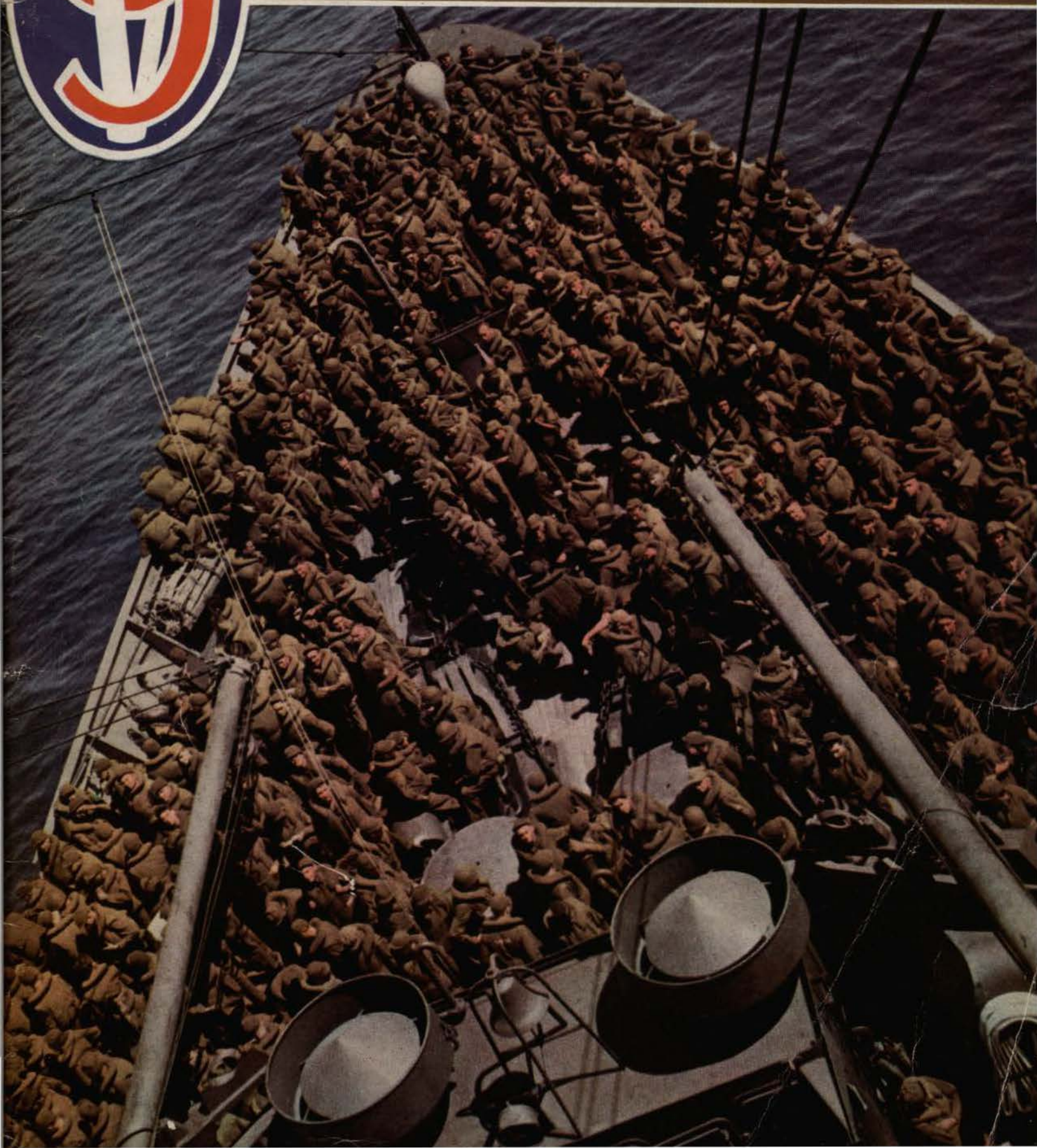




VICTORY



THE 95th AWARDS AND DECORATIONS



European Theatre Ribbon
Northern France
Rhineland
Central Europe



Medal of Honor
1



Distinguished Service Cross
22



Distinguished Service Medal
1



Legion of Merit
1



Silver Star
791



Soldiers' Medal
13



Bronze Star Medal
3367



Air Medal
131



Purple Heart
More than 10,000



Distinguished Unit Badge
2nd Battalion, 378th Infantry
Thionville Bridgehead

An Eternity in a Year

In the pages that follow is a photographic record of the combat achievements of the 95th Infantry Division. This record is not complete, for there is no way of accurately picturing the stark horror of battle. Courage can't be photographed. Dogged persistence and bravery and teamwork don't show in pictures.

Here, then, is a pictorial background for the thoughts and feelings of the men of the Victory Division who were there—who were at Metz, who fought in the Maginot and Siegfried lines, who helped sweep the Germans back of the Rhine and who cleared much of the Ruhr pocket, who saw and felt all that is pictured here, and more.

The story begins with the swift voyage across the Atlantic to England in August of 1944. It was a voyage into the unknown, for few in the 95th were battle-tested at that date. But southern England was peaceful.

Peaceful, too, was Normandy when the 95th landed at Omaha Beach a month later, for D-Day was 100 days past and the tide of war had swept almost out of France. While part of the Division marked time in the apple orchards, thousands of men accelerated the flow of supplies to the distant fronts in special Red Ball trucking companies.

Men of the 95th first met the enemy along the Moselle River south of Metz, after a truck and train trip across most of France. This was a holding operation which began October 20 and lasted 10 days.

Under General George Patton's Third Army, the Division remained in contact with the enemy 103 days without a break. It was during these 103 days that the Victory Division won its reputation as "the famous 95th Division" in press dispatches from the front and which led the New York Herald-Tribune to refer to its men as "bravest of the brave."

First came the smashing assault on the hitherto impregnable fortress Metz, followed almost without pause by the steamroller drive through the Maginot Line to the Saar River, the lightning grab of the vital bridge there and the plunge into the urban fortifications of the Siegfried Line. Throughout November, December and January the men of the 95th assaulted the enemy until relief finally came and an order to move north into Belgium as Ninth Army reserves.

