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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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AAI ON THE RECORD BACKGROUND

July - Nov 1944

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21 NOV Recd

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.
ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE No.305.
NOVEMBER 21st. 1944.

FIFTH ARMY.

Activity on Fifth Army front during period confined chiefly to patrols and scattered Arty.

Enemy launched small counter-attack along Route 65 vicinity PODERE LA FABRIO (Area 8731) early morning 20 November but were repulsed. Another small enemy raid on point 429 (Area 7927) repulsed in South African Sector. On right flank, patrols clash occurred (Area 0620), NW of M. TAVERNA.

Weather overcast with heavy ground fog and mist in some areas.

EIGHTH ARMY.

In Eighth Army Coastal Sector, our patrols active south of FIUMI UNITI.

Following up violent Arty attack, we cleared enemy from strongly defended sugar factory buildings, ZUCCHERIFICIO 5933, used as German OP. Some PW taken.

Patrol north of RAVENNA airport took 19 PW. Our patrols active along MONTONE and south of Route 9. Positions unchanged.

No change in mountain Sector.

Weather fair. Prospects fair with probable showers in morning.

END ONRB.

4344

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

SPECIAL FEATURE - Release with Communique

TRIPLE TASK FOR MUSTANGS

A S.A.A.F. Mustang Squadron of the Desert Air Force fighter-bomber wing operating from a front line airfield on the 8th Army front in Italy, carried out a three-fold task during operations over Yugoslavia.

The Mustangs gave close escort to the R.A.F. 'Sudan' Kittyhawk dive-bomber squadron, reaching out over the Adriatic to attack railway bridges between [illegible] and ZAGREB in Yugoslavia, participated in the bombing themselves, and then went on to escort U.S.A.A.F. Mitchells, which had been bombing enemy targets further north, back to the Yugoslav coastline.

It was the first time in the history of the fighter-bomber wing that such an operation had been attempted.

Twelve Mustangs took off, each carrying one 500-lb bomb under one wing and a long-range tank under the other. Over the Adriatic they joined the Kittyhawks, which, with two 500-lb. bombs each, had taken off some minutes earlier. Target area was reached without incident.

Six Mustangs, with six Kittyhawks, shared in an attack against a railway bridge near JASENOVAC, between BROD and ZAGREB, while the remaining aircraft attacked another bridge near SISAK, in the same area. The bombing was well concentrated.

After bombing, the Kittyhawks turned for home, while the Mustangs rendezvoused with a homeward-bound flight of U.S.A.A.F. Mitchells, to provide top cover for them to the Adriatic. This mission was accomplished without interference, and the Mustangs returned to base after being in the air for three hours and 20 minutes.

The Mustang squadron was led by Captain M.J. Loubser, S.A.A.F., of 58 Roofd Street, Clifton, Johannesburg. Captain R.C. [illegible], S.A.A.F., of 76 Kelvin Place, Durban North, Natal, led the Kittyhawk squadron.

END.

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The Mustang squadron was led by Captain R.J. Lockyer, S.A.A.F., of 58 Hoofd Street, Clifton, Johannesburg. Captain R.C. Wight, S.A.A.F., of 76 Kelvin Place, Durban North, Natal, led the Kittyhawk squadron.

END.

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the BUDAPEST South Oil Refinery and nearby railyards, the DOROG rail bridge, the S.ZOLNOK West rail-yards, RUDOLL rail-yards, the KISKUNHALAS rail-yards, and other industrial objectives.

Several enemy aircraft were seen, and there was a short encounter at SZOLNOK.

Lightnings, in a high-level attack on the NAGY south rail-yards, scored hits in the centre of the yards, and on the south choke-point. Lightnings also damaged yards and rail lines in the LAKE BALATON-BALATONFELVIDEK area, destroying 15 locomotives, two oil-cars, and a vehicle, and damaging two locomotives, 10 trains, four vehicles, four gun positions and a railway station.

R.A.F. heavy and medium bombers attacked the VIENNAU permanent bridge, and road and motor transport in the NOVI HAMAR-ROGATICA area, with good coverage.

Weather restricted operations of T.A.F's medium bombers, but fighter-bombers and fighters operating in close support of Allied ground forces, scored good results in attacks on rail and road traffic in northern Italy and Yugoslavia.

Fuel and supply dumps, strong points and other objectives were hit and bridges in the PADUA area were damaged. The approaches to two bridges in VERONA were reported cut there. Destroyed were eight motor vehicles, 15 locomotives, and 18 railcars, and damaged three vehicles, 27 locomotives, 39 railcars, and one tug.

Balkan Air Force Units concentrated attacks on considerable enemy road and rail movement in Yugoslavia and Albania, destroying or damaging at least 12 motor vehicles on roads near NOVI PAZAR.

Four Squadrons, 12 vehicles were reported destroyed and 33 damaged. In this area fighter-bombers cratered roads and bombed bridges. Spitfires bombed objectives at KERVESTAN.

Fighter-bombers destroyed a bridge north of PODGORICA, and attacks on rolling-stock at PODGORICA resulted in a line of railcars and trucks blowing up.

Several aircraft attacked enemy shipping in the north Adriatic.

Sixteen of our heavy bombers and 11 other aircraft are missing from these operations.

Enemy aircraft flew approximately 1,800 sorties.

4342

End Summary.

Copy for Stores Detail.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

BLECHHAMMER Synthetic Oil Refinery

Strong forces of 15th U.S.A.A.F. Liberators and Flying Fortresses yesterday attacked the synthetic oil refinery at BLECHHAMMER, in Silesia, and communications targets in Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. Generally good results were reported.

The BLECHHAMMER refinery, 60 miles south-east of BRESLAU, is believed to produce 360,000 tons of synthetic oil a year.

Bomb-strike photographs show several direct hits on the hydro generation plant, and the inductor and two compressor houses, with fires burning in several other installations. The railroad on the west side of the refinery was cut. The target was last attacked on November 13.

