

ROAD

TO

ROME



SALERNO NAPLES VOLTURNO
CASSINO ANZIO ROME



HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

To the Officers and Men of the Fifth Army:

You have been privileged to make history. You have taken the "Eternal City." You have done what the forces of the famous Carthaginian, Hannibal, failed to do. You captured Rome from the south.

You are liberators, not conquerors. You came to this sacred spot to drive out the enemy. You did so gallantly and effectively. All Rome welcomed you.

This is your book. It relates briefly the story of our great struggle from the time of our arrival in Italy until we entered Rome, and it tells you something about the action of different units.

Those of our comrades who gave their lives did not do so in vain. Their spirits are with us as we continue the campaign in which they played so glorious a part.

Your country is proud of you. The Allied cause has profited by your military deeds. Italy, which has known soldiers of many races, of many nations, of many armies, will not forget you. You have a place in the ageless record of a city around which ancient and medieval civilizations flourished.

On the back cover are shown the shoulder patch insignia of the corps and divisions which were assigned to the Fifth Army when it reached Rome. I regret that there is insufficient space to include the insignia of the Fifth Army corps and divisions which were not a part of Fifth Army at that time.

Mark W. Clark

Lieutenant General, U.S.A.,
Commanding.

Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark,
Commanding General, Fifth Army.



Introduction

At 0330 hours, 9 September 1943, the quiet beaches of Paestum and Salerno broke into a hell of tracers, flares, and shot and shell. This was the battle baptism of Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army. It was the first step on the road to Rome. The last step was taken on the morning of 4 June 1944, when American troops of Fifth Army entered the world's most historic city.

Between those two dates, 9 September 1943 and 4 June 1944, lies nine months of military progress against nearly every obstacle known to warfare. The men of Fifth Army who battled their way from the bullet-swept shores of the Gulf of Salerno to the heart of Rome added new pages to military annals and marked up some significant "firsts".

The American troops of Fifth Army were the first of their country's forces to invade the European fortress. They belonged to the first American army to be activated on foreign soil in World War II, and they freed the first Axis capital.

Historians will describe the Italian campaign in detail. This little book can only give the highlights. But there is credit and glory enough for all. The Fifth Army fighting man at the front, the service unit soldier working farther back, every individual, every organization contributed to the success of the campaign and to the victory of Rome.

The conduct of the war in Italy not only represents the cooperation of individuals and units; it also reflects the combined and coordinated efforts of ground, air, and naval forces.

The United States and Royal navies assembled ships at many different ports and demonstrated traditional efficiency in conveying them to the Gulf of Salerno with such precision that D-Day landings were made on schedule.

Naval responsibility included the operation of countless landing craft which shuttled between the transports and the beaches. Later, guns of destroyers, cruisers, and battleships reinforced the fires of field artillery to support phases of the land offensive.

At intervals during the campaign, naval vessels ranged the coastal waters of Italy's western seaboard, pounding German shore installations.

Off Anzio, the Allied navies again showed their worth, bringing the invading troops of Fifth Army to their objective without the slightest miscalculation. And, as they had done at Salerno and Paestum, naval guns unleashed tons of explosives against enemy ground forces, and ships' anti-aircraft weapons were frequently brought to bear on enemy aircraft.

Allied air forces — American and British — after visiting major destruction upon the Luftwaffe, afforded protection to Fifth Army's seaborne convoy and beachhead, operating initially from distant fields in Sicily.

Soon after the establishment of Fifth Army's Salerno beachhead, aircraft were taking off from a hastily constructed landing field to virtually chase the Luftwaffe out of Italian skies. German raids went into a decline in proportion to the increased strength of our own air action in Italy. But the thorough defeat of the Luftwaffe wasn't the only accomplishment of our air. Rendering close support to Fifth Army, tactical aircraft bombed and strafed the enemy's front lines and ran the gauntlet of his flak to strike at vital rear area installations.

When Fifth Army launched its great offensive in May, the supporting air arm played havoc with enemy troop and supply movements. Cassino had earlier felt the destructive prowess



There was jubilation aboard transports when Fifth Army troops, nearing Salerno, heard the news of Italy's surrender. A few hours later, they were fighting their way ashore against the Germans who had taken over the coast defenses.

of our air, but now every enemy combat unit that moved by light of day was courting attack.

There is every reason for the ground, air, and naval forces to feel that Fifth Army's victory owes much to the ability of three branches of the armed services to work in harmony and with but a single objective—to defeat the enemy.

In attributing credit for the success of the Fifth Army, grateful acknowledgement is also given to the Services of Supply installations and the Allied Force Military Railway Service. Their contribution was indispensable.

The Italian Campaign during which this defeat was achieved falls into certain convenient phases. They are: the landing at Salerno; the fall of Naples; the crossing of the Volturno; the Winter Line campaign; the Anzio beachhead; and the May offensive which freed Rome.



ROAD TO ROME

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION BY FIELD
PRESS CENSOR.

Beachhead in Italy

The nations of the world, depending upon whether they were free, Axis, or Axis-dominated, reacted differently to a startling radio announcement that flashed through the ether on 8 September 1943 "Hostilities between the United Nations and Italy have terminated, effective at once."

A powerful convoy, nearing the Gulf of Salerno, heard that declaration, and its passengers wondered how it affected them. They had every reason to wonder, for they were members of General Clark's Fifth Army, consisting of the VI American Corps, under Major General Ernest J. Dawley, and the 10 British Corps, under Lieutenant General Sir Richard L. McCreery, who were to make an assault upon the shores they were approaching. There were Rangers, too, and Commandos, all making up the striking force of this Allied Army.

Instructions followed swiftly—the original plans would be carried out. During the early morning hours of 9 September 1943, hundreds of landing craft threaded their way through mine fields to lower their ramps on the beaches of Paestum and Salerno.

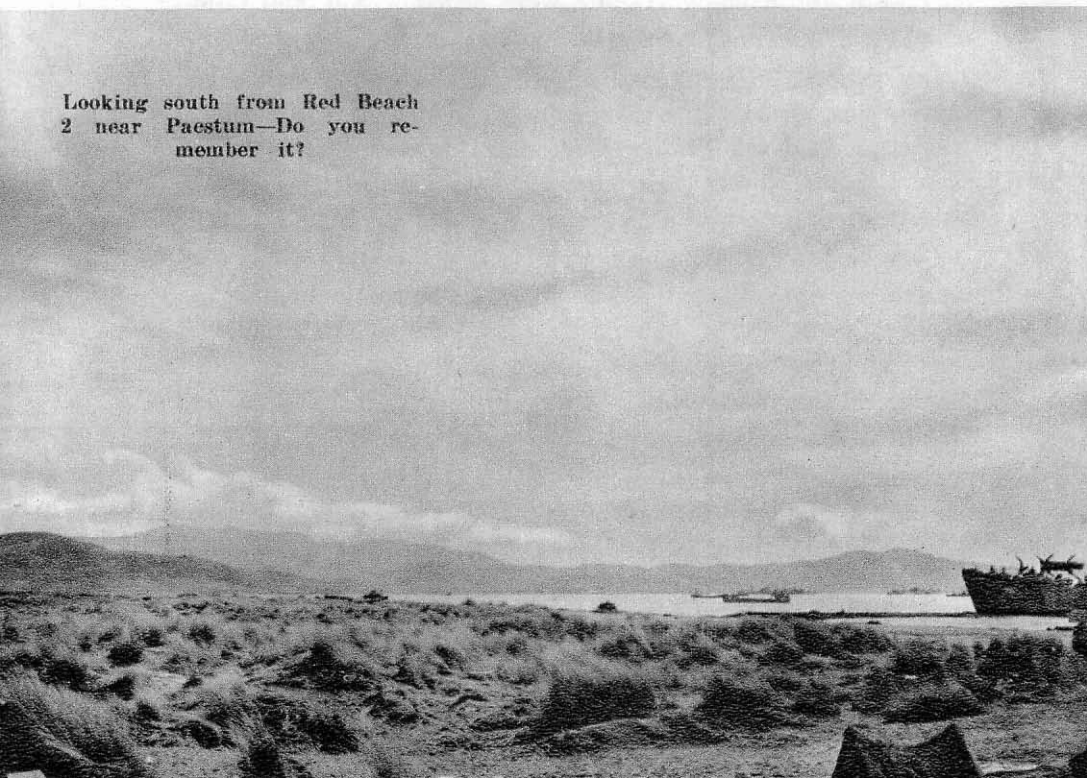
German forces were waiting, and within a matter of seconds the landing areas blazed into combat. This was the beginning. The VI Corps, which included the 36th Infantry Division, and the 10 Corps, with elements of 46 and 56 divisions, were firmly ashore and pushing farther inland by the evening of 9 September.

There was bitter fighting all the way. The Germans tried to stand and slug it out and launched four tank attacks. Into this combat, the men of Fifth Army carried courage and con-

There was no busier spot in
all the world than the landing
beaches near Paestum on D Day.



Looking south from Red Beach
2 near Paestum—Do you re-
member it?





Paestum beach— Fifth Army troops landing on the beach near Paestum smashed inland to seize the high ground that afforded the Germans such excellent observation.

fidence-enough of both to knock out an 88-mm. gun by tossing a hand grenade into its ammunition pit; fortitude enough to smash enemy armor and pillboxes with bazookas.

The next few days saw Fifth Army's strength steadily increase. The 45th Infantry Division (U.S.), the 82nd Airborne Division (U.S.) and the 7 Armoured Division (British) landed and took their positions in the line. The Luftwaffe was much in evidence during this period. It made numerous small attacks against Fifth Army's shipping and beach installations, but supplies and troops continued to flow across the embattled sand dunes.

The Germans, confronted by Rangers north of Maiori and Amalfi, by Commandos at Salerno, 10 Corps (British) east of Salerno, and VI Corps south of the Sele River, took desperate measures to wipe out Fifth Army's beachhead before it could be expanded. They rushed reinforcements into the area and committed them in a vicious counterattack.

Fifth Army was compelled to yield ground against the weight of men and armor thrown at it. Defensive positions



Vehicles needed by a modern army soon followed the infantry ashore at the Paestum beaches. LSTs, like this, helped the invaders keep up their momentum.

were improved to withstand the enemy's steadily mounting pressure, and in the darkest moments of the German counter-attack, soldiers heard General Clark's words, "We are here to stay." They stayed.

