## HEADQUARTERS 999TH SIGNAL SERVICE COMPANY APO 350 US APMY

25 Nev 1944

HISTORY - From 16 August 1943 to 25 November 1944

Unit or Installation, Location, Map Co-ordinates, and Maps of the United States, Great Britain, France and Belgium.

The history contained herein is that of the 999th Signal Service Company which today (25 Nov 44) quartered in the Caserne Leopold, Namur, Belgium, Included in this organization are teams of the 844th Signal Service Company and also individuals and small units from various other companies, all of which was consolidated to form the 999th Signal Service Company when it was activated on 16th Aug 1943 at Camp Growder, Missouri. See Appendix B for a detailed histor, of the 999th Signal Service Company how it completed its assigned trainin, program, Operations ready for duty. How subsequently it proceeded to the continent and there in compliance with its assigned mission did install, operate and maintain several communication centers of a fixed, mobile and semi-mobile nature, encompassing in operative strength and length and breadth of the entire American occupied zone.

## b. Organization and Establishment.

(1) Activating Orders Appendix "B".

Pursiant to the authority contained in General
Order Twenty-One, dated 21 August 1943, the 999th Signal
Service Company with Major Charles E Williams, Commanding
was activated.

999th Signal Service Company activated sixteenth August forty-three by General Order twenty-one this Headquarters, dtd twenty-three August forty-three End Three one Four

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(2) Mission of Organization
The mission of the organization outlined in the Special Training Program for the 999th Signal Service Company which was given to the Commanding Officer at the time of activation.

MISSION - The mission of the 999th Signal Service Company is to install, operate and maintain one 40 KW Fixed Station Radio, two 1-KW Fixed Radio Station with high speed equipment, and 3 300-watt Fixed Radio Station.

The headquarters and co-ordinated units of the 999th Signal Service Company have, since activation, operated several times in divided locations both in its training program and in actual operation performed since completion of the training program. However, the major complements of its entire training activities have been designed in accordance with instructions given in its mission namely, to operate fixed radio stations of various power requirements. Both in its extensive training program and actual operation prior to arriving on the European continent the personnel of the 999th Signal Service Company have effectively domonstrated that they can be divided and efficiently operate in small communications units and then be reunited into the larger parent company and operate equally well.

Although its mission has been and still is that of installing, operating and maintaining fixed radio stations, the history of the 99th Signal Service Company reveals that its various components have tranveled widely in both their training and actual operation, their posts ranging from Camp Browder, Missouri and nearby field stations to the Bentagon Building, Washington, D.C. and other posts on the Atlantic coast of the United States to several scattered posts in various parts of Great Britain. Since arriving in France it has, Functioning as separate teams, provided signal service for the Advanced Section Communications Zone (Forward), Advanced Section proper, Communications Zone (Forward Echelon), Communications Zone, 24th and 25th Regulating Stations, Normandy Base Section, Red Ball Traffic Control Net, Eagle Rear, Eagle Forward, the Chartres railhead, the Longwy (Luxembourg) railhead, the Sedan Airstrip, Barneville Rest Camp, Mars Message Center, Omaha Beach, and various First and Third Army nets.

Biorgaphical Data on Commanding Officer and Company Commander

Commanding Officer Major Charles E Williams, has been commanding officer of the 999th Signal Service Company since the date it was activated on 16 Aug 1943 at Camp Crowder, Missouri. He came to this command with most of the personnel of the 844th Signal Service Company, which organization he commanded until it was utilized as the nucleus of the 999th Signal Service Company, He continued in command through all training phases and through all its subsequent actual operation since the company departed from Camp Crowder on its journey to the European Theater of Operations.

Major Williams was born in Baudette, Minnesota on 1 July 1905, the son of John U, and Minnie J. Williams. After graduating from Baudette High School, he graduated from the University of Minnesota where he received the

Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree.