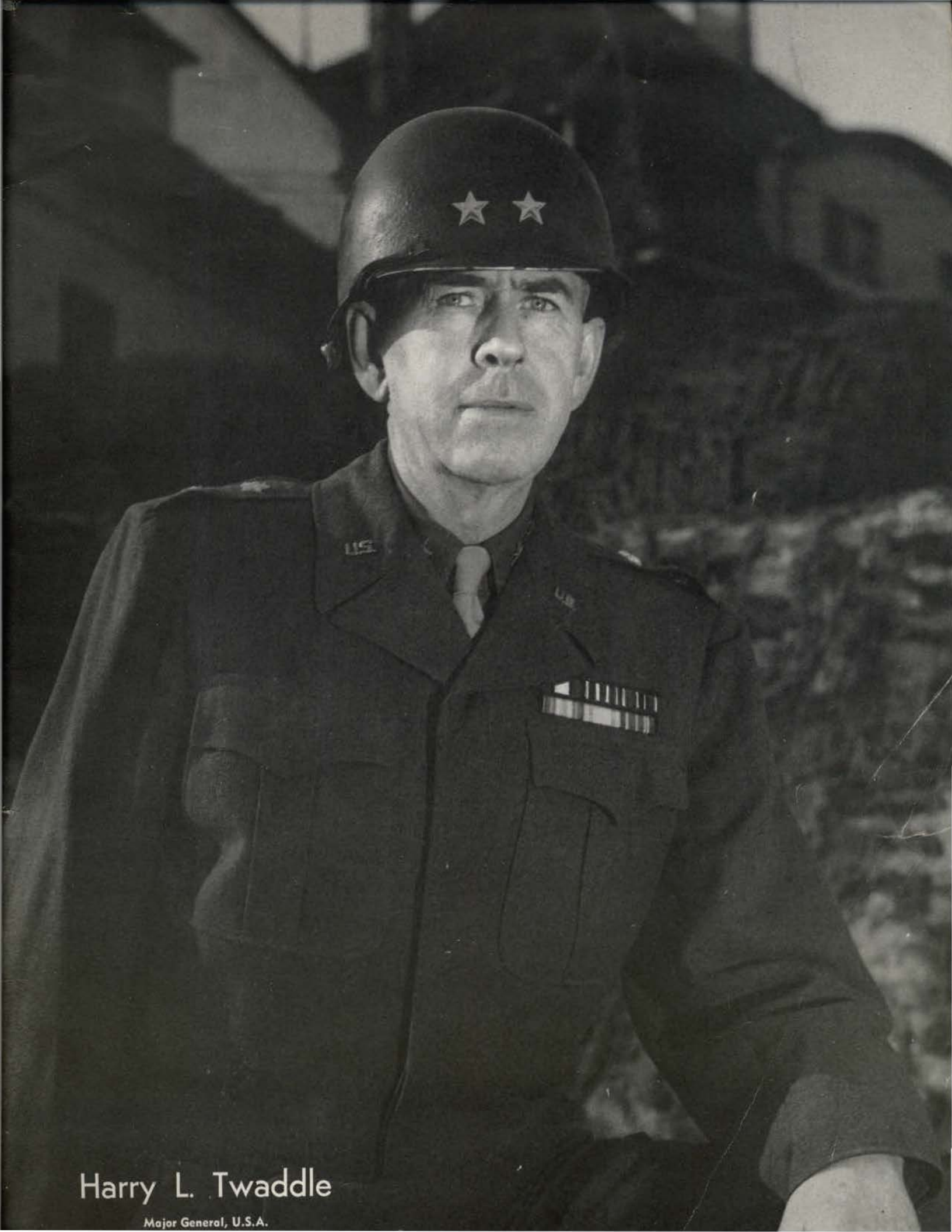
Refreshed and reinforced, the Division moved into Holland for a holding operation along the Maas under British Second Army control, returned to Belgium and then went into the final drive to the Rhine in the Krefeld-Uerdingen vicinity.

After this latter eight-day, full-gallop offensive, the Division moved up the Rhine to Neuss on March 21.

The final battle began April 3, east of the Rhine, when the 95th put the squeeze on the huge Ruhr pocket, seizing Hamm, Dortmund and a score of lesser industrial centers in a furious 14-day onslaught.

Cold statistics are for the histories: Such facts as the Victory Division inflicting upwards of 47,000 casualties (including 15,000 killed and wounded) on the German army, of conquering 728 square miles of France and Germany—in 145 days of combat.

How it was done is only partially portrayed in these pages. Not all phases of the 95th's combat are even suggested—notably, the 378th Infantry Regiment's valiant fighting across the Saar in Ensdorf, Germany, with no bridge behind them—for even combat photographers are unable to picture every phase of battle.



Harry L. Twaddle

Major General, U.S.A.



BRIG. GEN. DON C. FAITH
Assistant Division Commander



BRIG. GEN. MARK McCLURE
Division Artillery Commander



COL. HARVEY J. GOLIGHTLY
Chief of Staff



COL. FRED E. GAILLARD
Commander 377th Infantry



COL. SAMUEL L. METCALFE
Commander 378th Infantry



LT. COL. AUBREY W. AKIN
Commander 379th Infantry



LT. COL. GRANVILLE E. TYSON



LT. COL. JOHN E. CARTER



LT. COL. DORSEY E. McCRORY

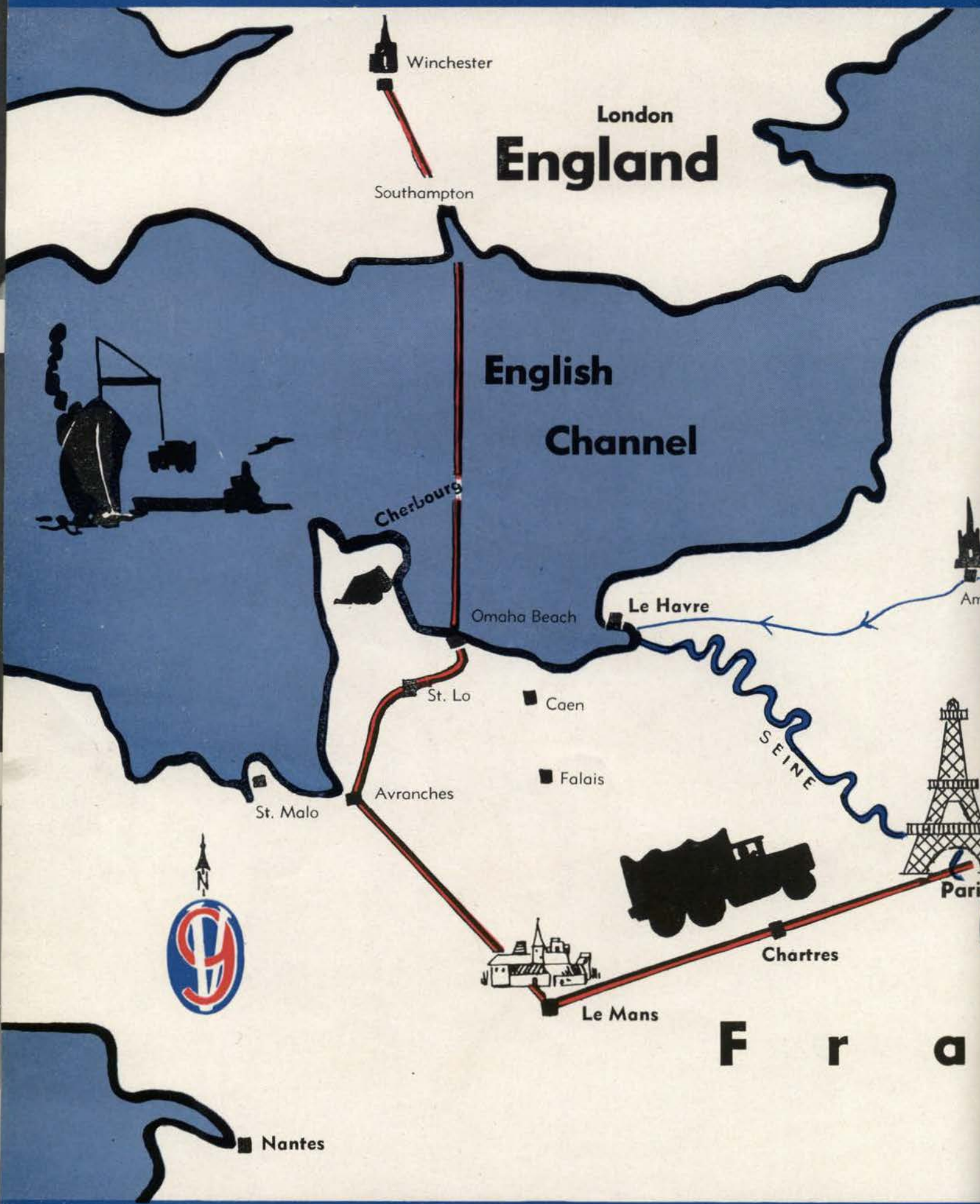


LT. COL. CLARENCE H. MA...

