

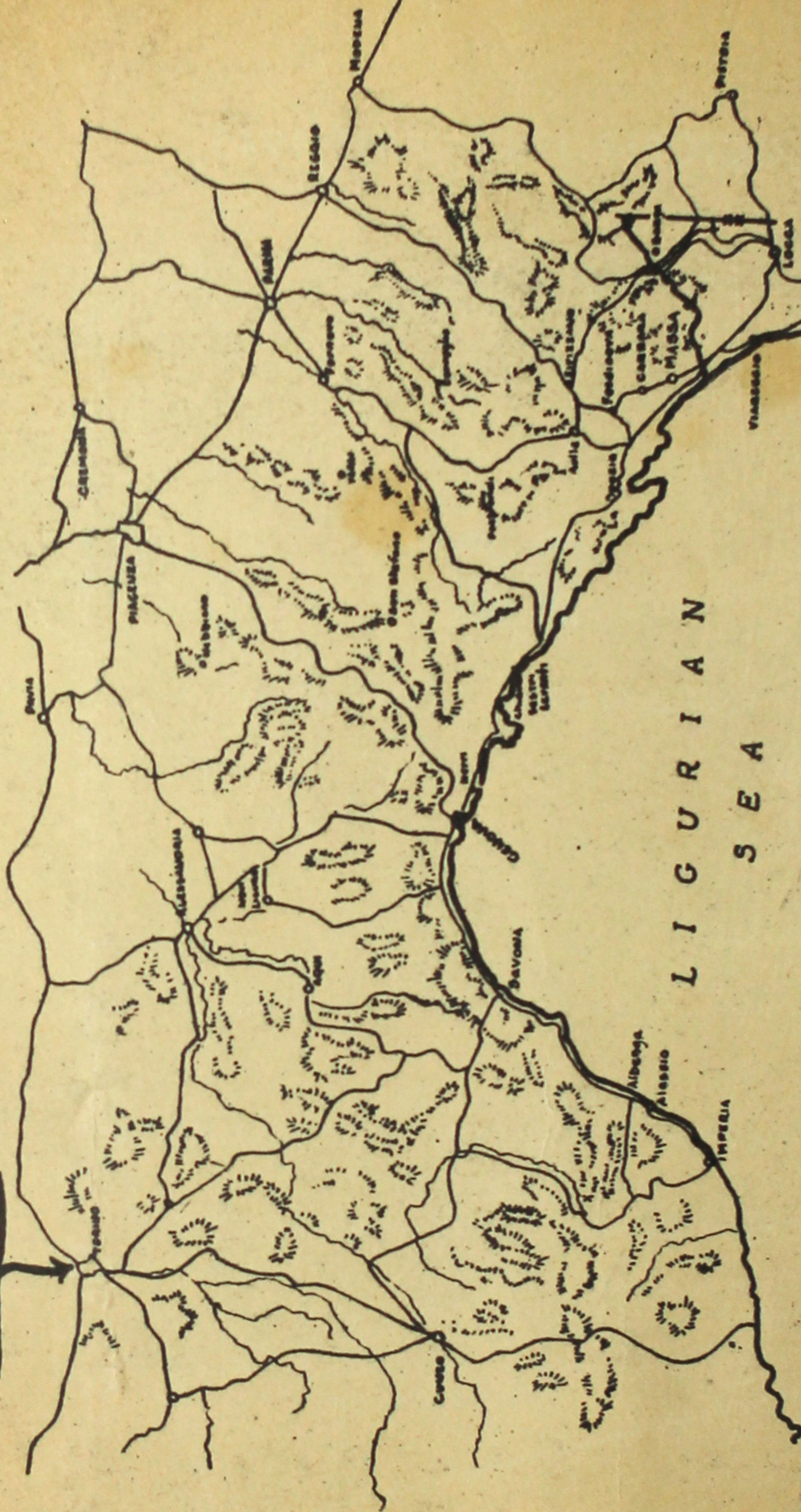
ENTERING

92  INF
DIV

AREA

1942 - 1945

THE FINISH



THE BATTLE AREA

THE START

OCTOBER 1942 - JUNE 1945

With the

92^d

INFANTRY DIVISION

PUBLISHED BY
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COMPILED BY
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Photos Courtesy "THE BUFFALO" and APS.
Drawings- Sgt. Ted Shearer; Maps-S/Sgt. Rodney Evans

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mailed home.

FOREWORD

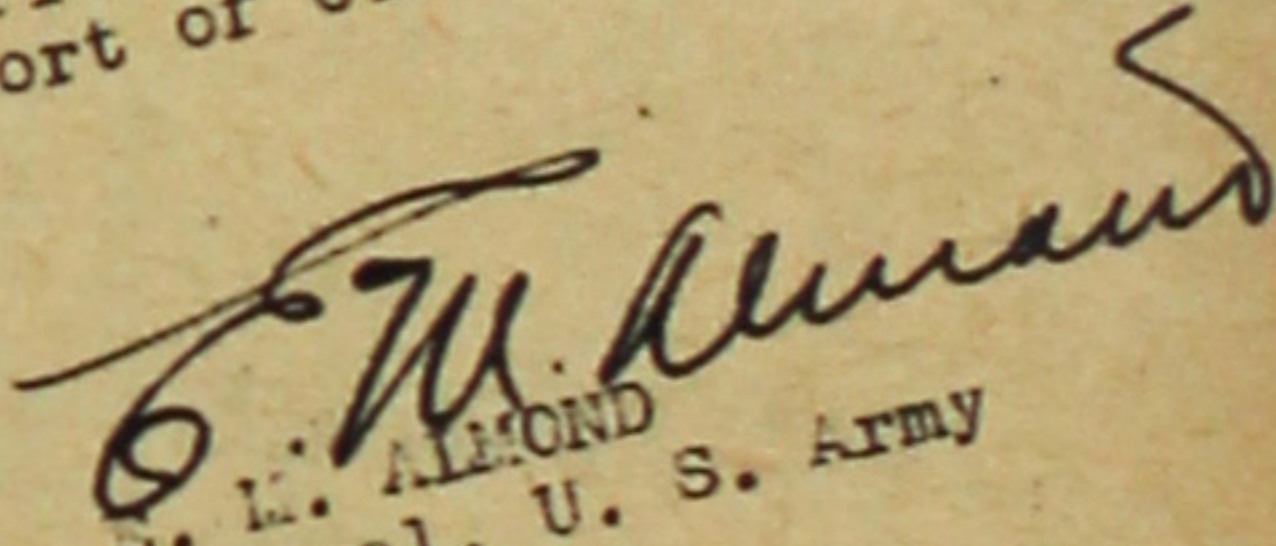
This brief history of the 92d Infantry Division since its activation on 15 October 1942 and through the Italian Campaigns from August 1944 to May 1945 is intended to provide an outline of events for the officers and enlisted men of the Division. It records the training and combat highlights from the Division's formative days at four widely separated camps in the United States to the cessation of hostilities in Italy.

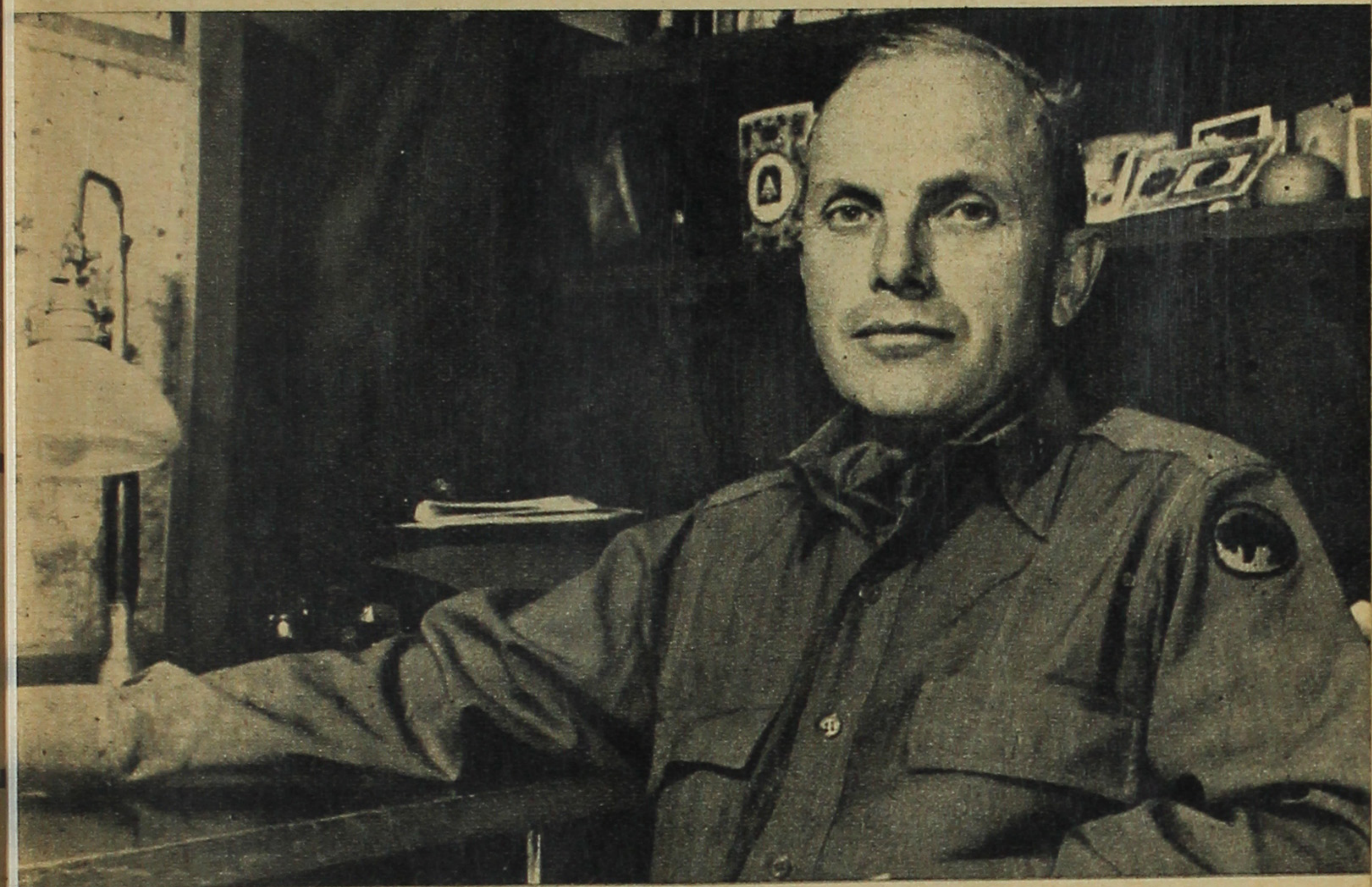
It is hoped that every member of the 92d Division will acquire from the following pages a clearer picture of his contributions to the successes achieved and that each individual will view his own efforts in relationship to those made by other members of the Division, thus realizing that it is through cooperation and mutual understanding that military success is achieved.

With deep reverence, I salute those officers and men who have died while performing their duties with the Division. Those of us who remain are obligated to help insure the peace and the understanding so needed for the future welfare of our country, and I urge that we make the same unselfish efforts which in the past have contributed so much in individual and unit actions.

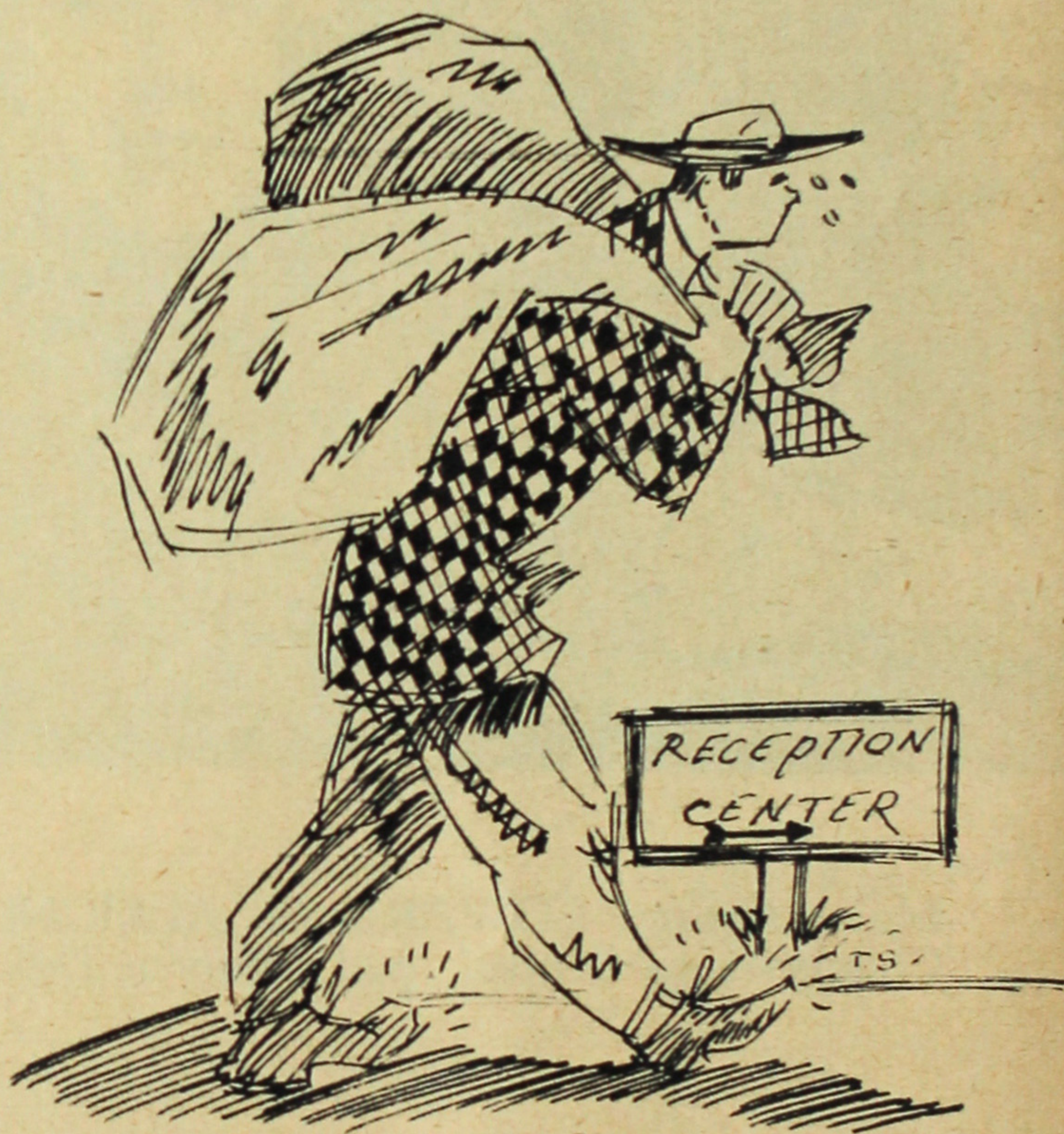
I extend my sincere appreciation to the officers and men of the 92d Infantry Division for their loyalty and energy in the actions recounted in this booklet. Likewise, I thank those attached units, both American and British, who have fought by our side and in support of our operations.

God speed you all!


E. M. ALMOND
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding



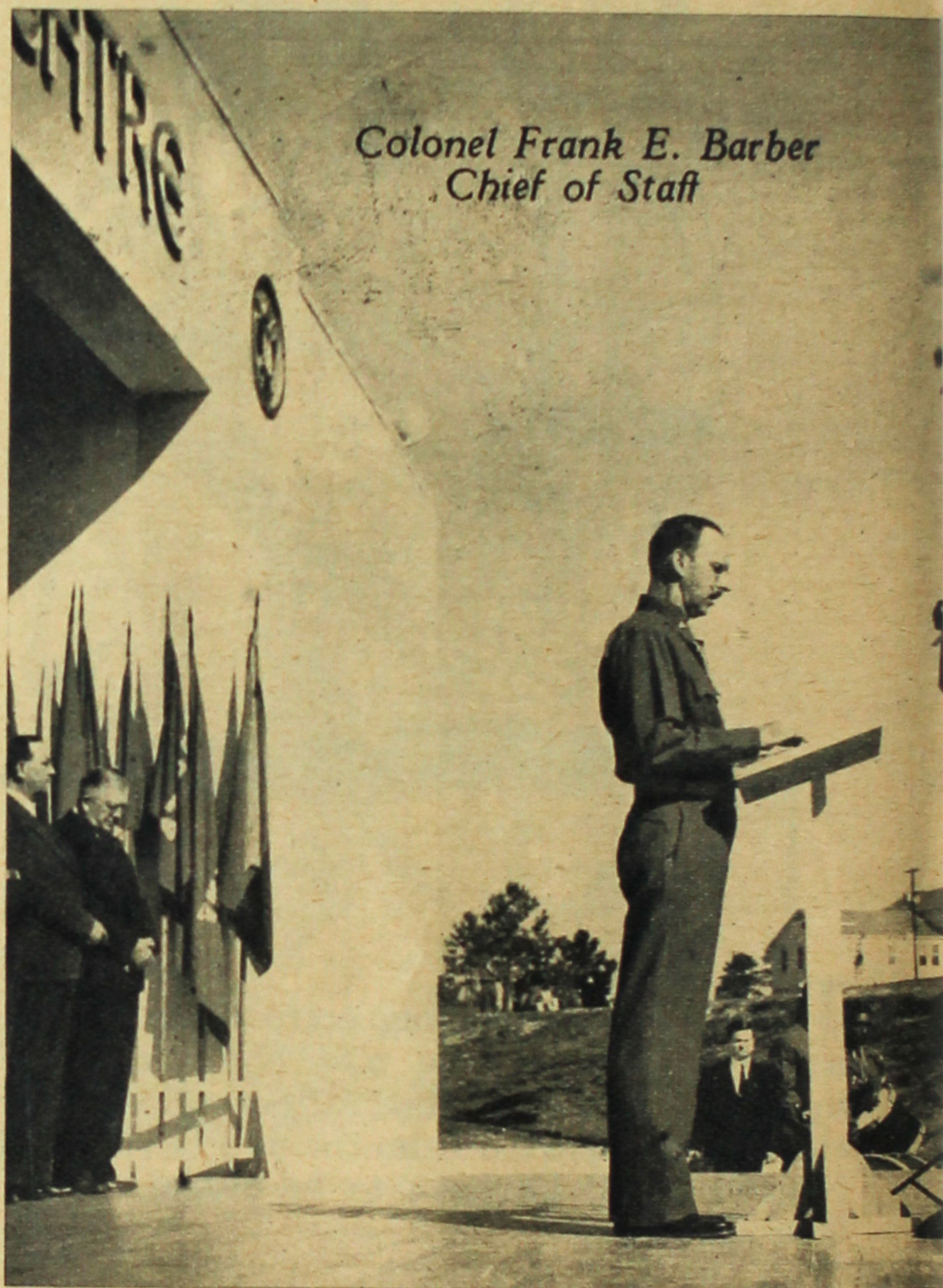
Major General EDWARD M. ALMOND
Commanding General, 92d Infantry Division

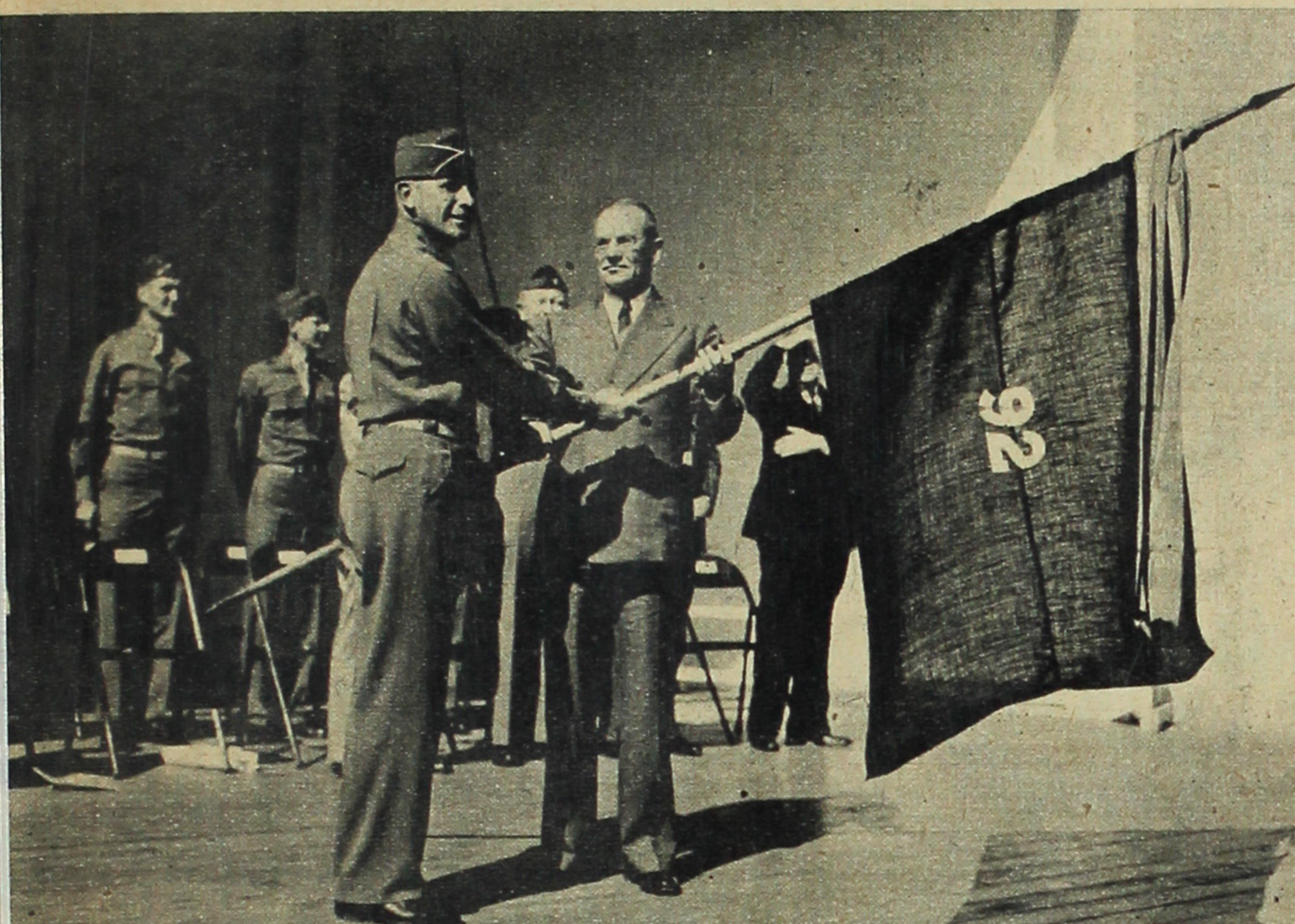




The process of changing green recruits into experienced soldiers for the 92d Division fell largely upon the shoulders of the 760 officers and 1418 enlisted men selected from the 93d Division, the first Negro combat Division to be organized in World War II.

ACTIVATION
DAY





P R O G R A M

Date: October 15, 1945

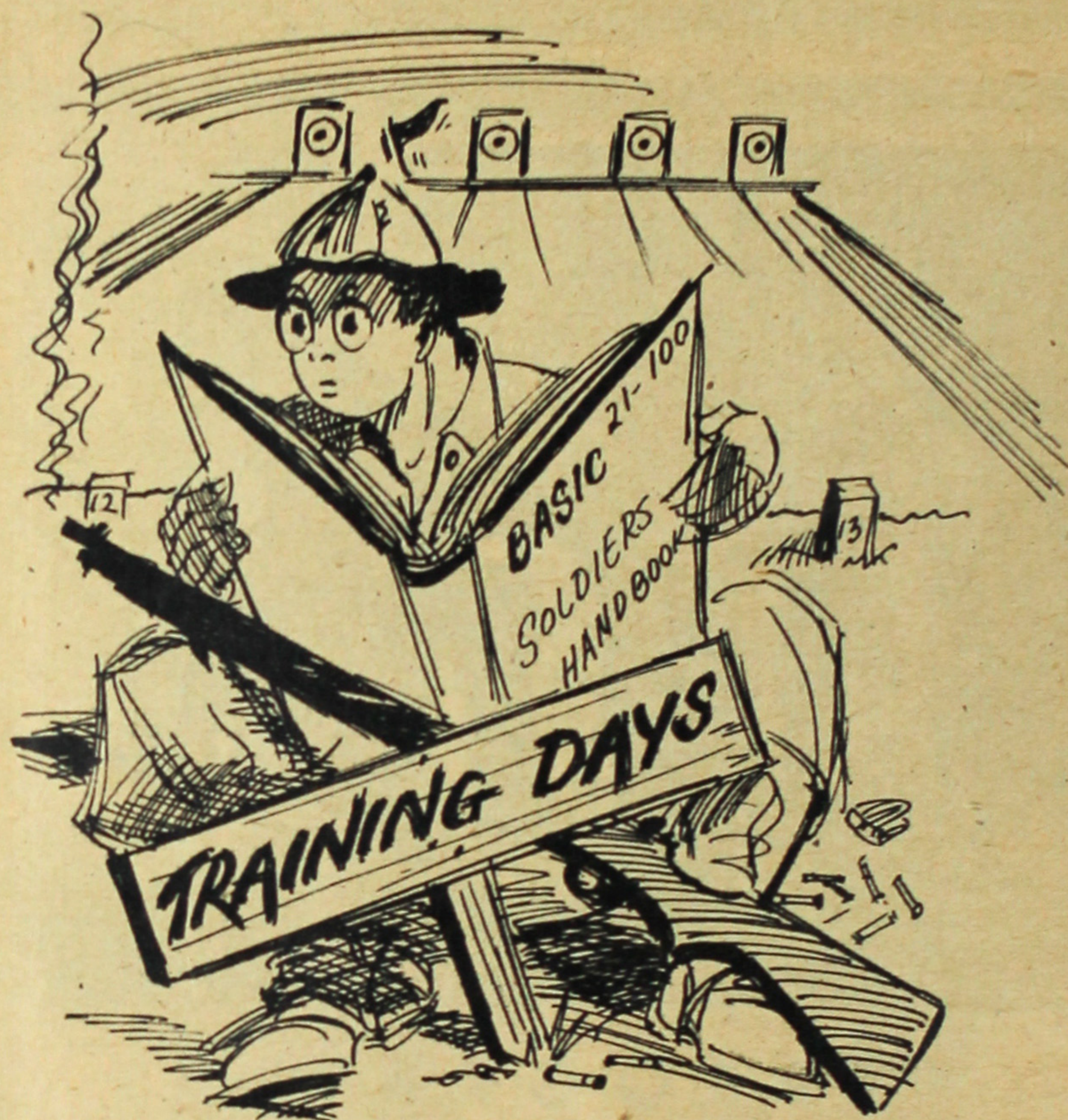
Place: Fort McClellan, Alabama

Activation Order: Colonel Frank E. Barber, Chief of Staff

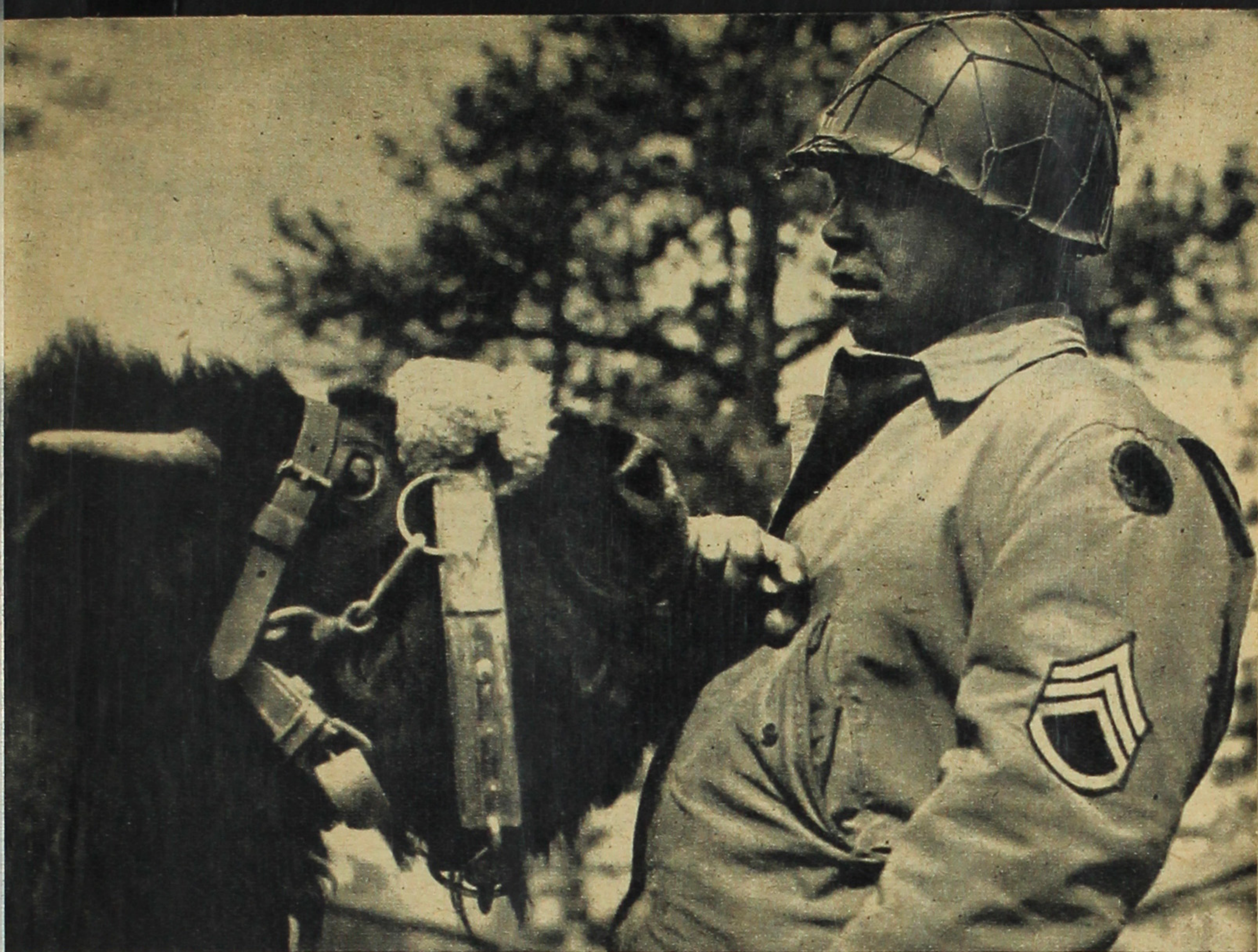
Activation Address: Major General E. M. Almond, Division Commander

Invocation: Capt. (now Lt. Col.) Louis J. Beasley, Division Chaplain

Welcoming Address: Honorable Chauncey E. Sparks, Governor-elect of Alabama



Basic training conducted in a vigorous and realistic fashion characterized the early history of the 92d. Concurrently, speed marches, inspections, physical training, and officers and enlisted men's schools of all types were conducted. An Intra-Division athletic program was organized and encouraged and proved to be an excellent morale builder and physical



Mascot Buffalo Bill and trainer Sgt. Valentine always clicked it off

conditioner. A highlight of this phase of training was the inaugural ceremony for Governor Chauncey Sparks of Alabama, in which some three thousand troops of the Division paraded. During the latter part of the period, "Bill," the Buffalo, joined the Division; and he soon became a familiar figure at all important ceremonies and events.

