

BEACHHEAD NEWS

VOL. 1, No. 46

FOUNDED ON THE ANZIO BEACHHEAD

Tuesday, July 4, 1944

Sixth Corps Made History at Anzio

World News Shows Gains Major General Truscott, Jr. Praises Beachhead Veterans Task Force Had Big Role

MOSCOW, July 3—Minsk, capital of White Russia, was occupied today as spearheads of the First and Third Armies encircled the city, cutting off its rail escape routes, and the Second Army attacked from the front taking the city by storm. Some 200,000 Germans were estimated to be in the garrison defending the gateway to Warsaw.

The First Baltic Army has smashed across the pre-war Polish frontier to cut the Brest-Litovsk Railway at Stolsby and Gorodzev, 43 and 57 miles southwest of Minsk. To the northwest of Minsk the Third Baltic Army has raced forward to cut the rail line running from Minsk to Vilna and captured the junction of Krasnye, 30 miles northwest of Minsk.

Other columns have pushed 50 miles west of Polotsk and are well inside the 1939 Polish territory. Again the Russian cavalry has spearheaded the advances encircling large units and cutting all supply and communication lines to further bewilder the routed Nazis.

ALLIED ADVANCE HDQS., July 3—French troops of the Fifth Army today captured the stronghold of Siena on the (Continued on Page Four.)

Rookie Gets Baptism Of Fire—It's Fireflies

Pvt. Max Schwartz, a switchboard operator, had a tough day and it affected his imagination.

Schwartz was operating the switchboard on the Mussolini Canal when a Kraut shell landed much too close for comfort. He was jarred out of his seat but unhurt.

That night, when the signalman was roaming the area visiting friends, he saw a lot of red flashes going in all directions. He thought it was an air raid and crawled about a half mile on his belly back to his dugout. When he got there, his bunkmate told him there was no air raid—just fireflies.

"Hell, they looked just like tracers," moaned Schwartz.

TO THE VETERANS OF THE ALLIED BEACHHEAD AT ANZIO:

One hundred and sixty eight years ago, representatives of the Thirteen Colonies declared their independence from their Mother Nation because they believed that individual rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness were in jeopardy—and, thus, the United States of America was born. Today the heirs of those Thirteen Colonies and the heirs of the Mother Nation are comrades in arms—with others of the United Nations—in a bitter struggle against a tyranny more destructive to individual rights and individual liberty than the world has ever known.

On this day our comrades in the west have broken the Atlantic Wall and are driving forward from another beachhead upon the soil of France. In the east the enemy reels from the blows of the mighty Russian armies. In Italy we still pursue a fleeing enemy. Every front gives witness to our growing might and a hope for early victory.

It is fitting that the veterans of the Allied beachhead force at Anzio salute those comrades who are bearing the brunt of today's battles and pause in tribute to those who have offered the supreme sacrifice in the cause of our United Nations. Your contribution has been a material one. For more than four months you held the beachhead and constituted a serious threat to the flank and rear of

the German armies in Italy. You attracted and held enemy divisions that otherwise would have been available to meet the western invasion. You met and defeated three major attacks by superior forces, ordered by the tyrant to drive you into the sea. In the final offensive you burst forth from the beachhead, overwhelmed the enemy divisions organized to contain you, and contributed a large part in destroying the German armies and liberating the first of European capitals—Rome.

In all those trying days you faced danger with courage, you bore hardship with fortitude, you met every task with strength, with skill, and with determination, your spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding solved every Allied problem. In future years you will recall with pride your service at Anzio.

I am proud to have been your Commander. I salute you.

L. K. TRUSCOTT, JR.
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

Anti-Tankers Take Over Rescue Work

A Staff Sergeant from Sioux City, Iowa, and a Private First Class from Louisburg, Minnesota, members of an anti-tank platoon, became medical aid men in an emergency to rescue men trapped in an area so dangerous that it was named "Dead Man's Gully."

The two are Staff Sergeant William P. Keane of Sioux City, Iowa, and Private First Class Rudolph C. Nelson of Louisburg, Minnesota.

