, the U.S. adopted the 75-mm gun for tanks. In the spring of 1944, as Anglo-American armies prepared for the invasion of Europe, the largest gun on an operational American tank was still a short-barrelled, low-muzzle-velocity 75-mm, the standard armament of the then-standard M4 Sherman tank. At the same time, Germany's Panther tanks carried long-barrelled, high-muzzle-velocity 75s, and the Tiger carried the 88-mm gun. To kill tanks, American doctrine relied on the tank destroyer, a fast, heavily-gunned, lightly-armored vehicle standardized as the M10 in 1942. It mounted a 3-inch, high-muzzle-velocity, flat-trajectory gun on a Sherman chassis. The need for more power to cope with German tanks brought the M18, with a 76-mm gun, into service in 1944. The M18 had a shallow open turret and was mounted on a M24 light tank chassis. The M36, an M10 redesigned to accommodate a 90-mm gun, came into service about the same time. On none of

these vehicles was the armor comparable to that of German tanks. Tank destroyers, appropriately armed to be "killer tanks," lacked the armor to stand up to German tanks for the fight.

Anti-tank weapons were a similar case. The American 2.36-inch rocket launcher, or "bazooka," was too small to penetrate the front armor of German tanks and demanded careful aim against soft spots. This was no easy chore for an exposed, nervous infantryman when a massive German tank loomed so close that he could hear the squeak of the bogies. The Germans adopted an 88-mm *Panzerfaust*, a rocket-propelled shaped-charge grenade that was about twice as powerful as the American bazooka. When James M. Gavin was a colonel commanding the 505th Parachute Infantry, his men tried out the bazooka in Sicily and found it disappointing. Gavin later wrote that "As for the 82nd Airborne Division, it did not get adequate antitank weapons until it began to capture the first German *panzerfausts*. By the fall of '44 we had truckloads of them. We also captured German instructions for their use, made translations, and conducted our own training with them. They were the best hand-carried antitank weapon of the war." The U.S. did not even initiate a project for a more powerful, 3.5-inch rocket until August 1944.

In two areas, however, the United States had a distinct advantage. The Garand .30-caliber M1 semi-automatic was the best standard infantry shoulder arm of the war. No other rifle matched its combination of accuracy, rate of fire, and reliability. In artillery, too the American Army had the edge. It was not that the artillery was qualitatively better than German equipment, although the U.S. 105-mm howitzer was at least the equal of its German counterpart of the same caliber. The effectiveness of American artillery, was multiplied by the best equipment and techniques of any army for fire direction, observation, and coordination. "I do not have to tell you who won the war," George Patton said in 1945. "You know our artillery did." General George C. Marshall agreed when he wrote that "We believe that our use of massed heavy artillery fire was far more effective than the German techniques," concluding that "our method of employment of these weapons has been one of the decisive factors of our ground campaigns throughout the world."

In many cases, artillery did not need to destroy the enemy to have the desired effect. Often, artillery fire diverted the German attacks from their axis of advance and derailed the German scheme of maneuver, even without causing much physical damage. Most of the firing involved conventional artillery, although some 210,000 rounds of ammunition had been fitted with the new and highly secret VT (variable time) or POZIT fuze, which detonated the shell by external influence in close vicinity of the target, without explosion by contact. The VT fuze allowed artillery to detonate above ground, thus spending its effect much more effectively against troops in the open. Claims were made that the VT and POZIT fuze played an important part in winning the battle. The truth seems to be that, however effective such ammunition was, very little of it was fired before January 1945.

Artillery took over much of the effective anti-tank combat, with 155-mm guns particularly successful in attaining mobility kills. Artillery was successful not just in the indirect fire mode, however, but also in direct fire. Post-battle examination of destroyed German tanks showed that many of them had been put out of action by howitzer fire. The Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalions assigned to the various corps played an important role as well. Trained to deliver indirect fire in the traditional artillery fashion, the AA gunners also had a 90-mm weapon that packed a powerful punch because of its high muzzle velocity. Antiaircraft batteries were therefore successful in the anti-tank role. Once artillery spotter aircraft were able to fly, the gunners also had considerable

success in breaking up concentrations of both tanks and troops before they were able to deliver attacks against American positions.

The many American artillery battalions would have been less effective, however, had they not been directed by the most effective fire direction system used by any nation during the war. American forward observers could call down an enormous weight of fire on their selected targets, mixing divisional and corps fires with the fires of the mortar units organic to the infantry regiments. Indeed, German commanders later criticized American artillery fire as "methodical, schematic, and wasteful." It was also true that American gunners sometimes allowed gaps to develop at division and corps boundaries where they failed to provide overlapping fire between zones. Nonetheless, the system functioned when it was needed, and the successful defense of Elsenborn Ridge by V Corps units (among many similar cases) depended on the accuracy and weight of the defensive concentrations that V Corps Artillery fired, particularly on the night of 17/18 December. Much of the artillery's effectiveness came from well-trained forward observers dedicated to their supported infantry and armor units, for "men counted as much as weight of metal," as the official historian wrote. In the 15th Field Artillery Battalion, to cite only one case, 32 forward observers out of a total of 48 became casualties in six days of battle.

Artillery organization: American corps commanders had a considerable amount of artillery at their disposal and were always seeking more. The case of V Corps, which at one point had 37 field artillery battalions, is typical:

V Corps Artillery:

187th Field Artillery Group	186th Field Artillery Battalion
751st Field Artillery Battalion	196th Field Artillery Battalion
997th Field Artillery Battalion	
190th Field Artillery Group	200th Field Artillery Battalion
62nd Field Artillery Battalion	955th Field Artillery Battalion
190th Field Artillery Battalion	
272nd Field Artillery Battalion	
268th Field Artillery Battalion	
406th Field Artillery Group	
76th Field Artillery Battalion	
941st Field Artillery Battalion	
953rd Field Artillery Battalion	
987th Field Artillery Battalion	

Division Artillery, Divisions Assigned to V Corps:

1st Infantry Division Artillery	30th Infantry Division Artillery
5th Field Artillery Battalion	113th Field Artillery Battalion
7th Field Artillery Battalion	118th Field Artillery Battalion
32nd Field Artillery Battalion	197th Field Artillery Battalion
33rd Field Artillery Battalion	230th Field Artillery Battalion
2nd Infantry Division Artillery	78th Infantry Division Artillery

12th Field Artillery Battalion
15th Field Artillery Battalion
37th Field Artillery Battalion
38th Field Artillery Battalion

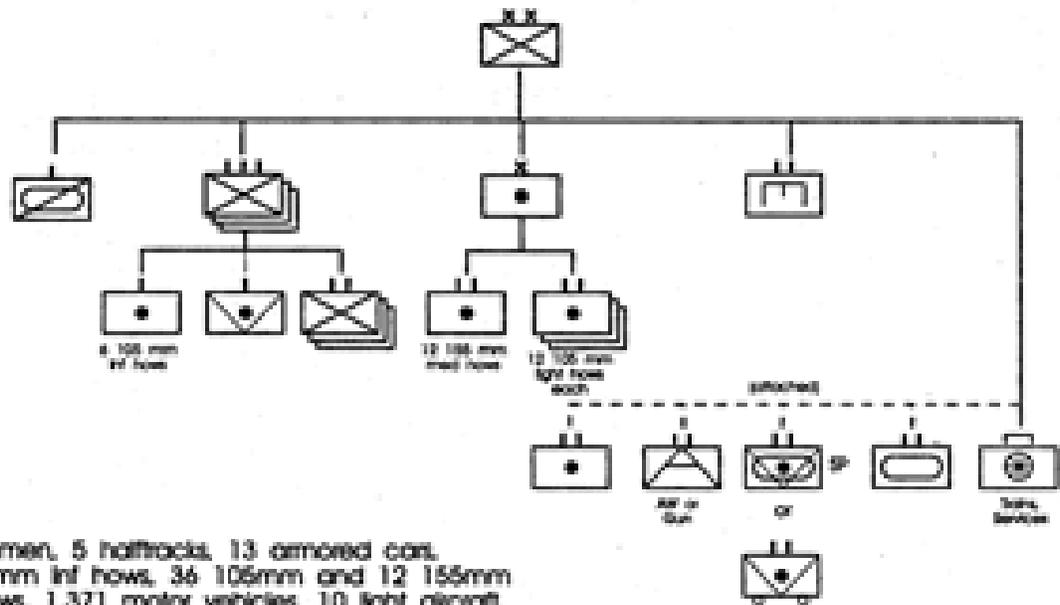
9th Infantry Division Artillery
26th Field Artillery Battalion
34th Field Artillery Battalion
60th Field Artillery Battalion
84th Field Artillery Battalion

307th Field Artillery Battalion
308th Field Artillery Battalion
309th Field Artillery Battalion
903rd Field Artillery Battalion

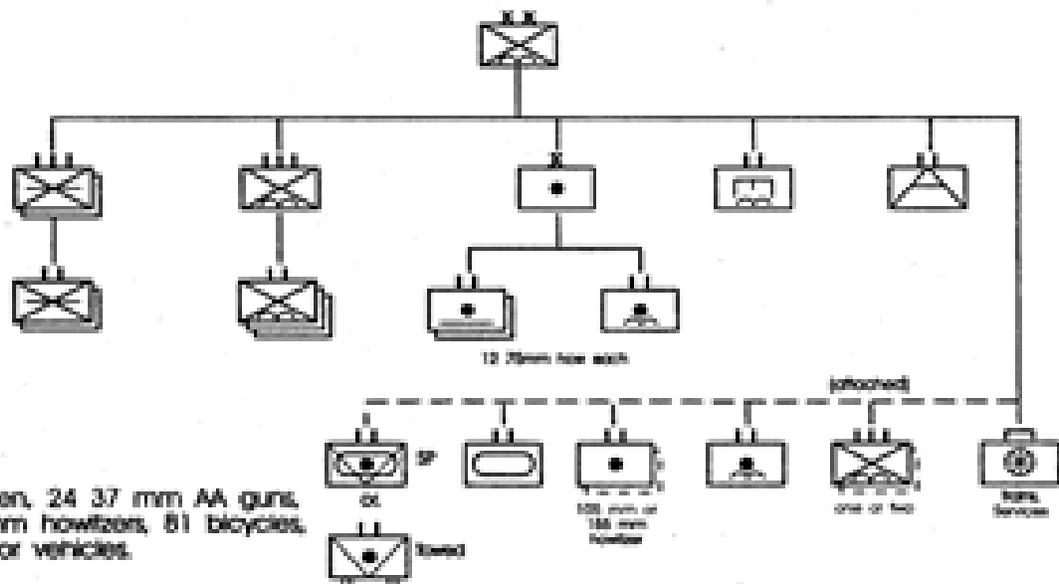
99th Infantry Division Artillery
370th Field Artillery Battalion
371st Field Artillery Battalion
372nd Field Artillery Battalion

(Dr. Charles Kirkpatrick)

US Infantry Division



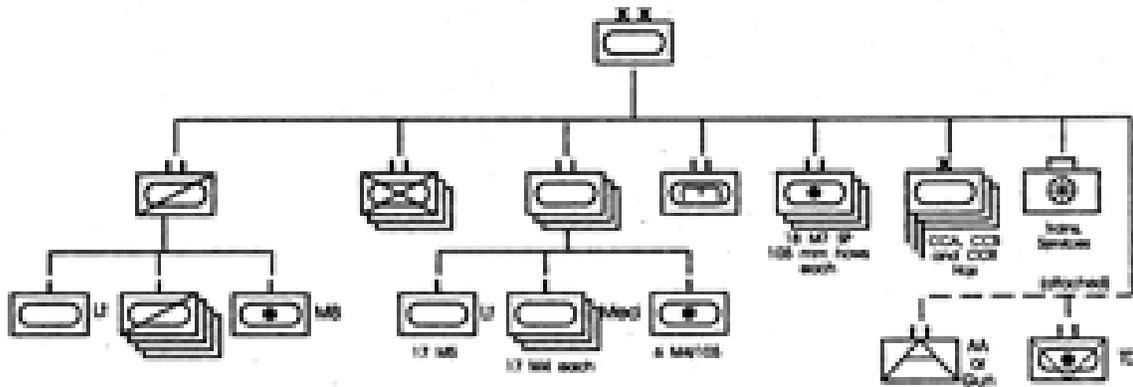
US Airborne Division



Note that the 82d and 101st Airborne had attached two parachute infantry regiments, each, along with a parachute field artillery battalion. Each of these divisions also contained a single three-battalion glider infantry regiment.

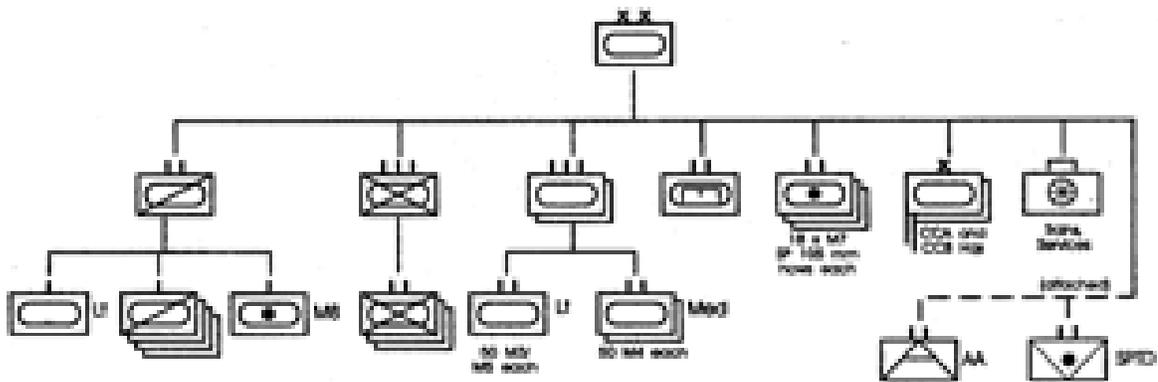
The 17th Airborne had two glider and two parachute regiments, and three artillery battalions. The 17th Airborne thus contained 11,000 men, and the other two divisions about 13,500 apiece.

US Armored Division



10,500 men, 168 medium and 77 light tanks, 450 halftracks, 54 SP M7 105 mm howitzers, 17 M8 and 18 M4 105 mm assault guns, 54 armored cars, 1,031 motor vehicles, 8 light aircraft.

US "Heavy" Armored Division



14,500 men, 232 medium and 158 light tanks, 640 halftracks, 54 SP 105 mm howitzers, 18 M4 105 mm and 14 M8 75 mm how. assault guns, 54 armored cars, 1,242 motor vehicles.

Tab H

Biographical Sketches - Senior Allied Commanders

*"For Devers there was often much provocation,
but nature had endowed him with a store of
patience that seemed inexhaustible ."*

*MG Sir Guy Salisbury-Jones, So Full a Glory:
A Biography of Marshal de Lattre de Tassigny*

General of the Army Dwight David Eisenhower Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Forces



Promoted to five star rank on the eve of the German counteroffensive through the Ardennes, Eisenhower was the senior officer in the European Theater of Operations and commander of the Allied coalition against Hitler. Born in the little east Texas town of Denison in 1890, he graduated from the U. S. Military Academy at West Point in 1915 with a commission in the infantry. World War I brought the temporary rank of lieutenant colonel and service with training the Army's new tank corps, but Eisenhower was disappointed that he never had the chance to command in France during the fighting. He was promoted to major in 1920 and held that rank through the next sixteen years of service in the small interwar Army, serving in various staff positions and, occasionally, with troops. He did not command a battalion until 1940. The key to his professional development was an early assignment in Panama with Brig. Gen. Fox Conner, operations officer on General John J. Pershing's staff during

World War I in France and at that time commanding an infantry brigade. Conner tutored Eisenhower in the military art and, most significantly, caused him to think deeply about the problems of coalition command. After graduating from the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, the acknowledged portal to future advancement, and two years later from the Army War College, Eisenhower served on the War Department General Staff, where he worked in the Office of the Chief of Staff while Douglas MacArthur led the Army. He subsequently worked again for MacArthur in the Philippines and returned to the United States as a lieutenant colonel in 1939 for battalion command in the 15th Infantry, duty as regimental executive officer, and then as chief of staff of the 3rd Infantry Division. Thereafter, Eisenhower became chief of staff of the newly-activated IX Corps and then of Third Army. It was in that position that he first gained national attention, being credited with the battle plan by means of which Lt. Gen. Walter Kruger's Third Army decisively defeated Lt. Gen. Ben Lear's Second Army in the famous Louisiana Maneuvers of 1941.

Almost immediately, Army Chief of Staff George C. Marshall summoned Eisenhower to Washington, where he soon made the younger man chief of the War Plans Division of the general staff and quickly promoted him to major general. Developing plans that were then in formulation, Eisenhower sketched the basic strategy of establishing a base in the United Kingdom and attacking Germany by amphibious landings in France. In June 1942, Marshall named him the commanding general of the new European Theater. In only a few months, Eisenhower had earned Marshall's full trust. Marshall saw in him a man who had the vision to execute the strategy that the Allies had agreed upon. After commanding the 1942 Allied landings in North Africa and the subsequent

campaign in Tunisia, Eisenhower went on to command the Allied assault on Sicily and the Italian mainland, in the process gaining valuable experience not only in coalition command, but also in the difficult problems of amphibious operations. At the end of 1943, he was named Supreme Allied Commander for the invasion of Europe and directed the SHAEF effort to "utilize the resources of two great nations . . . with the decisiveness of a single authority." This was never easy, but in Eisenhower, President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill found a man whose single-minded dedication to the goal of Allied unity was equal to the task. Following the success of the Allied landings at Normandy on 6 June 1944, the buildup of the beachhead, the breakout at St. Lo, the destruction of a large part of the German Army in the west in the Falaise Pocket, and the race across France in September, 1944, Eisenhower's armies stood on the very frontiers of the Reich by the early fall -- far ahead of the most ambitious predictions of staff planners. It was at that point that a shortage of supplies imposed by a paucity of good ports and overextended lines of supply from the Norman beaches caused the Allies to pause and allowed the Germans to regroup and solidify their defenses along the *Westwall* fortifications, known to Americans as the Siegfried Line

Eisenhower's perpetual good humor was often strained by the problems involved in keeping the Allied coalition firmly wedded to a single strategy, and in coping with the strong personalities of many of his subordinates. His perennial problems were Field Marshal Sir Bernard Law Montgomery, commander of British 21st Army Group, and Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., commander of Third U.S. Army -- two men who were, as General Omar N. Bradley remarked in 1978, "two sides of the same coin." Some British commanders, and in particular Montgomery and his mentor, Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, saw Eisenhower as "a nice chap; no general," and thought him unsuited to command the ground battle, although they agreed he was superb at the political level. American commanders, including Patton and Bradley, often complained that Eisenhower forgot that he was an American and was unable to say no to Montgomery. By November of 1944, however, Eisenhower had firm control of SHAEF and imposed his will in his subordinates. Although at least one major disagreement lay in the future, he had disposed of Montgomery's often-expressed preference for a single thrust toward Berlin and insisted on a broad-front strategy with the industrial heartland of Germany as the ultimate goal. (*Dr. Charles Kirkpatrick*)

Lieutenant General Jacob L. Devers
Commanding General, 6th U.S. Army Group

Jacob L. Devers was born on 8 September 1887 at York, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1909 as a lieutenant of Field Artillery. He served in various artillery assignments in the west and on the Pacific coast until December of 1912, when he reported to West Point as an instructor. He remained there until August of 1916, when he went to Hawaii on assignment with the 9th Field Artillery. He returned to the United States in December of 1917 and was an instructor and assistant director of the School of Fire at Fort Sill until October of 1918, and then as executive officer until March of 1919. He the commanded the

1st Field Artillery until May of 1919. He went to Europe where he served in France and in the Army of Occupation of Germany until August of 1919, when he returned to the Military Academy as an instructor of Field Artillery tactics. He remained there five years. Devers had been promoted to temporary colonel by October of 1918 but reverted to his permanent rank of captain on 20 August 1919 and was promoted to major on 1 July 1920.



There followed the usual dreary round of the interwar years assignments. From September of 1924 through June of 1925, he attended the Command and General Staff School, from which he was a distinguished graduate. He then became Director of the Department of Gunnery at the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill until April of 1928, when he assumed command of the 1st Field Artillery once again, this time in the rank of major. In June of 1929 he served in the Office of the Chief of Field Artillery, remaining there until he reported to the Army War College as a student in August of 1932.

Upon graduation from the War College in 1933, Devers went to Fort Hoyle, Maryland, serving with the 6th Field Artillery and as executive officer of the 1st Artillery Brigade. He then served with the 16th Field Artillery at Fort Myer until March of 1936, when he went back to West Point to become Graduate Manager of Athletics. He was promoted to Colonel in the summer of 1936. In the

summer of 1939, he became chief of staff of the Panama Canal Department. He remained there until July of 1940, when he took command of the Washington Provisional Brigade and then went to command the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Bragg in October, having been promoted to brigadier general in May and major general in October.

In July of 1941 he became Chief of the Armored Force at Fort Knox. In May of 1943, having been promoted to lieutenant general in September of 1942, he became Commanding General of the United States Forces in the European Theater of Operations. In December of 1943, he was assigned to command the North African Theater of Operations. He subsequently became Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Allied Force Headquarters, and Deputy Supreme Allied commander, Mediterranean Theater of Operations. In September of 1944, he assumed command of 6th Army Group in France. In March of 1945, he was promoted to general. In June of 1945, he became commanding general of the Army Ground Forces. Devers retired from the Army in September of 1949. He was decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Bronze Star, and a number of foreign decorations.

Devers had a brilliant career in terms of promotion and commands, but did not establish a scintillating reputation. Devers was brazenly ambitious. When Gen. George C. Marshall put him on a committee to recommend which generals ought to be promoted, Devers put his own name first on the list. His other qualities were consistent: he was vain, boastful, and a brilliant bureaucrat. He and Patton, West Point classmates who cordially disliked each other, were a study in contrasts. Patton was a man of action and who embraced risk. Devers was a suave bureaucrat and operator who found ways to avoid risk.

Devers owed much to Lt. Gen. Leslie J. McNair, his patron, and under his tutelage made good decisions about giving tanks heavier guns and increasing the percentage of medium tanks to light in the division organization. They eventually came to a falling out, however, arguing about Army doctrine in early 1943, and Devers was lucky enough immediately to obtain a series of “revolving door” commands in Europe, none of which tested his combat skills but in all of which he could shine as an administrator.

In 6th Army Group, Devers’ command style was radically different from Bradley’s. He didn’t even try to plan major operations, instead letting Patch and de Lattre operate pretty much as they wished, a poor idea when one Army commander, Patch, was in poor health and grieving over the death of his son, and the other, de Lattre, was as difficult as any French Army officer the U.S. Army ever had to deal with.

Eisenhower’s comments about him were measured and temperate but still revealing and, in fact, damning. He obtained Bradley and Patton for the OVERLORD operation. “With these two able and experienced officers available for the cross-Channel operation,” he said, “I foresaw little immediate need in the same organization for Lieutenant General Jacob L. Devers, then commanding United States forces in the United Kingdom.” Eisenhower then damned Devers with faint praise, saying “He had a reputation as a very fine administrator.” Eisenhower sent him to Africa where he thought that qualification would be important, “whereas his lack of battle experience would not be critical because the American tactical operations in Italy would be under General Clark, commanding the U.S. Fifth Army.”

In a later document that rated his generals, Eisenhower ranked Bradley number one and Devers 24, with the commend that Devers was “enthusiastic but often inaccurate in his statements and evaluations The over-all results he and his organization produce are generally good, sometimes outstanding. But he has not, so far, produced among the seniors of the American organization here that feeling of trust and confidence that is so necessary to continued success.”

In his old age, Omar Bradley was considerably more blunt. “I was not overjoyed at the prospect of Jake Devers being elevated to high command in Overlord,” he wrote. He was initially biased against Devers because Eisenhower disliked the man, characterizing Devers as “.22 caliber.” Bradley concluded that Devers was “overly garrulous (saying little of importance), egotistical, shallow, intolerant, not very smart, and much too inclined to rush off half-cocked.” (CK)

Lieutenant General Alexander M. Patch, Jr. Commanding General, Seventh U.S. Army

Alexander McCarrell Patch, Jr., was born on 23 November 1889 at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, the son of an Army officer. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in June of 1913 and was commissioned a second lieutenant of infantry. He joined the 18th Infantry on the Mexican border and served there and at Douglas, Arizona, through June of 1917. He accompanied his regiment to France and served with it until November of 1917. He commanded the Machine Gun Battalion of the 1st Infantry Division through April of 1918 and then became the Director of the

Machine Gun School in the AEF Schools in France through October of 1918. He fought in the Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, and Meuse-Argonne offensives. He served with his regiment in France and in the occupation forces in Germany through February of 1919. He was assigned to the training section of the GHQ, AEF, through April of 1919, and then became Chief Athletic Officer through May.



After returning to the United States, he served in the office of the Adjutant General through 1920 and then as Assistant Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Staunton Military Academy in Virginia through 1924. He was distinguished graduate of the Command and General Staff School in June of 1925 and then served at Fort Eustice briefly before returning to Staunton as PMS&T, where he remained until late 1928. He joined the 12th Infantry and commanded Fort Washington, Maryland (at that time the ceremonial unit for the capital) until he reported as a student at the Army War College in 1931. After graduation in 1932, he returned to Staunton as PMS&T until 1936. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1935.

In 1936, Patch became a member of the Infantry Board at Fort Benning, and helped develop and test the triangular division concept. In 1939, he also served as an instructor of the Alabama National Guard. In August of 1940, promoted to colonel, he was assigned to command the 47th Infantry at Fort Bragg. In August of 1941, a temporary brigadier general, he became commander of the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Camp Croft, South Carolina.

In 1942, promoted to major general, he commanded allied forces for the defense of New Caledonia through November, in the course of which he organized the Americal Division. He then took command of America's first offensive operations against the Japanese on Guadalcanal. In December of 1942 he assumed command of a composite Army-Navy-Marine force in the Solomon Islands, and in January of 1943 activated the XIV Corps and commanded it until April, when he returned to the United States to command IV Corps in California. In March of 1944, he assumed command of Seventh Army in Sicily and led the invasion of Southern France in August. He was promoted to lieutenant general in August of 1944.

In July 1945, Patch took command of Fourth Army at Fort Sam Houston, and died on 21 November from pneumonia. He was posthumously promoted to the rank of General in 1954.