After collegehe was employed in 1926 and 1927 by the Western Electric Company at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1927 he went with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company with whom he served in both executive and field duties at Minneapolis, Minnesota; Madison, Wisconsin; and Chicago, Illinois. He is now on leave of absence from this organization while serving in the Army.

from this organization while serving in the Army,
Major Williams' military career has been as extensive
as his civil occupation record. From 1926 to 1936 he was
a reserve officer in the Officers Reserve Corps, Infantry.
He returned to active duty on 13 August 1942 at Mitchell
Field New York where he was attached to the 928th Signal
Construction Battalion (Aviation). In October 1942 he was
assigned to the Signal Corps Officers Replacement Pool at
Fort Monmouth, New Jersey on temporary duty at the multichannel radio and teletype school at the American Tekephone
and Telegraph Company, New York.

and Telegraph Company, New York.

On 5 December 1942 he was assigned as Commanding Officer to Tetachment Do of the S27th Signal Service Company at Fort Meade, Maryland. This unit was redesignated the 844th Signal Service Company; date of redesignation 1 January 1943. On 17 March 1943 Major Williamsmoved with the organization to Camp Crowder, Misseuri where he directed its training program until 1 September 1943 when he was assigned to his present duties as Commanding Officer of the 999th Signal Service Company.

Company Commander: Captain Walter S dzajkowski, 0451521 was born on 6 November 1912 at Ashley, Pennsylvania, the son of Teofil and Amelia C Czajkowski. After graduating from Ashley High School, he worked first in Maxwell Colliery and the enlisted in the Army at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania en 2 July 1932. He served for two (2) years and four (4) months as stock clerk in the Regimental Supply House of the Third Engineers, Mounted Pack Section at Schofield Barracks, Howeif

Pack Section at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

After this service he returned to mining, but he came back to the Army in June 1935 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia where he was file and morning report clerk. On 14 November 1935 he was transferred to the First Signal Company at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey where he served as personnel clerk and in the construction section. Two months proviously, September 1935, he had been assigned to the Sixteenth Signal Service Company as teltype operator, chief telephone operator and personnel clerk. On 19 January 1936 he was transferred to the Fift onth Signal Service Company at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey where he started as a file clerk in Fort Monmouth Headquarters and was eventually promoted to Sergeant Major. On July 1941 he entered the Signal Corps Officer Canisate School at Fort Monmouth. After graduation on 30 September 1941 he was Assistant Adjutant in the Eastern Signal Corps Replacement Training Jenter at For Monmouth, and the was assigned as Camp Adjutant at Camp Edison, New Jersey.

Next he was appointed Company Commander of Company "A in the First Signal Training Regiment at Camp Edison and the following assignment took him, as Company Commander, to Company K of the same Regiment. Next he went to Camp Crowder where he

became chief of field exercises in team training. On 14 September 1943, almost a month after the 999th Sig-nal Service Company was activated, he was assigned to his present post as Company Commander of the unit.

(6) Personnel - Appendix "O" The 999th Signal Service Company was activated as of 16 August 1943 with an authorized complement fo twenty (20) officer and two hundred and sixty-five (265) enlisted men.

See Appendix "C" for roster of officers. Also, see Appendix "C" for roster of entire organization including non-commisioned officers and enlisted mon with serial numbers, army specifications numbers and present army assignments as of 30 March 44 .

(7) Facilities, Equipment, Quarters, Mess; At the time of activation on 16 Aug 43 the officers and enlisted men of the 999th Signal Service Company were quartered and messed in barracks in a company area assigned them by the Contral Signal Corps Unit Training Center on Kit Carson Avenue in Camp Crowder Missouri. Both in their classroom training in the company area and in their field problems which included evernight bivouacs, azimuths, hikes and commandpost exercises of various durations at widely separated points in the field the several communication teams were served hot meals of the variety normally designated in such a Major camp as Camp Crowder, however in the final days of training and especially after alert orders were given the mon issued K rations. Since arriving in the European Theatre of Operations the men have messed on K rations numerous times on their movements across England and Scotland or in the field when they have worked outdoors on various problems which were not appropriate for the use of field kitchens. In the Camp at Windmill Hill the company was provided with regular hot rations from the unit's field kitchens. From the time of their debarkation in F.ance 26 June 1944 until the ostablishment of field kitchens became feasible, a matter of two days, the men messed on K rations. Since then they have been served (cafeteria style) hot meals prepared in their own field kitchens.

