



EXPLOITS OF A XII CORPS TD BN TO VE. Other items: SP guns lo'd, 25; rounds fired, direct, 8219; days in combat, 254; battle casualties, 301; non-battle casualties, 55.

DP's, RAMP's and other related problems) were those "closely associated units" listed under G-5 Attachments, and the old familiar names of the 17th Armd Gp and the 9th TD Gp. These last two, as the German fortunes of war sank to new lows, were engaged more and more in widespread security and military government tasks. Each of these various units had followed in general the corps headquarters battle route, as shown in the front and back endpapers; and had operated within the XII Corps zone of advance, as shown on the fold-out map at end of text. All had won honors and awards (for example, see photos, p 389), and the work of many had been the subject of commendatory letters from appropriate authority. (Note, as examples, the special letter from Gen Patton commending the work of the 136th QM Trk Co, with other companies of the 514th QM Gp which had served closely with XII Corps, p 441; and that from Gen Lentz in tribute to the Air OPs, p 443).

The best source for a VE-Day review of the battlefield activities of the 93d Sig Bn is the "Technical Historical Report" prepared in typescript by Col Scanlan after conclusion of the fighting: "During the period from 14 Aug 44 to 3 May 45, the Corps CP moved a total of 32 times over a distance of approximately 1,250 miles. The 15 jeeps assigned to the Message Center were in constant and continual use. During the period of Continental Operations from 14 Aug 44 to 8 May 45 the messenger vehicles amassed a total of approximately 350,000 miles of operation. During this entire period only four Messengers and two vehicles were lost due to enemy activity. All of the Messengers were returned to military control when their captors were overrun by American troops. . . ."

" . . . During what has been termed the periods of Build-up, traffic in the radio nets became, for the operating personnel, discouragingly light. At times Radio traffic was negligible for days due to the fact that all units attached or assigned to Corps were so securely tied in by wire. However, during the periods of Pursuit, Radio traffic reached a peak of between one hundred and one hundred twenty-five messages per day in the Command Nets.

" . . . During the period of Continental Operations the trucks used by the construction Teams of the Construction Companies have run a total of approximately 500,000 miles.

" . . . Because of the speed of movement at times no accurate records are available on the total number of wire miles placed in service by the Battalion. However, a total of approximately 3,000 miles of Spiral Four Cable, and approximately 6,000 miles of W-110 B Wire have been drawn from Third Army Signal Depot. Many miles of Spiral Four cable have been recovered, tested and reused so that it is believed that the number of miles drawn from the Signal Depot falls far short of giving a true picture of the number of circuit miles used."

Records on the 286th FA Obsn Bn are not as complete as might be wished, but certain representative figures, presented with a nice sense of humor, may be taken from a page in the previously cited 14th FA Obsn Bn history: "Flash bases, 101; Sound bases 97; total enemy gun batteries located, 2,226; intelligence reports, 9,343; survey, 2,598,554 meters; communications, laid and serviced 2,549 miles of wire at a cost of \$45 per mile; medical detachment administered 7,200 shots; 72 of our vehicles earned Purple Hearts, two posthumously; we ate 145,920 rations, which if laid end to end in C-ration cans (perish the thought) would stretch 33 miles."

The XII Corps Hq and Hq, XII Corps Arty, contained some men with sharp pencils, too. Many of the important figures and facts relating to the 270 days of actual combat operations of the corps are best omitted from the body of the text of this narrative (see Appendix A, Parts I and III). Some have already been given above in the "vital statistics" for the 93d Sig Bn. Many are best told by reference to maps rather than tables. (See front and back endpapers for headquarters' battle route and a brief combat summary; also fold-out zone of advance map at end of text.) It may be interesting to note that the quarter-million Kraut prisoners XII Corps took were roughly equal to the estimated quarter-million Americans who were in the corps at various times during World War II, although the corps rarely approached a total strength of 100,000 at any given moment.**

*1st Lt Alexander Peschel makes these additional points about the courier service: "Approximately one-fifth of the driving by the Messengers who total'd about 25,000 miles a week, was done during blackout, always a lone vehicle and often on strange roads looking for new locations of units. You don't realize the difficulties encountered unless you've tried it. Thousands of messages were efficiently handled and dispatched by Message Center. All concerned may be justly proud of the record of the 93d Sig Bn Message Center Plat." G.D.

**XII Corps Arty Hq can bat up into the same league for sheer numbers with Clubmobile "K's" doughnuts and the number of millions of men said to have seen the 4th Spec Serv Co's movies and shows when that headquarters sets out to reckon up the total number of rounds fired by all XII Corps batteries:

HEADQUARTERS XII CORPS ARTILLERY									
APO 312									
Period	105	155	4.5	155	155G-	8"	8"	310	Total
	How	How	Gun	Gun	SP	How	Gun	How	
Aug	6196	4120	19	561		81			10977
Sept	153341	54942	8398	15733	13	10133			242560
Oct	135725	32903	12671	7459		4065		815	192738
Nov	268025	50387	21773	19644		10061	365	1298	371553
Dec	285610	92197	15910	24806	3356	5597	533	2071	430980
Jan	218146	86598	8426	21183		7725	794	2084	335566
Feb	298633	78950	10280	20256	2712	8086	997		420144
Mar	135725	32903	12671	7459		4065		815	192738
Apr	64538	14743	3475	2748		1728			87232
May	01690								
to 052400 . . .	11687	3390		809		507			16893
	1526680	483299	87575	121611	6081	51139	2781	6796	2235962

The thought of how many tons that meant which had to be sweated up to the hungry breeches gives one pause. G.D.

[Page 448](#) from [XII corps, spearhead of Patton's Third Army by Lt. Col. George Dyer](#)

From the collection of the:

[Unofficial Archive of the U.S. Army Signal Corps in Northwest Europe in WWII](#)

Constructed by Leonard H. Cizewski

February 9, 2023