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FIFTH ARMY HISTORY

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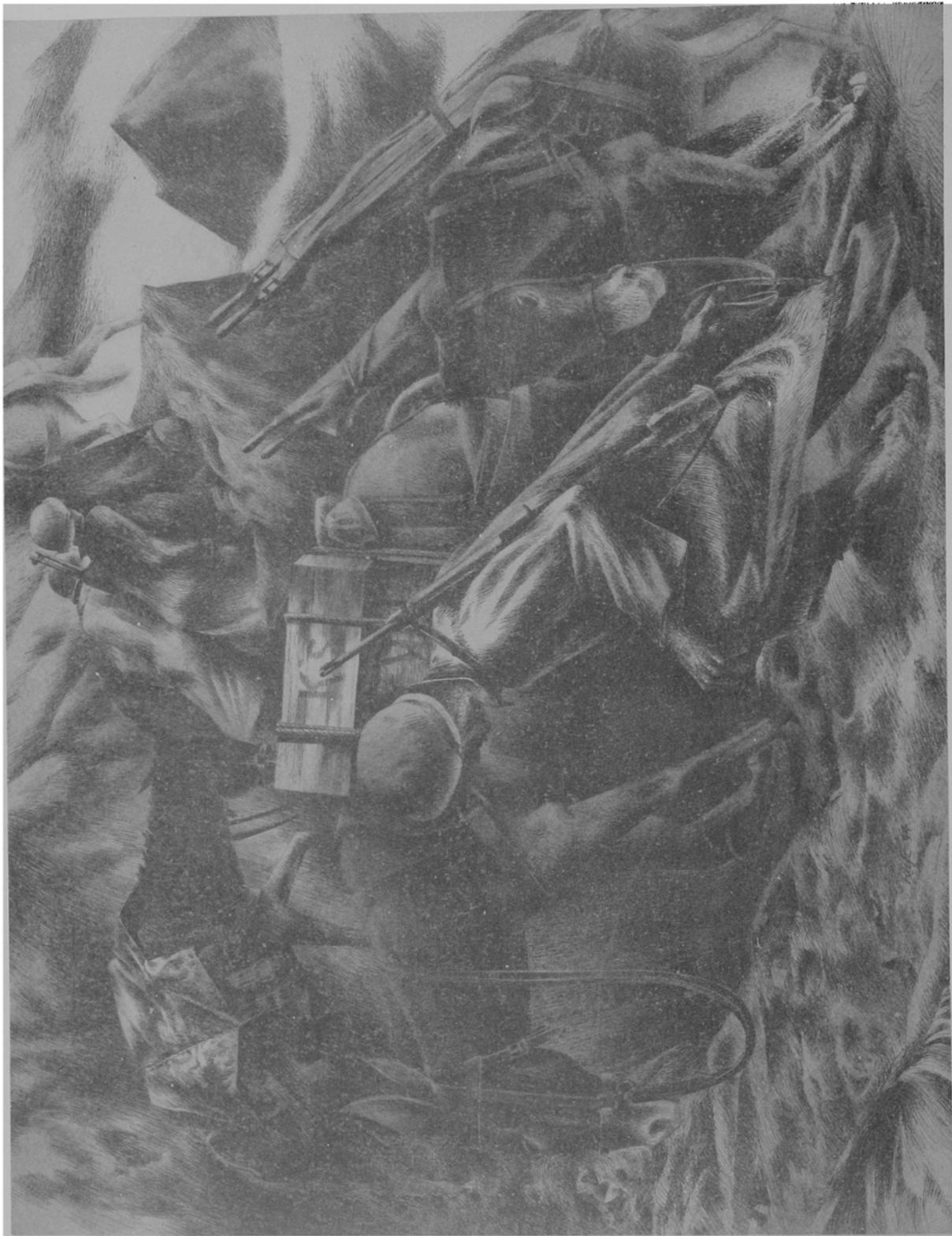
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FIFTH ARMY HISTORY

16 NOVEMBER 1943 - 15 JANUARY 1944

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Pack trains supply soldiers on the line..... painted by Lieutenant Edward A. Reep

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FIFTH ARMY HISTORY



PART III

The Winter Line

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Lieutenant General MARK W. CLARK

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CHAPTER I

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Before the Mountains

ON 9 September 1943 the American Fifth Army, commanded by Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark, landed at the Gulf of Salerno. With the British 10 Corps on the left and the American VI Corps on the right, Fifth Army drove inland to secure a firm bridgehead and to capture Naples and its surrounding airfields. Six days earlier the British Eighth Army had landed at the toe of Italy and began to advance up the peninsula to take its place on the right of Fifth Army. German forces in Italy, some of which had been severely mauled in Sicily, were in a very fluid condition. The enemy high command had to cope with two Allied armies while consolidating rear lines of communication menaced by the Italian armistice, which had been announced by General Dwight D. Eisenhower on 8 September. Confronted by these problems, the enemy had concentrated on holding the Allies below Naples until his troops could evacuate southern Italy.

Resistance at Salerno was bitter, with XIV Panzer Corps rushing reinforcements from south and central Italy. The enemy threw his principal strength on the left of Fifth Army, where 10 Corps seriously threatened the mountain passes and highways to Naples. By 13 September he had sufficient forces to launch strong counterattacks against VI Corps as well. Every effort to drive Fifth Army into the sea failed, and by 17 September the positions of the Allied forces in Italy compelled the Germans to retreat. Fifth Army then executed a wide pivoting movement and advanced on Naples, Avellino, and other key cities. Eighth Army paralleled this advance on the east. On 1 October Fifth Army troops entered Naples, and six days later both 10 and VI Corps had reached the Volturno River. Here the enemy had planned a strong delaying action, but the two corps crossed successfully during the night of 12-13 October and took up the pursuit.

Our forces pressed the enemy closely; but as the days of October passed by and November arrived, it became more and more difficult to maintain the

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momentum of the drive. Fall rains, which had begun early in October with unusual force, made movement ever more difficult. Streams flooded and washed out temporary bridges put in on the vital supply routes, for the enemy had blown every bridge and culvert in his retreat. Vehicles and men mired deep in the mud, and morale declined as the leaden skies continued to pour down rain. The entire supply chain from forward units fighting on steep hillsides back to the damaged port of Naples, where our engineers were working at top speed to restore its full capacity, groaned under the burden of bad weather and extensive demolitions. Worst of all was the lack of reserves, for without fresh divisions a breakthrough could not be fully exploited; and as our men grew weary, they had no hope of relief.

The weakened enemy forces were strengthened by the arrival of fresh units in the line. Furthermore, behind their troops withdrawing as slowly as possible, German engineers were using forced civilian labor and all available reserves to construct fortifications which would serve as a strong holding line. Our advance units ran into the outskirts of this line early in November on the Garigliano River and in the mountains above Mignano and Venafro. The tenacity of German defense first slowed, then stopped our weary troops; and the drive, uninterrupted since 9 September, had come to a temporary halt by 15 November. The combination of terrain, weather, supply problems, and enemy opposition had finally worn down our momentum. It was accordingly time to reorganize and consolidate our gains in preparation for a renewed attack.

A. *TERRAIN OF THE WINTER LINE*

See Map No. 10

On 15 November our troops held a line running along the west slopes of Mount Massico, through Mignano, and up past the steep peaks overlooking Venafro. Before them lay a mass of mountains, valleys, and plains varying in altitude from the wide coastal plain on our left to the crags which soared more than 2000 meters in height on our right. This district, which constituted the area of the Winter Line campaign, was a north-south belt about nine miles wide. It may roughly be bounded as lying between the Garigliano River and Mount Massico on the left and between the Rapido and Volturno rivers in the center and on the right. Any division of this terrain into compartments is almost entirely arbitrary, so interlocked are the ravines, valleys, knobs, hills, and mountains. Nevertheless certain areas stood out with individual characteristics during the subsequent fighting.

On our left, in front of 10 Corps, was the broad plain stretching from Mount Massico to the coastal mountains by Minturno and Formia and reaching inland to the foothills of the Mount Camino hill mass. At its western edge this plain is bounded by the deep current of the lower Garigliano, beyond which rise steep mountains commanding every part of the plain proper. The combination of plain, river, and mountains made offensive operations on the left flank of Fifth Army very difficult; in fact this sector was the scene of little action during the Winter Line campaign.

North of the Garigliano plain the land rises in a jumble of low hills and rolling upland to the massive Camino hills, which formed the southern anchor of the Winter Line proper. In enemy hands these hills afforded observation over Mignano and the valley running southeast along Highway 6; in our hands Camino gave excellent observation over the entrance to the Liri Valley. The terrain along Highway 6 itself, in the center of our line, was more open than at any other portion of the front north of the coastal plain. As the highway approached the front, it entered a narrow valley between the formidable group of jagged ridges forming the Mount Camino feature and a belt of gentler hills rising to the northwest. This valley is the Mignano Gap. (*See Map No. 3.*) A railroad, known to the troops as "Express Highway," and Highway 6 run side by side for a few miles through the Gap, then diverge near Mignano to pass on either side of Mount Lungo, which with Mount Rotondo forms a natural "stopper" in the bottleneck entrance to the Liri Valley.

The low trough beyond the Gap, which the highway next penetrates, is dominated by hills of the Mount Camino mass on the south and by the towering cliffs of Mount Sammucro on the north. In the center of the trough rise first the bald back of Mount Lungo and then in succession, like violent waves in the level valley floor, Mount Porchia and Mount Trocchio. Past Trocchio is the wide Liri Valley, the "gateway to Rome," which formed the objective of our next attack. The gateway, however, is well protected by all the advantages that nature can bestow. Mountain masses bound it on either side; these masses in turn are guarded by the terrain features of the belt under discussion, such as Mount Camino and Mount Sammucro.

On our right flank a tangled mass of mountains nine miles wide stretched north from Mount Sammucro past Venafro to the main ridge of the Apennines and effectively guarded the approach to Mount Cairo on the north side of the Liri Valley. As far as the Colli-Atina road this belt is a wild mixture of bare knobs and brush-covered swells, scantily inhabited and poorly provided with natural avenues of approach. North of the Atina road the mountains rise swiftly to the sheer cliffs and towering peaks of Mount Mare (2021 meters) and Mount

Cavallo (2070 meters). On this flank as on the extreme left down by the sea offensive operations would be most hazardous.

The road system leading forward to the area of the Winter Line campaign contains only three first-class highways. Highway 7, the coastal route to Rome, was useful to 10 Corps almost to the Garigliano. Highway 6, running northwest through the Mignano Gap and up the Liri Valley, was the axis of our main effort. Highway 85 branches off from Highway 6 four miles south of Presenzano and leads to Venafro, then turns sharply northeast toward Isernia. Apart from these three roads Fifth Army could also employ a secondary route on its left flank through Cancellò and Mondragone, and another secondary road up the Volturno Valley from Caiazzo through Alife and Capriati. Lateral roads were plentiful behind the shield of Mount Massico on our left flank, but in the center and on the right the rugged terrain handicapped lateral movements. From Venafro a secondary road winds through olive groves, climbs southwest to Cepagna, bends sharply to cross the saddle between Mount Sammucro and Cannavinelle Hill, then follows the slopes of Mount Sammucro to San Pietro and on to Highway 6. This tie-road between Highways 6 and 85, however, could not be used until we had captured San Pietro. From Highway 85 north of Venafro two roads branch off, one a minor route through Pozzilli and Filignano to Cerasuolo and another along the west bank of the Volturno to Colli and on to Castel San Vincenzo. Both of these roads, again, were partly dominated by the enemy until the initial advances of our Winter Line attack.

Apart from Highways 6 and 7 only two roads led directly toward the enemy, traversing the wild country west of Venafro. One of these stems from the Pozzilli road and cuts west to Sant'Elia; the second runs generally west from Colli some sixteen miles to Atina. Both of these eventually met the main German north-south road leading from Atina down the Rapido Valley to Cassino and then on to Minturno. Our engineers did their utmost to supplement the inadequate road system close to the front by constructing numerous jeep and foot trails; but problems of supply and movement continued to hamper tactical plans throughout the campaign.

Only a few important rivers traverse the Winter Line area. The Rapido River, rising high in the mountains north of Cardito, plunges southwest past Sant'Elia and flows south through a rolling upland valley past Cassino into the Gari River. The latter meanders lazily until it joins the Liri River, which drains the Liri Valley as far west as Frosinone. By their junction the Liri and the Gari form the Garigliano, which continues south another 15 miles to flow into the Tyrrhenian Sea. Numerous small streams, draining about one-half of the Winter Line, are affluents of the Rapido-Garigliano system. The eastern portion of

the area is drained by a complex network of creeks which flow into the Volturno River. None of these streams was an important obstacle to the Winter Line campaign, since no serious attempt was made to cross either the Garigliano or the Rapido before 15 January; but the Volturno hampered our supply activities on two occasions by washing out the upper bridges near Venafro.

B. ENEMY USE OF TERRAIN

From the end of October German prisoners of war talked vaguely about their "Winterstellungen" or Winter Line, which was being prepared to the rear of their immediate front. The German High Command apparently had decided by the middle of October, on the basis of the successful delaying action in progress, that our forces could be held south of Rome for the winter. It had therefore set about the construction of a defensive line from the Tyrrhenian Sea straight across to the Adriatic Sea. Conflicting reports, however, made it difficult for us to determine the exact course of this line, and the subsequent fighting showed that not one but two German belts of fortifications awaited our troops.

The main belt, called the Gustav Line, ran along the Garigliano River from the Tyrrhenian Sea to the Gari River, then followed the west bank of this river to Cassino, and extended along the forward slopes of the hills behind Cassino toward Atina. On this line the Germans planned to halt us definitively; but in front of it, to protect the fortification work and to gain time, they constructed a temporary belt, which eventually was called the Winter Line proper. Though this second line was planned only to delay us, the success of the enemy in stopping our advance units at its outskirts at the beginning of November led to a decision to hold it as long as possible before falling back to the main belt.

However temporary in original plan, the Winter Line was a formidable barrier to operations of the Allied armies. (See *Map No. 2*.) On the Eighth Army front the Germans held along the Sangro River from the coast inland to Castel di Sangro, effectively barring the way to Chieti and Highway 5 leading west to Rome. No armies could operate in the highest peaks of the Apennines, which form the backbone of the peninsula and also marked the boundary between the forces of General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery and General Clark. On the Fifth Army front the line ran roughly south from Mount Marrone along the hills above Venafro to the gap at Mignano between Mount Sammucro and the Maggiore-Camino hill masses, both of which were held in force. The Winter Line

continued along the east and south slopes of Mount Camino and then jumped across the Garigliano to join the Gustav Line. The entire line was a belt of defenses in depth without any single key. There was no opportunity for a brilliant stroke that could break it. Each mountain had to be taken, each valley cleared, and then there were still more mountains ahead and still another line to be broken by dogged infantry attacks.

German engineers made very skillful use of terrain and fortifications to hold the Allies at bay. They laid mines on the roads, trails, the natural cross-country routes of advance, and even in stream beds. All bridges and culverts were destroyed, and more mines were buried in the possible by-passes. Machine-gun and mortar emplacements, many of them dug four or five feet into solid rock, covered nearly every approach to enemy positions. Not even intense artillery concentrations could smash these defenses. On the slopes of mountains, behind stream beds, and across narrow valleys dozens of mutually supporting machine guns were sited to weave a pattern of death. The gullies, draws, and treacherous trails that led into the mountains could be held by small forces against strong attacks. Where terrain features were not sufficient barriers to military movements, the enemy constructed strongpoints, especially in the relatively flat land of the Mignano Gap. These strongpoints were combinations of minefields, wire, and log-and-earth bunkers, and were protected by expertly sited machine guns. The Winter Line depended primarily upon hasty defenses that made maximum use of mountainous terrain. Concrete and steel pillboxes did not make their appearance on this belt of fortifications, which everywhere were simple though effective.

Howitzers and long-range guns, often self-propelled and usually defiladed behind protecting crests, could reach nearly every area held by our troops. The trails and roads we had to use, bivouac sites, and the front lines were all subjected to harassing fires. There had been plenty of time for the enemy to plan unobserved artillery fire which made the roads dangerous at all times. Peaks such as Mounts Camino, La Difensa, Sammucro, Pantano, and Marrone provided posts from which forward observers could see every movement by our forces in daylight. Only above Venafro, where our troops had pushed the Germans off the hills at the head of the Volturno Valley, were we able to deny the enemy full observation. Rain, snow, and fog limited visibility elsewhere for the enemy much of the time, but still most of our movements had to take place under cover of darkness. The enemy, safe behind the mountain barrier, could supply his troops with relative ease and could maneuver almost at will to reinforce the relatively small detachments that manned the individual defenses.

CHAPTER II * * * * *

Plans for the Campaign

A. ENEMY TROOPS AND POSITIONS

See Map No. 1

DURING the first few days of November the enemy increased his strength in front of Fifth Army from three to five divisions. This reinforcement seems to have been dictated by a plan to hold along the Winter Line after having been driven back from the Barbara Line, which ran generally south from Presenzano through Teano and Mount Massico to the sea. Our tactical air reconnaissance early in November reported heavy motor traffic in the rear areas, an indication of reinforcements being brought forward. This appreciation proved to be correct when elements of the 305th Grenadier (Infantry) Division were located on the right flank of Fifth Army. Most of this division, however, opposed the left flank of Eighth Army northwest of Colli. At the same time the 94th Grenadier Division had come into the line on the left flank of Fifth Army.

By 7 November the Hermann Goering Panzer (Armored) Division had been withdrawn from its positions astride Highway 6, and two days later the 26th Panzer Division sideslipped from the Eighth Army front to a sector northwest of Venafro. Thus by 15 November the enemy forces were disposed as follows: on his right flank the 94th Grenadier Division defended along the Garigliano River from the coast to about two miles east of Castelforte; the 15th Panzer Grenadier (Armored Infantry) Division held the sector on its left to within a mile of Mignano; the 3d Panzer Grenadier Division occupied a sector between Mignano and Venafro; from Venafro to Filignano the line was held by the 26th Panzer Division; and the enemy's left flank, from Filignano on into the Eighth Army zone, was defended by the 305th Grenadier Division.

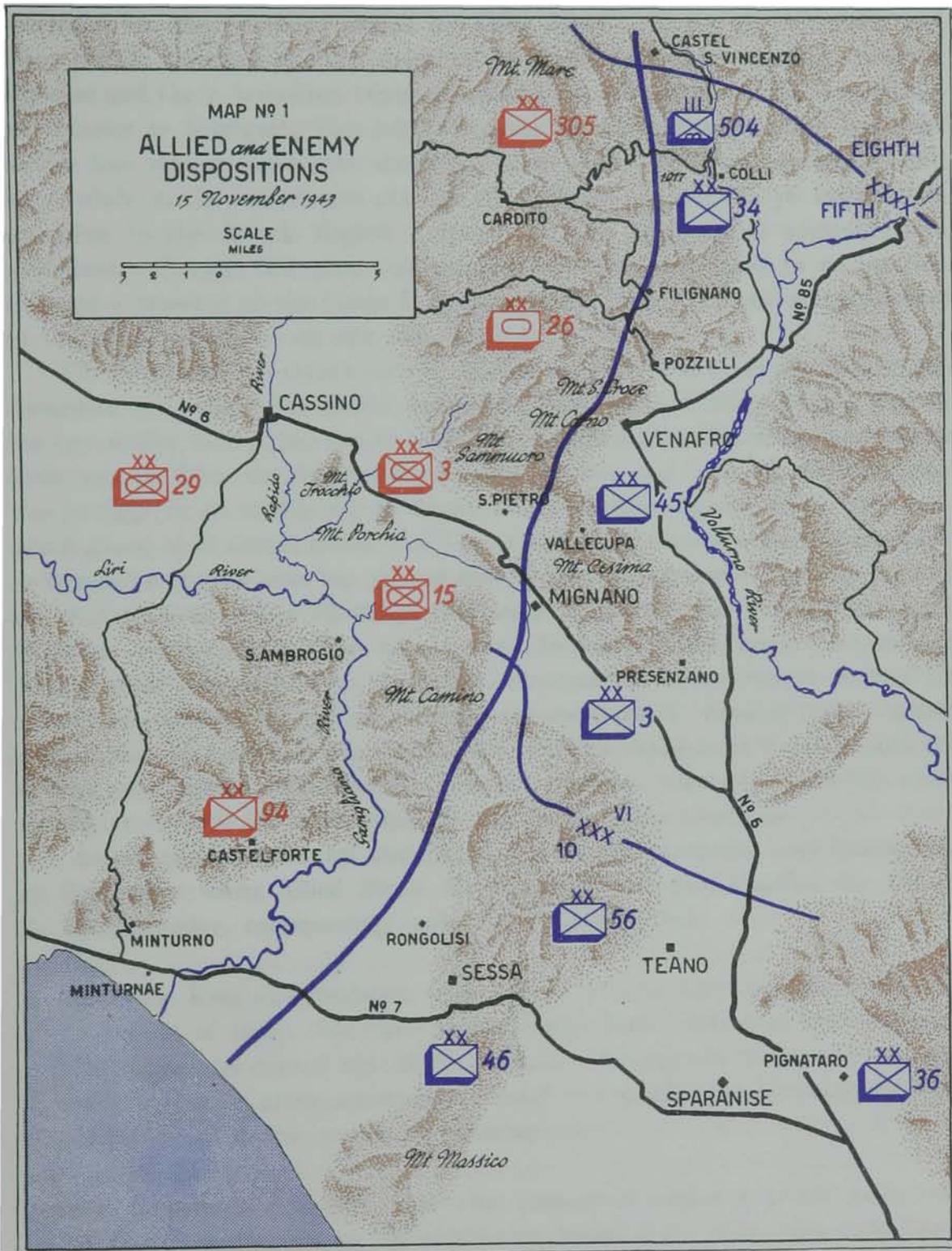
This arrangement of enemy forces continued to undergo further changes during the progress of the Winter Line campaign. On 17 November the 3d Panzer Grenadier Division was withdrawn for rest, and the 29th Panzer Grenadier Division moved from the Eighth Army front to take over its sector. At the end of

November the 44th Grenadier Division, reformed after having been decimated at Stalingrad, relieved the 26th Panzer Division. The beginning of Fifth Army's drive early in December brought elements of the Hermann Goering Panzer Division back to the Mignano Gap, and by the middle of December the 5th Mountain Division had come in west of Filignano. For the next four weeks Field Marshal Albert Kesselring shifted units back and forth as he struggled with problems of reserves to bolster the weaker parts of the German Tenth Army line. At the beginning of January 1944 four divisions—the 94th Grenadier, 15th Panzer Grenadier, 44th Grenadier, and 5th Mountain—were in the line, with elements of the 29th Panzer Grenadier, Hermann Goering Panzer, and 15th Panzer Grenadier Divisions available for reinforcements.

B. ALLIED TROOPS AND POSITIONS

1. *The Forces Available.* (See Map No. 1.) Fifth Army approached the Winter Line campaign with the same organization as that which had prevailed through October. The British 10 Corps, commanded by Lt. Gen. Sir Richard L. McCreery, held the left flank with 2 divisions on a front of approximately 16 miles from the sea to Caspoli. The left flank of 10 Corps was defended by the 46 Infantry Division under Maj. Gen. J. L. I. Hawkesworth. On 15 November the 7 Armoured Division was withdrawn from the extreme left flank and placed in 15th Army Group reserve preparatory to movement out of the theater, and the 46 Division extended south to take over its sector. On the right 10 Corps had the 56 (London) Infantry Division under Maj. Gen. G. W. R. Templer in the line.

The American VI Corps, commanded by Maj. Gen. John P. Lucas, held a front of more than 20 miles from Caspoli through the Mignano Gap to Venafro and north to the vicinity of Castel San Vincenzo, just over the boundary between Fifth and Eighth Armies. The 3d Infantry Division under Maj. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., was on the left of VI Corps in the Mignano Gap sector. In the center the 45th Infantry Division under Maj. Gen. Troy H. Middleton extended from Vallecupa to Filignano. The Army right flank was held by the 34th Infantry Division under Maj. Gen. Charles W. Ryder and by the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Thus on 15 November Fifth Army had two British and more than three American divisions in the line. The 36th Infantry Division under Maj. Gen. Fred L. Walker was in bivouac near Pignataro, and the 1st Armored Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. Ernest N. Harmon, was still coming into Italy; the rest of the 82d Airborne Division was policing Naples.



2. *Plans for American and Italian Reinforcements.* Fresh divisions were necessary for any extended attack by Fifth Army. Of the six American and three British divisions in Fifth Army on 15 November, two—the 82d Airborne Division and the 7 Armoured Division—were to be withdrawn in the near future for transfer to England. This left only seven divisions, five of which had been in the line almost constantly since the battle of the Salerno beachhead, and for a while in October it was planned to shift the 46 and the 56 Divisions in 10 Corps to the British Eighth Army to simplify supply and administrative procedure. Though this plan was dropped, 10 Corps felt itself in no position to force a crossing of the lower Garigliano in the face of enemy emplacements in the steep mountains on the west bank of the river.

The brunt of the attack on the Winter Line therefore would fall on the American divisions in the center and on the right flank of Fifth Army. During the two weeks' halt at the end of November the three divisions which had fought their way up from the Salerno plain received some rest, and the 36th Division was brought in to relieve the 3d Division opposite the Mignano Gap. The command group of II Corps, under Maj. Gen. Geoffrey T. Keyes, arrived from Sicily in October and took over the 3d and the 36th Divisions in the center of the line on 18 November, while VI Corps continued to control the 34th and the 45th Divisions on the right. The 1st Armored Division, which began to arrive at Naples about the middle of November, remained in Army reserve until a favorable opportunity for the use of armor presented itself. General Clark's urgent request that at least one more American infantry division be brought into the theater was granted; but the 88th Infantry Division, which was selected, could not arrive in time for employment in the Winter Line campaign.

Active participation by Italian troops in the campaign was forecast on 27 September when Allied Force Headquarters informed General Sir Harold R. L. Alexander, commanding 15th Army Group, that:

both the King and Badoglio have offered to help the Allies drive the Germans out of Italy. We have accepted this offer. This does not mean that Italy becomes one of the Allied Nations. Italians are ready to co-operate and to give us every assistance to meet our operational demands and have been accorded the status of cobelligerent.

General Alexander, believing that "for reasons of policy it is necessary that Italian troops participate in the entry into Rome and... that they should take part in the forthcoming battles," conferred with Marshal Pietro Badoglio and agreed to the commitment of one Italian regimental combat team. The 1st

Motorized Group (1. Raggruppamento Italiano Motorizzato), commanded by Brig. Gen. Vincenzo di Pino, was already completely equipped and in bivouac south of Bari. In response to an inquiry from General Alexander on 6 October if such a force could be used in Fifth Army, General Clark stated his willingness to accept an Italian contingent which would be employed in the advance from the first phase line (Isernia–Mount Passero–Garigliano River). He also urged that a regiment of Italian infantry be made available immediately to guard supply installations and the line of communications. On 31 October the 1st Italian Motorized Group came under command of Fifth Army. After having gone through intensive training at Avellino and Limatola the group, with a strength of 5486 men, was attached to II Corps and took over a narrow sector in the Mignano Gap on 7 December. In addition to these combat troops the Italians also provided various service companies and pack units which proved to be of great importance in solving the supply problem in the mountains.

3. *Formation of the French Expeditionary Corps.* According to plans prepared by 15th Army Group, the French Expeditionary Corps (Corps Expéditionnaire Français) was scheduled to arrive in Italy during the latter part of December and come under command of Fifth Army. General Alphonse Juin, commander of the Corps, conferred with General Clark at Fifth Army Headquarters on 1 October. At this conference General Clark expressed his desire to have French troops brought to Italy at a date earlier than that proposed by 15th Army Group. Even one French infantry division would be invaluable as a relief for and supplement to the battle-weary divisions of Fifth Army. French troops in Tunisia and Sicily had already earned high praise in action against the enemy, and their skill in mountain fighting was well known. Since General Juin and the French High Command were agreeable to the proposal, General Clark persuaded 15th Army Group to schedule the 2d Moroccan Infantry Division (2^e Division d'Infanterie Marocaine) to arrive in Naples by 1 December, with the 3d Algerian Infantry Division (3^e Division d'Infanterie Algérienne) coming in by the end of the month. The first of these divisions was given priority because of its high state of battle preparedness.

Generals Clark and Juin also agreed that a French section of the Fifth Army General Staff, to be called the French Increment, should be organized in North Africa and that liaison officers should accomplish the necessary groundwork for the operations immediately. French liaison officers arrived in Italy in October and established contact with the various Fifth Army sections. Other French officers arrived to study American field procedure in regard to hospitals, air support tactics, evacuation of the wounded, and other techniques. Preparations were made to receive the French troops at Naples where Base 901, organ-

ized in North Africa, would operate in co-operation with the Peninsular Base Section as a supply and reception unit for French forces. The French High Command at Algiers approved the plan for a French Increment and prepared to embark a dozen staff officers and appropriate personnel, vehicles, and materiel during the first part of November. The first priority, composed of troops of the 2d Moroccan Division under Maj. Gen. André W. Dody, the 4th Group of Tabors (native troops from the Atlas Mountains), two mule companies, and a limited number of Corps and service troops, began to embark at Oran on 17 November. Officers of the French Increment arrived at Naples on 18 November, followed the next day by the first section of Base 901. General Dody's division and its attached units debarked at Bagnoli and Pozzuoli 20 November-1 December, and went into bivouac in the vicinity of Caivano just north of Naples.

The general staff of the FEC arrived by air on 25 November and immediately began to acquaint itself with the situation in view of eventual Corps operations. Brig. Gen. Georges Beucler, Chief of the French Increment, was named Deputy Chief of Staff of Fifth Army, with Col. Marcel Maunier-Condroyer as his assistant and Maj. Frédéric Souard as Executive Officer. General Clark placed the 2d Moroccan Division under VI Corps effective at 0001, 1 December, to relieve the American 34th Division. This relief was effected between the night of 8-9 December and 13 December. On 3 January 1944 the FEC took over the VI Corps zone. During the next six days the 3d Algerian Division came into the line to relieve the 45th Division.