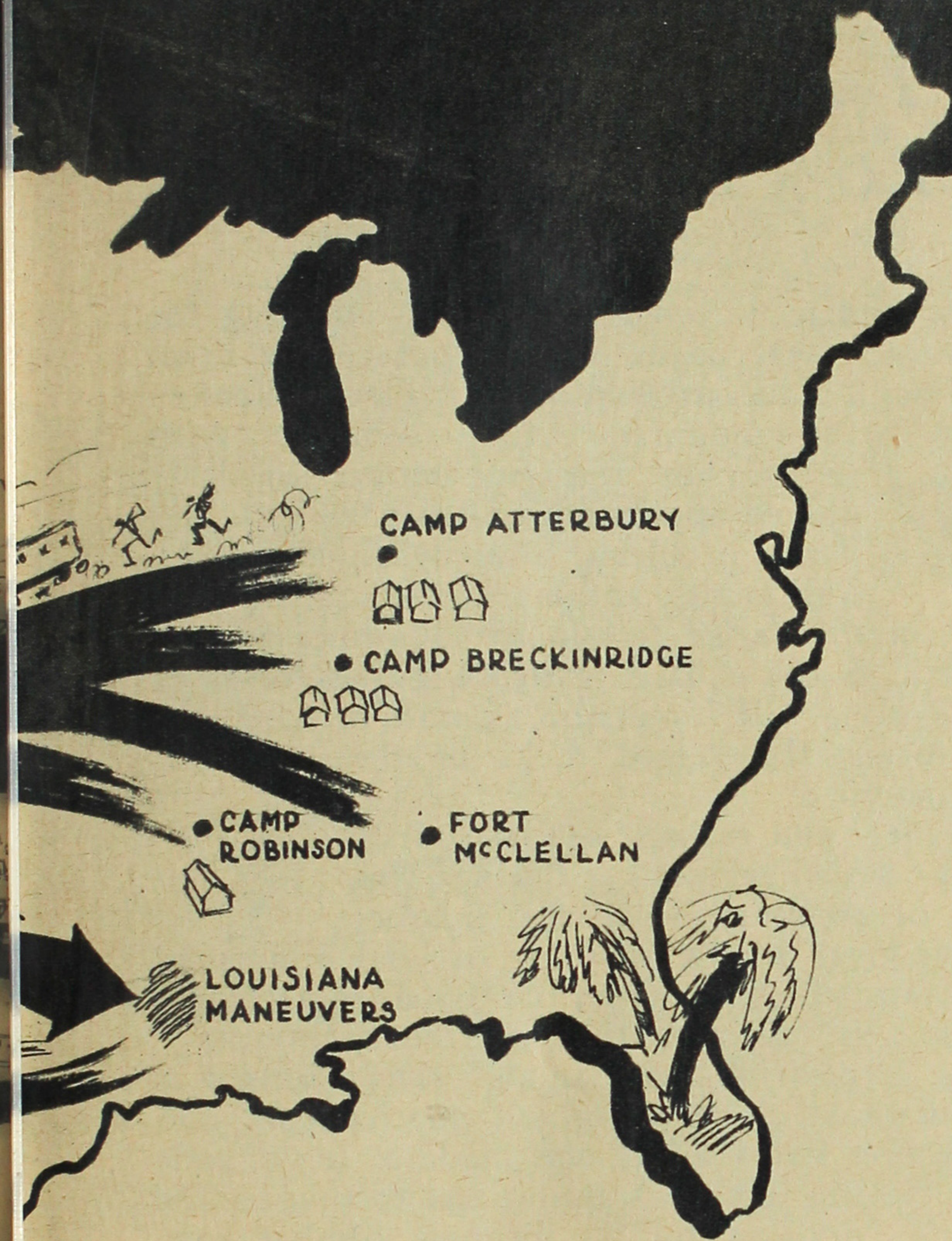


ROUND-UP TIME

Early in May 1943, troop trains carrying men and officers from Fort McClellan and Camps Robinson, Atterbury and Breckinridge journeyed westward. Their destination was Fort Huachuca in Arizona where for the first time since activation, the entire division was concentrated in one area. Ahead lay the task of building a unified, efficient combat division, physically toughened, thoroughly skilled, and imbued with the desire to close with and destroy any enemy engaged.



for the **BUFFALOES**



TRAINING

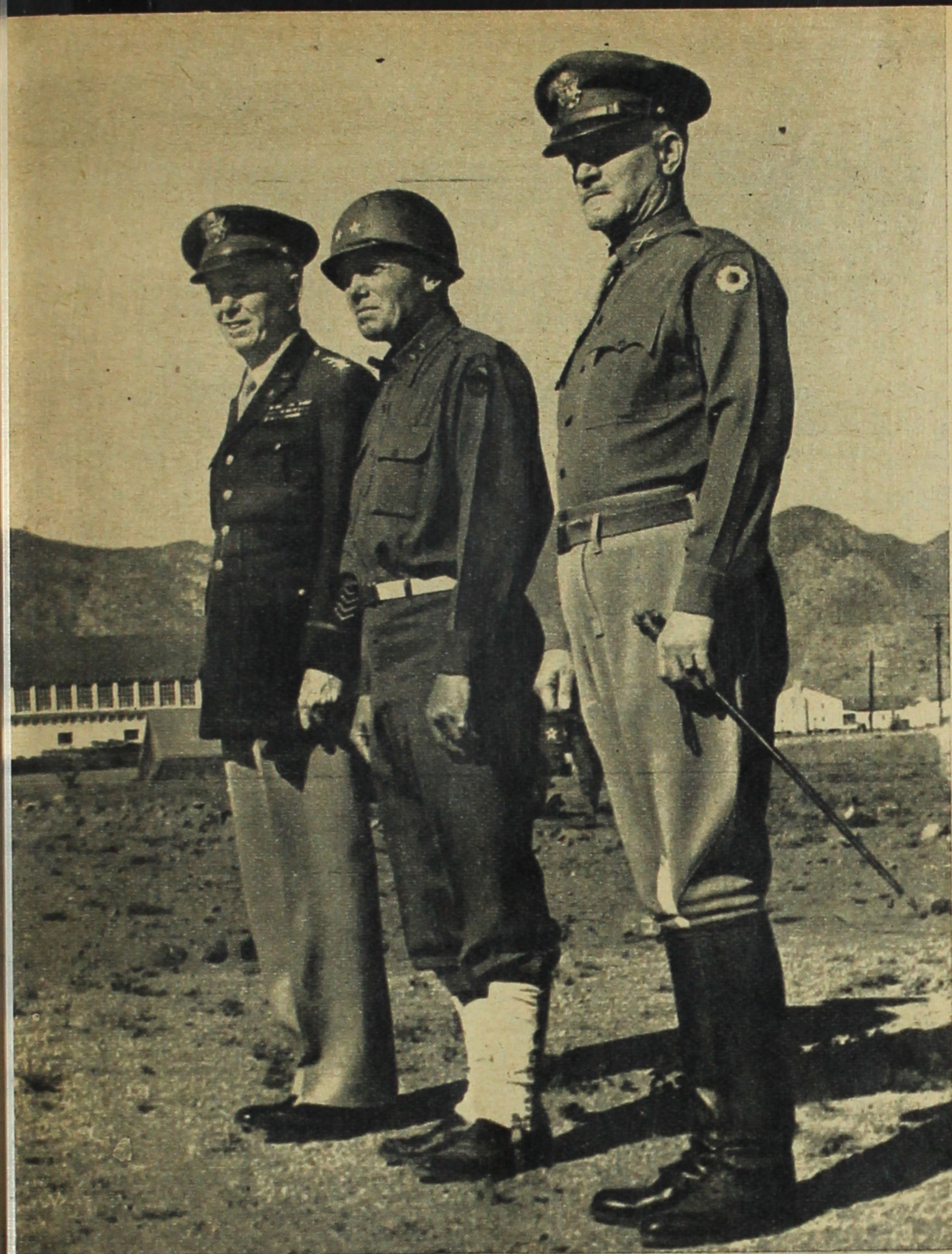
IN FORT HUACHUCA

A new and more intensified type of training for the Division was begun at Huachuca. Mile upon mile of arid plain surrounded by rugged and colorful mountains that compare with sections of the Appennines of Italy offered opportunities for many new and varied problems. Stress was placed upon unit tactics, and many a lesson that was learned in the varied terrain of Huachuca proved its worth in the equally varied Ligurian coast of Italy. No one will forget the 25 mile marches, the dust storms, the jagged rocks or the desert moon.



The new and realistic special courses received added emphasis during this period of training. Thorough instruction was given in the handling of land mines and booby traps. All units, from the footslogging front-line "doughs" through the "chairborne infantry" and the "typewriter commandos" were baptised as they advanced under overhead machinegun and artillery fire. Every effort was made to inject realism into all training and to prepare the division for its ultimate combat role. Every effort was made to apply the latest principles from lessons learned in combat.



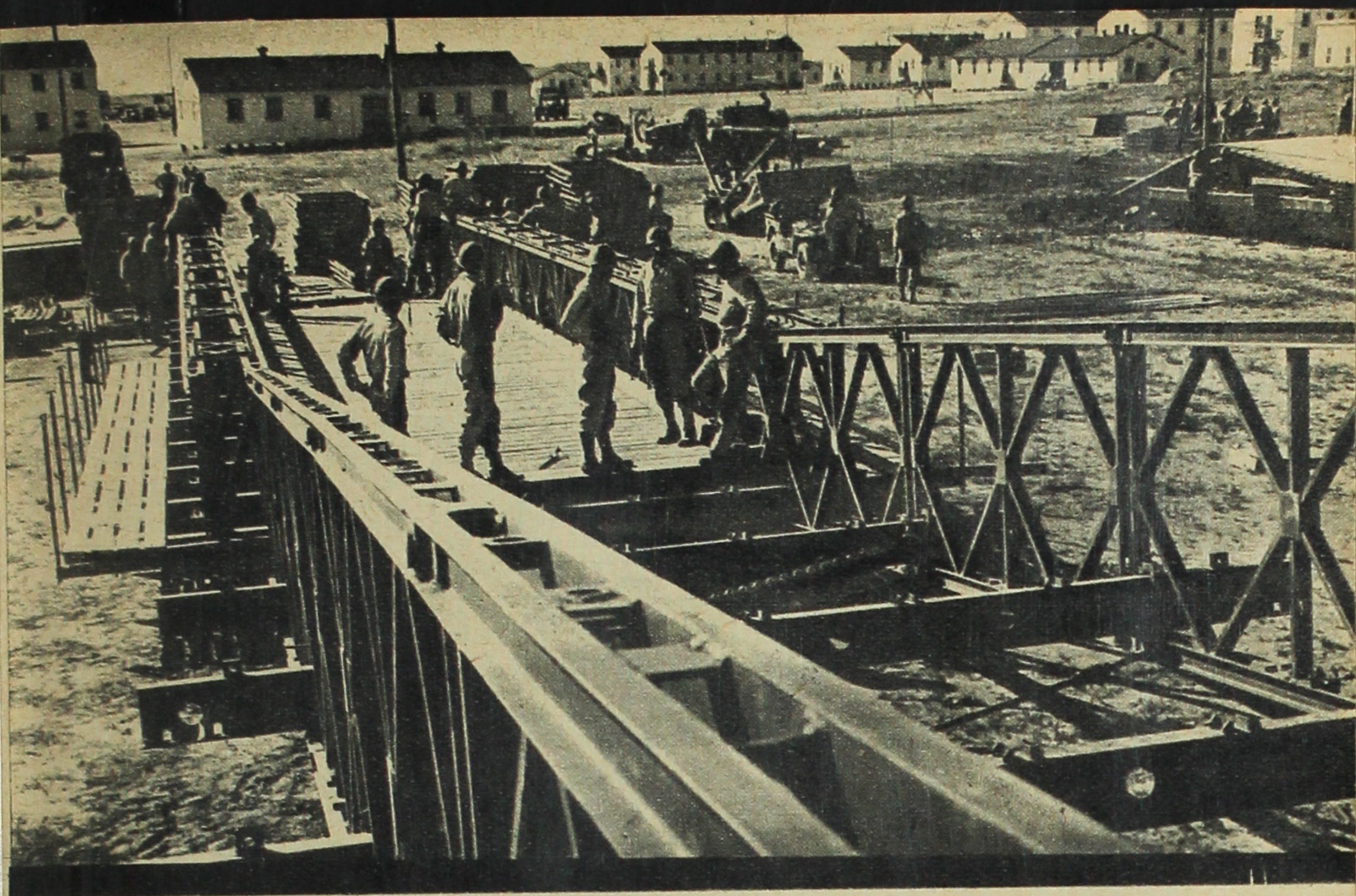


General George C. Marshall, Major General Edward M. Almond, and Colonel E. N. Hardy, Post Commander at Fort Huachuca, review the 370th Combat Team.

But the months spent at Huachuca were not devoted solely to training. Again many reviews, ceremonies and athletic programs were conducted to help relieve the monotony of endless days of hard work. During the first week of June the first "All Division" review was held. For the first time since activation, members of the Division were able to see the entire team of which they were a part. The thousands of troops, vehicles, weapons, and materiel massed together made an impressive picture. It was a sight which made everyone proud of his outfit.

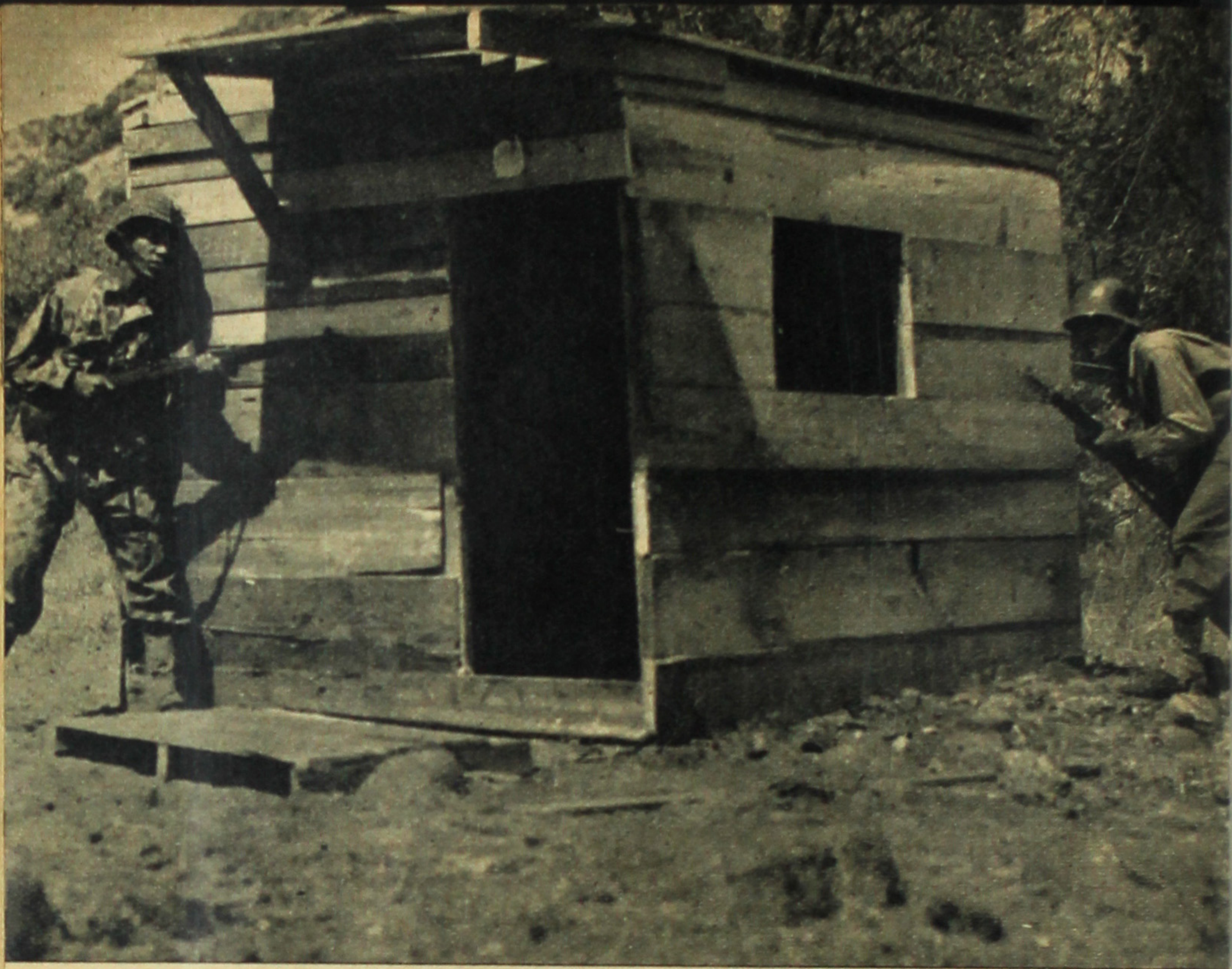
Remember these?





Learning how it's done with the "Baileys."

One of the outstanding events of this Division review was the tribute paid to the officers and men of the Division Military Police Corps. Described by numerous high-ranking military and civilian officials as the finest looking military police group in the Armed Forces, they more than lived up to their reputation. Every man was an example of excellent military appearance. Each one was six feet or more in height. Their achievements were not limited to parade ground activities. Their belief in "preventive" rather than "corrective" measures established for them an enviable record. Their firm "big brother" approach kept many a soldier out of trouble.



The Fourth of July 1943 was celebrated by a special all-day program of events. Many visitors, civilian and military, attended the exercises at the Fort. A special luncheon was served in the field house and in all the mess halls.

Throughout the summer months the division was visited by many prominent members of military, civil, sports and theatrical worlds. Among



these visitors were Lt Gen Courtney Hodges, Commanding General of the Third Army; Maj Gen Dan I. Sultan, Commanding General of VIII Corps; Brig Gen Benjamin O. Davis of the IG Dept in Washington, D.C.; T/Sgt. Joe Louis, World's Heavyweight Boxing Champion; Eddie (Rochester) Anderson of radio, stage and screen fame and Lena Horne.

Competitive events were conducted throughout the division to determine among other things, who was the best instructor, the best soldier, the best driver, and which was the best platoon and the best company. These events stimulated the training program and raised the standards throughout the command. Later, the training program was highlighted by proficiency tests, command post exercises, and firing tests for all units. Athletic teams in baseball and football provided recreation and served to further prepare the members of the command for the combat days ahead.

The fall season just prior to entrance into the "D" Exercises was marked by events in connection with the first anniversary of the Activation of the Division in October, and by participation by the Division in the Armistice Day ceremonies at Nogales and Tuscon, Arizona. Both were marked by unusual splendor, excitement and military display.





Above:

MPs being inspected by Sgt. Joe Louis, World's Heavyweight Boxing Champion.

Below:

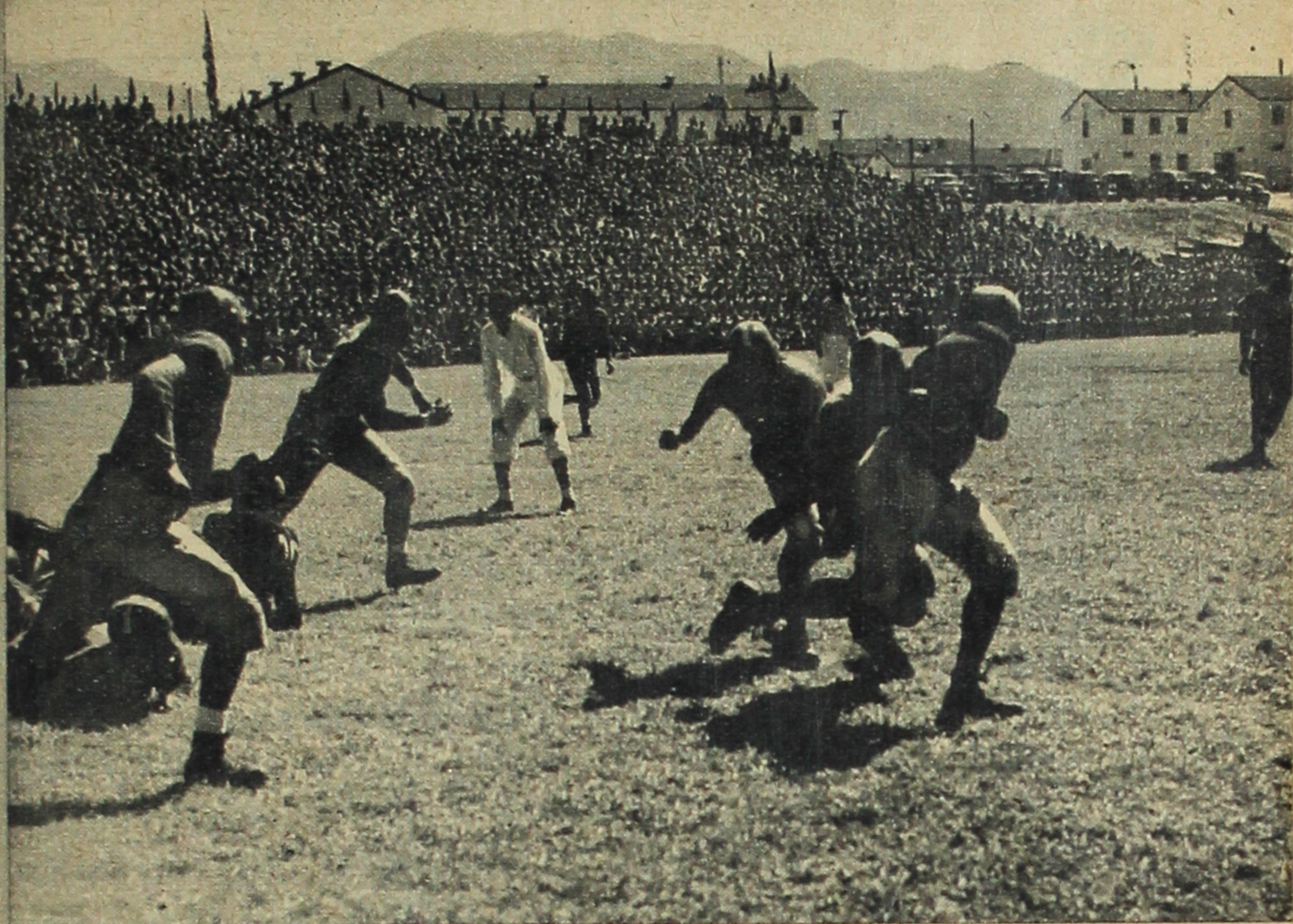
Practice for combat teamwork





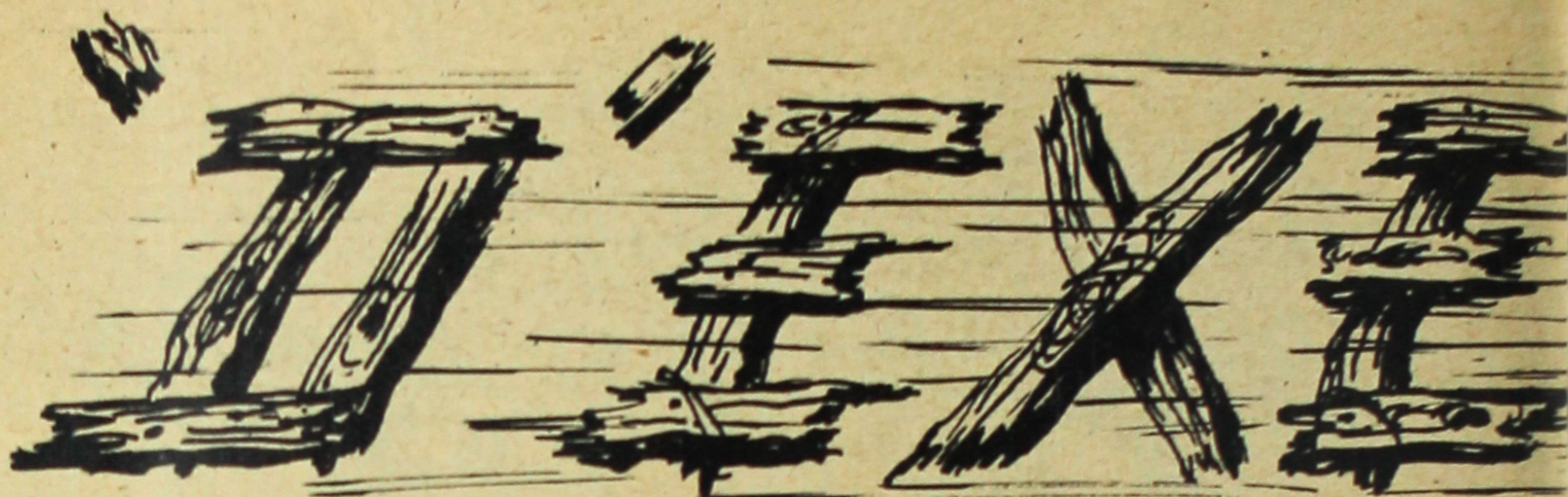
"Action..."

The spring of 1944 saw the organization of the Huachuca baseball league. Eight teams participated in the league games and the series was divided into two halves. The end of the first half found the division artillery "Red Legs" leading the league. Special Troops won the series' second half and in the play-offs Special Troops won again thus taking the baseball championship. Later on a team composed of members from the Division playing under the name of the Post won the Southwestern Servicemen's League Championship.



...excitement!"

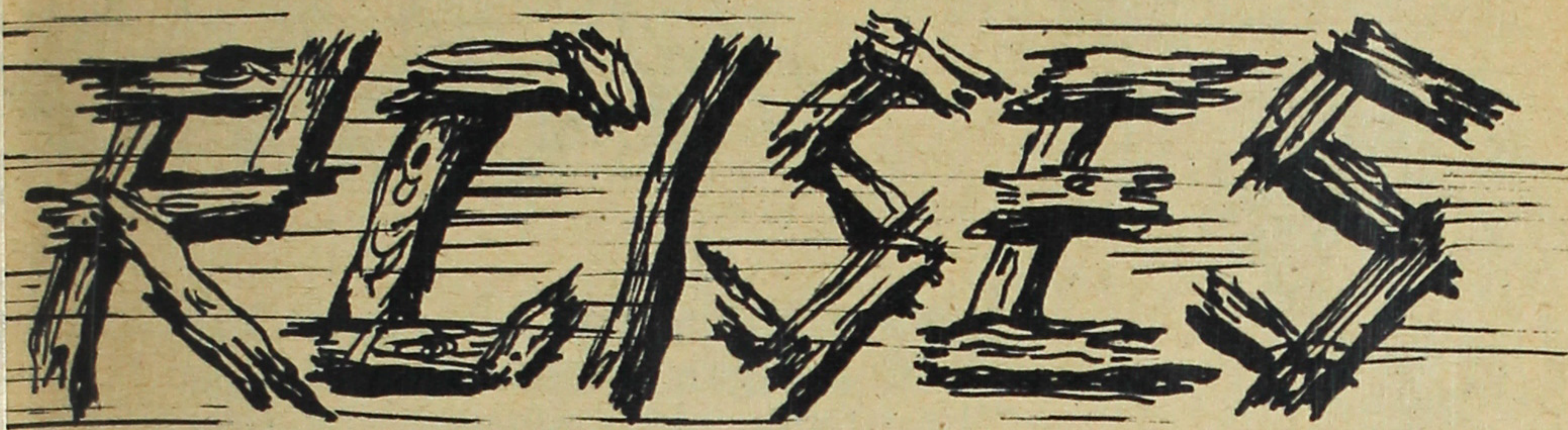
In the fall of 1943 the Huachuca football league was organized. There were six teams in the league, five teams from the 92d Div and one from the troops of the Post complement. The opening game held in Wells Memorial Stadium was between the 92d Division Special Troops and the Post team. Twenty-two thousand spectators attended the game which ended in a 13-0 score in favor of the Special Troops. Every game was characterized by hard aggressive playing and at the end of the season the Special Troops team were the champions.



Early in December 1943, the division moved out into the sandy hills and wind swept desert near Fort Huachuca to participate in "D" Exercises, the last phase of training before the Maneuver period. The month of living in the field, under intensely cold weather conditions, offered valuable experience to commanders, staffs and to the individual soldier.

Throughout the exercises supply and administrative problems, among others, arose repeatedly. It soon became evident that while preventative maintenance and the care and cleaning of equipment in the field were more difficult than in garrison, they were of the utmost value if the best results were to be realized from vehicles and materiel. The lessons learned in overcoming these problems made combat problems easier to cope with.





During these exercises, officers and men learned to expect the unpredictable. They learned that even carefully thought out plans are not altogether fool-proof. There were instances where units, small groups, and individuals lost contact with their parent organizations. It was in such cases that initiative and self-confidence were developed.

The exercises were completed on 23 December 1943 and the Division returned to Fort Huachuca, where steps were begun immediately to correct deficiencies and to strengthen those weak spots that had been revealed by the "D" Series. Thus, when the leading elements left for the Louisiana Maneuver Area for the next training phase, they left with a background of thorough and rigorous training, with a sense of pride and with a feeling of confidence.