He was decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal for his command in the Pacific, and with the Navy Distinguished Service Medal for operations at Guadalcanal, as well as two more Distinguished Service Medals in Europe and the degree of Commander of the French Legion d'Honneur, as well as the Croix de Guerre. He was posthumously decorated with the Grand Cross of the Order of Leopold with Palm and the Croix de Guerre of Belgium, and with the Companion of the Military Division of the Order of the Bath from Great Britain.

The red-headed (thus his nickname, "Sandy") Patch was an engaging man and a steady but uncharismatic performer. Most accounts hold that he was highly able, rather than brilliant, but was careful without being timid. He worried constantly about casualties and sought ways to

achieve his tactical goals by maneuver and firepower wherever possible, rather than by infantry and armored assault. He was one of the foremost critics of the War Department's policy of sending to the infantry many soldiers with lesser physical and mental capacity that remained after the Air Force and volunteer units had picked over the manpower pool—what he characterized as the “unemployables or misfits,” while the Army allowed the cream of the nation's youth to escape into easier, less demanding service, or at least more glamorous service. One consequence of his period of command on Guadalcanal was that he conceived doubts that the American soldier was able to stand up under hardship and maintain discipline under unfavorable circumstances. When he returned to Washington and spoke with Gen. George Marshall, Patch was brutally frank about his experiences, telling the Chief of Staff that “the American soldier does not like to fight and does not like to die,” an unflattering appraisal that reportedly infuriated Marshall, though he was at the same time impressed with Patch's candor.

Patch was almost unique among World War II generals in that he truly abhorred publicity, which placed him poles apart from George Patton, with whom he maintained a years-long friendship and shared a mutual respect. The men enjoyed each other's company and periodically traded mild insults. When Patton's Third Army finally reached the Rhein River, for example, Patch sent him a message congratulating him on being the last American general to do so. When Patch pulled back slightly from the Rhein during the German counteroffensive, NORDWIND, in early 1945, Patton replied with congratulations to Patch for being the first American general to *leave* the river.

Some of his subordinates later complained that Patch's aversion to publicity was one of the reasons that Seventh Army never received the recognition it deserved. He was a virtuoso smoker, having the ability to roll his own cigarettes one-handed from a sack of Bull Durham tobacco. For recreation, he played the accordion, a fact that appears to have had no bearing on his competence as a commander.

One thing that recommended Patch for Seventh Army command was his unusual success in dealing with delicate French sensitivities and the often obscure tensions of Free French politics in New Caledonia, while commanding the Americal Division and, later, the XIV Corps.

Patch valued steady and conscientious officers and surprised his comparatively young IV Corps staff when he retained them as the general staff of Seventh Army. Paradoxically, he was also somewhat contemptuous of staff work and considered the Army staff to be entirely the preserve of his chief of staff. He was still loyal to his staff, although he demanded that they place the needs of commanders first, instructing them that any of them could respond “yes” to a commander's request, but that only he could respond “no.” On one occasion, Patch was urged to get rid of one of his staff officers on the grounds that the man lacked common sense. He refused, remarking “Of course he hasn't got any sense—I thought you knew that. However, he is not incompetent and your job is to keep him out of situations requiring judgment. Do that and you'll find him very useful.” Later, when the officer in question remained out of control despite the best efforts of the staff principal, Patch fired him on the spot, without fanfare, and without batting an eye.

His son, Alexander McCarrell Patch III, a captain commanding an infantry company in the 79th Infantry Division, was wounded in the course of the fighting in Normandy and received the Distinguished Service Cross for the same action. Gen. Patch learned of his son's wound through an article in *Stars and Stripes*. Talking with soldiers in his son's company, Patch learned that the

young officer was careless of his personal safety, which helped to account for the DSC, a Silver Star, a Bronze Star, and several Purple Hearts. On 22 October, by which time his division was under Seventh Army control, the younger Patch was killed in action at Luneville while leading Company C, 315th Infantry. The French later posthumously awarded him the Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur. Omar Bradley later wrote that, although Patch made enormous efforts to control himself and showed no outward signs of grief, "the psychological effect on Patch had been so devastating as to impair his effectiveness as an army commander."

Eisenhower clearly thought more highly of Patch than he did of the Army Group commander, Devers. At one point, he was seriously entertaining the idea of replacing Devers, whom he aggressively disliked, with Patch. George Marshall had not been particularly impressed with Patch's performance on Guadalcanal, though others thought he had done well and Marshall was willing to be convinced. Eighteen months after that campaign ended, however, Patch was still a major general, and got his third star only a week before Operation ANVIL/DRAGOON was launched. Conventional wisdom in the Army at the time held that Patch got the Seventh Army command specifically because his friend, Maj. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, the SHAEF chief of staff, urged Eisenhower to ask for Patch, and Eisenhower, respecting Smith's judgment, agreed. Moreover, Lt. Gen. Leslie McNair was very impressed with Patch on the basis of Patch's performance as a staff planner in the 1941 maneuver season. George Patton, full of praise for subordinates and disinclined to praise peers and superiors, at least said nothing derogatory about Patch as Seventh Army Commander and appeared to sympathize with Patch's problems in dealing with the French and with SHAEF. (CK)



Général d'Armée Jean de Lattre de Tassigny Commanding General, First French Army

Jean Joseph-Marie Gabriel de Lattre de Tassigny was born on 2 February 1889 in Mouilleron-en-Pareds. He was educated at the French Military Academy, St. Cyr, and served as an infantry officer throughout World War I, and wounded twice in action. In 1924-1925, he served as a general staff officer during the Rif War in Morocco. During the interwar period, de Lattre also served in General Weygand's headquarters and commanded an infantry regiment in Metz. In 1940, he was in a staff appointment, but was soon promoted to brigadier general and took command of the 14th Infantry Division, a unit that had an excellent reputation as one of the best of the French divisions, in large part because of the "abundant abilities" of its commanders. The division was well trained and well equipped and acquitted itself magnificently during the German attack on France in May of 1940. Confronted with the disaster at Sedan, he withdrew his forces into the French zone (south of the Loire), and remained on active duty. He commanded the 16th Infantry Division in Tunisia, where he helped organize an anti-German organization. When his resistance efforts were discovered by the Vichy regime, de Lattre was sentenced to ten years imprisonment. However, he escaped to Algiers shortly after the Allied invasion of North Africa in November 1942 and joined the Free French forces there.

On 18 April 1944, General Charles de Gaulle appointed him commanding general of *Armée B*, later renamed the First French Army. He commanded the French corps that liberated Corsica, and at the time of the Allied landings in southern France, de Lattre's force was designated II French Corps,



with the understanding that he would assume command of First Army after the I French Corps came ashore sometime in September. Throughout the planning for ANVIL/DRAGOON, de Lattre's headquarters continued to seek a D-Day role for French troops. Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch resolutely denied such a mission, however, because the French forces lacked adequate amphibious training for the assault. Instead, once the beaches were secured, de Lattre's divisions had the task of taking the ports of Marseilles and Toulon. On 25 September, *Armée B* was redesignated the First French Army, which de Lattre commanded for the rest of the war as part of Sixth Army Group.

Close cooperation between American and French commanders was essential because the French drew much of their combat service support from the U. S. Army. French commanders deemed it vital to the honor of France to assign as many French troops as possible to combat units, with the consequence that de Lattre's troops depended heavily on the American logistics infrastructure. Like many Americans, Patch privately viewed de Gaulle as a cold fish and never particularly liked him. He had excellent relations with de Lattre, on the other hand, and the two commanders worked well together. Somewhat volatile by American standards, de Lattre was nonetheless a friendly man who had a genuine affection for Patch and a high regard for the American forces. Like Patch, de Lattre lost his son in battle. Lieutenant Bernard de Lattre de Tassigny survived World War II but was killed in action on 30 May 1951 at Ninh Binh, in French Indochina.

He continued in command of the First French Army in the subsequent attack up the Rhône River valley to the border of Alsace where, by mid-October stiffening German resistance, the weather, replacement and supply shortages, and the difficult terrain dramatically slowed the advance of the French First Army and the US Seventh Army in the Vosges Mountains. In November 1944, de Lattre devised the plan that led to the dramatic breakthrough of the French I Corps south of Belfort and its rapid drive to the Rhine on 19 November. From then until late January 1945, the French First Army struggled to reduce the Colmar pocket and complete the liberation of Alsace. These tasks were completed by the First Army, with an American Corps attached, in February. From then until the end of the war, de Lattre led the French First Army across the Rhine, through southern Germany and into Austria where it ended the war. On May 8, 1945, he represented France at the signature of the German capitulation in Berlin. After the end of the war, de Lattre commanded the Western European Union ground forces until December of 1950, when he went to French Indochina. There, he established the reputation as the most successful of the French commanders in the first Indochina War, mobilizing French civilians for the war effort against the Viet Minh. He defeated General Vo Nguyen Giap's offensive in the Red River delta in 1951. Shortly thereafter, illness forced his return to France, and de Lattre died in Paris on 11 January 1952. He was promoted to *Marechal de France* posthumously. (CK & Dr. Scott Wheeler)

Major General Lucian K. Truscott, Jr. Commanding General, VI U.S. Corps

Born January 9, 1895, in Texas, Truscott grew up in Oklahoma, where he was a teacher before World War I. In 1917, he enlisted in the Army and was commissioned in the cavalry through an



officers' training camp in Arkansas. In August 1917, he received a regular appointment. He did not serve in France, and was assigned in Hawaii 1919-1921; with the 1st Cavalry in Arizona, 1922-1925; as a student at the Cavalry School in 1926; and as an instructor at the Cavalry School for five years. Truscott served in the 3rd Cavalry at Ft. Myer, Virginia, 1931-1934. After competing in Mexico as a member of the Army Polo team in March of 1934, he attended the Command and General Staff School, graduating in 1936 and remained there as an instructor. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1936.

In 1940 he was assigned to the new 13th Armored Regiment at Fort Knox as executive officer of the 2nd Battalion and then regimental operations officer. In July of 1941, he went to Fort Lewis as Assistant to the Plans

and Training Officer, IX Corps. From there, he went to England. Colonel in December 1941 and brigadier general in May 1942, he was posted to Lord Louis Mountbatten's staff to observe combined operations. There, he organized a brigade of rangers after studying British commando operations, and took part in the attack on Dieppe in August 1942. By November of that year, Truscott was a temporary major general and in command of the task force that captured Port Lyautey in French Morocco during the Allied invasion of North Africa.

In March 1943, he took command of the 3rd Infantry Division and served as part of Gen. George S. Patton's Seventh Army in the capture of Palermo and Messina on Sicily. Veterans of the 3rd Division recalled one of his training innovations, the "Truscott Trot," a forced march that covered 30 miles in eight hours, instead of the Army standard of 20 miles. In September, he took 3rd Infantry Division ashore to reinforce the beachhead at Salerno and then took part in the Anzio assault in January, 1944. Truscott succeeded Gen. John P. Lucas as commander of VI Corps at Anzio, reinfusing spirit into the corps and rescuing an operation that was in danger of becoming a fiasco. He then led the corps in the drive on Rome.

In August 1944, Truscott's VI Corps made the assault in Southern France and led the allied attack up the Vosges valley. In December 1944, by then a temporary lieutenant general, Truscott returned to Italy as commanding general of Fifth Army, leading the final assault across the Po River Valley, through Bologna, and receiving the German surrender in Italy on May 2, 1945. Truscott succeeded George Patton in command of Third Army in Germany and returned to the United States in 1946,

retiring in 1947. In May 1951 he was an advisor to the U.S. High Commissioner for West Germany. In 1954 he received an honorary promotion to General, by act of Congress. He died in Washington, D. C., on September 12, 1965.

His many decorations included the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism while commanding the 3rd Infantry Division in Sicily, expanding the beachhead; the Distinguished Service Medal for his part in the landings in North Africa in November 1942, the Legion of Merit in recognition of his contributions in creating and training the American combined operations forces in England, the Purple Heart for wounds in Italy in January 1944, and a number of foreign decorations, including the French Legion d'Honneur, and the British Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath. He was promoted to general on the retired list in August 1954.

Truscott was a favorite of George Patton and was known across the Army as a blunt and effective commander. His friend Ernie Harmon, who commanded the 1st Armored Division, said that "Truscott was a fine fighting soldier, a man of will power, decision and drive." Omar Bradley fought hard to get Truscott to command Third Army, but both Gen. Devers and Gen. Clark refused to release him from command of VI Corps, then heavily engaged in Italy. After Patton's most recent public gaffe in England in April of 1944, Eisenhower cabled Marshall to say, "I now more than ever regret that I did not, before I left the Mediterranean, arrange to send Truscott to the Overlord command with the expectation that he would be one of the senior ground commanders. He would make an ideal commander of the Third Army." In accounting for the success of Sixth Army Group in defeating a German Army of the same size, one historian remarked that "the difference was not numbers but quality. Devers also enjoyed superior firepower, air power and mobility . . . and Truscott."¹ (CK)



Major General Edward H. (Ted) Brooks Commanding General, VI U.S. Corps

Edward Brooks was born on 25 April, 1893 in Concord, New Hampshire. He graduated from Norwich University in 1916 with a degree in Civil Engineering. Brooks began his military career in June 1915 as a captain with the 1st Cavalry of the Vermont National Guard. He was a battery commander and later Assistant G-3 of the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade in France in WWI. During the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, he earned the DSC when he "...exposed himself to heavy and accurate artillery fire directed on an ammunition train while driving a loaded ammunition truck to safety, the driver of which had been killed by enemy fire."

CPT Brooks was in the Army of Occupation in Europe until August 1919. On his return to the US, Brooks was a member of the 3rd Infantry Division football team and in 1921 at the American Legion Convention in Kansas City, he captained the team which defeated Great Lakes Naval Station 20-6. After two years as a gunnery instructor at Ft. Sill, he spent two years in the Philippines where he commanded Battery D of the 24th FA Regiment, a pack mule outfit. From

¹ Geoffrey Perret, *There's A War to be Won: The United States Army in World War II* (New York: Random House, 1991), 364.

1928-32, he commanded his third battery, a horse drawn unit and was the first to complete a 100-mile forced march in less than 24 hours. Then followed two years at CGSC, two years at Harvard on ROTC duty, a year at the Army War College, and two years at CGSC as a tactics instructor. From 1939-41, he worked for General Marshal and Secretary of War Stimson as head of the statistics department at the Department of the Army.



In 1941 he became General Jacob Dever's deputy at the new armored force at Ft. Knox where he was promoted from LTC to BG, never serving as a Colonel. He was promoted 8-months later to MG and played a major role in the development of both the M-7 self-propelled artillery piece and the M-8 assault gun.

From 1942-44 he established and commanded the 11th Armored Division. In March 1944 he was sent to England to take command of the 2nd Armored Division, took it ashore at Normandy on 9 June 1944, and led it on the breakthrough at St. Lo and across France. His was the first Allied division to enter Belgium.

MG Brooks took command of US VI Corps on 25 October 1944 and fought the corps through the rugged 'High Vosges' onto the Alsatian Plain as part of Seventh US Army. In December, the corps liberated Selestat and Hagenau and advanced to the German border. During Operation NORDWIND – the German offensive into Alsace – VI Corps was assaulted by elements of four German corps' in the first week of January 1945. Initially giving ground, the corps counter-attacked in the last week of January and retook the ground along the Rhine north of Strasbourg.

Resuming the advance in mid-March, VI Corps drove again to the Rhine, this time near Karlsruhe. After crossing the Rhine the corps met a bitter and determined enemy from Heilbronn and later Krailsheim. The corps was then ordered south to the Swiss border, ending the war in Austria and making contact with US forces in Italy at the summit of the Brenner Pass.

Personal tragedy followed in 1946 when his son, Major Edward H. Brooks, Jr. (USMA '43), died in an airplane crash in Germany while piloting a bomber back to the US.

LTG Brooks served as G-1 of the Army and CG of Second US Army at Ft. Meade, retiring in 1953.

Major General Wade Hampton Haislip Commanding General, XV U.S. Corps

Wade Haislip was born in Virginia in 1889 and was commissioned into the infantry from the United States Military Academy in 1912. He participated in the Vera Cruz landings in 1914 and served on the V Corps staff and in the 3rd Infantry Division during World War I, attaining the rank of temporary lieutenant colonel. During the war, he took part in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-

Argonne offensives. He was an instructor at the U.S. Military Academy from 1921 to 1923, following which he attended Command and General Staff School, graduating in 1925. He then served in the 16th Infantry Regiment, and studied at the Ecole Superieure de Guerre in 1927. In



1932, he attended the Army War College, and was an instructor at Fort Leavenworth from 1932 to 1936. Haislip reported as a member of the War Department General Staff in 1938, remaining there through early 1941.

He was promoted to brigadier general in January of 1941, and to major general in March of 1942. In 1942, he assumed command of the 85th Infantry Division and, in February of 1943, took command of XV Corps in England. He arrived in France with his Corps in mid-July of 1944 and took part in all the major campaigns in western Europe to the end of the war.

After World War II, Haislip commanded Seventh Army, was Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, and was Governor of the Soldiers' Home.

Haislip was decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal (third Oak Leaf Cluster), the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the French Legion d'Honneur, and the French Croix de Guerre avec Palme.

Wade Haislip was another retiring figure who did not stand out from Patton's shadow. He was a competent corps commander, and Patton was reportedly "very depressed" when Haislip's corps was detached from Third Army. (CK)



Major General Frank W. Milburn Commanding General, XXI US Corps



Frank Milburn was born in Missoula, Montana. He attended West Point and was commissioned in 1914. During WWI, Milburn served in the Panama Canal Zone. Subsequently, he served in Infantry assignments in the 5th, 33rd, 15th, and 28th Infantry Regiments in the inter-war years.

He was a 1933 graduate of the Command and General Staff College and subsequently was an instructor at the College.

When World War II broke out, Milburn was promoted to Brigadier General in March of 1942 and Major General in September. He commanded the 83rd Division until December 1943 when he was given command of XXI Corps, which he

commanded for the remainder of the war. XXI Corps was assigned to 7th US Army in mid-January 1945 during the pitched battle to eliminate the Colmar Pocket in Eastern Alsace in France.

The corps was attached to the First French Army under Field Marshall Jean de Lattre de Tassigny who described Milburn in this manner:

“When I saw MG Frank Milburn arrive at Rothau at 1000hrs on 25 January (he was) lean and muscular and straight of eye, with the energetic features of a fighter, it did not take me long to know that I would find in him the most careful and loyal of subordinates. The steadfastness of his character, his clear view of realities and his leader-like authority, were apparent to me at once and I felt that I could have complete confidence in him to bring to a successful conclusion the rough task which was going to fall to his US 21st Corps.”

On 20 March 1945, the corps broke through the Siegfried Line and captured Saarbruecken. Crossing the Rhine behind VI Corps, the XXI Corps captured Wuerzburg on 5 April 1945 following an assault over the Main River. The corps then fought in to Schweinfurt, followed by Fuerth and Ansbach and then into Augsburg. On 1 May 1945, the corps captured Bad Tolz and German Field Marshall Gerd von Rundstedt.

Immediately after the war, Milburn had a brief stint as the Seventh Army Commander and then XXIII Corps in Germany. He then was given V Corps from the summer of 1945 through 1946. Milburn commanded the 1st Infantry Division from June 1946 to 1949 when he was promoted to LTG and was appointed as the Deputy Commanding General of USAREUR.

During the Korean War, he commanded IX Corps and was for a time the Acting Commander of 8th US Army. Milburn’s career is remarkable for having commanded five US Army corps.

He retired in April 1952 and became the Athletic Director at Montana State University where he passed away in 1962.

Lieutenant General Marie Emile Antoine Bethouart Commanding General, French I Army Corps

The commanding general of the French I Corps in the Alsace campaign and the architect of the French victory in the Belfort Gap in November 1944, Bethouart was born in Dole, France, in 1889 and graduated from Saint-Cyr in 1909 with his classmates Charles De Gaulle and Alphonse Juin. He served in the 152nd Infantry Regiment in the Vosges before the First World War.

During World War One, Bethouart served in some of the heaviest fighting on the Western Front to include Verdun, the Somme, and the Chemins des Dames. Wounded three times in action, Bethouart ended the war as a captain and received the Legion of Honor.

In the Interwar period, Bethouart served with the 6th *Battalion de Chasseurs Alpins*, assuming command in 1928. He served as the French military attaché to Yugoslavia, 1931-1938. Upon

promotion to colonel in 1938, Bethouart commanded the 5th *Demi-Brigade de Chasseurs Alpins* until the outbreak of World War Two. During the Allied expedition to Norway in April 1940, Bethouart commanded the French expeditionary corps. His units performed well before they were withdrawn to France in June, after the German invasion.



After the fall of France, Bethouart assumed a command in French-occupied Morocco, where he attempted to convince the local Vichy government not to resist the American landings of 8 November 1942. He was arrested for his efforts but freed six days later by the Americans. In December 1942, he took charge of the Free French military mission to Washington, D. C., where he helped negotiate the program to re-arm the French Army. A loyal supporter of General de Gaulle, Bethouart served as the chief of staff of the French committee of national liberation before being appointed to command the French I Corps in August 1944.

For the remainder of the war Bethouart served as I Corps commander in de Lattre's French First Army. On 14 November 1944, his corps brilliantly out-maneuvered the German forces south of Belfort and broke through the German defenses. During the next five days, Bethouart drove his divisions to the Rhine, which they reached on the evening of 19 November. Over the next week, Bethouart defeated a German counterattack that threatened to cut his forward forces off from their lines of communication and then turned his units north to the outskirts of Mulhouse. During the next three months the I Corps held the southern flank of the Colmar Pocket, which it helped to reduce in January and February 1945.

Bethouart's corps crossed the Rhine on 15 April and drove through the Black Forest and on to Ulm. The I Corps ended the war in Austria on 7 May 1945. Bethouart was then appointed to command the French forces in Austria and later assumed the duties of French High Commissioner to Austria (1946-1950). He retired from the army in 1950 and served as a senator of France from 1955 to 1971. He died on 17 October 1982 at Frejus, France. (SW)

Major General Aime Joseph de Goislard de Monsabert Commanding General, French II Army Corps

The commanding general of the French II Corps during the Alsace campaign, Monsabert was born in 1887 in Libourne, France. He graduated from Saint-Cyr in 1907 as an infantry officer assigned to the 50th Infantry Regiment and, in 1908, volunteered for duty with colonial troops in Morocco, where he served until 1914.

De Monsabert served in the First World War with the 1st *Regiment Mixte de Zouaves et de Tirailleurs* and then in the 9th *Regiment de Marche de Zouaves*. He served in the 1st Moroccan

Division alongside the American 1st and 2nd Divisions in the Soissons offensive of July 1918 and ended the war with the French Legion of Honor.



At the beginning of World War Two, de Monsabert was serving in North Africa where he was when the Allies invaded in November 1942. He quickly joined the Free French movement and was selected to command the 3rd Algerian Infantry Division. The 3rd Algerian Division fought successfully in Tunisia alongside US and British forces, helping to liberate Tunis in May. In December 1943, Monsabert led his division to Italy where he served under Alphonse Juin in the French Expeditionary Corps in the battles around Monte Cassino. In May 1944, his 3rd Algerian Division spearheaded the US Fifth Army's breakthrough on the Garigliano, pushing its soldiers over some of the roughest terrain in central Italy.

In August, he led the 3rd Algerian Infantry Division into southern France as part of the Allied Operation Anvil-Dragoon, where it was instrumental in the liberation of the ports of Toulon and Marseille. On 31 August, de Monsabert assumed command of the French II Corps and, as part of de Lattre's French First Army, took part in the liberation of the Rhone valley. In October and November the II Corps fought its way slowly through the high Vosges, north of Belfort, suffering heavy casualties as it slowly pried the Germans out of their strong defensive positions. During the French November breakthrough in the Belfort region, Monsabert's corps liberated Belfort and

drove the Germans out of the Vosges. In January and February, the II Corps helped eliminate the Colmar pocket and defended Strasbourg during the German *Nordwind* offensive.

By the end of the war, Monsabert's corps had crossed the Rhine and captured Stuttgart. Monsabert retired from active duty in 1946, due to age limitations, and then served as a deputy in the French national assembly. He died in 1981. (SW)

Major General John Wilson O'Daniel ("Iron Mike") Commanding General, 3rd Infantry Division

John W. O'Daniel was born in Newark, Delaware, on 15 February 1894. He attended Delaware College in Newark and enlisted in the Delaware National Guard on 19 July 1916, serving as a corporal and sergeant with the 1st Delaware Infantry on the Mexican border. He was honorable discharged on 15 February 1917. In May of that year, he entered the Reserve Officer Training Camp at Fort Myer, Virginia, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Infantry reserve on 15 August 1917. In October of 1917, he obtained a commission in the Infantry in the Regular Army

and was assigned to the 11th Infantry Regiment, with which he served in combat in France, taking part in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives. O'Daniel was decorated with the



Distinguished Service Cross for heroism in action near Bois St. Claude in the St. Mihiel salient on 12 September 1918, and was severely wounded. He returned to the United States with his regiment in September 1919 and was assigned to the 25th Infantry Regiment in Arizona. He ended the war as a captain.

Between the two world wars, O'Daniel's career was typical for an officer of his generation, involving very slow promotion, relatively little real troop duty, and infrequent command. In 1924, he was an Infantry instructor with the New Jersey National Guard and attended the Infantry School at Fort Benning 1927-1928. In July 1928, he was transferred to the 21st Infantry at Schofield Barracks, and in January 1930 took command of the Military Police Detachment of the Hawaiian Department. In October 1931, he joined the 12th Infantry at Fort Howard, Maryland. In May 1933, he became assistant to the Officer in charge of the Port of

Embarkation in New York City for the Pilgrimage of War Mothers and Widows. Later in 1933, he was on Civilian Conservation Corps duty at Smokemont, North Carolina, then was assigned to the 22nd Infantry at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. He became Army liaison officer to the Tennessee Valley Authority in July 1934 and in March 1935 returned to the CCC as a district adjutant in Alabama, eventually being assigned as district executive officer. In 1935, he was assigned as Professor of Military Science and Tactics at the Academy of Richmond County at Augusta, Georgia. At last, in August 1935, he was promoted to major.

In 1938-1939, O'Daniel attended the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth. He then became an instructor at the Civilians Military Training Camp in Michigan and an instructor to the Officers Reserve Corps. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in August of 1940. In January 1941, he assumed command of the 2nd Battalion, 24th Infantry, at Fort Benning, and took part in the Third Army maneuvers in Louisiana. In December, promoted to colonel, he became Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations of Third Army and director of the Junior Officer Training Center at San Antonio. In June 1942, he became operations officer for the Amphibious Training Center at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts.

