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HQ XX CORPS  
APO 340

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3 March 1944

29 Aug 44  
3 Mar 44

BA-4H

SUBJECT: History of the XX Corps.

TO : Commanding General, Hq ETOUSA, APO 887, U. S. Army.

Enclosed herewith is a hurried outline of the History of the XX Corps. This headquarters at present has no divisions assigned to it. When divisions are assigned to this headquarters this message will be relayed.

For the Commanding General:

*M. A. Hoherz*  
M. A. HOHERZ,  
Major, A.G.D.,  
Asst Adj General.

1 Incl:  
History of the XX Corps.

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HISTORY OF XX CORPS

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:  
**CANCELLED**  
 AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
*James H. ... 25 June 64*

HEADQUARTERS XX CORPS  
APO #340

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HISTORY OF XX CORPS

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In a letter from Headquarters, Army Ground Forces, Army War College, Washington, D. C., dated August 29, 1942, the Chief of the Armored Force was directed to activate the IV Armored Corps at Camp Young, Indio, California, "at the earliest practicable date."

Specifically, the communication called for the organization of Headquarters, IV Armored Corps; Headquarters Company, IV Armored Corps; and the IV Armored Signal Battalion.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, II Armored Corps, the letter stated, would furnish a cadre of enlisted men totaling 29 for Corps Headquarters, and 5 for Headquarters Company. The 2nd Armored Signal Battalion was to furnish one officer and 114 enlisted men for the IV Armored Signal Battalion.

So far as practicable, officer personnel was to come from sources under the control of the Chief of the Armored Force. Upon activation, the units would be attached to the Desert Training Center.

Major General Walton H. Walker, who up until July of 1942 had been the Commanding General of the 3rd Armored Division, was designated to command the IV Armored Corps.

On September 5, 1942, Headquarters and Headquarters Company IV Armored Corps, and the IV Armored Signal Battalion were activated per General Order Number 53, Headquarters, Armored Force, dated September 1, 1942.

Two days later, 186 enlisted men and two officers arrived by train from the 8th Armored Division, Fort Knox, Kentucky, and reported to the Corps Commander for duty.

Colonel William A. Collier was assigned and designated as Chief of Staff, on September 14, 1942.

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First units attached to IV Armored Corps after its activation were:

3rd Armored Division, Rice, California,  
Maj. Gen. Leroy H. Watson, Commanding

6th Armored Division,  
Maj. Gen. William H. H. Morris, Commanding

5th Armored Division,  
Maj. Gen. Jack W. Heard, Commanding

5th Armored Artillery Group (Attached to  
5th Armored Division).

Later, at Camp Campbell, Ky., the following divisions were at one time or another assigned to the IV Armored Corps:

20th Armored Division  
12th Armored Division  
75th Infantry Division  
83rd Infantry Division  
98th Infantry Division  
30th Infantry Division  
26th Infantry Division

Maj. Gen. Walton H. Walker assumed command of the Desert Training Center on November 4, 1942, succeeding Maj. Gen. Alvan C. Gillem, Jr.

General Walker's command consisted of five separate sub-divisions:

1. IV Armored Corps
2. Desert Warfare Board
3. IV Air Support Command
4. Army Service Units
5. Communications Zone

On March 29, 1943, he relinquished command of the Desert Training Center and, with his Corps, proceeded to Camp Campbell, Kentucky, where the organization once again was attached to the Armored Force.

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September 5, 1943, IV Armored Corps participated in Second Army maneuvers in Tennessee, returning to Camp Campbell, November 6, 1943.

On October 9, 1943, IV Armored Corps was redesignated XX Corps.

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HEADQUARTERS XX CORPS  
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MAJ. GEN. WALTON H. WALKER,  
COMMANDER XX CORPS

Major General Walton H. Walker, commanding the XX Corps, was born on December 3, 1889. He received his early education in Belton, Texas, and after attending Virginia Military Institute for one year, received his appointment to West Point. Upon graduation from West Point in 1912, he was commissioned second Lieutenant and was assigned to the 19th Infantry at Fort Sheridan, Illinois. Later, he returned to Texas and was a member of the Vera Cruz expedition under General Funston.

