

# THE STARS AND STRIPES

UNOFFICIAL PAPER OF U. S. FORCES

## MEDITERRANEAN

IN THE MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

Vol. 2, No. 307, Sunday, June 2, 1946

Printed In Italy

FIVE LIRE



**Final Issue Of Mediterranean Edition**

# Just A Few Words For Auld Lang Syne

## 'It's Like The Loss Of An Old Friend'

The Stars and Stripes, Mediterranean Edition.

Information that The Stars and Stripes, Mediterranean Edition, is to cease publication comes as a shock, like the loss of an old friend. From its first issue, printed in North Africa, to its final edition this paper has brought to the soldiers of the Mediterranean Theater news of home, of the theater, of the world—"all the news that's fit to print." Some of the outstanding writers, columnists, and artists of the war—like Ernie Pyle and Mauldin—have expressed themselves in the columns of The Stars and Stripes to the benefit of every American soldier and citizen. It has been a gallant record, and a fit counterpart for the record written by those brave men whom it served.

I think that no paper can look back upon a record of more distinguished service. Throughout all the Mediterranean campaign, including its darkest days, The Stars and Stripes was ever a factor in success. In every battle it was to be found in the front lines. Its news, comments and humor were dear to the heart of every soldier.

No newspaper has ever written a more valiant record. On behalf of the entire 5th Army, I commend those brave men responsible for this record, and say, "Well done!" The Mediterranean Edition of The Stars and Stripes will be sorely missed.

L. K. TRUSCOTT, Jr.,  
Lieutenant General,  
U. S. Army.

The Stars and Stripes,  
Mediterranean Edition.

From the first issue of The Stars and Stripes in December, 1942, until the final issue today of the Mediterranean Edition, your paper has served faithfully all the English-speaking troops in the Allied Forces in Italy. I know that often, under hazardous and difficult conditions, you and your staff have striven to obtain that true and reliable information which has always been a feature of the world news. You have contributed greatly toward the education and entertainment of us all and thereby to maintaining our morale.

I am sure that in asking you to convey my thanks and sincere good wishes for the future to all members of your staff, I am voicing the feelings of all Allied troops in this theater, who will watch your departure with regret.

Yours sincerely,

Sir W. D. MORGAN,  
KCB, DSO, MC,  
Lieutenant General,  
Supreme Allied Cmdr.,  
Mediterranean Theater

The Stars and Stripes,  
Mediterranean Edition.

Throughout the fighting in Italy, the performance of the Mediterranean Edition of The Stars and Stripes was a constant source of pride and gratification to me.

Reporting of local and worldwide news, was an important element in maintaining morale of our combat troops.

On behalf of all American soldiers who served under my command in the 5th Army and in the 15th Army Group, I congratulate the Mediterranean Stars and Stripes on its record of journalistic achievements in the face of wartime difficulties.

MARK CLARK,  
General, U. S. Army.

The Stars and Stripes,  
Mediterranean Edition.

With regret I have authorized you to cease publication of your splendid paper on 2 June 1946. My regret, I believe, will be shared by everyone in this theater and by all those who have served here. All of us, those who remain and those who have departed, know what a magnificent work you have done for us since your first issue in December, 1942.

From the outset you have tried to publish a soldier's newspaper. You have given troops in this theater a reliable and broad coverage of world news. With your news from the U. S., your selected features and your comic strips, you have brought a happy homelike breeze to every man and woman with each and every issue. In your "Mail Call" column you have offered a reasonable escape valve for that "griping" without which, it has been well said, no American Army can really excel.

Two of your men were killed in action while covering the battle fronts in order to give MTO troops the latest news from those fronts. Another was wounded. Many others risked their lives, side by side with the combat units whom they were both serving and reporting.

Most of your readers have felt that the Mediterranean Edition of The Stars and Stripes was the best of all The Stars and Stripes anywhere in the world.

We have all enjoyed and appreciated your work. Personally I have been mindful of your many difficulties and I have valued your cooperation. I am sure that I speak for every soldier in this theater when I say that we hate to see you go. For a job well done I thank you, personally, and for every person under my command.

JOHN C. H. LEE,  
Lieutenant General,  
Commanding, MTOUSA

## 'Soldiers Are Human Beings'

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK UP—OR DOWN—TO THEM

By BILL MAULDIN  
Former Staff Cartoonist

Many people have been amazed at the fact that while demonstrations, demobilization strikes and mutinies have broken out in other theaters at the end of the war, there was very little trouble in Italy—a place where the toughest, bloodiest, most heartbreaking campaign of all the war was fought.

In Italy were the tired old divisions which were among the first to fight in Europe and the last to leave it. Also in Italy the rain was colder, the mud was deeper, Germans were tougher, the terrain was harder, rests were fewer, rations were shorter, equipment was poorer, and most of the glory went to other theaters. In short, if there was any reason for low morale, it should have been in Italy.

The same people who were amazed at the above things have also been startled at the high number of fights the



Mediterranean Stars and Stripes has had with high-ranking people who have

tried to stifle it. They have been surprised to see how popular a newspaper could become when it does not bother with Pentagon-inspired editorials, when it tries to be an honest newspaper filled with honest facts, and when it prints letters from soldiers who feel they have worthwhile complaints or suggestions to offer.

They have seen that an Army newspaper does not have to talk up or down to its readers, but can regard them as individuals with minds of their own and human beings who did not surrender their rights to dignity, a sense of humor and freedom of expression when they took the soldier's oath.

I don't think there can be stronger proof of how much the quality of a soldier's newspaper can affect his morale.

## 'In The Best Tradition'

The Stars and Stripes,  
Mediterranean Edition.

The Mediterranean Edition of The Stars and Stripes has served honorably and well in a most significant period of our nation's history.

In the best journalistic tradition it recorded the triumphs, setbacks, hardships and joys of the fighting men who defeated the first of the three Axis partners to give up the struggle.

The esteem with which troops in MTO regarded the paper is perhaps the finest tribute it could have hoped to earn.

I extend to the men who served on the staff of the Mediterranean Edition of The Stars and Stripes my personal thanks for a job well done.

C. T. LANHAM,  
Brigadier General  
I and E. Div., War Dept.

The Stars and Stripes,  
Mediterranean Edition.

With its mission fulfilled, The Stars and Stripes, Mediterranean Edition, passes into pages of American history.

I congratulate the members of this newspaper on a job well done. Throughout the war and since the peace, the Mediterranean Edition was always on hand to inform and entertain—two great factors in keeping the morale of our armies high.

The men and women of the Armed Forces, who have followed its pages, will be ever thankful for these outstanding efforts.

JOSEPH McNARNEY,  
General, U. S. Army.

## The 'Stripes' Was 'Tops' With General McNarney

General Joseph T. McNarney, former Acting Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean Theater of Operations, always held the Mediterranean Edition of The Stars and Stripes in high esteem. Upon being relieved of duty in the MTO, he wrote the following letter to Lt. Col. Robert Neville, then publications officer:

"As I prepare to leave this theater I desire to express to the officers and men of The Stars and Stripes my sincere appreciation for the important service that they have rendered the men in this theater, and offer my own thanks for the personal satisfaction I have had each day in reading this truly great paper. I realize that what you have accomplished has not been easy. Behind the scenes there have been sweat and frustration but in spite of difficulties and discouragement you have consistently produced a paper which is accurate, impartial and complete in its news coverage, and which has a dignity and personality as unique as it is laudable. I wish especially to commend you for maintaining the quality and scope of your paper after redeployment has caused excessive losses in personnel, requiring extra effort and long, tedious hours of labor seven days a week. You may take great satisfaction in knowing that your devotion in maintaining the standards of your paper at such a high level has been of inestimable service in maintaining the spirits of the troops during this difficult period.

"Many thanks and best wishes to you all."

### Free Circulation

Front line circulation of The Stars and Stripes was free. It was at first based on one copy to every five men, later on one to every three.

## 'Excellent Job Of Reporting'

"Too many of us, I am afraid, have grown to take The Stars and Stripes for granted without considering the time and effort its publication entails or expressing our appreciation to the officers and men responsible for making it available to us."

Thus wrote Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, then commanding general of MAAF, on Mar. 22, 1945.

"We in the service," General Eaker added, "are proud of the reputation of being the best-informed army in the world. The reputation is due in considerable part to publications such as yours.

"While I am not a professional newspaperman, I want to commend you for what I feel to be an excellent job of reporting. Gathering and 'playing' news is an exacting task. You are accomplishing it well."

### Thanks

"The best of things must end sometimes," wrote Maj. John P. Leacacos, director of PRO for the Allied Commission, upon hearing that The Stars and Stripes was ceasing publication, adding: "Thanks for your sympathetic treatment of the work of the Allied Commission and Allied Military Government."



GENERAL CLARK  
... source of pride ...



GENERAL TRUSCOTT  
"Well done!"



GENERAL LEE  
... escape valve ...



GENERAL MORGAN  
... true and reliable ...



GENERAL McNARNEY  
... into pages of history ...

# A Couple Of Jumps Behind The Front

## Our Correspondents Dreamed Of Going To That N. Y. Office

(Author of this piece has been our New York correspondent for the past six months.)

By Sgt. SID KLINE

From the early days of The Stars and Stripes, Mediterranean Edition, the most envied staffman, and the most exultant, was the guy notified that he had snagged an assignment in the New York bureau. I know. I watched them go and finally I came to New York myself. But after a short while at home one realized that his was not an unclouded paradise.

Professionally it was a wonderful spot to have. During the war years it meant temporary escape from the tension of a battle theater, from the tension which existed psychologically, even if in varying degree, from the line back to the rear echelons. After the peace it offered the lucky correspondent the chance to adjust himself to the civilian milieu while still in the service, and thus avoid some of the confusion which so many veterans fresh off the boat confronted.

