

N. 8723-F

**FIFTH ARMY  
HISTORY**



# FIFTH ARMY HISTORY

5 JUNE - 15 AUGUST 1944



*Our leading reconnaissance elements detour a German demolition on the way to Grosseto.*

# FIFTH ARMY HISTORY



## PART VI

### *Pursuit to the Arno*

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*Lieutenant General* MARK W. CLARK.

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# CONTENTS \* \* \* \* \*

	<i>page</i>
<b>CHAPTER I. <i>CROSSING THE TIBER RIVER</i></b> . . . . .	1
<i>A.</i> Rome Falls to Fifth Army . . . . .	1
<i>B.</i> Terrain from Rome to the Arno River . . . . .	3
<i>C.</i> The Enemy Situation . . . . .	6
<b>CHAPTER II. <i>THE PURSUIT IS ORGANIZED</i></b> . . . . .	9
<i>A.</i> Allied Strategy in Italy . . . . .	9
<i>B.</i> Fifth Army Orders . . . . .	10
<i>C.</i> Regrouping of Fifth Army Units . . . . .	12
<i>D.</i> Characteristics of the Pursuit Action . . . . .	14
1. Tactics of the Army . . . . .	14
2. The Italian Partisans . . . . .	16
<b>CHAPTER III. <i>SECURING THE FIRST OBJECTIVES</i></b> . . . . .	19
<i>A.</i> VI Corps Begins the Pursuit, 5-11 June . . . . .	20
1. Progress along the Coast . . . . .	21
2. Battles on the Inland Route . . . . .	22
3. Relief of VI Corps . . . . .	24
<i>B.</i> II Corps North of Rome, 5-10 June . . . . .	25
1. The 85th Division Advances . . . . .	26
2. Action of the 88th Division . . . . .	28
<b>CHAPTER IV. <i>TO THE OMBRONE - ORCIA VALLEY</i></b> . . . . .	31
<i>A.</i> IV Corps on the Left, 11-20 June . . . . .	32
1. Action to the Ombrone River . . . . .	33
2. Clearing the Grosseto Area . . . . .	36
3. Right Flank Task Force . . . . .	38
<i>B.</i> The FEC Drive, 10-20 June . . . . .	41
1. Advance to Highway 74 . . . . .	42
2. Gains on the Left . . . . .	43
3. Action on the Right . . . . .	45
<i>C.</i> The Capture of Elba . . . . .	46

	<i>page</i>
<b>CHAPTER V. THE ADVANCE TO HIGHWAY 68</b> . . . . .	49
<i>A.</i> IV Corps along the Coast, 21 June-2 July . . . . .	51
1. Last Action of the 36th Division . . . . .	51
2. The 34th Division Takes Over . . . . .	54
3. Outflanking Cecina . . . . .	56
4. The Drive up Highway 1 to Cecina . . . . .	57
<i>B.</i> The Advance of the 1st Armored Division, 21 June-8 July . . . . .	60
1. Combat Command A . . . . .	61
2. Combat Command B . . . . .	63
3. Advance to the Highway . . . . .	65
<i>C.</i> The FEC on the Right, 20 June-7 July . . . . .	67
1. Crossing the Orcia . . . . .	68
2. The Siena Operation . . . . .	71
3. On to Highway 68 . . . . .	74
<i>D.</i> Summary of Gains . . . . .	76
<b>CHAPTER VI. CAPTURE OF LEGHORN AND PISA</b> . . . . .	77
<i>A.</i> Advance of the 34th Division, 2-26 July . . . . .	78
1. Rosignano and Hill 634 . . . . .	78
2. The Drive into Leghorn . . . . .	81
3. On to Pisa . . . . .	84
<i>B.</i> Action in the Center, 8-26 July . . . . .	85
1. The 91st Division to the Arno . . . . .	85
2. Advance of the 88th Division . . . . .	88
3. Operations on the Right Flank . . . . .	90
<i>C.</i> Relief of the FEC, 7-22 July . . . . .	92
<b>CHAPTER VII. STABILIZATION OF THE LINES</b> . . . . .	97
<i>A.</i> Regrouping of Troops . . . . .	98
1. Task Force 45 . . . . .	98
2. Task Force Ramey . . . . .	100
<i>B.</i> Action on the River Front . . . . .	102
<i>C.</i> Summary of the Campaign . . . . .	104
<i>D.</i> Advance of Eighth Army . . . . .	106
1. Action to the Lake Trasimeno Line . . . . .	107
2. The Advance to Florence and Ancona . . . . .	108
<b>CHAPTER VIII. SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES</b> . . . . .	113
<i>A.</i> Air Force Achievements . . . . .	113
<i>B.</i> Functions of Supply . . . . .	115
<i>C.</i> Engineer Accomplishments . . . . .	117

# Annexes \* \* \* \* \*

	<i>page</i>
Number One. <i>Orders and Operations Instructions</i> . . . . .	119
A. AAI Operations Order No. 2, 14 July 1944 . . . . .	121
B. Operations Instruction No. 28, 6 June 1944 . . . . .	124
C. Operations Instruction No. 29, 21 July 1944 . . . . .	127
D. Operations Instruction No. 30, 24 July 1944 . . . . .	129
Number Two. <i>Statistics</i> . . . . .	133
A. Casualties, U. S. Forces, 5 June-15 August 1944 . . . . .	135
B. Total Casualties, Strength and Prisoners of War . . . . .	138
C. Major Ordnance Losses, 9 June-12 August 1944 . . . . .	140
D. Quartermaster Supply, June-August 1944 . . . . .	144
Number Three. <i>Fifth Army Staff</i> . . . . .	147
Number Four. <i>Troop List of Fifth Army, 14 August 1944</i> . . . . .	151

# Maps \* \* \* \* \*

	<i>opposite page</i>
1. Area of the Allied Campaign, 5 June-15 August 1944 . . . . .	4
2. Advance of Fifth Army, 5-7 June 1944 . . . . .	26
3. Fifth Army Pursuit, 8-10 June 1944 . . . . .	30
4. Advance of the 36th Division and Task Force Ramey, 10-20 June 1944 . . . . .	40
5. Advance of the FEC, 10-20 June 1944 . . . . .	46
6. Drive of IV Corps to Highway 68, 20 June-3 July 1944 . . . . .	52
7. The FEC Drive from the Orcia to Siena, 21 June-7 July 1944 . . . . .	72
8. Capture of Leghorn and Pisa, 34th Division, 2-23 July 1944 . . . . .	78
9. Eastern Drive to the Arno, 8-26 July 1944 . . . . .	96

# Illustrations \* \* \* \* \*

Our leading reconnaissance elements detour a Germany demolition on the way to Grosseto . . . . .	<i>Frontispiece</i>
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Allied bombing shattered the enemy columns fleeing north of Rome . . . . .	<i>opposite page</i>	24
In the Tarquinia area our troops advance past a wrecked German field gun . . . . .	<i>opposite page</i>	24
The devastated port of Civitavecchia, as our troops first saw it . . . . .	<i>opposite page</i>	25
Fifth Army engineers at Civitavecchia prepare a wharf to unload ships . . . . .	<i>opposite page</i>	25
The 36th Division crosses a ponton bridge over the Albegna River . . . . .	<i>opposite page</i>	58
Infantry of the 1st Armored Division ride tanks in pursuit of the enemy . . . . .	<i>opposite page</i>	58
At Cecina the engineers sweep for mines which the enemy sowed profusely . . . . .	<i>opposite page</i>	59
Our troops move out in the rolling country north of the Cecina River . . . . .	<i>opposite page</i>	59
Over such roads as this contact was maintained between our columns . . . . .	<i>opposite page</i>	82
British antiaircraft guns supported the later stages of our drive . . . . .	<i>opposite page</i>	82
Outflanked on the east, Leghorn fell easily to men of the 34th Division . . . . .	<i>opposite page</i>	83
Leghorn harbor was mined and ships sunk everywhere to prevent its use . . . . .	<i>opposite page</i>	83
The partisans of Leghorn were typical of the patriots we met north of Rome . . . . .	<i>opposite page</i>	102
In the southern half of Pisa our troops maintained constant guard . . . . .	<i>opposite page</i>	102
A patrol halts before moving up to the Arno in the vicinity of Pisa . . . . .	<i>opposite page</i>	103
40-mm guns guard the ships and trucks in the harbor of Civitavecchia . . . . .	<i>opposite page</i>	103

# CHAPTER I

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## *Crossing the Tiber River*

### A. *ROME FALLS TO FIFTH ARMY*

IN the late afternoon of 4 June 1944 beaten elements of the German Tenth and Fourteenth Armies, disorganized and torn apart by the twin drives of Fifth Army through the battered Gustav Line and out of the Anzio beachhead, were in full flight north of Rome, first of the major axis capitals to be freed from the Nazi—Fascist regime. It was almost dark that night when armored and infantry elements of VI Corps celebrated the bursting of their beachhead bonds as they rolled into the Italian capital and seized the bridges over the Tiber River. The bridges within the city itself were undamaged; those to the north and south were destroyed. In mid-morning leading units of II Corps, driving in from the east, had reached the outskirts of the city, but rearguard actions by the foe prevented a penetration in force until about the time of the arrival of the VI Corps units.

Capture of the city brought to a climax a swift, hard-hitting campaign. In little over three weeks Fifth Army, aided by Eighth Army, smashed the vaunted Gustav Line defenses which had held throughout the winter months, continued through both prepared and hastily thrown up defenses of the secondary Hitler Line and broke out of the beachhead where VI Corps had been hemmed in for four months. This well planned, co-ordinated action, timed to strike the double blow from the south and from the beachhead originally hoped for in February, began along the Liri and Garigliano rivers on 11 May to the accompaniment of intense artillery fire. Fifth Army, under the command of Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark, had as its objectives the breaking of the Gustav Line, advancing beyond Rome, and pursuing and destroying the German armies in Italy.

During this period Fifth Army had the greatest effective strength it was ever to have in the Italian campaign. The attack from the south saw all the power of II Corps and the French Expeditionary Corps (FEC), totaling almost seven divisions, grouped in a comparatively narrow zone extending from the Tyrrhenian Sea inland

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to the line of the Liri and Sacco rivers. Troops of Eighth Army had been moved secretly in great strength from the Adriatic side of the Italian peninsula to take over the entire area north of the Liri River, including the Cassino sector, where Fifth Army had battled bloodily since the early days of 1944. II Corps occupied the left flank of Fifth Army, formerly held by the British 10 Corps, and sent the 85th and 88th Infantry Divisions into action north of Minturno. The FEC with its experienced and capable mountain fighters and armor was on the right flank. Four full divisions and three groups of tabors (goumiers) were under the FEC.

The enemy bitterly contested every foot of the territory he had defended so long. With good weather helping, our superiority in all arms made itself felt, and slowly but steadily the Germans gave ground. The infantry of II Corps advanced along the narrow coastal plain and through the mountains which lie close to the sea, relentlessly moving ahead through the pillbox- and bunker-studded terrain. French colonial troops and American armored units smashed up the south side of the Liri Valley and in the mountains. British units kept pace north of the river. On 24 May the 85th Division captured the seacoast city of Terracina while the 88th Division and the FEC were farther north and inland in the mountains. Patrols from beachhead units and from the forces driving up from the south met in the northern part of the Pontine Marshes the next day; the junction with the beachhead was complete since the Germans made no attempt to fight across this level, canal-studded area.

While the Allied forces in the south were cutting their way northwestward toward Rome, VI Corps at the beachhead had built up its strength to six infantry divisions and one armored division. General Clark gave the order for the second half of the punch, and on 23 May VI Corps launched its attack to cut the communications life line of the Germans, Highway 6. Tanks of the 1st Armored Division supported the thrust of the 3d and 34th Infantry Divisions and the 1st Special Service Force against Cisterna, Cori, and Valmontone. The British 1 and 5 Infantry Divisions executed holding missions in the center and northern edges of the beachhead perimeter. On 26 May the 34th and 45th Divisions attacked the strongpoints around Lanuvio. The 36th Infantry Division was then thrown against Velletri. Velletri fell to the 36th Division on 1 June. On 2 June the 3d Division occupied Valmontone and cut Highway 6. With this threat to their rear, German troops still fighting in the Liri Valley speeded their withdrawal to avoid being ground between the jaws of the Fifth Army pincers. The enemy's stubborn defense on the south slopes of Colli Laziali held just long enough to allow the bulk of the fleeing foe to pass north on the east of the hills.

When the 3d Division executed its northeastward thrust to Cori and Valmontone it came under control of II Corps, and by the time Valmontone fell the FEC

had been pinched out, leaving II Corps to advance along Highway 6 toward Rome with its initial forces plus those gained from VI Corps. VI Corps cracked the Lannuvio bastion, and on the evening of 3 June American doughboys moving north along the heights were almost within sight of the buildings of Rome. Armor and infantry of both II and VI Corps moved swiftly on 4 June against light and scattered resistance; by darkness Fifth Army troops had seized the line of the Tiber amidst the enthusiastic welcome of thousands of Roman citizens. With tanks guarding the approaches to the bridges, weary troops slept on the streets their first night in Rome while higher headquarters were awake laying plans to pursue the foe and carry out the last portion of the mission.

## B. *TERRAIN FROM ROME TO THE ARNO RIVER*

*See Map No. 1*

It was nearly 175 miles north from Rome to the next naturally strong German defense belt, the so-called Gothic Line in the high Apennine Mountains protecting the industrialized Po River valley. On the west this line was anchored in the mountains north of Pisa and stretched eastward to Rimini on the Adriatic coast. About 20 to 30 miles south of the mountain defenses the Arno River flows westward to the Tyrrhenian Sea through Florence and Pisa. Fifth Army's zone of operations to the Arno thus covered a section of Italy approximately 150 miles long by 45 miles wide. Even as Rome was taken plans were under way for the invasion of southern France, using many troops from Fifth Army. With this anticipated reduction in strength of Fifth Army, Eighth Army took over nearly three-quarters of the widening Italian front.

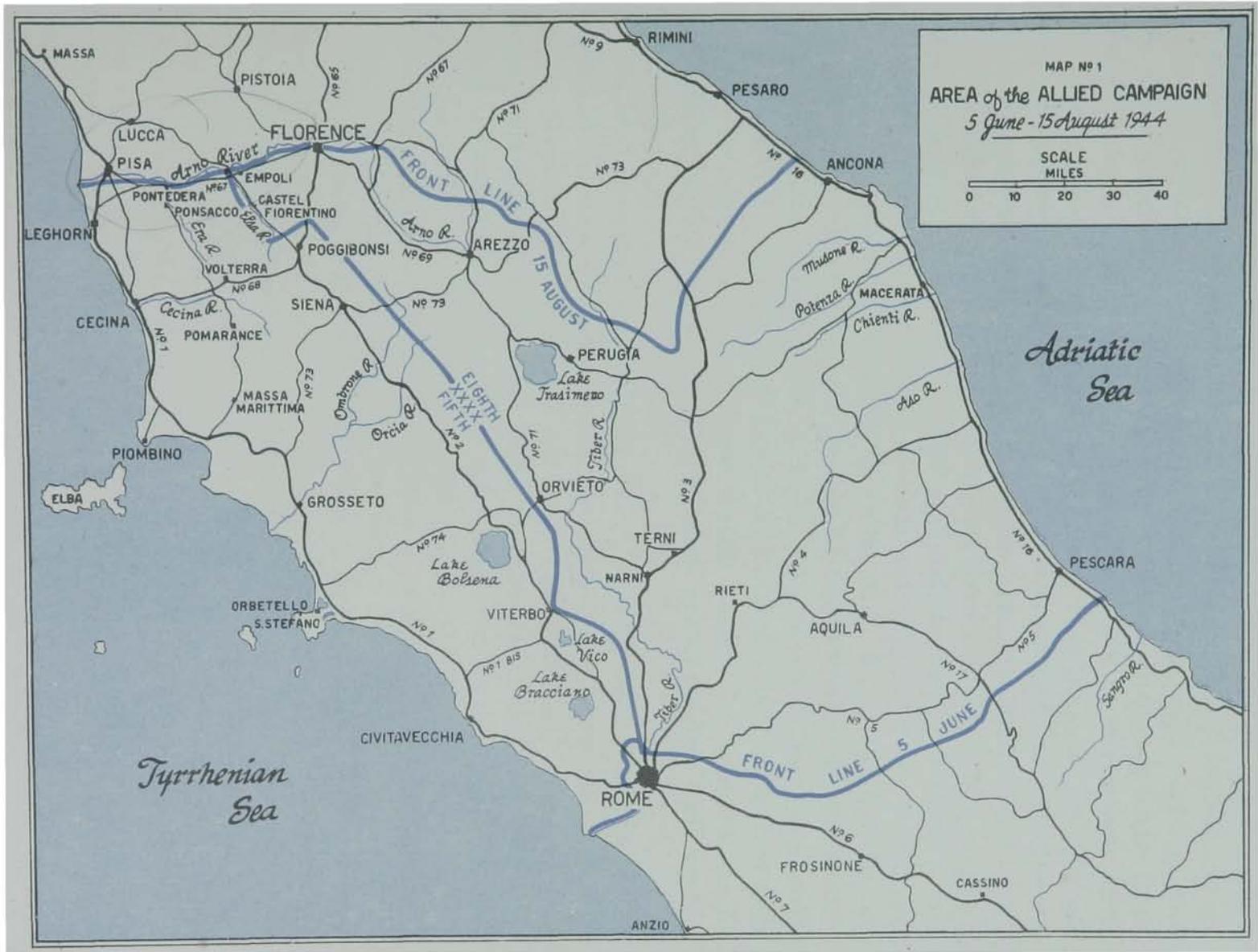
The major portion of the 6000 square miles in the area of Army operations is mountainous; however, there are no natural strong defense lines such as characterized the country between Naples and Rome. The land is rough and in many places hard to negotiate with vehicles, but in midsummer, without the handicap of bad weather, it could not be said to be tremendously difficult. In a north-south direction the terrain is naturally divided into two sections, the plain along the Tyrrhenian Sea and the more mountainous part east to the Army boundary. The coastal plain never exceeds 10 miles in width and is generally narrower. Occasionally for a short distance the mountains come down to the sea. The narrow corridor along the coast forms one continuous lane of advance, but other natural avenues of northward approach are not found until within 20 miles of the Arno where the valleys of the Elsa and Era rivers begin. North of Grosseto the mountainous country is split

lengthwise by a ridge running northwest-southeast at a height averaging from 1200 to 1500 feet.

Inland from the coast areas east-west natural phase lines are hard to find. When the valley of the Tiber is left behind, the country is one mass of undulating high ground to the Arno, the mountains varying only in height and slope. The country in the eastern part of the zone is slightly higher than on the west. The average altitude does not exceed 1500 feet, though numerous peaks stand out above that elevation. There is no east-west ridge line of consequence. The backbones of the mountains run more or less in a northeast-southwesterly direction; lesser ridges are jumbled together at all angles with narrow valleys between. Except for a hill mass near the coast around Civitavecchia the country for 50 miles north of Rome is featured by gentle, rolling hills. Then the valley of the Ombrone River forms a broad flat area around Grosseto extending well inland from the coastal plain. About 20 miles north of Grosseto the steepest mountains begin. There is rough country for another 20 miles culminating in a general summit on an east-west line through Volterra; from this line northward the hills are less steep and slope toward the valley of the Arno. Many of these hills are barren.

Only two sizeable rivers cut across the line of Army advance. These are the Ombrone, which runs into the sea just south of Grosseto, and the Cecina, which enters the Tyrrhenian Sea near the town of Cecina. Of the two the Ombrone is much the larger and presented the greater problem, but both rivers were at low water stage during the summer; the Cecina especially was easily fordable at many points. Neither stream was of great concern to forces operating in the eastern half of the Army zone since only the headwaters are encountered in that area. The Ombrone is wide and sluggish as it nears the sea, and its broad valley is cut up to a certain extent with canals and drainage ditches. The Cecina is comparatively narrow along its entire course. The Arno River is much larger than either of these two with a continuous wet gap of between 65 and 600 feet, the average width being from 200 to 250 feet. It is subject to great changes in water level, at flood stage often rising as much as 30 feet. Due to this characteristic an extensive levee system has been built up on both banks. The levees vary in height from 20 to 30 feet and are from 50 to 100 feet wide. The banks of the stream itself are about 10 feet high near its mouth, 40 feet in its central sector, falling off to about 20 feet in the Florence area. When the Arno enters the coastal plain it flows through a flat section which expands into a valley 10 to 15 miles wide as the river nears the sea.

Two main national highways ran the entire length of the Army zone. Along the coast is Highway 1 (Via Aurelia), almost always within sight of the sea. Between Cecina and Leghorn it twists through mountains which come down to the sea; the remainder of its route is along comparatively flat ground. Highway 1 was a



principal axis of advance leading to Civitavecchia, Grosseto, Piombino, Cecina, Leghorn, and into Pisa. Of these main cities Civitavecchia, Piombino, and Leghorn are excellent ports, especially the last, which had extensive harbor facilities and was the site of the Italian Naval Academy. Highway 2 (Via Cassia) roughly parallels the coastline about 35 miles inland through the hills and mountains and is more crooked than the coast road. Fewer large cities are connected by this highway which, after leaving Rome, travels through Viterbo, Siena, Poggibonsi, and into Florence. At Poggibonsi the road curved eastward out of the Army zone, but a good secondary route continues on through Castelflorentino to the Arno River west of Empoli.

Five improved highways form an excellent lateral road net. The first of these north of Rome is Highway 1 Bis. This road turns inland from Highway 1 about ten miles north of Civitavecchia and connects with Highway 2 at Vetralla, eight miles west of Viterbo. Highway 74 leaves the coast 18 miles south of Grosseto and cuts through the hills to meet Highway 2 near Lake Bolsena, 20 miles north of Viterbo. The next connecting link is Highway 73, which swings northeastward from Highway 1, skirts the north edge of the Ombrone Valley, and leads to Siena. Highway 68 runs eastward from Cecina through Volterra to Poggibonsi; the last main artery, Highway 67, is built along the south bank of the Arno extending from Pisa to Florence.

In addition to these roads some of which are metalled and all of which are wide enough for unimpeded two-way traffic, there is an extensive network of smaller roads. Many of these are narrow and few are hard-surfaced. North of Grosseto a north-south secondary road suitable for military use runs through Massa Marittima, Pomarance, and Ponsacco to enter Highway 67 at Pontedera. From Cecina a good road is available to Pisa parallel to Highway 1 but inland from Leghorn. Another alternate route branches from Highway 73 about ten miles south-west of Siena, by-passes that city to the west, and ends at Poggibonsi.

The population within the area of Fifth Army operations was fairly dense, especially along the coast and in the valleys. Even in the mountainous sections the country is well settled with many small towns and villages and numerous farms. The farmhouses, villages, and towns are almost without exception situated atop hills, some of which are very steep; most of the roads leading up are crooked with heavy grades and switchbacks. These towns and farmhouses are invariably constructed of stone and formed excellent cover for defenders. The majority of the thousands of bridges and culverts along the mountain roads are also made of stone. Cultivation is widespread, even on the steeper slopes, which are terraced and consist of vineyards and olive orchards. The valleys are well sprinkled with trees, mostly in scattered groves. Throughout the southern half of the zone most of the high ground

is covered with scrubby trees and brush, not very tall but high enough to afford good concealment. In the central section the trees are taller, but as the extreme northern portion is reached many of the summits are devoid of cover.

### C. *THE ENEMY SITUATION*

As the German Fourteenth Army fled north of Rome it could be considered an army in name only. From 11 May through 4 June the German armies in Italy had lost more than 1,500 vehicles, 110 pieces of field artillery, 125 self-propelled artillery and antitank guns, 122 tanks, and over 15,000 prisoners of war. Casualties in killed and wounded were much greater. The vast majority of this loss had come from Fourteenth Army, and of its field divisions only the Hermann Goering Panzer (Armored) Parachute Division still remained an effective fighting unit. This division had been pushed east of the Tiber River by our breakthrough at Valmontone, as had most of the German mobile and armored units. Much equipment was abandoned by Fourteenth Army in its disorderly flight; much more was destroyed by far ranging Allied planes, and Fifth Army troops pushed ahead along wreckage-strewn roads.

It was estimated that four German divisions could be written off as virtually destroyed with five others in serious condition from the poundings they had taken in the last month. Four grenadier (infantry) divisions came in the first category, the 71st, 305th, 362d, and 715th. The 362d Grenadier Division was hit hardest of all, G-2 reports declaring that no more than 2000 men from this unit escaped being killed, wounded, or captured. Those listed as partially destroyed were the 15th, 29th, and 90th Panzer Grenadier (Armored Infantry) Divisions and the 44th and 92d Grenadier Divisions. Remnants of these mauled grenadier units were merged with other divisions or with independent troops into a large number of Kampfgruppen (battle groups), varying in size, which were generally attached to operative divisions. The panzer grenadier divisions were hastily reorganized and received most of the available replacements. On 6 June the German High Command relieved General Eberhard von Mackensen of his command and placed Lt. Gen. (General of the Armored Forces) Joachim Lemelsen in charge of what remained of Fourteenth Army.

The Germans' strategy had been based on hoarding reserves but this plan had ultimately cost them dearly. First they tried to hold ground, then gave up ground to save reserves. Finally reserves and ground both went, and as the fall of Rome grew imminent there was no choice but to bring in additional troops badly needed in other theaters. To save Fourteenth Army from complete destruction four new divisions were rushed into Italy to plug the holes punched by Fifth Army's drive.

The 20th GAF (German Air Force) Field Division, made up of ground force personnel from the Luftwaffe turned into infantrymen, arrived from Denmark; the 19th GAF Field Division was sent from Holland; the 16th SS Panzer Grenadier Division Reichsfuehrer moved over from Hungary; and the 356th Grenadier Division was ordered south from Genoa.

With all the mobile units, including, in addition to the Hermann Goering Panzer Parachute Division, the 90th and 29th Panzer Grenadier Divisions and the 26th Panzer Division, cut off east of the Tiber, the enemy could not put up other than light and ineffective resistance along Highways 1 and 2 for the first few days after the fall of Rome. The 20th GAF Field Division arrived in time to be thrown into the line in the vicinity of Civitavecchia on 7 June, and the 162d Turcoman Grenadier Division, which had been guarding the coastline near Cecina against possible waterborne invasion, moved into contact three days later; but these two failed to prevent the port from falling into Fifth Army hands and the drive continuing up the coast.

Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, commanding the German Army Group Southwest relinquished ground to gain time for reformation of his units and put up little serious resistance during the first weeks of June. His delaying actions, however, both along the coast and in the mountain areas, began to show more evidence of advance planning. Demolitions and more demolitions were the principal weapons used until he was able to bring together more troops into his order of battle. By the middle of June increased German resistance, together with our lengthening lines of communication, began gradually to slow the impetus of our attack. By that time some of his better units had been able to reform, cross over from east of the Tiber River, and re-enter the battle after short periods of rest and reorganization. In his dire circumstances General Lemelsen flung units as small as battalions into the fight, not waiting for an entire division to be made ready. Parts or all of the 3d, 29th, and 90th Panzer Grenadier Divisions, 26th Panzer Division, and 4th Parachute Division began to appear in the lines facing Fifth Army. The 504th and 508th Heavy Panzer Battalions, mustering nearly 100 Mark VI Tiger tanks between them, bolstered the defense. The first of these battalions was rushed in from France. The 216th Armored Assault Battalion, with 18 self-propelled 150-mm guns, was spread out to provide additional artillery support. From west to east facing Fifth Army five divisions were identified: 162d Grenadier Division, 20th GAF Field Division, 90th and 29th Panzer Grenadier Divisions, and 26th Panzer Division.

By throwing in his second-class troops to cover reorganization of his better divisions, the enemy sacrificed most of the former units. The 162d Grenadier Division was made up primarily of Russian ex-prisoners of war from the Asiatic Caucasian Soviet Socialistic Republics who « volunteered » to fight, amply chaperoned by German officers and non-commissioned officers. This division was typical of several of

its type formed by the Germans. Most of the personnel were taken prisoner around Kharkov in May and June 1942. Almost none could speak German and few could speak good Russian. Various tribal dialects were their only language. They were given a choice of serving with the Germans or starving in prison camps. Most chose to serve but remained only as long as necessary and took advantage of every opportunity to desert. In not over 2 weeks' time after its committal during the first week of June, the 162d Grenadier Division had lost over 2000 prisoners in addition to very high casualties. It was estimated that 75% of the prisoners either allowed themselves to be captured without a struggle or were outright deserters. These losses ruined the division's fighting ability and it was relieved by the 19th GAF Field Division, also made up of second-rate troops. By 20 June the 20th GAF Field Division had also been badly cut up and withdrew through the 90th Panzer Grenadier Division. At this time the sectors allotted to German units became more definite, but many « orphan » elements were also present. Prisoners of war taken on 24 June by the American 1st Armored Division were identified as belonging to nine regiments from seven different divisions. A captured order of the 19th GAF Field Division clearly indicated the German intentions. Part of it read: « This war will not be decided in this theater. To relieve our forces in the west the mission of our armies in Italy is to keep strong forces of the enemy occupied, to weaken his armies, and to inflict heavy losses in men and equipment. »

## *The Pursuit is Organized*

### A. *ALLIED STRATEGY IN ITALY*

FIFTH Army troops did not tarry in Rome after the Germans left the city but continued to advance as rapidly as possible. Pursuit of the remnants of Fourteenth Army and smashing as much of it as possible was the order of the day, following the broad provisions of Operations Order No. 1 (1) issued by Allied Armies in Italy (AAI) on 5 May. This order, which had governed the big offensive resulting in the capture of the capital, continued to direct the activities of Fifth Army almost to the Arno River.

General Sir Harold R. L. G. Alexander, commander of AAI, had predicted at the time of the issuance of the attack order that, once Rome had fallen, the Germans probably would withdraw fighting to the Pisa—Rimini or Gothic Line, imposing the maximum delay on our advances by strong mobile rear guards and demolitions. This prediction proved to be correct. Long-range AAI intentions as listed in Operations Order No. 1 called for pursuit of the enemy to the Gothic Line with the infliction of the maximum losses on him in the process. In addition to this broad order the instructions directed Fifth Army to capture the Viterbo airfields and the port of Civitavecchia, thereafter to advance on Leghorn. As an indication of the importance attached to obtaining a good port as soon as possible, Fifth Army also was instructed to prepare an amphibious operation to be launched if required to assist in the earliest possible capture of Civitavecchia. Plans prepared by Allied Force Headquarters for the capture of the Island of Elba, which lies off the Italian coast west of the port of Piombino, would be co-ordinated by AAI with the advance of Fifth Army. Fifth Army was also informed through this order that the British 1 and 5 Divisions, comprising part of VI Corps, would be withdrawn into AAI reserve as soon as the bulk of the Army advanced beyond Rome. Above Rome Eighth

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(1) For text, see Fifth Army History, Part V.

Army was to pursue the enemy on the general axis of Terni—Perugia and then advance on Ancona and Florence, with the main objective beyond that stage to be decided later.

On 14 July Operations Order No. 2 was issued to Fifth and Eighth Armies. (*See Annex No. 1A.*) This involved long-range planning for future operations. The order took cognizance of the fact that the enemy at that time was resisting stubbornly all along the front and that his main anxiety was to preserve an intact force while gaining as much time as he could in falling back to the Gothic Line. It was evident, therefore, that the enemy would make a determined stand on the general line of the Arno and the high ground south of Florence, holding as long as possible the successive river lines between Ancona and Pesaro on the Adriatic coast. In carrying out the expressed intention of destroying the enemy's armed forces in Italy, future operations were divided into three phases: 1) driving the enemy back to the Gothic Line, inflicting the maximum losses on him in the process; 2) penetration of the Gothic Line between Dicomano and Pistoia; and 3) exploitation over the Apennines to the Po River line and establishment of bridgeheads over that river.

By the time this order was issued Fifth Army had been greatly reduced in size by withdrawal of troops for operations in France with Seventh Army. It was soon to lose the FEC. For this reason AAI could not be sure of the resources available for operations beyond the mountains and did not then issue orders covering other than the first phase of the planned action. Fifth Army was directed to capture the port of Leghorn and drive the enemy north of the Arno, exploiting beyond the river if available resources permitted. If Fifth Army found itself unable to exploit across the Arno, the plan for securing Mount Pisano, a high mass north of the river and east of Pisa, would have to depend on the situation when the Arno was reached and the capabilities of Fifth Army at that time.

## B. FIFTH ARMY ORDERS

With great latitude in planning and a broad mission laid out for him by AAI, General Clark in turn gave generally long-range missions to his corps commanders. When Rome fell he issued verbal instructions to his units to secure a bridgehead line to a minimum depth of six miles beyond the Tiber River. On 6 June he published Operations Instructions No. 28, which was the only formal order issued to the entire Army until the line of the Arno had actually been reached. (*See Annex No. 1B.*) In the six weeks between formal instructions, operations of the various corps were governed by the existing situation and conferences among the higher

commanders, together with telegraphic directives from the Army Commander to specific units.

On 6 June the strength and disposition of the enemy forces facing Fifth Army were such that their most probable mission was to continue delaying with demolitions and light forces. If sufficient reinforcements were made available it was possible enemy resistance might strengthen sufficiently to require a co-ordinated effort to break through. The general mission outlined was a continuance of the advance to the northwest, using armored elements supported by light mobile forces to compel the rapid withdrawal of the enemy and in event of increased resistance to develop rapidly the enemy positions. Operations Order No. 28 prescribed the initial corps boundaries and laid out a succession of objectives to be reached at certain times. The Army maintained its fast pace in the first few days beyond Rome, and the timetable appeared almost too slow. Consequently on 10 July General Clark ordered that these phase lines were not to be considered « stop lines » and all units should continue making every effort to maintain contact with and destroy the enemy in their assigned zones.

In the 6 June order II Corps was instructed to continue to push forward with all available troops in expectation of early relief by the FEC. Similar movement orders, went to VI Corps, which also was ordered to release without delay the British 1 and 5 Divisions in accordance with AAI instructions and to pinch out one American division as soon as operations permitted. The 45th Division was desired if possible. IV Corps was given a warning order to prepare to relieve VI Corps. While directing in separate instructions that VI Corps earmark infantry and artillery units for the possible seaborne attack on Civitavecchia, General Clark in his formal order alerted the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion to be prepared on 48 hours' notice to drop in the Della Tolfa hill mass south of Civitavecchia to aid in the capture of the port. As the battle developed, neither operation was found necessary.

These orders carried Fifth Army until 21 July when Operations Instruction No. 29 was issued (*See Annex No. 1C*) for a possible crossing of the Arno River line and initiated planning for operations against the Gothic Line. II Corps was to assume responsibility for the entire Army zone from the sea to the Army boundary approximately 30 miles inland. II Corps was also directed to prepare plans for crossing the Arno in the vicinity of Montelupo, capturing Mount Albano, and securing Pistoia and Lucca as Fifth Army's part in the first phase of the AAI plan of operations. Three days later Operations Instruction No. 30 (*See Annex No. 1D*) amended parts of the previous instructions by dividing the Army zone between II and IV Corps and ordering that the line be held with the minimum of troops. II

Corps was to proceed with its attack plans and IV Corps was to prepare a demonstration in the area Pontedera—Angelica in connection with the attack of II Corps. IV Corps, which was to hold the western half of the Army sector with a motley group of units, was to follow any withdrawal of enemy forces.

### C. *REGROUPING OF FIFTH ARMY UNITS*

Approximately six weeks were required for Fifth Army to chase the Germans from Rome to the North banks of the Arno River. During this period greater losses were inflicted on the enemy than those suffered by Fifth Army, despite the fact the Allies were always on the offensive. By 1 August, however, so many troops had been withdrawn to serve in the invasion of southern France that the strength of Fifth Army stood at little more than 50% of the figure on 4 June. The losses were progressive during the northward advance. On 1 June the assigned strength of the Army was 248,989, by 1 July it had dropped to 205,992, and on 1 August it was 153,323.

During the two months' period nine full infantry divisions and the equivalent of a tenth were assigned elsewhere. First to leave was the 3d Division, which was detached from II Corps on 6 June to perform garrison duty in Rome. It was assigned to Seventh Army on 24 June. On 15 June the British 1 Division was transferred to the British 5 Corps, and the British 5 Division subsequently left for the Middle East. On 22 June the 45th Division passed to Seventh Army; five days later the 36th Division also departed. With it went the 1st Special Service Force and the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion. First of the French units to go was the 1st Motorized Division (1<sup>e</sup> Division de Marche d'Infanterie) on 24 June followed shortly by the 3d Algerian Division (3<sup>e</sup> Division d'Infanterie Algérienne). When the FEC was relieved, the 4th Moroccan Mountain Division (4<sup>e</sup> Division de Montagne Marocaine), the 2d Moroccan Infantry Division (2<sup>e</sup> Division d'Infanterie Marocaine), and three groups of tabors (gouniers) were also lost to Fifth Army along with all the French Corps troops.

Heading the list of headquarters and service troops withdrawn were VI Corps Headquarters, assigned to Seventh Army on 15 June, and the French Expeditionary Corps Headquarters, which was relieved on 22 July. Major losses among service units included 2 field and 3 evacuation hospitals, 4 ordnance battalions, 6 signal companies, 23 quartermaster truck companies, 6 medical collecting companies and 2 medical clearing companies, and 2 engineer general service regiments.

While the withdrawal of infantry was felt most keenly because the nature of the terrain in Italy made these troops most valuable, a great number of combat units

in other branches also was transferred. Losses in this category included:

- 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron
- 191st, 753d, and 756th Tank Battalions
- 601st, 636th, and 645th Tank Destroyer Battalions
- 59th, 69th, and 93d Armored Field Artillery Battalions (self-propelled 105-mm howitzers)
- 36th, 141st, 634th, 937th, and 938th Field Artillery Battalions (155-mm guns)
- 601st and 602d Field Artillery Battalions (75-mm pack howitzers)
- 463d Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, minus two batteries
- 36th and 540th Engineer Combat Regiments
- 48th Engineer Combat Battalion
- 2d, 3d, and 83d Chemical Battalions (Motorized)
- 68th, 72d, 108th, 216th, and 403d Antiaircraft Artillery Battalions
- 433d, 451st, 534th, 894th, and 895th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalions
- 106th, 441st, and 443d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalions, Self-propelled
- 102d Balloon Battery
- 337th Searchlight Battalion
- 688th, 689th, 692d, and 693d Airborne Antiaircraft Battalions (.50 caliber machine guns).

While all these units were relieved from Fifth Army one new division was assigned on 21 June, the 91st Infantry Division. The 361st Regimental Combat Team, which had arrived ahead of the main body, went into action 11 June with the 36th Division; the 363d Regimental Combat Team was committed on 5 July; and the division as a whole was attached to IV Corps on 10 July. The 92d Infantry Division was earmarked for Fifth Army, but only the 370th Regimental Combat Team arrived in Italy in time to take part in the action along the Arno River, being given a sector there late in August. One other unit, the 517th Parachute Infantry Regimental Combat Team, was temporarily assigned to the Army on 26 May to obtain three weeks' combat experience and was relieved of assignment on 2 July after taking part in operations with IV Corps. The 442d Regimental Combat Team was committed to action during this period for the first time. The first South American nation to send troops into the war, Brazil, shipped its Brazilian Expeditionary Force to Italy, but by 15 August only one combat team had arrived for Fifth Army and it had not been sent into the line.

When the front became temporarily stabilized along the Arno River during the latter part of July and the month of August, Fifth Army compensated for its lack

of infantry by creating two provisional infantry regiments from antiaircraft troops. The 91st Antiaircraft Artillery Group formed its battalions into a provisional regiment, stored the antiaircraft guns, and issued machine guns and mortars. The 107th Antiaircraft Artillery Group did the same. The 91st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and the 2d Armored Group were incorporated into this organization, called Task Force 45 after the 45th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade, parent organization of the two groups. With tanks and tank destroyers functioning as artillery Task Force 45 amounted to a provisional division.

#### D. *CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PURSUIT ACTION*

1. *Tactics of the Army.* The pursuit action of Fifth Army fell into three periods, corresponding roughly with the terrain covered. From the fall of Rome until about 15 June the advance was very rapid through the gentle hill country north of the Tiber and in the Ombrone Valley around Grosseto. For the next month the chase led through more difficult country where the German defense functioned better and the gains were correspondingly slower. After Leghorn fell on 18 July and the mountains became hills near the Arno River the rate of advance increased.

Gains of 15 miles a day were not uncommon in the first few days of the pursuit. This imposed a strain on the supply line since few Army dumps were north of Anzio. Until the harbor of Civitavecchia was restored to use, supply trucks at times were forced to travel nearly 100 miles for needed stores. The war outran the medical units. One day the 11th Evacuation Hospital went into position 15 miles behind the front, its usual distance. By the next night the advance combat elements were 30 miles ahead, a distance considered too great. On 17 June the 8th Evacuation Hospital was six miles behind the troops, closer than any hospital of this type had been except at Anzio. The early rapid progress saw field artillerymen constantly going in and out of position, often without firing a shot. One armored field artillery battalion with self-propelled guns went three days without firing a round. When a target appeared it would be gone by the time the gunners could get ready. Tanks and tank destroyers did most of the heavy gun work in the early stages of the pursuit and kept close to the lead of the columns to engage targets.

General tactics of the pursuit consisted of decentralization of command with formation of numerous small mobile forces utilizing all available roads. Lower echelon officers were given much freedom in directing their units as they saw fit. Armor was used to the maximum to speed the drive and infantry were carried in trucks whenever possible. Truck transportation, however, was short, and the available trucks were needed primarily to move supplies. Tanks and tank destroyers

were attached to all infantry units to give them mobile fire power. These two branches complemented each other with considerable success, the tanks cleaning out machine-gun nests and other resistance points which hindered the infantry and the infantry in turn working around antitank guns which held up the armor. While the infantry divisions did not greatly vary their standard formations, occasionally a reinforced battalion would be sent out as a special task force. Armored units were broken down into small groups, a policy which proved its worth and allowed all available roads to be used. The FEC formed a provisional « pursuit corps » headquarters which was given two divisions and conducted the chase for approximately one month while Corps main headquarters and the other FEC divisions followed behind. Throughout June and to a lesser extent in July the pursuit was necessarily carried out with a minimum number of troops, for our lengthy lines of communication and supply were heavily taxed. As a result it was possible to alternate divisions and smaller units to give most men some rest.

Opposition was generally of the rearguard type, with some instances of bitter resistance in strength. Hit and run tactics by small groups of German infantry and tanks were most often encountered. The terrain was as much a foe as the Nazi. Ideal for delaying action, the mountains were hard on our men physically and on our vehicles mechanically. Bridges and culverts were plentiful along the coast and in the mountains averaged more than one per mile. These were methodically blown by the enemy, and Fifth Army engineers of all echelons were constantly called upon to make repairs and improvisations. In addition to damage caused by enemy demolitions the engineers had to repair many bridges and roads smashed by the Allied air force in weeks of bombing behind the enemy lines. All service troops were called upon for extreme efforts to keep up with the advancing combat elements. Ordnance units especially were overburdened, since Seventh Army and other theaters had priority in equipment and parts as well as in personnel. Salvage became an increasingly important item.

For the most part air support in the pursuit was carried out in the enemy rear areas, but fighter-bombers were on call and in many instances gave close-in support when the momentum of the drive had begun to slacken and it was possible to determine friendly and enemy positions with some degree of accuracy. Enemy air attacks were negligible. In daylight the Luftwaffe was almost never seen. At night the foe used a curious assortment of German and Italian planes, many of them obsolete, in small-scale attacks against rear area establishments, ports, and bivouacs. Roads were strafed and antipersonnel bombs were directed against front-line troops. The small load of high explosive bombs which these craft dropped in the rear placed them mostly in the nuisance category.

2. *The Italian Partisans.* North of Rome Fifth Army troops encountered anti-German guerrilla bands in large numbers for the first time. These partisans were met in ever-increasing numbers as the lines moved toward the north, and on many occasions they performed valuable service. The partisans identified themselves with red, white, and green armbands and carried a great assortment of weapons. In a group of a dozen of these patriots it was not uncommon to find almost as many different types of weapons. Many had British-made Sten guns, dropped by parachute from Allied planes and intended specifically for these resistance units. Next in popularity came captured German machine pistols followed by almost every other type of pistol, rifle, and grenade.