At the outbreak of World War I, Walker, who had received his captaincy, organized the Second Battalion of the 57th Infantry at Leon Springs under the unusual circumstances of being the sole officer in the battalion.

In December of the same year, Captain Walker organized Company A of the 13th Machine Gun Battalion for immediate service overseas. While in France, he was promoted to Major and commanded the 13th Battalion throughout the war.

He saw service in the battles of St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne and in the defensive sector of Arnoules. He was twice cited for gallantry in action and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on the field of battle.

Returning to the United States after the Armistice, General Walker reverted to his original pre-war rank of captain and was assigned as instructor at the Army's Infantry School. He was detailed as student at the Fort Sill Field Artillery School graduating therefrom in December, 1920. While at the Field Artillery School he was promoted to the rank of major in the Regular Army. He returned to the Infantry School as chief of the machine gun and infantry weapons section.

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MAJ. GEN. WALTON H. WALKER  
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During the next seven years he was detailed as a tactical officer at West Point, student at the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and instructor at the Coast Artillery School at Fort Monroe, Va.

The year 1930 found General Walker starting his three-year assignment in China with the 15th Infantry which represented the United States on the international railroad patrol.

An ardent sports fan, General Walker recalls hunting trips in the Gobi Desert, one of which was a 1,000-mile jaunt after antelope and big-horned sheep in 50-below zero weather.

General Walker graduated from the Army War College in 1936, and acquired the rank of lieutenant colonel.

In 1937, General Walker was assigned as a member of the War Plans Division of the War Department General Staff and served as Executive officer of that division for three years. He was appointed temporary colonel in February 1941. Relieved from the War Plans Division April 1 of that year, General Walker assumed command of the 36th Armored Regiment of the Third Armored Division. Upon promotion to Brigadier General in July, 1941, he commanded the Third Armored Brigade and in January 1942, took over command of the Third Armored Division. He was promoted to Major General on February 16, 1942.

In July, 1942, General Walker was ordered to Camp Young, California, where he organized the IV Armored Corps which was activated on September 5, 1942. On October 20th, he assumed command of the vast Desert Training Center. He organized the Desert Training Theater of Operations in December, 1942, and on March 29th, 1943 relinquished command of that activity and proceeded with his Corps to Camp Campbell, Kentucky. On October 9th, 1943, the IV Armored Corps was redesignated XX Corps.

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HEADQUARTERS XX CORPS  
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COLONEL WILLIAM A. COLLIER

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Colonel William A. Collier, Chief of Staff, XX Corps was born on January 2, 1896, and received his early education in the public schools of Boston, Massachusetts. He attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and accepted a Provisional Commission in the Regular Army in 1917. He served with the 9th Infantry and then commanded first a Platoon and then a Machine Gun Company of the 47th Infantry, 4th Division.

He served in World War I with the 4th Division, initially in the British Samar sector, and then saw battle action in the Champagne-Marne defensive, the Aisne-Marne offensive, at St. Mihiel, in the Meuse Argonne, and in the Toulon sector.

He was with the Army of Occupation in Germany, and upon returning to the United States accompanied his regiment to Fort Lewis, Washington. During service in the Northwest he was assigned as Intelligence and Operations officer of the 7th Infantry, 3rd Division.

Collier took the Company Officers Course at the Infantry School in 1924 and he was retained for four years as an instructor in that school in machine gunnery and tactics. Before leaving he attended the Field Officers Course, and from that station was ordered to foreign service in China where he commanded a pack machine gun company of the 15th Infantry under Major General Walton H. Walker who then was a major and commanded the 2nd Battalion of that regiment.

Upon his return from China he attended the Command and General Staff School, where he took the two year course. After graduation he became Executive Officer of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, with station at Fort Ontario, New York.