The Fortresses, with their heavy escort and Lightning escort, found the target clear of the attempted smoke-screen, and were in the area for nearly 50 minutes. Intense flak was encountered. A few unidentified enemy aircraft were seen. There was a brief encounter, but no claims.

Lieut-Col. Brooks A. Erwhon, 5427 South Cedar Street, Tacoma, Washington, Liberator Deputy Group Commander, who led his wing on the attack, said:- "Three times before this we've attacked BLECHHAMMER without seeing a thing on the ground. Jerry was slow to-day with his smoke pots, and this time I could see a couple of big explosions, with large fires and thick black smoke. We hit him hard."

A Liberator tail-gunner, S/Sgt. Desmond F. Clark, 22, of 50 Tolland Street, East Hartford, Conn., remarked: "I never saw anything like it outside the movies. Big waves of flames and smoke were rolling across the target. It looked as though the whole refinery was blazing."

At ZLIN, Czechoslovakia, 45 miles west of BRNO, Liberators put an excellent concentration of bombs on a boot factory, now in war production. Reconnaissance photos show several buildings in the industrial area damaged and fires burning. Liberators attacking the HODONIN railyards, 35 miles south of BRNO, on one of the two main lines from Prague to Vienna, made the line temporarily unserviceable. Several freight cars were destroyed. The station and the industrial plant south of the yards were damaged.

Other Fortresses and Liberators bombed railyards in MORAVIA, at BRNO, LUDENBURG, and PREROV. Cloud prevented observation of results.

The south railyards at BROD, in northern Yugoslavia, where a narrow gauge escape-line meets the main line to Austria, were bombed by Lightnings, with good results. Liberators, at other Yugoslav targets, did not bomb effectively.

1st Lt. Richard E. Gadbury, 26, 127 Ninth Ave. North, Fort Dodge, Iowa, bombardier in the lead Lightning at BROD, said: "We hit the south choke-point of the yard, cutting the line, and raised a good pattern in the centre. A few bombs fell on nearby warehouses. I saw one small fire, with white smoke billowing up from the warehouse, as we pulled off the target."

Photo reconnaissance at GYOR, in western Hungary, attacked by detachments on November 17, showed severe damage to the railyards on

Washington, Liberator Deputy Group Commander, who led his wing on the attack, said:- 'Three times before this we've attacked Blechhammer without seeing a thing on the ground. Every time, flew to-and-fro with his smoke pots, and this time I could see a couple of big explosions, with large fires and thick black smoke. We hit him hard.'

A Liberator pilot-officer, S/Sgt. Desmond F. Clark, 22, of 50 Tolland Street, East Hartford, Conn., declared: 'I never saw anything like it outside the movies. Big waves of flame and smoke were rolling across the target. It looked as though the whole refinery were blowing up.'

At ZLIN, Czechoslovakia, 45 miles east of BRNO, Liberators put an excellent concentration of bombs on a Bata shoe factory, now in war production. Reconnaissance photos show over 100 buildings in the industrial area damaged and fires burning. Liberators bombing the HODONIN railyards, 35 miles south of BRNO, on one of the two main lines from Prague to Vienna, made the line temporarily unserviceable. Several freight cars were destroyed. The station and the industrial plant south of the yards were damaged.

Other Fortresses and Liberators bombed railyards in HRANICE, at BRNO, LUNDENBURG, and PREROV. Cloud prevented observation of results.

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Photo reconnaissance at GYOR, in western Hungary, attacked by instruments on November 17, showed severe damage to the railyards on the main line from BUDAPEST to VIENNA. Repair work already had been started, according to the pictures.

R.A.F. BOMB RAILWAY ROADS

The roads between NOVI PAZAR northwards as far as ROGATICA, in Yugoslavia, were attacked in daylight yesterday by unescorted R.A.F. Liberators and Wellingtons. A.A. vehicles were hit, and the bombers blew holes in the roads [illegible] impassable. They bombed the slopes of adjoining hills [illegible] to cause landslides.

One 4,000-lb. bomb was dropped in the town of ROGATICA. West of PRIBURICI, a 4,000-pounder fell very near a concentration of vehicles. At VISEGRAD a force of Liberators and Halifaxes dropped wood concentrations of bombs round the railway chain to the pontoon bridge, which had been flung across the river, to replace the permanent structure recently destroyed.

End Story.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

6 NOV Recd

IN.	INITIALS
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MAJ. GEN.	
BRIG.	
CONSERVATION	
PRESS	
G.	
EIGHTH ARMY	

O.R.B.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 290
6 NOVEMBER 1944

Little activity in Eighth Army coastal sector but enemy generally more aggressive. Route 16 heavily shelled.

Enemy patrol of 30 attacked our forward positions north of S Stefno but driven off with casualties. A german recce patrol that deeply penetrated our positions elsewhere was captured complete.

Ours troops patrolling to FOSSA GHIALA north of S STEFANO met enemy and inflicted casualties. In same area our armour engaged german-held house and forced defenders to withdraw north.

CAMBELLARA still strongly held by germans. South of here positions unchanged both sides of RONCO. Spasmodic shelling and mortar and MG fire from west bank of river.

Enemy still hold RONCO village 4614 on route 9 also buildings at east corner of FORLI Airfield. German tanks in action at west side of airfield engaged by our arty and forced to withdraw under cover of smoke. Nebelwerfers active south of airfield where on 4 Nov. germans sent out tank hunting party which forced to withdraw.

River levels continue to fall in whole sector.

Our arty engaged german occupied buildings in S MARTINO IN STRADA area and enemy retaliated with harassing fire on our lines of communications. Positions north of PREDAPPIO unchanged.

Fighting continues in M TESTA area also vicinty S MARTINO IN ANELLO 3203 historic syndical village between RABBI and Montone Rivers.

No change in mountains farther west.

See ONMB Appendix 27 for notes on effect of german petrol shortage.