Many of these partisan bands were led by escaped Allied prisoners of war, some of whom had been living in the hills with friendly Italians for a year or more. A few women had attached themselves to these roving parties. Occasionally the partisans joined Army units and fought alongside our soldiers. Some instances of pitched battles between Germans and the partisans were found. Before the occupation of Piombino the partisans fought a fierce battle there in which 150 Germans were killed along with an unknown number of the guerrillas. The hindrance they caused the enemy was indicated in a captured German order for road protection in areas north of Rome known to be centers of partisan activity. This order prohibited individual vehicles from traveling these roads and directed that no convoy of less than five machines use the routes. For foot columns advance, rear, and flank protection was made mandatory, and troops were instructed to pass through larger communities in extended order. These measures were necessitated by heavy losses inflicted on one column of troops marching in close order through a village of some size.

Generally, however, the partisans proved themselves of most value as internal police in areas occupied by our troops before the Allied Military Government (AMG) could be set up and Carabinieri brought in to enforce the laws. It became Army policy to allow the partisans to carry on these necessary functions until local government was restored; then the partisans were disarmed. The partisans also took charge of initial distribution of supplies to the civilian population and rounded up notorious Fascists who were turned over to AMG authorities. They ferreted out numbers of German soldiers who had donned civilian clothes and frequently brought in other stragglers who had been by-passed by our forces.

Though the partisans south of the Arno were not as highly organized as resistance groups in some other European countries, they usually knew leaders of similar groups in areas still behind the German lines. Often they were sent through the lines to give instructions to friendly civilians ahead as to what should be done to facilitate our advance. In this manner they also functioned as information

gatherers. As our troops advanced, almost all civilians had information of «greatest value» to offer; however, they often did give valuable leads to worthwhile information. The Army also made use of the partisans as guides in country which was not well mapped and where shortcuts could be used to advantage. These local guides were most useful in night operations. At no time did the civilian population prove a serious problem to Fifth Army as the vast majority of the people were friendly and co-operative.



## *Securing the First Objectives*

ON all but the extreme right flank Fifth Army had reached the line of the Tiber River during the night of 4-5 June, and troops were poised to exploit the capture of the capital. II Corps, under the command of Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes, held the northeastern part of Rome and country to the east. VI Corps, commanded by Maj. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., was stretched along the river from the center of the city southwest toward the sea. On the left flank of VI Corps the British 5 and 1 Divisions were still short of the river line, but on the right elements of the 45th, 34th, and 36th Divisions had reached it. The 1st Armored Division held the river from the center of Rome to points west of the city. The 85th and 88th Divisions of II Corps were along the river with the 3d Division east of Rome some distance from the Tiber. The FEC, which had been pinched out in the convergence of the two American corps on the city, had been moving up along the right flank of Fifth Army until British troops of Eighth Army came up abreast of II Corps. The French were beginning to assemble their divisions between Highways 6 and 7 south of Rome. IV Corps Headquarters, under Maj. Gen. Willis D. Crittenger, was in Army reserve.

Rome, a major prize, was safely under control except for scattered mopping up. The next immediate objective was the seizure of the seaport of Rome, Civitavecchia, and the group of enemy airfields lying around Viterbo. Civitavecchia lay some 40 miles northwest of the city on Highway 1 while Viterbo was approximately the same distance from Rome and about 20 miles inland from the sea. An excellent road net led to Viterbo, Highway 2 being the major route, but other parallel hard-surfaced roads also ran to this city. Civitavecchia was in the VI Corps zone on the Army left and Viterbo in that of II Corps on the right flank of Fifth Army.

Few troops had gone far beyond the Tiber bridges on 4 June, and all units were ordered to push out the following day to obtain a secure bridgehead over the

river to a minimum depth of six miles. On 6 June the chase was continued by all units in their respective zones until the publication of Operations Instruction No. 28 by General Clark late that day which directed that faster, more mobile troops be employed in the pursuit. This order alerted the FEC to prepare for relief of II Corps and directed IV Corps to prepare plans immediately to take over direction of the attack in the VI Corps zone.

## A. VI CORPS BEGINS THE PURSUIT

5-11 JUNE

The territory to the northwest of the city on the left of the VI Corps zone consisted of a comparatively flat coastal plain, traversed by Highway 1 leading to Civitavecchia and on up the coast. (*See Maps Nos. 2 and 3.*) Low rolling hills made up the right half, offering little natural assistance for a delaying action and favoring the employment of armor. The 34th Division was given the coastal zone, and the 36th Division was allotted the inland zone. The main axis of advance inland was along a good secondary road, branching northwest off Highway 2 about seven miles beyond the city and running through Bracciano, Oriolo Romano, and then back into Highway 2 about four miles below Vetralla. Highway 2 at Vetralla turned almost due north into the II Corps zone, ran through Viterbo and continued on to the north.

The 1st Armored Division, under the command of Maj. Gen. Ernest N. Harmon, was given the mission of spearheading the pursuit of the enemy beyond Rome in the IV Corps zone. Combat Command A under Col. Maurice W. Daniel, made up primarily of the 1st Armored Regiment and supporting division troops, and the 135th Infantry, attached from the 34th Division, was given the zone of the 36th Division on the right flank of the Corps. Combat Command B under Brig. Gen. Frank A. Allen, Jr., consisting of the 13th Armored Regiment, the 6th Armored Infantry, and supporting units, was to work in the 34th Division zone on the left flank. The two infantry divisions were to follow the armor in their respective zones as rapidly as possible, with the 45th Division in Corps reserve behind the 34th Division. The two British divisions were also placed in reserve, preparatory to being detached from Fifth Army, and took little part in the action above Rome. On 5 June the 1 Reconnaissance Regiment of the 1 Division crossed the Tiber and advanced some six miles to the north, but the following day it was pulled back to the south bank. Both divisions then assembled between Rome and the sea.

All units moved out early on 5 June to secure the bridgehead line over the Tiber. Combat Command A and the 36th Division used intact bridges across the river, the Ponte Giuseppe Mazzini, Ponte di Ferro, Ponte Vittorio Emanuele, Ponte Sisto, and Ponte Sant'Angelo, all inside the Rome city limits. Most of their difficulty in advancing came from the dense throngs of citizens who crowded into the streets of the capital to celebrate their new freedom. It was necessary for the Combat Command B column to move partially into the Combat Command A zone to cross the river since the bridges in the lower reaches of the river either were damaged or would not take heavy traffic. The 34th Division, sending a light task force consisting of the 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, the Reconnaissance Company, 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and a platoon of tank destroyers, also used this route.

The 180th Infantry (45th Division) had crossed to the north bank in some strength over a partially demolished bridge west of Rome at 0200, 5 June. Engineers erected a treadway bridge over the Tiber for use of the main body of the 34th Division. This bridge was in operation by mid-morning, and speedy repairs were made on damaged crossings in the 34th Division zone about four miles west of the city. The British 1 Reconnaissance Regiment crossed on footbridges and had some light armored vehicles across by the end of the day.

Only light enemy resistance, consisting of a few towed 88-mm and smaller antitank guns, an occasional self-propelled gun, a tank here and there, and scattered infantry and snipers, was encountered all along the VI Corps front during the day, but the bottleneck of traffic in Rome did not allow the full striking power of the divisions to be deployed widely until well into the afternoon. At darkness, which at this time fell between 2130 and 2200, the initial line based on strategic road junctions about six miles northwest of Rome had been secured across the front. The 157th Infantry (45th Division) moved up abreast the 1 Reconnaissance Regiment; tanks of the 13th Armored Regiment and 34th Division infantrymen held the central portion; and Combat Command A's tanks and infantry, closely followed by the 36th Division, covered the right flank. The 1st Armored Division reconnaissance unit, the 81st Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, operated over the minor road net between the two combat commands, sending mobile patrols over much of the countryside.

1. *Progress Along the Coast.* At 2100, 5 June, VI Corps was directed to capture Civitavecchia as rapidly as possible. Day attacks were to be led by the tanks; the infantry was to pass through the armor at night and press forward during the hours of darkness. Combat Command B's armored and motorized units the next day pushed rapidly up Highway 1. They made little contact with the enemy but were slowed considerably by blown bridges and other demolitions.

In the interest of speed and reduction of traffic each combat command of the 1st Armored Division was limited to one medium tank battalion, one infantry battalion, one reconnaissance company, one engineer company, one light tank company, and one armored field artillery battalion of self-propelled howitzers.

Progressing rapidly, the armored units were nearly 25 miles north of Rome at darkness on 6 June. The 2d and 3d Battalions, 168th Infantry, motorized in trucks, passed through the tank units at 2200 and moved on up the highway. Advancing all night, the battalions encountered nothing more serious than occasional small-arms fire and mines and by 1030 the following morning had secured Civitavecchia. Around this port the Germans put up only a short fire fight on the road northeast of the city. Combat Command B turned over the entire zone to the 34th Division, assembled, and began to move into the 36th Division zone behind Combat Command A.

Having set the policy of leapfrogging units to keep fresh troops always in the lead, Maj. Gen. Charles W. Ryder, 34th Division commander, moved the 133d Infantry under Col. William Schildroth in column of battalions through the 168th Infantry at 1700, 7 June, and pressed the attack northward toward Tarquinia. Without opposition the 133d Infantry had advanced within five miles of the town by midnight. Prisoners captured indicated two previously unidentified German divisions, the 162d Grenadier Division and the 20th GAF Field Division, were now in the fight, and on the morning of 8 June, while moving through a stretch of rough country toward Tarquinia, the 133d Infantry met the stiffest opposition yet encountered north of Rome. Infantry with machine guns, backed with artillery and mortars, had established positions in a ravine covering the highway, and the battle lasted most of the day. Using newly issued 57-mm antitank guns as direct-fire weapons, the regiment finally blasted the Germans from their positions and took nearly 150 prisoners. This same day the 45th Division was relieved of its reserve mission and moved east of Rome, later departing for Naples to join Seventh Army.

The 361st Regimental Combat Team under Col. Rudolph W. Broedlow, first element of the 91st Division to arrive in Italy, had been attached to the 34th Division and was committed to relieve the 133d Infantry at 0330, 9 June. Three hours later both the 361st Regimental Combat Team and command of the zone passed to the 36th Division, which by that time had moved north and then swung west to take over the entire VI Corps zone while the FEC relieved II Corps on the right flank of Fifth Army. The 34th Division assembled in reserve in positions around Civitavecchia.

2. *Battles on the Inland Route.* While rapid advances were being made along the coastal flank, Combat Command A and the 36th Division were matching this progress on the right of VI Corps. Armor and infantry of Combat Command A

jumped off from their bridgehead line at 0530, 6 June, and made a difficult march cross-country and over small trails. They finally reached the main Rome—Bracciano road and fought to the outskirts of Bracciano by darkness against a group of enemy tanks which gave battle the last three hours of daylight.

Infantry of the 36th Division under Maj. Gen. Fred L. Walker were to have advanced during the night, pass through the armor, and continue ahead, but failed to arrive in time. Combat Command A consequently jumped off at daylight on 7 June. in three task forces. These small task forces, made up identically of a reconnaissance platoon, an engineer platoon, a medium tank company, an infantry company, a light tank platoon and a platoon of tank destroyers each, were designated Task Forces A, B and C. At 0600 Task Force B passed through Bracciano, followed by Task Force C, and headed for Manziana, while Task Force A established a temporary road block on the road running north around Lake Bracciano. Elements of the 36th Division arrived, took over the road block and mopped up scattered enemy units by-passed by the armor.

Task Force B captured and consolidated Manziana in mid-morning after a short action outside the town, while Task Force C continued on to Oriolo Romano, which was occupied against slight opposition at 1610. Reconnaissance units pushed on to Vejano at dusk where progress was halted by a large-scale demolition in a ravine. The 142d Infantry under Col. George E. Lynch, following the armor, turned left on the Manziana—Tolfa—Civitavecchia road and advanced toward the coast until elements of the 34th Division were contacted. No resistance was met along the road. The 141st Infantry under Lt. Col. Austin F. Gilmartin, and the 143d Infantry under Col. Paul D. Adams followed, and the entire 36th Division assembled just west of Tolfa preparatory to taking over the coastal zone from the 34th Division.

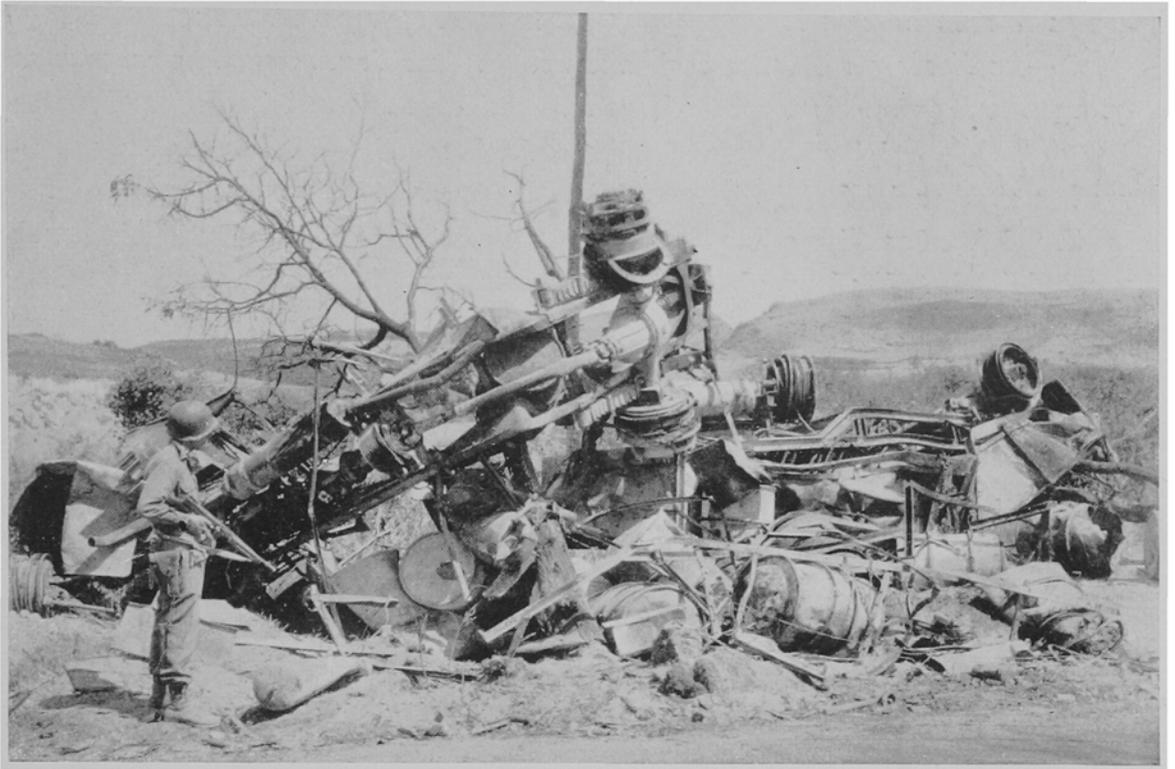
Moving against Vetralla on the morning of 8 June, Combat Command A jumped into a fairly strong enemy rear guard near the junction of the road north from Vejano and Highway 2. Our tanks, infantry, and artillery finally subdued this force after a three-hour battle, but the delay had enabled the bulk of the enemy to retreat through Vetralla. Task force A had deployed during this action, and Task Force B immediately moved through in column and secured Vetralla by 1600. Though Viterbo had been included in the II Corps zone, Task Force C continued on ahead toward this important communications center. Its infantry continued to push until nearly midnight and then halted after coming up against more enemy infantry and tanks about a mile and one-half south of Viterbo. Following their usual tactics, the Germans withdrew during the latter part of the night, and Task Force C occupied Viterbo without resistance by 0650, 9 June.

During the night of 8-9 June Combat Command B had assembled behind Combat Command A; at 0700, 9 June, it was ordered to move northwest from Vetralla to seize Tuscania. Traffic was beginning to jam up along the road as French elements, which had relieved II Corps, caught up with the 1st Armored Division. Combat Command A was ordered off the roads until the French passed through, and late on 9 June it began to move back to an area near Lake Bracciano. Combat Command B engaged in a short, fierce fight on the southern edge of Tuscania but captured the place by noon, and by dark it had pushed reconnaissance to the northwest within a mile of Canino. The enemy withdrew from this town during the night, and by 0800, 10 June, Combat Command B finished mopping up the area. It was then relieved by the 36th Division. That night the command joined the remainder of the 1st Armored Division which had gone into Army reserve at Lake Bracciano.

3. *Relief of VI Corps.* After relieving the 133d Infantry the 361st Infantry, under 36th Division command, launched an attack on Tarquinia at 0530, 9 June, only to find that the enemy had again retired under cover of darkness. In half an hour after the jump-off the town was in our hands, and the troops moved on up the coast along Highway 1. Little resistance was encountered during the day as the 361st Infantry pushed ahead. The 143d Infantry turned inland from Tarquinia on the lateral road leading to Tuscania. By the time the infantry arrived the town had been taken by Combat Command B, and the 143d Infantry followed on behind the tanks to Canino, where it took over from the armored units.

The 361st Infantry continued its advance up the coast beyond Tarquinia. After a two-hour delay caused by a blown bridge it entered the next town of Montalto, about eight miles northwest of Tarquinia. Another blown bridge over a deep chasm north of Montalto prevented pushing the pursuit during the night, but engineers constructed a bridge before dawn, and the line moved up six miles farther on 10 June. During the night of 10-11 June the 141st Infantry relieved the 361st Infantry and encountered increasingly stiff resistance. The Germans now had in the line most of the two divisions they had rushed in to cover their retreat, and at midday they threw a two-company counterattack against the 141st Infantry. The attack was broken up by infantrymen and supporting artillery without loss of ground, but it indicated that the days of 10 to 15-mile gains were almost finished.

At 1200, 11 June, IV Corps Headquarters took over command of the VI Corps zone, and VI Corps Headquarters shortly thereafter began moving to Naples and was assigned to Seventh Army. The 34th and 36th Divisions were attached to IV Corps. When VI Corps left the front, the Army line on the coastal side had been pushed nearly 65 miles north of Rome. The Corps had secured the two vital objectives north of the city, the port of Civitavecchia and the airfields of Viterbo.



*Allied bombing shattered the enemy columns fleeing north of Rome.*



*In the Tarquinia area our troops advance past a wrecked German field gun.*



*The devastated port of Civitavecchia, as our troops first saw it.*



*Fifth Army engineers at Civitavecchia prepare a wharf to unload ships.*

Within four days after its capture, supplies began to come ashore at Civitavecchia. The Viterbo airfield facilities had been bombed and blown flat by Allied aircraft and German demolition squads, but the ground was still there and in a comparatively short time our bombers and fighters were both operating off the runways.

VI Corps units north of Rome had added their bit to the huge number of German vehicles lying twisted and burned along the highways—mostly the work of the Allied air force—and had knocked out or captured more than 50 artillery pieces of various types. Slightly more than 1000 prisoners had been taken, and heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy in a number of places. Standing forlornly amid twisted rails and smashed cars in the marshalling yards of Civitavecchia were two big German railroad guns. These tremendous guns were 280-mm in size and had tubes 65 feet in length. It was believed they were the long-range weapons whose shrieking shells made them famous as the Anzio Express. Unable to take them along in the retreat, the foe had spiked them and left the remains behind for study by Allied ordnance experts.

## B. *II CORPS NORTH OF ROME*

5-10 JUNE

In its final drive on Rome II Corps attacked with three divisions abreast, the 85th, 88th, and 3d Divisions from left to right. Task Force Howze and the 1st Special Service Force swept into the northeastern part of the city late on 4 June to capture the upper or northern bridges over the Tiber River. This mission was accomplished by midnight, and the 88th Division entered the city to take bridges in its zone by the same time. The bridges were obtained intact. Elements of the 85th Division moved into the city the night of 4-5 June while the main body of the 3d Division assembled northeast of Rome east of the river. The 91st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron fanned out in the direction of the Aniene River protecting the Corps right boundary.

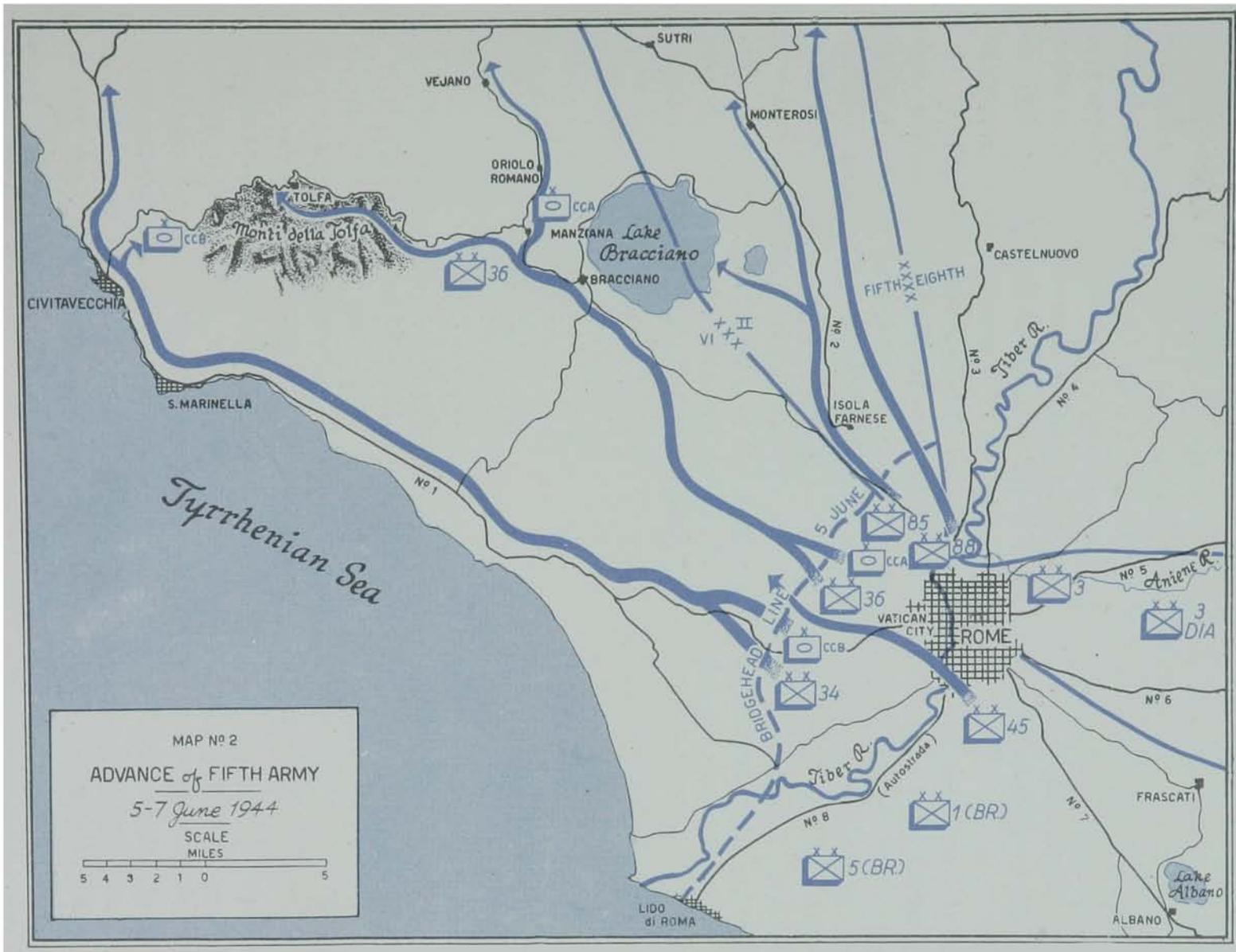
Rapid consolidation of positions inside the city itself took place the following day when mopping up forces cleaned all the enemy out of Rome in the Corps zone. The 3d Division, which was squeezed into the right of the narrowing II Corps zone, was detached from the Corps at 1420, 5 June, and reverted to Army control as garrison troops for the city. The 1st Special Service Force continued to guard the II Corps bridges, with the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron attached. Armored units of Task Force Howze, which had spearheaded the drive up Highway 6, assembled east of the city to reorganize.

For the pursuit II Corps picked the 85th and 88th Divisions to continue northward, with the general road line Orte—Soriano—Viterbo as the objective and

Highway 2 as the principal axis of advance. (*See Maps Nos. 2 and 3.*) The Corps right boundary ran almost due north from a point about four miles east of the Rome city limits, through Civita Castellana, and to a point just west of Orte. The original left boundary between II Corps and VI Corps ran northwest some four to six miles west of Highway 2, skirted the northeastern shores of Lake Bracciano, and then cut more sharply northwest to include Vetralla and Tuscania. On 7 June the boundary was shifted to place these two towns in the VI Corps zone when VI Corps units swung northward and cut across the advance of II Corps troops. The two divisions poured across the Tiber on 5 June and were hard pressed to keep up with the rapidly retreating foe. Highway 2 became the divisional boundary with the 85th Division west of the road and the 88th Division on the east.

1. *The 85th Division Advances.* Moving rapidly northwest on the left flank of the Corps, the 85th Division under Maj. Gen. John B. Coulter led off the chase of the enemy by moving the 339th Infantry under Lt. Col. Brookner W. Brady west of the Tiber on 5 June. It crossed mainly over the Ponte Cavour and Ponte Margherita bridges which had been secured by the 1st Special Service Force. Encountering great difficulty with festive crowds, unfamiliar streets, and a welter of other military traffic, the regiment virtually fought its way through the tumultuous city until it reached the outskirts and began advancing on the extreme left boundary of II Corps. By nightfall of 5 June forward elements were five miles to the northwest of the city. Elements of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, attached to the division, were feeling out the enemy ahead and on the flanks of the infantrymen but met little opposition. A considerable number of stragglers was rounded up.

The following day the division continued to advance in column of regiments, the 338th and 337th Infantry following behind the 339th Infantry, which sent its battalions forward in three columns generally astride the axis of Highway 2. The 117th Reconnaissance Squadron screened the Corps and division left flank by advancing along the minor roads running to the northwest. Reinforced with tanks of the 760th Tank Battalion and tank destroyers of the 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion, the 339th Infantry jumped off from its first bridgehead positions west of the Tiber at 0515 and advanced unopposed for about three hours until it met enemy rear guards who had halted along a ridge line in the vicinity of Isola Farnese. This line was just north of a main road junction where Highway 2 continues to the north and another paved road branches off northwest toward Bracciano. The enemy resistance was designed to cover the road junction and consisted of self-propelled guns with a protecting screen of riflemen and machine guns. This strongpoint was overcome by midday, and the regiment resumed the advance, moving generally inside the V formed by the two roads. The 338th Infantry had been following up and bivouacked a short distance behind the 339th Infantry in the general area of the road



junction. The 337th Infantry remained in its assembly area on the northwestern outskirts of Rome in division reserve.

On 7 June the 337th Infantry under Col. Oliver W. Hughes passed through both the other regiments and took up the main pursuit along Highway 2. Initially the 1st and 3d Battalions advanced on foot astride the highway, and the 2d Battalion was motorized in trucks as a reserve to exploit the situation should the resistance prove negligible. The 338th Infantry under Lt. Col. William H. Mikkelsen swung on behind the 337th Infantry and moved to its left with the 339th Infantry holding in the same position it occupied at darkness on 6 June.

The foot elements advanced six miles without meeting any opposition. It became evident that the Germans were rapidly moving out of contact and widening the gap between their main body and our pursuing troops. Task Force Howze by this time had completed its reorganization and was attached to the 85th Division at 1130 as II Corps sought to increase its mobile striking power. The armor was moved as rapidly as possible to an assembly area near the head of the column. The task force consisted of medium tanks of the 3d Battalion, 13th Armored Regiment; Company A, 81st Armored Reconnaissance Battalion; a detachment from the 16th Armored Engineer Battalion; and a detachment of medical troops from the 47th Armored Medical Battalion, all under command of Col. Hamilton H. Howze, commanding officer of the 13th Armored Regiment. These 1st Armored Division troops had been attached to II Corps previously to assist the 3d Division in cutting Highway 6 at Valmontone.

Meanwhile the motorized 2d Battalion, 337th Infantry with tanks and tank destroyers and a mechanized platoon from the 85th Reconnaissance Troop, had moved up on Highway 2, going ahead of the two marching battalions of the regiment. The plodding infantry met practically no resistance. Shortly after noon the 337th Infantry reached the east shore of Lake Bracciano and pinched out the 338th Infantry against the south shore of the lake. Enemy contact was finally regained by the motorized 2d Battalion about two miles south of Monterosi, another highway junction town five miles north of Lake Bracciano. Five German tanks formed the backbone of this rearguard detachment, which forced the 2d Battalion to detruck. Our troops began to develop the enemy position while the trucks were used to shuttle forward the other two battalions of the regiment. The 3d Battalion arrived by 1600 and with the 2d Battalion launched an attack which saw the 3d Battalion enter the town by 1700. The enemy was forced to withdraw. The 337th Infantry occupied positions just beyond the town for the night. The other two regiments of the division remained where they had been holding, the 338th Infantry on the edge of Lake Bracciano and the 339th Infantry back in the vicinity of Isola Farnese.

Task Force Howze moved into an assembly position just behind the 337th Infantry during the night and received additional strength when the 117th Reconnaissance Squadron was attached to it. To provide infantry the 1st Battalion, 337th Infantry, was also attached and motorized. This force moved out at daybreak on 8 June and advanced against limited resistance. It ran into more mines and demolitions than on the previous two days, which slowed the pursuit considerably. No serious resistance was met until 1730, when the German rear guard turned and fought again in the hills two miles north of Ronciglione along the east edge of Lake Vico. This resistance was speedily overcome, and the force advanced about two miles north of the lake. When night fell it was within six miles of Viterbo.

On 9 June the FEC began the relief of II Corps. Task Force Howze advanced some five miles farther to reach a point four miles due east of Viterbo, which was occupied the same day by VI Corps troops coming north from Vetralla into the II Corps zone. A shift of the Army boundary reduced the size of the II Corps zone which the French took over and resulted in the British 13 Corps swinging west into the area where the Howze force had been operating. The Eighth Army boundary was extended westward to allow use of routes through Viterbo. As British and French units moved swiftly into their new zone, Task Force Howze was returned to Army and eventually to 1st Armored Division control, while the 117th Reconnaissance Squadron assembled with other II Corps units. Final relief of the 85th Division was accomplished by the French at 1000, 10 June, and the entire division assembled in the vicinity of Lake Bracciano. On 14-15 June it moved to the Lido di Roma area for rest, reconditioning, and training.

2. *Action of the 88th Division.* The 88th Division under Maj. Gen. John E. Sloan at nightfall on 4 June had the 350th and 351st Infantry in Rome, having entered the city with regiments abreast along Highway 6. The 349th Infantry under Lt. Col. Joseph B. Crawford had been attached to the 3d Division but reverted to control of its parent unit that night and began moving into the 88th Division zone. Artillery of the division was set up in the gardens of the famous Villa Borghese to support the continuance of the push to the northwest, and on the following day the troops moved out on the right of the II Corps zone. All three infantry regiments crossed the Tiber River on 5 June, using primarily the Ponte Milvio and Ponte Duca d'Aosta bridges. They then advanced astride Highway 2, the 351st Infantry under Col. Arthur S. Champeny on the left and the 350th Infantry under Lt. Col. Walter E. Bare, Jr., on the right of the road. Positions about three miles beyond the river had been reached at the end of the day. The 351st Infantry met some slight and brief opposition along a low ridge two miles northwest of the stream; the advance of the 350th Infantry was unopposed. Highway 2 from this point formed the boundary between the 88th and 85th Divisions, inclusive to the 85th Division, and all elements

of the 88th Division were moved to the right of this artery as they prepared to resume the pursuit on 6 June. The 91st Reconnaissance Squadron was operating on the division right, protecting both its flank and that of the Corps.

Moving out again at daybreak on 6 June, the 350th Infantry swung to the left of the division zone, with the 351st Infantry cutting across the rear of the 350th Infantry and operating on the right. The 349th Infantry, which had now completely assembled with the division, followed the 351st Infantry and then moved to its right, thereby placing the three regiments abreast: the 350th Infantry on the left, the 351st Infantry in the center, and the 349th Infantry on the right. The division advanced almost due north, operating in columns of battalions and using all available roads to the east of Highway 2. Little opposition was met after the feeble resistance just beyond the Tiber was rolled up on 5 June. The division advanced an average of eight miles north of Rome on 6 June. The 349th Infantry, the most forward element, was approximately ten miles beyond the city, with the division front echeloned to the left rear from this point.

As on other parts of the Fifth Army front the enemy was running faster than our dismounted infantry could keep up. The bulk of the foe's forces apparently had been retreating day and night despite land and air attacks, and the rear guards which delayed us were usually motorized infantry and self-propelled guns which, when they disengaged, rapidly outdistanced our foot troops. Lack of vehicles prevented a more extensive motorization of our forces. On 7 June all reconnaissance elements fanned out beyond the 88th Division front, and the infantry followed as rapidly as possible. Elements of the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron were on the outskirts of Civita Castellana, nearly 25 miles north of Rome, by the end of the day, while the three infantry regiments of the 88th Division had advanced generally 16 to 18 miles above the capital.

Here the 88th Division was practically eliminated from the picture, for the newly designated Army boundary ran diagonally across its front and the 6 South African Armoured Division of the British 13 Corps was moving along the new boundary in a northwesterly direction. Hence orders were sent to the division to halt on the ground reached on 7 June. Task Force Ellis, under command of Lt. Col. Charles A. Ellis, commanding officer of the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron, was to maintain contact with the enemy.

In addition to the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron, which had been attached to the division the previous day, Task Force Ellis included the 756th Tank Battalion, the 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion, less one company, and the 3d Battalion, 351st Infantry, which was mounted in trucks to provide infantry support. This force swept into Civita Castellana early on the morning of 8 June and continued on to the north. Mobile elements were sent on all available routes toward the Viterbo—Orte

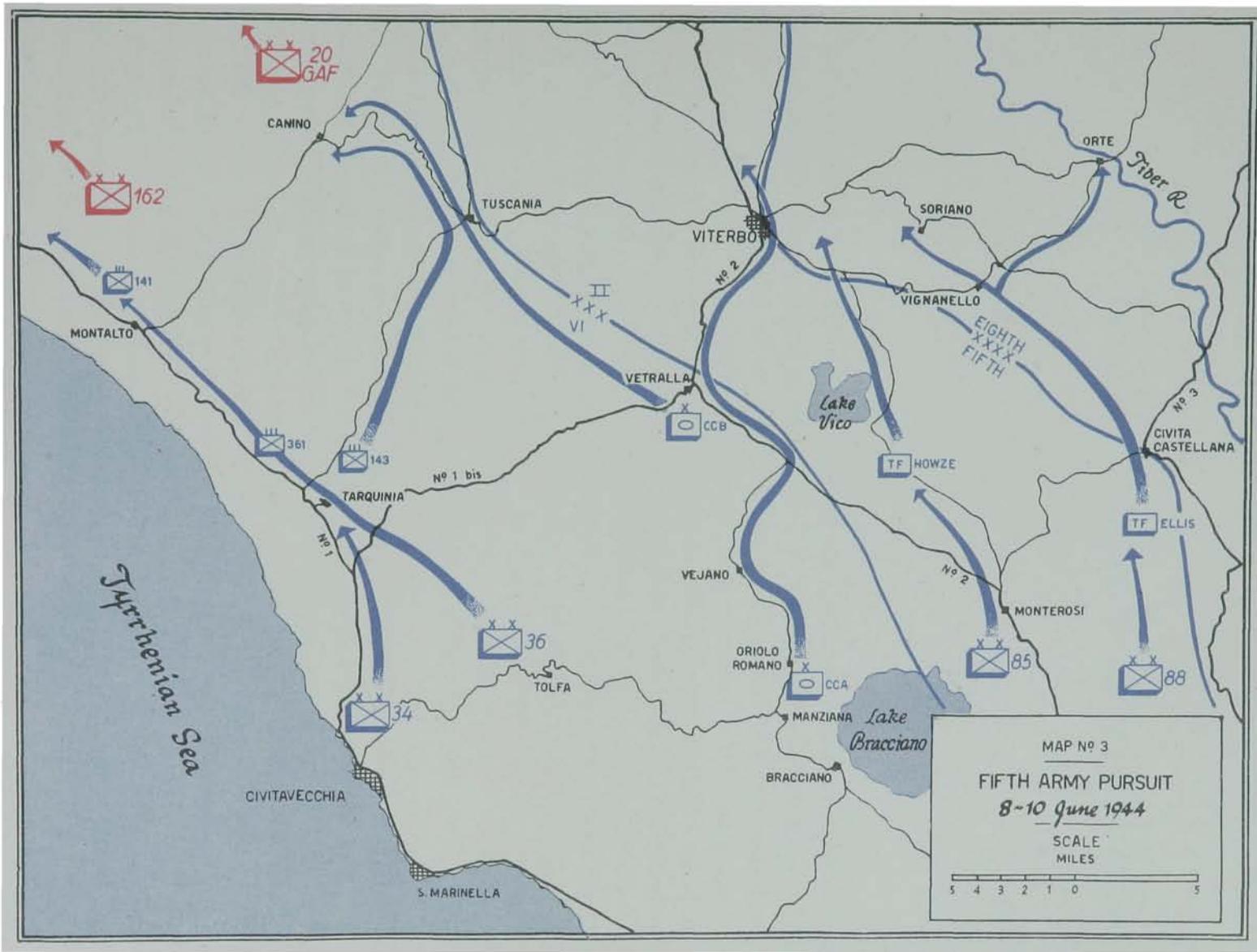
road, about ten miles to the north. Slight rearguard opposition by the enemy was brushed aside during the day; the rapidly increasing number of mines and demolitions noted across the entire Army front was also encountered here. By nightfall, 8 June, the main body of the task force had reached the village of Vignanello, five miles southwest of Orte, while advance elements penetrated to the road designated as their objective about four miles west of that town, turned east, and cleared Orte of scattered snipers.

This was the high-water mark of the II Corps advance during this phase of the Italian campaign. Task Force Ellis units were ordered to halt in place to allow 13 Corps to maneuver to the northwest. The lighter elements of the force continued to screen the road between Orte and Soriano during 9 June, guarding the British left flank until all positions were consolidated. By the close of that day the relieving units had taken over the entire zone and the Ellis force was dissolved. The 88th Division and attachments assembled south of Civita Castellana and on 12 June began movement to their training and rest area in the vicinity of Lake Albano.

In the four days the Corps was in action north of Rome its units had pushed Fifth Army's line more than 30 miles beyond the city, at comparatively small cost to themselves, and had rounded up close to 1500 prisoners in addition to casualties inflicted on the enemy. Most of the prisoners were stragglers who had been separated from their units, and the majority surrendered without opposition to armored reconnaissance troops. As an indication of the demoralization widespread through the German Fourteenth Army at that time, many prisoners were taken who had on their persons passes authorizing them to retreat as individuals, living off the land, until they reached the main battle line in the vicinity of Florence. Prisoners were identified from nearly all the units comprising Fourteenth Army.

Resistance was encountered mainly from small groups of infantry, ranging from 10 to 50 men, who were supported by armored artillery and who sought to create temporary delays, principally at defiles on the main roads. The German air force was active during the moonlight nights, but only a few planes engaged in harassing the routes of our pursuit. Some casualties were suffered among personnel of the 88th Division when service trains were strafed at night in the outskirts of Rome.

Anticipating its relief by the French and experiencing difficulty in keeping its heavy artillery close to the troops when the pace of the pursuit increased, II Corps ordered all its Corps artillery except two battalions of 155-mm guns and one battalion of 4.5-inch guns into assembly areas on 6 June. One mission was fired by Corps artillery that day and four on 7 June, which ended its actions during this phase. By 10 June, when II Corps was entirely withdrawn, Fifth Army had reached the general line Viterbo—Tuscania—Tarquinia, and both the port of Civitavecchia and the airfields around Viterbo had been secured.



MAP No 3  
**FIFTH ARMY PURSUIT**  
*8-10 June 1944*  
 SCALE  
 MILES  
 5 4 3 2 1 0 5

# CHAPTER IV

\* \* \* \* \*

## *To the Ombrone-Orcia Valley*

AT noon on 11 June Fifth Army pursued the Germans northwestward with two fresh command groups directing operations. IV Corps was on the left and the FEC on the right after completion of their relief of VI Corps and II Corps respectively. Comparatively fresh troops were available for the continuance of the chase, especially in the French zone where the two FEC divisions initially committed, the 1st Motorized Division and the 3d Algerian Infantry Division, had been out of heavy combat nearly two weeks. Only one American division, the 36th, was in action on the IV Corps side. It had been following behind the swift advance of Combat Command A of the 1st Armored Division north of Rome. Although its men had been constantly on the move since passing Rome, it had not been engaged in any extensive fighting, its action behind the armor having been confined largely to mopping up operations. The 361st Regimental Combat Team was attached, giving the 36th Division four regimental combat teams.

The 34th Division was resting in the vicinity of Tarquinia, where it had moved from Civitavecchia to make way for supply depots being set up near the port. The 1st Armored Division was rehabilitating near Bracciano, and the other two French divisions, the 2d Moroccan Infantry Division and the 4th Mountain Division, were in FEC reserve. The 85th and 88th Divisions were en route to rest areas south and west of Rome. Other American and British divisions around Rome were in the process of leaving Fifth Army. The 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate) was attached to IV Corps and remained with the 34th Division. Other major VI Corps elements turned over to IV Corps were the 36th and 39th Engineer Combat Regiments, the 1st Armored Group, and the 6th Armored Field Artillery Group of self-propelled 105-mm howitzers.

The left flank of the Fifth Army line lay along the coast well to the north of Tarquinia, forward elements of the 141st Infantry being within four miles of the

Orbetello Isthmus along Highway 1. The 142d Infantry and 143d Infantry were inland from the highway due east of the 141st Infantry. The 117th Reconnaissance Squadron, which had been attached to IV Corps when II Corps was relieved, was working north along small roads near the right boundary of the IV Corps zone and screening the advance of the 36th Division. The 3d Algerian Division on the FEC left was within sight of Valentano, and on the right the 1st Motorized Division, advancing up Highway 2 north of Viterbo, was close to the southeastern shore of Lake Bolsena.

The missions of the FEC and IV Corps remained the same as those of their predecessors: to continue to push forward in their respective zones, the FEC along the axis of the Acquapendente—Siena—Poggibonsi—Castelfiorentino road, and the Americans up Highway 1. The 91st Reconnaissance Squadron (reinforced), now with IV Corps, was preparing to cover the roads east of the 36th Division, to add strength to the Corps right flank, and to advance in the zone from which the 1st Armored Division had been relieved. In a section devoid of any major roads, it was also to maintain contact with FEC units.

Enemy formations were slowly becoming more cohesive but there was no indication as yet that a determined stand was to be expected on the immediate front. A reported defensive line in the vicinity of Viterbo had fallen without any protracted resistance, and the enemy action continued to be of the rearguard type, weak to moderate as the FEC began its task on the inland flank, slightly more aggressive in the coastal sector. The 162d Turcoman Grenadier Division was being encountered in strength for the first time by IV Corps, and it was evident the enemy had thrown in this fresh division in an effort to slow our pursuit. Attached to this division was the 871st Grenadier Regiment. These troops, with a sprinkling of men from many other German divisions who had been hastily organized into independent battle groups, held a front of about 30 miles. The principal enemy element on the FEC front was the 356th Grenadier Division with a wide variety of independent units also being met in this zone. Over-all command apparently was held by XIV Panzer Corps.

#### A. *IV CORPS ON THE LEFT*

11-20 JUNE

The 36th Division was strongly reinforced when it took over the main IV Corps effort along the coast. (*See Map No. 4.*) In addition to its regularly assigned troops the division had the 361st Regimental Combat Team, the 753d Tank Battalion, and the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion attached, while both the 91st and 117th Reconnaissance Squadrons were operating in support of the division advance, the former

on the right and the latter largely screening the infantry advance. On 11 June the 117th Reconnaissance Squadron was attached directly to the division. Supporting Corps artillery and armor further backed the infantry.