He took those skills to Europe where he commanded the American Invasion Training School in England for Allied Forces Headquarters. In September, he took command of the 168th Infantry Regiment in the North African theater, and commanded that unit in the capture of Algiers on 8-9 November, 1942. He was promoted to brigadier general in November and the following month organized the Fifth Army Invasion Training Center in Africa, where he trained the forces destined for the assault landings on Sicily.

In June 1943, he became deputy commanding general of the 3rd Infantry Division, working for Maj. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott, Jr. The two men saw eye to eye and got along very well. In July 1943, he went to Algiers and was attached to the 36th Infantry Division for the landings at Salerno. He became officer in charge of amphibious operations for Fifth Army in October 1943, and the following month was reassigned as Assistant Commander of the 3rd Infantry Division. When

Truscott assumed command of VI Corps in February of 1944, O'Daniel took command of the division in Italy, and promoted to major general in May. He continued in command of the 3rd Infantry Division in Italy until the division was selected for the landings in Southern France.

He led the division up the Rhône Valley to Strasbourg and into the Colmar Pocket where it decimated German forces in January of 1944, then through the Siegfried Line at Zweibrücken in March 1944. O'Daniel attacked across the Rhine and captured Nürnberg, Augsburg, Munich, Salzburg, and Berchtesgaden. On 5 May 1945, representatives of Field Marshal Albert Kesselring surrendered to him near Munich.

Assigned at Army Ground Forces headquarters in Washington in July 1945, O'Daniel later that month became commandant of the Infantry School. In 1948 he was military attaché in Moscow. He then was Infantry Inspector in the office of the Chief of Army Field Forces at Fort Monroe from 1950 through July 1951, when he went to Korea to Command I Corps. He was promoted to lieutenant general in December 1951. In September 1952, he became commanding general of U.S. Army Forces, Pacific, at Fort Shafter, Hawaii. In April 1954, he served as Chief of the Military Assistance Advisory Group in Indochina.

Aside from the Distinguished Service Cross and Wound Chevron (later the Purple Heart) during World War I, O'Daniel was decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal for his command of 3rd Infantry Division and a second DSM for subsequent actions while in division command. He also was awarded the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal, the French Croix de Guerre and Legion d'Honneur, and the Italian Silver Medal for Bravery.

Gen. O'Daniel retired on 29 February 1956 after 39 years of service.

Noted for his fighting spirit, O'Daniel typically gave brief operations orders to his division and, later in the war, named phase lines that recalled the 3rd Infantry Division's victories. His order for the battles of the Saar and Rhine Palatinate, for example, began with this passage:

“Attack in zone with utmost speed and aggressiveness.... Destroy all enemy encountered. The attack will be pressed with the ruthless vigor that has routed every enemy formation opposing the 3d Div. All men will be brought to the highest possible state of offensive spirit prior to the jump-off. *Bayonets will be sharpened.*”

His corps commander, Lucian Truscott, considered O'Daniel a rugged, down to earth commander with boundless energy, a keen mind, a vivid imagination, and plenty of initiative. O'Daniel, he thought, had a thorough knowledge of the business of fighting: “He was a rugged, gruff-voiced Irishman, who thoroughly enjoyed fighting, and had no equal in bull-dog tenacity or as a fighting infantry division commander. He well merited the sobriquet ‘Iron Mike’ by which the division knew him.” (CK)



Major General Norman D. Cota Commanding General, 28th Infantry Division



Norman D. Cota was born 30 May 1893 at Chelsea, Massachusetts, and graduated from the United States Military Academy in April, 1917. An infantryman, he was first assigned to training duty in the United States, and then as an instructor at the Military Academy, entirely missing overseas duty in World War I. From 1920 through 1924 he served principally as a finance officer. Cota graduated from the Army War College in 1936.

From 1938 to 1940, he taught at the Command and General Staff School. In November, 1940, he became executive officer of the 16th Infantry at Fort Jay, New York, followed in March of 1941 by assignment as G-2 of the 1st Infantry Division. In July of 1941, he became divisional G-3, a post he held until June of 1942. While assigned as G-3, he devised and carried out extensive amphibious training exercises for the division. He became division Chief of Staff in June of 1942, while the division was preparing for movement overseas.

In February of 1943, he was promoted to brigadier general and assigned to British Combined Operations Headquarters in London. Through the spring and summer of 1943, he represented the United States in a series of Anglo-American conferences on combined operations techniques and amphibious operations. In October of 1943, he became Assistant Division Commander of the 29th Infantry Division and began training that division for the landings in France.

Cota distinguished himself through personal gallantry while serving as Assistant Division Commander of the 29th Infantry Division during the Normandy landings, and was decorated with both the Distinguished Service Cross and the British Distinguished Service Order.

A member of his Weapons Section while teaching at the Infantry School in 1930, Cota had known Bradley for years. For his part, Bradley considered Cota a good friend. After relieving Maj. Gen. Lloyd Brown from command of the 28th Infantry Division during the hedgerow fighting in France, Bradley assigned it to the ADC of the 9th Infantry Division, who was mortally wounded a few hours after taking command. His next choice, in August, was Cota, largely because of his heroism at Omaha Beach. In his postwar analysis, Bradley concluded that Cota led the 28th Infantry Division with great distinction, and that the division “soon became one of the toughest and most dependable in my command.”

After the war, Cota brought the division back to the United States and was assigned in 1946 as commanding general of the Fourth Service Command at Fort Jackson. He retired as a major general in June, 1946. He died on 4 October 1971. (CK)



Major General John E. Dahlquist Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division

John Ernest Dahlquist was born in Minneapolis on 12 March 1896 and attended the University of Minnesota. He graduated from the Officer Training Camp at Fort Snelling and was commissioned a lieutenant in the Infantry Reserve on 15 August 1917 and assigned to active duty. He was appointed in the Regular Army in October and promoted to first lieutenant. He joined the 36th Infantry at Fort Snelling, but did not get to France before World War I was over.



He was in the 50th Infantry in the occupation of Germany between 1919 and 1922, when he returned to the United States and duty with the 5th Infantry at Camp Devens, Massachusetts.

In October of 1925 he attended the Infantry School and remained there as an instructor. He took the Infantry School Advanced Course in 1928 and, immediately after graduating, went to Fort Leavenworth where he was a member of one of the two-year classes at the command and General Staff School, graduating in June of 1931.

Dahlquist then went to the Philippines where he served in the 45th Infantry (Philippine Scouts), returning to the United States and duty with the 3rd Infantry at Fort Snelling in 1934. In August of 1935, shortly after promotion to major, he attended the Army War College, graduating in June of 1936. A year later, he graduated from the Air Corps Tactical School at Maxwell Field, Alabama. He was then assigned to the Planning Branch, Personnel Division, War Department General Staff. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1940 and to colonel a few days after Pearl Harbor in 1941.

In May of 1942, he went to London as Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel of the special Army Observer Group. He then became ACofS for Personnel of the United States Forces in the British Isles, and in June 1942, having been promoted to brigadier general, was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff of the European Theater. In October of 1942, he became assistant commander of the 76th Infantry Division at Fort Meade, Maryland, and was named commanding general of the 70th Infantry Division at Camp Adair, Oregon, in February of 1943. He was promoted to major general in June of 1943.

In July of 1944, he took command of the 36th Infantry Division in Italy and commanded that division in the assault on Southern France on 15 August 1944. Between 22 and 30 August, the division was heavily engaged in the battle at Montelimar and then started a pursuit of German forces up the Rhône valley, reaching the Moselle River on 18 September and entering the Battle of the Vosges on 20 September. On 2 December 1944, the division was on the Rhine near Selestat. In the new year, he led the division through the Siegfried line and in April into the Austrian Tyrol.

On 1 November 1945, Dahlquist became a member of the Secretary of War's Personnel Board and then became Deputy Director of Personnel and Administration on 1 June 1947. He reverted to the grade of brigadier general in June of 1946 and was promoted again to major general in January of 1948. In July of 1949, he was assigned to the European Command and two months later took

command of the 1st Infantry Division at Grafenwöhr. He commanded V Corps at Bad Nauheim in August of 1951 and subsequently in Frankfurt am Main. In March of 1953, he took command of Fourth Army at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and was promoted to lieutenant general in May. Later that year, he was acting Chief of Army Field Forces at Fort Monroe and was appointed Chief of Army Field Forces in 1953, a post he held as Commanding General, Continental Army Command, when the position was redesignated in 1955. He was promoted to general in August of 1954. He retired from the Army on 29 February 1956.

He was decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the French Legion d'Honneur and Croix de Guerre, and the British Companion of the Military Division of the Order of the Bath.

The only division commander in the assault not an original member of Truscott's "team," Dahlquist came to division command personally brave, but without combat experience. He took over the 36th Infantry Division after it was withdrawn from battle in Italy and had the difficult task of turning around a unit with the reputation of a "hard luck" division. The 36th had suffered heavily at San Pietro in December 1943 and in January 1944 in the attempt to force the Rapido River. After he took division command, Dahlquist's inexperience quickly revealed itself when he twice pushed battalions forward too quickly, allowing them nearly to become encircled and having to mount rescue missions with other regiments. At one point in the Battle of Montelimar, Truscott went forward to the 36th Infantry Division to relieve Dahlquist from command for not helping close the gap at Hill 300 quickly enough. Dahlquist's explanations and his decisions and other tactical concerns changed Truscott's mind, but the Corps commander appears never to have been completely happy with Dahlquist as a commander. Dahlquist's name came to the top of the heap because of his time as a student at Fort Benning while George Marshall was assistant commandant of the Infantry School. (CK)



Major General William W. Eagles Commanding General, 45th Infantry Division

William Willis Eagles, born in Indiana on January 12, 1895, received a commission as an infantry second lieutenant with the West Point class of April 1917, but did not serve in battle in France. Like other officers of his generation, Eagles spent the 1920s and 1930s in various school and staff assignments. He taught at the Infantry School in 1921 and subsequently served on the faculty there, served in the Philippine Department in 1923, taught ROTC at Ripon College in 1925, was a student at the Infantry Advanced Course in 1930 and 1931, taught at the Infantry School again until 1935, when he attended the Command and General Staff School. Duty in the VIII Corps Area and service with the Civilian Conservation Corps followed.

Promoted to colonel after Pearl Harbor, Eagles quickly received an appointment as brigadier general in July of 1942, shortly after taking up duties as assistant division commander in the 3rd Infantry Division under Lucian Truscott. He served in that position in the invasion of North Africa, in the

Sicilian campaign, at Palermo and Messina, in the landings at Salerno, and in fighting up Italy as far as Cassino. At Sicily, he landed with the assault elements of the division. For a part of that time he commanded the 15th Infantry when that regiment lost its colonel.



In 1943, he was promoted to major general and in November assumed command of the 45th Infantry Division, leading it in combat at Anzio and later in the invasion of Southern France and subsequent campaigns to the Rhine, until wounded near Strasbourg in November of 1944 and evacuated to the United States. He was returned to active duty in June of 1945 as commander of the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Camp Hood, Texas. When that center was deactivated in January of 1946, he assumed command of Fort Dix. On 15 July 1947, he became commanding general of the 9th Infantry Division.

He took command of the Ryukyus Command in May of 1948 and returned to the United States in October of 1949, assuming command of the Central Military District, Sixth Army, at San Francisco. In December of 1949, he served in the office of the Secretary of the Army. In July of 1951, he became Inspector General of the European Command in Heidelberg and in 1952, Director of Military Posts, European Command. He retired in 1953 and died in Washington, D.C., on February 19, 1988.

Eagles was decorated with two Distinguished Service Medals, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart.

A follower of Truscott from 1942 onward, Eagles was part of a group Truscott particularly trusted and with whom he worked comfortably. Despite considering Eagles to be an “intelligent, well-trained and professionally competent division commander,” Truscott concluded that he was “not, however, [an] outstanding battle leader.” Eagles was not, in Truscott’s estimation, in the same league as Harmon, O’Daniel, and Frederick. (CK)



Major General Robert Tryon Frederick Commanding General, 1st Airborne Task Force & 45th Infantry Division

Robert Frederick was born in California on March 14, 1907. At the age of fourteen, he worked his way to Australia and back as a deck hand on a freighter. Later, he enlisted as a private in the National Guard and reached the rank of corporal before his discharge in 1924, when he entered the Military Academy. He graduated from West Point in 1928 pretty much in the middle of his class and with the reputation of being bright but lazy. He was commissioned into the Coast Artillery Corps and served in various harbor defense and antiaircraft artillery units in the United States and the Panama Canal Zone. In 1933, he was assigned to work with the Civilian

Conservation Corps. In 1935, he was assistant adjutant general in the Ninth Corps Area in California, and in 1935 was an aide de camp. He graduated from the Coast Artillery School in



June of 1938 and immediately went to the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, graduating in June of 1939 with a sparkling academic record. Assigned to Hawaii, he was operations officer in the 64th CA (AA) until 1941, when he became a member of the War Plans Division of the War Department General Staff, an organization that became the Operations Division in 1942.

In June of 1942, he assumed command of the 1st Special Service Force, a composite American-Canadian unit of about regimental strength and took it to Fort Outstanding in interwar Army schools. Trained 1st Special Service Force at Fort Harrison, Montana. He sought outdoorsmen, men of action; for his unit, and many came from the stockade, a matter that did not concern him. In fact, it became something of a boast at Fort Harrison to say that “I got into the Force *without* a criminal record.” His force successfully spearheaded the reconquest of Kiska Island in the Aleutians before being sent to the Mediterranean Theater for operations in Italy, where Frederick distinguished himself in combat command. He had a habit of making personal reconnaissances before missions, and then taking direct part in the fighting, as well as of leading small unit patrols. His unit led the way into Rome when the city was captured by Fifth Army. He was promoted to major general in August, 1944, at the age of 37.

Assigned to command 1st Airborne Task Force for the landings in Southern France, Frederick devised his own training for those who were not airborne qualified. He thought parachuting to be child’s play, and to prove, it he made his own first jump with only ten minutes of instruction and wearing bedroom slippers. Churchill is said to have called him “the greatest general of all time.” He built the 1st Airborne Task Force, an *ad hoc* airborne division, from various British and American glider and parachute units, and commanded it through Operation anvil/dragon and through what his men called the “Champagne Campaign up the Rhône River valley.

Later in the war, he assumed command of the 45th Infantry Division after its commander was wounded, and led that division through the end of the war in Europe.

After World War II, he commanded the Coast Artillery School at Fort Monroe and served at various other assignments in the United States before becoming commanding general of Headquarters, U.S. Forces in Austria in May of 1948. In February of 1949, he took command of the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Ord then, in May of 1951, became chief of the Joint U.S. Military Aid Group in Greece. Much to his disappointment, he was unable to get an assignment in Korea when war broke out there. Evacuated, ill, from Greece, he was medically retired in 1952. Frederick died at Palo Alto, California, in November of 1970.

He was a highly decorated officer: two Distinguished Service Crosses, two Distinguished Service Medals, the Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, two Bronze Star Medals, the Air Medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge, as well as a number of foreign decorations.

One of the youngest American division commanders in the war, he was not *the* youngest—that distinction went to James Gavin, a week younger than Frederick, and who assumed command of the 82nd Airborne Division some months before Frederick took over the 45th Infantry Division. An index of his style of leadership, however, is another, and unenviable, record that Frederick did set: eight Purple Hearts as a result of eight, separate, reportable, and verifiable battle wounds.

Winston Churchill, reading reports of Frederick’s battle leadership in Italy, is supposed to have called him the Allies’ “finest fighting general.” The VI Corps commander, Lucian Truscott, admired Frederick and his accomplishments, saying of him that

“Frederick was another type. He was slight in build, with an almost unhealthy pallor, but rather dignified in appearance. He wore a somewhat inconsequential mustache and this combined with a gentle manner, gave him more the look of a haberdashery clerk than the first-class fighting man which he was. His fearless disregard of danger, indicated by nearly a dozen wounds, won him the admiration and respect of everyone, especially of the fine group of fighting men that he commanded. Frederick had that ‘feel of battle’, and excelled as a battle leader.” (CK)



AUDIE MURPHY (1924-1971)

One of the most famous American soldiers of the Second World War, Audie Murphy did his entire military service in the 3rd Infantry Division. Born on June 20, 1924 the son of a sharecropper in Hunt County, Texas, Murphy grew up in poverty after his father abandoned his large family during the great depression. Murphy enlisted in the Army at age 18 in June 1942, and was assigned to the infantry. He rose from the rank of private to lieutenant in thirty months of service in the 15th Infantry, duty that included combat in Tunisia, Sicily, Italy (including the hotly-contested Anzio beachhead), France (including the landing in Southern France), and Germany.



Murphy was wounded three times and was celebrated as the most highly-decorated American soldier of the war, winning a total of twenty-eight medals, among them the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, and the Silver Star. During the Southern France landings, then-Staff Sergeant Murphy received the Distinguished Service Cross during an action in which his battalion secured the high ground on the St. Tropez peninsula, overrunning a German strongpoint and capturing 40 prisoners from the German *242nd Division*. It was on January 26, 1945, as a consequence of a fight in the Colmar Pocket in eastern France, that Murphy earned the Medal of Honor. At that time a lieutenant in command of Company B, 15th Infantry, he single-handedly held off several German attacks by some 250 infantry and six tanks, at one point by firing the machine gun mounted on the turret of a disabled and burning tank destroyer. (see

attached full citation for the Medal of Honor and other decorations)

Returning to the United States at the end of the war, he became an actor and appeared in some forty films, perhaps the most noted of which were the film version of his autobiography, *To Hell and Back* (1955), and a rendering of Stephen Crane's novel about the Civil War, *The Red Badge of Courage*. Murphy's popularity as a film star was short-lived, as it proved that he did not have the screen presence to pull in large audiences, a fact he knew perfectly well because he commented that he had a great liability as an actor—he could not act. Once his notoriety as a war hero faded, his film career came to an end. Thereafter, he went into business, but swiftly went bankrupt, losing the large sums—reportedly more than two million dollars—that he had earned as an actor. Murphy was killed on May 28, 1971, in the crash of a light airplane near Roanoke, Virginia.

Lacking the formal education that allowed other citizen soldiers such as James Rudder, who had commanded the Ranger assault on Pointe du Hoc in Normandy, to attain high rank in the Army Reserve or National Guard, Murphy still remained the icon of the citizen soldier. Americans who had little contact with the armed forces and who knew little of history nonetheless knew his name. His memory was revered particularly in his home state and in the 3rd Infantry Division. (CK)

MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION

Second Lieutenant Audie L. Murphy. Company B, 15th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division.
Near Holtzwihr, France. January 26, 1945.

Second Lieutenant Murphy commanded Company B, which was attacked by six tanks and waves of infantry. Lieutenant Murphy ordered his men to withdraw to prepared positions in a woods, while he remained forward at his command post and continued to give fire directions to the artillery by telephone. Behind him, to his right, one of our tank destroyers received a direct hit and began to burn. Its crew withdrew to the woods. Lieutenant Murphy continued to direct artillery fire which killed large numbers of the advancing enemy infantry. With the enemy tanks abreast of his position, Lieutenant Murphy climbed on the burning tank destroyer, which was in danger of blowing up at any moment, and employed its .50 caliber machinegun against the enemy. He was alone and exposed to German fire from three sides, but his deadly fire killed dozens of Germans and caused their infantry attack to waver. The enemy tanks, losing infantry support, began to fall back. For an hour the Germans tried every available weapon to eliminate Lieutenant Murphy, but he continued to hold his position and wiped out a squad which was trying to creep up unnoticed on his right flank. Germans reached as close as 10 yards, only to be mowed down by his fire. He received a leg wound, but ignored it and continued the singlehanded fight until his ammunition was exhausted. He then made his way to his company, refused medical attention, and organized the company in a counterattack which forced the Germans to withdraw. His directing of artillery fire wiped out many of the enemy; he killed or wounded about 50. Lieutenant Murphy's indomitable courage and his refusal to give an inch of ground saved his company from possible encirclement and destruction, and enabled it to hold the woods which had been the enemy's objective.

Extract from War Department General Order No. 65, 9 August 1965

Full List of Decorations to Audie L. Murphy

Medal of Honor
Distinguished Service Cross
Silver Star with First Oak Leaf Cluster
Legion of Merit
Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device and First Oak Leaf Cluster
Purple Heart with Second Oak Leaf Cluster
U.S. Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal
Good Conduct Medal
Distinguished Unit Emblem with First Oak Leaf Cluster (Presidential Unit Citation)
American Campaign Medal
European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with One Silver Star, Four Bronze Service Stars (representing nine campaigns) and one Bronze Arrowhead (representing assault landing at Sicily and Southern France)
World War II Victory Medal
Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp
Armed Forces Reserve Medal
Combat Infantry Badge
Marksman Badge with Rifle Bar
Expert Badge with Bayonet Bar
French Fourragere in Colors of the Croix de Guerre
French Legion of Honor, Grade of Chevalier
French Croix de Guerre With Silver Star
French Croix de Guerre with Palm
Medal of Liberated France
Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 Palm

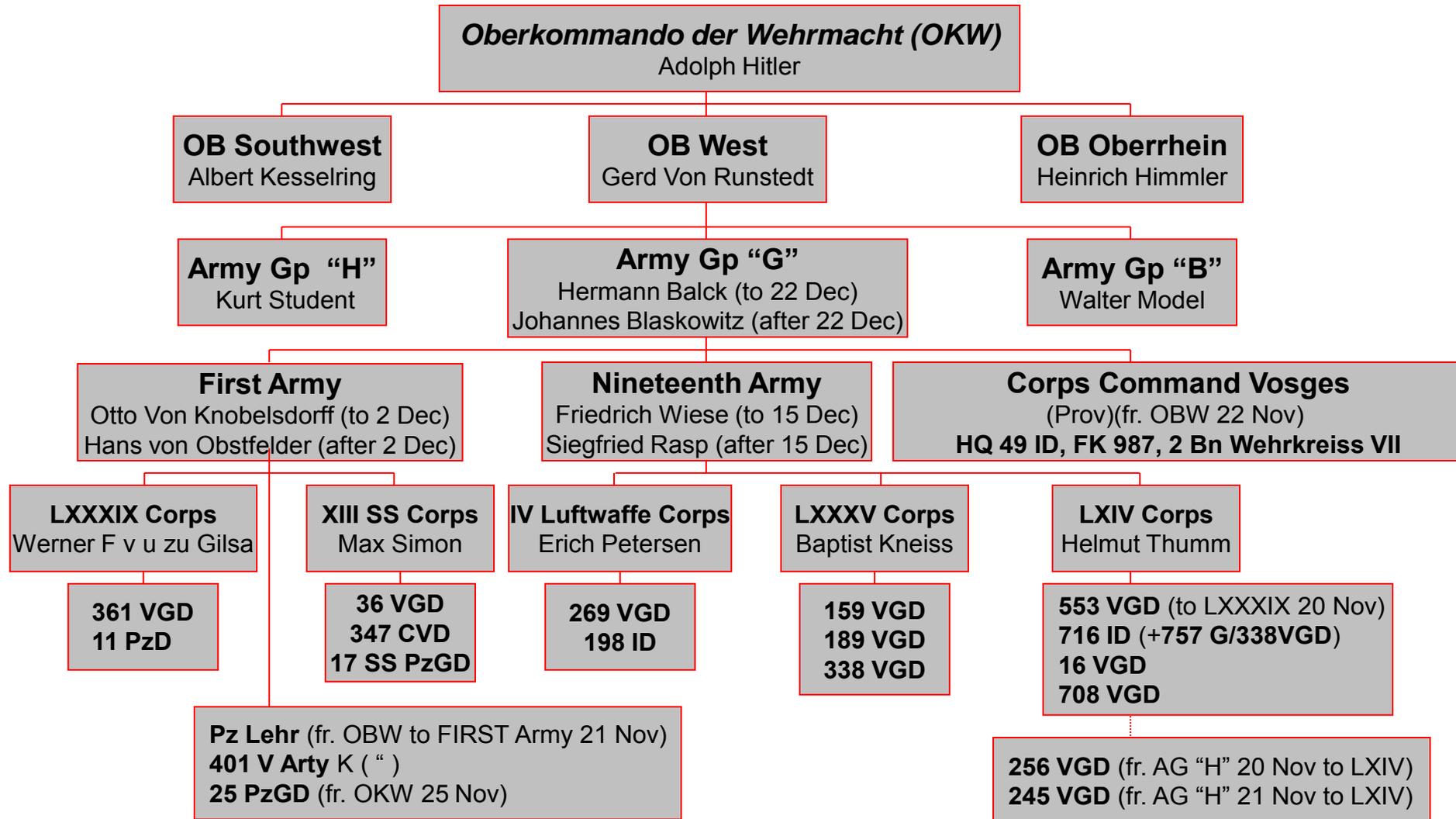
Tab I

German Command Architecture & Order of Battle

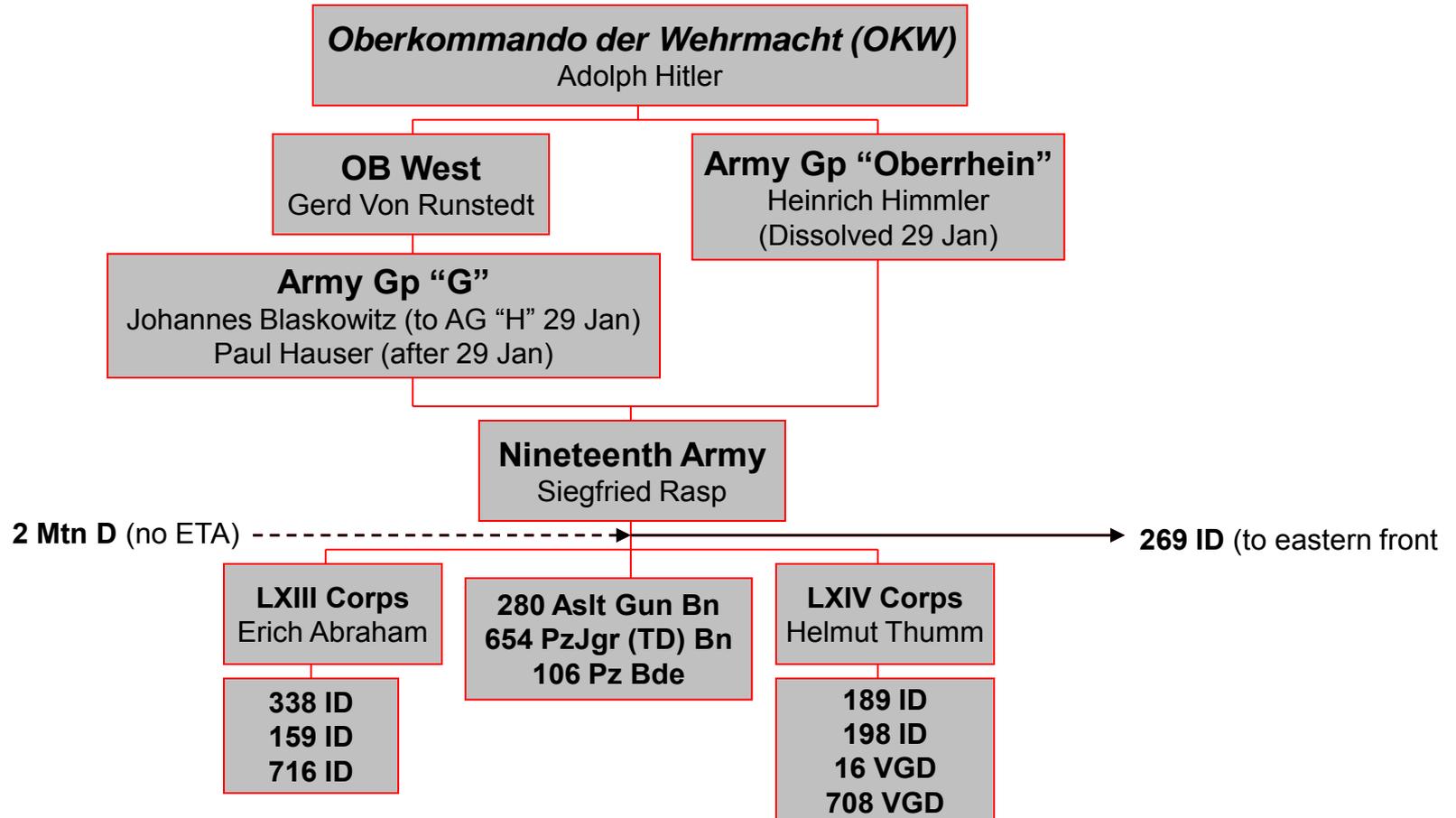
"Whatever you do, don't crush the vines!"

