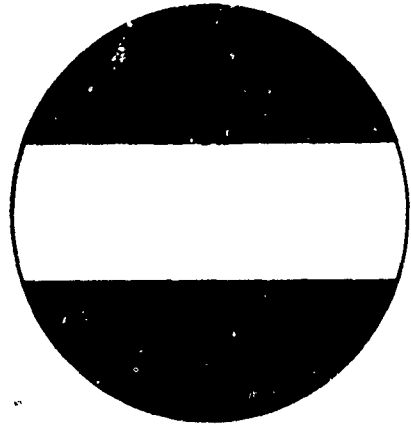


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HISTORY OF THE FIFTEENTH ARMY

Study No. 19

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1946

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HISTORY OF THE ACTIVATION OF HEADQUARTERS
OF THE FIFTEENTH ARMY

STUDY NO. 19

Historical Section - Army Ground Forces

1946



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UNANNOUNCED

HEADQUARTERS ARMY GROUND FORCES

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

314.7(1 Sept 1946)GNHIS

1 September 1945

SUBJECT: Studies in the History of Army Ground Forces

TO: All Interested Agencies

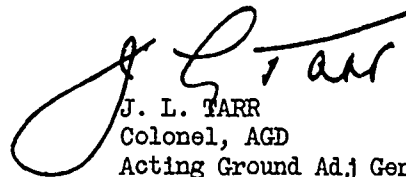
1. The history of the Army Ground Forces as a command was prepared during the course of the war and completed immediately thereafter. The studies prepared in Headquarters Army Ground Forces, were written by professional historians, three of whom served as commissioned officers, and one as a civilian. The histories of the subordinate commands were prepared by historical officers, who except in Second Army, acted as such in addition to other duties.

2. From the first, the history was designed primarily for the Army. Its object is to give an account of what was done from the point of view of the command preparing the history, including a candid, and factual account of difficulties, mistakes recognized as such, the means by which, in the opinion of those concerned, they might have been avoided, the measures used to overcome them, and the effectiveness of such measures. The history is not intended to be laudatory.

3. The history of the Army Ground Forces is composed of monographs on the subjects selected, and of two volumes in which an overall history is presented. A separate volume is devoted to the activities of each of the major subordinate commands.

4. In order that the studies may be made available to interested agencies at the earliest possible date, they are being reproduced and distributed in manuscript form: As such they must be regarded as drafts subject to final editing and revision. Persons finding errors of fact or important omissions are encouraged to communicate with the Commanding General, Army Ground Forces, Attention: Historical Section, in order that corrections may be made prior to publication in printed form by the War Department.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL DEVERS:



J. L. TARR
Colonel, AGD
Acting Ground Adj General

1 Incl:
Historical Study

PREFATORY NOTE

This is an account of the activation of Headquarters of the Fifteenth Army, and a narration of the activities prior to overseas shipment. The actual history began after the Fifteenth Army arrived overseas, and is not covered in this short study.

HISTORY OF
THE FIFTEENTH ARMY

Fifteenth Army Headquarters, Headquarters Company and Special Troops, were activated on 21 August 1944 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas in accordance with Army Ground Forces instructions.¹ Actually the personnel comprising Headquarters, Headquarters Company and Special Troops, Fourth Army, was transferred to the Fifteenth Army.² Simultaneously, augmentation personnel previously assigned to Fourth Army took over the operation of that headquarters.

No general officer was included in the transfer of personnel from Fourth to Fifteenth Army.³ Major General John P. Lucas, Fourth Army, was designated Commanding General, Fifteenth Army, in addition to his other duties.⁴ Headquarters Fifteenth Army was then assigned to Fourth Army.⁵

Personnel of the Fifteenth Army continued to work in the respective sections of Fourth Army in the Quadrangle until the week of 4 September, at which time Fifteenth Army moved to other offices in building 48 and other nearby buildings of Staff Post, Fort Sam Houston.

Once the actual severance of Fifteenth Army from Fourth Army was accomplished the newly designated headquarters concerned itself with the completion of POM requirements, Command Post, Exercises, instruction in foreign languages, staff procedure and physical conditioning in the form of organized athletics and hikes.

On 23 August the port call was received⁶ specifying that the Advance Detachment report to Fort Hamilton, New York by 9 September 1944. The detachment arrived in New York on 8 September and was met by representatives of the New York Port of Embarkation.

At Fort Hamilton preliminary processing began immediately,⁷ but on 9 September (the next day) the detachment commander was advised by port authorities that a warning order had been received recalling the detachment to Fort Sam Houston. Arrangements were then made and orders issued⁸ for the group to leave the staging area on 12 September.

1. GO No. 1, Hq Fifteenth Army, 21 August 1944. In 300.4.
2. Ltr Hq AGF to CG's, Fourth and Fifteenth Armies, 22 August 1944, S: "Transfer of Personnel." In 322/3. (This letter directed the transfer of all commissioned officers, warrant officers and enlisted men, then assigned to Hq, Hq Co and Sp Trs, Fourth Army to Hq, Hq Co and Sp Trs, Fifteenth Army, effective 1 September 1944.)
3. SO No. 193, Hq Fourth Army, 30 August 1944.
4. Ltr Hq AGF to CG, Fourth Army, "13 August 1944, S: "Orders." In 201 Lucas, John P. (Off) (C)
5. GO No. 119, Hq Fourth Army, 6 August 1944. In 322,
6. Ltr ASF, NYPOE, 23 August 1944, STTAA. In 370.5 GM(CA) (No. 7613).
7. Report of Original Advance Detachment by Capt W. C. McLaughlin. In 314.7
8. SO No. 224, ASF, NYPOF, Ft Hamilton, 11 September 1944.

The return of the advance party was necessary since the theater commander had requested a thirty-day delay in shipment. This additional time was spent, in further training and rechecking of arrangements for the move.

On 18 October 1944, another port call came directing the advance party to report to the staging area (this time Fort Slocum, New York) by 27 October.

The main body prepared for departure on or about 2 November. The port call came on 24 October 1944.