FIFTH ARMY

Patrols actively probed enemy defenses along entire Fifth Army front 5 Nov. while our troops used the lull in fighting to repair roads, dry out equipment, recondition ordnance and reorganize their positions.

Taking advantage of bright moonlight and clear weather enemy air night 4 Nov. made one of its rare appearances over [illegible] flying in at medium altitude three enemy aircraft

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British troops engaged in sharp fire fights with enemy in areas just north M BATTAGLIA 0674 and of IL POGGIO 0033.

American troops repulsed small scale attack vicinty M BELMONTE 9032.

Harassing enemy arty received along entire Fifth Army sector.

Weather fair or fine with prospect of continuance [illegible] front.

(For information on the 84 Chemical Battalion see Appendix 31 to todays on RECORD BACKGROUND)

END ONRB

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE NO.290. 6 NOVEMBER 1944.

FOR MORNING 1030 A.M.B.

NAVAL:

During the last five days Allied warships have again bombarded enemy positions near the France/Italian frontier. On November 1st the U.S. destroyer BENSON fired upon enemy rail transport and troop concentrations, the area being well covered. The next day the French cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES bombarded enemy guns and troops starting a large fire. Naval support to the army continued on November 3rd when the U.S. destroyer WOOLSEY fired on large troop concentrations and a barracks. Her shooting was very accurate and she obtained three direct hits. Mines are still being swept up and destroyed in the bombardment area.

It is reported from the Aegean that in the early hours of November 5th the British destroyer HERMIONE sank an enemy "F" lighter and her escorting motor launch near the island of PISCOPI.

ALLIED ACTIVITIES IN ITALY:

With the improvement in weather conditions in Italy patrols of both Fifth and Eighth Armies have been very active and certain local improvements to our forward positions have been made.

BRITISH-AMERICAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Yesterday strong forces of escorted heavy bombers attacked an oil refinery in AUSTRIA while others attacked troop concentrations and rail yards in YUGOSLAVIA.

Medium bombers concentrated on bridges and rail targets on the BRENNER PASS line.

Fighters and fighter-bombers gave very strong support to the land forces in the PO Valley and also attacked shipping in FIUME Harbour and off the DALMATIAN Coast. Communications in SLOVENIA and on the RIVIERA coast were also attacked.

During these operations fifteen enemy fighters were destroyed; five heavy bombers and seven other of our aircraft are missing.

MAAF flew over 2,500 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE.

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T.A.F. RESUME BRIDGE-SMASHING

After a prolonged stand-down due to bad weather, Tactical Air Force medium bombers yesterday returned to the air and hammered key road and rail bridges in the BRENNER PASS and in the MILAN and TURIN areas. Mustangs continued their attacks on rolling-stock in Yugoslavia, while other fighters and fighter-bombers attacked varied targets in northern Italy.

Rails were reported cut in 29 places.

In seven successful attacks on the BRENNER PASS rail-line, B-26 MARAUDERS clipped the main enemy communication route from industrial southern GERMANY into northern ITALY. Other Marauders bombed rail-links in the CREMONA and MILAN areas.

Attacking embankments, bridges, a corniche and a railroad yard on the BRENNER PASS rail line, along a 26-mile stretch between VERONA and TRENTO, the Marauders effectively cut or blocked the communication route. In one formation attacking a rail embankment, 1st Lt. Vaughn T. Allen, a bombardier, from Westfield, Me., reported: "We hit directly on the embankment, tearing up hundreds of feet of track."

In another formation attacking 3,000 feet of track along the edge of a cliff bordering the ADIGE river, Bombardier S/Sgt. Charles R. Bennett, 2614 St. Albans Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, said: "The bombs cut the tracks. It was a good coverage."

Group Commander Colonel Richard C. Harrell, Jnr., South Boston and Richmond, Va., leading his group on its 450th mission over a bridge north of ROVERETO, on the BRENNER line, said: "It took two runs over the target, but on the second run our bombs knocked down one span into the water." Col. Harrell was flying his 78th mission.

B-25 MITCHELLS bombed seven important road and rail bridges in the MILAN and TURIN areas. Hits were made on rail bridges at FIORENZUOLA, 75 miles south-east of MILAN, the Mitchells put high-explosive bombs on the centre of the structure.

More hits were made on the CALERRI road and rail bridge 30 miles west of MILAN.

Good concentrations of bombs were put on CASALE MONTE FERRATO rail link, 50 miles east of TURIN. Smoke partially obscured results, but hits were observed on the north end and the north approach.

Excellent concentrations of high-explosive bombs were [illegible] a rail bridge at VERCELLI, 50 [illegible]

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More hits were made on the CAMERI road and rail bridge 30 miles west of MILAN.

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Excellent concentrations of high-explosive bombs were laid down on a rail bridge at VERCELLI, 50 miles south-west of MILAN. The centre and west end were well covered, and two spans were believed destroyed.

The east end of the VILLAFRANCA-D'ASTI rail-bridge was knocked down by another striking force of Mitchell bombers. Crew members reported seeing water through breaks in the bridge. More attacking formations of B-25s struck at the MAGENTA road and rail bridge 20 miles west of MILAN, and at RECETTO road bridge 50 miles west of MILAN.

P-47 THUNDERBOLTS ranged along German railroad lines in the PO Valley, and knocked out 21 motor vehicles, 9 locomotives, 17 rail-road cars, and a rail bridge. They also damaged 18 locomotives and 128 railroad cars, and cut tracks in 20 places.

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TACTICAL (Contd.)

D.A.F. MUSTANGS KILLER LOCOS D.A.F. Mustangs, continuing their attacks on German railway communications in Yugoslavia yesterday, had a very successful day, 31 locomotives being destroyed, bringing the total for three days operations last week to approximately 90.

Eighteen of the locomotives were destroyed on tracks between ZAGREB and MARIBOR, and 13 between S.A.R.JEVO and BROD.