Fifth Army infantry, artillery, and supporting arms inflicted heavy losses upon the attackers. Weakened by casualties suffered in their counterattack, the Germans were unable to withstand the subsequent offensive set in motion by VI and 10 corps. The enemy effected an organized withdrawal.

While Fifth Army was engaged in this struggle to maintain and then exploit its beachhead, the Eighth Army (British) was moving north up the Italian peninsula from the toe of land that almost touches Sicily. By 15 September reconnaissance elements of both armies had made contact. Later, the British Army came abreast of the Fifth and had for its zone the eastern, or Adriatic, side of Italy.

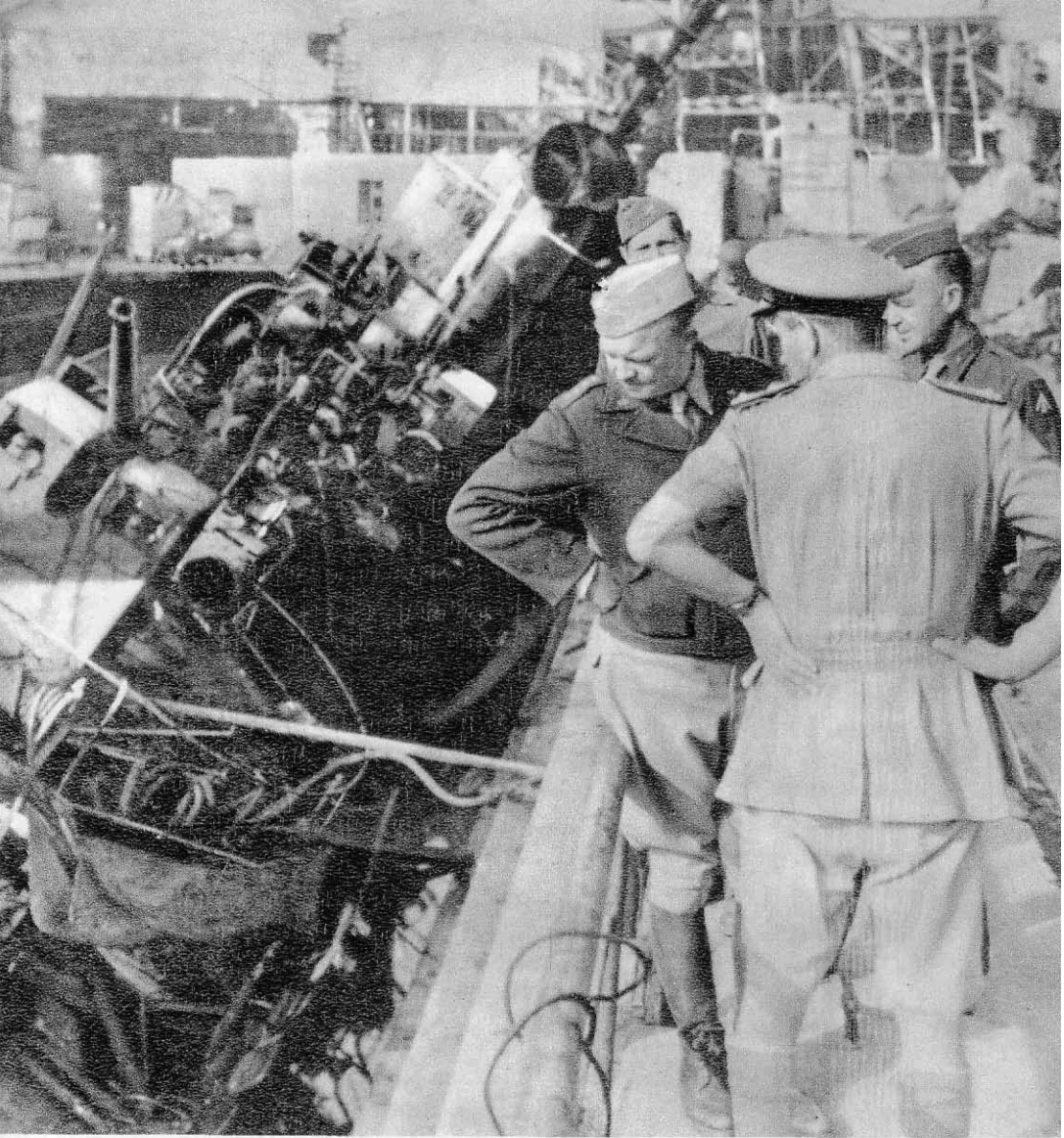
The first phase of Fifth Army's operations could be considered complete on 20 September. The enemy was pulling back before VI Corps, pivoting on the Sorrento Hills, thus indicating that he had abandoned his hopes of smashing the beachhead.

Already, Italian villages and places had assumed new significance in history. Paestum, the historic spot that Hannibal couldn't capture, fell to Fifth Army. Altavilla, scene of bitter fighting, was ours; so were ruined Battipaglia and many other places.

Men who were there will remember them—not merely as names like Maiori, Salerno, Paestum, Battipaglia, Eboli, Mt. Soprano, Ponte Sele, Altavilla, Albanella, Rocca D'Aspide, or Agropoli—but as scenes of conflict, places where infantrymen, many fighting their first battle, moved against the foe.

The road to Rome was measured not only by kilometers, but also by scenes of German defeat.

The beachhead was secure. Naples lay ahead.



Generais Eisenhower, Clark and Pence and Admiral Morse visit Port of Naples, where docks were blasted and lined with hulks of sunken ships.

Capture of Naples

Fifth Army needed the port of Naples as an entry point for the supplies and troops necessary to carry on a major campaign. The Germans were determined to hold Naples long enough to destroy as much of the harbor and utilities system as possible.

When we started to move on Naples, Fifth Army's American forces included the 3rd, 34th, 36th, and 45th infantry divisions and the 82nd Airborne Divisions. The British part of Fifth Army was made up of 46 and 56 infantry divisions and 7 Armoured Division. These forces were, of course, augmented by many corps and army units.

For the Naples operation, the 10 Corps (British) was to make a coordinated attack with two divisions, seizing the Nocera pass and San Severina, gateways from Salerno through the hills of the Sorrentine Peninsula. VI Corps moved the 3rd Infantry Division to the Battipaglia area, and the 45th was placed near Eboli. The 36th Infantry Division was given the mission of covering the beachhead, now firmly in our hands, and was to reorganize.

This line-up of Fifth Army set the stage for the capture of Naples by units on the coast while VI Corps, farther inland, could continue to press the enemy back toward the Volturno River.

It was now that Fifth Army began to encounter German demolitions and mines, both placed by all the ingenuity of a resourceful enemy. Nearly all bridges were blown; mines and booby traps were placed where the enemy anticipated our routes of advance.

The enemy gave way before Fifth Army pressure but did so in good order. In front of 10 Corps, the German forces, consisting of the Herman Goering Division with detachments from two panzer grenadier divisions, resisted strongly. In the VI Corps sector German routes of withdrawal lay through mountain passes and across deep gorges. Here, by the use of demolitions, they could delay our pursuit. Small covering forces, firing from dominating heights, had to be routed.

While 10 Corps was shifting its divisions for the attack, VI Corps began its flanking push through the mountains. The 3rd Infantry Division moved up the road from Battipaglia through Acerno to Highway No. 7, a regimental combat team crossing the mountains north of Curticello to get set for a drive on Avellino. The 45th Infantry Division advanced up

Animal pack trains were necessary in the mountains, and in many places even the mules couldn't negotiate the terrain.



Highway No. 91 through Contursi to secure the junction of Highways 7 and 91.

It wasn't as easy as it sounds—from merely reading about it. The enemy blew bridges and then covered the crossing sites with fire. Fifth Army infantry deployed, climbed steep-sided mountains, moved across country, flanked and fought, and flanked and fought again.

Engineers worked night and day to construct bypasses and temporary bridges. The fall rains set in and washed a number of them out, and the engineers had to replace each one.

More names, some difficult to pronounce, were added to the list of places that have their spot in history: Colliano, Quaglietta, Valva, and the Sabato Valley. VI Corps ran into rugged terrain. The 3rd Division operated a provisional pack train brought in from Sicily; soldiers and mules carried supplies. Lugging food and ammunition over hazardous mountain trails, some of them mined, on dark, rain-swept nights, doesn't make war any easier.

Meanwhile, 10 Corps was moving toward Naples. It captured the two passes from Salerno, and by 28 September armored elements had forced their way from hills to take Nocera, Scafati, and Castellamare.

7 Armoured Division, able to use its mobility on the relatively level ground of the Naples plain, was soon pushing ahead. Pompeii, Torre Annunziata, and Torre del Greco were soon within Fifth Army hands. By nightfall, 30 September, the red glow of Vesuvius shed its radiance on Fifth Army forces poised to enter Naples.

On 1 October, Fifth Army units captured Naples. It was a sadly battered city, this famous seaport. Allied bombing had damaged the harbor installations; German demolitions and destruction had taken a heavy toll. They had blasted water conduits, destroyed electrical plants, placed time bombs in buildings, and generally had unleashed the full fury of wrath and hatred upon a city.



Badly damaged by Allied bombings, and later by German demolitions, Naples bore many scars of war like this.

But Fifth Army had a port. Engineers lost no time in removing debris, clearing mines, and restoring harbor facilities and public utilities. The men who captured Naples didn't stop. The city was a milestone on the road to Rome, not a resting place. Ahead of Fifth Army lay the Volturno River. It was known that the Germans intended to make a stand from its fortified north bank. Behind Fifth Army lay one of warfare's most difficult operations, the establishment of a beachhead on a hostile and defended shore. Now, just before it, was another difficult operation, forcing a river line.

Crossing the Volturno

By 6 October Fifth Army forces were generally along the south bank of the Volturno River and were in the process of grouping for an attack against the enemy's strongly prepared defensive position on the north bank.

In reaching the Volturno, VI Corps had made its way through difficult terrain. The main advance had been made by the 3rd Infantry Division, which had advanced along the axis Cancellò - Maddaloni and was in the mountains above Caserta. One regiment of the 34th Infantry Division secured Benevento and a bridgehead over the Calore River. On the right the 45th, meeting considerable opposition, passed elements through the one regiment of the 34th in contact and pressed on to gain the high ground north of the junction of the Calore and Volturno rivers. The 34th Infantry Division then moved to an assembly area, preparatory to assisting in forcing the Volturno River.

Fifth Army soldiers who later participated in the Volturno crossing will remember how that high ground afforded the enemy observation and will understand why we had to take it before committing troops to an attack against the Volturno itself.