Thus, at the end of the Winter Line campaign Fifth Army had American, British, French, and Italian troops under its command. This truly international army increased the problems of liaison and supply which had to be surmounted in order to provide an effective fighting force.

C. PLANS FOR CONTINUING THE ATTACK

1. *15th Army Group Strategy.* (See Map No. 2.) Capture of the symbolic city of Rome remained the principal objective of 15th Army Group. Though our retention of the offensive might prove costly and relatively unproductive, the alternative of settling down to the defensive until spring was never seriously considered by our high command. Political reasons dictated the capture of Rome as quickly as possible. As a token of complete destruction of the Rome-Berlin axis and as an indication of Allied military power to the subject countries of Europe, such a conquest would have its value. Furthermore, it was

desirable to contain the maximum number of German divisions in Italy, both to draw men and supplies from the Russian front and also to weaken the available enemy strength for the expected invasion of western Europe in the spring of 1944. The main question before our high command was not whether to continue the attack but rather how best to carry it out.

General Alexander planned a co-ordinated effort by Fifth and Eighth Armies to break through to Rome. In Operations Instruction No. 31 (*See Annex No. 2A*), issued by 15th Army Group on 8 November 1943, General Alexander outlined three phases for future operations. In Phase I Eighth Army was to gain control of the roads in the area Pescara–Popoli–Collarmele, and so threaten the enemy line of communications behind Fifth Army. If Eighth Army could drive up the coast to Chieti and then swing west on Highway 5 toward Rome, it might so imperil the German main forces on the west side of the peninsula that the enemy would be compelled to pull back well north of Rome. In accordance with this plan Eighth Army proceeded to regroup its forces for an attack through the Winter Line on the lower Sangro River. In Phase II Fifth Army was to drive up the Liri–Sacco Valley to Frosinone. Phase III, an amphibious operation south of Rome directed on Colli Laziali, would then follow. The main Eighth Army thrust was to begin not before 20 November. In the meantime Fifth Army was to prepare for Phase II. If the amphibious operation south of Rome (Phase III) did take place, it was to be timed so that Fifth Army was within supporting distance of the landing. All available air support was to be given Eighth Army in Phase I, and then shifted to Fifth Army in Phases II and III. These plans did not envisage any considerable change in the over-all strategy of the Italian campaign, and each army was to continue its main line of advance.

2. *Early Plans of Fifth Army.* Though the ultimate goal of Fifth Army lay beyond Rome, the immediate objective was the control of the entrance to the Liri Valley, the so-called “gateway to Rome.” The fact that Fifth Army issued four operations instructions during the period 20 October–24 November, each with a different plan of attack, indicates the difficulty of gaining this first objective of its drive.

In Operations Instructions No. 8, dated 20 October 1943 (*See Annex No. 2B*), Fifth Army after securing the line Isernia–Mount Passero–Garigliano River would without delay continue its advance to the general line Opi (exclusive)–Alvito–Arce–Fondi, with II Corps making the main push. 10 Corps was to remain in its positions on the Garigliano, advance light forces to maintain pressure, and feint a crossing of the river at Minturno. Meanwhile II Corps (36th Division and another division) would take up the action in the 10 Corps zone



The gateway to the Liri Valley..... painted by Lieutenant Rudolph C. Von Ripper

to clear the hill mass between Formia and Pontecorvo on the south side of the Liri River. VI Corps with two divisions would advance generally north of Highway 6. When II Corps had advanced sufficiently, 10 Corps would go into reserve and thereafter shift to Eighth Army.

During the next two weeks the plan of shifting 10 Corps to Eighth Army was rescinded, and further consideration of the mountain masses ahead led to the formation of a new plan, given in Operations Instruction No. 9 (*See Annex No. 2C*) of 4 November 1943. The parallel advance by the two American corps up both sides of the Liri Valley was dropped, and the main effort was to be made by VI Corps on the right to take Mount Baghella and Atina, two keys to the mountain district north of the Liri Valley. II Corps, consisting of the 3d and 36th Divisions, would assist in the center in the capture of the hill mass northwest of Cassino and might be called on to employ the 1st Armored Division in the valley proper. 10 Corps on the left was to maintain pressure by harassing fires and active patrolling north of the Garigliano; it was also to be prepared to force a crossing of the river.

Shortly after this plan was issued, 15th Army Group ordered Fifth Army to take up temporary defensive positions to regroup its forces, while Eighth Army began its attack on the Sangro River (Phase I of 15th Army Group Operations Instruction No. 31, 8 November 1943). General Clark issued Operations Instruction No. 10 on 16 November 1943 (*See Annex No. 2D*), outlining the Fifth Army plan of attack. VI Corps was to relieve the 3d Division with the 36th Division during this period. Then II Corps would take over both divisions and hold the center of the line with 10 Corps on its left and VI Corps on its right. All three corps would participate in the Fifth Army attack to be launched about 30 November. VI Corps would attack generally west along two parallel axes, the Colli-Atina road on the north and the Filignano-Sant'Elia road on the south. II Corps was to breach the enemy lines along Highway 6 at the Mignano Gap; when its advance permitted introduction of the 1st Armored Division into the Liri Valley, all or part of that division would attack. 10 Corps was to assist II Corps and also force a crossing of the Garigliano in the Castelforte area. It would then be ready to operate to the north or west.

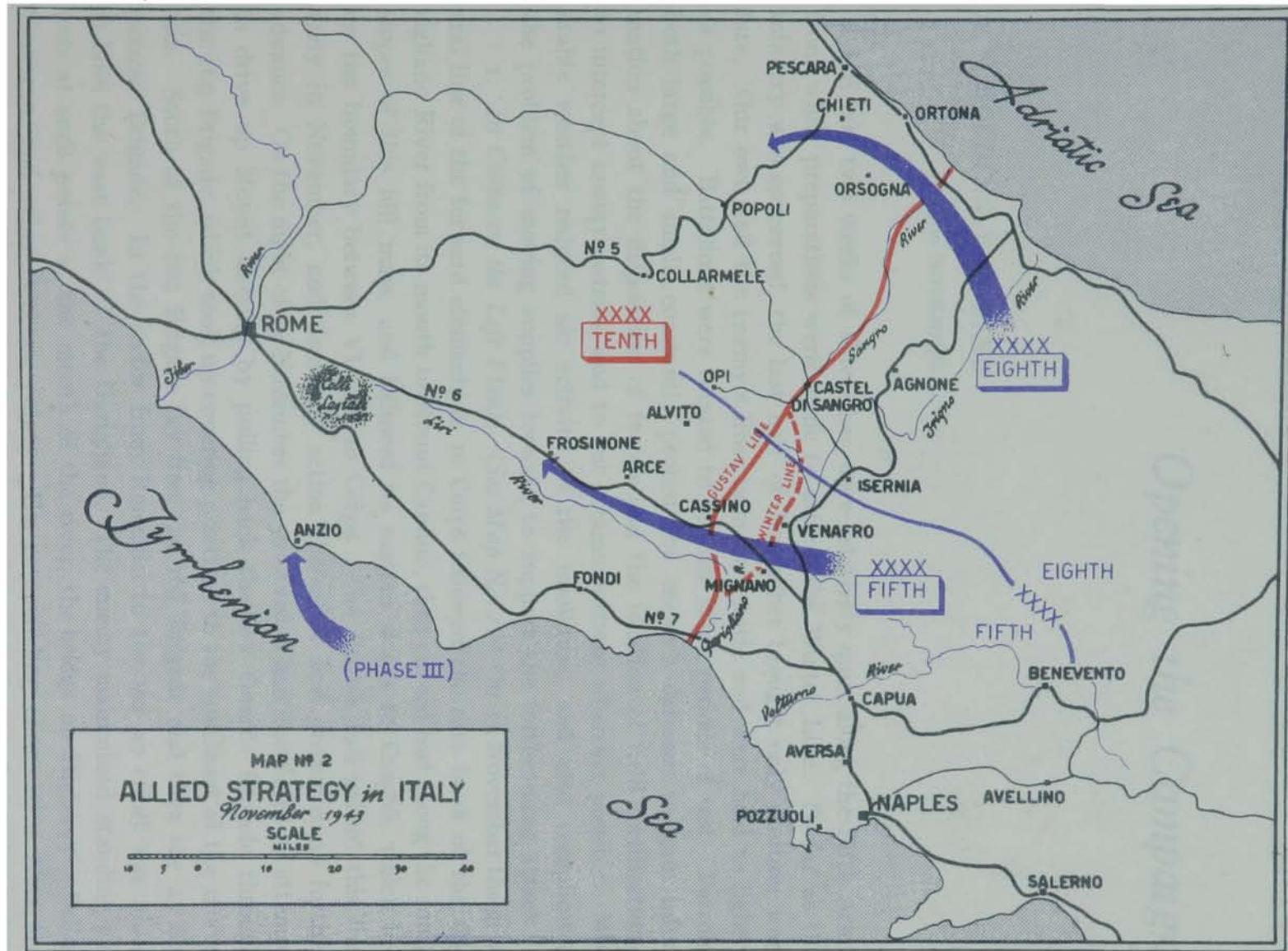
3. *Fifth Army Operations Instruction No. 11, 24 November. (See Map No. 2.)* As the G-2 Section gained additional information of the enemy defenses on both flanks of the Mignano Gap, it became apparent that Fifth Army had a very difficult task in front of it and that simultaneous attacks by all three corps would be impracticable. The result was Operations Instruction No. 11 (*See Annex No. 2E*), issued on 24 November 1943, which actually governed the attack on the Winter Line. This attack was divided into three phases:

Phase I. The objective of this phase was the capture of the critical terrain feature at the southeastern end of the Liri Valley: Mount Camino—Mount La Difensa—Mount Maggiore. II and 10 Corps were to co-operate in occupying this objective. In conjunction with the attack 10 Corps would conduct a feint by active patrolling, establishment of supply dumps, movement of men and vehicles, naval gunfire, and other measures to suggest to the enemy an intention of crossing the lower Garigliano River. When the whole of the objective had been captured, 10 Corps would relieve II Corps on La Difensa and Maggiore. VI Corps meanwhile was to harass the enemy to its front, especially on the north flank of the Corps, to cause the enemy to disperse widely and to prevent him from concentrating his reserves.

Phase II. At the close of Phase I the hill mass south of the Mignano Gap would be in our hands, but this mass was dominated by Mount Sammucro north of the Gap. In Phase II, which became operative on Army order, II Corps was to shift north and capture Mount Sammucro. At the same time VI Corps would attack west with one division on the Colli—Atina road and would make a secondary attack with another division on the Filignano—Sant'Elia road, both efforts directed toward the mountains north and northwest of Cassino in an attempt to outflank that key to the Liri Valley. 10 Corps would continue the diversionary activity on the lower Garigliano.

Phase III. This phase was to constitute the main attack into the Liri Valley, for both shoulders of the Mignano Gap would have been secured in the previous phases. All three corps were to take part in the drive in order to bring the utmost force to bear. Chief emphasis was given to the attack by VI Corps, which would continue its drive to seize the high ground north and northwest of Cassino with the assistance of II Corps. The 34th Division was to be relieved by the 2d Moroccan Division when available in order that VI Corps might have fresh troops for its thrust. II Corps was to attack northwest along Highway 6, with the mission of developing the enemy defenses in the vicinity of Cassino. At a favorable opportunity it was to be ready to attack west in the valley with additional elements and create an opening for an armored breakthrough. Units for this attack would come from the 1st Armored Division in Army reserve. The mission of 10 Corps was to protect the left flank of II Corps by occupying the area near Vandra, just east of the junction of the Liri and Gari rivers, at such time as to keep abreast of II Corps. When the advance of the latter was such as to permit the bringing up of bridging materials, 10 Corps was to force a crossing of the Garigliano River in the vicinity of Sant'Ambrogio and be prepared for further operations to cover the left flank of II Corps in its push up the Liri Valley.

For the next two months the attack on the Winter Line progressed generally in accordance with the plan laid down by Operations Instruction No. 11, though the advance of our units was everywhere slower and more difficult than originally estimated. In brief this plan called for a thrust on the left of the Mignano Gap, then a thrust on the right of the Gap, and finally an attack through the center up the Liri Valley supported by a simultaneous penetration on the north flank of Fifth Army. As executed by our troops, the over-all strategy of the Fifth Army plan resolved itself into the most bitter fighting from hill to hill. Though units of II Corps bore the brunt of the action, every company of infantry which tried to advance anywhere along the line could expect to meet a crafty enemy in well prepared positions. The weather and the terrain fought for the enemy and grueling weeks lay ahead for the soldiers of Fifth Army. Their progress in the Winter Line campaign must be judged not by a mile-scale on a map but by a yardstick on the cold, rock-studded slopes of the Italian mountains southeast of Cassino.



MAP NO 2
ALLIED STRATEGY in ITALY
November 1943
 SCALE
 MILES
 10 20 30 40

CHAPTER III * * * * *

Opening the Campaign

A. *HOLDING THE LINE*

15-30 NOVEMBER

THE last two weeks of November were relatively quiet along the Fifth Army front while preparations were made to attack the Winter Line. So far as the infantry was concerned, the last half of November brought only position warfare. Our own and the enemy's lines remained static and were held as lightly as possible. Battalions were rotated to provide short periods of rest. Patrols, both large and small, constantly probed the enemy's defenses to gain information about the disposition of troops and the location of field fortifications, to intercept enemy patrols, and to cut communications wherever possible. Miserable weather reduced air activity to the minimum, and also complicated the problem of moving supplies forward to support the forthcoming attack.

I. *10 Corps on the Left Flank.* (See Map No. 1.) On 15 November the general line of the forward elements in 10 Corps followed the east bank of the Garigliano River from its mouth to Mount Camino, then curved east along the south slopes of this hill mass, and followed its eastern slopes to Caspoli, which lay on the boundary between VI and 10 Corps. The British had gained this line early in November, and desultory action thereafter had produced no further advance. On the night of 14 November the 56 Division had liquidated its attempt to drive up Mount Camino by pulling back the 201 Guards Brigade through the 169 Brigade, which took up covering positions to the southeast of the mountain. South of the 169 Brigade lay first the 168 Brigade and then the 23 Armoured Brigade. In the sector from Rongolisi to the sea no effort was made to hold the east bank of the Garigliano. The enemy maintained standing patrols at such points as the mouth of the river, the bridge on Highway 7 below Minturno, and other strategic points. His commanding observation from the hills west of the river made it unwise to garrison any part of the river plain in force, but patrols from both sides roamed through the area; and our scouts

occasionally made their way across the Garigliano to try out the enemy defenses on the north bank. Throughout the second half of November the bulk of 10 Corps rested and regrouped behind a screen of active patrolling.

2. *II Corps in the Center.* During this period of waiting the troop build-up of II Corps continued. As of 27 November the principal units were the 3d Division (reinforced), the 36th Division (reinforced), large forces of field artillery and tank destroyers, the 2626th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade, and various Corps and service troops. The 1st Italian Motorized Group, attached to II Corps, moved from Maddaloni to Limatola, east of Capua, on 22 November. On the same day the 1st Special Service Force was attached to the 36th Division effective 23 November. The 36th Division began the relief of the 3d Division on 16 November, and took over the sector between Mount Cesima and Caspoli at 1200, 17 November. II Corps assumed command of this sector on 18 November while the 3d Division assembled in rest areas. The 142d Infantry held the Corps left flank in the vicinity of Caspoli; the 141st Infantry moved into the center at Mount Lungo; and the 143d Infantry took over Cannavinelle Hill.

In addition to the usual patrolling artillery duels continued day and night. Both our own and enemy artillery fired numerous harassing missions and each side engaged in counterbattery fires. Having the advantage of observation posts overlooking our positions, German forward observers were able to direct effective concentrations upon our front lines, command posts, bivouac areas, and roads. The 36th Division Artillery, reinforced by seven battalions of Corps artillery, fired nearly 95,000 rounds during the last two weeks of November. Our 8-inch howitzers made their first combat appearance in November, with 58 rounds being fired by the 194th and the 995th Field Artillery Battalions. Enemy artillery fire was also heavier than usual. An estimated eight battalions, ranging in type from the Nebelwerfer to 170-mm guns, poured concentrations of counterbattery and harassing fires into positions occupied by II Corps. This fire held our men close to their water-filled foxholes and restricted movement during daylight. At night litter bearers carried on the exhausting task of evacuating casualties, the walking wounded made their way to aid stations, and communications personnel continued their endless repairing of field lines broken by enemy shell fire and our own vehicles.

3. *VI Corps on the Right Flank.* By the middle of November elements of VI Corps had driven into the mountains at the head of the Volturno River. On the left we held the vital heights above Venafro which commanded all the upper Volturno Valley together with Highway 85, the main supply route to the area. The Corps front ran from the hard-won positions on the crests of Mount Corno and Mount Santa Croce along the hills just west of Pozzilli and Filignano,

then crossed the road north of the latter hamlet, and followed the heights east of the Filignano road to Hill 1017. The line reached by VI Corps marked an important dent in the forward defenses of the German Winter Line, for the enemy had planned to hold the hills above Venafro and east of Filignano. On 15 November VI Corps went on the defensive in accordance with Army orders, and the weary troops dug in to secure their gains and to obtain a brief rest.

For the next two weeks activity on the front of VI Corps was very limited. Each day artillery shells and the rain came down regularly; patrols went out; and most of the time was spent in keeping dry, warm, and fed. The enemy likewise was content to remain quiet, except on Mount Corno. Here companies of the 71st Panzer Grenadier Regiment launched attacks for three straight days, 23-25 November, to regain their observation over the Volturno Valley; but the 1st Ranger Battalion together with the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion held tenaciously to their positions. Additional support from the 1st Battalion, 180th Infantry, turned the tide and enemy activity subsided.

While the infantry crouched in foxholes on the rocky slopes, the artillery in the muddy flats behind them engaged in counterbattery fire with the enemy artillery, which became much more active and accurate. Our own artillery operated under the most unfavorable of conditions. Sunk in the mud, its guns could be shifted only by being winched out; to clear the masks presented by the mountains looming dead ahead, barrels had to be elevated and new range tables improvised on the spot.

4. *Air Activity.* Unfavorable weather severely restricted air activity during the period 15-28 November. Zero visibility, sodden runways, and frequent rains caused all flights to be cancelled on eight of these days except for a few reconnaissance and defensive fighter missions. Bad weather on the east coast occasionally grounded the medium and light bombers, based on Foggia for the most part, while the sun was shining over targets on the west coast.

The mountainous character of the terrain, combined with bad weather, made low flying dangerous and increased the difficulties of orientation for a pilot suddenly breaking out of the clouds. Targets suitable for aerial attack were comparatively few in the mountains. Enemy installations were scattered; lines of communication followed narrow, twisting roads and trails; artillery and supply areas were easily camouflaged. The targets which did exist could be damaged only by extremely accurate bombing; near misses could cause little damage where a ridge or hilltop lay between the target and the bomb burst. Close support missions were particularly difficult in view of the ground haze and the lack of clear landmarks in the mountains. Several regrettable errors

occurred in which our own troops suffered casualties from planes attempting to bomb the enemy.

Targets on the days when our planes could take the air consisted of bridges in the Liri Valley, enemy artillery concentrations in the San Vittore (48 sorties) and Sant'Ambrogio (36 sorties) areas, and the mountain towns in front of VI Corps. It proved difficult for our planes to hit the right town in this district. Twelve A-36's bound for Acquafondata hit San Vittore on 22 November and on the same day 12 P-40's hit Viticuso instead of Atina. On 24 November 12 P-40's set out for Concacasale only to report the weather too poor to locate either the enemy positions or our own krypton lights. Experiments with these lights, which were carried out during the period, did not prove very successful. During the month of December further attempts were made to aid the pilots in locating themselves by having the artillery fire colored smoke on the air targets. The smoke proved very successful at times but unavoidably warned the enemy that a raid was impending.

Enemy planes, likewise hampered by the weather, raided our front lines, artillery positions, command posts, and bridges. Formations of from 2 to 25 fighter-bombers took part in strafing and bombing attacks. There were a few raids on our rear areas. On 20 November an estimated total of 8 enemy planes raided a gasoline dump at the Aversa railhead and destroyed 6000 gallons of gasoline. On 26 November the Luftwaffe made its fourth raid of the month on Naples, but caused no military damage.

B. *PLANS FOR OPERATION RAINCOAT*

See Map No. 3

Rising to heights of more than 960 meters above sea level, the Camino hill mass is a formidable group of peaks and ridges which dominates a large portion of the Mignano Gap. Peccia Creek, flowing generally north past Mignano, swings northwest at the base of Mount Lungo, then turns sharply southwest to join the Garigliano. This river-made horseshoe, some six miles long and four miles wide, is almost entirely taken up by the Camino hills. The hill mass is composed essentially of three ridges running in various directions, which rise steeply on the east and northeast sides, then fall away gradually to the west toward the Garigliano. Mount Camino (Hill 963), crowned by a monastery, is the summit of the southernmost ridge, a rocky, north-south line with jagged cliffs and precipitous slopes. One mile to the north is the peak of Mount La Difensa (Hill 960)

on an equally high ridge which bends to the west and ends on Mount La Remetanea (Hill 907) less than a mile from Hill 960. North of the Remetanea-Difensa feature is the Vallevona Plateau with Hill 596 at its eastern end. Then to the northwest is the third ridge of Mount Maggiore, composed of Hills 619, 630, and 510. Third-class roads skirt the east and west sides of the entire mass, but the only access to the mountains themselves is by rough trails.

1. *Ground Plan.* In Operation Raincoat Fifth Army planned simultaneous attacks by two corps against the Camino hills. 10 Corps on the left was assigned the mission of capturing Mount Camino, after which it was to be prepared to move north to relieve II Corps on Mount La Difensa and Mount Maggiore. Both of these points were meanwhile to be captured by the left flank elements of II Corps. On the right flank of the Corps, from Mount Lungo to Cannavinelle Hill, our troops were to hold fast. Farther to the right, on the north flank of Fifth Army, VI Corps was to harass the enemy along the entire Corps front. Together these operations made up Phase I of our attack against the Winter Line and were planned to smash the southern part of the line, to pave the way for opening the Liri Valley, and to bring the enemy lateral supply road, running from Atina through Cassino and down to Minturno, under observation and artillery fire. To oppose these plans the enemy held the sector from Mount Camino to Mount Maggiore with the 15th Panzer Grenadier Division. Reinforcements could be brought from the 29th Panzer Grenadier Division, which held from Mount Lungo to San Pietro, or from the Hermann Goering Panzer Division in the vicinity of Cassino on short notice.

In order to cover the movement of troops to assembly areas and to draw enemy forces from Mount Camino the 46 Division was ordered to capture Hill 360 west of the Calabritto feature during the night of 1-2 December. Then the 56 Division would attack the highest points of Mount Camino during the night of 2-3 December. If 10 Corps could succeed in this assault in the early hours of 3 December, the enemy would be deprived of the high ground overlooking our troops attacking Mounts La Difensa, La Remetanea, and Maggiore. II Corps was to attack at 0620, 3 December. The 142d Infantry prepared to drive along Ridge 368 west of Mignano, move over to the right to capture the adjoining ridge (Hill 370), and then advance northwest to capture Mount Maggiore. The 1st Special Service Force, composed of six battalions of highly trained Canadian and American troops, was also to march up Ridge 368 and capture Mount La Difensa (Hill 960).

2. *Air Support Plan.* XII Air Support Command planned extensive close support for 1-2 December in conjunction with the advance by Fifth Army. In addition to continuous fighter cover over the battle area throughout both days,

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numerous bombing and strafing sorties were to be flown. Air support missions were divided into three classes: deception targets, ^{unclassified} line of communications targets, and concentration targets. The deception targets consisted of known gun and troop areas in the vicinity of San Pietro, Highway 6, San Vittore, Mount Trocchio, and Mount Lungo. The line of communications targets, which were to be attacked upon request of ground units, were the crossings of the Garigliano River west of Mount Maggiore and Mount Camino, Highway 6, railway bridges over the Rapido River south of Cassino, and the Liri River crossings as far as Pontecorvo. Concentration targets were enemy artillery, reserves, motor transport, and installations in the vicinity of Mount Trocchio and Mount Porchia. On 1 December 720 sorties were scheduled to drop nearly 400 tons of bombs on gun areas around Mount Trocchio, Sant'Ambrogio, San Vittore, Mount Porchia, the Atina-Colli road, and elsewhere. Activity was to increase on 2 December, with 816 sorties and a total weight of 502 tons being dropped in the area of Mount Camino, Mount Trocchio, Sant'Ambrogio, Mount Maggiore, Mount Porchia, and San Vittore. Most of the air activity was directed well to the northwest of the area where the main blow of Operation Raincoat would fall, and was part of the deceptive measures undertaken by Fifth Army. At the same time the air missions were planned to cause the maximum dislocation in the enemy's rear, to neutralize his long-range artillery, and to disrupt his lines of communication to the front.

3. *Artillery Support Plan.* The artillery plan was designed to give maximum support to the attacks of 10 and II Corps by the massing of fires of all available weapons on critical terrain features as well as in an extensive counterbattery program. In 10 Corps one light and one medium regiment of Corps artillery supported each division, with approximately the same force attached to the 23 Armoured Brigade for its feint on the lower Garigliano (1). The 2 Army Group Royal Artillery, with three British regiments and two American battalions, provided general support for the 46 and 56 Division (2).

A formidable concentration of artillery units supported II Corps, which was to make the main effort in the Winter Line campaign. The four battalions of artillery in the 36th Division were supplemented by the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion (3-inch guns). Three groupments of Corps artillery, totalling

(1) 46 Division: 142 Army Field Regiment RA; 5 Medium Regiment RA (-). 56 Division: 146 Army Field Regiment RA; 51 Medium Regiment RA. 23 Armoured Brigade: 24 Army Field Regiment RA; one troop, 5 Medium Regiment RA; 59th Armored Field Artillery Battalion (U.S.).

(2) 23 Army Field Regiment RA; 74 Medium Regiment RA; 56 Heavy Regiment RA; 935th Field Artillery Battalion (U.S.); 2d Battalion, 36th Field Artillery Regiment (U.S.). For weapons of these units, see Annex Number Five.

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14 battalions and 2 tank destroyer battalions, were available for direct and general support, as follows:

Groupment B *albi*

71st Field Artillery Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
15th Field Artillery Observation Battalion
2d Field Artillery Observation Battalion
985th Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Gun]
976th Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Gun]
932d Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Howitzer]
194th Field Artillery Group:
194th Field Artillery Battalion [8-inch Howitzer]
995th Field Artillery Battalion [8-inch Howitzer]

Groupment M *ayese*

18th Field Artillery Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
936th Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Howitzer]
937th Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Howitzer]
77th Field Artillery Regiment [155-mm Howitzer]
805th Tank Destroyer Battalion [3-inch Gun]

Groupment D *Shago*

1st Armored Division Artillery:
27th Armored Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer SP]
68th Armored Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer SP]
91st Armored Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer SP]
701st Tank Destroyer Battalion [3-inch Gun]
6th Armored Field Artillery Group (*attached*):
69th Armored Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer SP]
93d Armored Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer SP]

Missions were assigned to each groupment according to its positions and capabilities. Groupment B, with its 8-inch howitzers, was assigned the missions of long-range counterbattery, interdiction, and harassing and destruction fires on enemy fortifications. During the preparation for Operation Raincoat and the attack one battalion was to concentrate its fires exclusively on the San Pietro area. Groupment M was to reinforce the fires of the 36th Division Artillery, furnish close-in supporting and counterbattery fires, and interdiction. This

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groupment was also to harass enemy reserve areas, observation and command posts, and to concentrate one battalion exclusively on the San Pietro flank during the preparation and attack. Groupment D was in direct support of the 36th Division Artillery. One-half of all pieces in each groupment were to be prepared to fire as far north as Mount Sannucro, and one-half in each groupment would be prepared to fire southwest as far as Mount Camino. All medium and heavy artillery would be able to fire from San Pietro to the junction of the Liri and Gari rivers. The mass of the artillery was emplaced along the general line Pre-senzano-Mount Friello and on to the southeast. Protecting the right flank of II Corps, the 133d Field Artillery Battalion was emplaced in the VI Corps area.

C. THE PREPARATIONS BEGIN

1. *Deceptive Measures.* The feint against the enemy's extreme right flank on the lower Garigliano had highly satisfactory results. On 24 and 27 November and again on 1 December H.M.S. *Orion* and four destroyers bombarded the coast-line between Minturno and Gaeta. Air bombing and the movement of LCI's and LCT's close inshore near the mouth of the river on 30 November further indicated a landing attempt in force. During the night of 30 November-1 December the 23 Armoured Brigade delivered heavy fire on enemy locations west of the river. The enemy reaction indicated that the ruse succeeded, for on 1 December the Germans brought heavy artillery fire on the brigade and a steady flow of vehicles crossed the Garigliano bridge above Sant'Ambrogio going south toward the threatened zone. To aid in the deception a battle patrol from the 2/4 King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry tried to cross the river during the night of 1-2 December. The strength of the opposition encountered was further proof that the enemy's attention had been drawn to the lower Garigliano. Other measures, such as the construction of dummy gun positions and the use of roving artillery to fire from these positions, aided in the deception.

In front of VI Corps and on the right flank of II Corps there was a daily increase in patrolling and in aggressive activity beginning on 26 November. Division and corps artillery fired numerous concentrations from San Pietro to San Vittore. Smoke was used daily on Mount Lungo; and when the weather permitted, XII Air Support Command bombed targets in the San Pietro-San Vittore area. A reconnaissance in force against San Pietro was carried out by the 3d Ranger Battalion during the night of 29-30 November, heavily supported by the 133d Field Artillery Battalion. The enemy reacted to this reconnaissance

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by increasing his artillery and mortar fire against our positions on Mount Lungo and Mount Rotondo, and a strong combat patrol attacked the 141st Infantry on the southeastern tip of the former hill during the night of 1-2 December.