YOU ARE NOW
ENTERING GERMANY
THRU COURTESY
95TH INF. DIV.



THE 95TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S ROAD



TO VICTORY THROUGH THE ETO



Those who fell received prompt attention from company aid men





An anti-tank gun at the side of "88 Boulevard" on the outskirts of Metz.

Metz: First and Most Severe

For 500 years Metz had withstood the battering of men and machines. To the untried 95th Division fell the assignment of taking it, in November, 1944.

Teamed with the 5th Division, which attacked from the south, the Victory Division jumped off November 8th from the north and west. Fourteen days later the city had fallen; its great forts had been overwhelmed or bypassed.

through the center in the main effort. The 378th's 2nd Battalion forced a bridgehead over the flooded Moselle at Thionville, for which it subsequently received a Distinguished Unit Citation, and joined with Task Force Bacon in a drive down the east bank of the river. The 377th's 1st Battalion crossed the Moselle at Uckange and joined TF Bacon. The 379th took on the formidable array of forts covering the right flank of the main drive.



379th Infantry Regiment battalion commanders confer with regimental CO.

Saar — 'Bravest of the Brave

With scarcely a pause after the historic reduction of Metz, the 95th Division took off for the Saar, headed at last into Germany itself. Resistance was comparatively light until the forested hills flanking the Saar River were reached. The terrain was reminiscent of the West Virginia mountain training area.

There was bitter fighting in the towns and villages leading to the industrial basin. Then came the breakout into the valley itself, and the plunge into the city of Saarlautern nestled in the lowland, its streets and suburbs and approaches raked by fire from German artillery anchored in the Siegfried line emplacements in the heights beyond.

stroke by the 379th Infantry's 1st Battalion caught the enemy on farther bank completely by surprise and won the vital bridge for all Division to use.

Saarlouis-Roden and Fraulautern, twin suburbs across the river, with infiltrated house by house, bunker by bunker, from the vital bridgehead. Ensdorf, the third Saarlautern suburb on the farther bank, was assaulted by the 378th Infantry, which crossed by boat under a constant rain of machine gun, artillery, and mortar fire. More than once this regiment was isolated from its sources of supply.

The fighting in these three suburbs lasted until January 29, and c



A German officer captured in Metz seen in front of Hotel Royal, where Hitler once stayed during a visit to the city.







Thousands of 95th Division men passed this point under heavy German artillery fire.







Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., commander of the Third Army, at the 379th Infantry command post in Saarlautern.





Cave Dwellers in the Siegfried Line

December and January in the urban fortifications of the Siegfried Line in Ensdorf, Fraulautern and Saarlouis-Roden made cellar dwellers out of the GIs of the 95th. These Mauldin-like photos by Eric F. Schwab, of the French Press Agency, afford a glimpse of Company G, 377th Infantry—

Sleeping, eating, writing letters and cleaning equipment, all the normal functions of living took place below ground, in the cellars. The floor above more often than not, was the "business office" of the improvised fort where machine guns and riflemen were posted.



Victors



To the victors belong the spoils—but this beer, captured by three 95th Division medics in Saarlautern, didn't have time to spoil.



Vanquished



Rifleman advances between mortar bursts in Saarlautern fighting as buddy covers him from doorway in building across the street.





A white phosphorus shell explodes among shattered buildings facing Division positions.







The great Adolph Hitler autobahn bridge, spanning the Rhine at Uerdingen, was crossed by a 379th Infantry Regiment patrol only minutes before the Germans destroyed the span.

The Final Drive to the Rhine

The Ninth Army's final drive to the Rhine started from the Roer River. Division Artillery got into it first with supporting fire over the Roer for the jump-off divisions. Then the 379th Infantry joined in as an attachment to the 2nd Armored Division. And in the closing days of the mighty

Uerdingen and Rheinhausen were the special prizes of Division troops. At Uerdingen was the great Adolph Hitler suspension bridge spanning the Rhine to Duisberg. A 379th patrol crossed the bridge in the early morning darkness, found the retreating Germans had fired it with magnesium

Bahnsteig 2

Abfahrt

Abfahrt

1842

21

the 95th
Slapped Here

Anrath

Merktafel (56⁽⁹⁾FD)

für den 03. 03. 1945.

Richtung

Kleve Dierfen Neerfen Aßlin Dulsburg Arefeld 6.

~~Am 03. 03. 1945~~
~~1842~~

Berlin Express

- Tote Seite

First Class cars reserved for

THE BAND

Sonstige betriebliche Hinweise

U S A



The Netherlands

The height of international cooperation was achieved late in the winter when the 95th Division, then in the American Ninth Army, was loaned to the British Second Army and took up a position along the line of the Maas River in Holland. On the Division's left flank was the Canadian First Army.

The stay in Holland was brief, and comparatively uneventful. But 95th GIs were afforded a glimpse of The Netherlands and a brief opportunity to become acquainted with these traditionally peaceful people.

Like a signpost announcing that this is, indeed, Holland, this Dutch windmill greeted Division troops as they moved through Deurne to take up positions. General Twaddle was greeted by General Miles C. Dempsey, commander of the British Second Army (lower left), while MPs of the two nations get acquainted on a street corner.





Shot-down American fighter planes were found loaded on German flatcars in railroad yards at Uerdingen.







Soest was one of the first towns to fall to Division troops during the cleanup of the Ruhr pocket. A 377th Infantry Regiment patrol works its way through the town.

The Ruhr Pocket – 20,000 Prisoners

The cleanup of the vast Ruhr pocket was the last of the Victory Division's combat assignments. Nearly 200,000 enemy troops were encircled by the junction of the First and Ninth armies near Lippstadt. Many were of a mood to give up; some were not. The offensive lasted from April 4th to 16th.

First cities to fall to the Division were Soest, taken by the 377th Infantry, and Hamm, which was toppled by the 378th.

It was in the Ruhr that the Division first encountered the problem of

few were from France and Belgium and Holland; but most came from eastern Europe, from Russia and Poland.

These lost souls clogged the highways afoot and on stolen bicycles and carts. They had to be fed and clothed and treated for disease. And while the 95th fought with one hand, it cared for these wanderers with the other, establishing camps and transportation facilities.

Dortmund was the largest of the Ruhr cities. Its defenders crumbled before the attack of the 378th Infantry, and the Ruhr pocket battle was over. More than 22,000 prisoners were taken in the 12 days of the

Division wire crew
working in Soest





More than 4,500 French prisoners of war, mostly officers, were liberated by the Division after four years of imprisonment by their German captors in the town of Soest. At the top, a group is listening to their first uncensored news of the outside world since they were captured. Below, they pass in review before General Twaddle and their own camp commander.

A 378th infantry patrol pushes past
a road block in a street in Hamm







Hamm: An End to Destruction

World War II brought to the city of Hamm a prominence unprecedented for a city of its size. It was not a fortress or a political capital. But it was the transportation key to all northwest Germany. And without transportation there is no war.