APPENDIX B

History of the 999th Signal Service Company
On Verbal Orders of the Commanding General of the Seventh Service Command at Omaha, Nebraska preparations were made for the activation of the 999th Signal Service Company beginning 16 Aug 1943. The organization was formally activated in General Order Number 21 on 21 Aug 1943, the order directing that the date of activation be as of 16 August 1943.

With an authorized complement of 20 Officers and 265 Enlisted Men and with Major Charles E Williams as Commanding Officer, the 999th Signal S rvice Company was activated with an assigned mission to operate one 40 KW fixed radio station, two 1 kW fixed radio stations with high-speed equipment, and three 300 watt fixed radio stations.

The 999th Signal Service Company is an organization which has held faithfully to its mession to operate fixed radio

stations, but in conjunction with this training program for specialists who compose its officers and enlisted men there has also been carried out a plan of training which would equip them to handle efficiently almost any problem which might be encountered by a Signal Strvice company. The efficacious way in which the personnel has adapted itself to changing and unexpected problems encountered is testimony of the inestimable value of the all-inclusive training which was ordered for them and which they received.

The nuclous of the 999th Signal Sorvice Company came

The nuclous of the 999th Signal Sorvice Company came from the 844th Signal Service Company which, in turn, had been activated earlier from a group taken by Major Williams from Detachment D of the 827th Dignal Service Company which he had

commanded at Fort Meade, Maryland.

The 844th Signal Service Company was strictly a multichannel team operating a 40-KW station and the efficiency of its personnel was testified to by the fact that when the 99th Signal Service Company was a tivated to perform a considerable expanded program almost the whole of the personnel of the 844th Signal Service Company was transferred to the new organization. Only nine enlisted men and nine commissioned and non commissioned officers were left behind in the 844th Signal Service Company.

Processing for overseas duty was continuous in the 999th Signal Service Company from the date of activation, this being facilitated not only by the Signal Corps specialists training received by the men in the Army, but also by the fact that many of the officers and enlisted men had had technical training and experience in communications

systems in their civil careers.

Advanced and refresher courses in signal communication were given as directed to the men, who already had ratings asspecialists, when they came into the 999th Signal Service

Company.

The processing for overseas duty moved to completion about 10 November 1943 at which time the organization was placed under alert orders. Due to lack of readiness of certain equipment needed for the mission assigned, the scheduled move was defered for advance training and actual opera ion by the entire multichannel to m and type four message center team under the command of Major Williams at the Pentagon Building, Washington, D.C., where they worked for the War Department Message Center for approximately two months.

This move to the Pentagon Building was directed by Transfer Orders from Army Scrvice Forces Headquarters, Central Signal Corps Unit Training Canter, Camp Crowder Missouri

During this period other component units of the 999th Signal Service Company were ordered to other locations for special training and temporary duty.

All the transfers were carried out as directed with the men on the various teams receiving both the advanced specialist training and the experience of actual Operation.

While these teams were working at their several assignments on the Atlantic coast, Major Williams returned to Camp Crowder to close the training operations of the organizat-Here in the final weeks he made prediguous and successful efforts to provide special advanced training for selected memt sof the single chann I teams who were still in Crowder.

On 17 January 44 the 999th Signal Service Company teams working at the War Department Message Center in Washington D.C. left the Pentagon Building and proceeded to Camp Wood at Estentown, New Jorsey to participate in the command post exercises while operating with other Signal Corps teams at other camps in the United States, teams departed from the Fentagen Building with a letter from the departmental chiefs of the War Department commending the groups for their efficient work on the staff of Station WAR