While the 45th Division was expanding its bridgehead across the Calore River at Benevento and the 3rd Division was working its way through the mountains to the Volturno, 10 Corps had been advancing north across the coastal plain above Naples.

The night of 12/13 October was the final date set for an all-out attack against the enemy's Volturno position. A lot of

preparation had to be made before, however, and reconnaissance was continuous. Meanwhile, troops were moved to positions from which the attack would be launched.

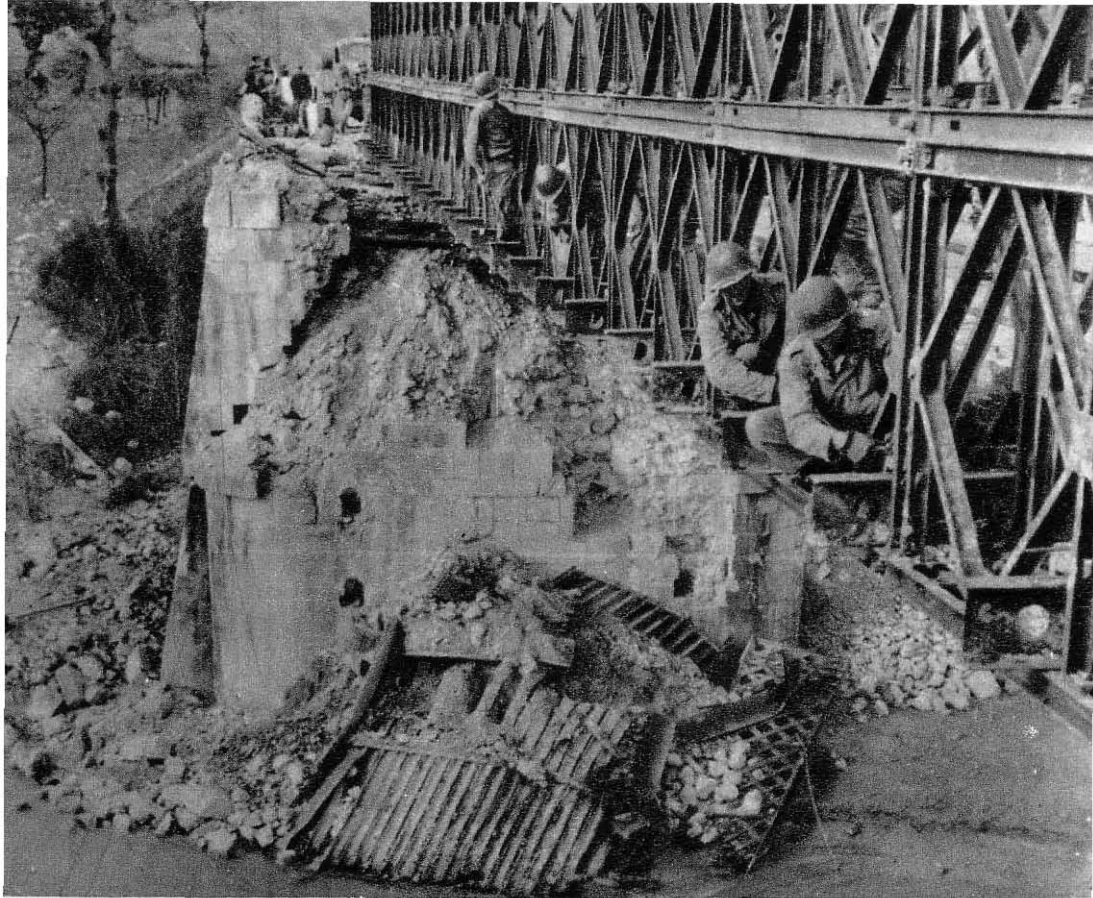
Surprise was of the utmost importance. Engineers, in looking for bridge-sites, had to exercise caution so as not to reveal our intention. Bridging material was moved to areas masked from hostile view, and artillery staggered its fire missions so the Germans couldn't get an idea of how much we had.

Patrols were active. That phrase might not mean much to a newspaper reader. A description in some detail of what one patrol did might make the phrase a little plainer.

On the night of 11/12 October a patrol set out to probe the river for a crossing point. The weather was cold and rainy. Cautiously, the men waded into the swollen river. The water was chest-deep, the current swift. Baffled at one point, the patrol tried another—all of this in pitch blackness.

Quickly constructed "treadways" helped establish early bridgeheads across the Volturno. They were necessary before operations could be resumed in strength.





Engineers performed unbelievable bridging feats to keep the flow of supplies and reinforcements up with our advancing forces. Here they toil to complete a "Bailey" over treacherous, swirling currents of the Volturno.

A seemingly possible ford was found. The patrol waded across but was fired upon by the enemy on the far bank. One man fell.

The patrol managed to return to the south bank. While a fire fight raged between the aroused Germans and our troops, the group moved downstream and tested another crossing place. Upon completion of its mission, the patrol reported, "One man was across when fired on point-blank. He did not return, but crossing by wading is possible." The patrol



Raft-ferry rigs like this played a useful part in crossing the Volturno.

returned with a total of four casualties and three men missing, but the crossing site had been located.

Preparations continued without let-up. Standard means and improvised ones were resorted to in the river crossing.

Our line-up for the crossing was: 10 Corps against the sea with 46 Division on the left, 7 Armoured in the center, and 56 Division on the right. In the VI Corps sector, the 3rd Infantry Division was on the left, the 34th in the center and 45th Infantry Division on the right against Eighth Army.

The darkness gave way to a full moon on the night of 12/13 October. The enemy was aware of only the usual routine activity on our side of the river. At 2000 hours, he must have been jolted by the simultaneous artillery concentrations that fell on him from some 600 guns.

The 3rd Division fought its way across the Volturno and into the hills dominating the Volturno Valley from the Triflisco Gap to Mount Mesarinolo. The 34th crossed the river



"Fire for effect." "Cease firing. Mission accomplished." Fifth Army artillery smashes another German bridge.

and penetrated the rolling hill country lying between the 3rd Division's right flank and the upper reach of the Volturno.

Our artillery fired smoke and high explosive shells into hostile positions. Mortars, machine guns, small arms cut their way into enemy strong points. And into the fire of the enemy's defenses Fifth Army forces forged ahead.

Along the lower reach of the Volturno, from the Triflisco Gap to the sea, the British 10 Corps was fighting to win its portion of Fifth Army's bridgehead.

Hit along a 40-mile front by determined infantry, ably supported by tanks, tank destroyers and artillery, the enemy could only give ground. This he did, and often so rapidly that his engineers were unable to complete their demolitions or mine the roads.

Fifth Army had crossed the Volturno. Another milestone on the road to Rome lay behind the troops. Next, the Winter Line,



Sheer fatigue is registered by this soldier who has just returned from carrying supplies to his comrades fighting on a mountain top.

German Winter Line

The successful crossing of the Volturno by mid-October put Fifth Army in position to press the Germans northward. In support of the river crossing, the 45th Infantry Division had captured Piedmonte d'Alife and San Gregorio. The division had earned a rest, so the 34th Infantry Division took over the Army right flank.

From then on, the 34th and 3rd divisions moved northward astride the Volturno. The Germans resorted to their usual delaying tactics, and the terrain became increasingly favorable for that type of action.

Upon reaching Baia e Latina, the 3rd Division turned southwest toward the Mignano Gap. The 34th continued to the northwest. The 45th Division was brought back into the line, taking a position in the center.

People at home probably wondered why there were so many references to the Volturno in news dispatches. The river runs down from the north, then makes a sharp bend toward the west. We had to cross the east-west bend, and later, as we pushed the Germans back, it was necessary to cross the north-south stretch of the river. In fact, one soldier remarked that he had crossed the Volturno so often he had forgotten when he was doing anything else.

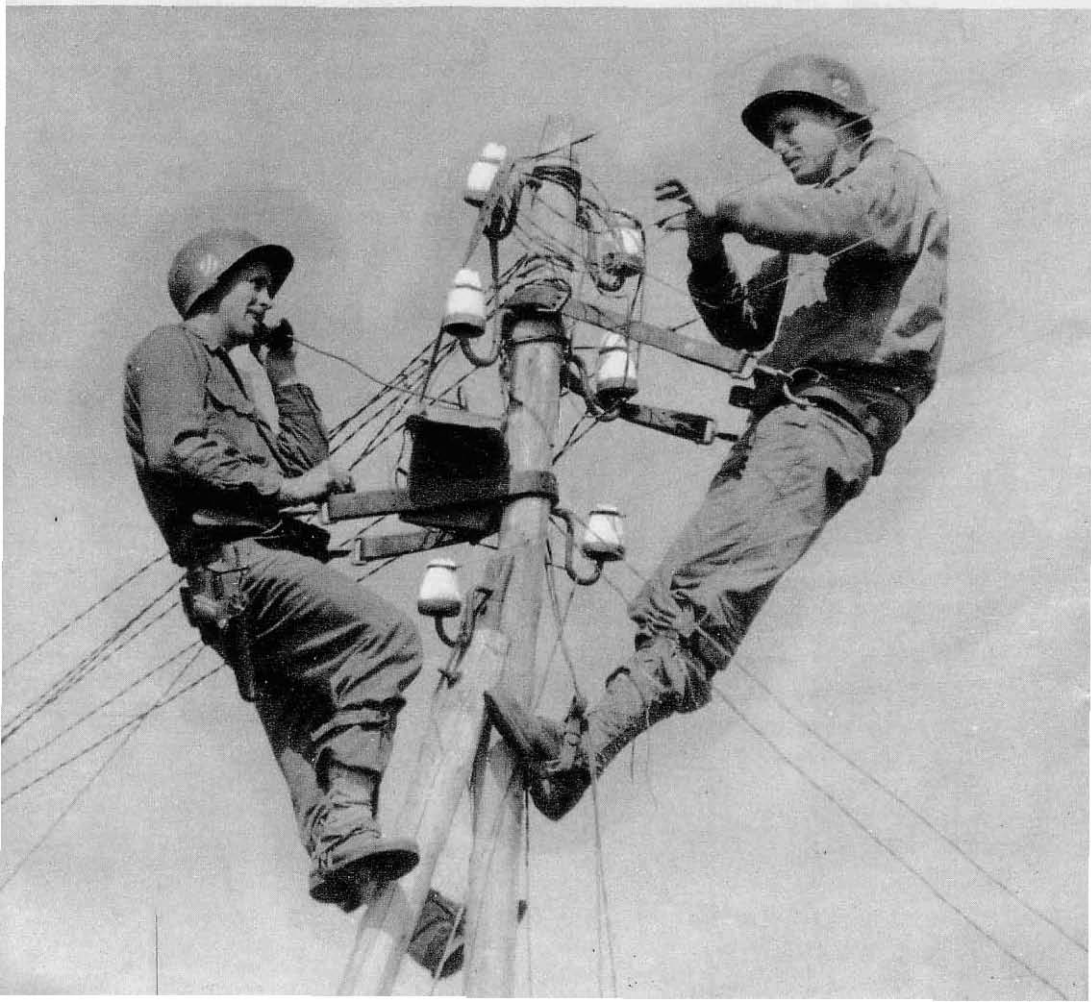
We pressed the enemy closely, but the going was difficult. Rain fell in torrents by day and by night. Added to the discomfort of cold rain and icy winds was the mud. It was everywhere. Roads became hub-deep stretches of mire; bivouacs were by now flooded fields of mud. You walked in it, ate in it, often slept in it.