"There was a great shortage of medics, so we volunteered to get out some of the wounded," Sergeant Keane explained.

What neither he nor Private Nelson mentioned was that the gully was the object of heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire as well as a stiff counter-attack.

"It was a pretty muddy spot," Private Nelson said, "and it wasn't easy to carry the men on litters because we were knee deep in mud and water."

For eight hours the two continued to make the trip, bringing out wounded. Their task was made extremely difficult because much of the time the top of the gully was swept by German machine gun fire. It was necessary to wait for intervals between the firing or else patients and bearers would have been hit.

Bed Is Dangerous When Shells Hit

Corporal William H. King's bed is a good place not to be, as shells have ripped it up twice during hours when he would ordinarily be slumbering.

Corporal King on one occasion had arisen at 6 o'clock in the morning after four hours sleep in order to help dig in the command post a few yards from where he had been sleeping. An enemy shell screamed in and when the smoke had cleared a fragment had ripped his bed roll lengthwise.

A few weeks later Corporal King arose from his bed to do his tour of guard during the night. He had placed his sleeping bag below an embankment parallel with the line of fire. Upon returning to his sleeping spot an hour later King again found his bedding in tatters.

In the gray dawn of January 22, 1944 a Sixth Corp task force composed of the Third U. S. Infantry Division and the First British Infantry Division, both reinforced, a Canadian-American and Ranger and Commando Force landed on the Italian coastline near the ancient harbor of Anzio. Surprised doughboys and engineers met no resistance other than well-placed enemy mines. Little did they realize that the operation they were beginning would be one of the most spectacular defenses in history—and one of the most successful offensives to climax it.

Quickly formed around this nucleus were the 45th Infantry Division the 1st U. S. Armored, the British 5th and 6th Infantry Divisions, engineers, artillery, tank destroyers, and the many elements that make an army complete.

And quickly to the perimeter of this beachhead came 11 of Hitler's Divisions, given the mission of driving the beachhead into the sea. The fooled German high command had formed for a landing somewhere else. But try as the could, they failed to break our lines or our spirit.

Enemy resistance began in earnest on January 23. Dive bombing of the port was the first sign of aggression but soon the Kraut helmets appeared along our front lines. Came the decision of the commander to push on to Highway 6 and Rome or to organize a substantial defense. (Continued on Page Four)

Oklahoman Earns Battlefield Boost

Lieut. Jaek L. Treadwell of Snyder, Okla., has been a constant thorn in the side of the Germans in the Italian campaign, both as an enlisted man and as a commissioned officer.

His latest feats occurred during the early stages of the attack which resulted in the capture of Rome.

The 45th Division was occupying defensive positions northwest of Carano on May 24. Two companies of Krauts launched an assault against the rifle company in which Lieut. Treadwell was a weapons platoon leader. Preceded by an intense artillery and mortar barrage, the Krauts crawled through the tall wheat to within 50 yards of the organization's positions.

With hand grenades and machine pistols (Continued on Page Four)



This item donated to the Minnesota National Guard by the Lt. Col. Robert Jacobson family.

BEACHHEAD NEWS

Headquarters VI Corps

FOUNDED ON THE ANZIO BEACHHEAD

CAPT. J. C. GRIMES

Officer in Charge

STAFF

SGT. F. F. BELL

Editor

PVT. TY CROSS

News Editor

CPL. ROGER O'FLAHERTY

Feature Editor

Correspondents: 1st Lt. Harrison Harding, Sgt. Bill Harr, Cpl. Merrill Harrison, Pfc. George F. Dennis, Pvts. Paul H. O'Dell, Mark Porter, Joseph Palmer and Macy I. Broide.

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VOL. 1, No. 46

Tuesday, July 4, 1944

Decorations

The award of the Silver Star to the following named personnel of the Third Division has been announced:

T-Sgt. Robert B. Elston, T-Sgt. Glen P. Fler, Sgt. Milford A. Terry, Sgt. Jack B. Grose, S-Sgt. Morris Kalmanowitz, Cpl. Clifford O. Flaten, 1st Lt. Arnold M. Reeve, Pfc. Herbert H. Habermeyer, 1st Lt. Eugene E. Schneider, T-4 Ernie E. Deatherage Pvc. David Goldberg, T-Sgt. Robert J. Green, 1st Lt. Willard T. Draper.

