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FIFTH ARMY HISTORY

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Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark, Army Commander (to 16 December 1944)

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FIFTH ARMY HISTORY



PART I

*From Activation to
the Fall of Naples*

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Foreword

SHORTLY after our landings in North Africa, on 8 November 1942, orders were received from the War Department directing the activation of the United States Fifth Army. This took place on 5 January 1943. This Army, created in the field and dedicated to offensive operations, has had a varied and glorious history since its earliest days in French Morocco. Even while its units were training, the Army staff was preparing plans for carrying the war to the Italian mainland. Then, when all was ready, we struck.

The American soldiers of Fifth Army who went ashore at Salerno on 9 September 1943 were the first Americans to plant themselves on the soil of Europe in this war. Our invasion virtually destroyed the Rome-Berlin Axis; yet more, for long months Fifth Army bore the entire brunt of our participation in the land war against Germany.

Our men fought the more valiantly and boldly for the knowledge that the prestige of our armed forces rested on their shoulders. The enemy dipped deep into the pool of his already strained resources, first to prevent our landings, and then to hold us south of Rome. The ensuing struggle in the rugged Italian mountains was bloody, protracted, and at times our advances were measured in yards; but Fifth Army was not stopped. On 4 June 1944 we entered Rome, and today, as I write, we are engaged in a bitter struggle south of Bologna—300 miles north of the Salerno beaches.

Field conditions do not encourage the writing of history. To my knowledge this work is the first attempt to set down the history of an American army while it is still engaged in active operations. Nevertheless I have considered it desirable to secure an authentic story of the action of this Army as we proceeded. A trained group of officers and men has been steadily occupied since our arrival in Italy, studying the terrain and operations, going over the records, interviewing commanders and staffs while events were still fresh. Though any history written so soon after the battle must necessarily be incomplete, I feel that the Fifth Army ~~History~~ possesses an immediacy and freshness which cannot

be gained later. Above all, it is a complete, straightforward story, so far as we know it, which gives due credit to the units of all the nations which have served in Fifth Army. The world knows the names Salerno, Cassino, Anzio, and Futa Pass; this History should explain why these names are glorious in military annals.

MARK W. CLARK
Lieutenant General AUS
Commanding

Headquarters Fifth Army
In the Field, Italy
27 October 1944

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CHAPTER I * * * * *

Activation of Fifth Army

FIFTH Army was constituted effective 1 December 1942 by a War Department letter addressed to the Commanding General, European Theater of Operations. (See Annex No. 1A.) The letter stated that the following elements of the newly created force would be activated in the European Theater of Operations: Headquarters, Fifth Army; Headquarters Company, Fifth Army; and Special Troops, Fifth Army. It further directed that the foregoing units be organized and equipped in accordance with appropriate tables and that personnel and equipment be drawn from the Western Task Force (formerly Task Force A), II Corps (reinforced), and other available sources. The Western Task Force, which had sailed directly from the United States, had received its baptism in battle during the North African invasion at Casablanca, French Morocco, on 8 November 1942. On the same date II Corps had made its landing at Oran, Algeria, coming from England, where it had spent several months.

I Armored Corps was assigned to Fifth Army by the War Department letter, which called for reactivation of the Corps by transfer of units, personnel, and equipment from the Western Task Force. II Corps (reinforced) after reorganization as II Corps (non-reinforced) would likewise come under Fifth Army. By virtue of further authority given in the letter the Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, could assign additional units, personnel, or equipment to Fifth Army. Concurrently with the formation of the Army, headquarters elements and provisional units of the Western Task Force were to be disbanded.

On 12 December 1942, Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, published General Order No. 67, which constituted the United States Fifth Army in accordance with the War Department authority noted above and al-

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located the new army to the command of the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Force, North Africa. This order directed activation of Fifth Army at the proper time by its commanding general, who was announced as being Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark. Upon activation of Fifth Army General Clark was to be relieved as Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Allied Force.

Pursuant to further instructions contained in this order Allied Force Headquarters on 30 December 1942 addressed a letter to the Commanding General, Fifth Army, directing the activation of his command on or about 4 January 1943. The major elements of the United States Army then under control of the Western and Center Task Forces were transferred to Fifth Army, effective on the date of its activation; all units, however, under the Mediterranean Base Section and the new Atlantic Base Section (formerly SOS Task Force A) would remain with those commands. Initially the basic organization of Fifth Army would comprise I Armored Corps in French Morocco; II Corps in Western Algeria; and XII Air Support Command.

At this time the American and British forces in North Africa still retained a certain measure of supervision over the French territory. Fifth Army was assigned French Morocco and Algeria west of a north-south line through Orléansville; within this area General Clark was responsible for all matters involving relationships with local civil officials, including military police regulations, air raid precautions, health and sanitation, and similar responsibilities. Fifth Army had disciplinary jurisdiction over the entire district except within areas actually occupied by troops of Twelfth Air Force, the Atlantic Base Section, and the Mediterranean Base Section.

The initial missions of Fifth Army were laid down by the Allied Force letter. Fifth Army was to prepare a well organized, well equipped, and mobile striking force with at least one infantry division and one armored division fully trained in amphibious operations. It was to ensure, in co-operation with French forces, the integrity of all territory of French Morocco and of Algeria within its zone, to act with French civil and military authorities in the preservation of law and order, and to assist in organizing, equipping, and training French forces. Finally, Fifth Army was to prepare plans for and execute special operations under directives issued by the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Force.

To implement these instructions Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark established the Army headquarters in Oujda, Morocco, converting the buildings and grounds of a school for young women into the nerve center of a powerful army. Here on 5 January 1943, at one minute past midnight, he activated and assumed command of Fifth Army. General Order No. 1 of Fifth Army (see *Annex No. 1B*), dated 5 January 1943, actually created Fifth Army and

named its commander. It was followed on the same date by General Order No. 2 (see *Annex No. 1C*), which announced the following assignments to the staff of Fifth Army:

Chief of Staff	Brig. Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther
Secretary, General Staff	Maj. Ira W. Porter
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1	Lt. Col. Francis A. Markoe
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2	Col. Edwin B. Howard
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3	Brig. Gen. Arthur S. Nevins
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4	Col. Clarence L. Adcock
Adjutant General	Col. Cheney L. Bertholf
Air Officer	Col. Guy H. Gale
Artillery Officer	Col. Thomas E. Lewis
Chemical Officer	Col. Maurice E. Barker
Civil Affairs	Col. Charles E. Saltzman
Engineer Officer	Col. Frank O. Bowman
Headquarters Commandant	Lt. Col. C. Coburn Smith, Jr.
Provost Marshal	Col. Charles R. Johnson
Public Relations	Maj. Kenneth W. Clark
Quartermaster	Col. Joseph P. Sullivan
Signal Officer	Brig. Gen. Richard B. Moran
Surgeon.	Brig. Gen. Frederick A. Blesse

On 6 January 1943 General Clark dedicated his army to its tasks in the following brief words:

Our duty is clear— to be prepared for battle at the earliest possible moment. All else must be subordinated to that end. Every man and every officer of the Fifth Army, no matter what his job, must prepare at all times for that moment when we march into battle to destroy the enemy. This calls for peak mental and physical condition. It calls for complete devotion to duty, for long, tiring hours of work, for initiative, for resourcefulness, for staying power. Men make the army, and all of you, I know, will make this— the Fifth— a great army.

The preceding paragraph stated the training objective for subsequent months. Initial units assigned to Fifth Army (see *Annex No. 1D*) and those which later came under Fifth Army control were destined to undergo training well calculated to achieve the goal set forth by General Clark. These units later emerged as the great striking force which landed on the west coast of Italy on 9 September 1943.

CHAPTER II * * * * *

Training of Fifth Army

AT THE outset of its existence Fifth Army faced the prospect of undertaking operations of great difficulty and complexity. In its primary task it was committed to one of the hardest operations in modern warfare, an amphibious movement in force to land on a defended hostile shore. Aside from its routine responsibilities of controlling substantial portions of Morocco and Algeria its mission had initially been defined to be that of a mobile striking force with emphasis strongly placed on amphibious operations. Its ultimate employment in the first American landing on the mainland of Europe stemmed naturally from its careful preparation for just such a type of campaigning. Accordingly the Army very early in its career began a highly specialized program of training to develop the skills and to increase the mobility necessary for landing operations, building on the experience gained in the North African landing operations and grounding all the units in the complicated techniques of amphibious movements. These require both technical proficiency and the highest sort of discipline, physical hardihood, and initiative, and General Clark saw to it that thorough training should be undertaken in order that the men he sent into forthcoming battles would be ready for the test.

In addition to the training carried on within the units of Fifth Army, certain training centers were created to handle instruction in vital subjects and in new techniques throughout the Army, based on deficiencies observed in the Tunisian campaign and on the intended employment of Fifth Army. The office of the Director of Training Centers was established under the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, on 18 March 1943. Brig. Gen. William H. Wilbur was designated as director, and as the representative of General Clark he was charged with the operation of the Fifth Army training centers. In all, eight such centers were utilized by the Army.

A. TRAINING CENTERS

1. *Invasion Training Center.* To develop doctrines, technique, and instruction for invasion and to build up a reserve of trained troops for invasion operations, training of designated divisions was conducted by the Fifth Army Invasion Training Center, established on 14 January at Port aux Poules, Algeria. Brig. Gen. John W. O'Daniel organized the center and was assisted by Rear Admiral Andrew C. Bennett, U. S. Navy, in the amphibious part of the program. Units given this training included the 1st, 3d, 34th, and 36th Infantry Divisions and the 1st Armored Division, together with the staffs of several French divisions.

The training consisted of individual and unit instruction of the regimental combat teams and the armored combat commands which were to be used in prospective landings, and also covered combined operations of those troops with the U. S. Navy, the Army Air Forces, and the 1st Engineer Amphibian Brigade. It aimed to develop aggressive, fast-moving, hard-hitting, sustained action. All phases of landing and invasion were covered, including night attacks, infiltration, demolitions, destruction of armored vehicles and obstacles, air-ground communications, support fire and smoke, and supply, especially of operations involving sustained advances. The program prepared units for a ship-to-shore and shore-to-shore operation and gave them experience with the new landing craft.

Particularly valuable was the battle inoculation given by the training at this school. Using live ammunition in all types of weapons, the course offered practice in attacking under fire conditions which approximated action. Men became accustomed to being under fire and learned to take care of themselves and to work in teams effectively. Dummy houses were constructed to provide training in street fighting, and the activities of teams were timed so closely that soldiers advanced through the covering fire of their own supporting elements in perfect confidence. This exercise in timing produced remarkable results, and men grew battle-wise so successfully that few casualties occurred from the training with live ammunition. Similarly, pillboxes and other defensive works were built and were used in training in the reduction of field works. Again, the course gave practical experience under actual fire, and later operations proved the soundness of the training.

Some units remained at the Invasion Training Center for four months and more; one battalion of the 36th Division underwent training here from about 15 April until it embarked for the assault on the Italian mainland. This preparation gave the troops considerable experience in perfectly executed,

combined movements of a variety of military, naval, and air units, which in actual operation rarely last much over 24 hours. It might be, as one commanding officer said, that a great deal of training was being spent on an operation for 1 day out of the year and that officers and troops should not lose sight of the operations which they would be conducting for the remaining 364 days, but it must be pointed out in rebuttal that the necessary invasion lessons were soundly learned.

2. *Airborne Training Center.* To develop doctrines, technique, and equipment and to provide a reserve of units prepared for airborne operations, training of designated units was conducted by the Fifth Army Airborne Training Center, established 14 March at Oujda, French Morocco. Col. Rosenham Beam organized and commanded the center. One squadron of transport aircraft was made available for initial training.

The preparation covered individual and unit instruction of airborne and parachute troops and combined training of airborne, parachute, and transport organizations. It welded all units into an efficient, hard-hitting team, ready for day or night operations. In executing its training mission the Fifth Army Airborne Training Center was charged with the following activities:

- 1) Co-ordination of training schedules and procedures of airborne and troop carrier units engaged in combined training.
- 2) Providing training and administrative facilities needed by airborne units to carry out their air and ground training.
- 3) Development of technique and procedures for parachute, glider, and troop carrier units.
- 4) Development and testing of air-ground support methods.
- 5) Development of air-ground communication and also drop zone locator methods.
- 6) Qualification of parachutists.
- 7) Training of glider replacements.
- 8) Training of individuals and units in parachute delivery of supplies.

3. *Leadership and Battle Training Center.* The Fifth Army Leadership and Battle Training Center was set up 9 May to train platoon leaders and non-commissioned officers of the higher grades in leadership, to instruct them in battle procedures found to be effective in the Tunisian campaign, and to offer battle inoculation of all types. The program, which was designed to teach leaders how to train small units, comprised drills, physical hardening, and the tactical employment of squads and platoons. The principal effort was placed

on tactical training and battle inoculation. The latter consisted of requiring personnel to advance under all types of friendly as well as hostile fire, including field artillery. Live ammunition was used in all such instruction. Cooperation of the various arms was stressed. Instruction was given in combined operations of infantry and tanks, infantry and tank destroyers, infantry and artillery. Exercises were conducted in which infantry provided fire support for units clearing a minefield. In all training major emphasis was placed on "learning by doing" with a minimum of talks and lectures.

The site chosen for this center was a bivouac area three and one-half miles south of Slissen, Algeria, on the Chanzy-Magenta-Bedeau road, together with two training areas. The terrain of this area approximated in character the terrain of France and Italy, and the elevation (3000 feet) generally provided cool nights. The first personnel, including the commanding officer and three instructors, were assigned on 13 May. Between that date and 24 May additional officers for administrative and instructional staffs and enlisted men for the headquarters company were assigned. On the opening date 4 administrative officers and 14 instructors were present. This number was gradually increased to 14 administrative officers and 29 instructors.

The first class, consisting of 45 officers (platoon commanders) and 44 non-commissioned officers of the first three grades, was enrolled on 23 May, started the course of training the following day, and completed it on 21 June. The second class, consisting of 56 officers and 149 non-commissioned officers, was enrolled 15 June, began its training the following day, and was relieved 8 July. Instruction for this class was curtailed four days to permit the adoption of a different plan of training whereby cadres from divisions, rather than individuals, were designated to take the course. For a period of three weeks cadres were given intensive instruction and upon completion of the course acted as instructors for their respective units. The cadres from the 34th and 36th Divisions, consisting of 267 officers and 147 non-commissioned officers, began training on 10 July and were released to their respective divisions on 30 July. The first two regimental combat teams arrived in the area and commenced their training on 2 August in accordance with the plan which provided for a two weeks' period for each team. Combat teams of the 34th and 36th Divisions were given training at this school.

4. *Field Officers Training Center.* The Fifth Army Field Officers Training Center was established at Chanzy, Algeria, on 7 April under Col. D'Alary Fechet. The purpose of the school was to provide an intensive refresher course in tactics and in utilization of terrain. It was contemplated that students would be drawn from division staff officers, battalion commanders, and battalion and

regimental executives. The instruction was practical and applicatory. After each course a six-day trip was made to selected battlefields where officers from the troops that had fought over the ground explained the action and commented on the lessons to be learned. After two courses had been completed, the center was discontinued owing to shortage of qualified students who could be spared from other duties.

5. *Tank Destroyer Training Center.* The Fifth Army Tank Destroyer Training Center was activated 5 May. A location for the center, with headquarters at a point approximately seven miles south of Seb dou, Algeria, was selected. The site was a high plateau (3000 feet) bordering on the bunch grass country and offered a fine variety of terrain in sparsely occupied areas. Water in the area was limited, but a mobile water unit was installed at the source of the Tafna River, six miles north of Seb dou, with an auxiliary point located at El Gor.

The original staff consisted of Lt. Col. John W. Casey, Commanding; Capt. Charles F. Wilbur, Executive; Maj. John W. Dobson, S-3; Capt. Francis F. Kramer, S-2 and Co-ordinator of French Training. The headquarters detachment, commanded by Capt. Edward I. Kaufman, together with housekeeping facilities was moved from Mascara to provide the necessary enlisted personnel. Units trained at the center included the 636th, 701st, 776th, 804th, 805th, 894th, and 899th Tank Destroyer Battalions; and the 191st, 756th, and 760th Tank Battalions. The center also undertook the training of French tank destroyer battalions. French units attached for this purpose were the 8th, 9th, and 11th Tank Destroyer Battalions (Régiments des Chasseurs d'Afrique).

6. *Engineer Training Center.* The Fifth Army Engineer Training Center was activated 12 March. Lt. Col. Aaron W. Wyatt, Jr., was designated as commanding officer. Instruction in mine warfare and demolitions commenced 21 March. The original staff and faculty included Maj. Harold E. Wetzell, Executive Officer; Capt. Eric J. Schellenberger, Camp Executive. British instructors were Maj. Cecil L. Stephenson, R.E., Maj. Stanbury J. Hawkins, R.E., Capt. Eric H. Yeo, R.E., Capt. Robin R. Hoskyn, R.E. For French students two French officers were attached as instructors.

As originally established, courses were of seven days' duration. Many students were sent to the Tunisian front for a short period before the courses opened. Beginning with the seventh course, however, the period was increased to nine days. Student quotas were originally set at 20 officers and 40 non-commissioned officers. Subsequent quotas were increased to 40 officers and 60 non-commissioned officers; and finally 80 officers, 40 non-commissioned officers, and 20 French officers were allowed. In each course additional students were accepted

up to the capacity of the school by informal arrangement with unit commanders.

Training schedules included all phases of mine warfare with considerable instruction in military demolition. The greatest part of the students' time was spent in practical work. Battle conditions were simulated wherever possible. The final night problem was conducted under fire, using TNT, flares, and placed charges. Armed mines were employed throughout the course.

The object of the course was threefold:

- 1) To train officers and non-commissioned officers as unit instructors, so that they could go back to their units with sufficient knowledge, information, and enthusiasm to "put it across" to the men.
- 2) To train officers and non-commissioned officers in the recognition, arming, disarming, clearance, and laying of mines and booby traps, and in practical demolitions.
- 3) To train officers and non-commissioned officers to help save lives and to help speed up operations by minimizing the fear of mines which is naturally prevalent in the uninitiated.

Great stress was placed on military courtesy and discipline, physical conditioning, and alertness and cleanliness. Four engineer combat companies and one engineer armored company were attached to this center for demonstration, construction, and security. These units as well as two camouflage companies, two camouflage platoons, one bomb disposal squad, and one signal repair detachment were trained in mine warfare, military courtesy and discipline, and other basic subjects.

Up to and including the 16th class a total of 1350 officers and non-commissioned officers attended the school, of whom 1108 completed the course satisfactorily. Only those whose performance was satisfactory or higher were awarded certificates upon graduation. Of the 177 French students included in the figures above, 130 successfully completed the course. Despite the danger involved in most of the exercises there were but 27 student casualties, only 1 of which was fatal.

Shortly after the activation of the center a research department was added under the direction of Capt. Robert G. Reuther. Personnel were equipped and prepared to investigate, develop, and test mechanical devices and aids related to engineer operation, particularly in connection with mine warfare. Extensive experimentation was conducted with the Scorpion, technically known as the T-3 Exploder, and resulted in valuable suggestions for improvements.

7. *Air Observation Post Center.* The Fifth Army Artillery Air Observation Post Center was activated 22 March and filled a real need. When II Corps arrived in England in August 1942, the artillery units were lacking Air Observation Post Sections. Inasmuch as it was not known when the school at Fort Sill would be able to supply an adequate number of pilots and mechanics, the Corps Commander (General Clark) directed the establishment of The II Corps Air Observation Post School, to be commanded by Lt. Col. John D. Salmon, with a small group of trained personnel from Fort Sill acting as instructors. A cricket field near Andover served admirably for training, and the buoyant English air began "lifting" cubs that were then untried but later were definitely proved in combat. Upon arrival in North Africa the school was placed under the direction of Fifth Army and continued under Lieutenant Colonel Salmon at Sidi Bel Abbes, from which the first graduates were immediately sent to the Tunisian front. On 1 March 1943 the school moved to the friendly and fascinating town of Mascara, where the municipal airfield was given over completely to the Americans. By late March pilots and mechanics in sufficient numbers were arriving from the United States. The school then became a center and served to speed the movement of personnel and supplies to the fast-climaxing Battle of Africa. The center closed on 1 June.

8. *French Training Section.* On 23 April Fifth Army started its French Training Section. The section was not formally activated and so designated until 16 May, with Brig. Gen. Allen F. Kingman as its chief. The duties of the section were clearly defined, namely to teach and train French personnel in the technical handling of American equipment (less 3d and 4th echelon maintenance). To each of the five French divisions an American officer was assigned to act as adviser to the division commander and as a channel of communication between Fifth Army and the individual divisions. In carrying out its program the French Training Section secured technical training assistance for the divisions, conducted formal inspections of the units of the divisions, and co-ordinated the movements of French units with Fifth Army Headquarters.

Original divisions (as of April 1943) of the new French Army were:

- 1) 1st Armored Division (1ere Division Blindée), Rabat, Morocco: Brigadier General du Vigier, Commanding.
- 2) 2d Armored Division (2e Division Blindée), Rabat, Morocco: Brigadier General de Vernejoul, Commanding. (Inactivated July 1943 and reactivated the same month as the 5th Armored Division.)
- 3) 3d Moroccan Infantry Division (3e Division d'Infanterie Marocaine), Casablanca, Morocco: Major General Martin, Commanding. (Reorganized in June 1943 as the 4th Moroccan Mountain Division.)

4) 2d Moroccan Infantry Division (2e Division d'Infanterie Marocaine), Meknes, Morocco: Major General Dody, Commanding.

5) 3d Algerian Infantry Division (3e Division d'Infanterie Algérienne), Constantine, Algeria: Major General de Monsabert, Commanding.

Assigned to duty with General Kingman were the following officers: Lt. Col. John D. Salmon, Executive, French Training Section; Lt. Col. Robert W. Burke, Adviser, 5th Armored Division; Lt. Col. Robert Shaw, Adviser, 3d Algerian Infantry Division; Lt. Col. Roy A. Stephens, Adviser, 2d Moroccan Infantry Division; Maj. A. W. Green, Adviser, 4th Moroccan Mountain Division; Capt. J. G. Paterson, Assistant to Executive, French Training Section; and 1st Lt. D. H. K. Flagg. During the month of June the French Training Section received a detachment of 15 officers and 150 men, who had been on duty in the Middle East instructing British units equipped with American materiel. Upon assignment to Fifth Army its personnel was promptly sent as instructors to the various French units.

B. COMPLETION OF TRAINING

Fifth Army Headquarters moved from Oujda to Mostagenem, Algeria, during the latter part of July. This movement over a distance of some 480 miles was made by echelon, the forward echelon using motor and the rear echelon moving by rail. Here, near the Fifth Army Invasion Training Center at Arzew, General Clark minutely checked the training of his troops prior to the invasion of Italy and completed his staff for the operation. At the time of embarkation this staff was as follows:

Chief of Staff	Maj. Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther
Deputy Chief of Staff	Col. Charles E. Saltzman
Secretary, General Staff	Lt. Col. Ira W. Porter
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1	Col. Cheney L. Bertholf
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2	Col. Edwin B. Howard
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3	Brig. Gen. Donald W. Brann
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4	Col. Ralph H. Tate
Antiaircraft Officer	Col. Joseph S. Robinson
Adjutant General	Col. Melville F. Grant
Artillery Officer	Brig. Gen. Thomas E. Lewis
Chaplain	Lt. Col. Patrick J. Ryan
Chemical Officer	Col. Maurice E. Barker
Engineer Officer	Col. Frank O. Bowman
Finance Officer	Col. Clarence B. Lindner
Inspector General	Col. Irving C. Avery

Judge Advocate	Col. Claude M. Mickelwait
Ordnance Officer	Col. Urban Niblo
Quartermaster	Col. Joseph P. Sullivan
Signal Officer	Brig. Gen. Richard B. Moran
Surgeon	Col. Joseph I. Martin

The training of Fifth Army ended with an examination in the form of practice landing operations, carried out by the 36th Division under Maj. Gen. Fred L. Walker in the area between Porte aux Poules and Arzew. The 45th Infantry Division in Sicily and the British 10 Corps, which were to be part of Fifth Army in its first combat operations, had also conducted practice landings. The areas had been especially selected to duplicate or at least to approximate those to be found at Salerno. The example of the 36th Division may be cited. Its ships had been loaded, and everything except the last-minute touches had been given; the troops were embarked on their respective vessels, and the convoy put out to sea, soon to assemble for the dry run, Operation Cowpuncher. The same plans and orders for the invasion were used, wherever practicable, with a simple substitution of geographical names. During the night 26-27 August the practice operation was conducted against troops of the 34th Division, who had wired the beaches and manned the defenses. The assault troops came ashore in small craft, and a portion of all types of weapons and vehicles were landed. This rehearsal brought out a few changes in manner of loading and unloading, but above all it gave officers and men a feeling of confidence in their ability to carry out the task confronting them.