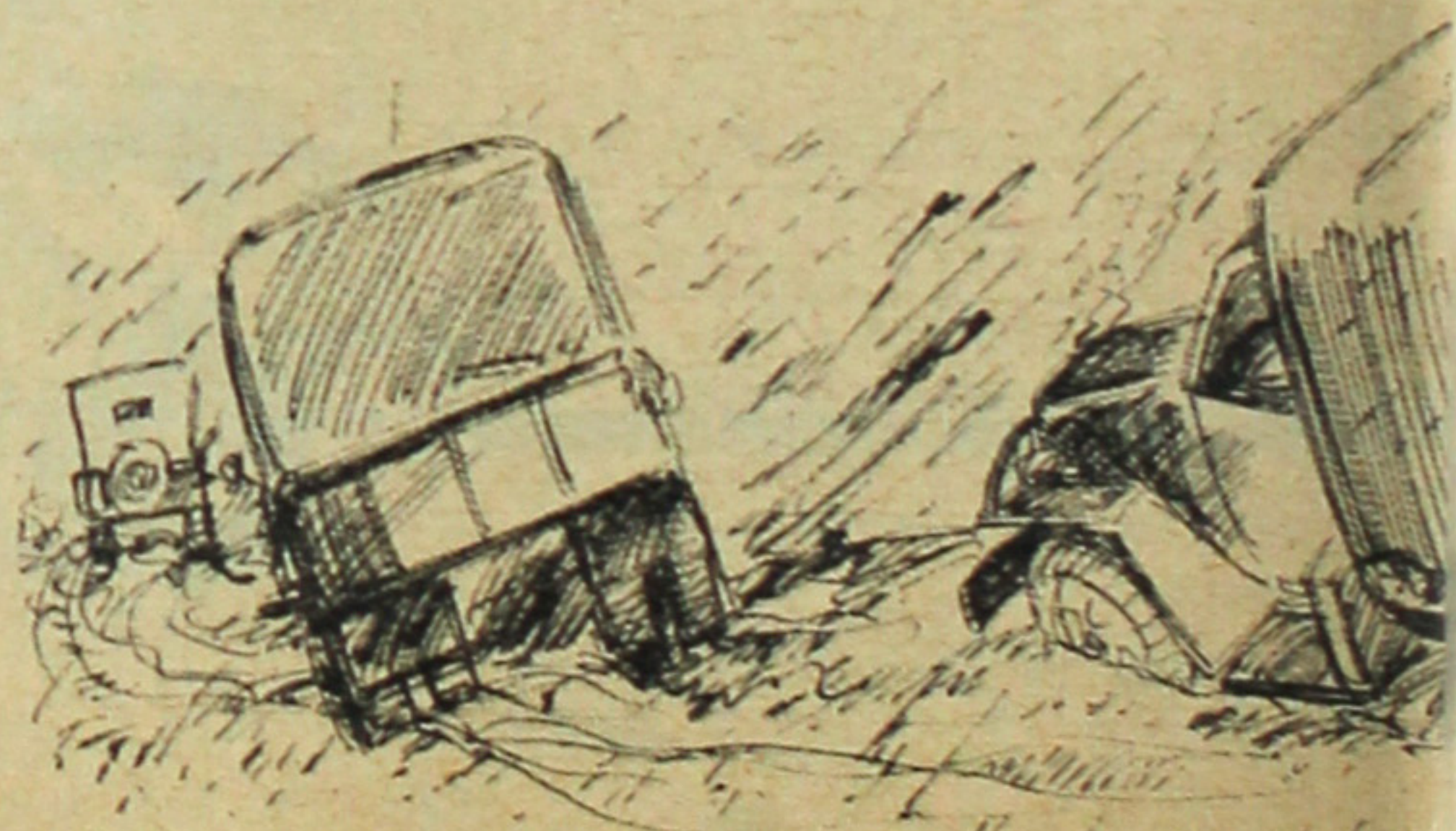
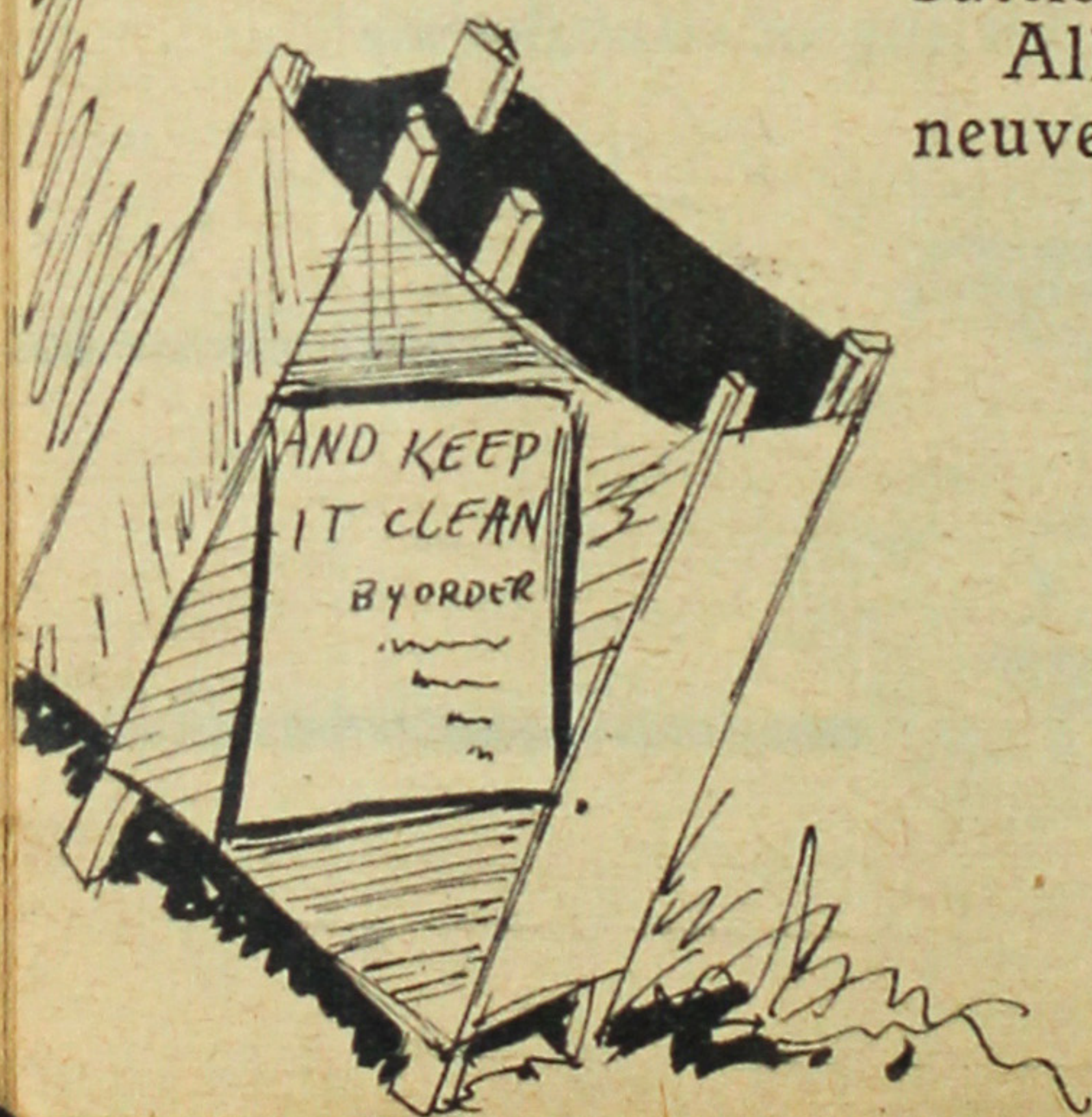


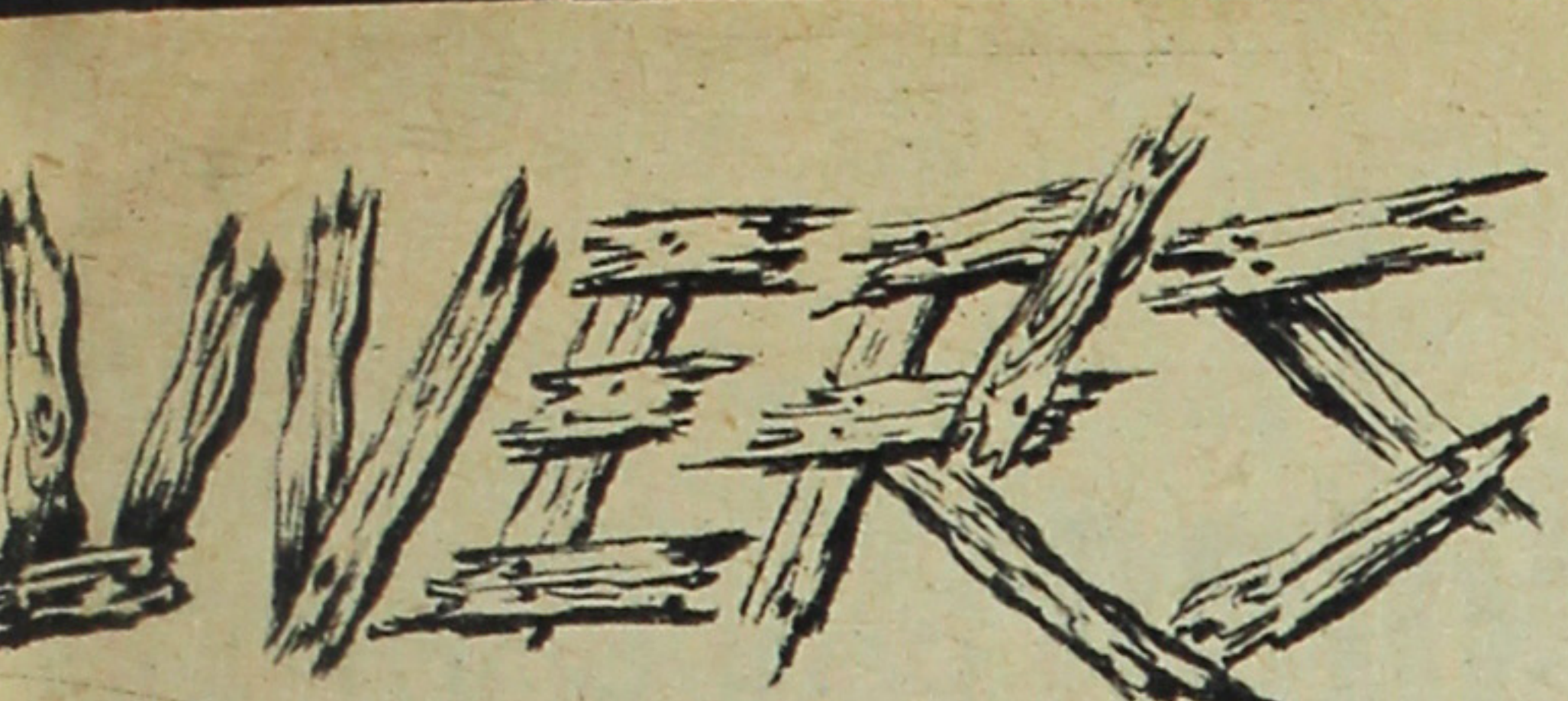


Late in January of 1944, the division began to move east for the "Louisiana Maneuvers." Before the departure, Major General E. M. Almond assembled all officers, and all non-commissioned officers of the first three grades and spoke to them of the significance of the job that was ahead. He emphasized the important part that they, as leaders and commanders, would play in this important phase of training. And again, "officer and non-commissioned officer supervision" led the list of reminders.

By early February, the entire Division had assembled near Merryville, Louisiana. Here the first of many days and nights of the battle with nature were begun.

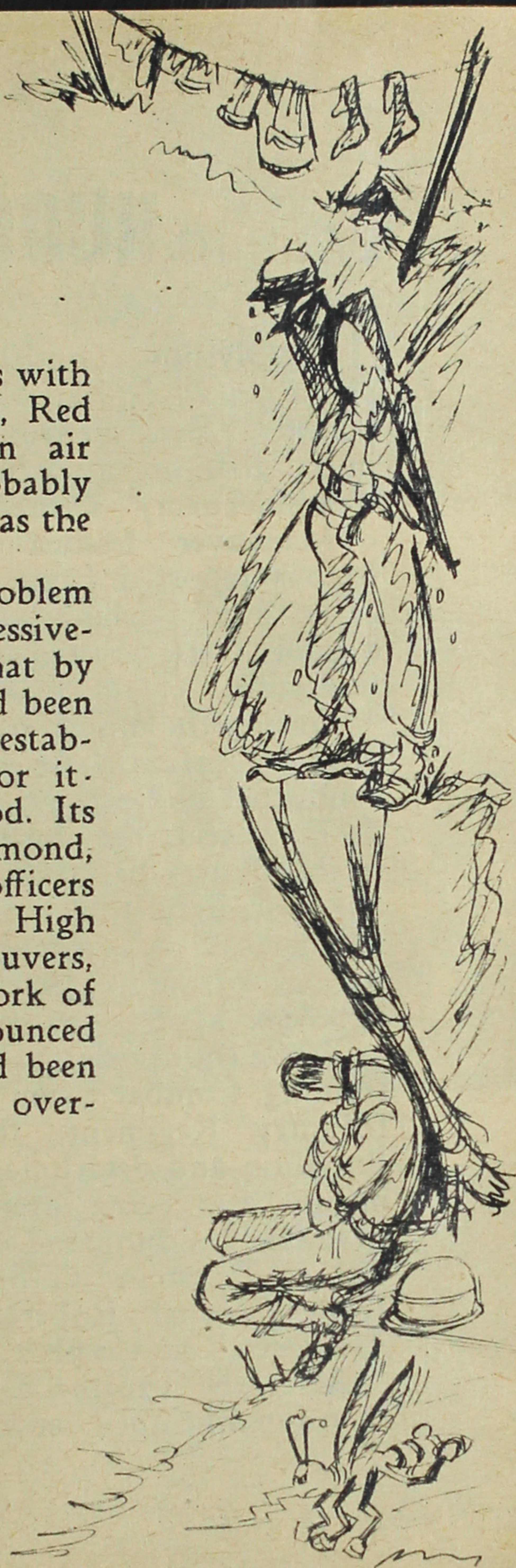
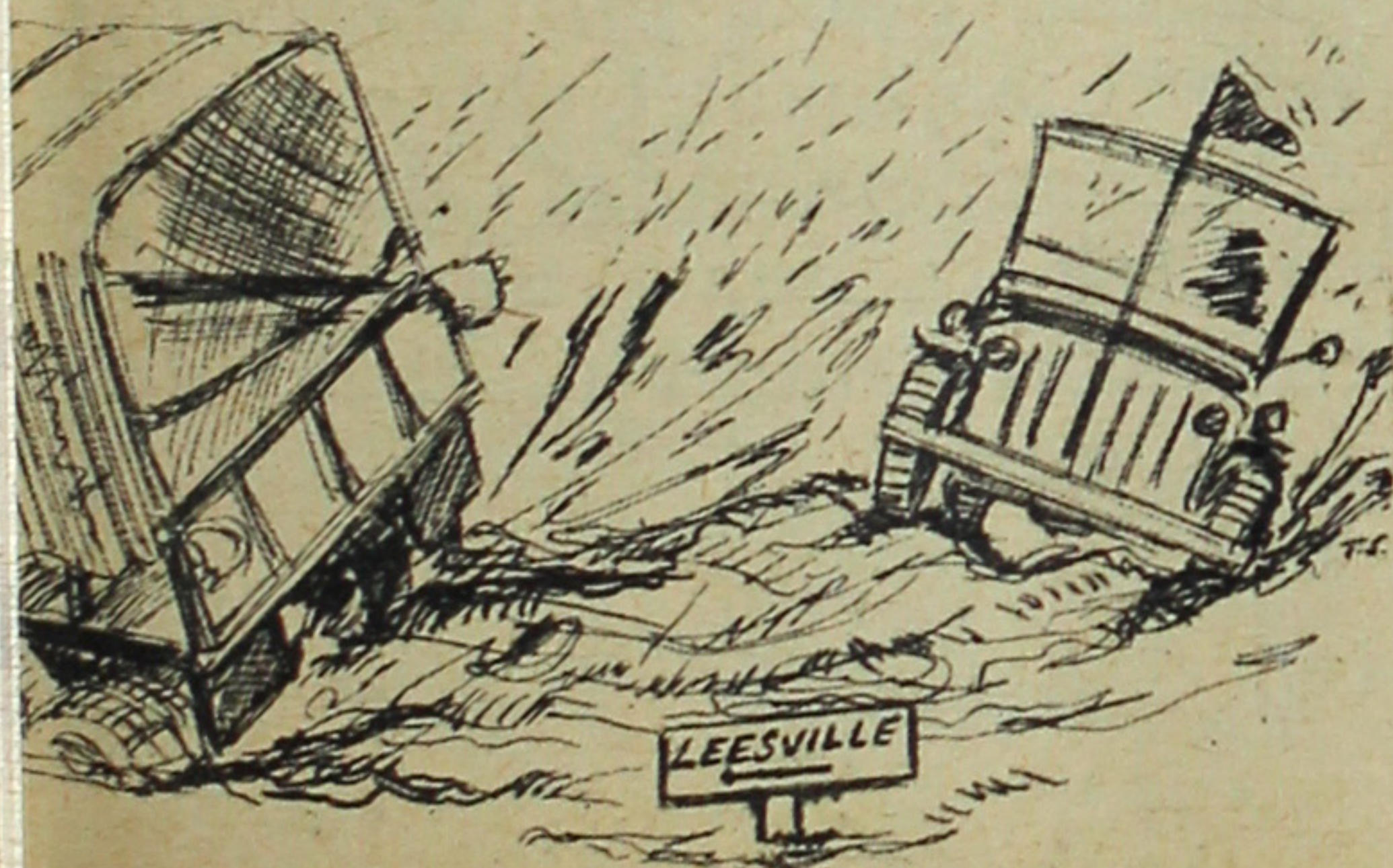
All who participated in the maneuvers have vivid memories of





hard work, rain, mud, clashes with the pigs, constant movement, Red Cross doughnuts, and open air movies. The Sabine River probably means as much to some men as the "Serchio" or the "Po."

Each new maneuver problem was met with renewed aggressiveness and determination so that by the time the last problem had been completed, the division had established a creditable record for itself. Its reputation was good. Its spirit was high. General Almond, in a speech to the men and officers assembled near Merryville High School at the close of Maneuvers, reiterated his pride in the work of the Division. Then he announced that Combat Team 370 had been selected for early movement overseas.



BACK TO **HUACHUCA** FOR POM

The Division completed the return to Fort Huachuca on 25 April 1944. Immediately an intensive period of post-maneuver training was begun. The initial goal, an opportunity "to close with and destroy the enemy" seemed close at hand.

Maneuver lessons coupled with the latest lessons reported from the battle fronts were used as a guide. Many inspections were conducted. Schools were directed towards the improvement of leadership.

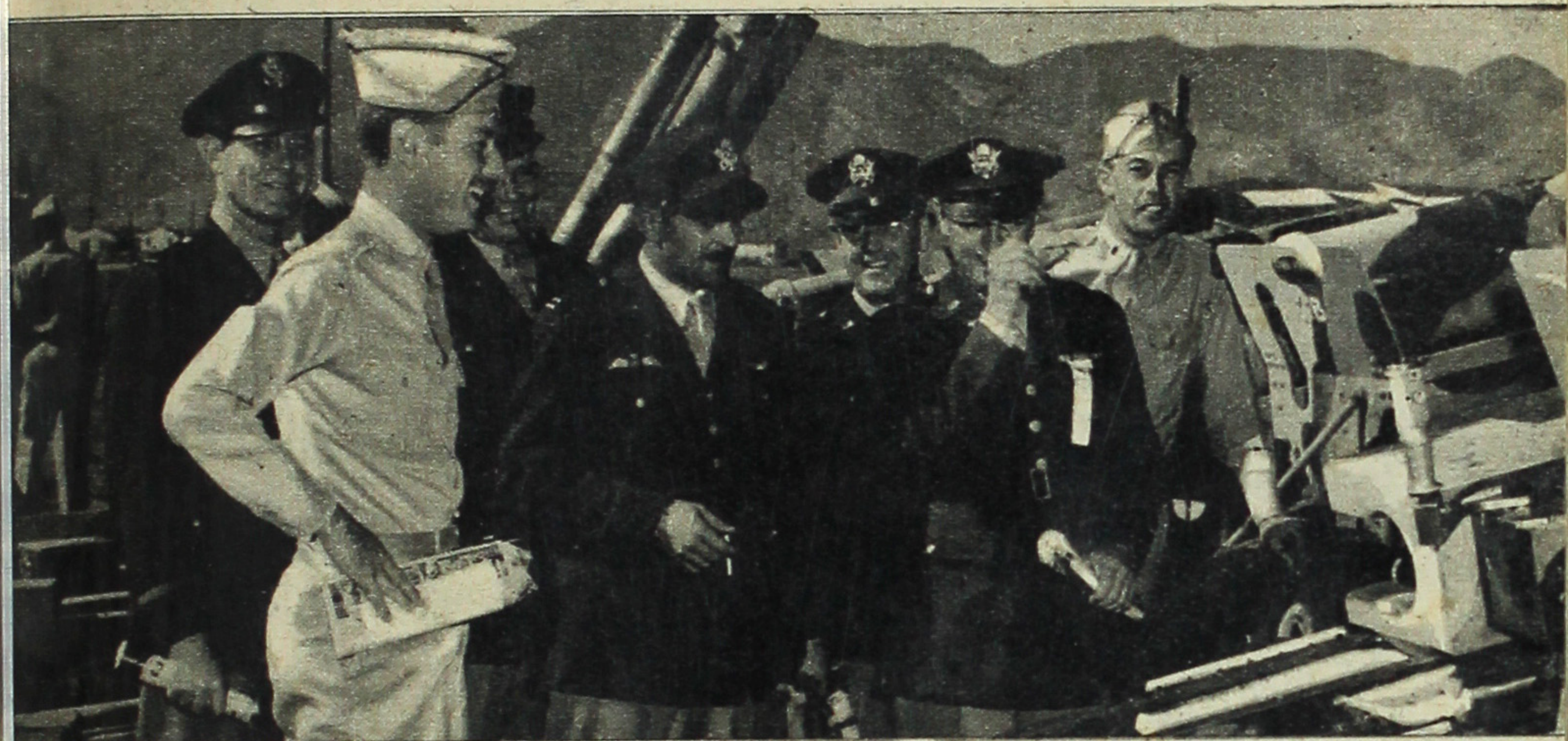
During the month of May, training in the application of Infantry-Artillery-Tank Team tactics was conducted under the direction of Brigadier General J. E. Wood, the Assistant Division Commander. Each infantry battalion, supported by light artillery and one light tank company, participated in the problems. Special training in mountain operations, stream crossings, patrolling and special combat problems kept everyone busy.

While the division as a whole was undergoing this training, Combat Team 370, composed of the 370th Infantry Regiment, the 598th Field Artillery Battalion and detachments from other division elements, was being prepared for early movement overseas. In command of Combat Team 370 was Colonel Raymond G. Sherman. Lieutenant Colonel (now Colonel) Robert C. Ross commanded the Artillery. The Combat Team left 15 June 1944.

After the 370th CT left, the remainder of the Division continued its vigorous routine.

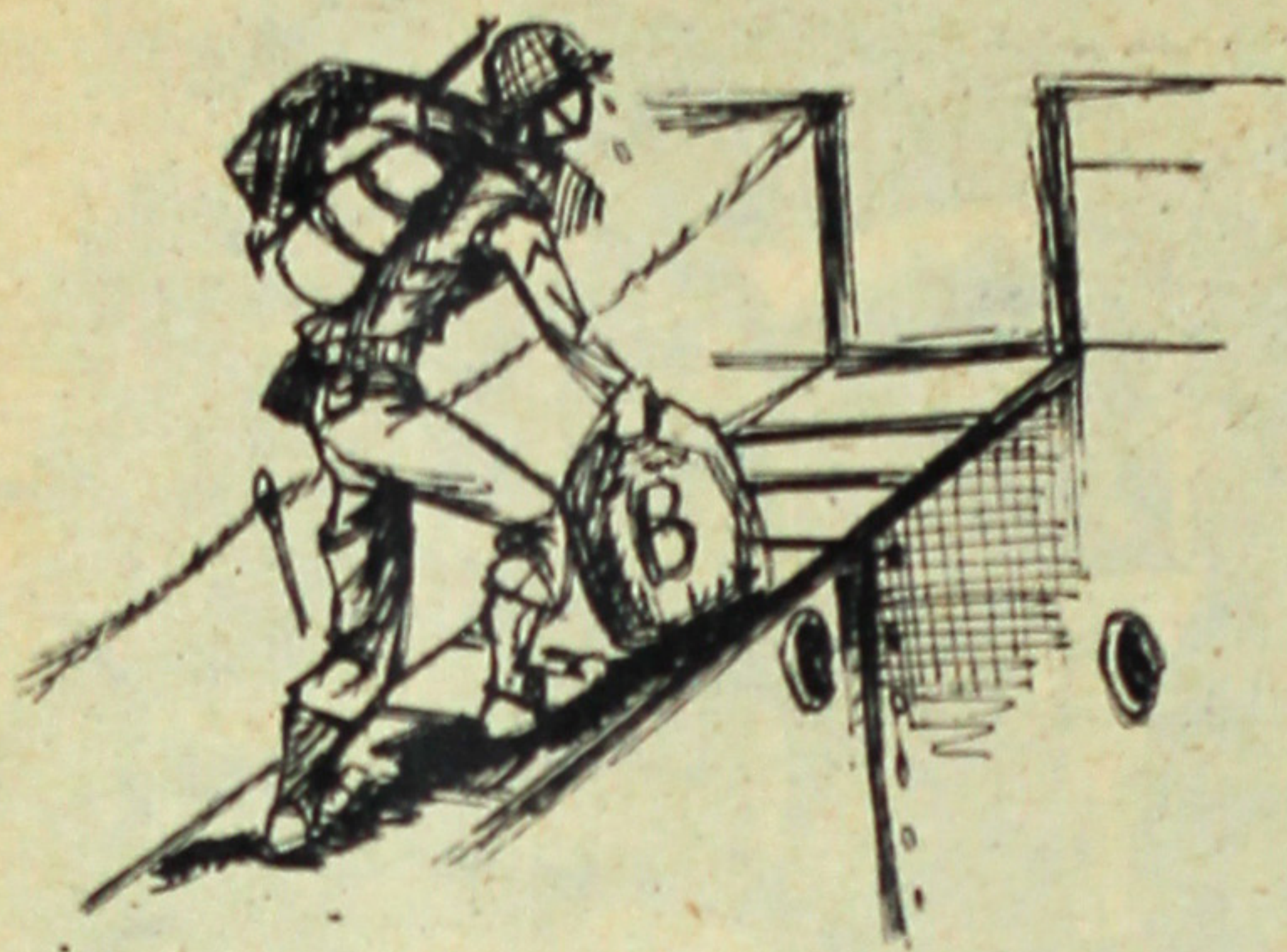


"Realism was injected into all training."

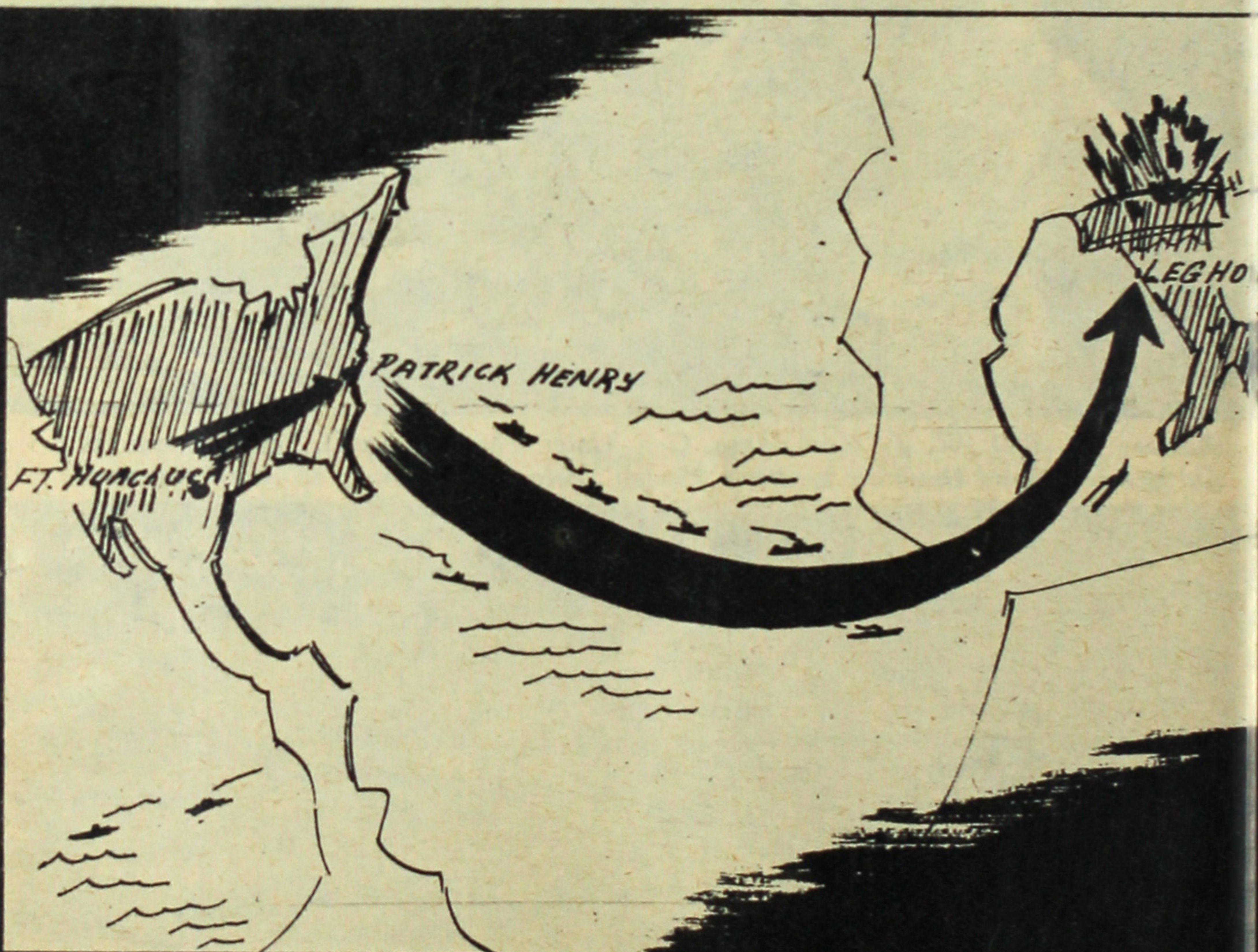


Above: Lt. Col. W. J. MacCaffrey, G-3 (later Chief of Staff), and group of Air Corps officers checking artillery display. Below: Learning to work together.