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Pfc. Lee W. Quarles, Sgt. Robert A. White, T-4 Robert B. Livingston, Sgt. Luther L. Pilcher, Pvt. William C. Woods, Pvt. Thomas J. McCarthy, Sgt. Wallace B. OHara, Maj. Edwin A. Nichols, 1st Lt. Harold C. Bishop, 1st Lt. Willard H. Reeves, S-Sgt. John C. Begovich, Pfc. Edward F. Jaber, 1st Lt. Samuel S. Crissman, S-Sgt. William S. Cucciniello, Sgt. Arthur Moll, Cpl. Theodore F. Bierchen, T-5 Forrest L. Bonner, Pfc. Clifton Bell, 1st Lt. Robert R. Eyles.

Soldier Watches Dud Waits for Explosion

Private Alfred R. Galli, Hoboken, New Jersey, a machine gunner in an infantry unit of the 36th Division, experienced a few unpleasant moments recently during the rapid advance beyond Rome when a dud dropped into his foxhole.

"We had just dug in near a building when the Boche started a terrific artillery barrage," stated Private Galli. "Two came very close, one on either side. I knew that they had zeroed in. Then a shell dropped into my foxhole with me. Naturally I felt that it was just about the worst thing that had ever happened to me."

"Believing it to be a delayed fuse, I ran over to my buddy's hole. The shell never exploded. I thank my lucky stars that it was a dud."

The longest ship canal in the world is the Baltic White Sea Canal with a length of 102 miles.

Attention

Many of our readers have requested that we publish a special edition that may be mailed home to their relatives or friends.

For this one July 4 Souvenir Edition, all copy has been censored by army censors and may be mailed home. 50,000 copies of this edition are being printed so that the widest possible distribution may be made.

NORMAN DAVIS DIES

HOT SPRINGS, VIRGINIA, July 2—Norman H. Davis, long-time Chairman of the American Red Cross, and noted figure, died this morning, aged 68.

This Is a Souvenir Copy For the Folks Back Home

This is the 4th of July souvenir copy of the "Beachhead News," carefully prepared and censored so that it can be mailed home by soldiers who want to give the folks at home an idea of what war is like and what they are doing over here.

This is not a typical copy of the Beachhead News, however. This edition, designed for civilians, does not include the full coverage of world news with which we usually fill our front and back pages. We have omitted most of the regular news-summary and we have extended the feature section to fill all pages.

Ever since the paper was born on the famous Anzio Beachhead, we have been following the troops, our equipment mounted on heavy trucks, moving by day and printing by night, getting the late news by radio and from Army Signalmen and getting it to the front lines the next morning.

The stories you read here are not the polished, re-written work of professionals, but rather the work of front-line infantrymen who keep a steady stream of copy coming to the rear to us and to Army Public Relations. In this issue, you will notice, the stories are almost exclusively about infantrymen. We did this for two reasons, because the infantryman is the man of this war, and also because we could not expect to display the entire picture in less than a volume. When an

Army attacks, thousands of men do thousands of different jobs, some dangerous, some dull, but all essential. All these men and all this work, from the flying fort to the base typewriter, contribute and then the infantryman, with rifle and bayonet, moves in for the decision. He is the cornerstone, on his personal courage everything depends. If he fails, we are lost.

Perhaps this issue of the Beachhead News will help you to understand something of the daily life the "dogface" leads. It is strange life, full of danger, each day marked with a narrow escape from death, but at the same time—if you can understand—it is an empty, monotonous life, full of frustration, homesickness, and often hunger and thirst.

The dogfaces take it in stride. They wait through cold and endless nights in foxholes. At dawn, their muscles stiff and sore, though hungry, dirty and tired, they rise up out of the ground and move through the morning mist to the attack and to the decision.

This souvenir copy is dedicated to them.

Captures Sniper With a Shovel

ITALY—Private First Class Jesse Hirata of Kona, Hawaii, was the lead man for his company and battalion, when the outfit spearheaded for the 34th Infantry Division, up to the Appia Way.