Proceeding next to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey all the several teams and the entire personnel again found themselves reunited in the parent company of the 999th Signal Service Company, and those began the last few days of physical and other processing needed while

awaiting shipping orders,

On 27th February 44 the entire company entrained from Camp Kilmer for the Port of Embarkation, Brooklyn, N.Y. "On 28th Fobruary 44 the company sailed aboard the United States Army Transport General Simonds, but because of mechanical trouble the transport was compoled to leave the convoy and return to New Foundland for repairs. During the several days there the troops were taken ashere to continue their physical conditioning. Also, an orchestra and entertainment group composed of officers and enlisted men in the company went ashore to present shows for the Red Cross. Personnel of the 399th also published a daily illustrated news-paper to bring the latest news every day to all the organizations aboard the transport. 999th Signal Service Company orchestra co-directed by Captain Herbert F Ross and Corporal Timothy A O'Conner also played concerts nightly to entertain the troops and ship personnel aboard the transport.

After repairs were completed the transport joined another convoy and again started their eastward journey across the Atlantic. Here the personnel of the Unit had their first taste of actual warfare when they witnessed the torpedoing by an enemy submarine of a tanker following a course hard by the starboard of the transport on which they were aboard. The scoldiers quickly went to their boat stations in an orderly manner and calmly waited there until the

"all cle ar" was sounded,

10:26 AM om 23 March 44 the transport dropped Lt anchor at Greenock, Scotland, it having been 23 days since the company had smiled from Brooklyn Port of Embarkation. The company debarked, one detachment remaining in Glas ow to supervise unloading of equipment. The company proceeded to camp at Windmill Hill where it was joined a ter by the guard detachment which had remained behind in Glasgow and also by another small detachment under the command of Lieutenant Alva E Smith which came across on a transport other than the General Simonds as a guard for special radio equipment built for the use of the Company when it set up a fixed station.

The period of encampment at Windmill Hill (Ludgershall, England) became one of intensive training and preparation, special emphasis being placed on physical conditioning and refresher instruction in the basic subjects. Definitive consideration was given to first—aid, identification of and defense against aircraft, use and care of the gas mask and recognition of the several poisonous gases, compass and map reading and bomb disposal. Specialities however were by no means neglected. In a series of field problems in southern England, the Signal Center and Cryptographic

personnel of the DD team operating conjunctively with increments of the 3111 Signal Service Battalion were afforded training in acquaintance with the communication pattern to be employed in their forthcoming continental assignment. The efficiency with which these two units have collaborated since arriving in Franco best demonstrates the incalculable worth of that training

On 14 May 1944 a detachment of one officer and ten enlisted men departed to join the 286 Assault Signal Company. This group was the first component of the 999th Signal Service Company to reach Normandy. On 6 June 44 its commanding officer, Lt Bollinger came ashere at the Utah beachead to select a suitable site for the installation of a radio station. It was his detachment of eleven men that operated the first shore to shore net from the continent to England,

14 June 44, just one menth following the departure of Lt Bollinger's toam, a detachment of two officers and thirty four enlisted men under the joint command of Lts Joseph A Schuster and Leonard Chipinski Lit the company for the marshalling area. Two days later this group opened radio communications for ADSEC (Fwd) in N rmandy. At that timethoir installation was located at Grafidchamp: Another first-even before all resistance had ceased in Cherbourg this detachment moved to that beleagured city and transmitted the initial message from the point that was laterto become the

Normandy Bese Section, to England.

The balance of the company 16 officers and 219 enlisted men proceeded by train on 19 June 44 from Ludgershall England to Camp D-3, the marshalling area. On 24 June 44 they entrucked and drove to the port of Waymouth. Ath the conclusion of a waterproofing inspection of wehich s, 25 June the party boarded LST 11.99 to cross the channel. buring the ensuing voyage Capt Walter & Czajkowski held the post of craft commander. On 26 June the company disembarked at Utah beach and march in a driving rain to the transient area, a distance of eight miles, Within fourty-eight hours they had moved to their camp site, dug fox-holes pitched shelter halves and begun operation of the ADSEC Message Center and Code Sections that had since been moved to Catz.

