



AFRICA
SICILY
ITALY

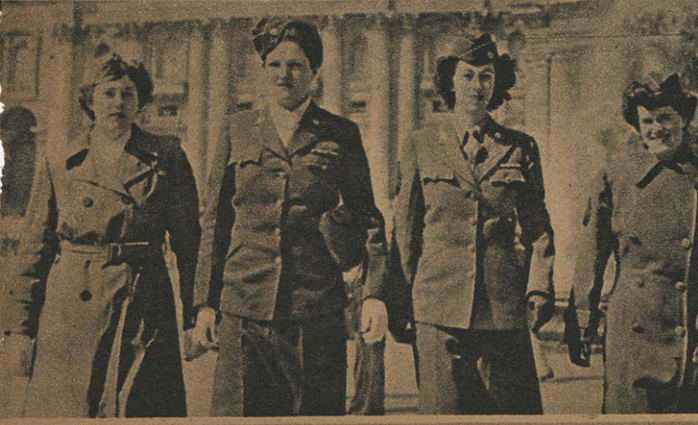
Mission Accomplished



OVER wadies and wastes of North Africa, the unnamed hills of Sicily, and the bleak mountains of Italy, Allied soldiers made history in the Mediterranean campaigns. They fought over roads the Romans built; across battlefields of long ago; through ancient ruins and modern cities; across endless ridges and through dusty or flood-swept valleys. They took the best the Germans had and advanced almost 3,000 miles—from El Alamein and Casablanca to the Brenner Pass.

This is their story—of Arabs and Indians; truck drivers and tail gunners; K-rations and trench feet; endurance and courage; the Anzio Express and Hill 609.

To those who were killed in action, this book is dedicated.



Men got battlewise in a hurry. It was a tough, hardfought campaign from start to finish.



Tanks and infantrymen teamed together to flush the last snipers out of Bizerte.

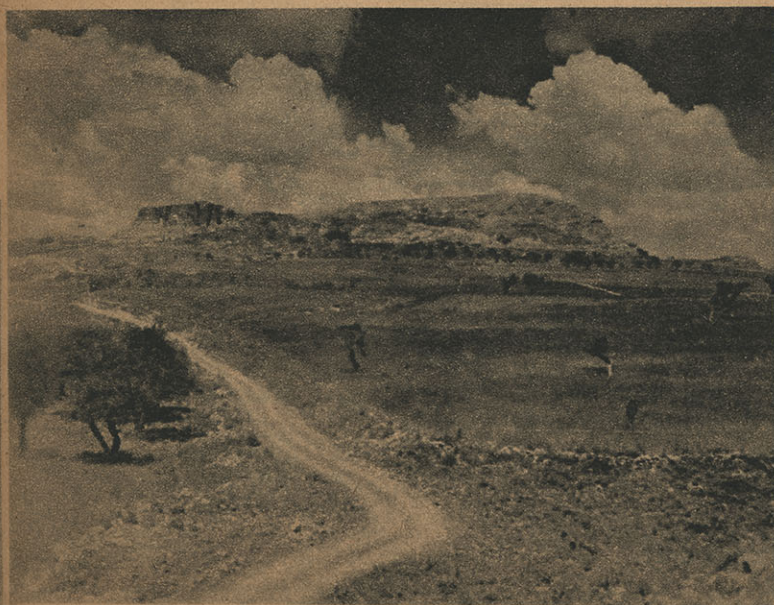


OUR FIRST D-DAY

IN the bare country of Tunisia where trees and brush are scarce and the rocky slopes steepen at times into cliffs, American soldiers first learned about the Krauts and how to beat them.

These men, forerunners of the great armies that were to fight in Sicily, and Germany, learned their lessons on the beaches of Casablanca, Oran and Algiers and in defeats at Kasserine Pass and Fondouk. They took a post-graduate course in the mountains from Sedjenane station to Medjez el Bab and emerged to help knock the Nazis out of Africa.

D-day was 0100 8 November, 1942. It was but the first of many D-days before the mission in the Mediterranean would be accomplished.



Hill 609 near Mateur. The Germans had to be knocked off with grenades and bayonets in one of the fiercest fights of the war.



What these men learned the hard way saved lives in Sicily, Italy and France.

THE African landings were timed with the Eighth Army assault at El Alamein, and came a week after the veteran British divisions had scored one of the war's most decisive victories.