The immediate objective of the division was Grosseto, a medium-sized city with good airport facilities located just north of the Ombrone River near the junction of Highways 1 and 73. Grosseto is situated almost in the center of the flat valley formed by the Ombrone as it nears the sea. This valley is nearly 15 miles square and is criss-crossed by scores of small canals and drainage ditches. Between Grosseto and the advanced positions of the 141st Infantry on Highway 1 was the town of Orbetello, where causeways link the steep, rocky peninsula of Mount Argentario and its port of Santo Stefano to the mainland. Orbetello was approximately six miles beyond the front line on the morning of 11 June. Four miles north of Orbetello Highway 74 turns east from Highway 1; Grosseto is about 18 miles farther north. Low hills come almost to the beach line for much of this distance, especially in the Orbetello section, forming a defile through which Highway 1 passes. Highway 74 follows the narrow valley of the Albegna River inland; between this valley and Grosseto are more hills, while the entire eastern portion of the division zone was a mass of hills from 500 to 1000 feet in altitude, practically unbroken north to the Ombrone. South of the Albegna Valley the eastern portion of the zone is almost roadless. At Magliano, four miles north of the river, a road net begins which leads northwest to Grosseto and northeast to Scansano. The main axis of the division advance continued to be Highway 1, which runs within a few hundred yards of the sea from south of Orbetello to the little town of Bengodi, five miles north of the mouth of the Albegna River. From that point the road gradually curves inland until at Grosseto it is almost seven miles from the sea.

General Walker, 36th Division commander, outlined his plans at 2030, 10 June, to go into effect the following morning. During the night the 141st Infantry would relieve the 361st Infantry in forward positions along Highway 1, while the 142d Infantry would advance on Capalbio, a small village three miles inland. From Capalbio it was to push northwest parallel to the highway to reach the Magliano—Grosseto road and then advance along that axis. The 143d and 361st Infantry would be initially in reserve. The advance was to be carried out as rapidly as possible, the rate depending on the ability of artillery to displace forward to cover the foot troops.

1. *Action to the Ombrone River.* The 141st Infantry relieved the 361st Infantry astride Highway 1 at midnight 10-11 June in the vicinity of Nunziatelli, six miles southeast of Orbetello. The 361st Infantry had been blocked most of the previous day by heavy German artillery fire coming from the hills south of Orbetello. The relieving regiment, in column of battalions led by the 1st Battalion, moved out immediately after taking over and progressed forward two miles without opposition

until 0230, when leading elements walked into a German ambush and road block, heavily defended by artillery and infantry.

The 1st Battalion was pinned down along the highway, while the 2d and 3d Battalions swung off in an enveloping move to the right. The 2d Battalion attacked against Mount Capalbiaccio, a 700-foot peak about one mile north of the highway, and several lesser hills. It made some progress until the Germans counterattacked strongly in mid-morning. No friendly artillery was then in position to help repel this assault, and one company of the 2d Battalion was overrun. A force of two companies of Germans infiltrated in the wheat fields between the 1st Battalion, still along the road, and the 2d Battalion. The 3d Battalion was rushed into this threatening gap, and the 2d Battalion, 361st Infantry, came up as additional help. Artillery support became available soon after noon, and the lines were restored along this portion of the front by the end of the day, although the 2d Battalion was stalled in the mountains. The 2d Battalion, 361st Infantry, was sent over to back up this unit, which attacked again at 2000. The battle see-sawed fiercely most of the night until a final push at 0545, 12 June, drove the Germans off Mount Capalbiaccio, which dominated the main portion of the German position. The enemy then began a withdrawal.

At noon on 12 June the 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry, was attached to Task Force Ramey, a provisional force which was committed on the right of the 36th Division. The 1st and 2d Battalions kept up pressure along the road, and Task Force Dubois, made up of a reconnaissance platoon from the 117th Reconnaissance Squadron, a platoon of tanks, a platoon of tank destroyers, and Company K, 361st Infantry, finally broke through the Highway 1 road block in the late afternoon. The 143d Infantry passed through the 141st Infantry, followed the task force forward, and before dark reached Highway 74. The enemy put up little resistance after his Nunziatelli position was broken and did not attempt to defend the Orbetello sector. The remaining two battalions of the 141st Infantry were also attached to Task Force Ramey and moved to their new zone on the Corps right flank.

While this stiff battle was raging near the coast, the 142d Infantry was having almost as hard a fight through the rugged hills on the division right flank. Jumping off from an assembly area five miles southeast of Capalbio at dawn on 11 June, the regiment advanced over the rough country and reached the town before noon without resistance. Just beyond the town enemy fire from the high ground to the north was received. After reorganizing, the 2d and 3d Battalions attacked in mid-afternoon against hills to the north and northeast of Capalbio and in an afternoon of heavy fighting gained high points about three miles beyond Capalbio. The regiment advanced again at dawn on 12 June with infantry working through the hills and the supporting tanks moving through the small valleys. The enemy had departed during

the night, and with practically no enemy contact leading elements consolidated the high ground south of Highway 74. When reconnaissance units encountered a group of German tanks in the Albegna Valley, artillery fire directed on them destroyed two and dispersed the others in the only real action of the day. Still farther on the right flank elements of the 117th Reconnaissance Squadron entered Manciano without opposition.

Division plans to cross the Albegna in a night assault were discarded when all the bridges were found blown; the water was too deep in the 143d Infantry zone to permit fording either by infantry or by armor. Both regiments attacked at dawn on 13 June, crossing on footbridges prepared by the engineers. The 143d Infantry advanced with its 3d Battalion on the left and 2d Battalion on the right. No opposition was encountered most of the day until the smaller but deeper Osa River was reached just south of Bengodi. On the right the 142d Infantry also had little difficulty advancing north across the valley, but Magliano was strongly defended.

Elements of the 117th Reconnaissance Squadron, tanks, and tank destroyers spearheading the advance made their way within a mile of the town by noon with the 1st and 2d Battalions, 142d Infantry, about two miles behind them. Heavy fire coming from Magliano itself and from the hills to the north held them off. The 1st Battalion moved to the southeast of the town, and the 2d Battalion attempted to by-pass it on the west, but heavy resistance developed all along the line. Armored elements and parts of the 2d Battalion reached the outskirts by 1500 when heavy street fighting developed. At dark the enemy still held the major portion of the town. By morning of 14 June resistance broke. At 0700 the 2d Battalion wiped out final pockets of opposition within Magliano and outposted the position while the 1st and 3d Battalions advanced toward the northwest. Moderately heavy mortar and artillery fire continued to fall on our advancing troops as the enemy began a withdrawal toward Grosseto. The two battalions launched an attack at 1245 to seize high ground on both sides of the Magliano—Montiano—Grosseto road. This attack progressed favorably; by 1600 the objectives generally two miles beyond Magliano had been occupied. The 361st Infantry relieved the 142d Infantry here at darkness and prepared to continue the attack astride the road. This relief was consistent with a set policy of almost daily rotation of troops, which provided relatively fresh men in the assault echelons.

Hard fighting was also experienced by the 143d Infantry along Highway 1 early on 14 June. Crossing bridges over the Osa built by engineers during the night, the 2d and 3d Battalions engaged in heavy battling for the high ground on both sides of the highway north of Bengodi. The battalions jumped off at 0400 and about five hours later had seized the summits, taking 50 prisoners and 5 artillery pieces. Enemy infantry resistance slackened as the push was resumed in the afternoon and

the 142d Infantry advanced on the right. For the first time heavy German armor was encountered when a group of Mark VI tanks opened fire on the advancing infantry, but they were driven off by friendly artillery. By mid-afternoon a bridge was completed on the highway, and the armor of Task Force Dubois rolled on up the center to a point about two miles north of Bengodi where the entire regiment dug in for the night.

2. *Clearing the Grosseto Area.* Reconnaissance patrols entered Grosseto on 15 June while the main body of the division covered an average of eight miles to reach the Ombrone River all along the front. The 143d Infantry, with the 2d and 3d Battalions straddling Highway 1, advanced before dawn and at first light took the hills on both sides of the road in the vicinity of Collecchio, a highway village six miles south of the river. A steady, all-day advance against machine-gun and mortar fire carried the regiment forward to the Ombrone. Much difficulty was encountered with demolished crossings over a myriad of small streams and canals which cut across the southern edge of the valley. By 1900 forward units had reached the river line, less than two miles south of the city, and a ford was found a mile to the east. As darkness fell the regiment began to cross the stream without encountering serious resistance.

On the right of the division zone the 361st Infantry kept pace with the push up the highway. Screened by the 36th Reconnaissance Troop in front and the 117th Reconnaissance Squadron angling in on the right from captured Scansano, the infantry advanced along the Magliano—Grosseto road after relieving the 142d Infantry, and by 0530 entered Montiano, which was taken by the 1st Battalion. The foot elements then turned off the road and advanced due north cross-country toward the Ombrone east of Grosseto. The cut-up country, with twisting and turning trails and a maze of hills, afforded many opportunities for small delaying actions by the Germans, but by steady pushing the troops reached the river banks about the same time as the units coming up the main highway. Heavy minefields were encountered and the enemy's demolition program was comprehensive. To the east of the 361st Infantry the 117th Reconnaissance Squadron forced a crossing over the stream against some resistance about three miles east of Grosseto and sent mechanized patrols into the town at 2130. The patrols found only a few snipers.

The 143d Infantry successfully placed all its battalions on the north bank before dawn and moved west into Grosseto along a paved road, protected from enemy fire by a high bank which ran along the north side of the highway. Soon after daylight on 16 June the city was occupied in strength, and patrols fanned out across the flat country north and northwest for about five miles. All roads were heavily mined; while no enemy infantry were encountered, medium-caliber artillery fire began falling around the city from guns located near Montepescali, a little town on high ground

seven miles to the north which covered the junction of Highways 1 and 73. A perfect Y is formed by the roads here where Highway 1 swings sharply west and then northwest and Highway 73 runs northeast on its twisting course to Siena. Montepescali lies on the northwestern corner of a mass of hills, which rise along the north bank of the Ombrone and dominate the flat lands on the east of Highway 1 between the river and Highway 73. It would be necessary to clear these hills to secure the lateral highway.

Four miles east of Grosseto, in the vicinity of the hamlet of Istia, the 361st Infantry advancing north in its zone could find no natural crossing and was forced to wait until footbridges were constructed across the Ombrone. The regiment was unable to get to the north side until after daylight when the crossing was made under enemy fire, but by noon all battalions were across and attacking the nearest high ground overlooking the river. By nightfall the regiment was about a mile north of the stream.

Though the crossing of the Ombrone had been made by foot troops without great difficulty, it was necessary to erect bridges to bring across vehicles and supporting artillery before the pursuit could be continued in force. Engineers worked all through 17 June preparing crossings over the river and the Canal Diversivo, a wide drainage ditch north of Grosseto. The infantry took advantage of the delay to improve their positions all along the 36th Division front in preparation for the co-ordinated Corps attack on 18 June. The 143d Infantry pushed patrols farther out into the valley and up Highway 1 without contacting any large enemy force. Meanwhile the 361st Infantry moved forward in the rough ground, taking Hills 177 and 192 and Mount Mosconia, a 1000-foot knob 3 miles north of the river and about 4 miles northeast of Grosseto. The 517th Parachute Infantry Regimental Combat Team under Lt. Col. George R. Walton was attached to the 36th Division and was placed on the right flank, solidly filling the gap between the division and Task Force Ramey, which was advancing on the east toward Campagnatico. The IV Corps plan of attack called for the 36th Division to clear all the high ground southeast of Highway 73 while the task force came up on the right flank through Campagnatico and Paganico and cut Highway 73 below the town of Roccastrada.

The assault began at dawn on 18 June. The three infantry regiments advanced abreast on a front of only five miles, the 143d Infantry on the left, the 361st Infantry in the center, and the paratroopers on the right. The rough country was made more difficult by extensive minefields, though enemy resistance was moderate. The 143d Infantry, with the easiest terrain to cover, moved directly against Montepescali; the 361st Infantry was pointed toward the secondary road from Grosseto to Batignano, a village in the center of the hill mass. The village of Montorsaio, farther into the hills to the northeast, was the objective of the 517th Parachute

Infantry, which also was charged with maintaining contact with Task Force Ramey. Gains of approximately three miles were made the first day, the greatest advance being recorded in the 143d Infantry zone. The center force succeeded in opening the road to within a mile of Batignano.

Heavier going was experienced on the left the following day, but the 143d Infantry successfully pushed its 2d Battalion to the edge of the wooded area about a mile south of Montepescali after bucking up against heavy machine-gun and mortar fire. The Germans hastily removed their artillery, which had been hidden in the woods, and Grosseto was freed from harassing artillery fire. The other two regiments registered much greater gains in the center and on the right. The 361st Infantry took Batignano in its stride as the heavily pounded Germans began to fall back, and by nightfall our line had been advanced to within two miles of Highway 73 in the center, with forward patrols of the 361st Infantry probing toward Sticciano, a small village atop a hill just south of the road. The 517th Parachute Infantry moved forward nearly 6 miles during the day, occupying Montorsaio and consolidating positions along a 1200-foot ridge which dominated Highway 73, 6 miles northeast of the Highway 1 junction. A German withdrawal was carried out along the entire front the night of 19-20 June; at dawn elements of the 117th Reconnaissance Squadron climbed into Montepescali, closely followed by the 143d Infantry. Good progress was also being made by Task Force Ramey, and the 361st Infantry was pulled back into division reserve with the paratroop battalions extending west to take in the vacated zone and complete the last stages of the mopping up of the hill country.

IV Corps was making preparations to commit the 1st Armored Division on the Corps right when its zone became wider and the contour of the coastline bent sharply northwest. On 20 June the direction of the 36th Division advance was changed from north to northwest. The 142d Infantry, which had been resting, moved northwest from Grosseto with the mission of securing the high ground south of Highway 1 on the northwest edge of the Ombrone Valley. No opposition was met in this operation, and the town of Giuncarico and the ridge south of Highway 1 were cleared without trouble. It became evident the enemy had withdrawn to the north of the paved road. On 21 June the 143d Infantry, having completed mopping up the junction of Highways 1 and 73, turned sharply left across the valley and attacked the high ground north of Highway 1. The regiment entered the hills again north of Giuncarico and established a solid front with the 142d Infantry on the south. The 517th Parachute Infantry eliminated the last resistance southeast of Highway 73.

3. *Right Flank Task Force.* After being shifted from II Corps to IV Corps the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron was committed again almost immediately, going into the line on 12 June as Task Force Ellis to operate through the area between the

main forces of IV Corps and the FEC. This zone was a sizeable gap from five to six miles wide along the right boundary of IV Corps which contained a large network of minor roads and trails. By the night of 12 June the squadron had reached the general line Ischia—Valentano and was moving northwest in its zone after leaving a force to contact the French at Valentano. Progress was fairly rapid with only slight enemy resistance. Many of the roads were almost inadequate for vehicular traffic, and the advance was further impeded by mines and demolitions which necessitated much dismounted searching for suitable routes.

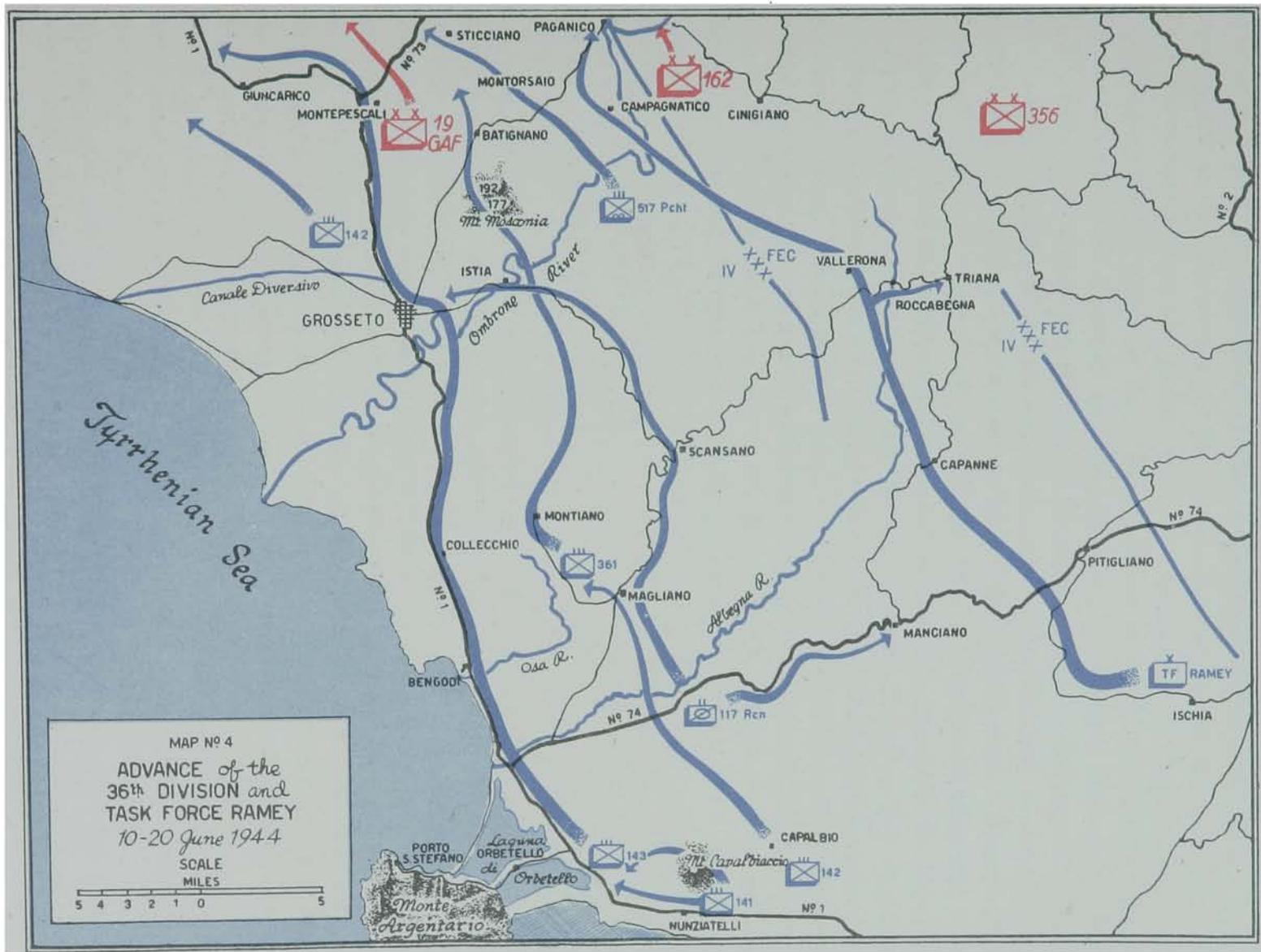
The zone assigned to the squadron was excessive for its strength, and in Operations Order No. 5 from IV Corps on the night of 12 June, General Crittenberger organized Task Force Ramey to assume responsibility for the zone of Task Force Ellis. Brig. Gen. Rufus S. Ramey was given command of the new force, which had the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron as the nucleus for a provisional brigade. To form a headquarters for this new organization General Ramey received Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Group. Initial troops attached, in addition to the reconnaissance squadron, were the 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry; the 59th Armored Field Artillery Battalion; the 2d Battalion, 39th Engineer Combat Regiment, less Company F; and a company of the 52d Medical Battalion. Task Force Ramey's first mission was to advance rapidly northwest in its zone and seize the line of the road from Scansano to Triana, about 25 miles northwest of the positions held when the force was created. Secondary missions were to seize and hold Pitigliano, ten miles northwest of Valentano, to protect the IV Corps right flank, and to maintain contact with the French.

Attacking at dawn on 13 June, the force advanced slightly more than ten miles during the day against negligible opposition; forward elements of the reconnaissance troops and infantry were outposting the road from Pitigliano to Manciano, six miles west, by darkness that night. The following day the force was greatly increased in strength with the addition of the remainder of the 141st Infantry, the 93d Armored Field Artillery Battalion and the 752d Tank Battalion. By 1500, 15 June, the line had been pushed northwest another eight miles to Capanne, with tanks, infantry, and reconnaissance moving steadily ahead against sporadic opposition from enemy infantry and self-propelled guns. Increased demolitions were encountered which hindered the armored progress, but the infantry elements continued to advance during the night. By morning of 16 June the 141st Infantry aided by the 752d Tank Battalion occupied the village of Vallerona and the town of Roccabegna, then turned east three miles to take the objective of Triana against heavy mortar and small-arms fire. Elements of the 117th Reconnaissance Squadron on the left of Task Force Ramey meanwhile had reached Scansano, and the lateral road between these two towns was opened.

At noon on 16 June a change of boundaries between IV Corps and the FEC went into effect. This did not reduce the width of the zone but changed the line to correspond with the increasing northwest curvature of the coast line. Task Force Ramey, leaving a small defending group in Triana until the French arrived, moved westward to assemble in the new zone. The FEC, whose left boundary had been moved roughly five to six miles west by the change, swung its forces gradually northwest to absorb the new territory, slowly pinching out the Americans. By noon on 17 June the French relieved the troops left in Triana, and these joined the main force, which had pushed well forward during the morning, aiming for Campagnatico, eight miles northwest of Grosseto. Leading 91st Reconnaissance Squadron units pushed forward steadily in spite of intense artillery opposition.

By orders issued on 17 June IV Corps set Campagnatico as the objective of Task Force Ramey in the general Corps attack along the Ombrone River valley. Advancing rapidly during the night, the 141st Infantry surrounded the town by 0600, 18 June. The night advance took the infantry across the Ombrone River, for the enemy failed to attempt a stand along this natural barrier and withdrew after blowing all bridges. A brisk fire fight in and around Campagnatico lasted for three hours before the enemy finally fell back toward Paganico, seven miles to the north, protecting his retreat with extensive demolitions which slowed pursuit efforts of the reconnaissance troops and light tank elements. Heavy showers turned dust into mud, further hampering vehicular movement. Rear guards fought stubbornly to hold Paganico in order to protect the lateral Highway 73 route of withdrawal for German units in the lower Ombrone River valley and the Grosseto region. This delaying force stalled the infantry of Task Force Ramey a short distance beyond Campagnatico at dusk on 18 June. Another attack launched early on 19 June made slow progress; since the French had not yet assumed responsibility for their entire zone on the IV Corps right, a battalion of infantry was left in defensive positions along high ground east of Campagnatico. This unit had instructions to hold its positions until it could make contact with the French at Cinigiano, six miles to the east. Contact was finally achieved on 22 June.

The 141st Infantry took Paganico on the morning of 20 June as resistance slackened. Task Force Ramey then planned to continue pushing northwest pending its relief by the 1st Armored Division, which was being committed to provide a heavier punch along the IV Corps right flank. The last attack of the Ramey force was started up the road running northwest from Paganico at dawn on 21 June when the 141st Infantry and tanks of the 752d Tank Battalion were aided considerably by a low morning fog which restricted enemy observation. Some artillery fire and infantry opposition were encountered, but by 1400 the troops had advanced to the junction with Highway 73, seven miles above Paganico, while infantry



MAP No 4  
 ADVANCE of the  
 36th DIVISION and  
 TASK FORCE RAMEY  
 10-20 June 1944  
 SCALE  
 MILES  
 5 4 3 2 1 0 5

of the 36th Division came up steadily on the left. This junction was outposted until the armored troops could come through; another road block was set up east of Paganico by Task Force Ramey elements until it was relieved by Combat Command A late in the afternoon of 21 June. On relief by the 1st Armored Division Task Force Ramey assembled in the vicinity of Campagnatico in Corps reserve.

Mopping up operations by the 517th Parachute Infantry and the 141st Infantry on the right of IV Corps by 21 June completed the clearing of the country south of Highway 73 in the Corps zone, and all but a small portion of the upper Ombrone River valley was occupied. This formidable river barrier had been crossed without a great deal of difficulty, and the German 162d Turcoman Grenadier Division had been badly cut up. The first elements of the 19th GAF Field Division had been encountered as the Montepescali hill mass was cleaned out, and, when the 36th Division turned across the valley and into the hilly country through which Highway 1 ran toward Follonica, the first prisoners from the 16th SS Panzer Grenadier Division were taken. In its first 10 days of pursuit north of Rome IV Corps had pushed the enemy back an average distance of 22 miles on a front of slightly less than 20 miles. The Corps was now on the threshold of a new phase of the pursuit. Ahead lay more rugged country and increasing enemy opposition.

## B. *THE FEC DRIVE*

10-20 JUNE

The goal of the FEC as it re-entered battle was the same as that of the American divisions—the Arno River—but whether or not the Corps would be able to reach it was uncertain. The river was over 100 miles away and all French armed forces in Italy were due to be withdrawn from Fifth Army at an unknown early date for use in Operation Anvil, the amphibious assault against the southern French coast. While the French divisions had had an opportunity to rest and regroup, the French Corps Headquarters had been in constant offensive operations since 11 May and in the line since 10 January. As his troops went back into the line General Alphonse Juin, the FEC commander, was granted permission to set up a special mobile operations headquarters, streamlined and designated the « Pursuit Corps », under command of Lt. Gen. Edgard R. M. de Larminat, who later became commander of the 1st French Corps in the Anvil assault. This provisional corps supervised actual field operations, while the FEC headquarters in the rear handled major command and policy functions.

Basically the Pursuit Corps was composed of the 1st Motorized Division under Maj. Gen. Diego Brosset and the 3d Algerian Division under Maj. Gen. de Goislard

de Monsabert, reinforced; it was ordered to advance rapidly on the FEC axis along the Acquapendente—Siena—Poggibonsi—Castelfiorentino road. (See Map No. 5.) This route followed Highway 2 as far north as Poggibonsi and from there continued on a good state road through Castelfiorentino to the Arno River near Empoli. The eastern boundary of the FEC was set provisionally along a line through the towns of Viterbo, San Quirico d'Orcia, San Casciano, Asciano, Castellina in Chianti, and Empoli on the Arno; the western boundary passed through Valentano, Sorano, and Mount Amiata and struck the river objective at San Miniato. The zone for the French operations averaged 15 miles in width and 110 miles in length.

Forward elements of Combat Command A of the American 1st Armored Division had reached a line roughly eight miles south of Lake Bolsena when the French forces passed through them. The 3d Algerian Division motored forward on 10 June, took positions in the line just north of Tuscania, and made contact with American forces on the coastal flank. The same day the 1st Motorized Division moved north on Highway 2 through Viterbo, relieved the American 88th Division, and passed through the Combat Command A armor, thus taking over the Fifth Army right flank position. Liaison was established with Eighth Army on the right of the French.

1. *Advance to Highway 74.* The first objective of the Pursuit Corps was Highway 74, the lateral highway connecting Highways 1 and 2 and running east-west above Lake Bolsena, approximately 19 miles north of the point where the French took over the pursuit. The 1st Motorized Division was given the eastern half of the Corps zone. It advanced on Highway 2 and a parallel road, Highway 71, running north from Viterbo along the east side of Lake Bolsena to the village of Bolsena on the northeast shore of the lake. In the western half of the zone the 3d Algerian Division moved along the axis of a road from Tuscania through Valentano and along the west side of the lake to Latera and Gradoli on the northwest shore.

The 1st Motorized Division immediately encountered resistance on both flanks. On the left this took the form of demolitions and tank obstacles covered by infantry outside Marta, a resort village on the south edge of the lake, while on the right the division became partially involved on the fringe of a heavy tank battle raging between the 6 South African Armoured Division of Eighth Army and the Hermann Goering Panzer Parachute Division. Forward elements of the division managed to slip between these resistance points and gained the town of Montefiascone on the southeastern edge of the lake by mid-afternoon of 11 June. Two task forces were made up of reinforced brigades. The 2d Brigade or East Group advanced along Highway 71 and the 1st Brigade or West Group moved up Highway 2. Heavy enemy demolitions covered by fire from mortars and self-propelled guns on

both roads about ten miles south of Highway 74 stopped the advance at midday on 12 June. An enemy counterattack was repulsed on Highway 71 but cost the French heavy casualties; not until the engineers working under fire on 12-13 June, had installed a Bailey bridge over craters and demolitions was the advance resumed. Pushing back stubborn enemy rear guards, French troops covered the eight miles north to Bolsena on the morning of 14 June and seized the hills on the northeastern shore. Armored spearheads moved on to San Lorenzo at the head of the lake where contact was made with the 3d Algerian Division at 1800 that day. This action cleared the eastern section of Highway 74; the South Africans kept abreast on the right.

The 3d Algerian Division on the west side of Lake Bolsena met and overcame its first resistance on 10 June at Piansano, seven miles north of Tuscania. Before darkness armored elements of the 3d Algerian Spahis (3<sup>e</sup> Régiment de Spahis Algériens and the 7th Algerian Infantry (7<sup>e</sup> Régiment de Tirailleurs Algériens) advanced three miles to the outskirts of Valentano. A two-company counterattack coming out of this town was smashed on the morning of 11 June and Valentano was cleared by 1300. A detachment of the 7th Algerian Infantry gained the western shore of the lake during the night of 11-12 June, but encountered stiff resistance the morning of 12 June. The regiment attempted to reach Latera, but another heavy counterattack at 1700 forced it back a short distance toward Valentano. After beating off this thrust, the unit reformed, drove ahead again, and by midnight had cut Highway 74 at several points west of Latera.

During this same night elements of the American 91st Reconnaissance Squadron had moved into the gap between the 3d Algerian Division and the American 36th Division. At dawn Troop C attacked the highway on the FEC left flank, relieving the pressure and enabling the French division to advance with comparative ease on 13 June. Latera was occupied before noon, Gradoli during the early afternoon, and before dark French troops were three miles north of Highway 74, in Sorano on the west and in Onano, due north of Gradoli. When the 1st Motorized Division was contacted at San Lorenzo, the entire Lake Bolsena shoreline was cleared and Highway 74 opened.

2. *Gains on the Left.* On 14 June the west boundary of the FEC was changed, with the French extending to take over the zone which had been occupied by Task Force Ramey of IV Corps. The new boundary extended along a north-northwest line from Vallerona, a small village 23 miles northwest of Valentano. To cover this wider front the 3d Algerian Division was reinforced by a special group of Moroccan units. Brig. Gen. Augustin Guillaume was given command of the 1st Moroccan Infantry (1<sup>e</sup> Régiment de Tirailleurs Marocains) of the 4th Mountain Division, the 1st Group of Tabors, two squadrons of the 4th Moroccan Spahis

(4° Régiment de Spahis Marocains), artillery, and supporting units to form a task force known as the Guillaume Group. The Group assumed actual coverage of the new zone by advancing diagonally to the west, thereby pinching out the Americans.

The axis of advance north of Highway 74 for the two forward regiments of the 3d Algerian Division was a northwest line through Mount Amiata, a large hill mass 16 miles north-west of Onano. On the left the 4th Tunisian Infantry (4° Régiment de Tirailleurs Tunisiens) advanced toward Mount Civitella six miles to the north, and on the right the 7th Algerian Infantry continued forward during the night of 14-15 June from Onano toward Acquapendente. Elements of the 7th Algerian Infantry operating with units of the 1st Motorized Division entered Acquapendente about noon on 14 June. They then moved on against stiff enemy infantry resistance to secure the road junction a mile east of the town five hours later. Opposed by persistent delaying detachments from the German 356th Grenadier Division, the 4th Tunisian Infantry advanced six miles north of Sorano on 15 June and by noon the following day captured Mount Civitella. Meanwhile the newly committed Guillaume Group came into the line during the night of 15-16 June, and at dusk on 16 June it relieved the American armored combat team of Task Force Ramey at Vallerona, along the inter-corps boundary.

The 4th Tunisian Infantry sent a battalion combat force along Highway 2 on the morning of 16 June. Assisted by the 1st Motorized Division, this team crossed the Paglia River seven miles northwest of Acquapendente and during the afternoon headed toward Piancastagnaio, five and one-half miles farther. Enemy infantry, supported by increased artillery, mortar and Nebelwerfer fire, gave ground only when forced to do so, and at noon 17 June the forward troops were still two miles south of the town. In the afternoon the enemy withdrew three miles north; at 2000 the Tunisians entered Piancastagnaio and cleaned out a few snipers. To the west the remainder of the 4th Tunisian Infantry supported by the 3d Algerian Infantry (3° Régiment de Tirailleurs Algériens) had reached the outskirts of Santa Fiora, seven miles northwest of Mount Civitella, by 2200, 16 June. Seragiola, three and one-half miles to the east of Santa Fiora on the lateral road to Piancastagnaio, was captured late that night, and Santa Fiora fell at 0900 the next morning, clearing the Piancastagnaio road.

By nightfall on 17 June the 3d Algerian Division front formed an arc above Vallerona on the west through Santa Fiora to a point just south of Piancastagnaio. On the left the Guillaume Group was moving up eight miles above Vallerona toward Cinigiano; in the center the 4th Tunisian Infantry had the Arcidosso area, four miles west of Mount Amiata, to clear in its push toward the east-west Orcia River, which flows 11 miles northwest of Santa Fiora. On the eastern part of the

division zone the 3d Algerian Infantry was driving toward Poggio Uccello, six miles north of Mount Amiata and just south of the Orcia.

The next objectives lay along a widening front. The 1st Motorized Division was already threatening Radicofani; with its fall the enemy probably would drop back a full ten miles to the next good delaying position along the line of the Orcia. Radicofani, 13 miles north of Acquapendente on Highway 2, was entered during the morning of 18 June by 1st Motorized Division forces, and its fall hastened the German withdrawal in front of the Algerian troops. By 1700 Piancastagnaio and the hills southeast of Arcidosso were in the hands of the 3d Algerian Division. Mount Amiata was occupied by a detachment of goumiers of the 1st Group of Tabors on the afternoon of 17 June, and by dawn 19 June Arcidosso and the villages east of Mount Amiata were entered. By mid-afternoon the 4th Tunisian Infantry took Castel del Piano. Goumier elements pushed through the hills to seize Seggiano, four and one-half miles north of Arcidosso, and moved west three miles toward Cinigiano. East of Mount Amiata the 7th Algerian Infantry moved north three miles farther and was then passed through by the 3d Algerian Infantry, which pushed forward under orders of General Guillebaud, assistant division commander, to capture the Orcia River bridge three miles west of Poggio Uccello. By evening of 19 June reconnaissance parties of all elements were close to the river.

3. *Action on the Right.* Revision of the inter-divisional boundary on 14 June gave the 1st Motorized Division use of Highway 2 as its route of advance to Acquapendente and Radicofani. The 1st Brigade drove up this road on 15 June while the 4th Brigade, after relieving the 2d Brigade, advanced on the right flank maintaining contact with the British. Led by armor, the 1st Brigade advanced against slight opposition on the morning of 15 June. Acquapendente fell without a struggle in the afternoon; by 1000, 16 June, the 1st Brigade had crossed the Paglia River in strength and reached a point seven miles beyond the town. Resistance stiffened on 17 June, but by the end of the day forward armored units of the brigade were less than two miles from the south edge of Radicofani and about four miles east of the town at a road junction which controlled the road northeast from Radicofani to Sarteano, eight miles away. In heavy fighting on 18 June against infantry and mobile artillery the 1st Brigade overcame mines and demolitions as well as the Germans before breaking into the town at 1100. Four hours later final resistance was mopped up. Approximately 90 prisoners were captured, and large stores of munitions and materiel were taken, including one undamaged Mark VI tank, which the French manned and turned against its former owners.

While the 1st Brigade was moving successfully up the highway the 4th Brigade struck against Allerona, seven miles northeast of Acquapendente, on 15 June. By evening the entire road net between the two towns was securely held; at noon the

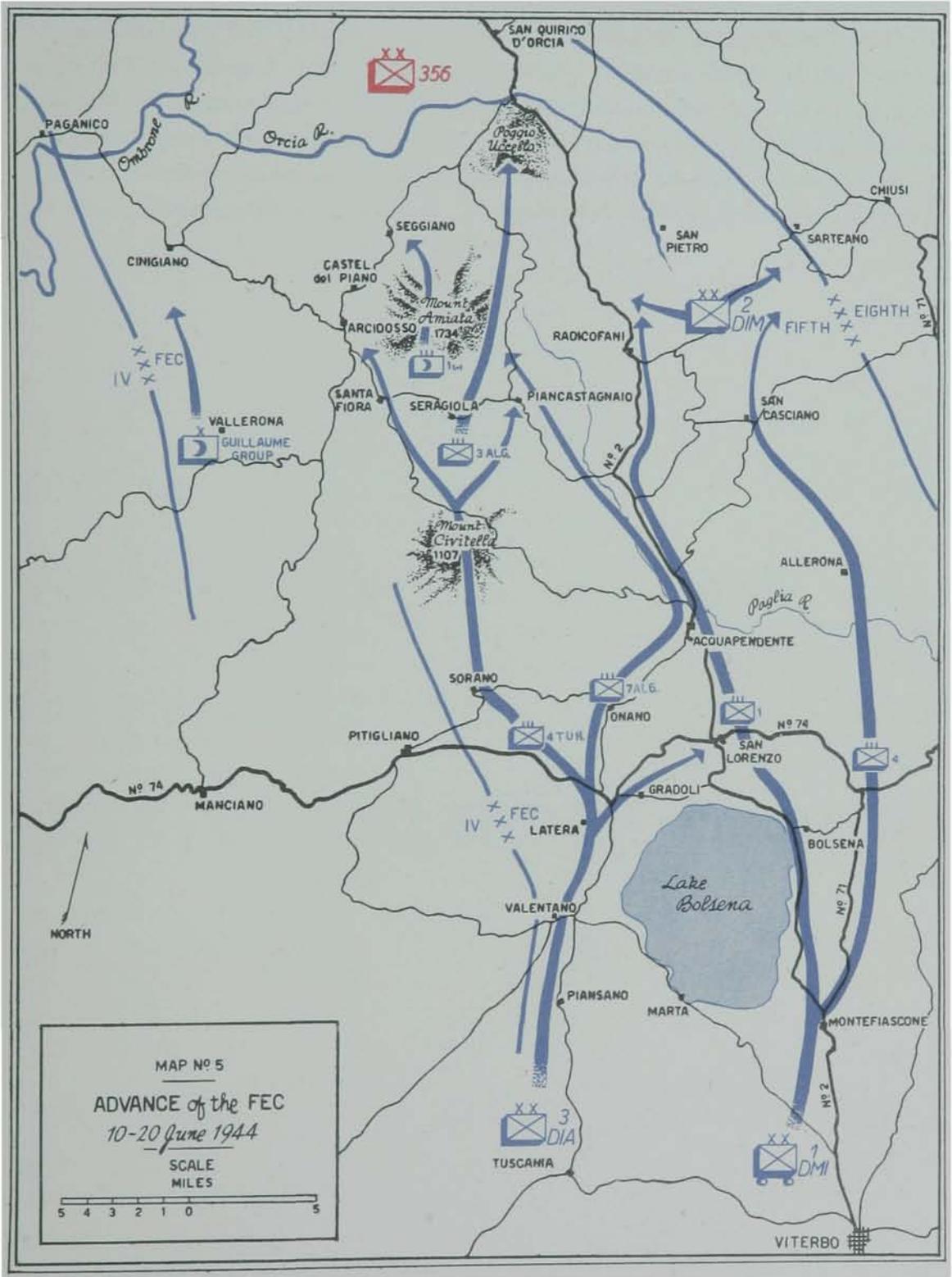
next day San Pietro, a hamlet three miles northwest of Alleron, was occupied against only light resistance. San Casciano, six miles southeast of Radicofani, fell on 17 June, and the heights dominating Sarteano were occupied on the morning of 18 June. A heavy rain storm, which bogged down the armor, prevented immediate exploitation of this gain. Unable to use much of its armor due to the lack of good roads, the 4th Brigade moved slowly, advancing to within three miles of Sarteano by noon 19 June. The 1st Brigade was counterattacked in the hills northeast of Radicofani during the night of 18-19 June. It threw back the assault, however, and after daylight pushed north three miles above Radicofani.

At this point the first withdrawal of French troops in preparation for the invasion of southern France took place when the 2d Moroccan Infantry Division was brought up from FEC reserve to relieve the 1st Motorized Division. On 16 June General Juin was asked to make a decision as to which of his units should be released first. He decided that the 1st Motorized Division should be out of the lines by 24 June and the 3d Algerian Division by 1 July. Maj. Gen. André W. Dody, commander of the 2d Moroccan Division, sent the 5th and 8th Moroccan Infantry to relieve the 1st and 4th Brigades during the night of 20-21 June. The other regiment of the division, the 4th Moroccan Infantry (4<sup>e</sup> Régiment de Tirailleurs Marocains), moved into a reserve status on the right flank the following day.

The fresh division organized two combat groups similar to those which had been conducting the pursuit in this zone. Each group contained a mixed armored squadron, a battalion of truck-borne infantry, and various supporting artillery and service troops. The 5th Moroccan Infantry took over the pursuit on the right flank while the 8th Moroccan Infantry prepared to continue the advance up Highway 2. On 20 June the entire Pursuit Corps was within striking distance of the Orcia River line and prepared to assault this barrier, the most formidable yet encountered north of Rome. Resistance before IV Corps had stiffened in the same manner as it had on the French front; on the right of Fifth Army the British units were running into even more determined Germans and generally lagged somewhat behind the French. It was becoming apparent that the next phase of action was to involve more fighting and less pursuing.

### C. *THE CAPTURE OF ELBA*

Operations for the capture of the Island of Elba were started on 17 June. The northern tip of the island, famous as the home of Napoleon in exile, is located about eight miles southwest of Piombino. Though not carried out by Fifth Army troops, the attack was co-ordinated by Allied Force Headquarters with the advance



on the Italian mainland, and was launched when the Fifth Army forces driving up the west coast of Italy were nearly opposite the island. French troops of the 9th Colonial Infantry Division, made up of Senegalese and tabors reinforced by the Battalion de Choc, landed at Golfo di Campo on the southern shores of the island and in a whirlwind campaign ended all organized resistance two days later. A battery of 155-mm guns was installed in position on the northeastern tip of the island commanding Piombino on the mainland, and the availability of support from these weapons was communicated to IV Corps. Piombino fell without necessity for their use.

*The Advance to Highway 68*

ON 21 June the front line of Fifth Army stretched from a point about eight miles north of Grosseto near the west coast eastward to the Eighth Army boundary in the vicinity of Sarteano. The troops were entering the Tuscan hill country with the valleys of the Ombrone and Tiber Rivers now behind them. On the right the French were up against the Orcia River; all along the line the most difficult country yet encountered north of Rome lay just ahead, and evidences of the stiffening German defense were slowly accumulating. On the extreme left, where troops of the 36th Division were pressing into the hills bordering the north and northwest side of the Ombrone Valley, the coastline swings sharply northwest, thus increasing the frontage of the IV Corps zone and necessitating the use of another division.

The plan of IV Corps was to continue the 36th Division along the coastline, following the general axis of Highway 1, while the 1st Armored Division advanced abreast on the right flank, through rugged mountains and over a multitude of small roads and trails. The 36th Division received a zone about 12 miles wide; the 1st Armored Division front covered a slightly wider area, at places reaching a width of nearly 20 miles. The French front, now divided between the 3d Algerian Infantry Division on the left and the 2d Moroccan Infantry Division on the right, following relief of the 1st Motorized Division, was approximately 25 miles wide, split nearly evenly between the two divisions. The 1st Group of Tabors was operating to the west of the 3d Algerian Division along the FEC left boundary. The boundary between the two corps ran northwest through Paganico across Highway 73 just west of Monticiano, cut just east of Casole d'Elsa, and struck Highway 68 at a point six miles west of Colle di Val d'Elsa. The Army right boundary ran parallel to and approximately six miles east of Highway 2. IV Corps had the most significant objectives in its left zone, particularly the port of Piombino, which was about 15 miles beyond the front on 21 June; nearly 30 miles farther up the coast lay Cecina,

at the junction of Highway 1 and Highway 68. Inland in the 1st Armored Division zone the only sizeable city was Volterra, on Highway 68. Siena and Poggibonsi on Highway 2 were the major goals of the French. The line of the Arno River remained the final objective of both corps.

Along the coast elements of the 16th SS Panzer Grenadier Division were being identified opposite IV Corps while slightly farther inland were battered remnants of the 19th GAF Field Division and the 162d Turcoman Grenadier Division. Beyond the latter was the much-weakened 3d Panzer Grenadier Division; the 20th GAF Field Division straddled the IV Corps-FEC boundary. Opposing the French were the 356th Grenadier Division and the 4th Parachute Division with elements of the 29th and 90th Panzer Grenadier Divisions. This imposing list of divisions did not represent a corresponding strength in combat troops since most of the units were far below strength. The 162d Grenadier Division, in particular, had lost more than half its forces in the past two weeks. The paratroopers subsequently slipped entirely out of Fifth Army's zone as Eighth Army shifted its boundary to the west. More changes made before the end of July saw the 3d Panzer Grenadier Division take over from the 20th GAF Field Division and eventually pinch out the 90th Panzer Grenadier Division also. The 65th Grenadier Division relieved the 26th Panzer Division. The 65th Grenadier Division had not been identified since the fall of Rome, but it apparently had been resting at Lucca, on the edge of the Gothic Line.