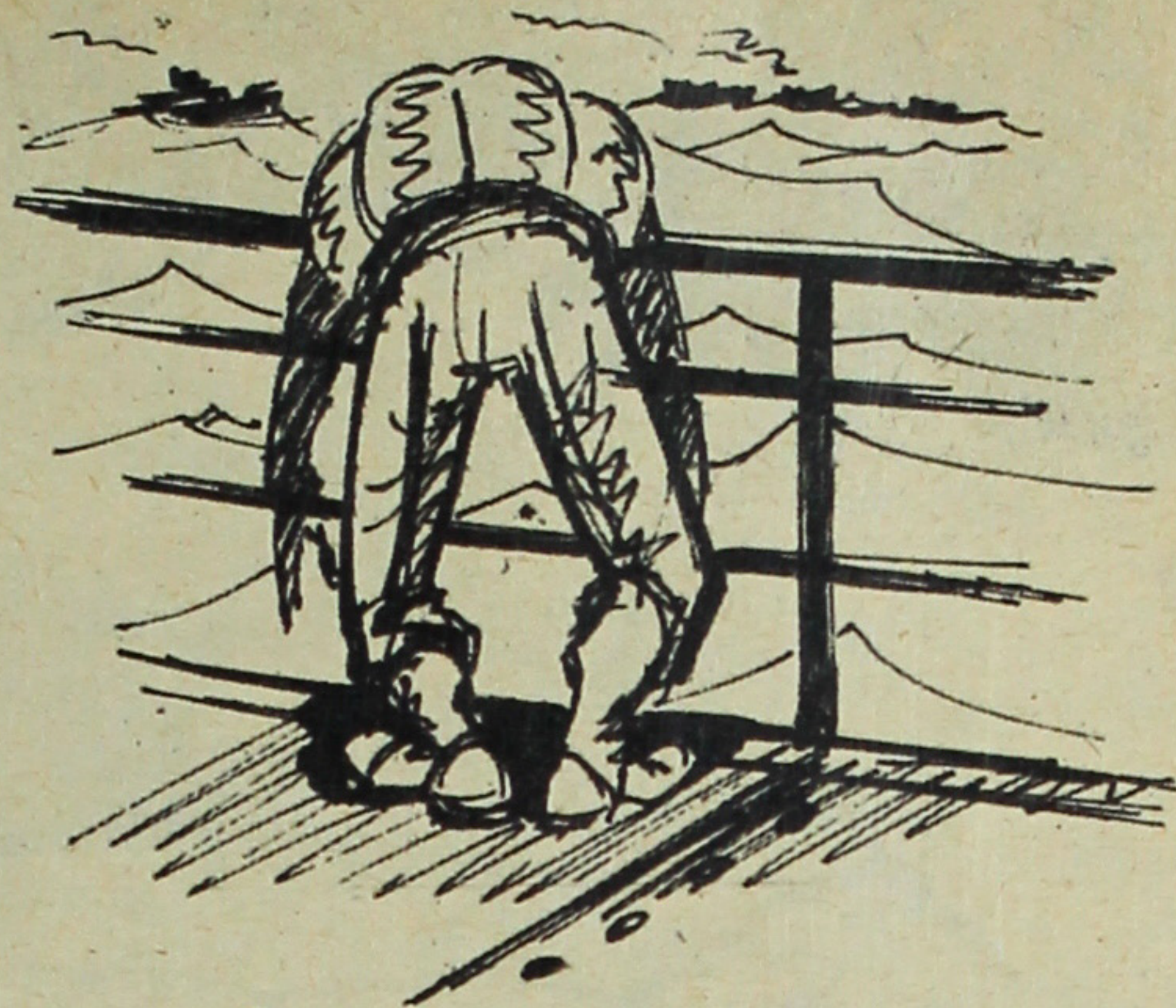




OVER THE



WAVES



G.I. entertainment kept our spirits high.



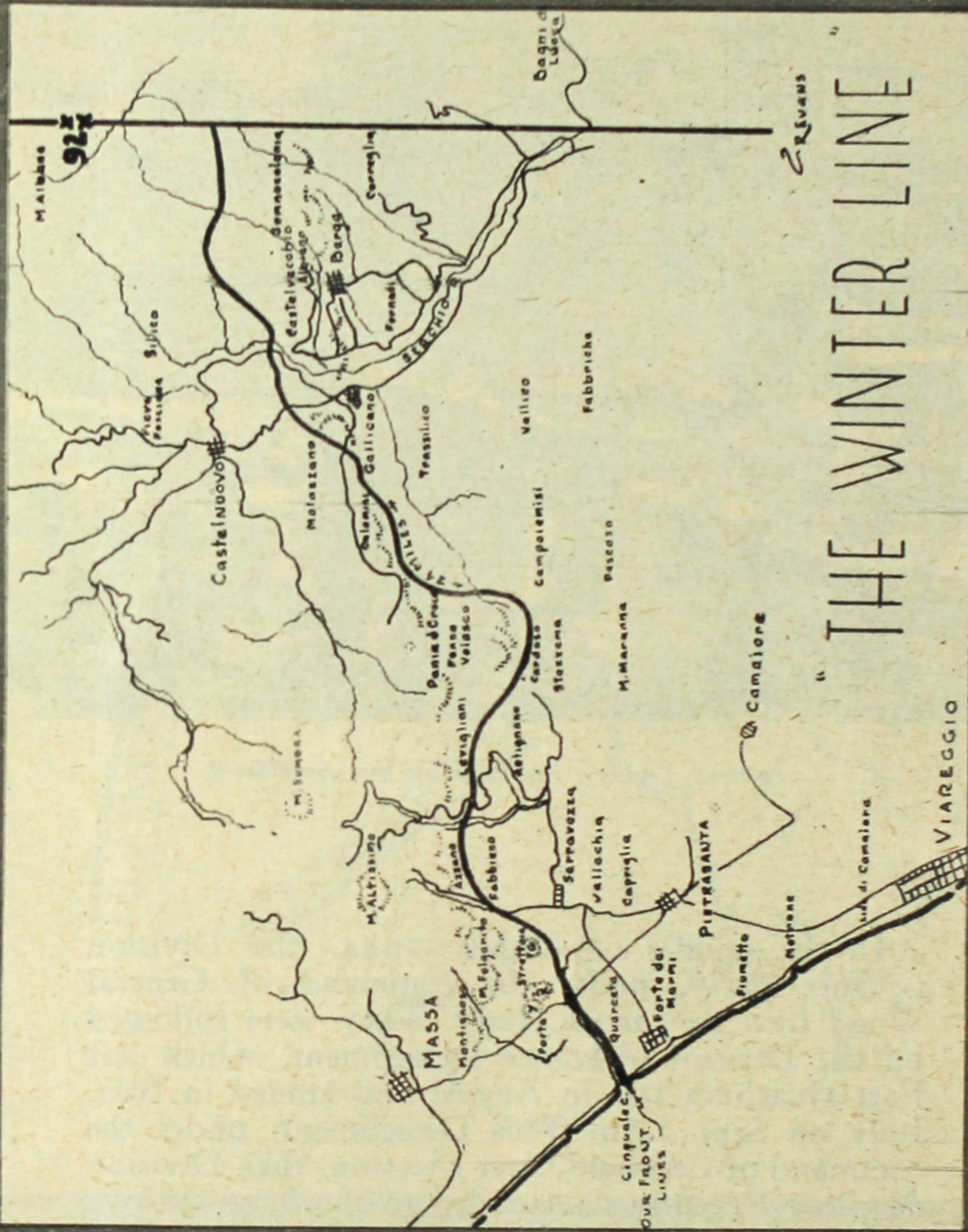


The Stage is Set



Battered Leghorn left us silent and bewildered.

In the middle of August 1944, the Division advance party, under the command of General Wood flew to Caserta, Italy. They were followed by the Division Advance Detachment, which left Fort Huachuca late in August and landed in Bari, Italy on Sept 24th. This Detachment, under the command of Colonel Oliver Marston, then Division Artillery Executive, proceeded to the Staging Area



THE WINTER LINE

927

2 REVENUS

VIAREGGIO

Cinquale
Our Front
Lines

at Leghorn. From there they joined Combat Team 370, which had been attached to the 1st Armored Division (US) under IV Corps on 24 August; and had participated in activities in connection with seizing and crossing the ARNO River, the occupation of LUCCA, MONTECATINI, and SAN MARCELLO, and the penetration of the GOTHIC LINE. Battle indoctrination was gradual and progressive.

Major elements of the Division left Fort Huachuca in successive stages throughout the month of September. When the troops arrived at Leghorn, Italy, they were assembled in a Staging Area, where they prepared themselves for movement into the line.

Major General E.M. Almond assumed command of Task Force 92 on the Ligurian coastal flank of the Fifth Army on 5 October 1944. The Task Force was composed of the 2d Armored Group and CT 370. On this date the initial assignment was announced by IV Corps. The Task Force was ordered to attack to the NW at 0600, 6 October 1944 with initial objectives of Mt Cauala and Mt Castiglione and an ultimate objective of Massa.

The attack jumped off as scheduled and throughout the day slight gains were made in the face of considerable enemy machine gun, mortar, and small arms fire. Rain made the crossing of the Serra River very difficult and further hindered the advance. At 0600 on the 7th the attack was resumed and during the day the first ledge on Mt Cauala was reached,



A popular "Jerry" target with Mountains "Florida and Georgia" looming defiantly in the background.

but under the pressure of heavy and continuous enemy artillery fire, the troops were forced to withdraw. On the 8th and 9th slight gains were again made. A number of sharp jabs into enemy defensive positions were made during the next few days.

On the 19th, the 370th Infantry was ordered to reinforce its hold on Mt Castiglione and Mt Cauala. Early on the morning of the 22d the southern slopes of the Strettoia hill mass were occupied.

Later the troops were forced to withdraw because of the difficulties of supply and reinforcements. The latter part of October was characterized by aggressive patrolling. On 31 October the first elements of the 371st Infantry went into the line. The entire regiment was attached to TF 92 by 4 November and reliefs of battalions of the 370th Infantry were begun. The 370th Infantry then began to move into position in the Serchio Valley sector.

By an order of IV Corps on the 4th of November, Task Force 92 ceased to exist and the Division,

La Spezia — a future objective.

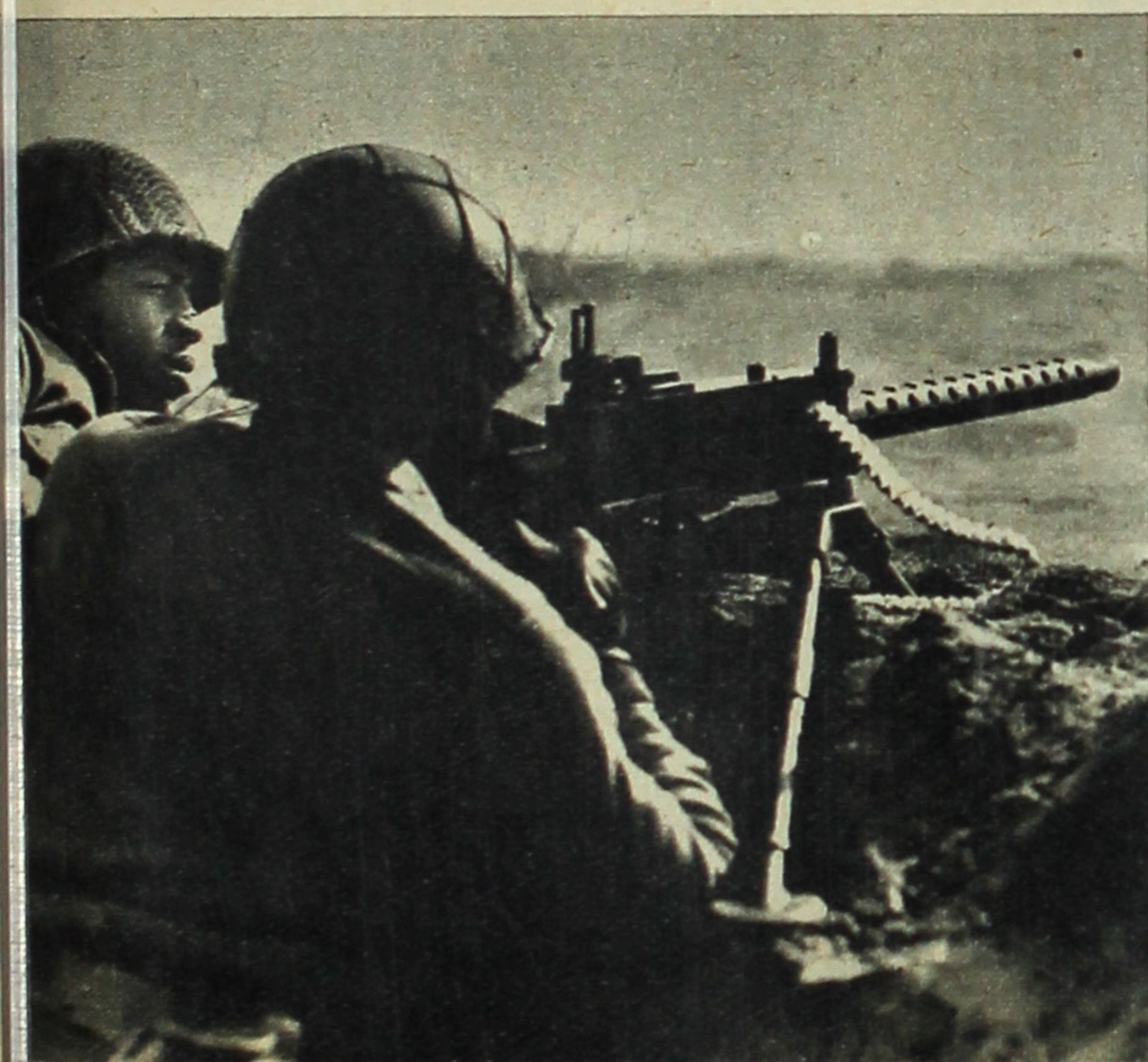




with attachments, began combat operations as the "92d Infantry Division." On this date also, the 370th took command of the Serchio Valley Sector. The Division frontage now ran from the Tyrrhenian Sea east some 35 kilometers. On 10 November the 365th Infantry Regiment was attached to the Division. The original three-regiment combination was complete.



The principal combat activity during the month of November was patrolling in force. The terrain was difficult, the weather was not always favorable and the enemy was entrenched in well-prepared positions. Sharp firefights and patrol clashes were numerous. The Division was fulfilling its mission: "To continue offensive pressure to secure Massa." The 370th Infantry launched an attack on the





16th of November. Advances of up to three and four miles were made. Platoon and company attacks and strong patrolling by the 371st Infantry and 365th Infantry in the strongly held coastal line South of Massa gave them their battle indoctrination.

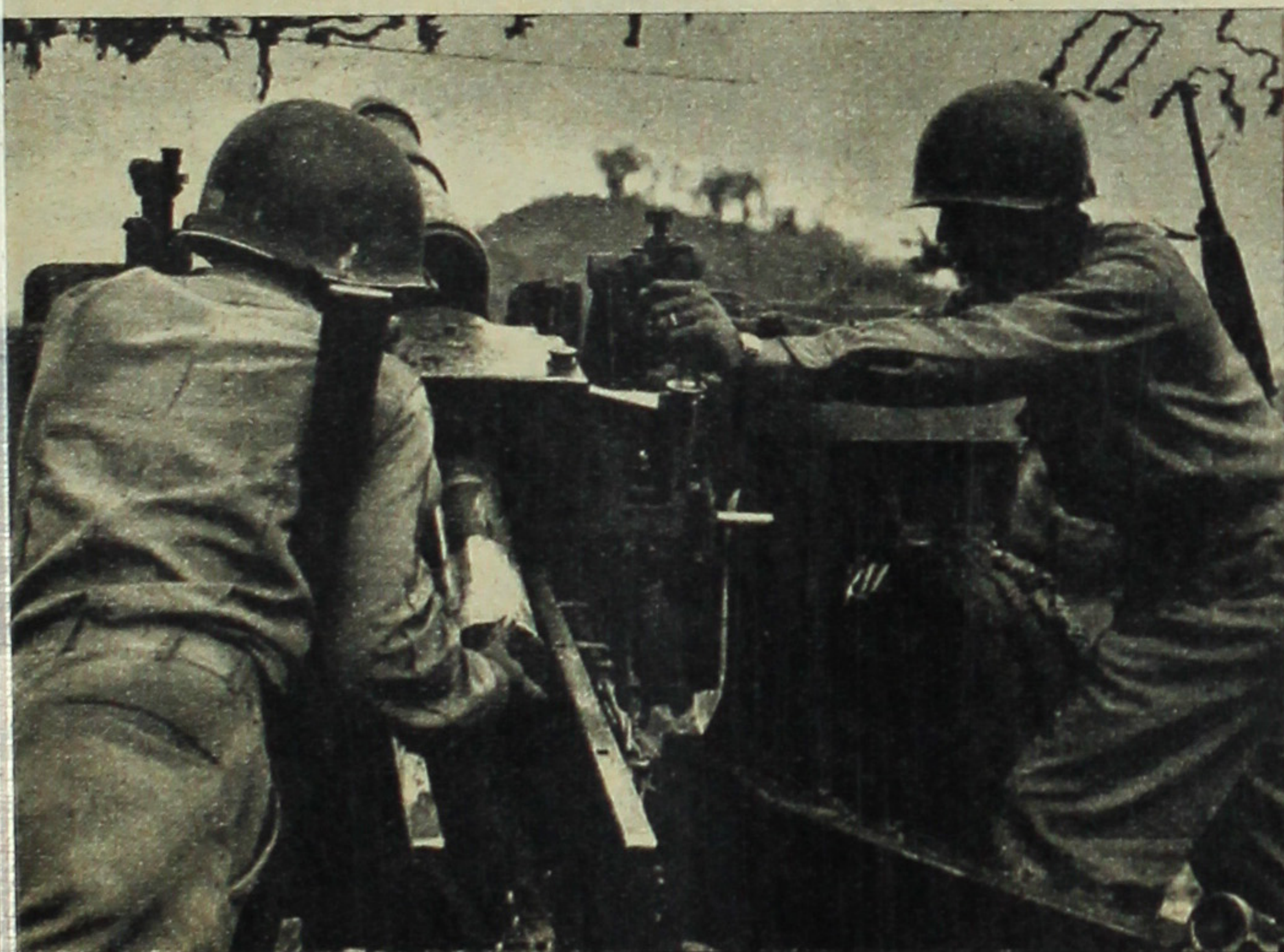
The last month of 1944 saw the inauguration by the division of its "Infantry Weapons Shoots," to harass the enemy. Originally the weapons employed were anti-tank guns and 50 caliber machine guns.



Later, as coordinated schedules were worked out, Bofors joined the weapons employed. Night after night throughout the winter months the skies were filled with the blazing streaks of tracer ammunition that gave the front the appearance of a county fair on the Fourth of July.

On 4 December the 365th Infantry Regiment was relieved from the 92d Division and was attached to the 88th Infantry Division south of Bologna near SAVAZZA. The 366th Infantry, a separate regiment, was attached and joined the 92d Division on 28 November. In the meantime, the 370th and 371st Regiments carried on routine relief, patrolling and nightly infantry weapons shoots.

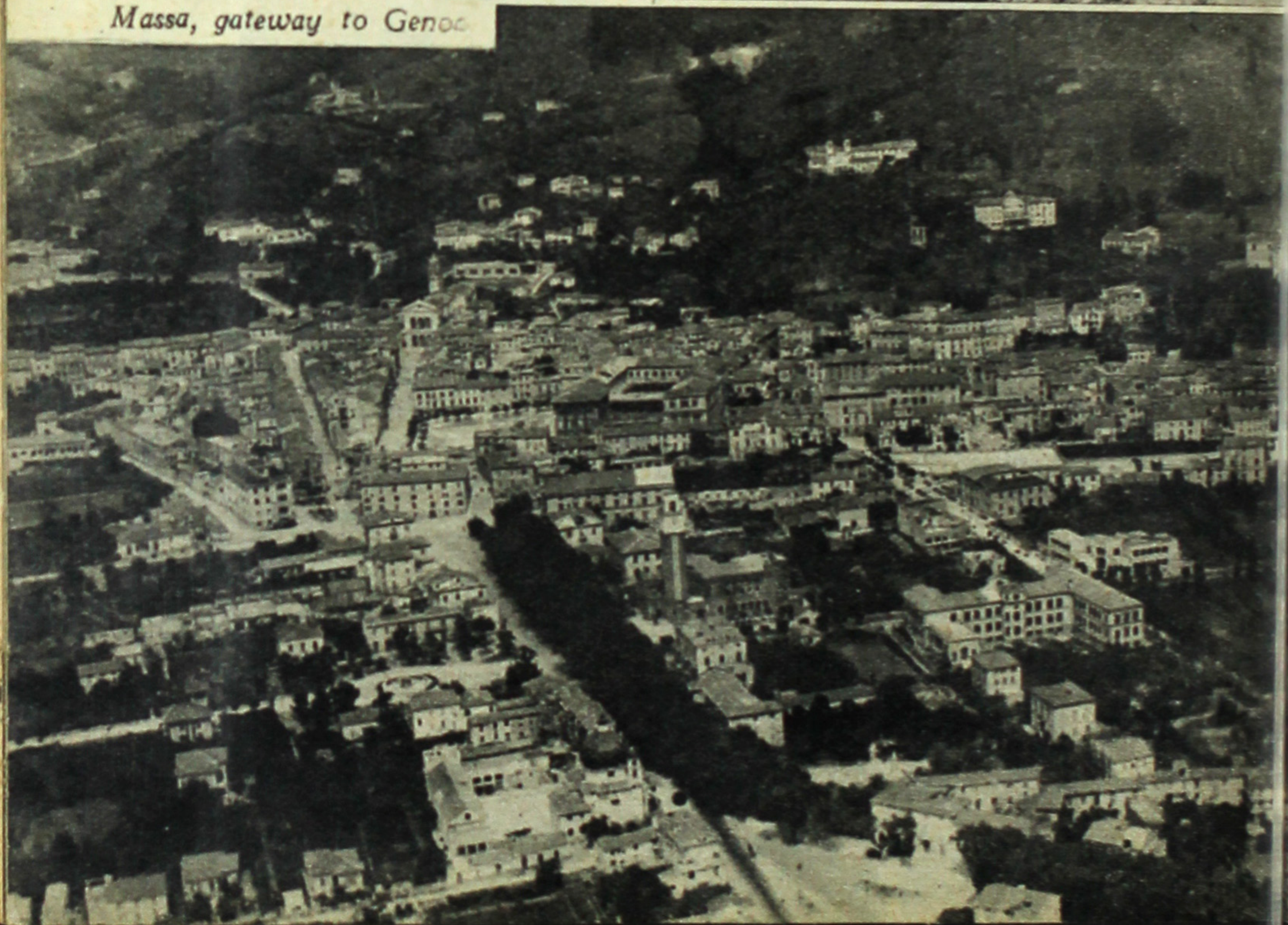
Just before dawn on the morning of the 26th of December, the enemy launched an offensive in



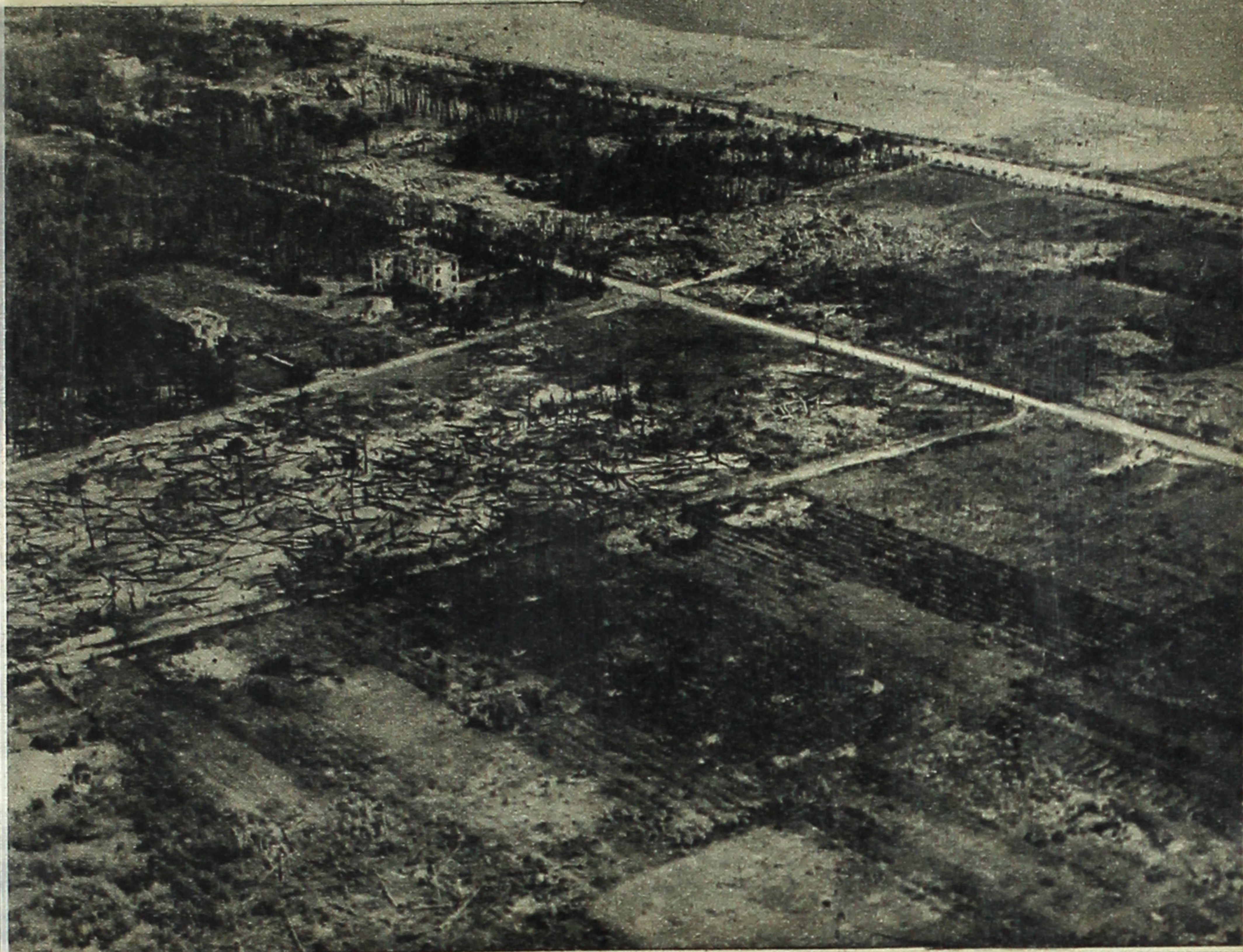
*Mute testimony of our fire
power on the other side of
the Cinquale Canal.*