The adaptability of this unit is best testified to when It is recalled that it was originally trained as a purely fixed station outfit. And yet, the task of providing all ADSEC communications- even to the operating of switchboards and a motorized messenger service extending from the beach to the front lines - was left to the 999th Signal Service Company. After a period of approximately thirty days additional units arrived to offset the burden hitherto carried alone. During those first days one officer and four enlisted men took over the operation of the switchboard at Carentan, three enlisted men operated another at St Mere Egliss, and a third group sonsisting of four enlisted men operated the board at Valognes.

This introduction to alien assignments was merely a taste of what was to come. In the months following, the officers and men of the 999th Signal Service Company displayed a high degree of flexibility in readily accepting the task of installing, operating and maintaining several communication centers of a mobile and

semi-mobile nature, encompassing in operative scope the length and breadth of the entire American occupied Zone.

In a comparatively short time the organization had developed such facility with what had been relatively foreign equipment that in addition to their primary commitments at ADSEC they were further assigned for short periods of time to establish communications for other units. Their duties were of a ground-breaking nature, the emphasis being placed on installation and early stage operation. Having overcome these hazards the detachments were generally relieved and re-assigned to a new task of a similar nature.

Horewith a breakdown of the activities of each detachment:

a. It Bollinger and eleven enlisted men joined the 286th Joint Assault Signal Company, a part of the 1st Provisional Engineer Brigade. He arrived on the continent 6 June 1944. Operated a 299 (Signal Corps R die) across channel from Utah Beach. Remained with this brigade until August 10. On that dite re-assigned to 25th Regulating Station, 1st Army. Handled all traffic for 1st Army in requisitioning supplies. Was a part of the traffic control point not for the R d Ball Highway. Rejoined parent unit November 14.

b. It Schuster and seventeen enlisted men arrived Utah beach June 16th, Set up first communications for ADSEC at Grandchamp June 16. Moved to Catz June 21. Continued to maintain operations for ADSEC until July 29. (Lt Schuster wounded and transferred from company July 19 his detachment merged with Lt Chipinski's Group). Detachment transferred to Cherbourg to augment Lt Chipinski's team. Furnished temporary communications for 4th Port pending the establishment of their own fixed station equipment. Reassigned to Le Haye de Puit August 10. On August 14th detachment was part of a reconnaisance party that travelled to cancale to make a survey and report on the 259th Engineer Battalien. August 16 proceeded to Le Mans as the advanced echelon for ADSEC. August 25 transferred to Laval. August 29 team went to Chartres and was attached to the 9th Traffic Group. Stayed with this unit across France and into Luxembourg. Team was sent from there to Sedan airstrip to handle redic traffic in connection with receipt and idsposal of winter clothing flown from England to troops of the Ord Army. Returned to parent unit October 21.

c. Lt Jackson and eleven enlisted men proceeded to Cherbourg 27 June 44. Remained there until 28 July as part of temporary communication set-up provided for the 4th Port. Proceeded to Barneville Rest Camp to provide temporary communications until wire lines were established.

Back to Catz 2 August. Joined the 24th Regulating station on August 5. Supplied communications for G-4 of the 3rd Army. From that point moves depended entirely on the advance of the 3rd /rmy, Rollieved from assignment to 3rd Army on November 27. and returned to parent organization. d, On or about I" July Lts Taylor and Fullerton reported to the Omeha Beach Command to take over radio and signal operations. With eighteen enlisted men of the 999th Signal Service Company they handled all shore-to-ship traffic at the Mars Message Center. An additional nine enlisted men of this unit were charged with operating and maintainence of the radio sets. They returned to the parent organization July 7.2 Lt Kennoth H Cook with his EJ team plus and ED team took over the Red Ball Traffic Control net. By splitting this total of enlasted men into three groups, each group operating a SCR 398 it was possible for this detachment to handle all traffic (redic) relative to the operation of the Red Ball Highway, Assignment was taken over by this group about August 20; was relieved about Sept 20 to join tho 40 KW detachment in Paris and Versailles. This detachment is at present still working with the 40 KW detachment at Communication Zone Headquarters, The parent unit referred to in the foregoing accounts consisted mainly of the headquarters section of the company (administration, moss and supply) as well as the ADSEC operating personnel. The movement of this detachment was identical with that of ADSEC Headquarters. From Catz on August 23 to Le Mens, Thence to Etamps September 2. Etamps to Reims September 9. and finally to its present location,
Namur, Belgium, October 25.