The greatest railway marshaling yards in all Europe fringed Hamm. All the armament outpourings of the great industries of the Ruhr and the Rhineland channeled through Hamm. Heavy bombers of the RAF started working on this maze of tracks in the early, dark days of the war. American heavies picked up the theme. And then the 95th finished the job.

Everywhere men of the 95th had fought in Eu-

rope, they had seen the effects of aerial bombardment—both Allied and enemy. But Hamm was something special. Although the great railway yards had been the primary target of more than four years of bombing, it was inevitable that the destruction should creep out over the entire city like a shattering plague. Little more than 10 per cent of Hamm's original population was left when Division doughs moved in. They had more of the horrors of war than many of the Wehrmacht.

Prisoners were many (upper left) as 378th doughs blasted through the railway station (upper right), and the destruction in the marshaling yards themselves was completed (lower right) by Division artillery.







A supporting tank destroyer of the 802nd TD Battalion moves into Hamm to blast an enemy position.



The Hamm police department is screened by a Division Counter Intelligence Corps crew.



The long road back to a home she doesn't remember lies ahead of this little Polish girl, one of millions of displaced persons in Germany.



These Germans, captured near Hamm, were part of the 20,000 prisoners of war bagged by the Division in the Ruhr pocket.



A 378th infantry patrol pushes past
a road block in a street in Hamm



Self-inflicted destruction by
the Germans in Ruhr pocket

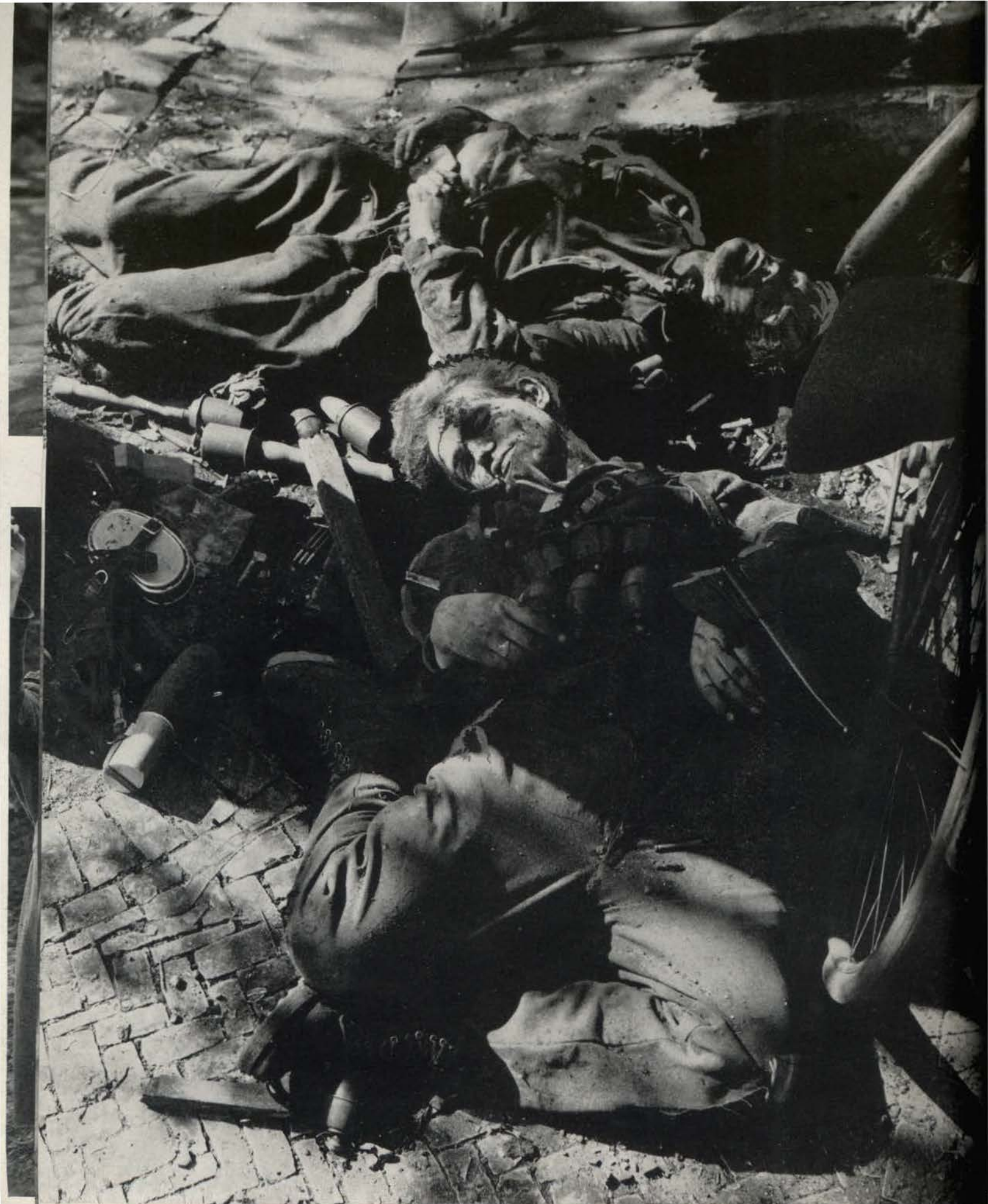




Medium tanks roar through the main street of a Ruhr town in pursuit of retreating Germans.



Members of the 320th Engineer Battalion throw a Bailey span across a canal above the remains of a destroyed German bridge.



These SS troopers pledged to die for the Fuehrer. Riflemen of the 377th Infantry Regiment helped them to fulfill their pledge.



Waiting to jump-off in a Dortmund attack, one GI grabs 40 winks.









First top-flight Nazi to fall into Allied hands was Franz Von Papen, ace German diplomat, who was found at his son-in-law's hunting lodge in the Ruhr. He got his travel orders—back to higher headquarters—from General Twaddle.







A color guard stands rigidly at attention as the Russians look on. At far right is the Red Flag of the USSR.



Russian children register a variety of emotions as the May Day ceremonies are held in the 95th occupied DP camp at H...



Tens of thousands of DPs (displaced persons) freed by the Division in the Ruhr constituted as grave a problem as the military ended. But on May Day, the Russians staged a mammoth demonstration of thanksgiving and international goodwill.



A 25th Infantry soldier lights a cigarette for a Russian man, a gesture of goodwill, before the occupation. The portraits of B...



95th Found This Atrocity

"Now I know, more clearly than ever before, why I am fighting the Nazis."

So spoke one battle-weary 95th Division dough after he had viewed the mouldering bodies of murdered men, women and children at Warstein concentration camp outside Warstein, in the Ruhr.

And why were these people murdered? First, because they were an "inferior" people; they were not Germans, they were Russians. They had been slaves to the master race. That meant they were of value only so long as they could produce for Germany.

The SS proprietors of Warstein knew the war was nearing an end, for them. American troops were drawing closer. Food was increasingly hard to get. Even Russian slaves eat. Do away with the Russian slaves, then. Shoot them and throw their bodies into a pit.

And that is what the masters of Warstein did, without any feeling of guilt or of remorse. The Russians were forced to dig their own mass grave; and they were stood so that when the bullets crashed into their brains their bodies would tumble into the pit.

When the American troops came they were sickened by what they saw. They rounded up the masters of Warstein and forced them at pistol point to dig up the evidence of their crime. And then all the "innocent" citizens of the neighboring town were made to view the grisly remains.