***Gen d'Armee Jean de Lattre de Tassigny,
First French Army, 14 August 1944***

German Command Architecture in the West, 8 Nov. '44



German Command Architecture - Colmar Pocket 15 Jan '45



Tab J

The German Army in December 1944



The 75th Infantry Division advances near Colmar on 31 January 1945.
NARA, Signal Corps photo

The German Army in 1944 had long since passed the peak of its power. Yet no American or British soldier who had fought in North Africa or Italy would be inclined to take any part of that army lightly, not even the static, or coastal defense, divisions that had manned the fortifications along the Norman coast. According to an old British military adage, "He who has not fought the Germans does not know war." American troops agreed. During the breakout from the Normandy beachhead, Major General Raymond O. Barton, commanding the 4th Infantry Division, visited one of his battalions, urging it on with assurances that the German formation in front of it was only second rate and not much of an opponent. A young S-2 lieutenant remarked: "General, I think you'd better put the Germans on the distribution list. They don't seem to realize that."

An important part of the German Army's fighting capacity was its rigorous selection process for, and equally rigorous professional education system of, both officers and noncommissioned officers, and the ability of those men to transmit combat skills to their soldiers. German divisions demonstrated an astonishing ability to rebound in a matter of weeks from shattering casualties, as long as a reasonable cadre of the officers remained to train the replacements. A mere handful of German officers accomplished apparent miracles of training and leadership. At the beginning of the war, German officers comprised only 2.86 percent of the total army strength, and declined in relative size as the war went on. By contrast, officers were 7 percent of the total strength of the U. S. Army (growing to 15 percent by the Vietnam War). Unit consciousness and solidarity helped make the German Army an effective fighting force. German leadership capably welded individual soldiers into cohesive units such that the company was the primary group, whereas in the American Army the usual primary group was the squad or, at the largest, the platoon.

Fighting in Normandy and across France from June through September of 1944 depleted the German army in the west, literally destroying many divisions and seriously damaging more. From the equipment point of view, Field Marshal Model considered the retreat across the Seine almost as great a disaster as the Falaise Pocket. Only 100 to 120 of the 1,300 tanks and assault guns committed to the Battle of Normandy ever made it back across the Seine. The average panzer division in September had less than ten tanks. The Germans had lost an additional 15,000 vehicles of other types, with corresponding effects on tactical mobility and sustainability of forces. The paradox of Hitler's "stand fast" strategy in Normandy was this: he had used up his Panzer divisions in the hedgerows of Normandy (ideal infantry terrain), while Rommel cried for infantry. When the Allies reached good tank country, Model had nothing left with which to stop them except infantry, which was of marginal value there.

In preparation for the upcoming offensive in the Ardennes, Hitler gave orders on 2 September to raise twenty-five new divisions to become available between 1 October and 1 December. Those twenty-five and the eighteen raised in July and August were designated *Volksgrenadier* divisions, a title intended to appeal to national and military pride. Some of the divisions were assigned new numbers in the 500 series, but others carried numbers belonging to divisions that had been totally destroyed, for Hitler had on 10 August forbidden the practice of erasing such divisions from the army rolls.

The organization and equipment of the *Volksgrenadier* division reflected the German army tendency, current since 1943, to reduce manpower in combat divisions while increasing their firepower. Early in 1944, the army reduced the standard infantry division from about 17,000 to

about 12,500 officers and men. The *Volksgrenadier* division was even smaller, at 10,000. It generally had three infantry regiments with two rifle battalions apiece and a smaller slice of organic service troops. Equipment varied with availability, but the attempt was to arm two platoons in each company with the 1944 model machine pistol, add more field artillery, and provide a slightly larger complement of antitank weapons and assault guns. The ideal of fourteen assault guns (the standard accompanying weapon for the German infantry in the attack) per division was seldom realized. About three-fourths of the divisional transportation was horse-drawn. One unit, the *Füsilier* battalion, was equipped with bicycles. The *Füsilier* battalion customarily served as the division reserve, and replaced the reconnaissance battalion in the division organization. By 1944 it was clear that an army that customarily fought on the defensive had a diminished need for reconnaissance units.

In general, the personnel policy was to bring survivors of divisions destroyed on the eastern front to Germany, there to be used as cadres in the formation of new divisions, and finally sent to the western front as the veteran core of these inexperienced formations. Ranks were not as closely tied to position in the German Army as in the American. By 1944, division commanders were frequently colonels, but might as easily be lieutenant generals. Officers from captain through colonel commanded regiments. Generally speaking, a German Army colonel was both more senior and more experienced than his American counterpart.

Equipment

Generally speaking, German weapons were superior to those issued to American soldiers.

Tanks: Until 1935 in American doctrine, the tank was essentially a machine-gun carrier that accompanied the Infantry. Experiments with mounting heavy guns in tanks did not get very far, the Chief of Infantry in 1938 declaring that a 75-mm. gun was useless in a tank. In 1940, both the rival armies fought the Battle of France with tanks armed to a 75-mm standard, and the Germans had already experimented with the 88-mm gun in a turret. In June 1940, the U.S. adopted the 75-mm gun for tanks. In the spring of 1944, as Anglo-American armies prepared for the invasion of Europe, the largest gun on an operational American tank was still a short-barrelled, low-muzzle-velocity 75-mm, the standard armament of the then-standard M4 Sherman tank. At the same time, Germany's Panther tanks carried long-barrelled, high-muzzle-velocity 75s, and the Tiger carried the 88-mm gun. To kill tanks, American doctrine relied on the tank destroyer, a fast, heavily-gunned, lightly-armored vehicle standardized as the M10 in 1942. It mounted a 3-inch, high-muzzle-velocity, flat-trajectory gun on a Sherman chassis. The need for more power to cope with German tanks brought the M18, with a 76-mm gun, into service in 1944. The M18 had a shallow open turret and was mounted on a M24 light tank chassis. The M36, an M10 redesigned to accommodate a 90-mm gun, came into service about the same time. On none of these vehicles was the armor comparable to that of German tanks. Tank destroyers, appropriately armed to be "killer tanks," lacked the armor to stand up to German tanks for the fight.

Infantry Anti-Tank Weapons. The American 2.36-inch rocket launcher, or "bazooka," was too small to penetrate the front armor of German tanks and demanded careful aim against soft spots. This was no easy chore for an exposed, nervous infantryman when a massive German tank loomed so close that he could hear the squeak of the bogies. The Germans adopted an 88-mm Panzerfaust,

a rocket-propelled shaped-charge grenade that was about twice as powerful as the American bazooka. When James M. Gavin was a colonel commanding the 505th Parachute Infantry, his men tried out the bazooka in Sicily and found it disappointing. Gavin later wrote that "As for the 82nd Airborne Division, it did not get adequate antitank weapons until it began to capture the first German panzerfausts. By the fall of '44 we had truckloads of them. We also captured German instructions for their use, made translations, and conducted our own training with them. They were the best hand-carried antitank weapon of the war." The U.S. did not even initiate a project for a more powerful, 3.5-inch rocket until August 1944.

Rifles. The Garand .30-caliber M1 semi-automatic was the best standard infantry shoulder arm of the war. No other rifle matched its combination of accuracy, rate of fire, and reliability.

Artillery. The U.S. 105-mm howitzer was at least the equal of its German counterpart of the same caliber. The effectiveness of American artillery, however, was multiplied by the best equipment and techniques of any army for fire direction, observation, and coordination. (*Dr. Charles Kirkpatrick*)

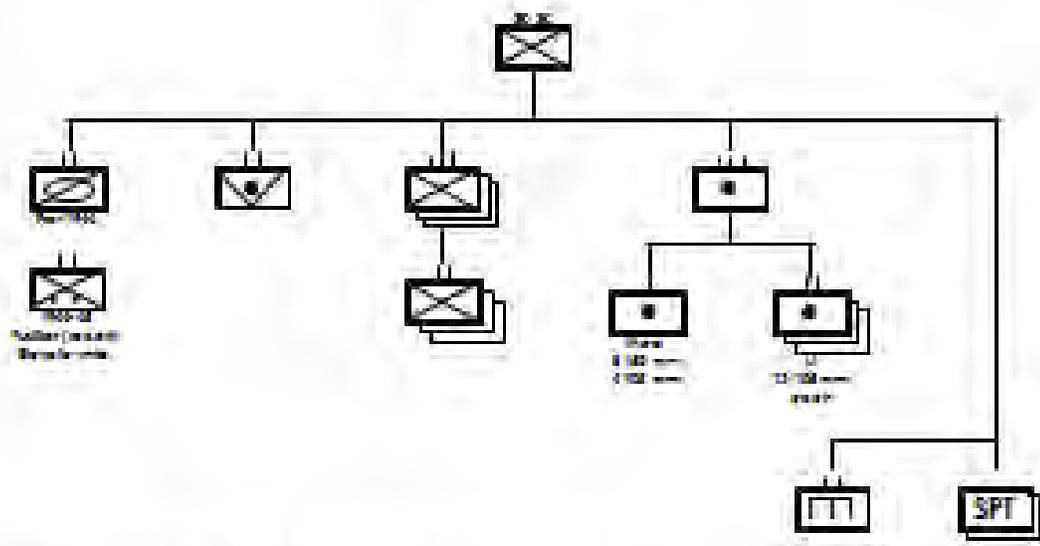
Comparative Fire Power of U.S. and German 1944-Type Infantry Divisions (By TOE)

Category	U.S.	German
Strength	14,037	12,769
Rifles & carbines	11,507	9,069
Pistols	1,228	1,981
Submachine guns	295	1,503
Light MGs and automatic rifles	539	566
Heavy MGs	90	90
60-mm mortars	90	-
81-mm mortars	54	48
120-mm mortars	-	28
Bazookas	558*	108**
Flame throwers	-	20
U.S. .50-cal MG; German 20-mm AA gun	237	12
37-mm AT guns	13	-
57-mm AT guns	57	-
75-mm AT guns	-	35
75-mm infantry howitzers	-	18
105-mm howitzers	54	36
U.S. 155-mm howitzers; German 150-mm	12	18

* Also 2,131 rifle grenade launchers

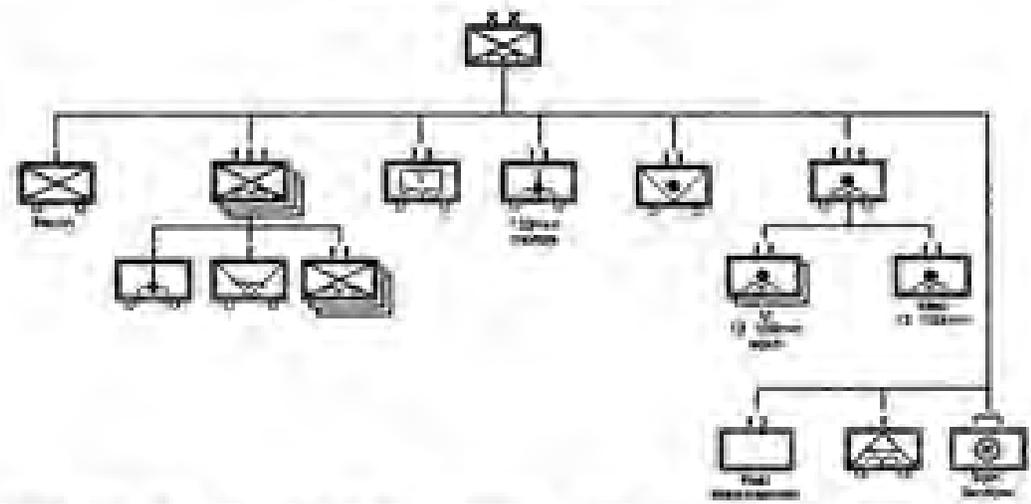
**Either Panzerfausts or antitank rifles

Infantry Division



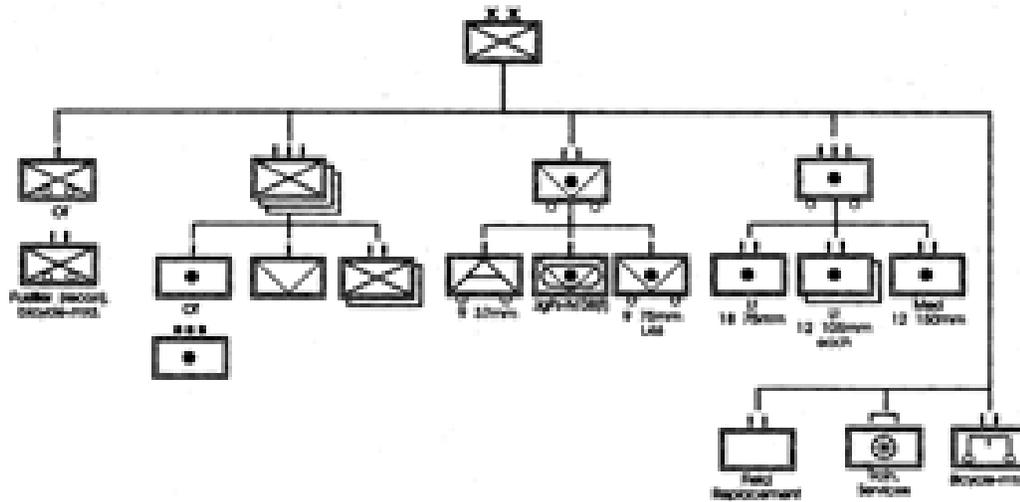
17,250 men (pre-1944). In 1944 re-organizations reduced overall strength to about 12,500.

Fallschirmjäger Division



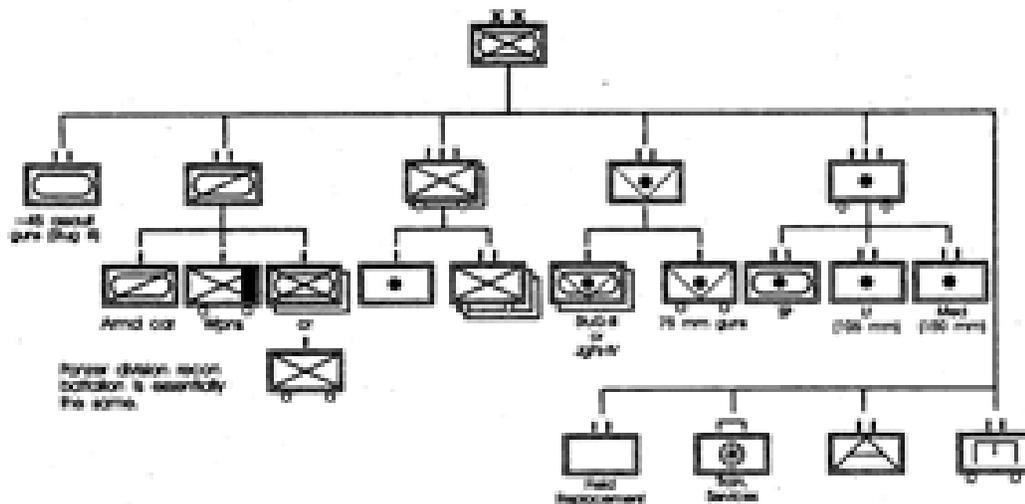
16,500 men, 24 105mm and 12 150mm mortar-launcher howitzers, 18 88mm AA guns, 60+ 75mm AT guns, 2,000 motor vehicles.

Volksgranadier Division



11,000 men, 14 TDs, 60 IF and 18 med horse-drawn arty, 150 motor vehicles, 3,000 horses.

Panzergranadier Division



14,500 men, 45 tankassault guns, 30 TDs, 12 towed 150 mm Inf hows, 12 SP 105 mm and 6 SP 150 mm hows, 12 towed 105 mm hows, 8 towed 150 mm hows, 4 towed 105 mm guns, 12 75 mm AT guns, 12 88 mm AA guns, 16 armored cars, 40 halftracks, 2,500 motor vehicles.

Tab K

Biographical Sketches - Senior German Commanders



"Win the war by '44... Stay alive by '45."

Unofficial mottos of Seventh Army Soldiers,
between Dec '43 and Dec '44

Feldmarschall Karl Rudolf Gerd von Rundstedt ***Oberbefehlshaber-West (Commander-in-Chief, West)***



Born 12 December 1875 at Aschersleben in the Harz mountains and a graduate of the prestigious *Hauptkadettenanstalt* at Gross-Lichterfelde, von Rundstedt began active military service 22 March 1892 and earned a commission as lieutenant in the 83d Royal Prussian Infantry Regiment on 17 June 1893. After ten years of regimental service he passed the entrance examination for the *Kriegsakademie* in Berlin. After graduating, he was appointed to the Great General Staff, on which he served until 1909. He then served on General Staff with troops as a captain in a corps headquarters.

Just finishing a tour of command of an infantry company when war broke out in 1914, he was assigned as operations officer in the 22d Reserve Infantry Division, which participated in the great attack across France with the First German Army. In 1915 he was promoted to major and sent to the eastern front as a division chief of staff. The fighting along the Narew River line in the

summer of 1915 resulted in mobile warfare, and von Rundstedt got a taste of maneuvering troops in an advance that extended more than 250 miles. Before the end of the war, he had also served as a corps chief of staff.

He remained in the 100,000-man German army at the end of the war, commanding the 18th Infantry Regiment as a colonel (his first troop command since 1914). As a major general, he was chief of staff of a military district. Promoted to lieutenant general, he commanded the 2nd Cavalry Division. In 1934, as general of infantry, he commanded 1st Army Group. In 1938, he led the Second Army in the occupation of the Sudetenland.

He resigned from the army in 1938 in protest against Hitler's policies, which he thought would lead to a war for which Germany was grossly unprepared. He retired as a colonel-general and was appointed colonel-in-chief of the 18th Infantry Regiment, a distinction he valued highly. As a field marshal, he customarily wore his marshal's rank insignia on the uniform of a colonel of the 18th Infantry Regiment. With the invasion of Poland in 1939, he accepted recall to active duty and commanded army groups with distinction in Poland, Belgium, and France. Hitler promoted him to field marshal after the fall of France in 1940. In 1941 he commanded Army Group South in Operation BARBAROSSA, the invasion of Russia. Hitler relieved him of command in Russia at the end of 1941, although von Rundstedt gave impaired health (he had a heart attack in early November) as the reason. In March 1942, he was appointed commander-in-chief, west, with headquarters in France. By 1944, however, Hitler had given actual command of the army groups in France to von Rundstedt's subordinates and himself retained command of the operational reserve. The old man joked that his sole military prerogative was to change the guard at his headquarters. In July 1944, Hitler once again relieved him, but again reappointed him C-in-C West on 5 September.

His professional reputation did as much as his abilities to bring order out of the chaos of the German forces on the west and, aided by the Allies' supply difficulties, von Rundstedt stabilized the front. He remained in command through the Battle of the Bulge, which was not his plan and in which he had no faith, and was finally dismissed from command in March of 1945. He died in Celle on 24 February 1953.

A soldier for more than half a century, von Rundstedt learned the lessons of World War I well and insisted on increasing fire support and mobility for the infantryman. He approved of tanks but did not envision the kind of rôle for them that such advocates as Heinz Guderian pressed for. Fluent enough in French to have passed the army's interpreter examination, he could also speak English. Stiff, formal, dedicated to his profession, he led a simple life and was indifferent to money or possessions. Yet he was affable to subordinates, extravagantly polite to women, smoked too much, and enjoyed an occasional drink.

Unlike men such as Rommel and Guderian, he preferred to command from a headquarters, rather than from the front line. He felt that commanders at the front risked becoming so involved in the local fight that they lost perspective on the entire battle (a failing to which Erwin Rommel was occasionally prone). He refused to become immersed in details and preferred to work from a 1:1,000,000 map, from which he could take in the entire situation at a glance. Thus he depended heavily on his chief of staff, who happened to be Erich von Manstein early in the war. It was a particularly successful professional relationship.

Almost seventy years old in 1944, von Rundstedt was a soldier of the old school, widely admired by the German officer corps. Hitler disliked him intensely, partly because of the social class of officers he represented and partly because he knew that von Rundstedt referred to the Fuehrer in private as "the Corporal." By the fall of 1944, his age was showing. Many of his associates saw him for what Hitler intended him to be—a figurehead.

At SHAEF headquarters, it was Rundstedt "whom we always considered the ablest of the German generals," as Eisenhower later said. Even Bernard Montgomery, rarely given to praising other generals, said "I used to think that Rommel was good, but my opinion is that Rundstedt would have hit him for six. Rundstedt is the best German general I have come up against."

The following quotations reveal a little about the inner man:

- On the 1944 Ardennes Counteroffensive: "If old von Moltke thought that I had planned the offensive he would turn over in his grave."

- On freedom of action: "You see the guard posted outside. If I want to post him on the other side of the house I must first ask permission of Berchtesgaden." (*Dr. Charles Kirkpatrick & COL French MacLean*)



Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Luitpold Himmler ***Oberbefehlshaber-Oberrhein (Commander-in-Chief, Upper Rhine)***

Heinrich Luitpold Himmler (October 7, 1900 – May 23, 1945) was a Nazi German politician and head of the *Schutzstaffel* (SS). He was one of the most powerful men in Nazi Germany, competing with Hermann Göring, Martin Bormann and Joseph Goebbels. As *Reichsführer-SS* he oversaw all police and security forces, including the *Gestapo*. As overseer of concentration



camps, extermination camps, and *Einsatzgruppen* (literally: task forces, often used as killing squads), Himmler coordinated the killing of millions of Jews, between 200,000 and 500,000 Roma, many prisoners of war, and possibly another three to four million Poles, communists, or other groups whom the Nazis deemed unworthy to live or simply 'in the way', which included homosexuals and those with physical and mental disabilities. Shortly before the end of the war, he offered to surrender to the Allies if he were spared from prosecution. After being arrested by British forces, he committed suicide before he could be questioned.

In 1934, Himmler was named head of the *Gestapo* (*Geheimstaatpolizei*), the German secret police, and was also named chief of all German police outside Prussia. Two years later, Himmler gained further authority as all of Germany's uniformed law enforcement agencies were amalgamated into the new *Ordnungspolizei* (*Orpo*: "order police"), whose main office became a headquarters branch of the SS. Himmler then gained the title Chief of the German Police (Reich S.S. Leader and Chief of German Police within the Reich Ministry of the Interior), after Hitler announced a decree that was to 'unify the control of Police duties in the Reich'. Traditionally, law enforcement in Germany had been a matter of state and local control. Despite his title, Himmler gained only partial control of the uniformed police. The actual powers granted to him were some that were previously exercised by the ministry of the interior. It was only in 1943, when Himmler was appointed minister of the interior, that the transfer of ministerial power was complete.

Himmler also oversaw the entire concentration camp system. Once war began, though, new internment camps, which were not formally classified as concentration camps, were established, over which Himmler and the SS did not exercise control. In 1943, following the outbreak of popular word-of-mouth criticism of the regime as a result of the Stalingrad disaster, the party apparatus, professing disappointment with the Gestapo's performance in deterring such criticism, established the *Politische Staffeln* (political squads) as its own political policing organ, destroying the Gestapo's monopoly in this field.

The SS during these years developed its own military branch, the *SS-Verfügungstruppe*, which later became the *Waffen-SS*. Even though nominally under the authority of Himmler, the *Waffen-SS* developed a fully militarized structure of command and operationally were incorporated in the war effort parallel to the *Wehrmacht*. Many contemporary commentators refuse to recognize the *Waffen SS* as in any sense an honorable military organization. Its units

were involved in many notorious incidents of murdering civilians and unarmed prisoners. For this reason, postwar war crimes tribunals declared the Waffen SS to be a criminal organization.

In late 1944, Himmler became Commander-in-Chief of the newly formed Army Group Upper Rhine (*Heeresgruppe Oberrhein*). This army group was formed to fight the advancing U.S. Seventh Army and French First Army in the Alsace region along the west bank of the Rhine. On 1 January, 1945, Himmler's army group launched Operation North Wind (*Unternehmen Nordwind*) to push back the Americans and the French. In late January, after some limited initial success but ultimate complete failure, Himmler was transferred east. By 24 January, Army Group Upper Rhine was de-activated after having gone over to the defensive. Operation North Wind officially ended on 25 January.