As early as June 27 and up to and including the present day, all SCR 399s at ADSEC proper have been installed, operated and maintained under the direction of officers and men of the 999th Signal Service Company. Even when the volume of traffic became so great that added increments were required, troops of other units were attached to the 999th Signal Service Company and worked under its supervision. The type four message conterwhich had received and handled live traffic as part of their training at War Department Station W/R, in Washington, D.C., augmented by the five, five man message center teams of the smaller fixed station units within the company, combined to make up the original ADSEC code and message center in France and has since constitued its nuclues. It Thomas J nealy of this organization has been in charge of the message center and its functions since its inception on the continent: Despite the excellent manner in which members of the 999th Sign al Service Company had handled their original continental assignment their training as fixed station troops was not overlooked. The first fixed station installed in France was creeted under the supervision of Lt Alva E Smith and four enlisted men of this unit; a 15 KW at Valognes.

That portion of the 999th Signal Service Company operating the ADSEC Signal Section had remained, throughout the movements from Catz to Le Mons to Etamps, basically unchanged. Three weeks after arriving in Etamps however, it was decided that in view of the rapid allied advance an even larger fixed station should be installed on the continent. Pur suant to this **\*** 9 **\*** 

decision a procurement group of twenty-eight enlisted men co-commanded by Lis Jimenez and Reubell, proceeded to Cherbourg to load for shipment to Versailles the equipment necessary for the establishment of a 40 KW fixed station.

The same date the procurement group left the main body of the company in Etamps, d September, a party of four officers and fifty enlisted men under Major Charles E Williams, radio engineer of the unit, departed for V resailles to select a suitable site for the location of the 40 KW transmitter. While waiting for the equipment of the 40 KW to arrive from Cherbourg this detachment erected a 10 KW fixed station.)

Essentially now, the various units have been marged into two groups. The one, commanded by Major Williams, operating and maintaining the 40 KW in Paris; the other, under Captain Czajkowski, casigned to the Advance Section of the Communications Zone and constituting the majority of the operating personnel of the signal message and code sections there.

HISTORY

FROM 25 NOVEMBER 1944 TO 1 SEPTEMBER 1945 (Part 11)

a. Unit or Installation, Iccation, Map Co-ordinates and Maps of Belgium, Grmany and France.

The following supplement brin s to date the history of the 999th Signal Service Company which unit is presently located in the Calas Staging area, Marseille, France. Traced chronologically within this adjunct are all movements and operational activities of the 999th Signal Ser vice Company since 25 November 1944 which was the last date covered in Part I of this history.

As stated in Part I the officers and men of the 999th Signal Service Company have messed, for the most part, on food prepared in their own field kitchens. However during their tenure of attachment to the ADSEC Signal Section, which was very often located at some distance from the company area, each on duty shift was obliged to take one meal at the ADSEC consolidated mess.

Company quarters have consisted of assigned garrisons such asthe Casern Leopold in Namur, Belgium expropriated blocks of private homes such as the row of houses around 96 Argelanderstrasse in Bonn, Germany and the similar billets near 33 Butlarstrasse in Fulda, G rmany. At Camp Boston in the Area Assembly Command where the company received processing in preparation for direct shipment to the Pacific the men were encamped in squad tents. That same policy has been fellowed here in the Calas Staging Area.

policy has been followed here in the Calas Staging Area. In the concluding paragraph of this history, it was stated that as of 26 November the 999th Signal Service Company had merged its several teams and detachments into two groups. The first, commanded by Captain Walter S Czajkowski included the headquarters plateon and the Type four message center which, operating conjunctively with several of the smaller radio and message center teams, constituted the core of the ADSTC Signal Section, then located at Namur Belgium. The second group under Major Charles E Williams operated and maintained the 40 KW

station (JEAR) that they had installed in Paris. Throughout the remainder of the war in Europe this instra-unit division remained essentially unchanged.