By 1 July the enemy, if not capable of making a prolonged stand, could within certain limits determine the circumstances of his withdrawal. From that time he had to be persistently routed out of his delaying positions and never withdrew until he was certain our assaults were backed with sufficient strength to make it wiser for him to retire rather than fight. He was constantly playing for time to rush work on his still unfinished Gothic Line defenses. His tanks were well distributed to back up his infantry units, which were without much standard field artillery support. That he realized the value of these tanks and other self-propelled guns and his inability to replace them, was shown by captured documents. These indicated that the tanks, which generally operated in groups of four or more and with never less than two working together, had preferred treatment. The tank commanders picked the position, and the infantry were placed to protect the tanks. Nominally the infantry commanders were in charge of the situation, but even the low ranking tank unit officers were given power to decide how long a position should be held and they could order higher echelons of foot troops to remain behind to cover the tanks' escape. Only the infantry division commander could overrule the tankers.

The Germans fought for time especially along the coast to prevent us from occupying the great port of Leghorn and to allow time for systematic destruction of the dock facilities there, fully realizing the value to Fifth Army of a large port

so far up the Italian boot. Inland they fought to cover the coastal delaying actions and to protect the lateral routes of retreat. All along the front the foe was not adverse to sacrificing lives to gain additional time. At many points, especially on the far inland part of the Army line where he had first-rate units in action, his troops remained to fight it out even in positions already badly outflanked. Despite the enemy's tenacious resistance, Leghorn fell on 18 July, and soon evidences of voluntary withdrawal could be found, particularly opposite the western portion of Fifth Army. Extensive regrouping of his forces was undertaken, apparently to spot his units in positions from which they could back directly into assigned sectors along the Gothic Line.

## A. IV CORPS ALONG THE COAST

21 JUNE-2 JULY

Such was the situation when General Crittenberger broadened the commitment of IV Corps to include two divisions on the line, the 36th Division and the 1st Armored Division. The former held a line extending from Caldana, south of Highway 1, to Giuncarico, north of the road, and across the Ombrone Valley to Sticciano on Highway 73. (See Map No. 6.) The 142d Infantry was operating in the Caldana area, the 143d Infantry lay around Giuncarico, and the 517th Parachute Infantry was putting the final touches on mopping-up operations around Sticciano.

Task Force Ramey was entering Corps reserve. It held road blocks until passed through by the 1st Armored Division, and the bulk of its force already had assembled near Campagnatico, including the 141st Infantry (36th Division). The 34th Division remained in Corps reserve, but had been alerted to be prepared to relieve the 36th Division about 26 June; it was already moving up from its rest area near Tarquinia. In order to provide more infantry for the 1st Armored Division, the 361st Regimental Combat Team, less its artillery and the 2d Battalion, was attached to the armor. The 6th Armored Field Artillery Group was also taken from Task Force Ramey and attached to the 1st Armored Division.

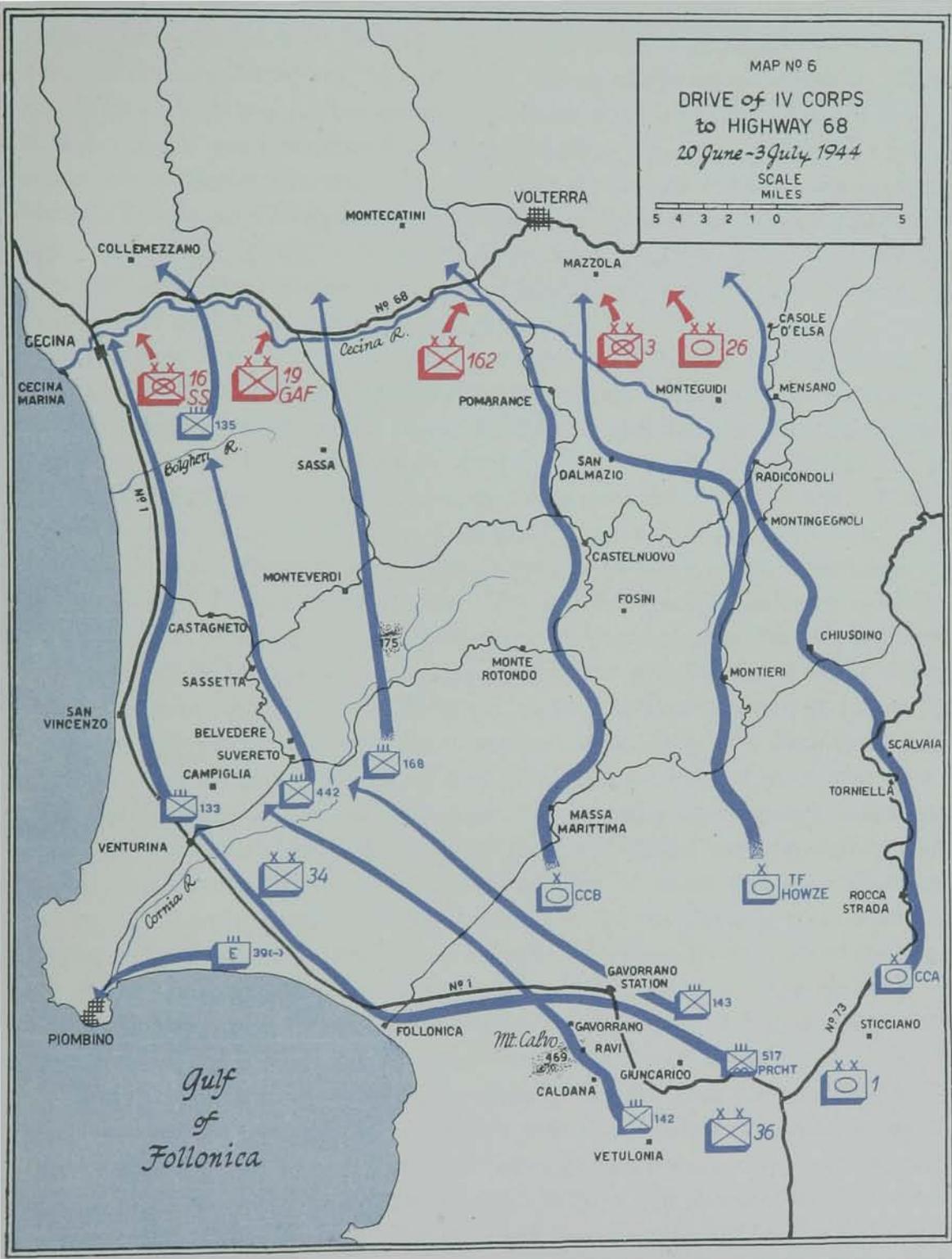
1. *Last Action of the 36th Division.* The 36th Division, less the attached 517th Parachute Infantry which was in position on the southern edge of Highway 73 awaiting relief by the 1st Armored Division and the 141st Infantry which was still with Task Force Ramey, pushed into the hills along Highway 1 northwest of Grosseto on 21 June. The 142d and 143d Infantry made steady progress against scattered groups of enemy. The 142d Infantry, which had already seized the first hills southwest of the Ombrone Valley, continued in a zone south of the main highway, encountering only occasional, unorganized resistance. By the end of the day the

regiment had pushed more than four miles into the rugged country west of Vetulonia and captured the villages of Ravi and Gavorrano, by-passing the extremely mountainous terrain which stretched southwestward five or six miles farther to the sea. The few Germans in this sector were hurriedly pulling out. The 143d Infantry by-passed the village of Giuncarico along Highway 1 and advanced north of it against scattered artillery and small-arms fire. In late afternoon the advance units reached the ridge running northwest from Gavorrano, and by nightfall the 1st and 2d Battalions had seized the entire ridge line. The division front held by the two regiments ran along the ridge anchored on the left by Mount Calvo, extended through Gavorrano to Gavorrano Station north of the highway, and then east along the north side of the Ombrone Valley to the boundary where Combat Command B of the 1st Armored Division had entered the line.

Heavy rains on the following day slowed the tempo of the advance. The rest of the 36th Division moved into the new zone after relief by the 1st Armored Division and changed its direction of advance from north to northwest. Limited gains were made by the two leading infantry regiments while the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team left Sticciano and assembled near Giuncarico ready to exploit any gain which might be made up the highway. About six miles of hills remained to be traversed before the coastal zone again became a plain along the Gulf of Follonica and Highway 1 once more turned northwest, cutting across the base of the peninsula on which was located the port of Piombino, about eight miles west of the highway.

The division resumed the advance, aimed at cutting off the peninsula and isolating the important port, on 23 June. The 517th Parachute Infantry took over the left flank position, moving along Highway 1 while the 142d Infantry cut north across the road and with the 143d Infantry continued the slow advance to the northwest. Little resistance was met in clearing out the remaining mountainous territory south of the highway, but as the Americans came out onto the coastal plain again they found strong delaying forces opposing them and resistance increased considerably to the north of the highway. Elements of the 117th Reconnaissance Squadron, screening the infantry advance, penetrated into the town of Follonica during the morning, but were forced out under pressure of infantry resistance in the town itself and by heavy self-propelled gun and tank fire from a ridge just beyond the town. This opposition limited advance on the left; better progress was made on the right of Highway 1, for the enemy tanks apparently were not leaving this hard-surfaced road to engage in delaying actions in the hills. The 142d and 143d Infantry struck against the east-west road connecting Follonica and Massa Marittima and by nightfall reached points just south of the road, while some patrols crossed the road.

MAP No 6  
 DRIVE of IV CORPS  
 to HIGHWAY 68  
 20 June - 3 July 1944  
 SCALE  
 MILES  
 5 4 3 2 1 0 5



The two regiments drove a deep spearhead beyond the road on 24 June. Advancing in column of battalions with the 3d Battalion leading, the 142d Infantry made a four-mile push in its zone. The 3d Battalion, 143d Infantry, took Hill 129 and, followed by the 2d and 1st Battalions, advanced six miles beyond the Follonica—Massa Marittima road to points three miles southeast of the village of Suvereto. Rougher going was experienced along the coastline. In the morning the 117th Reconnaissance Squadron once more tried to get through Follonica but again was beaten off. By afternoon, however, our advance north of the highway was threatening to cut off the retreat of the enemy in the town. With the aid of the 517th Parachute Infantry the reconnaissance troops made their way through Follonica, and by nightfall pushed two miles beyond the town.

The next day, 25 June, was to be the final day of combat in Italy for the 36th Division, which had fought its way from the bloody beaches of Salerno nearly 300 miles up the Italian peninsula. Even though the 34th Division was waiting to relieve it, on its last day in the lines the 36th Division brought about the fall of Piombino and pushed the front forward as much as nine miles on the left. With the 143d Infantry on the right acting as a pivot, the smallest gain was made in that zone as the 142d Infantry and 517th Parachute Infantry swept rapidly across the level stretch of ground near the coast. The 517th Parachute Infantry isolated the Piombino area in its push across the base of the peninsula, and the port fell without a struggle about 1500 when a small patrol from the 39th Engineer Combat Regiment on road reconnaissance entered the port. A short battle occurred with Italian partisans who mistook the engineers for Germans. After this error was corrected the engineers and partisans rounded up one officer and six enlisted men, who were the only real Germans left in the entire area. A company of engineers entered later in the afternoon and found that although the port facilities were extensively damaged the enemy had failed to plant the usual number of mines and other obstacles in the vicinity. On the right flank of the division the road leading from Suvereto to Highway 1 was cut, and troops were close to the village by the end of the day; in the center Campiglia, a town about halfway between Suvereto and the coast highway, was closely invested; and along Highway 1 the village of Venturia and the airport lying near the junction with the Piombino road were taken.

Preparations for the relief of the 36th Division had been made for several days; since enemy resistance was still extremely fluid and entirely defensive, transfer of the zone to the 34th Division was carried out with comparative ease. Command was originally scheduled to change at 1200, 26 June, but so smoothly did the troops take over the actual ground during the night that control passed to the 34th Division at 0700. The relieved division assembled its units and on 27 June began movement to the Rome area from where it continued on south to join Seventh Army. The

517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team was detached from the 36th Division, reverted to IV Corps control, and was then relieved from Fifth Army for service outside Italy.

2. *The 34th Division Takes Over.* The 34th Division took over the same mission as that of its predecessor, to advance rapidly in its zone to the west and northwest, to maintain contact with the 1st Armored Division on the right, and to protect the left flank of the Corps. The scheme of the Corps maneuver had placed the 1st Armored Division on the right; should its progress gather great momentum, General Harmon was directed to turn combat elements toward the coastline to assist the advance of the 34th Division. Likewise, if the 34th Division made speedy gains it might become possible to assist the 1st Armored Division by sending elements to the right against the rear of the enemy. To avoid restraint in such hooking movements to right or left the division commanders were authorized to enter the zone of action of the adjacent division when it might be advantageous to do so. The crossing of inter-division boundaries was to be co-ordinated between the commanders through Corps headquarters.

General Crittenberger also emphasized the importance of utilizing our superiority in all arms over the foe. He directed that every opportunity be seized for advancing across country during the night, that flanking movements around obstacles be utilized to the utmost, and that armored and light, mobile detachments be kept available to push forward suddenly and boldly to take advantage of opportunities for quick advance before the enemy could prepare himself adequately.

To aid General Ryder of the 34th Division in carrying out this mission the following units were attached to increase the division power: the 442d Regimental Combat Team, minus the 1st Battalion; the 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate); the 361st Regimental Combat Team, less the 361st Infantry; the 117th Reconnaissance Squadron; and the 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion. A tank battalion was promised as soon as one became available; before the division reached the Arno River other attachments made it virtually a small corps in itself. Company A, 752d Tank Battalion, was attached on 29 June, and later the remainder of the battalion was added. The 117th Reconnaissance Squadron was detached on 28 June and shortly left the Italian zone of operations.

Three objectives were set for the division south of Highway 68, which runs along the north bank of the Cecina River. The first of these was a line just south of Castagneto, ten miles north of the point where the 34th Division entered the lines. The line of the Bolgheri River, five miles beyond Castagneto, was the second, and the third was the Cecina River and the town of Cecina, six miles beyond the Bolgheri. The division left flank, traversed by Highway 1 and consisting of the coastal plain and a rough hill mass extending northward from the Cornia Valley, was assigned

to the 133d Regimental Combat Team, on a front of approximately seven miles. The center of the zone, a four-mile front, was given to the 442d Regimental Combat Team under Col. Charles W. Pence, astride the Suvereto—Castagneto road, while the four-mile zone on the right went to the 168th Regimental Combat Team under Col. Henry C. Hine. Of these troops, the 442d Regimental Combat Team was seeing its first action. The veteran 100th Infantry Battalion was attached to this combat team in place of the 1st Battalion, 442d Infantry, which was still in the United States. The 135th Regimental Combat Team under Lt. Col. Ashton H. Manhart was held out as the division reserve.

The 168th Infantry, taking over the right flank protection of the division and the mission of contacting the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron on the left of the 1st Armored Division, reached its blocking positions near the junction of the Cornia and Massera rivers at 2100, 26 June, and was confronted by enemy infantry and tanks which had pinned down elements of the 442d Infantry during most of the day. The 3d Battalion set up defensive positions for the night on a line of hills extending north and south along the west side of the Massera. At 0730 the next morning three companies of a full-strength German battalion of the 19th GAF Field Division attacked the positions, wading down creek beds and infiltrating through narrow gullies in the rough country. The main attack, flung against the left flank of the battalion, was apparently aimed at cutting through along the regimental boundary and striking the 442d Infantry in the rear as the latter attacked Suvereto and Belvedere, about two miles to the southwest.

The enemy, seemingly sure of a fast breakthrough, attacked without artillery support. Our artillery and all the infantry weapons mowed down the attackers, but the advance company of our defending battalion was badly shot up. The fighting continued in the broken hills for approximately seven hours before the force of the German attack was spent. The foe then hurriedly withdrew, leaving 120 dead and 32 prisoners behind. Our troops quickly followed, occupying the hills from which the enemy had attacked, and continued more than a mile north to take Hill 175.

This action broke the back of the enemy line on this flank; the following day the regiment pushed forward as rapidly as it could negotiate the rough country toward the Cecina. The 1st Battalion outflanked Monteverdi, a village located on a 1100-foot promontory 4 miles to the north, and during the night of 28-29 June the enemy evacuated it. The steady advance continued without much interference by the enemy. On 30 June, advancing over mule trails, the regiment outflanked Sassa. By this time the division advance had struck a serious snag at Cecina on the coast, and it became vitally necessary to secure the right flank against a possible German counterthrust down Highway 68 from the east. Accordingly the 168th Infantry was entrucked and rushed forward to the Cecina River. With the aid of Italian

partisans, mine-free crossings were found, and by midnight leading elements of the 3d Battalion had reached the north bank unopposed by the enemy. The entire battalion followed before dawn of 1 July, occupied a hill line a mile north of Highway 68, and blocked out approximately two and one-half miles of the road. With the right flank thus secured, the other combat teams of the division could now proceed to secure their bridgeheads over the Cecina.

3. *Outflanking Cecina.* To clear the center of the division zone it was necessary to take a trio of small villages situated on dominating hills, Suvereto and Belvedere, located within one-half mile of each other, and Sassetta, about four miles north. Strong elements of the 16th SS Panzer Grenadier Division had been inserted in the German line here to bolster the weakening 19th GAF Field Division, and it was against these naturally strong and well-defended hill positions that the 442d Infantry launched its attack. The terrain ahead of the regiment consisted of steep ridges, narrow valleys, and deep ravines with one narrow, twisting road connecting the villages.

The 3d Battalion, entering the line less than a mile from Suvereto, attacked the village early on the morning of 26 June. Little trouble was encountered here, and the town was occupied by 0900. The 100th Battalion advanced around Belvedere at 1130, by-passing it on the east over small trails and reaching the high ground north of the village. From this point it swung left to cut the road from Belvedere to Sassetta, completely enveloping Belvedere. This swift outflanking maneuver was accomplished by 1515, and the brilliant attack by the battalion resulted in capture of the battalion command post of the 16th SS Reconnaissance Battalion practically intact. Thirty-eight men, 1 tank, 1 artillery piece, and 16 vehicles were taken as well as maps and other documents.

The same outflanking tactics were carried out against Sassetta the following afternoon, with the 100th Battalion circling the village from the right and the 3d Battalion from the left. By 1500 the 100th Battalion had cut the road beyond Sassetta and entered its southern and eastern approaches, capturing more prisoners and inflicting heavy casualties on the fleeing defenders. Heavy shellfire pinned down our troops seeking to advance farther, and there was prolonged resistance from snipers and small infantry groups before Sassetta was completely cleared. The 3d Battalion had more difficulty but made some advances. The 2d Battalion relieved the 3d Battalion on 28 June, and the regiment pushed on through the mountains, reaching the Bolgheri River by darkness.

At the Bolgheri line the 135th Regimental Combat Team relieved the 442d Regimental Combat Team under orders to advance across the Cecina River, seize Collemezzano, and pinch out the 133d Infantry after that regiment had taken Cecina. The 135th Infantry crossed the Bolgheri at noon on 29 June and was within 700

yards of the Cecina by darkness, battling through low hills and vineyards against a stubborn enemy. At 1030 the next morning the 2d Battalion, led by Company E, forced a crossing of the Cecina in the face of heavy artillery and machine-gun fire, with advance elements reaching the railroad embankment 200 yards beyond the river bed. Later in the afternoon Company E reached a group of houses about halfway between the railroad and Highway 68. The nearest friendly troops were Company F, almost 1000 yards in the rear. The German main line of resistance lay just ahead. The company organized for all-around defense to hold the bridge-head as the enemy gathered his forces to gobble up this single company.

Desultory fighting continued throughout the night of 30 June-1 July. Shortly after daybreak an enemy force of two tanks and a large number of infantry attempted to liquidate the American outpost, but were scattered by our artillery. Later in the morning 11 medium tanks from Company A, 752d Tank Battalion, forded the stream and came to the aid of the beleaguered garrison, but fire from concealed German tanks and antitank guns knocked out 9 of our Shermans and the remaining 2 withdrew to the south bank of the river. Two more enemy counterattacks failed to drive out the small force of infantry, who even manned the 75-mm guns of the disabled tanks to get more fire power to bear on the attackers. At dawn on 2 July Company G, 135th Infantry, and six tanks managed to break through to join Company E, paving the way for the remainder of the regiment to cross the Cecina, cut Highway 68, and resume the advance on Collemezzano.

4. *The Drive up Highway 1 to Cecina.* The activities on the right and center were largely for the long-range purpose of protecting the main avenue of pursuit up Highway 1, where the 133d Regimental Combat Team took over from the 142d Infantry (36th Division) and began its advance upon the town of Cecina. The 133d Infantry moved to the attack at 0600, 26 June, with the 1st Battalion astride the highway and the 2d Battalion across the trackless hill mass on the right of the road. Although Campiglia was evacuated by the enemy, a number of snipers remained in the vicinity to slow the advance. In mid-afternoon troublesome small-arms and mortar fire was encountered three miles east of San Vincenzo, but the 2d Battalion with artillery support wiped out these pockets and continued on. Meanwhile the 1st Battalion entered the outskirts of San Vincenzo, which was strung out along Highway 1. Here the hill mass came close to the sea, leaving a strip of flat ground only about 350 yards wide which the Germans defended fiercely, bulwarked in the stone houses of the hamlet and behind barbed wire barricades. The 1st Battalion attacked at 1600. After about three hours of house-to-house fighting it cleared the streets but on the northern outskirts ran into such heavy small-arms, mortar, and antitank fire that it could advance no farther.

After a night of incessant fighting, during which 2 German tanks penetrated to within 300 yards of the battalion command post, a co-ordinated attack to clear the enemy from the ridge on the east side of the road was started. Behind a rolling barrage laid down by a platoon of the 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 151st Field Artillery Battalion, the 1st Battalion attacked at 0900 with two companies abreast astride the highway and Company C attempting to outflank the ridge. By 1400 Company C had reached the east end of the ridge, but the others were pinned down and unable to advance. The 3d Battalion was committed at 1600, swung wide behind the ridge, and cut Highway 1 three miles ahead of the 1st Battalion at 1940. At 0315, 28 June, the 1st Battalion attacked again up the road and slashed its way through to join the 3d Battalion. During the day the two battalions pushed ahead to reach the Bolgheri River while the 2d Battalion occupied the evacuated village of Castagneto at 2130.

The Bolgheri River presented a problem. It was 55 feet wide with steep banks reinforced by a dike on each side, making the overall width between dikes 110 feet. The bridges had all been blown and the gaps were covered by enemy fire, forcing the engineers to confine their repair efforts to the hours of darkness. A by-pass was not completed until 0600, 29 June, when the 3d Battalion crossed to the north bank followed by the 1st Battalion. Cecina was only five miles away. It was necessary to fight past olive groves and vineyards, over small canals and ditches, and through heavy pine groves along the sand dunes to reach the town.

By late afternoon the 3d Battalion had advanced three miles before it was halted by heavy fire from small arms and self-propelled guns; at 1725 it repulsed a small counterattack launched from west of the road. On the right the 2d Battalion slowly edged forward against heavy resistance until it reached a point about a mile southeast of Cecina where it also was counterattacked. The battalion hurled back the enemy with its last few rounds of ammunition. The 3d Battalion attacked again up the road just before midnight, ran into an ambush, and had one company severely cut up before the enemy was beaten off. There were no more advances that night. The enemy had committed strong elements to hold Cecina and block us from the harbor of Leghorn as long as possible. The major part of the infantry regiments of the 16th SS Panzer Grenadier Division with some elements of the 19th GAF Field Division were disposed to hold the highway, the area a mile wide between it and the sea, and ground extending two miles east of the road. The line was generally two to three miles south of Cecina.

The 3d Battalion attacked again at daybreak on 30 June supported by a platoon of tanks and engineers to help clear mines, which were spread profusely. Shortly after noon Company I advanced to within 300 yards of the town, but a heavy counterattack from the west almost cut it off; the company was forced to withdraw about



*The 36th Division crosses a ponton bridge over the Albegna River.*



*Infantry of the 1st Armored Division ride tanks in pursuit of the enemy.*



*At Cecina the engineers sweep for mines which the enemy sowed profusely.*



*Our troops move out in the rolling country north of the Cecina River.*

a mile back down the highway. The 3d Battalion had been hard-hit, and two of the tanks were out of action. Since the 2d Battalion also had been unable to move ahead southeast of Cecina, the reserve 1st Battalion took up the attack at 1800, pointed northwest between the other two battalions. For three hours the 1st Battalion inched its way forward. Six enemy field guns were knocked out, but the battalion was unable to crack the German line. At midnight the 133d Infantry with all battalions in action was still 1000 yards east of Cecina and considerably farther to the south.

The regiment launched an all-out attack at 0300, 1 July, the 2d Battalion advancing north and the 1st Battalion moving northwest across the front of the 3d Battalion. The 3d Battalion was ordered to protect the left flank and clear out opposition between the highway and the beach line. The SS troops again put up fierce resistance against the 1st and 3d Battalions, but by 0630 the 2d Battalion had cracked through elements of the 19th GAF Field Division and reached the river on the regiment's right flank. Tanks and infantry of the 2d Battalion then turned west and entered the eastern outskirts of the town. By 1700 the part of Cecina east of the highway had been cleared; three hours later most of the west portion was occupied. Much of the town was reduced to a shambles. A counterattack by 5 Mark VI tanks and about 100 infantry was beaten off with a loss to the enemy of 2 Tigers destroyed, and at the end of the day the town was securely in our hands.

The 3d Battalion cleared the pine woods and beaches as it advanced toward Cecina Marina at the mouth of the Cecina River, but south and southwest of Cecina the 1st Battalion had another tough day, running into minefields covered by heavy fire. By 0600 the reserve company was committed, and the battle resolved into fierce, close-in struggles against isolated groups of SS troops who resisted stubbornly throughout the entire day. At darkness the battalion was still 500 yards south of the town on Highway 1, but the heaviest fighting was over. Pushing off again at dawn on 2 July, the 1st Battalion cleared its way through the mines; by 0700 it had linked up with the 2d Battalion in Cecina and had made contact on its left with the 3d Battalion. The 3d Battalion entered Cecina Marina during the morning, capturing a huge coastal gun, and by 0900 the south bank of the river had been cleared.

The struggle for Cecina was the most bitter battle yet fought by the Americans north of Rome. It cost the 133d Infantry 16 officers and 388 men killed, wounded, or missing in action, but enemy losses were fully as great and much materiel was captured or destroyed. With the other regiments of the 34th Division already across Highway 68, the entire division was now ready for the final drive on the great port of Leghorn, nearly 20 miles farther up the coast.

## B. *THE ADVANCE OF THE 1st ARMORED DIVISION*

21 JUNE - 8 JULY

The 1st Armored Division was recommitted to combat after a week of rest and rehabilitation had restored losses in vehicles and personnel suffered during the push from the beachhead and a week of pursuit action. It was sent into the line on the right of IV Corps in the hope that its hitting power would permit a rapid advance and deny the enemy time to set up elaborate delaying positions. The zone given the division covered the rugged, mountainous country of the Tuscan hills and from the standpoint of terrain was one of the most difficult sections ever assigned to an American armored unit the size of a division.

Roads became very important to the division since the rugged nature of the countryside limited cross-country movement. Not one first-class road existed within the division zone along its main axes, but small trails, many of them unsuited for vehicles, were numerous. The boundary on the left ran roughly 12 miles inland and parallel to the coast, but the main north-south road traveled by Combat Command B on its axis of advance was almost six miles farther inland. This road passed through Massa Marittima, Castelnuovo, and Pomarance, crossed Highway 68 about six miles southwest of Volterra, and continued on through Capannoli and Ponsacco to the Arno River at Pontedera. A secondary road, running northeast from Grosseto through Paganico and then striking north to meet Highway 73 just below Roccastrada, formed the other main axis traveled by Combat Command A. The route followed Highway 73 for about seven miles through Roccastrada and then wound over secondary roads through Torniella, Chiusdino, Radicondoli, and Casole d'Elsa, across Highway 68, and eventually through Palaia to the Arno east of Pontedera. Such country was admirably suited to the Germans' delaying actions and use of demolitions, and they took full advantage of the natural aid offered by the rough terrain.

The division jumped off through elements of the 36th Division and Task Force Ramey on the afternoon of 21 June. The broad objective as outlined by General Harmon was the seizure of the road net around Pisa. The immediate mission laid down by IV Corps was four-fold: 1) to attack and destroy the enemy in the division zone of advance; 2) to assist the advance of the 36th Division; 3) to maintain contact with the 36th Division on the left and the FEC on the right; 4) to protect the right flank of the Corps. Initially the troops of the division were assigned as follows: Combat Command A had the 1st and 3d Battalions, 361st Infantry; the 1st Armored Regiment; Company B, 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion; Company D, 16th Armored Engineer Battalion; and the 27th and 91st Armored Field Artillery Battalions. Combat Command B was composed of the 2d and 3d Battalions, 6th Armored Infantry; the 13th Armored Regiment, less the 2d Battalion; Company C, 701st Tank

Destroyer Battalion; Company A, 16th Armored Engineers; and the 68th and 69th Armored Field Artillery Battalions. A division reserve, commanded by Colonel Howze of the 13th Armored Regiment, was formed which included the 2d Battalion, 13th Armored Regiment; the 1st Battalion, 6th Armored Infantry, and later the 2d Battalion, 361st Infantry; Company A, 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion; Company C, 16th Armored Engineers; and the 93d Armored Field Artillery Battalion. The 69th and 93d Field Artillery Battalions were attached from the 6th Armored Field Artillery Group. In general support were the 936th Field Artillery Battalion (155-mm guns) and the 434th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, self-propelled, both attached, and the remainder of the 16th Armored Engineers and division service units.

While the two combat commands were to exert the main effort, the 81st Armored Reconnaissance Battalion received the mission of maintaining contact with the French and throughout the length of the drive performed this job. This was a doubly difficult task since the armored cars and light tanks of the battalion in many instances found it necessary to twist and thread their way along small trails and cross-country. Though never faced by a major enemy force, elements of the battalion were often forced to fight their way forward.

1. *Combat Command A.* The two combat commands moved through elements of the 36th Division on the afternoon of 21 June. Colonel Daniel's Combat Command A, advancing on the right, went forward at 1330 and met its first action north of the Paganico road-Highway 73 junction. An hour and one half afterward Combat Command B under General Allen went through the infantry where the road to Massa Marittima leaves Highway 1 and immediately began running into resistance in the left portion of the division zone. No great gains were made the first day, and both commands jumped off the following morning at 0530, after halting in place for the night. This hour of attack each morning became standard operating procedure within the division unless otherwise ordered. The combat commanders took advantage of every small road in their zones to divide their units into smaller columns; at one time during the early stages of the advance elements of the division were moving northward on seven different roads or trails. This was necessary not only to cover the zone allotted but because the terrain was such that room to maneuver was lacking. Almost always only the leading elements of the columns were able to do much fighting. Seldom could more than the two lead tanks in each column find firing positions off the roads at any given time.

Combat Command A advanced initially in two columns, one striking north toward Roccastrada, the other east toward Civitella. A third column in mid-morning began operating along a small road between the first two. The command was thus broken down into three small task forces similar to those previously employed. By

dark, against opposition consisting of small groups of infantry, self-propelled guns, and a little artillery, a general advance of five miles had been made. During the night of 22-23 June the enemy fell back somewhat from his defensive positions, leaving behind mines and demolitions. Civitella was occupied about 1000 and held until arrival of French units. When heavier resistance was met at Roccastrada, the armored units by-passed the town, leaving it to be mopped up by the 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry, dispatched from Task Force Ramey to do this job. Capture of Roccastrada opened Highway 73 as a supply route all the way from Highway 1.

Continuing on 24 June, Combat Command A advanced fairly rapidly until mid-afternoon when the little town of Torniella, in a defile formed by a narrow valley, was reached. Most of the difficulty in the morning had come from bad terrain and demolitions, but at Torniella the Germans apparently had decided to make a stand. On the north edge of the town two bridges had been blown, and the demolished crossings were hotly defended. Infantry attempts to cross were met by intense small-arms opposition. Both direct and indirect artillery fire was received, and the town was subjected to a heavy mortar barrage. The command did not advance beyond this point during the day. Before dawn on 25 June the 3d Battalion, 361st Infantry, attempted to break the deadlock only to be driven back into Torniella with considerable loss. The infantry then turned their efforts to a flanking movement to the right and at 1930 captured the village of Scalvaia, on the crest of a high hill, eliminating the heavy small-arms fire which had prevented the engineers from working on the bridge and preparing a crossing for vehicles. A by-pass was completed during the night of 25-26 June.

With this bottleneck finally broken, 26 June saw fair advances made. Combat Command A's infantry cleared scattered German groups from high ground on both sides of the road as the force moved slowly over difficult terrain toward Chiusdino. At one point over 100 trees had been blown across the road; mines and blown culverts were frequent. At 0730 the next morning leading units entered Chiusdino without opposition and advanced about five miles beyond the town by darkness, while the 81st Reconnaissance Battalion moved to Monticiano. One armored column swung into the small valley to the east of Chiusdino and cut Highway 73 in front of the French, remaining to cover the road until the following day. The road block was then taken over by the 81st Reconnaissance Battalion, which held it pending the arrival of goumiers of the FEC. During this day the division and attached artillery had good hunting, destroying among other vehicles four Mark VI and two Mark IV tanks. Most of these were knocked out in the left of the division zone.

On 28 June the main effort of the division swung more to the westward. Combat Command A advanced until met by heavy opposition at Montingegnoli, where enemy antitank and small-arms fire pinned down the infantry and halted the

armor. Plans were made for a co-ordinated attack at 1500, but just before it was ready to start the former division reserve, which had been committed as Task Force Howze on 22 June, came in from the southwest and the enemy hurriedly withdrew from the town. Advancing beyond this point the next day, Combat Command A drew the brunt of the enemy reaction when armored elements reached Radicondoli after negotiating a long, difficult by-pass. Immediate and heavy fire came from the high ground in the vicinity of Mensano, across a small valley to the east. Five vehicles were knocked out and forward progress was effectively stopped. The enemy had injected elements of the 26th Panzer Division into the fight in this area.

On the night of 29-30 June our infantry secured some of the high ground around Mensano. In the morning tanks managed to make their way across country against considerable fire, and at noon they cut the road east of the town, which the infantry then attacked and occupied at 1600. While this battle was in progress, the left column made its way into the village of Monteguidi by 1800 and thus secured the triangle of hilltop towns, Radicondoli, Mensano, and Monteguidi.

2. *Combat Command B.* While Combat Command A was making its way along the eastern flank, Combat Command B was having trouble with the enemy on the western side, for it was bucking up against the bulk of the enemy armor in the division zone. Progress on the second day of the push was slow against heavy resistance, consisting mainly of tanks with protecting infantry. At 1300, 22 June, General Harmon committed the division reserve as Task Force Howze between the two combat commands. The 2d Battalion, 1st Armored Regiment, came under division control as a mobile reserve.

One of the greatest single losses of the drive to the Arno was suffered by Combat Command B on this second afternoon of battle. After Task Force Howze was committed but before it could move into action, Company B, 13th Armored Regiment, with a platoon of tank destroyers attached, moved out on the right flank on a reconnaissance-diversion. This force «diverted» itself into a German trap along a small road three miles east of the main body where it was suddenly attacked from the flanks and rear by four Mark IV and six Mark VI tanks supported by infantry. The light tanks were hopelessly outgunned, and before the force could extricate itself it lost nine light tanks and three of the tank destroyers. The main body of Combat Command B also was fighting savagely against a group of Tiger tanks some six miles south of Massa Marittima. One engineer reconnaissance lieutenant crept close enough to disable one of the heavy tanks with a bazooka and killed or wounded the crew with a carbine as they climbed from the stricken vehicle. He diverted the attention of another Tiger until a tank destroyer could move in and smash it with three direct hits by 3-inch shells. Artillery accounted

for another Mark VI, which compensated in part for the losses suffered by the diversionary force.

While Combat Command A made fairly rapid advances on 23 June, the other forces of the division continued to meet heavy resistance from enemy tanks and infantry. They advanced slowly but steadily. Well directed artillery fire cost the Germans three more Mark VI tanks in action against Combat Command B, leading elements of which were within sight of Massa Marittima by darkness. Early in the morning of 24 June heavy resistance was encountered by the right column at Perolla, a hamlet three miles southeast of Massa Marittima. After a long search a by-pass was found, making it possible for armor to go around the town. With tanks coming from the east flank and infantry circling the town from the west side, ten enemy tanks and a large number of infantry gave up the position and retired. The enemy tanks apparently continued to retreat, but a short distance north of the town the German infantry turned about and became involved in a six-hour fire fight with Combat Command B's foot troops. This fight was finally broken up when light tanks managed to maneuver off the road and overrun the German positions. While this column was having trouble, the center and left columns made their way into Massa Marittima, which they occupied just before 1800. This knocked out the center of the Nazi defense line; for the next two days Combat Command B was concerned primarily with difficult terrain and demolished roads. The command continued to move slowly north on its established axis, battling a stubborn rear guard of two Mark VI tanks and infantry all day on 26 June. The 2d Battalion, 361st Infantry, secured Montieri for the Howze force.

On the night of 26-27 June the 34th Division relieved the 36th Division on the coastal flank of IV Corps, and the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron was attached to the 1st Armored Division. The squadron in turn was attached to Combat Command B and operated to fill the gap between it and the 34th Division. The combat command pushed on against varying resistance on 27 June and took the village of Gerfalco, east of Monterotundo, by 1130 with forward elements nearing the latter town by nightfall. This put them roughly halfway between Massa Marittima and the next objective, Castelnuovo. The left column drove enemy infantry out of Monterotundo by noon on 28 June, but armor was unable to advance beyond the town due to road difficulties. A similar situation faced the right column, whose infantry cleared the village of Fosini by 1735, for the road beyond, leading to Castelnuovo, was blocked with rubble. The advance was temporarily halted here until a method could be found to get armored support ahead to follow the infantry. The hard-working engineers broke a path through the rubble during the night, and on the afternoon of 29 June Combat Command B's units rolled into Castelnuovo

unopposed. As usual the enemy had dropped back but left demolitions which here again prevented any rapid vehicular pursuit.

Following another night of work by the engineers in clearing the streets of Castelnuovo, a large gain was made on 30 June. A column, spearheaded by Company G, 13th Armored Regiment, carrying infantry on its tanks, by-passed Pomarance to the west and dashed ahead more than eight miles to secure high ground just south of and dominating Highway 68. The remainder of the command advanced on Pomarance, which was captured without much trouble at 1230; at darkness infantry made an assault crossing of the Cecina River three miles north of the city. Enemy infantry were rapidly driven from the river banks and our tanks followed across. Colonel Howze's units, after struggling more against terrain than Germans during the past two days, secured San Dalmazio village, four miles southeast of Pomarance, at 1115 and split into two columns there. By nightfall each column had crossed the river, operating on minor routes and trails leading due north toward Volterra.

3. *Advance to the Highway.* At the beginning of July the left flank of the division was the most advanced with Combat Command B's left column looking down on Highway 68 about seven miles southwest of Volterra. The right column was just across the Cecina River, four miles due south of Volterra as the crow flies, but still three miles from Highway 68 and about eight road miles from Volterra. Task Force Howze also had two columns across the river, echeloned east and south of Combat Command B by about four miles. Still farther east Combat Command A was almost on a line with Task Force Howze and some distance south of Combat Command B. Its advance units were six miles north of Radicondoli, in the vicinity of Mensano, and almost ten miles short of Highway 68. In the past 9 days the division had advanced the Corps line a total of 33 air-line miles or measured by the devious routes traveled through the rough terrain nearly 3 times that far. In the next nine days only six air-line miles were gained.

The enemy defended heavily along the line of Highway 68 all day on 1 July. About a mile north of the Cecina Combat Command B tried to capture additional high ground but made little progress against infantry and roving tanks, mostly Mark VI Tigers. Task Force Howze advanced unopposed into the village of Mazzola, three miles southeast of Volterra, but on its north edge ran into heavy direct fire which cost three tanks. When the column then drew back south of the town, approximately one company of German infantry, operating aggressively, attempted to follow up the withdrawal. Artillery fire dispersed this abortive counterattack, and Mazzola remained in no-man's land. For the next three days both Combat Command B and Task Force Howze held generally the same positions, though Combat Command B improved its left flank by securing more ground and

establishing strongpoints on the north side of Highway 68. Troop C, 91st Reconnaissance Squadron, made a sortie which struck to the north across the road into Montecatini di Val di Cecina.

The first three days of July were not easy for Combat Command A. After a limited advance on 1 July, hindered by enemy resistance, mines and terrain, the command drew close to Casole d'Elsa. This was a small town, surrounded by a 15-foot wall, located atop a dominating hill covering 3 possible roads for advance north. Before first light on 2 July strong patrols from Companies B and C, 361st Infantry, moved into the southeastern outskirts of the town. Tanks crept up behind them in the pre-dawn darkness ready to follow into the town. A brisk fire fight developed between the infantry and the defenders. When dawn broke the tanks found themselves without dismounted support in an exposed position just below the town where it was almost impossible to get off the road. The two infantry companies had been shot up and were completely disorganized. At least 5 antitank guns and 3 Mark VI tanks opened fire on the American tanks at about 600 yards' range from behind the wall of the town, smashing 6 medium tanks, 3 light tanks, and 2 tank destroyers.

This action almost wiped out what remained of the already depleted armor of the task force; the two infantry companies lost nearly 50% of their effectives. Throughout the day Combat Command A hung on in a defensive position, although the enemy did not press his advantage. Company E, 1st Armored Regiment, came up from reserve as replacement for the lost tanks while Companies K and L, 361st Infantry, took over the assault job on 3 July. After an artillery preparation lasting 20 minutes the 2 companies attempted to take the town but were driven off. Artillery again blasted at the strong walls and stone houses, and again an infantry attack was repulsed. Finally, after six previous tries during the day and evening had failed, at about 0300, 4 July, the infantry succeeded in getting into the town, from which most of the defenders had departed. Company L covered the south and west sides of the town while Company K stormed in from the northeast and scaled the wall. Tanks and infantry pushed a short distance beyond Casole d'Elsa and then took up a defensive position. The 1st Battalion, 6th Armored Infantry, replaced the 361st Infantry, which was then relieved from attachment to the 1st Armored Division and ordered to assemble with other units of the 91st Division, newly arrived in the IV Corps area.

The fight at Casole d'Elsa was the last major engagement by the 1st Armored Division before it was relieved piecemeal by the 88th Division and Task Force Ramey, final relief coming on 11 July. With only three infantry battalions available and the armor far below normal strength, all commands made slight advances to more favorable positions. The 81st Reconnaissance Battalion was attached to

Combat Command A and pushed across Highway 68 after Companies A and B, 6th Armored Infantry, had secured high ground dominating the road at 0200, 7 July. On 8 July the 350th Infantry (88th Division) passed through Combat Command B and Task Force Howze, attacked, and captured Volterra. On the following day Combat Command A was relieved by the Ramey force.

The division had not made the spectacular gains that featured its earlier pursuit action above Rome, but in slightly less than 3 weeks in the line beyond Grosseto, operating through the most difficult type of terrain for armor, it had advanced approximately 40 air-line miles against constant stiff opposition. How well the enemy demolition crews used the terrain possibilities is shown by the work required of the 16th Armored Engineers. Men of this battalion constructed 37 steel tread-way bridges, repaired 12 enemy bridges, improved 8 fords, constructed or graded 150 miles of by-passes, bulldozed routes through the rubble of 11 towns, and swept more than 500 miles of road for mines. Development of the armored bulldozers, which had been issued to the division about a month before the operations took place, proved a great help. These machines were M-4 medium tanks equipped with large bulldozer blades which could wade into the face of enemy small-arms, mortar, and artillery fire to do necessary work. They were more unwieldy than regular bulldozers, but the armor made up for this deficiency.