Invasion beach at Paestum (Red Beach)... painted by Technical Sergeant Mitchell Siporin

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CHAPTER III

* * * * *

Planning for Invasion

A. EARLY PLANNING

IN addition to providing a well organized, well equipped, and mobile striking force, fully trained in amphibious operations, General Clark was charged with the preparation of plans for and the execution of special operations under directives issued by the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Force. The first mission given Fifth Army was announced prior to its activation. On 24 December 1942 Lieutenant General Dwight D. Eisenhower notified the Commanding Generals of Twelfth Air Force, the Center Task Force, the Western Task Force, and the Northern Task Force that Fifth Army would be activated at an early date with General Clark commanding and that these forces would come under his command in the preparation of plans for the occupation of Spanish Morocco in event of Spanish hostility or if Spain should fail to resist German invasion.

The plan provided for the Center Task Force from the southern Mediterranean coast to launch an overland operation to capture Melilla, the Western Task Force to conduct an overland operation from the Port Lyautey area to capture Tangier, and the Northern Task Force by an amphibious operation to occupy the International Zone which bordered the Strait of Gibraltar on the south. This operation was known as Backbone II. Backbone I was the name which had been given to an operation having the same objective, planned prior to the Allied landings in North Africa on 8 November 1942. The limited forces available for the carrying out of Backbone II were a matter of much concern to General Clark during the first part of 1943. The situation was much relieved after the visit of General Orgaz to Fifth Army Headquarters in Oujda early in June, where parades and demonstrations involving the use of paratroopers and air force units were staged.

From the middle of June 1943 the Fifth Army planning staff, working under the direction of the Army G-3, Col. (later Brig. Gen.) Donald W. Brann,

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

was busy on several projects for the invasion of Axis territory in Europe. In all, the staff planned five operations, one against Sardinia (Brimstone), and the rest against various parts of the Italian mainland (Barracuda, Gangway, Musket, and Avalanche). (*See Map No. 1.*) The last plan, Avalanche, was finally put into operation as a full-scale invasion of the Italian mainland from the Gulf of Salerno.

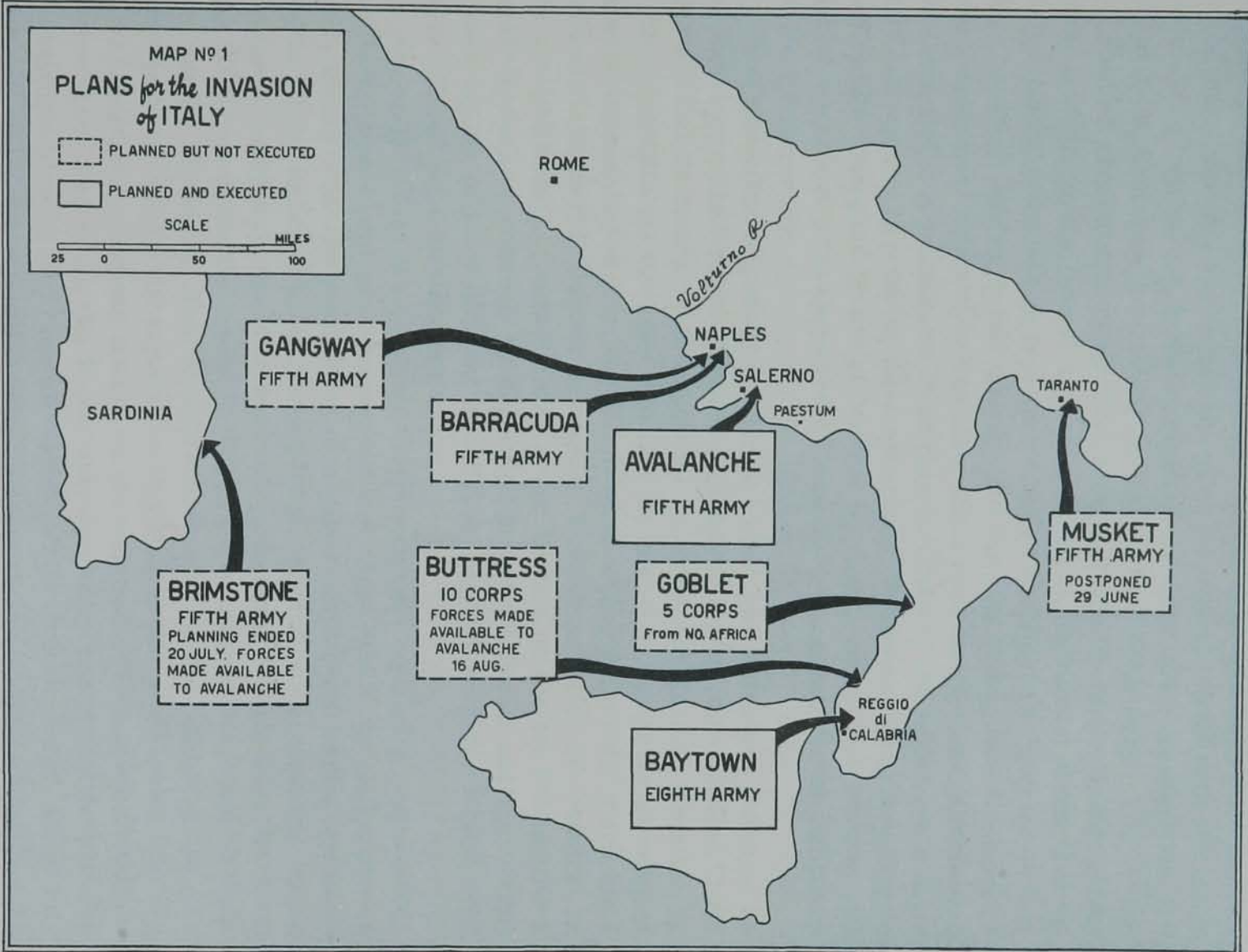
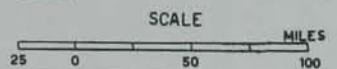
The work of the planning staff can best be considered in relation to the strategy for the Mediterranean and along with the planning of the British 5 Corps, 10 Corps, and Eighth Army. When Operation Husky against Sicily was about to be launched, the Combined Chiefs of Staff directed the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Force, to prepare plans for the next mission which was to eliminate Italy from the war and contain the maximum number of German forces. In view of the military resources that might be available after the Sicilian campaign the alternatives at the end of June 1943 appeared to be either an amphibious attack on one of several places on the Italian mainland or an operation against the island of Sardinia. The alternatives were based on the assumption that Husky would be successful, but that Italian resistance elsewhere had not collapsed. It seemed reasonable to assume that Italian morale might be so low that Axis resistance would be less effective and less able to withstand prolonged attack than before Husky. If that proved to be the case at the end of our Sicilian operation, the Commander-in-Chief stated that he would recommend an assault of the Italian mainland with six divisions. If his appreciation were that this attack could not occupy the heel of the peninsula or exploit as far as Naples, he would then recommend Operation Brimstone, the assault on Sardinia.

As far back as the Anfa (Casablanca) conference between President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and Allied military leaders in January 1943, Sardinia had been considered a possible objective of our first European operation instead of Sicily. The capture of Sardinia would deprive the enemy of airfields for attacking Mediterranean shipping, would give us bases for air attacks on the continent, and would furnish a steppingstone for future operations against Italy or southern France. Although the decision was to attack Sicily first, Sardinia remained under consideration as a later objective.

On 10 June 1943 the Commander-in-Chief directed the Commanding General of Fifth Army to prepare plans for the Sardinian operation. A second directive from Allied Force Headquarters on 17 June 1943 instructed General Clark to take responsibility for making contact with the staffs of Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean (Naval) and of Air Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean and informed him that he was to retain his existing commitments in Northwest Africa. Much of the detailed planning for Brimstone was to be carried out in

MAP No 1
**PLANS for the INVASION
of ITALY**

 PLANNED BUT NOT EXECUTED
 PLANNED AND EXECUTED



GANGWAY
FIFTH ARMY

BARRACUDA
FIFTH ARMY

AVALANCHE
FIFTH ARMY

MUSKET
FIFTH ARMY
POSTPONED
29 JUNE

BRIMSTONE
FIFTH ARMY
PLANNING ENDED
20 JULY. FORCES
MADE AVAILABLE
TO AVALANCHE

BUTTRESS
10 CORPS
FORCES MADE
AVAILABLE TO
AVALANCHE
16 AUG.

GOBLET
5 CORPS
From NO. AFRICA

BAYTOWN
EIGHTH ARMY

the Fifth Army area, while a specialized planning staff from Fifth Army in Bouzerrea, near Algiers, co-ordinated the other services and dealt with the larger aspects. So long as the Sardinian invasion remained under consideration, the planning for Brimstone lay entirely in the hands of Fifth Army.

Further plans drawn up by Fifth Army included Operation Musket, a proposed landing on the heel of Italy near Taranto; Barracuda, which contemplated landing a small force on a week's notice near Naples to advance on that city; Gangway, a plan to sail directly into the Bay of Naples. The landings near Naples were expected to encounter slight resistance because of increasing indications of Italian weakness. The planning staffs of the British components were also engaged in planning three operations: Baytown, an assault on Reggio di Calabria across the Straits of Messina by Eighth Army; and Buttress and Goblet, operations of 10 Corps and 5 Corps directed against the toe and instep of Italy respectively.

The possibility of putting these Allied plans into action was delimited on 29 June 1943 when General Eisenhower cabled (*NAF 250*) the Combined Chiefs of Staff that he considered it impossible to mount the Taranto operation by Fifth Army (Musket) that year and that he was arranging for the planning of three possible actions in order to take advantage of any opportunity which might suddenly arise as the situation developed. These three were: (1) landings on the toe (Buttress) and instep (Goblet); (2) landing on the toe followed by a rapid overland exploitation to the heel, Naples, and Rome, and the reinforcement by sea of three divisions into Naples; (3) the Sardinian attack, both on a full and on a modified scale.

On 17 July 1943 the Combined Chiefs accepted for planning purposes General Eisenhower's strategical concept outlined above (*FAN 165*) and expressed their interest "in the possibilities of a direct amphibious landing operation against Naples in lieu of an attack on Sardinia, the indications regarding Italian resistance should make the risks involved worth while." Three days later General Eisenhower cabled General Clark (*Freedom, outgoing No. 2747*) to cease planning on Brimstone. This decision was dictated by the collapse of the Axis forces in Sicily and by the expectation that Italy could be eliminated from the war by rapid and continued attacks on the mainland. The consequent shift of interest from Sardinia to the Naples area eventually resulted in the planning of Avalanche by Fifth Army against Naples and the airfields nearby. On 26 July the Combined Chiefs cabled General Eisenhower (*FAN 175*), urging that he plan at once for Avalanche. On the same date the meetings of the Commanders-in-Chief at Tunis had determined to rush preparations for Avalanche if it could possibly be carried through.

B. PLANNING FOR AVALANCHE

1. *General Planning.* To meet the new demands Allied Force Headquarters issued a letter directive to the Commanding General of Fifth Army on 27 July 1943, instructing him to develop plans for seizing the port of Naples and securing the airfields nearby, "with a view to preparing a firm base for further offensive operations." In later paragraphs this letter of 27 July directed that the target date for the operation should be 7 September and called for a brief outline plan to be submitted by 7 August. The directive specified that joint commanders for navy and air should be appointed by the chiefs of those services in the Mediterranean and that the Commanding General of Fifth Army should co-ordinate his plan with the joint commanders. Rear Admiral J. L. Hall, Jr., (U.S.) and Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder (Br.) were later named to the positions in question. This divided authority placed General Clark at a disadvantage in the planning stage, but the naval and air forces co-operated effectively with Fifth Army during the subsequent invasion.

The planning and mounting of *Avalanche* were to be carried out under the direction of Allied Force Headquarters. The execution of the operation, however, was to be under command of 15th Army Group, the group headquarters command which had been set up under General Sir Harold R. L. Alexander to co-ordinate the operations of Seventh and Eighth Armies in Sicily. 15th Army Group was to continue in the chain of command under Allied Force Headquarters, since at this time the projected operations in Italy promised to involve the American Fifth Army and the British Eighth Army, or in lieu thereof 5 Corps, 10 Corps, or 13 Corps.

The ground forces made available to General Clark for Operation *Avalanche* were the troops allotted for the Sardinian assault plus the British 10 Corps, then assigned to the landing on the Italian toe (Buttress). Initially they comprised the following units:

<i>American</i>	{	VI Corps	{	10 Corps
		34th Division		46 Division
		36th Division		56 Division
		1st Armored Division		7 Armoured Division
		82d Airborne Division		1 Airborne Division

At the time the directive was issued, it was stated that the employment of airborne troops would depend on the available lift, and the plans for this portion

of the force were changed several times as facilities came to hand. Sufficient naval and air forces were to be provided by the respective commanders from resources in the Mediterranean Theater.

In the original directive there was an unusual and prophetic paragraph to the effect that a sudden change in the situation might permit an earlier descent on the Italian mainland than had been envisaged in *Avalanche* and hence that Fifth Army should be prepared to send one division on very short notice. The division was to sail on seven days' warning direct to Naples and to hold that port for the reception of further forces and supplies. The directive also stated that the 82d Airborne Division would be available to aid this operation as far as air transportation would permit. This provision indicates the influence of the secret knowledge of political developments in Italy, developments which were to come to a head fast in the next few weeks.

At the time of the Allied Force Headquarters directive to plan for *Avalanche*, 10 Corps was already well along with its plans for *Buttress*. The Commander-in-Chief cabled General Clark on 27 July that the only solution to the time factor in the problems of shipping, mounting, and equipping the forces for *Buttress* and *Avalanche* was to have 10 Corps prepare for both operations as alternatives and devise loading plans common to both. If *Avalanche* were launched before *Buttress*, the 10 Corps loading scheme for *Buttress* would be fitted into *Avalanche*. Shipping was limited, particularly landing craft; since the Sicilian attack, which had begun on 10 July, was going on and required considerable tonnage, the available craft had to be spread with great care. The 10 Corps plan for *Buttress* called for the use of all available LST's.

From the beginning General Clark opposed this plan, which would not provide a sufficient amount of suitable landing craft for the 36th Division, selected to lead the VI Corps assault. He considered it necessary to have some of the 36th Division Artillery, attached tank and tank destroyer units, and some engineers carried in LST's. As a result of General Clark's insistence three LST's were promised. This number was increased from time to time as more craft became available, thus resulting in revised loading plans with each increase. Ultimately 15 LST's were allotted for the 36th Division and attached troops. At the very last date the 179th Regimental Combat Team from the 45th Division was added to be a floating reserve, and additional craft were finally secured to lift that force from Sicily. Even after these arrangements had been completed two battalions of the 157th Infantry were inserted in the troop list and were brought in the D Day convoy.

The target date had been set on the basis of two factors: the phase of the moon, and the availability of landing craft. Since the landing craft had already

been used in Sicily, some time was required to repair the ravages of action and to make them serviceable. The following table shows the moon stages ⁽¹⁾ :

	<i>rise</i>	<i>set</i>
8 September (<i>first quarter</i>)	1505	0007
9 September	1605	0100
10 September	1701	0200

Furthermore, General Clark was eager to set the date as early as possible to avoid the gales and deterioration of the weather normal to October. D Day was finally fixed for 9 September.

A major question was the site for the Avalanche landings. The possibilities were the Gulf of Salerno area south of Naples and the coast of the Gulf of Gaeta north of Naples. The latter region offered two beach strips, one north and the other south of the Volturno River. The Allied Force Headquarters directive specified the Salerno area for several reasons, chief among them being that it lay within the range of air support from bases in Sicily. Beach study by G-2 indicated that the character of the beaches was better at Salerno than north of Naples. On the coast of the Gulf of Gaeta more small streams flow into the sea; at their mouths a shelf is built up and much more shoal results offshore. The advantages of better fighter cover and of more favorable beach conditions at Salerno were offset by the fact that the terrain and the tactical situation favored the Gaeta region. In contrast to the broad Campanian Plain with its flat expanse and numerous roads to the north of Naples, the shallower and narrower plain south of Salerno is ringed and dominated by a great mountain mass providing observation and commanding positions for the enemy. Another argument for landing in the Gaeta area was the tactical consideration that a foothold there would cut Naples off from the German forces in central and northern Italy. These considerations led the enemy to expect us to land in the Gaeta region. The Germans had mined the beach there more heavily than at Salerno. In fact, after the Avalanche landings had taken place, they left elements of two divisions on the coast either side of the Volturno for three days in the expectation that we would also land in that district.

When General Clark received the directive to plan for Avalanche and began to study the approaches to Naples, he examined the landing possibilities and was impressed with the area north of Naples. The longer he studied the terrain

⁽¹⁾ Standard Army time was B Time, two hours ahead of Greenwich Standard Time (Z). At 0200, 25 September 1943, the time was shifted to A Time, one hour ahead of Z Time.

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and the situation, the more convinced he grew that the area of the Gaeta coast, especially the beach strip south of the Volturno, was preferable to the Salerno region. He saw the advantage of the absence of mountains north of Naples and the opportunity to drop airborne troops on his left along the Volturno and thus block the access roads from the north, down which German reinforcements would have to come.

Following an air drop he could get his infantry in touch with the airborne division very early and reunite his forces. So strong was General Clark's conviction that the landing should be north of Naples and that it could be supported adequately by air strength that he flew to Algiers twice to discuss the problem. He forcibly presented the case for a landing south of the Volturno and found all factors favorable except for firm assurances from the air officers that they could furnish air cover that far from the Sicilian airfields. Air Marshal Tedder was away, and none of the staff of the Air Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean would make an official commitment on the possibility of air cover north of Naples, though unofficially they held it feasible. When General Clark did reach Air Marshal Tedder, the latter returned a negative to the question, so the site north of Naples was abandoned.

Another consideration bearing on the location of the landings was the desire of General Montgomery to have Avalanche farther south than Salerno so as to secure support for the attack of Eighth Army up the Italian toe. Since there was slight opposition to the Eighth Army advance from Calabria, no advantage would have been gained by shifting the invasion beaches of Fifth Army to the south. The Gulf of Salerno remained the landing site, and consequently the plans were drawn for that area.

Deception and cover plans received attention early. By the first week of August, when Buttress and Baytown were both being planned, deception plans were prepared to reduce to a minimum the initial opposition to those assaults. These plans had to avoid compromising Avalanche, for it was expected then that the latter would follow either Buttress or Baytown or both. Cover plans were devised for Sardinia and Corsica and served for Avalanche.

The planning staff at Allied Force Headquarters on 24 August considered the need for an alternative plan for Avalanche to meet unforeseen contingencies and to provide another objective for Fifth Army if Avalanche should prove impracticable. In view of the proximity of D Day for Avalanche, the time element offered difficulties. It was suggested that Fifth Army substitute a direct attack on the heel of Italy for Avalanche, but in order to meet Avalanche target date that plan would entail advancing the sailing date from Oran and Bizerte by one and one-half days. It would also present the problem of completing and

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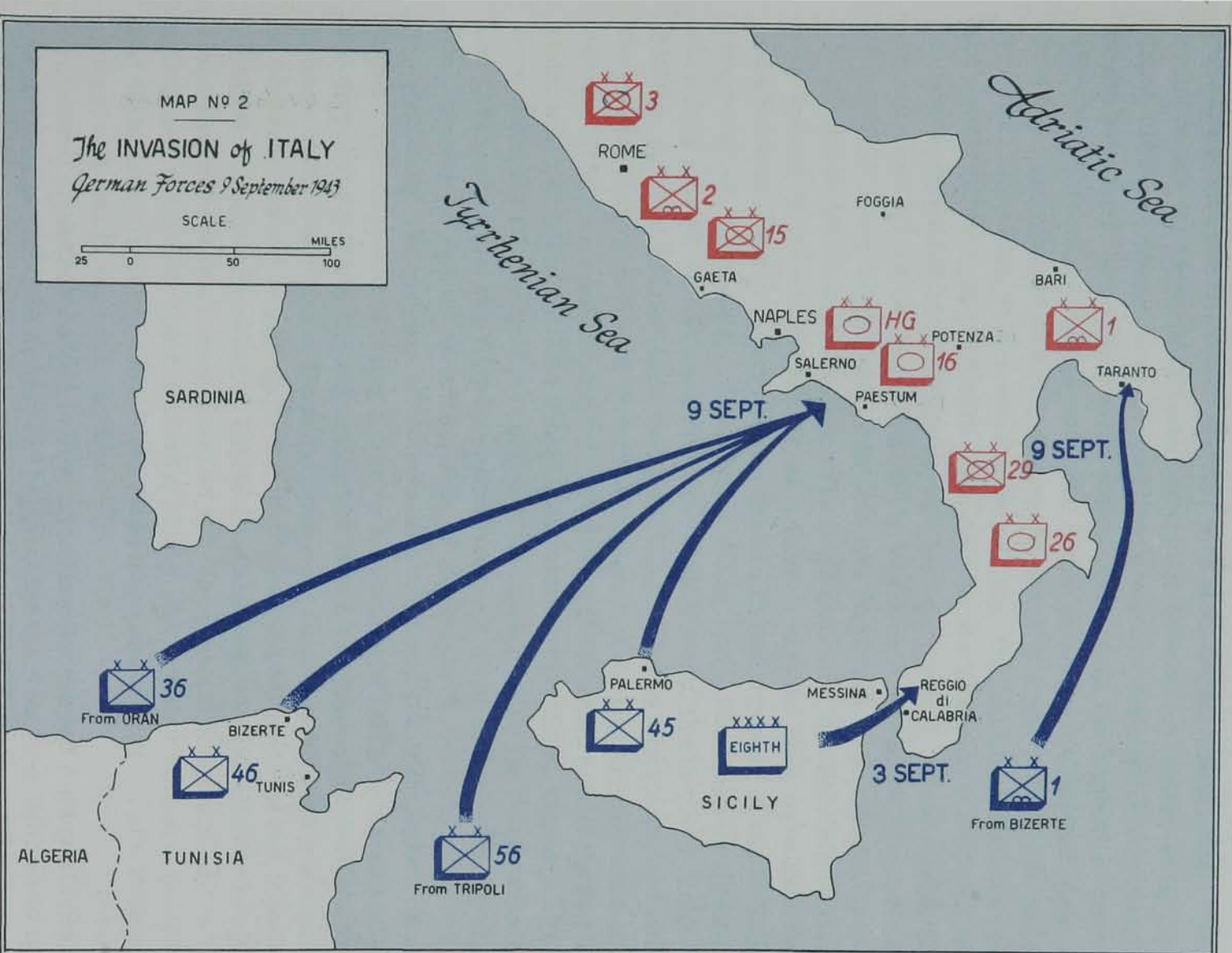
issuing maps for the new area and require the preparation and dissemination of new orders to troops spread over North Africa from Oran to Tripoli and from North Africa to Sicily. After careful consideration of all factors the planning staff decided that the alternative operation could not be launched on Avalanche D Day but that it could be set up on 21 September, 12 days later. It therefore recommended the alternative plan for that date. The latter target date would not allow much time but would still have a margin adequate for satisfactory progress before October weather conditions could be expected to interfere with air operations in support.

While the Fifth Army planning for Avalanche was going forward, the Commanders-in-Chief at a meeting on 16 August had come to a series of decisions on the future action. Now it was definitely fixed that the invasion by Eighth Army should take place as early as possible. The Sicilian campaign was successfully concluded on 17 August, and Eighth Army forces could be used as planned to launch Baytown from Messina. (*See Map No. 2.*) The date for the attack was to be decided by the Commanding General of 15th Army Group. The Eighth Army bridgehead in Calabria would use only troops and resources already in Sicily. But the danger had been foreseen that we might be led into penning up a large body of men in the toe of Italy where the enemy could easily contain us. Such a contingency would have the further ill effect of tying up landing craft for supplying our forces over the beaches in Calabria and keeping them from availability for Avalanche. Since Naples was the main objective, Baytown was set up for not over three divisions or at most three divisions and one armored brigade.

At the same meeting it was determined that of the other possible operations Avalanche should be the one next undertaken. The target date approved for 9 September might be postponed for not more than 48 hours if necessary. Landing craft for the two operations were to be set aside in accordance with orders to be issued by the Commander-in-Chief. Fifth Army came under command of 15th Army Group, and General Alexander's Headquarters assumed command of the two operations in Italy. Planning for the attack on the instep (Goblet) was to proceed to completion as far as practicable, and when it was finished 5 Corps was to revert to Allied Force reserve.

At this time, in mid-August, another factor arose to influence the main lines of strategy for the United Nations. On 18 August General Eisenhower received a cable (*FAN 196*) from the Combined Chiefs of Staff, then at the Quadrant meeting of the President and Prime Minister at Quebec. The cable directed the Commander-in-Chief to send two staff officers, one American and one British, to Lisbon to report to the British Ambassador for the purpose of

MAP No 2
The INVASION of ITALY
German Forces 9 September 1943
 SCALE
 25 0 50 100 MILES



negotiating with Italian representatives who were seeking an armistice. For several weeks the progress of these negotiations affected our forthcoming operations. If the armistice were accepted, the prospects of success for Avalanche would be greater, but no one could predict what result the removal of Italian forces would have on German resistance in the peninsula. While our negotiations were going on, General Clark drew up a list of items to secure from the armistice. Chief among them was the demand that the Italians continue to man the coastal defenses and not turn them over to the Germans, a condition the Italians were unable to fulfill because of German pressure. Once signed, the armistice was not to be announced to the world until we should give out the news. The timing of this announcement was important to Avalanche.