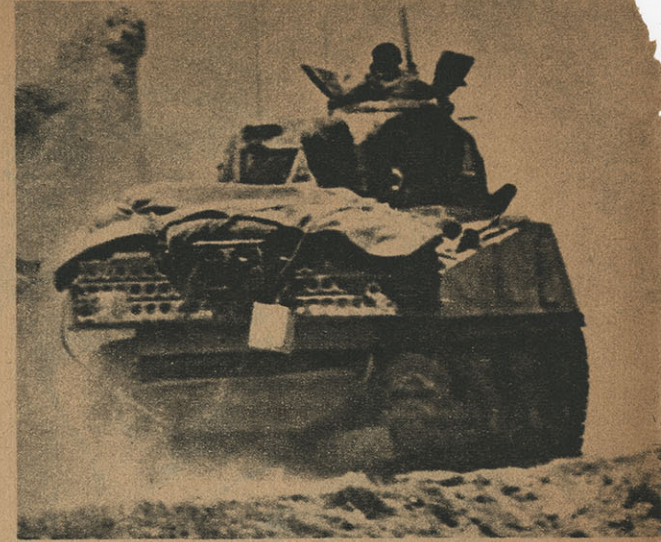
After securing all Morocco and Algeria within three days, the American and British forces drove east for Tunis and Bizerte. They were stopped less than 50 miles from the two great ports, and the campaign lasted five months more through a rainy winter and many bitter engagements.

For the final drive II Corps moved secretly 200 miles from El Guettar and suddenly popped up on the north flank. The attack began 23 April and on 8 May elements of the 9th and 1st Armored divisions entered Bizerte. Five days later the war was over in Africa.

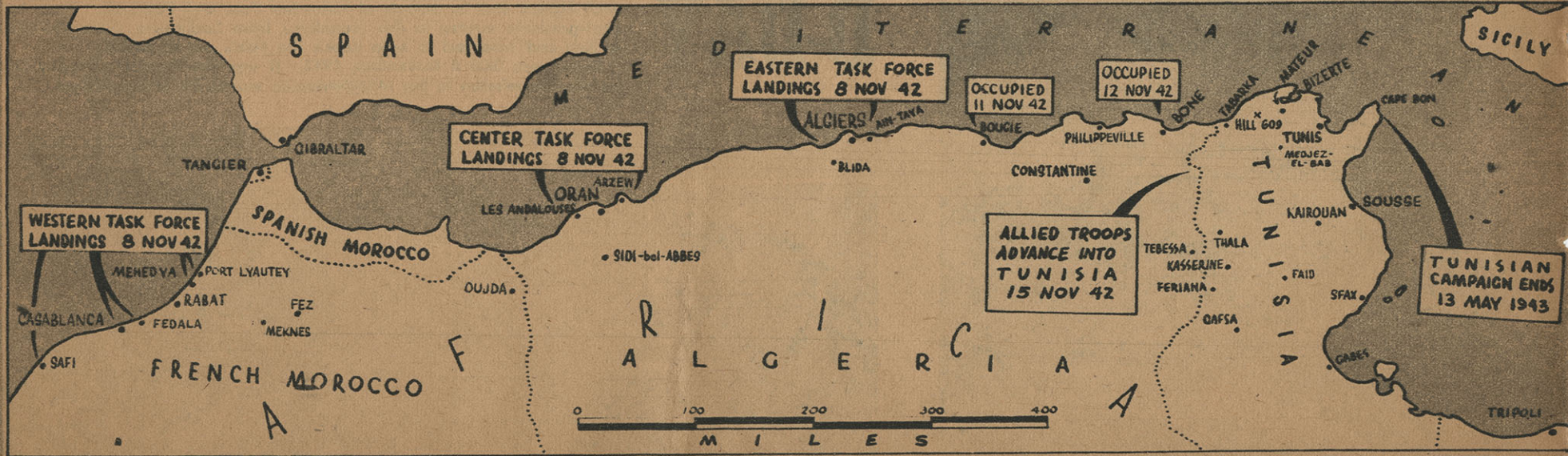
In that drive American troops won their first great victories of the European war — the 34th at Hill 609 and Eddekhila; the 1st Armored in the breakthrough from Mateur; the 9th at Jefna; and the 1st at Hill 523 and Mateur. They had taken the first long step on the road to final victory.