Eighty-one German armored vehicles were destroyed or captured during this phase. These included 3 Mark IV tanks, 31 Mark VI Tiger tanks, 16 tanks of unknown type, and 14 self-propelled guns. Scores of towed antitank guns were knocked out. Losses inflicted on the division included 36 M-4 medium tanks, 35 M-5 light tanks and M-8 assault guns, 10 M-10 tank destroyers, and 14 armored cars. The division, less certain elements attached to Task Force Ramey, moved to the vicinity of Bolgheri for reorganization.

### C. *THE FEC ON THE RIGHT*

20 JUNE-7 JULY

The Americans on the coast had broken across the Ombrone River with little difficulty, but farther inland the French were faced with much stronger defenses along the Orcia River, a tributary of the Ombrone. (*See Map No. 7.*) Here the Germans had a naturally strong position and had bulwarked it with prepared pits for machine guns and riflemen backed with a larger concentration of artillery than they had used before. The line, as described in a document captured on 17 June, ran from Lake Trasimeno westward along the hills north of Sarteano, then along the high ground on the north bank of the Orcia River to the junction of the Ombrone,

and southwest five miles to Paganico. The center was the strongest point, the flanks were weaker. On the east the river line gave way to hills which could be bypassed; to the west the upper Ombrone River valley running toward Siena formed a path around and behind that end of the line. The Orcia itself, with low banks and solid bottom, was easily fordable in the summer. Should the American armor of IV Corps advance along the west side of the upper Ombrone Valley, the French Guillaume Group would be in position to cross the Ombrone near Paganico and turn the right flank of the German line.

1. *Crossing the Orcia.* By midnight of 21 June the French forces were concentrated from west to east in the following order: the 1st Group of Tabors near the Ombrone along the Cinigiano—Paganico road; the 1st Moroccan Infantry three miles south of the Sant'Angelo bridge; the 3d Algerian Infantry at Poggio Uccello; the 8th Moroccan Infantry south of the Orcia along Highway 2; the 5th Moroccan Infantry just north of Castelvecchio; and the 4th Moroccan Infantry south of Sarteano in flank guard capacity. Heavy German artillery fire was received during the night as the enemy began defense of the Sant'Angelo Station bridge and Hill 615, two miles north of Poggio Uccello.

The 2d Moroccan Division on the right of the FEC front immediately pressed into the enemy line. On the right flank the 4th Moroccan Infantry advanced just northwest of Sarteano on the morning of 22 June and met heavy opposition all along its front. In the early hours of the morning the 5th Moroccan Infantry moved north and east along the road from Castelvecchio and by 1100 controlled the road as far as Le Checche, about three miles northwest of Castelvecchio. The 8th Moroccan Infantry continued along the highway during the night and in the morning fanned out north along the Orcia and toward Castiglione d'Orcia, three miles north of Poggio Uccello. By noon the entire area was aflame with infantry battles while artillery and Nebelwerfer fire assisted the German foot soldiers in covering the extensive minefields around the town and along Highway 2.

Hill 615, less than a mile southwest of Castiglione, was attacked by the 3d Algerian Division before dawn on 22 June against heavy German infantry concentrations well supported by artillery. In the fighting for the bridge four miles west of Poggio Uccello the 7th Algerian Infantry advanced to the river bank but could not get across. The next bridge to the west at the Sant'Angelo Station was the one which General Guillebaud had tried and failed to secure before the river line was fully engaged. The 1st Moroccan Infantry, supported by several detachments of goumiers, approached this bridge again early on 22 June; heavy fire coming from the Station stopped them several hundred yards to the east along the river bank. Further attempts to advance were futile. To the west the outlook was brighter by the end of the day. Elements of the 1st Group of Tabors made contact with IV

Corps at Cinigiano and continued northwest five miles along the south bank of the Ombrone River, meeting less resistance than was being encountered to the east. With good gains reported by the Americans, General Guillaume was ordered to capture Mount Acuto, eight miles farther north, as soon as the 4th Moroccan Spahis arrived to reinforce his goumiers.

Two full divisions and elements of three others were identified as contesting the advance of the FEC across the front. Opposite the 2d Moroccan Division was the entire 356th Grenadier Division, ranged from Sarteano to Montepulciano, six miles north of Castelvecchio, while all three regiments of the tough 4th Parachute Division were directly ahead of the 5th Moroccan Infantry five miles northeast of Castiglione. The 67th Panzer Grenadier Regiment of the 26th Panzer Division was along Highway 2 to the north of the river; elements of the 20th GAF Field Division and the 15th Panzer Grenadier Regiment (29th Panzer Grenadier Division) were defending the river line itself. Although the total number of infantry in position near the river did not appear to be large, cross fire from well-sited automatic weapons raked the stream and fire was augmented by artillery.

The 4th Moroccan Infantry succeeded in advancing during the morning of 23 June, but about noon heavy concentrations of accurate artillery fire blanketed the entire 2d Moroccan Division and several enemy aircraft, the first seen in many days, strafed Highway 2 as far south as Radicofani. On the left the 3d Algerian Division made no advance during the day, pending the outcome of the projected outflanking drive by the Guillaume Group on the extreme left. This attack subsequently forced the enemy to fall back in the center.

During the night of 23-24 June the 4th Moroccan Spahis joined the 1st Group of Tabors, and the Guillaume Group, thus reinforced and led by the Spahi armor, forded the Ombrone River in the first hours of 24 June. The advance was rapid, for the enemy artillery, disposed to the northeast, could not reach this flat area; by 1200 five miles of the road net to the north were clear. Keeping abreast of the American 1st Armored Division on its left, the Guillaume Group swept north to Mount Acuto, armored elements seizing the village of Casale on its western slopes at 1800. The 1st Group of Tabors advanced along the north bank of the Ombrone and reached points two miles southeast of Mount Acuto about the same time as Casale fell. Continuing across the hills to the northwest toward Monticiano, nine miles from Mount Acuto, the tabors established the most northerly point on the FEC line of advance.

Along the center of the front the 1st Moroccan and 7th Algerian Infantry maintained close contact with the enemy throughout the day. Resistance continued strong as the French made preparations for an attack across the Orcia River at widely dispersed points. Their mission was to clear the hill mass on the north

side of the Orcia extending from the Ombrone through Montalcino and San Quirico. The 8th Moroccan Infantry spent 24 June working its way across the flat, mine-strewn ground around Castiglione to relieve elements of the 3d Algerian Infantry at Hill 615 so that unit could throw its weight farther west with the 7th Algerian Infantry. Across the Orcia River to the northeast the 5th Moroccan Infantry in the vicinity of Le Checche continued to struggle against enemy pressure, which was too strong for the one regiment to push through. The 4th Moroccan Infantry on the right flank was in much the same position. To the east of the FEC zone the 6 South African Armoured Division was completely stopped, as were all the British units, from Sarteano east to Lake Trasimeno. Some evidence, however, of an enemy withdrawal in the west was noted when the gains of IV Corps on the left threatened to outflank the line blocking the FEC.

On 25 June the Guillaume Group cleared the area west of the Ombrone and south of Farma Creek, a tributary of the Ombrone which flows from west to east on a line about a mile north of Mount Acuto. In the center the 8th Moroccan Infantry moved against Castiglione at dawn, occupying it at 0630 without encountering much resistance. Forward positions were moved up to the banks of the Orcia along the entire zone during the morning. At noon enemy opposition fell off sharply. The 8th Moroccan Infantry made two crossings of the Orcia, one north of Hill 615 and another north of Castiglione. These initial bridgeheads were made in the center just west of Highway 2; the flanks were still on the south bank of the stream. On the right of the 2d Moroccan Division the 4th and 5th Moroccan Infantry did not advance, and the enemy showed no intention of withdrawing from the Pienza—Montepulciano sector.

Late in the evening of 25 June the 3d Algerian Division on the Corps left was ordered to cross the Orcia and attack north into the Montalcino area. The enemy withdrew slowly as the 3d and 7th Algerian Infantry and the 4th Tunisian Infantry crossed the river near the two bridges in their zone. By 0930, 26 June, the Algerian regiments, advancing along the road toward Montalcino, were two miles north of the river and in contact with the 8th Moroccan Infantry at Ripa d'Orcia. An hour later the advance was stopped by mines and a brief counterattack in which the enemy made a futile effort to drive the French back to the Orcia. By 1700 forward elements of the 4th Tunisian Infantry had captured Poggio al Convento, almost five miles beyond the river. On the extreme left the Guillaume Group crossed Farma Creek and advanced about a mile farther against more resistance than on the previous day. It then halted to permit the 3d Group of Tabors to come up as reinforcements for the 1st Group of Tabors northwest of Mount Acuto.

For 5 days, 22-26 June, the 2 French divisions and the groups of tabors had been held up by the enemy along a 29-mile front. The ten-mile advance made by the

Guillaume Group on the left flank had failed to cause any large-scale withdrawal in the center or right, but a general Corps advance of about two miles had been made by the end of the period against the stiffest resistance. In addition to gaining time for regrouping his forces, the enemy had inflicted 972 casualties. From west to east our line followed the hills north of Farma Creek to the Ombrone, south to Poggio al Convento, then east to Ripa d'Orcia, and along a slightly southeastern arc toward Sarteano. General de Larminat now co-ordinated his attack with action of the 81st Reconnaissance Battalion and Combat Command A (1st Armored Division) in the Monticiano area on the left flank in an effort to shake the enemy infantry from the Monticiano—Montepulciano line of hills. The 2d Moroccan Division was to spearhead an attack during the night of 26-27 June along Highway 2 toward San Quirico; at the same time the 3d Algerian Division and the Guillaume Group were ordered to exploit the weakest points in their zone with the intention of clearing the Montalcino hill mass.

Before dark on 26 June the American armor outflanked Monticiano on the west and forced the enemy out of the valley northwest of the town. The Guillaume Group launched its attack after dark and made good progress. The 3d Group of Tabors, which had entered the line on the extreme left flank, seized Mount Quojo, three miles south of Monticiano, and advanced almost into the town. Together with the 1st Group of Tabors it cleared the road from Monticiano five miles east to the west bank of the Ombrone by midnight on 27 June. The 4th Tunisian Infantry on the east of the Ombrone had reached a curving line from the river almost to Montalcino by the same time.

The 3d and 7th Algerian Infantry opened their push by driving to within two miles of Montalcino, and during the night of 27-28 June the 7th Algerian Infantry advanced into the town and began to battle for it. Other elements by-passed the center of the fighting and reached points four miles to the northwest. The 1st and 2d Battalions, 8th Moroccan Infantry, advanced slowly along the road from Ripa d'Orcia to San Quirico, fighting the 67th Panzer Grenadier Regiment for every hill. Half of this road was in French hands by morning of the 27th, and the enemy was driven from Hill 502 in mid-afternoon. By midnight advance elements were within a mile of San Quirico. The 5th Moroccan Infantry, hampered by mines and demolitions, drove out of its positions along the north banks of the Orcia in three directions on 27 June. Violent resistance was met at first, but by 1500 villages two miles beyond Le Checche had been taken; everywhere along the FEC front the stubborn German line was yielding.

2. *The Siena Operation.* During the night of 27-28 June the enemy began a hasty withdrawal confined largely to the maze of roads leading northeast from

Highway 2. Delaying parties were left behind to cover road blocks and demolitions so as to slow the advance on the city of Siena. The pursuit was resumed on two axes, Highway 2 for the 2d Moroccan Division and the Casale—Siena road for the 3d Algerian Division. The Guillaume Group was directed to take Simignano, 11 miles north of Monticiano, providing a line of departure from which the 3d Algerian Division could attack Siena from the southwest. The 2d Moroccan Division was to approach the city from the southeast in a wide pincers movement.

On the right Pienza fell to the 5th Moroccan Infantry during the morning of 28 June, while the 8th Moroccan Infantry seized San Quirico, then moved north along Highway 2 and a circuitous road which led to Siena from the southeast by way of San Giovanni d'Asso and Asciano. Contact was regained on the right flank early in the morning of 29 June when the 4th Moroccan Infantry approached San Giovanni d'Asso. At the end of the day the town was surrounded. The 8th Moroccan Infantry swept forward after hard fighting in the morning and by evening drove six miles north on Highway 2 to the outskirts of Buonconvento. After mopping up this place the regiment advanced another two miles up the main highway.

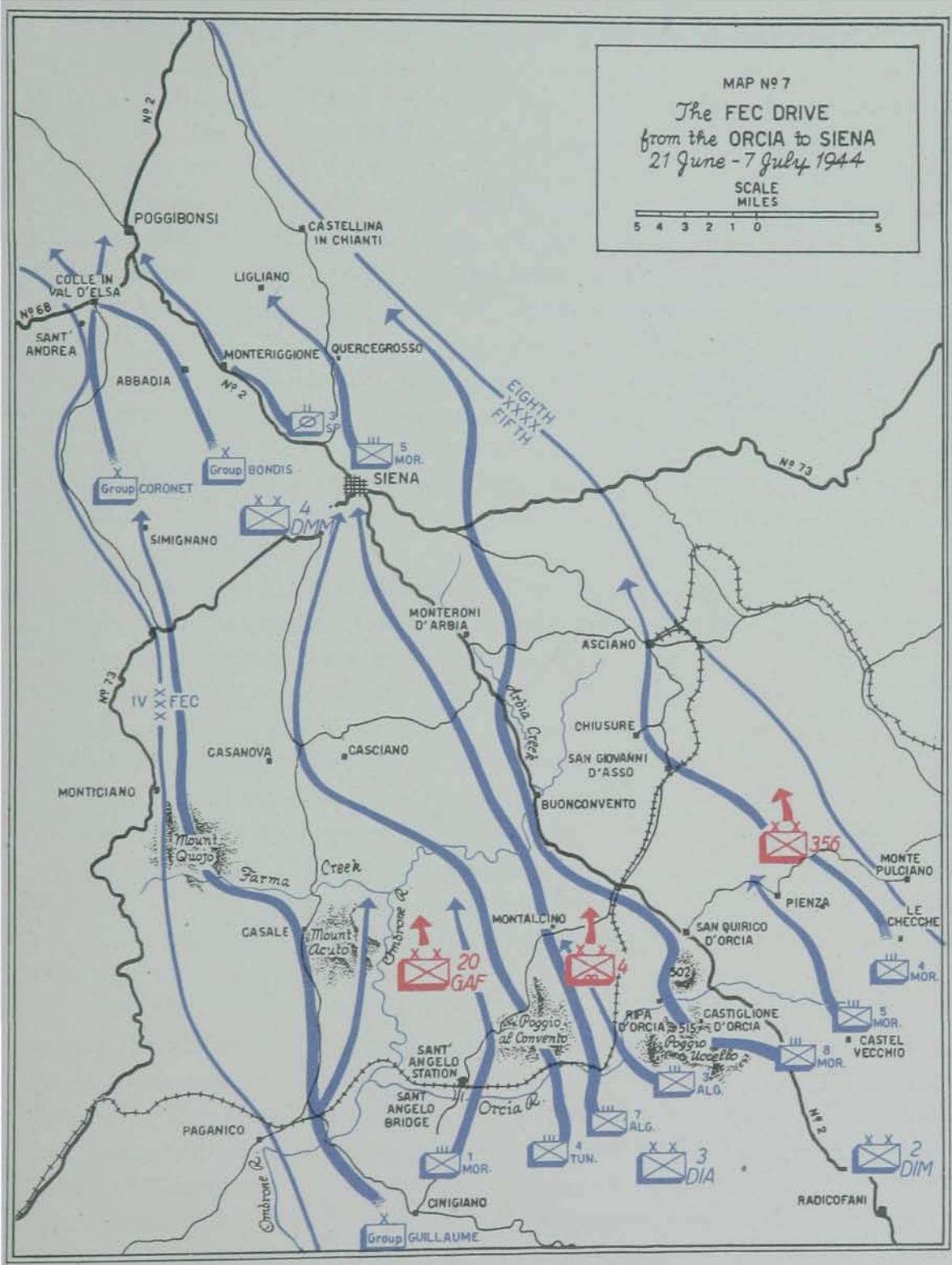
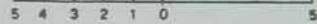
The enemy rear guard was stronger all along the front at the end of 29 June. The 4th Moroccan Infantry liquidated the enemy positions in San Giovanni d'Asso on the morning of 30 June and at noon engaged another pocket of resistance two miles northwest at Chiusure. By nightfall the village was clear, and reconnaissance elements continued toward Asciano, four miles farther north. In the darkness this force made rapid progress until it encountered a strong infantry defense just north of Asciano. The 8th Moroccan Infantry met stubborn but not heavy resistance along Highway 2 on the morning of 30 June; by noon the next town, Monteroni d'Arbia, was only four miles away. Cutting off to the right of the road with the three battalions echeloned to the right, the regiment advanced north of the Monteroni d'Arbia lateral road to a point about one mile east of the town before dark.

The 4th and 8th Moroccan Infantry gained control of the entire lateral road on 1 July, but heavy artillery and infantry resistance prevented any further appreciable gains. Security contact was made with the British on the right, and on 2 July the 2d Moroccan Infantry swept across the Monteroni d'Arbia—Asciano road toward Siena. Asciano itself was defended by a strong infantry force which the 4th Moroccan Infantry did not succeed in dislodging from the town during a day of bitter fighting. The 8th Moroccan Infantry was more successful. By noon Monteroni d'Orcia was cleared and the advance resumed. In the afternoon the 5th Moroccan Infantry was ordered into position along Highway 2 in order to free the 8th Moroccan Infantry for the outflanking of Siena from the east. Late in the afternoon long enemy convoys were reported going north from Siena; the enemy was abandoning the city with little more than token resistance at various crossroads. The 8th

MAP N° 7

The FEC DRIVE  
from the ORCIA to SIENA  
21 June - 7 July 1944

SCALE  
MILES



Moroccan Infantry raced forward across Highway 73 and halted for the night three miles east of Siena.

Forming the left arm of the FEC pincers, the 3d Algerian Division pushed northwest along the west side of Highway 2 on 28 June, the 7th Algerian Infantry on the right, the 4th Tunisian Infantry in the center, and the 1st Moroccan Infantry on the left. The 1st Group of Tabors was relieved by the 4th Group early on the 28th, and by the end of the day the 3d and 4th Groups of Tabors had made a general advance of four miles through the hills north of Monticiano. In many places along the front contact with the enemy was lost. On 29 June the 7th Algerian Infantry cleaned out minor pockets of resistance; about evening contact was regained with the retreating Germans. The only strong resistance met on that day was engaged by the 4th Tunisian Infantry at Casanova, three miles west of Cacciano. The all-day battle subsided at nightfall with the French troops holding the village and several hundred yards of the road northward. The Guillaume Group was slowed by frequent mines, numerous small pockets of enemy snipers, and scattered artillery fire, while the 1st Moroccan Infantry advanced about two miles. The groups of tabors, which were driving toward Simignano, gained about three miles through mine-strewn wheat fields.

While the 7th Algerian Infantry was working its way through the hills toward Monteroni d'Arbia against isolated resistance points in the morning of 30 June, the 4th Tunisian Infantry drove north from Casanova three miles to cut an unpaved lateral road which connects with Highway 2. On the left of the Corps zone the 3d and 4th Groups of Tabors smashed ahead against heavy self-propelled gun and artillery fire, reaching Highway 73 six miles north of Monticiano. By the evening of 1 July the 7th Algerian Infantry held hill points less than three miles south of Monteroni d'Arbia but was meeting considerable resistance; the 4th Tunisian Infantry, driving straight north along a secondary road, was at a point five miles south of Siena. On the left flank the goumiers pushed into the hills north of Highway 73 toward Simignano, and forward elements secured the left flank for the operations against Siena.

The 7th Algerian Infantry and 4th Tunisian Infantry made good progress during the afternoon of 2 July as resistance continued to weaken. Forward elements of these two regiments were near the crossroads just south of the city before midnight. The 3d and 4th Groups of Tabors, meeting fierce enemy resistance covering a mass withdrawal from the Siena area, pushed forward and seized Simignano in the hills southwest of the city before the end of the day. Under this cover the 3d Algerian Infantry, which had been held in reserve along the Casale—Siena road, began the drive on Siena itself and reached Highway 73 during the early hours of the night. At 0630, 3 July, Siena was in the hands of French troops, and General

de Monsabert, commander of the 3d Algerian Division, raised the Tricolor above the city hall later in the morning.

3. *On to Highway 68.* Capture of the city did not slow the pursuit. The French troops drove on north the same day with a reconnaissance battalion, the 3d Moroccan Spahis, advancing three miles northwest along Highway 2. The 3d and 4th Groups of Tabors came abreast of Siena, forming an almost straight front from Siena west for 13 miles to the FEC-IV Corps boundary. The 2d Moroccan Infantry, moving along Highway 73 north of Monticiano, prepared to enter the lines on the right of the 4th Group of Tabors while the 6th Moroccan Infantry relieved the 3d Group of Tabors on the left flank on 4 July. All units of the 3d Algerian Division were by this time relieved by the 4th Moroccan Mountain Division under Maj. Gen. François Sevez, and the Algerians moved to Naples, where they came under control of Seventh Army. The Pursuit Corps was disbanded in order to permit General de Larminat and his staff to take over the 1st French Corps, a new organization to be comprised of French troops released from Fifth Army for duty with Seventh Army. General Juin and the FEC once more took over direct supervision of operations to continue the pursuit until it was necessary to withdraw the remaining French forces from Fifth Army and the Italian front.

On Highway 2 north of Siena are two main towns, Monteriggioni and Poggibonsi. At Poggibonsi the road veers northeastward out of the FEC zone, but the main axis of advance continued on the road leading through Certaldo and Castelfiorentino to a junction with Highway 67 along the Arno River. Observation of enemy movements pointed to Poggibonsi as the most likely spot for the next major enemy stand. To the east, in front of Eighth Army, the enemy was already stubbornly defending the Chianti mountains south of Florence and had stopped 13 Corps short of that hill mass.

The French advance proceeded rapidly on the left flank on 4 July as the 2d and 6th Moroccan Infantry and the 4th Group of Tabors drove forward along the intricate road net which feeds into Highway 2. For most of the day the enemy retreated faster than the French could pursue, but he turned to defend the lateral Highway 68, which enters Highway 2 a short distance south of Poggibonsi. At 1930 a stiff battle broke out at Abbadia, four miles south of the junction. Along Highway 68 west of Poggibonsi the enemy committed the 71st Panzer Grenadier Regiment (29th Panzer Grenadier Division) and the 314th Grenadier Regiment (162d Turcoman Grenadier Division). In addition to guarding the road, these units blocked the head of the valley of the Elsa River at Colle di Val d'Elsa, three miles southwest of Poggibonsi. Here the valley of the Elsa River forms a narrow path through the hills for 25 miles from Colle di Val d'Elsa to the Arno.

In the eastern part of the FEC zone on 4 July the 2d Moroccan Division was still plagued by its exposed right flank, which 13 Corps was unable to cover. The division advanced cautiously along Highway 2 toward Monteriggioni and Poggibonsi and the road net leading from the main road toward Castellina in Chianti, seven miles east of Poggibonsi. The 3d Moroccan Spahis gained Monteriggioni without difficulty at 1530 while the 5th Moroccan Infantry occupied Quercegrosso, four miles east of Monteriggioni. Since this advance extended the unprotected flank even more dangerously, the entire 8th Moroccan Infantry, reinforced, was sent six miles north-east from Siena to San Giovanni, where it spread along the north-south banks of Arbia Creek and set up a defense line.

The major share of the battle for Highway 68 fell on the 4th Mountain Division, which organized two combat commands for the operations. The Bondis Group contained the 6th Moroccan Infantry and the 4th Group of Tabors; the Coronet Group had the 2d Moroccan Infantry. Both groups were reinforced by armored elements. Early on 5 July the Bondis Group seized Abbadia, but Highway 68 could not be reached despite hard fighting. About a mile south of Colle di Val d'Elsa the Coronet Group engaged in a heavy fight at Sant'Andrea about 0700. At least six enemy tanks in three groups of two each reinforced violent enemy resistance, and no progress was made during the morning.

The 3d Moroccan Spahis cleared almost three miles of Highway 2 north of Monteriggioni, but the armor was finally stopped by the increasing frequency of enemy demolitions. The same situation confronted the 5th Moroccan Infantry, which nevertheless gained three of the four miles from Quercegrosso to Ligliano. After meeting heavy resistance at noon, an attack by the Coronet Group in the Sant'Andrea area was scheduled for 1600. The attack jumped off on time, but by dark the forward elements were little nearer the village than they had been at noon. The armor on Highway 2 took advantage of this action to launch a push aimed at outflanking the objective from the east. Despite demolitions some success was achieved and enemy tanks were engaged in front of the Coronet Group. By midnight the French armor had advanced 2500 yards to form a salient which pointed at Poggibonsi and extended north of Colle di Val d'Elsa. Aided by this diversion on its left, the 5th Moroccan Infantry inched forward late in the afternoon and a few hours after dark reached the outskirts of Ligliano. The right flank situation improved as 13 Corps moved up nearly abreast of the 2d Moroccan Division, enabling the 8th Moroccan Infantry to gain two miles of ground north of San Giovanni.

After its failure at Sant'Andrea, the 4th Mountain Division arranged a feint designed to draw the enemy tanks away from Colle di Val d'Elsa and permit the Coronet Group to jab through to the town. The Bondis Group hammered at the enemy during the morning of 6 July. Then the Coronet Group thrust against the

town, but the strategy failed. Not only did the enemy prevent an advance, but a counterattack on Highway 2 pushed back the 3d Moroccan Spahis 1500 yards. After dark the Coronet Group kept up its pressure, however, and just before midnight the enemy, wearying of the battle and badly mauled by the past two days' action, began a slow withdrawal. Colle di Val d'Elsa was in French hands by 0330, 7 July, and before evening all Highway 68 was behind the forward elements.

#### D. *SUMMARY OF GAINS*

By 7 July Fifth Army was attacking north of the line of Highway 68 all along the front. On the left the 34th Division was already engaged in heavy battling north of the road. Reliefs were planned to increase strength on the right of IV Corps and the Army center. On the right the French were now ready to exploit the fall of Colle di Val d'Elsa, which had cleared Highway 68. The past two weeks had seen stiffening enemy resistance across the entire front, resulting in the hardest fighting since the fall of Rome. Progress, though slow, had been steady. Appearance of the fanatical SS troops opposite the 34th Division had culminated in the hard battle at Cecina; it had taken the FEC nearly a week at the cost of almost 1000 casualties to crack the defense along the mountains north of the Orcia River. In the center the 1st Armored Division had slugged it out with infantry and tanks of the 26th Panzer Division in a give-and-take struggle through the Tuscan hills.

More mountains remained between Fifth Army and the Arno River, but the worst ground had been covered. Siena, an ancient art center and the largest city yet liberated north of Rome, was safely in Allied hands. Ahead the mountains would soon give way to lower hills sloping toward the Arno Valley. On the left the Army was almost within striking distance of the great port of Leghorn; along the remainder of the line final steps in the push to the Arno River were being planned.

*Capture of Leghorn and Pisa*

AT the beginning of July the left flank of IV Corps was across the Cecina River and Highway 68, the final lateral geographical features before the Arno. The strongly reinforced 34th Division had finished cleaning out Cecina and was north of the stream and highway all along its front. The Corps and Army line ran almost due east with the center and right approaching Highway 68 as it ran its northeastern course toward Poggibonsi in the FEC zone. East of the 34th Division the 1st Armored Division was generally along the line of the road, scheduled for early relief by the 88th Division, then enroute from its long rest period near Rome. Two combat teams of the 91st Division were already either on or near the front, and the remainder of the division was due to arrive soon, further to reinforce IV Corps for the final lap of the drive to the Arno River. Beyond IV Corps to the east the French were engaged in heavy battles for Colle di Val d'Elsa, Highway 68, and Poggibonsi.

The 34th Division, expanded to more than twice its normal size by various attachments, was to make the main IV Corps effort beyond Highway 68. The division planned to drive straight north to the Arno, by-passing and isolating the port of Leghorn. The 34th Division zone ahead was divided into three natural avenues of advance. (*See Map No. 8.*) Highway 1, which had been the principal axis north of Rome, enters mountainous terrain a few miles beyond Cecina, winding along the edge of cliffs which come down to the sea almost the entire 20 miles to Leghorn. It connects several small coastal towns including Rosignano Solvay, site of a large chemical plant, before it reaches Leghorn. The alternate road from Cecina to Pisa runs through a valley flanked by the mountains along the coast on the left and by another ridge line along its right edge. The valley road links numerous small towns and villages, passing through the largest community, Colle Salvetti, just before it enters the Arno River plain about ten miles south and slightly

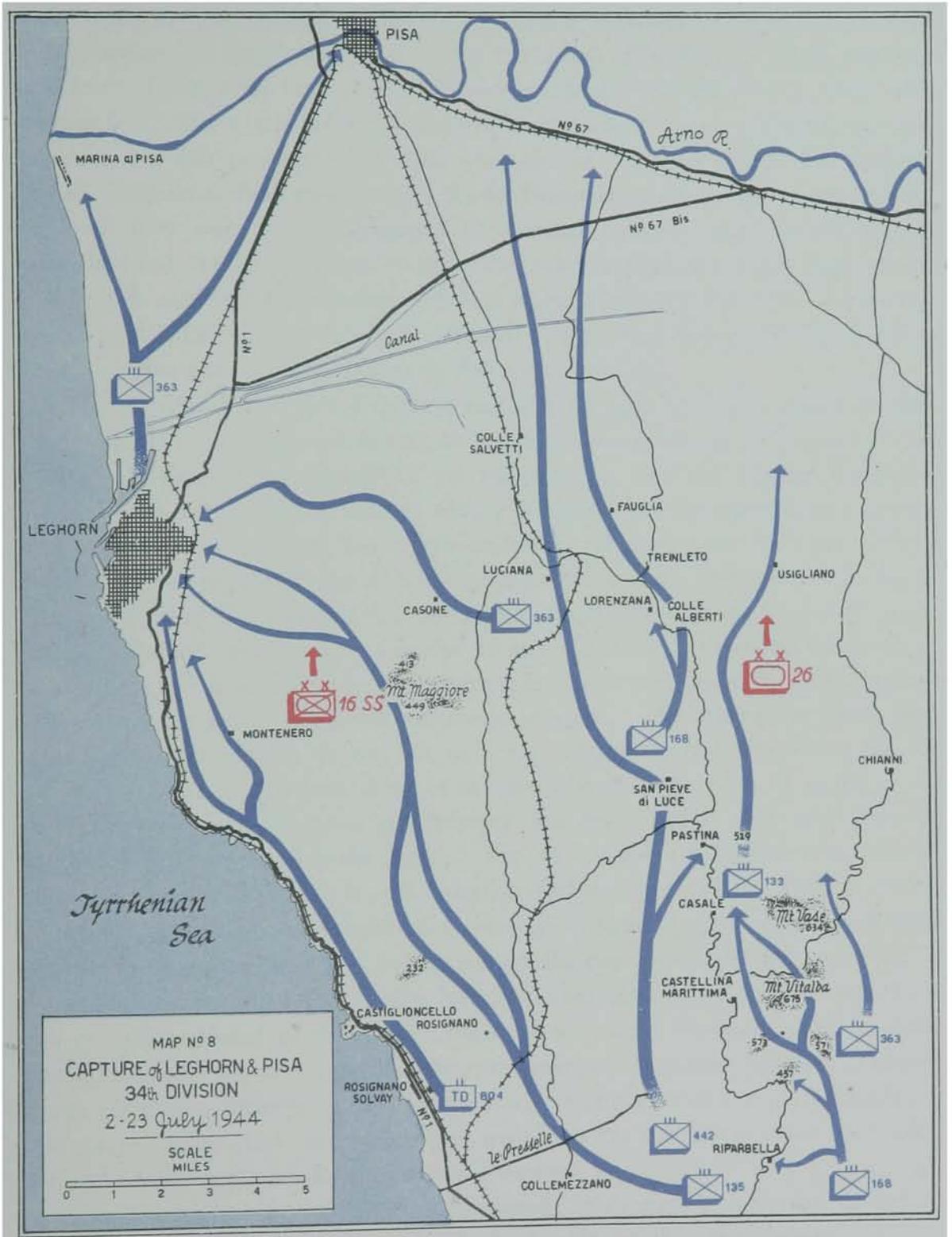
east of Pisa. At the foot of the mountains on the east of the valley runs a road connecting Riparbella, Castellina Marittima, Pastina, Lorenzana, and Colle Salvetti. East of the 34th Division zone lay the valley of the Era River, which was the main route north for the 88th Division and later the 91st Division. The FEC on the Army right was using roads leading north through the Elsa Valley.

The main effort of IV Corps was to be made on the left in the 34th Division zone with the bulk of the division strength concentrated along its right, through the mountains on the east of the valley. On 3 July the division was further strengthened by the addition of Task Force Ramey, whose combat troops now consisted of the 363d Regimental Combat Team (91st Division); the Reconnaissance Company, 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and Company A, 752d Tank Battalion.

#### A. *ADVANCE OF THE 34th DIVISION*

2-26 JULY

1. *Rosignano and Hill 634.* While the 133d Infantry was completing the final phase of its rough battle for Cecina on 2 July, other units of the 34th Division began maneuvering into their new positions for the drive north of Highway 68. The 135th Infantry, which had fully consolidated and expanded its bridgehead over the Cecina River east of Cecina, turned down Highway 68 toward the sea. With the 2d Battalion leading, the regiment attacked at dawn. By mid-afternoon it cleared Collemezzano, turned to the northwest, entered the division's left zone, and pinched out the 133d Infantry, which reorganized around Cecina in division reserve. The 442d Infantry, attacking due north with the 100th Battalion on its left and the 2d Battalion on the right, moved into the valley to push up the center while the 168th Infantry attacked along the division right through the mountains. The 100th Battalion engaged in a brisk fight just east of Collemezzano but in a swift, hard attack overran the enemy positions, inflicting heavy casualties. By 2300 both the 135th and 442d Infantry had reached the line of the Le Presselle lateral road, about four miles northwest of Highway 68, against increasing resistance. On the right the 3d Battalion, 168th Infantry, attacked west and took Riparbella at 1130, the 2d Battalion sent patrols north to Hills 571 and 573, and the 1st Battalion occupied Hill 457, three miles north of Riparbella. The Reconnaissance Company, 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was given the mission of screening the advance on the extreme right and maintaining contact with the 1st Armored Division. The 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 34th Reconnaissance Troop formed an almost entirely armored force advancing up Highway 1. By the end of the day all units were in their assigned zones in position to launch the main attack.



The enemy again had the advantage of terrain. The ridge lines on either side of the valley are rugged and contain peaks reaching 1500 feet or higher. The right ridge is somewhat higher than that on the left, some of its highest points rising to 2000 feet. From these high peaks the Germans could rake the central valley with flanking fire. The 135th Infantry advanced early the morning of 3 July into the west ridge, making fair progress until dusk when the 3d Battalion entered the southern edge of Rosignano, three miles beyond the Le Presselle road. As the troops reached the town they were heavily engaged by German infantry and were subjected to mortar and artillery concentrations. The other battalions on the right of the 3d Battalion also found themselves unable to make appreciable headway. In the valley the 442d Infantry drew heavy fire from the right ridge and was pinned down on about the same line as the battalions of the 135th Infantry.

The 3d Battalion, 135th Infantry, had a hard fight since the enemy in Rosignano defended the town stubbornly and had to be rooted out in house-to-house battling. Rosignano, garrisoned by the same tough 16th SS Panzer Grenadier Division units which had resisted so fiercely at Cecina, was the main western strong-point of the German defense line before Leghorn. The town was built on a hilltop and afforded an excellent view of the coastal plain for many miles, almost as far as Cecina. It was built compactly, containing many three- and four-story stone houses. A stone castle stood out on the summit of the hill. From the top floors of these houses the defenders threw hand grenades; from the lower floors and cellars they poured out heavy fire from automatic weapons. An attempt to reach high ground east of the town failed, but in fierce fighting through the streets the foe was driven from the southern third of the town by the afternoon of 4 July. An attack by four Mark IV tanks and infantry was beaten off at 1830 with three of the tanks destroyed by bazooka teams. The 3d Battalion, 442d Infantry, relieved the 100th Battalion and with the 2d Battalion slightly improved the division center.

In Rosignano an enemy infiltration attempt at 0200, 5 July, was beaten back by artillery defensive fires, and by the end of the day about half the town was in our hands; the 1st Battalion, 135th Infantry, succeeded in getting a foothold on high ground northeast of the town. Before dawn the 2d Battalion, 442d Infantry, attacked a small east-west ridge covering the entrance to flatter valley land ahead. It was repulsed. Reforming, the battalion tried again at 0600 but again failed. A third assault after dark was successful, and by 2300 the ridge, about two miles east and a mile north of Rosignano, was secured.

The slow clearance of Rosignano continued. By 2030, 7 July, the 3d Battalion had reached the northern edge of the battered town though the enemy still held houses in the country immediately beyond the town. The other battalions of the

135th Infantry tried a day attack to the north and made only slight headway, but the following day both the 135th and 442d Infantry made some advances. By darkness on 9 July both regiments succeeded in reaching positions about four miles northeast of Rosignano and were engaged in cleaning up remaining pockets of resistance. Along the coastline the armor, after slow going for a week because of mined roads and demolished bridges, had passed Rosignano Solvay and had dismounted elements approximately on a line with Rosignano. The advance of the 442d Infantry in the center was aided by gains on the east ridge which had eliminated most of the heavy fire coming from the flank.

While the street battle raged in Rosignano, the 168th Infantry had equally tough going in the rugged hills on the east. The regiment got off to a good start on 3 July, surrounding and virtually wiping out two enemy infantry companies caught midway between Riparbella and Castellina Marittima. At darkness the 1st and 2d Battalions were less than a mile from Castellina. On 4 July the 363d Infantry under Col. W. Fulton Magill, Jr., was committed on the right of the 168th Infantry, thus providing the main effort with two full infantry combat teams on a front of less than four miles. The 168th Infantry attacked toward Castellina and high ground to the east. The 2d Battalion captured Mount Vitalba (Hill 675) and held it against three counterattacks, but the Castellina defense proved too difficult to crack immediately. Attacking in column of battalions led by the 3d Battalion, the 363d Infantry achieved a gain of about a mile into high ground east of Hill 675. Then both regiments consolidated their gains and fought off German counterpressure in the form of numerous parties of 50 to 75 men who attempted to infiltrate down ravines and gullies.

On the morning of 6 July the attack was resumed. By noon the 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry, had entered Castellina from the east and the south and finally cleared it after heavy fighting in the town. The 2d Battalion pushed up abreast on the east, and the 3d Battalion then attacked through the 2d Battalion, cutting the road which ran from Castellina northeast seven miles to Chianni. Heavy artillery fire was concentrated on the 34th Division right flank from guns located near Chianni. In midmorning the 363d Infantry advanced across the heavily mined eastern slopes of Hill 675 and just before dark seized dominating Mount Vase (Hill 634), two and one-half miles northeast of Castellina. This key mountain was heavily shelled by the enemy, and at 1130 the next morning after an especially heavy artillery and mortar barrage the 9th Panzer Grenadier Regiment (26th Panzer Division), which reportedly had been brought from the area around Siena for this operation, counterattacked. It drove the 3d Battalion, 363d Infantry, off the hill and forced our men back one-half mile to Hill 553, where our troops reformed and held the line. Until Hill 634 could again be brought under our control, progress was stopped.

Both the 363d and 168th Infantry took up the offensive again on 9 July, and in heavy fighting the 1st Battalion, 363d Infantry, finally won back Hill 634 early in the morning. With this stumbling block removed, the advance of the 168th Infantry was greatly facilitated. By 1900 the village of Casale, three miles north of Castellina, was entered by the 1st Battalion from the east and the 3d Battalion from the south. Heavy fighting ensued in the village; not until 0200 the following morning was the last resistance crushed. The guns in this area which had been delivering flanking fire against the 442d Infantry in the valley to the west were silenced.

2. *The Drive into Leghorn.* Capture of the key mountains on the east and Rosignano on the west removed two of the strongest points from the enemy defense line, now manned by the 16th SS Panzer Grenadier Division on the west and the 26th Panzer Division on the east. For the next few days troops of IV Corps in this zone slowly picked up speed, then crashed through to capture Leghorn, moved into Pisa, and completed this phase of Fifth Army's campaign. With the northward push again resumed, the 34th Division could continue as originally planned. The main drive would remain on the right; the 135th Infantry, now that Rosignano was secured, would advance northwest toward the port; the other regiments would continue north until Leghorn was outflanked and could then cut west, trapping the enemy in the port area.

After the 168th Infantry finished mopping up Casale during the early hours of 10 July, it was passed through by the 133d Infantry. During the day the 363d Infantry reached points abreast of this fresh regiment. The 133d Infantry attacked at dawn on 11 July with the 1st and 3d Battalions abreast, passing east of Pastina and leaving that town to be taken by the 442d Infantry coming up the valley. Northeast of the village heavy resistance slowed, then stopped the two battalions. The 2d Battalion attacked around the right flank of the 3d Battalion in an attempt to outflank the enemy holding Hill 529. This hill was the last of the high peaks on the eastern ridge; in enemy hands it blocked the eastern valley road. On the right the 363d Infantry also made slight advances and at 0200, 12 July passed to the control of its parent 91st Division, which was committed in the center of the IV Corps zone east of the 34th Division. Task Force Ramey headquarters was placed in Corps reserve.

The 133d Infantry remained locked in heavy fighting for Hill 529 all through 12 July. During the night of 12-13 July the enemy began a sudden withdrawal along the mountain front and at 0900 on the 13th the 1st Battalion took Hill 529. By nightfall advance elements of the regiment were three miles farther north. At times contact was lost the following day as the regiment pushed forward to within sight of Lorenzana. On 15 July the 168th Infantry came back into action, assumed command of the right half of the 442d Infantry zone, and with the 133d Infantry

continued the main attack toward Pisa. The 100th Battalion was committed to fill the gap between the 442d and 168th Infantry. The 133d Infantry, passing east of Lorenzana, moved nearly two miles north of the town; the 168th Infantry, now in the more level country to the west, threw back a counterattack coming out of Lorenzana and continued ahead during the night. The 2d Battalion, 168th Infantry, also by-passed Lorenzana to the east at 0300, 16 July, continued on to capture the villages of Colle Alberti and Treinoletto by noon, and was near the town of Fauglia by darkness. The 3d Battalion entered Lorenzana from the south during early morning and cleared it of enemy before noon. It then continued on abreast of the 2d Battalion. The 2d Battalion, 133d Infantry, after seizing the village of Usigliano at 0700, was within three miles of the flat Arno Valley by nightfall. The three miles of ridges were fought through the following day against relatively stiff resistance until the enemy gave way about 1800 and all battalions of the 133d Infantry emerged onto the valley plains. The 168th Infantry had a harder time reaching the southern edge of the valley, engaging in a fierce battle at Fauglia. The 2d Battalion attacked the town at 0400 where it met heavy fire from defending infantry and self-propelled guns. The last German effort was a strong counterattack at 1800 supported by seven Tiger tanks, but the massed fire of all available artillery broke this threat; after regrouping the 2d Battalion finally captured the town at 2200. The 100th Battalion had been blocking roads leading east from Leghorn to protect the left flank of this main thrust; now, with the last of the hills clear and level country ahead, the Corps was ready to pivot to the left and take the port.

While the main forces were working along the east flank, the 135th Infantry and 442d Infantry made slow but steady gains to the northwest toward Leghorn to set the stage for the final assault, which, when finally launched, achieved its objective with comparative ease. The 135th Infantry, beating off a final enemy attempt to retake Rosignano on the morning of 10 July, attacked with all battalions in the afternoon but gained ground slowly. The 442d Infantry also made slow progress up the valley toward more undulating ground where tanks could be employed. Slight gains were made the next day with the 442d Infantry and its tanks moving forward to within 600 yards of Pastina. Neither regiment made any headway on 12 July against stiff opposition which included self-propelled guns and Mark VI tanks. The 442d Infantry entered the outskirts of Pastina at 2200; at about the same time the 135th Infantry beat off a heavy counterattack in the hills. Along Highway 1 the armored troops inched their way forward, reaching Castiglioncello and gaining some ground beyond it.