Streams flooded and washed out temporary bridges, carried away bypasses, over-ran their banks. And always the rain continued.

Aided by weather, terrain, and their own demolitions, the Germans gained precious time, time with which to build a defensive line. Fifth Army elements ran into the outskirts of this line early in November on the Garigliano River and in the mountains above Mignano and Venafro.

The time had come for Fifth Army to reorganize and to consolidate its gains in preparation for a renewal of the attack.

Signal Corps men maintained communications despite extremes of enemy action.





Scenes like this were typical during the winter rains, which turned areas into seas of mud.

We had driven from the beaches of Paestum and Salerno to the Winter Line.

On 15 November Fifth Army troops held a line running along the west slopes of Mount Massico, through Mignano, and up past the steep peaks overlooking Venafro. Before them lay a jumble of mountains, valleys, and plains, varying in character from the wide coastal plain on the left to the crags and peaks which soared more than 6000 feet in height on the Army's right.

From the middle of November to the end of the month, Fifth Army kept up aggressive patrolling and probing of the German Winter Line, while main forces were grouped for the pending attack. II Corps, commanded by Major General Geoffrey Keyes, was brought into the line on 17 November and had the 36th and 3rd divisions. We had, then, 10 Corps on the left, II Corps in the center, and VI Corps, with the 34th and 45th divisions, on the right.

It was decided to attack up the Liri Valley, and on 1 December 1943 the offensive started. The 10 and II corps captured the hill mass south of the Mignano pass, with 10 Corps receiving the greatest artillery support of the campaign up to that time—some 800 guns.

Following a defiladed route, parachute infantry moves up to its position in the Venafrò sector.





A good example of the devastating effect obtained by concentrated aerial bombardment was San Pietro.

Mt. Camino was taken by 10 Corps; the recently arrived 1st Special Service Force, consisting of Canadians and Americans, captured Mt. La Difensa, and a regiment of the 36th Infantry Division captured Mt. Maggiore. An Italian motorized brigade, attached to II Corps, received heavy casualties in an attack against Mt. Lungo and was forced to yield the objective after taking it. It was later won by a regiment of the 36th. All of this was bitter fighting in the worst kind of weather and terrain. It taxed the endurance of every soldier, climbing, fighting, maneuvering in rainswept valleys and sleet-lashed mountains.

It must be remembered that these mountains controlled the entrance to the Liri Valley, a corridor leading ultimately to Rome. We hoped to use that valley, but, in order to do so, it was necessary to capture the heights which guarded it.

San Pietro, Mt. Sammucro, San Vittore, Mt. Lungo, Mt. Maggiore are but a few of the places and names that figured in the fighting. They are names, among others, that will go down in unit and military histories as symbols of determination and courage.

Men lived for days on snowy mountain peaks. They stayed there to repel counterattacks, to inch forward when possible, existing in the crudest kind of shelters, suffering from fatigue, exposure, but continuing to fight. The enemy had comfortable prepared positions, better observation. Our movement was often confined to the hours of darkness. And in that icy

The litter-bearers should be enrolled among unsung heroes of the war.





Fifth Army French infantrymen look for targets across the ridge and are ready to use their BARs.

blackness, mule trains were led up the mountains. When even the mules couldn't negotiate such terrain, Fifth Army soldiers shouldered pack-boards and portered ammunition and supplies.

The wounded waited in their pain to be evacuated by litter-bearers who took hours to descend the mountains with their burdens. Men suffered from trench-foot and from all the hardships of mountain warfare.

Across to the Adriatic stretched the line of Eighth Army, where British and Dominion troops faced the same kind of terrain and weather.

The 1st Armored Division arrived from Africa in November and was attached to II Corps. It was held in readiness to exploit the Liri Valley sector. The 2nd French Moroccan Infantry Division, part of what was later to be the French

Expeditionary Corps with Fifth Army, also arrived. It was attached to VI Corps. Later, when additional French units arrived, the French Corps, commanded by General Alphonse Juin, took over the VI Corps sector.

Fifth Army had acquired a truly international character. Its forces included, in addition to American units, British, French, and Italians.

By 15 January Fifth Army was secure along the general line of the Rapido and Garigliano rivers. Cassino now began to figure in the world press. Sharing the spotlight with that strongly defended town was the famous Benedictine monastery which rested on a high peak overlooking Cassino and the Garigliano and Rapido valleys and their approaches.

Fifth Army attacked the Liri Valley and Cassino with vigor. Here, however, the Germans had prepared strong positions.



Search for a sniper.

They had brought in reinforcements and picked troops and were determined to hold.

Despite our efforts, it became apparent that a different plan of attack would have to be formulated.

The French forces with Fifth Army and the 34th Division, with a regiment of the 36th Division attached, attempted to outflank Cassino. The enemy was well prepared to meet the threat. The attack did not succeed.

The Liri Valley became known to our soldiers as "Purple Heart Valley" and was the scene of bitter fighting.

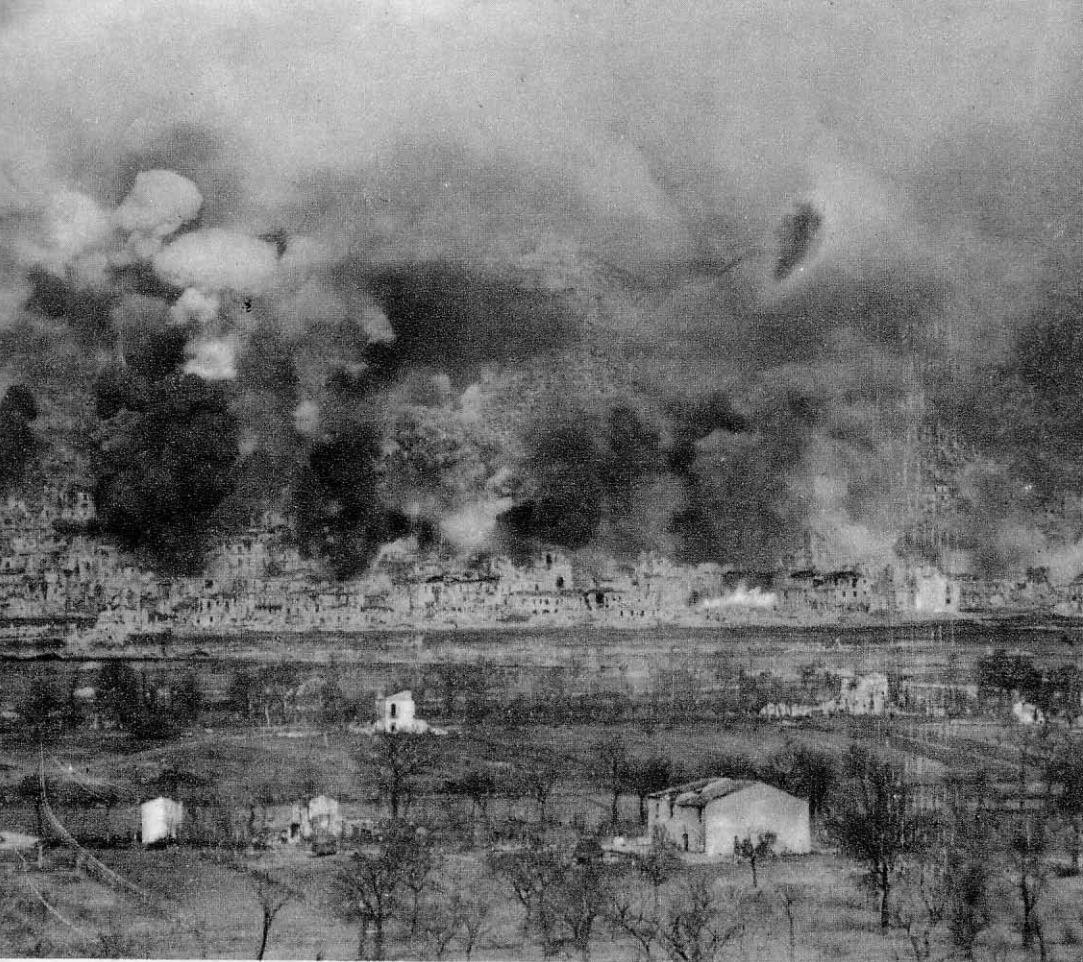
Fifth Army troops pushed on toward Piedmonte as they flanked Cassino. Highway No. 6, vital artery to Rome, was neared but not cut.

The troops were, by now, thoroughly tired. They had been fighting for a long time under the worst of conditions and needed rest and reorganizing. Meanwhile, Fifth Army's Anzio operation was in progress, and much of our strength was being used at the new beachhead.

On 3 February the New Zealand Corps, attached to Fifth Army, took over the Cassino sector. On 15 February the Benedictine Abbey was bombed; on 15 March the town of Cassino was bombed by a large concentration of medium and heavy bombers. But still our troops were unable to capture the Cassino stronghold.

On 26 March a change of boundaries placed the II Corps and the French Expeditionary Corps south of the Liri. Meanwhile, the 88th and 85th infantry divisions were brought to Italy and were attached to II Corps. There followed a period of patrolling, of constant probing of enemy defenses, of preparation for a major assault.

Our gains during the winter, although not large, were important. The terrain, without roads, and the high mountains held by the enemy with automatic weapons in well dug in positions with overhead cover, had been difficult. The use



Precision bombing on enemy roads, bridges, bivouacs, gun positions, vehicles, tanks and towns (Cassino above) provided excellent close support. The air flew thousands of successful long-range missions too.

of mines and barbed wire, coupled with prepared positions, proved costly to our forces. Enemy observation often compelled Fifth Army to make night attacks where only limited use could be made of our supporting mortars and artillery, and the mine fields were more difficult to locate.