Arab kids knew the score on getting "bon-bon", cigarettes, and chewing gum.



African battles featured over-extended fronts and equally extended lines of supply. Tanks did a big job.



Stepping Stone TO EUROPE

SICILY was the scene of sharp and stubborn fighting, long marches and steep hills. The doughboys had a battle on their hands and blisters on their feet.

The 1st, 3rd, 45th, 2nd Armored and the Rangers hit the Southern Sicilian coast at 0245 10 July. Men of the 82nd Airborne division were dropped behind the beaches.

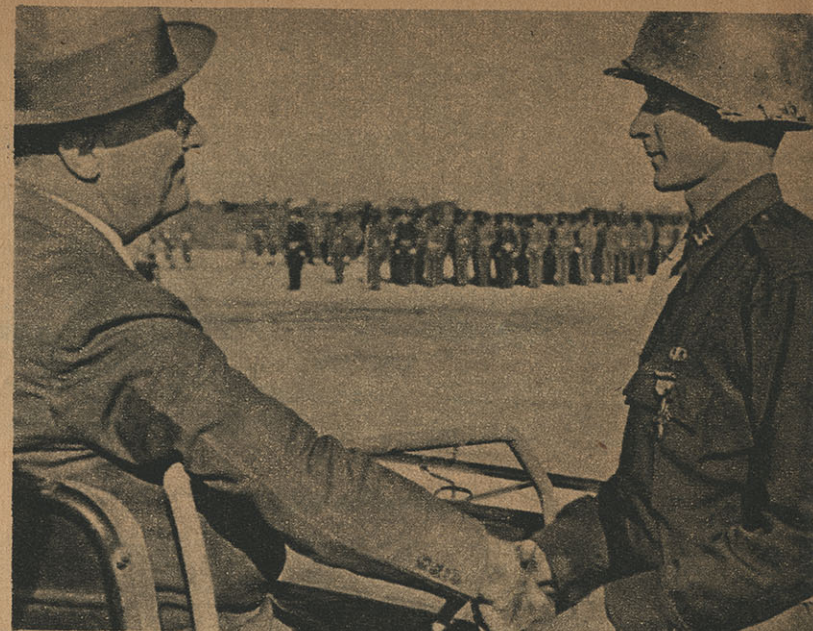
One of the toughest battles of the campaign was fought on the beach at Gela where the 1st division, backed by the navy, stood off 50 medium and heavy tanks of the Hermann Goering Panzer Division. After the beaches were secure the 2nd Armored and the 3rd divisions slashed across the island with amazing rapidity.

With the island cut in half, the end was inevitable. By a series of leap-frog maneuvers along the coast and frontal attacks through the mountains, the Germans were steadily forced to give ground.

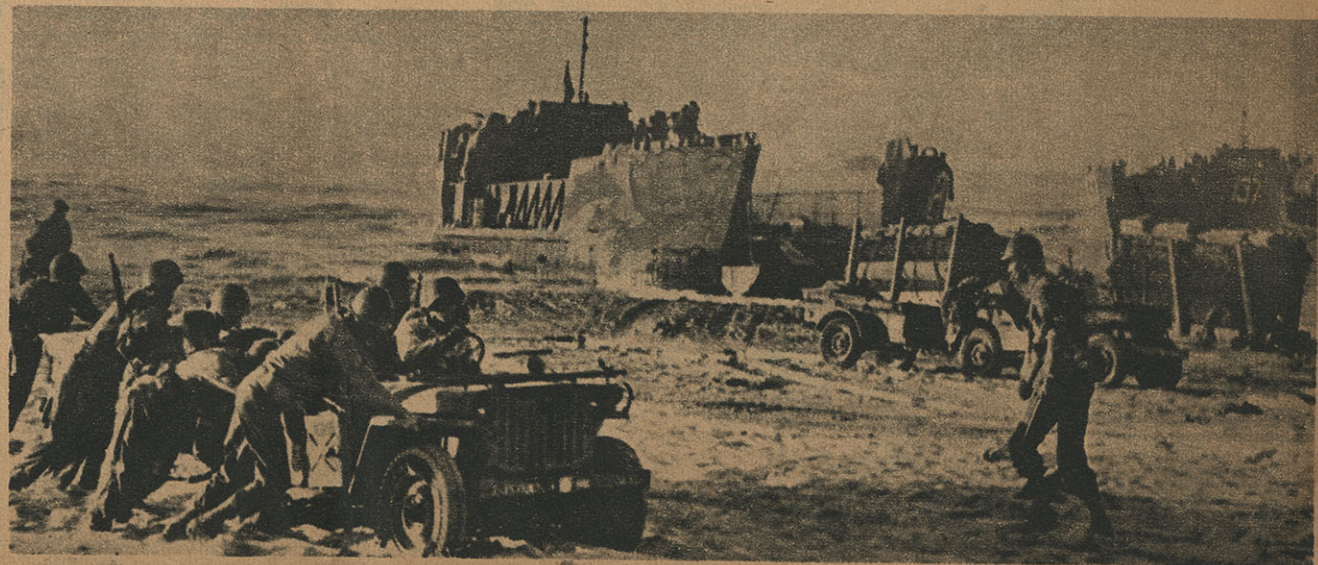
When patrols of the 3rd and 45th entered Messina 17 August, Sicily was completely ours.