One's beat was the whole U. S. There was not a correspondent who didn't discover at least one story which required his presence in his home town. More ethically, there were really great yarns waiting to be picked up on the American scene.

### TEMPORARY DUTY

Until I arrived in New York last November, Stars and Stripes men came over for four months of temporary duty. The assignment usually was a reward for trying service as a combat correspondent or for handling a tough, infuriating desk job in The Stars and Stripes publishing office.

Many of the correspondents produced really fine copy. There was, for example, Ralph Martin's moving account of how Red Oak, Iowa, accepted the loss of so many of its men who served in the 34th Division. And Milton Lehman's classic reportage of the late President Roosevelt's funeral. And, on the lighter side, Dave Golding's investigation into the spam, and Jack Polesie's probe into the powdered egg manufacturing situations.

On the personal side, living was comfortable, food was fine, military restraints were few, and the respect that one received everywhere as the representative of The Stars and Stripes was gratifying. Those of us who were married saw to it that our families were with us in New York.

But there were drawbacks. Serving in New York was like riding a horse to the starting line in the Kentucky Derby but not racing it around the track. Like drinking a single cup of sparkling, exhilarating champagne, but no more. Like making love to a beautiful woman but going to bed alone.

### JOBS DWINDLE

It was wonderful and stimulating—but frustrating. After the war ended one happily watched other guys with those enchanting ruptured-duck emblems in their lapels get the better jobs and the decent homes, as long as the better jobs and the decent homes were available. One saw stay-at-homes entertaining lavishly and living mighty well on the fat of war earnings while the correspondent himself attempted hopelessly to cope with inflation prices on slim Army pay.

One was, in effect, part soldier and part civilian. He was in Halfway House. It was good and it was bad.

Withal, a guy felt like a heel when he complained. The rest of the staff and thousands of other troops, by the caprice of fate, still were overseas and having a helluva lot harder time of it. The correspondent, by comparison, had it mighty good.

So he plugged away at the chore of finding news items which he thought would interest the guys back in Italy; he interpreted the political and economic scene as honestly as he could for those across the ocean; and he had the satisfaction of knowing that what he wrote was printed (typographical and transmission errors aside) the way he wrote it, without change or censorship. That, to one who had been a civilian newspaperman, was certainly a professional dream come true.

## EXIT

Bound volumes of The Stars and Stripes, Mediterranean Edition, dating back for three and a half years, are laid out on a long table in our editorial office in Rome.

The early editions, published in Algiers, and later in Sicily and Naples, were printed on "rough" stock that is already yellowing in the files. It didn't "take ink" very well, either, so that the pictures are, for the most part, indistinct.

There is one thing about those early papers, however, that hasn't faded, and that is the caliber of the reporting that went into them; that is going to weather the years very well, indeed.

The early editions of The Stars and Stripes had all the zing and power of a bullet.

In those days our correspondents lived and ate with the troops, slept in the mud with them, accompanied them on amphibious landings and airborne missions. Their writing was accurate, honest, earthy and brilliant.

With the end of the war a lot of the zing went out of the bullet; the old-timers went home; new editors filled old chairs. We are not kidding ourselves; the new editors did not always measure up to the old, just as the tempo of events themselves, more fortunately, did not measure up to the tempo of the war years.

One-third of the staff goes home this month; and it is no longer possible, without replacements, to do the job well. And so—before the bullet is spent altogether—we are calling it quits.

With this issue, Volume 2, Number 307, the Rome edition of The Stars and Stripes, last of the 13 Mediterranean editions, completes its tour of duty.

## Mediterranean Edition First Newspaper To Go Into Battle

This edition of The Stars and Stripes was the first newspaper in military history to reach the troops daily in the fighting zones.

During the campaigns in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, the paper depended almost exclusively on its own combat correspondents for accurate front-line coverage.

### Rome Edition Hit Street On June 5

The Stars and Stripes moved into a new location just about as fast as the troops it served.

The quickest job of getting out a new edition was in Rome, where the "Stripes" appeared on the streets on June 5, 1944, while GIs were still streaming into the Eternal City.

Sgt. Milton Lehman, with three other reporters and one photographer, had entered the city with the first troops. Their first stop was the newspaper plant of Il Messaggero. Told that the shop was in good shape, they enlisted the help of Italian printers and had a paper out within a few hours. The headline of that first Rome edition said: "We're in Rome!"

Ten days after the landings in southern France, Maj. Robert Christiansen and ten GI staff members arrived in C-47s, requisitioned a weapons carrier, sped up to Grenoble, and got out a paper overnight.

### Reader's Digest

During the war the Reader's Digest was printed by The Stars and Stripes, and distributed along with the paper as a service to troops in the field. Each issue of the magazine was reprinted in four weekly installments.

## The Father Of Willie And Joe

When Bill Mauldin of The Stars and Stripes left Italy he had 131 points—and a reputation which few cartoonists in his generation have enjoyed.

Mauldin's Willie and Joe were the delight of American troops at the front and, incidentally, won him the Pulitzer prize last year.

Mauldin came to The Stars and Stripes, Mediterranean Edition, fairly early in the campaign, and soon captured the affection of GIs the length and breadth of the front who saw in his mordant drawings a genuine reflection of their hardships and their natural grievances.

The cartoonist was not always so popular with the "brass" he occasionally lampooned, but it was generally conceded that his sketches served a healthy purpose in keeping tempers down and humor up among the fighting men.

Publication of a single Mauldin cartoon cleared up more than one unsavory condition in the MTO.



BILL MAULDIN

## Editorial Staff Heard Grim Echoes Of War

(Author of the following was formerly news editor of the Rome edition of The Stars and Stripes.)

By WILLIAM HOGAN

The Italian campaign to some of us on The Stars and Stripes was not Salerno, or the Rapido, the Volturno, or Venafro. It wasn't Cassino, or the breakout from Anzio, or winter in the Apennines.

It was being inside somewhere, producing the paper, and always the war was a little beyond.

when the correspondents drove out to the front and were back in time to write their dispatches in the office for the early edition, the war was beyond those of us stationed permanently in the editorial rooms.

The war to us was only the smoke pots rising around the rim of the harbor after the sirens had sounded, or perhaps the dull thud of a bomb in the harbor area when we were deep in the pressroom and the power would fade and die for a while, halting the press run.

That, for some of us in the rear, producing the paper, was the Italian campaign.

Our correspondents left and joined the outfits they were assigned to, and you would hear from them regularly or irregularly, and they'd return after their stretch at the front, tired and needing a drink and some rear area food, and to those of us on the production side it seemed the correspondents just about tolerated us, the way they would a base section MP.

## MTO Stripes Printed 13 Separate Editions

The Stars and Stripes Mediterranean published 13 separate editions in all—in Algiers, Oran, Casablanca, Palermo, Salerno, Naples, Tunis, Rome, Grenoble, Besancon, Nice, Marseille and Leghorn.

At one time seven editions ran simultaneously. The peak circulation was 300,000 daily, at which time it was being read by 99 percent of the troops in Italy.

Biggest circulation attained by any of the editions was 210,000 copies produced daily on the rickety

### 26,000—AND OUT

Circulation of The Stars and Stripes Mediterranean at its closing was 26,000 copies daily.

presses of the plant of Il Mattino in Naples just before the breakthrough at Cassino and Anzio.

The Stars and Stripes was delivered by truck, plane, train, ships—and even muleback. Occasionally the papers were parachuted out of planes.

Paratroopers who landed in Southern France were able to read of their exploits later the same day.

To be sure that the Anzio beach-head got its news, a Stars and Stripes man went with the papers each day on an LST from Naples to Nettuno.

During the brief period when American forces occupied Pantelleria a bundle of papers was dropped daily on the island.

### French Lessons

To help the GI in North Africa, The Stars and Stripes ran a series of lessons in French.

### 16-HOUR DAY

We worked. I mean, it was a 16-hour day a lot of the time. Wrangling with censors and news service cables and Italian printers—the whole complex job of getting out not just an Army newspaper, but a complete American daily overseas—a job in which we took an almost obscene pride. But always the correspondents had a little more of the war than we did in the rear.

Once in a while a sub-editor would break away. A young and brilliant little sergeant from Miami, Fla., named Al Kohn did. Al and I were in Algiers the week they invaded Salerno, and most of the staff had been assigned to the invasion, and Al and I broke our tails getting the big Algiers weekly, practically alone.

Later we bought a bottle of brandy (after the paper was in) and revived ourselves, and Kohn said he was quitting the editing side and was going out in the field. I don't think either of us really believed it then.

He made it, though. A year or so later he just left the desk and went to the front. The 5th Army was around Pisa then, and Al was with the infantry, traveling with Sid Feder of the Associated Press. Later Sid told me he wasn't going to have anything more to do with that Kohn: the kid was fearless... he had driven a jeep into the middle of Pisa before the infantry got there.

### BACK TO ROME

Al came back to Rome and wanted a couple of days rest on the news desk, but he was tagged a correspondent then. We assigned him to the 36th Division which was making the Southern France invasion in August, so he didn't get a rest. I said we'd have some more brandy when he got back in a few weeks, and he said sure, and went off to make the invasion.

We never had the brandy, of course. Civilian correspondents told us how Al had been cut down by a German machine gunner while traveling with one of the companies of the regiment he was covering in the drive up from the Riviera.

Well, that was the campaign to some of us on the production side; the front was always moving away, and the correspondents going to it, and coming back, and filing their dispatches, and we in turn putting it into the record and shipping it out again, the finished newspaper. The satisfaction was it was getting there, in those days, getting to the guys who were really of the war, even if it got to them on the backs of mules, as it did in the Apennines.

Whether the combat troops or our own front-line correspondents know it or not, I think some of us who spent the war on the editorial desks in the rear left a part of ourselves in Italy, too.