2. *Air Preparation.* The prevalence of unfavorable weather interfered with plans for the air preparation to precede Operation Raincoat. Nevertheless, most of the sorties were flown. On 26 November 36 planes bombed the enemy on the Cocuruzzo spur west of Mount Camino, and on the next 2 days 24 P-40's worked over the Vallevona Plateau on Mount Maggiore. On 26 November 24 B-26's dropped 38 tons of bombs on Cassino. Because of bad weather there was no air support on 29-30 November to aid the preliminary attacks by VI Corps on the north flank, but on 1-2 December XII Air Support Command reached its high point of the month in preparation for attacks by II and 10 Corps. Rain cancelled the flights scheduled for the morning of 1 December, but during the afternoon sorties were executed for a total of 72 B-25's, 24 A-20's, 130 A-36's, and 48 P-40's. Included among the targets were enemy infantry and supply dumps on the crest and reverse slopes of the Cocuruzzo spur. On 2 December our planes droned over the target areas 0715-1600 and flew a total of 612 sorties. In addition to hitting targets in the Mount Camino, Mount Maggiore, Mount Porchia, and Mount Trocchio areas the air force attacked Sant'Ambrogio, San Vittore, Viticuso, and the Atina-Colli road.

The success of this air attack is difficult to estimate. Enemy prisoners of war agreed that there were even fewer casualties from the air attacks on infantry positions than by the artillery concentrations. Ground observers indicate that the fighter-bombers were more accurate on 2 December than on the 1st, though the aircraft did not plaster Monastery Hill (the highest point on Mount Camino) and the south part of the Camino hill mass as sufficiently as desired. On 2 December, also, the medium bombers hit too far to the east in their attack on the Sant'Ambrogio gun positions. In the mountains location of targets again proved difficult, and one flight of P-40's hit Concacasale instead of Viticuso. On the credit side may be placed a report that an attack by eight A-36's silenced the enemy guns on Mount Maggiore at 1430, 2 December, and the general weakness of enemy artillery fire during our infantry attack is undoubtedly the result of the combined concentration of air and artillery on enemy gun positions. One attack on rear lines of communication on Highway 7 west of Minturno by 12 A-36's on 1 December was reported by the air force to have produced 2 direct hits on the road.

3. *Artillery Preparation.* The tempo of normal firing increased during the first two days of December, partly in answer to the enemy's extensive counter-battery fires. Then, preceding the infantry attack, came the heaviest concen-

trations of artillery fired thus far in the Italian campaign. Starting at 1630, 2 December, 925 pieces of all calibers poured ton after ton of high explosive, white phosphorus, and smoke shells into the enemy's positions. The rumble and roar of the guns echoed from mountain to mountain, and the noise of exploding shells reverberated until the ground trembled.

Against Mount Camino alone 820 pieces, ranging from 3-inch guns to 8-inch howitzers, fired "some of the most powerful and intense concentrations ever produced in battle on a small area." In the one-hour "Serenade" 1630-1730, 2 December, the 346 pieces in II Corps expended 22,508 rounds, an average of 65 rounds per piece. (*See Annex No. 3D.*) The same number of pieces fired 64,068 rounds in the 24-hour period ending at 1630, 3 December, an average of 185 rounds per piece and a total of 1,481 tons. At the end of 48 hours the II Corps artillery had fired 73,746 rounds, an average of 214 rounds per piece. During this firing the 24 8-inch howitzers, used for the first time on an extensive scale, fired 2,208 rounds and performed in a highly satisfactory manner.

Artillery in 10 Corps was even more active, though firing a smaller tonnage than that of II Corps. In the 24-hour period starting at 1730, 2 December, 303 pieces fired 89,883 rounds, an average of 296 rounds per piece. Of this total 75,817 rounds were fired by 25-pounders. At the end of 48 hours the 10 Corps artillery had fired 111,568 rounds, an average of 368 rounds per piece and a total of 1,710 tons. On the VI Corps front there was considerably less activity. In the "Serenade" on 2 December, 44 pieces participated and fired 911 rounds. During the next 48 hours 288 pieces fired 18,586 rounds.

The effect of this massed artillery fire on the enemy is uncertain. Prisoners of war stated that the shelling prevented reinforcements from coming up and that "all communication to the rear was interrupted for two days." Some prisoners reported heavy casualties, while others, well protected in caves and deep dugouts, escaped with little inconvenience other than the loss of sleep. Infantry commanders who led the attack on Mount Maggiore agreed that artillery support in repelling counterattacks was far more valuable than the preparation; but Brigadier P. G. Calvert Jones, commanding the 56 Division Royal Artillery, stated the shooting on Mount Camino "was successful and accurate."

D. CAPTURE OF THE CAMINO HILL MASS

1-9 DECEMBER

1. *10 Corps on the Left Flank.* (*See Map No. 3.*) The 46 Division led off the attack for 10 Corps at dusk on 1 December. The line of departure lay ap-

proximately one mile southeast of Hill 360 and the hamlet of Calabritto. In working toward these objectives the two assault battalions ran into considerable resistance in the form of minefields, wire, and machine-gun fire. Before dawn the leading elements were through the engineer obstacles and had eliminated the forward machine guns. Joined by two troops of the 40 Battalion, Royal Tank Regiment, the 46 Division resumed the attack at 0600, 2 December. While tanks shelled the stone houses used by the enemy, the infantry pushed forward to within 200 yards of Hill 360 and Calabritto. No further progress was made until after dark, when reserves were brought forward and advanced on the left in a slight gain.

Although the 46 Division had not completed its mission, the attack of the 56 Division against Mount Camino jumped off as scheduled during the night of 2-3 December. On the left flank of the division the 167 Brigade attacked up the ridge leading to Hills 727 and 819, while the 169 Brigade on the right undertook the extremely difficult assault against Hill 963. Leading elements of both brigades made excellent progress during the night. The 8 and 9 Royal Fusiliers of the 167 Brigade took Hill 727, attacked Hill 819 at 0530, 3 December, and captured their objective about four hours later. During this operation 80 prisoners were taken from the 104th Panzer Grenadier Regiment and the Reconnaissance Battalion of the 15th Panzer Grenadier Division.

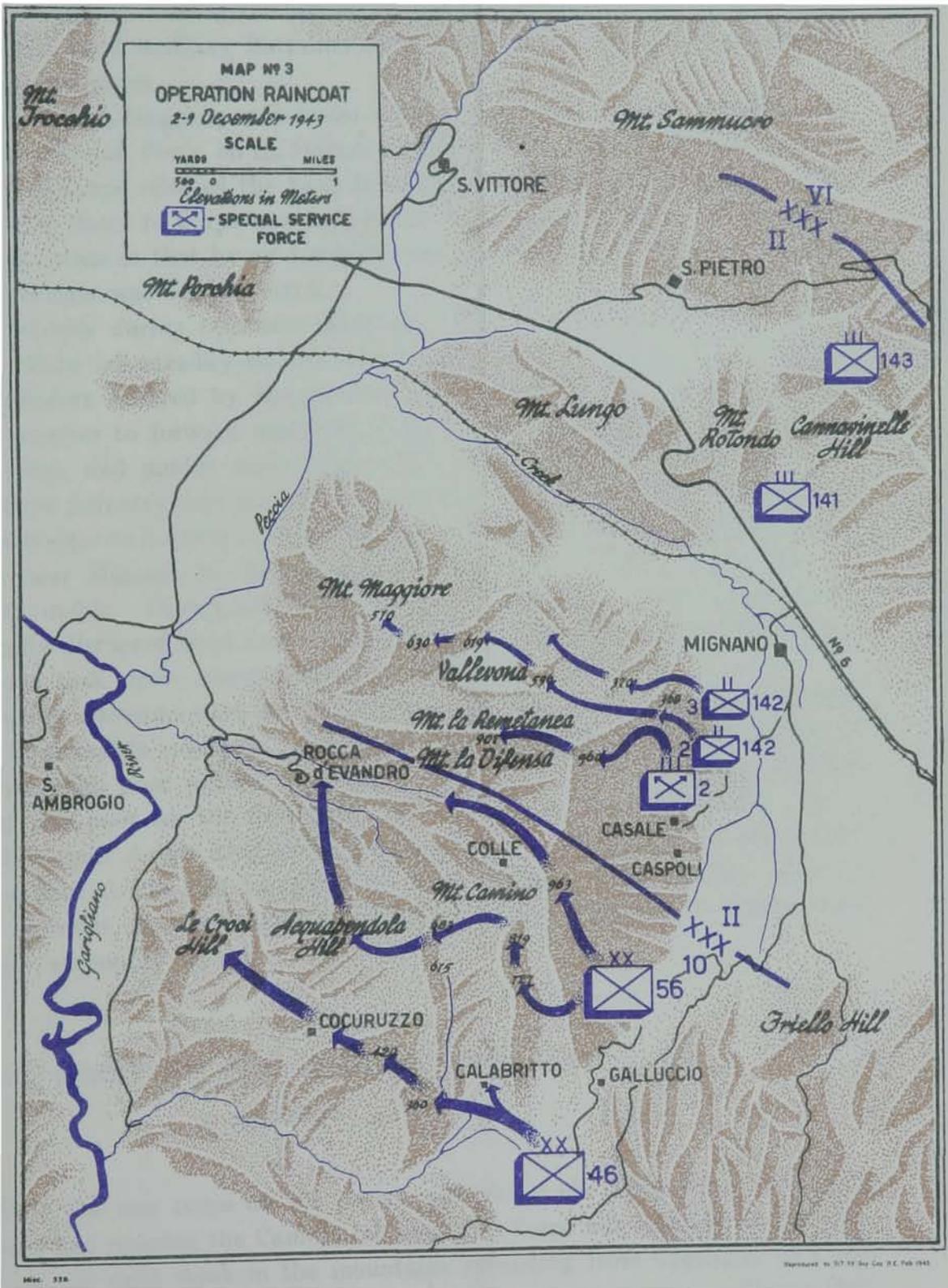
On the right the 2/5 Queens of the 169 Brigade reached the monastery on Hill 963 by the morning of 3 December. Heavy fire from nearby rocky slopes forced the battalion to fall back. At 1000, 4 December, the battalion attacked again and was repulsed. One company occupied the monastery during the next day but was forced out by a counterattack. Meanwhile other units of the 56 Division had made considerable progress on the left. The 3 Coldstream Guards (201 Guards Brigade) had followed the 167 Brigade up the ridge toward Hill 819 and on 4 December swept westward to take two more hills (683 and 615). On 5 December the 1 London Irish Rifles (168 Brigade) moved up to threaten Colle, west of Hill 963. These maneuvers caused the enemy to give up Hill 963, and by 1830, 6 December, the 2/5 Queens occupied the crest of Mount Camino.

The 201 Guards Brigade continued its westward progress on 6 December and captured Acquapendola Hill. On its left units of the 46 Division paralleled this advance by capturing Hills 360 and 420, thus gaining control of the Calabritto feature. After these victories on 6 December 10 Corps proceeded to mop up the western slopes of the Camino hills to the Garigliano. The village of Cocuruzzo, a mile south of Acquapendola Hill, fell to the 139 Brigade on 7 December, and Le Croci Hill was taken by the 138 Brigade. The Guards pushed on from Acquapendola to attack the town of Rocca d'Evandro. Here the enemy

fought a strong delaying action until 9 December when the Guards, aided by a diversion from the 1 London Scots, captured the town after a bitter fight. In its operations during the first nine days of December 10 Corps had captured two-thirds of the Camino hill mass.

2. *II Corps in the Center.* While 10 Corps was making the main effort against Mount Camino, units of II Corps moved out to attack the northern part of the Camino hill mass. The 1st Special Service Force, commanded by Col. Robert T. Frederick, advanced against Mount La Difensa (Hill 960) after dark on 2 December. This attack was spearheaded by the 2d Regiment, which marched north from the vicinity of Casale across the lower slopes of La Difensa to Ridge 368 and then turned southwest to climb up to Hill 960. Striking swiftly over extremely rough terrain, the 2d Regiment drove the enemy from La Difensa before dawn on 3 December and carried on to Mount La Remetanea (Hill 907). On the next day the inevitable German counterattack compelled the Force to pull back to a defensive position on Hill 960. The 1st Battalion, 3d Regiment, held back as Force reserve, was so badly hurt by enemy artillery that it could not move out according to plan. A cold rain fell constantly during the day, limiting visibility and increasing the difficulty of supply and evacuation. An enemy counterattack in battalion strength struck at Hill 960 before dawn on 5 December but was repulsed with heavy losses. The 1st Regiment was moved up to reinforce the 2d Regiment, and during the next three days the Force cleared enemy troops from the Remetanea–Difensa area. Organized resistance ceased by 1510, 8 December, when Hill 907 was recaptured.

The task of clearing Mount Maggiore, a series of peaks paralleling the valley of Peccia Creek, fell to the 142d Regimental Combat Team, commanded by Col. George E. Lynch. The Difensa–Remetanea ridge dominates the Maggiore ridge and its capture by the 1st Special Service Force was essential for the security of troops on hills to the north. After the 1st Special Service Force had passed by on Ridge 368, the 3d Battalion, 142d Infantry, left its assembly area south of Mignano and crossed the ridge at 0300, 3 December, moving northwest. The artillery smoked Mount Lungo to mask the movements of the 142d Infantry on Maggiore. The leading elements overcame initial resistance on Hill 370 and a knoll to the northwest. The 2d Battalion followed the 3d Battalion up Ridge 368 by an hour and swung northwest to attack Hill 596 overlooking the Vallevona Plateau. This position fell at 1030, and the attack continued around the northeastern rim of the plateau against Hills 619 and 630, which form the main mass of Mount Maggiore. These last two dominating heights were taken by 1700, and the victorious troops organized for defense while the 1st Battalion mopped up pockets of resistance. The enemy made several at-



tempts to recover the lost ground during the night of 5-6 December and through the next two days. During the last counterattack against Hill 630 on 7 December the 132d Field Artillery Battalion fired 338 rounds in 10 minutes and killed nearly 100 Germans.

After Mount Maggiore was under control, the 142d Infantry relieved the 1st Special Service Force on La Difensa on 8 December. Then on 10 December a unit of 10 Corps relieved the 142d Infantry on La Difensa and on Hill 630 on the following day. 10 Corps now held the entire Camino complex and proceeded to shift divisions so that by 17 December the 46 Division was on the north and the 56 Division was on the south.

3. *Supply during Operation Raincoat.* This operation was very properly named. Rain fell steadily on 2-4 December and greatly increased the danger and discomfort suffered by troops of 10 and 11 Corps. There was no way of getting supplies to forward positions except by packing them laboriously over rough, steep, and muddy trails constantly under enemy fire. Two companies of the 141st Infantry and half of the 142d Infantry were required to carry supplies for troops on La Difensa and Maggiore. The round trip of three miles from a point near Mignano to Mount Maggiore consumed 12 hours over trails too steep for mules. During all of the period 1-9 December enemy artillery fire continually disrupted field lines in both corps and imposed a most difficult and hazardous task upon communication personnel.

Several attempts were made to drop rations by plane to troops in these almost inaccessible positions. Six A-36's dropped supplies on 5 December at Vallevona with poor results. Ten A-36's tried again on 6 December, but the weather was poor for the first flight and the others were unsuccessful. On 7 December eight A-36's dropped two bundles on Vallevona Plateau, but a later flight of four A-36's was hampered by bad weather. Poor visibility, poor recovery grounds, and proximity to enemy positions combined to defeat these attempts at supply by air.

E. VI CORPS ON THE RIGHT FLANK

29 NOVEMBER - 9 DECEMBER

While the two corps on the center and left of the Fifth Army front were attacking and winning the Camino hill mass, VI Corps was engaged in harassing action on the right flank in the mountains extending from Ceppagna to Castel San Vincenzo. (*See Map No. 4.*) The peaks and ridges centering in Mount Marc

(Hill 2021) and Mount Marrone (Hill 1770) discouraged any large-scale push on our extreme right flank, just as the steep slopes of Mount Corno and Mount Santa Croce hampered activity on the left flank of VI Corps. Our attacks, accordingly, were focussed on the center of the zone, for if VI Corps could drive through and so outflank the German positions near Cassino it would materially assist the advance of Fifth Army.

The two roads already mentioned, which lead from Filignano to Sant'Elia and from Colli to Atina, were the only natural avenues of approach in the center of the VI Corps zone. Both roads are narrow and tortuous, and both are dominated everywhere by the hills. South of the Colli-Atina road the highest ground lies along the line Mount Monna Casale-Mount Majo, both of which are more than 1200 meters in elevation. Ridges in tangled disorder run down from these mountains to the east into such hills as Mount Pantano and Hill 769. These scrub-covered swells appear from a distance to have an even slope, but closer acquaintance reveals rocky ravines and difficult ascents, where cover is scant and communication difficult.

Before the 34th Division on the Corps right flank lay elements of the 305th Grenadier Division, extending south along the Marrone ridge across Chiaro Creek and down to Pantano. On the left flank, in the 45th Division zone, lay a complex hill pattern which gave the defenders every advantage. Just west of the Filignano road the enemy had organized for defense on a series of hills extending more than three miles south of Mount Pantano. The weakest position seemed to be on Hill 769, less than a mile and a half southwest of Filignano. However, enemy defenses were so interlocked that the capture of Hill 769 involved operations against several other hills and ridges, all of which were commanded in turn by Mount della Battuta and Mount Monna Casale. This area, which had previously been defended by the 26th Panzer Division, was in the hands of the 44th Grenadier Division from the end of November.

1. *Plan of Attack.* The mission of VI Corps remained the same throughout the attack on the Winter Line: to advance on the two roads to Atina and Sant'Elia. The first moves to carry out this mission, which were secondary attacks preceding and accompanying the main push on the south against the Camino hill mass, were intended to draw enemy reserves into the area and thus prevent reinforcements from moving into the Camino sector. These attacks were expected to capture limited objectives in preparation for later assaults. VI Corps was to launch its drive four days before Operation Raincoat got under way.

The 34th Division was to make the main thrust astride the Colli-Atina road with the 133d Regimental Combat Team driving west. The 168th Regimental Combat Team was to capture Mount Pantano, while the 135th Regi-



Infantrymen above Venafro..... painted by Technical Sergeant Savo Radulovic

mental Combat Team supported its attack by directing mortar and machine-gun fire on Hill 760 just north of Pantano. Division artillery, except for the 175th Field Artillery Battalion, displaced forward to positions in the vicinity of Scapoli to support the operation. On the left flank the 45th Division was to open a portion of the Filignano-Sant'Elia road and to assist the 168th Infantry attack on Mount Pantano. To carry out the latter mission one battalion of the 179th Infantry was to make its effort against the hamlet of Lagone and northwest to Hill 855. One company of the 2d Battalion was to attack Hill 640 southwest of Hill 769, while one company of the 157th Infantry was to capture Hills 470 and 460 south of the Sant'Elia road.

2. *Attack of the 34th Division.* During the night of 24-25 November the 133d Infantry relieved the 504th Parachute Infantry on the right flank of the division. By 29 November the 100th Battalion (serving as the 2d Battalion, 133d Infantry) had pushed forward to a line about one mile east of Cerasuolo. At 0600, 29 November, the regiment advanced astride the Colli-Atina road toward Cerasuolo but could make little progress. Enemy artillery fire forced the 125th Field Artillery Battalion to abandon its positions near Scapoli. North of the road the 3d Battalion captured Hill 1180 on the south slopes of Mount Marrone on 3 December.

The most desperate fighting occurred on Mount Pantano, the dominating feature of the area, which could not be outflanked. Moving out during the night of 28-29 November, the 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry, captured one knob of Pantano before dawn; but the enemy, aided by minefields and concealed mortar positions, held the other three knobs. Several vicious counterattacks struck hard at our troops but failed to drive them back. On 30 November the 1st Battalion suffered heavy casualties in an effort to continue the advance, and was again subjected to repeated counterattacks. The 3d Battalion moved up on 1 December, but poor visibility postponed its attack until 2 December when it captured a second knob. An enemy counterattack recovered the position; then the 3d Battalion took it again. On 3 December the battalion attempted to capture more of the summit but was repulsed with heavy casualties. Reinforced with fresh troops, the enemy won back all of Pantano except one knob. Efforts of the 179th Infantry to capture Hill 855 on the left were also beaten back with heavy losses to our infantry.

During the afternoon of 4 December the 135th Infantry relieved the 168th Infantry on Pantano and the 34th Division attack came to a halt. Its efforts had been costly; an advance of little more than a mile produced 777 casualties. On 8 December the 2d Moroccan Division—the first French unit to enter the Italian campaign—began to relieve the 34th Division. General Dody assumed

command of the north half of the VI Corps zone on 10 December, and a fresh division trained in mountain fighting was ready to renew the push along the road toward Atina.

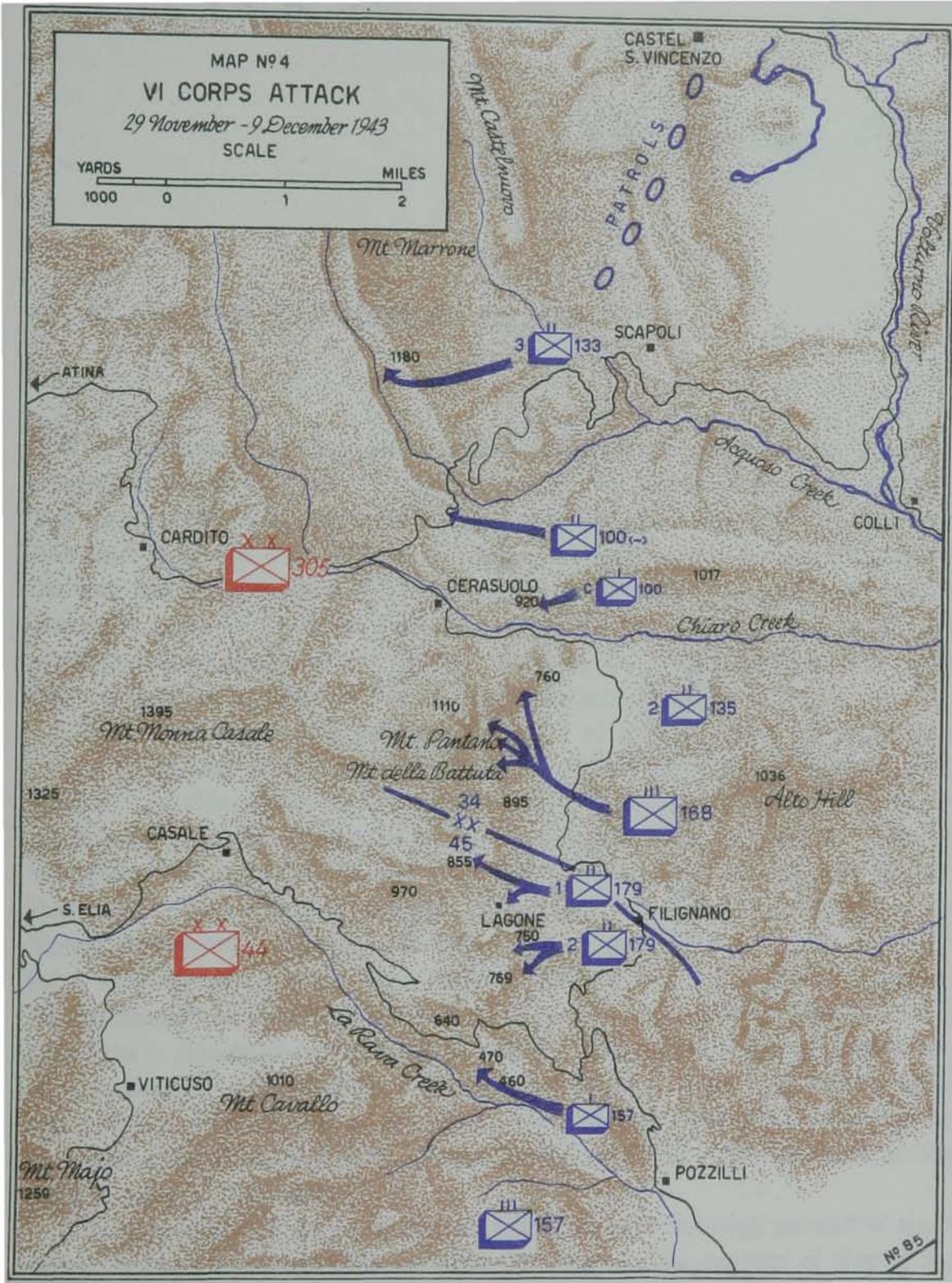
3. *The Battle of Hill 769.* The attack of the 45th Division on the left resolved itself into a struggle for Hill 769. This forward buttress of the Monna Casale system is somewhat isolated from the hills behind it and consists of a barren plateau with a knoll at either end. Minor knobs dot its eastern edges; Hill 750 lies just to the north. When the attack began on 29 November, our troops held the forward slopes of Hill 769; to capture the rest of the position it was necessary to clear the enemy from the hills and draws on either side. Every attempt to do so failed during the first two days since fire from well prepared positions on Hill 769 and the hills on either side stopped the advance on each flank.

The Germans relied on their usual tactics of holding the reverse slopes with automatic weapons forward and riflemen to the rear to protect the machine guns. Well protected in rock dugouts which merged with the rock walls of the hillsides, the enemy waited in comparative safety through our preparatory fires and then rushed out to meet our infantry attack. To confuse us he shifted positions frequently; and any local gain on our part could expect a quick enemy counterattack along the sunken trails of the district, which offered the Germans access with complete surprise. The advantages of observation lay entirely with the enemy artillery and mortars, which plastered our positions and supply routes night and day. Backed by this support, the 1st and 2d Companies, 577th Grenadier Regiment, held Hill 855 and the 2d Battalion, 131st Grenadier Regiment, defended from Lagone to Hill 640. The latter regiment was a fresh unit, composed mostly of Austrians, which had relieved the 9th Panzer Grenadier Regiment at the end of November.

On the right the 179th Infantry made small attacks to assist the 168th Infantry on Pantano; on the left the 157th Infantry carried out diversionary stabs at night against Hill 470. On 1 December the 179th Infantry directed its efforts to wearing down the opposition around Hill 769. For the next eight days the fight went on, with our troops inching forward through dogged persistence by companies and platoons. After a series of these small-unit actions the 2d Battalion, 179th Infantry, captured the crests of Hills 769 and 750 on 6 December. Three days later the enemy withdrew from the hotly contested ground, and our men consolidated their gains.

4. *Air Activity on the VI Corps Front.* The air force directed its attention primarily to villages and lines of communication in the enemy rear areas. On 2 December VI Corps received the first air support since the beginning of its attack when 12 P-40's strafed the Atina road. Poor visibility grounded the

planes until 7 December when 12 A-36's, briefed for Viticuso, bombed Conca-casale 2½ miles to the southeast of their objective. On 8 December 8 P-40's again hit Conccasale, and 12 A-36's hit Casale while aiming for Viticuso. Twelve A-36's flew over the area without dropping their bombs. However, eight P-40's bound for Sant'Elia did bomb Viticuso. This experience was a clear indication of limitations imposed on the air force by bad weather, poor visibility, low ceilings, and indistinct mountain targets.



CHAPTER IV * * * * *

The Second Phase

A. *PLANS FOR THE SECOND PHASE*

BY 9 December the first phase of the Winter Line campaign, as defined in Operations Instruction No. 11, was completed. All objectives had been captured. The Camino hill mass, southern anchor of the Winter Line, was in our possession and 10 Corps had shifted its boundary north as far as Mount Maggiore. On the Army right flank VI Corps made slight gains at great cost; but the enemy in front of VI Corps had been weakened to an extent that made more rapid progress possible in the future. Arrival of a French division was exceedingly important in view of the limited resources of Fifth Army.

With the Camino hill mass under control as a result of the victories scored by 10 Corps and II Corps, General Clark ordered Phase II to begin on 7 December. In this phase 10 Corps had a minor role—the mission of consolidating positions on the Camino hills and continuing offensive activity along the Garigliano. In addition, it was to assist II Corps and maintain contact with that unit. The principal objective of Phase II, assigned to II Corps, was Mount Sammucro. Operation Raincoat had cleared the way to the Garigliano for a distance of 20 miles from the sea; but the heights of Mount Lungo and Mount Sammucro, which controlled the Mignano Gap and the entrance to the Liri Valley, remained in the enemy's hands. The narrow valley between these two mountains was strongly organized for defense, with San Pietro on the lower slopes of Sammucro as the center of resistance. Before an attack against San Pietro could succeed, both Mount Lungo and Hill 1205, the crest of Sammucro, must be captured.

On the north VI Corps in Phase II was to seize the high ground in the vicinity of Atina and Sant'Elia, to assist II Corps in the capture of Mount Sammucro, to maintain contact with Eighth Army on the right, and to protect the right flank of Fifth Army. The mission of VI Corps was to be achieved

by parallel drives on the Sant'Elia and Atina roads, with the main emphasis on operations by the 2d Moroccan Division on the Atina road. By attacking on this very wide front Fifth Army would compel the enemy to extend his forces and thereby prevent him from massing for the defense of Cassino. A costly frontal attack against Cassino might be avoided if this plan could be executed successfully and swiftly.

B. *THE BATTLES OF SAN PIETRO*

8-17 DECEMBER

The main effort in Phase II was to be made by II Corps in the center of the Fifth Army line to capture Mount Lungo, San Pietro, and Mount Sammucro. Towering high above San Pietro, the cliffs and massive ridges of Mount Sammucro were extremely important in the enemy's Winter Line. From Hill 1205, the highest peak of Sammucro, a ridge runs north about a mile, then climbs abruptly to form Hill 950. San Pietro was completely commanded by Sammucro on the north and Lungo on the south and would fall once the dominating terrain around it was captured. The II Corps plan therefore was an enveloping movement. The 1st Italian Motorized Group, attached to the 36th Division, was to outflank San Pietro on the south by capturing Mount Lungo. On the north two battalions of the 143d Infantry were to work west along the south slopes of Sammucro, and one battalion was to attack Hill 1205. At the same time the 3d Ranger Battalion was to capture Hill 950. No movement was planned through "Death Valley," the trough between San Pietro and Mount Lungo.