By 16 December the forward unit's preparations to celebrate Christmas in Bolgium were well along. Packages from the states rolled in and went purposely unopened. In the moss hall holly and hunting were put up. A big "Merry Christmas." in alternating red and green letters was painted. Turkey had been assured and there was a movement afoot to rent table clothes and china. It looked as if there would be a Christmas after all. Eighteen hours later you Runstedt's armor broke loose across Belgium. The Battle of the Bluge was one

The swiftness of the German assault caught many forward communication installations flat-footed. As a result traffic in the ADSEC Signal Center hearly doubled. Add to this the fact that every man in the company was putting in four hours a night on machine-gun guard and you have a unit with it's hands full. For days the skies had been evercast. Snow fell nightly and the temperature was dropping. By the morning of the twenty-fifth the German's had drawn up before the town of Dinant, aspot some twenty kilometers from Namur, and were shelling it heavily. With that disquieting throughtin mind the officers and men of the 999th Signal Service Company sat down to their dinner on Christmas day.

The following morning what evryone had been praying for arrived: the sun. It was the first time in over a week that American aircraft got off the ground. True, it was sauce for the gander too. That night a member of the Luftwaffe bombed the railroad yards in Namur but even so the handwriting was on the wall. The attonuated supply lines of the Wehrmacht had begun to snap. Dinant was the farthest point to which the Gormans advanced in their last and costliest gamble.

The remainder of the winter passed uneventfully. There were, however some changes within the unit during this period.

On 8 April 1945 the officers and men of the 999th Signal Service company departed by truck convoy at 0900 hours for Bonn, Grmany. They arrived there at 1500 hours and were assigned to billets at 96 Argelanderstrasse. The advance party had already established signal communication and with the arrival of the balance of the unit work was resumed at the regular pace. By normal standards the stay at Bonn was brief; exactly one menth. The allied advancewas gaining speed and gathering strength for a final blow at the Reich's crumbling defenses. During the period however, two men left the Company

On 8 May 1945, four days after the advance party had left, 147 EM and 10 officers plus attached personnel entrucked for the journey to Fulda, Germany. At 1630 hours they arrived and within forty eight hours the unconditional surrender of Germany was announced. In Europe the war had ended. For over a month fellowing the Nazi capitualtion the status of the 999th Signal Service Company remained unchanged. The unit remained with ADSEC to handle the heavy increase in traffic redeployment brought, On9 May 1945 reinforcements began to Arrive.

On 13 June 1945 reorganizational orders were received

the 999th Signal Service Company was scheduled for further duty in the Pacific.

On 16 June 1945, 10 officers and 149 enlisted men of the 999th Signal Service Company departed Fulda by truck enroute to Camp Boston Area Assembly Command, (Reims) France. At 1400 hours 17 June 1945, after having spent the previous night at the Metz Transit Area, the company arrived at Comp Boston. For the members of the 999th Signal Service Company, redeployment had begun. Under the new T/O several changes within the unit took place. Major Charles E. Williams' 40 KW team commander and radio engineer was transferred to USFET. This did not occur until 3 July 1945.

On 11 August, the same day on which the Japanese made their initial bid for peace subject to allied acceptance of the "Emperor" clause, the 999th Signal Service Company, having completed it's processing in the Area Assembly Command, boarded a troop train bound for the Calais Staging Area near Marseille. The company arrived at the Calais Staging Area on 15 August 1945. On that day new replacements were received.

By the end of August negotiations for the Japanese surrender were nearly completed but the exact disposition of troops in the European Theatre being readied for Pacific

shipment was yet unknown.

Finally, by authority of GO 84, Hq Com Z, dated May 21, 1945 as cited under the provisions of Section I, Circular No. 345, War Department, 23 August 1944, the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque was awarded to the 999th Signal Service Company for "untiring efforts and devotion to duty in the efficient operation of important radio communications. It's performance was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States."