In the winter of 1944–45, Himmler's *Waffen-SS* numbered 910,000 members, with the Allgemeine-SS (at least on paper) hosting a membership of nearly two million. However, by early 1945 Himmler had lost faith in German victory. He realized that if the Nazi regime was to survive, it needed to seek peace with Britain and the United States. Toward this end, he contacted Count Folke Bernadotte of Sweden at Lübeck, near the Danish border, and began negotiations to achieve a peace treaty with the Allies. Himmler hoped the British and Americans would fight their Soviet allies with the remains of the *Wehrmacht*. When Hitler discovered this, he declared Himmler to be a traitor. The day before Hitler committed suicide, he stripped Himmler of his titles and ranks — *Reichsführer-SS* (Supreme Commander of the SS), Successor of Adolf Hitler (as Reich chancellor), Chief of the German police, Reich commissioner of German nationhood, Reich minister of the interior, Supreme Commander of the Volkssturm, and Supreme Commander of the Home Army.

Himmler's negotiations with Count Bernadotte failed. He joined Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, who by then was commanding all German forces within the northern part of the western front, in nearby Plön. Dönitz sent Himmler away, explaining that there was no place for him in the new German government. Himmler next turned to the Americans as a defector, contacting the headquarters of General Dwight Eisenhower and proclaiming he would surrender all of Germany to the Allies if he was spared from prosecution. He asked Eisenhower to appoint him "minister of police" in Germany's post-war government. He reportedly mused on how to handle his first meeting with the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) commander and whether to give the Nazi salute or shake hands with him. Eisenhower refused to have anything to do with Himmler, who was subsequently declared a major war criminal.

Unwanted by his former colleagues and hunted by the Allies, Himmler wandered for several days around Flensburg near the Danish border. Attempting to evade arrest, he disguised himself as a sergeant-major of the Secret Military Police, using the name Heinrich Hitzinger, shaving his moustache and donning an eye patch over his left eye, in the hope that he could return to Bavaria. He had equipped himself with a set of false documents, but someone whose papers were wholly in order was so unusual that it aroused the suspicions of a British Army unit in Bremen. Himmler was arrested on 22 May by Major Sidney Excell, and in captivity, was soon recognized. Himmler was scheduled to stand trial with other German leaders as a war criminal at Nürnberg, but committed suicide in Lüneburg by potassium cyanide capsule before interrogation could begin. His last words were *Ich bin Heinrich Himmler!* ("I am Heinrich Himmler!"). Another version has Himmler biting into a hidden cyanide pill when searched by a British doctor, who then yelled, "He has done it!" Several attempts to revive Himmler were

unsuccessful. Shortly afterwards, Himmler's body was buried in an unmarked grave on the Lüneburg Heath. The precise location of Himmler's grave remains unknown. (Dr. Andy Morris)

General der Panzertruppe Hermann Balck **Commanding General, Army Group "G"**

Hermann Balck entered the Imperial German army in 1913 as an officer candidate. He served as a company grade officer in World War I, ending in command of a machine-gun company. At the outbreak of World War II in 1939 Balck was in the *OKH* (High Command of the German Army) and was transferred to the command of *Schützenregiment 1* (motorized rifle regiment 1) in 1st.



Panzer Division in late October 1939, where he served during the Battle of France. His unit was closely involved in the German *Sichelschnitt* plan, and led the Sedan crossing.

During the winter and spring of 1940 - 1 he commanded *Panzerregiment 3* during the Battle of Greece, and later 2nd Panzer Brigade. He returned to staff duties in the Inspectorate of Armored Forces in the *OKH* in July 1941. In May 1942, Balck went to the Eastern Front and commanded the 11th Panzer Division in Ukraine and southern Russia. He was removed into officer reserve, but immediately given command of *Panzergrenadierdivision Grossdeutschland* in the east. After a brief spell in Italy he came to command the *XLVIII Panzerkorps* in the east in December 1943, and finally 4th Panzer Army from August 1944. During this time his Division or Panzerkorps engaged in the defense against the Soviet breakthrough at Stalingrad, and the attempt to relieve Stalingrad in late 1942, the defense against the Soviet breakthrough across the Dnieper, and the

counterattack at Zhitomir in 1943, as well as the defense against the Soviet winter/spring offensive in western Ukraine in 1944, where Balck was one of the two commanders responsible for the disastrous attempt to create and hold a Fester Platz at Tarnopol. In July 1944 Balck commanded the *XLVIII Panzerkorps* during the initial phase of the Soviet Lvov-Sandomierz Offensive. Balck was closely involved in the failed defense, and the unsuccessful attempt to relieve the encircled *XIII Armeekorps* at Brody which was destroyed.

He was transferred from command of the 4th Panzer Army in Poland to the command of Army Group G in the Alsace region of France in September 1944. In late December Balck was relieved of his command and transferred back to the Eastern Front and demoted to command Army Group Balck in Hungary. Balck was captured in Austria by American troops on 8 May 1945.

After the war he became a depot worker. In 1948 he was arrested, tried and convicted for murder for the execution by firing squad, without proper trial, of the artillery commander Lieutenant-Colonel Johann Schottke, who was found drunk on duty, on 28 November 1944 near

Saarbrücken. This incident occurred while Balck was serving as commander of Army Group G on the western front. He served half of his sentence.

Balck was a prime example of a class of German officers who rose rapidly through the ranks during the war, together with e.g. Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, Erhard Raus, *Generaloberst* Josef Harpe, and Field Marshal Ernst Busch. Balck started the war as an *Oberstleutnant* (lieutenant-colonel) in 1939 and ended it as a *General der Panzertruppe* (general of the armored troops). Balck is often described as a very gifted commander of armored troops, and his handling of *11. Panzerdivision* and *48. Panzerkorps* during 1942-3 would support this view. Critics claim that his rather less gifted performance at Tarnopol in March/April 1944, and during the defensive battles in the west in autumn 1944 indicates the risk that such a rapid promotion policy might cause one to rise above one's level of competence.

Many of the battles Balck participated in are described in Generalmajor Friedrich von Mellenthin's *Panzer Battles*. Critics charge, however, that this work is not reliable as a historical study, and in particular battles in which the German side did not do well are not adequately described, while any assessment of Soviet forces in the book is highly questionable. Balck's own autobiography is entitled *Ordnung im Chaos*. (AM)

Generaloberst Johannes Albrecht Blaskowitz **Commanding General, Army Group "G"**



Johannes Blaskowitz was born on July 10, 1883, in Peterswäld, Kreis Wehlau (East Prussia), now in Kaliningrad Oblast. His father was a Lutheran pastor. In 1894, Blaskowitz joined cadet school at Köslin (Koszalin) and also afterwards at Berlin Lichterfelde. In 1899, he started his military career as a *Fähnrich* in an East Prussian regiment in Osterode (Ostróda). During the First World War, he served at the Eastern and the Western Front and was employed in the *Generalstab*. After the war he continued his service in the *Reichswehr* during the Weimar Republic. His attitude towards the Nazis' seizure of power (*Machtergreifung*) reportedly was indifferent because he believed that the armed forces should be "politically neutral".

During the Invasion of Poland that began World War II, he commanded the German Eighth Army which participated in the Battle of the Bzura. He was Commander-in-Chief East (*Oberbefehlshaber Ost*) in Poland beginning October 20, 1939. Blaskowitz was outraged by the atrocities committed by the SS and the *Einsatzgruppen* against Polish and Jewish people and issued detailed memoranda to Commander-in-Chief Walther von Brauchitsch on these war crimes.

Hitler was reportedly infuriated by Blaskowitz's "childish attitude", and he was relieved of his command on May 14, 1940. However, his military skills would be repeatedly further utilized.

During the French campaign, Blaskowitz was transferred to command 9th Army in the west. In early June 1940 he became Military Governor of Northern France, a position he held until October 1940, when he was transferred to the command of the First Army. He remained in this post until May 1944 when he was named commander-in-chief of Army Group G.

He was relieved of command of Army Group G in late September 1944 after officially protesting about SS atrocities in Poland, and reinstated on 24 December 1944. On 28 January 1945 he was appointed commander-in-chief of Army Group H. This command was redesignated in early April 1945 and Blaskowitz became commander-in-chief in the Netherlands.

Blaskowitz was charged with war crimes and tried before a U.S. military court in the High Command Trial, but committed suicide during the trial on February 5, 1948 by jumping out of a window of Nürnberg prison. Rumors were later spread by cellmates that he may have been murdered by SS defendants. (AM)

SS-Oberstgruppenführer Paul Hauser **Commanding General, Army Group "G"**

Paul "Papa" Hauser (October 7, 1880 – December 21, 1972) was an officer in the German Army, achieving the high rank of lieutenant-general in the inter-war Reichswehr. After retirement from the regular Army he became the "father" (thus the nickname "Papa") of the *Waffen-SS* and one of its most eminent leaders. Battling in both the Eastern and Western fronts of World War II, he was seriously wounded twice, losing an eye in the first incident. After the war he sought to rehabilitate the reputation and legal status of the *Waffen SS*.



Hauser was born in Brandenburg an der Havel to a Prussian military family; his father Kurt Hauser was a major in the Imperial German Army. He entered the army in 1892 and from then until 1896 was at the cadet school in Köslin, and from 1896 he attended the cadet academy Berlin-Lichterfelde where he successfully graduated in 1899. On March 20, 1899 he was commissioned as a lieutenant and assigned to Infantry-Regiment 155 stationed at Ostrowo in Posen. On October 1, 1903 he became the adjutant of the regiment's 2nd battalion and he served in this capacity until October 1, 1908. Noted for his military gifts, he attended the Prussian Military Academy in

Berlin from October 1908 until his graduation on July 21, 1911. From 1912, onwards, including the First World War, Hauser served in a number of General Staff assignments, including the greatly reduced postwar German army (*Reichswehr*), in which by 1927 he had become a colonel.

He retired from the Reichswehr on January 31, 1932 with the rank of lieutenant-general. As a retiree, Hauser joined the right wing WWI veterans' organization Stahlhelm, becoming the head of its Brandenburg-Berlin chapter in 1933. Soon, Stahlhelm was incorporated into the SA, and with the SA's demise, into the SS. In November 1934 he was transferred to the *SS-Verfügungstruppe* and assigned to *SS-Führerschule* Braunschweig. In 1935 he became Inspector of *SS-Junkerschule* and was promoted to *Brigadeführer* in 1936. Hauser served in the Polish Campaign of 1939 as an observer with the mixed Wehrmacht/SS Panzer Division Kempf. In October 1939 SS-VT was formed as a motorized infantry division with Hauser in command. He led the division, later renamed 2nd SS Division Das Reich, through the French campaign of 1940 and in the early stages of Operation Barbarossa. For his services in Russia, Hauser was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross in 1941 and the Oak Leaves in 1943 (he was to get the Swords for his services in Normandy) and was severely wounded, losing an eye. After recovering he commanded the newly formed SS-Panzer Corps (renamed II SS Panzer Corps in June 1943) and against Hitler's explicit orders withdrew his troops from Kharkov to avoid encirclement, only to recapture the city in March 1943. He led 1st, 2nd and 3rd SS divisions during the Battle of Kursk. After Kursk, his corps was reformed (substituting the 1st, 2nd and 3rd SS Panzer Divisions with the 9th and 10th SS divisions) and sent to Italy, then to France where he commanded them in the early stages of the Normandy Campaign. After the death of Friedrich Dollmann (commander of the Seventh Army), Hauser was promoted to the command of Seventh Army. During the Falaise encirclement, Hauser remained with his troops until he was wounded (shot through the jaw). Hauser was promoted to *Oberstgruppenführer* or Colonel General of the *Waffen SS* in August 1944 and subsequently commanded Army Group G from 28 January to 3 April 1945. He ended the war on *Generalfeldmarschall* Albert Kesselring's staff. At the Nürnberg Trials he vigorously defended the military role of the *Waffen SS* and denied that it was heavily involved in war-crime atrocities.

Hauser married on November 9, 1912 Elisabeth Gérard (born 1891) and had one daughter (born 1913). (AM)



***General der Infanterie* Friedrich Wiese** **Commanding General, Nineteenth Army**

Friedrich Wiese was born in Nordhastedt in Schleswig-Holstein on 5 December 1892. He entered the army as a one-year volunteer in Infantry Regiment 84 on 4 August 1914. After a year of war, he was promoted to Lieutenant of the Reserve in Infantry Regiment 147 on 6 November 1915. On 1 September 1919, he left the army and entered the police department of the city of Hamburg. During the German revolution of 1918-1919, he had fought as a member of the paramilitary *Freikorps*.

On 1 August 1935, Wiese reentered the German Army in the rank of Major and, on 1 October of the next year, assumed command of the 1st Battalion, Infantry Regiment 116, which he led in the Polish campaign and in the attack on France in May of 1940. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel on 1 June 1938 and took command of Infantry Regiment 39 in December of 1940. He was

further promoted to colonel on 1 June 1941 and commanded Infantry Regiment 39 in Operation Barbarossa, the invasion of the Soviet Union. He was considered a particularly good commander



and distinguished himself in the battles around Moscow in the difficult winter of 1941. On 15 April 1942, still a colonel, he took command of the 26th Infantry Division. Promotion to general officer swiftly followed: major general on 1 September 1942, lieutenant general on 1 January 1943, and General of Infantry on 1 October 1943. In the meanwhile, he continued to command the 26th Infantry Division until 5 August 1943, when he took command of *XXXV Korps*. He commanded Nineteenth Army from 29 June 1944 through 19 December 1944.

Wiese had a good military reputation but, unlike Blaskowitz, also had a reputation as an ardent Nazi. Wiese won the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross while commanding *Infanterieregiment 39* in Russia in February of 1942. He then commanded the 26 *Infanteriedivision* in 1942-1943, including some defensive fighting in which the division was hardly damaged, and the attack at Kursk, where it suffered heavy casualties. Wiese was decorated with the Oak

Leaves to the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross in recognition of his successes in defensive battles while commanding *XXXV Korps* from late 1943 through early 1944, and particularly for the successful evacuation of the bridgehead at Gomel. He was relieved of command of Nineteenth Army for failure to retake Strasbourg in a major counterattack, though the failure was not his fault, but that of Heinrich Himmler, by then commanding the *Ersatzheer* (Replacement Army). To resist the Allied landings in the south of France, Wiese had only seven low quality infantry divisions and the much better trained and equipped *11. Panzerdivision*. His extraction of the majority of Nineteenth Army from the south of France was considered a major tactical achievement.

Wiese was a prisoner of war from 1945 through 1947 and died on 11 February 1975 in Lahn-Gießen. (CK)



General der Infanterie Siegfried Rasp **Commanding General, Nineteenth Army**



Siegfried Rasp (10 January 1898 – 2 February 1968) was a German general of infantry, serving during World War II. Born in Munich, Rasp became an officer aspirant on September 6, 1915 and earned his commission as a *Leutnant* on June 24, 1916 in the 1st Bavarian Infantry Regiment. He was promoted to *Oberst* in July 1941, *Generalmajor* in November 1943, *Generalleutnant* in April 1944, and *General der Infanterie* in December 1944.

Rasp held several staff positions before commanding the following formations:

3. Gebirgsjäger-Division on August 26, 1943
335. Infanterie-Division on September 10, 1943
78. Sturm-Division on July 12, 1944
19. Armee on December 15, 1944
Korps Ems on April 2, 1945

An unusual aspect of Rasp's career is that he advanced directly from command of a division to command of a field army without first commanding an army corps. Captured at the end of the war, Rasp spent almost three years in a British POW camp in Münster. Rasp died in 1968 in Garmisch. (AM)



General der Infanterie Baptist Kniess **Commanding General, LXXXV Korps**

Baptist Kniess was born on 17 April 1885 in Grünstadt, Rheinland-Pfalz. He entered the Army as an officer cadet on 8 July 1906 and on 9 March 1908 was commissioned a lieutenant in Bavarian Infantry Regiment 5. Following service in World War I, he was taken into the inter-war German Army, the Reichswehr. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel on 1 April 1933 and to colonel on 1 April 1935. On 1 October of that year, he assumed command of Infantry Regiment 63. On 1 June 1938, he was promoted to major general, and on 1 April 1939, he was commander of Landwehr units (reserves) in Heilbronn.

On 1 September 1939, Kniess took command of the 215. Infanteriedivision, organized from older men from Baden and Württemberg, and led it until 12 November 1942, when he was assigned to command the LXVI Korps in Russia. The division played a minor role in the 1940 campaign in France and remained there until late 1941, when it was transferred to Russia, where it fought in the Battle of the Volkhov, south of Leningrad, from January to March of 1942. Kniess remained

on the Leningrad front with his division until given corps command. Meanwhile, on 1 July 1940, he was promoted to lieutenant general. He became a general of infantry on 1 December 1942. He commanded *Gruppe Kniess*, a battle group, from April of 1943 through May of 1943, and took command of the reconstituted LXVI Corps again in June, with the unit reassigned to southeastern France. Assigned to Army Group G in southern France, he finally commanded *LXXXV Korps* from 10 July 1944 through 14 November 1944. (CK)

General der Infanterie Erich Abraham **Commanding General, *LXIII Korps***



Erich Abraham was born in Marienburg in West Prussia. He volunteered for military service on 4 August 1914 and on 11 July 1915 was assigned to *Infanterie-Regiment 341* as a *Leutnant* of the military reserves. *Oberleutnant* Abraham left the military service on 20 May 1920 and joined police as a *Leutnant*. On 15 October 1935 he again joined the military service holding the rank of Major and as a company commander was assigned to *Infanterie-Regiment 18*. Promoted to LTC on 1 September 1939, he assumed command of 1st Bn 105th Infantry Regiment, and on 21 November 1939 2nd Bn 226th IR. Between 1 April 1940 and 6 November 1942 he commanded the 230th IR, becoming a Colonel on 1 September 1941. For his service at Stalingrad, he won the Knight's Cross and the Infantry Assault Badge, and made *Generalmajor* (BG). After acting as commandant of an officers school, on 1 April 1943 he took command of the 76th Infantry Division near Odessa. He continued to lead German and Romanian units in the

east, and on 14 September 1944, as a *General-Leutnant* (MG) was designated leader of *Gruppe Abraham*, consisting of the 76th ID and two Hungarian reserve divisions. On 21 October 1944 he was moved to *Führer Reserve*, and on 13 December 1944, and a General of Infantry (LTG) took command of LXIII Corps in Alsace. Captured at the end of the war, he was released to civilian status on 17 August 1947. He died in Wiesbaden on 7 March 1971. (AM)

General der Infanterie Helmut Thumm **Commanding General, *LXIV Korps***



Helmut Thumm (25 August 1895 – 13 July 1977) was a German General of Infantry (LTG) serving during World War II. Born in Ravensburg, Thumm entered service in World War I on August 8, 1914, and earned his commission as a *Leutnant* on August 2, 1915 in the 125th Infantry Regiment. Thumm was promoted to *Oberst* in October 1941, *Generalmajor* in March 1943, *Generalleutnant* in September 1943, and *General der Infanterie* in January 1945.

Thumm commanding the following formations:

I. Bataillon, 75. Infanterie-Regiment on October 1, 1938
56. *Jäger-Regiment* on June 13, 1940
5. *Jäger-Division* on January 4, 1943
LXIV. Armeekorps on November 1, 1944

After pulling Hitler Youth teenagers out of the front lines against orders from Hitler, he was relieved of his command of the *LXIV. Armeekorps* on January 20, 1945. Captured at the end of the war, Thumm spent some two and half years in an Allied POW camp. Thumm died in 1977 in Welzheim. (AM)



Tab L

Comparative Military Officers' Rank



After the battle for Colmar: General de Lattre decorates American officers



Jargon	What they do	British	US	German
(None)		(None)	(None)	<i>Reichsmarschall</i>
Five Star	Command very large formations such as Army Groups or Expeditionary Forces	Field Marshal	General of the Army	<i>Generalfeldmarschall</i> or <i>Reichsführer-SS</i>
Four Star	Command Field Armies subordinate to Army Groups or Expeditionary Forces	General	General	<i>Generaloberst</i> or <i>SS Oberstgruppenführer</i>
Three Star	Command Corps (usually three divisions) or serve on very high level staffs	Lieutenant General	Lieutenant General	<i>General (der Inf, Art, etc.)</i> or <i>SS Obergruppenführer</i>
Two Star	Command divisions (about 20,000 soldiers) or serve on very high level staffs	Major General	Major General	<i>Generalleutnant</i> or <i>SS Gruppenführer</i>
One Star	Assist division commanders, command separate formations (smaller than divisions)	Brigadier	Brigadier General	<i>Generalmajor</i> or <i>SS Brigadeführer</i>
		(None)	(None)	<i>SS Oberführer</i>
Colonel	Command regiments	Colonel	Colonel	<i>Oberst</i> or <i>SS Standartenführer</i>
Lieutenant Colonel	Command battalions (three to a regiment)	Lieutenant Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	<i>Oberstleutnant</i> or <i>SS Obersturmbannführer</i>
Major	Staff officer, executive officer of a battalion	Major	Major	<i>Major</i> or <i>SS Sturmbannführer</i>
Captain	Command companies	Captain	Captain	<i>Hauptmann</i> or <i>SS Hauptsturmführer</i>
First Lieutenant	Staff officer, executive officer of a company	Lieutenant	First Lieutenant	<i>Oberleutnant</i> or <i>SS Obersturmführer</i>
Second Lieutenant	Platoon Leader	Second Lieutenant	Second Lieutenant	<i>Leutnant</i> or <i>SS Untersturmführer</i>

Tab M

Equipment



GIs from the 399th Infantry Regiment, 100th Infantry Division, man positions in a Vosges forest in early November 1944. NARA, Signal Corps photo



Commandos d'Afrique on 24 November 1944 fire a 57mm antitank gun to blast the Germans out of the Chateau du Belfort. NARA, 6th Army Group records

American and British Armies shared many classes of equipment and between them equipped all of the French and Polish forces engaged on the continent. The United States Army was far more lavishly equipped than the German Army, but in almost every category of weaponry, the Germans had superior hardware. Tanks are the best example. Until 1935 in American doctrine, the tank was essentially a machine-gun carrier that accompanied the Infantry. Experiments with mounting heavy guns in tanks did not get very far, the Chief of Infantry in 1938 declaring that a 75-mm. gun was useless in a tank. In 1940, both the rival armies fought the Battle of France with tanks armed to a 75-mm standard, and the Germans had already experimented with the 88-mm gun in a turret. In June 1940, the U.S. adopted the 75-mm gun for tanks. In the spring of 1944, as Anglo-American armies prepared for the invasion of Europe, the largest standard gun on an operational American tank was still a short-barreled, low-muzzle-velocity 75-mm, the standard armament of the then-standard M4 Sherman tank. Some models of the M4, and particularly the British Firefly variant, carried higher velocity weapons, notably the 76-mm gun. At the same time, however, Germany's Panther tanks carried long-barreled, high-muzzle-velocity 75s, and the Tiger carried the 88-mm gun. To kill tanks, American doctrine relied on the tank destroyer, a fast, heavily-gunned, lightly-armored vehicle standardized as the M10 in 1942. It mounted a 3-inch, high-muzzle-velocity, flat-trajectory gun on a Sherman chassis. The need for more power to cope with German tanks brought the M18, with a 76-mm gun, into service in 1944. The M18 had a shallow open turret and was mounted on a M24 light tank chassis. The M36, an M10 redesigned to accommodate a 90-mm gun, came into service about the same time. On none of these vehicles was the armor comparable to that of German tanks. Tank destroyers, appropriately armed to be "killer tanks," lacked the armor to stand up to German tanks for the fight.

Anti-tank weapons were a similar case. The American 2.36-inch rocket launcher, or "bazooka," lacked the power to penetrate the front armor of German tanks and demanded careful aim against soft spots. This was no easy chore for an exposed, nervous infantryman when a massive German tank loomed so close that he could hear the squeak of the bogies. The Germans adopted an 88-mm Panzerfaust, a rocket-propelled shaped-charge grenade that was about twice as powerful as the American bazooka. When James M. Gavin was a colonel commanding the 505th Parachute Infantry, his men tried out the bazooka in Sicily and found it disappointing. Gavin later wrote that "As for the 82nd Airborne Division, it did not get adequate antitank weapons until it began to capture the first German panzerfausts. By the fall of '44 we had truckloads of them. We also captured German instructions for their use, made translations, and conducted our own training with them. They were the best hand-carried antitank weapon of the war." The U.S. did not even initiate a project for a more powerful, 3.5-inch rocket until August 1944, and distribution of that weapon was not widespread even at the time of the Korean War.

In two areas, however, the United States had a distinct advantage. The Garand .30-caliber M1 semi-automatic rifle was the best standard infantry shoulder arm of the war. No other rifle matched its combination of accuracy, rate of fire, and reliability. In artillery, too, the American Army had the edge. It was not that the artillery was qualitatively better than German equipment,

although the U.S. 105-mm howitzer was at least the equal of its German counterpart of the same caliber. The effectiveness of American artillery was multiplied by the best equipment and techniques of any army for fire direction, observation, and coordination. "I do not have to tell you who won the war," George Patton said in 1945. "You know our artillery did." General George C. Marshall agreed when he wrote that "We believe that our use of massed heavy artillery fire was far more effective than the German techniques," concluding that "our method of employment of these weapons has been one of the decisive factors of our ground campaigns throughout the world."

American soldiers entered battle with uniforms not well suited to field duty, a fact that became even more evident in bad weather and when winter came. Overshoes or galoshes were never in adequate supply, and the consequence was a higher rate of non-battle casualties caused by frostbite and trench foot. A brief flirtation with a camouflage utility uniform was quickly ended when Americans discovered that the SS used a field uniform almost identical in design. American load-bearing equipment was little changed from the First World War. Many soldiers quickly rid themselves of what they saw as pointless encumbrances, among them the gas mask and the bayonet.

ALLIED EQUIPMENT

U.S. Army Infantry Weapons

	Caliber	Weight	Rate of Fire	Range***	Crew
M1 Carbine	.30	5.5 pounds	40-50 rpm	300 m	-
M1 Garand	.30	9.5 pounds	30-50 rpm	460 m	-
BAR	.30	19.4 pounds	550 rpm**	600 m	-
Thompson	.45	10.5 pounds	700 rpm**	170 m	-
.30 cal MG	.30	33 pounds*	400-500 rpm**	1100 m	3
.50 cal M2	.50	84 pounds*	450-550 rpm**	2200 m	3
Bazooka M9	2.36-inch	16 pounds	10	300 m	2

*Weight without tripod or other mount.