The 36th Division, which bore the burden of the II Corps attack, found itself involved in a bitter battle for the village of San Pietro. Hills 1205 and 950, high points on the crest of Sammucro, were taken from the 71st Panzer Grenadier Regiment with comparatively little difficulty; but the enemy clung to San Pietro with skill and determination and retained control of the slopes of Sammucro above the village. German defenses, planned to prevent a breakthrough along Highway 6, extended from the rocky orchard-covered terraces east of San Pietro and across the valley to Mount Lungo. Two battalions of the 15th Panzer Grenadier Regiment held the main line of resistance behind an outpost line which consisted of a series of mutually supporting pillboxes in depth. These emplacements, which resisted our constant artillery fire and frequent attacks by A-36 fighter-bombers, were deep pits covered by three

layers of logs and further protected by earth and rocks. To approach these pillboxes our troops had first to go through fields of S-mines, then through barbed wire and more S-mines. If these outer defenses were penetrated, the enemy could bring down artillery, mortar, and heavy machine-gun fire without danger to his own troops. Defense of the valley was assisted greatly by machine guns sited on the bald, rocky slopes of Mount Lungo on one side and on the olive-dotted slopes of Sammucro on the other.

1. *The First Battle of San Pietro.* (See Map No. 5.) Moving out from Ceppagna at 1700, 7 December, the 1st Battalion, 143d Infantry, attacked Hill 1205. In a skillful approach the assault company took the enemy by surprise. Our troops swarmed over the hilltop just before dawn and blasted the Germans out of their emplacements with grenades. The enemy counterattacked strongly and nearly succeeded in regaining the hill by 0930, 8 December. Reinforcements brought up by the battalion commander threw back the counterattack at 1040, and the issue was no longer in doubt. Hill 1205 had fallen, and the enemy's positions all the way to San Vittore were threatened.

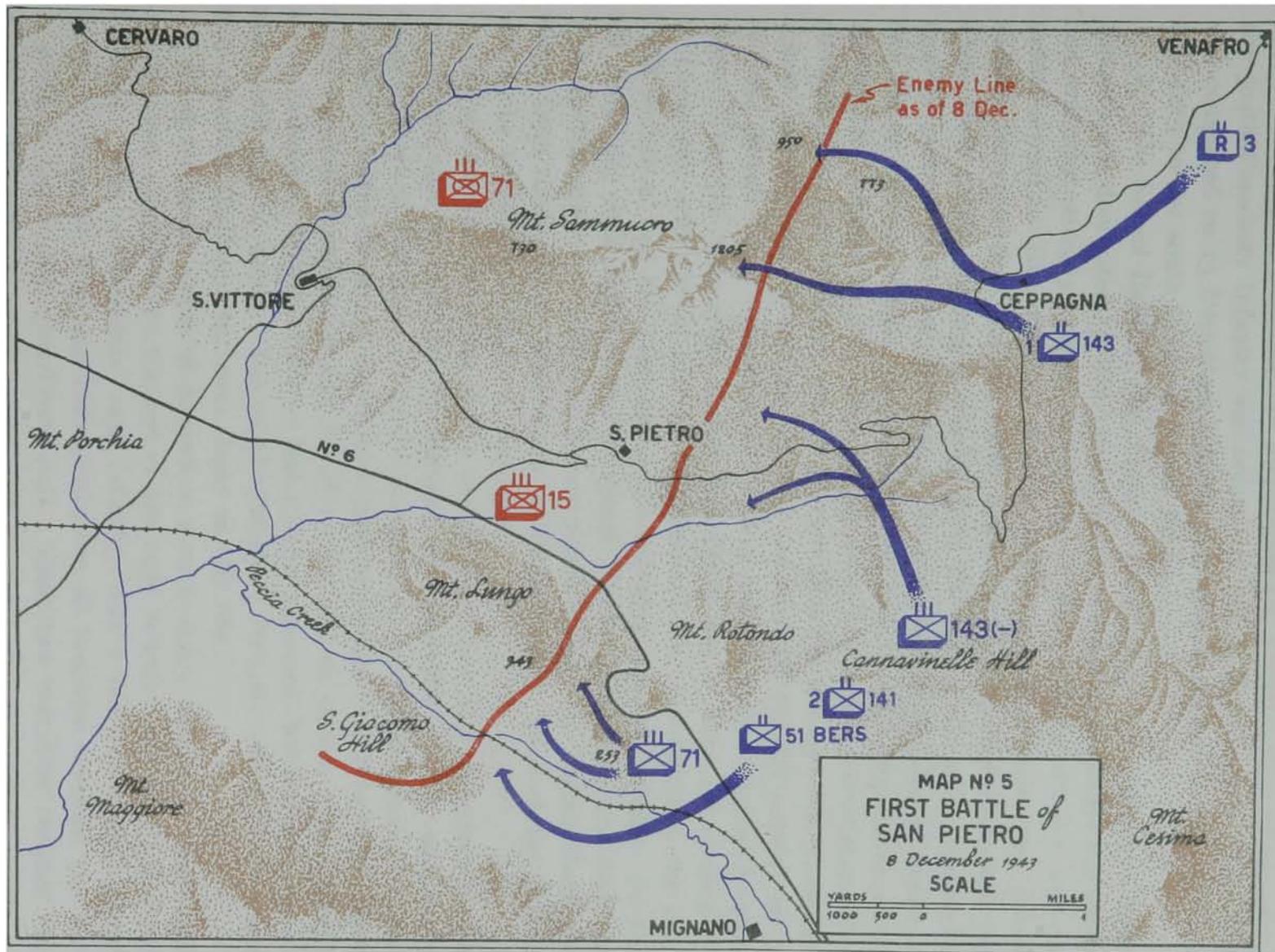
The 3d Ranger Battalion met equally strong resistance in its attack against Hill 950. At dusk on 7 December the Rangers left their assembly area southwest of Venafro, went down the road to Ceppagna, then turned north out of the village along the lower slopes of the ridge running northwest to Hill 950. Overcoming outposts and machine-gun nests, the leading elements seized their objective at 0600, 8 December. A counterattack from the northwest at 0830 forced them to withdraw to Hill 773 where they reorganized. After a preparation fired by the 131st Field Artillery Battalion at 0530, 9 December, the Rangers again attacked Hill 950 and occupied it at 0600. During the next four days, 10-13 December, the enemy launched numerous counterattacks against Hills 1205 and 950, concentrating his attention on the former under orders to recover the lost ground at all costs. The 3d Battalion, 71st Panzer Grenadier Regiment, which had been committed in the sector, lost heavily. Accurate mortar and artillery fire broke up these attacks before they could make serious progress, and demonstrated again the utmost importance of dominating terrain. Our forward observers had some of the best shooting of the campaign, and German bodies were strewn on the mountainside.

During this phase of the Winter Line campaign liberated Italy entered the fight against the German invaders. On 7 December the 1st Italian Motorized Group completed the relief of the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry, on the southeastern nose of Mount Lungo (Hill 253). This group included the 67th Infantry Regiment, the 51st Bersagliere Battalion, and the 11th Field Artillery Regiment. Artillery preparation for the Italian attack began at 0550, 8 De-

ember, 30 minutes before H Hour. A very heavy fog came in after the "Serenade" ceased and settled over the barren rocky knobs of Lungo like a huge smoke screen. At 0630 the Italians jumped off in their attack against the 3d Battalion, 15th Panzer Grenadier Regiment, holding Mount Lungo. The 1st Battalion, 67th Infantry Regiment, drove through the fog toward Hill 343 but could make little progress in the face of heavy machine-gun and mortar fire even after an artillery concentration was placed on the hill. The 2d Battalion advanced up to Hill 253 while the 51st Bersagliere Battalion attacked along the railroad toward San Giacomo Hill in the Peccia Creek valley. By 1130 the forward elements had suffered heavy casualties, but they courageously reformed for another attack. All of the II Corps artillery was made available to support the effort, but by 1215 it was apparent that the Italians could not succeed. Early in the afternoon, while the Italians reorganized for defense on Hill 253, the 141st Infantry committed a company on Mount Rotondo to protect against a possible breakthrough. Eight-inch howitzers of the 194th Field Artillery Battalion swept the crest of Lungo and the draw on the southwest side at 1530, and an hour later the 155th Field Artillery Battalion fired the first of five concentrations on Hill 343. Against this terrific fire the enemy was unable to press his advantage.

No greater success attended the efforts of the 143d Infantry in its attack against San Pietro. The 2d Battalion moved out at midnight 7-8 December from Cannavinelle Hill to the line of departure, which was a draw on the slopes of Sammucro north of the Venafro-San Pietro road and one mile east of San Pietro. Crossing the line of departure at 0620, 8 December, the assault companies could advance only 400 yards against the heavy mortar, artillery, and machine-gun fire. The 3d Battalion was then committed, with one company on the left and two on the right of the 2d Battalion, but still no headway could be made. By nightfall the enemy lines remained essentially unchanged. Throughout the night and early morning of 9 December the 131st and the 133d Field Artillery Battalions shelled the enemy's positions. The infantry renewed the attack at 0700 and continued the effort until 1918. Again the gains were insignificant, and the troops were ordered to fall back behind the line of departure while our artillery poured shells into the almost impregnable emplacements of the enemy.

For the next few days there was little action against San Pietro itself, and our main effort was directed to clearing the enemy from the western slopes of Mount Sammucro. Every approach to San Pietro was covered by flanking fire from positions still held by the enemy on Mount Sammucro and Mount Lungo. The village could not be captured until the enemy had been driven



from these flanking positions. In preparation for a continuation of the attack the 504th Parachute Infantry was ordered to relieve the Rangers. This relief was completed on 13 December, and the paratroopers took over the area from Hill 1205 to the south slopes of Mount Corno.

2. *The Second Battle of San Pietro.* (See Map No. 6.) Although Mount Sammucro is dominated by Hill 1205, there were lesser peaks which the enemy had organized strongly. About a mile west of Hill 1205 lies Hill 816, and 700 yards beyond is Hill 730 (1). A deep saddle separates these two points. Midway between them and 700 yards to the north is another peak, Hill 687. These three points, forming a triangle with Hill 687 at the apex, control the western portion of Mount Sammucro. In the plan for the second battle of San Pietro, General Walker, commanding the 36th Division, ordered an attack against this triangle to take place in the early hours of 15 December. The 1st Battalion, 143d Infantry, was to capture Hills 816 and 730; the 504th Parachute Infantry was to capture Hill 687 and was also to send patrols out to Hill 954 (Mount Corno Vettere, a mile west of Mount Corno) to protect its right flank. Then the main effort against San Pietro was to jump off at noon on 15 December, with the 2d and 3d Battalions of the 143d Infantry, the 753d Tank Battalion, and the 141st Infantry converging upon the village. On the left flank the 142d Infantry was to attack Mount Lungo from the south at 1750 on the same day, followed by an attack by the 1st Italian Motorized Group from the southeast after dawn on 16 December. Each of the attacks was to be supported strongly by artillery.

In accordance with these orders the 1st Battalion, 143d Infantry, moved out shortly after midnight on 15 December to attack Hill 730, but was pinned down in front of Hill 816. At 1000, 15 December, the fighting strength of the 1st Battalion was about 155 men, whose ammunition had been exhausted. Pack trains replenished supplies during the afternoon, and the attack was continued on 16 December. A knoll close to Hill 730 was occupied, but the main objective could not be taken. The 504th Parachute Infantry could do no more than establish itself on the lower slopes of Hill 687.

Along the lower slopes of Sammucro a co-ordinated assault by tanks and infantry was attempted by the rest of the 143d Infantry and the 753d Tank Battalion. The 3d Battalion, 143d Infantry, held a line extending halfway down the mountain from the cliffs, while the 2d Battalion occupied the line on down to the Venafro-San Pietro road. These two battalions resumed the

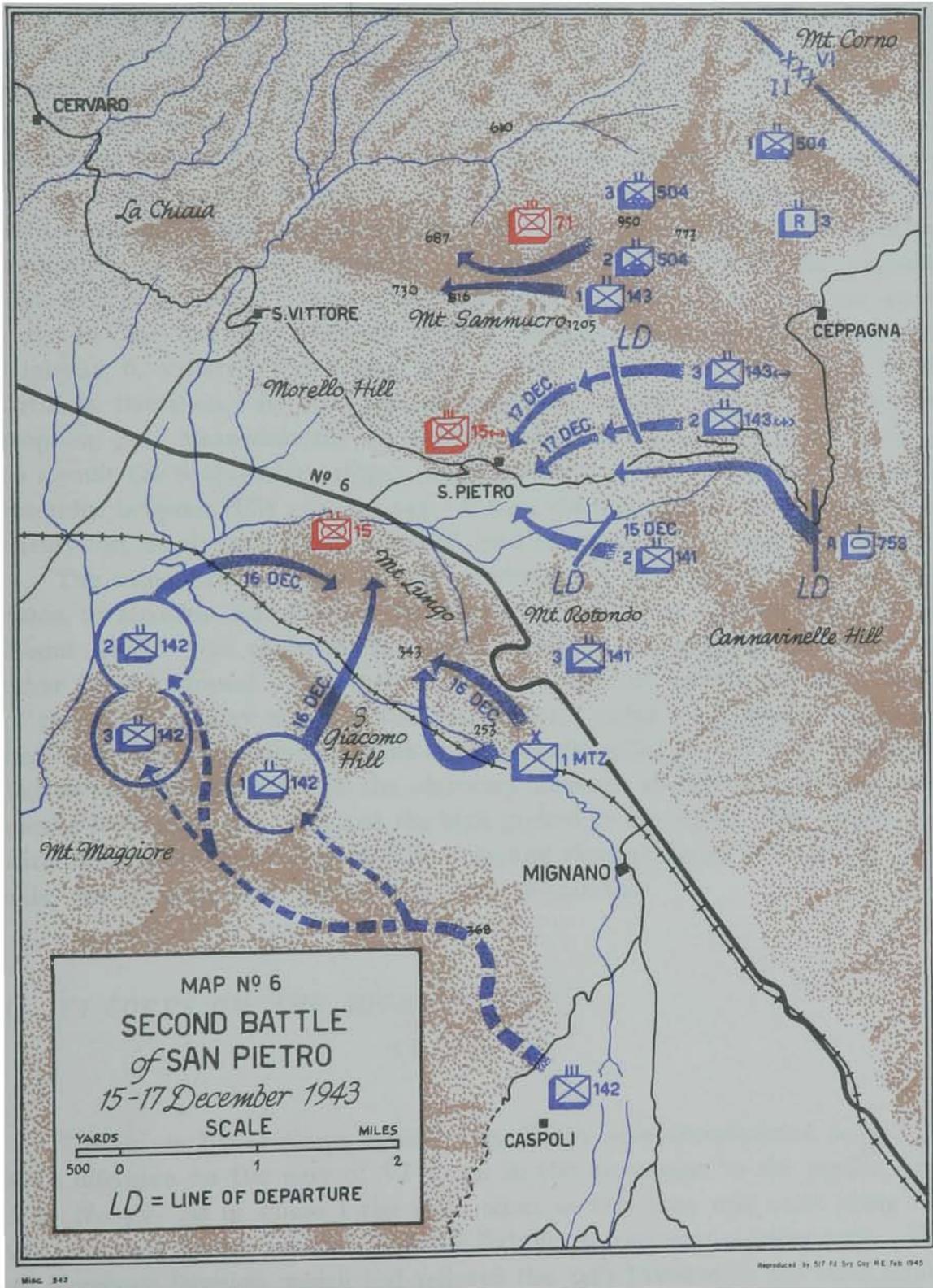
(1) Like so many other features, this hill bears different numbers on maps of different scale. The 1:50,000 series shows it as Hill 730; the Italian 1:25,000 series labels it Hill 720; the 36th Division Field Order No. 40, 13 December, refers to it as Hill 729.

attack at 1200, 15 December, together with the 753d Tank Battalion, which was committed in this attack on the possibility that tanks could get through the formidable defenses and clear the way for our infantry to enter San Pietro. The terrain, however, proved to be extremely difficult for tank operations. The narrow road was mined and the ground on either side was a series of rock-walled terraces three to seven feet high, covered with olive trees and scrub growth. Stream beds, gullies, and accidents of terrain prevented cross-country operation. Trees limited visibility to about 25 yards and rain had made the ground very soft.

Prior to H Hour the artillery, including 8-inch howitzers, fired its prearranged concentrations on the enemy positions and smoked Mount Lungo to screen the attack from observation on the left. One company of the 753d Tank Battalion supported the attack with fire from the north slopes of Cannavinelle Hill, and one company of the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion between Mount Rotondo and San Pietro had a similar mission. Company A, 753d Tank Battalion, made the attack. Two tanks succeeded in reaching the outskirts of San Pietro, where one of them was destroyed. Four were disabled by mines, four more were disabled or destroyed by artillery fire, two threw their tracks, and two turned over on the terraces. At the close of the day only four tanks were able to return to their assembly area. Seven had been destroyed and five disabled. The infantry attack had been no more successful; the German emplacements, held by the 2d Battalion, 15th Panzer Grenadier Regiment, could not be captured.

The line of departure for the 141st Infantry's attack across the valley was about a mile north of Mount Rotondo. Leading the assault, the 2d Battalion jumped off at 1253 but was met at once by heavy fire from the front and both flanks. Each company paid heavily for the few yards gained. By 2000 the rifle companies were down to an average of 52 officers and men each. The attack was renewed at 0100, 16 December. By that time all communications had been destroyed and supporting artillery fires could not be arranged. Nevertheless, our infantry stormed the defenses with grenades and bayonets, and succeeded in getting a few men into San Pietro. Reorganization at 0200 revealed that the 2d Battalion had a total strength of 130 officers and men; but the attack was renewed at 0600. No further progress could be made, and by 1530 most of the troops had returned to the line of departure.

While the units on the right and center were meeting little success, the 142d Infantry was attacking Mount Lungo. In preparation for its attack the regiment occupied San Giacomo Hill between Mounts Lungo and Maggiore on 12 December, and during the night captured Hill 141 on the northwest nose



of Maggiore and Hill 72 a mile to the north. These preliminary moves having been completed by the 3d Battalion, the other two battalions assembled on the northern slopes of Mount Maggiore on 14 December and began the attack against Mount Lungo during the night of 15-16 December. On the left the 2d Battalion swung around to the west nose of Lungo and pressed forward vigorously up the ridge. After destroying numerous machine-gun emplacements this battalion reached its initial objectives on the top of Lungo by dawn on 16 December. Equal success met the efforts of the 1st Battalion attacking toward the center of the mountain. Through a number of individual exploits and well co-ordinated small-unit actions the 1st Battalion reached the crest early in the morning. Enemy trucks, rushing reinforcements forward on Highway 6, suffered direct hits from accurate shooting by the 132d Field Artillery Battalion. By 1000 the mountain was captured and our troops were mopping up. Meanwhile the 1st Italian Motorized Group jumped off at 0915 to assault the southeastern ridge. Early in the afternoon the Italians occupied the ridge between Hills 253 and 343. During the struggle for Mount Lungo the enemy lost nearly 200 killed, wounded, and captured. Our losses were slight.

The success of the 142d Infantry undoubtedly influenced the German decision to abandon San Pietro. Within three hours after the last positions on Mount Lungo were captured, the enemy launched a furious counterattack to cover his withdrawal. The main thrust was directed against the right flank of the 143d Infantry north of the San Pietro-Venafro road, where the enemy had maximum concealment. This counterattack ended at 0100, 17 December. Patrols after daylight found the elaborate defenses abandoned, and our lines moved forward to the town and the high ground to the north. The enemy had withdrawn to his next defensive line running through Cedro Hill, Mount Porchia, San Vittore, and northeast into the mountains.

C. VI CORPS ON THE RIGHT FLANK

15 21 DECEMBER

The drives by II Corps against San Pietro were accompanied by a full-scale offensive on the part of VI Corps in the mountains to the north. (*See Map No. 7.*) As in Phase I the main effort in this zone was made along the two east-west roads, but this time the fighting spread over a wider area. The 2d Moroccan Division, which had relieved the 34th Division on the right flank, received the mission of taking the high ground east of Cardito, overlooking

the Colli-Atina road, while the 45th Division on the south was to gain the high ground south of Mount Monna Casale on the Sant'Elia road. Ammunition restrictions placed at the beginning of the month caused some limitation on artillery fires, but the weather permitted extensive air support in front of VI Corps on 10-18 December. Principal targets of the air attacks were the towns on the main roads as far as Sant'Elia and Atina, the forward supply point at Viticuso, and enemy gun positions near Cardito. On 14 December, the day preceding the attack of VI Corps, our P-40's pounded the road net behind the enemy lines.

The 2d Moroccan Division made preparations for a wide envelopment of the enemy left flank by the 8th Moroccan Infantry (8^e Régiment de Tirailleurs Marocains) and two battalions of the 4th Moroccan Infantry (4^e Régiment de Tirailleurs Marocains). These hardy units, together with two tabors of goumiers, moved on the night of the 14th toward San Michele Pass, from which they were to advance west through the mountains by towering Mount Mare and sweep southwest on the morning of 15 December toward Cardito. After this maneuver force had made sufficient progress, the 5th Moroccan Infantry (5^e Régiment de Tirailleurs Marocains) on Mount Pantano would attack west. At the same time a frontal push was to be launched by the 45th Division, reinforced by the 1st Ranger Battalion; the 2d and 3d Battalions, 504th Parachute Infantry; and two battalions of chemical mortars. The 179th Regimental Combat Team was to advance up the Lagone draw toward the Sant'Elia road, and on the left flank the 157th Regimental Combat Team planned a pincers movement against Hill 831, a foothill of Mount Cavallo. To oppose the assault of the 45th Division the enemy had fresh units from the 44th Grenadier Division: the 1st Battalion, 134th Grenadier Regiment, in the Lagone area, and the 1st Battalion, 131st Grenadier Regiment, south of the Sant'Elia road. Elements of the 5th Mountain Division were just coming into the line in front of the French.

The terrain feature of greatest importance in the zone of the 179th Infantry on the right flank of the 45th Division was the steep draw running west from the Filignano flat between Hill 769 and La Bandita. During the previous fighting in this area our troops had gained the scrub-covered plateau dotted with knobs which comprised Hill 769, and other units had driven up the draw to the outskirts of Lagone. Unfortunately, the French maneuver group failed to get into position on time, with the result that the 2d Moroccan Division was unable to take the offensive as planned. Nevertheless, at 0630, 15 December, the 179th Infantry attacked west after a short artillery preparation. The 3d Battalion, attempting to capture Lagone, was held at the edge of the

hamlet throughout the day. The 1st Battalion on Hill 750 advanced northwest and captured Hill 760 less than a mile west of Lagone. During the night of 15-16 December the enemy, thus threatened from the rear, abandoned the village. On 16 December our troops occupied Lagone and La Bandita, which had been defended by elements of the 100th Grenadier Regiment (5th Mountain Division). The French made a slight advance on Mount Pantano at the same time and took Hill 895.

On the south flank of the 45th Division the pincers movement of the 157th Infantry against Hill 831 met very stiff opposition. The 1st Battalion attacked northwest against Hills 470 and 640 on 15 December, but succeeded in holding only the east slopes of the latter. Little more success attended the efforts of the 2d Battalion to seize Fialla Hill and Hill 770. However, on the afternoon of 17 December our patrols reported that the enemy had withdrawn all along the line. This withdrawal coincided with events in front of II Corps, where the enemy had also pulled back on 17 December. The 45th Division immediately pushed forward to regain contact. During the period 17-21 December the front moved forward with little opposition to the west slopes of Mount Cavallo. The 2d Moroccan Division also advanced on the right of VI Corps and captured the rest of Mount Pantano, Cerasuolo, and Hill 1054. North of the Atina road a foothold was gained on the southern slopes of Mainarde Ridge. The advance therefore was greatest in the center where two and one-half miles were gained along the Sant'Elia road, with very little change on the flanks of VI Corps.

D. PROBING THE ENEMY LINES

19-31 DECEMBER

1. *II Corps Tests the Defenses of San Vittore.* With the capture of Hill 1205, San Pietro, and Mount Lungo, II Corps gained control over the Mignano Gap. But patrols soon discovered that the next German line was only a few hundred yards beyond San Pietro and ran from Hill 730 on Mount Sammucro southwest to Morello Hill and on across Highway 6. (See Map No. 6.) This line barred the way to San Vittore two miles northwest of San Pietro. Between the two villages lay more of the rolling, terraced slopes of Sammucro covered with olive trees and fissured by many gullies. The entire San Pietro-Cervaro road was under fire from German artillery, mortars, and machine guns.

The first effort to capture San Vittore took place on 19 December when the 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry, attacked Morello Hill from the southeast

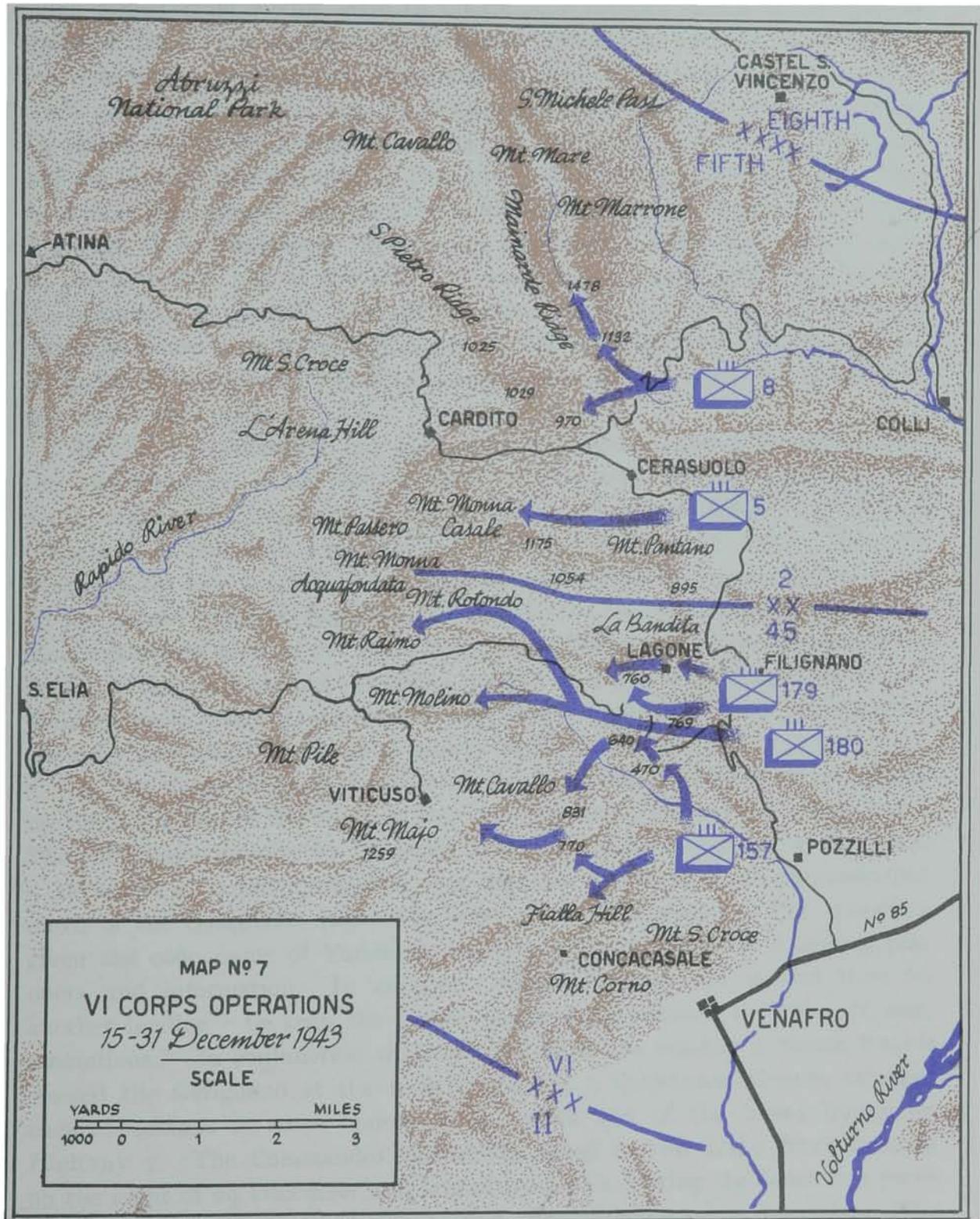
while the 2d Battalion, 143d Infantry, attempted a flanking movement on the right. With the aid of accurate artillery fire the 2d Battalion, 15th Panzer Grenadier Regiment, repulsed the attack. Then the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry, was ordered to clear the slopes of Samnuicro northwest of San Pietro to enable the 3d Battalion to attack San Vittore from the northeast. At the same time the 143d Infantry was to fight its way to positions north of Morello Hill. The key to this plan was Hill 730, which the enemy held with more than 200 men. The plan was tried on 21 December but met with no success.

The effort to take San Vittore could not succeed until Hill 730 and the ridge running northeast to Hill 610 had been captured. General Walker assigned this mission to the 1st Special Service Force, reinforced by the 504th Parachute Infantry and the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry. Difficulties of supply and movement caused a lull in activity until the night of 24-25 December when the 1st Regiment lashed out in a vicious attack that captured Hill 730 on Christmas Day. By 26 December the 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry, had occupied the ridge to Hill 610. In these attacks the 71st Panzer Grenadier Regiment fought bitterly and fell back only when the combat efficiency of its engaged units had been destroyed.

While these victories were being won in the mountains, the 141st Infantry succeeded in capturing Morello Hill on 26 December. Three days later combat patrols and a reinforced company fought their way in and out of San Vittore. The enemy refused to give up the town so long as the hills to the north remained in his hands. By 29 December the 34th Division was coming in to relieve the 36th Division, which was practically exhausted after six weeks of almost constant mountain fighting. The 142d Infantry was not to rest, however, and relieved the units which were garrisoning the hills and ridges of Sammuicro.

2. *Inching Forward on the VI Corps Front.* During the last ten days of December there was no large-scale offensive by VI Corps, and a considerable portion of the line saw no activity. Artillery fire was limited, but the leaflet war continued. The *Frontpost* and other publications were sprinkled over enemy territory by plane and specially packed artillery shells. Patrols went out constantly to determine where the next battles in front of VI Corps would have to be fought.