2. *Plans for Airborne Support.* The complexity and the difficulty of planning operations of such magnitude as a large landing in force on a defended coast are nowhere more clearly shown than in the employment of the airborne component of the assault. The original Allied Force Headquarters directive of 27 July allotted two airborne divisions to Fifth Army, the British 1 Airborne Division and the 82d Airborne Division (U.S.). General Clark conferred with the commanding generals of these two divisions at Mostagenem on their utilization. It was his desire to drop one division on the southern edge of the Naples plain, north of Vietri sul Mare (Vietri) and southeast of Mount Vesuvius. This force could control the northern mouths of the passes across the Sorrento Ridge and thus prevent the two German panzer (armored) divisions in the Naples area from crossing to oppose us in the plain of Salerno.

Neither of the airborne division commanders nor the troop carrier commander would approve of trying a drop on that zone, since they would only make the dropping run from the sea and could expect the heaviest of flak and the obstacle of the mountains at the end of their run. Since General Clark was unable to convince the air commanders that the run could be made in the opposite direction, this airborne objective had to be abandoned. Accordingly the Ranger Force had to be sent up from Maiori to take the Sorrento Ridge and had to be maintained there with great difficulty. Later the British 1 Airborne Division was taken away from the Fifth Army troop allotment, placed initially in Army reserve, and finally removed entirely.

General Clark then decided to drop a task force of the 82d Airborne Division in the Volturno Valley to destroy the bridges over the river from Triflisco to the sea and to prevent the moving of German forces from the north. The airborne troops were to delay enemy forces crossing the Volturno and were to concentrate at Capua, thence withdrawing southeast along the high ground to rejoin elements of Fifth Army. The chances were good for an early junction of the

paratroopers with the landing force. At one stage of the planning it was proposed to handle the resupply of this task force through nightly drops while it was separated from the infantry, using bombers for the purpose if the enemy defenses in the area were still heavy. On 30 August General Clark cabled the commander of the Western Naval Task Force to limit antiaircraft fire in the area where the airborne elements were to operate to a range of not over 500 yards inland from the beaches.

The next alteration in the airborne plan came on 1 September, when it was decided to reduce the 82d Airborne Division force from a strongly reinforced regimental combat team to a regimental combat team less one battalion. (*See Annex No. 2C.*) The reason for this reduction was the apparent impossibility of maintaining resupply for the larger force from the air. With the force reduced by one battalion, a greater quantity of supplies could be carried in the initial drop. The mission for the reduced force, which was to drop by parachute and glider on the night of D minus 1 to D Day, was to seize and destroy the Capua bridge over the Volturno and then to retire southeast as previously planned. One reinforced regimental combat team of the 82d Airborne Division was placed in the Army floating reserve; the balance of the division was to come by sea from Sicily with the follow-up troops.

Shortly before Fifth Army left Africa, General Clark attended a conference with the Commander-in-Chief in Sicily. The negotiations for the armistice with Italy were in their final stages, and an Italian general was present. The latter urged that we make an air drop on Rome to secure the airfields, for Marshal Badoglio was insisting that an Allied force be placed in Rome to protect the government against German troops near the capital. Accordingly, when it was decided at the conference to carry out an airborne operation in Rome at the time of Avalanche, the 82d Airborne Division was taken from the Fifth Army striking force on 3 September, although it was to remain under command of General Clark. To provide for this new plan the Volturno airborne operation had to be sacrificed. This loss was a serious handicap to the carrying out of the plans of the Army Commander. That the employment of the division as originally scheduled would have been operationally valuable is indicated by the fact that parts of three German divisions crossed the Volturno and marched down unopposed to throw their weight against Fifth Army.

C. OUTLINE PLAN FOR AVALANCHE

1. *The Army Plan.* After weeks of work at high pressure and in closest secrecy the Fifth Army planning staff completed its Outline Plan for Avalanche. A large volume of material had been assembled, evaluated, and co-ordinated with the various services and staff departments. All the strategic information on terrain, military resources and dispositions, economic potential and production centers, enemy defenses and strength, beaches, physiographic and geodetic detail, weather, medical history, and disease prevalence had been compiled and studied. The vital and complicated matters of supply had been worked out and consolidated in an annex to the Outline Plan. The Avalanche Operations Plan with eight annexes (G-2 Intelligence Plan, Troop List, Allocation of Shipping, G-4 Supply Plan, G-1 Administrative Plan, Signal Plan, Antiaircraft Artillery Plan, Harbor Defense Plan) was published on 15 August. A corrected version of the Outline Plan was issued on 26 August to meet changes in the strategic situation.

The Outline Plan, as revised, assumed that Italian resistance would be approximately that encountered in Operation Husky and that Germany's commitments in Russia would continue to hold the bulk of her ground and air forces on the Russian front. It further assumed that Operation Baytown would be mounted. The plan envisaged an assault by two corps and follow-up troops to form an invading army of 125,000 against enemy forces estimated at 39,000 on D Day with a probable increase to over 100,000 by D plus 3. The mission of Fifth Army was to seize the port of Naples and to secure the airfields nearby with a view to preparing a firm base for further offensive operations.

To carry out this mission General Clark planned to employ the British 10 Corps and the American VI Corps in simultaneous assaults on the beaches south of Salerno. Troops assigned to 10 Corps, commanded by Lt. Gen. Sir Richard L. McCreery, included the British 46 and 56 Infantry Divisions, the 7 Armoured Division, the 2 and 41 Commandos, and the American 1st, 3d, and 4th Ranger Battalions. VI Corps under Maj. Gen. Ernest J. Dawley had the American 36th Division (reinforced). Various supporting troops were assigned to each of the two corps.

The Outline Plan also provided for an Army floating reserve divided between two forces. Force I, commanded by Maj. Gen. Troy H. Middleton, consisted of one reinforced regimental combat team of the 45th Division (U.S.) with the mission of embarking from Sicily prepared to land on D Day over any of the previously assaulted beaches. Force II, under Maj. Gen. Matthew B.

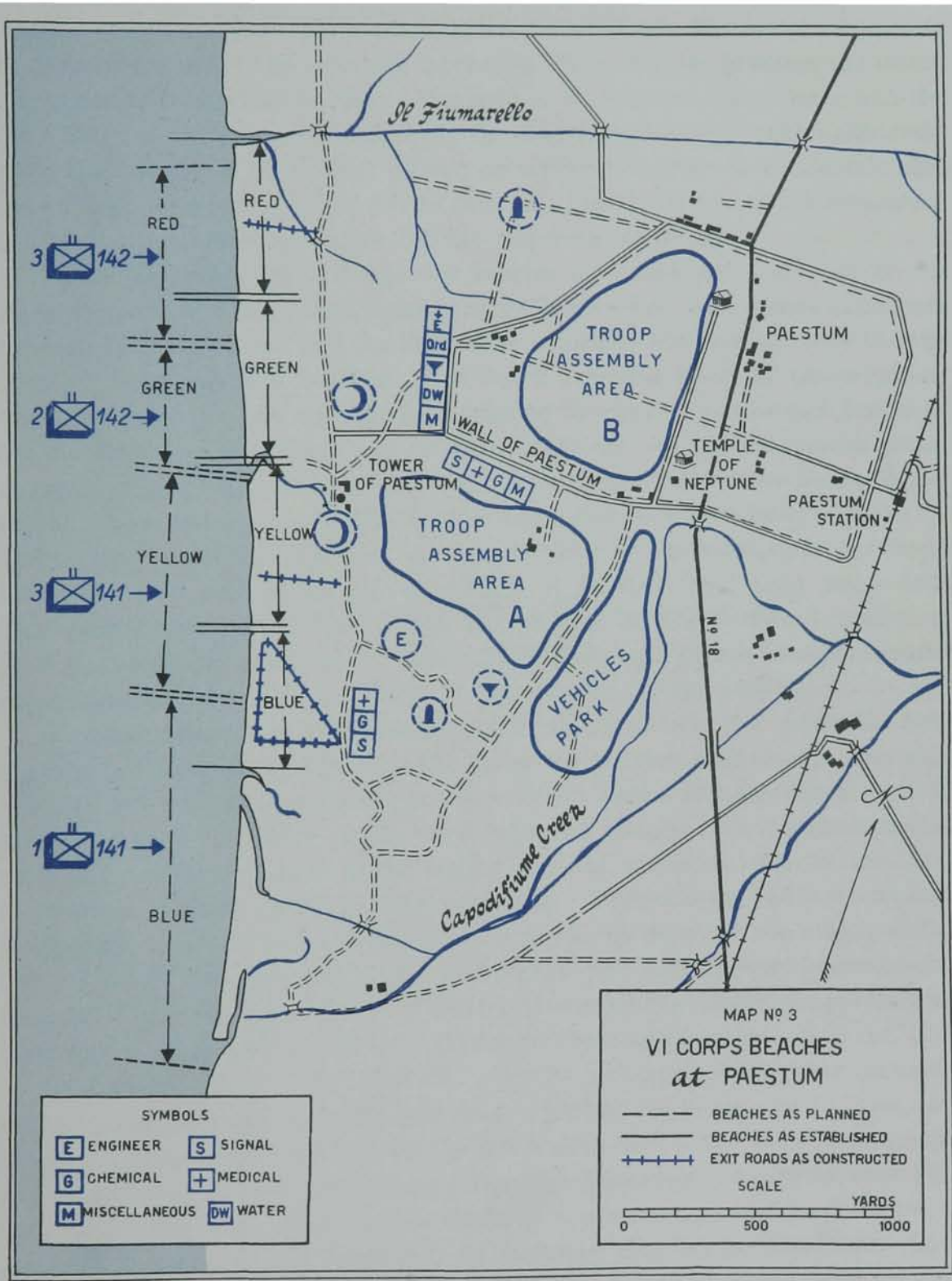
Ridgway, had one reinforced regimental combat team of the 82d Airborne Division (U.S.), which was "to be prepared to land with light equipment on beaches which have not been previously established." The changes in the mission of this division have already been noted; during the first days of the Salerno operation the 82d Airborne Division remained idle. When it was returned to the control of Fifth Army, the division could only be employed in a drop behind a protected beachhead in support of VI Corps, where reinforcements were badly needed to hold our line.

Follow-up troops included the balance of the 45th Division, the 34th Division, the 13th Field Artillery Brigade, the 1st or 2d Armored Division, one American tank battalion (medium), and the 3d Division, together with many supporting troops. The maintenance for both corps was to be primarily over the beaches until the port of Naples became available, although 10 Corps might count on a small amount of supply through the port of Salerno.

2. *Naval and Air Support Plans.* The naval plan, entitled Western Naval Task Force Operation Plan No. 7-43 (short title "Avon/W1"), had appeared on 14 August. It laid down the organization and missions of the Control Force, the Southern Task Force, the Northern Task Force, and the Support Carrier Force. Appended were lengthy annexes containing detailed strategic and theater information. Naval support fire was to be available on call from sub-task force commanders. A special naval force, set up by the Western Naval Task Force and placed under the command of Captain Charles Andrews, U. S. Navy, had the mission of making a feint against the beaches northwest of Naples to divert enemy forces to the coast above Naples and away from the main assaults.

The air plan, published on 18 August, laid out air activity for the following periods: up to D minus 7, D minus 7 to D minus 1, night of D minus 1 to D Day, D Day. Operations subsequent to D Day would depend on the situation. Missions were prepared for protection of the assault convoy and the landing area, fighter cover, ground support, tactical bombing, air-sea rescue, troop carrier flights, and other purposes. In particular, ground support would be secured by prearranged strategic missions and by tactical missions either prearranged or on call. The teamwork displayed in integrating so varied activities of army, navy, and air force was of high order, and the degree of secrecy maintained was remarkable.

3. *The Invasion Beaches.* (See Map No. 3.) The final beaches, which all lay south of the town of Salerno, were by no means ideal for an amphibious operation. The arc of mountains enclosing the plain of Salerno was too far from the beaches for the assaulting troops to reach before daylight. Even after a successful landing the Allied forces would have to defend an open plain under



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46 SURVEY COY S.A.E.C. FOR ENGR. HQ. FIFTH ARMY.

possible constant enemy observation and artillery fire. Yet certain favorable characteristics made the selection advisable. The offshore gradient permitted transports to come close to shore; the strip of sand between the water and the dune line was fairly narrow and made the construction of exit routes relatively easy; the low dunes themselves offered no serious obstacles to bulldozers; and the existing road net lay close to the beaches. Finally, the terrain immediately behind the beaches was suitable for the dispersion of dumps.

With the exception of the narrow beaches at Maiori and Vietri, where the Rangers and Commandos were to land, all 10 Corps would come ashore at beaches between Picentino Creek and the Sele River. Initially the landings were to take place on three principal beaches. Red Beach extended from the mouth of the Picentino south for one and one-half miles to the Asa. Green Beach began at the mouth of Tusciano Creek and extended south for one and one-quarter miles. A gap of more than a mile lay between Green Beach and White Beach to the south. These beach areas lie five to nine miles southeast of Salerno. In the VI Corps area four landing beaches, situated between Il Fiumarello and Solofrone Creek and just west of the ancient village of Paestum, had been designated. The beaches were named Red, Green, Yellow, and Blue, and when in operation were identified and delimited by their colored lights and panels. Previous photo reconnaissance had provided accurate information on the beaches.

German defenses of the immediate landing areas were not especially well organized. Some minefields were laid along the beaches, barbed-wire obstacles were erected, numerous machine guns were sited to cover the most likely landing spots, and a few artillery pieces were emplaced inland. The Germans apparently put considerable faith in the ability of tanks, roving behind the beaches, to throw a landing operation into confusion. Furthermore, with unexcelled observation posts on such terrain features as Mount Soprano, the enemy could direct artillery fire upon the plain, the beaches, and landing craft beyond. An Italian-laid minefield in the Gulf of Salerno prevented convoys from approaching close to the shore and would be a hazard to the landing craft.

4. *Landing Plans.* (See *Map No. 4.*) VI Corps and 10 Corps were to make simultaneous landings, with the first waves hitting the beaches at H Hour, set at 0330, 9 September. 10 Corps on the left was to deliver the Fifth Army main assault with the mission of capturing Naples. Immediate objectives were the port of Salerno, the Montecorvino Airfield, the important rail and highway center of Battipaglia, and Ponte Sele on Highway 19 over the Sele River. The 10 Corps zone extended nearly 25 miles from Maiori around the coast to the mouth of the Sele River. The left flank was entrusted to three battalions of Rangers and two battalions of Commandos, all under Lt. Col. William O. Darby. The

Rangers were to land at Maiori and advance north to seize the Mount di Chiunzi Pass and the broad Nocera-Pagani Pass between Salerno and Naples. The Commandos were to land at Vietri, turn east along the coastal road, and occupy Salerno. Meanwhile the bulk of 10 Corps would land on the three beaches south of Picentino Creek, with the 56 Division under Maj. Gen. G. W. R. Templer on the right and the 46 Division under Maj. Gen. J. I. I. Hawkesworth taking over the center of the Corps zone. A gap of more than ten miles lay between the 56 Division and the beaches of VI Corps to the south. This gap would be closed as the two corps moved inland, and the junction of forces was planned to take place at Ponte Sele.

VI Corps was to make the assault with the 36th Division (reinforced). Two regimental combat teams were to land at H Hour, advance to the railroad, reorganize, and move on to their objectives. On the left the objective of the 142d Regimental Combat Team was the high ground running in an arc from Ponte Sele through Altavilla Silentina (Altavilla), Albanella, and Rocca d'Aspide to Mount Vesole and Magliano. On the right the 141st Regimental Combat Team was to maintain contact with the 142d Infantry at Mount Vesole and Magliano and occupy key points in the mountain arc to Agropoli at the southern end of the Gulf of Salerno.

D. GERMAN FORCES IN ITALY

See Map No. 2

To counter the Fifth Army invasion the enemy could count on eight divisions. Two of these were in or north of Rome, two others were in the vicinity of Naples, and the other four were south of Naples. Most of the divisions had incurred heavy losses in personnel and especially in equipment in Sicily.

On 8 September the 16th Panzer Division was in the Eboli-Battipaglia area, where it had moved some ten days previously from the southeast coast of Italy near Bari. At that time it had taken over some of the Italian beach defenses; it occupied the rest on the news of the Italian armistice. In general the 16th Panzer Engineer Battalion held the Sorrento Peninsula; the 64th Panzer Grenadier (Armored Infantry) Regiment, the area from Salerno to the Sele; and the 79th Panzer Grenadier Regiment, the sector from the Sele River to Agropoli. The 2d Panzer Regiment at Battipaglia was in position to strike either west or south. Despite rumors on 8 September of a movement of half

of the 64th Panzer Grenadier Regiment north to Capua, the 16th Panzer Division was still defending the Salerno beaches on D Day.

The Hermann Goering Panzer Division was apparently dispersed in the plain of Naples from Caserta south, and the 15th Panzer Grenadier Division was probably northwest of this force, generally in the Gaeta area. Both units had been reorganizing after their losses in Sicily. The 2d Parachute Division garrisoned the vicinity of Rome from the Alban hills on the south to the rail junction of Viterbo on the north; the movement of this division into the Rome area had been the chief factor deterring the proposed drop of the 82d Airborne Division at Rome immediately after the announcement of the Italian armistice. Some elements of the 3d Panzer Grenadier Division were at Frascati south of Rome, probably to guard the headquarters of Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, commanding the German forces in central and southern Italy, but most of this division was apparently well north of Rome as far as Orvieto.

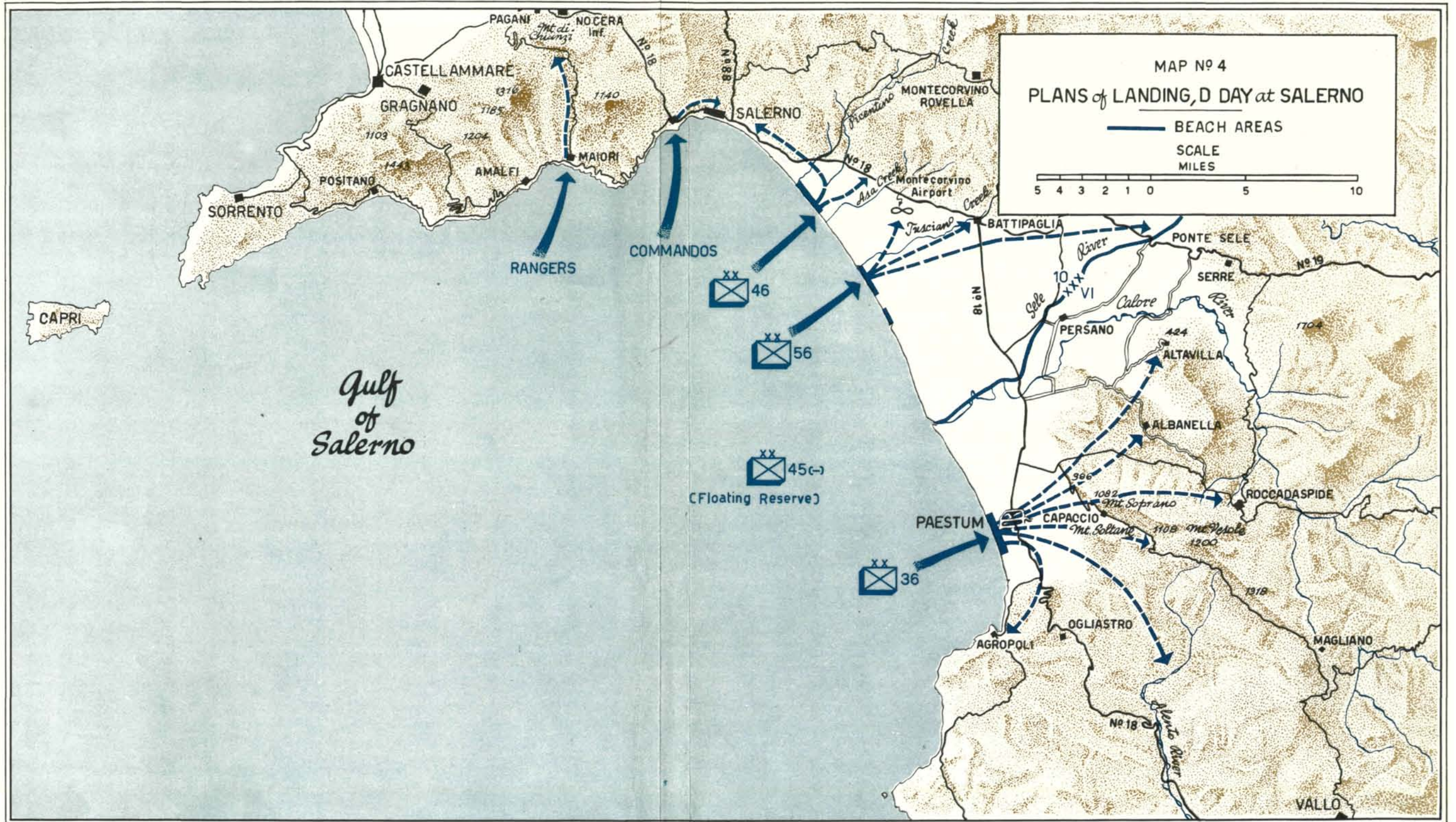
Three enemy divisions remain to be considered. One of these, the 1st Parachute Division, held the Adriatic coast with part of its strength south of Bari. The other two, generally speaking, were in Calabria, but only to a minor extent in direct contact with Eighth Army. The 26th Panzer Division was located halfway up the toe at the end of August. Headquarters and some troops of the 29th Panzer Grenadier Division were at Potenza, but Eighth Army met part of its 15th Panzer Grenadier Regiment not far from Reggio on 4 September.

It does not appear that any major shifts were being made at the moment when the enemy learned of the approach of Fifth Army to the Gulf of Salerno. Warning orders were undoubtedly transmitted on 8 September to all units, but actual execution of these orders did not follow until after our landing early on the morning of the 9th. Then German motors began to roar, and column upon column swung out onto the roads of southern Italy, driving rapidly north toward the plain of Salerno.

Meanwhile the 16th Panzer Division had received warning of what lay ahead. On 8 September the Chief of Staff, Italian XIX Corps, informed Headquarters, Port Defense, at Salerno: "From 2330/7 hrs inst. this zone is declared to be in 'coastal alarm' following departure of enemy convoy from Sicily heading for Salerno." At 1600, 8 September, the 16th Panzer Division was informed that 36 ships escorted by destroyers had been sighted 25 miles south of Capri, and put into operation the second alarm phase "ready for battle."

E. APPROACHING H HOUR

Fifth Army likewise was "ready for battle." Its long period of training and its careful planning for invasion were about to be tested. Field Order No. 1, dated 25 August 1943 (see *Annex No. 2B*), put the Outline Plan for Avalanche into operation. By 5 September convoys were loaded at many North African ports and the bulk of Fifth Army was aboard ship. On that day the ships cast off from Oran and Mers-el-Kebir, the most distant of the embarkation centers. Moving precisely on skillfully planned schedules, the hundreds of craft bearing the forces for Avalanche converged on the Gulf of Salerno by the evening of 8 September. At 1830 the ship radios picked up the voice of General Eisenhower: "Hostilities between the United Nations and Italy have terminated, effective at once." The troops received the news joyfully, but the senior officer on board each ship made it clear that the original plans would be carried out. D Day was the morrow, 9 September, and H Hour was 0330. Operation Avalanche was about to start. Fifth Army was swinging into action for its initial attack on Fortress Europe.



CHAPTER IV * * * * *

Invasion of Italy

A. D DAY AT SALERNO

9 SEPTEMBER

ON THE night of 8-9 September the Fifth Army convoy stood off the Salerno beaches. The moon went down just before midnight, and under cover of the ensuing darkness the troopships moved in closer to the transport area where men were to board the landing craft. Minefields blocked a close approach to shore, and the reported presence of coastal batteries and railway artillery, located inland about a mile from the beach, constituted another threat to the larger vessels. It was therefore necessary for the troopships to drop anchor some 12 miles from the beaches, a definite disadvantage to the invading forces. The troops were required to remain aboard the landing craft for a longer period of time—and with even a small sea running, a landing craft pitches and rolls. Furthermore, the time needed to reach shore and to return was greatly extended, thus slowing up unloading operations. The mine sweepers immediately proceeded to their work to open gaps for the entrance to the bay.

1. *The Landing.* Fortunately the sea was smooth when initial waves debarked from the troopships. There was some confusion. Difference in signals used by the American and British navies resulted in occasional misunderstanding among the mixed coxwains, and the circuitous routes the craft had to follow through the minefields caused delay in reaching shore. Lanes had been swept through the field, but occasional mines, having broken free, drifted into the cleared paths where they destroyed a few landing craft.

At 0330 everything was working as planned. All assault troops and the necessary vehicles were en route to the beach. Back at the transport area ships' crews were working quietly and efficiently to load the follow-up tanks, anti-aircraft artillery, and ammunition vehicles. Light artillery and antitank guns were already moving shoreward in Dukws — those amazing amphibious craft which were so indispensable in the entire operation. On the American front

there was an unnatural quietness as the landing craft approached the beach. The pre-dawn darkness and stillness were broken only by the naval gunfire preparation to the north where the British were firing. The tense quiet did not last long, however, and any hope of surprise was dispelled when what sounded like a public address system called out in English: "Come on in and give up. We have you covered!"