**Cyclic rate of fire.

***Maximum effective range.



.30 cal Heavy Machine Gun



Bazooka



Rifle Grenade



Weapons, left to right: Soldier is holding a .45-cal. Thompson submachine gun M1928A1. 60mm Mortar M2; British Anti-Tank Gun; .30-cal. U.S. Rifle M1 with Bayonet M1; .30-cal. Browning light Machine Gun M1919A4; hand grenades; .45-cal. M1911A1 pistol; .30-cal. U.S. Rifle M1903 with grenade launcher M1; .30-cal. Browning Automatic Rifle M1913A2.

U.S. Army Mortars

Mortar	Weight	Rate of Fire	Range	Crew
60 mm M2	42 pounds	18 rpm	1800 m	3
81 mm M1	136 pounds	18 rpm	2900 m	3
4.2-inch M24	650 pounds	20 rpm	5400 m	7



60mm Mortar



81mm Mortar



4.2-inch Mortar ("4-Deuce")

M-1 57mm Anti-Tank Gun



Range	9,230 m maximum
Muzzle Velocity	2800 ft/sec
Weight	2810 pounds
Penetration	82mm of armor at 500 m
Mount	towed

M-7 105mm Self-Propelled Howitzer (Priest)

Chassis	M4A3 Tank
Howitzer	M2A1 105mm howitzer
Range	10,980 m
Shell Weight	33 pounds
Rate of Fire	8 rpm
Crew	6
Notes	Armored division artillery



M-2A1 105mm Towed Howitzer

Caliber 105mm
Range 10,980 m
Shell Weight 33 pounds
Rate of Fire 8 rpm
Crew 6
Notes Infantry division artillery



M-1 155mm Howitzer

Caliber 155mm
Weight 12,000 pounds
Range 14,700 m
Shell Weight 95 pounds
Rate of Fire 2 rpm
Crew 6
Notes Infantry Division Artillery



M-1A1 155mm Gun

Caliber 155mm
Weight 30,600 pounds
Range 22,860 m
Shell Weight 95 pounds
Rate of Fire 1 rpm
Crew 6
Notes Corps artillery



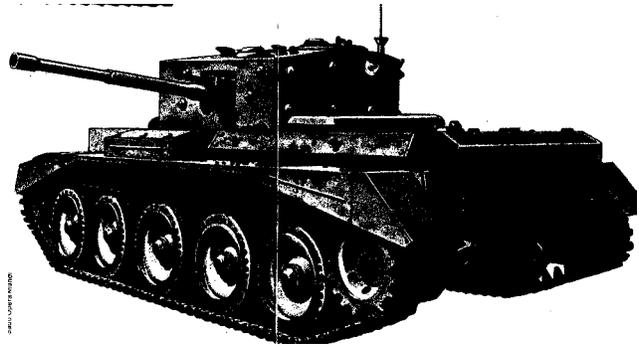
M-2 8-inch Howitzer

Caliber	8-inch
Weight	31,700 pounds
Range	16,660 m
Shell Weight	200 pounds
Rate of Fire	1 rpm
Crew	6
Notes	Corps artillery



Cromwell Tank

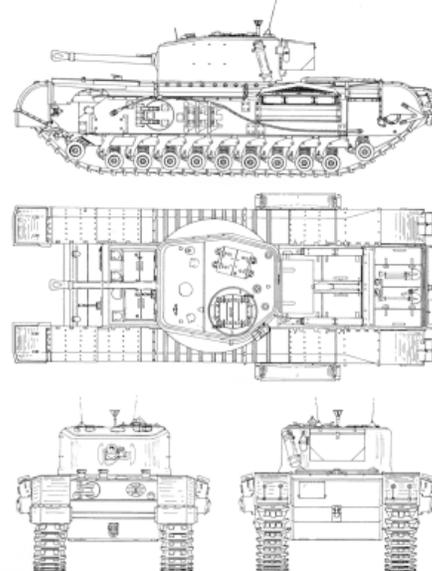
Weight	30.8 tons
Speed	27 mph maximum
Range	173 miles
Armament	75 mm gun
Secondary	2 x .30-cal. Machine gun
Armor	76 mm maximum in turret; 63 mm maximum in hull
Crew	5



Churchill Tank

Weight	40 tons
Speed	12.5 mph
Range	
Armament	75 mm gun
Secondary	2 x .30-cal. Machine gun
Armor	152 mm maximum
Crew	5

Infantry Tank Mk. IV, Churchill Mk. VII



Original Drawing © Copyright The Tank Museum 1983

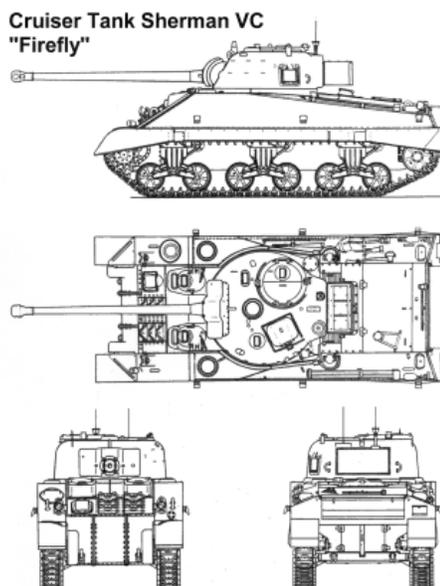
M4A1 Sherman

Combat Weight	30,300 kg
Speed	34 km/h
Range	412 km
Armament	75mm Gun M3 90 rounds
Secondary	2 x .30 caliber MG 1 x .50 caliber MG
Armor	Maximum 76mm Minimum 13 mm
Crew	5



Sherman "Firefly" M4 Variant

Combat Weight	32,700 kg
Speed	40 km/h
Range	451 km
Armament	76.2mm ROQF 17-pounder Mk IV or VI with 77 rounds
Secondary	1 x .30 caliber MG
Armor	Maximum 76mm Minimum 13 mm
Crew	5



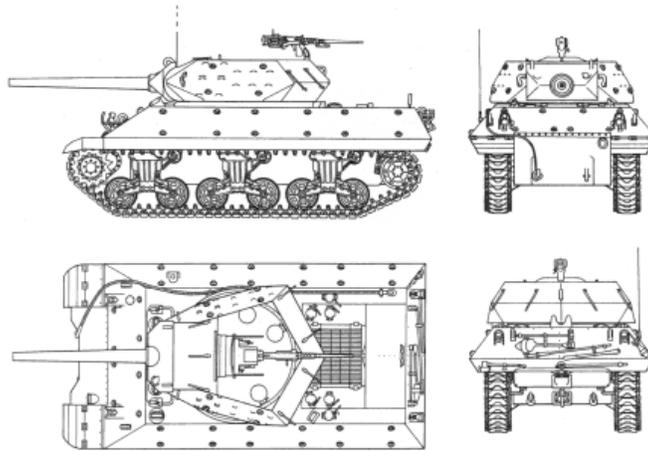
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Light Tank Stuart M5A1

Combat Weight	15,500 kg
Speed	58 km/h
Range	161 km
Armament	37mm Gun M6
Secondary	3 x .30 caliber MG
Armor	Maximum 64mm Minimum 10 mm
Crew	4



3 inch Gun Motor Carriage M10



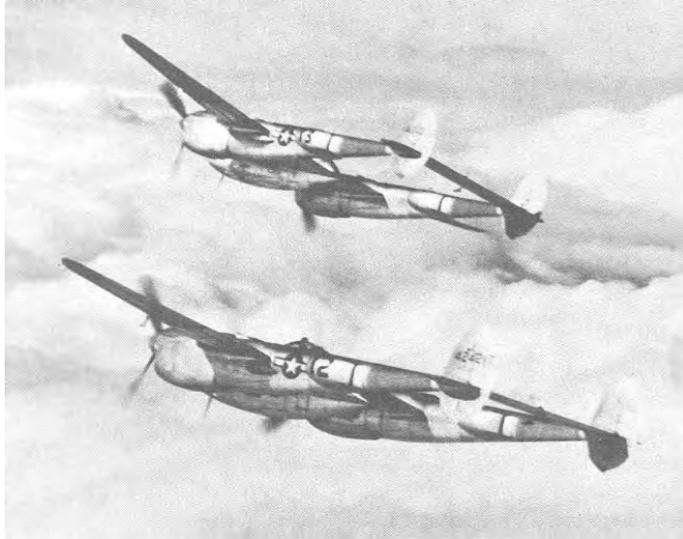
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Allied Tactical Aircraft

Aircraft	Maximum Speed	Maximum Range	Armament	Ordnance Load	Service Ceiling	Number in Service
Spitfire Mk XIV	440 mph	850 miles	2 x 20mm cannon; 2 x .50-cal. MG	500 pounds	43,000 feet	960
Typhoon	412 mph	510 miles	8 x 20mm cannon	2,000 pounds or 8 rockets	35,200 feet	3,270
P-38J Lightning	410 mph	2,250 miles	1 x 20mm cannon; 4 x .50-cal. MG	3,200 pounds	44,000 feet	6,780
P-47D Thunderbolt	430 mph	590 miles	6 x or 8 x .50-cal. MG	2,500 pounds or 10 rockets	42,000 feet	12,560
P-51D Mustang	440 mph	2,100 miles	6 x .50-cal. MG	2,000 pounds or 6 rockets	41,900 feet	7,970



Spitfire



P38



P47



P51

GERMAN EQUIPMENT

Maschinengewehr 42 (MG42)



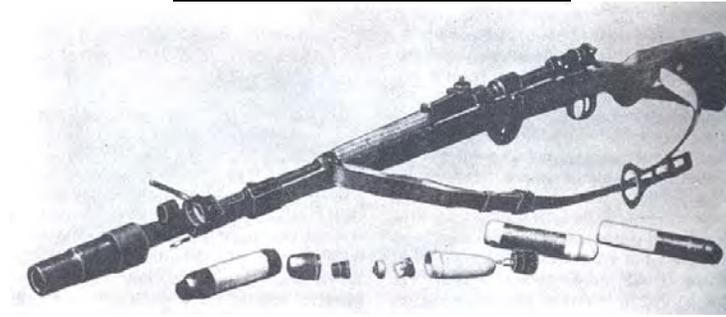
Caliber	7.92mm
Rate of Fire	cyclic rate of fire of up to 1,400 rpm and a practical rate of fire of 250 to 500 rpm, depending on the mount
Ammunition	50-round metallic-link belt
Range	effective range of 2000 to 2500 yards as HMG; 600-800 yards on bipod.
Mounts	Vehicle, tripod (heavy MG), bipod (light MG)
Remarks	Introduced new, simple locking system and easy barrel changing method.

Maschinengewehr 34 (MG34)



Caliber	7.92mm
Rate of Fire	cyclic rate of fire of 900 rpm and a practical rate of fire of 100-120 rpm as a light machine gun and 300 rpm as a heavy machine gun
Ammunition	50-round metallic-link belt or by drums
Range	effective range of 2000 to 2500 yards as HMG; 600-800 yards on bipod.
Mounts	Vehicle, tripod (heavy MG), bipod (light MG)
Remarks	Largely replaced by the MG42 in infantry units by 1944

Gewehr 98 and Karabiner 98



Shown w/Grenade Launcher ("Schiessbecher")

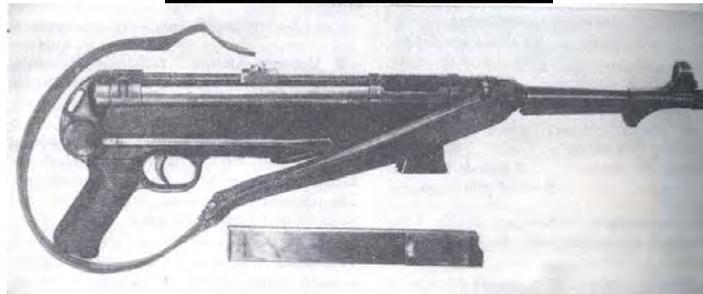
Caliber	7.92mm
Operation	bolt action rifles
Construction	Mauser design; wooden stock
Magazine	five round clip
Weight	9 pounds
Range	800 meters maximum

Schiessbecher

Rifle Grenade Device for the GEW98

Types of Grenades	HE, AP, smoke, illumination
Firing Positions	prone, kneeling, standing
Range	250 meters in horizontal fire; maximum range 400 meters. When Used as a mortar, 25 to 75 meters.
Grenadier Load	10 HE and 5 AT grenades.
Remarks	The Germans characteristically used it as a squad mortar and anti-tank weapon. One grenadier per rifle squad.

Maschinenpistole 40 (MP40)



Caliber	9mm
Operation	blowback operated machine pistol
Construction	metal and plastic with folding stock
Magazine	32 rounds
Rate of Fire	500 rpm (cyclic) or 180 rpm (normal)

Maschinenpistole 44 (MP44)



Caliber 7.92mm
Magazine 35-38 round magazine
Range 600 meters maximum effective range
Remarks Issued principally to airborne units.

Stielhandgranate 24



Weight 1.36 pounds
Length 14 inches
Delay 5 seconds
Charge .365 pounds TNT

Eihandgranate 39



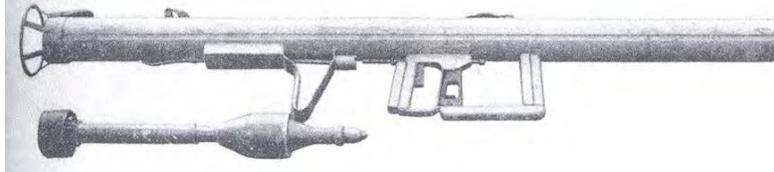
Weight 8 ounces
Delay 5 seconds
Charge 4 ounces TNT

Panzerfaust 30



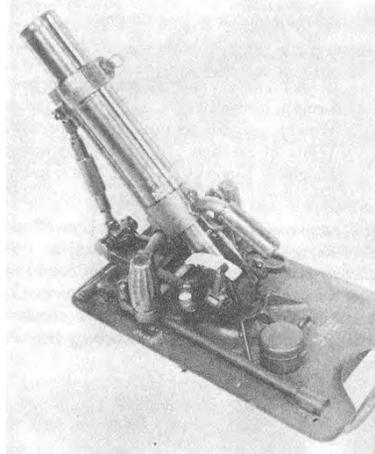
Length 41 inches
Weight 11 pounds
Charge shaped charge anti-tank grenade
Range 30 meters optimum
Penetration 200 mm of armor at 30 meters

Raketenpanzerbüchse 54 (also known as the **Panzerschreck**)



Length 5.5 feet
Weight 20 pounds
Charge 88mm shaped charge (7 pounds)
Range 115 meters optimum
Penetration 200 mm of armor

Leichter Granatenwerfer 36 (50 mm Mortar)



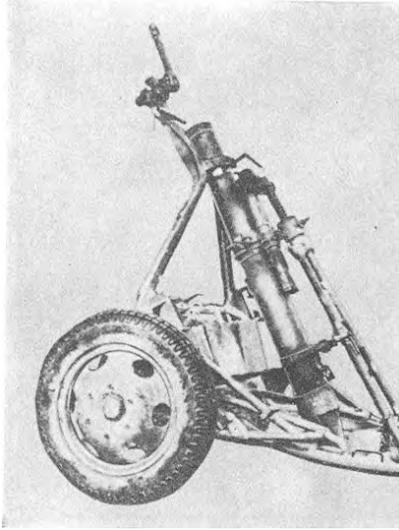
Caliber 50mm
Weight 31 pounds
Range 570 yards
Rate of Fire 12-20 rpm

Schwerer Granatenwerfer 34 (81mm Mortar)



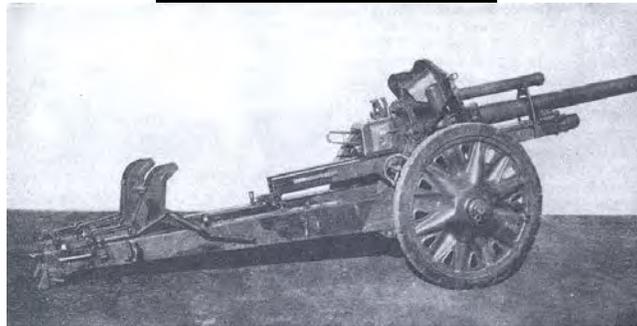
Caliber 81mm
Weight 124 pounds
Range 2625 yards maximum
Rate of Fire 10-12 rpm

Granatenwerfer 42 (120mm Mortar)



Caliber 120mm
Weight 616 pounds
Range 6600 yards maximum
Rate of Fire Rate of fire and overall fire support comparable to 105mm howitzer

Leichte Feld Haubitze 18



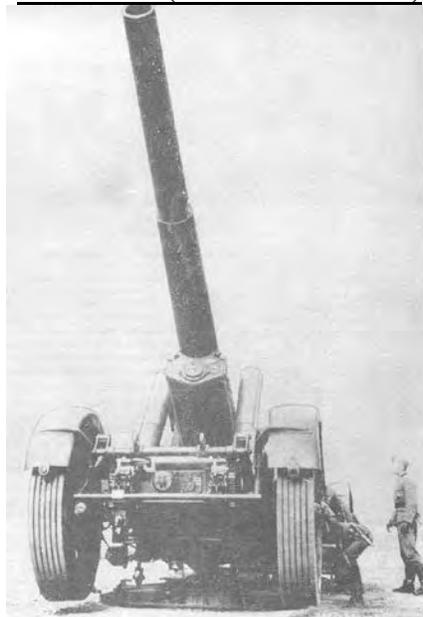
Caliber 10.5 cm
Weight 4320 pounds
Range 13,480 yards maximum
Ammunition HE, smoke, sabot, incendiary, illuminating
Remarks Standard divisional direct support artillery

Feld Haubitze 18/40



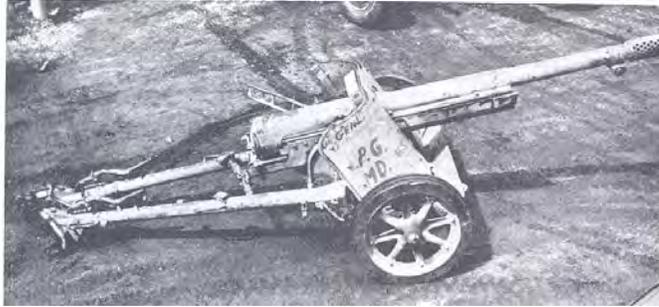
Caliber 15 cm
Weight 12,096 pounds
Range 14,630 yards maximum
Ammunition HE, AP, smoke, anti-concrete
Remarks Standard divisional general support artillery

Mörser 18 (210mm Howitzer)



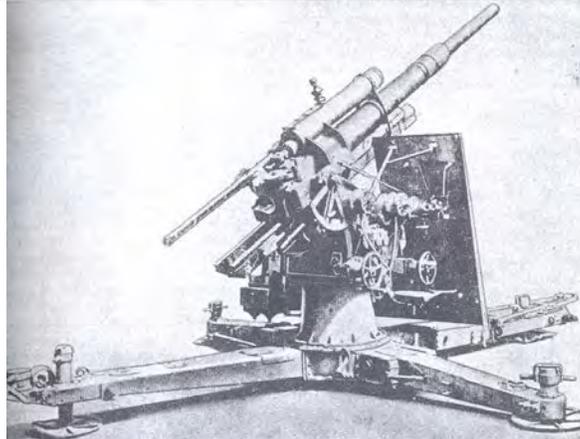
Caliber 21 cm
Weight 36,740 pounds
Range 18,300 yards maximum
Ammunition HE, anti-concrete

Panzerabwehrkanone 40 (PAK 40)



Caliber 75 mm
Weight 3136 pounds
Range 1000 yards maximum
Ammunition AP
Remarks Penetration at maximum effective range – 102mm of armor; pictured is the 97/38 variant with Solothurn muzzle brake

Panzerabwehrkanone 43/41C (PAK 43/41C Antitank/Antiaircraft Gun)



Caliber 88 mm
Weight 9660 pounds
Range 16,200 yards horizontal
Ammunition AP, AA
Rate of Fire 15-20 rpm
Remarks Penetration at 1500 yards – 130mm of armor

Nebelwerfer 41



Caliber 150mm
Weight 1,195 pounds
Range 7,330 yards maximum
Rate of Fire 6 rounds/90 seconds

Sturmgeschütz III (Stu.G. III)



Weight	26.35 tons	Engine	Maybach, 295
Length	22.5'	Range	124 miles (62 miles cross-country)
Height	7'	Speed	20 mph (15 mph cross-country)
Width	9'8"	Crew	4
Armor		Main gun	7.5 cm Stu.K.40 L/48 with 49 rounds
Maximum	81 mm	Secondary	1 x MG34
Minimum	20 mm	Penetration	84mm of armor at 500 yards; 72mm of armor at 1000 yards

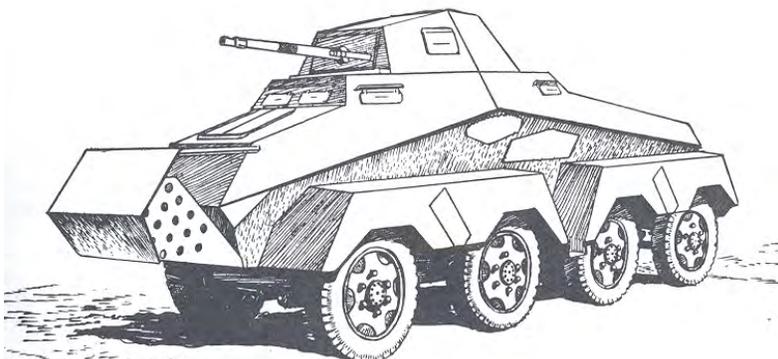
Remarks The vehicle was based on the PzKpfw. III chassis. The Stu.G.IV, also found in Normandy, was based on the PzKpfw. IV chassis, used the same gun and had a similar performance.

Sturmgeschütz 38t (Stu.G. 38t)



Weight	16.65 tons	Engine	Czech EP4, 150 hp
Length	20.7'	Range	124 miles (62 miles cross-country)
Height	6'10.5"	Speed	23 mph (15 mph cross-country)
Width	8'7.5"	Crew	4
Armor		Main gun	7.5 cm Pak 39 L/48 with 41 rounds
	Maximum 60 mm	Secondary	1 x MG34
	Minimum 10 mm	Penetration	84mm of armor at 500 yards; 72mm of armor at 1000 yards
Remarks	The vehicle was based on the Czech 38t light tank chassis.		

Schwerer Panzerspähwagen 8 Rad (Sd.Kfz. 231)



Weight	8.35 tons	Engine	8-cylinder, 155 hp
Length	19'1"	Speed	51 mph maximum
Height	7'10"	Crew	4
Width	7'3"	Range	110 miles cross country, 190 miles on roads
Armor		Armament	1 x 2cm KwK36; 1 MG 34 machine gun.
	Maximum 15mm		
	Minimum 8mm		
Remarks	This is typical of the variety of light armored fighting vehicles and reconnaissance vehicles used in German armored divisions.		

PanzerKampfwagen IV, Ausf. G



Weight	26 tons	Engine	Maybach, 295bhp
Length	19'4"	Range	130 miles (80 miles cross-country)
Height	8'6"	Speed	20 mph maximum (15 mph cross-country)
Width	9'7"	Crew	5
Armor		Main gun	7.5 cm KwK 40 L/43 with 79 rounds
Maximum	60 mm	Secondary	2 x 7.92 mm MG34
Minimum	20 mm		

PzKpfw V, Ausf. D (Panther)



Weight	43 tons	Engine	Maybach, 700 bhp
Length	22'	Range	124 miles (62 miles cross-country)
Height	9'4"	Speed	20 mph (15 mph cross-country)
Width	10'9"	Crew	5
Armor		Main gun	7.5 cm KwK 42 L/70 with 79 rounds
Maximum	100 mm	Secondary	2 x 7.92 mm MG34 or MG42 machine gun
Minimum	16 mm		

PzKpfw VI (Tiger)



Weight	60 tons	Engine	Maybach 12-cyl gasoline, 700 bhp
Length	27'	Range	121 miles
Width	12'3"	Speed	24 mph (11 mph cross-country)
		Crew	5
Main Gun	88mm w/92 rounds	Secondary	2 x 7.92mm MG34
Effective Range	3000m AP, 5000 m HE		
Produced	1,350, July 1942 - August 1944		

Tab N

Casualties

"Observe, you glorious men of the Seventh Army, our efforts and exploits are not unrecognized in our country. To you who have done the fighting I send my deepest and most patriotic thanks."

Lieutenant General Alexander Patch,
May 1945

Category	Killed	Wounded	Missing/Captured	Total
Seventh US Army – Nov ‘44	1,383	8,373	1,256	11,012
First French Army – Nov ‘44	1,719	6,899	291	8,909
Sixth Army Group Total – Nov ‘44	3,102	15,272	1,538	19,921
Seventh US Army – Dec ‘44	1,619	8,328	1,856	11,803
First French Army – Dec ‘44	1,820	8,884	1,073	11,777
Sixth Army Group Total – Dec ‘44	3,439	17,212	2,929	23,580
Seventh US Army – Jan ‘45	1,877	8,907	4,837	15,621
First French Army – Jan ‘45	1,475	7,289	1,539	10,303
Sixth Army Group Total – Jan ‘45	3,352	16,196	6,376	25,924
Total Allied Casualties in Alsace, Nov ‘44- Jan ‘45	9,893	48,680	10,843	69,425
German Army – Jan ‘45				~39,000

“...Casualty figures are only rough estimates...”, *Riviera to the Rhine*

Monthly figures taken from Sixth Army Group History.

German estimates vary widely from various sources, with no usable figures available prior to January 1945. Figures in January vary from the number shown in this table to about 6,000 from Army Group “G” reports.

Tab 0

Suggestions for Further Reading

"The pious Greek, when he had set up altars to all the great gods by name, added one more altar, 'To the Unknown God'.

So whenever we speak and think of the great captains and set up our military altars to Hannibal and Napoleon and Marlborough and such-like, let us add one more altar, 'To the Unknown Leader', that is, to the good company, platoon, or section leader who carries forward his men or holds his post, and often falls unknown. It is these who in the end do most to win wars. The British have been a free people and are still a comparatively free people; and though we are not, thank Heaven, a military nation, this tradition of freedom gives to our junior leaders in war a priceless gift of initiative. So long as this initiative is not cramped by too many regulations, by too much formalism, we shall, I trust, continue to win our battles - sometimes in spite of our higher commanders."

Field Marshal Lord Wavell

United States Army (Seventh Army). *Report of Operations: The Seventh United States Army in France and Germany, 1944. Three Volumes.* Heidelberg: Aloys Graf, 1946 (Reprinted, 3 volumes in 2: The Battery Press: Nashville, 1988).