The previous day Mustangs had attacked a large number of trucks in a rail-yard near PRACHTSKO. The pilots only claimed that ten of the trucks were destroyed, but yesterday it was seen that the destruction involved over 200 trucks. Not one serviceable vehicle was left, and the whole yard was one big black mass of charred and twisted wreckage, still smouldering.

After bombing near BROD, one formation of Mustangs sighted a single aircraft in the air. The Mustang leader climbed to investigate and saw that the solitary aircraft was a JU-52, which opened fire at 600 yards. The Mustang leader pulled away, and his No. 2, Lt. Conrad George Bogg, S.A.A.F., of Maitland Street, Bloemfontein, closed in and shot the JU-52 down.

The Mustangs also attacked a 200-foot vessel in FIUME Harbour. Fire, with much smoke, followed the burst of one bomb on the quay-side, and another pilot scored a direct hit either on the stern of the ship or on the wharf.

BALTIMORES, KITTYBOMBERS and MUSTANGS bombed two villages between FIUME and LJUBLJANA. At one of the villages - RIENICA - the BALTIMORES were reported to have dropped all their bombs in the target area.

On the 5th Army front Kittybombers registered seven direct hits on a big stores dump north-west of BOLOGNA.

end Tactical.

BALKAN AIR FORCE

Despite patchy weather, B.A.F. yesterday carried out a substantial programme, designed to hinder and destroy retreating German columns in Yugoslavia and Albania.

A road bridge 10 miles south-east of TIRANA, in Albania, which lies on a German escape route was bombed by P-39 Airacobras, which encountered small-arms fire as they attacked.

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trucks were destroyed, but yesterday it was seen that the destruction involved over 100 trucks. Not one serviceable vehicle was left, and the whole yard was one big black mass of charred and twisted wreckage, still smouldering.

After bombing near ARCO, one formation of Mustangs sighted a single aircraft in the air. The Mustang leader climbed to investigate and saw that the solitary aircraft was a JU-52, which opened fire at 600 yards. The Mustang leader pulled away, and his No. 2, Lt. Conrad George Bogg, S.A.A.F., of Whitland Street, Bloemfontein, closed in and shot the JU-52 down.

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and Tactical.

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Despite patchy weather, B.A.F. yesterday carried out a substantial programme, designed to hinder and destroy retreating German columns in Yugoslavia and Albania.

A road bridge 10 miles south-east of TIRANA, in Albania, which lies on a German escape route was bombed by P-39 Airacobras, which encountered small-arms fire as they attacked.

One bomb fell on the end of the bridge, and another underneath it. Several other bombs fell near the target on the road just at the end of the bridge and around it.

Spitfires, Mustangs and other P-39s attacked motor-vehicles, destroying eight and damaging many more.

Mustangs also strafed a motor torpedo-boat at KRALJEVICA, Yugoslavia, and set it on fire.

ENDS DETAIL.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Italian Patriots - 20 OCT recd 43 X2

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE No. 273.

20th. OCTOBER 1944.

BEGINS:

FIFTH ARMY.

Fifth Army troops made local gains against stiff resistance supported in some sectors by enemy tanks, heavy Arty fire and counter-attacks.

Our troops advancing toward BOLOGNA are now faced by ten German Divisions as compared with three or four when present offensive began 10th Sept.

British troops captured several objectives vicinity MONTE LA PIEVE 0323 and continued to press toward vital BOLOGNA-RIMINI highway

American troops captured road junction village of LORENZONE 9731 and took M. DELLA VIGNA 9131.

Heavy fighting continued vicinity M. BELMONTE 9032 and on Route 65 north of POGGIOLI 8831. From positions on M.BELMONTE, enemy counter-attacked with tanks, mortar fire and Arty.

American armoured Units, pushing up Route 64, advanced to MARANO 6219.

In the Coastal Sector active patrols maintained contact with enemy.

EIGHTH ARMY.

Positions substantially unchanged in Eighth Army Coastal Sector where German Parachutists putting in frequent small counter-attacks as they withdraw.

Our leading troops established a bridgehead one thousand five hundred yards deep across PISCIATELLO west of MACERONE, 18 Oct, and pushed on further one thousand five hundred yards morning 19 Oct. This bridgehead joined up with bridgehead established farther west, 17 Oct, which was enlarged following day. We are now three thousand yards beyond river from MACERONE to Route 9 and have reached eastern outskirts of CESENA.

18/0 South of Route 9 we captured CELINCORDIA 6004 and pushing on,

1490

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Heavy fighting continued vicinity M. BELMONTE 9032 and on Route 65 north of POGGIOLI 8831. From positions on M.BELMONTE, enemy counter-attacked with tanks, mortar fire and Arty.

American armoured Units, pushing up Route 64, advanced to MARANO 6219.

In the Coastal Sector active patrols maintained contact with enemy.

EIGHTH ARMY.

Positions substantially unchanged in Eighth Army Coastal Sector where German Parachutists putting in frequent small counter-attacks as they withdraw.

Our leading troops established a bridgehead one thousand five hundred yards deep across PISCIATELLO west of MACERONE, 18 Oct, and pushed on further one thousand five hundred yards morning 19 Oct. This bridgehead joined up with bridgehead established farther west, 17 Oct, which was enlarged following day. We are now three thousand yards beyond river from MACERONE to Route 9 and have reached eastern outskirts of CESENA.

18/19 South of Route 9 we captured CELINCORDIA 6004 and pushing on, night ~~19~~ Oct, reached high ground immediately south of CESENA. In this area PWs continue to come in.

In Central mountain Sector, Eighth Army troops captured M. SAMBUCHETO 3889 and PLATANSA 3388 and further hills were cleared about three thousand yards south of GALEATA 3291 on both sides of BIDENTE valley.

Weather cloudy with thundery showers and periods of more continuous rain. No Change Press Release Line.

4338

END ONRB.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

1491

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS.

COMMUNIQUE NO.273. 20 OCTOBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A.HRS.