After the readjustment of 17-21 December the enemy's line in front of VI Corps was anchored on the south at Mount Majo (Hill 1259), followed the Vitucuso road north to Mount Molino, then crossed the Sant'Elia road to Mount Raimo, Mount Monna Casale, and Mainarde Ridge. (*See Map No. 7.*) On the south, at the boundary between II Corps and VI Corps, there was a



rough salient from Mount Majo to Concacasale through which enemy patrols operated freely. On the north, from Mount Marrone on into the Eighth Army zone, there was another area where the opposing forces maintained reconnaissance patrols. Along its line VI Corps conducted only piecemeal operations. An attack by the 8th Moroccan Infantry on the north flank of the French was delayed by bad weather until 24 December, when Hill 910 was captured. Two days later the regiment attacked the Mainarde feature and captured Hills 1132 and 1478 on 27 December. The assault continued through three feet of snow on the next day, but on the 29th bad weather and supply difficulties brought the operations to an end. The 5th Moroccan Infantry jumped off on the south on 29 December in a thrust which netted Hill 1175 and knobs at the east end of Mount Monna Casale. Further advance proved impossible and the French dug in on their gains.

In the 45th Division zone the 180th Regimental Combat Team attacked the mountains on either side of the Sant'Elia road, where elements of the 100th and 134th Grenadier Regiments were in strong defensive positions. Objectives of the drive were the hills from Mount Molino to Mount Rotondo. Preceded by heavy artillery fire, the assault battalions jumped off at 0615, 30 December. The 3d Battalion, 180th Infantry, occupied Mount Raimo and Mount Rotondo north of the road, but lost the former to a strong counterattack. South of the road the 1st Battalion reached the slopes of Mount Molino and then fell back. Another attempt to take Mount Molino failed on 31 December; the only gain from two days of bloody fighting was one hill.

3. *10 Corps Reconnaissance across the Garigliano.* While II Corps opened up the north side of the Mignano Gap, 10 Corps remained quiet in its positions. The only major activity on the south half of the Fifth Army line in the period 9 December-4 January consisted of a seaborne raid by the 9 Commando just north of the Garigliano mouth the night of 29-30 December. This operation, given the code name of Partridge, had the primary objective of gaining prisoners and information. In addition, higher authority felt it was time for another landing "to keep the enemy guessing and increase the value of demonstrations." In conjunction with the raid from the sea the 2 Scotch Guards crossed the Garigliano at the mouth, and the 3 Coldstream Guards attacked enemy positions in some houses at the south end of the blown bridge on Highway 7. The Commandos themselves sailed in two LSI's from Pozzuoli on the night of 29 December and landed by LCA's, hitting the beach 600 yards north of the mouth of the Garigliano just after midnight on 30 December. The scheduled night-bomber program to drown the noise of landing craft was cancelled because of bad weather, but the raid was a complete surprise and very

successful. The Commandos ranged at will over Mount d'Argento, the Roman amphitheater at Minturnae, and the north bank of the Garigliano. At dawn they withdrew. Twenty prisoners had been taken, and ample information gained on minefields and wire entanglements in the area. The whole operation had been covered by excellent artillery and naval bombardments.

E. AIR SUPPORT DURING THE SECOND PHASE

Because of the terrain, the bad weather, and the nature of enemy defenses, air support played a minor role in the first battle for San Pietro. San Vittore was attacked on the 7th and 11th, and San Pietro was bombed on 9 December. On 15 December and for the next three days XII Air Support Command continued a steady support of the II Corps attack. Considerable success was scored against artillery positions at Mount Lungo (24 sorties), Cervaro (156 sorties), Mount La Chiaia (24 sorties), Mount Porchia (60 sorties), and Mount Trocchio (36 sorties).

The attack of XII Air Support Command against the main bridges in the Liri Valley was intensified during Phase II and carried over into Phase III. Four bridges bore the brunt of this effort: the Sant'Ambrogio bridge over the Garigliano near its junction with the Gari; the Pontecorvo bridge southwest of Cassino on the Liri River; the Atina bridge over the Melfa River; and the Melfa River bridge on Highway 6 about ten miles west of Cassino. Each of these structures was important in the enemy's supply system. Smallness of the targets, poor visibility, bad flying weather, and strong enemy defense against air attacks combined to interfere seriously with the success of bombing missions. The Sant'Ambrogio bridge came through unscathed after 44 sorties by A-36's and 48 sorties by P-40's in the two weeks 24 November-8 December. Several hits were claimed, but ground observers reported to the contrary. No better success attended the efforts to knock out the Pontecorvo bridge. In 15 days, 11-25 December, 12 B-25's, 36 A-36's, 48 P-40's, and 72 A-20's bombed the bridge. Hits were reported, but reconnaissance revealed the target still intact. However, on 14 January 51 B-25's attempted to destroy the structure and claimed one probable hit. The assault on the Atina bridge had similar results. One hit was claimed by 24 A-36's on 13 December, and two days later 28 P-40's bombed the same target. Reconnaissance showed the bridge to be undamaged. On 27 December 24 A-36's scored near misses, and on the 30th communications and the town of Atina were bombed by 34 A-36's and 24 A-20's; but the bridge was not hit.

The scale of air attacks increased against the Melfa River bridge on Highway 6. On 13 December 48 P-40's aimed for the target; on 14 December a total of 144 sorties were flown by P-40's. Seven hits were claimed on the approaches, and five probables on the bridge itself. Reconnaissance revealed that the bridge was still in service. From 15 November to 15 January at least 264 P-40's and 108 B-25's were briefed to attack the bridge. Traffic was interrupted for only four days, 8-11 January.

F. *SUMMARY OF THE SECOND PHASE*

For all practical purposes Phase II of the Winter Line campaign came to a close at the end of the year. Several factors had combined to make the fighting more difficult and bitter than was experienced during Phase I. The weather, which had been bad early in December, became progressively worse. Non-battle casualties consequently increased and further reduced the combat strength of front-line units. Much of the fighting occurred in areas where the terrain was even more rugged than that of the Camino hills, where supply and evacuation were extremely difficult, and where the enemy had prepared very strong defensive positions.

Objectives of Phase II had been only partly achieved. In the center of Fifth Army II Corps had captured Mount Lungo, San Pietro, and Mount Samucro. These victories, won at heavy cost, had broken the strongest German positions along Highway 6. But on the right flank the enemy's strong defense prevented VI Corps from fulfilling its mission of capturing the high ground in the vicinity of Sant'Elia and Atina. It had, however, kept pace with II Corps and made gains of approximately three miles. French troops had acquitted themselves with distinction and proved to be a most valuable addition to Fifth Army. Again the lack of reserves to follow up initial successes was felt keenly. Our troops, though attempting to carry on, were often too exhausted to exploit their hard-won gains.

CHAPTER V * * * * *

Approach to the Liri Valley

A. PLANS FOR THE THIRD PHASE

See Map No. 8

GENERAL Clark anticipated on 16 December the early conclusion of Phase II and issued Operations Instruction No. 12. (See Annex No. 2F.) At that time San Pietro was still under attack, but there were indications that the enemy was preparing to withdraw to new positions. San Vittore might be held in some strength, but by clearing the slopes of Sammucro II Corps would cause that village to be untenable. The next barriers to the Liri Valley were Cedro Hill and Mount Porchia south of Highway 6; Cicerelli Hill, Mount La Chiaia, and the hills to the northeast on the north side of the highway; and the mountains centering around Mount Majo (Hill 1259). Once through the Porchia-La Chiaia defenses, the chief obstacle south of the highway was Mount Trocchio; north of the highway was the town of Cervaro, ringed by low hills and dominated on the north by mountains.

II Corps was again to make the main effort in the center along the axis of Highway 6. The first objectives were Mounts Porchia and Trocchio. It was to be prepared to assist VI Corps in the capture of the high ground northwest of Cassino, and was to secure a bridgehead over the Rapido River. After the bridgehead was secured, II Corps was to use the maximum amount of armor to drive northwest through the Liri Valley to the Melfa River. The 1st Armored Division was attached to II Corps for that purpose. The mission of VI Corps was to continue the attack begun on 15 December and seize the high ground northwest of Cassino. In conjunction with the II Corps attack on Mount Porchia 10 Corps was to occupy Cedro Hill. Then, when the advance of II Corps had progressed sufficiently to permit bridging materials to be brought forward, 10 Corps was to cross the Garigliano River and establish a bridgehead in the vicinity of Sant'Ambrogio. This operation was to be co-ordinated with the II Corps attack on Mount Trocchio. During these

operations the Corps would continue offensive activity along the Gari-gliano River.

Phase III, as thus announced, would end the Winter Line campaign and begin the attack on the Gustav Line. Plans for an amphibious operation south of Rome were then in a tentative form and remained so until there was some prospect of a breakthrough in the Liri Valley. Although the Winter Line campaign may be said to have ended on 15 January, Phase III was to continue for several weeks thereafter.

B. REGROUPING FOR THE NEW ATTACK

The operations by II and VI Corps during 17-31 December, described in the previous chapter, were undertaken for the purpose of securing favorable positions for resuming the offensive planned for Phase III. By the end of the month plans were completed for withdrawing VI Corps and replacing it with the French Expeditionary Corps. On 2 January 15th Army Group issued Operations Instruction No. 32 ⁽¹⁾, assigning VI Corps to Operation Shingle (the Anzio landing); on 3-9 January the 3d Algerian Division relieved the 45th Division, which passed to Fifth Army reserve. Offensive activity was at a standstill on the Army north flank while these changes were taking place.

In the center, likewise, there was a short period of apparent inactivity at the close of the year while II Corps regrouped its forces and brought up relatively fresh troops. By 1 January the 6th Armored Infantry (1st Armored Division) had relieved the 15th Infantry on Mount Lungo and the 3d Division passed to VI Corps for Operation Shingle; the 34th Division had relieved the 36th Division; and the 142d Infantry relieved the 504th Parachute Infantry in the Sammucro area.

D Day for renewing the assault was set as 5 January. The 1st Special Service Force (reinforced) was ordered to capture the high peaks on the north flank, moving out to attack on the night of 4-5 January. The 168th Infantry was to cross San Vittore Creek north of San Vittore and attack Hill 396. At the same time the 135th Infantry was to capture San Vittore and push on toward Mount La Chiaia. On the left flank of II Corps Task Force A (6th Armored Infantry, reinforced) was to capture Mount Porchia. An attempt was made to time the attack so that the 135th Infantry would have San Vit-

⁽¹⁾ Text of this operations instruction is given in Fifth Army History, Part IV.



Shelling the valley beyond Mount Trocchio..... painted by Lieutenant Edward A. Reep

tore and the 1st Special Service Force would hold Mount Majo when the 168th Infantry jumped off to make the main effort. Artillery, air, and armored support was available on a large scale. The 6th Field Artillery Group of five battalions supported the 1st Special Service Force; the 34th Division Artillery and Corps units supported the 168th Infantry; the 1st Armored Division Artillery, three tank battalions, and one tank destroyer battalion supported Task Force A. XII Air Support Command was prepared to resume offensive activity when the year-end storms ceased.

The enemy made no offensive ground movements beyond the usual patrolling and also took advantage of the lull to regroup his forces to meet our attack. In the north sector the 5th Mountain Division remained in the line. Shifting southward, the 44th Grenadier Division began to take over parts of the front from the 29th Panzer Grenadier Division at the end of December. The enemy outpost line north of Highway 6 ran from San Vittore northeast to Mount Capezzate and was manned by the 2d Battalion, 71st Panzer Grenadier Regiment, on the right flank of II Corps in front of the 142d Infantry. The 132d Grenadier Regiment (44th Division) held the main line from Mount La Chiaia north to Mount Majo. Units of the 71st and 15th Panzer Grenadier Regiments (29th Division) were mixed in with units of the 132d Grenadier Regiment south of San Vittore. The 134th Grenadier Regiment (44th Division) held Mount Porchia with two battalions.

One of the memorable events preceding the drive for Mount Trocchio was the artillery greeting to the New Year. A bitterly cold gale swept across the snow-capped peaks and down the Liri Valley on 31 December. Riflemen on Mount Lungo and Mount Sammucro, on the hills before Mount Raimo, huddled behind rocky parapets and in hasty shelters, their hands and feet numb from exposure. At midnight the artillery of the entire II Corps saluted the New Year with three rounds per gun fired on definite targets. The enemy had prepared a similar celebration and returned the greeting in lesser volume.

C. *THE DRIVE FOR MOUNT TROCCHIO*

1-15 JANUARY

1. *The Battle for Mount Majo.* One of the highest peaks in the II Corps zone was Mount Majo (Hill 1259). The 1st Special Service Force, especially trained and equipped for mountain fighting, was assigned the task of moving north from Hill 610 through more than two miles of mountains held by the

enemy to attack this strategic mass. In its larger aspects this maneuver was a wide end run around the right flank to capture the highest peaks and then to turn southwest toward Mount Trocchio. Supplies for this operation were carried by pack trains which numbered nearly 700 mules by 11 January. The speed at which the 1st Special Service Force moved made great demands upon artillery forward observers packing radios through snow-covered gullies and up the trackless, rocky slopes.

On the night of 3-4 January the 1st Special Service Force was in position to strike. The three regiments, organized as combat battalions, had moved out of bivouac near Ceppagna to assembly areas some three miles northwest. Patrols of the 157th Infantry protected the right flank and made limited attacks to keep the enemy occupied. The 1st and 2d Regiments began the attack to capture the ridge running north of Hill 610. By 2000, 4 January, three hills (670, 724, and 775) were taken against light resistance. At the same time the 3d Regiment drove enemy outposts from Mount Arcalone (Hill 950). Units of the 142d Infantry relieved the 1st and 2d Regiments during the night of 5-6 January. Two battalions of the 133d Infantry together with additional artillery were placed under Colonel Frederick's command on 6 January. These units, combined with the 1st Special Service Force, formed Task Force B, the specific mission of which was to penetrate the enemy lines, establish a base near Hill 1109 to further the attack against Trocchio, and protect the right flank of II Corps.

Three high mountains remained to be captured during this end run on the right: Mount Majo (Hill 1259), Vischiataro Hill (Hill 1109), and Hill 1270. During the night of 6-7 January Task Force B launched a two-pronged attack from Mount Arcalone, with the 1st Regiment driving west across Pietracquara Ridge to Hill 1109 and the 3d Regiment thrusting northwest toward Mount Majo. The assaulting troops moved out two hours before midnight. The 3d Regiment on the right, followed by a company of the 133d Infantry, drove the 1st Battalion, 132d Grenadier Regiment, from Mount Majo by 0520. A strong counterattack was broken up at 0800, but the Germans rushed reserves forward in an attempt to take the hill. For the next three days the enemy threw attack after attack against this strategic position, and gave forward observers of the 93d Armored Field Artillery Battalion excellent shooting. Nearly 8,500 rounds, fired by this battalion on 7-10 January, greatly weakened the engaged elements of the 132d Grenadier Regiment.

The bulk of the 2d Battalion, 132d Grenadier Regiment, held Hill 1109 when the 1st Regiment attacked. By 0415, 7 January, our troops were on the lower slopes of the hill, but counterattacks from three sides forced a withdrawal to Pietracquara Ridge. That night the 1st Regiment executed a wide

flanking movement which caught the enemy completely by surprise. Moving north from Pietracquara Ridge to Mount Majo, the regiment attacked west across Hill 1190, captured Hill 1270, and turned southwest against Hill 1109. This time the objective was taken with practically no resistance, partly because many enemy troops had been pulled out to counterattack Mount Majo.

2. *The 34th Division Takes San Vittore and Mount La Chiaia.* These spectacular victories of the 1st Special Service Force took place while the 34th Division smashed at San Vittore and Mount La Chiaia. On the right of the division zone the 168th Infantry made its main effort through the hills northeast of Mount La Chiaia. Principal objectives of this drive were Hill 396, the key to La Chiaia, and Hill 552 which commanded Cervaro. Their capture would allow the 135th Infantry to mop up German positions paralleling Highway 6 and enable II Corps to strike hard at Mount Trocchio from the northeast.

The 3d Battalion, 168th Infantry, assembled northeast of Hill 687 during the night of 3-4 January to spearhead the attack. One company, which moved out at 1820, 4 January, lost 69 officers and men in an ambush while attempting to secure the line of departure at the gorge of San Vittore Creek, which was believed to be free of enemy troops. Thus weakened, the 3d Battalion attacked toward Hill 396 at 0550, 5 January, behind a rolling barrage fired by the 185th Field Artillery Battalion; but after a short gain the assault companies were pinned down by machine-gun fire. Resuming the offensive at 1330, 5 January, Companies C and L secured Hill 425 near the line of departure.

Following a rolling barrage laid by the 175th and 185th Field Artillery Battalions, the 168th Infantry made another thrust at 0900, 6 January. The 3d Battalion was unable to make much progress against Hill 396; but on the right the 1st Battalion reached the crest of a ridge about 1000 yards east of its objectives, Hills 456 and 511. In the afternoon the 2d Battalion passed through the 3d Battalion and captured Hill 396 before dawn on 7 January. A resumption of the attack by the 1st Battalion bogged down 500 yards east of Hills 456 and 511 under heavy machine-gun and mortar fire, and it was apparent that the 168th Infantry was faced by a strong line running from the vicinity of Hill 396 northeast two miles to Hill 820. The latter hill gave the enemy splendid observation over our routes of advance and had been by-passed by the 1st Special Service Force. One company of the 1st Battalion captured Hill 820 by 1815, 7 January, after a remarkable fight in which the enemy was driven from rock pillboxes. Two days later the 1st Battalion attacked Hill 552 and took it before dawn on 10 January.

During the first week of the drive for Mount Trocchio the chief objective on the left flank of the 34th Division was Mount La Chiaia. The stone houses

of San Vittore, southeast of the hill, were used by the enemy as defensive positions. These obstacles to the advance on Mount Trocchio fell in the zone of the 135th Infantry, and the attack upon them was co-ordinated with the 168th Infantry's effort against Hill 396. On the left flank of the regimental zone the 3d Battalion, 135th Infantry, jumped off to attack San Vittore shortly before midnight on 4 January. Before dawn the leading elements had won several houses in the village. The street and house-to-house fighting that continued until 1700, 6 January, netted 170 prisoners from the 44th Grenadier Division. Meanwhile the 1st Battalion met even more opposition on the right flank. Its mission was to capture Hill 346, the northeast shoulder of La Chiaia, while the 168th Infantry was capturing Hill 396. In its attack on 5 January the battalion was held at the San Vittore gulch by heavy fire from stone houses at Santa Giusta, just across the gulch. When a second attempt failed on 6 January, the regimental commander ordered the 2d Battalion to attack from its reserve position on Morello Hill. By 7 January Hill 346 and Mount La Chiaia were captured and pockets of resistance were being mopped up. On the same day the 3d Battalion moved out of San Vittore and captured Hill 224 to the northwest of the village and Cicerelli Hill to the west. A German troop concentration west of La Chiaia was dispersed by 16 A-36's and 16 P-40's at noon. As a result of the combined efforts of the infantry, artillery, and air force, the remnants of the 134th Grenadier Regiment withdrew westward in confusion.

3. *Task Force A Captures Mount Porchia.* While the 34th Division and the 1st Special Service Force were capturing hill after hill north of Highway 6, Task Force A drove the enemy from Mount Porchia. Rising abruptly from the valley floor, Mount Porchia is an isolated hill which commands the low ground between the Camino hill mass to the south and Mount Trocchio to the northwest. There is very little vegetation on the hill, but its extremely rocky surface provides good defensive positions. Cedro Hill, a companion feature lying one mile to the southwest, was suitable for a delaying action but could not be held by the enemy after the fall of Mount Porchia. These two hills were the last major obstacles south of Highway 6 and east of Mount Trocchio.

Shortly after noon on 4 January the 1st Battalion, 6th Armored Infantry, moved out to secure the line of departure west of Mount Lungo. Due north of the western tip of the mountain are two small hills which flank the highway, and the 5th Company, 134th Grenadier Regiment, defended these hills vigorously. By 1930 they were reported held by our troops, but the enemy counterattacked and poured heavy mortar fire on the 2d Battalion trying to move up astride the railroad. All through the night and until nearly noon on

5 January the Germans attempted to break through, especially along the highway; but our artillery, tanks, and tank destroyers mauled the enemy severely and forced him to withdraw to Mount Porchia.

The 3d Battalion, 6th Armored Infantry, then led the attack on the left at 1515 after an artillery preparation of 30 minutes. By dawn on 6 January the 1st and 3d Battalions held the lateral road from Taverna to Rocca d'Évandro Station and were ready to resume the offensive. Little progress was made in the assault that began at 0700 until tanks destroyed enemy machine-gun nests. Early in the afternoon our advance elements reached the crest of Mount Porchia, only to be driven back by a counterattack launched by three infantry companies of the Hermann Goering Panzer Division which had been rushed from Aquino. The hill was recovered by our troops early on 7 January. The enemy counterattacked until the morning of 8 January; but by that time he had also lost Cicerelli Hill and Mount La Chiaia north of the highway and was forced to abandon his efforts to recover Porchia.

4. *10 Corps Captures Cedro Hill.* 10 Corps had the mission of taking the area between Peccia Creek and Rione Querceto, including Cedro Hill, to guard the left flank of II Corps. Success in this action was dependent upon the occupation of Mount Porchia by II Corps, for this point dominated the 10 Corps line of advance. The 138 Brigade (46 Division) crossed the Peccia during the night of 4-5 January to lead the attack. A bridgehead was established against strong opposition by the 104th Panzer Grenadier Regiment; but, with Mount Porchia still uncaptured and their supporting tanks unable to cross the Peccia, the British troops fell back to the east bank at dusk. During the following night, 6-7 January, the 139 Brigade came in to take over the attack and captured Cedro Hill by dawn on 8 January. Heavy mortar fire forced the infantry to fall back. Task Force A, however, had taken Porchia by this time and the enemy withdrew from Cedro Hill during the night of 8-9 January. After consolidating its gains 10 Corps remained inactive until after 15 January.

5. *The Fall of Cervaro and Mount Trocchio.* During the last six days of the drive on Mount Trocchio the enemy stabbed viciously at various points along the line. But no matter how he shifted his forces, II Corps defeated him at every point. The Winter Line was crumbling rapidly and the last hard fighting took place in the hills north of Highway 6. On the right flank Task Force B continued the wide end run begun by the 1st Special Service Force at the start of the month. The 133d Infantry, attacking from Hills 1270 and 1109 on 9 January, captured Capraro Hill three days later. Then the 2d Regiment, 1st Special Service Force, took Point 298 north of Cervaro on 13 January. Meanwhile the 168th Infantry continued its advance north of the

San Vittore-Cervaro road. During the night of 10-11 January elements of the Hermann Goering Panzer Division came up to reinforce the 71st Panzer Grenadier Regiment near Cervaro. Following air and artillery attacks on 11 January, the 168th Infantry closed in on the town. The 3d Battalion drove for the hills just north of Cervaro while the 2d Battalion assaulted the town itself. Both battalions had their objectives by noon on 12 January and went on to mop up several low hills west of the town. South of the San Vittore-Cervaro road the 135th Infantry captured Point 189 on 13 January. The enemy then withdrew and the way was clear for the attack on Trocchio.

Mount Trocchio is a huge, isolated hill lying about a mile east of the Rapido River. At its southwestern tip is a small hill, La Pieta. Together these hills guard the southern and eastern approaches to Cassino. More important as a site for observation posts than as a terrain fortress, Trocchio had little value once the hills to the north had been captured. For this reason the success of Task Force B and the 34th Division north of Highway 6 made the German evacuation of Mount Trocchio almost certain. With the enemy definitely driven from his best delaying positions by 13 January, II Corps pressed its advantage vigorously. In the assault on Trocchio the 135th Regimental Combat Team was to attack the center and northwest while the 141st Regimental Combat Team made its main effort against La Pieta. The 135th Infantry attacked at 0900, 15 January, and three hours later had reached the crest of Mount Trocchio. No enemy opposition was encountered. The 141st Infantry, which had relieved the 6th Armored Infantry on Mount Porchia, met some resistance in its zone; but by dark there was practically no enemy opposition left east of the Rapido River. For American troops the Winter Line campaign was over.

D. *ADVANCE OF THE FRENCH EXPEDITIONARY CORPS*

12 15 JANUARY

The II Corps attack against Mount Trocchio was co-ordinated with action by the FEC on the right. Carrying on the mission of VI Corps, the French had the task of reaching the Sant'Elia-Atina line. (*See Map No. 7.*) An attack was planned for 12 January to secure the hills running from Mount Majo to Mount Monna Acquafondata and San Pietro Ridge. On the right flank the 2d Moroccan Division was to capture San Pietro Ridge and Hills 1025 and 1029, all north of the Atina road. On the left the 3d Algerian Di-

vision was to drive the enemy from Mount Monna Casale, Mount Passero, and Mount Monna Acquafondata.

After a short artillery preparation the attack jumped off at 0630, 12 January. The 2d Moroccan Division occupied Hills 1025 and 1029 with little opposition, and secured a foothold on San Pietro Ridge. The enemy lost heavily in three attempts to recover the lost ground. After throwing back strong counterattacks on 13 January the division pressed forward, captured Cardito, sent patrols across the Rapido River, and established outposts on the slopes of Mount Santa Croce and L'Arena Hill.

The attack of the 3d Algerian Division met with considerable success. The 7th Algerian Infantry (7^e Régiment de Tirailleurs Algériens) gained the eastern slopes of Mount Monna Casale on 12 January, and by 14 January had gone on to take Mount Passero. The 3d Algerian Infantry (3^e Régiment de Tirailleurs Algériens) captured Mount Molino on 12 January, while the Bonjour Group took Mount Pile. The advance of the 3d Algerian Division continued on 13-14 January toward Sant'Elia. By 15 January the French, in their first Corps action, had reached the Gustav Line after an average advance of almost four miles along their entire front.

E. AIR SUPPORT

1-15 JANUARY

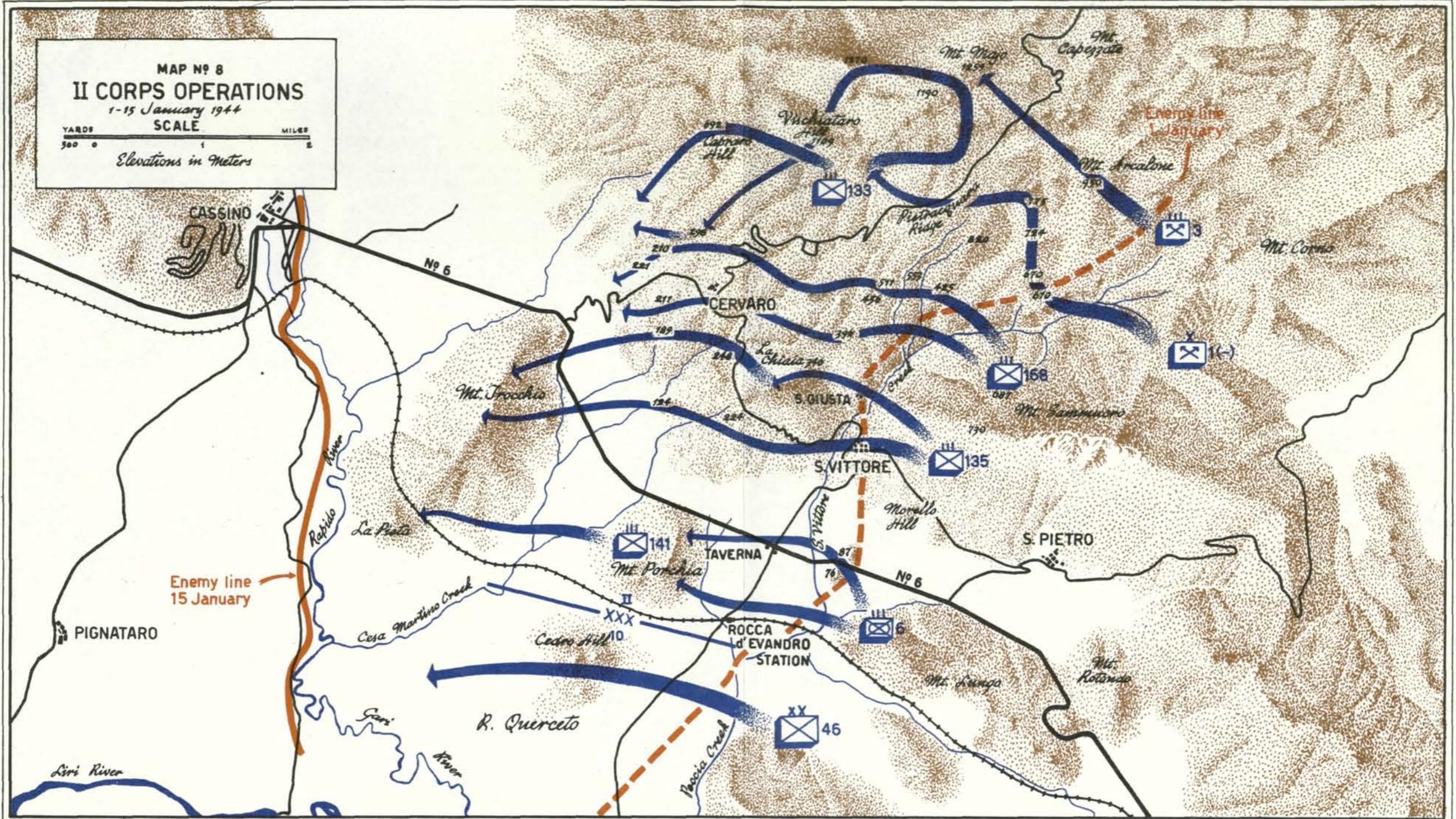
After a complete cancellation of missions during the blizzard on New Year's Day aerial activity began to build up again. During 2-15 January XII Air Support Command pounded enemy positions on the north side of the Mignano Gap. Eighty-four sorties were briefed during this period for Mount La Chiaia, 61 for Mount Porchia, 152 for Cervaro, 56 for Cedro Hill, 152 for Sant'Angelo and vicinity, and 152 for Mount Trocchio. The heavy attacks planned against Mount Trocchio on 15 January were unnecessary because of the enemy's withdrawal, but 48 P-40's attacked enemy positions on the west bank of the Rapido. To the immediate rear of the enemy lines Aquino was visited by 52 sorties, the area near Piedimonte by 56, and enemy guns southwest of Mount Castellone by 52. Considerable success was enjoyed in attacks on targets of opportunity west of San Vittore. On 7 January 16 A-36's and 16 P-40's hit a troop concentration west of Mount La Chiaia. The following day 64 P-40's pounded another concentration northeast of Mount Trocchio, and 12 P-40's bombed and strafed enemy troops southeast of that mountain. Again on 9 January enemy troops forming for a counterattack just northeast of Trocchio were hit hard by eight P-40's.