This is the “official” history of Seventh Army operations from its landings in Southern France through V-E Day. It provides a definitive operational narrative based on headquarters journals and after-action reports supported by useful operational maps and excellent photographs. Unfortunately, it lacks the detailed staff inputs and “lessons learned” sections found in histories compiled by some of its contemporary army headquarters.



Clarke, Jeffrey J. and Robert Ross Smith. *Riviera to the Rhine.* Washington, D.C.: CMH, 1993.

This is the official history of the campaign in Southern France planned as a supporting attack for the Normandy assault but delayed until August 1944 by resource constraints. On this staff ride we pick up the story after the remarkably successful sweep up the Rhone River valley and the equally successful liberation of the great port of Marseilles. That port isn't enough to satisfy all requirements of a fast-moving, ever-growing Army Group, and operations through Alsace become more deliberate. Stiffening German resistance and deteriorating weather shape operations just as dramatically. The operational aspects of 6th Army Group's campaign are the centerpiece of the book, but enemy actions get full treatment, and logistical/manpower constraints are discussed.



Pogue, Forrest C. *The Supreme Command.* Washington, D.C.: CMH, 1954.

This volume of the Army's official history is focused on Eisenhower's headquarters. Readers find a useful summary of the Supreme Commander's intention to use Seventh Army to assist the forward movement of Patton's Third Army in early December 1944. The adjustments in objectives and frontages after the German counteroffensive in the Ardennes are laid out clearly. It also presents brief, well-balanced accounts of the struggle to balance political and military requirements after the German New Year's Eve attack in northern Alsace (*Nordwind*): Should Strasbourg be evacuated and significant portions of northern Alsace abandoned without a fight in order to generate a theater reserve? It also provides excellent treatment of the interaction between Eisenhower, Marshall, and the Combined Chiefs of Staff in the run-up to the Yalta summit. Both of these themes are worked out in terms of forces and operational objectives we study in this staff ride.



Yeide, Harry and Mark Stout. *First to the Rhine: The Sixth Army Group in World War II.* St. Paul, MN: Zenith Press, 2007.

This is a solid campaign history written for the World War II buff audience but useful to military professionals. It is stronger on tactical anecdote than on relationships of senior leaders, but it provides a well-written narrative based on respectable sources. On this staff ride, we will be building on Chapter 7 and the material that follows.



Bonn, Keith E. *When Odds Were Even: The Vosges Mountains Campaign, October 1944-January 1945.* Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1994.

Kit Bonn was a serving Infantry officer when he researched and published this book—one of the first of a new generation of “revisionist” accounts asserting that U.S. Army soldiers fought effectively against their German adversaries in World War II. He may overstate the quality and strength of Germany’s Army Group G slightly, and he certainly overstates the weaknesses of the Allied support system in providing manpower and materiel to Sixth Army Group, but he provides excellent description of the German defensive posture and the offensive scheme used to break through into the Alsatian plain. Much of the book is devoted to the response to Operation Nordwind, the German offensive launched on New Year’s eve, 1944-45.



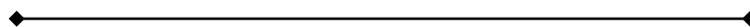
Turner, John F. and Robert Jackson, *Destination Berchtesgaden: The Story of the United States Seventh Army in World War II.* London: Ian Allan, 1975.

This short overview history of Seventh Army in Sicily, Southern France, the advance to the Rhine, and the final assaults across the Danube provides a good overview with very little analysis. There are a few good photographs, but maps are inadequate and there are no bibliographic references. It serves mainly as a “next step” from textbook treatment of the campaign into more detailed study.



Colley, David P. *Decision at Strasbourg: Ike’s Strategic Mistake to Halt Sixth Army Group at the Rhine in 1944.* Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2008.

This new book makes Sixth Army Group the centerpiece for analysis. In doing so, it provides some useful operational narrative that is well written and based on solid research. But the basic thesis is flawed by this relatively narrow focus. While General Eisenhower was seeking ways to close on the Rhine on a broad front, he was uninterested in narrow thrusts across that major obstacle. His reasoning is found in many sources but is lacking here. In its place is an unequalled presentation of the detailed plans for a deliberate river crossing that might have been launched in late November, some conjecture on possible positive results, and then a return to the more prosaic description of the actual operations of Sixth Army Group until the end of the war.



Weigley, Russell. *Eisenhower's Lieutenants: The Campaign of France and Germany, 1944-1945.* Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1981.

An analysis of the fighting in Europe by one of the most respected American military historians, this book is probably one of the best of the critical accounts that addresses the occasionally high tension that existed among Allied commanders—particularly in times of stress. Weigley's assessment of the interplay of personalities is perceptive, and his grasp of tactical and operational detail is remarkably strong. Sixth Army Group's operations up to the Rhine are conveniently presented in only two chapters (11 and 22), both of which are jewels.



de Lattre de Tassigny, Jean Joseph Marie Gabriel, *History of the French First Army.* translated by Malcolm Barnes. London: George Allen and Unwin, 1952.

This is the equivalent of an English-Language official history of the First French Army. The author took command when Marshal Juin moved to Paris to become de Gaulle's Minister of Defense. He had served in the French forces fighting alongside the Allies since the early days in North Africa, and he provides an excellent summary of recruiting, training and equipping the force. Detailed operational narrative begins with the liberation of Southern France, especially Toulon and Marseilles—significant victories won by French forces with no Allied ground formations in support. He provides sound treatment of the autumn slog through the Vosges Mountains, the rush to the Rhine, and the reduction of the Colmar pocket—all subjects we discuss on this staff ride.



Steidl, Franz. *Lost Battalions: going for Broke in the Vosges, Autumn 1944.* Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1997.

This book tells the story of an American lost battalion—the 1/141st Infantry, part of the 36th Infantry Division cut off near Biffontaine on 25 October until the 442nd Infantry Regiment broke through to relieve them on 30 October after costly attacks. This story is adequately presented [for our purposes] in Clarke's *Riviera to the Rhine*. Steidl tells his readers about the German Army's 202nd Mountain Battalion, which was also cut off until the 201st Mountain Battalion fought through to rescue it—an action that is not covered in the U.S. Army's official history. The entire book is focused on tactical action, built on sound sources, and a useful addition to the volumes that provide the “big picture.”



Ruppenthal, Roland. *Logistical Support of the Armies. 2 Volumes.* Washington, D.C.: CMH, 1995.

This two-volume work is the best account of the history of logistical operations in Europe in World War Two. The old saying, “professionals do logistics and amateurs do tactics” makes sense when one reads these volumes. As Eisenhower's memos to Marshall and the Combined Chiefs of Staff indicate, the logistical situation and requirements drove much of the operational thinking and decision-making in the European Theater. Ruppenthal gives us the information we need to understand the ammunition shortages and other logistical challenges that Sixth Army Group faced in the winter of 1944-45.



Mansoor, Peter. *The GI Offensive in Europe: The Triumph of American Infantry Divisions, 1941-45.* Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1999.

This is one of the best accounts of how the United States Army mobilized, trained, fielded and commanded infantry divisions in the Second World War. Mansoor's point is that American infantry divisions performed magnificently against the more experienced, and often better armed, German divisions in Italy, France, Belgium, and Germany. The American divisions learned from their mistakes and corrected a remarkable number of problems in the field. He also points out the numerous weaknesses in the training and personnel systems of the U.S. Army during the war. This section is very good food for thought about how to mobilize a large army for an emergency such as World War II. For our purposes in Alsace, all of these themes result in an excellent analysis of the operational advantages accruing to the Allies with the commitment of the 100th and 103rd Infantry Divisions with 6th Army Group and the tactical successes they delivered in their first battles in the Vosges Mountains.



Cosmas, Graham and Albert Cowdrey. *The Medical Service in the European Theater of Operations.* Washington, D.C.: CMH 1992.

This is the official history of the medical services in the European theater. It is also one of the best sources available for examination of the crisis resulting from widespread cold-weather injuries occurring just as the U.S. Army confronted operational challenges caused by a world-wide shortage of infantrymen. The treatment of the medics' solution to the problem of a separate evacuation channel for Sixth Army Group is of particular interest on this staff ride.



Pommois, Lise M. *Winter Storm: War in Northern Alsace, November 1944-March 1945.* Paducah, KY: Turner Publishing Co., 1991.

The author is an Alsatian who has long been a student of the war in her area north of Strasbourg and a friend to veterans visiting their old battlefields. This volume was assembled to facilitate those visits in conjunction with 50-year commemorations. Much of its detail concerns matters not covered in our staff ride, but its section on the "first liberation" is relevant, and the tactical detail and excellent sketch maps drawn from U.S. Army after action reports are excellent.



Maule, Henry. *Out of the Sand: The Epic Story of General Leclerc and the Fighting Free French.* London: Odhams, 1966.

In our studies of World War II in western Europe, General Leclerc's 2nd Armored Division seems to spring full-blown from the sea when it enters Normandy across Utah beach on 1 August 1944. This book traces the roots of Leclerc's unit to central Africa and the German attacks on France four years earlier. Leclerc led a group that never subordinated itself to Vichy authorities, fought its way into the struggle against Axis forces in Libya and Tunisia in 1943, and continued to fight alongside the Allies in the liberation of France. As a "Free Frenchman," Leclerc refused to be a part of the First French Army, which was largely composed of elements that had been loyal to the Vichy government. The Allies solved the

problem by assigning his division to Haislip's XV U.S. Corps after the liberation of Paris, where it fought with distinction until the end of the war.



Wyant, William K. *Sandy Patch: A Biography of Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch.* New York: Praeger, 1991.

This traditional biography opens with an excellent chapter on Patch's response to the *Nordwind* counter-offensive and then provides a sound treatment of the Seventh Army commander's growth before and during World War II. Sources are relatively weak since Patch died young (21 November 1945) and left no diary. But a satisfying narrative has been built from family, staff officers, a few letters, and official documents. It includes discussion of Patch's indiscretion in discussing the mission that shot down the plane carrying Admiral Yamamoto—a security lapse that nearly ended his career before he was assigned to the European Theater of Operations. The treatment of Seventh Army's operations from Southern France to V-E Day is relatively brief but excellent.



Markey, Michael A. *Jake: The General from West York Avenue.* York, PA: Historical Society of York County, 1998.

This biography of General Jacob Devers is a thin construct with a “hometown” perspective that provides relatively little coverage of 6th Army Group's operations in Alsace. It is built on the Devers Papers (which are held by the York County Historical Society) and a series of interviews conducted by BG (Retired) Thomas Griess. Griess worked on a full-scale biography of Devers for many years but did not complete it before his death in 2004. No one has been able to step in to see the project through to completion, and students of military history still lack an in-depth study of one of the U.S. Army's most significant World War II generals.



Quinn, William W. *Buffalo Bill Remembers: Truth and Courage.* Fowlerville, MI: Wilderness Adventure Books, 1991.

LTG (Retired) Bill Quinn was a colonel serving as the Seventh Army Chief of Intelligence during operations in Alsace. He retired as Commanding General, 7th Army—but not USAREUR. The press tied him to Senator Barry Goldwater at election time in 1964, and while the two had only a friendship, that was enough for President Lyndon Johnson to decide he didn't need Quinn on his Army's leadership team. This volume is a series of stories rather than a full-fledged memoir. One of the stories Quinn enjoyed telling was how he made his *Nordwind* predictions, explicitly countering the account of Captain (later Colonel) Donald Bussey, the 7th Army ULTRA officer, who asserted that ULTRA helped him formulate his estimate. Quinn claims it was photo interpretation and humint that gave him the clues he needed.



Fussell, Paul. *Doing Battle: The Making of a Skeptic*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1996.

Paul Fussell was a platoon leader in “F” Company, 410th Infantry Regiment, 103rd Infantry Division, who received his baptism in fire in the attacks into the German positions in the Vosges Mountains. This is his memoir of growing up only to have his life interrupted by service in the wartime U.S. Army. He provides an excellent account of the challenges of small unit command—he finished his education after the war and became a very successful professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania. But the sub-title referring to skepticism is warranted. A few years earlier, he had written, “For the past 50 years the Allied war has been sanitized and romanticized almost beyond recognition by the sentimental, the loony patriotic, the ignorant and the bloodthirsty.”



Compiled by BG(ret) Hal Nelson

Tab P

Glossary



3d Infantry Division soldiers attack the enemy on the snow-covered plain of Alsace.



Over frozen and ice-covered roads the supply trucks crept over the crests of the Vosges to supply the troops in the pocket on the plain.

AAA	Antiaircraft Artillery
AAF	Army Air Forces (US)
AAR	After Action Report
ABC	American-British Conversations (January-March 1941)
Abn	Airborne
ACofS	Assistant Chief of Staff
AD	Armored Division
Adm; Admin	Administrative
ADO	Assistant Directorate of Organization (US)
ADSEC	Advance Section, Communications Zone
AEAF	Allied Expeditionary Air Force
AEF	Allied Expeditionary Force
AF	Air Force
AFHQ	Allied Force Headquarters
AFSC	Air Force Service Command
AFV	Armored Fighting Vehicle
AG	Adjutant General
AGF	Army Ground Forces (US)
A Gp	Army Group
AIS	Allied Information Service
Ammo	Ammunition
AMSO	Air Minister for Supply and Organization
ANCXF	Allied Naval Commander Expeditionary Force
Anlage	Appendix or Annex
Anzio	Site of Anglo-American amphibious assault, January 1944, on the West coast of Italy
AP	Armor piercing
APC	Armored Personnel Carrier
Armd	Armored
Arty	Artillery
ASF	Army Service Forces
ASP	Ammunition Supply Point
ASW	Anti-submarine warfare; Assistant Secretary of War
AT	Antitank
ATS	(Women's) Auxiliary Territorial Service
Avgas	Aviation Gasoline
Axis, The	Alliance of Germany and Italy, later including Japan and other nations, that opposed the Allies in World War II
Bailey Bridging	Military bridging designed by British engineers
Bangalore	Explosive charge used for clearing barbed wire and detonating land mines
BAR	Browning automatic rifle
Bazooka	American shoulder-fired antitank rocket launcher
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation

BC	Bomber Command (British)
BCC(L)	BOLERO Combined Committee (London)
BCC(W)	BOLERO Combined Committee (Washington)
Bd	Board
Bde	Brigade
Beachmaster	Person who directed troop and equipment movements onto and off the beaches
BEF	British Expeditionary Forces
Belgian Gates	Steel gates used either as barricades or underwater beach obstacles. Constructed of steel angles and plates on concrete rollers. Also known as Element "C"
BLE	<i>Bataillon de Légion Étrangère</i> (Foreign Legion Battalion), French
Blitzkrieg	German offensive operations characterized by rapid-moving tank attacks supported by dive bombers, artillery, and mounted infantry
Bn	Battalion
Bocage	Hedgerow country in Normandy characterized by small fields bounded by embankments overgrown with trees and shrubs
Br	Branch; British
Br COS	British Chiefs of Staff Committee
BSCC	BOLERO-SICKLE Combined Committee
BUCO	Buildup Control Organization
CA	<i>Corps d'Armée</i> (Army Corps), French
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CAD	Civil Affairs Division
CATOR	Combined Air Transport Operations Room
Cav	Cavalry
Cbl	Cable
CCA, CCB, CCR	Combat Command A, B, and Reserve in a US Armored Division
CCS	Combined Chiefs of Staff (US-British)
CCAC	Combined Civil Affairs Committee
CG	Commanding General
Chespalang	A wood and wire matting laid on beaches wherever needed to provide footing for vehicles
CIGS	Chief of the Imperial General Staff (British)
CinC	Commander in Chief
C-in-C	Commander-in-Chief (British usage)
Cir	Circular
Classes of Supply	
I	Rations
III	Fuels & lubricants such as gasoline & coal
V	Ammunition & Explosives
II & IV	All other supplies and equipment for which allowances may (Class II) or may not (Class IV) be established, as, for example, clothing, weapons, construction, and fortification materials
CNO	Chief of Naval Operations

CO	Commanding Officer
Co	Company
CofEngrs	Chief of Engineers
CofS	Chief of Staff
CofT	Chief of Transportation
Com	Committee
Combined	Involving forces of more than one nation
Comd	Command
Comdr	Commander
COMZ	Communications Zone – that portion of a theater of operations behind the Combat Zone
Conf	Conference
COS Com	British Chiefs of Staff Committee
COSSAC	Chief of Staff to the Supreme Allied Commander (Designate)
CP	Command Post
CPS	Combined Staff Planners
CWS	Chemical Warfare Service
DB	<i>Division Blindée</i> (Armored Division), French
DCofS	Deputy Chief of Staff
DD	Duplex Drive (land and water propulsion) and flotation system fitted on various vehicles – especially tanks – in amphibious landings
D-Day	Exact day for the beginning of an operation
DFL	<i>Division Français Libre</i> (Free French (Infantry) Division)
DI	<i>Division d’Infanterie</i> (Infantry Division), French
DIA	<i>Division d’Infanterie Algérienne</i> (Algerian Infantry Division), French
DIA (27th)	<i>27th Division d’Infanterie Alpine</i> (Alpine Infantry Division), French
DIC	<i>Division d’Infanterie Coloniale</i> (Colonial Infantry Division), French
Dieppe Raid	Amphibious assault by British and Canadian troops on the coast of France in August 1942 – repelled with heavy losses
DIM	<i>Division d’Infanterie Marocaine</i> (Moroccan Infantry Division), French
Dir	Directive; Director
Div	Division
DMM	<i>Division Marocaine de Montagne</i> (Moroccan Mountain Division), French
DOD	Department of Defense (US)
DQMG(L)	Deputy Quartermaster General (Liaison) (British)
DSC	Distinguished Service Cross
Dtd	Dated
DUKW	2 ½ ton 6x6 Amphibian Truck (“Duck” in Army slang)
Dumb Barge	An unpowered barge that could be beached
Dunkerque	Seaport in northern France from which British and Allied forces were withdrawn in a last minute escape after defenses collapsed in the face of German attacks, May 1940
DZ	Drop zone for paratroopers and air-dropped supplies
EACS	European Allied Contact Section

Ech	Echelon
EM	Enlisted men
Eng; Engr	Engineer
ETO	European Theater of Operations
ETOUSA	European Theater of Operations, United States Army
EUCOM	European Command, successor to USFET
Exec	Executive; Executive Officer
Ex O	Executive Officer
FA	Field Artillery
FAAA	First Allied Airborne Army
Falaise Gap	Opening between US and British advances north and south of the town of Falaise (south of Caen) through which many German soldiers escaped in August 1944
FCNL	French Committee of National Liberation
FECOMZ	Forward Echelon, Communications Zone
<i>FFI</i>	<i>Forces Françaises de l'Intérieur</i> (French Forces of the Interior), the 'Maquis' Resistance
Fifth column	Subversive organization working in a country for an invading army
Flail	Tank fitted with heavy chains on a revolving drum that beat the ground in front of the tank to clear mines
FLAK	Antiaircraft artillery fire or gun
FO	Field Order
<i>Fuehrungsgruppe</i>	Operations Group
<i>Fuehrungsstab</i>	Operations Staff
Funnies	Special armored assault teams developed under Major General Sir Percy Hobart that operated unusual vehicles such as flail tanks (also "Hobart's Funnies")
FUSA	First US Army
FUSAG	1 st US Army Group
G-1	ACofS for personnel - the staff office responsible for personnel matters (US & Combined Headquarters)
G-2	ACofS for intelligence - the staff office responsible for intelligence on enemy operations and capabilities (US & Combined Headquarters)
G-3	ACofS for operations - the staff office responsible for plans and operations (US & Combined Headquarters)
G-4	ACofS for supply - The staff office responsible for logistics (US & Combined Headquarters)
G-5	ACofS for civil affairs - the staff office responsible for civil affairs (US and Combined Headquarters)
G-6	Short-lived division of SHAEF which dealt with public relations and psychological warfare
Gen Bd Rpt	General Board Report
<i>Gen. St. d. H.</i>	<i>Generalstab des Heeres</i> (General Staff of the Army)
GFRS	Ground Force Replacement System

GHQ	General Headquarters
GO	General Order
Gooseberry	Harbor constructed of sunken ships used to shelter small craft
Goum	A Moroccan infantry company-sized unit (made up of <i>Goumiers</i>)
Goumier	Ethnic Berber Moroccan mountain infantrymen
Gp	Group
GPA	General Purchasing Agent
Grand Alliance	World War II coalition of the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union
Green Books	Works in the official history of the U.S. Army in World War II
Grenadier	Honorific for German infantry
GTM	<i>Groupement de Tabors Marocains</i> (Group of Moroccan <i>Tabors</i>). A <i>GTM</i> is roughly equivalent to a regiment. It comprises 3 <i>Tabors</i> (1 <i>Tabor</i> = 1 Battalion) & each <i>Tabor</i> comprises 3 <i>Goums</i> (1 <i>Goum</i> = 1 Company)
HE	High Explosive
Hedgehog	Portable obstacle, made of three crossed angle irons
Heeresgruppe	Army Group
H-Hour	Exact minute for the beginning of a military operation
Hist	Historical; Historian
HQ; Hq	Headquarters
ID	Infantry Division
Incl	Inclosure
Ind	Indorsement
Inf	Infantry
Int; Intel	Intelligence
Interdiction	Cutting an enemy's line of communication by firepower (including aerial bombardment) to impede enemy operations
Interv	Interview
ISS	Identification of Separate Shipments to Overseas Destinations
Jabo	German slang for <i>Jagdbomber</i> (fighter-bomber)
Joint	Including elements from more than one service.
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff; Leaders of all services meeting to resolve issues and make decisions affecting more than one service (US)
Jedburgh Team	Small, specially trained teams of Allied officers and men dropped behind enemy lines to aid resistance groups
JIC	Joint Intelligence Committee
JPS	Joint Staff Planners
JSM	Joint Staff Mission (British mission to Washington)
Jt	Joint
Kampfgruppe	German equivalent of task force; combat team
KTB	<i>Kriegstagebuch</i> (war diary)

LBV	Landing Barge, which was capable of carrying either supplies or vehicles and could be beached
LCI(L)	Landing Craft, Infantry (Light)
LCM	Landing Craft, Mechanized
LCT	Landing Craft, Tank
LCVP	Landing Craft, Vehicle & Personnel
LD	Line of Departure
Lend-Lease	Act passed March 1941 allowing President Roosevelt to sell, transfer title to, exchange, lease, lend, or otherwise dispose of equipment to any country on which US defense was thought to depend
Liberty Ships	Mass-produced US cargo vessels of approximately 10,000 tons which were designed for speedy construction early in the war and served as the work-horse in ocean shipping
Ln	Liaison
Lobnitz pierheads	Huge steel structures towed to the Normandy beaches to provide the unloading facilities for LCTs, LSTs and coasters in the Mulberries
Log	Logistical
LSD	Landing Ship, Dock
LST	Landing Ship, Tank
Ltr of Instr	Letter of Instructions
Luftwaffe	German air force
LVT (1)	Landing Vehicle, Tracked, Unarmored (Mark I) “Alligator”
M1 (Garand)	US Semiautomatic infantry rifle
M4 (Sherman)	US Medium Tank
M5 (Stuart)	US Light Tank
M10	US Tank Destroyer with 3-inch gun
M29	“Weasel” tracked cargo carrier
Maquis	Guerilla fighter in the French resistance
MG	Machine gun
Midway	Key naval battle between the US Pacific Fleet and Japan’s Combined Fleet, 4 June 1942
Mil Mission Moscow	US Military Mission to Moscow
Min	Minutes
(-) (Minus)	Understrength, or with components detached
MOI	Ministry of Information (British)
Mov & Tn Br	Movements & Transportation Branch
MOVCO	Movement Control
MSR	Main Supply Route
MT Ship	Liberty Ship converted for maximum vehicle-carrying purposes
MT80	Motor Transport gasoline, 80-octane
MTB	Motor Transport Brigade
Mtg	Meeting
MTS	Motor Transport Service
Mulberry	Artificial harbor built of sunken ships and concrete caissons, forming a breakwater within which floating docks were assembled

NAAFI	Navy Army Air Force Institute (British)
NATO; NATOUSA	North African Theater of Operations; North African Theater of Operations, US Army
<i>Naval Gruppe West</i>	German coastal artillery located in Normandy
NCO	Noncommissioned Officer
<i>Nebelwerfer</i>	German multiple rocket projector
NOIC	Naval Officer in Command
NUSA	Ninth US Army
NYPOE	New York Port of Embarkation
OB	Order of Battle--organization and composition of a military force
<i>Oberkommando</i>	Headquarters of an army or higher military organization
<i>OB WEST</i>	<i>Oberbefehlshaber West</i> (Headquarters, Commander in Chief West [France, Belgium, and the Netherlands]), highest German ground headquarters of the western front
OCofEngrs	Office, Chief of Engineers
OCofT	Office, Chief of Transportation
OCMH	Office, Chief of Military History
<i>OKH</i>	<i>Oberkommando des Herres</i> (Army High Command)
<i>OKL</i>	<i>Oberkommando der Luftwaffe</i> (Air Force High Command)
<i>OKM</i>	<i>Oberkommando der Kriegsmarine</i> (Navy High Command)
<i>OKW</i>	<i>Oberkommando der Wehrmacht</i> (Armed Force High Command)
OP	Observation Post
OPD	Operations Division, War Department
Opn	Operation
OQMG	Office of the Quartermaster General
ORC	Organized Reserve Corps
Ord	Ordnance
OSS	Office of Strategic Services, forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency
<i>Ost battalions</i>	Non-German volunteer troops from east-European countries
OWI	Office of War Information
P&O	Plans & Operations Division, War Department, successor to OPD
<i>Panzer</i>	Armor (German)
<i>Panzer Division</i>	German Armored Division
<i>Panzerfaust</i>	German handheld antitank rocket launcher
<i>Panzergranadier</i>	German mechanized or semi-armored infantry organization, or infantry soldiers within such an organization
<i>Panzergruppe West</i>	Control headquarters for armored forces established by the Germans in November 1943 to control those decisive forces in any large-scale counterattack against Allied landings along the Channel coast
PC&R Gp	Port Construction and Repair Group
Pillbox	Low-roofed concrete emplacement for machine gun or antitank gun
Plng	Planning
(+) (Plus)	Overstrength, or with attached units