An American chaplain blessed the bodies and the good burghers of Warstein who "didn't know about such terrible things," dug fresh graves and buried the bodies of 57 persons who had been murdered because they no longer were useful to their masters.

Warstein was in the 95th Division area at the close of the Ruhr pocket campaign and the Warstein atrocity was uncovered by Division personnel.





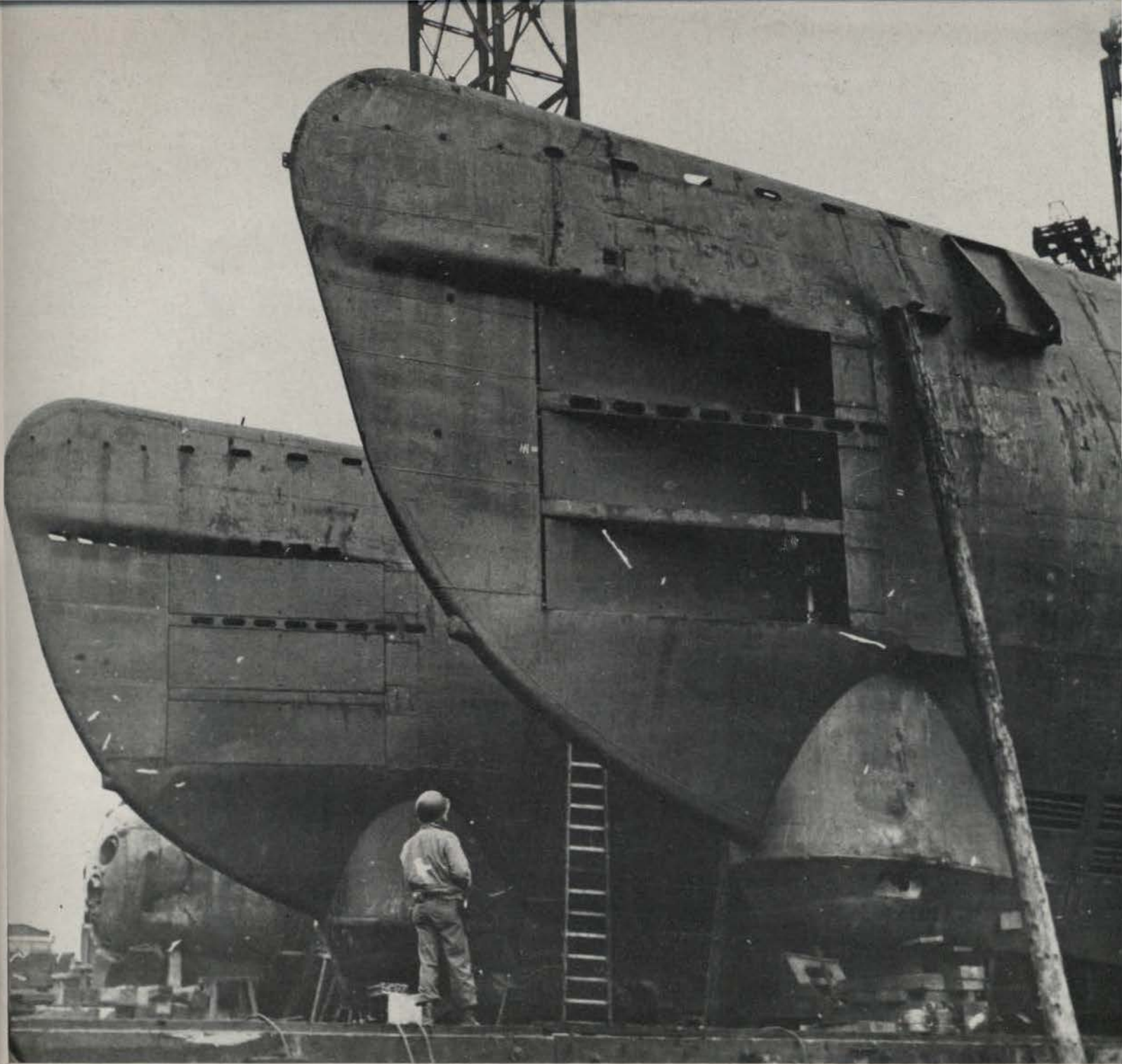
Identification of the dead was a grisly task. But those who lived volunteered to aid in the job of providing Christian burials for those who died.





Only partially atoning for their barbarous crime, German civilians dug individual graves for the victims of Nazi torture and barbarism. Fir boughs are used to line the graves.





Monsters of the deep stick their ugly snouts out of the final assembly docks of the Bremen U-boat yards. Torpedo tubes gape on either side of the sharp prow as a 378th Infantry Regiment doughboy looks on.

Great Port City of Bremen Occupied

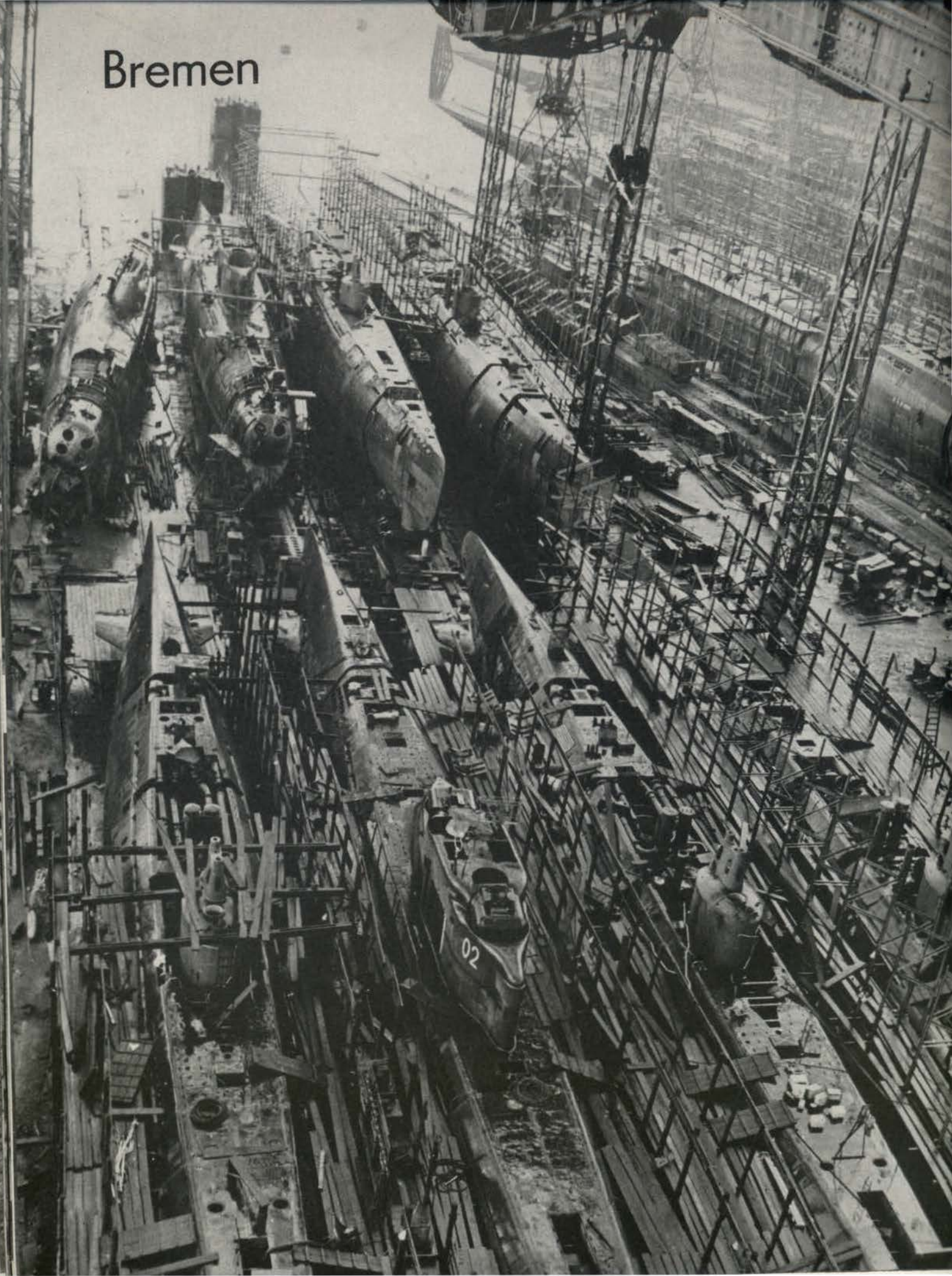
Classified as secret until after the Division left the ETO was the attachment of the 378th Infantry to U. S. Naval Task Force 126 and its occupation of the great port city of Bremen.