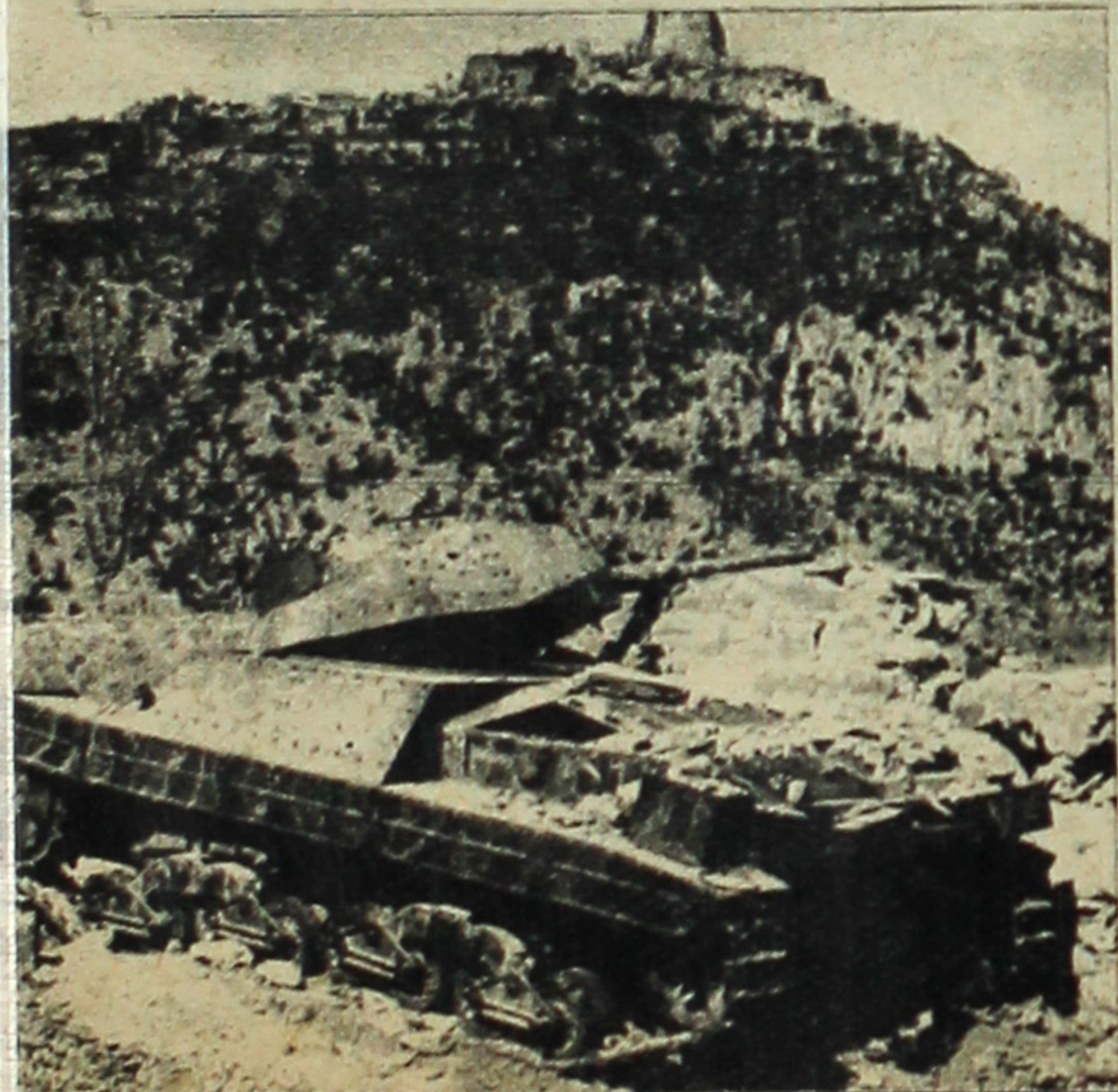
Massa, gateway to Genoa



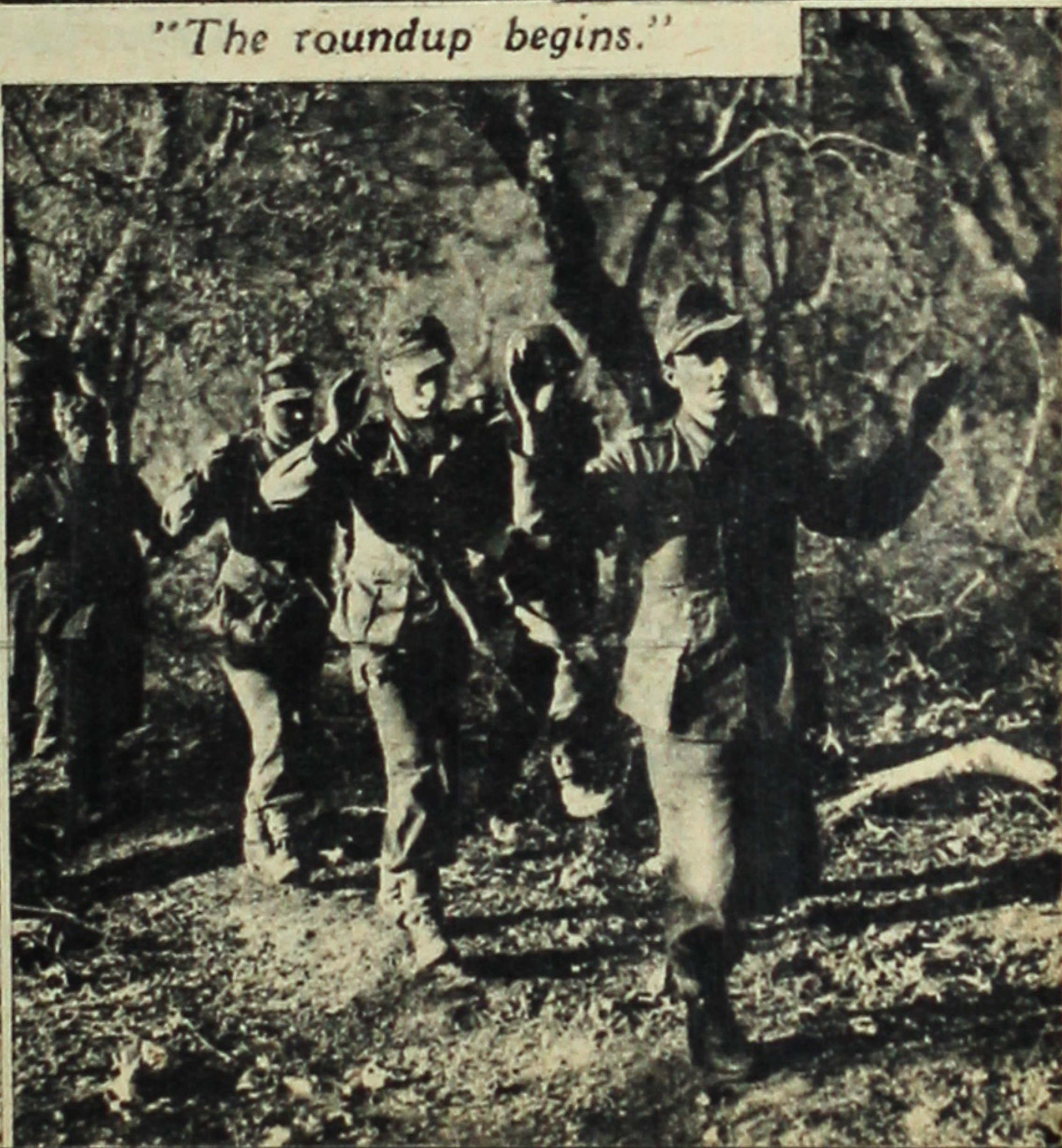
Looking south from the Cinquale Canal.



A one-time Jerry bottleneck towards our advance up Highway 1. Runyon Castle in background... popular artillery basepoint.



"The roundup begins."





Across the Cinquale.

the Serchio Valley Sector. His artillery, which had been quiet for some days, suddenly boomed forth and increased in tempo as the attack progressed. The enemy penetrated some six miles in the Division sector and occupied the towns of BEBBIO, SOMMOCOLONIA and BARGA, but the attack died a natural death and by the morning of the 28th the threat appeared to be over. This attack, coming on the heels of the enemy's unsuccessful



"We lost a few to

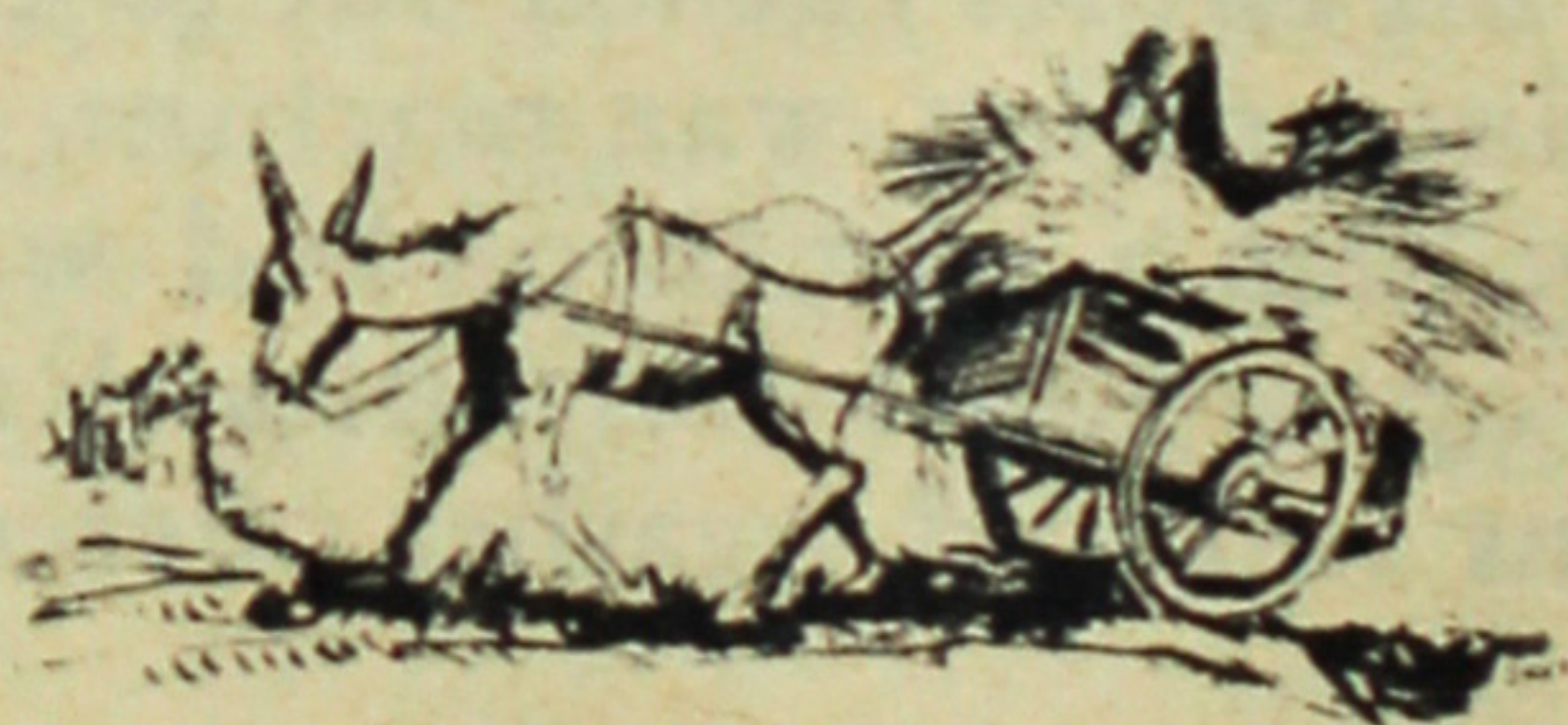
Ardennes offensive, created a tense situation throughout the Italian front and particularly in the 92d Division Sector. The enemy had picked a propitious moment and had caused some excitement, but again his efforts turned out to be a frantic gesture by a disintegrating war machine.

January 1945 was a month of bad weather and of diminished operational activities. Rain, mud, rugged mountains and cold weather offered as much,



if not more, discomfort as the German and Italian troops that faced the Division. To help with the battle of supply the 92d Division Mule Pack Battalion was activated on 1 January and thereafter this unit did yeoman's service in keeping front line units supplied with necessities. Active patrolling continued and the troops built shelters and worked on the improvement of their positions. The enemy, while sensitive to combat patrols and raiding parties, showed no tendency towards aggressiveness. In the air, our fighter-bombers continued to fly mission after mission against enemy positions and installations in front of the Division sector.

February brought with it plans for an all-out offensive. The first phase was to be a diversionary attack in the now famous Serchio Valley sector. The main effort of the attack was to be made along the coastal flank where the enemy was strongly entrenched in well-fortified positions. The plan was to drive the enemy from these positions, and if the outer defenses were penetrated, to secure the approaches to Massa. The Division was reinforced by tanks, air, artillery and engineers.





The initial attack in the Serchio went off on schedule when the 365th Infantry advanced 2000 yards to take the Mt Della Stella - Lama Di Sotto Ridge on the 5th of February. The attack was continued on the 6th when the 365th advanced another 1000 yards to secure the key terrain feature of Lama Di Sotto, where excellent observation of Castelnuovo was afforded.

On the 8th of February at 0600, the main attack started in the coastal sector. The 370th and 371st Infantry Regiments and the 3d Battalion of



the 366th Infantry, reinforced, made up the attacking force. Gains up to 1200 yards were made east of Highway No. 1 on the first day. Along the coast a crossing of the Cinquale Canal was made with both armor and infantry. The attack continued through the 9th and 10th; but the enemy committed local reserves, counterattacked frequently and fired heavy artillery and mortar concentrations so that the attacking troops were forced to retire to defensive positions.

The remainder of the month of February was relatively quiet. Both sides improved their positions and patrolling highlighted 92d Division activities. General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, United States Army visited the Division Command Post and toured the front line units on 14 February 1945. He was accompanied by General Mark Clark and other high ranking officers of the Italian Theater.

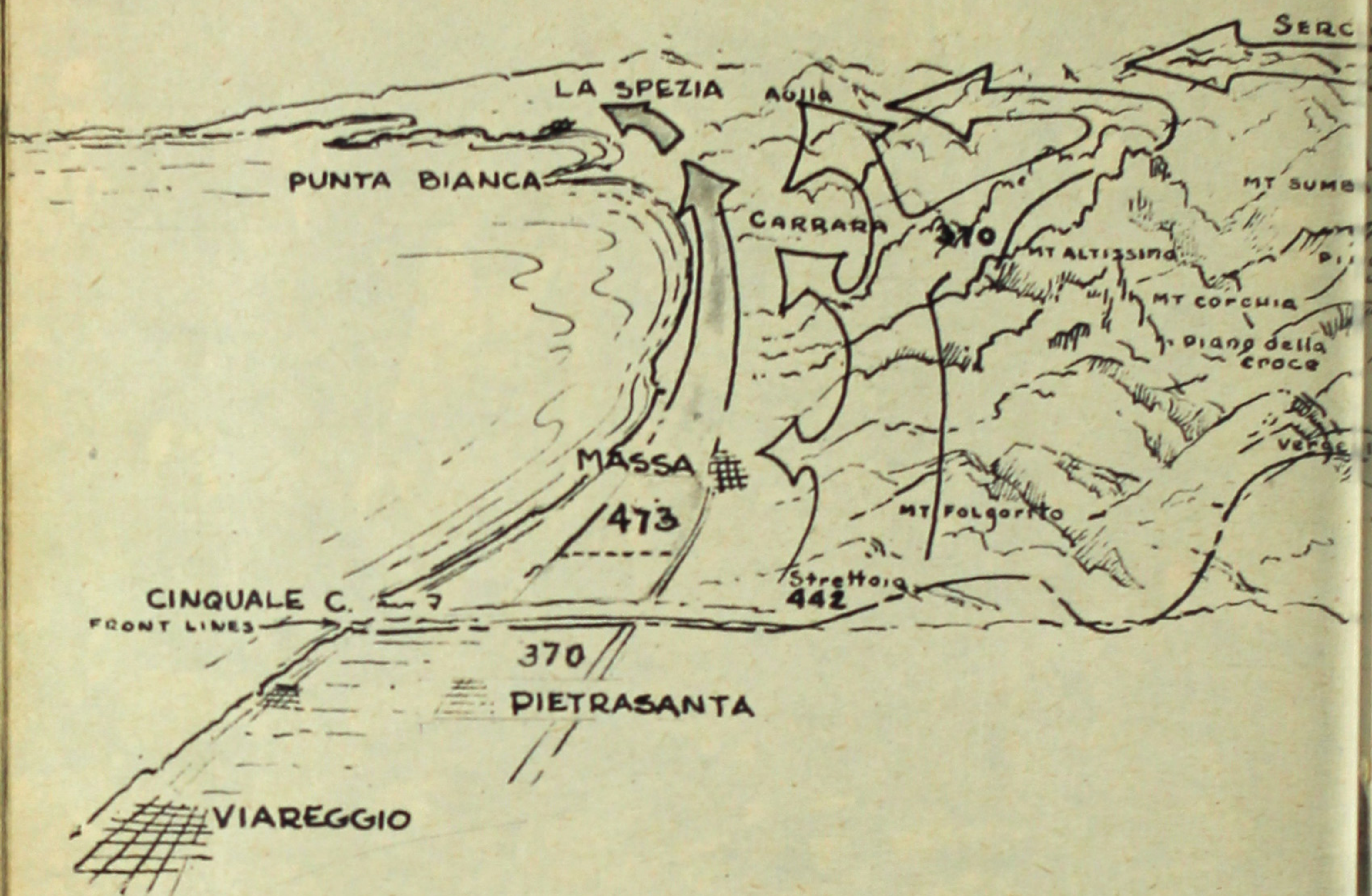
March brought warmer weather, a hint of spring, and the feeling that an all-out spring offensive was not far distant. Throughout the month aggressive patrolling continued. Training took on new intensity as units regrouped and retrained.

Behind the enemy lines considerable movement gave indication that the enemy was readjusting his forces too. But the overall quality of Kesselring's forces had not greatly deteriorated and many of his most formidable units were still intact.

Both sides were preparing themselves for the clash which was to come and which everyone knew would decide the fate of the Nazis in Italy.

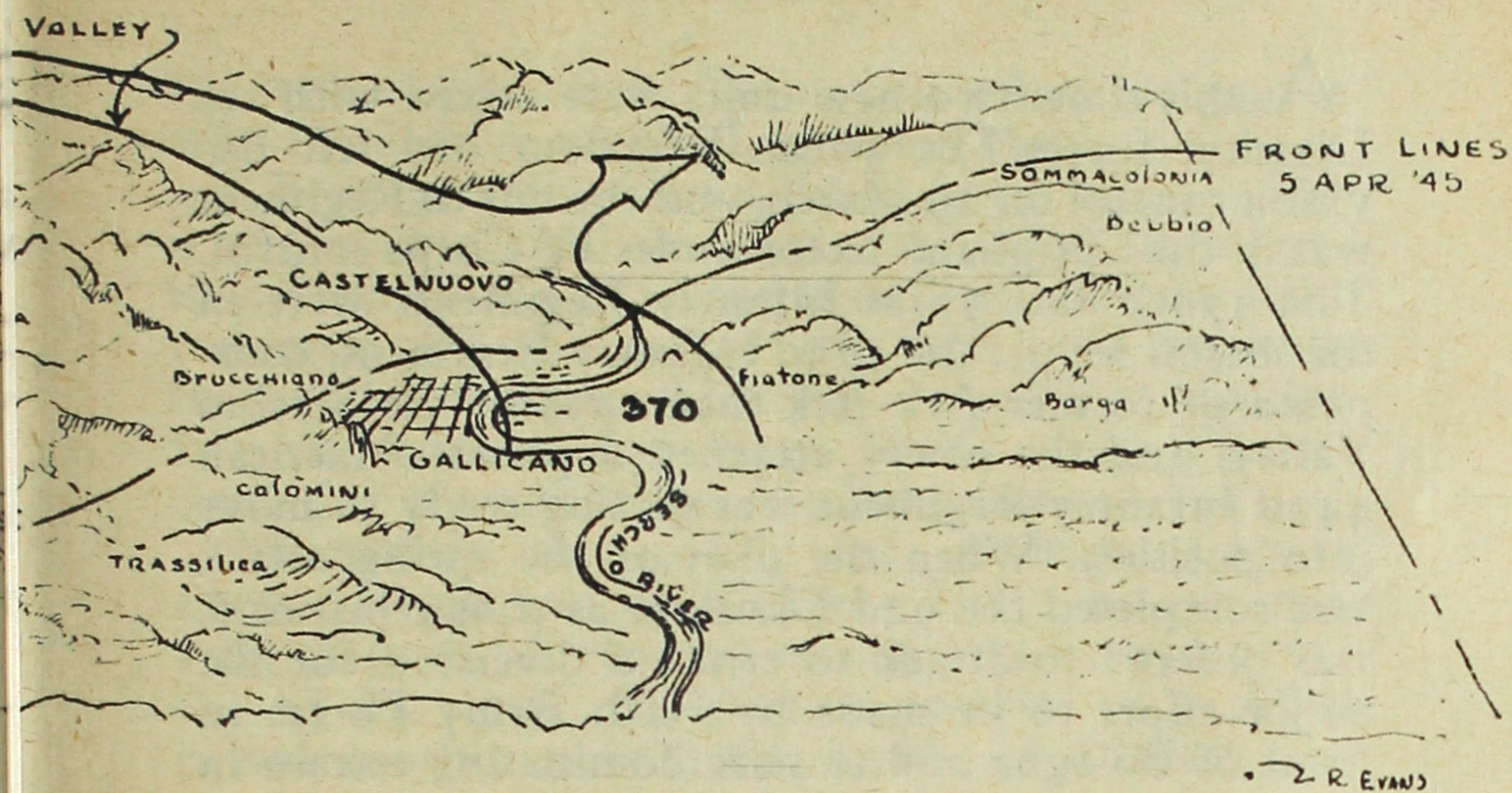


"Stars fell on Viareggio headquarters." Left to right: Major General A. M. Gunenther, Chief of Staff Fifteenth Army Group; General Mark Clark, Fifteenth Army Group Commanding General; General of the Armies George C. Marshall; Lieutenant General Lucien K. Truscott, Commanding General Fifth Army; Major General E. M. Almond, 92d Division Commanding General; Lieutenant General Joseph T. McNarney, Commanding General MTO and Lieutenant General W. D. Crittenger, Fourth Corps Commander.



Onward to Genoa

In April the once mighty German blows from the Allied Armies. n crumbling remains of the Wehrn ch steadily. It was clear, however, na lished the German armies in Italy us

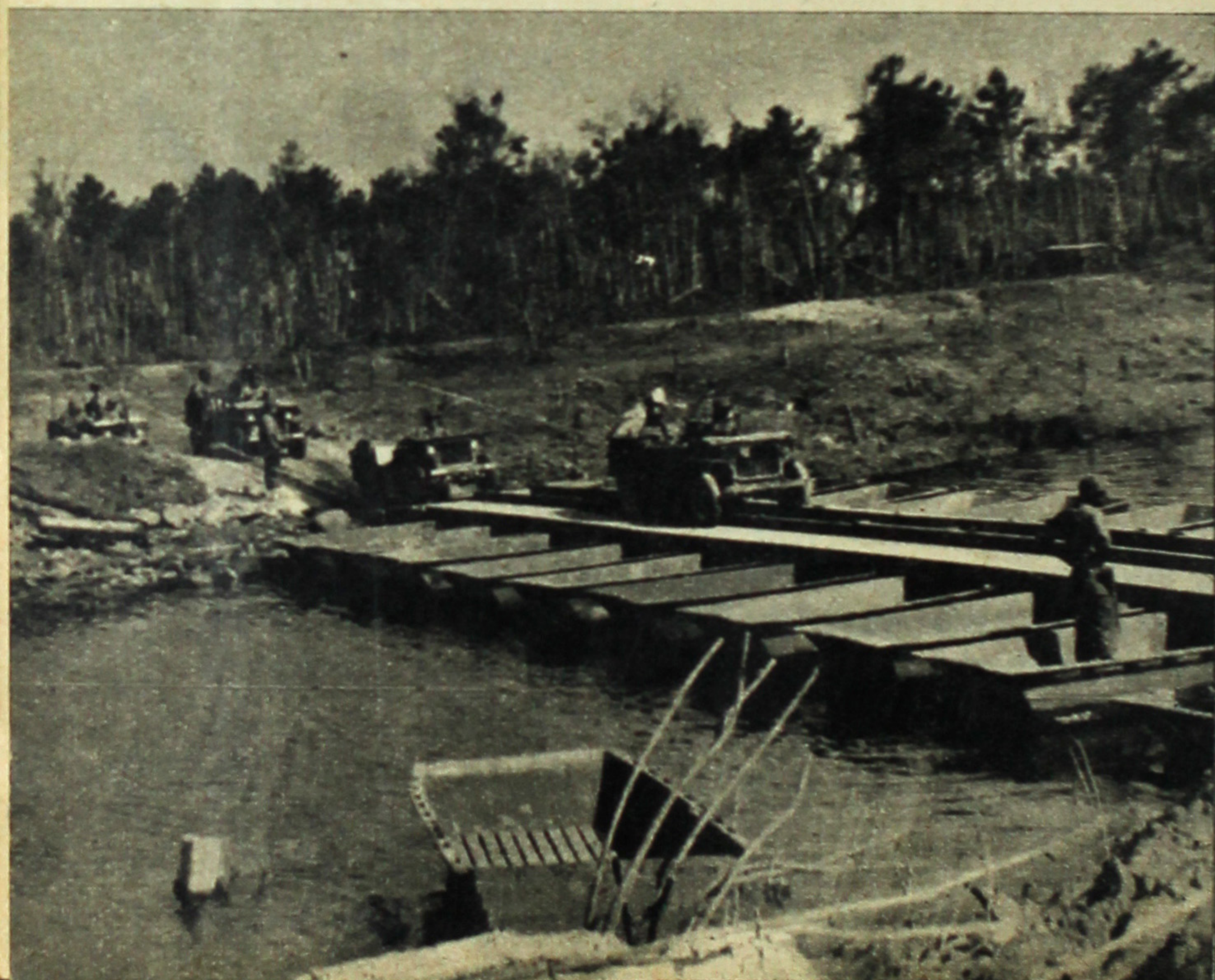


THE ATTACK!

war machine in Europe was reeling under the heavy
the east, the Russian armies were pounding away at the
out. In the west, British-American armies were advancing
t before the utter defeat of Germany could be accomp-
st be driven out of their mountain strongholds.

At this time, two new units were mixed with the Division forces. The 366th Regiment had left Division control on 29 March, and the 365th Regiment was in the Cutigliano sector under IV Corps control. The 370th and 371st Infantry Regiments were in the coastal sector; the 473d Infantry Regiment, composed of former Ack-Ack men, was in the Serchio Valley, and the newly attached Japanese-American 442d Infantry Regiment was getting ready to move into position. When the plan of the spring attack was completed the 92d Division, as thus reinforced, was ordered to attack to create a diversion for the major effort to be made by Fifth Army Forces in front of Bologna and to seize dominating terrain in

At Last!

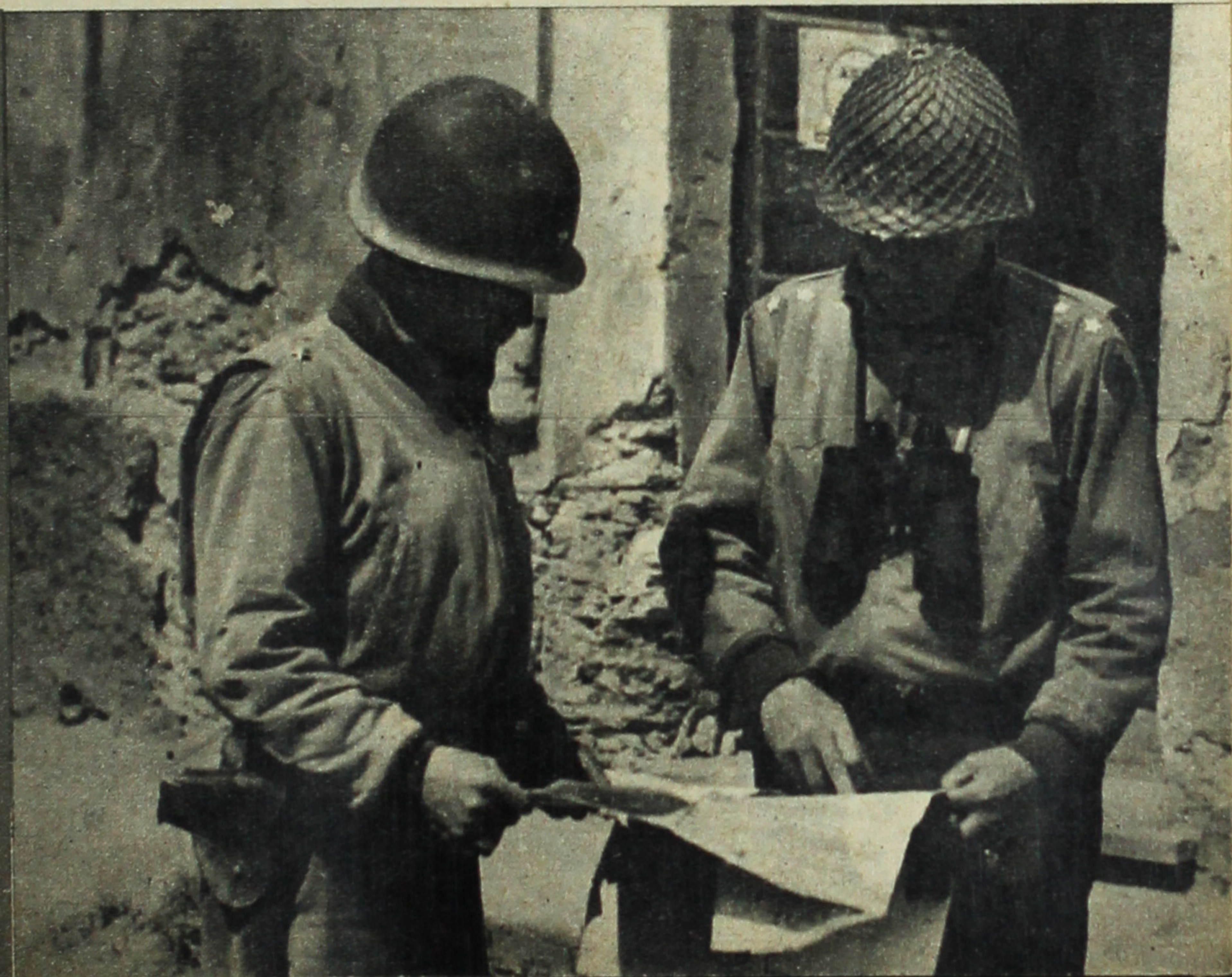


the west anchor of the Gothic Line, thus paving the way for a drive up the Ligurian Coast.

The stage was well set on 5 April 1945, when a ten minute artillery barrage heralded the offensive. Initially the attacking troops encountered light resistance. By the end of the first day's fighting, the 442d Infantry, which had moved into the line two days before, had taken Mt Carchio. The second day they occupied Mt Belvedere.