That grim invitation was only accepted in part—the troops came in. As though on signal the Germans opened fire with artillery, machine guns, and mortars. Machine guns had been emplaced among the dunes, but much of their fire was too high to produce casualties. It was still dark, and the invading troops, impressed with the unhealthy state of the beach, cut paths through or crawled under the wire and dashed inland to find protection among the sand dunes. From there they could go about the task of destroying the machine-gun and mortar crews near the beach. The hostile fire of artillery, mortars, and machine guns from positions farther inland was heavy. A few of the landing craft were hit; others were forced to turn back. Confusion was added to the scene when some coxswains attempted to change direction and go round the hostile fire. Others started to return to their mother ships; some simply milled about.

The assaulting troops continued to fight their way inland while additional troops were constantly arriving. Although the plan called for seven organized waves before the landing craft began shuttling, only three waves came in as such. Just behind the assaulting troops were provisional batteries of anti-aircraft artillery formed from the caliber .50 machine-gun squads of the battalions participating. Their purpose was to provide for early beach defense and to meet any contingency which might prevent heavier equipment from getting ashore. Their employment gave adequate security until the 40-mm guns could be emplaced. Beach groups of shore engineers and naval beach battalions went quickly to work under fire to organize the landing areas for supply and communications. Light artillery and antitank guns, all on Dukws, and anti-aircraft guns on LCM's landed shortly after dawn.

By daylight the assault forces of VI Corps were approaching their scheduled objectives but were still short of them. Although each battalion was acting as a unit, enemy resistance had caused much internal disorganization, resulting in the separation of troops in the darkness. Members of radio teams and crew-served weapons, such as mortars, machine guns, and bazookas, had become casualties or separated. Consequently many teams were inoperative. By night-fall, however, commanders were being rewarded for the many hours spent in describing the terrain, for large numbers of the missing reported in at the initial objectives of their units.

10 Corps met essentially the same kind of opposition as that encountered by VI Corps on the Paestum beaches. British troops in the first waves hit the beaches at H Hour and the enemy opened up with heavy fire, especially from the Lilienthal strongpoint just south of the mouth of Asa Creek. Allied warships took up the challenge and blasted the areas behind the beaches. In the face of bitter resistance troops of the assault waves rushed ashore from landing craft and started inland.

2. *Fighting Inland.* (See Map No. 5.) The principal opposition encountered by VI Corps on D Day came from at least four groups of tanks which attacked the beaches. One group of tanks, about 15 in number, came in from the south, overrunning the assault troops of the 142d Infantry and passing on toward the north after creating some confusion. A second group of similar size appeared on the front of the 141st Infantry south of Paestum soon after daylight and kept that regiment pinned down near the beaches most of the day. During the afternoon the enemy armor was driven east by gunfire from the U.S.S. *Savannah*. A third attack by 15 tanks struck toward Paestum from the north at about 1020. This force split, and four of the tanks went east toward Capaccio while the others continued south. One-half mile from Paestum they were met by a 105-mm howitzer of the 151st Field Artillery Battalion; a 75-mm gun from the Cannon Company, 143d Infantry; a 37-mm gun of the 36th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop; and an A-36 plane. Five tanks were destroyed in the area around Casa Vannulo, about a mile from the beach, and the others withdrew. A fourth attack involving about 13 tanks came from the north about noon and attempted to reach the beaches. Once more the tanks were driven back before they could get to the beach, again with a loss of five. At about 1300 ten tanks advancing down Highway 18 from the north were stopped by artillery fire, which destroyed three. During these attacks our infantry made good defensive and offensive use of their smaller weapons. One battalion, for example, destroyed six tanks with bazooka fire, two with rifle grenades, and one with a hand grenade dropped in an open turret.

Despite these tank attacks the two assault regiments of the 36th Division reached their D Day objectives. At nightfall the 142d Infantry under Col. John D. Forsythe occupied positions from Tempone di San Paolo, the high ground just west of La Cosa Creek, to the nose of Mount Soprano (Hill 386), and the 143d Infantry under Col. William H. Martin held positions from Hill 386 to Capaccio and Mount Soltane (1). Except for some mixed units, the 141st Infantry under Col. Richard J. Werner was unable to advance throughout the day.

(1) All elevations are given in meters throughout this and succeeding parts of the Fifth Army History. The elevation of a hill may differ on maps of different scale; the authority of the 1 : 50,000 series has generally governed.

Resistance encountered by 10 Corps was even more determined than that in front of VI Corps. A strong enemy tank force attacked the 167 Brigade on the right flank of the 56 Division, but naval fire was decisive in breaking up this assault. As the 46 and the 56 Divisions pushed forward, the 64th Panzer Grenadier Regiment fell back slowly. By nightfall the leading British troops were inland an average distance of 3000 yards and were attacking the Montecorvino Airfield, one of their major objectives. Patrols entered Battipaglia, but enemy infantry and tanks immediately moved into that town and forced a withdrawal. At the end of the day patrols of the 46 Division were approaching Salerno from the east.

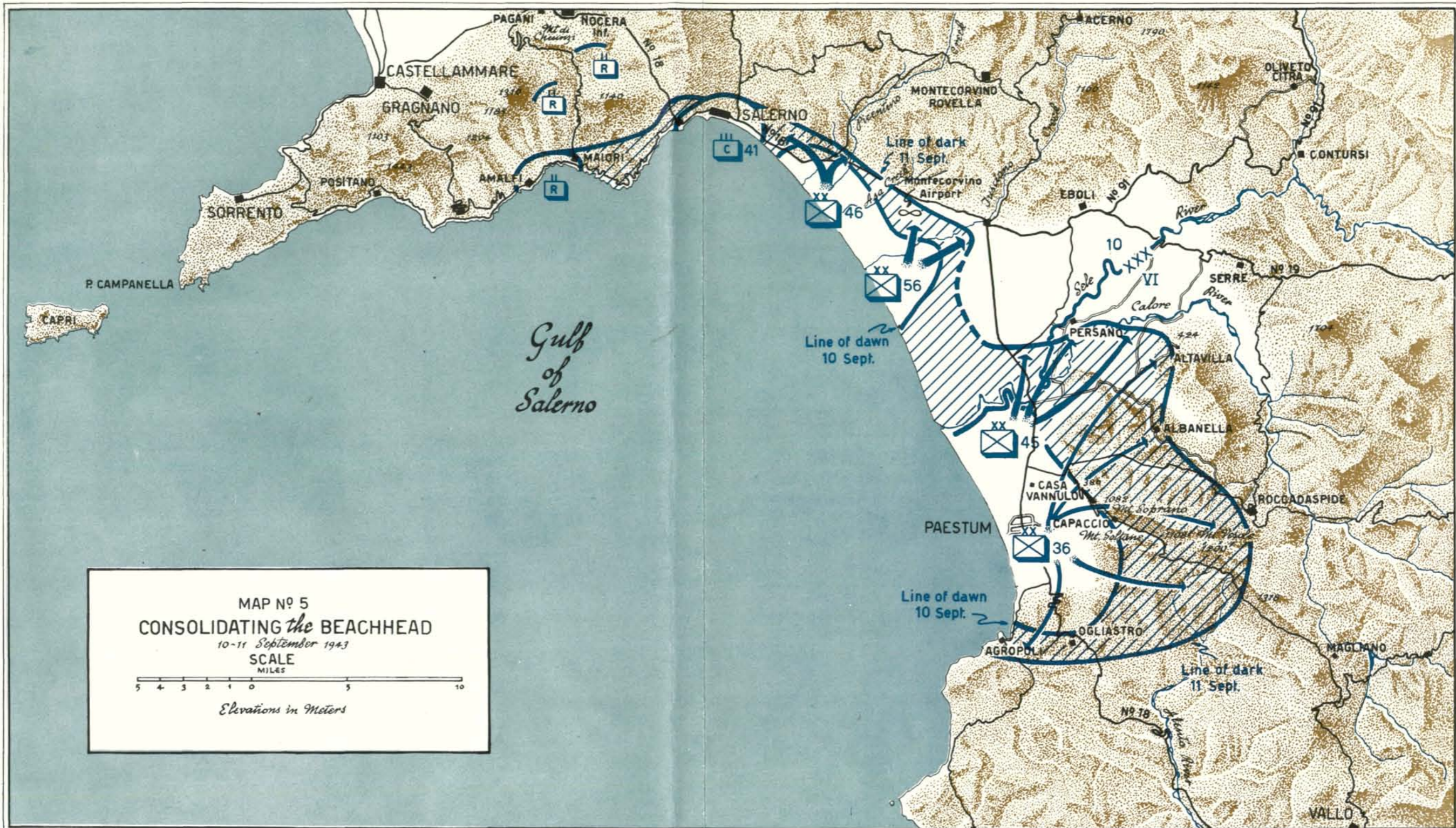
On the left flank the Ranger Force landed unopposed at Maiori. The 3d Ranger Battalion moved north about five miles to the pass below Mount di Chiunzi and reconnoitered routes to Pagani and Nocera Inferiore, while the 4th Battalion secured the beachhead. After eliminating minor opposition at Vietri the Commandos turned east toward Salerno. North and west of Pagani the Germans concentrated forces to meet the Ranger threat, and at nightfall they launched a futile attack against the Ranger positions.

At the end of D Day all units had reached their initial objectives with the exception of most of the 141st Infantry, which remained pinned down near the beaches. Artillery, tanks, and other supporting units were delayed in landing by heavy fire from prepared enemy positions and from tanks employed as roving artillery. These tanks delivered the strongest opposition encountered by Fifth Army, but the remarkable success of the infantry in meeting enemy armor, together with excellent supporting naval gunfire, prevented the enemy from defeating our landing. Throughout the day our forces were handicapped by lack of observation. The hedgerows surrounding each field presented a screen, and only by taking advantage of houses as observation posts could a view be had in any direction. By nightfall the beaches were not fully organized, but they were functioning efficiently under the most difficult conditions.

B. *CONSOLIDATING THE BEACHHEAD*

10-11 SEPTEMBER

VI Corps met practically no enemy opposition on D plus 1 while its troops were getting into position to carry on the attack, for the German strength was concentrated at the time on the left flank against 10 Corps. On the right flank the 141st Regimental Combat Team completed its reorganization and moved



MAP Nº 5
CONSOLIDATING the BEACHHEAD
 10-11 September 1943
 SCALE
 MILES
 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5
 Elevations in Meters

out to block enemy access from the south. (*See Map No. 5.*) In the center of the 36th Division zone the 143d Regimental Combat Team occupied positions from the nose of Mount Soprano to Capaccio and Mount Soltane, and sent patrols across the upper Calore River. Meanwhile the 142d Regimental Combat Team moved up to attack the Altavilla hill mass. At the close of the day battalions of the 142d Infantry held Albanella, controlled the ridge line to Rocca d'Aspide, and were ready to attack on the 11th. During the morning of 10 September the 179th Regimental Combat Team came ashore.

On 11 September the 142d Regimental Combat Team continued its attacks, and captured Altavilla and Hill 424 against light opposition. The 179th Regimental Combat Team under Col. Robert B. Hutchins was committed on its left to drive on Ponte Sele through the salient formed by the Sele and Calore rivers, which run west and then south before joining south of Persano. The infantry met stiff resistance. The 2d Battalion, 179th Infantry, thrust toward Ponte Sele from the south but was unable to cross the Calore River into the salient, being stopped by tanks and German engineers north of Hill 424. The rest of the combat team advanced up the salient from the southwest, with assault companies nearly reaching Ponte Sele and Highway 19. Struck by enemy tanks and artillery from their rear at Persano and by infantry and tanks on their front, these advance elements fell back to a position northeast of Persano. Meanwhile the 157th Regimental Combat Team under Col. Charles Ankcorn, committed from Army reserve, advanced up the west side of the Sele River, but enemy resistance, centering in a strongpoint at the Tobacco Factory just west of Persano across the Sele, prevented their attack from keeping pace with the 179th Regimental Combat Team. During the day the 45th Division under General Middleton assumed command of the left flank of VI Corps.

On the 10 Corps front, mountainous terrain reaching almost to the shore added to the difficulties to be overcome. In the area between the sea and Highway 18 to Battipaglia the country was generally flat with gently rising slopes well covered with apple, orange, and olive orchards. Immediately beyond Eboli, Battipaglia, and Montecorvino the country rises to hills, mostly 500 to 700 meters high, which dominate the plain below. The enemy, determined to hold at all costs in this important pivotal area, resisted the advance stubbornly on 10 September. On the extreme left, in the Pagani-Nocera zone, German patrols probed the positions of the 3d Ranger Battalion on Mount di Chiunzi. Sharp skirmishes occurred, but the Rangers held their ground. The 4th Ranger Battalion sent patrols more than ten miles west on the coastal road to Positano. Commandos and units of the 46 Division moved north of Vietri astride the road, while other troops of the 46 Division continued to clear Salerno. A strong force of German

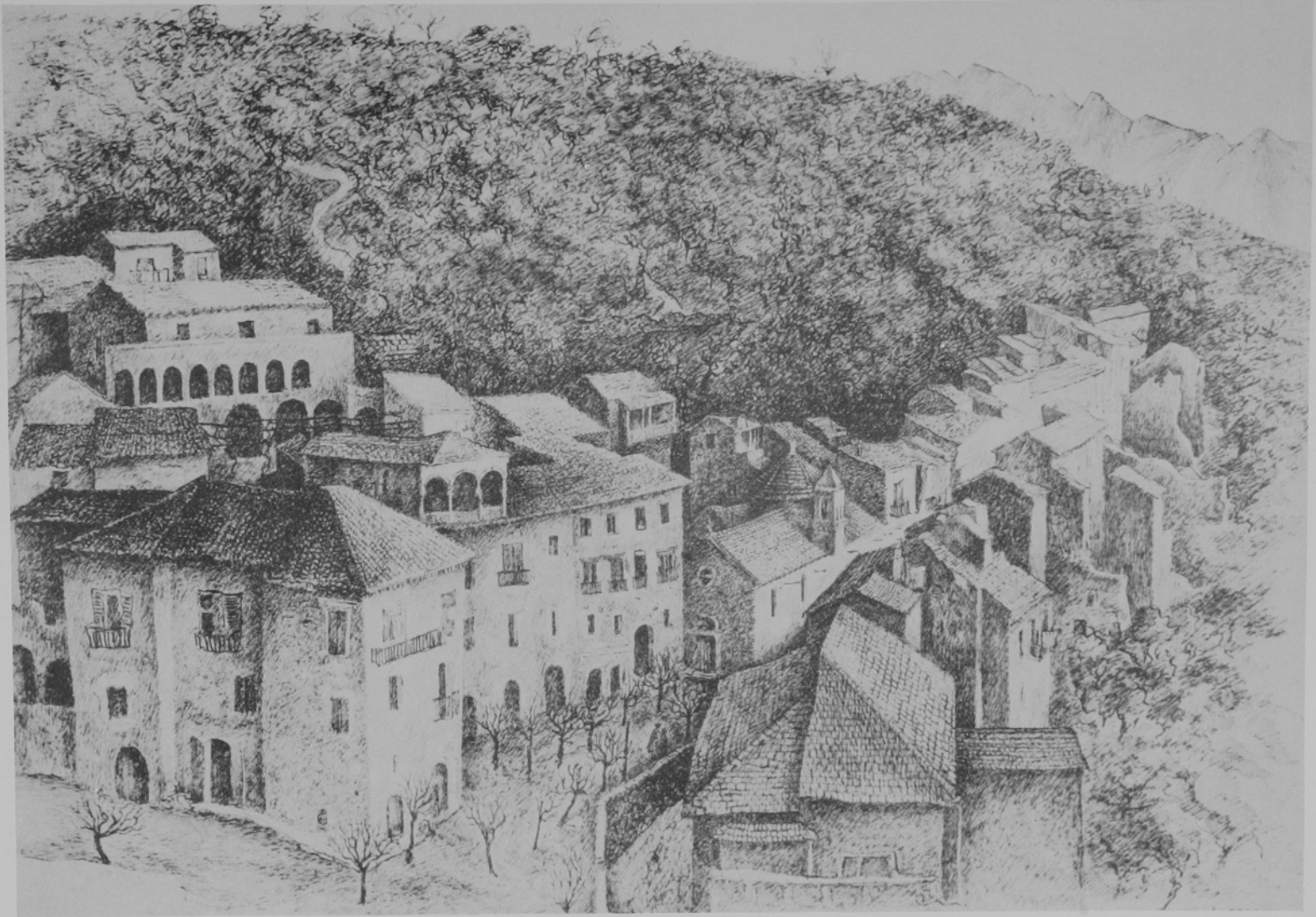
infantry supported by tanks failed in an effort to drive through the Commando defenses. In the center the 46 Division reached a line through the mountains about two miles inland and controlled nearly eight miles of Highway 18 southeast of Salerno by 0300. Opposed by elements of the 16th Panzer Division and reconnaissance troops of the Hermann Goering Panzer Division, the 46 Division could make no further gain through the rugged terrain during the day.

On the right the 56 Division exerted its main effort along Tusciano Creek and pushed patrols into Battipaglia before dawn. Enemy reinforcements came up, and fighting continued throughout the day. At nightfall a counterattack by German tanks and infantry drove the 9 Royal Fusiliers (167 Brigade) out of the town. Heavy fighting also occurred around a tobacco factory two miles west of Battipaglia on Highway 18. Here the 201 Guards Brigade was unable to advance. The outcome of the struggle for the Montecorvino Airfield, a major objective of the 56 Division, was still in doubt by nightfall. On 11 September the battle for Battipaglia continued with indecisive results, but 10 Corps troops captured the Montecorvino Airfield. This victory did not make the field available for our planes, however, since it was under artillery fire from nearby hills.

In order to tighten the Fifth Army hold on the passes leading to Naples, General Clark ordered VI Corps to send additional troops to assist the Ranger Force in that area. The Army directive was received shortly after 0001, 11 September, and by 1100 the reinforcements were in position. These reinforcements consisted of the 1st Battalion, 143d Infantry; an antiaircraft battery; a battery of artillery; a company each of paratroopers, tanks, tank destroyers, and chemical mortars; and two engineer companies.

The enemy on the 10th and 11th concentrated his efforts against 10 Corps, which experienced bitter fighting around Battipaglia. Operating from a firmly established beachhead, 10 Corps absorbed the strongest counterattacks without permitting the enemy to register any decisive gains. The Ranger Force successfully penetrated to the Mount di Chiunzi and Nocera-Pagani passes and denied the use of this route to the German troops to the north, preventing them from moving against the west flank of the Salerno beachhead. VI Corps was able to move out rapidly and occupy the high ground from Hill 424 around to Agropoli and thus control all the routes of access to the beachhead from the south and southwest. (*See Map No. 5.*) This success compelled the enemy to throw reserves into the fight in order to prevent Fifth Army from driving a wedge between his forces at Salerno and those withdrawing before Eighth Army.

The night of 10-11 September and the following day also saw the greatest enemy air activity so far. During this period no less than 120 hostile aircraft were reported over the beaches. Barrage balloons, antiaircraft artillery and



Altavilla and Hill 424 in the background... drawing by Technical Sergeant Mitchell Siporin

our fighter planes prevented these attacks from being very effective; the most serious damage was caused to the U.S.S. *Savannah*, probably by a radio-controlled rocket bomb. The lack of mass air attack, however, seemed to prove groundless the belief that the Luftwaffe had been withholding a large air reserve to use in repelling an invasion.

C. THE GERMAN COUNTERATTACKS

12-14 SEPTEMBER

By 12 September it became apparent that the enemy was rushing reinforcements into the Salerno area to support the 16th Panzer Division. On 9 September long columns of motor vehicles headed north from the south of Italy. Elements of the 26th Panzer Division and the 29th Panzer Grenadier Division were racing north to escape being trapped by the Eighth Army threat to their rear. Both these divisions entered the battle of Salerno with substantial portions of their strength thrown against VI Corps. As early as 11 September elements of the Hermann Goering Panzer Division, coming south from beyond Naples, were identified in front of 10 Corps, and on the next day units of the 15th Panzer Grenadier Division were spotted. At least one battalion of the 3d Panzer Grenadier Division was in the line on 14 September. This enemy build-up in the Salerno battle resulted in a large mixture of units from at least six divisions. The 16th Panzer Division was apparently the only complete division which eventually entered the battle. Under the supreme command of XIV Panzer Corps units from the various divisions were combined into battle groups somewhat resembling our combat teams.

1. *The Loss of Altavilla.* (See Map No. 6.) VI Corps felt the weight of these enemy reinforcements on 12 September. The enemy had begun a counterattack against the 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry, even before the battalion commander could organize his position on Hill 424, which had been taken late on 11 September. Hill 424, with the town of Altavilla perched on its lower slopes, formed an important part of the Fifth Army beachhead, since its possession would deny the enemy a commanding view of landing operations and the movement of troops below. The hill was, however, of even greater importance to the Germans. Not only did it provide them with observation, but it covered access to the routes of withdrawal which must be used by forces to the south in the event of a retrograde movement. These forces were in double danger from Fifth Army on the north and from the British Eighth Army, moving up from the south.

Each side, therefore, sought to control this key terrain feature; but the hill mass was neither easy to attack nor easy to defend. The slopes rise abruptly from the plain and are covered by scrub growth and olive groves. Numerous ravines cut through this vegetation, adding to the irregularity of the hillside. There is but little level ground on top of the hill, and terracing has been employed to convert its steep sides to agricultural use. Ridge lines radiate downward from the hilltop, eventually forming a junction with the plains below. No central point exists of sufficient size for occupancy by a company in a good defensive position. The terraces and ravines restrict fields of fire to a maximum of 150 yards, and also limit visibility of the slopes of Hill 424 so severely that large attacking forces could approach within striking distance without being discovered. Unless an unnumbered hill to the south, separated from Hill 424 by a deep ravine with heavily wooded sides, were also occupied, Hill 424 would be difficult to hold.

The enemy enveloped the positions of the 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry, during daylight on 12 September. When the counterattack struck, Company B was occupying the high ground above the road north of Altavilla, Company A was just north of the summit, and Company C was on the south slope of Hill 424. The 2d Battalion, 15th Panzer Grenadier Regiment, began to infiltrate around the hill, and active enemy artillery pounded our communications severely. The main enemy attack was directed against the area defended by Company C. Lt. Col. Gaines J. Barron, commanding the 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry, ordered the other two companies to move to its support, but enemy infantry prevented the movements from being executed. When the situation appeared serious, the battalion executive officer ordered a withdrawal since Lieutenant Colonel Barron could not be located. Although the infantry fought magnificently, the hill was untenable and had to be abandoned. Under cover of darkness the various companies, isolated from one another, fought their way through the German lines and dug in on a knoll southwest of Hill 424. The enemy had regained this important terrain feature.

2. *Shifts in the Center.* (See Maps Nos. 6 and 7.) While the fight was in progress for the possession of Hill 424, our positions improved considerably on the left flank of VI Corps. The 179th Regimental Combat Team captured Persano; west of the Sele the 157th Regimental Combat Team drove the enemy from the Tobacco Factory and advanced to the Grataglia Plain just west of Persano. Nevertheless the left flank of VI Corps was weak. Except for the 23 Armoured Brigade (reconnaissance) there was a gap of five miles between 10 Corps and VI Corps. General Dawley ordered extensive shifts in the front-line units of VI Corps to take place during the night of 12-13 September. After these shifts had been completed, VI Corps planned to drive again toward Hill 424.



On 12 September the enemy launched another unsuccessful assault against the Rangers on the left flank of 10 Corps. Later in the day a Ranger attack against Gragnano likewise failed. The Ranger Force appeared strong enough to hold the Sorrento Peninsula and maintain control over the Nocera-Pagani Pass, but it could not exploit its commanding positions. The 46 Division made no significant gains during the day, and the 167 Brigade (56 Division) was driven out of Battipaglia. Although the enemy was held on the outskirts of the town, the 167 Brigade lost heavily and was relieved by the 201 Guards Brigade at the first opportunity.

The shifting of units within VI Corps was well under way by daybreak on 13 September. Taking up positions on the left of the 157th Regimental Combat Team, the 179th Regimental Combat Team greatly strengthened the left flank of VI Corps. Later in the day two battalions of the 141st Infantry also arrived on the left flank, having been moved by truck from the Ogliastro area, which the enemy had evacuated. One of these battalions was moved again to reinforce the Cosa Creek line during the night of 13-14 September. In order to fill the gap in the Sele-Calore salient caused by withdrawing the 179th Regimental Combat Team, the 2d Battalion, 143d Infantry, was ordered on 12 September to take up positions east of Persano. This battalion, which had come from Tempone di San Paolo to Mount San Chirico earlier in the day, accordingly moved again to the banks of the Calore River during the afternoon and prepared to cross into the salient under cover of darkness. By early morning of the 13th the battalion had reached its positions.