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COLONEL WILLIAM A. COLLIER  
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He was then selected to attend the Army War College and after graduation was assigned to the General Staff as Asst. Chief of Staff, G-1, of the 1st Corps Area, at Boston, Massachusetts. During the First Army Maneuvers, he served as Corps G-1 and again as Corps G-4 of the Maneuver Corps.

He was later a member of the Infantry Board and then Chief of Staff of the 78th Infantry Division.

From the 78th Division he came to the California Desert to become Chief of Staff of the IV Armored Corps and the Desert Training Center. On October 9, 1943 the IV Armored Corps was redesignated XX Corps.

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COLONEL WELBORN B. GRIFFITH

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Colonel Welborn B. Griffith, Deputy Chief of Staff, XX Corps, was born in Temple Texas, on November 10, 1901.

He was graduated from Dallas (Texas) High School in 1919 and attended Texas Agriculture and Mechanical College 1919-1921. In July, 1921 he entered West Point, graduating June 11, 1925 and commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant.

From September, 1925, to February, 1926, Col. Griffith attended the Primary Flying School at Brooks Field, Texas.

His military assignments were as follows:

23rd Infantry, 2nd Division, Ft. Sam Houston, February to May 1926;

29th Infantry, Ft. Benning, Georgia, May 1926 to August 1928;

Infantry School, Company Officers Course, September 1928 to June 1929;

6th Infantry, Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, July 1929 to November 1931. Promoted to 1st Lieutenant, January 1931;

Arrived in the Philippines, December 1931 and assigned to the 45th Infantry (PS), transferred to 31st Infantry on February 1, 1932. Sailed on that date for Shanghai, China.

He returned from China to the Philippines July, 1932 with the 31st Infantry, then transferred to the 57th Infantry (PS). His duty in Shanghai was Provost Marshall, U. S. Army Troops;

June and July, 1935 he traveled in China and Japan, returning to the United States in August, 1935 when he was assigned to the 20th Infantry, Fort F. E. Warren, Wyoming. He was promoted to Captain, August, 1935;

Chemical Warfare Service School, Field Officers Course, August, 1938;

Command and General Staff School, September 1938 to June, 1939;

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COLONEL WELBORN B. GRIFFITH

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Tank School, Ft. Benning, Ga., September 1939 to February, 1940;

1st Tank Brigade (1st Bn. 66th Inf. Tanks) February, 1940 to July, 1940;

2nd Armored Division (68th Armored Regiment) August 1940 to March, 1941.

Promoted to Major in February, 1941;

Instructor, C. and G. S. School, March 1941 to September 1942. He was in

G-3 Section, Armored Force Sub Section. Promoted to Lt. Colonel December 23, 1941;

8th Armored Division, Ft. Knox, Kentucky, September and October, 1942;

G-3, IV Armored Corps, October 1942, to date.

IV Armored Corps redesignated XX Corps, October 9, 1943.

Promoted to Colonel, December 12, 1942.

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BRIGADIER GENERAL JULIUS E. SLACK

Brigadier General Julius E. Slack, Commanding General, XX Corps Artillery, was born in Hermansville, Michigan on November 21, 1898. After graduating from the Nenominee (Michigan) High School, he attended the United States Military Academy at West Point from which he was graduated in 1919.

In November, 1918, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Field Artillery, and has had all service in Field Artillery including, horse drawn, pack, truck drawn and tractor drawn.

His foreign service is as follows: AFG 1919; Hawaii, 1922-25 and 1937-40; Panama, 1930-34.

General Slack's previous commands were: Commander 38th Field Artillery Battalion (2nd Division) 1941; Commander 69th Infantry Division Artillery, April to October, 1943.

His promotions were as follows:

1st Lieutenant,	June 5, 1923
Captain,	June 1, 1935
Major,	July 1, 1940
Lt. Colonel,	September 15, 1941
Colonel,	June 29, 1942
Brig. General	April 29, 1943

XX Corps Artillery was activated on October 21, 1943, at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Pennsylvania.

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220-0.1 HISTORY - XI CORPS

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