MAP No 8 II CORPS OPERATIONS

1-15 January 1944

SCALE
YARDS 300 0 MILES 1 2

Elevations in Meters



CHAPTER VI * * * * *

The Winter Line Drive

A. *ADVANCE OF FIFTH ARMY*

See Map No. 9

THE Fifth Army front moved forward from five to seven miles in the Winter Line campaign. On the south flank the enemy was expelled from positions east of the Garigliano River in a drive by 10 Corps and II Corps against the Camino hill mass. Except for its participation in the capture of the Cedro Hill-Mount Porchia area 10 Corps engaged in no further major operations during the period. The greatest advance was made in the center by II Corps along Highway 6 and through the mountains north of the highway. Gains by VI Corps on the right flank were approximately equal to those on the left, but there was no advance at the extreme limit of each flank.

This progress seems small when measured on the map, but the Winter Line campaign cannot be judged solely in terms of square miles captured. The operations were undertaken in the dead of winter, through terrain which imposed every natural obstacle in the path of our troops, against an enemy strongly entrenched in carefully prepared positions. Overcoming all of these obstacles, Fifth Army won the most difficult mountain campaign thus far undertaken by troops of the United Nations. The territory liberated from German arms represents no mean achievement when judged, as it must be, in terms of the terrain, weather, and problems of supply.

The effective strength of Fifth Army on 15 November 1943 was 243,827; on 15 January 1944 it had risen to 326,857. Battle casualties totaled 15,802 during the period. Of this number there were 11,645 wounded, 2,359 killed, and 1,798 missing in action. American units suffered 8,779 battle casualties, or more than 55% of the total, and 49,792 non-battle casualties. No accurate estimate can be made of enemy losses during the same period. As of 15 January 1944 Axis prisoners of war captured by Fifth Army during the Italian campaign numbered 5551, of whom 2036 were taken during the Winter Line

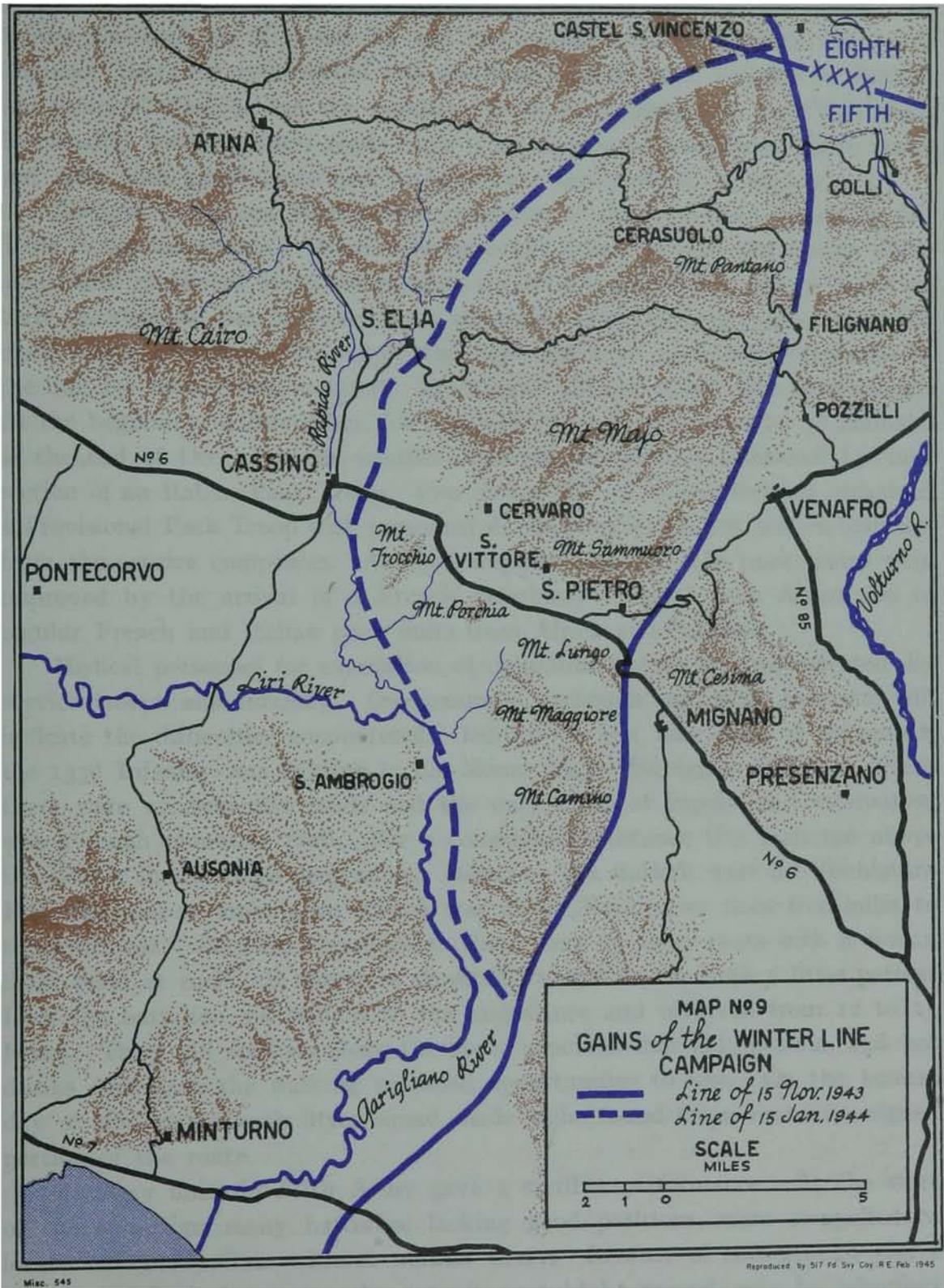
campaign. Interrogation of prisoners revealed that all German divisions opposing our troops suffered heavily, and this information was partly confirmed by the confusion known to exist in the enemy order of battle in mid-January.

B. *PROBLEMS OF MOUNTAIN WARFARE*

Warfare in the Italian mountains placed a premium upon the ingenuity, stamina, and perseverance of Allied troops. The infantry soldier, crouched in a water-filled foxhole or huddled behind some rocky crag in the snow, bore the greatest burden. Non-battle casualties from trench foot, respiratory diseases, and exhaustion were inevitably high. Under such conditions morale could be expected to decline. Rest camps in rear areas did much to alleviate the situation, but unfortunately the rate of venereal disease increased among soldiers at the camps. Shortage of troops necessary to provide adequate relief of front-line units also contributed to the morale problem. One division, for example, spent 115 days in combat out of a total of 122 days since its arrival on Italian soil.

Installation and maintenance of communications was especially difficult throughout the period. During the last two weeks of November, when there was intense activity behind the lines in preparation for renewing the offensive, the most reliable method of communication was by messenger. Telephone lines in forward areas were broken frequently by enemy shelling and on numerous occasions by our own vehicles, the drivers of which could not see the mud-covered wires. Rain falling day after day caused shorts in the lines, interfered with radios, and ruined batteries. Personnel often worked for more than 24 hours without rest to keep communications functioning. When the offensive began, these problems were intensified. Lines had to be laid along rocky trails where enemy mortar and artillery fire tore gaps in the wire.

Engineers were generally able to build footpaths and jeep trails to forward positions to supplement the limited road net. Rain, traffic, and enemy artillery combined to keep roads and bridges in a condition that required constant work. Heavy traffic moving over the roads turned them into streams of mud and seemingly bottomless pits. Ton after ton of gravel and rock, spread in the worst places, kept the roads open. At other impassable spots the engineers laid corduroy. Craters from enemy artillery shells were sometimes so large that culverts were installed for drainage after they had been filled. A very large part of VI Corps traffic had to pass through Venafro, and an average



of 4000 vehicles moved past this bottleneck every 24 hours in December. To lighten the load on Highway 85 and the narrow road to Pozzilli the 120th Engineer Battalion constructed two additional roads from Venafro to Pozzilli and followed close behind the combat troops in repairing the Sant'Elia road. Eventually, however, these roads came to an end in the mountains where mules and men with packboards had to take over the problem of supply.

Without mules our Winter Line campaign would have been extremely difficult if not impossible. Motor vehicles could churn through the muddy flats, men could climb the steep slopes with a case of rations or a can of water on their packboards, but between these extremes were the long trails where the mule was a necessity. To supply the basic needs of an infantry regiment in the line 250 mules were required. The supply did not satisfy this requirement. At the beginning of November, for example, the 45th Division had 32 animals; at the end of December the number exceeded 400 with an additional 140 in a section of an Italian Pack Troop. (*See Annex No. 1.*) Each division organized a Provisional Pack Troop with personnel drawn principally, but not exclusively, from the service companies. As the campaign wore on, the pack trains were improved by the arrival of a French veterinary hospital from Africa and of regular French and Italian pack units from Africa and Sardinia.

Medical personnel for evacuation of casualties had to be supplemented by service troops and infantry. One example, although somewhat extreme, will indicate the difficulties encountered. During the last nine days of the period, the 133d Infantry was fighting in the Mount Majo-Vischiataro Hill area where there were no vehicular roads and the only route of supply and evacuation was a rough mountain trail. For a considerable distance this trail ran above the timber line through deep snow. Battalion aid stations were on Vischiataro Hill; the nearest ambulance station was at Le Noci, more than five miles to the southeast. Between these points there were 12 relay posts with a 6-man litter team at each. It therefore required 72 men to evacuate 1 litter patient from the battalion aid station to the ambulance and involved from 12 to 15 hours. Three aid stations along the route provided first aid, plasma, and hot drinks, and gave the walking wounded opportunities to rest. On the busiest day of this period each litter squad made eight round trips over its assigned portion of the route.

Artillery units in Fifth Army gave a sterling performance. At the start of the campaign many batteries, lacking good positions, were compelled to locate on muddy flats without normal cover. Because of soft ground pieces had to be sited close to roads and often could be moved only by laborious winching. Ammunition, occasionally limited because of transport difficulties,

frequently had to be hand-carried much farther than normal conditions would have required. New firing data had to be computed in many instances where necessary elevation could be obtained only by sinking the trails. The Air Observation Post proved extremely valuable in directing fire, and the enemy made frequent attempts, nearly all of which failed, to destroy the cub planes used in the work. The artillery delivered effective and heavy fire at all times in support of the infantry, in addition to its customary counterbattery and long-range firing. To supplement the artillery tank destroyer units were used for interdictory and harassing fires with good effect. The 90-mm antiaircraft artillery pieces were also used for long-range counterbattery, interdictory, and harassing missions. The high velocity, high elevation, and 32,000-yard range of this piece proved especially valuable in mountain warfare.

Summing up the aerial operations during the Winter Line campaign, one may say definitely that the air arm fulfilled its primary mission as defined in Training Memorandum No. 7, Headquarters Fifth Army (9 March 1944):

The primary value of the Air Force to the immediate ground situation is to prevent the enemy Air Force from interfering materially with our land operations.

German aircraft did appear over our front, especially in the middle of November when the enemy was attempting to stall our drive on the Winter Line; at this time the artillery battalions of the 45th Division suffered losses in men and materiel. Thereafter enemy air activity diminished drastically, and at no time during the subsequent operations did enemy planes seriously threaten either front-line troops or supply routes. Attempts by our air force, however, to deny the enemy use of his main lines of communication were not uniformly successful, inasmuch as only one of the four bridges attacked in force was badly damaged. The mountainous terrain on the north flank of Fifth Army rendered abortive many missions against such points as Viticuso, Acquafondata, Sant' Elia, and Atina. More success was scored in attacks on the area targets offered by enemy artillery and assembly positions in the vicinity of the Mignano Gap. The relative effect of the heavy air support in this area on 1-2 December, 15-18 December, and again on 3-15 January cannot be determined accurately, but the occasional failure of an entire flight to hit the target was more than balanced by ground reports of very successful missions. Again it must be emphasized that bad flying weather often grounded the planes, low ceilings made operations over the mountains extremely hazardous, and poor visibility frequently prevailed.

C. *ADVANCE OF EIGHTH ARMY*

See Map No. 2

During the period 1-15 November the British forces of Eighth Army advanced across the Trigno River and held a line from Isernia through Agnone to the Adriatic. By 13 November advance elements reached the Sangro River and patrols went across the stream at several places. In preparation for forcing the Sangro the weight of Eighth Army was shifted to the right. In the attack which began on the night of 19-20 November the 78 Infantry Division and the 1 Canadian Division established bridgeheads, held them against counterattacks, and passed the remainder of the month in consolidating and extending their gains. The November advance of Eighth Army averaged 25 miles against strong enemy opposition in which the German 65th Grenadier Division was virtually destroyed.

In December Eighth Army pushed on to establish a bridgehead across the Moro River and to develop the Orsogna and Ortona areas. The river line was reached on 5 December and a crossing was successful during the night of 8-9 December. Four days later the 1 Canadian Division was engaged on the outskirts of Ortona, which continued to hold out for two weeks. The capture of Ortona ended the advance of Eighth Army for the period.

ANNEX NUMBER ONE * * * * *

Quartermaster Supply

QUARTERMASTER SUPPLY

NOVEMBER-JANUARY

1. *Quartermaster Problems.* During the operations by Fifth Army against the Winter Line the most serious problems of quartermaster supply were the procurement and use of pack trains, the construction and operation of a pipeline, and the furnishing of adequate food and clothing to front-line troops. In each case adjustments were made in transportation and supply to meet the requirements of mountainous terrain, cold and rainy weather, long lines of communication, and heavy traffic on the restricted road net. During parts of November and December the Peninsular Base Section could not unload and sort rations, clothing, and equipment fast enough to meet the needs of Fifth Army. Although these conditions produced serious strains on the transportation and supply system, they did not at any time cut off the flow of supplies to the Army. During November and December the Army Quartermaster frequently unloaded supplies directly from shipside in Naples and sorted them without assistance from the Peninsular Base Section, which was in the process of being organized.

2. *Roads, Bridges, and Dumps.* Besides terrain the weather and heavy traffic most seriously affected the transport of quartermaster supplies. Rain fell almost daily during the period, turning dump areas into quagmires and making roads impassable or so muddy that transportation was hampered. At times trucks bogged down and had to be winched out, dump sites were moved, and tons of gravel were laid on the roads.

Heavy rains during the period 14-19 November flooded the Volturno, swept away all the bridges except the one at Capua, and threatened to halt the flow of supplies to the front. The Army G-4 was compelled to stop the movement of supplies to quartermaster dumps at Piedimonte for four days, and prepared plans for setting up emergency reserves of Class I, II, and IV

supplies across the Volturno should the Capua bridge be washed out. However, enough bridges were restored to make this measure unnecessary. Several times during December heavy rains made the Volturno bridge between Venafro and Capriati impassable and caused a circuitous movement of supplies. The limited network of supply routes, as well as enemy damage to roads and bridges throughout the campaign, resulted in serious traffic congestion at many points. In December, for example, four divisions had to use Highway 85 from its junction with Highway 6 to Venafro. Only strict traffic control enabled the movement of supplies to continue without interruption.

3. *Pack Trains.* Because of the mountainous terrain primitive methods of transportation—pack trains and man-carry of supplies—became very important in the Winter Line operations. At the end of November five infantry battalions of the 34th Division were receiving all their food and ammunition by mule transport. During November and December the infantry regiments and in some cases the artillery battalions of the 36th and 45th Divisions had to rely mainly on pack trains for the delivery of supplies to forward areas where motor transport could not operate. On some rugged mountain slopes even mules could not be used and men packed the supplies to front-line outfits.

Throughout the period 15 November-15 January the procurement of animals, equipment, and forage presented many problems. In Italy pack animals were hard to find, and in North Africa the number available was sufficient only to meet the needs of French units. Except for the small pack train which the 3d Division brought with it from Sicily, all the animals used by Fifth Army before 1 December were obtained in Italy. The countryside was combed and stocks at the Persano Remount Station were fully exploited. Some of the animals secured in Italy were purchased or requisitioned locally by the 3d, 34th, and 45th Divisions; the rest were obtained by the Fifth Army Quartermaster, the Allied Military Government, or the Peninsular Base Section. An adequate supply of mules for the 36th Division was obtained only after the arrival from Sardinia of the 1st Italian Pack Train. In December local procurement of larger numbers of animals by the Peninsular Base Section and the arrival of the 2d Italian Pack Train from Sardinia increased Fifth Army's supply of animals. The two French divisions which arrived in Italy during December brought their own pack trains from North Africa, but had to supplement their supply of animals and equipment from Peninsular Base Section stocks and by requisition on local sources.

As the need for their use became greater, the strength of the pack trains increased. During December the 45th Division Pack Train grew in size from about 200 to more than 400 animals. From the meager beginning of 30 ani-

mals on 20 November the 36th Division Pack Train increased to 126 by 13 December, exclusive of the 272 animals in the attached Italian pack train. At the end of November the pack train of the 34th Division numbered 194. By 12 December Fifth Army had 2257 pack animals. Of this number the pack trains in American divisions accounted for 1292; the 1st and 2d Italian Pack Trains had 600; and the French had the rest, or 365.

During most of the period the difficulty of obtaining suitable animals was more than matched by the problem of supply of adequate pack equipment. Shoes, nails, halters, saddles, and some other items of equipment were seldom available in sufficient quantities. The shortage of horseshoeing equipment and material caused an average of 72 animals from the 34th Division Pack Train to be continuously unserviceable throughout November. Most of the pack equipment had to be made or purchased in Italy because of the need for an immediate supply and the shortage of such equipment in the Mediterranean area. Some nails and shoes were obtained from North Africa; a few pack saddles were secured from Sicily; and some pack boards were shipped by air and water from New York. By far the larger portion of the pack equipment was purchased locally in Italy, or was made in the Naples area by Italian manufacturers. Through the efforts of the Peninsular Base Section small factories were put into operation to produce pack equipment based on American and Italian models. There was a noticeable shortage of suitable feed in North Africa and Italy. The amount of forage in North Africa was sufficient only for the supply of French units there; and in Italy the Germans had taken or destroyed much of the local supply as they retreated. The Italian shortage of hay and straw was made more acute when the French 14th Muleteers Pack Train arrived in December without an adequate supply.

4. *Pipelines.* An important step taken to speed the flow of gasoline to Fifth Army was the construction of a pipeline from Naples to supply points at Fertilia, Capua, and Calvi Risorta. After the capture of Naples construction was delayed until the bulk storage and unloading facilities were repaired. By the end of October 40% of these installations had been repaired, one 4-inch pipeline had been laid connecting them with the docks, and the construction of another was well advanced. The way thus paved for bulk transportation, one 4-inch pipeline was laid from Naples to Fertilia and began operation on 12 November. From that time until 12 December, when the pipeline was opened to Capua, the terminal point at Fertilia furnished a large part of the daily gasoline requirements of Fifth Army. Still, the pipeline's limited daily capacity of 130,000 gallons made necessary supplementary rail and truck shipments from Naples to the Army Base Dump at Caserta. Even so, the use of

the pipeline to Fertilia saved considerable truck and rail transportation, reduced traffic for 12 miles over a crowded highway, and expedited the flow of gasoline to Fifth Army.

A single branch line was laid from Fertilia to Capua to speed the shipment of gasoline to Fifth Army dumps while the main line was being extended to Calvi Risorta. Beginning operation on 12 December, it partially supplied the bulk requirements of Fifth Army and dispensed canned and drummed gasoline to local service units south of the Volturno. Yet the full potentialities of the pipeline supply were not realized until 22 December, when the extension to Calvi Risorta was put into operation. From that time until the close of the Winter Line campaign gasoline was daily pumped over two pipelines from Naples to Calvi Risorta, a distance of 25 miles. At the terminal point it was transferred to storage tanks, dispensed into 5-gallon cans or 55-gallon drums, and shipped by truck to forward dumps where infantry divisions and supporting units drew their supplies. Having a daily capacity of 260,000 gallons, the double pipeline to Calvi Risorta could fill the requirements of Fifth Army. Easily and quickly laid, it reduced traffic and freed rail and truck transportation for other purposes. During the month of January, for example, use of this double pipeline saved an average of 50 rail cars daily, or from 250 to 300 trucks. Moreover, the pipeline was such a small target that it was practically invulnerable to enemy air attack and artillery fire.

5. *Clothing.* The cold, rainy weather which prevailed during most of the Winter Line campaign made the supply of warm clothing, waterproof footwear, extra tentage, blankets, and heating stoves a serious quartermaster problem. By the middle of November troops in the front lines and in rest areas preparing for Operation Raincoat had received about 95% of their T/BA woolen clothing. Yet this supply did not meet the needs of weather and terrain: the overcoat was heavy and cumbersome, and the field jacket was neither warm nor sufficiently durable for combat. The deficiencies of the T/BA clothing were corrected in large part by the issue of combat jackets and trousers early in December. The 34th, 36th, and 45th Divisions received enough combat suits to outfit the infantry regiments and to make partial issues to artillery and engineer battalions, chemical and signal companies, and other units that were required to be in the open continually. As cold weather increased the need for ground covers, extra shelter halves were furnished to the troops in the front-line infantry divisions.

Throughout the rainy month of November most combat troops lacked sufficient socks and overshoes to keep their feet dry. The sock shortage was caused by the unexpectedly high maintenance rates of the campaign. Socks

wore out quickly in the rough terrain and had to be changed frequently in wet weather, a fact that was pointed up by the sharp increase in the rate of trench foot and the incidence of sickness from exposure. By the beginning of December the shortage was relieved considerably by the arrival of 500,000 light wool socks from North Africa. Given priority of issue, combat units were able to fill their immediate replacement needs. Orders for an adequate supply of arctics were placed by the Fifth Army Quartermaster in October, but the first large shipments did not arrive from New York until after 1 December. By 11 December each infantry division had received 7,000 pairs, and by the end of the month Fifth Army had been issued 130,000 pairs.

6. *Salvage.* During the Winter Line campaign salvage became an important factor in the supply of Class II and IV items, saving time, money, and ship space. At an average cost of 14 cents, over 100,000 pieces of woolen clothing were repaired during January by civilian tailors for reissue to the troops. The repair shop of the 230th Quartermaster Salvage Collecting Company hammered or blew by compressed air large quantities of damaged mess equipment into shape. Enough canteens, for instance, were repaired in one month to equip 80% of an infantry division. Based on the cost of replacement, the saving from salvaged clothing and equipment had increased by 15 January to the rate of nearly \$2,000,000 a month.

7. *Rations.* During the Winter Line campaign the principal food problem was to furnish rations with proper nutritive value and in sufficient variety to satisfy the troops. Throughout the period an adequate stock of rations was maintained by the Army, but the content did not meet the recommendations of medical officers. For the most part the B rations furnished during the period were balanced and conformed to menu requirements. Stocks of tea, coffee, and cocoa were never sufficient to provide hot drinks more than twice daily to combat troops or more than once daily to those in rear areas. Front-line troops who had to use emergency rations found the components of the C and K types lacking in variety. An extended survey of rations in the Italian theater revealed that for troops engaging in vigorous exercise in cold weather, the B, C, K, 5-1, and 10-1 rations had daily caloric deficiencies from 900 to 1400 calories, varying with the type. Because of the cold weather an additional coffee ration was issued to troops in the forward area. The arrival of two more bakery units made possible an increase in the bread issue with the B rations from 35 pounds per 100 men in November to 55 pounds per 100 men in December. Bread was supplied with hard rations on the basis of 15 pounds per 100 men in November, an issue which was doubled in December. Issues of fresh fruit, vegetables, and frozen meat were steadily increased.

8. *French Supply.* According to decisions reached by Allied Force Headquarters, supplies for the FEC, which began to arrive in Italy at the end of November, were furnished from French North African stocks as far as they permitted. The rest were provided on a lend-lease basis from American sources. Petroleum products were issued to the French troops in Italy from a common pool without formal stock accounting. Special rations had to be provided for issue to the French and Moslem troops to meet their habits and religious beliefs. Issues were made to the first two French divisions to complete their T/BA equipment and additional special issues required to meet the unusual conditions existing in mountainous warfare. Shortage of such items as blankets, arctics, and shelter halves precluded their issue on the same basis as had been made previously to American troops.

QUARTERMASTER SUPPLIES

NOVEMBER 1943-JANUARY 1944

CHART I . . . TONNAGE ISSUED

	<i>Class I</i>	<i>Class II & IV</i>	<i>Class III</i>	<i>Total</i>
Nov.	12,435.71	2,181	13,612.81	28,229.5
Dec.	15,515.11	3,433	19,861.47	38,809.6
Jan.	16,027.60	3,108	20,506.40	39,642.0
Total	43,978.42	8,722	53,980.68	106,681.1

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

	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>January</i>
B	4,022,300	5,646,082	4,741,673
C	372,517	221,257	462,003
D	29,420	54,784	94,780
K	416,473	359,939	468,268
5-I	433,298	363,441	.....
10-I	5,620	.....	314,288
American Total (1)	5,279,628	6,645,503	6,081,012
Average American Daily Issue	175,988	214,371	196,162
French . . . . .	.....	272,631	439,127
Moslem . . . . .	.....	297,559	413,771
Italian . . . . .	.....	.....	299,687
Grand Total	5,279,628	7,215,693	7,233,597

(1) Includes British issues, which were insignificant, and issues made to Peninsular Base Section and Air Force troops drawing from Fifth Army Class I truckheads. For the months of November and December the American total also includes Italian issues.

CHART III . . . OTHER CLASS I ISSUES

	<i>Tobacco</i>	<i>Toilet Arts.</i>	<i>Candy</i>	<i>Soap</i>	<i>Bread</i> (pounds)	<i>Meat</i>	<i>Butter</i> (issues)
Nov.	3,555,108	3,257,334	4,221,887	318,745	1,732,380	15	9
Dec.	6,315,834	4,422,736	4,260,956	488,556	3,182,094	18	16
Jan.	4,934,857	4,473,116	4,448,351	466,411	2,859,522	23	30

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>
Nov.	3,820,960	119,781	16,130	78,048	40,895
Dec.	5,287,180	210,976	29,636	120,830	76,590
Jan.	5,645,873	191,803	70,960	140,402	88,327

ANNEX NUMBER TWO . * * * * *

Operations Instructions

A

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 31

15th Army Group
8 November 1943
15 AG/CGS/44

Personal for Lieut. General Mark W. Clark,
Commanding General, Fifth Army

1. It is clear that both Fifth and Eighth Armies have on most of the battle front gained contact with the enemy's main defensive position in Southern Italy. A co-ordinated effort is now required to break through to ROME.

2. My plan for future operations is divided into the following three phases:

Phase I. Operations of Eighth Army to get astride the road communications in the area PESCARA-POPOLI-COLLARMELE, from there to threaten the enemy L of C behind Fifth Army via AVEZZANO.

Phase II. An attack by Fifth Army to drive up the LIRI and SACCO valleys to FROSINONE.

Phase III. An amphibious operation south of Rome directed on COLLI LAZIALI, together with a possible airborne landing by one RCT.

3. Additional LST's are being retained in this theatre till 15 December and will enable the French Moroccans and one British Division to be operational in the Fifth and Eighth Armies by 7 and 15 December respectively. It is as yet uncertain whether sufficient craft will be available for Phase III but you will begin planning on the supposition that craft will be available. The ground forces for this operation will be provided by you. C-in-C Med has been asked to send you a Naval Planning Staff.

4. During the preparatory periods, offensive probing of the enemy position along the whole front will not be relaxed and will be kept stretched to the utmost so as to give him no opportunity to rest or re-group. Eighth Army has already begun its drive forward on the left flank and you should give it such assistance as you can. The main Eighth Army thrust will take place NOT before 20 November. This information is for your personal knowledge only.

5. You should take the earliest opportunity to re-group your forces to prepare for Phase II. If Phase III takes place, it must be timed so that Fifth Army are within supporting distance of the landing.

6. All available air support will be given to Eighth Army for Phase I and to Fifth Army for Phase II and III.

A. A. RICHARDSON
Major General
fr GOC - in - C 15th Army Group

In the Field

Copy to: General Sir B. L. Montgomery

B

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION
NUMBER 8

Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
NAPLES, Italy
201600 October 1943

1. *a.* The Eighth Army continues its advance on our right. The present positions of its leading elements are: BOJANA (H 3919) - BARANELLO (H 4625) - MONTAGANO (H 5638) - LUCITO (H 5747) - M. PELOSI (H 6958) - PETACCIATO (H 7280).

b. The XII Air Support Command continues to support the Fifth Army. The number of all weather fields from which this force can operate during inclement weather is steadily being increased.

2. *a.* The Fifth Army continues its attack to the northwest to seize the line ISERNIA (H 1932) (exclusive) - M. PASSERO (G 9629) - GARIGLIANO River from G 9011 to the sea.

b. Boundary between Armies and between Corps as shown on overlay.

3. *a.* 10 Corps.

1) The 10 Corps making its main effort on its right will secure terrain objectives as shown on overlay and push light forces forward to seize the indicated phase line within its zone of action.

2) Maintain contact with VI Corps on its right.

b. VI Corps.

1) The VI Corps making its main effort on its left will seize the terrain objectives indicated and push light forces forward to seize the indicated phase line within its zone of action.

2) Maintain contact with Eighth Army on its right.