3. *Attacks and Counterattacks.* (See Map No. 7.) While these movements were taking place on the left flank of VI Corps, the Martin Force under the command of Colonel Martin of the 143d Infantry was assembling for the attack on Altavilla. The 3d Battalion, 142d Infantry, marched from Albanella; the 3d Battalion, 143d Infantry, moved from the vicinity of Capaccio to Hill 140 and then on to the assembly area below Altavilla. These two battalions, with the 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry, in reserve, were to attack Altavilla, Hill 424, and the unnumbered hill at 0600, 13 September. Although there was no time for a daylight reconnaissance of the terrain, the attack jumped off as scheduled. The 3d Battalion, 142d Infantry, occupied the unnumbered hill with a portion of its force but was compelled to withdraw after dark. The 3d Battalion, 143d Infantry, succeeded in occupying the high ground north of Altavilla. Though enemy counterattacks surrounded the battalion, it remained on the hill until the night of 14-15 September, when it was ordered to withdraw. Late on the 13th all units in front of Altavilla were ordered to organize a defensive line along La Cosa Creek.

On the left flank of VI Corps the Germans also attacked strongly on 13 September in an apparent effort to break through to our beaches. Early in the

morning the 157th Infantry attempted to advance to form a junction with the 2d Battalion, 143d Infantry, in the Sele-Calore salient but could make no progress. In the afternoon the Germans launched a tank-infantry attack that drove the 157th Infantry back beyond the Sele River crossing at Persano. The enemy then crossed into the salient, hit the 2d Battalion, 143d Infantry, from front and rear, and smashed the battalion. After this success the German infantry and tanks drove on down the salient to attack our rear areas. This attempted breakthrough near the junction of the Sele and Calore rivers was stopped by the 189th and 158th Field Artillery Battalions (45th Division), which gathered up every available man to form a defensive line and also poured heavy fire on the enemy armor.

On 14 September VI Corps made readjustments along its entire front. The 45th Division organized a defensive line from Bivio Cioffi on Highway 18 to the Sele-Calore junction, and the 36th Division was reinforced with troops of the 504th Parachute Infantry which had dropped on the night of 13-14 September. During the day the enemy made several efforts to break through this line, but each attack was thrown back with heavy losses. On the 14th General Clark visited the front line, passing through the enemy artillery and small-arms fire personally to impress upon his soldiers the necessity for holding their positions. He stopped again and again to talk to them telling them that under no circumstances must any ground be yielded. While there he observed a tank attack forming up and personally took charge of the situation, placing antitank guns into positions so that the attack was broken up. Six of the enemy tanks engaged in the thrust were destroyed.

10 Corps troops held their ground against the enemy onslaught of 13-14 September. The 167 Brigade came into the line on the right of the 56 Division sector and established contact with VI Corps. Slight adjustments were made along the line, but the division spent most of the day in reorganizing. General McCreery had now committed all available troops and felt considerable anxiety about the situation around Salerno town. The 16th Panzer Division opposed him north of the Sele River, and the greater part of the 29th Panzer Division was in reserve near Contursi, some 16 miles east of Battipaglia. The enemy had at least 30 tanks in the Battipaglia area, where the main German weight might be thrown against 10 Corps. Stabs down the Avellino-Salerno and Cava-Vietri roads could be expected to occur on the left. During the night of 13-14 September the Germans attacked with infantry and tanks from Battipaglia. All attacks were repulsed. The 128 Brigade on the right of the 46 Division and the 169 Brigade on the left of the 56 Division pushed ahead slightly on 14 September. Enemy units on the road between Battipaglia and Eboli were brought under accurate naval fire, and the air forces heavily bombed German positions in the area. The British

7 Armoured Division under Maj. Gen. G. W. E. Erskine was unloading on 14 September, bringing needed strength to cope with enemy armor.

4. *Summary of the Situation.* During this phase of the operation Fifth Army had penetrated to positions which were of utmost importance to the enemy. His counterattacks against our forces at Hill 424, in the Sele-Calore salient, at Battipaglia, toward Salerno from the north, and against the Ranger Force on the Sorrento Peninsula indicated clearly that each of these areas was vital to the successful execution of his planned defense against the invasion. German units had raced up from the south and had come down from the north, thanks to the cancellation of the proposed drop by the 82d Airborne Division at the Volturno, with the result that the enemy counterattacks were mounted with force as well as determination and skill. They had succeeded in forcing VI Corps to take up the defensive line from Bivio Cioffi around the Sele-Calore junction and behind La Cosa Creek. The enemy's greatest success occurred during the last hours of daylight on 13 September when he threatened to break through VI Corps south of the Calore River. Extensive shifting of troops enabled VI Corps to strengthen the weakest portions of its line sufficiently to throw back the enemy thrusts on 14 September. The decisive period in the battle for the beachhead therefore occurred on 13-14 September. Having held the full weight of the enemy forces on those days, Fifth Army was enabled to complete a necessary reorganization and build up its strength to continue the attack.

D. THE ENEMY WITHDRAWS

15-19 SEPTEMBER

By the morning of 15 September the crisis had passed, and the enemy began to revert to the defensive all along the Fifth Army front. The reasons for his shift are clear. The British Eighth Army was continuing its advance, though more slowly than expected, and had reached Sapri about 40 miles to the south; the most desperate attacks of the Germans had not driven Fifth Army into the sea; and the build-up of supplies and reinforcements on the beaches was steadily increasing the Fifth Army strength. The 505th Parachute Infantry was dropped behind our lines south of Paestum the night of 14-15 September; and the 325th Glider Regimental Combat Team came in by LCI's on the 15th. The 180th Regimental Combat Team (45th Division), which had landed early on the 14th, went into Army reserve. American forces were further augmented on 18 September with the arrival of the 3d Division.

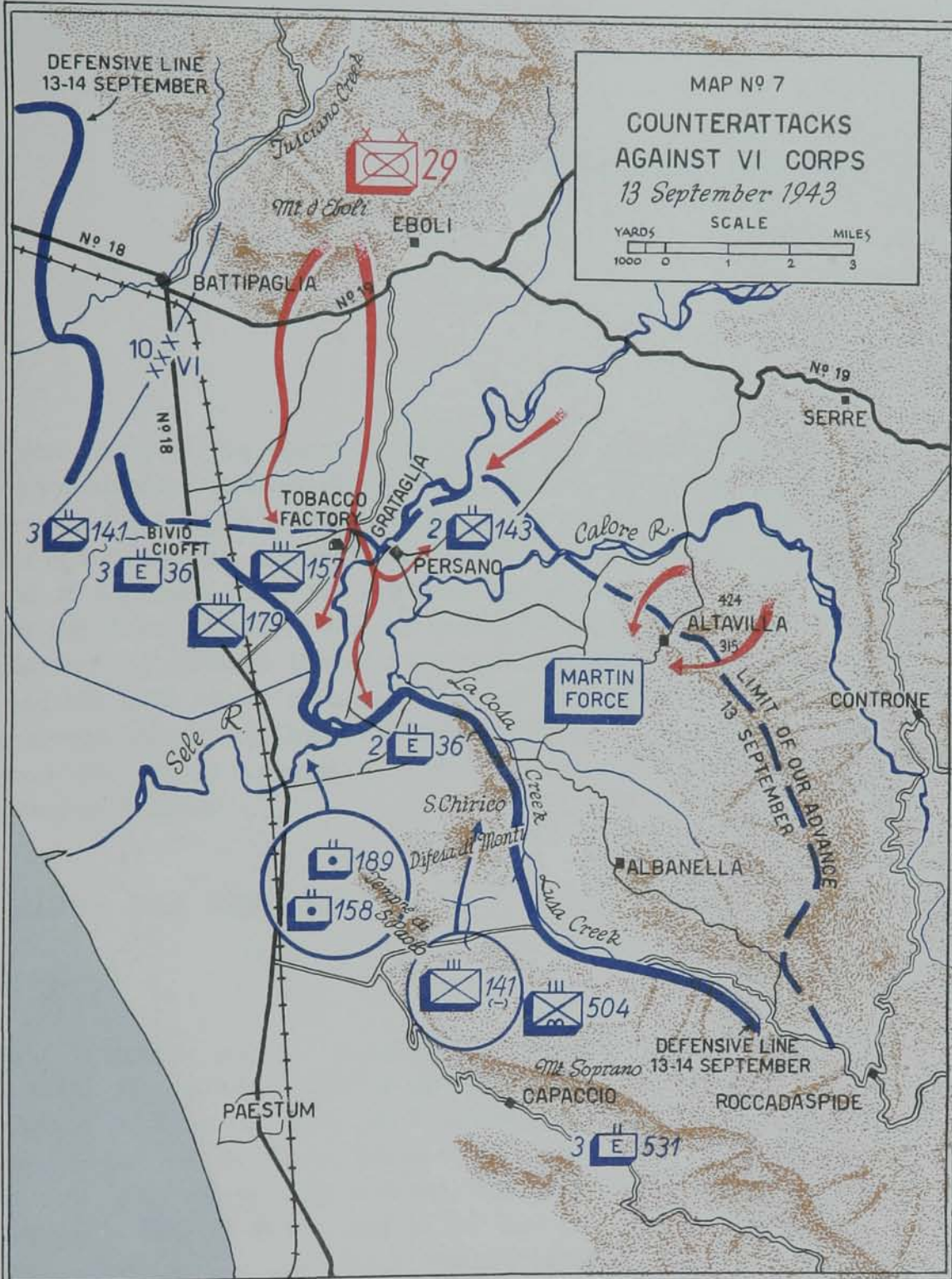
The situation in front of 10 Corps during the German counterattacks had been so grave that General Clark ordered the drop of a parachute battalion in the Avellino area to block the road net at that important point and to disrupt communications in the rear areas of the German forces opposing 10 Corps. This drop was originally scheduled for the night 12-13 September, but preparations could not be finished by that date; and the 2d Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry, under Lt. Col. Doyle R. Yardley did not finally drop until the night 14-15 September. The paratroopers were rather widely scattered and took to the hills, where they coalesced into small groups and made raids against supply trains and down into the plains during the next week.

From the 15th on, the enemy dug in along most of the Fifth Army front and was content with minor jabs, easily repelled. German artillery was fairly active and also difficult to neutralize, for the enemy shifted his gun positions often to avoid our counterbattery fire. By the 17th the enemy in front of VI Corps was withdrawing up Highway 91 through Contursi, thinning out his positions from his left flank. Two battalions of the 504th Parachute Infantry under Col. Reuben H. Tucker accordingly attacked the hill mass by Altavilla during the night and morning of the 17th, but they were pinned by enemy artillery fire until the 18th, when our troops took Altavilla for the third time. By then the enemy had withdrawn his covering screen in front of VI Corps, and patrols reported no contact. The 131 Brigade (7 Armoured Division) occupied Battipaglia without resistance late in the afternoon of 18 September.

During the 19th the 56 Division extended its bridgehead slightly while the 46 Division held its positions. All units of VI Corps made substantial advances in accordance with Fifth Army Field Order No. 3, 18 September 1943. (*See Annex No. 2E.*) The 45th Division moved up through Persano and the Tobacco Factory to the heights on both sides of Eboli, and units of the 36th Division occupied Serre and Ponte Sele. Fifth Army now held the Salerno plain, and the bridgehead was completely secure. Commenting on this situation, the Secretary of War, the Honorable Henry L. Stimson, wrote to General Clark on 23 September 1943:

I have been following your Salerno operation with keenest interest... I send you and your brave men my heartiest congratulations on the successful accomplishment of one of the most difficult and hazardous operations in the history of warfare.

Meanwhile on 15-16 September reconnaissance elements of Eighth and Fifth Armies met at points 15 to 20 miles southeast of Agropoli. Eighth Army continued to concentrate toward the right flank of Fifth Army in order to drive on up the east and center of the Italian peninsula.



CHAPTER V * * * * *

The Drive on Naples

THE first phase of the operation could now be considered complete, for the enemy withdrawal in front of VI Corps indicated clearly that the German High Command considered it impossible to destroy our bridgehead. The landing was a definite success. On 20 September Maj. Gen. John P. Lucas assumed command of VI Corps. The 36th Division was withdrawn to Army reserve to guard the Salerno beaches; the 3d Division took its place in VI Corps. Headquarters, 82d Airborne Division, under General Ridgway arrived at Salerno, and the units of the division which had previously been attached to VI Corps were ordered by Operations Instruction No. 2, 20 September 1943 (*see Annex No. 2H*), to concentrate in Army reserve on the right flank of Fifth Army at Controne.

A. *PLANS FOR THE ADVANCE*

See Map No. 8

With the Salerno plain in its possession Fifth Army could now proceed to its mission, the capture of Naples harbor and the nearby airfields. Available information suggested that the Germans intended to fight a delaying action up to the Volturno River, where enemy fortifications were reported in progress. As it turned out, the German High Command had ordered XIV Panzer Corps in front of Fifth Army to fall back toward the northwest in a vast pivot movement based on the Sorrento Peninsula. The forces on this flank were to hold the mountain passes as long as possible to permit a thorough wrecking of the port of Naples and to safeguard the enemy evacuation of the Campanian Plain. Then they too would fall back on the Volturno and link up with LXXVI Panzer Corps in front of Eighth Army to form a solid line across

the Italian boot. This plan called for stubborn resistance in front of 10 Corps and rearguard action in front of VI Corps; Eighth Army would have almost no contact with the enemy until it had pushed north of Foggia.

Field Order No. 4, 19 September 1943 (*see Annex No. 2F*), together with Operations Instruction No. 3, 22 September 1943 (*see Annex No. 2I*), were issued by Fifth Army to pave the way for the capture of Naples and to permit the planning of subsequent operations. The general plan required both corps to attack abreast, with 10 Corps on the left delivering the principal thrust. Accordingly 10 Corps was directed to secure the Vietri-Nocera and Salerno-San Severino passes, push on to the northeast to reach the flat Naples plain, and capture Naples; the next move was to drive the Germans north of the Volturno River. To carry out this order 10 Corps moved the 46 Division to Vietri and brought up the 56 Division to push north from Salerno itself. The main attack was assigned to the 46 Division, aiming at Nocera; when the division had reached this point, the 7 Armoured Division would pass through and strike for Naples. The Ranger Force, after assisting 10 Corps, was to revert to Army control for the protection of Naples. The Rangers and a force not to exceed one brigade were to furnish security in the city until the 82d Airborne Division could take over. VI Corps was directed to continue its advance, secure the line Avellino-Teora, and then be prepared on Army order to secure the line Benevento-Teora, moving the eastern end of the line forward as Eighth Army advanced.

The enemy retreat before these attacks did not at any time become a rout. In front of 10 Corps the German forces, consisting of the Hermann Goering Panzer Division with detachments from the 3d and 15th Panzer Grenadier Divisions, held tenaciously in positions which they had had two weeks to prepare. German routes of withdrawal before VI Corps were through mountain passes and across deep gorges where the use of small delaying forces and mines, coupled with the destruction of roads and bridges, allowed the enemy to retreat in comparatively good order.

B. *THE FALL OF NAPLES AND AVELLINO*

21 SEPTEMBER-1 OCTOBER

1. *Breaking Through the Mountains.* 10 Corps required two days to shift its troops for the impending attack. Meanwhile the 3d and 45th Divisions of VI Corps began their flanking push into the mountains. The 3d Division under Maj. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., moved up the road from Battipaglia

through Acerno toward Highway 7, with the 15th Regimental Combat Team on the left crossing the mountains north of Curticelle to get into position for a drive on Avellino. The 45th Division advanced up Highway 91 through Contursi to secure the junction of Highways 7 and 91. Both divisions ran into opposition on the 21st which held up their advance guards for a day. The 30th Regimental Combat Team (3d Division) was stopped just south of Acerno by a blown bridge commanded by enemy rifle and machine-gun positions on the opposite side of the Tusciano Gorge, but by cross-country marches across the mountains the regiment drove out the enemy opposition and occupied Acerno on 22 September. The 180th Regimental Combat Team (45th Division) met enemy positions to the west of Oliveto, which it outflanked and captured on the 22d.

Field Order No. 4 had ordered a co-ordinated attack with the mission of securing the line Teora-Montemarano-Avellino-Castellamare preparatory to a further advance on Naples. This attack jumped off 23 September. The 3d and 45th Divisions pushed forward on the right flank of Fifth Army despite the rugged terrain, which canalized movements to a narrow road net. The Germans left a few delaying detachments in front of the 45th Division, but relied chiefly on extensive demolitions. Division engineers worked night and day to bulldoze by-passes where these were possible, or to build temporary bridges; and the 36th Engineer Combat Regiment of VI Corps followed up closely behind. The fall rains, which began the night of 26-27 September, washed down dirt and rocks on the roads, damaged several key bridges, and thereby slowed the advance of VI Corps.

On Highway 91 the 45th Division advanced on a two-regiment front, the 179th Infantry on the west bank of the Sele and the 157th Infantry on the east bank. Colliano was occupied on 23 September, Quaglietta and Valva on the 24th. By the morning of 26 September the 45th Division securely held Teora and the junction of Highways 7 and 91. The 3d Division on the left of VI Corps reached Highway 7 by 27 September, at which time its three infantry regiments were disposed in a wide arc about Avellino. The 15th Infantry was in the Sabato Valley south of the town, the 7th Infantry was crossing the mountains west of the Acerno road to take Volturara, and the 30th Infantry held Montemarano on Highway 7. Supply of some units in the 3d Division devolved on pack trains or even upon human pack trains from the reserve companies of the infantry regiments.

While VI Corps was moving ahead almost without opposition apart from that afforded by the terrain and demolitions, 10 Corps led the main effort on the left to secure the Nocera-Pagani Pass. When 10 Corps attacked at dawn

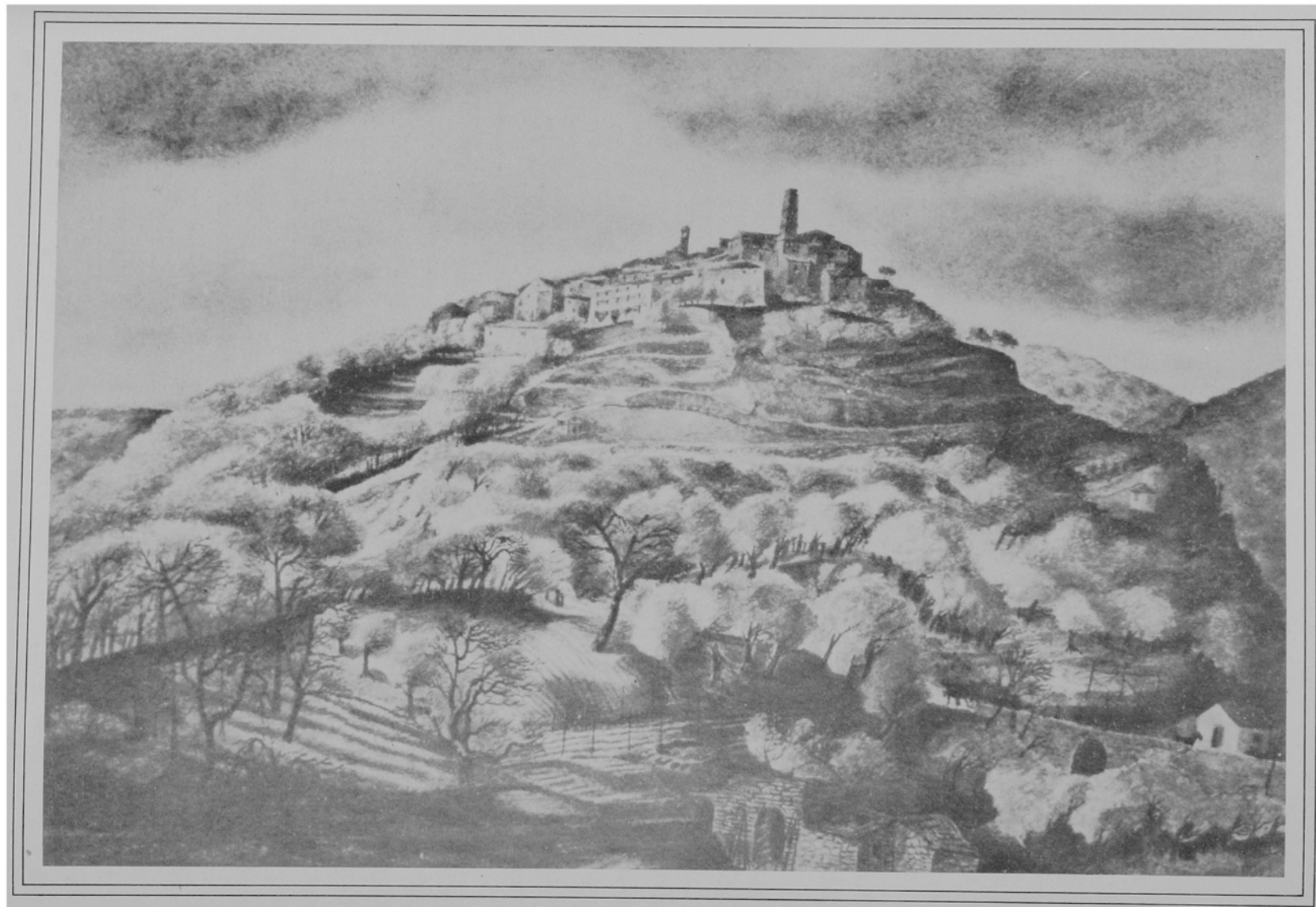
on 23 September, the Germans were making an orderly withdrawal and resisted stubbornly. A strong force held up the 46 Division near Cava, about two miles north of Vietri. The advance of the 56 Division bogged down short of le Cappelle, five miles north of Salerno. Only slight gains could be made on 24 September. The Germans had blown every bridge of any importance in front of the 56 Division and resisted with their usual annoying but effective rearguard actions. Mount Stella, a series of razorback ridges east of Highway 88, was held with particular determination, and it was not until 26 September that the 169 Brigade (56 Division) could dislodge the enemy. This action opened the way for further advance of the 56 Division. On 27 September the 201 Guards Brigade pushed patrols into Baronissi, six miles north of Salerno; at the same time elements of the 46 Division occupied the town of Camerelle near the Nocera Pass.

Command of the left flank of 10 Corps, including the Ranger Force, passed to the 82d Airborne Division on 26 September, following the transfer of the division by LCI's from the Paestum beaches to Maiori. The Rangers had held their positions, gained in the first rush of the original landings, against all attacks and now began to push forward so as to bring pressure on the German right flank.

2. *The Enemy Retreats.* By 28 September the east flank of Fifth Army had swung around to a point from which it could close in and threaten the German defenses pivoted on the Sorrento Peninsula. The left flank had been reinforced and had driven across the major barriers of that peninsula. The German forces all along the front started a withdrawal, and the tempo of our advance sped up.

For the drive on Avellino VI Corps was reinforced by the 133d Regimental Combat Team (34th Division) under Maj. Gen. Charles W. Ryder, which had begun landing 21 September. The three infantry regiments of the 3d Division closed in quickly on Avellino from the south and west while the 133d Regimental Combat Team drove west above Highway 7 to cut the main road from Avellino to Benevento; the 45th Division meanwhile guarded the right flank and kept contact with Eighth Army. After a night attack 29-30 September Avellino fell to the 3d Division on the morning of 30 September.

Fifth Army had already directed VI Corps by Operations Instruction No. 4, 29 September 1943 (*see Annex No. 2J*), upon taking Avellino to shift the mass of its forces to the left along the general line Avellino-Montemarano-Teora, leaving screening forces to cover its supply route east of Montemarano. VI Corps was further directed to prepare plans to attack west with a force not to exceed one reinforced division, seizing the line Nola-Avella, and then to



Looking across the olive groves to Altavilla... painted by Sergeant Frank D. Duncan, Jr.

assist 10 Corps in the capture of Naples. The Corps was also to prepare plans for the capture of Benevento, all plans subject to execution on Army order.

10 Corps itself was quick to follow up the advantages gained in the previous fighting. On 28 September the Ranger Force occupied Sala on the northwest side of the Sorrento Mountain chain, overlooking the plain of Nocera. The 23 Armoured Brigade debouched into the level country north of Sala and advanced to Castellamare while the 131 Brigade (7 Armoured Division) took Nocera. This brigade passed through the 46 Division and formed the advance guard for the 7 Armoured Division. On the 29th the bridge at Scafati was seized intact, although it had been prepared for demolition. By this action we secured the only bridge over the Sarno not destroyed by the Germans. Even so the many vehicles of the armored division were impeded by a bottleneck until three more bridges were thrown across the Sarno; then the British armor was ready for the dramatic plunge on Naples.

Pushing closely upon the heels of the retreating enemy, the King's Dragoon Guards and the 11 Hussars, both armored reconnaissance units, swept along leading the attack. Pompeii, Torre Annunziata, and many other cities fell without opposition. On the left patrols of the 82d Airborne Division reached Torre del Greco, where the Germans held for a short time. At nightfall on 30 September troops of 10 Corps were surrounding Mount Vesuvius. Naples, with its demolished port, was within our grasp.

3. *The Capture of Naples.* On 1 October General McCreery, commanding 10 Corps, sent the following welcome message to General Clark:

Today has given us one of the highlights of the campaign and Naples has fallen to 10 Corps. Armoured patrols of the First Kings Dragoon Guards were the first to enter the city at 0930 hours, followed by the Greys later reinforced by troops of the 82d Airborne Division.

Naples had paid a very heavy price. Allied air raids had destroyed most of the harbor installations, and the damage was augmented by German destruction. In an attempt to deny dock and harbor facilities to Fifth Army the enemy scuttled ships at the piers and sank others in the harbor. Between Allied bombings and German demolitions the docks and storehouses along the waterfront of Naples were left a mass of ruins, crumbled stones, and fire-twisted steel. A normal port capacity of 8000 tons daily had been cut to a mere fraction of that figure, but clearing away of debris was so rapidly accomplished that 3500 tons daily were coming in at the port only 12 days after its capture.

