

*See also here*

General Simpson has the distinction of having commanded the largest army the world ever has seen-- and at one time the smallest in Europe. The smallest force under his command was in December and January, along the Roer river, when Von Rundstedt's breakthrough was running wild in the *Ardens* Ardennes. Then the entire Ninth army front was held by two divisions; the rest had been sent to aid the First army. It was one of those "calculated risks", as the army terms them, and it worked. The Germans never knew that the General had but two divisions on his front.

The biggest army in the world came into being when these divisions were returned to General Simpson's army for the drive across the Roer and the Rhine and the establishment of a bridgehead on the Elbe. Then the Ninth consisted of 25 divisions, or nearly half a million combat troops alone, with perhaps as many more to maintain it from the rear.

Here are some highlights concerning the Ninth:

Its 79th Infantry Division was the first to enter Cherbourg, in the Summer of 1944. Its 30th Infantry Division, with the Second

*Z  
Seigfried*

*Aachen*

Armored, spearheaded the push through the Seigfried line near Aachen.

During the Battle of the Bulge, it met and routed Hitler's personal

1st SS Division at Stavelot, Belgium. It later crossed the Roer

and with the 79th Division spearheaded the Ninth Army's burst across

the Rhine. Its Eighth Armored and 35th Infantry divisions captured

Venlo, Holland, and sealed off the Germans on the Rhine, south of

Venlo. Its Eighth Armored Division, in April, wiped out the Germans'

11th SS Panzer Division in the Hartz Mountains.

The Ninth Army joined the First in the great offensive across the Roer on February 23, encircled the Ruhr and drove to the Elbe

in the final phase of the war. The only thing apparently that

stopped the Ninth and General Simpson from going right into Berlin

was what appears to have been an understanding to let our Russian

allies get there first.

*According to plans arranged for in advance with Gen. Wm Hood Simpson concerning the goal. 9th Army*