3) Protect the right of the Army.

c. Both Corps will push rapidly forward within their zones of action thereby facilitating the advance of the other Corps.

d. Operations to be conducted by either Corps in zone of action of the other will be coordinated between Corps Commanders prior to execution. This headquarters will be notified.

4. On completion of the current mission of seizing the line indicated in 3a the Fifth Army will, without delay, continue its advance to the general line OPI (G 8353) (exclusive) – ALVITO (G 7943) – ARCE (G 6431) – FONDI (G 5206). The general plan of advance to this line is as follows:

a. Main forces of 10 Corps to remain in positions; light forces to maintain pressure on the enemy along the entire corps front and, by patrols, movements of troops and massing of fire, give indications of forcing the crossing of the GARIGLIANO with a main effort in the MINTURNO area. It is not planned to force the crossing of this river with large forces.

b. The II Corps, consisting of the 36th Division, one other division and certain supporting troops, will be put into action generally in the zone of action now held by 10 Corps. When the hill mass that lies between FORMIA and PONTECORVO has been cleared of the enemy by the II Corps, 10 Corps less corps artillery and certain engineer and other service troops as may be required, will pass to Army Reserve, on Army Order, in the general area south of Highway No. 6 (exclusive) between the GARIGLIANO and VOLTURNO Rivers. Exact area later.

c. VI Corps, consisting of two divisions and certain supporting troops, will continue operations as the right (north) Corps, generally north of Highway No. 6.

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C

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION

NUMBER

9

Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
CASERTA, Italy
040900A November 1943

1. On reaching the phase line prescribed in Operations Instruction No. 8 the Army will continue its attack in accordance with the following instructions.
2. Formation - Corps abreast, VI Corps on the right, II Corps in center and 10 Corps on left.
3. Boundaries:
 - a. Eighth Army and Fifth Army: No change.
 - b. Inter-Corps boundaries indicated below will become effective on Army Order to be issued later.
 - 1) VI Corps and II Corps: CR (G 866265) to VI Corps - RJ (G 890245) to II Corps - VITICUSO (G 975245) - VENAFRO - thence Highway No. 85 to RJ (H 089088) all to VI Corps.
 - 2) II Corps and 10 Corps: PICO - RJ (M 699129) - ESPERIA - CASTELNUOVO - S. ANDREA - CR (M 991030) to II Corps - ORCHI - CR (N 081985) - TEANO - SPARANISE - Airfield (N 1479) - LA FORESTA (N 148762) all to 10 Corps.
4. VI Corps with 34th and 45th Inf Divs, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 1st and 4th Ranger Battalions and supporting troops as listed in Inclosure No. 1 (Troop List - effective on Army Order) will:
 - a. Make the main effort of the Army advancing vigorously within its zone of action to seize objective indicated in overlay.
 - b. Maintain contact with Eighth Army.
 - c. Protect right flank of Fifth Army.
5. II Corps with 3d and 36th Inf Divs and supporting troops as listed in Inclosure No. 1 (Troop List - effective on Army Order) will:
 - a. Advance within its zone of action with the principal mission of assisting VI Corps in the capture of the hill mass NW of CASSINO.
 - b. Maintain contact with VI Corps.

c. As the situation develops, submit recommendations to this headquarters for the employment of elements of the 1st Armored Div.

6. 10 Corps will:

a. Maintain pressure along the GARIGLIANO River from the Corps boundary to the sea by harassing fires and active patrolling north of the river in order to contain the enemy in this sector.

b. Assist the advance of the II Corps with artillery fires. Detail plans by agreement between Corps Commanders.

c. Conduct reconnaissances for crossing sites over the GARIGLIANO.

d. Be prepared on Army Order to force a crossing over the GARIGLIANO and operate in accordance with Army Operations Instruction to be issued later.

e. Protect the left flank of the Army.

7. Army Reserve: 1st Armored Division (less elements) now in Assembly Area in vicinity of CAIVANO (N 2668).

8. Except for artillery fires, no Corps will conduct operations within the zone of action of another Corps without approval by this Headquarters.

9. Instructions reference reassignment of units and changes in missions for Field Artillery, AA Artillery, Engineers and service units will be issued separately.

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D

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION
NUMBER IO

{

Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
CASERTA, Italy
160900A November 1943

1. The strength of enemy forces on the front of the Fifth Army and the established fact that our forces have gained contact with enemy's main defensive positions in southern Italy preclude an immediate initiation of the Army attack as outlined in Operations Instruction No. 9, Headquarters Fifth Army, dated 040900 November 1943. Prior to the resumption of the attack by Fifth Army, Eighth Army will conduct operations to get astride the road communications in the area PESCARA-POPOLI-COLLARMELE and from there threaten the enemy L of C behind Fifth Army.

2. Fifth Army will hold its present positions, regroup its forces and prepare an attack to be launched about 30 November. During the period prior to the attack offensive probing of the enemy positions along the entire front will be conducted to keep the enemy stretched and prevent his resting. Instructions for attack will be issued later but it is planned to attack with the VI, II and IO Corps abreast. The VI Corps on the right to attack generally west with the axis of advance along the roads COLLI-ATINA and FILIGNANO-S. ELIA. The II Corps to breach the enemy lines along Highway No. 6. As soon as the advance of II Corps attack permits, it is planned to employ all or part of the 1st Armd Div for an attack in this sector. The IO Corps on the left will assist the attack of II Corps and force a crossing of the GARIGLIANO River to establish a bridgehead in the CASTELFORTE area and from that area be prepared to operate to the north and/or west.

3. To accomplish current Army missions stated in paragraph 2 above:
- a. VI Corps will:
 - 1) Hold the general line ROCCHETTA (H 056362) - FILIGNANO (H 050270) - M. CORNO (H 009202) - M. ROTONDO (G 980140) - CASPOLI (G 970085) (exclusive).
 - 2) Conduct the relief of the 3d Division by the 36th Division.
 - 3) Move 3d Division units, when relieved, to bivouac areas east of Highway No. 6 between VAIRANO and PIETRAMELARA.

- 4) Protect the right flank of the Army.
 - 5) Maintain contact with Eighth Army.
- b. II Corps will:
- 1) On Army order assume command of the 36th Division and 3d Division with zone of action indicated on overlay. Orders directing this change of command will be issued when 36th Division has relieved 3d Division.
 - 2) Move units assigned and now available to II Corps into forward positions - all moves to be coordinated with VI Corps until relief of 3d Division is completed.
 - 3) Maintain contact with VI Corps.
- c. 10 Corps will:
- 1) Defend the lines CASPOLI (G 970085) (inclusive) - CAMPO (G 965075) - VANDRIA (G 956045) - SIPPICIANO (G 950025) thence SW to GARIGLIANO River at (G 913009) thence GARIGLIANO River to the sea.
 - 2) Protect left flank of the Army.
 - 3) Maintain contact with II Corps.

4. Boundaries.

See Operations Map. The road from RJ at G 989029 to MIGNANO lies in part within the zone of action of both the 10 Corps and II Corps. The use of this road within the zone of action of the other Corps will be by arrangement between Corps commanders.

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OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION
NUMBER II

Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
CASERTA, Italy
242200 November 1943

The Fifth Army will resume the offensive by phases, Phase I commencing on or about Dec 2. In order that the maximum air and artillery support may be used successively against the most difficult terrain, the operation will be divided into the three phases as follows:

I. *Phase I*: Capture of the critical terrain features M. CAMINO - M. LA DIFENSA - M. MAGGIORE.

a. IO Corps.

- 1) To capture the M. CAMINO hill mass. This operation will be preceded 24 hours, by attack Dec 1 to secure the CALABRITTO feature.
- 2) To be prepared on Army Order to relieve II Corps troops occupying M. LA DIFENSA and M. MAGGIORE. Details of relief will be arranged direct by Corps Commanders.
- 3) Feint - by active patrolling, establishment of supply dumps, radio deception, movement of personnel and vehicles etc. to indicate to the enemy intentions to force a crossing of the lower R. GARIGLIANO. Area in which these deceptive actions take place to be selected by the Corps Commander. Plans for Naval fires along the coast to harass enemy positions and contribute to this cover plan to be arranged by Corps Commander direct with Flag Officer, Western Italy.
- 4) Maintain contact with II Corps.

b. II Corps.

- 1) To capture M. LA DIFENSA and M. MAGGIORE.
- 2) Maintain contact with VI Corps.

c. VI Corps.

- 1) To harass enemy by offensive probing of defensive positions along entire Corps front, with particular emphasis on the Corps right flank.

See Restricted to R 5723-A

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- 2) Maintain contact with Eighth Army.
- 3) Protect right flank of Fifth Army.

2. *Phase II*: Capture of M. SAMMUCRO simultaneously (in conjunction) with an attack west along the COLLI-ATINA road. Initiation of this phase will be on Army Order.

- a. IO Corps.
 - 1) Consolidate positions on M. CAMINO, M. LA DIFENSA and M. MAGGIORE.
 - 2) Assist by fires II Corps attack on M. SAMMUCRO.
 - 3) Maintain contact with II Corps.
 - 4) Continue offensive activity along the River GARIGLIANO.
- b. II Corps.
 - 1) Capture of M. SAMMUCRO.
 - 2) Maintain contact with VI Corps.
- c. VI Corps.
 - 1) Assist II Corps in capture of M. SAMMUCRO.
 - 2) Launch an attack with one division west via the road COLLI-ATINA in the direction of the hill mass N and NW of CASSINO.
 - 3) Make a secondary attack west along the FILIGNANO-S. ELIA road, towards the same objective.
 - 4) Maintain contact with Eighth Army.
 - 5) Protect right flank of Fifth Army.

3. *Phase III*: The main attack into the LIRI valley. Initiation of this phase on Army Order.

- a. IO Corps.
 - 1) Protect left flank of II Corps by occupying the objective shown on overlay. (To be occupied at such a time as to keep abreast of the advance of II Corps.)
 - 2) When the advance of the II Corps is such as to permit the bringing up of bridging materials, to force a crossing of the River LIRI, occupy a bridgehead in the general vicinity of S. AMBROGIO (G 8910) and from that bridgehead be prepared to conduct further operations to cover the left flank of II Corps.
 - 3) Maintain contact with II Corps.
 - 4) Continue offensive activity along the River GARIGLIANO.
- b. II Corps.
 - 1) To attack NW along Highway No. 6, with the mission of developing the enemy defenses in the vicinity of Cassino.

- 2) To be prepared at a favorable opportunity, to attack to the west with additional elements and create an opening for armored attack.
 - 3) Maintain contact with VI Corps.
- c. VI Corps.
- 1) Continue attacks outlined in Phase II and, assisted by II Corps, seize the high ground north and NW of CASSINO.
 - 2) To employ elements of the 2nd Moroccan Division, Reinforced to replace the 34th Division as soon as the Moroccan units can be made available.
 - 3) Upon relief, to concentrate the 34th Division in Army reserve in the general area shown on overlay.
 - 4) Maintain contact with Eighth Army.
 - 5) Protect right flank of Fifth Army.

4. *Army Reserve.*

1st Armored Division, Reinforced to prepare plans for the employment of armored units under II Corps in the River LIRI valley when II Corps has reached positions through which armored units can debouch.

5. *Boundaries.*

See Overlay.

6. Instructions for the coordination of artillery support between corps for each phase will be covered in Army instructions to be issued later.

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F

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION
NUMBER 12

Headquarters Fifth Army
A.P.O. No. 464, U.S. Army
In the Field
161100 December 1943

1. It is expected that on or about 20 December operations outlined in Phase II, Operations Instruction No. 11, Headquarters Fifth Army, dated 24 November, will have been completed and that leading elements of the Fifth Army will have reached the general line indicated on overlay.

2. Phase III, Operations Instruction No. 11, as changed herein, will be initiated on conclusion of Phase II, exact date will be issued separately.

3. a. 10 Corps.

- 1) Protect left flank of II Corps by occupying objective shown on overlay. (This operation to be coordinated with II Corps attack on Mt. PORCHIA. Light forces only to move into the area indicated until such time as necessary anti-tank guns can be moved forward into area via roads within zone of action of II Corps.)
- 2) When the advance of the II Corps is such as to permit the bringing up of bridging materials, to force a crossing of the River LIRI, occupy a bridgehead in the general vicinity of S. AMBROGIO (G 8910) and from that bridgehead be prepared to conduct further operations to cover the left flank of II Corps. (This operation to be coordinated with II Corps attack on Mt. TROCCHIO.)
- 3) Maintain contact with II Corps.
- 4) Continue offensive activity along the River GARIGLIANO.
- 5) Protect left flank of Army.

b. II Corps.

- 1) Capture MT. PORCHIA and Mt. TROCCHIO (See 3a [1] and [2]). Be prepared on Army order to assist VI Corps in the capture of high ground NW of CASSINO.
- 2) Secure a bridgehead over the RAPIDO River.

- 3) Employ the maximum amount of armor to pass through the bridgehead and drive northwest through the LIRI valley to the MELFA River. For this purpose the 1st Armored Division is attached to II Corps. It will not be employed without authority this headquarters.
- c. VI Corps.
- 1) Continue attack begun 15 December and seize high ground NW of CASSINO.
 - 2) Maintain contact with Eighth Army.
 - 3) Maintain contact with II Corps.
 - 4) Protect right flank of Fifth Army.

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ANNEX NUMBER THREE * * * * *

Statistics

A

CASUALTIES, U. S. FORCES

16 NOVEMBER 1943-15 JANUARY 1944

	Killed in Action	Wounded in Action	Missing in Action	Total
16 November	13	87	2	102
17 »	7	74	2	83
18 »	16	66		82
19 »	27	109	1	137
20 »	14	101		115
21 »	25	136		161
22 »	24	95		119
23 »	22	96	13	131
24 »	20	51	7	78
25 »	21	61		82
26 »	11	49	4	64
27 »	10	78	8	96
28 »	14	63		77
29 »	32	160	4	196
30 »	57	180	2	239
1 December	47	198		245
2 »	46	153	9	208
3 »	71	277	7	355
4 »	36	171	3	210
5 »	44	152	2	198
6 »	30	155	2	187
7 »	31	111	6	148
8 »	46	309	8	363
9 »	48	247	8	303
10 »	24	90		114

	Killed in Action	Wounded in Action	Missing in Action	Total
11 December	25	127		152
12 »	25	111	1	137
13 »	13	69	4	86
14 »	27	98	1	126
15 »	84	347	25	456
16 »	44	268	11	323
17 »	11	83		94
18 »	5	23	1	29
19 »	24	140	2	166
20 »	35	81	1	117
21 »	21	78	1	100
22 »	18	68	2	88
23 »	10	43	1	54
24 »	16	37		53
25 »	21	79	2	102
26 »	5	31		36
27 »	8	31	1	40
28 »	6	24		30
29 »	7	29		36
30 »	50	78	5	133
31 »	2	53		55
1 January	6	29		35
2 »	7	34		41
3 »	30	121	2	153
4 »	26	89	3	118
5 »	59	231	69	359
6 »	64	282	8	354
7 »	65	362	5	432
8 »	24	129	3	156
9 »	22	93		115
10 »	22	123	6	151
11 »	20	73	1	94
12 »	31	77	3	111
13 »	25	68	16	109
14 »	12	36		48
15 »	9	41	9	59
Total	<u>1615</u>	<u>6955</u>	<u>271</u>	<u>8841</u>

B

TOTAL CASUALTIES, STRENGTH, AND PRISONERS OF WAR

1. BATTLE CASUALTIES

9 SEPTEMBER-15 NOVEMBER 1943

	Killed in Action	Wounded in Action	Missing in Action	Total
American	2,162	8,024	1,604	11,790
British	1,425	6,067	2,627	10,119
	3,587	14,091	4,231	21,909

16 NOVEMBER 1943-15 JANUARY 1944

American	1,615	6,955	271	8,841
British	347	2,405	380	3,132
French	449	2,728	128	3,305
Italian	113	191	282	586
	2,524	12,279	1,061	15,864

2. PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED BY FIFTH ARMY

9 SEPT.-15 NOV. 1943 | 16 NOV. 1943-15 JAN. 1944 | 9 SEPT. 1943-15 JAN. 1944

American	2,119	1,332	3,451
British	1,396	401	1,797
French	....	294	294
Italian	....	9	9
Total	3,515	2,036	5,551

3. *STRENGTH OF COMMAND*

	Effective Strength		Total Replacements
	15 NOVEMBER 1943	15 JANUARY 1944	15 JANUARY 1944
American	171,294	183,190	33,630
British	72,533	105,147	12,817
French	.....	31,812	976
Italian	.....	6,708	1,204
Total	<u>243,827</u>	<u>326,857</u>	<u>48,627</u>

C

MAJOR ORDNANCE LOSSES

11 NOVEMBER 1943 - 20 JANUARY 1944

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE LIST GROUP A

Carriage, gun, 37-mm, M4 & M4A1	1
Gun, 37-mm, M3 & M3A1	1
Gun, auto., 40-mm, M2	1
Gun, auto., 40-mm, w/carriage M1	1
Gun, MG, cal .30, M1917A1	42
Gun, MG, cal .30, M1919A4	109
Gun, MG, cal .50, M2, HB	18
Gun, MG, cal .50, M2, WC	3
Gun, MG, cal .50, WC	2
Gun, sub MG, cal .45, Thompson, M1928A1, M1 & M1A1.	158
Mortar, 60-mm, M2	57
Mortar, 81-mm, M1	16
Rifle, auto., cal .30, Browning, M1918 & A2	266

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE LIST GROUP B

Bayonet, M1905 & M1917	963
Carbine, cal .30, M1	557
Knife, trench, M1 & M3	270
Launcher, grenade, M1	517
Launcher, grenade, M7 (for M1 rifle)	12
Launcher, rocket, AT, M1	74
Launcher, rocket, AT, M1A1	88
Launcher, rocket, AT, M1A2	237
Pistol, auto., cal .45, M1911, M1911A1	731

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE LIST GROUP B

Pistol, pyro, AN M8	1
Pistol, Very, 10 Gauge, MK III, IV & V.	28
Projector, pyro, hand, M9	45
Projector, signal, ground, M4	58
Revolver, cal .45, M1917, Colt	5
Rifle, US, cal .30, M1903 & M1903A1	193
Rifle, US, cal .30, M1903A4, snipers	95
Rifle, US, cal .30, M1	676

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE LIST GROUP C

Gun, 57-mm, M1, w/carriage M1A1 & M1A2	27
Gun, 57-mm, M1, M1A3, w/carriage	2
Gun, 3-inch, M5, AT, w/carriage M1	1
Gun, 4.5-inch, M1, w/carriage M1	4
Howitzer, 75-mm, M1 & M1A1, w/carriage M1, pack	10
Howitzer, 105-mm, M1 & M1A1, w/carriage M3A3	2
Howitzer, 105-mm, M2 & M2A1, w/carriage M2	58
Howitzer, 105-mm, M3, w/carriage M3 & M3A3	7
Howitzer, 155-mm, M1917A1, M1918, w/carriage M1917, M1918	11
Howitzer, 155-mm, M1, w/carriage M1	22
Howitzer, 155-mm, M1, unmounted	4

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE LIST GROUP G

Ambulance, 3/4 ton, 4 × 4, Dodge	6
Car, half-track, M2	6
Carriage, motor, 37-mm gun, M6	1
Carriage, motor, 75-mm howitzer, T30	4
Carriage, motor, 3-inch gun, M10	3
Carriage, motor, 105-mm howitzer, M7	4
Carriage, motor, 105-mm howitzer, T19	1
Carriage, motor, multiple gun, M13	2
Carriage, motor, multiple gun, M15 (T28 E1)	4
Carrier, personnel, half-track, M3 & M3A1	4
Motorcycle, chain driven, Harley-Davidson	6

Tank, light, M5 & M5A1	4
Tank, medium, M4 & M4A1	26
Trailer, armored, M8	2
Trailer, 1/4 ton payload, 2 wheel cargo	16
Trailer, 1 ton payload, 2 wheel cargo	26
Trailer, 45 ton, tank transporter, M9.	2
Truck, 1/4 ton, amphibian	3
Truck, 1/4 ton, 4 × 4 (Ford or Willys)	185
Truck, 3/4 ton, 4 × 4, WC w/winch	6
Truck, 3/4 ton, 4 × 4, WC wo/winch.	23
Truck, 3/4 ton, 4 × 4, C & R	11
Truck, 3/4 ton, 4 × 4, C & R w/winch	1
Truck, 1 1/2 ton, 4 × 4, dump	15
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6 × 6, LWB, cargo w/winch	41
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6 × 6, LWB, cargo, wo/winch	39
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6 × 6, LWB, w/winch	33
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6 × 6, SWB, w/winch	7
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6 × 6, SWB, wo/winch	10
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6 × 6, dump	2
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, machine shop, COE, Load A	1
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6 × 6, 700 gal. water tank	3
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6 × 6, 750 gal. gas tank	1
Truck, 4 ton, 6 × 6, wrecker	1
Truck, 4 ton, 6 × 6, cargo, w/winch	6
Truck, 5-6 ton, 4 × 4, tractor, COE	3
Truck, 6 ton, 6 × 6, prime mover	9
Truck, 7 1/2 ton, 6 × 6, prime mover	6
Truck, 10 ton, wrecking, heavy	3

D

ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES

2-6 DECEMBER 1943

I. II CORPS ATTACK ON MT. CAMINO - MT. MAGGIORE

Preparation 1630-1730, 2 December.

Weapon	Number in action	Average rounds per gun	Total rounds fired	Projectile tonnage
3-inch Gun	108	63	6,804	44
105-mm Howitzer M2 or SP	122	106	12,932	216
155-mm Howitzer M1917-18	11	32	352	17
155-mm Howitzer M1	58	26	1,508	72
155-mm Gun	23	24	552	26
8-inch Howitzer	24	15	360	36
	<u>346</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>22,508</u>	<u>411</u>

Twenty-four Hour Period: 1630, 2 December - 1630, 3 December.

3-inch Gun	108	152	16,416	106
105-mm Howitzer M2 or SP.	122	263	32,086	534
155-mm Howitzer M1917-18	11	131	1,441	70
155-mm Howitzer M1	58	149	8,642	412
155-mm Gun	23	157	3,611	172
8-inch Howitzer	24	78	1,872	187
	<u>346</u>	<u>185</u>	<u>64,068</u>	<u>1,481</u>

Forty-eight Hour Period: 1630, 2 December - 1630, 4 December.

Weapon	Number in action	Average rounds per gun	Total rounds fired	Projectile tonnage
3-inch Gun	108	172	18,576	120
105-mm Howitzer M2 or SP	122	302	36,844	614
155-mm Howitzer M1917-18	10	168	1,680	80
155-mm Howitzer M1	58	172	9,976	475
155-mm Gun	23	194	4,462	213
8-inch Howitzer	24	92	2,208	221
	<u>345</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>73,746</u>	<u>1,723</u>

2. 10 CORPS ATTACK ON MT. CAMINO

Twenty-four Hour Period: 1730, 2 December - 1800, 3 December.

25-Pounder	192	395	75,817	846
105-mm Howitzer	18	168	3,031	45
4.5-inch Gun (Br.)	16	139	2,217	54
4.5-inch Gun (U.S.)	12	108	1,298	32
5.5-inch Gun	40	144	5,768	257
7.2-inch Gun	13	65	850	76
155-mm Gun	12	75	902	38
	<u>303</u>	<u>297</u>	<u>89,883</u>	<u>1,348</u>

Forty-eight Hour Period: 1730, 2 December - 1800, 4 December.

25-Pounder	192	480	92,119	1,028
105-mm Howitzer	18	222	4,003	59
4.5-inch Gun (Br.)	16	198	3,166	78
4.5-inch Gun (U.S.)	12	194	2,323	57
5.5-inch Gun	40	189	7,550	337
7.2-inch Gun	13	80	1,040	93
155-mm Gun	12	114	1,367	58
	<u>303</u>	<u>368</u>	<u>111,568</u>	<u>1,710</u>

3. VI CORPS SUPPORTING FIRES

Preparation 1630-1730, 2 December.

Weapon	Number in action	Average rounds per gun	Total rounds fired	Projectile tonnage
155-mm Howitzer M1917-18.	8	24	196	9
155-mm Howitzer M1	28	18	504	24
155-mm Gun	8	26	211	10
	<u>44</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>911</u>	<u>43</u>

Twenty-four Hour Period: 1800, 2 December - 1800, 3 December.

3-inch Gun	72	33	2,424	17
105-mm Howitzer M2	52	92	4,803	79
4.5-inch Gun	12	15	178	5
5.5-inch Howitzer	16	29	469	23
155-mm Howitzer M1917-18	16	36	584	28
155-mm Howitzer M1	84	17	1,389	68
155-mm Gun M1	24	50	1,201	57
	<u>276</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>11,048</u>	<u>277</u>

Forty-eight Hour Period: 1800, 2 December - 1800, 4 December.

3-inch Gun	72	78	5,624	39
105-mm Howitzer M2	64	111	7,088	117
4.5-inch Gun	12	18	218	6
5.5-inch Gun	16	31	489	24
155-mm Howitzer M1917-18	16	64	1,030	49
155-mm Howitzer M1	84	27	2,259	108
155-mm Gun M1.	24	78	1,878	89
	<u>288</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>18,586</u>	<u>432</u>

ANNEX NUMBER FOUR * * * * *

Fifth Army Staff

FIFTH ARMY STAFF

24 NOVEMBER 1943

Chief of Staff	Maj. Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther
Deputy Chief of Staff	Col. Charles E. Saltzman
Secretary, General Staff	Lt. Col. Ira W. Porter
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1	Col. Cheney L. Bertholf
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2	Col. Edwin B. Howard
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3	Brig. Gen. Donald W. Brann
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4	Brig. Gen. Ralph H. Tate
Antiaircraft Artillery Officer	Col. Joseph S. Robinson
Adjutant General	Col. Melville F. Gran
Artillery Officer	Brig. Gen. Thomas E. Lewis
Chaplain	Lt. Col. Patrick J. Ryan
Chemical Officer	Col. Maurice E. Barker
Engineer Officer	Col. Frank O. Bowman
Finance Officer	Col. Clarence B. Lindner
Inspector General	Col. Irving C. Avery
Judge Advocate General	Col. Claude B. Mickelwait
Medical Officer	Col. Joseph I. Martin
Ordnance Officer	Col. Urban Niblo
Provost Marshal	Col. Kirk Broaddus
Quartermaster	Col. Joseph P. Sullivan
Signal Officer	Brig. Gen. Richard B. Moran

ANNEX NUMBER FIVE * * * * *

Troop List of Fifth Army

3 JANUARY 1944

TROOP LIST OF FIFTH ARMY

3 JANUARY 1944

FIFTH ARMY TROOPS

Headquarters, Fifth Army

Special Troops, Fifth Army

Headquarters Detachment, Special Troops

Headquarters Company, Fifth Army

Attached:

Band, 505th Coast Artillery Regiment (AA)

Batteries A and C, 630th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion

2616th Engineer Utilities Platoon

Band, 17th Field Artillery Regiment

22d Quartermaster Car Company

541st, 542d, 543d, 547th, and 549th Army Postal Units

101st Military Police Battalion

13th and 33d Finance Disbursing Sections

6669th WAC Headquarters Platoon (Provisional)

51st Signal Battalion [-Detachment]

63d Signal Battalion; *attached:*

Detachment D, 71st Signal Company

Company C, 1st Armored Signal Battalion [from Seventh Army]

Detachment, 79 Wireless Section [from 15th Army Group]

105 Special Wireless Section [from 15th Army Group]

71st Signal Company [-Detachment]

117th Signal Company (Radio Intercept) [-Detachment]; *attached:*

4119-S and 4119-T Signal Radio Direction Finding Detachments

44 Wireless Interception Section [British]

128th Signal Company (Radio Intercept) [-Detachments]; *attached:*

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

FIFTH ARMY TROOPS (*continued*)

163d Signal Photo Company; *attached*:

2d General Assignment Unit, 196th Signal Photo Company

Detachment, 6655th Picture Service Company (Provisional) [from AFHQ]

180th Signal Repair Company; *attached*:

89th Signal Inspection and Maintenance Detachment

212th Signal Depot Company

229th Signal Operating Company

6681st Signal Pigeon Company (Provisional)

Attached from AFHQ:

Detachment, 2680th Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Interrogation of Prisoners of War (Provisional)

305th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment

Detachment, AFHQ, Censorship, Public Relations Office and Liaison Group

Detachment, AFHQ, G-2 Section

Detachment, AFHQ, Document Section

Detachment, Office of Strategic Services

“ Q ” Air Liaison Section (Photo Reconnaissance Unit)

Attached from North African Air Force:

Detachment, Northwest African Photo Reconnaissance Wing (Provisional)

Attached from Seventh Army:

Detachment CEF, 1st Armored Signal Battalion; *attached*:

Team 11, 849th Signal Intelligence Service [from AFHQ]

Attached from PBS:

1st Platoon, Company B, 302d Quartermaster Sterilizing Battalion

Attached British Unit:

3 Special Intelligence (B) Unit Type A

Antiaircraft Artillery:

45th AAA Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery

107th AAA Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery

Band, 209th Coast Artillery Regiment (AA)

213th Coast Artillery Regiment (AA) [-3d Battalion]

505th Coast Artillery Regiment (AA) [-2d and 3d Battalions]

201st AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion (Semi-Mobile)

351st AAA Searchlight Battalion

409th AAA Gun Battalion (Semi-Mobile)
439th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion
102d Barrage Balloon Battery (Very Low Altitude)
688th, 692d, and 693d AAA Machine Gun Batteries
6672d and 6673d Gun Operations Room Platoons (Provisional)

Attached:

3d Platoon, Company A, 84th Engineer Camouflage Battalion
574 Coast Regiment [British]

Armored Force:

191st and 756th Tank Battalions

Chemical:

6th Chemical Company (Depot)
24th Chemical Company (Decontamination)
83d Chemical Battalion (Motorized)

Engineers:

337th and 343d Engineer General Service Regiments
175th Engineer General Service Regiment [-1st Battalion, and Companies
E and F]
344th Engineer General Service Regiment; *attached:*
1st Pioneer Company [Italian]
2d Battalion, 92d Engineer General Service Regiment
540th Engineer Combat Regiment
Company A, 84th Engineer Camouflage Battalion [-4 Platoons]
Company D, 84th Engineer Camouflage Battalion
Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Company, 85th
Engineer Battalion
Company A, 85th Engineer Battalion (Heavy Pontoon) [-1 Platoon]
405th Engineer Water Supply Battalion
Survey Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 649th Engineer
Topographical Battalion
425th and 427th Engineer Dump Truck Companies
469th Engineer Maintenance Company
2699th Engineer Map Depot Detachment

FIFTH ARMY TROOPS (*continued*)

Attached from Atlantic Base Section:

I Platoon, 451st Engineer Depot Company

General:

6648th Casual Battalion [-Companies A and B]

21st Special Service Company [-4th Platoon]

Infantry:

504th Regimental Combat Team

Company C, 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion

376th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion [75-mm Pack Howitzer]

504th Parachute Infantry Regiment

509th Parachute Infantry Battalion [-Company G]

Medical:

3d Convalescent Hospital

8th, 16th, 38th, and 56th Evacuation Hospitals (750 Bed)

10th Field Hospital; *attached:*

I Platoon, 601st Clearing Company

15th, 93d, and 94th Evacuation Hospitals (Semi-Mobile) (400 Bed)

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

I Platoon, 602d Clearing Company

12th Medical Depot Supply Company

161st Medical Battalion (Separate), Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

401st, 402d, and 403d Collecting Companies

601st Clearing Company [-I Platoon]

Attached:

I Platoon, Company C, 36th Ambulance Battalion

162d Medical Battalion (Separate), Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

404th, 405th, and 406th Clearing Companies

602d Clearing Company [-I Platoon]

Attached:

Company B, 36th Ambulance Battalion

Attached from NATOUSA:

2d Auxiliary Surgical Group

.....
Military Police:

504th Military Police Battalion [-Companies B and C]
759th Military Police Battalion
377th and 379th Military Police Escort Guard Companies

Ordnance:

6694th Ordnance Base Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
(Provisional)

62d Ordnance Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
(w/atched Med)

53d, 58th, 66th, 684th, and 2652d Ordnance Ammunition Companies
236th Ordnance Bomb Disposal Company

Attached from FEC:

632d Ammunition Company

2630th Ordnance Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
(w/atched Med)

42d Ordnance Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
(w/atched Med)

29th, 46th, 94th, and 112th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Companies

261st and 262d Ordnance Maintenance Companies (AA)

3488th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company (Q)

188th Ordnance Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
(w/atched Med)

1st Provisional Ordnance Recovery and Evacuation Platoon

86th and 87th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Companies (Tank)

93d Ordnance Maintenance Company (AA)

101st and 109th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Companies

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

45th Ordnance Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
(w/atched Med)

14th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company

3407th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company (Q)

Attached:

48th Financial Disbursing Section

FIFTH ARMY TROOPS (*continued*)

- 651st Maintenance Battalion [from FEC]
- 1st and 2d Ordnance Medium Maintenance Companies [from FEC]
- 5th Ordnance Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
(w/attached Med)
- 28th and 411th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Companies
- 77th, 99th, and 189th Ordnance Depot Companies
- 330th Ordnance Company (Motor Transport Service) (Q)
- 529th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Company (Tank)
- Attached from FEC:*
- 611th Stores Company
- 87th Ordnance Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
(w/attached Med)
- 45th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company
- 476th and 477th Ordnance Evacuation Companies
- 881st Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Company (Q)
- 2622d Ordnance Tank Transporter Company
- 197th Ordnance Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
(w/attached Med)
- 31st and 82d Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Companies (FA)
- 525th and 991st Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Companies (Tank)
- 907th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Company (Q)

Quartermaster:

- 62d and 94th Quartermaster Battalions, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachments
- 204th Quartermaster Battalion (Mobile), Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
- 3837th, 3838th, 3839th, 3840th, 3853d, and 3880th Quartermaster Gas Supply Companies
- Attached:*
- 3341st Quartermaster Truck Company (Tank)
- 242d Quartermaster Battalion (Service) [-Company C]; *attached:*
- Company C, 249th Quartermaster Battalion (Service)
- 1st Platoon, 212th Military Police Company
- 249th Quartermaster Battalion (Service) [-Company C]
- 263d Quartermaster Battalion (Service) [-Company B]

.
Companies A and B, 301st Quartermaster Sterilizing Battalion
47th Quartermaster Company (Graves Registration) [-1st and 4th Platoons]
85th Quartermaster Depot Company; *attached*:

2 Sections, 299th Quartermaster Salvage and Repair Company [from PBS]
90th, 93d, 94th, and 98th Quartermaster Companies (Railhead)
102d and 110th Quartermaster Bakery Companies
1st and 2d Platoons, Company B, 95th Quartermaster Battalion (Bakery)
230th Quartermaster Salvage Collecting Company
487th Quartermaster Laundry Company

Attached:

1st Platoon, 67th Quartermaster Refrigeration Company [from EBS]
Detachment, 52d Quartermaster Battalion [from PBS]

Rangers:

1st, 3d, and 4th Ranger Infantry Battalions

Transportation:

235th Quartermaster Battalion (Mobile), Headquarters and Headquarters
Detachment

3637th, 3638th, 3639th, and 3640th Quartermaster Truck Companies

Attached:

53d Quartermaster Battalion (Dukw) [-Companies A and D]

55th Quartermaster Battalion (Mobile), Headquarters and Headquarters
Detachment

3357th, 3358th, 3359th, and 3360th Quartermaster Truck Companies
56th Quartermaster Truck Battalion

468th Quartermaster Battalion (Mobile), Headquarters and Headquarters
Detachment [-1 Company]

3641st, 3642d, and 3643d Quartermaster Truck Companies

6730th Regulating Company (Provisional)

Attached from AFHQ:

Detachment, Company G, 2675th Regiment, Allied Control Commission
(USC) (Provisional)

Detachment A, 2672d Headquarters Company, Allied Liaison Service (Pro-
visional)

FIFTH ARMY TROOPS (*continued*)

Attached from NATOUSA:

9th Machine Records Unit

Attached from PBS:

11th Malaria Survey Unit

Attached British Units:

7 Army Air Support Control
Detachment A, Field Press Censor Section
46 Survey Company (South African Engineer Corps)

II CORPS

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Antiaircraft Artillery (*attached*):

71st AAA Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
8th AAA Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
Band, 68th Coast Artillery Regiment
209th Coast Artillery Regiment (AA) [-3d Battalion and Band]
403d AAA Gun Battalion
433d, 532d, and 534th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalions
434th and 443d AAA Automatic Weapons Battalions (Self-Propelled)
630th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion [-Batteries A and C]
2d Battalion, 505th Coast Artillery Regiment (AA)

Armored Force (*attached*):

1st Armored Division
Headquarters and Headquarters Company
Service Company
1st Armored Division Trains, Headquarters and Headquarters Company
Maintenance Battalion
Supply Battalion
47th Armored Medical Battalion
81st Armored Reconnaissance Battalion

II CORPS (*continued*).

16th Armored Engineer Battalion
1st Armored Division Artillery, Headquarters
27th, 68th, and 91st Armored Field Artillery Battalions [105-mm How-
itzer]

6th Armored Infantry Regiment
1st Armored Regiment
13th Armored Regiment
141st Armored Signal Company
Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Combat Command A
Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Combat Command B
Attached:

6617th Engineer Mine Clearing Company (Provisional)
701st Tank Destroyer Battalion

1st Tank Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
757th Tank Battalion (Light)
753d Tank Battalion (Medium)
760th Tank Battalion

Cavalry (*attached*):

91st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron

Chemical (*attached*):

2d Chemical Battalion (Motorized)

Engineers:

1108th Engineer Combat Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Company
48th and 235th Engineer Combat Battalions
19th Engineer Combat Regiment
66th Engineer Topographic Company

Attached:

Company E, 175th Engineer General Service Regiment
1st and 4th Platoons, Company A, 84th Engineer Camouflage Battalion

Field Artillery (*attached*):

18th Field Artillery Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
2d Field Artillery Observation Battalion

II CORPS (*continued*)

932d, 936th, and 937th Field Artillery Battalions [155-mm Howitzer]
985th Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Gun]
71st Field Artillery Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
194th Field Artillery Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
15th Field Artillery Observation Battalion
194th and 995th Field Artillery Battalions [8-inch Howitzer]
935th Field Artillery Battalion [4.5-inch Gun]
976th Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Gun]
77th Field Artillery Regiment [155-mm Howitzer]
2d Battalion, 36th Field Artillery Regiment [155-mm Gun]
6th Field Artillery Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
59th and 93d Armored Field Artillery Battalions [105-mm Howitzer]

Finance (*attached*):

30th Finance Disbursing Section

Infantry:

36th Infantry Division

Headquarters and Headquarters Company
36th Infantry Division Band
36th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mechanized)
111th Engineer Battalion
36th Infantry Division Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
155th Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Howitzer]
131st, 132d, and 133d Field Artillery Battalions [105-mm Howitzer]
111th Medical Battalion
736th Ordnance Light Maintenance Company
36th Quartermaster Company
36th Signal Company
Military Police Platoon
141st Infantry Regiment
142d Infantry Regiment
143d Infantry Regiment

34th Infantry Division (*attached*) (1)

(1) Assigned to VI Corps until 24 December.

.
Headquarters and Headquarters Company
34th Infantry Division Band
34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mechanized)
109th Engineer Battalion [-Companies A, B, and C]
34th Infantry Division Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
 185th Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Howitzer]
109th Medical Battalion [-Companies A, B, and C]
734th Ordnance Light Maintenance Company
34th Quartermaster Company
34th Signal Company [-Detachments]
Military Police Platoon

133d Regimental Combat Team
 133d Infantry Regiment [-2d Battalion]
 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate)
 151st Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]
Company A, 109th Engineer Battalion
Company A, 109th Medical Battalion
Detachment, 34th Signal Company

135th Regimental Combat Team
 135th Infantry Regiment
 125th Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]
Company B, 109th Engineer Battalion
Company B, 109th Medical Battalion
Detachment, 34th Signal Company

168th Regimental Combat Team
 168th Infantry Regiment
 175th Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]
Company C, 109th Engineer Battalion
Company C, 109th Medical Battalion
Detachment, 34th Signal Company

Attached:

105th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion (Self-Propelled)
Detachment B, 72d Signal Company (Special)
776th Tank Destroyer Battalion

II CORPS (*continued*)

Medical:

54th Medical Battalion

Attached:

11th Field Hospital

Military Police:

202d Military Police Company

Attached:

Company C, 504th Military Police Battalion

Ordnance (*attached*):

55th Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad (Separate)

Quartermaster (*attached*):

Company C, 242d Quartermaster Battalion (Service)

1st and 4th Platoons, 47th Quartermaster Company (Graves Registration)

523d Quartermaster Car Company

Signal:

53d Signal Battalion

Attached:

Detachment A, 128th Signal Company (Radio Intercept); *attached:*

Detachment A, 849th Signal Intelligence Service [from AFHQ]

52 Wireless Intercept Section [British]

Special Service Force (*attached on 23 November*):

1st Special Service Force, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

1st, 2d, and 3d Regiments

Service Battalion

Attached:

456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion [-Batteries C and D] [75-mm
Pack Howitzer]

Tank Destroyer (*attached*):

636th and 894th Tank Destroyer Battalions

.....
Transportation (*attached*):

3644th Quartermaster Truck Company

Attached:

1st and 2d Pack Mule Companies [Italian]
25th Machine Records Unit [from NATOUSA]

VI CORPS

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Antiaircraft Artillery (*attached*):

68th Coast Artillery Regiment (AA) [-3d Battalion]
106th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion (Self-Propelled)

Armored Force (*attached*):

751st Tank Battalion

Chemical (*attached*):

84th Chemical Battalion (Motorized)

Engineers:

36th and 39th Engineer Combat Regiments
661st Engineer Topographic Company

Field Artillery (*attached*):

1st Battalion, 36th Field Artillery Regiment [155-mm Gun]
69th Armored Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]

Infantry:

3d Infantry Division (*attached*) ⁽¹⁾
Headquarters and Headquarters Company
3d Infantry Division Band

⁽¹⁾ Assigned to II Corps until 4 January.

VI CORPS (*continued*)

- 3d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mechanized)
- 10th Engineer Battalion
- 3d Infantry Division Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
 - 9th Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Howitzer]
 - 10th, 39th, and 41st Field Artillery Battalions [105-mm Howitzer]
- 3d Medical Battalion
- 703d Ordnance Light Maintenance Company
- 3d Quartermaster Company
- 3d Signal Company
- Military Police Platoon
- 7th Infantry Regiment
- 15th Infantry Regiment
- 30th Infantry Regiment
- Attached:*
 - 441st AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion (Self-Propelled)
 - 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion
 - 2d Platoon, 48th Quartermaster Company (Graves Registration)

Medical:

- 52d Medical Battalion
- Attached:*
 - 33d Field Hospital

Military Police:

- 206th Military Police Company

Ordnance (*attached*):

- 56th Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad (Separate)

Signal:

- 57th Signal Battalion
- Attached:*
 - Detachment C, 71st Signal Company (Special)
 - Detachment B, 128th Signal Company (Radio Intercept)
 - Detachment E, 849th Signal Intelligence Service
 - 1 Special Liaison Detachment (Cipher) [British]

FRENCH EXPEDITIONARY CORPS

Headquarters, French Expeditionary Corps

Antiaircraft Artillery:

32d, 34th, and 40th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalions

Attached:

35th AAA Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery ⁽¹⁾

5th AAA Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery

67th Coast Artillery Regiment (AA) [-3d Battalion]

216th and 401st AAA Gun Battalions

435th, 437th, and 450th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalions

Attached:

2d Platoon, Company A, 84th Engineer Camouflage Battalion

Armored Force (*attached*):

2d Tank Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

755th Tank Battalion (Medium)

Chemical (*attached*):

3d Chemical Battalion (Motorized)

Engineers:

180/3 and 180/4 Engineer Companies

1st Company, 201st Pioneer Regiment

3d Battalion, 201st Pioneer Regiment

Attached:

Company F, 175th Engineer General Service Regiment

1st Bridge Platoon, Company A, 85th Engineer Battalion (Heavy Ponton)

Field Artillery:

64th Algerian Artillery Regiment [3 Battalions] [105-mm Howitzer]

Attached:

13th Field Artillery Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Attached to VI Corps until 3 January.

FRENCH EXPEDITIONARY CORPS (*continued*)

17th Field Artillery Regiment [-Band] [155-mm Howitzer]
36th Field Artillery Regiment [-2 Battalions]
178th Field Artillery Regiment [155-mm Howitzer]
1st Field Artillery Observation Battalion

Attached:

141st, 933d, and 938th Field Artillery Battalions [155-mm Howitzer]
173d and 977th Field Artillery Battalions [155-mm Gun]
35th Field Artillery Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
939th Field Artillery Battalion [4.5-inch Gun]

Infantry:

2d Moroccan Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾
Headquarters and Headquarters Company
3d Spahi Reconnaissance Battalion (Moroccan)
41st AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion
87th Engineer Battalion
63d Algerian Artillery Regiment, Headquarters Company
4th Battalion [155-mm Howitzer]
Headquarters and Clearing Company, 9th Medical Battalion
7th Ordnance Company
9th Quartermaster Company
87/84 Signal Company
187th Truck Company

Regimental Combat Team A
4th Moroccan Infantry Regiment
2d Battalion, 63d Algerian Artillery Regiment [105-mm Howitzer]
1st Collecting Company [Medical]

Regimental Combat Team B
5th Moroccan Infantry Regiment
1st Battalion, 63d Algerian Artillery Regiment [105-mm Howitzer]
3d Collecting Company [Medical]

Regimental Combat Team C
8th Moroccan Infantry Regiment

⁽¹⁾ Attached to VI Corps until 3 January.

3d Battalion, 63d Algerian Artillery Regiment [105-mm Howitzer]
2d Collecting Company [Medical]

Attached:

4th Group of Tabors
15th Pack Mule Company [French]
2d Company, 1st Battalion, 201st Pioneer Regiment

3d Algerian Infantry Division

Headquarters and Headquarters Company
3d Spahi Reconnaissance Battalion (Algerian)
37th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion
83d Engineer Battalion
67th Algerian Artillery Regiment, Headquarters Company
1st, 2d, and 3d Battalions [105-mm Howitzer]
4th Battalion [155-mm Howitzer]
3d Medical Battalion
3d Ordnance Company
3d Quartermaster Company
83/84 Signal Company
Detachment, 183d Truck Company
Counter Intelligence Detachment, 3d Algerian Infantry Division
3d Algerian Infantry Regiment
4th Tunisian Infantry Regiment
7th Algerian Infantry Regiment

3d Group of Tabors

45th Infantry Division (*attached*) (1)

Headquarters and Headquarters Company
45th Infantry Division Band
45th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mechanized)
120th Engineer Battalion [-Companies A, B, and C]
45th Infantry Division Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
189th Field Artillery Battalion [155-mm Howitzer]
120th Medical Battalion [-Companies A, B, and C]
700th Ordnance Light Maintenance Company

(1) Assigned to VI Corps until 3 January ; attached FEC 3-9 January.

FRENCH EXPEDITIONARY CORPS (*continued*)

45th Quartermaster Company
45th Signal Company [-Detachments]
Military Police Platoon

157th Regimental Combat Team
157th Infantry Regiment
158th Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]
Company A, 120th Engineer Battalion
Company A, 120th Medical Battalion
Detachment, 45th Signal Company

179th Regimental Combat Team
179th Infantry Regiment
160th Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]
Company B, 120th Engineer Battalion
Company B, 120th Medical Battalion
Detachment, 45th Signal Company

180th Regimental Combat Team
180th Infantry Regiment
171st Field Artillery Battalion [105-mm Howitzer]
Company C, 120th Engineer Battalion
Company C, 120th Medical Battalion
Detachment, 45th Signal Company

Attached:

432d AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion (Self-Propelled)
3d Platoon, 48th Quartermaster Company (Graves Registration)

Medical:

2d Surgical Formation (Mobile)
401st, 405th, and 415th Evacuation Hospitals
422d Field Hospital; *attached:*
1st Mobile Surgical Group
472d and 473d Hygiene Sections
541/1 Veterinary Ambulance Company
531st Ambulance Company

Military Police:

521/1 Traffic Control Company

Attached:

Company B, 504th Military Police Battalion

Ordnance:

612th Stores Company

631st Ammunition Company

Quartermaster:

310th Bakery Section

349th Quartermaster Bakery Group

703d and 704th Petrol Companies

Attached:

Company B, 263d Quartermaster Battalion (Service)

Signal:

806/1 and 806/3 Signal Lines Construction Companies

807/1 Signal Operating Company

808/1 Signal Radio and Telephone Unit

809/1 Telegraph Unit

810/1 Signal Depot Company

Tank Destroyers:

7th and 8th Tank Destroyer Battalions

Attached:

645th and 805th Tank Destroyer Battalions

Transportation:

14th and 17th Pack Mule Companies

Attached:

3404th Quartermaster Truck Company

ITALIAN UNITS

1st Motorized Group (1)

Group Headquarters

(1) Attached to 36th Division 6-20 December.

ITALIAN UNITS (*continued*)

67th Infantry Regiment
51st Bersagliere Battalion [Reconnaissance]
5th Antitank Battalion
11th Artillery Regiment
Engineer Battalion
Field Hospital
Motor Repair Section
7th Company, 113th Regiment (Mantova Division)
4th and 5th Pack Mule Companies
176th Artillery Group
148th Infantry Regiment Headquarters
158th Infantry Battalion
210th Signal Company
Parma Company
107th Mortaio Company
112th Machine Gun Battalion
14th Cavalry Group

10 CORPS (as of 1800, 6 December 1943).

Headquarters 10 Corps

10 Corps Protective Squadron

Anti-Aircraft Artillery:

12 Anti-Aircraft Brigade RA

57 and 87 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiments RA [each 24 3.7-inch Guns]

14 and 52 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiments RA [each 54 40-mm Guns]

1 and 2 Anti-Aircraft Operations Rooms

56 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (RA) [54 40-mm Guns]

Armoured Force:

2 Forward Tank Delivery Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps

23 Armoured Brigade

Headquarters 23 Armoured Brigade

10 CORPS (*continued*).

23 Armoured Brigade Liaison Staff

Artillery (*attached*):

24 Army Field Regiment RA [24 105-mm SP]

142 Army Field Regiment RA [24 25-pounders SP]

57 Anti-Tank Regiment RA [48 6-pounders]

B Troop, 15/17 Battery, 5 Medium Regiment RA [5.5-inch Gun/Howitzer]

42 Field Company (Royal Engineers)

23 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron

331 Armoured Brigade Company

23 Armoured Brigade Ordnance Field Park

23 Armoured Brigade Provost Company

150 (N) Light Field Ambulance (Royal Army Medical Corps)

23 Armoured Brigade Workshops (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers)

1501 and 1520 Artillery Platoons

23 Armoured Brigade Postal Unit

46 Reconnaissance Regiment [battalion]

11 Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps

King's Dragoon Guards [armoured-car squadron]

Royal Scots Greys (2d Dragons) [tank battalion]

46 Battalion, Royal Tank Regiment

306 Tank Destroyer Troop

Engineers:

Headquarters 10 Corps Troops, Royal Engineers

570 Field Park Company

571, 572, 573, and 579 Army Field Companies

14 GHQ Troops, Royal Engineers

Field Artillery:

8 Survey Regiment RA

654 Air Observation Post Squadron

Counterbattery Officer 10 Corps

2 Army Group Royal Artillery

23 Army Field Regiment RA [24 25-pounders]

69 Medium Regiment RA [8 4.5-inch Guns; 8 5.5-inch Gun/Howitzers]

74 Medium Regiment RA [16 5.5-inch Gun/Howitzers]

56 Heavy Regiment RA [16 7.2-inch Gun/Howitzers]

Attached:

127 Meteorological Section RAF

Infantry and Commandos:

2/4 Battalion, Hampshire Regiment

9 Commando

46 Infantry Division

Headquarters 46 Infantry Division

46 Infantry Division Defense and Employment Platoon

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

40 Battalion, Royal Tank Regiment

Headquarters 46 Infantry Division Royal Artillery

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

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

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

Attached:

5 Medium Regiment RA [-1 Troop] [5.5-inch Gun/Howitzer]

59th Armored Field Artillery Battalion (U.S.A.) [105-mm Howitzer]

Headquarters 46 Infantry Division Royal Engineers

270, 271, and 272 Field Companies

273 Field Park Company

46 Infantry Division Royal Signals

Headquarters 46 Infantry Division Royal Army Service Corps

521 Division Transport Company

519, 520, and 521 Infantry Brigade Companies

1567 Artillery Platoon

46 Infantry Division Ordnance Sub Park

46 Infantry Division Provost Company

Royal Army Medical Corps

183, 184, and 185 Field Ambulances

15 Field Hygiene Section

23 and 24 Field Surgical Units

140 Mobile Dental Unit

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

46 Infantry Troops Workshops
 128, 138, and 139 Infantry Brigade Workshops
 46 Light Recovery Section
 146 and 191 Pioneer Companies
 1507 (Mauritius) Company (Pioneer)
 13 Field Cash Office
 46 Infantry Division Postal Unit
 31 Field Security Section
 39 and 49 Anti Malarial Control Units

128 Infantry Brigade
 128 Infantry Brigade Defense and Employment Platoon
 1/4 Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
 2 Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
 5 Battalion, Hampshire Regiment

138 Infantry Brigade
 138 Infantry Brigade Defense and Employment Platoon
 6 Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment
 2/4 Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
 6 Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment

139 Infantry Brigade
 139 Infantry Brigade Defense and Employment Platoon
 2/5 Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment
 2/5 Battalion, Sherwood Foresters
 16 Battalion, Durham Light Infantry

56 (London) Infantry Division

Headquarters 56 (London) Infantry Division
 56 Infantry Division Defense and Employment Platoon
 56 Infantry Division Liaison Staff
 6 Battalion, (22) Cheshire Regiment [machine-gun battalion]
 Headquarters 56 Infantry Division Royal Artillery
 64, 65, and 113 Field Regiments RA [24 25-pounders]
 67 Anti-Tank Regiment RA [36 57-mm Guns; 12 17-pounders]
 100 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA [54 40-mm Guns]
 51 Medium Regiment RA [8 4.5-inch Guns; 8 5.5-inch Gun/Howitzers]

Attached:

146 Army Field Regiment RA [24 25-pounders]
Headquarters 56 Infantry Division Royal Engineers
220, 221, and 501 Field Companies
563 Field Park Company
56 Infantry Division Royal Signals
Headquarters 56 Infantry Division Royal Artillery Service Corps
491 and 513 Division Transport Companies
515 Infantry Brigade Company
543/201 Guards Brigade Company
1547, 1555, and 1578 Artillery Platoons
56 Infantry Division Ordnance Field Park
56 Infantry Division Provost Company
Royal Army Medical Corps
5 Light Field Ambulance
140, 167, and 214 Field Ambulances
51 Field Hygiene Section
6 and 10 Field Surgical Units
135 Mobile Dental Unit
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
167, 168, and 169 Infantry Brigade Workshops
201 Guards Brigade Workshops
56 Infantry Troops Recovery Unit
68, 175, and 187 Pioneer Companies
1941 African Auxiliary Pioneer Company (Basuto)
49 Field Cash Office
56 Infantry Division Postal Unit
35 Field Security Section
25 and 77 Anti Malarial Control Units
30 Bulk Issue Store
46 Reconnaissance Regiment [battalion]
167 Infantry Brigade
167 Infantry Brigade Defense and Employment Platoon
167 Infantry Brigade Liaison Staff
8 Battalion, Royal Fusiliers
9 Battalion, Royal Fusiliers
7 Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

168 Infantry Brigade

168 Infantry Brigade Defense and Employment Platoon

168 Infantry Brigade Liaison Staff

10 Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment

1 Battalion, London Scots

1 Battalion, London Irish Rifles

169 Infantry Brigade

169 Infantry Brigade Defense and Employment Platoon

169 Infantry Brigade Liaison Staff

2/5 Battalion, Queen's Own Royal Regiment

2/6 Battalion, Queen's Own Royal Regiment

2/7 Battalion, Queen's Own Royal Regiment

201 Guards Brigade

201 Guards Brigade Defense and Employment Platoon

201 Guards Brigade Liaison Staff

6 Battalion, Grenadier Guards

3 Battalion, Coldstream Guards

2 Battalion, Scotch Guards

Attached:

1 Italian Pack Transport Company

Intelligence:

Detachment, Combined Services Detailed Interrogation Centre

278 Field Security Section

21 Wireless Interception Section

Interpreter Section

Medical:

8 Light Casualty Clearing Station

14 Mobile Casualty Clearing Station

21 (UK) Mobile Casualty Clearing Station

865 and 866 Field Dressing Stations

52 Field Hygiene Section

3, 9, 25, and 36 Field Surgical Units

3 Canadian Field Surgical Unit

1, 12, 25 Field Transfusion Units

3 Canadian Field Transfusion Unit

10 CORPS (*continued*)

132, 133, 153, and 155 Mobile Dental Units
1 Mobile Ophthalmic Unit

Miscellaneous:

10 Corps Reception Camp
A and H Field Maintenance Companies
32 Bulk Issue Store
16, 76, and 78 Anti Malarial Control Units
38 Camouflage Training Unit
9 Air Liaison Section
Detachments, 7 Army Air Support Control
Detachment, Army Air Photo Intelligence Unit (MEF)
Detachment, North African Photo Reconnaissance Wing
2 Ind Prisoner of War Cage
Detachment I, " J " Section

Ordnance:

Headquarters 10 Corps Ordnance Field Park
10 Corps Troops Ordnance Field Park
10 Corps Stores Convoy
1, 2, 31, and 32 Forward Ammunition Sections
2, 8, and 15 Mobile Bath Units
1 Mobile Officers Shop
1 Mobile Ammunition Laboratory

Pay:

46 Field Cash Office

Pioneer and Labour:

Headquarters 19 Group Pioneer Corps
47 Company Pioneer Corps
1212 and 1214 Indian Auxiliary Pioneer Corps
1508 (Mauritius) Company Pioneer Corps
1944 African Auxiliary Pioneer Corps (Basuto)

Postal:

10 Corps Postal Unit

Provost:

115 Provost Company
2 Sections, 506 Independent Mobile Provost Company

Royal Air Force:

225 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

10 Corps Troops Workshops

7 and 323 Armoured Troops Workshops

610 Heavy Recovery Section [formerly 4 Heavy Recovery Section]

17 and 19 Light Recovery Sections

Salvage:

19 Salvage Unit

Service Troops:

Headquarters 10 Corps Troops, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters 10 Corps Transport Column (15 Line of Communication)

Headquarters and 2 Platoons 239 General Transport Company

240 and 241 General Transport Companies

420, 499, and 561 Artillery Companies

1514, 1536, 1543, 1544, 1565, 1569, 1570, and 1591 Artillery Companies

236 Bridge Company [-3 Platoons]

3 Platoons, 105 Bridge Company

C and D Platoons, 214 Tipper Company

1 Section, 262 Water Tank Company

13 and 36 Detail Issue Depots

119 Petrol Depot

13 and 15 Mobile Petrol Filling Centres

25 Motor Ambulance Convoy

Signal:

10 Corps Signals

2 Army Group Royal Artillery Signal Section

12 Anti-Aircraft Brigade Signal Section

113 Special Wireless Section

7 General Signal Security Section

Attached:

Detachment A, 72d Signal Company (Special)

Team 7, 849th Signal Intelligence Service [from AFHQ]

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This part of the Army History was prepared under the direction of Col. John D. Forsythe, Historian, by Capt. Harris G. Warren with the assistance of Maj. Chester G. Starr, Jr., S/Sgt. Walter A. Hamilton and S/Sgt. Sidney T. Matthews. The maps were drawn by S/Sgt. Alvin J. Weinberger and Sgt. Charles W. Petersen.

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