Enemy destruction was not confined to the port. A determined effort was made to wreck all public utilities. Naples was a city without electricity, transportation, or a sewage system. The Germans had destroyed the aqueduct

which supplied most of the water to the city. Water was available at only a few hydrants from two emergency reservoirs. Engineers of Fifth Army established water points at various places throughout the city where the 600,000 people who had remained behind during the general exodus could fill their bottles, pans, and jugs. So great was the demand that armed guards had to be placed at these water points to prevent the larger and the stronger from driving the women and children away. This system of water supply was continued until about 9 October, when the engineers had rebuilt 160 feet of the Napoleonic Aqueduct.

Visible destruction was merely a part of the havoc wrought by the Germans. They planted powerful time bombs in public buildings in anticipation of their occupancy by Fifth Army troops. Despite the efforts of sappers and engineers, who removed many of these hazards, there were a number of explosions, one of which killed 14 and wounded 58 American soldiers quartered in an Italian artillery barracks. A time bomb in the Naples Post Office took a horrible toll of civilians.

C. *ADVANCE TO THE VOLTURNO*

1-6 OCTOBER

The capture of Naples gave General Clark a much needed port, but mere possession of the city itself did not fully constitute a fulfillment of the Fifth Army objective. The airfields at Capodichino and Pomigliano were not yet in Allied hands, and the enemy must be driven well away from Naples harbor. Troops of Fifth Army, accordingly, did not pause with the capture of the city. The usual delaying tactics of the Germans were in evidence along the entire front during the next five days, as Fifth Army drove to the Volturno River; but there were now indications that the enemy was running short of explosives. Some structures prepared for demolition were discovered to be lacking explosive charges. Tellermines were used in lieu of TNT, and artillery shells were converted to use for prepared demolitions. Further evidence of at least a temporary shortage in mines was given by reports that the enemy was taking up his own minefields. Road blocks were numerous, however, and some were elaborately prepared. Booby traps also continued to make their appearance in varied forms. In one instance a tempting bunch of grapes was wired to an antipersonnel mine.

On the 10 Corps front the 7 Armoured Division pressed on north across the Campanian Plain, while the 56 Division secured the edges of the high ground overlooking the plain from the east. Forward units of the 7 Armoured Division were in Piazzolla and Somma by the evening of 1 October, and the 56 Division had reached Palma. On 2 October the 56 Division occupied Nola; the following day the badly demolished Pomigliano Airfield was taken. In swinging toward Cancellò to aid the 3d Division attack on that town the 56 Division was held up by demolitions on 4 October, but Aversa and Qualiano fell to the 7 Armoured Division. The Volturno River, along which the Germans prepared strong defensive positions, was the next major obstacle before 10 Corps. The Greys, a reconnaissance unit of the 23 Armoured Brigade, reached this barrier on 5 October opposite Cancellò ed Arnone; the 169 Brigade (56 Division) took Caserta without opposition; and by 6 October the 56 Division had occupied the town of Capua.

On the right VI Corps had slower going in the mountains, but by 6 October the 3d Division had driven through Cancellò and Maddaloni into the mountains above Caserta. The 34th and 45th Divisions moved on Benevento, which the 45th Reconnaissance Troop entered at 1210, 2 October. The 3d Battalion, 133d Infantry (34th Division), occupied the city at 2330 on the same day and secured a bridgehead over the Calore River. The 45th Division passed through the 34th Division on 4 October, preparatory to advancing on the high ground north of the junction of the Calore and Volturno rivers. The 34th Division, thus relieved, went into assembly areas to prepare for the crossing of the Volturno.

By 6 October both corps of Fifth Army were on the general line of the Volturno River, and paused briefly to regroup their forces before crossing the river. The past month, which had tested Fifth Army in combat, had been extremely successful. The combined American and British forces had accomplished one of the most difficult military operations— a landing on hostile shores. They had beaten off a severe enemy counterattack, and had pushed forward relentlessly to their objectives despite every obstacle of terrain and enemy opposition. They had completed their mission: “ To seize the Port of Naples and to secure the airfields in the Naples area with a view to preparing a firm base for further offensive operations.”

MAP N° 8
ADVANCE to the VOLTURNO
 16 September - 6 October 1943
 SCALE
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
 Miles
 Elevations in Meters



CHAPTER VI * * * * *

The Action of Allied Arms

A. NAVAL ACTION

THE task of the U.S. and Royal Navies in *Avalanche* was twofold: to transport and convoy an army from several foreign ports to the invasion beaches, and to support the ground forces on the beaches with supply and with gunfire. The transport of thousands of troops meant anxious days of loading and reloading. The army's demands were often heavy and unexpected, but the navies met them. The crowded voyage to the coast of Italy was made expeditiously, and the thousands of troops were landed on the beaches designated in the plans. In addition to their duties in manning landing craft and sweeping mines, the sailors worked through the dawn of D Day to set up communications and beach installations.

The effectiveness of naval gunnery against targets set a new high. A few hours after daylight on the morning of 9 September 1943, when destroyers were able to come in towards the shore, their supporting gunfire was employed with considerable effect in the destruction of guns in position and in the destruction of assembled German fighting vehicles. The fire was accurate and was tied in with the maneuver of ground troops. This co-ordination was made possible to a great degree because of previous practice and training by combined army and navy artillery observer-spotter parties. Naval gunfire was an important factor in breaking up many German tank attacks from D Day on during the whole operation. It was also instrumental in repelling the counterattack, which aimed to drive our forces into the sea. Following the counterattack, General Clark on 16 September sent a message to General Alexander which read in part:

For the splendid and wholehearted cooperation and support given by the allied navies during our operations in this area, please convey to Admiral Cunningham my deep appreciation. Naval gun-fire support has

been most effective. I have been favorably impressed by the eagerness of all naval commanders to give this support. Admiral Hewitt has done everything in his power to assist us. He usually anticipates our needs and always executes his support missions promptly and efficiently.

With observers ashore and air spotters communicating with the ships during the establishment of the beachhead, cruiser and destroyer fire searched out enemy defenses, batteries, and strongpoints. Five-inch naval gunfire penetrated with great accuracy and effectiveness observation posts and machine-gun nests which the enemy had set up in stone buildings and houses inland beyond the range or striking power of the light and medium artillery. The big guns of the battleships were our chief weapon for blocking roads and defiles and for destroying defenses at long distances.

At the conclusion of the Salerno operations General Clark cabled the Naval Commander in Northwest African Waters:

Amphibious operations require closest cooperation between naval, air and ground forces. The Allied landings in Salerno were an outstanding example of such coordination. Air, naval or ground forces alone could not accomplish a beachhead and then drive the enemy out of heavily defended positions, on the beaches, in the mountains, on the plains. The Allied Navies, British and American, deserve the highest commendation for the brilliant support of the Fifth Army landings. All those who took part in the landings will long remember and honor what the U.S. and Royal Navies did in contributing so brilliantly to the success of the Salerno operations.

B. *AIR OPERATIONS*

Air support for Avalanche was summed up briefly in the Outline Plan as:

1. Fighter protection from hostile air interference.
2. Direct and indirect support of ground operations by:
 - a) Prearranged strategic missions.
 - b) Tactical missions, prearranged or on call.
 - c) Reconnaissance and photo missions.

Prior to D Day the Northwest African Air Forces were engaged in two missions of importance to the success of the landing: to neutralize the enemy aircraft in the area and to disrupt the lines of communication necessary to a proper defense of the landing area.

Weather conditions limited the accomplishment of the first mission, but beginning on the night of 3-4 September a co-ordinated series of attacks were made on fighter bases at Capua, Capodichino, and Foggia. Two of the landing grounds at Grazzanise were rendered unserviceable; Capodichino and the other landing ground at Grazzanise were damaged. At Foggia no attempt was made to destroy the fields and runways, since they were desired for our own use. Instead, fragmentation bombs were directed against enemy personnel and aircraft on the ground. To carry out the second mission of destroying communications leading to the Salerno area the marshalling yards at Villa Literno and Battipaglia were bombed, and many roads and bridges in the Naples area were attacked with good results.

On D Day the Northwest African Air Forces did not face an extreme enemy air effort. Five raids by formations of eight fighter-bombers were made against our troops on the beach during the morning of 9 September, and several attacks of small formations were sent against our ships offshore. During the week following the landing the limited amount of enemy air action was almost entirely devoted to raids on the beach and on our shipping. The Germans flew from 75 to 120 sorties daily, but by D plus 5 our planes had established effective cover over the occupied area. Enemy fighter action opposing our 40 strategic missions during this period was almost negligible. During 9-17 September the Tactical Air Force was used to a great extent on the roads and railroads leading into the Salerno area, with particular attention to the crossings over the Volturno River, Eboli, and Battipaglia. In order to provide for the most effective use of the Tactical Air Force in co-operation with the Fifth Army ground plan, XII Air Support Command was set up with its headquarters adjoining the headquarters of Fifth Army, where close liaison was maintained in conformance with the methods employed by other supporting arms. Air officers were furnished to corps and divisions to provide liaison with these units. An organization was perfected whereby air missions could be accomplished within one and one-half hours from time of call.

During the critical days of 12-14 September the entire effort of the air forces was used in support of the ground operations. To accompany the counterattack the enemy appeared to be concentrating his fighter forces against our troops in the Salerno area. In reply our air forces dropped hundreds of tons of bombs on the roads and areas surrounding the beachhead and on enemy concentrations and supplies. On the night of 13-14 September 90 aircraft of the Troop Carrier Command dropped approximately 1300 troops of the 504th Parachute Infantry to reinforce the 36th Division, some four miles behind the right flank of Fifth Army. On 14-15 September 40 aircraft dropped 638 troops of the 2d Battalion,

509th Parachute Infantry, over a wide area about Avellino to assist 10 Corps. On the same night the 505th Parachute Infantry was dropped near Paestum in the VI Corps zone.

On 17 September General Alexander, commanding 15th Army Group, wrote in part to Lt. Gen. Carl Spaatz, commanding Northwest African Air Forces:

I have just returned from an extensive tour of the Fifth Army front during which I talked with the Army and many subordinate commanders, their staffs and other ranks.

General Clark has asked me to convey to you and to the officers and men of the North West African Air Force whom you command, the sincere thanks and appreciation of Fifth Army for the magnificent air support which has been given them. It has greatly heartened the ground forces and has contributed much to the success of their operations. All were most enthusiastic in their acclaim of the close and continuous support which has been given them by the Air Force.

After Fifth Army had recovered from the German counterattack and the beachhead was secure, our Tactical Air Force was engaged in surrounding the enemy with transport blocks to prevent his escape from within and assistance from without. To carry out this task the major effort was given to the destruction of all road and railroad bridges over the Volturno River from Benevento to the sea. Additional efforts were made to destroy the roads and railroads farther to the north to interfere with supply. To accomplish this plan roads and railroads at Formia and Frosinone were selected as the most suitable targets. These road blocks served to create traffic jams and allowed our air force to inflict heavy casualties on the enemy motor transport columns.

The Strategic Air Force with its heavy bombers and long-range fighters was first employed in the destruction of the enemy air force, landing fields, and installations. During this phase the airdromes at Cisterna-Littorio, the twin Ciampino fields near Rome, the Practica di Mare field, and the bomber base at Viterbo were heavily bombed and some 270 enemy aircraft destroyed. After these missions the important enemy harbor at Leghorn on the western coast was well covered, and attacks were made against the railroads and marshalling yards in northern Italy. In these attacks the marshalling yards at Civitavecchia, Bologna Mestra, Pisa, and Bolzano were temporarily crippled.

The following table shows the purpose of air attacks and tons of bombs dropped in the critical areas in support of Avalanche:

To interfere with the German forces withdrawing in front of Eighth Army.	
Auletta (<i>roads and bridges</i>)	243
Sapri (<i>roads and bridges</i>)	310

In support of ground troops in the Salerno area.

Battipaglia	435
Castelnuovo	268
Eboli	980
Pompeii	390
Salerno	359
Torre Annunziata	398
Torre del Greco	190

Attacks against enemy air.

Capua Airdrome	408
Capodichino Airdrome	134
Ciampino Airdrome	264
Foggia Airdrome	180
Frosinone Airdrome	323
Grazzanise Landing Ground	444
Practica di Mare Airdrome	214
Viterbo Airdrome	486

Destruction of routes in rear of the enemy in the Fifth Army area.

Cancello	382
Grazzanise	161
Capua	172
Triflisco	116
Amorosi	120
Guardia	104
Benevento	852
Isernia	403

Marshalling yards.

Bologna	367
Bolzano	164
Civitavecchia	84

Road nets.

Formia	819
Mignano	564
Leghorn	107

Against numerous other targets of lesser importance, including troop concentrations, motor transport, and gun positions, over 7000 tons of bombs were used. A total of 435 missions were flown and 17,667 tons of bombs dropped.

C. *THE BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY*

See Map No. 9

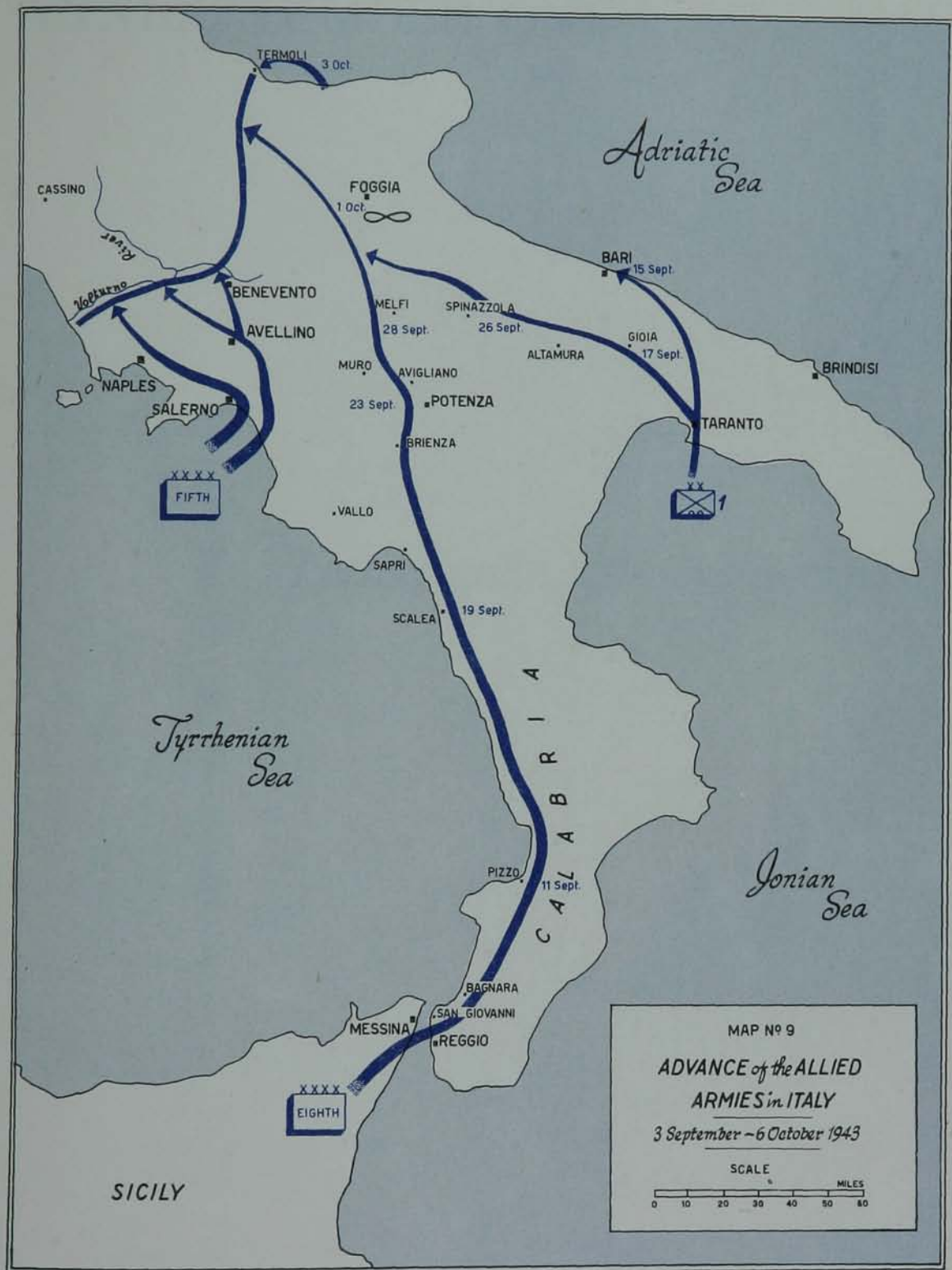
The British Eighth Army opened the Allied invasion of the Italian mainland with Operation Baytown, an amphibious assault across the Straits of Messina. The landing was to precede Avalanche, the main Allied attack of Fifth Army, by six days. The initial objective of Eighth Army was to capture Reggio and San Giovanni, establish itself in the Calabrian peninsula, and be prepared to advance north through the toe. It was hoped that this operation would draw German forces to the south before the main operation at Salerno or, failing that, create a threat to the enemy south flank, should he heavily oppose the Salerno landing by Fifth Army.

After landing the major portion of its force at Reggio against slight resistance on 3 September, Eighth Army fought small delaying groups of the Italian Army until it reached Bagnara, where some opposition was encountered. German withdrawal was accelerated on the 9th, when Fifth Army landed below Salerno and the British 1 Airborne Division came in by sea at Taranto. Troops of the 29th Panzer Grenadier Division, facing the danger of being cut off, moved northward rapidly to reinforce the German XIV Panzer Corps on the Fifth Army front. The 26th Panzer Division was left originally to block the advance of Eighth Army but withdrew towards the Salerno beachhead, leaving one battle group to face Eighth Army and prevent the junction of Fifth and Eighth Armies. The Italian government in the meantime had surrendered to the Allies, and hostile action by the Italian Army in the south ceased.

Eighth Army, lacking its full complement of motor transport, continued its advance to the north by using vehicles turned over by Italian divisions. It also pushed reconnaissance units to the north and west well in advance of the main body, and by 1800, 14 September, its patrols were some 65 miles south of the beachhead at Paestum, where Fifth Army had just sustained a severe counterattack. The next day elements of Eighth Army were about 40 miles to the south. On the 15th and 16th reconnaissance patrols of the two armies met south of Agropoli at Laureana, Vallo, and Mercato. Fifth and Eighth Army

patrols also met on the 19th at Rocca d'Aspide. At this time the main western column had reached Scalea, some 75 miles to the south of Paestum.

The Eighth Army move on the left to threaten the rear and left flank of the enemy force at the Salerno beachhead was delayed by demolitions prepared by the retreating Germans. On the 20th, however, the 15 Brigade (5 Infantry Division) reached Brienza, some 24 miles to the southeast of the right flank of the 45th Division at Oliveto. Potenza, the most important road center in the enemy's rear, was occupied on the 20th; Avigliano on the 23d, Muro on the 26th, and Melfi on the 28th. On this date reconnaissance patrols reached Foggia and by 1 October the 78 Division had occupied the plain about Foggia in force and controlled its important airfields. With the capture of the airfields at Foggia and the fall of Naples the invading Allied armies had accomplished their missions and were beginning their co-ordinated advance to the north.



MAP No 9
**ADVANCE of the ALLIED
 ARMIES in ITALY**
 3 September - 6 October 1943

SCALE
 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 MILES

PRINTED BY No 1 LITHO SEC. M.M.P. & P. COY. ATT.
 46 SURVEY COY. S.A.E.C. FOR ENGR. HQ. FIFTH ARMY.

ANNEX NUMBER ONE * * * * *

Letters and Orders of Activation

A

WAR DEPARTMENT

The Adjutant General's Office
Washington, D.C.

AG 320.2 (12-3-42)
OB-I-E-M

December 8, 1942

SUBJECT: Constitution and Activation of Fifth Army.

To: Commanding General, European Theater of Operations.

1. Effective as of December 1, 1942, the Fifth Army is constituted and the following elements thereof will be activated in the European Theater of Operations, as indicated, by transfer of such units, personnel and equipment as necessary from Western Task Force (formerly Task Force "A"), II Corps (Reinforced) and from other sources available to you, and equipped in accordance with appropriate tables of basic allowances.

<i>Unit</i>	<i>In Accordance with:</i>
Hq, Fifth Army	T/O 200-1, July 1, 1942
Hq Co, Fifth Army	T/O 200-2, July 1, 1942
Special Troops, Fifth Army	T/O 200-3, July 1, 1942

2. The I Armored Corps is assigned to the Fifth Army and will be reactivated by transfer of units, personnel and equipment from Western Task Force (formerly Task Force "A") as may be determined by you which are in excess of the personnel and equipment assigned to the elements of the Fifth Army listed in paragraph 1 above.

3. The II Corps (Reinforced) will be reorganized as the II Corps (Non-reinforced), utilizing such units, personnel and equipment of the II Corps (Reinforced) as may be determined by you. Upon reorganization, the II Corps (Non-Reinforced) is assigned to the Fifth Army.

4. Any units, personnel or equipment of the Western Task Force (formerly Task Force "A"), II Corps (Reinforced) or Allied Force Headquarters, not specifically assigned to the units listed in paragraph 1 above, the I Armored Corps, or the II Corps (Non-reinforced), will be assigned to the Fifth Army, as determined by you.

5. Concurrently with the action taken as prescribed in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 above, Western Task Force (formerly Task Force "A"), headquarters elements and the provisional units of Western Task Force (formerly Task Force "A") in the European Theater of Operations will be disbanded.

6. Direct correspondence between commanders concerned is authorized.

7. A report will be submitted to this office showing the assignment of units to the elements of the Fifth Army.

By order of the Secretary of War:

D. T. SAPP
Adjutant General

B

GENERAL ORDER
NUMBER I



Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
In the Field
5 January 1943

Activation of United States Fifth Army I
Assumption of Command United States Fifth Army II

I. ACTIVATION OF FIFTH ARMY: Pursuant to authority contained in Section I, General Orders Number 67, Headquarters European Theater of Operations, 12 December 1942 the United States Fifth Army, consisting of Headquarters and Headquarters Company and such other units as may be assigned thereto, is activated effective 0001Z 5 January 1943.

II. ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND FIFTH ARMY: Pursuant to authority contained in Section II General Orders, Number 67, Headquarters European Theater of Operations, 12 December 1942 the undersigned assumes command of the United States Fifth Army.

MARK W. CLARK
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.