NAVAL:

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

East of CESENA, Dominion troops of Eighth Army have enlarged their bridgehead over the river PISCIATELLO and are continuing their advance toward the river SAVIO. On their left British and Indian troops of Eighth Army have entered CESENA and cleared all resistance east of the river SAVIO.

In the central sector, Eighth Army troops have made local gains south of GALEATA.

South of BOLOGNA, heavy fighting continues. British troops of Fifth Army have captured several important features on the right flank of the American drive. American troops of Fifth Army continued to make progress against undiminished resistance and have cleared the town of LORENZONE.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Although weather restricted air activity yesterday, medium bombers bombed roads, rail lines and bridges in the PO Valley. Fighter bombers and fighters supported the ground troops in Italy, attacking bridges, and rail/road traffic north of the battle area.

Two enemy aircraft were destroyed during the operations. Five of our planes are missing.

MAAF flew more than 900 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE.

1492

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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Two enemy aircraft were destroyed during the operations. Five of our planes are missing.

MAAF flew more than 900 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE.

4337

1493

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

1494

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

926

I.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS.
G.H.Q.

LAND FORCES GREECE.

COMMUNIQUE.

20th OCTOBER, 1944.

RELEASE TIME: 1030-hrs.

As a result of pressure being exerted by Greek guerilla forces, the withdrawal of the Germans from SOUTHERN GREECE is continuing with increased speed.

British advanced elements have occupied THEBES.

Although heavy demolitions at the Piraeus are delaying the unloading of ships, measures for the relief of the civilian population are now being started.

---oOo---

4336

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY 26 SEP Recd
ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO 248
SEPTEMBER 25, 1944

Lieut.General MARK W. CLARK'S Fifth Army continued its smashing advance 24 Sep beyond Gothic Line defensive zone to points approximately twelve miles South of important BOLOGNA-RIMINI highway in PO river valley. In nine days Fifth Army has destroyed a line which took Germans nine months to build.

American troops of General Clark's Fifth Army hold Northernmost points in Italy now in Allied possession. They are SE of CASTEL DEL RIO (0216) and South of ROCCA (9416). Advance beyond Gothic Line increased with capture of important hill features NE of FIRENZUOLA as well as dominating Appenine crest in area of FUTA pass.

Fifth Army gains been made by savage fighting in face of fierce enemy resistance over roads, trails, bare rock and mountain ledges. Enemy has destroyed every bridge and culvert in our path, and Fifth Army engineers shown themselves equal to almost superhuman task of making accessible roads to our front lines possible. Whole sides been blasted out of hills where roads wind narrowly around them.

NE of FIRENZUOLA Fifth Army seized DELLA CROCE (0112), M. LA PINE (9515) and M. CUCCA and PORARRA (vicinity 9813), thus clearing an access to PO valley.

Farther West we are well across SANTERNO river, and CORONCINA hill mass (7507) in FUTA pass area has been taken. Fifth Army elements have also fought their way to positions at CASERRA (8509) and COVIGLIAIO nearby. Still farther West and South of CASTIGLIONE (7209) Fifth Army has cut the NT highway PRATO-VERNIO-CASTIGLIONE, important communications route.

Brazilian troops of General Clark's Fifth Army have been engagin enemy and made a small advance suffering a few casualties.

Enemy still follows KESSELRING'S orders to fight to the last man and to the last bullet.

For information on the 6th Armoured Infantry Battalion of the 1st Armoured Division see Appendix to to-day's On Record Background.

Heavy fighting continues on Eighth Army Adriatic front. The Germans put up a hard fight 23/24 Sep in narrow coastal gap before the Lombardy plain broadens out, and there is no indication that they have started withdrawing movements.

Canadian Corps made steady advances on 23 Sep and reached

1495
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

enemy resistance over roads, trails, bare rock and mountain ledges. Enemy has destroyed every bridge and culvert in our path, and Fifth Army engineers always themselves equal to almost superhuman task of making accessible roads to our front lines possible. Whole sides been blasted out of hills where roads wind narrowly around them.

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Brazilian troops of General Clark's Fifth Army have been engaging enemy and made a small advance suffering a few casualties.

Enemy still follows KESSELRING'S orders to fight to the last man and to the last bullet.

For information on the 6th Armoured Infantry Battalion of the 1st Armoured Division see Appendix to to-day's On Record Background.

Heavy fighting continues on Eighth Army Adriatic front. The Germans put up a hard fight 23/24 Sep in narrow coastal gap before the Lombardy plain broadens out, and there is no indication that they have started withdrawing movements.

Canadian Corps made steady advances on 23 Sep and reached PEDRERE GRANDE five miles NW of RIMINI. Visibility in this flat country as on VOLTURNO plain is restricted by many farms and surrounding trees and vineyards. Taking advantage of this, enemy parachutists supported by SP guns and tanks are contesting every farm in fierce hand to hand fighting in which our troops are getting better of the Germans. The country though flat is not easy for tanks owing to many ditches, and this has been largely an infantry battle.

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Enemy has considerable mass of arty well forward, and there has been heavy shelling.

(Over

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Eighth Army troops penetrated 2,000 yards beyond the RIMINI-BOLOGNA railway North of S.GIUSTINA (7898) and are now within 1,500 yards of the RUBICON or USO river. Enemy counter-attacked mid-day 24 Sep.

After heavy fighting for SANTARCANGELO Gurkhas captured [redacted] 38/7598, an eminence on SW side of town. Patrols to town found that Germans had cleared out and blown bridge over RUBICON behind them. 50 PWs taken 23 Sep.

Heavy fighting continues in POGGIO BERNI sector. Our troops are on line of main road from SANTARCANGELO to SCORTICATA and enemy holds the ridge beyond. Further attacks now being launched against ridge. SCORTICATA still held by Germans, but Eighth Army troops are on ridge SW of village and clearing up MONTEBELLO (6888).

In central mountain sector our patrols penetrated two or three miles farther since 23 Sep against negligible opposition.