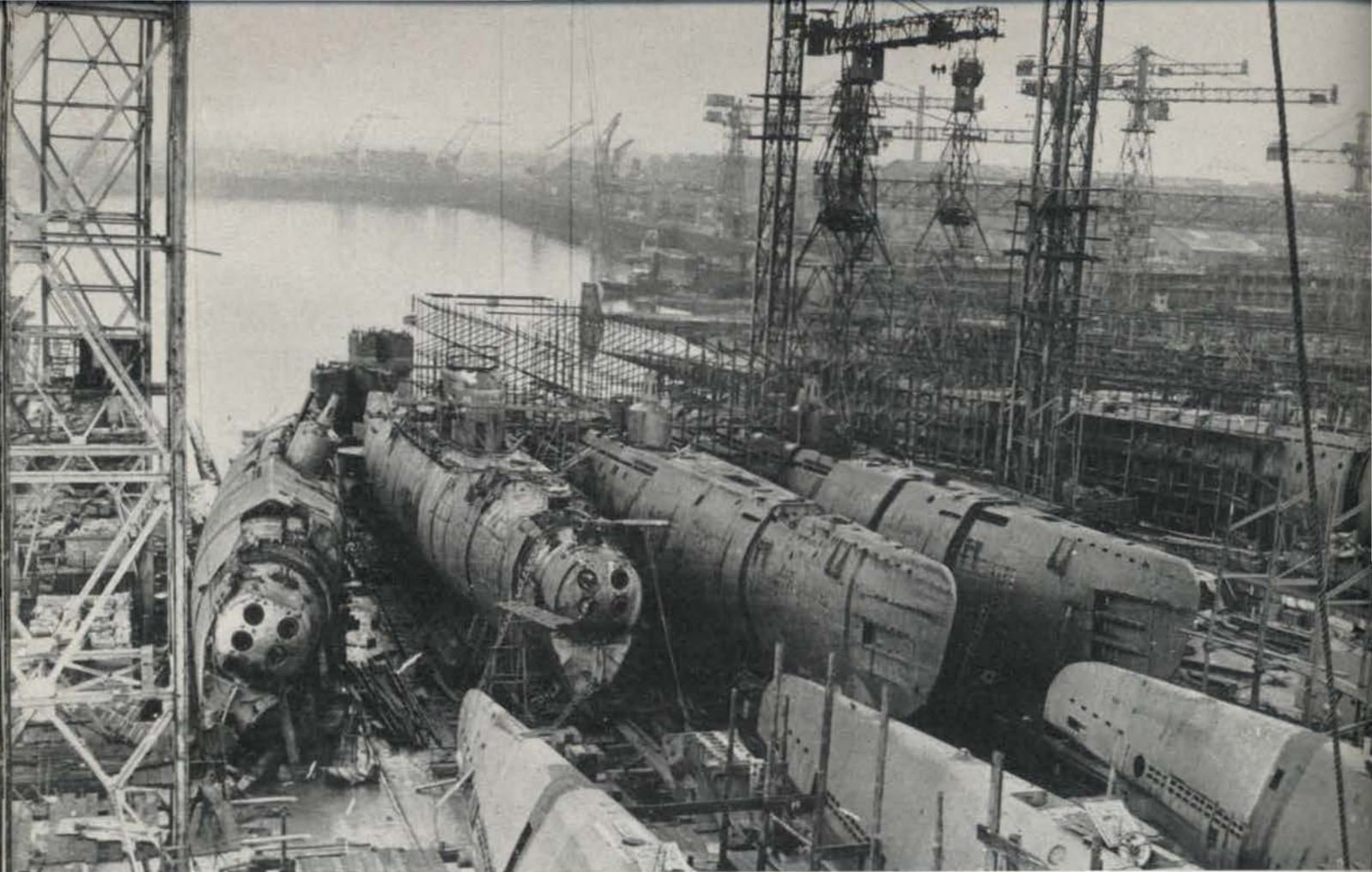
The move to Bremen came a few days after the wind-up of the Ruhr pocket operation. The 378th's mission was to provide protection and security for TF 126 while naval personnel prepared the captured docks for use by Allied vessels.

Because Bremen was in the British Second Army zone, the 378th waited patiently on the outskirts (on SHAEF orders) until April 28, when a reconnaissance party went into the still smoking city and found it was possible to move in the regiment.