C

GENERAL ORDER }
NUMBER 2 }

Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
5 January 1943

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ASSIGNMENT

Announcement is made of the assignment of the following named officers as Chiefs of the General and Special Staff Sections indicated:

Chief of Staff:	Brigadier General Alfred M. Gruenther, 012242, GSC
Secretary General Staff:	Major Ira W. Porter, 0349700, Inf
Asst Chief of Staff G-1:	Lieutenant Colonel Francis A. Markoe, 0901219, GSC
Asst Chief of Staff G-2:	Colonel Edwin B. Howard, 015361, GSC
Asst Chief of Staff G-3:	Brigadier General Arthur S. Nevins, 07110, GSC
Asst Chief of Staff G-4:	Colonel Clarence L. Adcock, 09310, GSC
Adjutant General:	Colonel Cheney L. Bertholf, 07482, AGD
Artillery:	Colonel Thomas E. Lewis, 015020, FA
Engineer:	Colonel Frank O. Bowman, 012090, CE
Chemical:	Colonel Maurice E. Barker, 06779, CWS
Signal:	Brigadier General Richard B. Moran, 05399, AUS
Air:	Colonel Guy H. Gale, 010554, AC
Medical:	Brigadier General Frederick A. Blesse, 06265, AUS
Quartermaster:	Colonel Joseph P. Sullivan, 05328, QMC
Civil Affairs:	Colonel Charles E. Saltzman, 0275984, AUS
Public Relations:	Major Kenneth W. Clark, 0907752, AUS
Provost Marshal:	Colonel Charles R. Johnson, 05299, Cav
Headquarters Commandant:	Lieutenant Colonel C. Coburn Smith, Jr., 018434, FA

By command of Lieutenant General CLARK :

A. M. GRUENTHER
Brigadier General, G.S.C.
Chief of Staff

D

GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER 3

Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
11 January 1943

1. The following units are assigned to the Fifth Army:

a. *Army Troops.*

Hq & Hq Co, Fifth Army
Hq & Hq Det, Spec Troops
1st Plat 21st Cml Co (Decon)
34th CA Brig (AA) consisting of:
Hq & Hq Btry, 34th CA Brig (AA)
62d CA Regt (AA) (-Btry H)
68th CA Regt (AA)
103d CA Bn (AA) (AW)
213th CA Regt (AA)
437th CA Bn (AA) (AW)
658th CA Btry (AA) (AW) (AB)
689th CA Btry (AA) (AW) (AB)
690th CA Btry (AA) (AW) (AB)
691st CA Btry (AA) (AW) (AB)
692d CA Btry (AA) (AW) (AB)
693d CA Btry (AA) (AW) (AB)
694th CA Btry (AA) (AW) (AB)
695th CA Btry (AA) (AW) (AB)
696th CA Btry (AA) (AW) (AB)
697th CA Btry (AA) (AW) (AB)
343d Engr Regt (GS)
175th Engr Regt (GS)
402d Engr Bn (WS)
601st Engr Bn (Cam)
450th Engr Co (Dep)
470th Engr Co (Maint)
Engr Utilities Plat (Prov)
16th Med Regt
Co A, 36th Amb Bn

8th Evac Hosp (750 bed)
 9th Evac Hosp (400 bed)
 11th Evac Hosp (400 bed)
 38th Evac Hosp (400 bed)
 59th Evac Hosp (750 bed)
 77th Evac Hosp (750 bed)
 91st Evac Hosp (Mtzd)
 47th Surg Hosp
 2d Med Lab
 2d Med Sup Dep
 Vet Det
 Hq & Hq Det 63d Ord Bn (Amm) w/atcd Med
 64th Ord Co (Amm)
 69th Ord Co (Amm)
 603d Ord Co (Amm)
 604th Ord Co (Amm)
 608th Ord Co (Amm)
 609th Ord Co (Amm)
 Hq & Hq Det 62d Ord Bn (Amm) w/atcd Med
 53d Ord Co (Amm)
 58th Ord Co (Amm)
 66th Ord Co (Amm)
 45th Ord Co (MM)
 5th Ord Co (MM)
 29th Ord Co (MM)
 108th Ord Co (MM)
 112th Ord Co (MM)
 83d Ord Co (HM) (Tk)
 Hq & Hq Det, 5th Ord Bn (MM)
 Hq & Hq Det, 197th Ord Bn (HM) (Q)
 339th Ord Co (Mot Sup) (Q)
 905th Ord Co (HM) (Q)
 907th Ord Co (HM) (Q)
 Hq & Hq Det, 55th Ord Bn (HM) (Q)
 330th Ord Co (MT) (Q) (Was Co A, 55th Ord Bn (HM) (Q))
 878th Ord Co (HM) (Q) (Was Co B, 55th Ord Bn (HM) (Q))
 Hq 87th Ord Bn (MM) (Q) w/atcd Med
 Co C, 67th Ord Bn (MM) (Q)
 79th Ord Co (Dep)

Co D, 67th Ord Bn (MM) (Q)
Co D, 87th Ord Bn (MM) (Q)
85th QM Co (Dep)
1 Plat 21st QM Co (Car)
62d Sig Bn (Const) (-Co C)
251st Sig Co (Const)
205th Sig Co (Dep)
128th Sig RI Co
163d Sig Photo Co
9th MRU
2d Bn 509th Parachute Inf
Hq & Hq Sqd, 68th Obsn Gp
2d Air Support Communication Sqd
Prov Air Support Sig Co
Det Hq XII Air Support Command

b. *I Armored Corps.*

2d Armd Div
3d Inf Div
9th Inf Div
Hq & Hq Co, I Armd Corps
91st Rcn Sq
436th CA Bn (AA) (AW)
443d CA Bn (AA) (AW)
20th Engr (C)
36th Engr (C)
401st Engr Bn (WS)
66th Engr Co (Topo)
62d Armd FA Bn
58th Armd FA Bn
Hq & Hq Det Prov Ord Regt (Field) (Activated locally)
Hq & Hq Det, 43d Ord Bn (M & S)
87th Ord Co (HM) (Tk)
89th Ord Co (HM) (FA)
3d Ord Co (MM)
101st Ord Co (MM)
201st Ord Co (Dep)
67th Ord Bn (-Cos C & D) (HM) (Q)
Hq & Hq Det, 205th QM Bn (G Sup)

Co C, 205th QM Bn (G Sup)
138th QM Co (Trk)
144th QM Co (Trk)
Co A, 23d QM Regt (Tk Trk)
1st Armd Sig Bn
Postal Sec
70th Tk Bn (L)
756th Tk Bn (L)
Prov Tk Co (L)
Fin Disb Unit No 6055-E
Co C, 101st MP Bn

c. II Corps.

1st Inf Div
1st Armd Div
Hq & Hq Co, II Corps
202d MP Co
209th CA Regt (AA)
431st CA Bn (AA) (AW)
432d CA Bn (AA) (AW)
19th Engr Regt (C)
62d Engr Co (Topo)
13th FA Brig
Hq & Hq Btry
1st Obsn Bn
17th FA
36th FA
178th FA
51st Med Bn
Hq & Hq Det Prov Ord Regt (Field) (Activated locally)
Hq & Hq Det 42d Ord Bn (M & S) w/atchd Med
78th Ord Co Dep
14th Ord Co (MM)
9th Ord Co (MM)
Hq & Hq Det, 87th Ord Bn (MM) (Q)
3485th Ord Co (MM) (Q)
3486th Ord Co (MM) (Q)
30th Ord Co (MM) (Tk)
Co D, 244th QM Bn (Serv)

Co A, 205th QM Bn (Gas Sup)
1st Engr Amph Brig
1st Ranger Bn
53d Sig Bn
601st TD Bn

d. VI Corps.

34th Inf Div
Det Hq & Hq Co, VI Corps
105th CA Bn (AA) (AW)
106th CA Bn (AA) (AW)
107th CA Bn (AA) (AW)
701st TD Bn

2. The following units are attached as indicated.

a. To Atlantic Base Section.

1) *From Fifth Army.*

175th Engr Regt (GS)
1 Co 402d Engr Bn (WS)
205th Sig Co (Depot)
Vet Det
Co A, 36th Amb Bn
2d Med Lab
Hq & Hq Det 63d Ord Bn (Amm) w/atcd Med
64th Ord Co (Amm)
603d Ord Co (Amm)
604th Ord Co (Amm)
608th Ord Co (Amm)
609th Ord Co (Amm)
5th Ord Co (MM)
29th Ord Co (MM)
83d Ord Co (HM) (Tk)
339th Ord Co (HM) (Q)
905th Ord Co (HM) (Q)
907th Ord Co (HM) (Q)
Co C, 67th Ord Bn (MM) (Q)
Co D, 67th Ord Bn (MM) (Q)
Hq & Hq Det 197th Ord Bn (HM) (Q) w/atcd Med
8th Evac Hosp

11th Evac Hosp
59th Evac Hosp
91st Evac Hosp
1st Plat, 21st Cml Co (Decon)
437th CA Bn (AA) (AW)
68th CA Regt (AA)
Hqs Btry & S/L Bn, 213th CA Regt
69th Ord Co (Amm)

2) *From I Armored Corps.*

Det 66th Engr Co (Topo) (1 off, 25 EM)
138th QM Co (Trk)
144th QM Co (Trk)
Co A, 23d QM Regt (Tk Trk)
201st Ord Co (Depot)

b. To the Mediterranean Base Section.

1) *From Fifth Army.*

62d CA Regt (AA) (-S/L Bn and Btry H)
103d CA Bn (AA) (AW)
343d Engr Regt (GS)
402d Engr Bn (WS) (-1 Co)
470th Engr Co (Maint)
450th Engr Co (Depot)
Co B, 601st Engrs (Cam)
Hq & Hq Det, 87th Ord Bn (MM) (Q) w/atchd Med
Hq & Hq Det, 55th Ord Bn (HM) (Q)
3488th Ord Co (MM) (Q) (Was B-87th)
108th Ord Co (MM)
112th Ord Co (MM)
Hq & Hq Det, 5th Ord Bn (MM)
79th Ord Co (Depot)
45th Ord Co (MM)
Hq & Hq Det, 62d Ord Bn (Amm) w/atchd Med
53d Ord Co (Amm)
58th Ord Co (Amm)
330th Ord Co (MT) (Q) (Was Co A, 55th Ord Bn (HM) (Q))
878th Ord Co (HM) (Q) (Was Co B, 55th Ord Bn (HM) (Q))
16th Med Regt

38th Evac Hosp (750 bed)
77th Evac Hosp (750 bed)
48th Surg Hosp
4th Sec, 2d Med Supply Depot
85th QM Co (Depot)
128th Sig Co (RI)
9th MRU
66th Ord Co (Amm)

2) *From II Corps.*

1st Engr Amph Brig
62d Engr Co (Topo)

By command of Lieutenant General CLARK:

A. M. GRUENTHER
Brigadier General, G.S.C.
Chief of Staff.

Official:

F. W. ROBERTS
Major, A.G.D.
Asst. Adjutant General

ANNEX NUMBER TWO * * * * *

Orders and Instructions

A

OUTLINE PLAN
OPERATION AVALANCHE }

Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
26 August 1943

(CORRECTED COPY)

(Supersedes Outline Plan — Operation AVALANCHE, 15 August)

SECTION I

SITUATION

I. Assumptions

- a. Italian resistance is approximately that encountered in operation HUSKY.
 - b. Germany's commitments in Russia continue to hold the bulk of her ground and air forces on the Russian front.
 - c. Operation BUTTRESS is not mounted.
 - d. Operation BAYTOWN has been mounted.
2. Enemy: See Annex 1 — G-2 Plan.
 3. Friendly: See Annex 2 — Troop List (U.S.) and Order of Battle (Br.).

SECTION II

MISSION

4. To seize the Port of NAPLES and to secure the airfields in the NAPLES area with a view to preparing a firm base for further offensive operations.

SECTION III

OPERATIONS

5. General

a. Boundary between VI and 10 Corps: Right (north) bank of SELE River to junction of TANAGRO River except that PONTE SELE (bridge at N 9522), will be the responsibility of 10 Corps until relieved by VI Corps.

b. D Day: Day on which main assaults are launched in GULF of SALERNO.

c. H Hour: Time at which first landing craft touch the beaches in GULF of SALERNO.

6. Preparatory measures — Prior to D Day.

a. Naval and Air Action: To be undertaken with the object of reducing the naval and air power of the enemy and his other capabilities of interfering with the operation.

b. Cover Plan: To be furnished by AFHQ.

7. Assaults

a. BRAVE Assault

1) Commander: Lieutenant General Sir Richard L. McCreery, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.; GOC 10 Corps (Br.).

2) Troops

Hq, 10 Corps

46 Division

56 Division

7 Armoured Division

3 Ranger Battalions (U.S.)

2 Commandos

Supporting Troops (See Annex 2 — Troop List)

3) Missions

a) Phase I

1. To launch simultaneous assaults at H Hour on beaches in the GULF of SALERNO north of the SELE River.

2. To seize and secure SALERNO, the MONTECORVINO airdromes and the mountain passes NW of SALERNO.

3. To capture by H Hour hostile gun batteries capable of interfering with the operation.

*Restricted
See 1st Attach front of
Document*

4. To advance inland, seize the high ground covering SALERNO plain and to establish a beachhead coordinated with beachhead established by CUB Assault. (See par. 7b below.)

b) *Phase 2*

1. To advance from the east and southeast to capture the Port of NAPLES and the CAPODICHINO and POMIGLIANO D'ARCO airdromes.

2. To secure the Army right flank north of PONTE SELE.

4) Maintenance: Over the beaches and through the Port of SALERNO until the Port of NAPLES is operative.

5) Transport: Ship to shore and shore to shore (As planned for operation BUTTRESS.)

6) Support

a) Navy — By naval gunfire on call from sub-task force commanders.

b) Air

1. Fighter protection from hostile air interference.

2. Direct and indirect support of ground operations by:

a) Prearranged strategic missions.

b) Tactical missions, prearranged or on call.

3. Reconnaissance and photo missions.

b. CUB Assault

1) Commander: Major General Ernest J. Dawley, VI Corps (U.S.).

2) Troops

Hq, VI Corps

36th Infantry Division

One Tank Bn (M)

Supporting Troops (See Annex 2— Troop List)

3) Missions

a) To launch simultaneous assaults at H Hour on beaches in the GULF of SALERNO south of the SELE River.

b) To advance inland, seize the high ground covering the SALERNO plain and establish a beachhead coordinated with beachhead established by BRAVE Assault. (See par 7a above.)

- c) To secure the Army right flank south of PONTE SELE.
 - d) To prevent the movement of hostile forces into the SALERNO plain within VI Corps sector.
- 4) Maintenance: Over the beaches until the Port of NAPLES is operative.
 - 5) Transport: Ship to shore. (See Annex—Allocation of shipping.)
 - 6) Support
 - a) Navy — By naval gunfire on call from sub-task force commanders.
 - b) Air
 1. Fighter protection from hostile air interference.
 2. Direct and indirect support of ground operations by:
 - a) Prearranged strategic missions.
 - b) Tactical missions prearranged or on call.
- c. GIANT Assault
- 1) Commander: Major General Matthew B. Ridgway.
 - 2) Troops: One Parachute RCT Reinforced, 82d Airborne Division.
 - 3) Mission

To drop a parachute task force during the night D-1/D in the VOLTURNO Valley; destroy the crossings over the VOLTURNO from TRIFLISCO to the sea; to delay enemy forces moving south across the VOLTURNO; to be prepared to withdraw along the high ground southeast of CAPUA to rejoin elements of the Fifth Army; and also to be prepared to withdraw from the CAPUA area on NAPLES.
 - 4) Transport: By arrangement with Troop Carrier Command.
 - 5) Maintenance: By air until the Port of NAPLES is operative. If the Parachute RCT makes contact with 10 Corps (Brit) prior to the time that the Port of NAPLES is operative, the responsibility for supply will be that of 10 Corps (Brit.)
- d. NAT Assault
- 1) Commander: Captain Charles Andrews, U.S.N.
 - 2) Force: Naval Force provided by Commander Western Naval Task Force.

3) Mission

To create a diversion by a feint against the beaches NW of NAPLES with a view to diverting a maximum of hostile forces to that sector and away from the main assaults.

4) Transport: By arrangement with Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.

e. ARMY FLOATING RESERVE (Available D Day) (Two Separate Forces.)

Force I

1) Commander: Major General Troy Middleton, 45th Division (U.S.).

2) Troops: Reinforced RCT, 45th Division (U.S.).

3) Mission

To embark from SICILY and to be prepared to land on D Day over any of the previously assaulted beaches.

4) Maintenance: Over the beaches until Port of NAPLES is operative.

5) Transport: Shore to shore in craft as allotted.

6) Support: Fighter protection from hostile air interference.

Force II

1) Commander: Major General Matthew B. Ridgway.

2) Troops: One Reinforced RCT, 82d Airborne Division.

3) Mission

To be prepared to land with light equipment on beaches which have not been previously established. Probable locations of these beaches will be indicated later.

4) Transport: Shore to shore.

5) Maintenance: Over the beaches until the Port of NAPLES is operative.

f. Follow-Up Troops

1) The following troops will be prepared to embark from NORTH AFRICA or SICILY for NAPLES area as shipping becomes available in order of priority indicated in follow-up lists to be issued at later date:

Balance 45th Division (U.S.)

34th Division (U.S.)
13th Field Artillery Brigade (U.S.)
Balance 82d Airborne Division
1st or 2d Armored Division
One Tank Bn (M) (U.S.)
Supporting troops (To be designated)

2) The 1st Airborne Division (Br) will remain initially in Army reserve and be prepared to land such forces, as can be transported in available aircraft to execute assigned missions.

g. Anti-Aircraft Plan— See Annex 7.

SECTION IV

ADMINISTRATIVE

8. See Annexes 4 and 5 — G-4 and G-1 Plans.

SECTION V

COMMUNICATIONS

9. See Annex 6 -- Signal Communication Plan.

CLARK
Commanding

GRUENTHER
Chief of Staff

Official:

BRANN
G-3

B

FIELD ORDER }
NUMBER 1 }

Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
25 August 1943

MAPS: Special Operation Map No. 1, 1:250,000.

1. INFORMATION.

a. Enemy. See current intelligence summaries; Annex No. 1, G-2 Plan, Outline Plan, Operation AVALANCHE; and overprinted maps.

b. Friendly.

1) Fifth Army (U.S.) and Eighth Army (Br.) under 15th Army Group are conducting Operation AVALANCHE in the NAPLES area and Operation BAYTOWN in the toe of ITALY respectively.

2) XII Air Support Command and Western Naval Task Force are supporting Fifth Army Operation AVALANCHE.

3) Allied Troops in NORTH AFRICA and SICILY.

2. MISSION. Fifth Army, with Corps abreast, VI Corps on the right, will launch attacks in the SALERNO area on "H" hour, "D" Day.

a. To seize and secure the Port of NAPLES.

b. To seize and secure the Airfields in NAPLES area.

c. Secure a firm base for future operations. Troops: U.S., British and French forces. See Annex 2, Troop List, Outline Plan, Operation AVALANCHE.

3. TACTICAL MISSION FOR SUBORDINATE UNITS.

a. Brave Force: See Special Operation Map No. 1.

b. Cub Force: See Special Operation Map No. 1.

c. Giant Force: See Special Operation Map No. 1.

d. Antiaircraft Artillery: See Annex 7, AAA Plan, Operation AVALANCHE.

e. Floating Reserve: One RCT 45th Division (U.S.) and one RCT 82d AB Division—See Special Operation Map No. 1.

4. ADMINISTRATION: See Administrative Order No. 1 to Field Order No. 1.

5. SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS.

a. See Signal Annex 6, to Field Order No. 1, Signal Communications.

b. CP's: Fifth Army: U.S.S. *Ancon*; SALERNO.
Cub Force: U.S.S. *Samuel Chase*; AGROPOLI.
Brave Force: H.M.S. *Hilary*; SALERNO.
Others: To be reported as set up.

CLARK
Commanding

Official:

BRANN

G-3

C

CHANGE NO. 1 to
FIELD ORDER NO. 1

Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
1 September 1943

OPERATION AVALANCHE

1. Change mission of GIANT FORCE (Special Operation Map No. 1, GSGS 4230, Sheets 35, 36 and 41) as follows:

a. To land one RCT (-1 Bn), 82d Airborne Division by parachute and glider under cover of darkness during night of D-1/D Day south of the VOLTURNO; seize and destroy the crossing at CAPUA.

b. If compelled to withdraw, to move SE through foothills of the APENNINES to rejoin elements of the FIFTH ARMY.

c. To be prepared to withdraw, on Army Order, to the NAPLES area.

CLARK
Commanding

Official:

BRANN
G-3

D

FIELD ORDER }
NUMBER 2 }

Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
Vicinity PAESTUM, ITALY
16 September 1943

Map—Second Edition, 1/100,000.

1. Enemy forces may be forced to withdraw northward from present positions confronting Fifth Army as a result of increasing pressure on their front.

2. Fifth Army continues on present mission of seizing NAPLES and adjacent airfields with a view to establishing a firm base for further operations.

3. *a.* A force, directly under Fifth Army, commanded by Brig. Gen. W. H. Wilbur, U.S.A., and consisting of troops listed in *b* and *c* below, will be prepared on four (4) hours notice from this Headquarters to move rapidly on BENEVENTO via EBOLI—RJ at O 1049—VALLATA with the object of seizing and holding BENEVENTO. The force commander will await further orders at BENEVENTO.

b. Troops.

180th RCT
753d Tk Bn

c. Troops to be designated by CG, VI Corps.

One Btry, 155-mm How
One TD Company
One Reconnaissance Company
One Engineer Company (C)
One Engineer Company (Bridge)
Sig Det with SCR 299
Two Batteries AA (SP)
One Truck Company or equivalent

4.
 - a. Basic loads will be carried.
 - b. Engineers will carry extra mine detectors.
 - c. Resupply from VI Corps dumps using force transportation.
5. Reports to Fifth Army will be rendered every hour on the hour.

CLARK
Commanding

Official:

BRANN

G-3

E

FIELD ORDER }
NUMBER 3 }

Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
Vicinity PAESTUM, ITALY
18 September 1943

1. Enemy situation—See G-2 Estimate dated 18 September. The enemy on the front of the Fifth Army is believed to be withdrawing.

2. The Fifth Army resumes the offensive with a view to accomplishing its mission of seizing NAPLES, securing the airfields in that vicinity and establishing a bridgehead.

3. *a.* The VI Corps will conduct patrolling during the night 18/19 September to the line indicated on overlay. At 0610B this Corps will advance its left to secure the high ground in its zone of action west of EBOLI. If this high ground is held in such force that a coordinated attack is necessary to secure it, the attack will be coordinated by the Division Commanders of the 45th and 56 Divisions. On arrival on its objective, the 45th Division will be prepared on Army Order to advance via the road EBOLI—CONTURSI—QUAGLIETTA with the mission of securing the line NUSCO—TEORA.

b. The 10 Corps will be prepared to assist the VI Corps in the capture of the high ground west of EBOLI by having the 56 Division prepared to launch an attack on this objective in coordination with the 45th Division. Details of coordination by Division Commander concerned.

4. Administration details omitted.

5. Command Post:

Corps Headquarters—no change.

Army Headquarters—no change.

CLARK
Commanding

Official:

BRANN

G-3

F

FIELD ORDER

NUMBER 4

Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
Vicinity PAESTUM, ITALY
191500 September 1943

1.
 - a. Enemy situation — See G-2 Report No. 12.
 - b. The Eighth Army operating on the right of the Fifth Army will secure the POTENZA Area. Point of junction between Armies and boundary as shown on operations overlay.

2. The Fifth Army will hold the high ground north of MAIORI on which it will pivot to secure the line TEORA — MONTEMARANO — AVELLINO — NOCERA — CASTELLAMMARE — Preparatory to a further advance on NAPLES.

3.
 - a. On Army orders the VI Corps, constituted as shown in Annex No. 1, will move, with the 45th Infantry Division on the right, via roads within its zone of action to seize the line TEORA — MONTEMARANO — AVELLINO. The VI Corps is responsible for the protection of the right flank of Fifth Army and for maintaining contact with the Eighth Army.
 - b. 10 Corps will secure the line NOCERA — CASTELLAMMARE, maintain contact with VI Corps and hold the SALERNO bridgehead within its zone of action.
 - c. The 36th Infantry Division, reinforced as indicated in Annex No. 1 (Troop List), operating under Fifth Army, will secure the SALERNO bridgehead indicated on Operations overlay within VI Corps boundaries.
 - d. The 82d Airborne Division (less detachments) will assemble in Army Reserve. See Operations overlay.

4.
 - a. Fifth Army will operate beaches and dumps now operated by VI Corps, administrative details later.
 - b. See Administrative Order No. 2.

5.
 - a. Current SOP and SOI, Fifth Army govern.
 - b. Command Posts:
 - Fifth Army: N 875070. (no change)
 - Fifth Army Rear Echelon: PAESTUM.
 - Eighth Army: To be announced.
 - VI Corps: Junction Highway No. 18 and Sele River (N 858107).
 - 10 Corps: PONTECAGNANO FAIANO.
 - 36th Division: N 885059.
 - 82d Airborne Division: To be announced.
 - c. Axis of Signal Communication.
 - VI Corps: N 858107, ACERNO (N 894375), RJ at N 874553.
 - 10 Corps: PONTECAGNANO FAIANO, NOCERA (N 540380).
 - d. Points designated as future CP locations will be points of contact for liaison personnel and messengers. Actual CP locations, if changed from points indicated will be reported immediately.
 - e. Additional details in Annex 2 (Signals).

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G-3

G

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 1

Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
Near PAESTUM, ITALY
201700 September 1943

(*Note:* This is the first of a series of Operations Instructions that will be published by this Headquarters. Such instructions will contain directives, orders or other matters dealing with operations that normally apply to portions only of Fifth Army. Distribution of these instructions will be made, however, to all interested units.)

1. The 36th Infantry Division (less 1st Bn, 143d Inf, Btries A and C, 155th FA Bn, and Btry A, 133d FA Bn) will assemble in the area west of ALTAVILLA between F. CALORE, T. LACOSA and VALLE ACAVA. (1/50,000 Map). Movements into this area will be completed by 1200B, 21 September 1943.

2. The situation permitting, it is planned that the 36th Infantry Division will remain approximately seven (7) days in this area for reorganization and the reception of replacements, after which the Division will be used to assist in the operations against NAPLES.

3. In addition to the local defense of the assembly area indicated above, the 36th Infantry Division will outpost the line AGROPOLI (S 8495) - OGLIASTRO (S 8995) - TRENTINARA (N 9400) - M. SOPRANO (N 9303), with not to exceed one rifle company or its equivalent.

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H

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 2

Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
Near PAESTUM, ITALY
201700 September 1943

1. *a.* The 82d Airborne Division, with Forces listed below, will concentrate in the CONTRONE area by 1800, 21 September.

b. Forces

Div Hq and Spec Troops (-)
505th Parachute Inf
504th Parachute Inf (-3d Bn)
320th FA Bn)
376th FA Bn) — On arrival.

2. Effective at 1800, 21 September, this force will be prepared on Army Order to assist the advance of the VI Corps by:

- a.* Protecting the right flank of the Corps.
- b.* Extending the right of the Corps.
- c.* Maintaining contact with the Eighth Army.
- d.* Offensive operations against the left and rear of enemy forces delaying the advance of the Corps.

3. Transportation as listed below will be temporarily transferred from units indicated to the 82d Airborne Division. Details of transfer will be made between division commanders concerned.