On the sloping embankment to the right, covered with rapidly yellowing weeds, and sprinkled with red poppies and pink wild flowers, through which he led the unit, was a camouflaged dugout. While he was suspiciously viewing the dugout, a sudden whizz of a bullet made him lie the ground. A sniper had shot at him. Before the Kraut had time to reload, he ran into the high weeds, and made his way nearer to the dugout.

The appearance of a Kraut's head again, waiting to take a shot at the approaching soldiers, made Private Hirata bring up his rifle to his shoulder and squeeze the trigger, but the gun failed to fire.

He yelled at the top of his voice, to his friends who were behind. "Hey, you guys—Germans in the dugout."

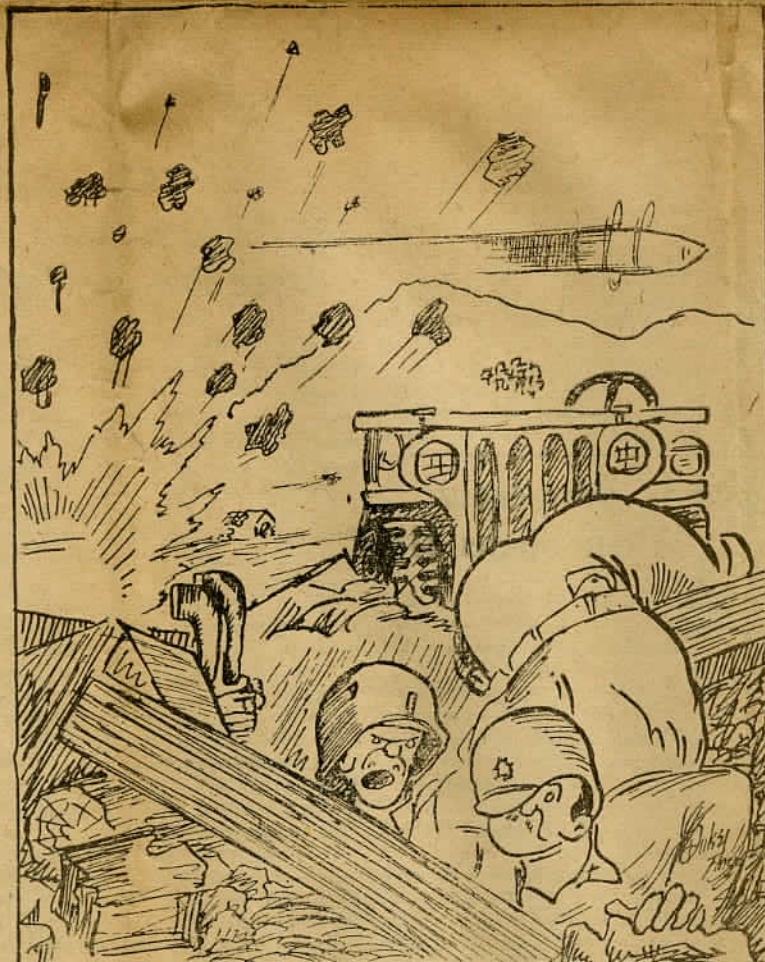
The rest who were still too far away, were not able to make out what Hirata was trying to say, although they were able to hear his voice.

Private Hirata laid his rifle in the grass, and looking around spied a Kraut shovel. He picked up the shovel, and he charged into the dugout fifty feet away.

The sniper, immediately dropped his rifle, and the two others who were deep within, threw their hands above their heads as they cried out, "Caput, Caput".

Hirata marched the three Germans to the highway. He saw Private Paul N. Nishida of Puna, Pahoia, Hawaii, the second scout, come into sight then. And so calling Private Nishida, the two marched the three Krauts to the lead column that was coming into view at last.

When the two men returned to the dugout they picked up a fully loaded machine pistol, two rifles, a P-38, two boxes of hand grenades, and a heap of rifle ammunition.



"—And furthermore, damnit, if you know any prayers, say 'em for both of us Sir!"