# Mail Call--Of, By And For The Soldier

## Troops Let Off Steam In Letters To Columns Of Stars And Stripes

"Please use your influence in getting more butterscotch put in our C rations, as 99 percent of the soldiers up on the front just open their cans looking for—you guessed it—butterscotch." Two GIs sweating out the war in a foxhole in North Africa thus belabored Army chow through the Mail Call column of The Stars and Stripes. There is no indication in future issues of the paper that the soldiers' request was heard and complied with; but suggestions voiced in Mail Call frequently resulted in action on behalf of the writers.

For a soldier fighting a tough war in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, the Mail Call column offered an ever-ready and sympathetic ear. His gripes—whether at C rations, or mail deliveries, or the eccentricities of his commanding officer—time and again brought the plea to the editor:

"Please use your influence. . . That Mail Call has exerted a healthy influence on the conduct of the Army over here is inescapable. It has acted as a damper upon the tempers and bigotry of GIs and their officers alike.

A soldier who wrote in, lambasting the Algiers Stars and Stripes for printing a semi-nude picture of Jane Russell, brought a flood of angry letters:

"Who thinks that the unclothed body of a beautiful woman is unclean and indecent?" wrote one outraged soldier to whom such a phenomenon was a misty promise beyond the rim of his dugout.

### GAVE HIM A CHANCE

Mail Call gave the fighting man a chance to blow off steam and most Army men over here, from General Eisenhower on down, agreed that this was a good thing. Occasionally it was the "Stripes" itself that got burned:

"I do not give a damn, if I never see another issue of your stupid rag," wrote a captain in North Africa. "A newspaper sponsored by the Army should represent the Army and the men in it, not a crowd of service troops who can hardly be classified as soldiers. . . The service troops in the rear promptly jumped on the captain's neck and gave him a drubbing—in Mail Call—that he has probably not forgotten.

Favorite subject of more recent Mail Call contributions has been redeployment, which to a GI sweating out a boat always seems to be going too slowly.

The GI had his say in Mail Call, even though his complaints were often nasty or ill-advised. We ran his letter—unless it was vicious or inflammatory—and let the other Mail Call readers set him straight in a later issue. The column was a forum of opinion; it belonged to the soldier and he used it freely and without fear.

No soldier's confidence was ever violated by this paper. If he asked us to preserve his anonymity, we did.

### IT GOT RESULTS

Mail Call got results. A short constructive letter last summer suggested ways and means of improving conditions at the 7th Replacement Depot; the conditions were improved. A letter complained that the EM of a Railway Company had no transportation to go to movies and clubs in Leghorn, while their officers had plenty of it; the EM got their transportation.

Our British readers have made themselves right at home in Mail Call, sometimes with entertaining results. One of them called the paper a "bunch of trash" and the indignant reaction—from his fellow countrymen—was tremendous.

Another contributor, signing himself "An Embittered Colonel," called a "slender ankle and dignity of profile" an integral part of the American officer and although he was undoubtedly writing with tongue in cheek, our readers took him seriously and flooded the Mail Call editor with angry protests.

Since Mail Call flung criticism far and wide, it was bound to touch tender tissues and evoke the enmity of people in a position to shackle it.

The staff has been able, not without a struggle, to keep the Mail Call column unfettered. Except for one week's interruption, the column has been published for more than three and a half years without any censorship other than that applied by staff members themselves.

Through Mail Call, The Stars and Stripes was able to fulfill one of its primary missions—to publish a paper that was the true expression of the wants and desires of the soldiers it served.

## We Ventured Twice Into The Book Trade

Two books were published by The Stars and Stripes. One, a collection of Bill Mauldin's best cartoons, entitled "This Damn Tree Leaks," sold 200,000 copies. The other, a collection of poems from the popular Puupent Poets columns, sold 80,000 copies.

## 'Old Med' Survived 4 Attempts On Its Editorial Freedom

(Author of the following was publications officer of the first Mediterranean Edition of Stars and Stripes, a post which he kept until late in 1944. The following story was cabled from New York.)

By Col. EGBERT WHITE

"Old Med" lived through four major crises.

The first occurred very soon after the birth of the paper in Algiers in December, 1942.

The London S and S, which was strictly controlled by I and E, sent to Algiers a crew of its people with an officer. They had the weight of authority because North Africa at that time was a part of ETO. They succeeded in asserting that authority and consequently Bob Neville, then a lieutenant, and I were shunted off to start a North African edition of Yank in Casablanca.

General Eisenhower heard of this, and a message from him caught us as we were en route to the airport to take a plane for Casablanca. We were ordered to report immediately to Headquarters, and there we were told to go back to The Stars and Stripes, to forget about Yank, and to concentrate on getting out the best S and S we could. The ETO officer and most of his group were sent back to London.

### SECOND CRISIS

Crisis No. 2 occurred during the spring of 1943 and concerned supplies. Although S and S in the Mediterranean Theater had been set up as a special staff section under G-1, its requisitions for paper, ink, linotype, parts and other necessary items were routed through I and E in Washington.

Every possible obstacle to prompt shipment was put in the way. Washington claimed that since we were selling the papers we ought to pay for the supplies.

This difficulty finally was solved by a personal message from General Marshall to I and E saying: "Ship Eisenhower what he wants and argue about it afterwards." Soon after that, arrangements were made for the Mediterranean Stars and Stripes' supplies to be supplied through QM instead of I and E.

The third crisis occurred during the summer of 1944 when the election was coming up. Campaign news furnished by the Army News Service was late, timid and inadequate. We renewed a request we had previously made for the permission to buy a straight American news service, not only to provide impartial and adequate campaign reports, but to improve our whole home news service. This request was turned down.

### COLONEL RELIEVED

At the same time the War Department ordered us to discontinue supplements containing material from American magazines which S and S had commenced to print in order to help meet what was then an urgent need for more reading matter. Also stopped was the practice of accepting subscriptions from soldiers in the theater to be mailed to their homes.

At the same time the War Department asked the theater commander to relieve me. I and E had already sent a man to the theater with express instructions to take over The Stars and Stripes. But while the theater commander apparently felt he had to agree to the change in publications officers, he nullified the I and E play to get control of the paper by appointing, at my suggestion, then-Captain Neville to succeed me and by refusing to put the paper under the I and E section.

Later, unfortunately, another theater commander did put the paper under I and E. While it made the job of getting out a good paper harder, the paper was by then so strong and its staff so competent that theater I and E people interfered very little.

Crisis number four was the recent effort to establish censorship of the letter column. That is fresh in the minds of S and S readers and need not be commented upon here. It was a policy with which the chief of staff and the Secretary of War did not agree, and was quickly countermanded.

As the history of the Army papers comes to be better known, both the staff of the paper and the theater commanders who made possible their success will have reason to be proud of "Old Med."

## 'JUST PLAIN DIRTY OLD EVERYDAY MUD'



Mud was the nemesis of fighting men in North Africa and Italy. Here, a mud-bound jeep gets shoved to higher ground by ground men of a 15th Air Force Bomber group.

## Mud Kept 'Em Cussing-- And Writing To Mail Call

"I've never seen the brand of mud That's found in old Oran. . ."

So wrote one of the earlier contributors to The Poets Cornered—later to become Puupent Poets.

Mud was one of the worst enemies of the fighting man in North Africa and Italy and a theme of scores of contributions to Mail Call and the poetry.

The above poem—signed "Pvt. A. Mudder"—brought two incensed reports in Mail Call the following week:

"Dear Editor: "I read that poem by the guy that calls himself A. Mudder, who says there is no mud like Oran mud. I beg to disagree.

"I'm on top of a hill in Algiers and I run a jeep. I sleep in the mud. I sleep in three feet of mud about the color of stale beer, and you ought to see me after a heavy rain. And then the captain wants the jeep cleaned up and migod every morning it looks like a mud pie.

"I wasn't going to say anything about our mud until this fellow in Oran brought it up. He ain't seen nothing.

"Yours, Pvt. Stan Burzewski."

"Dear Editor: "Tell A. Mudder to come off that stuff. I'm in an outfit that does quite some bit of walking. I'm an authority on mud—black mud, brown mud, sticky mud, soupy mud and just plain dirty old everyday mud.

"Out where we are—out where the mud begins—we haven't seen solid ground for three weeks. We're sending a sample to a chemist to see whether this stuff is solidified water or liquid dirt. Sgt. James Surber."

### Casablanca Parley

One of the biggest stories of the early war days occurred right in the backyard of the Algiers Stars and Stripes—the Casablanca conference of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill. That event was covered and reported by Robert Neville, who had risen from sergeant to 1st lieutenant, later becoming publications officer of the newspaper.

## God Bless The Chocolate Bar

The chocolate bar was one of America's greatest contributions to the war in Africa and Europe—if you can believe some of the people over here.

One of the earliest letters to Mail Call describes the joy of a resident of Algiers upon being given candy by the writer:

"He almost swooned in ecstasy," says the Mail Call contributor. "The first chocolate he had tasted in one and a half years. I'll sweat out those American rations if it takes all summer and know that we're luckier than lots of others around here."

## Sad Sack Enlivened Volume 1, Number 1

The first issue of the "Stripes," published one month after the invasion of North Africa, carried a Sad Sack cartoon on its back page. Bill Mauldin had not yet arrived on the scene.

Also in that first issue was a column called "The Poets Cornered"—later to become the popular "Poets Corner."

World and local news and a message of congratulation from then Lt. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower occupied page one.

The rest of Volume 1, number 1 was devoted to a Blondie cartoon, a poem, a story about the [Algiers Red Cross and photographs.

## It Depends On How You Look At Things

A difference of opinion between Stars and Stripes staff members and various high-ranking, policy-making officers, over what constituted a violation of military practices, has constantly threatened the paper's ability to print all the news.

