

(1) The 187th Field Artillery Group, Colonel W.C. Green, FA, Commanding, was formed in 1943 from the 187th Field Artillery Regiment with A National Guard going back beyond the Civil War as the New York 14th Infantry Regiment. It consisted of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 187th FA Group, the 186th FA Battalion, the 187th FA Battalion, the 953rd FA Battalion and the 955th FA Battalion. The 186th FA Bn and the 953rd FA Bn had a previous honorable New York National Guard history as 1st and 2nd Bns of the 186th FA Regiment, the 187th FA Bn and 955th FA Bn were the 1st and 2nd of the 187th FA Regiment.

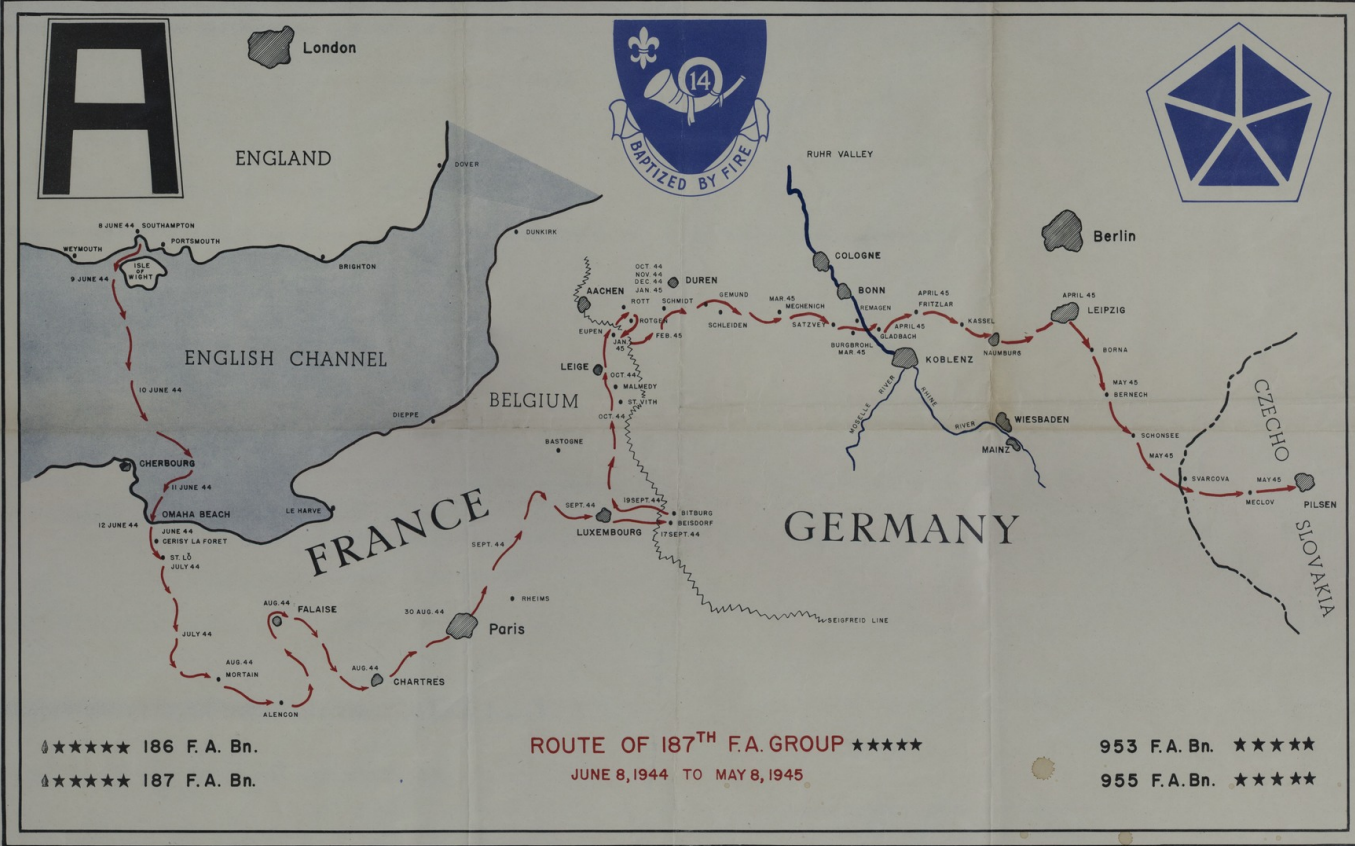
The group sailed for overseas on 23 October 1943, after three years of intensive training since induction. The next six months prior to D-day were spent in rigorous and varied training and firing on the moors of England, principally Dartmoor and Exmoor, plus some extensive training with the British Royal Artillery at Larkhill. D-Day saw the following dispositions. The 186th FA Bn was attached to the 1st Infantry Division, the 187th FA Bn to the 29th Infantry Division for the landings. Group and the 953rd FA Bn and 955th FA Bn were scheduled to land shortly thereafter. The 186th and 187th Bns landed and were completely ashore by D plus 2, Group by D plus 3 and the 953rd and 955th Bns shortly thereafter.