On the road to Messina, American soldiers got their first look at historic Mt. Etna.



President Roosevelt visited Sicily after the campaign was over. He is shown here presenting the DSC to Lt. W. W. Kellogg.



On the beach at Gela, shore engineers, MP's, doughboys, and sailors worked under fire to get the equipment inland.



The price was high.

**“COME ON IN
AND GIVE UP!”**

THE 36th and 45th divisions and the British 10th Corps punched the first wedge into Hitler's Fortress Europe near Paestum on the Gulf of Salerno.

H-hour, D-day was 0330, 9 September 1943. A voice blared out in English over a loudspeaker apparently from the landing area:

“Come on in and give up.” The Krauts were waiting.

It took seven critical days to secure the beachhead. But the navy, airforces, and men on the beaches beat off the full weight of every German counter-attack.

The Eighth army landed at the toe and instep of the boot 5 September. When patrols of the Fifth and Eighth linked up 16 September, the Germans had begun to retreat. Naples fell 1 October. By 6 October Fifth army troops were at the south bank of the Volturno river. They had battered their way 48 miles in 27 days.



Reinforcements kept coming.



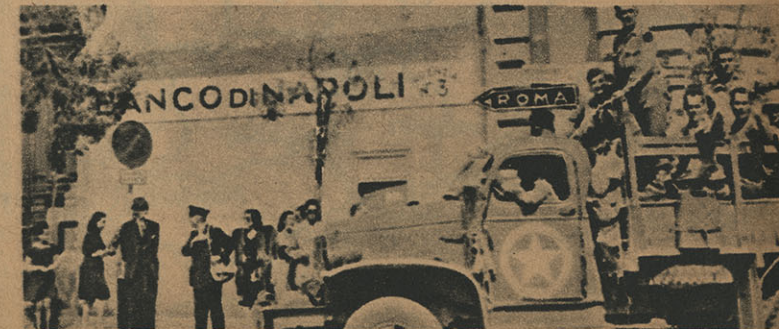
Huge quantities of supplies were landed.



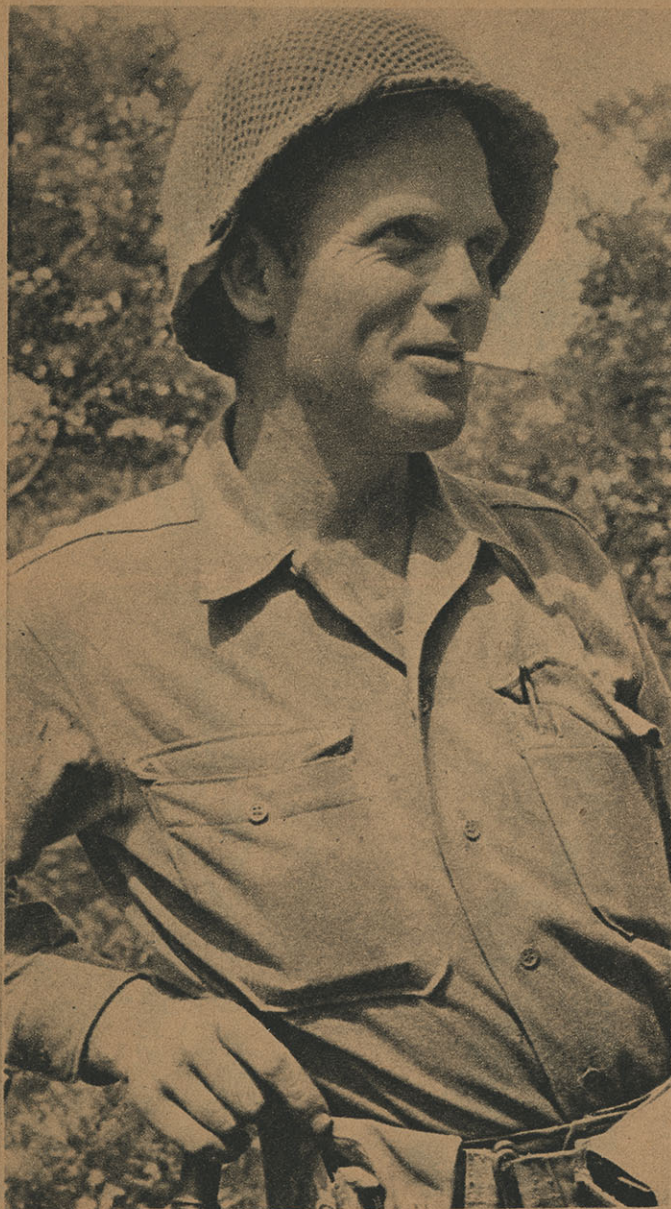
Naples harbor was heavily damaged.