This conflict concerned the right to publicize Army abuses and deficiencies. News of this nature came chiefly from the readers who wrote in to the Mail Call column and, secondly, from inquiries and reports by Stars and Stripes correspondents.

A brief outline of the two philosophies is as follows:

**Tone-it-downer**—Playing up Army shortcomings in the newspaper may tend to injure the morale of the Armed Forces.

**Print-it-aller**—The Army, is big—and human—it grew up fast. Why not recognize abuses as natural in any society instead of trying to present a false ideal picture. An Army that is good is the objective, not an Army that only looks good.

**Tone-it-downer**—Army officials are perfectly capable of discovering and correcting any faults.

**Print-it-aller**—The person responsible for the abuse may be in the best position to camouflage it. The press may not only help reveal them more quickly, but fear of public expose might act as a preventive measure.

**Tone-it-downer**—Are you people qualified to do the job? Over-zealous crusading writers may exaggerate a minor issue.

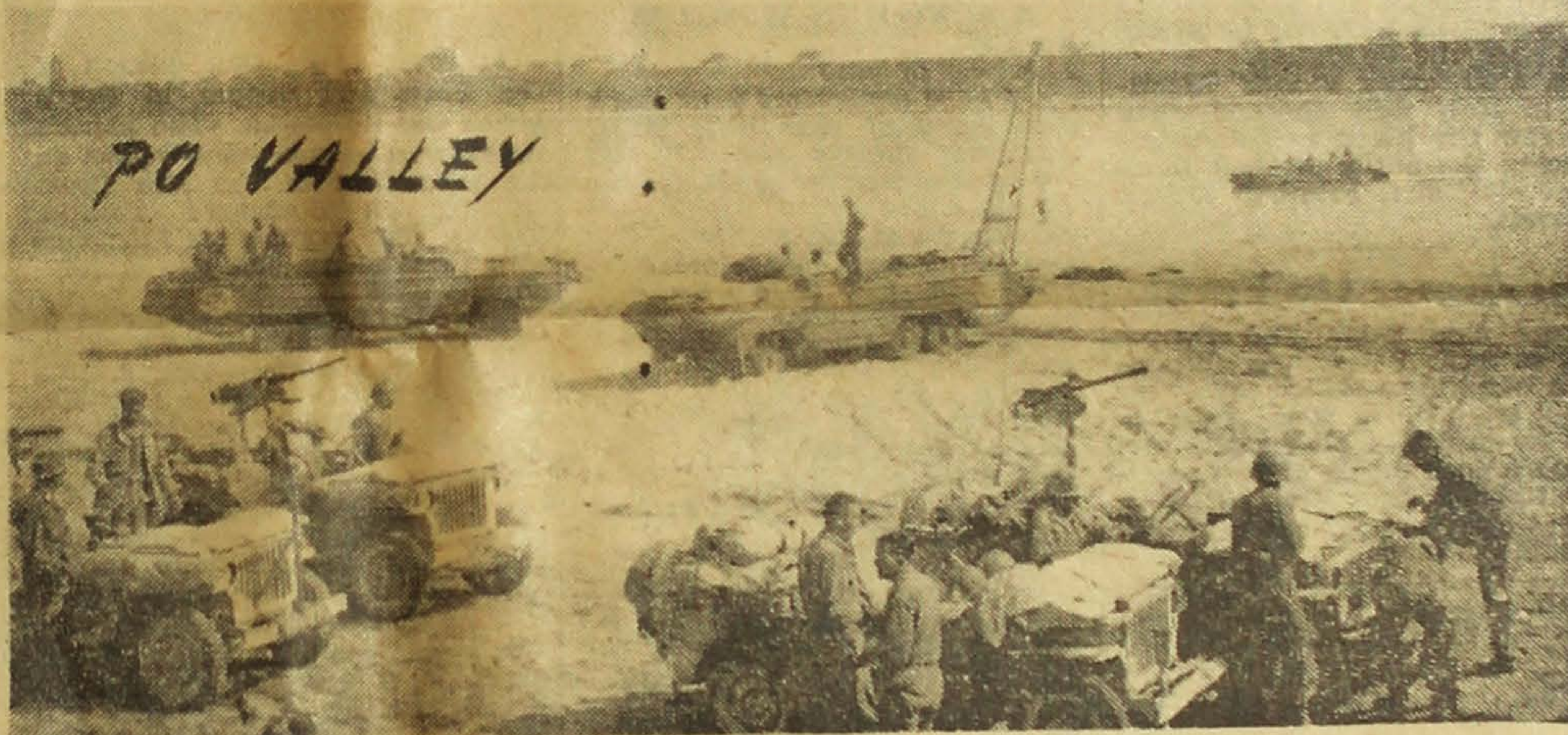
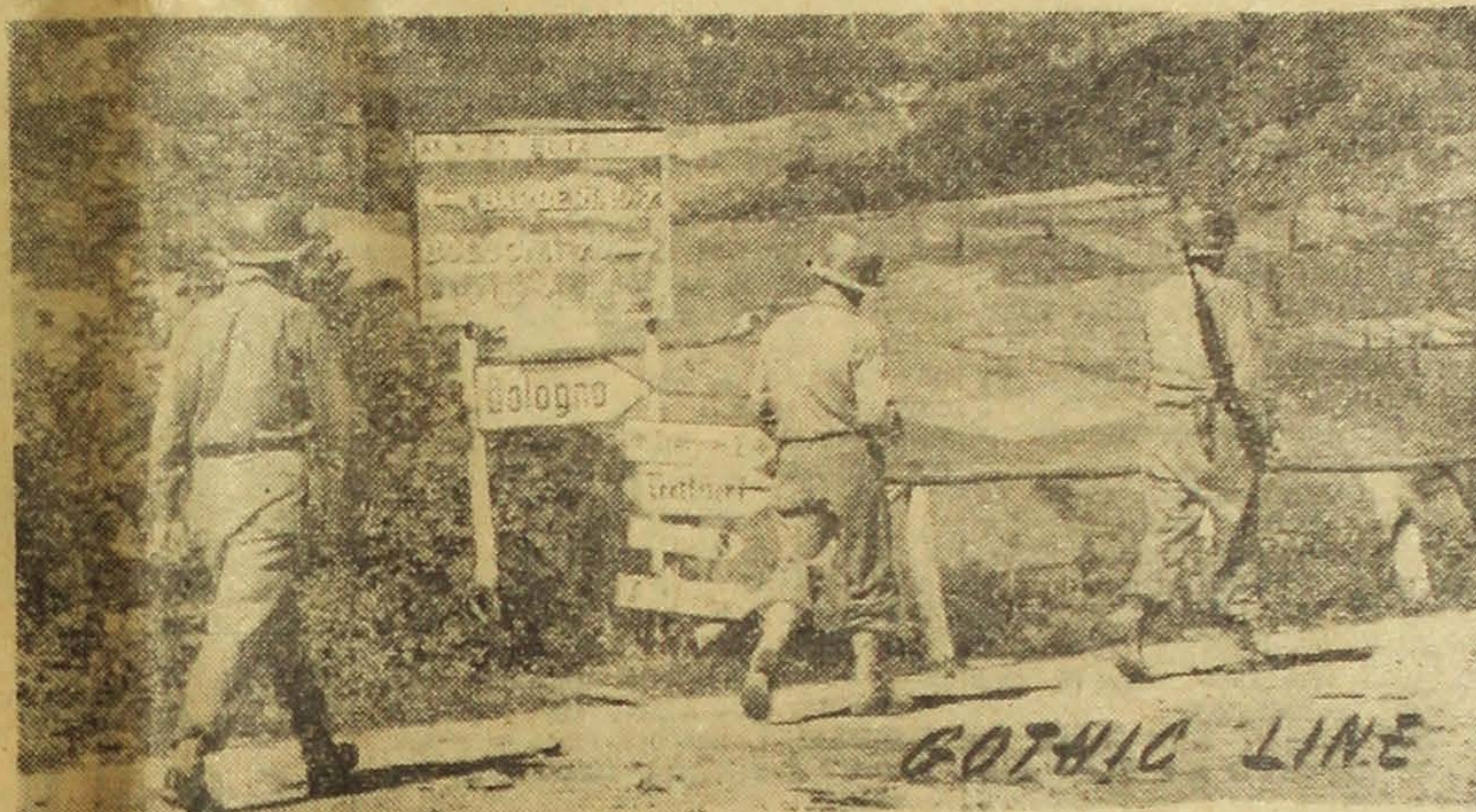
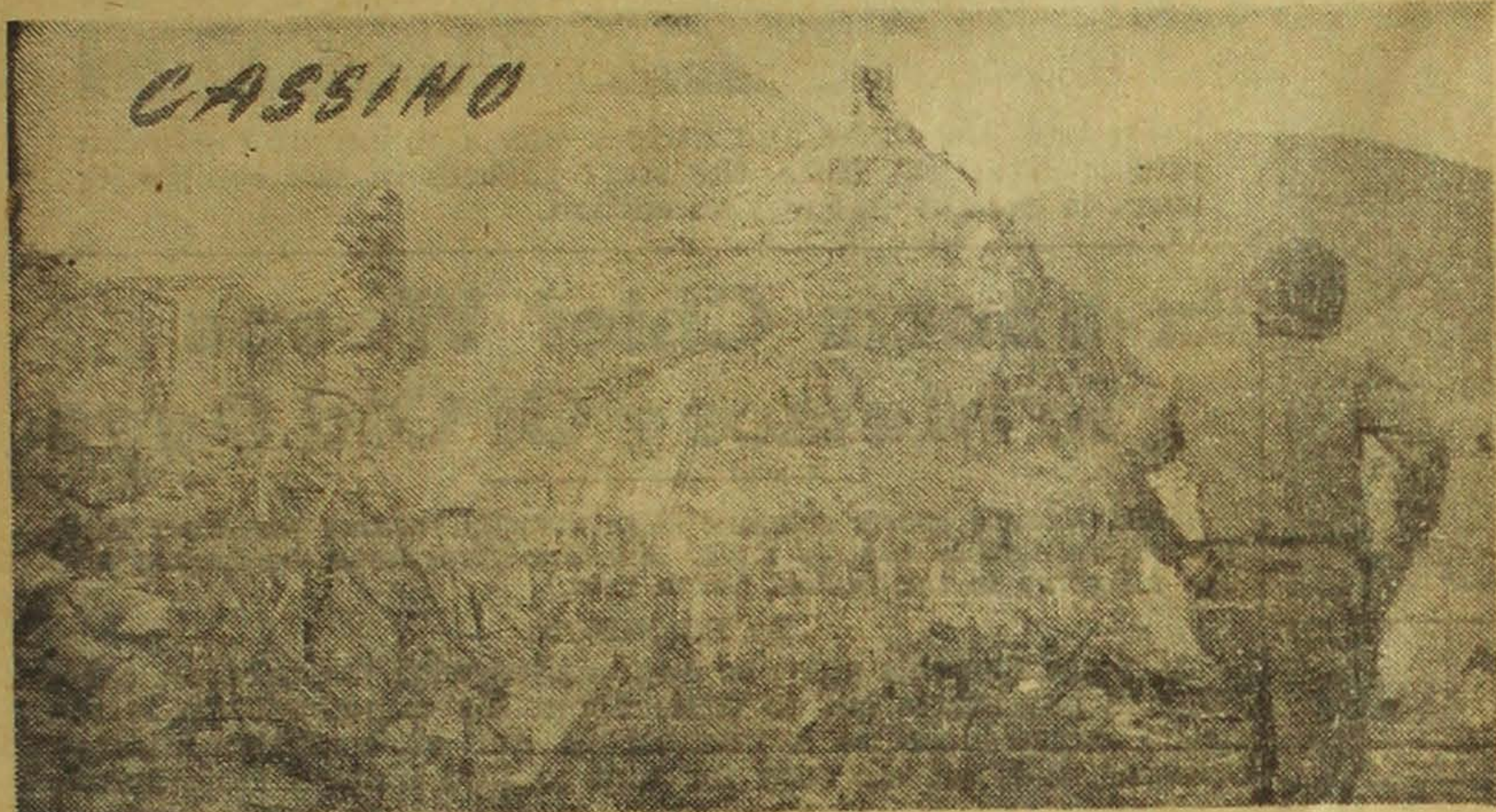
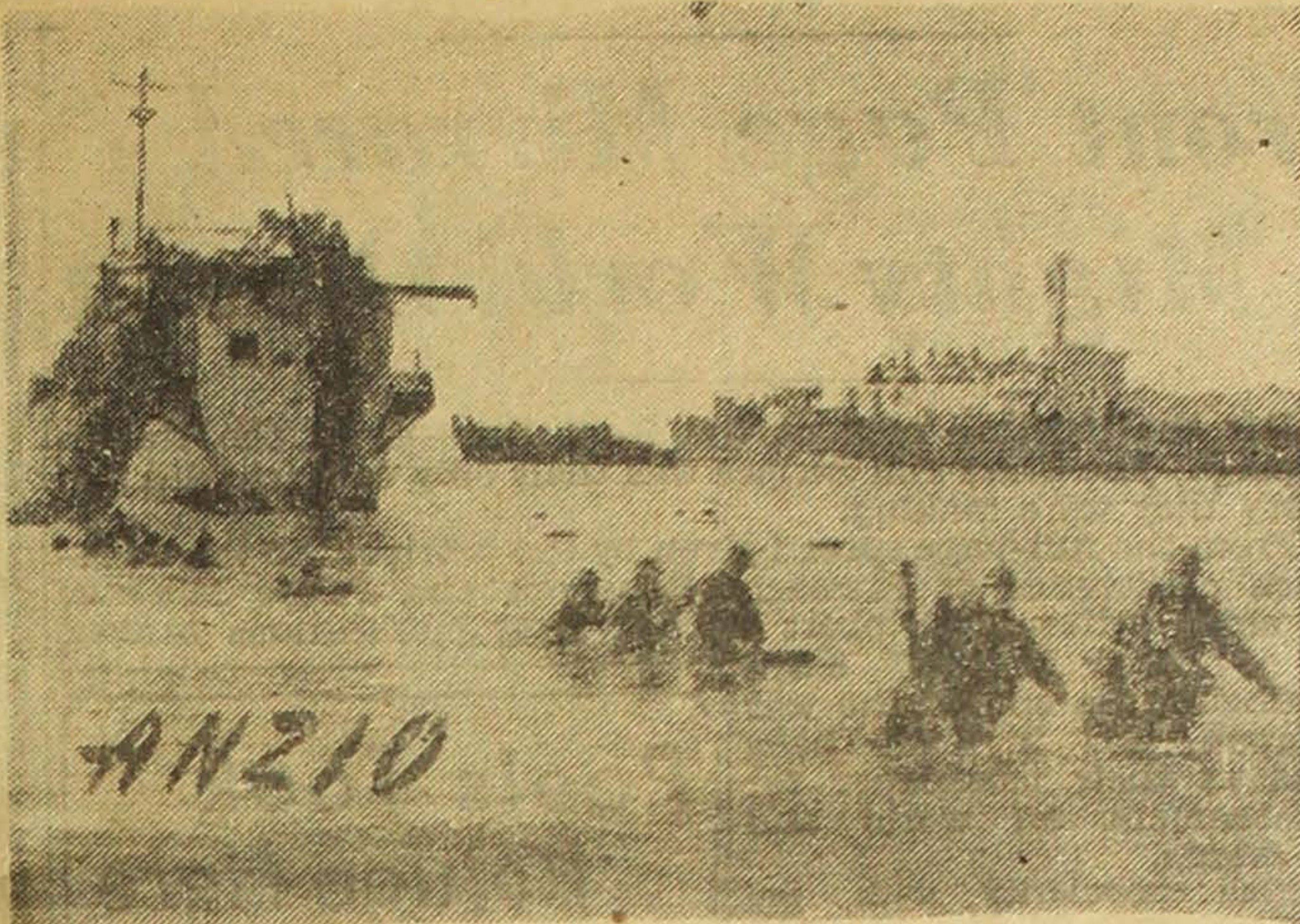
**Print-it-aller**—We feel we are capable. If not, the Army can remove us and replace us.