The position held by the German forces was one that had been used for years by the Italian War College to illustrate the ideal terrain for defense.

Fifth Army at Anzio

The Fifth Army operation at Anzio was designed to secure, by an "end run", a beachhead and to threaten the routes of communication in rear of the 10th German Army by seizure of the high ground of Colle Laziali. It was, in effect, to be a dagger, ever threatening the German right flank and causing the enemy to divert his forces in an attempt to ward off a stab.

VI Corps, now commanded by Major General John P. Lucas, undertaking its second amphibious operation, landed at Anzio on 22 January. Its initial forces included the Ranger battalions, the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion, the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, and the 3rd Infantry Division. British units attached to VI Corps included some Commandos and the 1 Infantry Division.

Later arrivals were the 45th Infantry Division and a combat command of the 1st Armored Division. As time went on, additional forces, including the 1st Special Service Force, the remainder of the 1st Armored Division, the 34th Infantry Division, and the 5 and 56 British divisions came in.

Our forces landed without much difficulty, but, alarmed by the Fifth Army's latest maneuver, the enemy made every effort to rush troops to this area. Aided by bad weather which interfered with our bombing of his communications, he was able to move units back from the main, or southern, front, from the Balkans, and from France.

The success of the landing operation and the surprise that attended it gave rise to much unfounded optimism on the part of people who were not fully informed as to just what the situation was. It must be remembered that our landing was a



Soldiers lost no time in getting ashore during D-Day at Anzio.

"calculated risk." It took into consideration the known factors, and it was anticipated that the enemy would weaken his southern front in bringing troops up to oppose the beachhead.

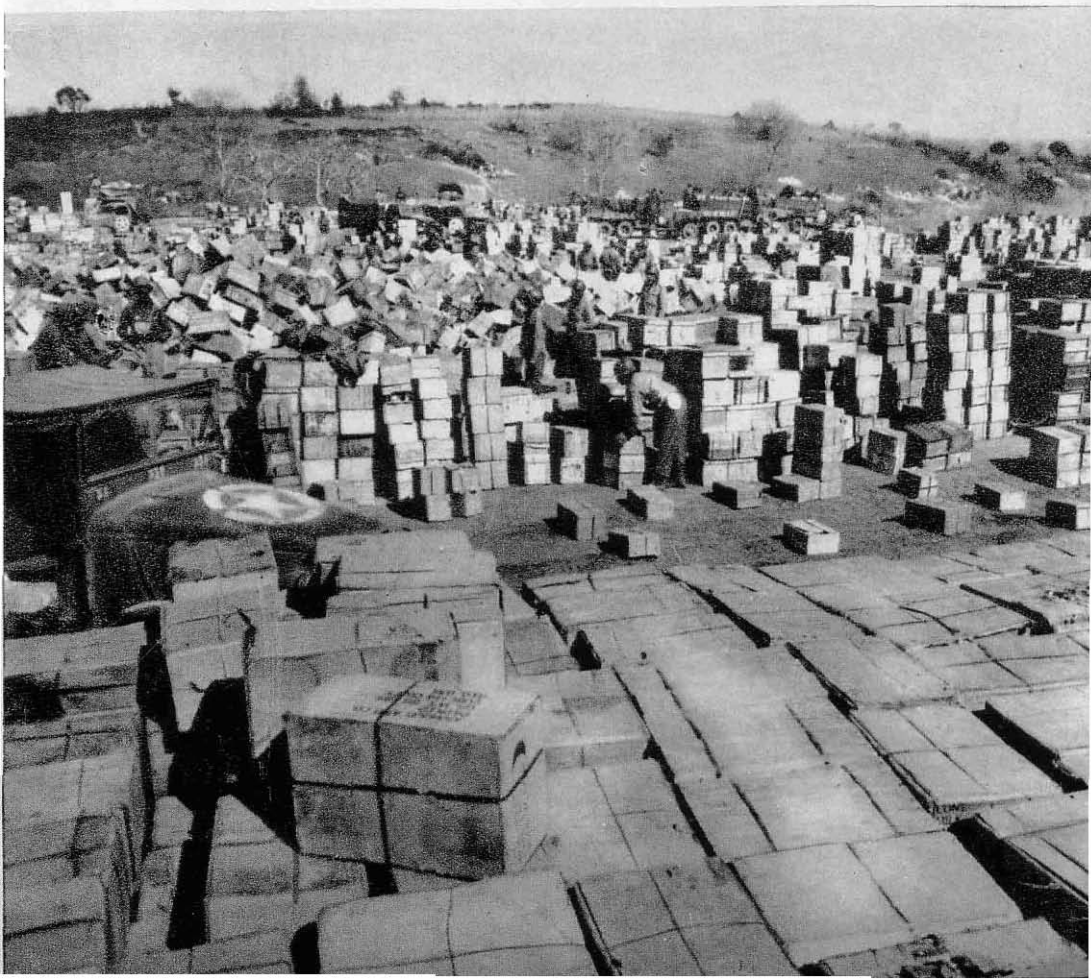
Although the German force opposed to our initial landing was small, the enemy reacted quickly by rushing troops from all directions to meet the grave emergency which confronted him. By the end of D-Day (January 22) he had 20,000 men to oppose our 36,000. Our superiority was not great enough to warrant a hasty, extensive advance inland before we had secured a suitable beachhead. By the end of D plus 3 his number had risen to 41,000, while we had only 56,000; and the enemy buildup was steadily increasing.

With amazing rapidity, the Germans brought in one division from France, one from the Balkans, three from Northern Italy,

two from the Eighth Army front, but only a division and a half from the Fifth Army southern front.

Fifth Army's main front operation during December and January had been designed to maneuver the enemy into a position that would permit our forces to cross the Rapido River and break into the Liri Valley before the Anzio landings. Bad weather and insufficient forces prevented the accomplishment of this operation, but our continued offensive effort in the Rapido area caused the German to reinforce his troops opposing our Anzio landings by bringing divisions from other areas rather than from the main Fifth Army front. This was a tribute to Fifth Army's offensive spirit. However, the

Supplies were never lacking at Fifth Army's Anzio beachhead.



Teller mines like these
were planted by the thous-
ands along Italy's beaches.



retention of so many German divisions on our main front slowed down the Fifth Army's mid-winter advance toward the beachhead.

The German buildup at the beachhead continued unabated. Eleven days after the landing, despite our efforts to handicap his movements, the enemy had assembled 98,000 troops on the Anzio-Nettuno front compared to approximately 92,000 of our own.

When Fifth Army was confronted by this ever-growing force, it was immediately apparent that to plunge further inland would endanger the entire beachhead. It would extend our slender lines of supply — from the beach to the troops — so severely that the enemy, with his actual numerical superiority, could pinch us off between the beach and Colle Laziali.

Frequent German air raids made anti-aircraft gunners like these stay on the alert at Anzio.





Tribute to ordnance—a small portion of the shell cases that were turned in for salvage at Anzio.



British soldiers at Fifth Army's Anzio beachhead shift the tripod of their 4.2 mortar.

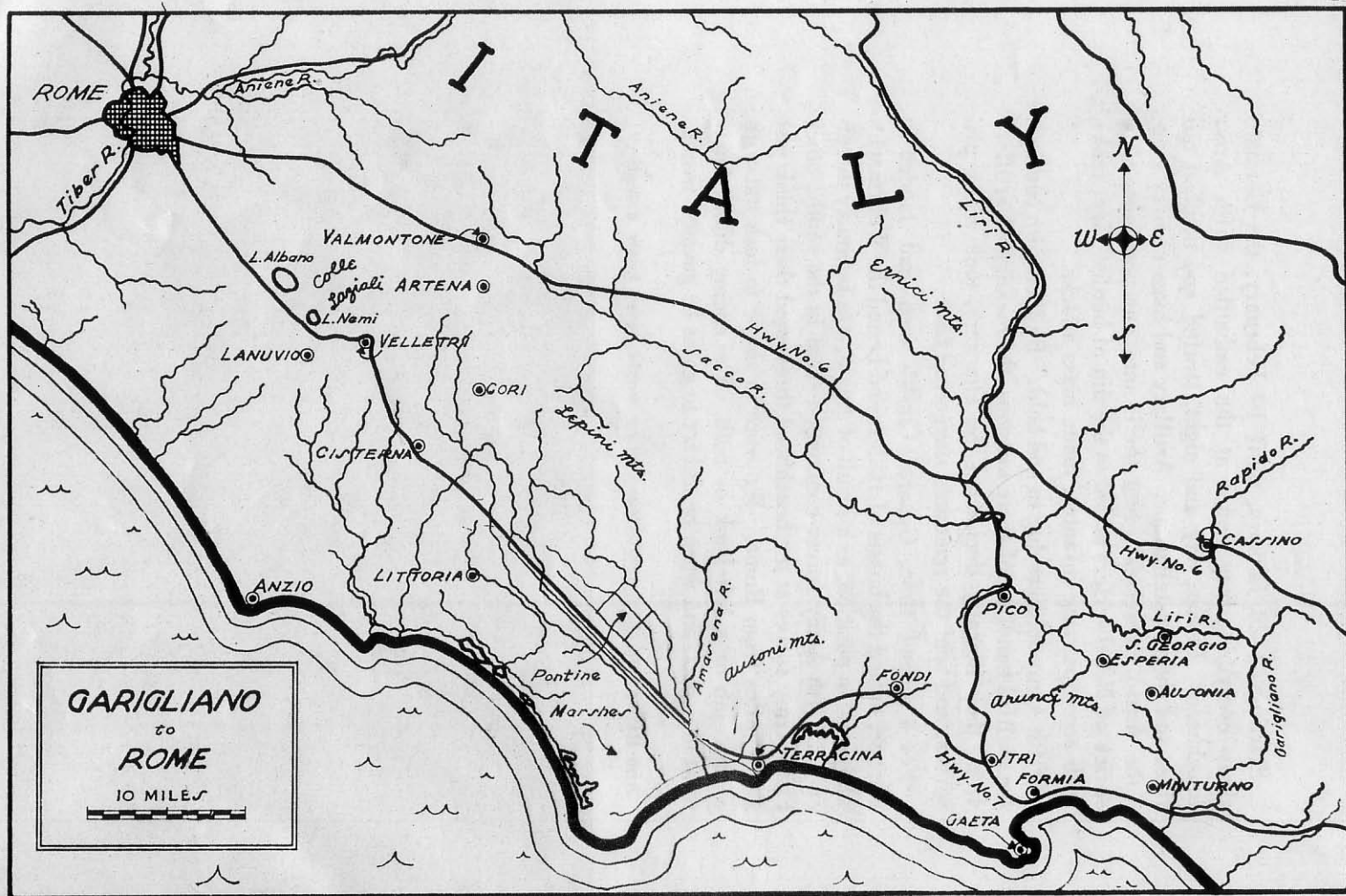
Starting on 28 January, until 19 February, the Germans threw everything they could at the embattled Fifth Army beachhead. Planes, day and night, strafed and bombed our lines and shore installations. Artillery and huge railway guns, "the Anzio Expresses", sent shells into our positions. The shriek of Nebelwerfers added to the din of battle. Tiger tanks, with accompanying infantry, made mass attacks.