Weather becoming cloudy and rain threatened whole front.

No change Press Release Line. End ONRB.

SEEN	INITIALS	
Col. McC.		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

22 SEP Recd

O N R B
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO.244 FOR 21 SEPTEMBER 1944

Eighth Army continues to advance on Adriatic front. Greek troops pushed on to within 2000 yards of outskirts of RIMINI 8598. Bitter fighting continues for S FORTUNATO ridge and although Canadian troops of Eighth Army have broken through German positions and advanced to S LORENZO IN MONTE 8295, large parties of enemy still remain on ridge making use of sunken roads characteristic of defensive nature of this part of the country.

Many prisoners captured including large numbers from 162 Turcoman Div.

Farther SW of FORTUNATO, Eighth Army British infantry captured a hill feature. British tanks and infantry advanced to CERASOLO 7690, on RIMINI road in area 789[illegible] on 19 Sept, and fighting hard to hold their gains. Germans counterattacked several times with tanks, SP guns and bazookas. Fighting continues for CERASOLO itself.

Further advances made NW of SERRAVALLE 7887 and a nearby hamlet captured. Eighth Army troops reached outskirts of S ARCANGELO town. Total of prisoners continues to rise sharply and now exceeds 6700 since the start of offensive.

Continuing their steady advances into Gothic Line defenses despite stubborn resistance and heavy rain, Fifth Army troops took several more terrain features 20 Sept.

Rain prevented close air support which has materially assisted in advances of past few days and poor observation caused by weather further hampered ground forces in their determined assault against well prepared enemy positions in strong natural Appenine defense line.

British troops of Fifth Army took VALDICRIOTO feature 9698 and other hill masses along their attack zone.

American troops of Fifth Army have taken M MONTELE (in area 9505), M ACUTO (9504) (3400 ft), M FERRA (9305) and BARCO 9199. M FERRA and M MONTELE are heights dominating important E-W highway through MONTORIOLO. They also fought their way toward key town of SAN LORENZO 8101, a mountain village that is part of FUTA pass defenses about 2 kilometres S of pass.

In coastal sector, Fifth Army troops approached outskirts of PIETRASANTA 9792 NW of CAMAIORE. In other parts of sector, pressure maintained and active patrolling continued. Enemy resistance decreased somewhat but light arty fire fell on forward Fifth Army elements.

There are evidences that enemy continuing to shift troops from West to stop Fifth Army's threat to Gothic Line in FUTA pass area. Part of German 362 Inf Div last encountered near PISTOIA identified E of FUTA pass.

Fanatical resistance of enemy in face of fierce Fifth Army onslaughts explained in some degree by following order found on 2 German deserters; "I am detailed to guard this position and notify platoons of all enemy attacks. The position is to be held to the last man and bullet even if the enemy breaks through on all sides supported by strong arty and mortar fire. Only on authority of the company C.O. will the position be abandoned."

Extract from a letter from a German soldier on leave to a friend fighting on Eighth Army front; "The long awaited invasion has finally come and one can certainly say that the war will soon come to a decision. There is no doubt at all that things look good for us at last. As was to be expected, the reprisals on the English came at the same time and we all hope that these will have a fearful and ruthless effect. We should show no mercy to these swine for they

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016
1498

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British troops of Fifth Army took VALDICRIOTO feature 9698 and other hill masses along their attack zone.

American troops of Fifth Army have taken M MONTALE (in area 9505), M ACUTO (9501) (3400 ft), M FIENA (9305) and BARCO 9199. M FIENA and M MONTALE are heights dominating important E-W highway through MTE RAGOLA. They also fought their way toward key town of SAN MARCOLA 8101, a mountain village that is part of FUTA pass defenses about 2 kilometres S of pass.

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Weather: Adriatic sector, cloudy with threatened thunderstorms. Elsewhere, steady rain most parts. No change Press Release Line.

END ONRB

4334

SEEN.	INITIALS
Col. McCARTHY	
Maj. MEARS	
Lt. BRACE	
Capt. SILVERSTEIN	
Col. FAVA	
C. C.	

1496

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

A.F.H.Q.
Col.
Mel. M.
Mal.
Capt.
Col.
C.C.

P.R. 22 SEP Recd

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO 245
SEPTEMBER 22,1944

With capture of FORTUNATO and CERIANO ridges Eighth Army completes last stage in month long bitter fighting to break enemy's Apperine positions. After smashing of fixed Gothic Line defences, enemy fought back stubbornly on successive ridges to further prepared defences SW of RIMINI. Eighth Army has broken through these defences and reached MARECCHIA river.

RIMINI is in our hands and ahead lies broadnening entrance to plain of Lombardy.

In operation 71 and 98 German Infantry Divisions have lost the greater part of their effective fighting strength. Losses heavier than CASSINO inflicted on 1st Parachute Division and four other Divisions, including crack 26 Panzer Division reduced to half original strength. Enemy forced to commit more and more of his forces from other sectors, and in all twelve divisions have been represented in fighting.

On coast Greek troops of Eighth Army continued their advance night 20/21 Sep and by morning 21 Sep cleared greater part of RIMINI and reached the MARECCHIA river, though enemy remained in outskirts.

Farther inland Eighth Army Canadian troops finally cleared up S.FORTUNATO village (8394) and ridge 20 Sep, took 500 PW, followed up their advantage with infantry and armour evening 20 Sep and reached the MARECCHIA river West of RIMINI despite heavy thunder-storms lasting all night.

Bitter fighting ensued between Eighth Army British infantry and tanks and newly reinforced Germans on CERIANO ridge (7891) six miles SW of RIMINI, last ridge before MARECCHIA river. Main weight of German armour put in here to support fiercest counter-attacks encountered for some time. CERIANO itself changed hands 20 Sep and both village and road running NE along ridge were still held by enemy night 20/21 Sep. Our troops renewed advance 21 Sep and CERIANO and whole ridge now captured.