Nazi time bomb in Naples post office killed and injured many civilians.



First lap on the road to Rome.



What it was all about...

EVERY step of the long road from Africa to the Alps was bought with the hardship and blood of the men who marched with the Fifth, Seventh and British First and Eighth armies.

What were the Mediterranean campaigns worth and why did we fight there? There are several answers for the job was big and much was accomplished.

This is what we did:

★Cleared the Mediterranean sea of German planes and submarines. This shortened our sea lines to the Near East, Russia, India and China by 7,000 miles and added several million tons of shipping space that were vitally needed.

★Drained the Nazis of men, material and planes which they could not afford to lose.

★Tied down and defeated 28 German divisions in Italy which without question would have prevented or at least delayed the victory in Normandy.

★Forced the Germans to withdraw men and guns from Russia to fight in Sicily and Italy.

★Knocked Italy out of the war and brought the Italians onto the Allied side as co-belligerents.

★Brought France back into the war with an ever-growing army, navy and airforce.

★Secured airfields in Italy from which Allied planes were able to range over the industrial heart of central and Southern Germany and the Balkans as well as to support factually Allied forces in Italy and the Red Army.

★Kept the initiative in Allied hands until the invasion of France was completely planned and ready to go.

★The military lessons learned on the front lines and in the rear areas in Africa, Sicily and Italy provided the "know-how" for the victories in France and Germany.

"No praise is adequate for the heroic achievements and magnificent courage of every individual during this long and trying campaign."

President Harry S. Truman.

"You may be proud of this victorious campaign which will long live in history as one of the greatest and most successful ever waged.

"No praise is high enough for you sailors, soldiers, airmen and workers of the united forces in Italy for your magnificent triumph. My gratitude to you and my admiration

is unbounded, and only equaled by the pride which is mine in being your Commander in Chief."

Field Marshal Sir Harold R.L.G. Alexander.

"Our exultation in this moment is blended with sorrow as we pay tribute to the heroic Allied soldiers who have fallen in battle in order that this victory might be achieved. The entire world will forever honor their memory."

Gen. Mark W. Clark.

"The victory is yours—you of the ground, sea and air forces of many nationalities who have fought here as a single combat team. The surrender today is to you."

Gen. Joseph T. McNarney.

Photos through courtesy of Stars & Stripes, Army Pictorial Service, Signal Corps, British Army Film Unit, International News Service, PWB, OWI, RAF, MAAF

APPROPRIATELY, the men who opened the first American front in Europe were the first to finish the job. The German armies in Italy and part of Austria surrendered — completely and unconditionally, effective at noon, Wednesday, 2 May, 1945. A week later German forces everywhere officially laid down their arms.