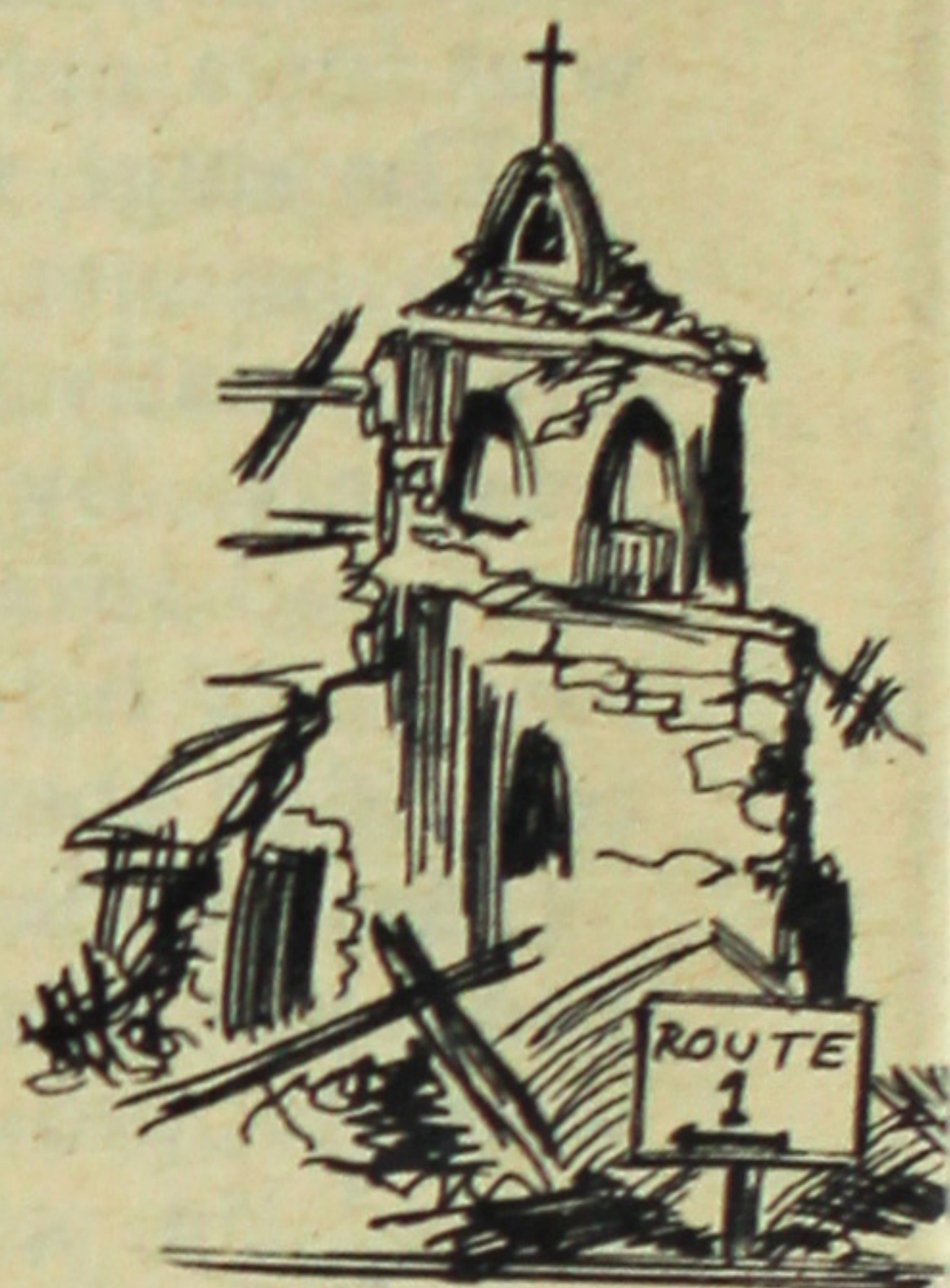
Meanwhile the 370th Inf made gains up to 1000 yds just east of Highway No. 1 before they were stopped. A renewal of the attack, employing the 2d Bn, 473d, the division reserve, on 7 April netted another 2000 yards in face of artillery fire.

Division Commander orients Assistant Division Commander as attack progresses.



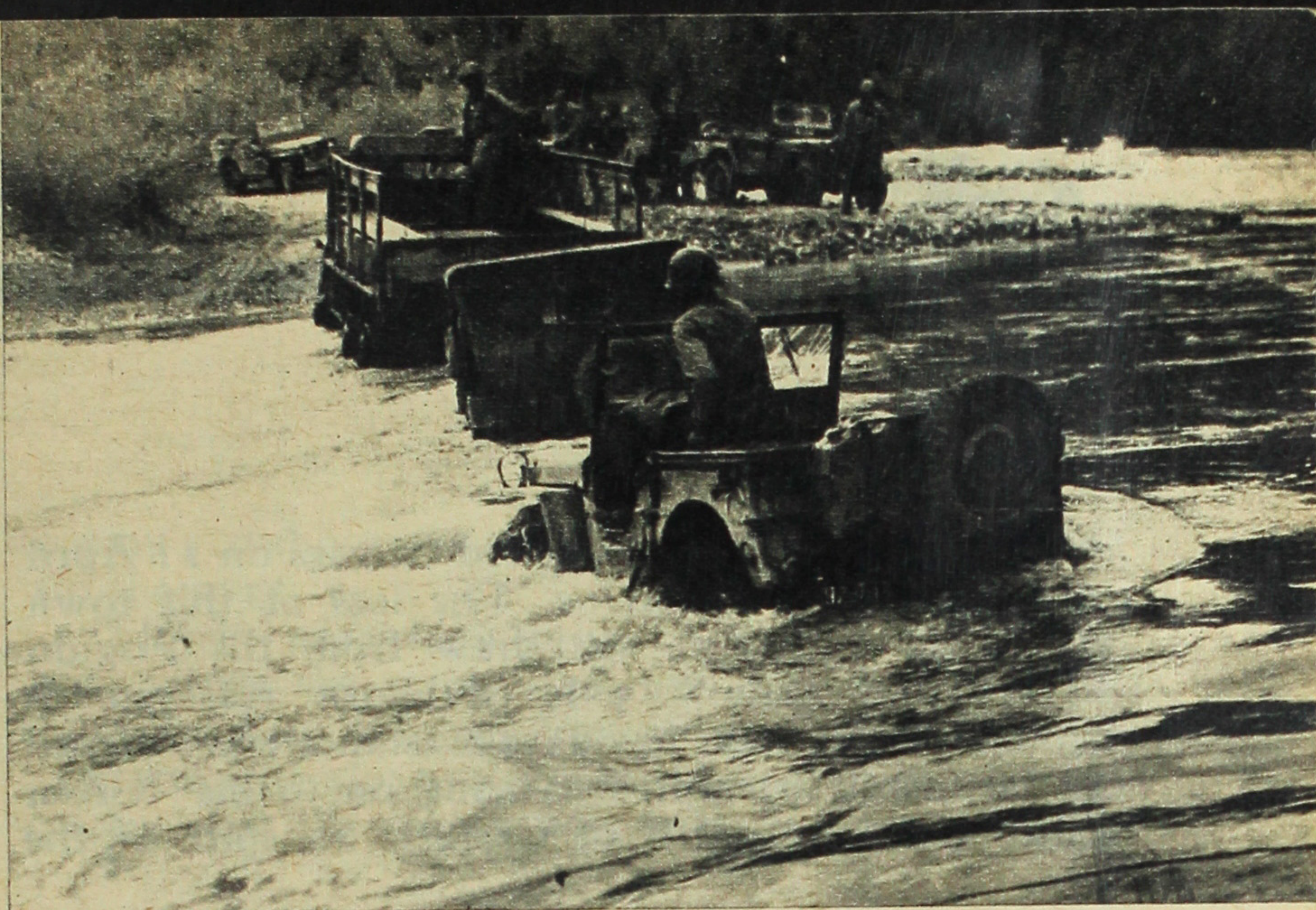
On the 8th of April units were reshuffled and the 370th Infantry took over the Serchio sector while the 473d Infantry passed through the 370th Infantry and took command of the coastal sector. The 371st Infantry was detached from the division and was attached to IV Corps.

As the pressure of the attack continued, resistance south of the Frigido River gradually decreased. By the evening of the 9th, elements of the division were on the out-



Keep those hands up - Kraut!





Jeeps become amphibious in Serchio.



skirts of Massa against strong resistance. Other units of the division were securing the high ground north and east of Massa. The town fell on 10 April, when Mt Brugiana was occupied by the 442d Infantry.

With the fall of Massa, the enemy became badly disorganized, but he still was able to offer stiff resistance. The coastal area west of Massa was cleared with a tank-infantry task force and the drive up the coast continued.



Elements of 442d Inf entered Carrara on 11 April with the aid of Partisans. The loss of this town caused the enemy to withdraw from the Frigido River Line, leaving only stubborn rear guards behind. For the next few days resistance was stiffened as the enemy attempted to hang on to his "Green Line" defenses, north of Carrara. In spite of the

No words could describe this.





enemy's stubbornness, gradual advances were made up the coast.

Things were happening in the Serchio Sector too, where the 370th Infantry was fighting over now familiar ground. Patrols continued to make contacts with the enemy. On the 17th it became apparent that the enemy was preparing to withdraw

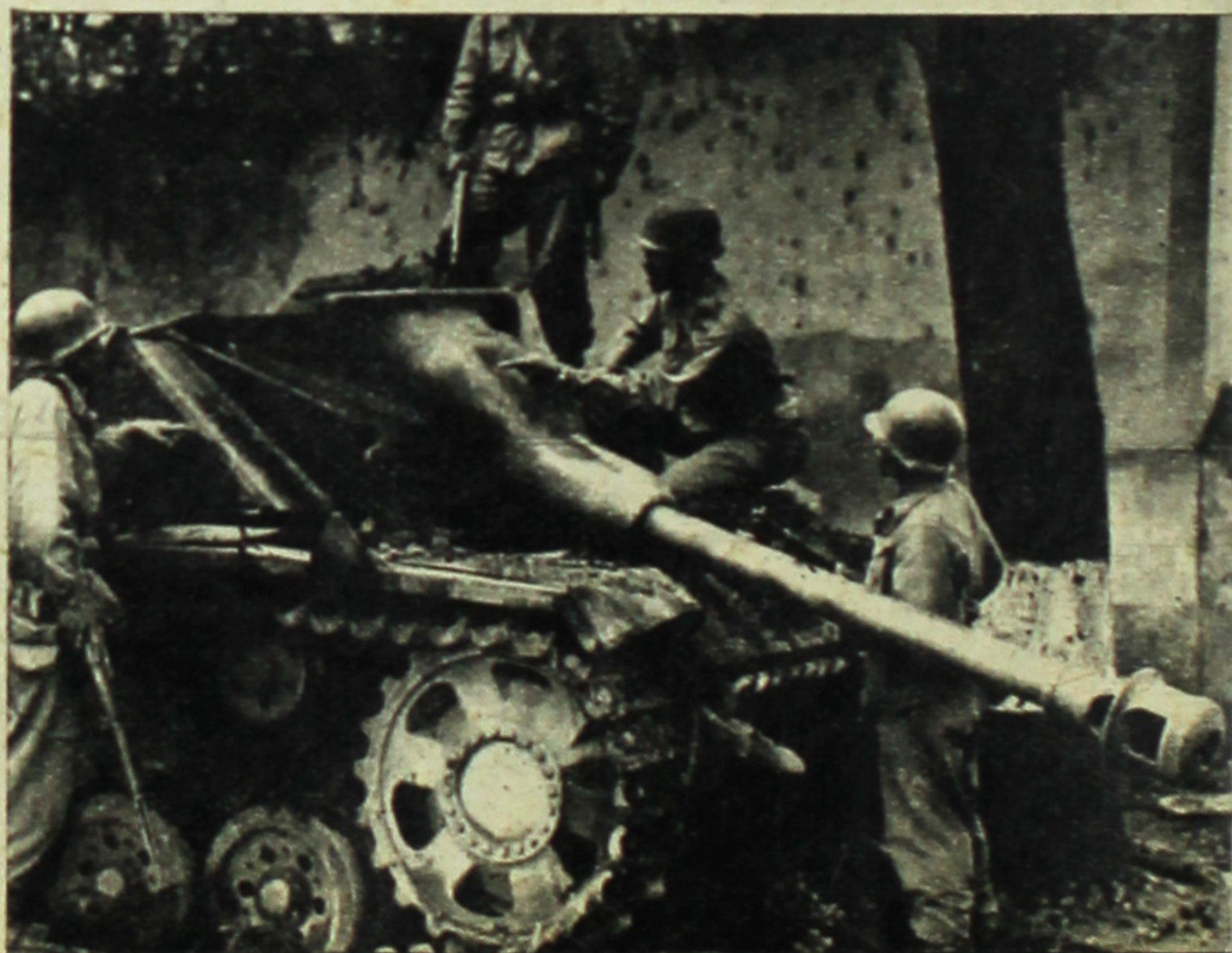
"C" Company, 370th Infantry remembers this one.





They were here... we were there...near the Cinquale Canal.

and that these patrol contacts were being made with a rear guard shell only. On the 18th, combat patrols from the 370th Infantry moved out and occupied former enemy strongpoints in the Serchio sector. The withdrawal had begun and on the 20th, Castelnuovo di Garfagnana was taken and the mad rush began. By the 22d elements of the 370th Infantry had reached Piazza Al Serchio and were ready to push to Aulla or up Highway 63 towards Cerreta Pass.



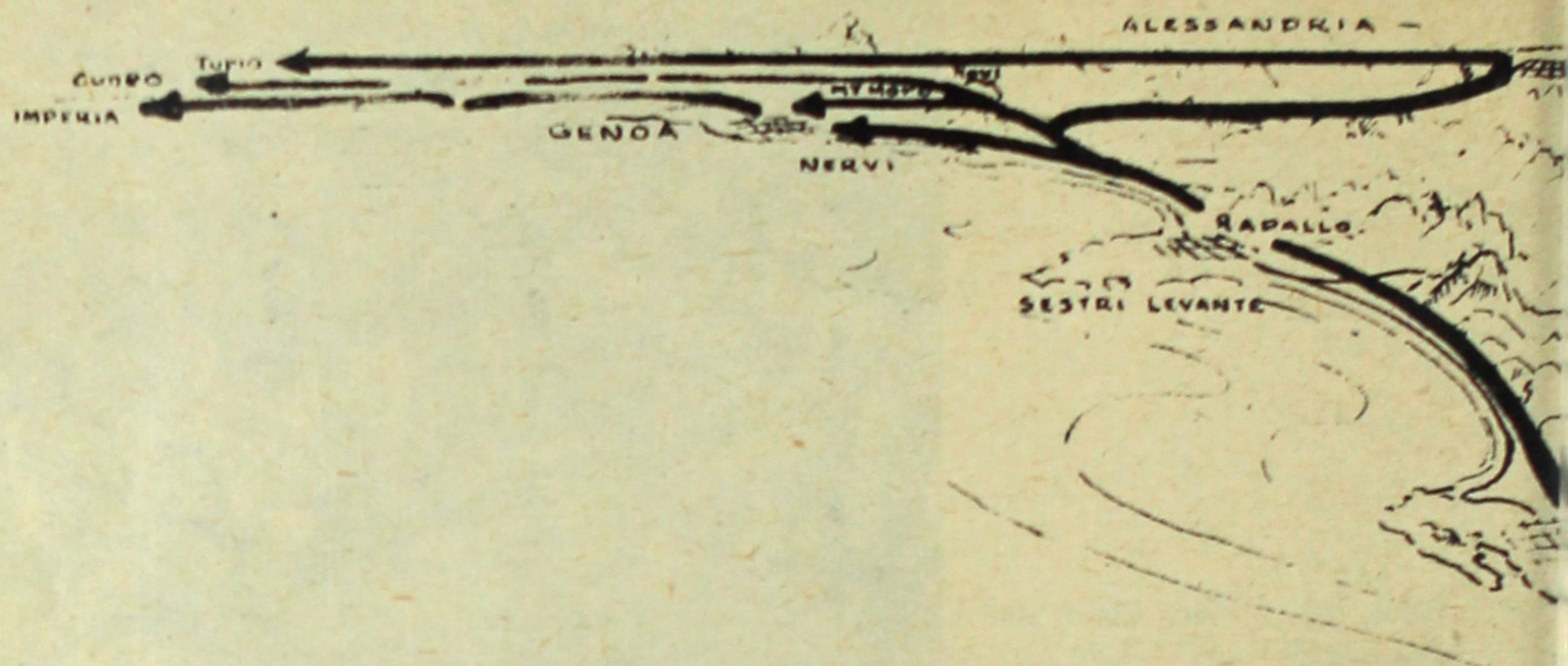
Looking over our handiwork

...and the Jerrys rolled in.

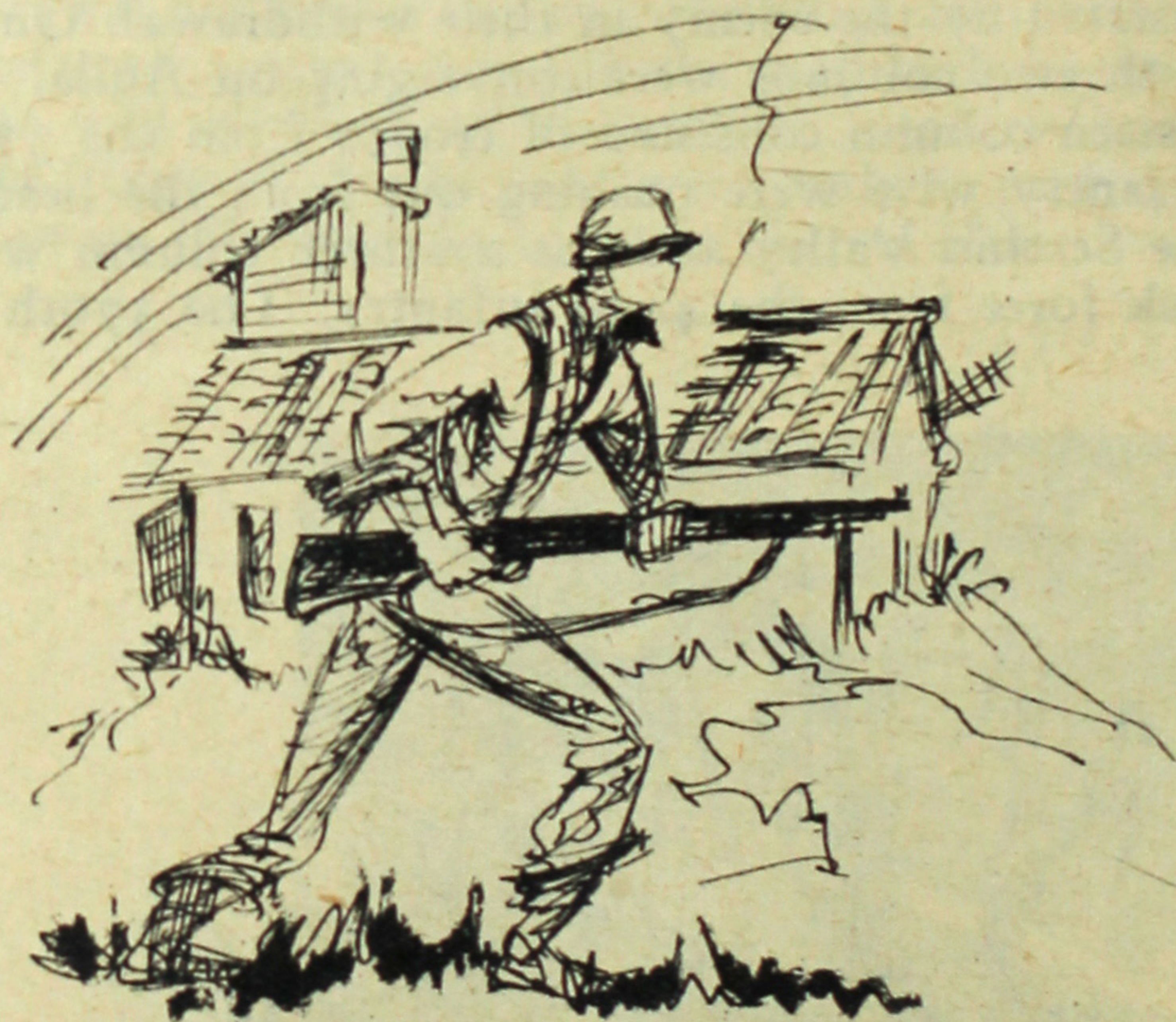


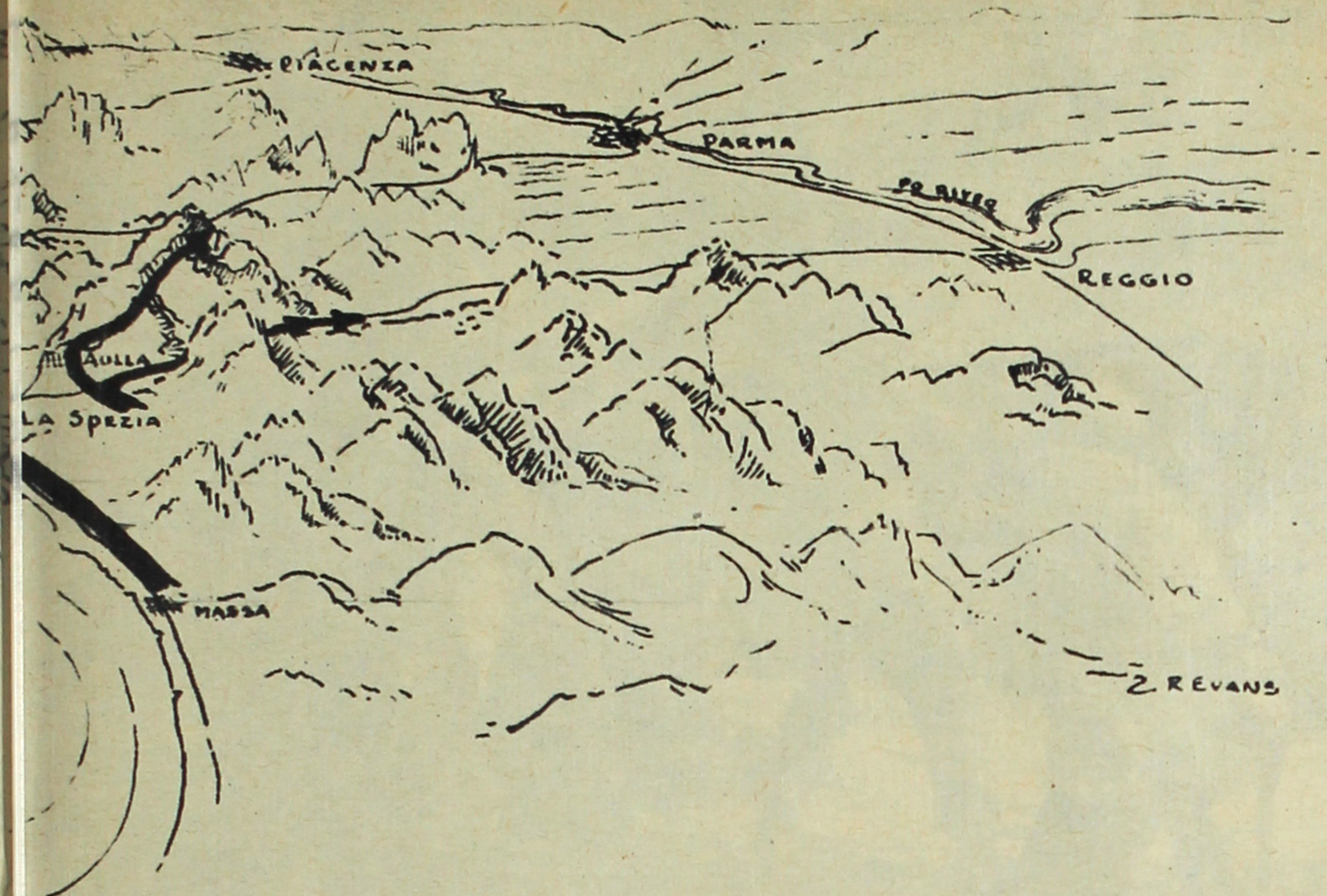
In the coastal sector the push continued steadily and by evening of the 23d, Sarzana was occupied. The coast defensive guns on Punta Bianca had been deserted by the enemy in their withdrawal. On the 24th two columns were converging on Aulla. The eastern column consisted of troops from the 370th Infantry who were pushing out from the head of the Serchio Valley and the southern column was a task force from the 442d Infantry. The 370th In-





THE PURSUIT







fantry had by-passed Aulla in the afternoon and by nightfall its occupation was imminent.

During this time two task forces from the 92d Reconnaissance Troop had entered La Spezia and found it clear of enemy. One task force promptly set out in pursuit of the enemy up Highway No. 1 and made contact with a stubborn rear guard a few miles outside of town.

Plans were made immediately for the seizure of Genoa and a rapid pursuit of the enemy. The 370th Combat Team was to pursue the enemy north of Highways 62 and 63 to the general line of the Cisa-Cerreta Passes; and the 473d Infantry was to ad-

vance on Hwy No. 1 behind a reconnaissance screen to seize Genoa. The Division reserve, 442d Inf, was to advance on an inland route, prepared to support the coastal combat team by land or by sea.

The plan was put into effect immediately and by the 27th, elements of the 370th Inf reached Cisa Pass. Task Force 473 rolled up the coast towards Genoa, being delayed from time to time by demolitions and difficult terrain. They reached Chiavari by the evening of the 25th. Here artillery fire from the enemy's Portofino coast defense guns was encountered. The troops moved through Chiavari on the 26th without enemy opposition. Genoa was





Partisans bring bag of Nazis into Genoa.

entered at 0930 on the morning of the 27th. The German garrison of 4000 men had surrendered to the Partisans the previous day but small pockets of resistance were encountered throughout the city and the next three days were spent in mopping up operations.

Road blocks and road patrols were established throughout the division area. By the 29th of April all organized resistance had collapsed. Strong reconnaissance patrols were sent to Alassio, Savona, Imperia, Alessandria, Novi, Alba, Cuneo and Torino. Events on the rest of the Italian front pointed to the utter defeat of the German forces in Italy within the next few days. This defeat came as expected.



Famous port city of Genoa welcomes its liberators.

Commanding General enters Genoa





In colorful ceremonies in which thousands of troops of allied nations participated and witnessed by thousands of Genoa's citizens, the historic urn containing the ashes of the explorer, Christopher Columbus, was returned from its haven in the hills to a resting place at the municipal building. Major General E. M. Almond, Commanding General 92d Infantry Division, delivered the principal address.

THANKS

TO OUR GALLANT FRIENDS



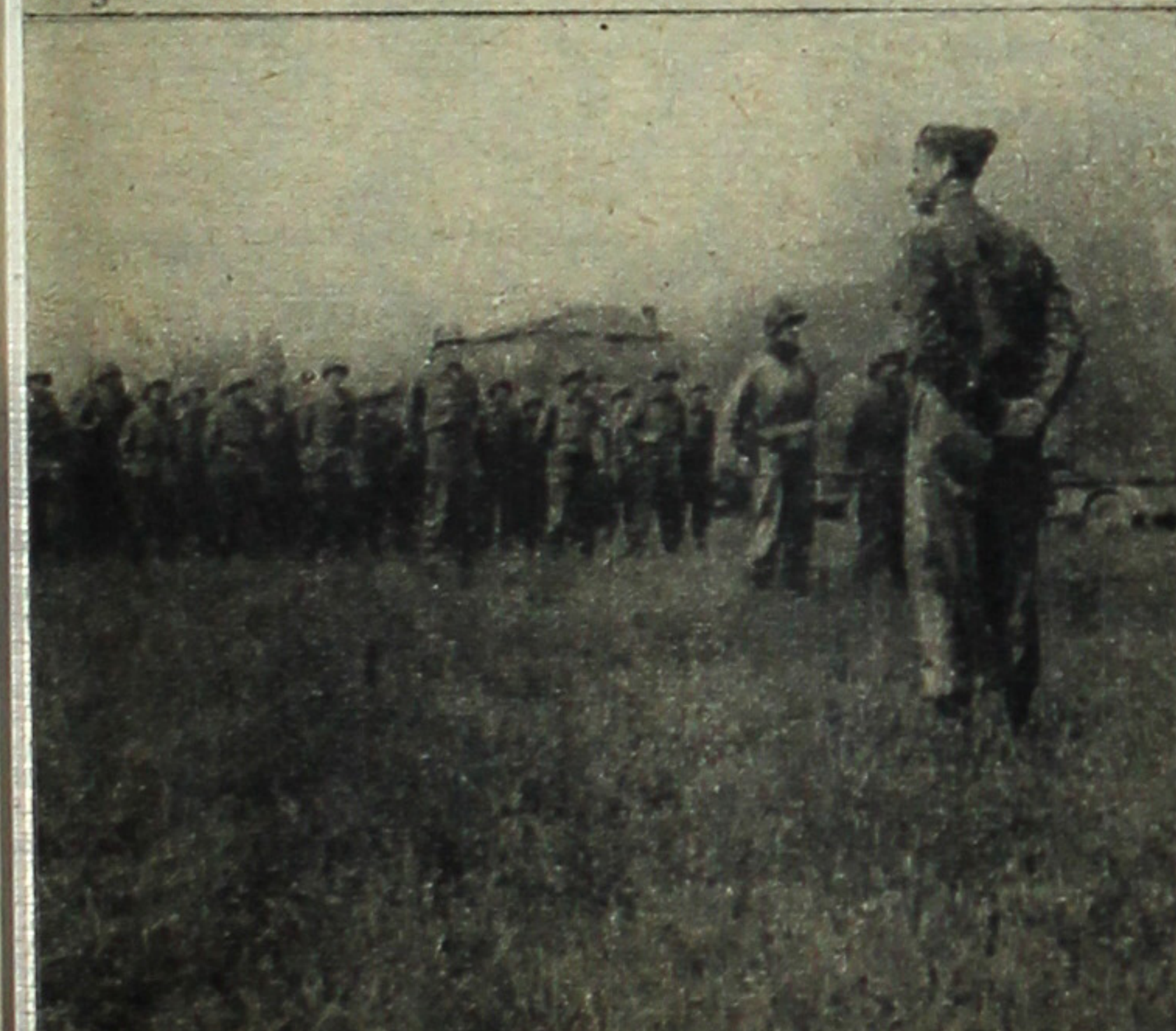
Above: The boys of 442d Infantry have an interesting story to tell.



Left: Col. W. P. Yarborough, commanding 473d Infantry, discusses future operations with Lt. Gen. L. K. Truscott, 5 Army Commander, and Maj. Gen. E. M. Almond.

Below: Col. V. R. Miller, Commanding Officer 442d Infantry.

Below: General Clark talks to 2d Bn, 473d Inf.; Lt. Col. Lyle commanding.





We found out a lot about the Italians from the Partisans. Whenever we would move forward we found them there, well-organized against a common foe. Young and old alike took up arms in a planned purge of Nazidom.





Partisans appeared from everywhere.



365TH INFANTRY

The 365th Infantry Regiment, commanded by Colonel John D. Armstrong, landed at Leghorn, Italy on the 29th of October, 1944. For a few days the regiment stayed in the staging area near Pisa. On 8 November the first element of the regiment went into the line in the Forte de Marmi sector on the Ligurian Coast. The month of November was characterized by intensive reconnaissance patrolling and several brisk fire fights.