Fifth Army soldiers dug in and held. By their own courage, the skillful handling of their weapons, the massing of artillery fires, they literally decimated the attackers, took many prisoners, and sent the remnants staggering back.

For a second time, General Clark's men had landed in Europe, defied the boasts of Hitler, and bested the Wehrmacht. The German position, as a result of Anzio, was seriously threatened. Fifth Army forces confronted them in the south; other Fifth Army forces at the beachhead threatened their flank just a few miles from Rome. We were in shape to lash out with a right jab or a left hook or both. The enemy didn't know what to expect, and when he did try to guess he guessed wrong.

And Hitler told them the German army would never know defeat.





The May Offensive

During March and April, the Allied Armies in Italy regrouped and prepared for an all-out spring offensive. Meanwhile, the Germans worked desperately to complete two defensive positions, the Gustav and Hitler lines, which they hoped would prevent a break-through on the road to Rome.

In a successful deception, Allied forces were re-aligned. The Eighth Army front was extended to the western side of Italy and took over that part of Fifth Army's sector northeast of the Liri River. This gave the British the Liri Valley and Cassino in their zone.

Fifth Army was to operate south of the Liri River and in the course of its advance was to facilitate the progress of the Eighth Army by securing the high ground south of the Liri.

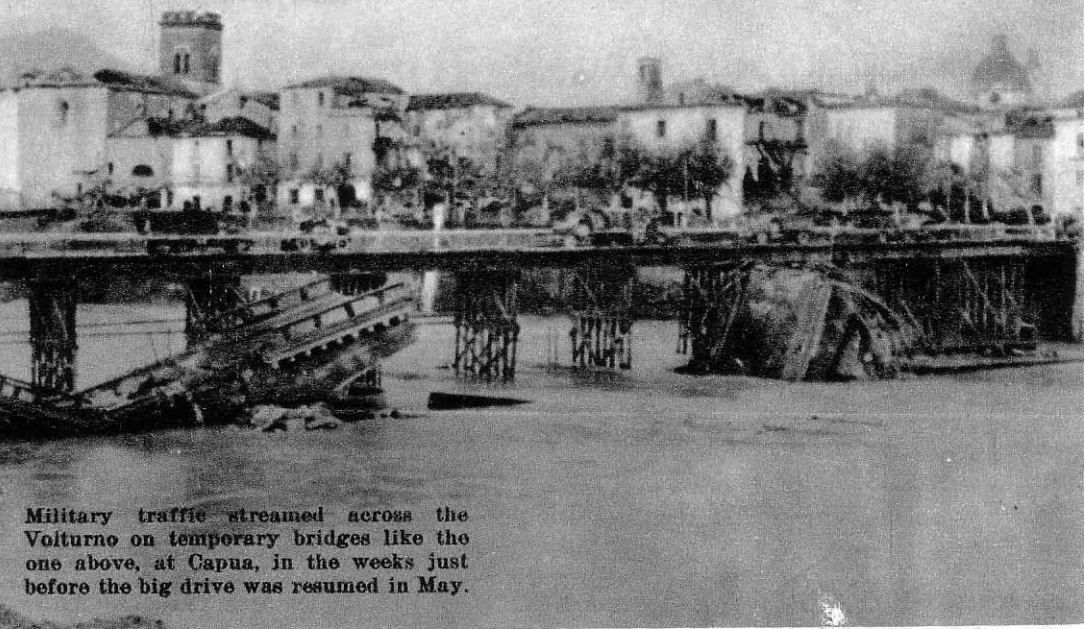
The Germans were not aware of this shifting of striking power to the west coast of Italy, nor did they know just how much force was available to be used against them.

The 85th and 88th infantry divisions, both of which had received battle indoctrination during the static period of the winter, were on Fifth Army's left flank and made up the II Corps, under command of Major General Geoffrey Keyes.

The French forces, commanded by General Alphonse Juin, held Fifth Army's right.

Concentrated in the relatively narrow sector between the Liri River and the sea, with supplies having been brought forward, with all troops in readiness and keyed to a fighting pitch, Fifth Army was set to go.

General Clark's plan of attack called for the French Expeditionary Corps to seize the key terrain features of Majo, San



Military traffic streamed across the Volturno on temporary bridges like the one above, at Capua, in the weeks just before the big drive was resumed in May.



Long-range, heavy artillery, using air observation, stayed well forward and pounded German communications.



Fifth Army tanks moving into assembly areas for the 11 May offensive.

Croce, and Castellone, to clear the San Ambrogia area, and to cut the Ausonia-Esperia road north of Ausonia.

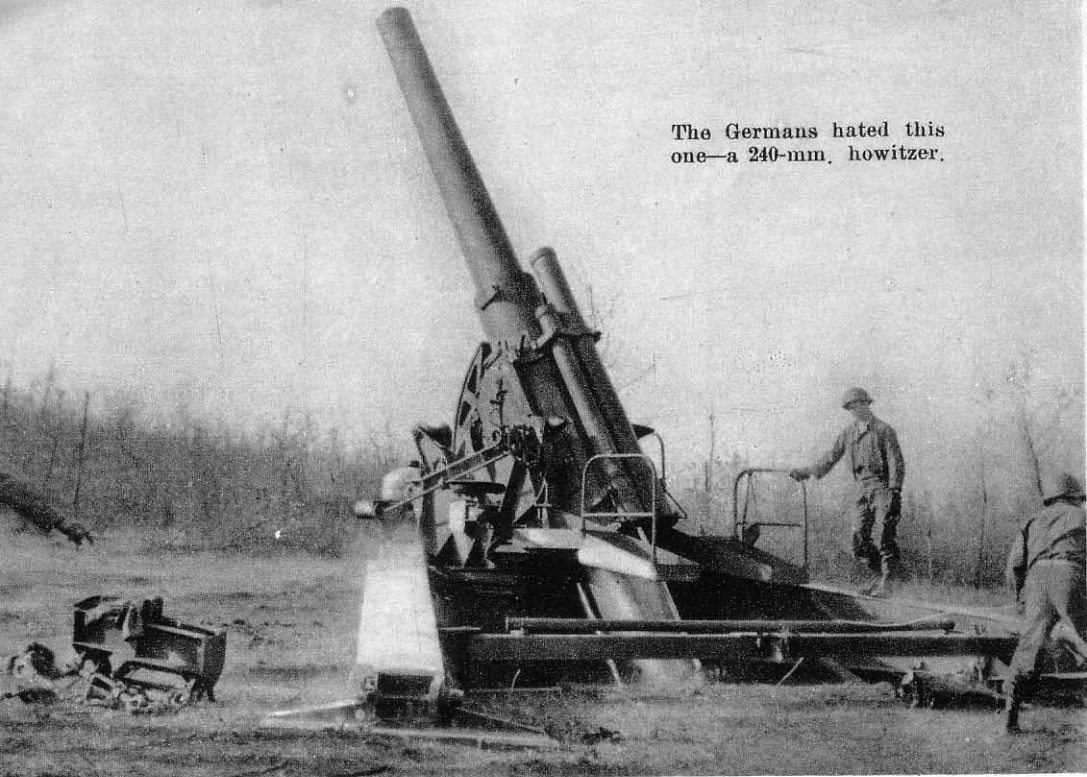
II Corps was to cut the Minturno-Ausonia Road, secure the foothills of the Petrella Mountains, and maintain pressure against the Germans in the direction of Formia.

Accomplishment of those missions would, and did, force the Germans back, cut their lateral communications, and provide Fifth Army with routes leading toward Rome.

The 36th Infantry Division was held out as Army reserve, available to be employed either to reinforce II Corps on the southern front or VI Corps in the beachhead sector.

It was quiet on the night of 11 May. You could hear dogs barking across the misty expanses of the Liri Valley. At 2300 hours, you couldn't hear anything, that is, anything but deafening noise. Precisely at that hour, Allied artillery, from Cassino to the sea, opened up. The night burst into flame.

The Germans hated this
one—a 240-mm. howitzer.



Night and day artillery pounded enemy
positions, illuminating the surrounding
country with the flash of bursting shells.