The meeting between Bill Mauldin and General Patton was a classic example of an exchange of views between Mr. Print-it-aller and Mr. Tone-it-downer.

The Stars and Stripes has not always found it easy to maintain its position against the opposition of some high-ranking Army officers.

But in the end common sense, and a respect for the opinion of the American soldier, have won out, and this newspaper has remained what it set out to be—a newspaper of, by and for American soldiers in this theater.

# From Salerno To The Po--Italy, '43-'45



The Italian campaign, one of history's bitterest, was covered from first to last by Stars and Stripes combat correspondents who landed with the American divisions at Salerno on Sept. 9, 1943, and were in the thick of the action for the next 20 months.

When the Allies were stopped cold at Cassino, The Stars and Stripes won the respect of the fighting men for the honesty of its front line stories. It was in the columns of their newspaper and not in official releases that GIs dug in at the foot of Montecassino first learned they were stymied.

There was no varnishing of the facts then—or later, during the heart-breaking months at Anzio.

Our correspondents entered Rome with the troops and had an edition on the street the same day. The major world wire services returned to Rome, and it became the focus of all news in the theater.

Leghorn fell July 18, 1944, and Pisa in August. The Gothic Line

was cracked and all through the winter of 1944-45 there was fighting in the Apennines. The "Stripes" men were there, too, writing first-hand stories on that cold, muddy, deadly business.

Then in April, 1945, the German lines were broken again and Bologna fell. Three days later we spanned the Po.