Cracking of the enemy defense on the east resulted in a general withdrawal on the west as well, and on 13 July the 135th Infantry moved forward without making contact until 1545 when the line was generally five miles northwest of Rosignano,



*Over such roads as this contact was maintained between our columns.*



*British antiaircraft guns supported the later stages of our drive.*



*Outflanked on the east, Leghorn fell easily to men of the 34th Division.*



*Leghorn harbor was mined and ships sunk everywhere to prevent its use.*

a gain of three miles. The 100th Battalion entered Pastina shortly after midnight and with the aid of the 3d Battalion, 442d Infantry, mopped it up. At 0830 the 2d Battalion advanced about a mile north of Pastina, and both the 442d and 135th Infantry halted to resupply themselves before resuming the attack.

On 14 July and during most of the 15th the 135th Infantry pushed ahead with little opposition, making a gain of about five miles through rough country. At last light of 15 July near the high ground overlooking Leghorn from the southeast, the 3d Battalion received a severe counterattack on its left flank, which had been left exposed by the inability of the armor on Highway 1 to maintain the pace set inland. This attack was broken up only after hard fighting and the use of all available artillery, including 36 guns of the British 66 Antiaircraft Brigade. The 442d Infantry, heading north while the 135th Infantry moved northwest, took the village of Pieve di San Luce on the 14th and advanced to the left rear of the 168th Infantry the next day.

At 0100, 16 July, the 2d Battalion, 135th Infantry, followed the repulse of the German counterattack on the previous evening with an attack against Hill 232, seizing it at 0400. This 1st Battalion passed through the 3d Battalion and by 0530 had Mount Maggiore (Hill 449). At 1145 Hill 413, a mile to the north, was taken. The 442d Infantry encountered resistance all day with the 3d Battalion entering Luciana at 1730, 17 July, and finally clearing it before midnight. During the 17th the 135th Infantry, using the 1st and 2d Battalions in a northwesterly direction, beat off small counterattacks and made slight gains. Armored cars and tank destroyers along the coast had great difficulty with bad road and terrain conditions in attempting to cover the regiment's left flank.

The 363d Regimental Combat Team returned to the 34th Division zone on 18 July as Task Force Williamson under Brig. Gen. Raymond Williamson to execute a double thrust at Leghorn with the 135th Infantry. The plan called for the 135th Infantry to continue its attack toward the southeastern part of the city while the 363d Infantry came in from the east. The 135th Infantry committed all three battalions to the final assault. The 1st Battalion attacked due west and the 2d and 3d Battalions to the northwest to cut off the escaping enemy. The only serious encounter was met by the 2d Battalion, which ran onto an enemy force estimated at a battalion. White phosphorus shells set fire to the woods and brush where the Germans were concealed and they fled. Despite the lack of serious resistance, the country was so difficult that the regiment could not advance fast enough to prevent the main body of the Germans from making good its escape.

The 363d Infantry passed through the 100th Battalion west of Luciana and with the 1st and 2d Battalions abreast attacked at 0500 an enemy strongpoint at Casone. After artillery had heavily shelled this village, the lead battalions entered

it at 1445, uncovering a small lateral road leading west toward Leghorn. The 1st Battalion with elements of the 752d Tank Battalion made its way into the eastern outskirts of the city at 2045 while the 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion broke through to Montenero, three miles northeast of Leghorn, and cleared out the coastal sector. The two infantry regiments continued to converge on the city, which the 3d Battalion, 135th Infantry, entered at 0200, 19 July. The 2d Battalion and the 1st and 2d Battalions, 363d Infantry, arrived a little more than two hours later. There was little fighting in the city, but it was found to be heavily mined and booby-trapped. Almost all of the port facilities were destroyed and the harbor partially blocked by sunken ships. The Germans had had plenty of time to accomplish their destruction and had done a thorough job. The 100th Battalion came into Leghorn at 0800 and was assigned the job of policing the city, while the 135th Infantry assembled to the southwest.

3. *On to Pisa.* The 363d Infantry sent patrols north of Leghorn on 19 July to the canals situated between Leghorn and the Arno River. Only small enemy outposts were encountered; the main body of the enemy apparently had already withdrawn across the river. Before the advance was resumed several changes in our troop dispositions were made. On 19 July the 168th Infantry extended its zone to include that previously occupied by the 133d Infantry, and the following day the 442d Infantry in the center moved its outpost line forward to Highway 67. The 363d Infantry took over the entire left zone of the division and pushed its leading elements north of the canal. On 21 July General Ryder turned over command of the 34th Division to Maj. Gen. Charles L. Bolte.

These days of troop shuffling were utilized by the engineers in throwing bridges over the numerous canals north of Leghorn. The Germans had blown all crossings, and before any further advance in strength could be attempted it was necessary to repair bridges and make by-passes to enable tanks and supply vehicles to move forward. The Canale Navigabile, with a wet gap of 100 feet, was the most serious obstacle, although on a 1000-foot stretch of Highway 1 it was necessary to construct 5 bridges. Many of these were built under fire since the open terrain offered little cover or concealment from enemy observers located in buildings and towers in Pisa.

In compliance with a Corps order to all units to advance the line completely to the Arno River, the 34th Division attacked at 2200, 22 July. The bulk of the fighting fell on the 363d Infantry. Both the 442d and 168th Infantry moved up with little trouble, the 168th Infantry turning over the east part of its zone to the 91st Division. The 1st Battalion, 363d Infantry, reached Marina di Pisa at the mouth of the Arno at 0330, 23 July, and outposted the position, while the 2d Battalion advanced up Highway 1 and reached south Pisa at 1330. The 3d Battalion followed three hours later.

The enemy had destroyed all bridges over the Arno and when the 363d Infantry arrived in the part of Pisa lying south of the river, heavy fire was opened on the town. The southern half of the city was found as heavily mined and booby-trapped as Leghorn, and German artillery and mortars battered down many of the houses. The enemy also took the harbor of Leghorn under fire with long-range artillery, 280-mm shells being identified.

In accordance with orders from General Clark for relief of the infantry units, IV Corps rushed plans for introduction of anti-aircraft and other support units into the lines as infantry, and by 26 July all reliefs had been completed. The 363d Infantry went back to the 91st Division, and the 34th Division assembled near Rosignano in rest camp. Casualties were not particularly high in the 34th Division after the heavy losses suffered at Cecina despite the protracted resistance offered by the enemy in some places. The division with its attachments had reached a total ration strength of 36,034 on 6 July and had some difficulty with supply as few additional trucks were available to take care of the greatly increased personnel. Pack mules were necessary at times to supply the regiments operating in the extremely rough country along the east division boundary. During the first 10 days of July the ammunition situation in some types, particularly 155-mm shells, caused worry. Ammunition expenditure of the division reached a new high for the Italian campaign, the greatest single expenditure in any one day being 715 tons. The division fired a total of 202,874 rounds of 105-mm ammunition, an average of 117 rounds per gun per day, while 7,960 rounds of 155-mm howitzer were consumed.

## B. ACTION IN THE CENTER

8-26 JULY

1. *The 91st Division to the Arno.* The 361st and 363d Regimental Combat Teams had seen action previously, but the 91st Division as a combat entity, under the command of Maj. Gen. William G. Livesay, received its initial assignment on 13 July when it was committed in the center of the IV Corps front, between the 88th Division on the right and the 34th Division on the left. The 361st Regimental Combat Team was returned from the 1st Armored Division, and the 363d Regimental Combat Team was relieved of attachment to the 34th Division. As supporting arms the division had medium tanks of Companies D and E, 1st Armored Regiment (1st Armored Division), and the 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion (less Company A) attached. The zone in which the division was to drive to the Arno River was only four miles wide at its base but gradually increased in width until

it stretched approximately ten miles along the south bank of the river from a point four miles west of Pontedera to the 88th Division boundary, approximately six miles east of that river city.

For six miles north of the jump-off line the terrain was rough, then leveled off the next six or seven miles to the Arno River. (*See Map No. 9.*) The Era River valley, running northwest through the zone, formed the main avenue of approach to the Arno Valley. The river itself, at low stage and with gentle banks, was only a minor obstacle. The area was well covered with a network of minor roads. Paralleling the river was the highway from Laiatico to Pontedera, passing through Capannoli and Ponsacco. In addition to these places three other moderate-sized towns existed. Almost on the left boundary were Chianni and Bagni di Casciana, both in the hills, and in the center due east of Bagni was Terricciola, built on a hill which afforded good observation for many miles.

The division launched its attack at 0300, 13 July, leaving assembly areas about three miles south of a line through Chianni—Laiatico. The general mission was to advance to the Arno. The initial objectives were Chianni and the high ground to its east; second objectives were Bagni di Casciana and Terricciola. The division began the attack with its two most rested regiments in the assault, the 362d Infantry under Col. John W. Cotton was on the right and the 363d Infantry on the left. The 361st Infantry, which had been in combat almost steadily since Civitavecchia, was in division reserve.

Advance was slow against stubborn German resistance, consisting of artillery, mortar, and small-arms fire. No hostile armor was encountered but minefields were frequent. Mines, demolitions, and the rough terrain prevented the armored support from following close enough behind the foot troops to be used other than as additional supporting artillery in the early stages of the action. The 1st Battalion, 362d Infantry, advanced almost to its first objective on the high ground before it was subjected to a heavy counterattack and forced to fall back about 500 yards, suffering considerable casualties. The 2d Battalion was brought up from regimental reserve and succeeded in restoring the position although it was unable to make much more progress. The leading elements of the 363d Infantry moved close to Chianni, which the 3d Battalion occupied without resistance early in the morning of 14 July after the Germans had withdrawn during the night. The same day the 362d Infantry succeeded in by-passing Terricciola on the east. When patrols were sent on reconnaissance into the town they found only a few stragglers, for the enemy had also abandoned this position.

On 15 July the 361st Infantry took over from the 362d Infantry and continued to push north on the right of the division zone, taking the village of Morrona, two

miles northwest of Terricciola. There it was temporarily halted by heavy concentrations of German artillery fire. The sudden increase in German shelling was attributed to the fact that German infantry units, which were already beginning to withdraw across the Arno River in this sector, had left their artillery in position to reinforce the rearguard delaying forces and that artillery emplaced north of the Arno now had our troops within range. While this limited gain was made on the right, the 363d Infantry continued to advance on the left through difficult hill country north of Chianni and occupied Bagni di Casciana without a fight. The first enemy armor was seen when five tanks moved up to threaten the boundary between the two regiments. They were dispersed by our artillery and tanks. The 363d Infantry was then pulled back into reserve, preparatory to becoming part of a special task force attached to the 34th Division to aid that division in its assault against the port of Leghorn. The 361st Infantry swung into the left of the division zone, and the 362d Infantry returned to action on the right.

After a steady all-day advance against much reduced resistance, the 361st Infantry lashed out in a rapid drive against the Pontedera—Ponsacco area late on 16 July. By dark leading elements had reached the last high ground and could look down on the flat floor of the Arno Valley, stretching out about six miles ahead to the river. The Germans at last threw in more armor in an attempt to slow the advance, but after friendly tanks and tank destroyers attached to the 361st Infantry knocked out two Mark VI Tigers and a Mark II tank the others withdrew. The regiment continued its advance the next day and in stiff fighting pushed ahead to within a mile of Ponsacco when heavy artillery and self-propelled gun fire momentarily stopped it. Supporting artillery laid down a heavy counterbattery program, and at 2030 the 2d Battalion entered the town, in which the enemy put up no fight. Leaving one company in Ponsacco, the battalion pushed on toward Pontedera. Company K and tanks from Company D, 1st Armored Regiment, entered this sizeable river city at 0800, 18 July. Some scattered snipers were still present and had to be mopped up, but the main force of the Germans had retired across the river. From the north bank the enemy placed Pontedera under sporadic mortar and artillery fire; some Americans became casualties when they set off booby traps left behind in the rubble and in buildings.

While troops forming the long spearhead of the 361st Infantry thrust ahead to the river and became the first Americans to reach the Arno, the 362d Infantry continued its push on the division right. On 16 July this regiment advanced to within a few hundred yards of Capannoli by darkness; the next morning it passed through the town. Crossing the Era River into comparatively flat country, the infantry moved about two miles farther north before the Germans launched a heavy counterattack which was broken up by our artillery. The troops continued across

the valley and plunged into the hills once more, fighting through them for a distance of about three miles on 18 July before coming to the last ridge overlooking the river. Here they were ordered to halt and consolidate their positions. Our main line of resistance at this point was established about two miles south of the river, which veered in a great horseshoe bend to the north.

Although the division had taken Pontedera, the city was not completely consolidated immediately. Company K, 361st Infantry, remained in the city as an outpost, while the regiment's main line ran through Ponsacco and parallel to the river about the same distance south of it as the line of the 362d Infantry. Aggressive patrolling occupied the next two days with little action other than exchange of artillery fire with the foe across the river. Few contacts were made on our side of the river although attempts to cross ran into difficulty. A patrol of the 91st Reconnaissance Troop waded the Arno on 19 July, engaged in a fire fight, and then withdrew. Most patrols were driven back before they could cross. The division sector was widened on 20 July. The left boundary was moved two miles to the west to relieve units of the 34th Division; the right boundary was shifted a mile and one-half farther east to take in part of the old 88th Division sector. On 21 July a concerted effort was made by both infantry regiments to clear the last enemy groups from the south side of the river. Two days' action accomplished this mission without any severe fighting.

2. *Advance of the 88th Division.* The 88th Division had been in rest and reserve for a month when it was sent to attack through and to relieve the 1st Armored Division the morning of 8 July in the vicinity of Volterra. At the time of the relief Combat Command B of the 1st Armored Division had some elements north of Highway 68 and west of Volterra. Combat Command A's main units were east of that enemy-held city and not across the highway in any great strength. The 91st Reconnaissance Squadron held Montecatini in Val di Cecina, located north of the highway.

Volterra dominated the country for many miles from its situation atop an 1800-foot hill with the valley of the Cecina River stretching to the southwest and that of the Era River to the northwest. The zone assigned to the 88th Division on the right of IV Corps ran due north with a base generally along the line of Highway 68 of close to 18 miles. The zone narrowed as it went north, and after part of it was assumed by the 91st Division it measured little more than six miles along the south bank of the Arno River. The left boundary followed a secondary road running north from Highway 68 about eight miles inland from Cecina. It paralleled this road to Peccioli and then veered northeast to strike the Arno one mile west of the town of San Romano. The right boundary was a line parallel to Highway 2

and about three miles west of this road as far as Poggibonsi. From that town the line cut northwest to strike the river three miles west of Empoli.

Volterra with its extensive observation facilities had been causing the armored units much trouble, and a co-ordinated attack by the 88th Division was planned to take it. A frontal attack was discarded as too costly; instead, while one regiment by-passed the city to the west, another would encircle it from the east and seize the high ground to the north, thereby rendering the German position in the town untenable. This attack, heavily supported by artillery, jumped off at 0530, 8 July. The 350th Infantry under Col. James C. Fry was selected to advance in the left half of the division zone and by-pass Volterra. It was to drive against Laiatico, a town smaller than Volterra but also built on a hilltop and situated about eight miles northwest of Volterra. The regiment moved northward, shielded from German observation in Volterra by a heavy barrage of smoke shells laid down by artillery and chemical mortars. Progress was slow against enemy resistance which was featured by a great increase in artillery fire. While the 350th Infantry carried out this mission, the 349th Infantry pushed north on the east side of the city and captured the village of Roncolla. By 2200 on the day of the attack both regiments had reached and consolidated the objectives on high ground north and east of Volterra. Patrols entered the city the next morning and found the enemy had evacuated it during the night. Badly outflanked, he had decided to retire without a fight for this strong position.

Both regiments made only limited advances on 9 July, meeting many minefields and other obstacles in addition to stubborn infantry defense backed by artillery and mortar fire. The 351st Infantry, which had been in division reserve, was brought forward to make the assault against Laiatico and moved at 0300, 11 July, to the foot of the hill on which the town was situated. The 1st Battalion was to outflank the town and come into it from the west, while the other battalions held in place on the high ground to the south. The 1st Battalion moved very slowly during the darkness; when it became light the defenders' withering fire halted forward movement after the assault companies had gained about 500 yards up the west slopes. Here they remained pinned down all day under fire from the left rear as well as the front, suffering heavy casualties. Enemy artillery observers in Laiatico had a clear view of the country to the southeast in which the 350th Infantry was operating, and the accurate fire they directed onto the comparatively flat country there virtually halted that unit also. Under the cover of heavy artillery concentrations and counterbattery fire which was directed all day against the Germans, some slight gains were made on the right.

A double envelopment attack was planned by the 351st Infantry for its second night assault against the fortress town of Laiatico at 0300, 12 July. While the

battered 1st Battalion held in place to protect the regiment's left flank, the 2d Battalion was to attack from the west and the 3d Battalion from the east. At H Hour heavy artillery and mortar fire was directed on the enemy position. Following closely behind the barrage, the assault battalions reached the German defenses as soon as the artillery lifted, catching the foe before he had a chance to reorganize. So demoralizing was the effect of the artillery fire followed closely by the infantry attack that approximately 400 prisoners were taken at little loss to our troops. The remainder of the German forces had withdrawn during the night but fought bitter delaying actions across the entire division front during the day, holding advances to local gains. Antipersonnel minefields and antitank mines were everywhere on the roads and over the landscape, causing fairly high casualties, especially during night operations. After several jeeps had been destroyed when they hit mines, four officers killed, and others wounded, the various regimental command groups left their vehicles and advanced on foot.

Resistance slackened on 13 July, and the line moved ahead more than on the previous day, though bitter fighting for small strongpoints took place. The advance continued during the night, starting at 0030, 14 July. To aid the infantry in finding its objectives in the dark, smoke shells were fired by the artillery, and the troops guided on the glow of the exploding phosphorus rounds. The village of Belvedere fell without a struggle to the 351st Infantry at 0505, and the 88th Reconnaissance Troop occupied Villamagna by daylight. The following infantry cleaned snipers out of both places, and the defense line which the enemy attempted to hold based on these two strongpoints collapsed. A general gain during the day of nearly four miles was recorded.

For the next three days the slow, methodical advance continued against resistance which varied in intensity but became suddenly weak on the afternoon of 16 July. The infantry pushed on through the night and made contact with the enemy again in greater strength the following morning. A stiff, all-day fight developed across the front. At 1900, 17 July, the 3d Battalion, 349th Infantry, took Palaia, and the division was ordered to seize and secure the high ground overlooking the Arno three or four miles north of the town. This mission was accomplished by nightfall of 18 July, and all units halted on their objectives, sending strong patrols forward to the river to reconnoiter.

3. *Operations on the Right Flank.* On 9 July Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Group, was again designated as headquarters for Task Force Ramey, which had been in IV Corps reserve for two days after its combat troops were sent back to the 34th Division. Its troops this time initially consisted mainly of 1st Armored Division units: Company F, 1st Armored Regiment; the 81st Reconnaissance Battalion; the 27th Armored Field Artillery Battalion; and Company B,

16th Armored Engineers. Company A, 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion, rounded out the list. The task force relieved Combat Command A of the 1st Armored Division along the line of Highway 68. Its missions were to advance and contact the enemy in its zone, protect the right flank and rear of the 88th Division and maintain contact with the French on the right.

As originally constituted the task force consisted almost entirely of armored units and had no infantry. Its zone of advance contained an extensive road net; but most of the roads were narrow, and many came to a dead end. The few good roads followed the exposed ridge lines and were crooked with sharp turns, making difficult terrain for vehicular operation. The Germans had apparently expected the 1st Armored Division to continue the advance in this zone and had mined and booby-trapped almost every road, including small trails which led nowhere or to individual houses. Consequently the engineers and reconnaissance elements of the force were required to sweep practically every foot of the advance. Little close contact was made with enemy infantry. The task force artillery provided most of the offensive punch as the car crews strove to get their vehicles forward. Whenever it was possible to outflank a suspected enemy position, the Germans usually retired rapidly.

Launching the attack on 9 July, the force moved toward its first objective, the road net east of Villamagna, and its second objective, the road net in the vicinity of Montaione, a town due east of Peccioli near the division right boundary. Progress was slow along this axis until 17 July, when the 1st Battalion, 351st Infantry, was attached. These foot troops provided a screen which could move across country, giving the engineers some protection while they worked and thus speeding up the labor of clearing the roads for the armor. At 1715, 17 July, the infantry advanced against Montaione, met little opposition, and occupied the town by midnight. This position was maintained on 18 July with the 2d Battalion, 350th Infantry, relieving the 1st Battalion, 351st Infantry, at 2200 that night. For the next two days the task force advanced with other 88th Division units against decreasing opposition and by 20 July had gained five miles to occupy the high ground along the Orlo River, six miles due east of Palaia. These positions were held while Eighth Army was in the process of relieving the FEC, for the line on the right of IV Corps had not yet come abreast of the 88th Division. On 21 July the 1st Armored Division elements were relieved, and the 338th Field Artillery Battalion moved into the zone to provide artillery support.

Activity all along the 88th Division front was limited to patrolling for several days. Some patrols penetrated all the way to the Arno without contacting the enemy; others engaged in fire fights with groups of the foe. Although the main German forces apparently had fallen back across the river, there were numerous points

of resistance still remaining on the south side. On 23 July orders were issued to clear all the ground to the river bank. This was accomplished in two days but resulted in some hard fighting around the villages of San Miniato and San Romano on Highway 67, which ran along the south bank of the river. Enemy infantry in strongpoints put up a struggle before they fell back, and on the edge of San Miniato one force of about 180 counterattacking Germans surrounded a house in which 40 men from Company G, 349th Infantry, had been trapped. This fight raged all day. Several times the Germans attempted to blow up the structure with explosives. Artillery support was called for, and more than 5000 rounds were expended against the enemy, who finally gave up and retired when our tanks and infantry reinforcements arrived. Twenty-five prisoners were captured and about 75 of the foe were casualties. The 2d Battalion, 351st Infantry, successfully beat off an attack by a company of Germans in the village of Ponte a Evola, while the 3d Battalion occupied Angelica and San Romano, which required much mopping up. San Romano was at last completely cleared of the enemy on 25 July after Germans had infiltrated on the previous day. On the same day Task Force Ramey was relieved in this area, and the 88th Division took over control of its entire sector along the river.

### C. *RELIEF OF THE FEC*

7-22 JULY

Just as the FEC captured Colle di Val d'Elsa and was within 25 miles of the Arno River, orders were received that all remaining French troops were to be in the Naples area not later than 30 July, 23 days later. Plans were begun immediately for relief of the Corps. Service troops were to go first, and line units were to stay on until relief could be provided by the British 13 Corps; then Eighth Army would extend its boundary westward to take in all the French zone. Orders went to the front-line units to maintain close contact with the enemy and to give no indication that the strength of the FEC was being cut down. Efforts were made to convey the impressions to the enemy that it was his defensive efforts that were slowing up the French advance.

Enemy artillery fire increased on the right and center of the French front on 7 July but slackened on the left toward evening. The 4th Group of Tabors prepared to attack toward San Gimignano, the famous city of towers five miles west of Poggibonsi. In co-ordination with the attack on Volterra by the American 88th Division the goumiers jumped off before daylight on 8 July. By noon Hill 380, two miles north of Highway 68, was captured, and a light counterattack at 1530

was beaten off. During the night of 8-9 July resistance increased all along the front, especially in the form of artillery, and at dawn another counterattack which included 20 tanks was launched against the 4th Group of Tabors just north of Hill 380. Heavy fighting continued all morning, and the goumiers, no match for the enemy armor, were forced to withdraw. Hill 380 changed hands three times before the Germans finally regained it at 1600 and drove the goumiers out of the area. The battered goumiers were relieved by one battalion each from the 1st and 6th Moroccan Infantry. The two battalions attacked at night over the path along which the goumiers had withdrawn and recaptured Hill 380 at 0300, 10 July. This time the line was held.

Similar heavy pressure was brought to bear on other parts of the FEC front. On the morning of 9 July, while enemy tanks attacked on the left, panzer grenadiers supported by a few tanks attacked the 3d Moroccan Spahi salient on Highway 2 and drove the Moroccans back about half a mile. During the night of 9-10 July the 5th Moroccan Infantry repulsed counterattacks on its positions east of Highway 2 a mile and one-half southeast of Poggibonsi. Several local counterattacks on the 2d Moroccan Division front the next night were driven off.

Offensive action had been limited since 7 July, but on 11 July plans were completed for offensives on both flanks, in connection with American and British attacks the impetus of which would enable the French to go ahead without scheduling major drives for either of the two divisions. The 4th Mountain Division attacked, at 0600, 12 July, against San Gimignano, and made quick progress. San Donato, three miles north of Highway 68 on the left flank, was occupied early in the morning, and the advance continued toward San Gimignano. Against heavy artillery resistance the line moved close to the town by darkness; the following day both San Gimignano and the hills to the west were cleared as the enemy began a withdrawal behind a screen of artillery fire.

Meanwhile the 2d Moroccan Division had been watching activities of the German 4th Parachute Division on the right. The 2d Battalion, 4th Moroccan Infantry, occupied the village of Ligliano on 13 July. By the end of that day a general enemy withdrawal began on the right flank, and by nightfall elements of the 4th Moroccan Infantry were less than a mile southeast of Poggibonsi. Farther east the enemy withdrawal permitted the 8th Moroccan Infantry, which had passed through the 5th Moroccan Infantry, to advance to the outskirts of Castellina in Chianti.

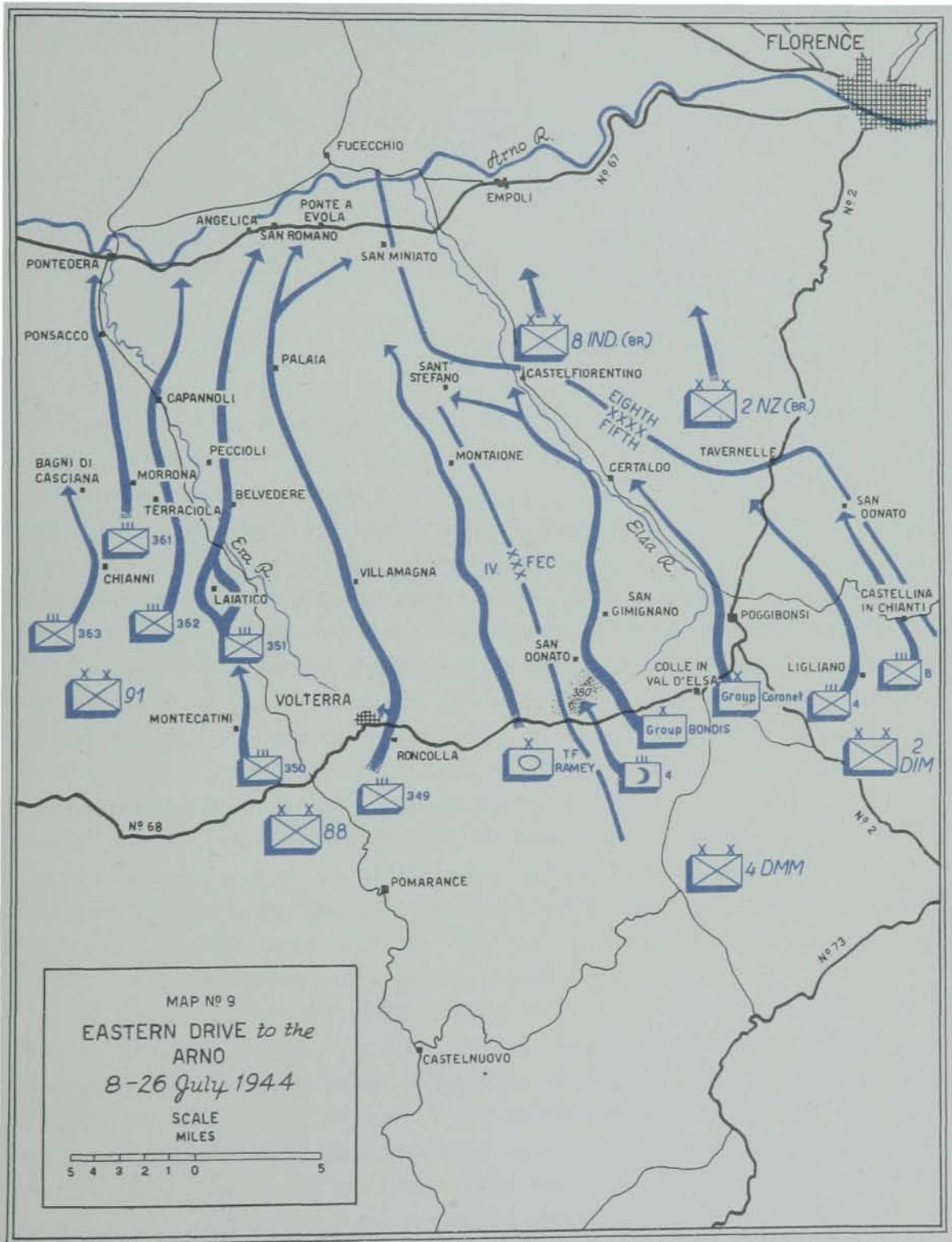
Enemy resistance broke in front of the 4th Mountain Division on 14 July, and armored and infantry elements fanned out from San Gimignano driving toward Certaldo. Poggibonsi was captured at 0930 by the Coronet Group, coming in from the southwest. The Bondis Group was less than three miles south of Certaldo at

the end of the day. To the northwest of Certaldo and in the vicinity of Tavernelle the retreating enemy took up new positions and again turned to oppose the French advance. This new resistance was met on the left flank at the end of the day, while on the right the 2d Moroccan Division was still advancing toward it. Castellina in Chianti was captured by the 8th Moroccan Infantry at 1940, 15 July. The region east of Poggibonsi was mopped up by the 4th Moroccan Infantry during the day, and by nightfall the FEC was again up against a continuous line of enemy resistance. A deep salient of opposition remained along the highway and to the east of the Elsa River south as far as the road junction north of Poggibonsi.

On 16 July final plans for the relief of the FEC were completed. The zone was to be passed to Eighth Army control at 2400, 22 July. The 8 Indian Division and the 2 New Zealand Division were scheduled to relieve the 4th Mountain and 2d Moroccan Divisions, and all French troops were ordered to go on the defensive in positions held at the end of 16 July. No changes occurred the next day, but another enemy withdrawal began the morning of 18 July, apparently caused by the rapid American advance to the west. By noon contact had been lost all along the Castellina—Poggibonsi road; at 1300 resistance in front of the 4th Mountain Division slackened. At 1700 infantry contact was broken all along the front, and both French divisions were forced to abandon their relief preparations and resume the pursuit. Picking their way through heavy minefields, infantry of the 4th Mountain Division advanced toward Certaldo and by mid-morning of 19 July completed its occupation. The 2d Moroccan Division also followed the withdrawal on the right. San Donato, six miles northwest of Castellina, was occupied before dark on the 19th, but further advances were met by heavy artillery fire from the Tavernelle area. The division front then extended from Certaldo on the west through Berberino to the hills just north of San Donato, and forward troops dug in to prepare for the beginning of the relief the next day.

The 4th Mountain Division continued to follow the retreating enemy on 20 July, advancing along the western bank of the Elsa River toward Castelfiorentino without opposition. After moving six miles northwest from Certaldo the Bondis Group finally came up against strong resistance in the afternoon. Castelfiorentino on the west bank of the Elsa was captured at 1530, and the line was stabilized from Santo Stefano on the western Corps boundary northeast for three miles to the Elsa, southwest through Castelfiorentino, and along the west bank of the Elsa six miles to the boundary with the 2d Moroccan Division at Certaldo. During the night of 21-22 July two battalions of the 2 New Zealand Division relieved the 5th and 8th Moroccan Infantry, and elements of the 21 Brigade (8 Indian Division) relieved the 4th Moroccan Infantry. The final stage of the relief was completed before midnight on 22 July, and command passed to the British divisions as scheduled.

In 43 days of pursuit action from Valentano to Castelfiorentino the FEC had performed a valuable service and had maintained the reputation the French troops had achieved since coming to Italy. The right flank of Fifth Army had repeatedly extended far ahead of Eighth Army's most forward positions though this situation had not held up progress of the pursuit. The Corps had been relieved about ten miles short of its Arno River goal but had inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. French troops had taken 2080 prisoners and vast quantities of enemy materiel at a total cost to themselves of 6680 casualties: 1342 killed, 5016 wounded, and 322 missing in action. By 30 July all French units had reported at Naples to General de Larminat of the 1st French Corps and were proceeding with staging operations under Seventh Army control.



MAP NO 9  
 EASTERN DRIVE to the  
 ARNO  
 B-26 July 1944  
 SCALE  
 MILES  
 5 4 3 2 1 0 5

*Stabilization of the Lines*

BY 23 July Fifth Army units along the Arno had cleared out almost all the enemy strongpoints and centers of resistance on the south shore of the river. By that date the French on the right of Fifth Army had been completely relieved by units of the British 13 Corps, and American commanders were ready to put into effect the orders calling for regrouping and resting of the troops. A halt was necessary for tactical and administrative reasons. Past experience at Salerno, the Volturno, the Garigliano, and Anzio had shown that for any assault on prepared German positions to succeed it must be well planned and executed with overwhelming superiority at places where the terrain and the element of surprise would most aid the attacker. In view of the formidable obstacles lying ahead in the Gothic Line such planning and accumulation of supply would necessitate a considerable period of relative inactivity on the front line coupled with intensified activity in the rear. Supply, in particular, presented problems which could not be solved overnight. Though Leghorn was in our hands, it was not yet open; our lines of communication stretched far to the rear, to Piombino, Civitavecchia, and even farther south. During the pursuit these lines had sufficed, but a formal attack required more certain and speedy delivery of a greatly increased supply load.

As always, our troops could use the rest period caused by the delay. The push up from the Garigliano had been a long one; troops had been on the move northward more than 200 miles. The short periods of relaxation allowed units along the way a refreshing change but had not been sufficient. Clothing and equipment of all kinds required replacement or repair. Extensive patching during the course of battle had carried the Army to the Arno. Now overhauling in third and fourth echelon maintenance was needed by almost all the mechanical equipment.

When troops were relieved from the line, special service units provided motion pictures for entertainment, and a number of stage shows were brought over from

the United States. Many organizations were able to obtain sections of beach where troops could swim and bask in the warm summer sun. Mail delivery was carried out by air, much of it being flown from America to forward airfields. A liberal pass system was set up, and thousands of officers and men were allowed to attend rest centers organized by Fifth Army in Rome. American beer arrived for distribution. From both the material and morale side everything possible was done to prepare the troops for the coming battles.

#### A. *REGROUPING OF TROOPS*

As this period began, the 34th Division held the seaward flank with its lines extending inland almost 15 miles from the mouth of the river to the town of Cascina; outposts in the southern portion of Pisa were the most advanced units of the Army. The 91st Division held the center of the Army front. Its sector was about 12 miles wide, running between Cascina and Angelica, a small village just west of San Romano. The 88th Division held the right sector from Angelica to the new Army boundary, a short distance east of San Miniato. The width of this sector was about six miles, but the right of the 88th Division was echeloned to the rear inasmuch as 13 Corps had not pushed forward as far as the American units. The 34th and 91st Divisions were under IV Corps and the 88th Division under II Corps which had taken command of the right sector on 25 July.

Long-range Allied plans called for Eighth Army to form the base of the next push with the main effort to be made against the Gothic Line on the eastern side of the Italian peninsula and in the center north of Florence. The western side was to be reduced to a holding sector; there the troops were to maintain an active defense and follow up any enemy withdrawal. The lines as already established were thinly held by the three infantry divisions, but it was desired to relieve these divisions as fully as possible from front-line duties in order to rest them for the coming operations in which II Corps would supplement the attacks of Eighth Army on the eastern flank with a push through the mountains. General Clark's orders to employ troops ordinarily used in support roles to hold the lines were soon carried out throughout the entire IV Corps sector; in the new sector assigned to II Corps it proved possible to rotate the infantry battalions holding the lines.

1. *Task Force 45.* The first step in the relief of the 34th Division, carried out on 26 July, was the formation of Task Force 45, named for the 45th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade, the headquarters of which took command of the new unit. During the early part of the campaign this brigade and attached units had been furnishing antiaircraft defense for most of the combat divisions in Fifth Army and for main

supply routes and lines of communication in the IV Corps zone. The necessity for such defense declined with the virtual disappearance of the German air force. The few enemy planes venturing forth were usually out of range or too fleeting in their operations to be engaged by ground artillery of light caliber. It therefore became feasible to use the personnel of many of these units to relieve the infantry.

Created on 26 July by IV Corps order, Task Force 45 consisted of the 91st Antiaircraft Artillery Group, the 107th Antiaircraft Artillery Group, and the 2d Armored Group. The 91st Group was made up of the 435th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion; the 439th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion; the Reconnaissance Company, 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion; and the 673d Medical Collecting Company. Troops in the 107th Group were the 536th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion; the 898th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion; the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron, minus Troop B; and the 671st Medical Collecting Company. The 2d Armored Group, initially in task force reserve, consisted of the group headquarters, the British 39th Light Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment, minus one battery (battalion); the 751st Tank Battalion, less its assault guns; Company B, 805th Tank Destroyer Battalion; the 434th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion (self-propelled), minus a detachment; and the 34th Division Artillery. Corps artillery units later relieved the 34th Division Artillery.

The time permitted for infantry training of the antiaircraft troops was short. With the exception of the 439th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion the battalions had been performing antiaircraft missions until 24 July when they were ordered into bivouac to begin intensive infantry instruction. The 439th Battalion had been relieved of its assignment on an antiaircraft mission on 9 July and during 11-23 July had been engaged in antiaircraft artillery firing and training at the Fifth Army firing point at Santa Marinella, near Rome. On 24 July, after completing only half its scheduled training, this battalion was moved north to go into the line as infantry. The artillery equipment of all battalions was stored, and necessary infantry equipment borrowed from the 34th Division. Each battery was reorganized as an infantry company: 3 batteries were converted into rifle companies of 4 platoons each with each platoon composed of 2 former gun sections of 15 men; 1 battery in each battalion was set up as an infantry heavy weapons company. Training was directed by regular infantry officers attached for that purpose. Initial training before going into the line was as short as two days for the 898th Battalion but training continued throughout August. Troops in reserve received infantry instruction from the time of their relief until their turn to re-enter the lines again came around. Members of the armored reconnaissance units making up part of the task force had generally been

fairly well trained in fighting on foot before they took over this assignment. The tanks and tank destroyers were used chiefly in an artillery role.

2. *Task Force Ramey.* The often-changed troop list of Task Force Ramey was altered again on 31 July when it took over the sector occupied by the 91st Division. Most of its troops were veterans, and no difficulty, such as had to be overcome in the conversion of the antiaircraft men in Task Force 45, was encountered in the composition of this force. Headquarters, 1st Armored Group, assumed the command functions in this sector and initially held it with the following troops: Headquarters, Combat Command B; the 11th and 14th Armored Infantry Battalions (1st Armored Division); the Reconnaissance Company, 805th Tank Destroyer Battalion; the 757th Tank Battalion, less assault guns; Troop B, 91st Reconnaissance Squadron (Reinforced); and the 91st Division Artillery. The 1st Armored Division Artillery subsequently relieved the 91st Division Artillery.

When the 91st Division was relieved by Task Force Ramey, it was detached from IV Corps and came under control of II Corps. The division was then shifted to the east and took over the narrow sector which had been held by the 88th Division. The 88th Division moved into a rest area northeast of Volterra. II Corps also had control of the 85th Division, which was grouped behind the 91st Division west of Montaione. The 85th Division had not been in action since shortly after the capture of Rome and had made several moves northward behind the general advance of Fifth Army. These changes placed three of the four infantry divisions then making up Fifth Army under command of II Corps. The 34th Division was under direct Army control while the reorganized 1st Armored Division was attached to IV Corps. This division, less units attached to Task Force Ramey, was bivouacked southeast of Cecina completing its reorganization. It moved to the IV Corps area and General Harmon turned over command of the division to Maj. Gen. Vernon E. Prichard, and orders putting into effect the new Tables of Organization for armored divisions were published the same day. The new 1st Armored Division came out of the shake-up a streamlined unit, about two-thirds the size of the old division with many changes in all its components. The new organization had been worked out by armored force experts in the United States over a year previously, but this was the first armored division to be reorganized in the field.

When elements of the 1st Armored Division returned to the lines along the Arno River, the division was quite a different organization from the one which was relieved in the Volterra vicinity about three weeks previously. On 20 July General Harmon turned over command of the division to Maj. Gen. Vernon E. Prichard, and orders putting into effect the new Tables of Organization for armored divisions were published the same day. The new 1st Armored Division came out of the shake-up a streamlined unit, about two-thirds the size of the old division with many changes in all its components. The new organization had been worked out by armored force experts in the United States over a year previously, but this was the first armored division to be reorganized in the field.

Chief among the changes was the elimination of the regiments, two armored and one armored infantry, and substitution of battalions in their place. The 1st Battalion of the old 6th Armored Infantry became the 6th Armored Infantry Battalion, the old 2d Battalion became the 11th Armored Infantry Battalion, and the old 3d Battalion was redesignated the 14th Armored Infantry Battalion. Three tank battalions replaced the two armored regiments. The 1st Armored Regiment shrank to the 1st Tank Battalion and the 13th Armored Regiment to the 13th Tank Battalion, while surplus personnel from the two old regiments formed the 4th Tank Battalion. The 81st Armored Reconnaissance Battalion was increased by two troops and became the 81st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized. The 16th Armored Engineer Battalion was reduced by two companies. Another change in designation saw the Maintenance Battalion renamed the 123d Ordnance Maintenance Battalion. The Supply Battalion was disbanded, and most of its vehicles and personnel were incorporated into quartermaster truck companies.

Armored strength of the division was sharply reduced by the changes. In the old armored regiments there were 2 battalions of medium tanks and 1 battalion of light tanks, each battalion having 3 line companies of 17 tanks each. The new tank battalions consisted of three medium and one light company each, thus reducing by three medium and three light companies the total division tank strength. New types of equipment, however, were introduced. First shipments of the latest model medium tank, carrying a high velocity 76-mm gun in place of the 75-mm gun, were received. Assault guns of the battalion headquarters companies became 105-mm howitzers mounted in medium tanks, replacing the M-7 or self-propelled 105-mm howitzer, a turretless vehicle. The latter weapons were retained in the field artillery battalions, which were not altered in number of guns, though their personnel was reduced.

The month of August was no less a period of regrouping for the German forces than for our own. Though Fifth Army had halted at the river, the Allies still possessed the initiative, and it was necessary for the enemy to regroup in accordance with what he knew or could divine of our plans. At the beginning of the month the 16th SS Panzer Grenadier Division held the seacoast sector, the 26th Panzer Division was thinly committed to the east, and the 65th Grenadier Division and the 3d Panzer Grenadier Division were next in line toward the enemy's left. The 20th GAF Field Division was coast-watching at Viareggio. Other battered units slipped into the mountain wall to lick their wounds. Knowing that sooner or later the Allies would again take the offensive and faced with the fact that he could not count on any outside help, Marshal Kesselring needed a mobile reserve to meet an attack from any point. He had the choice of creating such a reserve by robbing the line or of disposing his mobile units in the line to have them ready to move on short notice.

He chose the latter course, relieving the greater portions of the 26th Panzer Division and the 3d Panzer Grenadier Division. These organizations nominally held sectors, but to relieve the regular divisional troops the independent Infantry Lehr Regiment was attached to the 26th Panzer Division and the 956th Grenadier Regiment (362d Grenadier Division) to the 3d Panzer Grenadier Division. Kesselring also relieved completely three of his better panzer grenadier divisions, the 15th, 29th, and 90th, pulling them back to the protection of the Apennines. Before August passed developments in the west forced the withdrawal of the 3d Panzer Grenadier Division entirely. It was rushed to France, while the 90th Panzer Grenadier Division went to the north to guard against the threat of invasion of northwestern Italy by the American Seventh Army in France.