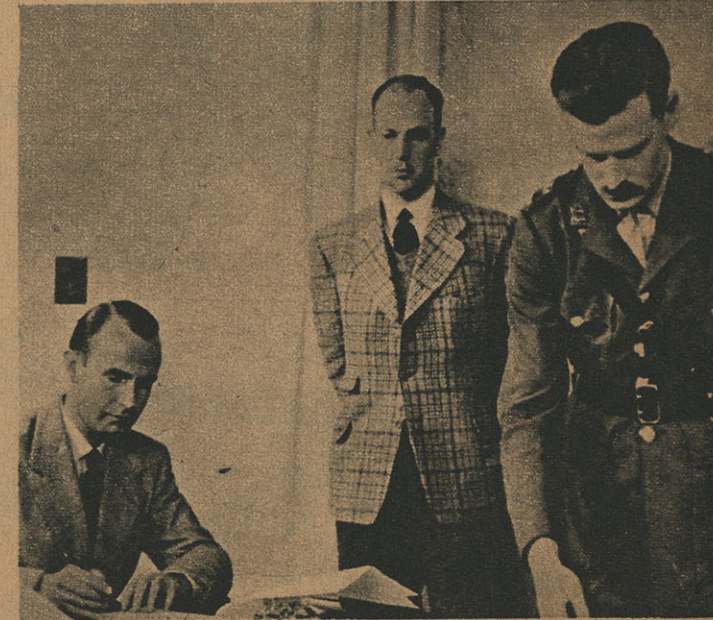
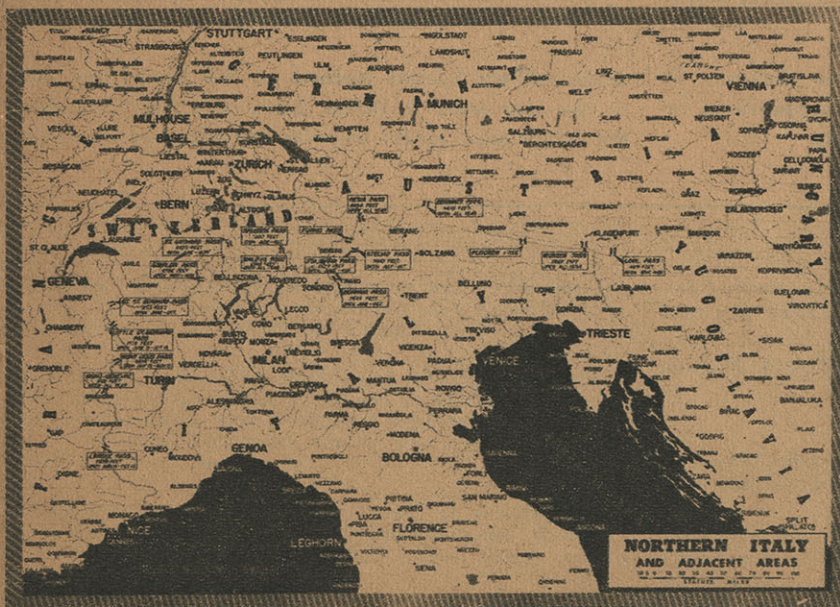
The men who fought in the Mediterranean campaigns could look back with pride on the job they had done. Behind lay the beaches of Oran, Gela, Salerno, and Anzio; Arab huts and two-wheeled Neopolitan carts; Algiers, Palermo, Rome, and Florence; the weary climbs up the mountains and the treacherous descents into the valleys; the smell of the dead and the fear of being wounded.

There was glory enough for all — for the men of the 34th with over 500 days in the line; for the 1st, 3rd, 9th, 10th Mountain, 36th, 45th, 82nd Airborne, 85th, 88th, 91st, 92nd, and 1st and 2nd Armored divisions; for the Rangers, the 1st Special Service Force and the 442nd Combat team; for the service troops, ack-ack crews, and headquarters personnel; and for the 12th and 15th Air Forces and the navy.

The mission was accomplished.



UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER



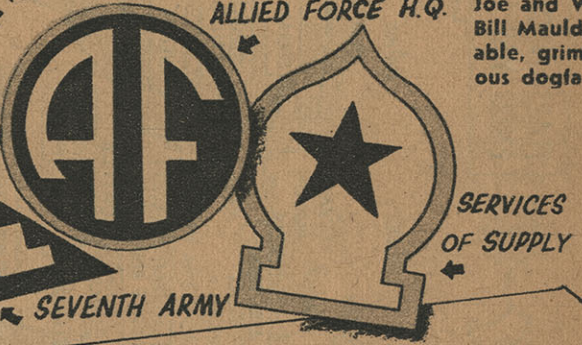
The end of the line.