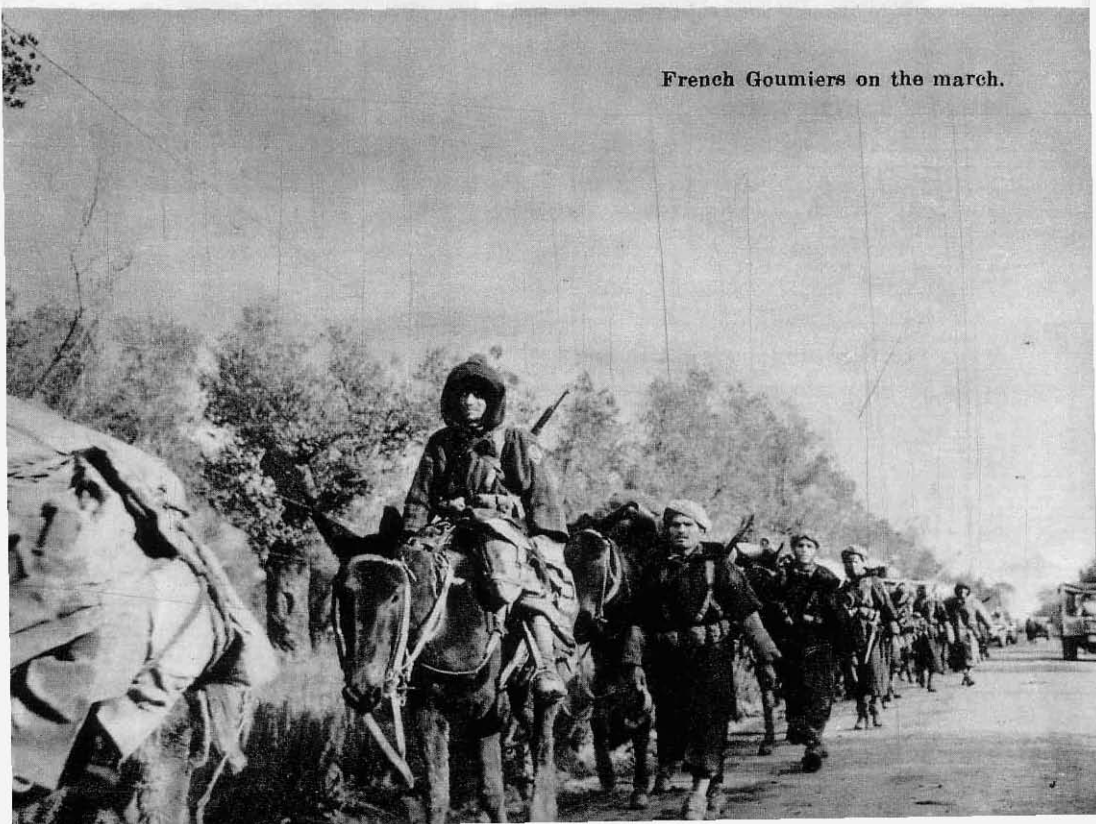
Quietly, infantry had moved into jump-off position. Soldiers waited, tensely, for the time of assault, then moved out. Ahead of them lay miles of rugged terrain, strong fortifications, a resourceful enemy, and Rome.

French forces with Fifth Army had previously distinguished themselves during the bitter winter months when they had fought in the Venafro and Mt. Cairo sector. Now, they added fresh laurels to their record.

While the famous Goums swarmed over the hills, infiltrated behind the enemy lines, and struck terror into the Germans by the stealth and viciousness of their night fighting, other French forces were gaining vital objectives.

Starting at H Hour, 11 May, the French Expeditionary Corps, now composed of the 2nd Moroccan, 3rd Algerian, 4th Mountain and 1st Motorized divisions, launched an offensive along its entire front. Mt. Faito was captured against stiff opposition. Cerasola, San Giorgio, Mt. D'Oro, Ausonia,

French Goumiers on the march.





Plowing through the streets of Ausonia, tank destroyers of the 3rd Algerian Division followed close upon the heels of the retreating foe.

and Esperia were among other important objectives taken by the Fifth Army French forces of General Juin as the offensive gathered momentum.

The Germans made repeated counterattacks and attempted to hold the strong positions of their Gustav Line, but so spirited were the French attacks that the enemy was forced to yield each objective—and usually with heavy losses in men and materiel. In fact, the spirit of the attackers was such that the German high command, at a later date, commented upon it in a paper analyzing some of the factors contributing to the German defeat.

The French never slackened in their aggressiveness. With brilliant American tank support, they rolled from San Olivia to Pico, cut the Itri-Pico Road, and materially aided the Eighth Army by clearing the high ground along the southern section of the Liri Valley and breaching the Gustav Line.

An example of naval-ground cooperation. British cruiser firing at inland targets near Itri in support of Fifth Army's advance.



Picturesque villages in Italy were, more often than not, left a mass of rubble like this as the war rolled on.



The ruins of Fondi lie behind them, the splendor of Rome, ahead. Fifth Army infantry, moving to the front, a front that kept moving to the rear, the German rear.

In the coastal sector, II Corps was having equal success in a powerful advance which captured Scauri, Formia, Gaeta, and Itri. With the fall of Gaeta, our forces turned inland to drive along the Appian Way toward Fondi, toward Rome.

The 85th and 88th infantry divisions, Selective Service divisions, fought like veteran organizations. Their men showed a determination to close with the enemy. Over mountains, through valleys, along roads, trails, and across country, they moved forward.

At the outset of the offensive, the British Eighth Army, attacking Cassino and the Rapido River defenses, encountered strong and stubborn opposition. They were successful in the Rapido crossing, using assault boats and bridges, and drove back the enemy outposts. They continued to expand their bridgehead in close contact with the foremost defenses of the Gustav Line.

Cassino proved to be as difficult as ever. It was finally captured on the seventh day of the offensive, after a strong attack from the north and south.

From then on, Fifth and Eighth armies moved on up the peninsula.

Forced out of the Gustav Line, the Germans fell back to the Hitler Line. They were compelled to evacuate it and to withdraw toward Rome.

Many dead and much abandoned equipment marked the line of their retreat. In the first five days of the offensive Fifth Army cut up two German divisions.

There was speculation now as to when a junction would be made between Fifth Army forces moving toward Rome from the south and the long beleaguered Anzio units. It was to come with amazing speed.

Comradeship—wounded soldiers assisting each other to an aid station.



The enemy paused to fight a brief delaying action at Terracina. Here, the mountains came down in a point, virtually sealing off the coastal highway. On 23 May, a regiment of the 85th Infantry Division attacked the town. Farther inland, a regiment of the 88th Infantry Division cut across the mountain whose western slopes terminated at Terracina.

At 0630 hours, on that same day, VI Corps, under Major General Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., jumped off toward Cisterna. The 3rd Infantry Division and the 1st Special Service Force headed for Cori, and another force aimed for Mt. Arrestino. To the left of the 3rd Division, the 1st Armored Division and the 34th and 45th infantry divisions pushed north and north-west. By dark on 25 May, Route No. 7 had been cut on both sides of Cisterna. The enemy broke and fell back. Cisterna was taken, the force heading for Mt. Arrestino took its objective, and all units continued their drive.

On the southern front, by 24 May the situation had cleared; the Germans withdrew before our advance. II Corps leading elements rounded the bend at Terracina, and ahead lay the long straight stretches of roads, intersecting the famous Pontine Marshes.

The marshes had been flooded, but the waters didn't cover the roads. Reconnaissance elements raced ahead. During the

Tanks and infantry moving to jump-off positions for the break-through at the Fifth Army's Anzio beachhead. German tanks are wrecked hulks along the road.





Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark extending his greetings to First Lieutenant Francis X. Buckley, 48th Engineers Combat Battalion, who was the first officer to come overland from the southern front and join with elements emerging from the Fifth Army beachhead.

early morning, 25 May, near Borgo Grappa, combat engineers and a reconnaissance squadron made contact with elements from the beachhead.

The junction of forces at such an early stage of the beachhead attack gave General Clark the opportunity to reinforce quickly the beachhead forces of VI Corps. Within the hour of the junction, General Clark directed IV Corps under Major General Willis D. Crittenger to take command of II Corps sector on the main front and II Corps Headquarters to move overland to the beachhead without delay. His directive also provided that troops of the French Corps take over at once the sector held by the 85th and 88th divisions and supporting troops in order that these units might be moved to reinforce the beachhead forces.

The scheme of maneuver for the beachhead attack begun on 23 May was to capture Cori and Artena and cut Highway



A soldier explores the Pontine Marshes. They were flooded by the retreating Germans in an attempt to delay pursuit by Fifth Army.

6 at Valmontone. The 3rd Division and 1st Special Service Force were to make the main effort, other divisions conforming. On 25 May when it became a certainty that 85th Division and 88th Division would soon join the beachhead forces, General Clark decided to continue the Cori attack with the 3rd Division and 1st Special Service Force but to swing the mass of his forces northwest astride Highway 7 in an all-out attack. This proved a very fortunate decision, for it caught the Germans unprepared and materially contributed to our great victory.

On 26 May, Cori had fallen to the 3rd Division. The 34th and 45th divisions, with the 1st Armored Division, attacked astride the Cisterna-Campoleone railroad with a mission of taking Lanuvio and Campoleone, then turned northward toward Albano. Campoleone was taken on 29 May, and Lanuvio, by the 34th Division on 3 June.



A Fifth Army sniper, waiting, waiting, and then. . . .

The 3rd Division, now under II Corps, attacked toward the north, taking Artena on 28 May and reaching the outskirts of Valmontone by 1 June. The 36th Division, which had been shipped to the beachhead before the forces joined, relieved the 1st Armored Division below Velletri on 27 May. A regiment made a deep penetration some three and a half miles in rear of Velletri, occupying the heights of Colle Laziali on 31 May. Velletri fell on 2 June, and by the following day the 36th had neared Lago Albano.

The 85th and 88th divisions, reaching the beachhead sector by the now-open beach road, were brought into the picture, after their successful commitment on the southern front, and under II Corps were placed in position for an attack to the northwest.

II Corps, then, was on the right of a great turning movement which swung north and west. Troops of II Corps cut Highway No. 6, leading to Valmontone, broke the Valmontone defenses,

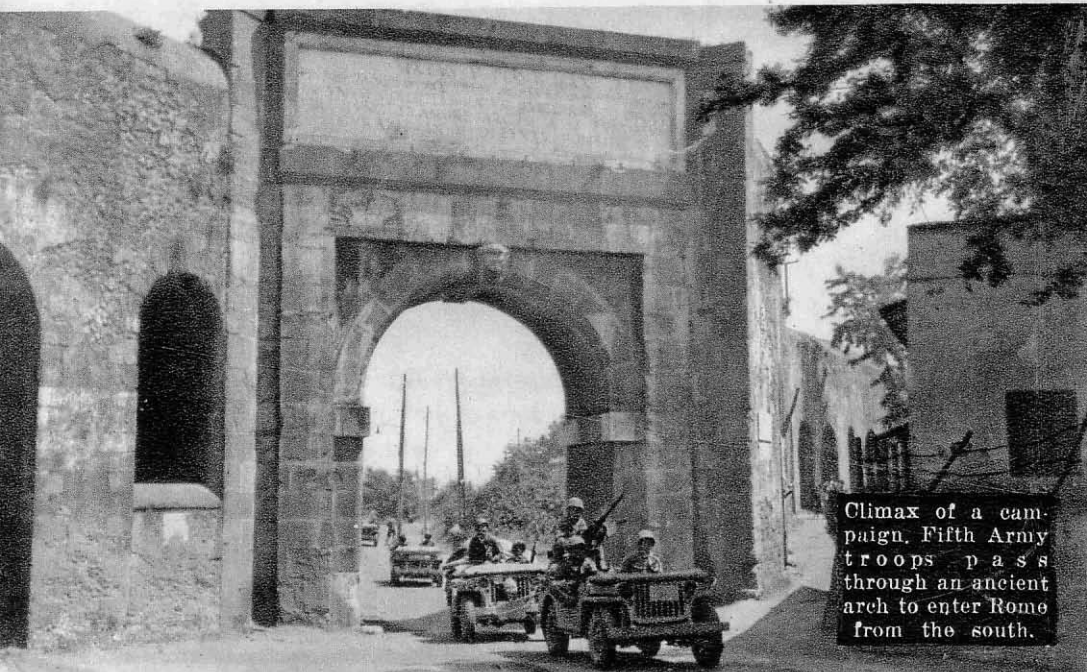
established contact with the French at Colli Ferro, and pushed on to Rome.