Signalmen Get Italian Ovation

Carrying out a radio reconnaissance recently, three men of a Signal Company, had the rare privilege of being the first Americans to enter the liberated town of Grosseto.

Sergeant John Rosick, of Detroit, Michigan, Sergeant Harry Chomiak, of West Frankfort, Illinois and Private James W. Hensen, of Fort Worth, Texas, received orders to proceed along a shell torn road toward the city of Grosseto. Their mission was to locate blown bridges and shell craters in the road and to radio back the information to the command post.

As the three signalmen drove down the road, they came upon a reconnaissance unit having a small arms battle with a few Kraut snipers. After the snipers were taken care of, the men continued on their way.

"It looked like a ghost town," remarked Sergeant Chomiak, "when we first entered it."

Suddenly a German machine-pistol stuttered to their right. Private Hensen, the Jeep driver, fed gas to the motor and the jeep leaped ahead. "I wasn't very anxious to creep along when things like that are going on," said Hensen.

Approaching the center of town, the men noticed the townspeople creeping around the corners of the buildings and peeping out of windows.

Recognizing the American vehicle, the people dashed into the street shouting and covering the men with bouquets of fresh flowers. The hysterical crowd blocked the road and made it impossible for the jeep to go through. The men had no alternative but to sit there and catch the flowers thrown at them. "Vino from the men and kisses from the women and young girls is what I liked," recalled Sergeant Rosick.

When the ovation had quieted down, the three signalmen reluctantly left town and headed back for the command post.

Duluth Sergeant Aids Homeless Italians

The usual circumstance is for civilians in the war stricken areas to share their homes with those bombed out. This is a case where an artillery sergeant took in a group of homeless Italians.

Staff Sergeant Clem W. Miller in charge of a survey detail was using a portion of a house at the front. In other rooms parallel to the line of fire a group of Italian men and children were living, having lost their own home. Enemy guns finally zeroed in on the structure and blasted the rooms occupied by the Italians leaving them homeless again. Sergeant Miller came to their aid and made room for them in the soldier's section of the house.

The Italians reciprocated by doing the laundry for the men and by going right into disputed ground to get wine at spots where they knew it to be cached. The Italians often brought back gallons of wine in the huge Chianti shaped bottles, pretty well shaken by enemy fire. Sgt. Miller taught one nineteen-year-old Italian the art of Poker and the young Roman had acquired a fair amount of Allied currency by the time the international household broke up.

Linda Darnell



The young lady is Miss Linda Darnell currently entertaining the GI cinema-goers in United Artists picture, "Summer Storm."

Sergeants Help Grab 119 Kraut Prisoners

A bag of 119 German prisoners fell into American hands through the work of two sergeants of the 3rd Division.

Sergeant Orié Tilseth of Minneapolis, Minnesota, accounted for 35 Krauts in this manner. He was walking down the street of an Italian town when a Kraut machine gun opened up. The sergeant, without further ado, ran into a dugout and hauled out two shivering Germans. Later, he pointed out enemy positions to American tanks with the result that a total of 35 prisoners were hauled in.

Sergeant Michael C. Fanelli, Camden, New Jersey, saw a wounded German lying in a ditch alongside a road and when the Kraut saw the American he motioned toward a nearby cave, yelling: "Doktor! Doktor!"

"I figured there might be a pretty good haul in that cave so I let go with a few bursts of Tommy gun fire," said the Sgt. "Out walked 84 Germans, the complete staff of a German field hospital."

Yanks Want Vino if Action Gets Too Dull

The German shelling was getting very monotonous so Arkansan Sergeant Aubrey Williamson figured that a little liquid refreshment for his men wouldn't be a bad idea.

His unit of the 3rd Division had been slowed down by heavy Kraut fire for a long time.

"Shucks", thought the sergeant as he lay in his foxhole, "There ought to be something around here to relieve the monotony."

Then he saw the remains of an old Italian house a few yards up front. He jumped up, twisted and turned his way through an open field under shellfire to reach the building. He got a bottle of wine out of the cellar and made it back safely.

"I, for one, never tasted anything better," grinned Pfc James R. Shipp, Beaumont, Texas. "It was a real morale builder."