The German representatives wore civilian clothes. They signed at AFHQ in Caserta.





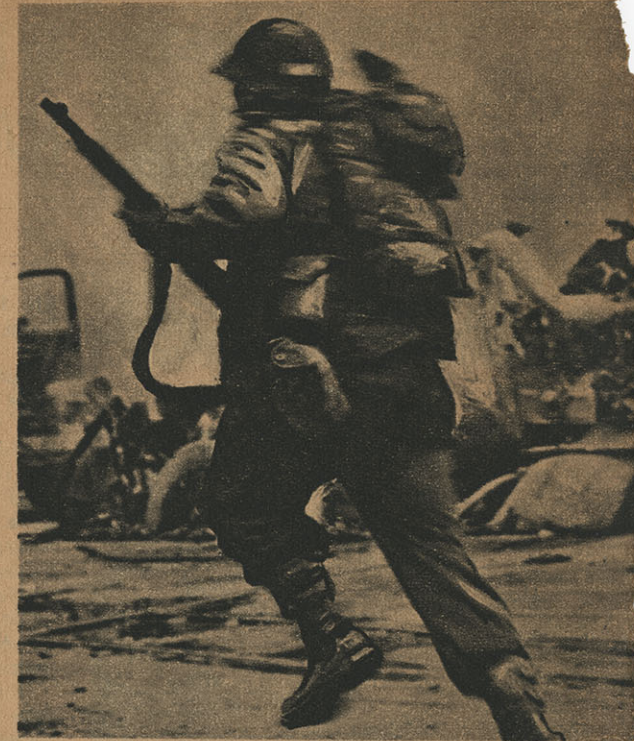
Soldiers from private to general will always remember Joe and Willie, Sgt. Bill Mauldin's miserable, grimly humorous dogfaces.



NAME _____
 RANK _____ SERIAL NO. _____
 OUTFIT _____
 DATE _____

INTO THE PROMISED LAND

Pointing the way — the Po Valley lay ahead.



The 85th moved fast through Vincenza.

WHEN the blow came, the Krauts lasted exactly 23 days. The drive was launched 9 April by the Eighth Army on the right and the 92nd division on the left. Main Fifth Army forces attacked below Bologna a week later.

Suddenly the Krauts collapsed. In quick succession Bologna, Modena, Ferrara,, Parma, Verona, and Venice fell to the men who had fought for 19 months to reach the Po valley — "The Promised Land." All divisions, the 10th Mountain, 1st Armored, 34th, 88th, 91st and 92nd were in on the kill.

Before the Fifth Army could reach Milan, Italian Partisans drove the Germans out and placed the bullet-ridden, battered body of Mussolini on display. Twenty-five German divisions were whipped. The show was over in Italy.



1st Armored tanks led the way.



Men of the 34th were first into Bologna.



91st Div. men used a blown bridge to cross the Adige river.

MEN OF MANY NATIONS FOUGHT Together

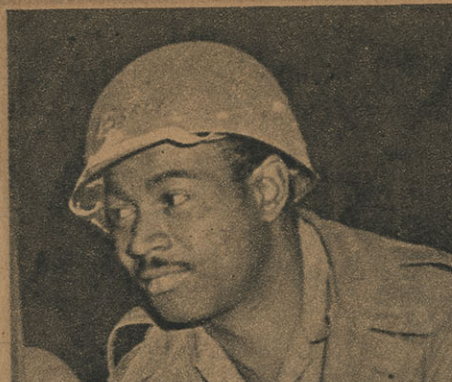


New Zealanders

IN the beginning the British, Australians, and Indians fought the Germans and Italians back and forth across Libya and Egypt. At El Alamein New Zealanders, who were veterans of Crete and Greece, plugged the line. Then as the campaign grew in importance, men came from every corner of the world to fight and to kill Nazis.

At the end approximately 40 nations were represented. There were Greeks, Arabs, French, Brazilians, Poles, Palestinians, Dutch, Canadians, South Africans, Italians and there were Americans — black, white, yellow or red-skinned Americans — of Mexican, Japanese, German or Irish descent.

It was called "The Polygot Army" and "the greatest military experiment in history." Here was convincing proof that people of different races, nationalities, and religions can fight together. They did it.



Negroes



Canadians



Poles



Arabs



Japanese-Americans



Sikhs



British