## B. *ACTION ON THE RIVER FRONT*

As our troops continued in their positions on the south bank of the Arno, the foe built up his defenses considerably, using the river levees as a first line; he also adopted the American plan of using a minimum number of troops on the line. German defenses consisted of a series of strongpoints and machine-gun positions on or near the north bank of the river with liberal use of mines, particularly in areas in which crossings might be attempted. Where houses were built close to the river the foe installed machine guns in casemates, backed up with light antiaircraft guns. The Pisa area particularly was organized for defense; to the east advance machine-gun posts were augmented by mortars situated fairly close to the front and by some artillery. The Germans made frequent use of self-propelled artillery pieces which fired missions and then moved to new positions. Other artillery installations also moved frequently and made much use of alternate positions. These tactics increased the difficulty of accurately determining the location and amount of enemy artillery north of the Arno. The Germans also had built some coastal defenses along the shore of the Tyrrhenian Sea. Aerial reconnaissance indicated machine-gun positions, barbed wire, pillboxes and mined areas along the coast. As the month of August passed there were evidences of enemy activity and installations echeloned to the north, evidently designed to permit an orderly and slow retreat when the Allied troops resumed their offensive.

Fifth Army troops used generally the same system as the Germans with forward machine-gun and listening posts backed up by mortars and artillery. Main bodies of the troops were bivouacked far enough from the river to be out of artillery range of all but the heaviest German field guns. Approximately one man was on the front line for each three in the rear. German artillerymen used their ammunition



*The partisans of Leghorn were typical of the patriots we met north of Rome.*



*In the southern half of Pisa our troops maintained constant guard.*



*A patrol halts before moving up to the Arno in the vicinity of Pisa.*



*40-mm guns guard the ships and trucks in the harbor of Civitavecchia.*

sparingly. Harassing fire was placed on roads in the front-line areas, and occasional shelling by a few long-range guns was received farther into our lines.

About two miles east of Pisa the river formed two large horseshoe bends to the north; here the Fifth Army lines ran across the open ends, leaving the Germans on both banks of the river inside the bends. The main American outpost lines for about two weeks were located an average of a mile or more south of the river, but between 7-10 August the forward outposts were pushed generally to the embankment of the railroad line which paralleled the river and Highway 67 and was located on an average of about one-half mile south of the stream. The ground between these posts and the river formed no-man's land where frequent patrol clashes took place. In Pisa, Pontedera, and at scattered other spots our forward lines were located on the banks of the river.

The front settled down to artillery exchanges and to routine but aggressive patrolling. Since the river was shallow—not over waist deep in many places—it was comparatively easy for patrols of both sides to cross under cover of darkness on raiding or reconnaissance missions. The German patrols were very aggressive and remained sensitive to any increased activity on the American side of the Arno. Allied artillery was greatly superior to that of the Germans, and Fifth Army also had several hundred tanks and tank destroyers available, the guns of which were used extensively in destructive or harassing fires. Ammunition for 75-mm and 3-inch guns was more plentiful than standard artillery shells and was used on a lavish scale. The Germans heavily shelled that part of Pisa lying on the south side of the Arno. Little Fifth Army fire was sent directly into the northern portion of the city; it was later discovered that the famous Leaning Tower and most of the other well known structures there had escaped all but superficial damage. American artillery carried out an organized program of counterbattery fire and systematically destroyed enemy occupied houses and observation posts. Frequently tanks and other vehicles carried out large-scale demonstrations as part of the detailed cover plan to hide the real offensive intentions farther to the east. Smoke pots and camouflaged dummy installations were other deceptive devices used in the daylight. Numerous artillery concentrations were laid down with every available artillery, tank, and tank destroyer piece utilized to simulate heavy artillery preparation. At the same time movement of troops and supplies into the area south of Florence was conducted at night in the greatest secrecy.

Mortars and artillery in normal firing destroyed a large number of small boats the Germans were using on the river and knocked out footbridges which the foe had installed in the horseshoe bend sectors. Enemy rear areas received both day and night batterings. American daylight movements were kept to a minimum except

those ordered as demonstrations. On their side the Germans kept under cover during the day as roving patrols of Allied aircraft and keen-eyed artillery forward observers made large-scale movements on the north bank extremely dangerous.

### C. *SUMMARY OF THE CAMPAIGN*

The pursuit action of Fifth Army from Rome to the Arno River marked an entirely new phase of the Italian campaign. Tactics of mobile warfare, fast moving forces, and swift changes in the situation came into use for the first time since the fighting north of Naples. Pursuit above Rome was faster and on a greater scale than that from Naples to the Winter Line. Once the main German defenses south of Rome had been smashed, Fifth Army had the enemy on the run and kept him moving until our forces were forced to pause along the line of the Arno for necessary resting, regrouping, and improvement in supply. Although the new front in western Europe detracted somewhat from public appreciation of the action in Italy, the military gains were among the greatest recorded on the peninsula.

Fifth Army was constantly on the offensive throughout the six weeks of pursuit. Occasionally the enemy was able to reduce the tempo of the drive to the north, but never was he able to mount a counterattack in sufficient strength to cause great concern. Delaying and rearguard actions proved the enemy policy throughout; he bought as much time as possible to enable him to complete the work on his Gothic Line defenses and reorganize his battered troops.

Our pursuit of the foe continued beyond Rome without a let-up. VI Corps and II Corps, after taking the city, immediately pushed on to the north. Three days after the capital fell, the 34th Division captured the port of Civitavecchia, ensuring a forward supply base for continued northward action. The Army line had been advanced generally 60 miles north of Rome by 10 June, when IV Corps and the 36th Division took over the chase along the western half of the Army zone. On the eastern flank the FEC relieved II Corps along the general axis of Highway 2, sending its streamlined Pursuit Corps made up of the 1st Motorized Division and the 3d Algerian Division into action above the line of Tuscania—Viterbo.

Great changes in the composition of Fifth Army then began. On 15 June VI Corps was relieved from the Army and assigned to Seventh Army. The 3d and 45th Divisions, the 1st Special Service Force, and many other units also were placed under Seventh Army control. The British 1 and 5 Divisions left General Clark's command. This reduction in strength did not slow the pursuit. On 26 June the 36th Division, after driving up the coast beyond the port of Piombino, was relieved by the 34th Division and also became part of Seventh Army. The 1st Armored

Division came back into the line on the right of the 34th Division, providing a two-division punch for IV Corps as the troops advanced into more difficult country against increasing resistance. On the right the FEC maintained the pace of the advance. In the first of a series of reliefs which were to see all the French troops taken out of Fifth Army and placed in Seventh Army, the 1st Motorized Division left the lines on 24 June; it was replaced by the 2d Moroccan Division.

The first severe enemy resistance was met about 20 June on a line north of the Ombrone and Orcia valleys. On the coast the 34th Division fought three days before fanatical troops of the German 16th SS Panzer Grenadier Division were driven from the town of Cecina on 2 July. Inland strong defensive positions on hills north of the Orcia River held up the FEC for five days, 22-26 June, but finally concerted action by the French and the 1st Armored Division along the inter-corps boundary outflanked the enemy strongpoints and enabled the center and right of Fifth Army to forge ahead. The city of Siena fell to the FEC on 3 July. On 4 July the 4th Mountain Division took over from the 3d Algerian Division, which moved to Naples. The Pursuit Corps headquarters was also placed under Seventh Army and became the 1st French Corps.

The line of Highway 68 now behind them, Fifth Army troops were ready for the last dash to the Arno River and the great port of Leghorn. IV Corps committed great strength for the final drive. The strongly reinforced 34th Division continued up the coastal flank; the fresh 88th Division relieved the 1st Armored Division on the right; and the 91st Division, in action for the first time, was committed in the center between the 34th and 88th Divisions during the final phase. A six-day stand in and around the hilltop town of Rosignano near the coast marked the final German effort to stave off capture of Leghorn. After house-to-house and hand-to-hand fighting in the town, the 34th Division finally cleared it on 8 July. The key mountain defenses farther inland were broken the same day. Leghorn fell on 18 July when the 34th Division and attached units entered it from the south and from the east. On 8 July the 88th Division launched a successful attack on Volterra and continued pushing north toward the river. On 13 July the 91st Division concentrated its power in a narrow zone between the 34th and 88th Divisions. The FEC, awaiting final relief from Fifth Army, moved forward slowly and captured Poggibonsi on 14 July. On 22 July all remaining French were relieved by British troops as Eighth Army assumed command of the eastern part of Fifth Army zone.

Troops of the 91st Division reached the Arno at Pontedera on 18 July, and within a few days both flanks of the Army moved up to the line of the river. Elements of the 91st Division attached to the 34th Division entered the southern half of Pisa on 23 July; 3 days later, when extensive regrouping of troops was started, the forward outposts were generally along the south bank of the stream, approximately

150 miles north of Rome. About 20 miles beyond the river lay the Apennine Mountains, bristling with the publicized German Gothic Line defense works, which barred the way to the industrial cities in the Po Valley north of the mountains.

The two months' campaign to the Arno was costly to both sides, but much more so to the Germans since their casualties had been heavy and their replacement problem much greater. In prisoners alone the advance from Rome to the river saw Fifth Army units capture 14,226 uninjured Germans with more than 2000 additional prisoners evacuated through medical channels. The 162d Turcoman Grenadier Division was practically wiped out, losing over 2500 men as prisoners. The 19th and 20th GAF Field Divisions also were roughly handled, the former losing nearly 1200 men to Allied captors. It was not until the lines were definitely stabilized that the heavy flow of Germans to Fifth Army prisoner of war cages ceased; 28 July was the first day since the start of the summer offensive that no prisoners were received. On the material side losses in German military transport were figured in the thousands; scores of towed artillery pieces and antitank guns were destroyed or captured. Approximately 200 tanks and self-propelled guns were knocked out, the 1st Armored Division alone claiming 40 Mark VI Tiger tanks out of the total.

Fifth Army, its troops constantly on the attack, also had suffered considerable personnel losses. Battle casualties for the Army totaled 17,959. American units had 1933 killed, 8777 wounded, and 549 missing. French casualties amounted to 1342 killed, 5016 wounded, and 322 missing. Major American ordnance losses for the pursuit included 100 light tanks, 151 medium tanks, and 40 tank destroyers.

#### D. *ADVANCE OF EIGHTH ARMY*

*See Map No. 1*

The advance of Fifth Army to the line of the Arno River was paralleled on the east by Eighth Army. The northward movement was slower than that of the Americans since the British and Allied troops were more thinly disposed across a front nearly three times the width of that of Fifth Army. By 15 August, however, Eighth Army had captured Florence and was well north of the port of Ancona on the Adriatic coast.

On 5 June when the Americans began pushing beyond Rome, Eighth Army troops were disposed as follows: on the left flank 13 Corps, composed of the 6 South African Armoured Division, the British 6 Armoured Division, the British 4 and 78 Infantry Divisions; in the center 10 Corps, with the 8 and 10 Indian Infantry Divisions and the 2 New Zealand Infantry Division; on the right flank 5 Corps, operating under command of AAI and composed of the Italian Utili and the

4 Indian Infantry Divisions. Eighth Army had two corps in reserve, the 1 Canadian Corps (1 Canadian Infantry Division and 5 Canadian Armoured Division) and the 2 Polish Corps (3 Carpathian and 5 Kresowa Infantry Divisions). Eighth Army thus had 12 divisions with 2 divisions additional in the independent 5 Corps. The British plan of pursuit called for 10 and 13 Corps to follow the enemy, prevent transfer of troops to the Fifth Army front, and reach the line Terni—Narni—Orvieto in preparation for a drive on Florence. 5 Corps was to contain the enemy on the Adriatic coast and follow any withdrawal.

1. *Action to the Lake Trasimeno Line.* Spearheading its pursuit with armor, 13 Corps advanced with two columns abreast. On the left the 6 South African Armoured Division led, followed by the 78 Division on the axis of Highway 6; on the right tanks of the 6 Armoured Division moved up the Palestrina—Tivoli road. Behind them came the 4 Division. By dark on 6 June the left column had advanced 18 miles north of Rome after it left Highway 6 and continued north on Highway 3; the right column by-passed Rome and moved up Highway 4. On the night of 9 June 10 Corps took command of the right column, leaving 13 Corps with only the 6 South African Armoured Division and the 78 Division. These two units were directed against Orvieto with the mission of clearing the area east of Lake Bolsena to the west bank of the Tiber River.

The next morning the South Africans attacked against heavy resistance which set the pattern for the next three days; however, by 13 June Orvieto was in sight. The 78 Division came abreast. On the morning of 14 June both divisions moved through Orvieto, which the Germans had evacuated, the 78 Division continuing its advance north on Highway 71, and the South Africans swinging northwest. The armored division traversed difficult country and encountered many demolitions but forged ahead to take Allerona on 15 June. Heavy rains slowed operations for two days until an armored task force advanced through the infantry and occupied Chiusi on the morning of 20 June. Part of the town was lost in a counterattack the same night, and the force was temporarily stalled. Patrols reported stiff resistance could be expected south and west of Lake Trasimeno.

10 Corps, meanwhile, moved to clear Highway 5, the main lateral highway between Rome and the Adriatic port of Pescara. The Corps had the 2 New Zealand Division on the right, the 8 Indian Division on the left, and the 10 Indian Division in reserve. The New Zealanders began a push up Highway 82 to clear the Avezzano area while the 8 Indian Division thrust up the Frosinone—Subiaco—Arsoli road. In four days this mission was accomplished. The 8 Indian Division reached Subiaco late on 6 June, against little opposition, but it was handicapped by many demolitions. By the morning of 10 June reconnaissance elements struck northwest while the main body occupied Avezzano.

After Highway 5 was secured 10 Corps struck toward Narni and Terni, two important links in an extensive road net. Considerable regrouping of troops took place before this operation. The 6 Armoured Division and the 4 Division were transferred from 13 Corps, but the latter reverted a few days later. The 2 New Zealand and 10 Indian Divisions remained in position and came under Army control. The boundary between 13 and 10 Corps was fixed on the Tiber River, which narrowed the 10 Corps zone considerably. The armored troops resumed the advance on 10 June and reached Highway 3 on 11 June; two days later tanks entered Narni. The Indians moved up with little fighting and on 14 June contacted the 6 Armoured Division at Terni.

Having secured this road net, 10 Corps attacked toward Perugia, an important rail and highway communication center east of Lake Trasimeno. The 6 Armoured Division moved up Highway 79 to Todi and thence north to Perugia while the 8 Indian Division advanced along Highways 79 and 75. By 17 June the armor was seven miles south of Perugia, and the city was occupied three days later. The tanks pushed up Highway 75 until stopped by heavy fire near Magione. On the Corps right flank the Indians reached Foligno without any enemy contact, crossed the Chiascio River on 18 June, and pushed north to seize the important road junction northeast of Perugia.

2. *The Advance to Florence and Ancona.* By about 20 June Eighth Army was against a continuous line of enemy resistance which ran on an east-west line through Lake Trasimeno. The area east of the lake was especially suited for defense. The impassable water barrier of the lake itself guarded the flank; east of the lake was a series of high mountains south of Magione protecting the entrance to the Tiber Valley. The country east of the Tiber was even more mountainous so the main effort of the Army was shifted to 13 Corps in the better, but still difficult country west of the lake.

The 4 Division was brought into the center of 13 Corps, which massed 3 divisions on a front of about 15 miles. By 24 June plans were completed for an attack by the South Africans to clear Chiusi and Sarteano, with a push in the center by the 4 Division and an attack up Highway 71 by the 78 Division. The South Africans attacked the morning of 24 June and took Sarteano; the enemy in the Chiusi sector pulled back to avoid being cut off. A bridgehead was established on 27 June over the Astrone River. Highway 73 was reached and crossed on 5 July when determined resistance stopped the division which prepared a new co-ordinated attack.

In the narrow central zone of the 4 Division heavy resistance was met from the start, but the advance of the South Africans forced an enemy withdrawal in the center on the night of 27-28 June. By the end of the month the division had captured its first objectives and was advancing steadily against light enemy rearguard

actions, reaching the line of Highway 73 on 5 July. Fierce opposition was met from Germans entrenched in the hill country east of Arezzo as the enemy sought to defend the Arezzo—Florence highway, his main supply and withdrawal route.

To break the Lake Trasimeno line on the Corps right the 78 Division astride Highway 71 was forced to make a frontal assault over the Pescia River. Heavy casualties were suffered when the crossing was successfully accomplished on 24 June. Close contact was maintained with the enemy until an abrupt withdrawal by the Germans was followed into Castiglione on the morning of 29 June. Although Highway 71 north of Castiglione ran through good tank country, it was first necessary to clear the hills on the left. In slow, heavy fighting the hills were swept, and on 3 July the division advanced through Cortona where the 6 Armoured Division relieved it.

The attack of 13 Corps on 24 June made itself felt along the 10 Corps front, and two days later the withdrawal of enemy forces allowed the occupation of some of the mountains east of Lake Trasimeno. By 30 June all German strongpoints within a radius of six miles north of Perugia had been liquidated. Both the 6 Armoured Division and the 8 Indian Division were transferred to 13 Corps; 10 Corps received the 10 Indian Division and orders to follow up any enemy withdrawals.

13 Corps now found its drive to the Arno Valley blocked by five enemy divisions on a defensive line running from Arezzo west to Siena, all through mountainous country. The plan to break this position called for rolling up the enemy right flank and an advance up the east side of the Arno Valley by the 6 Armoured Division with a wide thrust on the left by the 6 South African Armoured Division. The 4 Division in the center would advance up the west side of the Arno toward Florence. The 2 New Zealand Division came under 13 Corps on 11 July to clear the mountains which threatened the flank of the tank push up Highway 71. The New Zealanders and the 8 Indian Division were also to take over the right half of the Fifth Army zone later in July.

The 6 Armoured Division met heavy resistance but by dawn on 15 July had taken Arezzo; advancing rapidly, it crossed the Arno that night. The capture of Arezzo brought the hub of the highways on the Corps right flank under control, and the 6 Armoured Division could protect this flank as the main attack on Florence developed. Tanks cleared the eastern bank while the 4 Division advanced slowly against heavy opposition on the west side of the Arno. On 28 July it attacked the enemy on Mount Scalari, where twin 2500-foot peaks lay directly across the line of advance. After a hard fight the southern slopes were taken, and the enemy positions southwest of the Arno began to fall apart under the pressure of the attack. The Germans began to pull their troops across the river, falling back in good order behind

delaying actions and demolitions. On 4 August the 4 Division reached the Arno just east of Florence.

On the left flank of 13 Corps the 6 South African Armoured Division began its attack on 15 July along the route Radda—Greve—Impruneta—Florence. After temporarily stabilizing the line while relief of the French was carried out on the left the division resumed its advance through the mountains. When the high ground was cleared, the division launched a heavy attack through the center on 1 August. Strada Chianti fell and tanks and infantry occupied Impruneta on 3 August. Troops moving up Highway 2 above Casciano encountered many mines and booby traps. During the night of 3-4 August the Germans evacuated the area south of Florence, leaving only a few snipers to contest the last few miles into the southern part of the city. Forward troops, reaching the banks of the Arno in Florence on 4 August, found all the bridges destroyed except the Ponte Vecchio, where demolished buildings had blocked the approaches and rendered it useless. The enemy continued to occupy the main part of the city north of the river, and Eighth Army paused while the remainder of the river line was consolidated.

After their relief of the FEC the New Zealanders continued north in the old French zone against moderate opposition, slowly clearing the area south of the Arno. Following ten days of fighting, the Germans evacuated in front of the New Zealanders on the night of 3-4 August; contact was made the following day with the South Africans in the southern outskirts of Florence. On the extreme left the 8 Indian Division had easier going. Attacking on 3 July astride the Certaldo—Castelfiorentino road, the Indians took the latter town the next day, cleaned out the area around it, and advanced in strength toward the river. After clearing Empoli the division turned eastward, crossed the Pesa River, and linked up with the New Zealanders. Thus by 4 August Eighth Army held the line of the Arno east of Fifth Army.

The Adriatic side of the Italian front, where 5 Corps with the 4 Indian Division and the Italian Utili Division had long confined its activities to patrolling, came to life on 8 June when the Germans began to withdraw north in conformity with their retreat on the west. Allied troops followed the withdrawal and advanced for almost two weeks without a major contact. On 15 June the 2 Polish Corps took over the 5 Corps zone, relieving the 4 Indian Division with the 3 Carpathian Division. At the same time the Utili Division was renamed the Italian Corps of Liberation. These two units continued northward toward the important port of Ancona, the Poles advancing up Highway 16 along the coast and the Italians up Highway 81.

Most of the towns were found to be undefended or in the hands of Italian partisans until the line of the Chienti River was reached. The 5 Kresowa Division was moved into the line between the other two divisions as the Corps prepared

to force a crossing. On the night of 29-30 June, however, the Germans withdrew again. The Allied units followed them on across the Potenza River, and some elements were beyond the Musone River before fierce resistance forced them back to the south bank. A heavy German counterattack supported by Tiger tanks was beaten off during the night of 2-3 July; by the evening of 5 July Badia was cleared; and Osimo was finally occupied two days later.

The 5 Kresowa Division met fierce resistance south of the Musone River until the fall of Osimo; the enemy then withdrew north to the hills where he could command the roads to Ancona with his artillery. On the morning of 3 July the Italians attacked toward Filottrano in an effort to clear the hills; after six days of seesaw fighting the town was taken and finally held on 9 July. The Poles then launched a co-ordinated attack on the positions defending Ancona. The plan called for a breakthrough on the Osimo—Agugliano axis and exploitation to the coastal highway above Ancona, thus outflanking the port. The 5 Kresowa Division was to make the main thrust while the Italians attacked northward to protect the left flank. Supported by the Desert Air Force, the attack began the morning of 17 July. Opposition was stiff, but the first day saw all initial objectives taken. The next day the enemy scrambled back across the Esino River, giving up the entire area around Ancona which the 3 Carpathian Division occupied after an almost unopposed advance up Highway 16. In a week of local gains the line was pushed far enough north to place Ancona out of artillery range, and Eighth Army held a port for use as a forward supply base for operations against the Gothic Line, eliminating the necessity for the long overland haul from Bari.

From 5 June to 4 August Eighth Army covered a distance of about 145 miles from Rome to Florence and 125 miles along the Adriatic from Ortona to Senigallia north of Ancona. A total of 7656 Germans was taken prisoner. British and Dominion units lost 2304 killed, 9973 wounded, and 767 missing in action. Polish elements suffered casualties of 399 killed, 1735 wounded, and 42 missing; Italian losses amounted to 154 killed, 517 wounded, and 75 missing.

# CHAPTER VIII

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## *Supporting Activities*

### A *AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENTS*

During the Rome—Arno phase of the Italian campaign the Germans suffered heavily from air attacks as well as from ground assaults, particularly in the early days of their flight northward. Fighters and medium bombers of XII Tactical Air Command provided air support for Fifth Army throughout the entire pursuit action. In a defensive role they maintained such superiority that the Luftwaffe was almost never seen in the daylight and only seldom at night. In an offensive role fighter-bombers ranged far and wide across the front and into the enemy's rear, constantly harassing him with armed reconnaissance missions and smashing vital objectives in planned attacks. Farther back, B-25 and B-26 medium bombers pumelled lines of communication, dumps and troop concentration areas.

The air force had especially good hunting in the early days of battle north of Rome when enemy forces were still in wild retreat and were clogging the roads. On one highway leading away from the capital by actual count an average of 10 vehicles per mile were seen destroyed for a distance of 50 miles along the road. Columns of enemy machines, lined bumper to bumper, were mercilessly strafed and bombed. From the fall of Rome until 19 June approximately 1000 sorties per day were flown in support of ground troops. More than 1000 German vehicles were claimed destroyed, about the same number damaged, and between 600 and 800 railroad cars destroyed or damaged. The number of personnel casualties inflicted could not be estimated. As the lines became less fluid and the Germans reorganized to some degree, achievements were not as spectacular but good results were obtained, particularly farther to the rear of the enemy lines where efforts were directed primarily to the destruction of communications.

On 10 July AAI ordered the bombing of bridges across the Po River. It had been hoped some of these bridges might be captured intact when Fifth and Eighth Armies entered the Po Valley, but by that date it had become apparent that a rapid

breakthrough to such a depth was impossible. Bombers and fighter-bombers, turned loose in the valley, rapidly knocked out many of the bridges and by the end of July the air force reported principal rail routes across northern Italy from the French frontier to the Adriatic Sea had been cut at least temporarily. Bridges, railways, and roads closer to the front lines also were heavily blasted.

To improve pin-point bombing of ground targets located directly in the path of the advancing troops, a new method of air-ground liaison was tried out between the 1st Armored Division and the 344th Fighter Group. Patrols of fighter-bombers appeared over the front lines at pre-determined times. If no specific target was designated by ground elements, these planes attacked targets of opportunity wherever found. If ground forces desired a definite target covered, they made contact with a Cub observation plane containing an artillery observer, and this Cub in turn directed the attack of the bombers. Gun positions were favorite targets for such attacks. Lack of sufficient worthwhile objectives was the principal drawback to the experiment.

When Rome was captured, it was estimated the German air force in Italy consisted of 100 Messerschmitt 109 fighters with an additional 15 planes of this type for use in tactical reconnaissance; 45 Focke-Wulf 190's, equipped as fighter-bombers; and 20 Junkers 88, Junkers 188, and Messerschmitt 410 long-range reconnaissance craft and bombers. In addition there was an undetermined number of obsolete German and Italian aircraft of various types which were used mainly for night operations against Allied troops and installations. Some of these training units were based in Yugoslavia and had been in action against the Partisans there, but as the lines progressed northward Allied troops in Italy came within their range. Outmoded Junkers 87's, the once-feared Stuka dive bombers, were frequently used for night bombing during the light of the moon. Night patrols of our Beaufighters shot down a number of these, and our heavy anti-aircraft guns accounted for several. By the middle of August the enemy's air strength had been reduced by losses and withdrawals to approximately 70 Messerschmitt 109 fighters and the same number of reconnaissance craft as at the fall of Rome. All fighter-bombers had been moved to bases outside Italy.

While the tactical units of the air force battered the enemy ground forces directly, strategic bombers based in Italy engaged in a co-ordinated campaign against German oil supply centers and factories. Results of this campaign were noted in large numbers of German army vehicles abandoned due to lack of gasoline. Air evacuation of our wounded soldiers was stepped up greatly during the period, more than 8000 casualties being flown from forward stations to rear area hospitals by army transport planes.

## B. *FUNCTIONS OF SUPPLY*

The period of resting and regrouping of Fifth Army along the Arno also provided time for building up supplies for the future operations. Supply lines had been long and strained in the early stages of the pursuit, with truck transportation being almost the only available means of getting supplies forward. Basic requirements, however, had always been met, and, as the lines moved northward and good ports were captured, salvage and repair crews followed quickly to put these facilities in order.

The first supply convoy entered Civitavecchia on 11 June. Though the port had been badly damaged, its availability greatly eased the supply problem. The first LST poked its bow doors into a berth on 12 June, and two days later Liberty ships began unloading in the roads. Cargo began coming ashore at the rate of 3000 tons a day, while the amount of supplies unloaded at Anzio decreased in proportion. Land supply lines were thus shortened approximately 75 miles. By 20 June wreckage had been cleared sufficiently to enable Liberties to berth alongside the docks. Unloading of supplies was increased to 5000 tons daily. The Army's rapid advance shortly thereafter opened the harbor at Piombino, also badly damaged by our own bombing and by German demolitions. The first salvage party arrived there on 28 June, and three weeks later facilities had been improved to such an extent that two Liberty ships could berth at the docks at the same time and shore steam cranes were again in operation.

Capture of the smaller port of Santo Stefano, located across a large lagoon from Orbetello, southwest of Grosseto, helped the fuel supply situation. The first tanker entered this port about 1 July. Petroleum storage tanks were repaired, and installation of pipelines aided in the distribution of gasoline and oil. A 6-inch line with a daily capacity of more than 400,000 gallons was laid from Santo Stefano to the mainland and began functioning on 2 July. A 4-inch line carrying from 150,000 to 170,000 gallons daily was in use as far north as Cecina by mid-August, and plans were ready for installation of lines between Leghorn and Florence when practicable.

Supply dumps began operating in the vicinity of Piombino about the same time as at Santo Stefano; from then on the Army forward dumps were kept as close as eight to ten miles behind the front. The fine port of Leghorn was almost completely destroyed by the Germans. Within eight days after its capture, however, the first convoy of salvage ships arrived, and work in restoring the harbor facilities progressed rapidly despite protracted shelling by heavy German artillery and railroad guns located north of Pisa. All classes of supplies poured into these liberated ports, and big reserve stocks were built up while combat losses were replaced.

The two most important obstacles which had to be overcome by quartermaster units were lack of communications and shortage of transportation. Supplies of all

description were available in abundance; the difficulty arose in moving them from base depots, rapidly becoming more distant from the front, to points at which they would be easily accessible to consuming troops. There simply were not enough two and one-half ton cargo trucks and trucks of other types available to meet the demand. Leading combat troops advanced so fast that signal corps linemen were not always able to keep wire communication with them, but this difficulty was not nearly as serious as the lack of vehicles.

The necessity for establishing dumps closer to the fighting front than had previously been the policy stemmed largely from the critical highway truck transportation situation. The forward units had to be supplied with large numbers of trucks from Army transportation battalions in order to move combat troops close behind the retreating Germans. Great amounts of ammunition were being expended, and first priority on supply trucks went for this item. Thus a greater demand on supply transportation had to be met by fewer trucks traveling a much longer distance. Rail and pipeline construction could not begin to keep up with combat advances and it became necessary each time truck transportation was available to haul supplies as far forward as possible. Stretching of the supply lines necessitated the spreading of personnel with many units operating several dumps simultaneously. At one time the 90th Quartermaster Railhead Company was operating six truckheads. Sterilization and bath units for exchanging clothing were extremely hard-pressed to keep up with troops they were to service.

The accelerated pace of combat was reflected most clearly in consumption of Class III supplies. In April Fifth Army had used 6,818,088 gallons of gasoline. This expenditure increased in May to 8,514,655 and in June to 11,947,986. Sufficient bulk tankers were not available to move this great quantity of fuel with the result that trucks of smaller capacity had to be used to haul gasoline and oil, which in itself caused greater fuel consumption in addition to the combat demands. The volume of can and drum filling at the Army base dump in the Piombino area was the largest in the United States Army during July and August. Approximately 200,000 gallons of gasoline were made ready for shipment each day.

Stocks of all types of supplies which had been built up at Anzio sustained virtually the entire Army drive immediately north of Rome until Civitavecchia and Piombino became available as supply bases. Diminishing enemy air activity over these ports to a negligible volume enabled their full use. Because of the speed of the progress of the fighting to the north and because of the uncertainty of transportation, Class II and IV sub-depots were established. As combat made sites available, sub-depots were set up at Grosseto, stocked from Civitavecchia, and at Cecina, stocked from Piombino.

During the rest period along the Arno troops in reserve were given a 10% over-strength issue of B rations, and even during the period of heavier fighting this type issue was made whenever possible. During August 91% of the food ration issued was type B, the highest percentage of the Italian campaign to that time. Throughout the hot summer months mobile refrigerator vans were used extensively to deliver fresh meat, butter, and eggs to the troops. Since refrigerated storage space at Piombino was very limited, most of this ration had to be trucked from Civitavecchia, many of the vans covering 225 miles per day. French and Moslem troops departed late in July, but in August the Brazilians arrived and the problem of supplying food to foreign troops again arose. The Brazilian menu, however, did not differ greatly from the American B issue though it included more sugar, lard, and salt requirements, the sugar going for the tremendous amount of coffee consumed daily by the South Americans. Some American items, such as tomato juice, dried beans of all types, and rice were not included in the issue to these troops.

Salvage operations were also hampered by scarcity of transportation. Despite the fact that it was known that a tremendous amount of salvage was strewn along the length of Italy from the Garigliano to the Arno, little of it could be processed. The bulk of it, however, was collected at numerous salvage collecting points. The arrival of the 299th Quartermaster Salvage Repair Company in July enabled a greater amount of salvage to be reclaimed. This company took charge of repair of the salvage, and accordingly the regular salvage collecting companies, which had been doing this work in addition to their own, were released to bring in damaged articles. Collection points were established in forward areas and a systematic search was made in each locality for abandoned supplies. Class II and IV articles were quickly replaced in combat units after they turned in old or worn out pieces to the salvage yard. Supplies in the dumps grew in volume and variety. The first trickle—later a steady stream—of supplies began to come from slowly restored Leghorn.

### C. *ENGINEER ACCOMPLISHMENTS*

Engineer organizations of all echelons, both combat and service, contributed materially to the rapid advance to the Arno. Because the availability of road nets was most important, not only for the advance of forward elements but for supply routes as well, the bulk of the engineering effort was centered on reopening and repairing the routes which were systematically destroyed by the enemy. Combat engineers followed close behind the leading elements of the infantry and armor, ready to bulldoze by-passes or install temporary bridges. Enemy demolition of practically every bridge and scores of culverts necessitated this close support. Engineers of

the 34th Division, advancing along the coast, constructed 14 culverts, installed 510 feet of bridging, and graded 74 by-passes during the month of July. Inland in the more rugged mountains, where more extensive repairs were required to permit passage of heavy vehicles of the 1st Armored Division, 37 steel treadway bridges were installed. Many by-passes, some of which were as long as five miles, were constructed in this zone. Mechanical engineering equipment was used to the maximum. Bulldozers of the ordinary type and armored bulldozers proved invaluable. In some instances improvised armored machines were made by constructing armor-plated cabs in which the driver could work and receive some measure of protection from small-arms fire and shell fragments.

Engineers of the attacking divisions were closely followed by corps engineers equipped to carry out more permanent repairs and improve the hasty work done during the course of battle. The 1108th Engineer Combat Group, which supported the advance of both II and IV Corps during June, constructed 3 wooden bridges, installed 130 feet of Bailey bridging, and repaired 38 culverts. In addition it graded 176 miles of road. As the advance became slower and German demolitions increased in number and efficiency, its work increased. During July the Group put in 8 Bailey bridges, erected 9 bridges of other types, constructed 51 culverts, filled 55 craters, improved 34 by-passes, and graded 306 miles of road. Longer lasting improvements were made by Army engineers following farther behind the advance. Thirteen semi-permanent steel bridges with a total length of over 1000 feet were erected by these heavy engineer units. Three large Bailey bridges were put up, 1 of 270-foot length over the Tiber River and 1 360 feet long across the Albegna River along Highway 1. This road and Highway 2, the main axes of Army advance, received most of the heavy repair and maintenance work. Many miles of the highways were given macadam surfacing; at Piombino an overpass was constructed across Highway 1 to eliminate traffic problems around the big supply dumps built up there. Italian engineer battalions were put under command of Fifth Army to augment these rear area construction crews.

All engineer units engaged in removal of minefields, although combat troops as well as engineering specialists lifted thousands of mines which the Germans left behind during the course of their retreat. Millions of gallons of water were delivered to troops. The Army engineers issued approximately 1,000,000 maps in the 7 week period of advance to the Arno. In at least one instance forward units were supplied with maps by airplane since their movement was so rapid in the early stages of the pursuit that ground messengers could not deliver the maps in time.

ANNEX NUMBER ONE \* \* \* \* \*

*Orders and Operations Instructions*



# A

OPERATIONS ORDER

NUMBER 2

}

Headquarters  
Allied Armies in Italy  
14 July 1944

## INFORMATION.

### 1. Enemy.

*a.* The enemy is resisting stubbornly all along his front. He makes only short local withdrawals when a sector is seriously threatened. It seems clear that his main anxieties are to preserve an intact front, and to gain time for the preparation of the GOTHIC line, and for the resuscitation and reorganization of the few formations that he has succeeded in extricating from the battle. With a few exceptions his divisions are still very weak in personnel and material, and he is certainly hard put to it to provide local reserves on his battle front, or larger reserves behind, except for the few divisions detailed for coast watching which he cannot risk removing without some replacement.

*b.* It is evident that nothing short of a serious penetration of his present front followed by an exploitation on a considerable scale will bring about any change in the enemy's present tactics. In any case he may be expected to endeavor to gain more time by a determined stand on the general line of the ARNO and the high ground south of FLORENCE, before withdrawing to the GOTHIC line on the western part of his front. On the east coast he may be expected to try and delay us as much as possible by holding the successive river lines between ANCONA and PESARO.

### 2. Own Troops.

*a.* Heavy withdrawals for troops for operations elsewhere have left Fifth Army very much weakened in strength. This will shortly necessitate Eighth Army taking over the front at present held by the FEC which will in turn weaken the offensive strength of Eighth Army, at any rate for a time. However by early August sufficient troops fit for offensive operations should be available to Eighth Army to enable an attack against the GOTHIC line to be delivered in strength.

*b.* The extent to which Fifth Army will be able to participate in offensive operations will depend on the course of operations now in progress, and on the

prospects of their receiving additional supporting and service units in the meantime. This cannot be determined until later.

#### INTENTION.

3. The C-in-C intends to proceed with the destruction of the enemy's armed forces in Italy.

#### METHOD.

4. Phases of the operations: The next stage of the campaign falls naturally into three phases, viz:

a. First Phase. The driving of the enemy back to the GOTHIC line inflicting the maximum losses to him in the process.

b. Second Phase. The penetration of the GOTHIC line between DICOMANO and PISTOIA.

c. Third Phase. Exploitation over the APENNINES to the line of the Po, and the establishment of bridgeheads over that river.

For the reason given in Paragraph 2 above it is not possible to go beyond the first phase in this order.

5. Army tasks. The immediate tasks allotted to Armies are as follows:

a. Eighth Army. To capture ANCONA and FLORENCE and make contact with the GOTHIC line.

b. Fifth Army. To capture the port of LEGHORN and drive the enemy north of the ARNO, exploiting beyond the river, if available resources permit.

If Fifth Army find themselves unable to exploit across the ARNO, the plan for securing MONTE PISANO must depend on the situation when the ARNO is reached and the capabilities of Fifth Army at that stage.

It will be the subject of discussion by the C-in-C with Army Commanders as soon as it is possible to foresee more clearly the condition under which such an operation would have to be carried out.

6. Air Cooperation.

a. At present all the resources of MATAF are available to support land operations in ITALY, and it has been agreed that while DAF and certain formations of XII TAC continue to give close support to the Eighth and Fifth Armies respectively, other resources of MATAF will concentrate on cutting and keeping cut the enemy's rail and road communications on the line of the River Po from the east coast to PIACENZA and thence south to the sea, in order to interfere with the enemy's supply system and to hamper his withdrawal when he is forced back to the line of the Po.

b. XII TAC will however shortly be moved from the Italian Theatre to support operations elsewhere. When that happens DAF will provide the close support for both Armies, and although DAF is being reinforced, resources available for that purpose will be less than heretofore. This must be accepted, but every effort will be made to meet the requirements of both Armies. Priorities between Armies as regards air support will be decided by HQ AAI.

c. To obtain fullest use of the available resources good telephonic communications between both Armies and HQ AAI are essential. To facilitate this both Armies will adopt an axis as near to the inter-army boundary as possible for the movement of their HQ.

d. Medium bombers of MATAF will continue to support land operations in ITALY whenever other commitments permit, and will devote their attentions to keeping cut rail and road communications on the line mentioned in paragraph *a* above.

#### ADMINISTRATION.

7. Administration instructions will be issued separately by CAO, AAI.

#### INTERCOMMUNICATION.

8. Adv HQ AAI will move to the SIENA area when FLORENCE has been captured. Thereafter it will move to the FLORENCE area when the enemy has been driven out of the GOTHIC line, and to BOLOGNA area when our leading troops reach the Po.

Main HQ will remain in ROME until telephone communications have been established between ANCONA, AREZZO, LEGHORN and BOLOGNA when it will move to the BOLOGNA area.

HARDING  
Lieutenant General  
Chief of General Staff

# B

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 28



Headquarters Fifth Army  
A.P.O. No. 464, U. S. Army  
NETTUNO, Italy  
6 June 1944

1. The strength and dispositions of the enemy forces now facing the Fifth Army advance are such that their most probable mission is to continue delaying with demolition and light forces. Some reinforcing units are known to be moving South from northern Italy. It is possible that when these units become available for combat, the enemy resistance may strengthen sufficiently to require a co-ordinated attack to break through.

2. Fifth Army continues its advance NW using armored elements supported by light mobile forces to compel the rapid withdrawal of the enemy and in the event of increased enemy resistance to develop rapidly his positions for a co-ordinated attack.

3. For objectives and boundaries—See Overlay.

4. In order to continue the momentum of the present advance, II Corps will push on with units now available to it. As rapidly as French Expeditionary Corps units are available, II Corps Headquarters and units will be placed in reserve for rest and reorganization. II Corps will:

- a. Continue to push forward in its zone of action.
- b. Protect the right flank of Fifth Army.
- c. Maintain contact with Eighth Army.

d. Prepare plan to relieve units of II Corps as rapidly as French Expeditionary Corps units can be brought forward. Command of sector will pass to command of Commanding General, French Expeditionary Corps, at a time to be determined by mutual agreement of Corps Commanders concerned. Commanding General, French Expeditionary Corps, will notify this Headquarters when he assumes command.

5. VI Corps will:

- a. Continue to push forward in its zone of action.
- b. Prepare plans to release without delay the 1 Infantry Division (Br) and 5 Infantry Division (Br).

c. Pinch out one U.S. Division as soon as operations permit. It is desired that the 45th Infantry Division be pinched out if operations permit.

d. Protect the left flank of Fifth Army.

e. Maintain contact with II Corps (later French Expeditionary Corps).

6. French Expeditionary Corps will:

a. Push two divisions (3 DIA and 1 DMI) and necessary Corps troops Northwest of the TIBER as rapidly as possible. Movements to be co-ordinated with Eighth Army, Fifth Army Movements Control, and II Corps.

b. Prepare plans to relieve units of II Corps and assume responsibilities in present II Corps zone of action (See Par. 4d above).

c. Hold 2 DIM, 4 DMM and the Goums in rear areas for rest and reorganization. 2 DIM is allotted the ARTENA—GAVIGNANO—SGURGOLA area. 4 DMM and the Goums are allotted the general area West of CORI when FEC desires to move them from present position.

7. 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion will be prepared on 48 hours notice to drop, on Army order, in the MONTI DELLA TOLFA Hill Mass South of M. TOLAFFICIA (F 2994) with the mission of cutting Highway No. 1 South of CIVITAVECCHIA, harassing enemy movement, facilitating the advance of VI Corps and, if the opportunity affords, securing the Port of CIVITAVECCHIA.

8. Headquarters, IV Corps, initially in Army Reserve, will be prepared, on Army Order, to relieve Headquarters, VI Corps, in its zone of action. Commanding General, IV Corps, is authorized to place key personnel on duty at Headquarters VI Corps for orientation and experience without delay. Details will be arranged by Corps Commanders concerned.

9. Roads—The following road assignments south of ROME are made for the movement of Corps troops and for Corps maintenance:

a. *French Expeditionary Corps*—VELLETRI (F 9843)—MARINO (F 8953)—GROTTA FERRATA (F 9054)—ROME.

b. *II Corps*—LANUVIO (F 9142)—Route 7 to ROME.

c. *VI Corps*—STAZ DI CAMPOLEONE (F 8838)—S. PALOMBA (F 8245)—FALCOGNANA (F 8052)—ROME.

d. *1 and 5 Infantry Division (Br)*—ANZIO—CLE LA FOSSA (F 7633)—PATRICA DI MARE (F 7341)—LA CAPOCOTTA (F 7044)—TOR PATERNO (F 6643)—North

and Northwest to TIBER River. (Clearance from ANZIO to CLE LA FOSSA to be secured from Army Transportation Section.)

*e. Army*—ANZIO—ARDEA (F 7935)—CAVE (F 7842)—PISSO PRETE (F 7353)—LEGHETTO (F 7456)—to TIBER River crossings South of Rome thence to Army depot area West of Rome.

CLARK  
Commanding

*Official:*

BRANN

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# C

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 29



Headquarters Fifth Army  
A.P.O. No. 464, U. S. Army  
Near CECINA, Italy  
21 July 1944

1. When Fifth Army troops have reached the ARNO river across the entire Army zone of action, another phase of operations will be concluded.

2. The mission of the Allied Armies in Italy continues to be the destruction of the enemy's forces in Italy. Future operations to accomplish this mission are divided into phases, the first of which is to drive the enemy back to the GOTHIC line and the second, to penetrate that line roughly between PISTOIA and DICOMANO.

3. Operations to drive the enemy back to the GOTHIC line will begin after Eighth Army has captured FLORENCE and reached the ARNO river west of FLORENCE. Fifth Army's mission in this operation will be to force a crossing of the ARNO River with its main effort generally in the vicinity of MONTELUPO, capture M. ALBANO and secure PISTOIA and LUCCA. Simultaneous with Fifth Army's attack, Eighth Army will capture the high ground generally north and northwest of FLORENCE. The proposed boundary between Armies for this operation is stream and road junction Q 637695—CR Q 633739—thence Route 66 to CR Q 601770—thence 60 Easting grid. Fifth Army will take over that part of its new sector now held by Eighth Army after Eighth Army reaches the ARNO River.