40 — 2½ ton trucks — from 36th Div
41 — ¼ ton C & R — from 36th Div
40 — 1 ton tlr — from 468th QM Truck Bn

CLARK
Commanding

Official:

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I

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION

NUMBER

3

Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
Near PAESTUM, ITALY
222100 September 1943

1. After the 10 Corps has secured the VIETRI - NOCERA and SALERNO - SAN SEVERINO passes and advanced sufficient force onto the plains of NAPLES, it will press on to the northwest, capture NAPLES and continue the advance until the enemy is driven north of the VOLTURNO. The U.S. Ranger Force, after assisting 10 Corps in the capture of NAPLES, will revert to Army control in NAPLES. When 10 Corps troops have reached the VOLTURNO, the Corps will be responsible for protection of NAPLES in its zone of action (See Overlay). A force not to exceed one brigade will remain in NAPLES and assisted by the U.S. Ranger Force police the city of NAPLES until relieved by the Commanding General, 82d Division. It is desired that the defense of the line of the VOLTURNO be conducted with the minimum number of troops in forward defense. After the area south of the VOLTURNO has been cleared of the enemy and the VI Corps has reached the line BENEVENTO - TEORA the boundary between Corps will be as shown on overlay.

2. The VI Corps will continue its advance to secure the line AVELLINO - TEORA. When this line is secured, the Corps will be prepared on Army Order to secure the line BENEVENTO - TEORA (the eastern end of this line will be advanced as the Eighth Army advances) with not to exceed two divisions.

3. Two divisions (34th and 36th) will be moved onto the plains of NAPLES on Army Order (See Overlay).

4. The 82d Division (less elements), now in the CONTRONE area, will be prepared on Army Order to move overland or by sea to the city of NAPLES.

All elements of 82d Division now with the Ranger force, will pass to control of Commanding General, 82d Division, on his arrival in NAPLES. The Commanding General of this division is placed in command of the city of NAPLES, on arrival, charged with restoring order and the prevention of rioting and looting.

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Commanding

Official:

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G-3

J

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 4

Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
Near PAESTUM, ITALY
291800 September 1943

1. After the capture of AVELLINO the VI Corps will have completed the mission of securing the line AVELLINO - MONTEMARANO - TEORA.

2. It is directed that, as soon as AVELLINO is captured, VI Corps shift the mass of its forces to the left along the above general line leaving screening forces only to cover its supply route east of MONTEMARANO.

3. Plans for further operations of VI Corps will be prepared at once as follows:

a. On Army order to attack west with not to exceed one reinforced division, seize the line NOLA - AVELLA and be prepared to assist 10 Corps in the capture of NAPLES.

b. On Army order to seize BENEVENTO. Plans for this operation will be based on the following assumptions:

1) That two divisions are available for the operation, one division having been committed in the plan outlined in *a.* above.

2) That three divisions are available for the operation.

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Commanding

Official:

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G-3

ANNEX NUMBER THREE * * * * *

Statistics

A

CASUALTIES, U. S. FORCES

9 SEPTEMBER - 6 OCTOBER 1943

	Killed in Action	Wounded in Action	Missing in Action	Total
9 September	136	364	104	604
10 »	7	54	7	68
11 »	54	209	68	331
12 »	36	143	8	187
13 »	55	208	286	549
14 »	54	287	85	426
15 »	56	190	118	364
16 »	33	93	25	151
17 »	44	116	12	172
18 »	8	78	12	98
19 »	5	63	461 (1)	529
20 »	12	41	7	60
21 »	12	68	94	174
22 »	46	164	1	211
23 »	51	130	3	184
24 »	37	80	8	125
25 »	17	90	2	109
26 »	9	43	6	58
27 »	6	14	3	23
28 »	2	30	1	33
29 »	8	43	0	51
30 »	7	33	1	41

(1) The large number reported missing on 19 September is the result of the reorganization accomplished by that date, which showed those previously missing and not reported.

	Killed in Action	Wounded in Action	Missing in Action	Total
1 October	12	30	0	42
2 »	20	55	1	76
3 »	10	52	1	63
4 »	22	39	2	63
5 »	17	45	1	63
6 »	12	79	1	92
Total	<u>788</u>	<u>2841</u>	<u>1318</u>	<u>4947</u>

Casualties were not recorded daily by 10 Corps but the British total for the period was:

Killed	Wounded	Missing	Total
982	4060	2230	7272
Total Fifth Army			
1770	6901	3548	12,219

B

PRISONERS OF WAR

9-30 SEPTEMBER 1943

VI Corps	502	10 Corps	1019
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C

MAJOR ORDNANCE LOSSES

9-30 SEPTEMBER 1943

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE LIST GROUP A

Gun, 37-mm, M1, AT	19
Gun, auto., 40-mm, M1	1
Gun, MG, cal .30, M1917A1	52
Gun, MG, cal .30, M1919A4	44
Gun, MG, cal .50, M2, HB	52
Gun, MG, cal .50, M2, WC	16
Gun, sub MG, cal .45, Thompson, M1	44
Rifle, auto., cal .30, M1918	43
Mortar, 60-mm, M2	34
Mortar, 81-mm, M1	48

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE LIST GROUP B

Bayonet, M1905	435
Carbine, cal .30, M1A1	48
Knife, trench, M1	263
Launcher, grenade, M1	97
Launcher, rocket, AT, M1	88
Pistol, auto., cal .45, M1911	168
Pistol, pyro, AM, M8 w/mount	1
Pistol, Very, 10-gauge, Mk III	4
Projector, pyro, M9, hand	2
Projector, signal, ground, M4	25
Rifle, US, cal .30, M1903A1	108
Rifle, US, cal .30, M1	145

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE LIST GROUP C

Gun, 57-mm, M1	8
Gun, 155-mm, M1	1

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE LIST GROUP G

Car, scout, M3A1.	26
Carriage, motor, 75-mm howitzer, M8	4
Carriage, motor, 75-mm howitzer, T30	8
Carriage, motor, 75-mm gun, M3.	4
Carriage, motor, 3-inch gun, M10	11
Carriage, motor, multiple gun, M13	1
Carrier, personnel, half-track, M3	12
Motorcycle, chain driven, Harley-Davidson	2
Tank, medium, M4 & M4A1	24
Trailer, 1/4 ton payload, 2 wheel cargo	41
Trailer, 1 ton payload, 2 wheel cargo	16
Trailer, 1 ton 250 gal water tank	4
Trailer, armored, M8.	4
Truck, 1/4 ton, 4 × 4, amphibian	9
Truck, 1/4 ton, 4 × 4, Ford	93
Truck, 3/4 ton, 4 × 4, WC	8
Truck, 3/4 ton, 4 × 4, C & R	8
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6 × 6, amphibian	6
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6 × 6, cargo	30
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6 × 6, special body	3
Truck, 4 ton, 6 × 6, cargo	1
Truck, 4 ton, 6 × 6, wrecker	1
Truck, 6 ton, 6 × 6, cargo	2

D

SUPPLY

A detailed report on supply 9 September-15 November 1943 may be found in Annex Number One to Fifth Army History, Part II. Until the Army could capture Naples, an integral part of the plans for Avalanche, its supply had to come over the Salerno beachhead and thence over difficult terrain, which included the western slopes of the Apennine Mountains. By 20 September the Fifth Army beachhead was free from hostile threats on the ground, but on 28 September a severe storm destroyed many landing craft and prevented unloading for two days. The following figures indicate the extent of supply over the beaches, despite such handicaps, during the period 9-30 September:

1) LCT's in operation (daily average)	63
LCM's in operation (daily average)	28
Dukws in operation (daily average)	146
2) Total tonnage disembarked	121,496
Average tonnage disembarked per day	5,522
Total vehicles disembarked	29,440
3) Maximum tonnage disembarked over U.S. beaches in one day	5,491

ANNEX NUMBER FOUR * * * * *

Troop List of Fifth Army

29 SEPTEMBER 1943

TROOP LIST OF FIFTH ARMY

29 SEPTEMBER 1943

FIFTH ARMY TROOPS.

Headquarters, Fifth Army

Special Troops, Fifth Army

Headquarters Detachment, Special Troops

Headquarters Company, Fifth Army

Attached:

Battery A, 630th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion

2616th Engineer Utilities Platoon

Detachment, 2d Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment

22d Quartermaster Car Company [-1 Platoon]

63d Signal Battalion [-Detachment]; *attached:*

Detachment A, 71st Signal Company (Special)

163d Signal Photo Company, Laboratory Unit

Detachment A, 117th Signal Company (Radio Intercept)

Detachment, 6662d Signal Service Company

Detachment, 6663d Signal Service Company

180th Signal Repair Company [-2 Radio Repair Sections and Detachments]; *attached:*

1 Storage and Issue Section, 812th Signal Post Service Company

541st and 542d Army Postal Units

Company C, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion

101st Military Police Battalion

33d Finance Disbursing Section

Antiaircraft Artillery:

45th AAA Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery

1st Battalion, 213th Coast Artillery Regiment (AA); *attached:*

Batteries A and B, 409th AAA Gun Battalion (Semi-Mobile)

FIFTH ARMY TROOPS (*continued*)

403d AAA Gun Battalion
435th and 534th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalions
630th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion [-Battery A]
102d Barrage Balloon Battery (Very Low Altitude)
Detachment, 104th Barrage Balloon Battery (Very Low Altitude)
6673d Gun Operations Room Platoon
Attached:

400th and 451st AAA Automatic Weapons Battalions
168th Chemical Company (Smoke Generating)
2d Battalion, 505th Coast Artillery Regiment (AA)

Armored Force:

753d Tank Battalion (Medium)

Chemical:

Detachment, 6th Chemical Company (Depot)
24th Chemical Company (Decontamination)

Engineers:

337th and 343d Engineer General Service Regiments
Company A, 405th Engineer Water Supply Battalion [-Detachment]
Company C, 405th Engineer Water Supply Battalion [-Composite Platoon]
427th Engineer Dump Truck Company
Detachment (Reconnaissance), 696th Petroleum Distributing Company
1202d Engineer Firefighting Platoon

General:

Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6665th Base Area
Group
29th Replacement Battalion

Infantry:

Companies E and F, 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate)
2d Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment [-Detachment]; *attached:*
Band, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment

36th Infantry Division

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

36th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mechanized) ✓

111th Engineer Battalion

36th Division Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery

155th Field Artillery Battalion [-Batteries A and C] [155-mm Howitzer]

131st and 132d Field Artillery Battalions [105-mm Howitzer]

133d Field Artillery Battalion [-Battery A] [105-mm Howitzer]

111th Medical Battalion

736th Ordnance Light Maintenance Company

36th Quartermaster Company

36th Signal^r Company

Military Police Platoon

141st Infantry Regiment

142d Infantry Regiment

143d Infantry Regiment [-1st Battalion]

Attached:

8th AAA Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery

Battery A, 105th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion (Self-Propelled)

Detachment A, 72d Signal Company (Special)

48th Finance Disbursing Section

Medical:

Detachment, 4th Medical Supply Depot

8th, 38th, and 56th Evacuation Hospitals (750 Bed)

16th Evacuation Hospital (750 Bed); *attached:*

28th and 42d Malaria Control Units

Surgical Teams 7, 11, 15, 20, and 25 (2d Auxiliary Surgical Group)

Shock Teams 1, 2, and 4

93d Evacuation Hospital (400 Bed) (Semi-Mobile); *attached:*

Surgical Team 10

Orthopedic Team 5

94th Evacuation Hospital (400 Bed) (Semi-Mobile); *attached:*

Surgical Teams 1, 4, and 12

95th Evacuation Hospital (400 Bed); *attached:*

Surgical Teams 14 and 19

Shock Team 3

FIFTH ARMY TROOPS (*continued*)

161st Medical Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
401st, 402d, and 403d Collecting Companies
601st Clearing Company

162d Medical Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
404th and 406th Collecting Companies
602d Clearing Company [-2d Platoon]

Attached:

Company B, 36th Ambulance Battalion

Military Police:

379th Prisoner of War Escort Company

Ordnance:

6694th Ordnance Base Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
42d Ordnance Battalion (Maintenance and Supply), Headquarters and
Headquarters Detachment

79th and 189th Ordnance Depot Companies

Attached:

Company A, 302d Ordnance Base Regiment

45th Ordnance Battalion (Maintenance and Supply), Headquarters and
Headquarters Detachment

28th, 29th, and 46th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Companies

Detachment, 112th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company (Q)

3485th, 3486th, and 3488th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Companies (Q)

Attached:

77th Ordnance Depot Company [42d Ordnance Battalion]

62d Ordnance Battalion (Ammunition), Headquarters and Headquarters
Detachment

58th, 66th, and 2652d Ordnance Ammunition Companies

Company R, 302d Ordnance Base Regiment (Ammunition)

87th Ordnance Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

87th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Company (Tank)

3497th Ordnance Maintenance Company (Q)

188th Ordnance Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

477th Ordnance Evacuation Company

529th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Company (Tank)

Quartermaster:

1st Platoon, Company D, 61st Quartermaster Laundry Battalion
204th Quartermaster Gas Supply Battalion [-Companies A and D]
242d, 530th, and 536th Quartermaster Service Battalions
263d Quartermaster Service Battalion [-Company B]
47th Quartermaster Company (Graves Registration) [-2d and 3d Platoons]
1st Platoon, 67th Quartermaster Refrigeration Company
85th Quartermaster Depot Company [-Detachment]
90th Quartermaster Company (Railhead) [-3 Platoons]
93d and 94th Quartermaster Companies (Railhead)

Supply:

6th Port; *attached*:

531st Engineer Shore Regiment; *attached*:

2699th Engineer Map Detachment

Companies A and C, 52d Quartermaster Battalion (Dukw)

74th Signal Company (Special)

540th Engineer Shore Regiment [-Company F]; *attached*:

Detachment, 286th Signal Company

Transportation:

Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Port (Mobile)

Headquarters, Staging Area

Detachment, 2d Group Regulating Station

Company A, 53d Quartermaster Battalion (Dukw)

56th Quartermaster Truck Battalion

389th and 480th Port Battalions (Transportation Corps)

2d Battalion, 27th Quartermaster Truck Regiment

1st Battalion, 468th Quartermaster Truck Regiment

Attached from AFHQ:

9th Machine Records Unit

Attached from Military Railway Service:

Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 703d Railway
Grand Division

VI CORPS

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Antiaircraft Artillery (*attached*);

35th AAA Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery

Chemical (*attached*):

84th Chemical Battalion [-Company A]

Engineers:

36th Engineer Combat Regiment [-Company H]

39th Engineer Combat Regiment [-2d Battalion]

661st Engineer Topographic Company

Attached:

Company B and Detachment, Company F, 16th Armored Engineer
Battalion

Detachment, Company A, 405th Engineer Water Supply Battalion
1st Platoon, 451st Engineer Depot Company [from Atlantic Base Section]

Field Artillery (*attached*):

13th Field Artillery Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment [155-mm Howitzer] [- Anti-
tank Platoon]

36th Field Artillery Regiment [155-mm Gun] [-2d Battalion]

1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery Regiment [155-mm Howitzer]

1st Field Artillery Observation Battalion [-Detachment]

Infantry:

3d Infantry Division

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

3d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mechanized)

10th Engineer Battalion

3d Division Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery

9th Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Howitzer]

10th, 39th, and 41st Field Artillery Battalions [105-mm Howitzer]

3d Medical Battalion

703d Ordnance Light Maintenance Company

3d Quartermaster Company

3d Signal Company

Military Police Platoon

7th Infantry Regiment
15th Infantry Regiment
30th Infantry Regiment

Attached:

1st Battalion, 505th Coast Artillery Regiment; *attached:*
409th AAA Gun Battalion (Semi-Mobile) [-Batteries A and B]
441st AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion (Self-Propelled)
3d Platoon, 48th Quartermaster Company (Graves Registration)
751st Tank Battalion (Medium)

34th Infantry Division

Headquarters and Headquarters Company
34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mechanized)
109th Engineer Battalion
34th Division Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
185th Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Howitzer]
125th, 151st, and 175th Field Artillery Battalions [105-mm Howitzer]
109th Medical Battalion
2634th Ordnance Light Maintenance Company
2635th Quartermaster Company
34th Signal Company
Military Police Platoon
133d Infantry Regiment [-2d Battalion]
100th Infantry Battalion (Separate) [-Companies E and F]
135th Infantry Regiment
168th Infantry Regiment

Attached:

5th AAA Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
105th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion (Self-Propelled) [-Battery A]
776th Tank Destroyer Battalion

45th Infantry Division

Headquarters and Headquarters Company
45th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mechanized)
120th Engineer Battalion
45th Division Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
189th Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Howitzer]
158th, 160th, and 171st Field Artillery Battalions [105-mm Howitzer]

VI CORPS (*continued*).

120th Medical Battalion
700th Ordnance Light Maintenance Company
45th Quartermaster Company
45th Signal Company
Military Police Platoon
157th Infantry Regiment
179th Infantry Regiment
180th Infantry Regiment

Attached:

2d Chemical Battalion (Motorized)
106th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion (Self-Propelled)
27th Armored Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]
191st Tank Battalion (Medium)
756th Tank Battalion (Light)
645th Tank Destroyer Battalion

Medical:

52d Medical Battalion

Military Police:

206th Military Police Company

Attached:

Company A, 504th Military Police Battalion

Quartermaster (*attached*):

Company A, 204th Quartermaster Gas Supply Battalion
Company B, 263d Quartermaster Service Battalion
2d and 3d Platoons, 47th Quartermaster Company (Graves Registration)
2d Platoon, 48th Quartermaster Company (Graves Registration)
2d and 3d Platoons, 90th Quartermaster Company (Railhead)
Company D, 27th Quartermaster Truck Regiment

Signal:

57th Signal Battalion; *attached:*

Detachment C, 71st Signal Company (Special)

Attached:

Detachment, 128th Signal Company (Radio Intercept)

Detachment, 180th Signal Repair Company

Detachment, 849th Signal Intelligence Service
Detachment B, 72d Signal Company (Special)

Tank Destroyer (*attached*):

601st Tank Destroyer Battalion
636th Tank Destroyer Battalion [- Company C]

10 CORPS

Headquarters 10 Corps

10 Corps Protective Squadron

Anti-Aircraft Artillery:

12 Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery (RA)
9, 57, and 87 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiments RA [each 24 3.7-inch Guns]
13, 14, and 52 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiments RA [each 54 40-mm Guns]
56 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment [54 40-mm Guns]

Armoured Force:

2 Forward Tank Delivery Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps
7 Armoured Division
Headquarters 7 Armoured Division
11 Hussars (Prince Albert's Own) [armoured-car squadron]
Headquarters 7 Armoured Division Royal Artillery
3 Royal Horse Artillery [24 25-pounders]
5 Royal Horse Artillery [24 25-pounders]
65 Anti-Tank Regiment RA [36 57-mm guns; 12 17-pounders]
15 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA [54 40-mm Guns]
7 Armoured Division Royal Engineers
7 Armoured Division Royal Signals
7 Armoured Division Royal Army Service Corps
7 Armoured Division Ordnance Field Park
7 Armoured Division Provost Company
2 and 121 Field Ambulance Companies (Royal Army Medical Corps)
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
22 Armoured Brigade Workshop Company (REME)
131 Armoured Brigade Workshop Company (REME)

10 CORPS (*continued*).

22 Armoured Brigade

- 1 Battalion, Royal Tank Regiment
- 5 Battalion, Royal Tank Regiment
- 4 City of London Yeomanry [tank battalion]
- 1 Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment [motorized infantry]

131 Infantry Brigade

- 1/5 Battalion, Queen's Own Royal Regiment
- 1/6 Battalion, Queen's Own Royal Regiment
- 1/7 Battalion, Queen's Own Royal Regiment

23 Armoured Brigade

- 23 Armoured Brigade Royal Signal Squadron
- 331 Armoured Brigade Company (Royal Army Service Corps)
- 23 Armoured Brigade Ordnance Field Park
- 150 Light Field Ambulance (Royal Army Medical Corps)
- 23 Armoured Brigade Workshop (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers)
- 40 Battalion, Royal Tank Regiment
- Royal Scots Greys (2d Dragoons) [tank battalion]

Engineers:

- 10 Corps Troops, Royal Engineers
- 14 GHQ Troops, Royal Engineers
- 15 Airfield Construction Group, Royal Engineers

Field Artillery:

2 Army Group Royal Artillery

- 23 and 121 Army Field Regiments RA [24 25-pounders]
- 24 Army Field Regiment RA [24 105-mm SP]
- 142 Army Field Regiment RA [24 25-pounders SP]
- 146 Army Field Regiment RA [24 15-pounders]
- 5 and 74 Medium Regiments RA [16 5.5-inch Gun/Howitzers]
- 51 and 69 Medium Regiments RA [8 4.5-inch Guns; 8 5.5-inch Gun/Howitzers]
- 56 Medium Regiment RA [16 7.2-inch Gun/Howitzers]
- 57 Anti-Tank Regiment RA [48 6-pounders]

654 Air Observation Post Squadron

8 Survey Regiment RA

Attached American Unit:

2d Battalion, 36th Field Artillery Regiment [155-mm Gun]

Infantry and Commandos:

King's Dragoon Guards [armoured-car squadron]

Company C, 1 Battalion, (22) Cheshire Regiment [machine-gun battalion]

2 Commando

41 Royal Marine Commando

46 Infantry Division

Headquarters 46 Infantry Division

2 Battalion, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers [minus Bn Hq and 3 Support Group] [weapons battalion]

46 Division Royal Artillery

70, 71, and 172 Field Regiments RA [24 25-pounders]

58 Anti-Tank Regiment RA [36 57-mm Guns; 12 17-pounders]

115 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA [54 40-mm Guns]

46 Infantry Division Royal Engineers

46 Infantry Division Royal Signals

46 Infantry Division Royal Army Service Corps

46 Infantry Division Ordnance Sub Park

46 Infantry Division Provost Company

183, 184, and 185 Field Ambulance Companies (Royal Army Medical Corps)

46 Infantry Division Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

46 Reconnaissance Regiment [battalion]

128 Infantry Brigade

1/4 Battalion, Hampshire Regiment

2 Battalion, Hampshire Regiment

5 Battalion, Hampshire Regiment

138 Infantry Brigade

6 Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment

2/4 Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

6 Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment

139 Infantry Brigade

2/5 Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment

2/5 Battalion, Sherwood Foresters

16 Battalion, Durham Light Infantry

56 (London) Infantry Division

Headquarters 56 (London) Infantry Division

6 Battalion, (22) Cheshire Regiment [machine-gun battalion]

56 Infantry Division Royal Artillery

64, 65, and 113 Field Regiments RA [24 25-pounders]

67 Anti-Tank Regiment RA [36 57-mm Guns; 12 17-pounders]

100 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA [54 40-mm Guns]

56 Infantry Division Royal Engineers

56 Infantry Division Royal Signals

56 Infantry Division Royal Army Service Corps

56 Infantry Division Ordnance Field Park

56 Infantry Division Provost Company

5, 167, and 214 Field Ambulance Companies (Royal Army Medical Corps)

56 Infantry Division Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

44 Reconnaissance Regiment [battalion]

167 Infantry Brigade

8 Battalion, Royal Fusiliers

9 Battalion, Royal Fusiliers

7 Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

169 Infantry Brigade

2/5 Battalion, Queen's Own Royal Regiment

2/6 Battalion, Queen's Own Royal Regiment

2/7 Battalion, Queen's Own Royal Regiment

201 Guards Brigade

6 Battalion, Grenadier Guards

3 Battalion, Coldstream Guards

2 Battalion, Scots Guards

82d Airborne Infantry Division (*attached*)

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

307th Airborne Engineer Battalion

82d Airborne Division Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
319th and 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalions [75-mm Pack How-
itzer]

80th Airborne Antiaircraft Battalion

307th Airborne Medical Battalion

782d Airborne Ordnance Maintenance Company

407th Airborne Quartermaster Company

82d Airborne Signal Company

Military Police Platoon

325th Glider Infantry Regiment [-Company G]

504th Parachute Infantry Regiment [-Band]

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

Attached:

1st, 3d, and 4th Ranger Battalions

1st Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment

Battery A, 133d Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]

Batteries A and C, 155th Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Howitzer]

Detachment, 813th Tank Destroyer Battalion

Company F, 540th Engineer Shore Regiment

Companies C and D, 83d Chemical Battalion (Motorized)

405th Medical Collecting Company; *attached:*

2d Platoon, 602d Clearing Company

1st Platoon, 90th Quartermaster Company (Railhead)

Company H, 36th Engineer Combat Regiment

Detachment, 63d Signal Battalion

Detachment C, 72d Signal Company (Special)

Detachment, 180th Signal Repair Company

Detachment, 286th Signal Company

Medical (*attached American Units*):

Surgical Teams 5, 6, and 23 (2d Auxiliary Surgical Group)

Service Troops:

10 Corps Transport Column

15 Line of Communication Transport Column (Royal Army Service Corps)

10 Corps Troops, Ordnance Field Park

10 Corps Troops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

10 CORPS (*continued*)

Beach Groups Nos. 3, 4, and 21

Brick No. 35

Signal:

10 Corps Royal Signals

2 Companies, 16 Line of Communications Royal Signals

Attached American Units:

Detachment A, 71st Signal Company (Special)

Detachment A, 72d Signal Company (Special)

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This part of the Army History was prepared under the direction of Col. John D. Forsythe, Historian, by Maj. Chester G. Starr, Jr., Maj. Roy Lamson, Jr., and Capt. Harris G. Warren with the aid of Lt. Col. E. Dwight Salmon. The maps were drawn by S/Sgt. Alvin J. Weinberger and Sgt. Charles W. Petersen.

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