The German line was broken; the line that had formed a cordon around our beachhead forces gave way just as had the Winter Line, the Gustav Line, the Hitler Line.

While the beachhead force was breaking its way out, two British divisions, the 1st and the 5th, protected their left flank.

The Germans couldn't continue their resistance south of Rome. Fifth Army prisoner of war cages filled with the steady stream of dejected Germans that flowed past our troops moving on Rome. German equipment, vehicles, tanks, and bodies, left in a precipitous rout, attested the magnitude of their defeat.

On 4 June 1944, Fifth Army troops reached Rome. Elements of the II Corps were the first to enter the city. There, they saw a city in the wildest demonstration of joy. Weary soldiers, the grime of battle still upon them, the fatigue of days of marching and fighting pulling at their muscles, saw what it meant to liberate a city. They saw, too, the yoke of Axis domination thrown aside, while people breathed a new-found freedom.



Rome

There is, perhaps, no city in the entire world that has been so often mentioned in literature and history as has Rome.

Men of the Fifth Army had added to that history. The weary infantry soldiers who marched through Rome to pursue the Germans across the Tiber were symbols of liberation. They had freed a city which belongs not to one nation, but to the world.

To you men who participated in the delivery of Rome must come some special feeling of pride. You did what no other army ever did. You attacked from the south, expelled the foe, and entered Rome—from the south.

Behind you lay nine months of campaign. Each foot of the way to Rome is a tribute to your courage, to your indomitable will to win. In Rome, your feet trod upon ground that answered to the soft tread of sandals worn by tribesmen six centuries before Christ. You passed the ruins of a civilization that flourished two thousand years before your own country was discovered.

The antiquity of Rome goes back beyond recorded history and is shrouded in legend. As the centuries passed, and the accomplishments of man could be recorded, Rome was immortalized in the writings of ancient scribes, perpetuated in the work of her artists.

It is not the province of this book to tell you about Rome. You can easily obtain a book that will tell what you might wish to know about the city you wrested from Axis hands to be restored to a civilization that cherishes it. Nor can this book,

Past the historic Colosseum, Fifth Army infantry marches through Rome in pursuit of the fleeing Germans.



Liberated by Fifth Army from long years of Axis tyranny, the people of Rome greeted the troops with an emotional enthusiasm that defies description.



General Clark is shown entering Rome with his Chief of Staff, Major General Alfred M. Gruenther (left rear) and the Rome Area Commander, Major General Harry H. Johnson. St. Peter's looms in the background.

in its limited space, give credit to every unit that has so justly earned it.

A campaign like the one you fought to deliver Rome can only be adequately covered in many volumes. The failure to mention any organization, or any specific action, in no way minimizes the importance of either. The unknown soldier who removed a mine, who drove a truck, who evacuated the wounded man from the heights of Mt. Sammucro, or the unit that repaired a bridge, unloaded a cargo ship, or hauled supplies, played a vital part in the triumph of 4 June 1944.

The congratulatory messages appended to this history are, naturally, addressed to your Commanding General. They are, however, intended for every individual Fifth Army soldier and unit. Without the help of each and every one of you, the victory would not have been so quickly achieved.

Rome is free; you made it so. But Rome is merely one symbolic objective. Only with the complete defeat of the Axis powers can we rest upon our arms and feel that our job is done.

"With God's help, we shall carry on the task which they began."
General Clark, Memorial Day, Auzio.



CONGRATULATIONS

FROM PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT:

"You have made the American people very happy. It is a grand job well done. Congratulations to you and the men of the Fifth Army."

FROM PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL:

"We rejoice with you in the splendid exploits, comradeship and tireless energy of the United States, British and other Allied troops under your command, and it gives me the greatest pleasure to congratulate you once again on your brilliant leading."

FROM SECRETARY OF WAR STIMSON:

"I send you, on behalf of the people of the United States, our deepest appreciation of the thought, labor and qualities of leadership which have contributed to this success and for the troops who have strained hard and in spite of bitter sacrifices have entered Rome. They have our heartfelt gratitude."

FROM GENERAL MARSHALL, CHIEF OF STAFF, U. S. ARMY:

"You have my congratulations, thanks and admiration for your battle leadership. You have done a superb job. Please present my congratulations to General Juin and his division commanders of the French Army Corps on their great achievement. Tell him they have taken us back to the French Army I knew of the Marne and Verdun."

FROM FIELD MARSHAL SIR ALAN BROOKE, CHIEF OF THE IMPERIAL BRITISH STAFF:

"Heartly congratulations on wonderful achievement of Fifth Army and best of luck."

FROM THE SUPREME COMMANDER, ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY
FORCES IN EUROPE, GENERAL EISENHOWER:

"Your accomplishments have more than justified your high reputation and my great confidence in you and your ability. Please give to Generals Truscott, Gruenther, Keyes, and all my other friends of your command my warmest congratulations and the hope that one day we will all meet in the heart of the enemy homeland."

FROM COMMANDER, U. S. NAVAL FORCES IN EUROPE, ADMIRAL STARK:

"We are all rejoicing with you and proud of your great work. Our heartiest congratulations, and may continued success crown your splendid efforts. All good wishes."

FROM THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY,
GENERAL SIR H. R. ALEXANDER:

"You have won a brilliant victory and opened the door to fresh ones. In sending you my thanks and gratitude for the great part you and your Army have played, I send you and your magnificent soldiers my sincere admiration and congratulations."

FROM THE DEPUTY SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER, MEDITERRANEAN THEATER, LIEUTENANT GENERAL DEVERS:

"Congratulations on the work the Fifth Army is doing. Through your leadership and guidance it has made a name for itself never to be forgotten by the Allies or the enemy."

"Please express to your officers and men my personal admiration of their accomplishment. I am very proud of the way the Americans have fought and are fighting. With men who possess their courage, stamina and determination, there can be no doubt in the German mind that they are being defeated by superior individuals fighting together in an excellent team."

"I sincerely hope we will be able to destroy the German army totally in the near future. May successes continue."

FROM THE COMMANDER OF NAVAL FORCES IN NORTH
AFRICAN WATERS, ADMIRAL HEWITT:

"Heartiest congratulations to the officers and men of your Army from the Naval Forces under my command. From the day of the attack at Salerno, the Eighth Fleet has done its best to support your forward movement to Rome and has followed with just pride the accomplishments of its comrades on shore. The first Axis capital has fallen. May the others soon follow suit."

FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL, FRENCH EXPEDITIONARY CORPS, GENERAL D'ARMEE JUIN:

"With all my heart I say: 'Bravo!' You have richly deserved your victory."

FROM GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING, EIGHTH ARMY, LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEESE:

"I send you from myself and from every officer and man of the Eighth Army our sincere congratulations to the Fifth Army. We have followed with admiration the magnificent fighting of your troops in the Alban Hills which ended so successfully in your great break-through into Rome."

FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL, SECOND POLISH CORPS, LIEUTENANT GENERAL ANDERS:

"Please accept my heartiest congratulations and those of the Polish Corps on the magnificent achievements of the Fifth Army culminating in the capture of Rome by American troops. We followed with the greatest interest the heroic fighting and the rapid advance of your Army. The news of the capture of Rome by Americans created a tremendous enthusiasm among all soldiers of the Polish Corps. With kindest regards to yourself and best wishes for continued success."

FROM GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING, BRITISH FIFTH CORPS, LIEUTENANT GENERAL ALLFREY:

"Heartiest congratulations on your splendid achievement and on the magnificent way your troops have fought."

FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL, 12TH AIR FORCE, MAJOR GENERAL CANNON:

"May I thank you on behalf of all ranks for your very generous tribute to the forces under my command. We are proud to have been able to share with you and your Army the great victory you have so brilliantly won."

FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL, 15TH AIR FORCE, MAJOR GENERAL TWINING:

"It is with great pride that the officers and men of the 15th Air Force view the splendid achievements of their comrades of the Fifth Army. Congratulations on the brilliant campaign now in progress and for continued success, which cannot be denied your determined fighting men."

FROM THE FLAG OFFICER, WESTERN ITALY, ADMIRAL MORSE:

"Heartiest congratulations. Not only non-stop but you do not even hesitate."

FROM DEPUTY THEATER COMMANDER, ETOUSA, LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEE:

"Heartly congratulations from your old friends in the SOS, ETO, who are more than proud of you and your gallant Fifth Army. Don't think of answering this. Just know we have put our bets on you all the way. You carry our abiding best wishes."

FROM CHIEF OF STAFF, 21ST ARMY GROUP, LIEUTENANT GENERAL DE GUINGAND:

"Heartiest congratulations on magnificent victory."

FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL, THIRD ARMY, LIEUTENANT GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON, JR.:

"Heartiest congratulations."

FROM ALEXANDER KIRK, AMERICAN MEMBER, ALLIED ADVISORY COUNCIL:

"I express to you my profound admiration for the splendid achievements which you and those who have fought with you have accomplished."

FROM THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATE TO FRENCH COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION:

"Please accept my warmest congratulations for the splendid victory of the gallant Fifth Army. The Brazilian people will share the pride of the people of the U.S.A. upon learning that Allied forces were led to Rome by an American general."

FROM THE RULER OF THE BHOPAL PRINCIPALITY, INDIA, NAWAB BHOPAL:

"Having heard of your glorious entry into the City of Rome, with great pleasure and profound thankfulness I offer you and the gallant troops under your command my warm congratulations on the splendid achievement, India having watched your progress and achievements with great admiration and satisfaction, and may this victorious advance continue till final victory is won."

FROM MARSHAL MESSE, ITALIAN ARMY:

"The Italian armed forces express their high sense of gratitude and admiration for the victory which the immortal name of Rome has bestowed on the troops of your command."