4. Instructions for the second phase—the penetration of the GOTHIC Line—will be issued later.

5. It is desired that Headquarters II Corps relieve Headquarters IV Corps without delay. Date and hour when Commanding General, II Corps, will be determined between Corps Commanders and reported to this Headquarters twenty-four hours before effected. Assignment and attachment of troops will issue in separate orders.

6. Pending movement of troops into positions for attack, the entire Fifth Army zone will be the responsibility of II Corps. Decision will be made at a later date

whether or not it is advisable to relieve II Corps of responsibility for a portion of the western part of the Fifth Army sector.

7. It is estimated that the D day for operations to cross the ARNO will be between 5 August and 10 August. In preparation for this attack it is directed that every effort be made to rest the troops. To accomplish this, it is desired that forward positions be held with the absolute minimum strength, using troops other than those of our divisions wherever possible. If requested, the infantry of the 1st Armored Division and the 39th Engineer Combat Regiment can be made available to facilitate the resting of infantry units. Tanks and tank destroyers will be sited as artillery as far as possible. The tanks of the 1st Armored Division may be made available if desired on completion of present reorganization and maintenance period.

8. II Corps will prepare the necessary plans for the first phase attack and submit same to this Headquarters as soon as practicable.

9. IV Corps will make every effort to expedite the completion of the 34th Infantry Division's present mission in order to facilitate the early relief of this unit. As soon as the Division has reached the ARNO river, it will be relieved and pass to Army control.

CLARK  
Commanding

*Official:*

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# D

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION  
NUMBER 30



Headquarters Fifth Army  
A.P.O. No. 464, U. S. Army  
Near CECINA, Italy  
24 July 1944

1. Paragraph 5 and 6, O.I. No. 29, are amended to divide the present Fifth Army sector between II Corps and IV Corps effective on or about 25 July. IV Corps will retain responsibility for the western portion of the Fifth Army zone of action. Date and hour when Commanding General, II Corps, assumes command of eastern sector will be determined by Corps Commanders concerned and this Headquarters notified.

2. IV Corps will adjust dispositions of troops to relieve from contact all infantry divisions as soon as possible. Relief of the 34th Division will begin at once; two RCT's of the 91st Division will be relieved as soon as practicable and the third not later than 1 August. The first 91st Division RCT relieved will be utilized to effect relief of forward elements of the 88th Division.

3. II Corps troops in IV Corps zone when inter-Corps boundary becomes effective will remain under operational control of IV Corps pending movement to II Corps zone. IV Corps will facilitate such movement and arrange the details thereof with II Corps. To garrison the left sector the following troops will be available to IV Corps on dates indicated. Assignment orders will be issued separately.

91st Rcn. Squadron . . . . .	at once
1108th Engr Combat Group Hq and Hq Co . . . . .	28 July
235th Engr Combat Bn . . . . .	28 July
23d Engr Bn (Italian) . . . . .	28 July
751st Tank Bn . . . . .	at once
894th TD Bn . . . . .	at once
805th TD Bn . . . . .	at once
* 107th AA Group, Hq & Hq Btry . . . . .	at once
* 536th AAA (AW) Bn . . . . .	at once
* 898th AAA (AW) Bn . . . . .	at once

* 439th AAA (AW) Bn . . . . .	at once
CCB, 1st Armd Div . . . . .	30 July
6th Armd Inf Bn . . . . .	30 July
11th Armd Inf Bn . . . . .	30 July
14th Armd Inf Bn . . . . .	30 July
Det 47th Med Bn . . . . .	30 July
1st Armd Group Hq & Hq Co . . . . .	at once
2d Armd Group Hq & Hq Co . . . . .	26 July
757th Tank Bn . . . . .	5 August
1st Armd Div (-CCB) . . . . .	5 August
Elements of 10 AGRA (Br) . . . . .	(dates and details later)

(\* Note: CG, IV Corps, will constitute a provisional infantry regiment from AAA units listed above.)

4. Within its zone of action, IV Corps will:

- a. Conduct active patrolling in selected areas.
- b. Hold forward positions with minimum forces, conserving infantry strength wherever possible. Tanks, Tank Destroyers and AAA will be sited as field artillery as far as is consistent with their primary missions.
- c. Protect the left flank of Fifth Army.
- d. Maintain contact with II Corps.
- e. Be prepared to follow up any enemy withdrawal.
- f. Prepare and submit to this Headquarters plans for demonstration in the area PONTEDERA—ANGELICA in connection with the attack of II Corps. Communication with II Corps to effect co-ordination is directed.
- g. Prepare and submit to this Headquarters plans for the employment in a pursuit role of all or part of the 34th Division and/or the 1st Armored Division.

5. Within its zone of action, II Corps will:

- a. Outpost its forward line with minimum forces, utilizing troops other than infantry wherever possible.
- b. Prepare and submit to this Headquarters plans for attack to seize crossings of the ARNO River in the vicinity of MONTELUPO, for securing M. ALBANO and for capturing PISTOIA and subsequently LUCCA, (See O.I. No. 29).
- c. Protect the right flank of Fifth Army.
- d. Maintain contact with Eighth Army.

6. Boundaries.

a. Inter-Corps: Left, IV Corps; right, II Corps. Q 350300 — Q 340340 — Q 350400 — Q 340490 — RJ Q 354530 (all incl IV Corps) — Q 370600 — ALTO-PASCIO (Q 3274) all incl II Corps.

b. Inter-Army: For planning purposes: 69 Easting to Q 6960 — Q 7264 — 6470 — OMBRONE River — Hwy 66 (inclusive Fifth Army) — Q 5782 — thence 57 Easting. Definite boundary when published by AAI.

CLARK  
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*Official:*

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ANNEX NUMBER TWO \* \* \* \* \*

*Statistics*



# A

## CASUALTIES, U. S. FORCES

5 JUNE-15 AUGUST 1944

	Killed in Action	Wounded in Action	Missing in Action	Total
5 June	58	280	13	351
6 »	7	90	5	102
7 »	12	65	0	77
8 »	24	145	12	181
9 »	9	87	3	99
10 »	12	67	8	87
11 »	33	160	21	214
12 »	17	79	18	114
13 »	20	136	1	157
14 »	36	127	4	167
15 »	8	52	0	60
16 »	14	76	1	91
17 »	17	84	3	104
18 »	15	117	5	137
19 »	12	52	5	69
20 »	5	43	0	48
21 »	10	83	1	94
22 »	38	126	1	165
23 »	23	120	4	147
24 »	19	92	0	111
25 »	43	147	21	211
26 »	49	184	14	247
27 »	33	165	6	204
28 »	40	182	9	231
29 »	6	79	1	86
30 »	52	227	9	288
1 July	74	307	31	412

	Killed in Action	Wounded in Action	Missing in Action	Total
2 July	51	207	5	263
3 »	15	99	3	117
4 »	35	129	3	167
5 »	62	201	10	273
6 »	46	188	3	237
7 »	55	234	11	300
8 »	65	304	18	387
9 »	113	295	10	418
10 »	45	270	9	324
11 »	44	297	5	346
12 »	118	430	19	567
13 »	66	285	14	365
14 »	50	206	12	268
15 »	98	354	13	465
16 »	54	389	15	458
17 »	90	451	22	563
18 »	42	147	27	216
19 »	32	88	5	125
20 »	11	72	6	89
21 »	8	50	16	74
22 »	15	44	4	63
23 »	20	80	10	110
24 »	10	75	22	107
25 »	7	54	7	68
26 »	23	55	24	102
27 »	9	44	14	67
28 »	3	25	6	34
29 »	3	21	1	25
30 »	5	24	0	29
31 »	7	35	0	42
1 August	6	35	2	43
2 »	2	26	0	28
3 »	4	16	1	21
4 »	0	14	0	14
5 »	6	14	8	28
6 »	0	23	2	25
7 »	1	7	0	8

	Killed in Action	Wounded in Action	Missing in Action	Total
8 August	8	18	0	26
9 »	2	14	1	17
10 »	2	14	9	25
11 »	0	7	0	7
12 »	4	15	0	19
13 »	3	15	1	19
14 »	4	21	2	27
15 »	3	13	13	29
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	1,933	8,777	549	11,259

# B

## TOTAL CASUALTIES, STRENGTH AND PRISONERS OF WAR

### 1. *BATTLE CASUALTIES* . . . . .

9 SEPTEMBER 1943 - 4 JUNE 1944

	Killed in Action	Wounded in action	Missing in action	Total
American	11,292	45,119	7,463	63,874
British	5,017	23,068	9,733	37,818
French	5,904	15,836	1,621	21,361
Italian	176	366	442	984
	20,389	84,389	19,259	124,037

5 JUNE - 15 AUGUST 1944

American	1,933	8,777	549	11,259
British	....	2	3	5
French	1,342	5,016	322	6,680
Italian	3	12	....	15
	3,278	13,807	874	17,859

### 2. *PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED BY FIFTH ARMY* . . . . .

	9 SEPT. 1943 - 4 JUNE 1944	5 JUNE 1944 - 15 AUG. 1944	9 SEPT. 1943 - 15 AUG. 1944
American	18,529	14,889	33,418
British	4,889	....	4,889
French	6,287	2,080	8,367
Italian	9	....	9
	29,714	16,969	46,683

3. *STRENGTH OF COMMAND* . . . . .

	Effective Strength		Total Replacements
	4 JUNE 1944	15 AUGUST 1944	9 SEPT. 1943 - 15 AUG. 1944
American	231,306	147,036	96,278
British	43,784	15,748	43,343
French	95,142	....	23,842
Italian	9,356	8,242	4,888
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	379,588	171,026	168,351

# C

## MAJOR ORDNANCE LOSSES

9 JUNE - 12 AUGUST 1944

### STANDARD NOMENCLATURE LIST GROUP A

Gun, 37-mm, M3 & M3A1, w/carriage M4 & M4A1 . . . . .	11
Gun, auto., 40-mm, M1, w/carriage M1 & M2 . . . . .	18
Gun, MG, cal .30, M1917A1, M1919A6 . . . . .	115
Gun, MG, cal .30, M1919A4 . . . . .	262
Gun, MG, cal .30, M1919M5 . . . . .	63
Gun, MG, cal .50, M2, HB . . . . .	341
Gun, MG, cal .50, M2, WC . . . . .	57
Gun, sub MG, cal .45, Thompson, M1928A1, M1, M1A1, M3 . . . . .	1124
Mortar, 60-mm, M2 . . . . .	108
Mortar, 81-mm, M1 . . . . .	45
Mortar, 2-inch . . . . .	1
Rifle, auto., cal .30, Browning, M1918A1 & M1918A2 . . . . .	421

### STANDARD NOMENCLATURE LIST GROUP B

Bayonet, M1905, M1917, M1 . . . . .	4834
Carbine, cal .30, M1 & M1A1 . . . . .	2314
Knife, trench, M1, M2, M3, M1918 . . . . .	5407
Launcher, grenade, M1 . . . . .	590
Launcher, grenade, M2 . . . . .	5
Launcher, grenade, M7, M8 . . . . .	3337
Launcher, rocket, AT, M1, M1A1, M1A2 . . . . .	557
Pistol, auto., cal .45, M1911 & M1911A1 . . . . .	2190
Pistol, pyro, AM, M8, w/mount . . . . .	31
Pistol, pyro, M2 . . . . .	19
Pistol, Very, 10 Gauge, MK III, IV, V . . . . .	3
Projector, pyro, hand, M9 . . . . .	225

Projector, signal, ground, M4 . . . . .	52
Revolver, cal .45, M1917 . . . . .	12
Rifle, US, cal .30, M1903, M1903A1, M1903A3 . . . . .	2448
Rifle, US, cal .30, M1903A4, snipers . . . . .	151
Rifle, US, cal .30, M1 . . . . .	3480
Rifle, US, cal .30, M1917 . . . . .	181

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE LIST GROUP C

Gun, 57-mm, M1, w/carriage M1A1 & M1A2 . . . . .	16
Gun, 6-pounder . . . . .	1
Howitzer, 75-mm, M1 & M1A1, w/carriage M1, pack . . . . .	3
Gun, 90-mm, M1 & M1A1, w/carriage M1 & M1A1 . . . . .	6
Howitzer, 105-mm, M2 & M2A2, w/carriage M2 . . . . .	5
Howitzer, 105-mm, M3, w/carriage M3 . . . . .	2
Howitzer, 155-mm, M1, w/carriage M1 . . . . .	12
Howitzer, 155-mm, M1917A1, M1918, w/carriage M1917, M1918 . . . . .	2
Gun, 155-mm, M1, w/carriage M1 . . . . .	3
Howitzer, 8-inch, M1, w/carriage M1 . . . . .	2

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE LIST GROUP G

Ambulance, 3/4 ton, 4×4, Dodge . . . . .	28
Car, armored, light, M8 . . . . .	32
Car, armored, utility, M20 . . . . .	8
Car, scout, M3A1 . . . . .	2
Car, half-track, M2 . . . . .	66
Car, 4×2, light sedan, 5 passenger . . . . .	4
Car, 4×2, medium sedan, 5 passenger, Packard . . . . .	2
Carriage, motor, 37-mm gun, M6 . . . . .	1
Carriage, motor, 75-mm howitzer, M8, M7 . . . . .	8
Carriage, motor, 75-mm gun, M3 . . . . .	3
Carriage, motor, 3-inch gun, M10 . . . . .	40
Carriage, motor, 76-mm, gun, T70 . . . . .	1
Carriage, motor, 105-mm howitzer, M7 . . . . .	19
Carriage, motor, 105-mm howitzer, T19 . . . . .	2
Carriage, motor, multiple gun, M51 . . . . .	21
Carriage, motor, multiple gun, M13 . . . . .	7
Carriage, motor, multiple gun, M15 . . . . .	7

Carriage, motor, multiple gun, M16 . . . . .	6
Carrier, personnel, half-track, M3 & M3A1 . . . . .	51
Carrier, 81-mm mortar, half track, M4 . . . . .	2
Motorcycle, chain driven, Harley-Davidson . . . . .	41
Tank, light, M5 & M5A1 . . . . .	100
Tank, medium, M4 & M4A1 . . . . .	151
Tractor, medium, M4 . . . . .	10
Tractor, heavy, M5 . . . . .	3
Trailer, 1/4 ton payload, 2 wheel, cargo . . . . .	96
Trailer, 1 ton payload, 2 wheel, cargo . . . . .	158
Trailer, 1 ton, 2 wheel, 250 gal. water tank . . . . .	14
Trailer, 45 ton, tank recovery, M9 . . . . .	5
Trailer, ammunition, M10 . . . . .	18
Trailer, ammunition, M5 . . . . .	6
Trailer, armored, M8 . . . . .	42
Truck, 1/4 ton, 4×4, amphibian . . . . .	6
Truck, 1/4 ton, 4×4 . . . . .	601
Truck, 3/4 ton, 4×4, C&R, wo/winch . . . . .	108
Truck, 3/4 ton, 4×4, WC, w/winch . . . . .	28
Truck, 3/4 ton, 4×4, WC, wo/winch . . . . .	119
Truck, 3/4 ton, 4×4, carryall . . . . .	9
Truck, 1 1/2 ton, 4×4, pickup . . . . .	1
Truck, 1 1/2 ton, 4×4, dump . . . . .	22
Truck, 1 1/2 ton, 4×4, telephone repair . . . . .	5
Truck, 1 1/2 ton, 4×4, panel . . . . .	5
Truck, 1 1/2 ton, 6×6, personnel and cargo . . . . .	26
Truck, 1 1/2 ton, 4×4, tractor . . . . .	1
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6×6, amphibian . . . . .	2
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6×6, LWB, w/winch . . . . .	82
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6×6, LWB, wo/winch . . . . .	409
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6×6, SWB, w/winch . . . . .	6
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6×6, SWB, wo/winch . . . . .	42
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6×6, dump . . . . .	37
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6×6, 700 gal. water tank . . . . .	16
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6×6, 750 gal. gas tank . . . . .	2
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6×6, auto repair . . . . .	1
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6×6, COE, 15-foot special body . . . . .	5
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6×6, machine shop, M16 . . . . .	4
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6×6, welding, M12 & M12A1 . . . . .	3

Truck, 4 ton, 6×6, cargo . . . . .	26
Truck, 4 ton, 6×6, wrecker . . . . .	2
Truck, 4-5 ton, 4×4, tractor . . . . .	21
Truck, 5-6 ton, 4×4, tractor . . . . .	1
Truck, 6 ton, 6×6, prime mover . . . . .	27
Truck, 7 1/2 ton, 6×6, prime mover . . . . .	10
Truck, 10 ton, wrecker, heavy . . . . .	15
Truck, 12 ton, 6×4, M20, for trailer M9 . . . . .	16
Truck, tractor, M26, tank recovery . . . . .	2
Truck, bridge ponton, 6×6 (Brockway) . . . . .	1
Vehicle, tank recovery, T2 . . . . .	9

# D

## QUARTERMASTER SUPPLY

JUNE - AUGUST 1944

### CHART I . . . TONNAGE ISSUED . . . . .

	<i>Class I</i> <sup>(1)</sup>	<i>Class II &amp; IV</i>	<i>Class III</i> <sup>(2)</sup>	<i>Total</i>
June	22,688.27	1,753	42,852.71	67,294.0
July	18,796.97	1,482	33,580.90	53,859.9
August	15,358.92	1,077	31,622.55	48,058.5
	56,844.16	4,312	108,056.16	169,212.4

### CHART II . . . RATION ISSUES (*individual*) . . . . .

	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>August</i>
B . . . . .	4,867,292	5,050,391	5,303,091
C . . . . .	430,910	717,864	91,706
D . . . . .	47,632	89,340	9,342
K . . . . .	427,869	509,709	25,697
U . . . . .	1,248,321	395,680	374,065
American Total . . . . .	7,022,024	6,762,984	5,803,901
Average American Daily Issue . . . . .	234,068	218,161	187,223
French . . . . .	1,540,321	661,707	.....
Moslem . . . . .	1,497,991	624,414	.....
Brazilian . . . . .	.....	.....	94,189
Italian . . . . .	418,885	451,460	734,064
Grand Total . . . . .	10,479,221	8,500,565	6,632,154

(1) Includes only rations. Class I tonnage is based on the gross weight of each ration.

(2) Tonnage factors used are: 300 gallons = 1 ton gasoline. 250 gallons = 1 ton diesel, kerosene, and oils.

**CHART III . . . OTHER CLASS I ISSUES . . . . .**

	<i>Tobacco</i>	<i>Toilet Arts.</i>	<i>Candy</i>	<i>Soap</i>	<i>Bread</i>	<i>Meat</i>	<i>Butter</i>
				(pounds)		(issues)	
June	7,231,624	5,979,023	5,673,753	550,689	3,065,127	18	22
July	4,728,351	4,485,094	3,275,127	424,513	3,026,616	18	21
August	4,438,949	2,210,032	2,111,289	410,693	2,886,441	20	13

**CHART IV . . . PETROLEUM ISSUE (all in gallons except grease in pounds)**

	<i>V-80</i>	<i>Diesel</i>	<i>Kerosene</i>	<i>Lubricating Oils</i>	<i>Greases</i>
June	11,947,986	440,041	37,466	264,005	120,089
July	9,218,280	400,210	53,124	245,627	114,920
August	5,883,166	304,600	30,303	157,823	82,193



ANNEX NUMBER THREE . . . . .

*Fifth Army Staff*



# FIFTH ARMY STAFF

15 AUGUST 1944

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 . . . . .	Brig. Gen. Edwin B. Howard
Assistant Chief of Staff G-3 . . . . .	Brig. Gen. Donald W. Brann
Assistant Chief of Staff G-4 . . . . .	Brig. Gen. Ralph H. Tate
Assistant Chief of Staff G-5 . . . . .	Brig. Gen. Edgar E. Hume
Adjutant General . . . . .	Col. Melville F. Grant
Antiaircraft Officer . . . . .	Brig. Gen. Aaron Bradshaw, Jr.
Artillery Officer . . . . .	Brig. Gen. Thomas E. Lewis
Chaplain . . . . .	Col. Patrick J. Ryan
Chemical Officer . . . . .	Col. Walter A. Guild
Engineer Officer . . . . .	Brig. Gen. Frank O. Bowman
Finance Officer . . . . .	Col. Ernest O. Lee
Inspector General . . . . .	Col. Irving C. Avery
Judge Advocate General . . . . .	Col. David S. McLean
Medical Officer . . . . .	Brig. Gen. Joseph I. Martin
Ordnance Officer . . . . .	Col. Urban Niblo
Provost Marshal . . . . .	Col. Kirk Broaddus
Quartermaster . . . . .	Brig. Gen. Joseph P. Sullivan
Signal Officer . . . . .	Brig. Gen. Richard B. Moran



ANNEX NUMBER FOUR \* \* \* \* \*

*Troop List of Fifth Army*

14 AUGUST 1944



# TROOP LIST OF FIFTH ARMY

14 AUGUST 1944

## FIFTH ARMY TROOPS . . . . .

### Headquarters, Fifth Army

British Increment, Fifth Army

*British Units at Fifth Army Headquarters:*

85 Cipher Section

106 Special Wireless Telegraph Section [-Detachment]

« Q » Air Liaison Section (Photo Reconnaissance Unit)

No. 1 « A » Force Field Section

Special Liaison Unit

No. 3 Signal Corps Intelligence Unit

### Special Troops, Fifth Army . . . . .

Headquarters Detachment, Special Troops

Headquarters Company, Fifth Army

*Attached to Special Troops:*

1628th Engineer Utilities Detachment

22d Quartermaster Car Company

523d Quartermaster Car Company [-3 Platoons]

232d and 245th Army Ground Forces Bands

13th, 33d, 49th and 50th Finance Disbursing Sections

6669th WAC Headquarters Platoon (Overhead)

61st Military Police Company (Post, Camp, and Station)

6736th Headquarters Company (Overhead)

Detachment, AFHQ Document Section [from AFHQ]

Detachment, 2680th Headquarters Company, Military  
Intelligence Service (Overhead) [from NATOUSA]

Detachment, Northwest African Photo Reconnaissance  
Wing (Provisional) [from NAAF]

Headquarters, 210th Infantry Division [Italian]

Headquarters, 20th Pack Mule Group [Italian]

FIFTH ARMY TROOPS (*continued*) . . . . .

Adjutant General:

34th Postal Regulating Section  
542d, 543d, 547th, and 549th Army Postal Units  
*NATOUSA Units Attached to Fifth Army:*  
9th and 10th Machine Records Units  
537th Army Postal Unit

Air Corps:

3d Depot Unit, Army

Antiaircraft Artillery:

351st AAA Searchlight Battalion (Type A) [-2d Platoon, Battery A; and Batteries B and C]  
436th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion  
450th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion (Semi-Mobile) [-Battery C]; *attached:*  
2d Platoon, Battery A, 351st AAA Searchlight Battalion

Brazilian Expeditionary Force:

Headquarters, Brazilian Expeditionary Force  
6th Infantry Regiment  
105th Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]

British Units (*under command Fifth Army*):

Headquarters, 21 Beach Group  
56 Town Major

Engineers:

Headquarters, 5 Corps Troops Engineers  
73 Corps of Royal Engineers Works  
88 Mechanical Equipment Section RE  
102 Army Field Company [-1 Platoon]  
Headquarters, 119 Road Construction Company  
Detachment, 215 Corps Field Park Company  
229 Army Field Company RE  
565 and 751 Corps Field Companies  
268 Workshops Section RE  
287 Works Sections RE

Intelligence:

85 Port Security Section

Miscellaneous:

76 Anti-Malaria Control Unit  
11 First Class Fire Brigade  
77 Preventative Ablution Center  
9270 Fire Fighting Section

Ordnance:

Detachment, 5 Ordnance Beach Detachment  
8 Port Ordnance Detachment  
10 Port Ammunition Detachment

Pioneers:

Headquarters, 108 Pioneer Group  
11 and 188 Pioneer Companies  
849 Pioneer Smoke Company  
1239 Indian Pioneer Smoke Company  
1991 Swazi Pioneer Company

Postal:

Detachment, 12 Line of Communications Postal Unit

Provost:

« S » Provost Company (Headquarters and 2 Sections)

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers:

686 Infantry Troops Workshop

Signal:

« A » Beach Signal Section

Supply and Transport:

1 Section, 12 Field Bakery  
19 Petrol Depot (Type A) [-Detachment]  
69 Detail Issue Depot  
1 Section, 105 Detail Issue Depot  
180 and 239 Companies, Royal Army Service Corps (General Transport)

FIFTH ARMY TROOPS (*continued*) . . . . .

1 Platoon, 425 Tipper Company  
1800 Bridge Platoon  
1811 Pontoon Equipment Platoon, Royal Army Service Corps

Survey:

46 Survey Company (South African Engineers Corps)  
517 Corps Field Survey Company

Chemical:

99th and 100th Chemical Battalions (Motorized)  
24th Chemical Decontamination Company  
172d Chemical Smoke Generating Company

Engineers:

Engineer Headquarters, Fifth Army  
92d, 175th, and 337th Engineer General Service Regiments  
Company D, 84th Engineer Camouflage Battalion [-4 Platoons]  
387th Engineer Battalion (Separate) [-Company A]  
405th Engineer Water Supply Battalion  
1554th Engineer Heavy Ponton Battalion  
66th Engineer Topographic Company, Corps  
423d, 425th, and 427th Engineer Dump Truck Companies  
2750th Engineer Light Equipment Company  
420th Army Service Forces Band  
1206th and 1980th Engineer Composite Platoons, Fire Administration and  
Fire Control  
1710th and 1712th Engineer Map Depot Detachments  
*Engineer Units Attached to Engineer Headquarters:*  
1 Section, 1621st Engineer Model Making Detachment [from NATOUSA]  
Treadway Bridge Detachment, 345th Engineer General Service Regiment  
[from PBS]  
1 Platoon, 451st Engineer Depot Company [from PBS]  
2d Platoon, 473d Engineer Maintenance Company [from PBS]  
*Italian Units Attached to Engineer Headquarters:*  
67th Infantry Regiment [Headquarters and 2 Battalions]  
Headquarters, 910th Engineer Battalion  
12th, 210th, and 909th Engineer Companies

103d Minatori Battalion  
6th Minatori Company  
21st and 101st Pontieri Companies

Field Artillery:

17th Field Artillery Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery; *attached*:  
17th and 933d Field Artillery Battalions [155-mm Howitzer]  
630th and 995th Field Artillery Battalions [8-inch Howitzer]

General:

20th Special Service Company [-1st and 3d Platoons]  
21st Special Service Company  
*General Units Attached to Fifth Army*:  
108th Replacement Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment  
[from NATOUSA]  
509th, 510th, and 511th Replacement Companies

Infantry:

34th Infantry Division  
Headquarters, 34th Infantry Division  
Headquarters, Special Troops  
Headquarters Company  
734th Ordnance Light Maintenance Company  
34th Quartermaster Company  
34th Signal Company  
Military Police Platoon  
34th Infantry Division Band  
34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mechanized)  
109th Engineer Combat Battalion  
34th Infantry Division Artillery Headquarters and Headquarters Battery  
125th, 151st, and 175th Field Artillery Battalions [105-mm Howitzer]  
185th Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Howitzer]  
109th Medical Battalion  
133d Infantry Regiment  
135th Infantry Regiment  
168th Infantry Regiment

FIFTH ARMY TROOPS (*continued*) . . . . .

*Attached to 34th Division:*

- 757th Tank Battalion [-Assault Gun Detachment]
- 6774th Counterintelligence Corps Detachment (Overhead)  
[from NATOUSA]

92d Infantry Division

- 370th Regimental Combat Team
  - Detachment, Headquarters and Military Police Platoon
- 370th Infantry Regiment
- 598th Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]
- Company B, 317th Engineer Combat Battalion
- Detachment, 317th Medical Battalion
- Detachment, 92d Signal Company
- Detachment, 92d Quartermaster Company
- Detachment, 792d Ordnance Light Maintenance Company

Italian Units:

- 154th Carabinieri Section
- 525th Infantry Regiment [Headquarters and 2 Battalions]
- 548th Infantry Regiment [Headquarters and 1 Battalion]
- 2d Group, 567th Artillery Regiment
- 1022d Quartermaster Truck Company
- 255th Railway Battery [194-mm Gun]
- Pack Mule Training Center
- 30th and 31st Mule Pack Sections
- 525th and 865th Field Hospitals
- 110th and 130th Veterinary Evacuation Hospitals
- 210th Veterinary Hospital

Medical:

- 161st Medical Battalion (Separate), Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
  - 401st, 402d, and 403d Collecting Companies
  - 601st Clearing Company
- Attached to 161st Medical Battalion:*
  - 551st Ambulance Company, Motor
- 162d Medical Battalion (Separate), Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
  - 404th, 405th, and 406th Collecting Companies
  - 602d Clearing Company

*Attached to 162d Medical Battalion:*

550th Ambulance Company, Motor  
2d Medical Laboratory  
3d Convalescent Hospital  
8th, 16th, 38th, and 56th Evacuation Hospitals (750 Bed)  
12th Medical Depot Supply Company  
15th and 94th Evacuation Hospitals (Semi-mobile) (400 Bed)  
28th and 135th Medical Composite Platoons (FA)  
32d Field Hospital  
206th Medical Composite Platoon (FB)  
549th Ambulance Company, Motor  
1 Platoon, 615th Clearing Company

*Medical Unit Attached to Fifth Army:*

2d Auxiliary Surgical Group [-28 Teams] [from NATOUSA]

Military Police:

101st Military Police Battalion [-Company A]  
138th Military Police Company  
153d Military Police Prisoner of War Processing Platoon  
379th Military Police Escort Guard Company

Ordnance:

2660th Ordnance Group (Provisional), Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment  
53d Ordnance Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment  
42d Ordnance Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment  
8th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company; *attached:*  
153d Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad  
28th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company; *attached:*  
56th Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad  
29th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company; *attached:*  
150th Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad  
94th and 101st Ordnance Medium Maintenance Companies  
262d Ordnance Maintenance Company (Antiaircraft)  
525th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Company (Tank)  
67th Ordnance Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment  
109th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company; *attached:*

FIFTH ARMY TROOPS (*continued*) . . . . .

- 152d Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad
- 112th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company; *attached*:
- 151st Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad
- 188th Ordnance Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
- 3459th Ordnance Medium Automotive Maintenance Company
- 3485th and 3486th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Companies (Q)
- 56th Ordnance Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
- 5th Ordnance Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
- 79th, 189th, and 330th Ordnance Depot Companies
- 73d Ordnance Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
- 31st and 82d Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Companies, Field Army
- 86th and 991st Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Companies (Tanks)
- 529th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Company (Tanks); *attached*:
- 149th Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad
- 229th, 476th, and 477th Ordnance Evacuation Companies
- 411th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company
- 881st and 3488th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Companies (Q)
- 87th Ordnance Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
- 53d, 58th, 236th, 605th, and 684th Ordnance Ammunition Companies
- 154th Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad

Quartermaster:

- 62d Quartermaster Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
- 487th, 585th, and 632d Quartermaster Laundry Companies
- 815th, 816th, 817th, and 818th Quartermaster Sterilization Companies
- 94th Quartermaster Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
- 102d and 110th Quartermaster Bakery Companies
- 3005th and 3006th Quartermaster Bakery Companies (Mobile) (Special)
- 204th Quartermaster Battalion (Mobile), Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
- 3837th, 3838th, 3839th, 3840th, 3853d, and 3880th Quartermaster Gas Supply Companies
- Attached to 204th Quartermaster Battalion:*
- 3341st Quartermaster Truck Company (Tank)
- 242d Quartermaster Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
- 3254th, 3255th, 3256th, and 3257th Quartermaster Service Companies

249th Quartermaster Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment  
3278th, 3280th, and 3281st Quartermaster Service Companies  
263d Quartermaster Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment  
4062d, 4063d, 4064th, and 4065th Quartermaster Service Companies  
47th and 48th Quartermaster Grave Registration Companies  
85th Quartermaster Depot Company  
90th and 98th Quartermaster Railhead Companies  
230th Quartermaster Salvage Collecting Company  
299th Quartermaster Salvage Repair Company  
3298th Quartermaster Service Company

*Quartermaster Units Attached to Fifth Army:*

1st Platoon, 67th Quartermaster Refrigeration Company [from PBS]  
1 Section, 280th Quartermaster Refrigeration Company [from PBS]

Signal:

Headquarters, Fifth Army Signal Service

51st Signal Battalion; *attached:*

209th Signal Pigeon Company [-1 Detachment and 1 Section]

212th Signal Depot Company [-Detachments]

63d Signal Battalion; *attached:*

128th Signal Radio Intelligence Company [-Detachment]; *attached:*

3200th Signal Intelligence Service Detachment (Type A) [from NA-  
TOUSA]

180th Signal Repair Company [-1 Section]

229th Signal Operating Company

3131st Signal Service Company [-Detachment A]; *attached:*

2d General Assignment Unit, 196th Signal Photo Company [from NA-  
TOUSA]

Detachment, 79 Wireless Section [from AAI]

3202d and 3203d Signal Service Sections

*Signal Units Attached to Fifth Army:*

3201st Signal Intelligence Service Detachment (Type B) [from NATOUSA]

849th Signal Intelligence Service [from NATOUSA]

Transportation:

6730th Regulating Company (Provisional)

235th Quartermaster Battalion (Mobile), Headquarters and Headquarters De-  
tachment

FIFTH ARMY TROOPS (*continued*) . . . . .

- 360th, 3637th, 3638th, 3639th, and 3640th Quartermaster Truck Companies  
*Attached to 235th Quartermaster Battalion:*
  - 56th Quartermaster Battalion (Mobile), Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
    - 3373d, 3374th, 3375th, 3376th, and 3606th Quartermaster Truck Companies
  - 70th Quartermaster Battalion (Mobile), Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
    - 3505th, 3506th, 3507th, and 3508th Quartermaster Truck Companies
  - 115th Quartermaster Battalion (Mobile), Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
    - 3332d, 3404th, 3562d, and 3592d Quartermaster Truck Companies
  - 468th Quartermaster Battalion (Mobile), Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
    - 3422d, 3487th, 3488th, 3641st, 3642d, 3643d, and 3644th Quartermaster Truck Companies

*AFHQ Unit Attached to Fifth Army:*

- Combat Propaganda Team, 2679th Headquarters Company, Psychological Warfare Branch

*NATOUSA Units Attached to Fifth Army:*

- Company M, 2674th Regiment, Joint Rearmament Commission (Overhead)
- 6792d, 6793d, and 6794th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachments (Overhead)

II CORPS . . . . .

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Antiaircraft Artillery:

- 71st AAA Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
  - 71st AAA Operations Detachment
  - Attached to 71st AAA Brigade:*
    - 3d Platoon, Company D, 84th Engineer Camouflage Battalion
    - 231st Army Ground Forces Band
- 8th and 209th AAA Groups, Headquarters and Headquarters Batteries
- 67th and 401st AAA Gun Battalions (Type A)

II CORPS (*continued*) . . . . .

105th and 432d AAA Automatic Weapons Battalions (Self-Propelled)  
Battery B, 351st AAA Searchlight Battalion (Type A)  
532d, 630th, and 900th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalions

Armored Force:

752d Tank Battalion [-Company D]  
755th Tank Battalion  
760th Tank Battalion [-Company D (-2d Platoon)]

Chemical:

84th Chemical Battalion (Motorized)

Engineers:

19th and 39th Engineer Combat Regiments  
1st Platoon, Company D, 84th Engineer Camouflage Battalion  
Company A, 387th Engineer Battalion (Separate)  
1755th Engineer Treadway Bridge Company

Field Artillery:

II Corps Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery  
15th Field Artillery Observation Battalion  
77th, 178th, and 423d Field Artillery Groups, Headquarters and Headquarters  
Batteries  
173d, 633d, and 985th Field Artillery Battalions [155-mm Gun]  
178th, 248th, 631st, and 936th Field Artillery Battalions [155-mm Howitzer]  
698th Field Artillery Battalion [240-mm Howitzer]; *attached*:  
1st and 2d Sections, Battery B, 575th Field Artillery Battalion [from Seventh  
Army]  
932d Field Artillery Battalion [8-inch Howitzer]  
935th and 939th Field Artillery Battalions [4.5-inch Gun]

Infantry:

442d Regimental Combat Team  
442d Infantry Regiment [-100th Battalion and Antitank Company]  
522d Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]  
232d Engineer Combat Company  
206th Army Ground Forces Band  
85th Infantry Division

II CORPS (*continued*) . . . . .

Headquarters, 85th Infantry Division

Headquarters, Special Troops

Headquarters Company

785th Ordnance Light Maintenance Company

85th Quartermaster Company

85th Signal Company

Military Police Platoon

85th Infantry Division Band

85th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mechanized)

310th Engineer Combat Battalion [-Companies A, B, and C]

85th Infantry Division Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery

403d Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Howitzer]

310th Medical Battalion [-Companies A, B, and C]

337th Regimental Combat Team

337th Infantry Regiment

328th Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]

Company A, 310th Engineer Combat Battalion

Company A, 310th Medical Battalion

338th Regimental Combat Team

338th Infantry Regiment

329th Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]

Company B, 310th Engineer Combat Battalion

Company B, 310th Medical Battalion

339th Regimental Combat Team

339th Infantry Regiment

910th Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]

Company C, 310th Engineer Combat Battalion

Company C, 310th Medical Battalion

*Attached to 85th Division:*

6777th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment (Overhead) [from NA-TOUSA]

88th Infantry Division

Headquarters, 88th Infantry Division

Headquarters, Special Troops

Headquarters Company

788th Ordnance Light Maintenance Company

. . . . .

- 88th Quartermaster Company
- 88th Signal Company
- Military Police Platoon
- 88th Infantry Division Band
- 88th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mechanized)
- 313th Engineer Combat Battalion [-Companies A, B, and C]
- 88th Infantry Division Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
  - 339th Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Howitzer]
- 313th Medical Battalion [-Companies A, B, and C]
- 349th Regimental Combat Team
  - 349th Infantry Regiment
    - 337th Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]
    - Company A, 313th Engineer Combat Battalion
    - Company A, 313th Medical Battalion
- 350th Regimental Combat Team
  - 350th Infantry Regiment
    - 338th Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]
    - Company B, 313th Engineer Combat Battalion
    - Company B, 313th Medical Battalion
- 351st Regimental Combat Team
  - 351st Infantry Regiment
    - 913th Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]
    - Company C, 313th Engineer Combat Battalion
    - Company C, 313th Medical Battalion

*Attached to 88th Division:*

- 6778th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment (Overhead) [from NA-TOUSA]

91st Infantry Division

- Headquarters, 91st Infantry Division
- Headquarters, Special Troops
  - Headquarters Company
  - 791st Ordnance Light Maintenance Company
  - 91st Quartermaster Company
  - 91st Signal Company
  - Military Police Platoon

II CORPS (*continued*) . . . . .

- 91st Infantry Division Band
- 91st Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mechanized)
- 316th Engineer Combat Battalion [-Companies A, B, and C]
- 91st Infantry Division Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
  - 348th Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Howitzer]
- 316th Medical Battalion [-Companies A, B, and C]
- 361st Regimental Combat Team
  - 361st Infantry Regiment
  - 916th Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]
  - Company A, 316th Engineer Combat Battalion
  - Company A, 316th Medical Battalion
- 362d Regimental Combat Team
  - 362d Infantry Regiment
  - 346th Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]
  - Company B, 316th Engineer Combat Battalion
  - Company B, 316th Medical Battalion
- 363d Regimental Combat Team
  - 363d Infantry Regiment
  - 347th Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]
  - Company C, 316th Engineer Combat Battalion
  - Company C, 316th Medical Battalion

*Attached to 91st Division:*

- 6756th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment (Overhead) [from NA-TOUSA]

Medical:

- 54th Medical Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
  - 379th, 380th, and 381st Collecting Companies
  - 683d Clearing Company
- 33d Field Hospital

Military Police:

- 202d Military Police Company

Ordnance:

- 55th Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad (Separate)

Quartermaster:

1st and 3d Platoons, 523d Quartermaster Car Company

Signal:

53d Signal Battalion

Detachment A, 128th Signal Radio Intelligence Company; *attached*:

Detachment H, 849th Signal Intelligence Service [from NATOUSA]

Tank Destroyer:

776th and 805th Tank Destroyer Battalions

Transportation:

3591st Quartermaster Truck Company

*Italian Units Attached to II Corps:*

1st, 2d, 5th, 9th, 10th, and 11th Pack Mule Companies

*NATOUSA Units Attached to II Corps:*

30th Finance Disbursing Section

6780th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment (Overhead)

IV CORPS

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Antiaircraft Artillery:

45th AAA Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery

45th AAA Operations Detachment

*Attached to 45th AAA Brigade:*

Battery C, 351st AAA Searchlight Battalion (Type A)

107th AAA Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery

435th, 439th, and 536th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalions

434th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion (Self-Propelled)

Battery C, 450th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion (Semi-Mobile)

Armored Force:

1st Armored Division

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

IV CORPS (*continued*) . . . . .

Reserve Command

1st Armored Division Trains

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Trains

123d Ordnance Maintenance Battalion

47th Armored Medical Battalion

Military Police Platoon

1st Armored Division Band

81st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized)

16th Armored Engineer Battalion

1st Armored Division Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery

27th, 68th, and 91st Armored Field Artillery Battalions [105-mm Howitzer]

6th, 11th, and 14th Armored Infantry Battalions

141st Armored Signal Company

1st, 4th, and 13th Tank Battalions

Combat Command A, Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Combat Command B, Headquarters and Headquarters Company

*Attached to 1st Armored Division:*

701st Tank Destroyer Battalion

6779th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment (Overhead) [from NA-TOUSA]

1st and 2d Armored Groups, Headquarters and Headquarters Companies

751st Tank Battalion

Assault Gun Detachment, 757th Tank Battalion

Cavalry:

91st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron

Engineers:

1108th Engineer Combat Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Company

2d and 4th Platoons, Company D, 84th Engineer Camouflage Battalion

235th Engineer Combat Battalion

Field Artillery:

IV Corps Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery

194th and 424th Field Artillery Groups, Headquarters and Headquarters Batteries

697th Field Artillery Battalion [240-mm Howitzer]; *attached:*

1st and 2d Sections, Battery A, 575th Field Artillery Battalion [from Seventh Army]

194th Field Artillery Battalion (8-inch Howitzer)

*British Units Attached to IV Corps:*

10 Army Group Royal Artillery (1)

Headquarters, 10 Army Group RA

2, 7, 18, and 178 Medium Regiments RA

1 Battery, 8 Survey Regiment RA

61 Heavy Regiment RA

498 Artillery Company

663 Armoured Troops Workshop

1524, 1538, 1543, 1548, and 1552 Artillery Platoons

Signal Section and Light Aid Detachment

Finance:

48th Finance Disbursing Section

Infantry:

100th Infantry Battalion

Medical:

163d Medical Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

671st, 672d, and 673d Collecting Companies

615th Clearing Company

Military Police:

Company A, 101st Military Police Battalion

Ordnance:

148th Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad (Separate)

Quartermaster:

2d Platoon, 523d Quartermaster Car Company

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(1) British artillery regiments are equivalent to American field artillery battalions. The medium regiments have 4.5-inch guns, 5.5-inch gun/howitzers, or American 155-mm guns. The heavy regiments are equipped with 7.2-inch guns.

IV CORPS (*continued*) . . . . .

Signal:

62d Signal Battalion

*British Units Attached to IV Corps:*

Detachment, 106 Special Wireless Telegraph Section

Tank Destroyer:

804th and 894th Tank Destroyer Battalions

*Units Attached to IV Corps:*

6799th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment (Overhead) [from NATOUSA]

23d Engineer Battalion [Italian]

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This part of the Army History was prepared under the direction of Lt. Col. Chester G. Starr, Jr., by Capt. Bruce K. Myers with the assistance of Lt. John R. Vosburgh, Jr., Lt. Walter A. Hamilton, Sgt. Vincent B. Kathe and Cpl. Arthur S. Freshman. The maps were drawn by S/Sgt. Alvin J. Weinberger and Sgt. Charles W. Petersen.

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