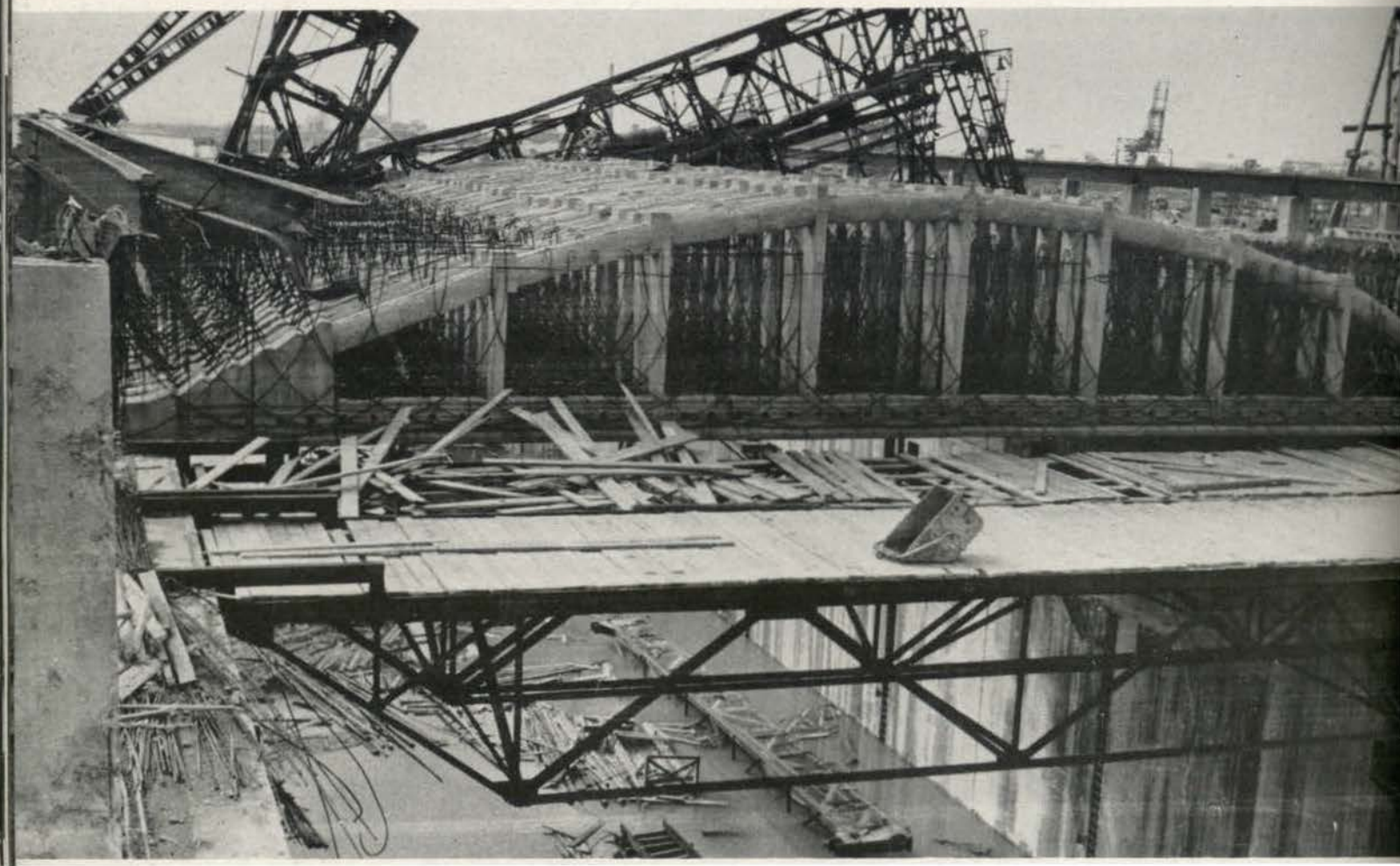
During its brief stay, the 378th guarded public buildings, power installations and the dock area. It was a peaceful occupation, but it was the first operation of its kind for Division troops.

Bremen





Nearly ready for launching, these German submarines have been assembled from sections constructed elsewhere and brought to Bremen.







It Wasn't All Fighting . . .

Men of the Victory Division were not fighting every hour of every day they were in the European Theater of Operations. There were off-hours during the training in England when doughs were free to roam the countryside and visit neighboring towns. There were three weeks of bivouac in Normandy and of driving fuel and ammo laden trucks on the Red Ball routes.

And even during the weeks of fighting, there were occasional rest periods, when the Red Cross Clubmobiles and USO shows were a wel-

come breath of home and entertainment.

There were the lighter moments during quiet spells when the men could try a hand at cards; or show off the souvenirs and trophies of war. There were impromptu ceremonies to mark special occasions; observances of national and religious holidays. And always, even in the most hazardous circumstances, there were religious services conducted by the Divisional chaplains.

Something of the other side of war is shown in the following pages.





For many in the Division, driving six-ton loads of fuel and ammunition on the Red Ball express route to the American Third and British Second armies was their first taste of near-combat. This is the base camp of one of the provisional companies, near Gisors, France.



International cooperation was practiced at the northern terminus of one of the Red Ball routes, just outside Brussels, where British Tommies transferred the load of fuel from the 95th Division trucks to motor lorries headed for the front.



From the Normandy bivouac area to the combat assembly area near Metz was a long haul—four nights and five days on "40 & 8" box cars for many of the Division troops. This trainload is just leaving Carentan. There were 40 men to a car, just as in the last war.



In England, France and Germany, the Red Cross Clubmobiles seemed to show up at just the right moment. And they got a big play from



There must be a little bit of Goering in every German soldier. This 95th dough happily displays a double row of medals he has acquired from German prisoners who have passed through his outfit.



Well, this could happen anywhere. Between battles there is always time for a game of cards. This one must have been in France—the