PLUTO	From “pipeline under the ocean” – a cross-Channel underwater pipeline planned for bulk POL deliveries to the far shore
PMS&T	Professor of Military Science & Tactics
POINTBLANK	Allied long-range bombing program (Combined Bomber Offensive) from Britain against Germany
POL	Petroleum (gasoline or diesel fuel), Oil, and Lubricants
POW	Prisoner of War
POZIT	US proximity fuze for artillery and antiaircraft
Prcht	Parachute
PRD	Public Relations Division, SHAEF
Prep	Prepared; preparation
PROCO	Projects for Continental Operations, as system of requisitioning supplies and equipment for special operations
PSO	Principal Staff Officers
PWE	Political Warfare Executive
<i>PzD</i>	Panzer Division – German Armored Division
Q(L)	Quartermaster (Liaison)
QM	Quartermaster
RA	Regular Army
RAF	Royal Air Force (UK)
RAP	ROUNDUP Administrative Planners
Rations--C, D, K	C was a balanced meal in a can; D was a fortified chocolate bar; K was a box meal more nourishing and palatable than C rations
RCA	<i>Régiment de Chasseurs d’Afrique</i> (Regiment of African Chasseurs), French
RCP	<i>Régiment de Chasseurs Parachutistes</i> (Regiment of Parachute Chasseurs), French
RCT	Regimental Combat Team
Rec	Records
Rgt	Regiment
Rhino ferry	A barge constructed of bolted ponton units and propelled by an outboard motor
RI	<i>Régiment d’Infanterie</i> (Infantry Regiment), French
RIC	<i>Régiment d’Infanterie Coloniale</i> (Colonial Infantry Regiment), French
RICM	<i>Régiment d’Infanterie Coloniale du Maroc</i> (Moroccan Colonial Infantry Regiment – the reconnaissance regiment of the 9 th DIC), French
RMLE	<i>Régiment de Marche de la Légion Étrangère</i> (Foreign Legion), French
RSAR	<i>Régiment de Spahis Algériens de Reconnaissance</i> (Regiment of Algerian Reconnaissance <i>Spahis</i>), French
RSM	<i>Régiment de Spahis Marocains</i> (Regiment of Moroccan <i>Spahis</i>), French
RTA	<i>Régiment de Tirailleurs Algériens</i> (Algerian <i>Tirailleurs</i>), French
RTM	<i>Régiment de Tirailleurs Marocains</i> (Moroccan <i>Tirailleurs</i>), French
RTO	Rail Transportation Officer
RTS	<i>Régiment de Tirailleurs Sénégalais</i> (Senegalese <i>Tirailleurs</i>), French

RTT	<i>Régiment de Tirailleurs Tunisiens</i> (Tunisian <i>Tirailleurs</i>), French
S1	Personnel and administrative staff officer, or adjutant, of a brigade or smaller unit
S2	Intelligence staff officer of a brigade or smaller unit
S3	Operations staff officer of a brigade or smaller unit
S4	Logistics staff officer of a brigade or smaller unit
SAC	Supreme Allied Commander
SACMED	Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theater
SCAEF	Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force
Second Front	Invasion of Europe by Anglo-American forces to relieve the Eastern (first) Front
SFHQ	Special Force Headquarters
SGS	Secretary, General Staff
SHAEF	Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force
Sitrep	Situation Report
SO	Special Operations
SOE	Special Operations Executive
Sommerfeld track	A matting made of wire netting reinforced with steel, used in the same manner as chespaling
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SOS	Services of Supply
SP	Self-propelled
<i>Spahi</i>	French colonial reconnaissance soldier
SPOBS	Special Observer Group
SS	<i>Schutzstaffel</i> (Elite Guard) Nazi unit originally created to serve as Hitler's bodyguard; later expanded to oversee intelligence and security and to provide large combat organizations (<i>Waffen-SS</i>) that fought alongside German Army formations
Stf	Staff
SUP	Single Unit Pack, a method of crating vehicles
Svc	Service
T	Towed
<i>Tabor</i>	A Moroccan battalion-sized unit, made up of company-sized <i>Goums</i> , French
Tac	Tactical
TAC	Tactical Air Command
Tactical Air Force	Generic name for the Allied ground support air forces and air commands
T/BA	Tables of Basic Allowance
TC	Transportation Corps
TCC	Troop Carrier Command
TD	Tank Destroyer
T/E	Tables of Equipment
Tel	Telegram; teletype
<i>Teller Mine</i>	A German land mine

Tetrahedra	Pyramid-shaped obstacles made of angle iron
TF	Task Force
<i>Tirailleur</i>	Literally, ‘sharpshooter’, French colonial infantryman
TIS	Theater Intelligence Section
TO&E; T/O&E	Tables of Organization & Equipment
<i>Todt Organization</i>	German organization for military construction (e.g. the Atlantic Wall and West Wall defensive lines)
TOT	Time On Target; a method of timing artillery fire from various points to fall on a given target simultaneously
TUP	Twin Unit Pack, a method of crating vehicles
TURCO	Turn-Round Control
TUSA	Third US Army
TWX	Teletype message
U-boat	German submarine
UNRRA	United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
USAAFUK	US Army Air Forces in the United Kingdom
USAFBI	US Army Forces in the British Isles
USANIF	US Army Northern Ireland Force
USFET	US Forces in the European Theater, successor command to ETOUSA
USSBS	US Strategic Bombing Survey
USSTAF	US Strategic Air Forces
<i>VGD</i>	German Volksgrenadier Division
VT	US proximity (“variable time”) fuze
V-weapons	German secret weapons planned as revenge for the bombing of Germany--the V-1 “buzz bomb” was a primitive cruise missile; the V-2 was the first operational ballistic guided missile
<i>Wacht am Rhein</i>	“Watch on the Rhine”; German code name for 1944 Ardennes counteroffensive (Battle of the Bulge)
<i>Waffen-SS</i>	Combat arm of the SS (<i>Schutzstaffel</i> , Elite Guard); Military formation of the Nazi Party, in effect a partial duplication of the German Army
WD	War Department
<i>Wehrmacht</i>	German Armed Forces – land, sea, and air – not including the <i>Waffen-SS</i>
WO	War Office
WPD	War Plans Division, War Department, predecessor of OPD

Tab Q

Code Names



***Gen de Lattre reviews the Burnhaupt maneuver
with Gens Eisenhower, Bradley, and Devers***

ABC-1	The agreements resulting from the Anglo-American military staff conversations held in Washington in January – March 1941
ABERDEEN	Chindit stronghold near Manhton, Burma
ACHSE	German plan for the defense of northern Italy
ALACRITY	Plan for the entry of a British force into the Azores, October 1943
ALAMO	Code for US Sixth Army while operating as a special ground task force HQ directly under GHQ SWPA
ALPHA	US 3d Infantry Division force for Operation DRAGOON, and 3d Infantry Division landing beaches in the Cavalaire-St. Tropez area
ALPHA	Plan to defend Kunming and Chungking
ANAKIM	Plan for recapture of Burma
ANVIL	Plan for the Allied invasion of southern France, finally executed as Operation DRAGOON in August 1944
ARCADIA	First of the major US-British staff conferences following US entry into the war, held in Washington, December 1941-January 1942
ARGONAUT	Yalta Conference, February 1945
ARGUMENT	USSTAF air operations against German aircraft factories, Feb '44
AVALANCHE	Invasion of Italy at Salerno
AXIOM	Mission sent by SEAC to Washington and London in Feb '44 to urge CULVERIN
BACKHANDER	Task force for operations on Cape Gloucester, New Britain
BARBAROSSA	German offensive against USSR, 1941
BARCLAY/MINCEMEAT	Deception operations aimed at misleading Axis forces as to the actual date & location of the Allied landings on Sicily
BARRISTER	Plan for capture of Dakar (formerly BLACK and PICADOR)
BAYTOWN	British invasion of Italy on Calabrian coast
BAZAAR	Plan for American air support of USSR in event of Japanese attack on Soviet Union. Also code name for US survey project of air facilities in Siberia
BEAVER	Training exercise held in the Slapton Sands area in England in March 1944, employing elements of the VII Corps and simulating the later assault on UTAH beach
BENEFICIARY	Plan for breaking out of the Normandy lodgment by means of a combined airborne-amphibious attack on St. Malo
BETA	Plan to open port on coast of China
BIGOT	Special security category and procedure to protect the OVERLORD plan
BIRCH	Christmas Island
BLACK	Plan for capture of Dakar (later PICADOR and BARRISTER)
BLACKCOCK	British XII Corps operation to clear enemy salient between the Meuse and Roer-Wurm Rivers from Roermond southward
BLACKPOOL	Chindit roadblock on railroad near Namkwin, Burma
BLEACHER	Tongatabu
BLOCKBUSTER	Canadian II Corps offensive in Calcar-Udem-Xanten area
BOBCAT	Borabora

BODYGUARD	Allied deception plans designed to cloak the timing and location of OVERLORD while drawing German attention to the Pas de Calais
BOLERO	Buildup of US troops and supplies in the United Kingdom in preparation for the cross-Channel invasion
Bombardons	Cruciform structures designed for mooring off the Normandy beaches to provide floating breakwaters in deep water
BRADDOCK II	Dropping of small fuze incendiaries to European workers for use in sabotage operations
BRAID	Cover name for General Marshall during Casablanca Conference
BRASSARD	Operations against the island of Elba
BREWER	Operations in the Admiralties
BRIMSTONE	Plan for capture of Sardinia. Cancelled
BROADWAY	Drop site for Chindits, about 50 miles northwest of Indaw, Burma
BUCCANEER	Plan for amphibious operation in Andaman Islands. Cancelled
BUFFALO	VI US Corps breakout from Anzio beachhead, May 1944
BULLFROG	Plan for operation against Arakan (Burma) coast
BUTTRESS	British operation against toe of Italy
CAMEL	US 36 th Infantry Division force for Operation DRAGOON, and 36 th Infantry Division landing beaches in the Frejus-St. Raphael area
CANNIBAL	Unsuccessful British offensive against Akyab (Burma) in 1943
CAPITAL	Attack across the Chindwin River to Mandalay
CARBONADO	Revised BETA
CARPETBAGGER	Project to drop supplies and agents to the French resistance
CARTWHEEL	Converging drives on Rabaul by S. Pacific and SWPA forces
CASANOVA	US 95 th Infantry Division diversionary action during operations against Metz
CATCHPOLE	Operations against Eniwetok and Ujelang Atolls, Marshall Islands
CAUSEWAY	Operations against Formosa
CHAMPION	Late 1943 plan for general offensive in Burma
CHATTANOOGA CHOO CHOO	AEAF operations against enemy train movements in France and Germany
CHARNWOOD	British operation to seize Caen, launched 8 July 1944
CHASTITY	Plan for the construction of an artificial harbor in the Quiberon Bay area on the southern coast of Brittany
CHESTNUT	Advanced air drop on Sicily by 2 SAS to disrupt communications, 12 July 1943
CLEANSLATE	Invasion of Russell Islands
CLIPPER	British XXX Corps offensive to reduce Geilenkirchen salient
COBRA	First US Army operation to break out of the Normandy lodgment, launched 25 July 1944
COCKADE	Diversionary operations in 1943 to pin down German forces in the west
COMET	British plan, not carried out, for an air drop on 7 September 1944 in the Arnhem-Nijmegen area

CORKSCREW	Conquest of Pantelleria
Corncobs	Blockships deliberately sunk off the Normandy beaches to form partial breakwaters known as Gooseberries , to shelter small craft
COTTAGE	Invasion of Kiska, 1943
CRICKET	Malta portion of ARGONAUT conference
CROSSBOW	A general term used by the Allies to refer to the German long-range weapons program and to Allied countermeasures against it
CUDGEL	Planned small scale operation on Arakan coast, Burma. Cancelled
CULVERIN	Plan for assault on Sumatra
CYCLONE	Task force for Noemfoor
DELTA	US 45 th Infantry Division force for Operation DRAGOON, and 45 th Infantry Division landing beaches in the Ste. Maxime area
DEXTERITY	Operations against Cape Gloucester, New Britain
DIADEM	Allied spring offensive and advance on Rome, May-June 1944
DIRECTOR	Task force for invasion of Arawe, New Britain
DIXIE	Mission of US observers to Chinese communists
DRACULA	Plan for attack on Rangoon, 1944
DRAGOON	The Allied invasion of southern France in August 1944. Name changed from ANVIL due to concern that the name had been compromised
DUCK I, II, III	First in the series of training exercises held in the Slapton Sands area in England, during January-February 1944, to test all aspects of amphibious operations, including mounting, assault, and logistic support. Involved mainly elements of the V Corps simulating the later assault on OMAHA beach
ECLIPSE	Name given in November 1944 to posthostilities plans for Germany
ELKTON	Plan for seizure of New Britain, New Guinea, and New Ireland area
END RUN	Task force of GALAHAD survivors used in drive on Myitkyina, Burma
ENIGMA	Strategic level German radio communication encryption system
EUREKA	Tehran conference, November – December 1943, where Western allies agreed to Stalin’s appeal for a Channel crossing to open the ‘second front’ in the spring of 1944
FABIUS I-VI	A series of final rehearsals for the cross-Channel operation, involving the US V Corps and British forces, April-May 1944
FANTAN	Fiji Islands
FIREBRAND	Invasion of Corsica, 1943
FISCHFANG	February 1944 German counteroffensive against VI US Corps in Anzio beachhead
FLAX	Air operation to disrupt flow of German air transports from Italy to Sicily and Tunisia

FLINTLOCK	Operations in the Marshall Islands
FORAGER	Operations in the Marianas
FOREARM	Kavieng
FORTITUDE	Allied deception operations designed to convince the Germans of an invasion of Western Europe in the Pas de Calais area
FORTUNE	Planning group located in Algiers (July 1942)
FOX	Last major training exercises conducted by V Corps, March 1944
FRANTIC	Allied shuttle bombing of Axis-controlled Europe from bases in UK, Italy, and USSR
FRY	Occupation of four islands in Lake Comacchio, Italy
FUSTIAN	British airborne landing at Primasole Bridge, Sicily, 13-14 July 1943
GALAHAD	American long range penetration groups (Burma)
GALVANIC	Operations in Gilbert Islands
GARDEN	see MARKET-GARDEN
GOBLET	Invasion of Italy at Cotrone. Cancelled
GOLD	Normandy beach assaulted by British 30 Corps, 6 June 1944
GOLDFLAKE	Movement of Canadian I Corps from Italy to ETO
GOODWOOD	British attack to break out of the Normandy lodgment in late July 1944, coinciding with US Operation COBRA
Gooseberries	Partial breakwaters formed off the Normandy beaches by the sinking of blockships known as Corncocks , to shelter small craft
GRANITE	Plan for operations in POA in 1944
GRAY	Plan for capture and occupation of the Azores
GREENLIGHT	One of the special OVERLORD supply procedures designed to expedite the delivery of ammunition and engineer fortification material in lieu of scheduled shipment of other supplies in the first phases of the cross-Channel operation
GREIF	German deception operation in support of the Ardennes counteroffensive, 1944
GRENADE	21 Army Group large-scale offensive from the Roer to the Rhine
GRENADE	Ninth Army supporting attack for Operation VERITABLE
GYMNAST	1941 plan for invasion of North Africa
HABAKKUKS	Artificial landing fields made of reinforced ice
HALPRO	Halvetrson Project – bombing detachment for China-Burma-India
HANDS UP	Plan for breaking out of the Normandy lodgment by means of a combined airborne-amphibious attack on Quiberon Bay
HARDIHOOD II	Aid to Turkey, Phase II
HARLEQUIN	British exercise in September 1943 to establish marshaling and embarkation procedures for a cross-Channel operation
HERCULES	German plan to invade Malta. Cancelled
HOLLY	Canton Island
HURRICANE	Assault force for Biak, New Guinea
HUSKY	Allied invasion of Sicily in July 1943

ICEBERG	Invasion of the Ryukyu Islands
ICHIGO	Japanese operation to take US air bases in east China
INDEPENDENCE	Plan for First French Army attack against German garrisons on French coasts, December 1944
INDIGO	Plan for movement of troops to Iceland
INTERLUDE	Rehearsal for Morotai operation
JUNO	Normandy beach assaulted by Canadian 3d Division, 6 June 1944
JUPITER	Plan for operations in northern Norway
LADBROKE	Glider landing at Syracuse, 9 July 1943
LEVER	Operation to clear area between Reno and southwest shore of Lake Comacchio, Italy
LIGHTFOOT	British offensive operations in Libyan Desert, launched from El Alamein, October 1942
LINNET I	Planned airborne drop at Tournai, Belgium, September 1944
LINNET II	Planned airborne drop at Aachen-Maastricht Gap, September 1944
LONDON	XVIII Airborne Corps phase line near Wesel, Germany
LUCKY STRIKE	21 Army Group plan calling for an eastward drive and the capture of the Seine ports as an alternative to plans for the earlier capture of Brittany, considered by planning staffs in May and June 1944
MAGNET	Plan that superseded RAINBOW-5 after US entry into the war, providing for the shipment of American forces to Northern Ireland
MAGNETO	Yalta portion of ARGONAUT Conference
MAILFIST	Capture of Singapore, 1945
MALLORY MAJOR	Air offensive against Po River bridges, Italy
MANNA	British occupation of southern Greece
MARKET-GARDEN	Airborne & armored operation intended to establish a bridgehead across the Rhine in the Netherlands, September 1944. Operation MARKET involved seizure of bridges in the Nijmegen-Arnhem area, and Operation GARDEN was to open a corridor from Eindhoven northward toward Germany
MARS	US task force (5332d Brigade (Provisional)), CBI
MATTERHORN	Plan for operating B29s from Cheng-tu against Japan
MERCANTILE	Manus Island
MICHAELMAS	Task force for seizure of Saidor, New Guinea
MILEPOST	Project to build up stocks in the Far East in preparation for the entry of the USSR into the war against Japan
MINCEMEAT/BARCLAY	Deception operations aimed at misleading Axis forces as to the actual date & location of the Allied landings on Sicily
MODICUM	Party sent to London to present Marshall Memorandum, April 1942
Mulberries	The artificial harbors constructed off the Normandy beaches
MUSKET	Projected landing on heel of Italy near Taranto, 1943

NABOB	Northern Island
NARCISSUS	Commando raid on a lighthouse near the main Sicily landings, 10 July 1943
NEPTUNE	Operation to transport assault troops and equipment across the Channel to Normandy
NEST EGG	Plan for occupation of Channel Islands in case of German collapse or surrender
NEW GALAHAD	American long-range penetration groups (Burma)
NEW YORK	XVIII Airborne Corps phase line in Ringenberg-Krudenberg area, Germany
NOBALL	Term used by the air forces in referring to target sites in their attacks on long-range weapons
<i>NORDWIND</i>	German counterattack in Alsace, January 1945
OCTAGON	Second Quebec Conference, September 1944
OLIVE	Attack on Gothic Line, Italy
OLYMPIC	Plan for March 1946 invasion of Kyushu, Japan
OMAHA	Normandy beach assaulted by US V Corps, 6 June 1944
ORANGE	Prewar plan of operations in event of war with Japan
OVERLORD	The invasion of northwest Europe in the spring of 1944
PANTHER	British 10 Corps drive across the Garigliano River, Italy
PARIS	XVIII Airborne Corps phase line west of Erle, Germany
PERSECUTION	Assault force for Aitape operations, New Guinea
Phoenixes	Concrete caissons towed across the English Channel and sunk to form the main breakwaters for the artificial harbors
PICADOR	Plan for capture of Dakar (formerly BLACK, later BARRISTER)
PICCADILLY	Drop site for Chindits, Burma
PIGSTICK	Limited operation on south Mayu Peninsula. Cancelled
PLOUGH, PLOUGH FORCE	Project for training US and Canadian volunteers for snow operations in northern Norway
PLUNDER	Montgomery's northern crossing of the Rhine, March 1945
POINTBLANK	The Combined Bomber Offensive from Britain against Germany
PRICELESS	Post-HUSKY Mediterranean operations
PROVIDENCE	Occupation of Buna area, New Guinea, 1942. Cancelled
PUGILIST	Attack on Mareth Line, Tunisia, 1943
QUADRANT	The first Quebec Conference, August 1943
QUEEN	12 th Army Group operation on Roer Plain between Wurm and Roer Rivers
RAINBOW	Various plans prepared between 1939 and 1941 to meet Axis aggression involving more than one enemy
RAINBOW-5	US military plan designed to implement that portion of ABC-1 which applied to the UK in the event of US entry into the war

RAINCOAT	Assault on Camino hill mass, Italy
RANKIN I, II, III	Plans for return to the Continent in the event of deterioration of the German position
RASHNESS	Revised CARBONADO plan
RAVENOUS	IV Corps plan for recapture of northern Burma
RECKLESS	Assault force for Hollandia operation
REDLINE	Radio circuits set up in September 1944 for messages to and from the Supreme Commander
RENO	SWPA plans for operations in the Bismarck Archipelago, along northern coast of New Guinea and thence to Mindanao, P.I.
RHUMBA	Plan for reversing BOLERO and transferring US forces, supplies, and logistic structure from the United Kingdom to the Continent
RO	Japanese air operation to augment Rabaul air forces and delay Allied offensives
ROAST	Operation to clear Comacchio Spit, Italy
ROGER	Capture of Phuket Island, off Kra Isthmus, Burma
ROMEO	French commando force landing at Cap Nègre during Operation DRAGOON
ROMULUS	Arakan part of CAPITAL plan
ROOSTER	Operation to fly Chinese 22d Division to Chihchiang
ROSE	Ruhr pocket, April 1945
ROSES	Efate
ROSIE	French naval force landing southwest of Cannes, Operation DRAGOON
ROUNDHAMMER	Original codename for OVERLORD. Cross Channel operation intermediate in size between SLEDGEHAMMER and ROUNDUP
ROUNDUP	Various 1941-43 Anglo-American plans for a cross-Channel attack
RUGBY	Airborne force dropped to rear of southern France assault beaches in Operation DRAGOON
SATIN	Plan for US II Corps operation against Sfax, Tunisia. Cancelled
SATURN	Establishment of British forces in Turkey prior to Turkey's entry into the war
SAUCY	Limited offensive to reopen land route from Burma to China
SEA LION	Planned German invasion of UK. Cancelled
SEXTANT	The Cairo Conference of November 1943
SHARPENER	Supreme Commander's advance command post at Portsmouth, May 1944
SHELLBURST	SHAEF advance headquarters at Tournières
SHINGLE	Amphibious operation at Anzio, Italy
SHIPMATE	Enlarged SHAEF forward headquarters near Portsmouth, replacing SHARPENER
SHO	Japanese plan to counterattack US forces in western Pacific
SICKLE	Name which in 1943 was given to the US air force buildup in the United Kingdom to distinguish it from the ground and service force buildup, known as BOLERO

SITKA	Force taking islands of Levant and Port Cros, Operation DRAGOON
SLAPSTICK	Airborne drop at Taranto, Italy
SLEDGEHAMMER	Plan for a limited-objective attack across the Channel in 1942, designed either to take advantage of a German collapse or as a sacrifice operation to aid the Soviets
SOAPSUDS	Early code name for TIDAL WAVE
SPOONER	New Zealand
SPRING	Canadian attack, July 1944, coinciding with Operation COBRA
STARKEY	Threat directed in 1943 against the Pas de Calais
STALEMATE	Invasion of the Palaus
STATESMAN	Early code name for TIDAL WAVE
STRANGLE	Air operations to destroy German rail, road, and sea communications south of the Pisa-Rimini line, March-May 1944
SUMAC	Australia
SUPERCHARGE	British 30 Corps breakout, Egypt, 1942
SUPERCHARGE	Revised plan of assault on Mereth Line, March 1943
SUPER-GYMNAST	Plan for Anglo-American invasion of French North Africa, combining US and British plans and often used interchangeably with GYMNAST
SWORD	Normandy beach assaulted by troops of British 3d Division, 6 June 1944
SWORDHILT	Plan for a combined airborne-amphibious operation to seize the area east of Brest, August 1944
SYMBOL	Casablanca Conference, January 1943
TALISMAN	Early name for posthostilities plans for Germany
TALON	Akyab part of CAPITAL plan
TARZAN	India-based portion of general offensive in Burma
TED	Task force in Aitape area, New Guinea
TERMINAL	Potsdam Conference, July 1945
THUNDERBOLT	Offensive in Metz area
TIDALWAVE	Low-level heavy bomber attack on Ploesti, Romania, 1943
TIGER	The final rehearsal for the UTAH Beach assault by units of the VII Corps
TINDALL	Threat directed against Norway in 1943
TOGO	Second phase of <i>ICHIGO</i> operation
Tombola	A flexible 6-inch underwater pipeline designed to discharge POL tankers anchored offshore at Ste. Honorine-des-Pertes
TOPFLIGHT	Signal for release of press information on D-Day in Normandy
TORCH	The Allied invasion operation in North Africa, November 1942
TOREADOR	Airborne assault on Mandalay
TORNADO	Assault force for Wakde-Sarmi area, New Guinea
TOTALIZE	Post-COBRA attack in France
TRACTABLE	Post-COBRA attack in France
TRADEWIND	Force for Morotai

TRANSFIGURE	Plan for airborne operation to capture and control important road nets in Paris-Orléans area, 16-17 August 1944
TRIDENT	Washington Conference, May 1943
TULSA	First outline plan for operations directed at the capture of Rabaul
TWILIGHT	Plan to base B-29s in CBI
TYPHOON	Task force for Sansapor-Mar operation, New Guinea
ULTRA	British operation to intercept and decrypt German radio communications (<i>ENIGMA</i>)
UNDERTONE	Seventh Army operation to breach the West Wall and establish a bridgehead over the Rhine in the Worms area, March – April 1945
UTAH	Normandy beach assaulted by US VII Corps, 6 June 1944
VARSITY	FAAA operation in support of Operation PLUNDER
VERITABLE	21 Army Group plan for a Canadian attack between the Maas and the Rhine, January – February 1945
VICTOR I	Panay and Negros Occidental operation
VICTOR II	Cebu, Bohol, and Negros Oriental operation
VICTOR III	US Eighth Army operations against Palawan
VICTOR IV	US Eighth Army operations against Sulu Archipelago and Zamboanga area of Mindanao
VICTOR V	US Eighth Army operations against western Mindanao
VULCAN	Final ground offensive to clear Tunisia, 1943
<i>Wacht am Rhein</i>	“Watch on the Rhine”; German 1944 Ardennes counteroffensive (Battle of the Bulge)
WADHAM	Threat directed against the Cotentin Peninsula in 1943
WEBFOOT	Rehearsal for SHINGLE
Whale	Flexible steel roadway, made of bridge spans and resting on pontoons, forming the piers for the artificial harbors
WHITE POPPY	Nouméa, New Caledonia
WIDEWING	SHAEF headquarters at Bushy Park, near London
X	Australia
YOKE	All US organizations working with Y-Force, CBI
ZEBRA	US-sponsored Chinese divisions in east China
ZIPPER	Plan for assault on Malaya, 1945