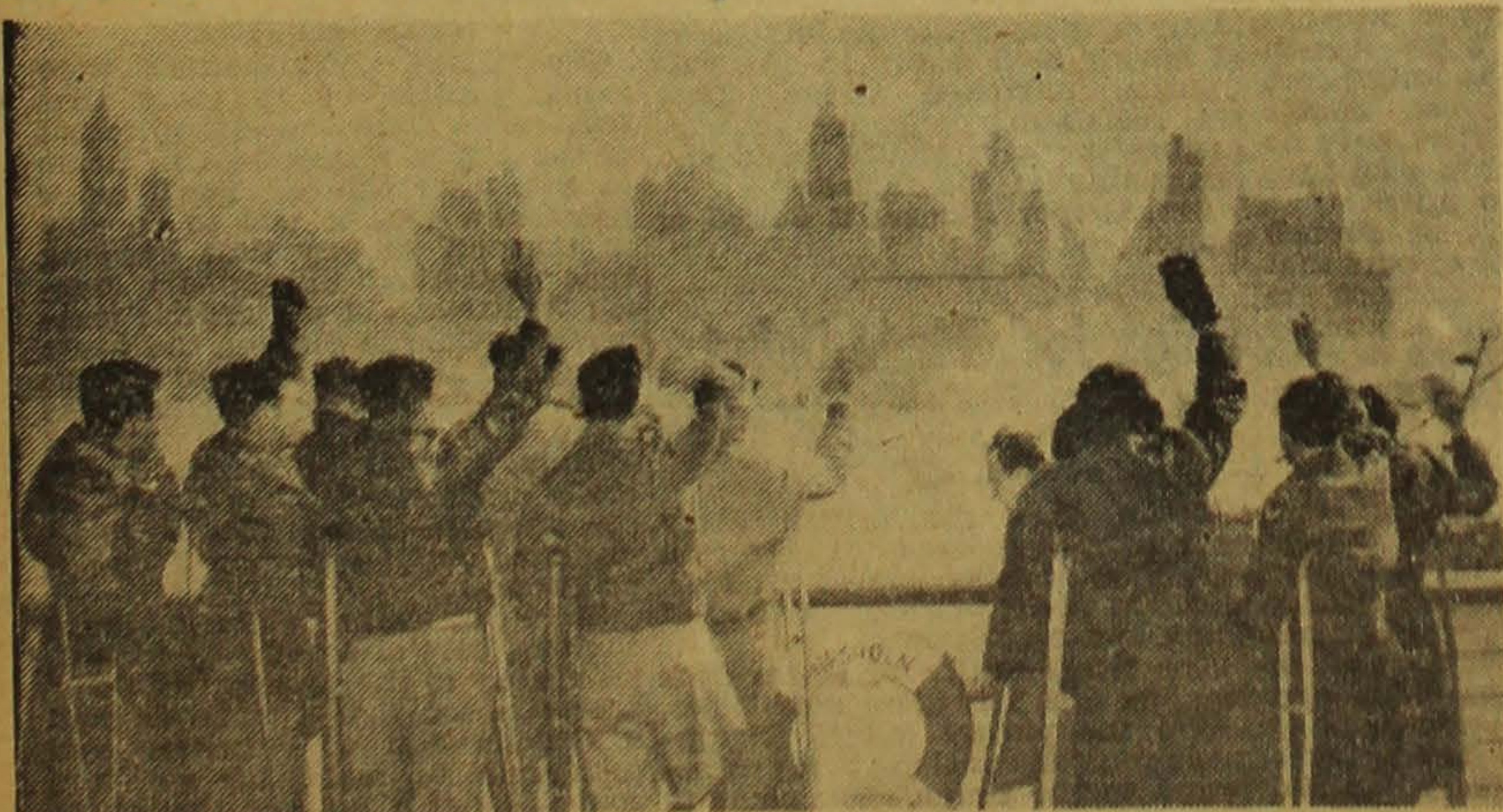
Genoa was taken Apr. 25. German resistance was crushed. On May 2, with their battered legions driven into hopeless retreat, with mountains of their equipment and thousands of their soldiers captured, Hitler's forces in Italy surrendered to Field Marshal Alexander at the Royal Palace in Caserta.

One of the most dramatic accounts of that surrender was written by our correspondent, Sgt. Howard Taubman.

The Stars and Stripes had done its job for the combat man in Italy. We had reported "his" war as best we knew how; now we turned our eyes upon the "other" war—in Germany and the Pacific.

## Some Of The Boys Went Home...

## ...And Some Of Them Stayed



# History In The Headlines--And How!

## Front Page Mirrored Mighty World Drama

For the fighting men at the front throughout the Italian campaign, The Stars and Stripes was their only contact with the history they were making.

From the full-page spread given by the "Stripes" to the Casablanca conference of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, written by Robert Neville, later publications officer, to the "Peace At Last" extra announcing the end of the war in Japan, GIs in Italy have looked to their newspaper for enlightenment on world and local events.

Sharing popularity with the VJ-Day issue were the "It's All Over Over Here" extra announcing VE-Day, "Nazi Armies in Italy Surrender," carrying Sgt. Howard Taubman's on-the-spot story of the surrender in Caserta, and the announcement of "85 points-and-out."

Sand-weary fighters in Africa got a glint of future victory when on May 8, 1943 they read "Tunis, Bizerte Captured." The next year, March 16, they read with all the world "Cassino Pulverized by MAAF" covered by The Stars and Stripes front-line correspondent John O. Kearney.

The fifth and sixth days of June, 1944, were eventful for readers of the Mediterranean Stars and Stripes, for on these days they read of the taking of Rome as they entered that liberated capital, and the next day of the invasion of Normandy.

Sgt. Bill Hogan sent back to readers in the MTO a full account of the events at the San Francisco Conference in April, 1945, only a few days after Ed Hill had marched and rode along with the victorious Allies onto the Po Valley.

And that same month Americans in Italy were shocked when they saw the black headlines announcing the death of their Commander-in-Chief, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

### L'il Abner Up Front

Where The Stars and Stripes went, so went L'il Abner. Whenever a handful of skilled men went up to establish a new paper in some forward city, they made sure to have a good supply of that popular cartoon in their jeep or plane, along with an assortment of Bill Mauldin cartoons.

### BILL MAULDIN'S CARTOON



Copyright 1946 by United Feature Syndicate, Inc. Title Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.—All rights reserved.

The devastating satire of Bill Mauldin's cartoons has been turned against the flim-flammy side of life in the States. Caption of the above cartoon, which appeared in scores of American newspapers last month, is: "The man who convinced his draft board he couldn't carry a gun."

### Poets Took Refuge Here

More than one GI in North Africa and Italy relieved the tension and hardship of his war by scribbling poetry on the back of an envelope and mailing it to The Stars and Stripes.

Much of it is first rate. But whether or not poetry is great, or even good, it serves a purpose—it takes a man's mind off his troubles.

Here are a couple of samples—one humorous, the other in deadly earnest, which will explain why Puupent Poets was one of the paper's most popular features:

#### SUPPLY

I drew a jacket yesterday  
And still am throwing tags away;  
When I am sure de-tagging's done,  
I'm bound to find another one.  
I worked last night 'til very late,  
Detected, pried off twenty-eight,  
There's something tickling at my spine:  
B'gad, I'll bet it's twenty-nine.

#### A LETTER IN WARTIME

Darling . . .  
Thinking of you?  
I have memorized your touch  
And many of your little ways;  
And your shining eyes.  
We have shared many memorable hours . . .  
And days and night  
Too full of dear contentment  
To say in puny little words.  
Those shining hours  
Renew themselves in retrospect,  
And down the years . . .  
Whatever they may bring . . .  
Your voice, your smile,  
And all that's you  
Will make me glad.  
There is so much . . . and nothing  
more to say  
Except . . . I love you.



D-Day at The Stars and Stripes was a welter of confusion and excitement. Here, the staff gathers in the composing room to get out an invasion edition.

### Ex-Sports Chief Weeps In Memory Of Old Days

(Ed Nixon's sports columns were favorite reading for Stars and Stripes readers in the old days. For this final issue, he dashed off the following in the typical Nixon vein.)

By ED NIXON

A piece like this must be approached with the greatest care. When a guy starts out to write about his wonderful (in retrospect) experiences as a member of our all-conquering Army overseas, it is all too easy for him to find himself floundering in a sea of nostalgic slop. I will try to avoid that.

### Staff Artist Died In Action

Sgt. Gregor Duncan, staff artist killed by a shell fragment while on assignment near Valmontone on May 29, 1944, was one of the most successful artists in his field.

His field was sketching for newspapers and magazines. His record of Army life, as depicted in drawings for the Mediterranean Edition of the "Stripes," shows him to be "a kind of visual Ernie Pyle."

Authority for this last statement is Alfred Frankenstein, art editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, who called Duncan "one of the best sports illustrators this town ever had," adding: "During his years in New York



ERNIE PYLE

Sketched by Gregor Duncan

his drawings were widely used by a great many national magazines. His Army drawings show the buck private scrapping, eating, loafing and otherwise doing his best to get along.

"His gifts of draftsmanship show up particularly impressively in the small sketches from his notebook. Many of these create the impression of having been drawn in one continuous, unbroken stroke. They are remarkably effective in suggesting the gait, stance, build and personality of the figures."

Sgt. Gregor Duncan is buried at Anzio.

### Union Jack Made Debut 14 Weeks After We Did

Union Jack—the British Army newspaper—appeared in North Africa on Monday, March 22, 1943, about 14 weeks after the arrival of The Stars and Stripes.

The Rome edition of Union Jack together with The Stars and Stripes, leaves the picture today. Equipment and personnel are being transferred to the Union Jack plant in Venice.

### First Algiers Issue Full Of Headaches

Getting out the first edition of The Stars and Stripes in North Africa was no breeze. The paper's offices were in two small rooms on the fifth floor of the Red Cross building on Boulevard Baudin, Algiers. The rooms were furnished with three chairs and two tables—no more, no less.

There were just enough chairs to go around, for the editorial staff for that first edition—Dec. 9, 1942—consisted of only three men—Lt. Col. Egbert White, 1st Lt. H. A. Harchar and S-Sgt. Robert Neville.

The fourth member of the staff—Pvt. Irving Levison—had a chair of his own at the linotype machine. Levison set up and made up the first edition, single-handed.

#### TRYING MOMENTS

The linotype was furnished by the genial publisher of L'Echo D'Algier, who also provided paper and presses. A page two editorial in the first edition leaves no doubt that journalism, as practiced in Algiers in 1942, had its trying moments.

"The editors feel," they wrote, "that they have waged and won a major campaign in producing only a month after Allied Forces landed in North Africa, this first issue of The Stars and Stripes to be published in this theater of war."

"We had to overcome sizable pockets of resistance, elsewhere, however. For instance, the type we used in printing The Stars and Stripes in London could simply not be duplicated in Algiers. The result is that we can hope here only to approximate in appearance the newspapers we have been accustomed to reading at home."

#### OTHER HEADACHES

"Other peculiarities of French newspaperdom caused numerous other headaches. French column widths are narrower than ours. We had trouble with their linotype machines. The letters 'W' and 'K,' for example, were either non-existent or misplaced, while French quotation marks were so unlike ours that we decided to use double apostrophes instead. They have no dollar signs, which means we'll have to write out American prices.

"The wartime stock of French newsprint is so inferior to ours that our photographic reproductions are bound to suffer. We've already discovered that the beauty of even the most glamorous Hollywood actress is likely to suffer somewhat when transcribed to the pages of this new Stars and Stripes.