HISTORY OF THE 187th F. A. GROUP 712-28-70
COLONEL WINFRED C. GREEN, F. A. COMMANDING
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On 11 June the 187th FA Group was loaned by V Corps to XIII Corps to serve as XIII Corps Artillery Headquarters in the absence of XIII Corps own Artillery Headquarters who had not yet landed. This assignment lasted for two weeks and the Group received a commendation from the Commanding General, XIII Corps, for their handling of the situation. On 27 June 1944, the 187th FA Group returned to V Corps and from that time until 15 August 1944, fired in support of the 2nd Infantry Division - and at times the 5th, 29th and 35th Infantry Divisions - in the long, hard push down past Hill 192, Vire and Tinchebray. On 16 August 1944, a long night march brought the group to Argentan, where, in support of the 80th and 90th Divisions, Group helped close the Falaise pocket and trap the German Seventh Army.

(3) On 23 August 1944, the route changed and Group proceeded east behind the 4th, 28th and 2nd French Armored Divisions to aid in the liberation of Paris on 25 Aug, quickly passing thru the city and dashing north toward Belgium as far as Conspigne, France. There again the direction of advance changed and Group turned east, reaching Sedan on 9 Sept. The 187th FA Group was attached to the 5th Armored Division and the rest of V Corps moved north toward the German border by way of Bastogne. Group, however, took a more southerly route entering the city of Luxembourg on 11 Sept 1944.

On 16 Sept 1944, the 5th Armored Division entered Germany, crossing the border at Wallendorf, piercing the Siegfried Line and advancing on Batburg. Group gave the 5th Armored Division close fire support, being the first US Artillery to fire from positions inside Germany. By 19 Sept 1944, the situation had become difficult. Surrounded on three sides, and for a time cut off entirely, the 5th Armored fought for its life. Group Headquarters held the right flank of the Division against a Division attack all day and finally in good order withdrew back across the river into Luxembourg, being not only the first US Corps Artillery into Germany, but also the first out.



(4) Several days later Group moved north and went into firing position in support of the 28 Infantry Division near Lethum, Luxembourg, and two weeks later slid further north, supporting the same Division near Wirtfeld, Belgium.

In late October Group moved into the Hurtgen Forest, near Rott, Germany, where they were to stay for the next three months during the hard, bitter fighting for Schmidt, the Roer River and the Roer River dams. During these three months Group battalions fired well over 100,000 rounds of ammunition in support of the 28th, 4th, 8th and 78th Infantry Divisions' attacks and in crushing the Rundstedt Ardennes offensive prong that tried to get through at Meschau.

(5) By late January the German drive had spent itself and Group moved down to Rixrum, Belgium, to fire in support of the 2nd Infantry Division in the taking of the Roer dams and the final breaking of the Siegfried Line. By 1 March 1945 the First Army had broken through the last German defenses and reached the Rhine. Group drew with the V Corps to Anweiler and Burgbrohl and the vicinity of Gohlens. As the Remagen bridgehead was seized and expanded the Group fired in support of it across the river. Finally, with the general breakout across the Rhine, on 25 March 1945, Group crossed the Rhine.

(6) Then proceeded the dash across Germany, first northeast to Kassel, then east to Leipzig. By 19 April 1945 Group was on the outskirts of that metropolis, which they entered on that day. For the next eleven days until 30 April 1945, the 187th FA Group served as military police and occupation forces, bringing order to Leipzig. On 30 April they again moved a hundred miles southeast to the border of Czechoslovakia and advanced in support of the 2nd Infantry Division on Pilsen. On 7 May 1945 they reached the city and were there when hostilities ended on 9 May - almost eleven months to the day after they had landed on Normandy's sands.

During this period Group had been in three Armies, First, Third and Ninth; two Corps V Corps and XIII Corps; supported six Armored Divisions and twenty-two Infantry Divisions; traveled 1150 miles and fired well over 200,000 rounds of ammunition.

Sincerely,
 Winfred C. Green

Accession Number M639
Description

The American map of the Western front shows the route of the 187th Field Artillery Group from June 8, 1944 to May 8, 1945. Locations specified on this map are mostly accompanied by the dates the 187th was there. Also included on this map is a history of the 187th Field Artillery Group, printed graphics relating to the A National Guard and the New York 14th Infantry Regiment, the location of the Siegfried Line, rivers, international boundaries, and the handwritten signature of Colonel Winfred C. Green. Handwriting on the back identifies this map as being part of the Official File. The handwriting reads in part: "Removed from the O.F. 273."

Date(s)
 ca.
 1945

Cartographer Reproduced by 667th Engineer Topographical Company (Det).

Keywords World War, 1939-1945

Photo Color Color

Physical Size 20 X 22 1/2 inches

Related Collection (Plain)

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