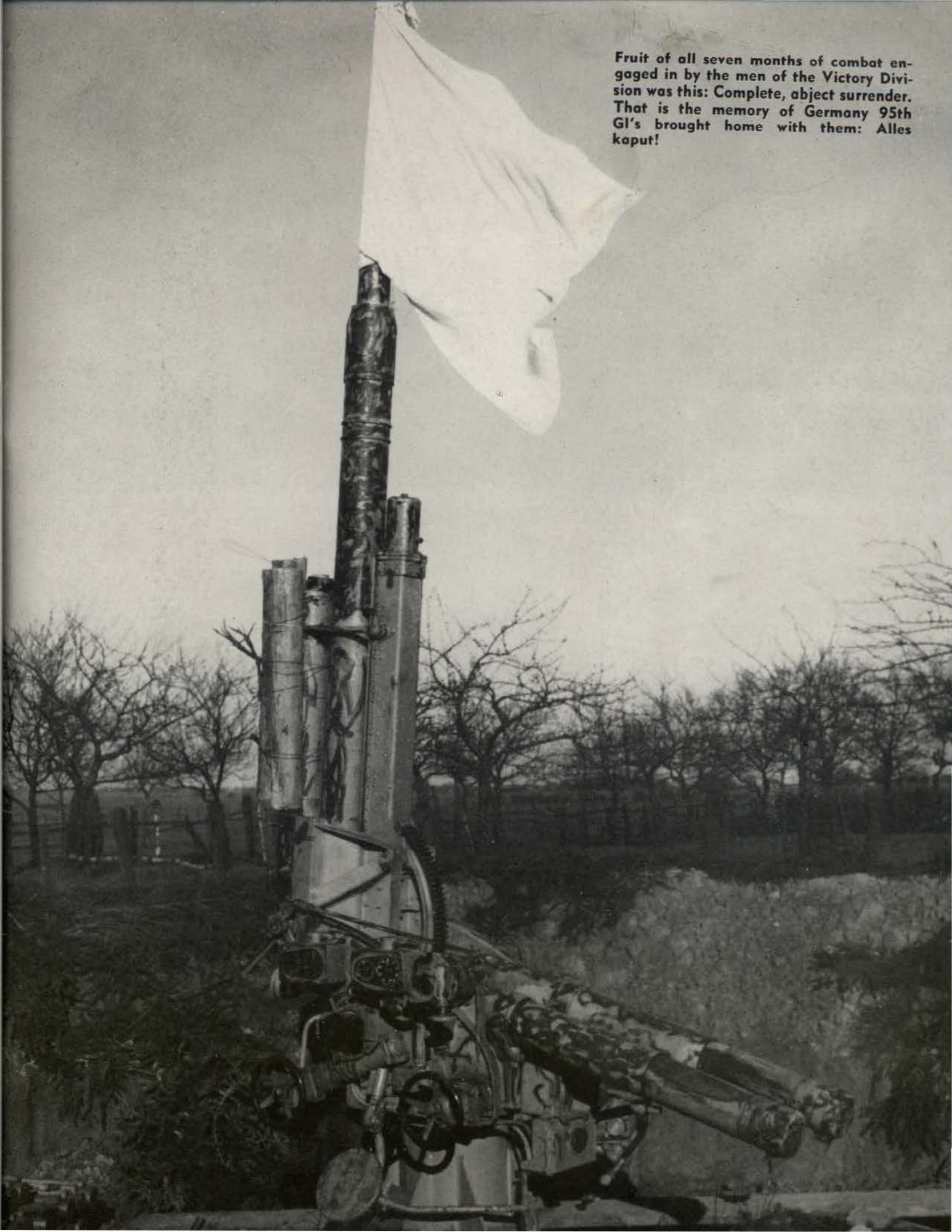


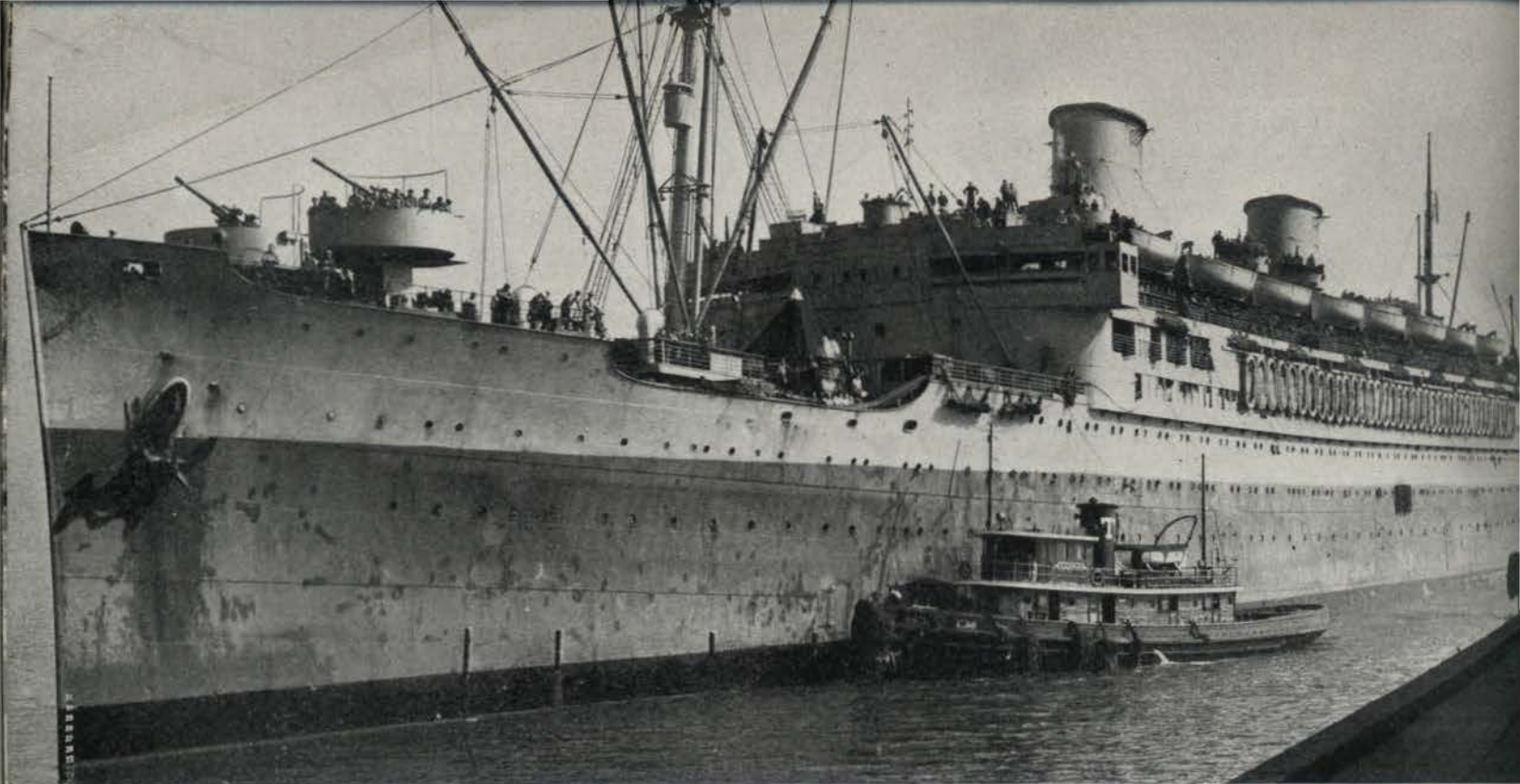
When the 95th Division's war was only half over, Division Artillery celebrated the firing of its 200,000th round of heavy stuff at the enemy. The round was fired from a position at Neuss, on the Rhine.



Artillerymen never, never see their target. But the little artillery liaison planes see it—and in this case photographed it the instant the

Fruit of all seven months of combat engaged in by the men of the Victory Division was this: Complete, abject surrender. That is the memory of Germany 95th GI's brought home with them: Alles kaput!



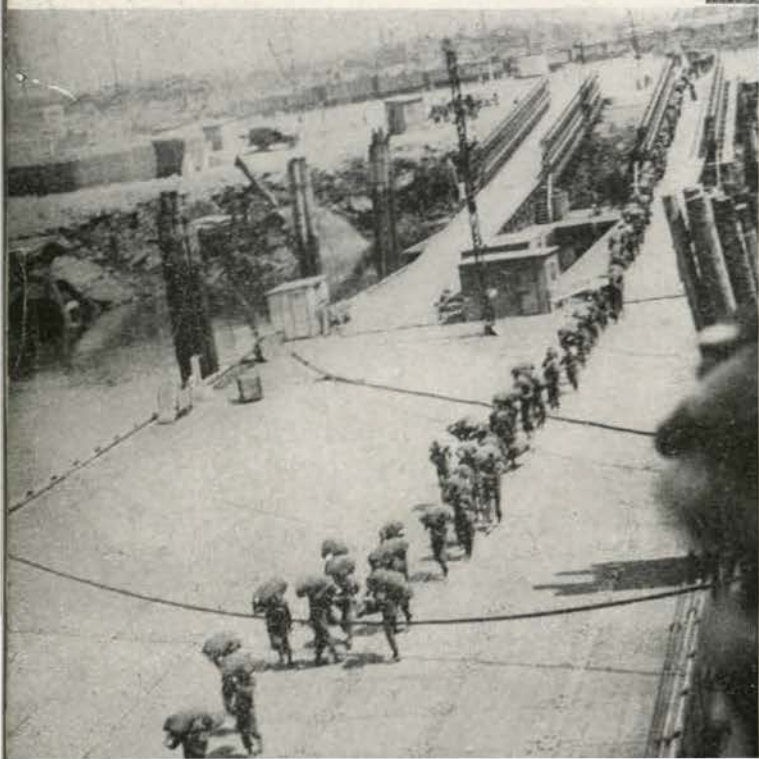


Any ship looks good, when it is headed for home. This is the SS Mariposa, loaded with GIs of the 378th Infantry and all the artillery battalions.

Church services were held in farmyards, theaters, crumbling factories—anywhere, but they were held and chaplains were frequently under severe enemy fire. This service was held south of Metz. →



↓ It was a struggle, that last mile at Le Havre, but it was worth it. It was good-bye to the ETO, and to war.





Victory Division Joes are seen debarking at Boston, June 29, 1945—the end of the combat road. Not all Division troops docked in Boston, but all sailed from there almost a year earlier.