"Finally, linotype operators and printers who can set and handle type, to say nothing of men who can write the copy, are not exactly numerous in the U. S. Armed Forces in North Africa. We've had to select our objectives carefully and then make several well-planned 'raids' on a couple of outfits hereabouts to get this very special talent."

#### FRIGID CHAMBER

Once in that frigid chamber, which I shared with John (Bomb-head) Clift and a family of small Neapolitan mice, I was lying abed with nothing to keep me warm except a bottle of Pisanti's cognac, when suddenly there appeared in the room a padre in all his priestly vestment, waving a crucifix and mouthing what I fondly hoped were benedictions. I was beginning to look upon this event as a sort of "message" to mend my ways when I learned that it is an old Neapolitan custom to have the good fathers come around and bless all the rooms in a house at Easter time. I don't know who ordered him. I certainly didn't.

As the "over-all" sports editor of The Stars and Stripes, Mediterranean (a title that I liked to roll around on my tongue) I was in an enviable position. Our publication officer, Lt. Col. Robert Neville, of the unruly tress, didn't know his elbow from third base when it came to sports. So I didn't have too much trouble with him. As soon as VE-Day came I found it fairly simple to sell the colonel on the idea of frequent tours of northern Italy in quest of column material. Heh, heh. I became an "expert" on mountain climbing, skiing, smuggling myself across the border to drink Swiss beer, and staying as far from the Rome office as possible.

#### NEAR MUTINY

My Alpine peregrinations were made possible by the fact that there were three stalwart members of the Armed Forces back in Rome to look after things. You'll never know how nice it was to be able to take off at any time knowing that "Shivering" Bill Gilham, Merrill Whittlesey, of the terrible temper, and Charlie Slocum, the white Stepinfetchit, were there to get out that sprightly sports section. At times they were on the verge of mutiny, a state of affairs I can easily understand since I was in the office so infrequently as to be mistaken for a spy from I and E on occasions.

So in conclusion (which is always the best part of a piece by Nixon), let me say to the present "over-all" sports editor that I hope he had a Gilham and a Whittlesey and a Slocum to make life for him something of a joy, and thanks for the use of the hall.

# Never A Dull Day--Well, Hardly Ever

## Ex-Managing Editor Reviews High Spots Of S and S History

(Author of the following was for many months managing editor of The Stars and Stripes, Mediterranean Edition.)

By DAVID GOLDING

When I joined The Stars and Stripes back in February, 1943, the paper was an eight-page weekly and only six issues old.

The word around the office was that we had a good friend in "Ike." One way I used to discourage persistent brass in Algiers was to mention casually that I didn't think General Eisenhower would like it.

What helped give my words some authority was an autographed photo of the general displayed prominently on my desk. As soon as it was noticed, it never failed to take the chill out of the imperious bearing of some officer who was ready to inflict his wishes upon a sergeant.

Under Colonel Egbert White's tactful direction as our publication officer, we had some rather smooth sailing. Our troubles began only after General Eisenhower left the theater to take over SHAEF.

### UNFORGETTABLE DAYS

There were days and nights which you can't forget in the early days at Algiers. A regular routine, which always threatened to delay publication but never actually did, were the air raids. Correspondents who covered all theaters of war agreed that the ack-ack barrage over Algiers was the most concentrated they had ever seen.

We came to appreciate the feelings of the infantrymen early enough. One of our reporters, Ralph G. Martin, wrote what he thought was a harmless story of Casablanca, mentioning that ice cream was available at the Red Cross club there. For awhile there was silence. Then the howls began as the paper reached into Tunisia where men endured the worst conditions of the war. That story taught us one lesson. The news of what the troops did in the rear echelons was not important.

There was the time I made my first trip to the front as a spectator to witness the battle for Hill 609. I discovered our attack almost failed because one regiment of the 34th Division was stricken with a severe case of the GIs from taking atabrine. The use of atabrine as a precaution against malaria had just been introduced but no one had taken time to find out what effect it would have on a man living under field conditions. After that near-fiasco, the amount of



The Stars and Stripes commanded the respect of the men in the theater because the men had faith in us. They had faith in us because they knew we tried to give them the facts. (Sketches on this page by staff artist Cpl. Sal Cruz)

atabrine to be taken was reduced. The Stars and Stripes commanded the respect of the men in the theater because the men had faith in us. They had faith in us because they knew we tried to give them the facts.

The Tunisian campaign had ended and the Stripes began experimenting with dailies in Oran and Casablanca. The Wacs had arrived and made good local color stories. On Friday, July 12, we were putting the weekly to press when the word came that the censors would not allow the entire issue to be printed. As we got it, our pictures and story of the first Wacs to be married overseas were considered not good for morale.

Most of the boys took off, and the rest of us sat around gloomily; then Robert Neville, the editor, closed the office door and said gravely to us: "None of you can leave. The invasion of Sicily takes

place tonight and we are going to put out an extra."

The alleged censorship of our regular issue was just a pretense so that we could put out a paper early in the morning without exciting any suspicion.

None of us slept. About 5 AM the first communique was made available to us and then we swung into action. By seven o'clock, The Stars and Stripes was on the streets being hawked by Arab newsboys.

The coverage of the Sicilian campaign established The Stars and Stripes as a paper to be read with authority and respect. On the initial invasion we had Ralph Martin, Jim Burchard, Jack Foisie and cameraman Phil Stern. Foisie went on from there to produce some of the best GI writing of the war. He happened to be the only correspondent along on the amphibious end-around pulled off by the 3rd Division at Santa Ana. His story was reproduced the world over both by the Associated Press and the United Press. When the campaign was over, Foisie was awarded the Legion of Merit.

### FIRST ITALY EDITION

About six weeks after Naples fell, we started our first Italian edition. It was from Naples that I went to the States to be the U. S. correspondent. All I can say about my mission in New York is that I was glad to return to Rome, which had been liberated only two days before.

Naturally the Rome edition was our favorite. It was the first of the Army papers to go eight pages daily. It was in Rome that the Sunday magazine edition appeared under John Willig's supervision.

The spring of 1945 saw the beginning of the end on the Western Front.

I went up to the 5th Army, and it was there, while waiting for the final kickoff in Italy that word came of Roosevelt's death.

I rushed to the phone to get our Rome office on the wire. The staff already had gathered in the editorial room to put out a completely new paper. They were so choked up with emotion that they couldn't talk. They said they were going to work all night. They did and when it arrived up front the next day it was as a fine a tribute to the late President as I saw anywhere.

Early next morning I arose and with Sid Feder of the Associated Press made a tour of the front starting from a company outpost back to headquarters to get the reaction of troops to the President's death. It seems even the big guns were quiet that day. No one discussed the offensive

which was to start the following night at ten.

The offensive went off as scheduled. I was called back to Rome on the second day. By the end of the week, the Allied armies were chewing big hunks out of the German lines.

The work at the office had become a dizzy whirl of activity. One day a call came from Colonel Kenneth H. Clark, PRO chief for AFHQ. It was Saturday, April 28. He asked me: "Who is your best reporter now in Rome, Dave?"

I told him it was Howard Taubman.

"Good," Colonel Clark said. "Tell him to be ready to leave for Caserta at a moment's notice. And be sure that no one else knows about this."

I promised and started to wonder.

About noon the phone rang and I was told to send Howard to

## Surrender At Caserta Was Biggest Moment In Edition's Career

Caserta. He went and did not return until Monday. While in Caserta he witnessed the signing of the surrender of the Nazi armies in Italy.

The story was to be released on May 3rd if all went well. But until then we were sworn to secrecy.

For us that was the greatest story of the war. We immediately set out to make this the best issue we ever published without tipping our hand.

Taubman locked himself in Bill Mauldin's office to write his story and the various sidebars. Stanley Meltzoff had completed his wonderful map of the history of the 5th Army campaign and Walter Pulliam kept writing enough for two pages of the 5th Army's march up the boot.

In the meantime, the stories started to break. Late that Monday night we received the flash that Mussolini had been hanged along with his mistress. We were up late remaking the paper.

### STORY FINISHED

Tuesday morning Taubman's story was finished. Nate Schwartz was selected to set up the story. No one was allowed near him when he worked and when he finished the type was locked in a closet. Ed Hogan, our managing editor in Naples, was brought up and given copies so he could have the story in time to put out an extra.

Then came the radio flash that Adolf Hitler was dead and Admiral Doenitz had taken over. There was nothing to do but rip the paper apart and make it over even though it was around midnight. Lyle Dowling was assigned to do the job and he did a masterful one. We all got to bed about five but couldn't sleep because we were waiting for the official word of the Nazi surrender in Italy.

There were several false starts. We were promised the release at noon. About four thirty it had not been released, and I returned to the billet to get some rest. A half hour later the phone rang. It was the censor calling Taubman. That was it. The paper already set up was discarded and we put out the Victory Extra.

Troops in the Rome area had been alerted that we would have an extra and were waiting for the paper. We used a five column lead down half the page in true tabloid style.

That was the high spot in the history of The Stars and Stripes.



The coverage of the Sicilian campaign established The Stars and Stripes as a paper to be read with authority and respect.



By seven o'clock the morning after the invasion of Sicily, Arab newsboys were hawking The Stars and Stripes extra on the streets of Algiers.

# We First Came To Italy In A Rowboat

## NO MORE TRAMPING FOR RED



T-Sgt. William (Red) Bradshaw, oldest member of the staff, was a "tramp printer" back in the U. S. The Army, he says, cured him of tramping.

## 'No Matter How Tough It Was We Always Got The Paper Out'

"No matter how tough things got," T-Sgt. William (Red) Bradshaw said, "we always got the paper out." And Red should know. For he has been with The Stars and Stripes longer than any of the present staff. For many months he has been chief compositor—the only man behind the "stone" with professional newspaper experience.