Platoon Leader Has Ace Record

Destroyed more than five German machine gun emplacements; killed or wounded 15 Germans and captured more; obtained their objective within an hour after crossing the line of departure; and captured a battery of enemy 81mm. mortars which had been holding up the advance of the battalion!

So reads the record of Technical Sergeant John P. Sessions of Idabel, Okla., and his 45th Division rifle platoon.

Rain limited the visibility to a few hundred feet the day when the 45th struck across an open, heavily-mined wheat field with Sessions in the lead. The Oklahoman was armed with a Thompson sub-machine gun and several hand grenades as he spearheaded his platoon's drive into the Kraut's main line of resistance. It was 6:50 a. m.

Aggressively pacing his men from one strongpoint to another, Sessions assisted in wiping out several machine gun positions in front of the MLR. On the way the men either knocked off or wounded 15 Boche. After sending additional prisoners to the rear, Sessions reorganized his men for the assault on the final defensive positions along a creek.

Sessions again preceded his men in wiping out the five machine gun nests near the final objective. His tommy gun spitted death with his every step, and the Oklahoman made effective use of his hand grenades. Within 60 minutes of leaving the line of departure the platoon had attained their objective.

Nevertheless, Sessions decided to move on. He reformed his platoon and led them in the capture of a battery of 81mm. mortars which had been slowing down an entire battalion.

Mortar Men Claim Heaviest Blows

First Lieutenant Clifford W. Nicks of Nashville, Tennessee, claims a record for firing in combat for his 81 mm mortar platoon of the Third Division.

In breaking out of the Anzio Beachhead as part of the drive of the Third Division the mortars blasted the Germans with 6500 rounds in a 16-hour period. During one 20 minute stretch the mortar platoon fired 1200 rounds, which, according to First Lieutenant Ross Calvert, another Nashville officer in the same battalion "is just about as fast as those mortars will go."

Repair Machine Gun Despite Shell Fire

Two 3rd Division troopers worked for more than one hour under constant shellfire to repair a broken machine gun needed to aid an American advance.

"The gun would fire in only bursts of two and we needed it right then," explained Pfc Marvin Crone of Jeffersonville, Indiana. "Riflemen were out in front of us and needed our support badly."

"Sniper fire was particularly bad and heavy right there," added Pfc Kenneth R. Vandermark, Upland, Pennsylvania, "and the bullets zinged around as we tore the gun completely down."

Sergeant Routs 200 Boches With One Shot

Sgt. John F. Laubhan of Woodward, Oklahoma, earned the highest praise from his commanding officer during the recent March on Rome.

"The manner in which he conducted the fire of his battalion," said the officer, "undoubtedly softened the force of an enemy attack and aided our infantry to repulse it."

Laubhan, holder of the Silver Star, is an artillery forward observer in the 45th Division. He volunteered to go forward to an overpass and register artillery fire on a tank, which was firing on an infantry company.

Arriving at the overpass, he dismissed two soldiers who had assisted him in carrying his radio, and alone adjusted the fire of his artillery unit on the tank. After successfully silencing the Nazi giant he remained at the position and later observed what he estimated to be two companies of enemy infantry supported by armored vehicles preparing to attack. Laubhan called for artillery fire on this force and continued to adjust fire on them until an enemy tank worked its way in under the overpass. By this time he had practically drawn his own artillery fire on his position in an attempt to stop the advancing enemy forces.

World News...

(Continued from Page One)

road to Florence, while Eighth Army units successfully cleared out the German resistance east and west of Lake Trasimeno. New gains were made all along the Italian front today as the Allies regained their second wind and pushed on in the attack. Ten divisions, or element of them were identified on the Fifth Army front, seeking in vain to check the steady advance on Leghorn and Florence.

In the Adriatic sector Eighth Army units have crossed the Musone River to occupy Osino and Loreto. The drive on Ancona is gaining momentum despite bad weather.

SHAEF, FRANCE, July 3—American troops launched an attack down the west coast of the Cherbourg Peninsula at 0530 this morning in the direction of La Haye du Puist, directly west of Carentan.