Further advances made by British troops of an Indian Division

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

plain of Lombardy.

In operation 71 and 98 German Infantry Divisions have lost the greater part of their effective fighting strength. Losses heavier than CASSINO inflicted on 1st Parachute Division and four other Divisions, including crack 26 Panzer Division reduced to half original strength. Enemy forced to commit more and more of his forces from other sectors, and in all twelve divisions have been represented in fighting.

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Further advances made by British troops of an Indian Division from pinnacle town of S.MARINO and leading troops are within one mile of MARECCHIA river West of frontier on this sector. Relief at their liberation from Germans expressed by San Marinese by co-operation of small republican army assisting our troops in rounding up German stragglers in S. MARINO borders and in clearing town of scattered enemy elements.

In general advance all along Fifth Army front, Lieut.General MARK CLARK'S troops widened and deepened their penetration of Gothic defence zone on 21 Sep. Although enemy resistance decreased in some sectors advances were not rapid because rugged Appenine terrain hampered movements of troops and equipment over rain-soaked roads and trails. Visibility poor with rain and fog interfering with arty observation and preventing air support.

4393

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Enemy shelling received in all sectors but heaviest German infantry activity was in Canadian area.

As Fifth Army's forces moved forward they found large number of enemy dead, which indicated enormous [illegible] of artillery and small arms fi[re] and ferocity of Fifth Army attack.

In coastal sector west of PIETRASANTA (9782) taken and Fifth Army troops well up on 4,000 yards [illegible] (9781). These captures have made possible the use of [illegible] PIETRASANTA highway.

Greatest Fifth Army advances into enemy positions made North of MONTE SPRUGNO (Area 7801).

With clearing and consolidation of SAN LUCA (9101) other American troops of Fifth Army advanced to within a mile of strategic FUTA pass.

Immediately due East of [illegible] (9102) [illegible] (8503) and IL POGGIOLINO (Area 8502) were captured.

Other American troops of Fifth Army pressed toward important road junction town of FIRENZUOLA (9007) and after bitter fighting entered town late afternoon of 20 Sep.

Elements also crossed SANTERNO river East of FIRENZUOLA and occupied hill 713/9407 and adjacent village SAN PIETRO CAPOFIUME (9406) and pushed up South Eastern slopes of POGGIO CASTELLO (9307). Advanced elements were on Southern slopes of M. CUCCOLINA (9208) North East of FIRENZUOLA. Eighth Army troops of Fifth Army also made gainsin their sector and captured M. CASCOLINO (9901).

In the past 48 hours Fifth Army forces captured 630 PW's, which brings total prisoners taken to over 2,400 since beginning of present offensive on 10 Sep.

For information on 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion see Appendix to today's On Record Background.

It can now be revealed that the Fourth Regiment of Canada and the British Columbia Dogs as together captured Pt 204, the dominating feature North of the Gothic Line defences in MONTECCHIO area and so paved the way for the Eighth Army's complete break-through in this sector resulting in successful attacks on TOSSIGNANO and MONTEMAGGIO. In the approach battle Canadians were first to gain the high ground South of TOSSIGNANO river overlooking the Gothic Line and anticipated the necessity of a full-scale

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

With clearing and occupation of SAN IUCI. (2101) other American troops of Fifth Army advanced to west in a mile of strategic IUCI pass.

Immediately due East of [illegible] (2102) MONTEMIGNANO (8503) and IL POGGIOLINO (Area 8503) were captured.

Other American troops of Fifth Army pressed toward important road junction town of PIGNATAIO (8007) and after bitter fighting entered town late afternoon 21 Sep.

Elements also crossed SANTERNO river East of PIGNATAIO and occupied hill 703/8407 and adjacent village SAN PIETRO (8706) and pushed up South Eastern slopes of POGGIO SUPINO (8307). Advanced elements were on Southern slopes of M.GOLOTTA (9208) North East of PIGNATAIO. British troops of Fifth Army also made gains in their sector and captured M.CARICCHIO (8801).

In the past 48 hours Fifth Army forces captured 650 PW's, which brings total prisoners haul to over 2,100 since beginning of present offensive on 10 Sep.

For information re 8th Indian Division see Appendix to today's On Record Background.

It can now be revealed that the Perth Regiment of Canada and the British Columbia Dragoons together captured Pt 204, the dominating feature North of the Gothic Line defences in MONTECCHIO area and so paved the way for the Eighth Army's complete breakthrough in this sector, resulting in successful attacks on TOMBA DI PESARO and MONTEMAGNO. In the approach battle Canadians were first to gain the high ground South of FOGLIA river overlooking the Gothic Line and anticipated the necessity of a full-scale attack, but patrols reported that although the river and Route 3 was thickly mined the defences were thinly held. Consequently the Canadians attacked 1730 hrs 30 Aug under a heavy arty barrage with a comparatively small infantry and tank force. Their three objectives were MONTECCHIO and surrounding high ground, Pt 115 in the centre and Pt 133 on the right flank, all within the Gothic Line defences. The Perth Regiment captured Pt 115 against stiff resistance and heavy shelling and mortaring. Royal Canadian Engineers followed closely and cleared the minefield thus allowing British Columbia Dragoons' tanks to reach and support the infantry on Pt 115. They waited and held the feature until their flank was made secure by the capture of MONTECCHIO by other Canadian

(Over

1503

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

troops at noon the following day, and then advanced toward Pt 204 2,000 yards North. Battling against infantry and MG posts and encountering turret-top 75 MM gun-emplacements and 88 MM guns, which had to be knocked out by the tanks, and constantly under very heavy shell-fire, the Perth and British Columbia Dragoons were counter-attacked halfway to their objective by parachutists and tanks, but the enemy attack was broken up by accurate arty and tank fire, and the Canadians were on Pt 204 by 1600 hrs. Of the four attempts to regain the strongpoint made by the enemy during the night 31 Aug/ 1 Sep, three were repulsed comparatively easily, but the fourth attack at 0430 hrs by 100 parachutists supported by SP guns developed into a very bitter fight during which the Commanding Officer of the Perths personally directed the fire of his Piat mortars and knocked out two enemy guns. The enemy was forced to withdraw leaving 35 PW's, many dead and wounded and several disabled guns.