In civilian life Red was, in his own words, "a tramp printer," a printer who drifts from one job to another, always on the move. Memphis, Dallas, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Detroit—Red worked in all those cities.

Red joined The Stars and Stripes as a linotype operator in Algiers on Dec. 1, 1943. He was just in time to work on the first anniversary edition.

### MOVES TO NAPLES

When the Algiers edition closed in August of 1944, Red helped close the office and then came to the Naples edition as a T-5.

Still a linotype operator, Red helped prepare the mobile units which were to go in with the troops in southern France and organize a Stars and Stripes edition there.

"The paper in Naples was 'rough printed,'" he said. "The equipment was lousy and always breaking down. As a result we had a different style than the boys in Rome." However, the Naples edition, Red boasts, supplied more troops than any other edition.

"VE-Day in Naples—that was the day!" recalls Red. "We had planned to jump the gun on the Rome edition, by putting out a two-color front page. We had the type all set up awaiting confirmation of the German surrender. The word came and we started the presses rolling. Or rather tried to, because they promptly broke down.

### SINGLE COLOR

"Unable to print the two-color job we had hoped to, we turned to another press and started a single-color copy rolling off. We still had a chance to beat the boys in Rome, if we could hurry up and get the papers on the plane for distribution.

"We made it. We had 30,000 copies on the plane when news came in that the Germans had surrendered—but at a different place and at a different time than previously announced.

"So we yanked the 30,000 copies off the plane, damn it, and burned them all. By the time we were all set up to print again it was too late to think of beating the Rome edition. And so we both came out at the same time with the famous headline, 'It's Over, Over Here.' What a fizzle that was for us."

Red also helped to close the Naples office in May of 1945, and came to the Rome edition as a linotype operator, and incidentally, a T-4.

In December, 1945, although eligible to go home, he stayed over, left his linotype machine and went on the "floor" as a compositor.

What then? He's not sure; but he's through with tramping.

"The Army cured me of that," says Red.

## News Wire Coverage Was Skimpy At First

The Mediterranean Edition, now served by Associated Press, United Press and International News Service, depended at first on a weak news file from the Office of War Information.

Later the OWI file was incorporated into the voluminous and accurate United Nations News Service of the Psychological Warfare Branch.

The home front was effectively covered by the Army News Service until it closed on Dec. 31 last year, whereupon the major wire services took over the bulk of the home front coverage.

The Stars and Stripes has kept one or more correspondents in the States to cover home front stories of special interest to men in the MTO. These men were usually selected as a reward for outstanding work at the front. The San Francisco Conference was covered by Sgt. Jack Foisie. For the past six months Sgt. Sid Kline has held down the New York Bureau, cabling state-side stories to the paper.

### THE COVER



Pfc. Frank Sarna of Rochester, N. Y., reads a copy of the Sunday supplement of The Stars and Stripes at his observation post during the Italian campaign. The supplement was discontinued on Nov. 25, 1945.

## Stars And Stripes Was No Soap-Box For The Higher-Ups

(Jack Foisie covered the Sicily and Salerno landings—one of our combat correspondents who gave GIs a first-hand report on the progress at the front.)

### By JACK FOISIE

"Of all editions of The Stars and Stripes published throughout the Second World War, the Mediterranean editions were best."

Bud Hutton, hubba hubba man for the London and Paris editions, graciously admitted this in a recent issue of Colliers Magazine.

By "best" he meant that the editions—Oran, Algiers, Casablanca, Tunis, Palermo, Naples and Rome—came nearest to satisfying the need for letting American men overseas know what was going on.

They were newspapers written primarily for "GIs" by fellow enlisted men, who found in due time the "GI" was not a particularly popular moniker with enlisted men.

They were newspapers whose editors—particularly Dave Golding, Herb Lyons and John Willig—believed that the job was not to tailor news "for morale purposes," as some people in the Army believed, but to print as much of what they believed was truth as military censorship would allow.

### EISENHOWER HELPS

We weren't always successful in this, but thanks to a good send-off by General Eisenhower, a good fight by Col. Egbert White, and good diplomacy by Col. Robert Neville, we remained the only Stars and Stripes edition which did not entirely bend its editorial knee.

I left the paper nearly a year ago, but from what I have since seen, this tradition was continued—probably under far more difficult conditions than we faced. This is to eternal credit of the men who will put the last edition to bed.

We were guilty of plenty of errors of editorial judgement. One that almost destroyed the paper was an editorial in the combat edition to the effect that men of the 5th Army did not really want to go home, except via Berlin and Tokyo. Officially inspired, soap-box prose like that backfired violently. It was the first and last time we ever tried to speak for the soldiers.

It proved difficult enough to write accurately and understandingly about soldiers in combat, for although we were "GIs" ourselves, we enjoyed, fairly or unfairly, many more advantages in good living and privileges than most other soldiers.

### COMBAT MEN

But we had been honest-to-goodness Joes before joining the paper, and a few had seen combat. That kept staff-covered news from becoming hoopla, like much of the stuff being peddled to the home front.

Belief that soldiers wanted fewer pinups, and a lot more in the way of solid home front and international news, helped to give the paper the balance, scope and depth necessary to make it much more than just an Army newspaper.

Mail Call, forever a target of Army policy censorship, gave the paper its reputation as a spokesman for the soldier.

Mechanical headaches and circulation problems were overcome through experience, and since it was the first Stars and Stripes to "serve" in combat, the experience came early.

All these things, plus Bill Mauldin's cartoons, made The Stars and Stripes, Mediterranean Edition, a leading Army newspaper of this war.

## It Was A Money-Making Proposition In Its Prime

While its circulation was up, The Stars and Stripes was a paying proposition. Its revenue paid printing expenses, for some materials, for editorial news services and pictures, for most of the Italian and French labor it used and for communication expenses.

The paper saved about 1,500,000 dollars in the first three years of its operation, 1,350,000 of which was turned over to the Central Theater Welfare Fund and 50,000 to the Army Welfare Fund in the U. S.

## One 'Flash' That Never Got There

You can't always count on a carrier pigeon to get through; sometimes they are shot down, sometimes they go AWOL.

What happened to a pigeon named PG-67, The Stars and Stripes will never know.

M-Sgt. Dave Golding, who landed with the troops at Salerno, sent his flash to the paper by PG-67. It never got there.

It was last seen at 1100 hours on an LCI near Naples. Radioman third class Joseph E. Evans told The Stars and Stripes later that a pigeon, "having trouble with his wings," landed on the deck.

"While on board as a guest of the ship's crew," Evans said, "he was watered and fed and offered quarters. The quarters he refused. At 1300 hours the same day our feathered friend departed with a convoy of ten others."

Evans said he had examined the message which the pigeon carried in a tube tied to his leg. It was Golding's announcement of the Salerno landings.

The Stars and Stripes report of the Sept. 9 landing was written by S-Sgt. Jack Foisie, and appeared in the Sept. 10 issue. By that time everybody was in on the news.

The "flash" is still missing.

## Sergeant's Balcony Speech Made News

Of all the speeches The Stars and Stripes reported, in full or in part, none was printed with such glee as the one Sgt. John A. Vita, 27, Italian-American, of Port Chester, N. Y., gave the day we took Rome.

While crowds of Italians gathered in the Piazza Venezia, cheering wildly, Sgt. Vita climbed to the balcony which Benito Mussolini made notorious, and gave one of the most entertaining extemporaneous speeches on record.

Staff correspondent George Dorsey reported it; staff photographer Pfc. Martin Harris took the picture.

Parodying a Mussolini speech, Sgt. Vita began with the familiar "Vincere! Vincere! Vincere!"

While his listeners applauded, he added: "Instead of castor oil, we bring you caramel and food."

Sgt. Vita had promised his mother to make a speech from that balcony if he ever got the chance.

## Mobile Newspaper Unit Crept Ashore Under Nazi Bombs

(Old-time Stars and Stripes "desk man" Joe Baily writes the following from Spokane, Wash.)

### By JOE BAILY

My memories of The Stars and Stripes, Mediterranean, go back to a dark night when I came to Italy, with other Stars and Stripes men, in a rowboat.

We were bringing a mobile newspaper unit to put out a Stars and Stripes combat edition. We had a lot of printing equipment in two-and-a-half ton trucks lashed to the deck of the Liberty Ship Lou Gehrig. We were among the early comers in Naples harbor after the city's taking, but couldn't get up to the shattered docks. We had a hold full of ammunition and Jerry was coming over nightly, and we had no inclination to remain aboard. So we hid us in an Italian rowboat and rowed ashore, and that was our "invasion" of Italy.

Though little has been recorded about that mobile unit, it was actually the first Stars and Stripes to be published on European soil in the war. We went back to Salerno to begin putting it out. We found a printing press in the basement of a wrecked building. There wasn't any electric power, and we used Italian hand-power. For a C-ration can we could get the lease of an Italian's muscles. The press had a hand crank, and we soon had a long line of hungry Pisans waiting to give it a whirl.

The problem of presses was typical of a lot of difficulties The Stars and Stripes had to overcome. For that combat edition, presses had been sent from America. Their fate was an amusing one.

They were buck-passed from one African port to another by puzzled port officers and sent north with the invasion fleet probably on the supposition they were some horrible secret weapon. They were landed on the beaches near Salerno, but no one there could figure what sort of diabolical instrument of war they were—and there they remained gathering rust.

All the way along, The Stars and Stripes had to meet problems like that, valiantly and well. To have put out any kind of a daily newspaper amid the hectic times and scenes of the war, and afterwards, would have been a remarkable achievement. But The Stars and Stripes wasn't just "any kind."

It was a good newspaper, something that became an institution among the men overseas, something that remains a vivid memory for all of us.

## THE FACE IS FAMILIAR



George McCoy, old-time Stars and Stripes man, shoots the breeze with Ernie Pyle, whose columns were regular features of the Mediterranean Edition.