Following on the heels of a barrage the infantry went in just south of the narrow strip of solid ground between the coast town of Portbail and the marshes some 4000 meters inland. Another column attacked 16 kilometers inland in a south-westerly direction.

British forces reported a distinct weakening of the German counterattacks in the Caen-Tilly sector as they have held firm through some 24 blows, and inflicted serious losses on the German infantry and armor.

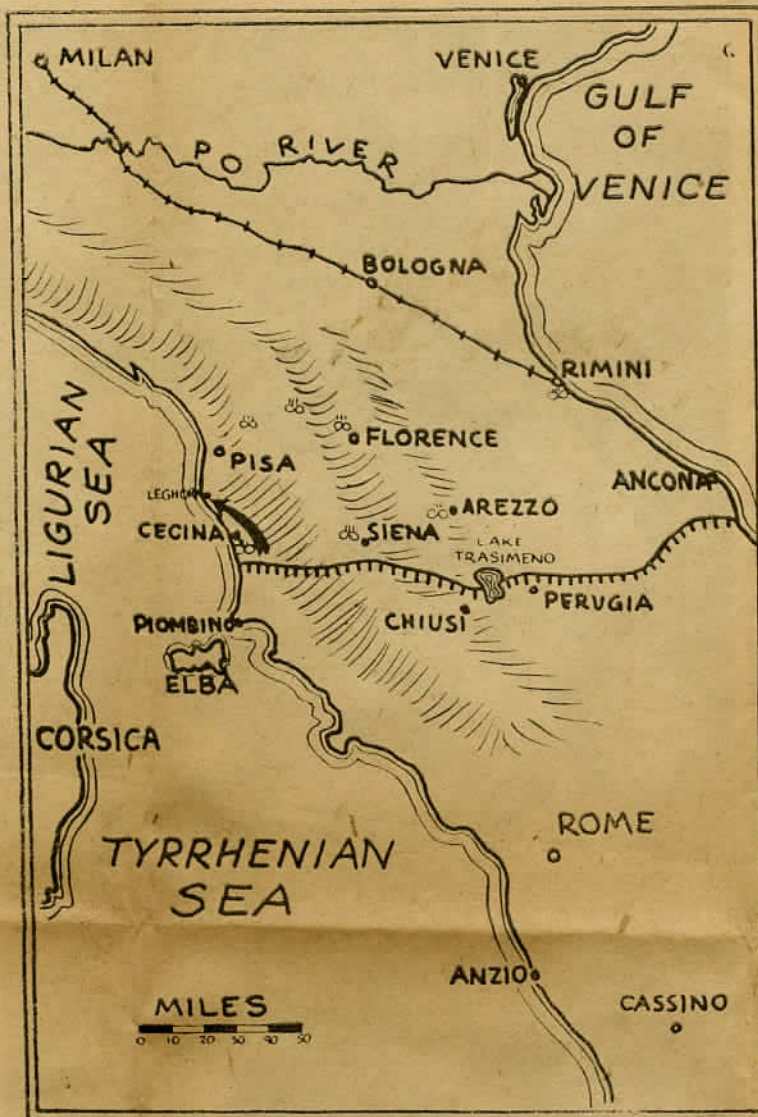
MACHINE GUNNER LUCKY

Private First Class Charles A. Cable spent seven hours in a foxhole before a German artillery shell blasted him loose.

Cable, a machine gunner with the 3rd Division, had mangled his weapon until a Kraut sniper bullet jammed the mechanism. Then for seven hours he took just about all the Germans could offer in the way of high explosives.

"Finally one shell came right through the roof and lifted me outside like a feather in whirlwind," Cable related. "No, you don't need to tell me I was lucky."

The Italian Battlefield



Italy's front lines were further extended today by successful Allied drives to include the capture of Siena, Cecina, and both sides of Lake Trasimeno.

Sixth Corps ...

(Continued from Page One)

He chose the defense. And we who were there know that we destroyed more of the enemy from the Beachhead than we would have had we tried to take Rome.

The first enemy attempt began on January 29 when the Boche tried to stop our advances onto Campoleone and Cisterna. He succeeded, but at a great loss. His second great attack was down the Albano-Anzio road from the north on February 16-18. He poured in division after division against our gallant American and British forces, but he failed in his mission. He came far from pushing us into the sea.