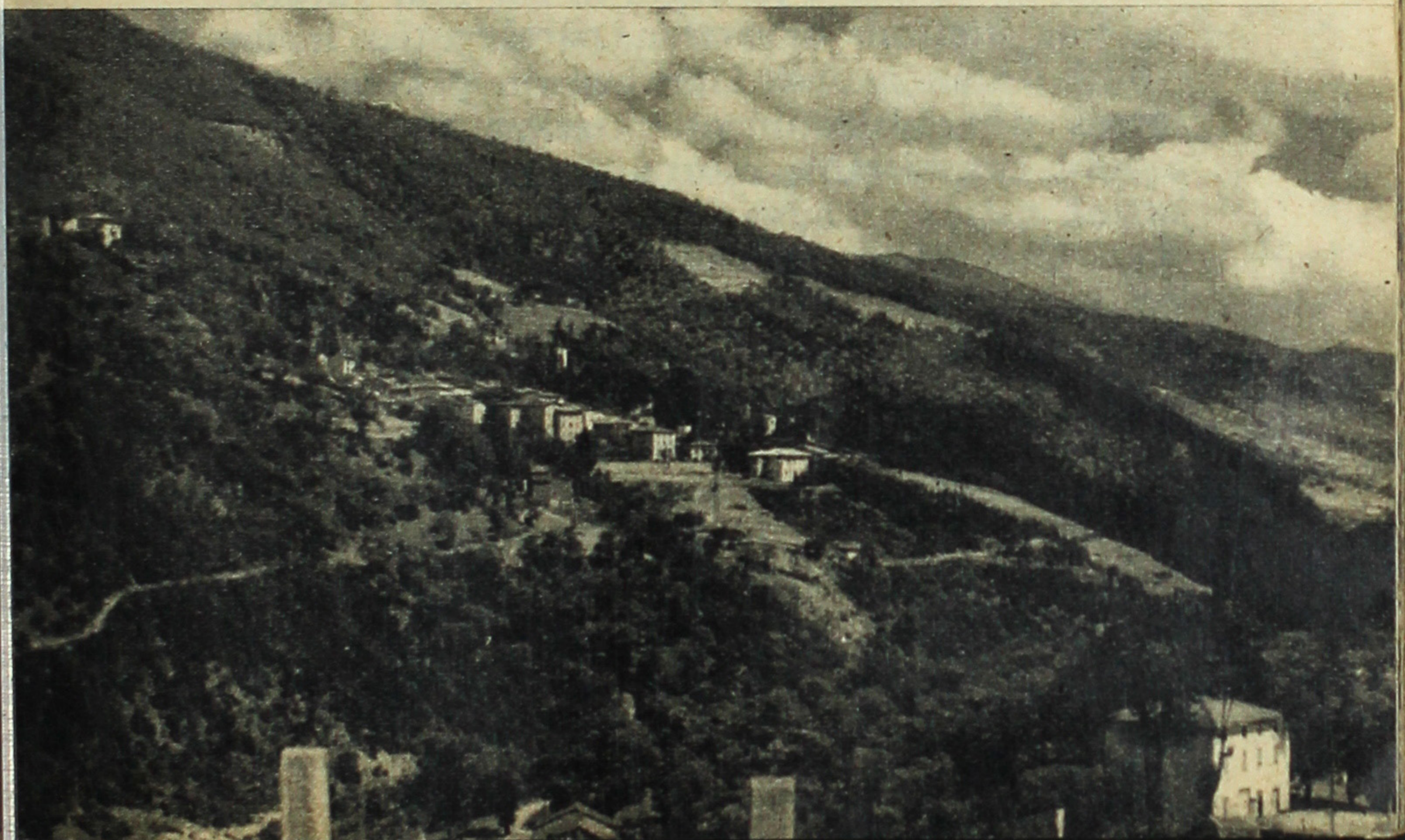
Colonel John D. Armstrong decorates men of his unit.



On 1 December the regiment was detached from operational control of the 92d Infantry Division and attached to the 88th Infantry Division in the Bologna sector. Here the troops experienced a real introduction to fighting in the famous Italian mountains where roads were almost impassable because of mud and snow, and mule pack supply trains were a familiar sight. Troops on the front line received a moderate amount of enemy artillery and mortar fire, but the rear areas were not overlooked entirely. Vigorous patrolling continued despite the difficult terrain, heavy snow and the bitter cold.

On 7 January 1945 the regiment returned to the control of the 92d Infantry Division. On 8 January they took up positions in the Serchio sector. Patrol activities continued throughout the month and patrolling coupled with infantry weapons shoots

Cutigliano





marked the main activities for the month. It was in January that the Regiment captured its first enemy officer, a German lieutenant who was taken by a patrol from "C" Company. Towards the end of the month patrol activities were intensified in anticipation of an offensive to begin in the near future.

The first major action participated in by the 365th Infantry was launched on 5 February. Elements of the regiment attacked to the North, amidst considerable mortar and artillery fire. The action netted an advance of 2000 yards in the first day. One strong enemy counterattack was driven off successfully by hand-to-hand fighting. The second day of the attack the regiment gained another 1000 yards; but on 8 February three counterattacks forced a withdrawal. The next four days of the attack resulted in no important gains, but heavy casualties were inflicted upon the enemy. The 27th of February saw the regiment relieved in the Serchio



Pianisihatico — fell to the 365th on 19th of April.

and transferred to the San Marcello Valley where it was attached to IV Corps. Here the regiment held a mountainous sector fifteen miles in width. Operations consisted of intensive patrolling throughout the month of March.

From 25 April to 9 May the entire regiment moved north to Bologna and operated eleven prisoner of war cages under Fifth Army control. They handled over 350,000 prisoners during this period. Units of the regiment were scattered all over northern Italy at this time. Later in the month the regiment was returned to the control of the 92d Infantry Division.

370TH INFANTRY

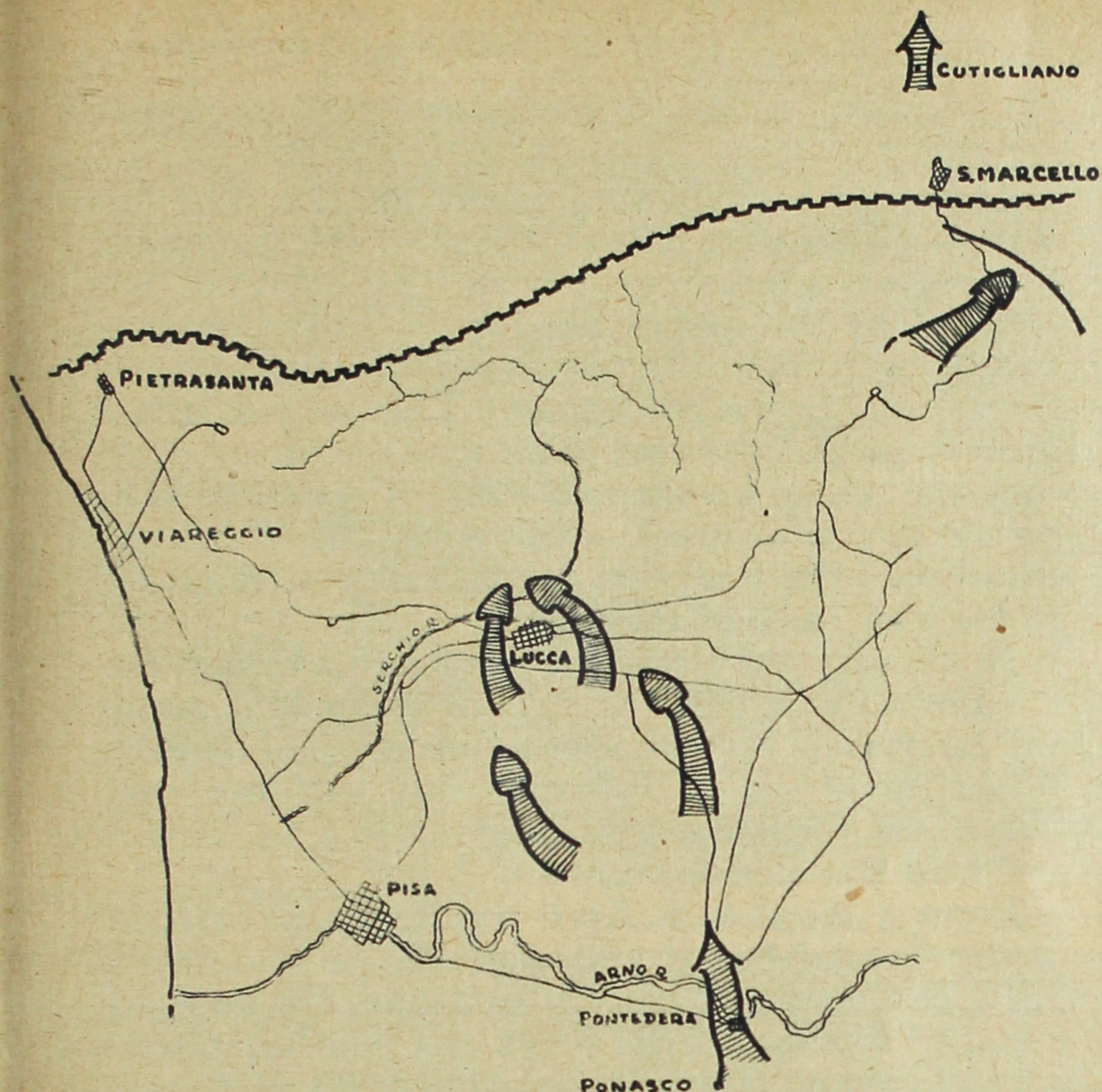
The 370th Infantry Regiment, one of the elements of the 370th Combat Team, landed at NAPLES, ITALY on 1 August 1944. The first twenty-three days of August were spent in completing the assembly of equipment, orientation and physical conditioning. When the 3d Battalion moved into the line near PONTEDERA, ITALY, on the night of 23 August, the first unit of the 92d Division had gone into combat. On 28 August the first prisoner was captured.

September was a month of movement, the ARNO River had been crossed, and within a few days the SERCHIO River had been reached. "E" Company entered LUCCA on 5 September. The next few weeks were spent in consolidating positions and in vigorous patrolling as "Jerry" had holed up in

Colonel Raymond Sherman



prepared defensive positions in the mountains. On 27 September an attack on "Georgia" forced an enemy withdrawal from BAGNI DI LUCCA. As the month drew to a close the regiment moved to the SAN MARCELLO Sector and from there to the vicinity of PIETRA-



Lt. Col. John P. Phelan

SANTA.

Several attacks during October and November resulted in no great gains. November also marked the beginning of operations in the SERCHIO Sector when the Regiment took over the entire SERCHIO Valley north of LUCCA.

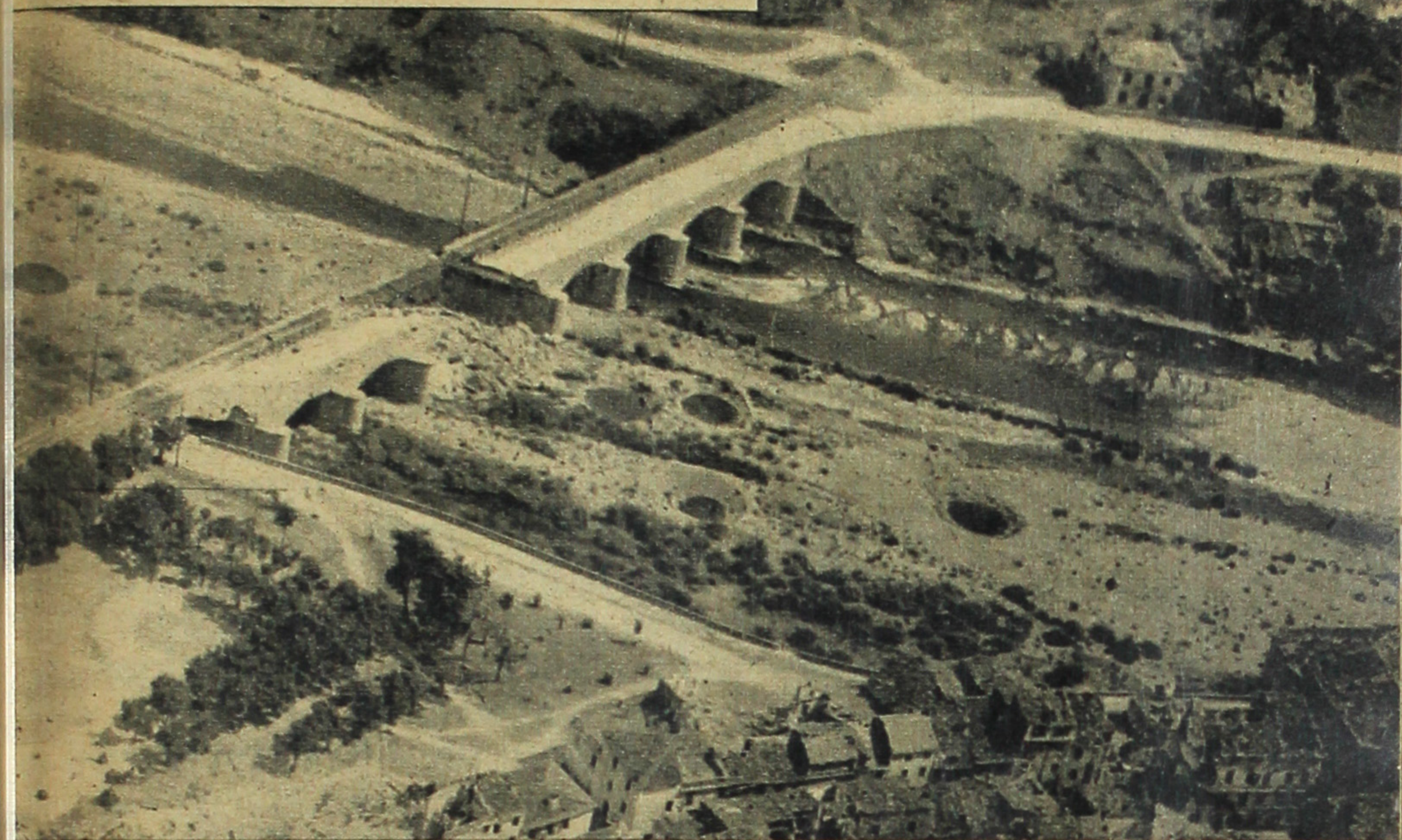


December brought two enemy attacks. The first was on 4 December when the Anti-Tank Company, holding an isolated position at VEIGEMOLI, was attacked by the enemy in force. The Company fought well and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy before he withdrew. The second attack occurred on 26 December. This time the enemy drove back the troops on the east bank of the SERCHIO before it was stopped. Following the attack all elements of the Regiment in the valley were moved to the west bank of the river.

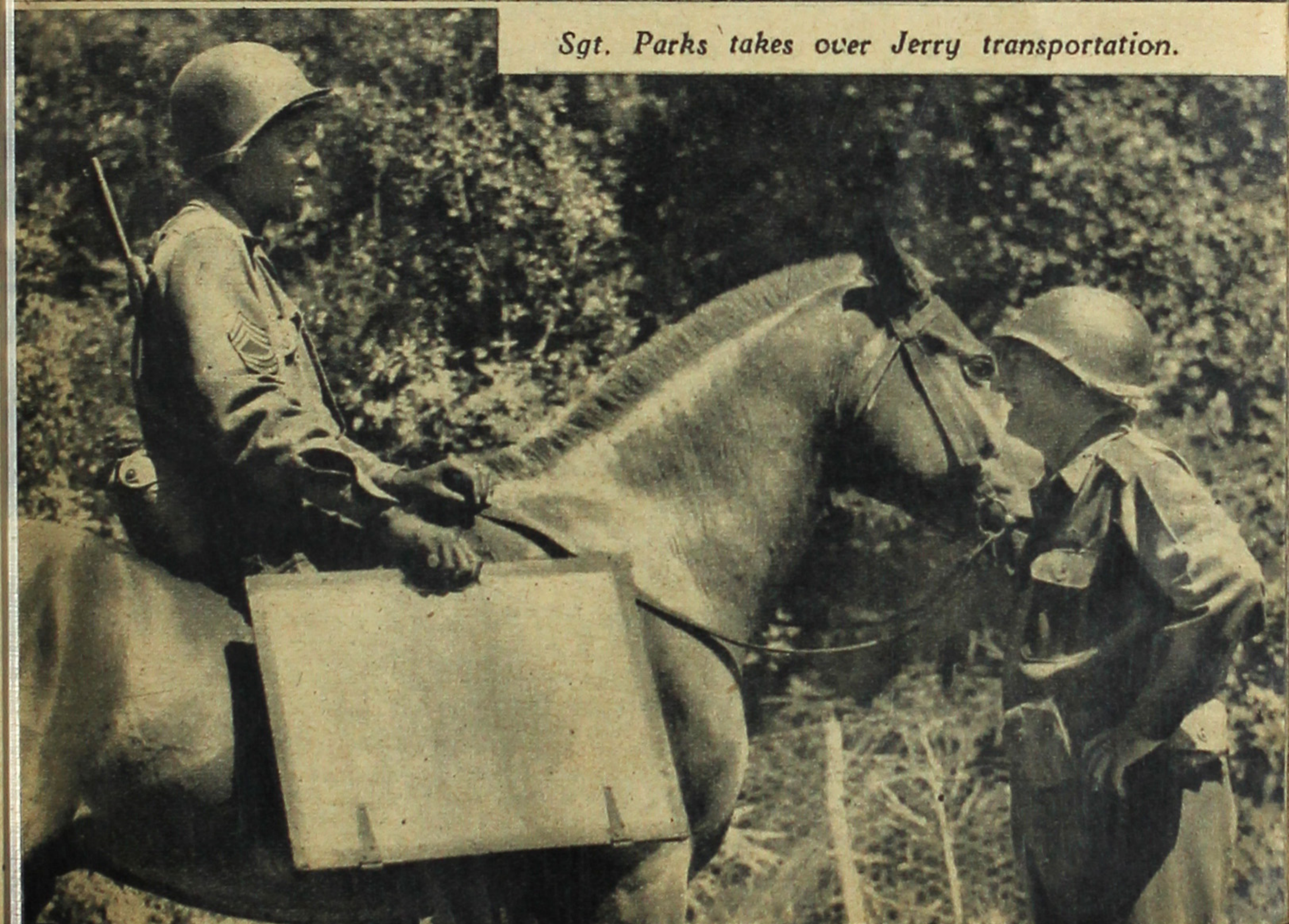
In January the Regiment went into a concentration and training area for rest, reequipping, training and preparing for the coming attack in February. When the attack of February 8th, 9th and 10th failed, the Regiment continued to stay in the line and held this position until 5 April.

From 5 April to 8 April the Regiment attacked in the Coastal Sector and was then shifted to the SERCHIO Sector minus one battalion. On 20 April it started moving forward and by 0700 had entered CASTELNUOVO. CAMPORIGIANO was taken on April 22 and CASOLA occupied on the twenty-third. The twenty-fourth saw the remaining battalion join the Regiment again and contact established with the coastal task force at AULLA. For the rest of the month the advance to the north continued and the end of the war in Italy on 2 May found the Regiment assembled in the vicinity of CHIAVARI and LAVAGNA.

*Aulla — shattered enemy stronghold, in the
Serchio.*



Sgt. Parks takes over Jerry transportation.



371ST INFANTRY

The first elements of the 371st Infantry, commanded by Colonel James Notestein, landed on Italian soil on 18 October 1944 when they debarked at Leghorn and proceeded to the staging area nearby. From 19 October until 1 November activities in the staging area continued at a feverish pace. Equipment was checked and rechecked, and preparations were made for the events that were to follow.

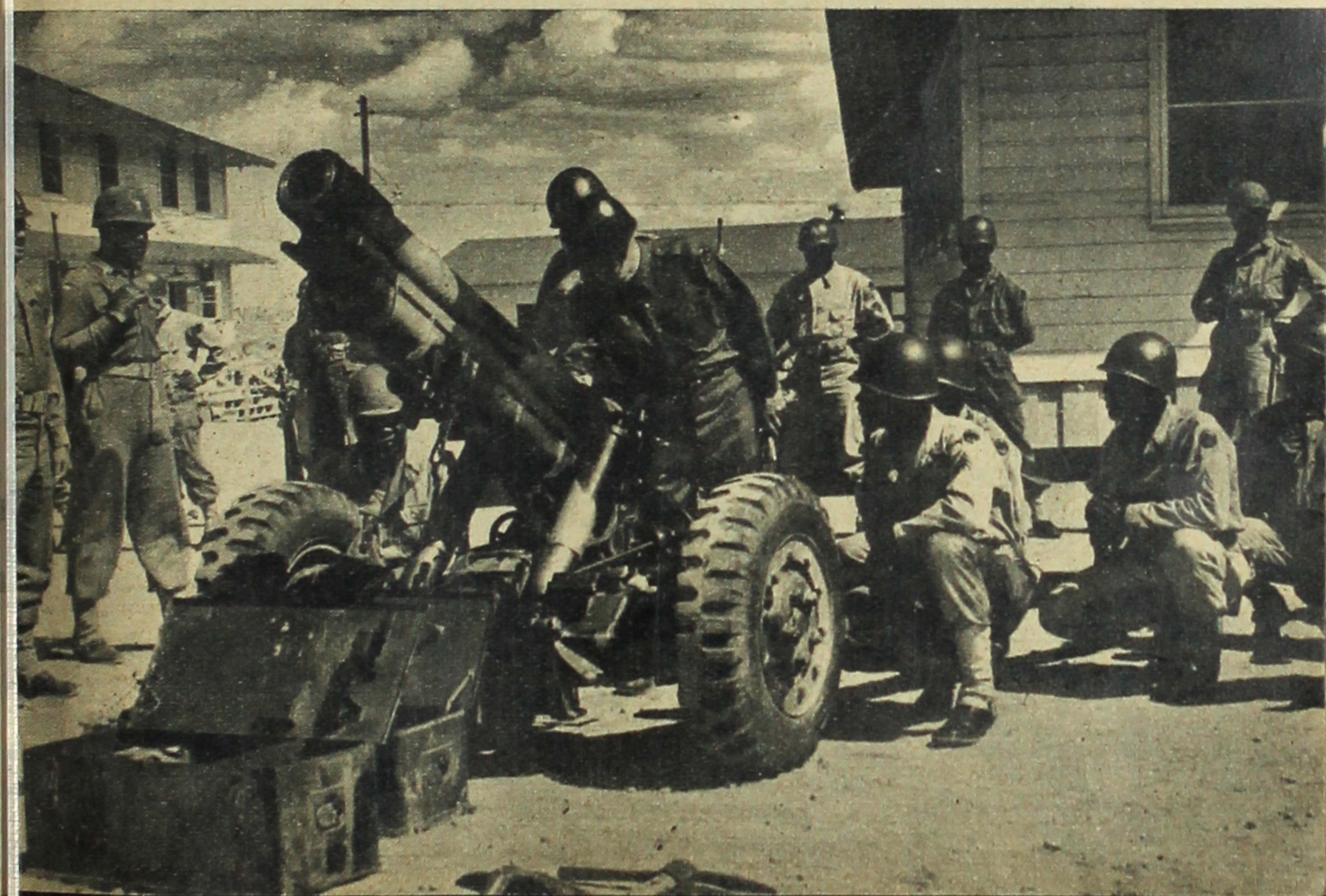
It was on 1 November that the 371st Infantry first went into combat. The 1st Battalion relieved a battalion of the 370th Combat Team. Within a few days the rest of the regiment had gone into the line too. The regimental CP was situated at Pietrasanta. Before long the names of Alaska, Georgia, Maine, and Pozzio became well known throughout the regiment.

Patrolling highlighted the regiment's activities, and each day a little more was added to the knowledge of the enemy positions on Georgia, Alaska, and Maine where Jerry sat safely in his dugouts and watched every move that our troops made.

December was an exciting month because of the many rumors. Sometimes it was rumored that the enemy would attack. Then it was rumored that we were to launch an attack. Despite all the rumors, conditions during the month remained fairly static in this sector. Operations consisted chiefly of patrolling and the improving of positions.

Periodic thrusts and sharp patrol jabs during the month of January gained no ground but did serve to give further information of the enemy positions and to keep him occupied. They also caused him casualties which he could not afford to suffer, because the status of his reserves and replacements was not too good.

Col. Notestein, 371st Commanding Officer, inspects Cannon Company.



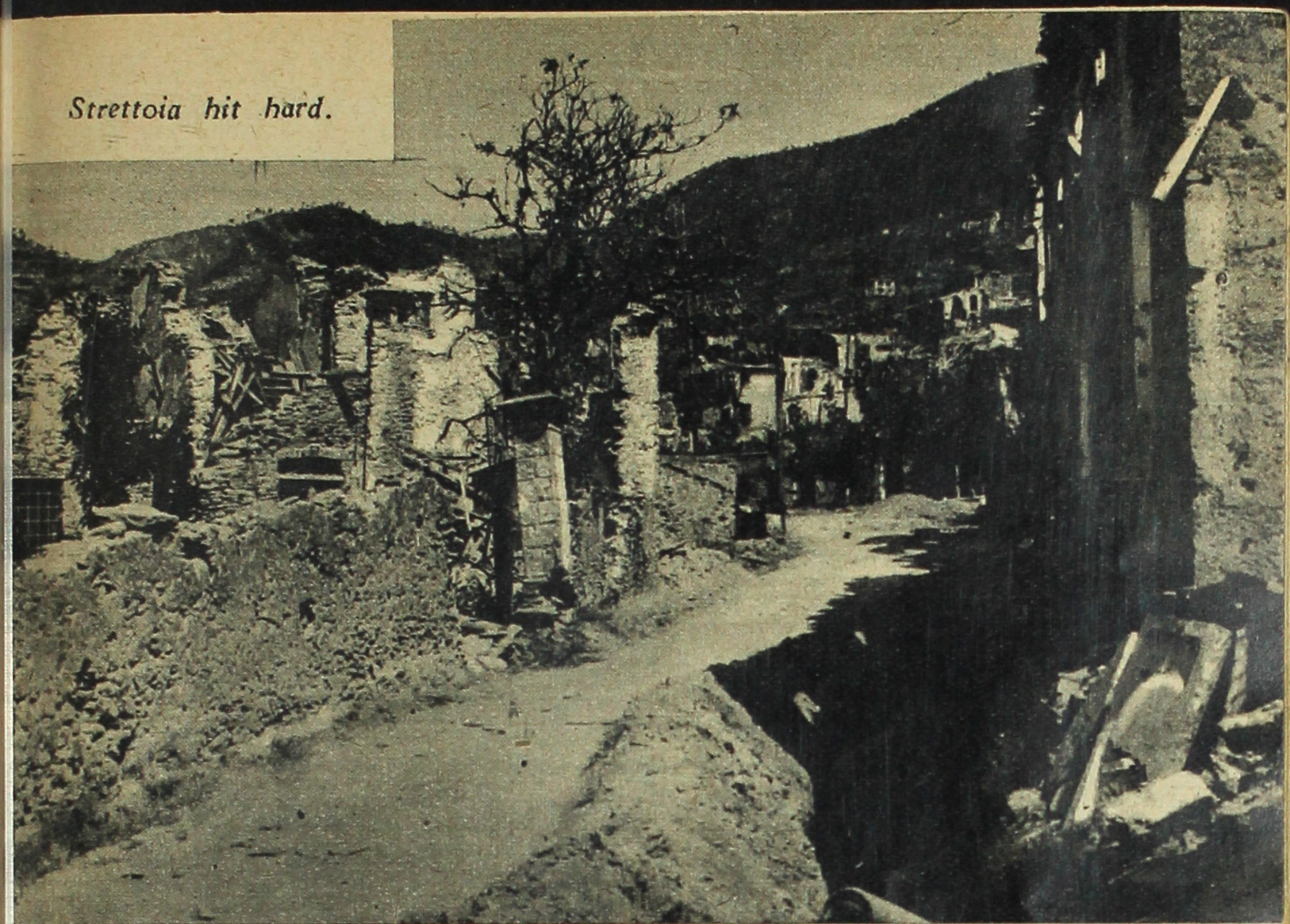
Then early in February the picture changed when the Division plan of attack was announced. The dizzy pace of preparing for it and the jump-off itself were received almost with relief. For three days the regiment attacked on familiar ground, and although Jerry was caught napping, he was not ready to give up ground.

The enemy gathered himself together and counterattacked repeatedly so that when the smoke had cleared away both sides were where they had been before the attack started. The regiment was still at the bottom of the mountains looking up and the enemy was still up there looking down.

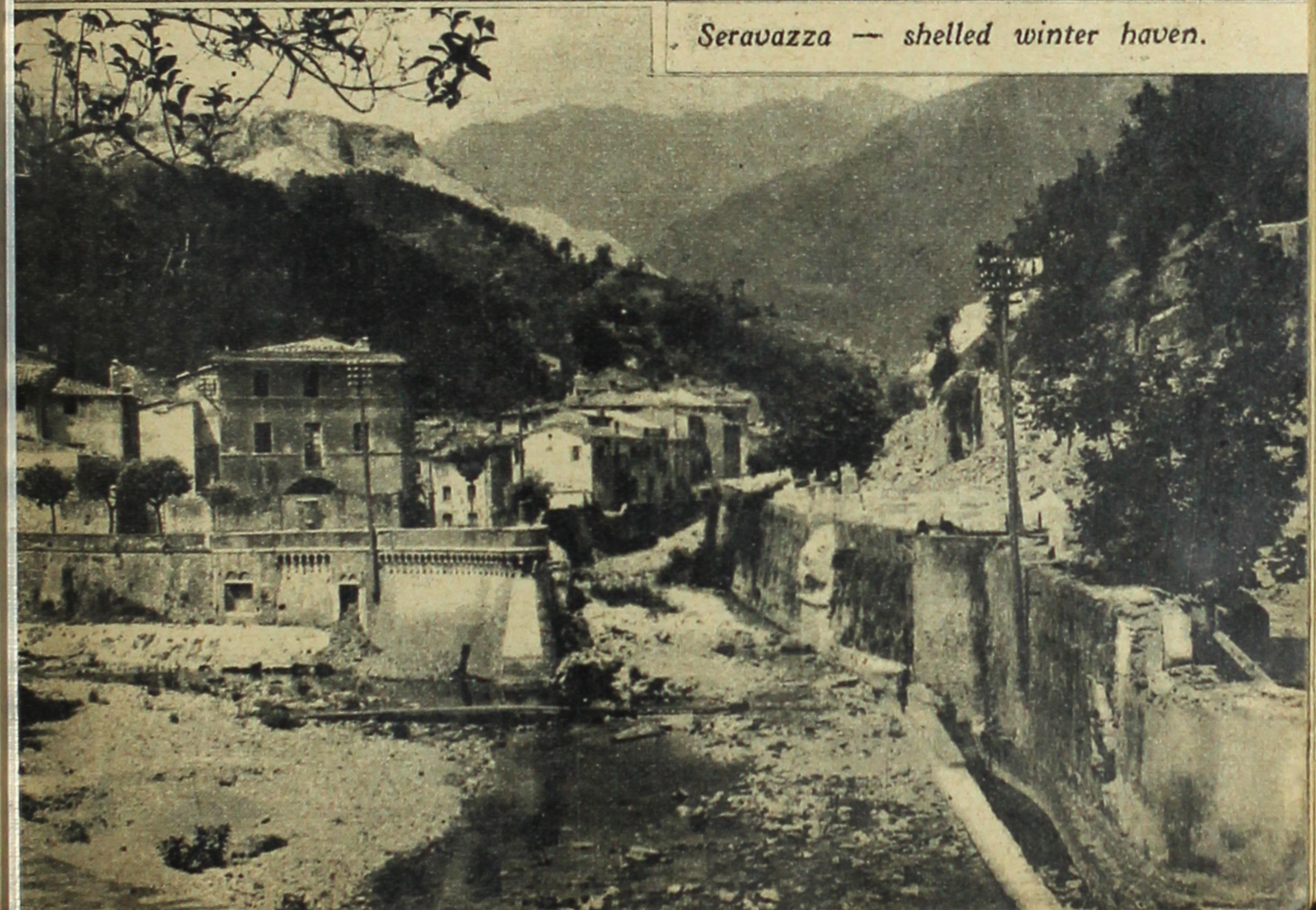
March went by with patrol activities again the main operations. From time to time the units tried to improve their positions but with little success.