His third, and last, was February 29-March 3 and he found it the most impregnable defense of all. He had been greatly defeated and decided the best that he could do was try to keep us from getting loose from the small strip of ground.

The remainder of the operation was based on small attacks by both forces, gaining ground here, losing some there. But the great battle of those following months was the battle of the artillery. Each side gave the other a rather interesting display, but, when the history is written, it will show a great preponderance of heavy fire from the Allies. Many a captured Kraut has said that he could not stand our artillery.

Then the great day came. We received the order to attack. Our Allies at Cassino and Minturno had started the push northward on May 13 and were making excellent progress in our direction. We had been reinforced with the 34th and 36th Infantry Divisions. All were ready to go to Rome.

May 23 was a great day. We slowly but surely drove through enemy minefields and pillboxes and seized Cisterna. Rapidly on the toes of the capture of this key road and rail town came the joining of the Beachhead Forces with the main front. This same spearhead took Cori and went on through the mountains to the high ground overlooking Highway 6 in one great sweep.

Then the center broke open. Velletri fell. Campoleone was cut off. And American armor streaked for Rome.

In 12 days from the "go signal" Allied troops entered Rome. And not only did they take Rome, they also completely destroyed the enemy in their advance that no sizable resistance was encountered on the left flank of the Italian front for 60 miles beyond Rome and the advance started that day is making rapid progress today with no let-up against the hard pressed enemy.

ONE LONE KRAUT—ONE SHELL FLUSHES WHOLE COMPANY

Sergeant Clair C. Biddeson of Leon, Iowa, is convinced that you should always fire at a lone German—you can't tell what might happen.

The sergeant, member of the 34th Infantry Division, spotted a single German on a bridge. He had some mortars zeroed in on the bridge in readiness for the enemy so it was easy to drop the first round where it was wanted.

But to his surprise the shell flushed out nearly 200 Germans who were digging slit trenches below the bridge. Biddeson at once called for heavy mortar fire and with telling effect round after round poured in by the bridge.

"It was the best target we ever had," Biddeson said.

Oklahoman ...

(Continued from Page One)

small groups of the Hun infiltrated our lines and threatened a break through.

For four hours during the attack Lieut. Treadwell directed the activities of two platoons which were without officers as well as the movements of his own machine gun and mortar sections. He relocated the riflemen to meet each Kraut thrust. In moving squad to squad in the three platoons, Lieut. Treadwell ignored heavy artillery and close automatic fire.

Shortly after the attack began, the Oklahoman sent back carrying parties for ammunition. This proved to be an excellent measure, for all available ammunition was used in repelling the enemy assault.

Directing artillery and mortar fire on the Krauts from an exposed observation post, the officer was responsible for the killing or wounding of scores of Krauts. He even brought friendly artillery fire to within 50 yards of his own position.

During the four hour fight the lieutenant directed the fire of three platoons which were deployed along a 400-yard front and maneuvered elements of the company in hand-to-hand combat with the Krauts. The action took place between 8 and 12 o'clock at night.

Treadwell was a staff sergeant when he came overseas with the 45th Division.

Yanks Use Irrigation Ditch to Take Bath

Sgt. DeVere Henderson of Hillrose, Colorado, a maintenance man in the 45th Division ordnance company, snared parts of a German shower, added a heating unit of his own construction and he and his buddies enjoyed all the comforts of a nice refreshing spray.

That is, they enjoyed it the first day. When they went out to take some more showers the following day, they discovered the creek from which they were drawing water was stone dry.

"How do you like that!" moaned Henderson. "Just when we've got a good thing, the darn stream dries up!"

"That's no stream," corrected a buddy. "It's an irrigation ditch. Some pizon probably turned off the valve someplace in order to irrigate another area."

"This is the area that needs irrigating," shouted the sergeant, and he took off in a huff to correct the situation.

He soon was promoted to platoon sergeant with a rating of technical sergeant for combat.

Treadwell received his battlefield appointment to second lieutenant on Mar. 23.