In April, plans for the attack that led to the collapse of the enemy in Italy became a subject for discussion. This time the regiment was to be in division reserve. On 8 April it passed under control of IV Corps and moved to Belvedere where it took over part of the sector occupied by the Brazilian Expeditionary Force. Its mission was to protect the left flank of IV Corps and Highway 64. The Regiment was attached to 5 Army on 26 April and moved to Modena on that date where it was given the mission of guarding large PW enclosures. The end of the war found the Regiment executing this mission. It rejoined the Division on 10 May and established its headquarters at Aquil.

Strettoia hit hard.

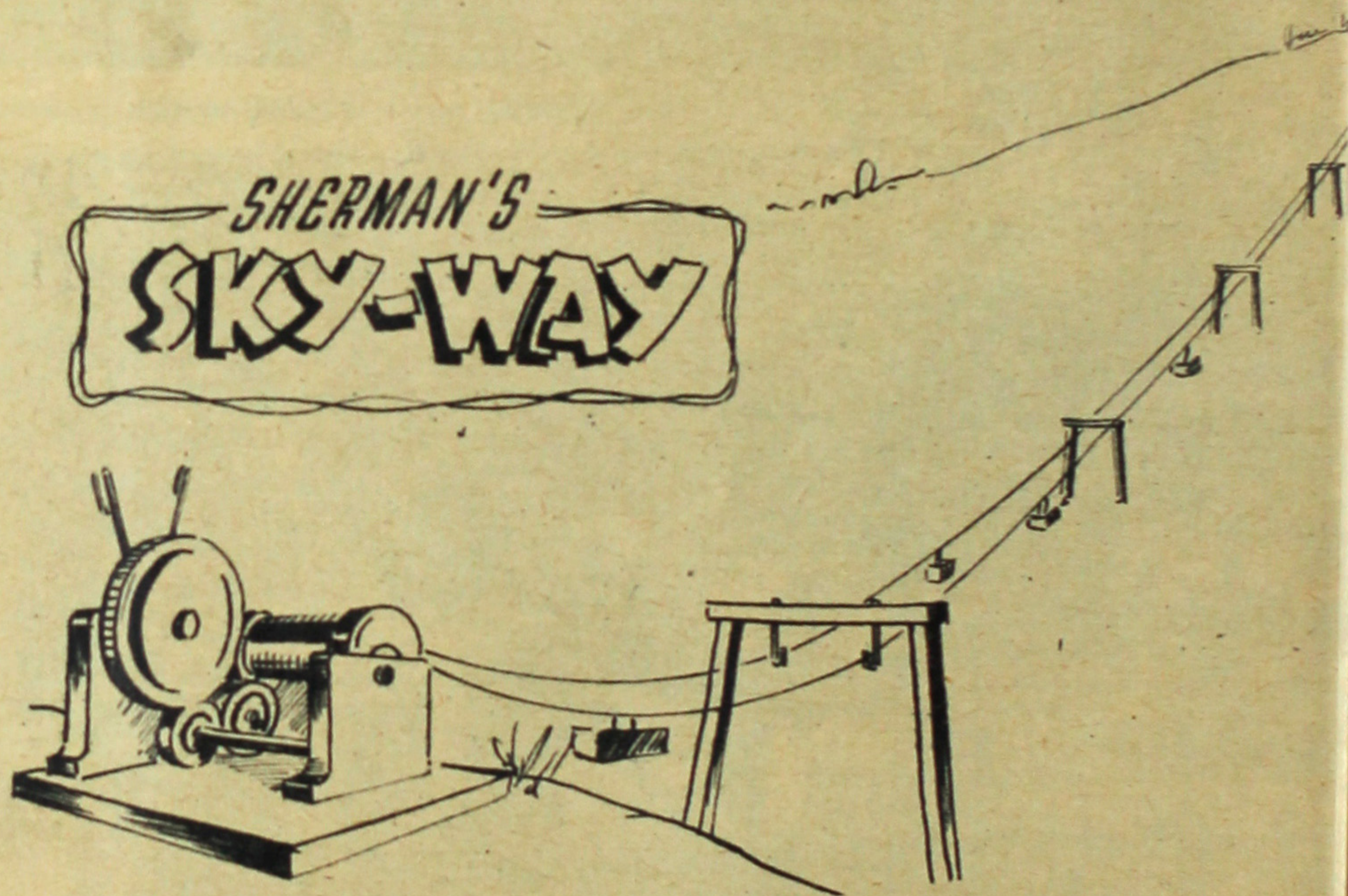


Seravazza — shelled winter haven.



ENGINEERS

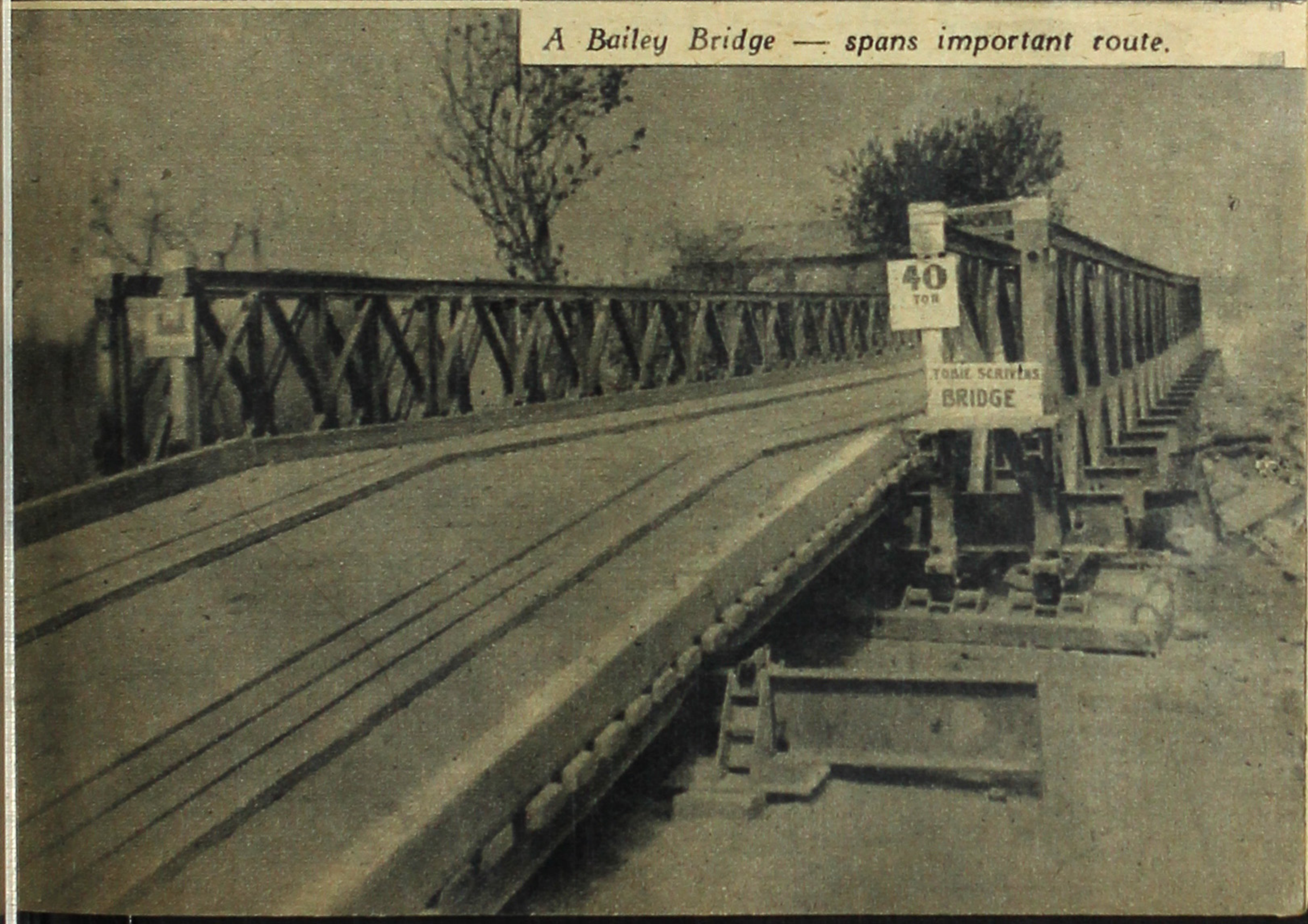
On 5 November 1944 the 317th Engineer Combat Battalion, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel E. L. Rowney, entered combat. The assigned mission was to give general engineer support to the 92d Infantry Division. During November the main problem was that of maintaining the road net and of developing trails for the use of the infantry regiments. The lesser part of the support was the direct tactical assistance given to the 370th Infantry



Water point.



A Bailey Bridge — spans important route.



in its preparation and rehearsal for an attack across the Cinquale Canal.

December and January, being static months for the division, the main efforts of the engineers were put forth in improving and maintaining existing road nets and in strengthening, repairing and building bridges. Strengthening bridges at night was a common occurrence as the roads were under constant shell fire during the day by German 88's. During January "Sherman's Skyway," 2000 yards of cableway to transport ammunition and supplies over mountainous terrain, was built and field showers for each infantry regiment were set up.

During the February attack the Battalion's primary mission was to sweep the approaches to the Cinquale canal and to breach paths through the minefields for the infantry-tank attack. This encounter with the enemy revealed ingenious methods of employing anti-tank and box mines to make detection difficult.

The first part of the month of March was taken up by the laying out and constructing of the Division Concentration Area. It was constructed so as to house three regiments and was used for training and rest purposes. On 10 March the engineers organized the 92d Division Mine School. The object of this school was to train the division and attached units in the art of breaching and removing minefields. Upon the completion of his course, every man was required to go through a live minefield. The mine instructions program received commendation from Lieutenant General Truscott, the Commanding General of 5 Army.

During the April attack the Engineers proceeded to clear mine fields and to construct by-passes and infantry support bridges. It was their mission to further the advance of the Division by keeping the routes of advance open.

The Engineer Reconnaissance Section was constantly up with the forward elements of the Division during the attack to determine the extent of damages and the necessary work to open the main supply routes. They reconnoitered over 1100 miles of road during the month of April. The map section distributed over 72,000 maps to the Division and attached units during this same period. Major Alvin Wilder took command of the battalion on April 15 when Lt Col E. L. Rowny was assigned the position of Division G-3.

At the close of the war in Italy the engineers immediately were assigned the task of opening Highway No. 1 from Genoa to the French border. Concurrently they had the mission of clearing mines from a portion of the Genoa harbor and beach so that LCT's could land supplies. They also performed the task of repairing the Genoa and Novi airports, making them usable for light and medium airplanes.

Through their efforts and skill in maintaining vital routes of supply and advance, the engineers did much towards furthering the success of the campaign.





Q M



The problem of supply is always a vital and important function in any army and to the 92d Quartermaster Company went the big job of keeping the division supplied with rations, ammunition, clothing and equipment. Throughout the campaign the company kept the supplies rolling forward, oftentimes over almost impassible roads and trails. In February salvage details were formed in the battle area and these details performing excellently and successfully, retrieved thousands of dollars worth of government property. Many times these salvage details came under enemy fire and the mines and booby traps made it a hazardous task. During the April attack the company followed close on the heels of the advancing combat units and at the close of the war established their main supply dump in Genoa.

In 6 months, QM trucks consumed 139 thousand gallons of gasoline to cover over 725 thousand miles and deliver 48 thousand tons consisting of 4 million, 656 thousand rations, 13 thousand tons of clothing and equipment, and large measures of ammunition.

D I V A R T Y

On June 28, 1944 the 598th FA Battalion left Fort Huachuca enroute to Italy. This was the first unit of the Division Artillery to go overseas. The unit landed in Naples and moved into the line south of Pontedera, Italy on August 28th. To "C" Battery of the 598th went the honor of firing the first 92d Division Artillery round into enemy lines.

Brigadier General William H. Colbern, the Division Artillery Commander, led the artillery main body over in October. Landing in Leghorn, they proceeded to a staging area near Pisa. Division

General Colbern, "DivArty" Commander.





Artillery Headquarters was set up in Forte de Marmi on November 8th and shortly after all battalions were in the line.

The 599th moved into Pietrasanta on November 4th and received their first taste of enemy shelling as they went into position. This began a long association with such localities as "Purple Heart Lane" and "88 Boulevard."

The enemy attack of December 26th in the Serchio found "C" Battery of the 598th in the thick of things. Before march ordering they fired 400 rounds at the oncoming Jerries at the range of



less than 1500 yards.

The 597th was attached to the 88th Division in the Highway 65 sector on 2 December. All the time they were there, Jerry kept them entertained with his artillery fire. In comparison, Forte de Marmi was as quiet as a Sunday school picnic. Everything, including the kitchens, was dug in.

During the February attack the 600th received its share of enemy counterbattery fire. There are many tales, as the one about the cannoneer in his GI shorts who, with the help of a guard, completed a six round mission one night before the rest of the

crew got to the gun.

The April attack brought still more experiences. The 598th, 599th and 600th Battalions well remember the front line positions south of the Frigido River where they received enemy small arms fire. Carrara and Gragnana on Friday the 13th are also to be remembered along with the famous phrase, "Hush, please, I think I hear old Jerry sneeze."

No history of the Division Artillery would be complete without some mention of the Artillery Cub planes — or the "P-92's" as they were fondly called. Day after day from dawn to dusk, weather permitting, they were kept in the air for observation purposes. The information gained through this branch of the Division Artillery was invaluable in aiding the success of the division.

Throughout the campaign the Artillery gave continuous support to the infantry units and gained for itself the reputation of being among the best in the Fifth Army. With the arrival of the division in Genoa came the finish of the shooting of the 92d Division Artillery. Since entering combat the Division Artillery organic units had fired approximately 260,000 rounds of artillery ammunition.

With the recall of General Colbern to the United States, Colonel R. C. Ross took command of the Division Artillery on 1 June 1945.



R E C O N

The thirteenth of November 1944 marked the entrance of the 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop into combat. From that date until 19 April 1945 they operated as dismounted troops, operating OP's and outposts in the Serchio and center sectors of the division area.

They received their first mounted mission on 20 April 1945 when they performed flank reconnaissance for the infantry elements in the Serchio sector advancing through Galliciano and Castelnuovo di Garfagnana. They were shifted to the coastal sector to perform reconnaissance in advance of the troops moving up the coast. On the twenty-fourth the Troop moved into La Spezia to secure the town and by the twenty-seventh they had advanced to Genoa.

With the fall of Genoa the Troop moved towards Turin. Later it was engaged in mopping up operations and reconnaissance in advance areas and helped to bring to the division area a state of order and control.



S I G N A L

The importance of communications in modern warfare cannot be overestimated and to the Signal Company went a great deal of the work in maintaining the Division communications and repairing it's signal equipment. During the months of November 1944 to June 1945 inclusive the Signal Company ran up some impressive sets of figures. Signal Company wiremen handled some 1,324 miles of field wire and telephone men installed switch boards in eighteen locations while operators handled an estimated 250,000 telephone calls.

During this same period of time the radio section sent and received 338,392 groups, Signal Repair Section averaged three repair jobs on each of the 625 radios sets in the Division and the teletype section passed 734,534 groups. The cryptograph section also was busy encoding and decoding more than 1,000,000 groups. All in all it was a tremendous job that the Signal Company did well and one which contributed to the successful completion of the campaign immeasurably.



M E D I C S

It was in October 1944 that the 317th Medical Battalion landed its last members on the shores of Italy. Previously "B" and "D" Companies had come overseas with the 370th Combat Team and were already in action.

By the end of the first two weeks in November all of the Battalion was taking part in combat operations with the Headquarters and the Clearing Station set up in Viareggio and Companies "A," "B" and "C" giving medical attention to the Division troops in the line.

During the months that followed both officers and enlisted men came to know the grim side of war as casualties were cared for and either returned to duty or evacuated. Aid men, litter bearers and ambulance drivers learned at first hand what it was like to come under enemy mortar, artillery and small arms fire. Military personnel were not the only ones cared for during this period either. Many civilians were treated and given medical attention as needed when civilian medical personnel were not available.

There was a brighter side to the picture too as stories and anecdotes of men in the Battalion made the rounds. Rest leaves to Florence and Rome made a few breaks in the routine and afforded topics for conversation. Each day brought new incidents and more work.

With the coming of the April attack and the rapid advance made by the Division the Medics sometimes found themselves hard pressed to perform all the necessary tasks of adequately caring for the wounded, evacuating the serious cases and keeping their aid stations in close support of the front line troops. Move after move was made and the days were filled with hard work and long hours. However the job was performed and performed well.

At the close of the war things slacked off and both officers and enlisted men were able to take life a little easier. The medical installations were again brought more closely under Battalion control and the unit as a whole proceeded to effect a more unified aspect. Once again all personnel were able to enjoy a little rest and relaxation. Sports and athletic programs were initiated, movies and shows sponsored by the Division could be enjoyed and leisure time utilized according to the desires of the individual.

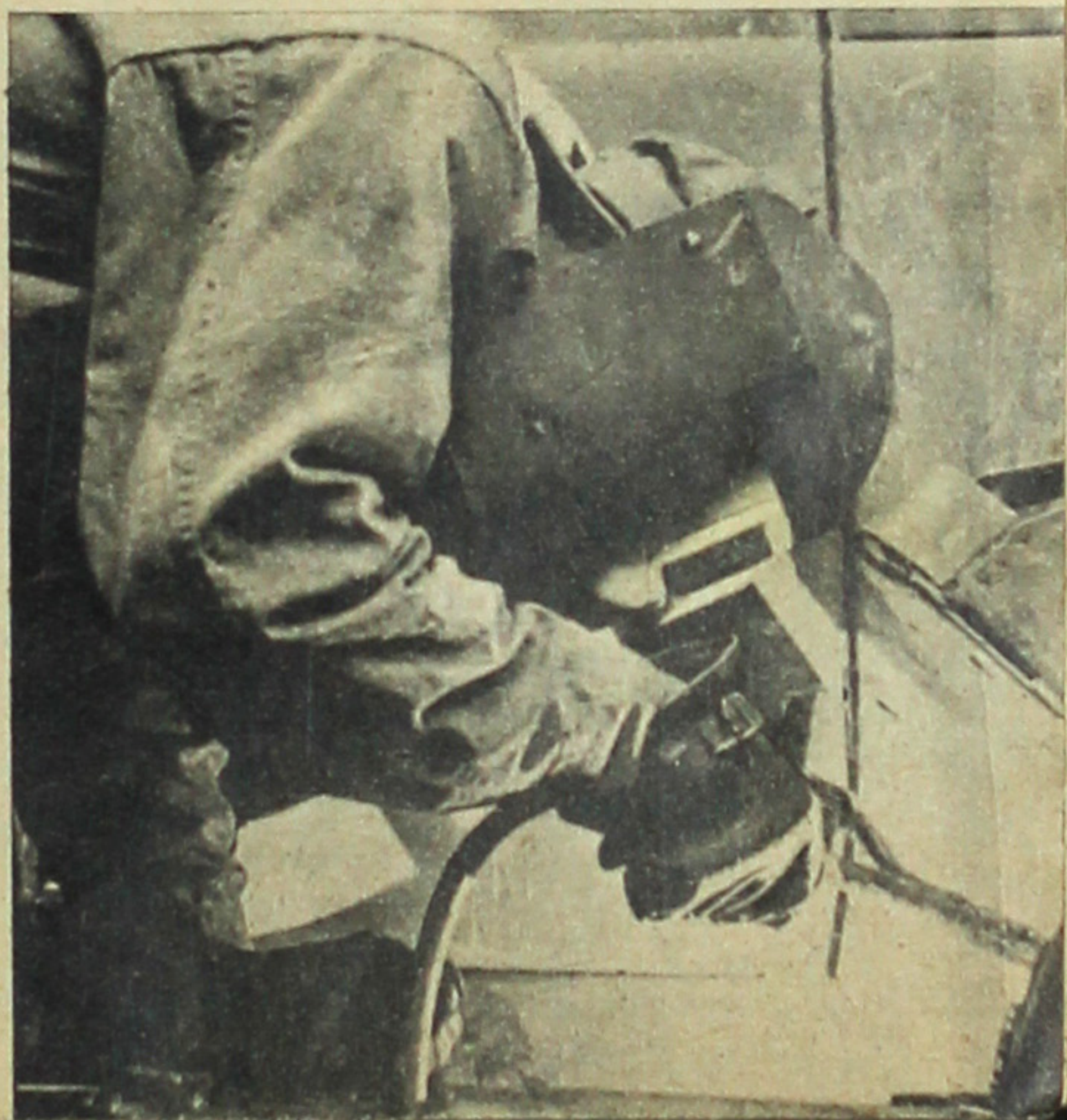


ORDNANCE

The 792d Ordnance Company landed in Italy on 29 October 1944 and was given the mission of keeping up the repair and maintenance of ordnance materiel for the Division on 12 November. At this time the unit was located just west of Lucca.

The company moved to Viareggio on 2 January 1945 and remained there until the middle of April when, following the progress of the Division in the attack they moved to Pietrasanta and finally moved to Genoa on 1 May.

During the period of 12 November 1944, through June 1945 the Ordnance Company was kept busy keeping the Division ordnance materiel in shape for combat. One of the greatest problems was that of vehicle maintenance and repair and during approximately eight months 6010 vehicles were turned in to ordnance for some kind of work. Of these 5,409 were returned to the units and 601 were evacuated. At the same time 3,189 armament jobs were taken in, 2,870 were returned to the units and 317 were evacuated. The supply section handled 12,654 requisitions throughout the eight months for parts and materiel of all kinds. The ordnance company as a whole did its full share to "keep 'em rolling" to victory.



Music in a military manner... 92nd Division Band.



Music sweet and hot by the "Bouncing Buffaloes."



2ND INFANTRY DIVISION **Buffalo** A COMBAT PAPER FOR COMBAT MEN

Every Saturday, starting way back when—in December 1942—we've learned to expect our "Buffalo" each week. Through early training, maneuvers and in combat, our division newspaper came out on schedule overcoming many handicaps.

The first issue came out when Headquarters were at Fort McClellan. Copy was assembled at three different camps and printed at Anniston, Alabama. We found a copy waiting for us when we arrived at Fort Huachuca and they were delivered on time in the marches of Louisiana and on the banks of the Sabine during maneuvers.

Overseas, the Buffalo staff purchased their own printing and engraving plant, to become one of the first self-sustaining division newspapers of its kind. We've enjoyed the rollicking good humor 'midst the sober and grim atmosphere of war. We've found its pictures and stories of the men in the lines inspiring and interesting.

Our pictorial history isn't complete without a page on the "Buffalo," for scattered throughout its many issues is the history of the division itself.



"SERGEANT, I FOUND THIS GUY IN TOWN WITHOUT A PASS . . . AND HE WON'T TELL ME HIS NAME!"

AWARDS*

Distinguished Service Medal	1
Distinguished Service Cross	2
Legion of Merit	12
Silver Stars	82
Bronze Stars	542

** Number embodies only original elements of 92d Infantry Division and is inclusive of 10 July 1945*

At right— DSC winner Lt. Vernon C. Baker. No photo available of Capt. Gilbert S. Holbrook, awarded DSC posthumously.



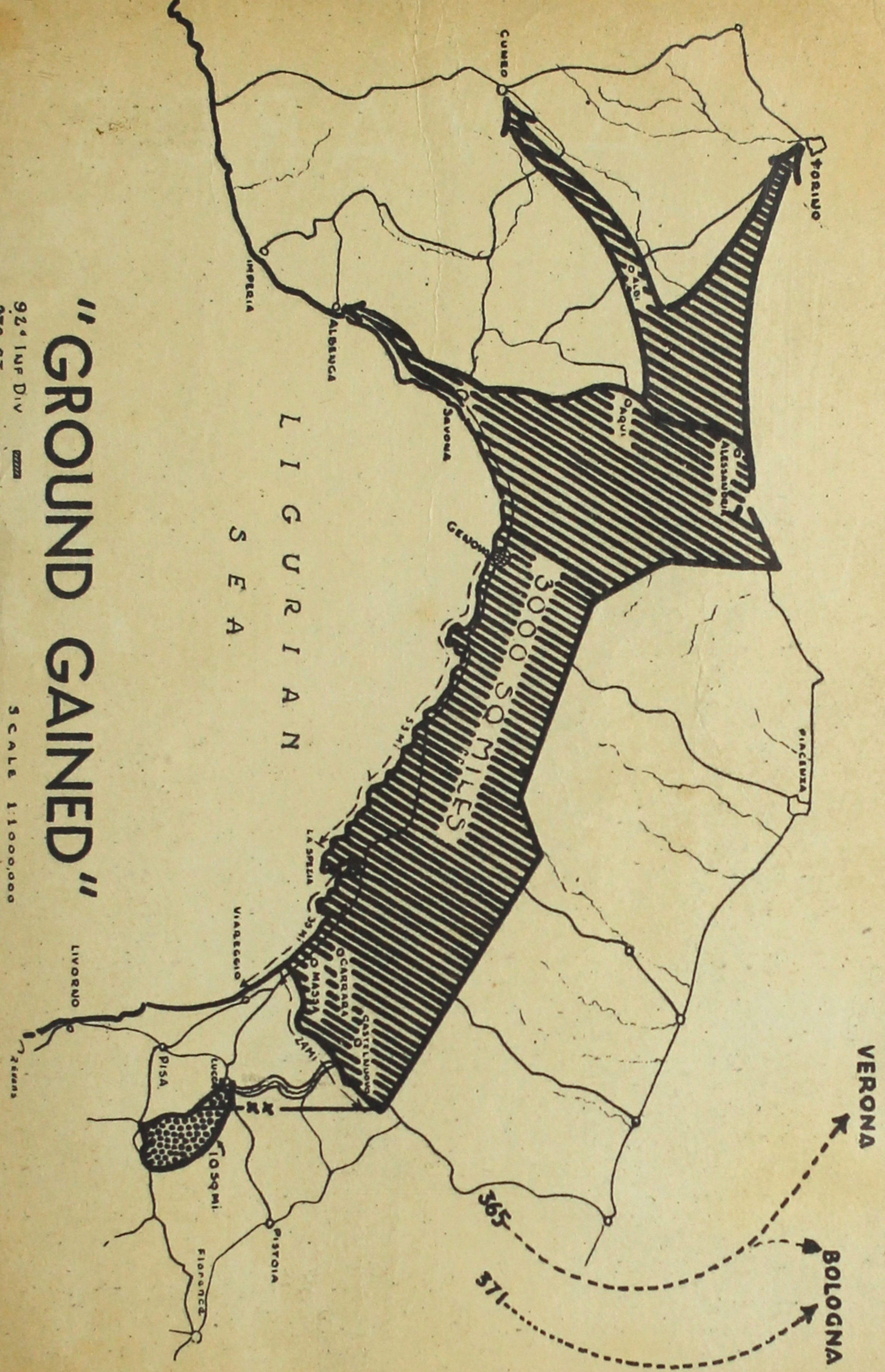
Division Commander places wreath on grave of fallen member of divi.

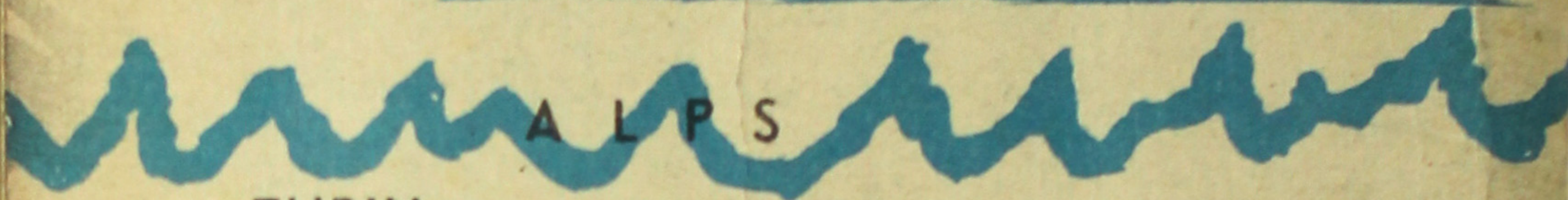


"GROUND GAINED"

92nd Inf Div
370 CT

SCALE 1:100,000





A L P S

TURIN



GENOA

AULLA

APENNINES

LA SPEZIA

CASTELNUOVO

SARZANNA

CARRARA

MASSA

LUCCA

VIAREGGIO

LIGURIAN
COAST