Next morning Canadian reinforcements found the Perths and Briti Columbia Dragoons reduced but proudly in possession of Pt 204.

Weather occasional showers. Outlook fair whole front.

New Press Release Line. ABISSINIA (R8796) - SERRAVALLE (R7867) - SAN MARINO TOWN (R7584) - PIAN DI CASTELLO (R8375) - PEGLIO (R7589) - unchanged to POPPI (2061) + M. COMPACCIO (R0882) - RAZZALA (Q9797) - CASETTA DI TIARA (L9403) - M. FAGGIO ALL'OMBRELLIN (L8601) - COLLE (Q7093) - PISTOIA - thence unchanged. End ONRB.

1504

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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[illegible]

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

20 SEP Recd MSC

O.R.B.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE No. 243.

20th. September 1944.

BEGINS: Yard by yard, Lt. Gen. Mark Clark's Fifth Army troops have forged doggedly ahead all along their front in gruelling bitter battles that advanced line from one to two kilometres. Enemy using all devices in his savage defence and taking full advantage of prepared and natural defensive positions.

Although no large scale breakthrough apparent, Fifth Army penetrated against defences which are stronger than any yet encountered in Italy. Heavy fighting continues in and among turret-top pilboxes and concrete gun emplacements which form crown of Appenine crests.

Capture of most important hill features within past forty-eight hours threatens whole enemy position. Already resistance in parts of central sector been decreased somewhat as our Arty and Air continue to inflict casualties. British, South African, Indian and Brazilian foot soldiers of Fifth Army again scaled rocky steep slopes to uproot defenders from their well dug-in positions. Greatest advances made by American Forces of Fifth Army south of FIRENZUOLA 9007, where they advanced up slopes of 2600 ft Mt. CASTEL GUERRINO 8901 and seized height of LA CROCE 9201.

British and Indian troops of Fifth Army have taken hill masses overlooking the FAENZA road in the vicinity of RAZZOLA 9796 and are firmly in control of the FEMMINA MORTA feature 0394 which also rises to more than 3600 ft.

The LUCCA-CAMAIORE road which connects with coastal highway secured when troops of Fifth Army captured town of CAMAIORE 0389. Enemy delivering heavy mortar and Arty fire in this area.

Enemy has re-inforced sector in front of the hard fighting Fifth Army troops. The German 309 training regiment, veteran unit, has been identified in vicinity of MONTE PRATONE 9599. More than 600 prisoners captured by Fifth Army in area north of FLORENCE in past forty-eight hours.

On Eighth Army Adriatic front, RIMINI airfield, heavily mined and cratered, now entirely in our hands and Greek troops advanced one thousand yards beyond it along coast.

Canadian troops of Eighth Army captured S. MARTINO in MONTE L'ABATE 8693, night 18th Sept, after grim 24 hour battle under extremely heavy enemy shelling and mortar fire and advanced one mile NW across AUSA river. Stiff fighting continues for German defensive positions SW of RIMINI in S. FORTUNATO 8394 area.

Bridgeheads gained by Eighth Army British troops over AUSA and BUDRIOLO (see 8292) rivers 17 and 18 Sept, held against fierce opposition and enlarged 19 Sept. Fierce fighting continues on hills between RIMINI 8597 and NE corner of S. MARINO frontier.

British troops advanced, night 18/19 Sept, into Republic of S. MARINO and captured SERRAVALLE 7887 on NE frontier, and DOMAGNANO 7785 two miles NE of S. MARINO town. West of FAETANO 7983, our advance continues and British and Indian troops of Eighth Army are within one mile of S.

1506

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

concrete gun emplacements which form crown of Appenine crests.

Capture of most important hill features within past forty-eight hours threatens whole enemy position. Already resistance in parts of central sector been decreased somewhat as our Arty and Air continue to inflict casualties. British, South African, Indian and Brazilian foot soldiers of Fifth Army again scaled rocky steep slopes to uproot defenders from their well dug-in positions. Greatest advances made by American Forces of Fifth Army south of FIRENZUOLA 9007, where they advanced up slopes of 2600 ft Mt. CASTEL GUERRINO 8901 and seized height of LA CROCE 9201.

British and Indian troops of Fifth Army have taken hill masses overlooking the FAENZA road in the vincinity of RAZZALA 9796 and are firmly in control of the FEMMINA MORTA feature 0394 which also rises to more than 3600 ft.

The LUCCA-CAMAIORE road which connects with coastal highway secured when troops of Fifth Army captured town of CAMAIORE 0389. Enemy delivering heavy mortar and Arty fire in this area.

Enemy has re-inforced sector in front of the hard fighting Fifth Army troops. The German 309 training regiment, veteran unit, has been identified in vicinity of MONTE PRATONE 9599. More than 600 prisoners captured by Fifth Army in area north of FLORENCE in past forty-eight hours.

On Eighth Army Adriatic front, RIMINI airfield, heavily mined and cratered, now entirely in our hands and Greek troops advanced one thousand yards beyond it along coast.

Canadian troops of Eighth Army captured S. MARTINO in MONTE L'ARETE 8693, night 18th Sept, after grim 24 hour battle under extremely heavy enemy shelling and mortar fire and advanced one mile NW across AUSA river. Stiff fighting continues for German defensive positions SW of RIMINI in S. FORTUNATO 8394 area.

Bridgeheads gained by Eighth Army British troops over AUSA and BUDRIOLO (see 8292) rivers 17 and 18 Sept, held against fierce opposition and enlarged 19 Sept. Fierce fighting continues on hills between RIMINI 8597 and NE corner of S. MARINO frontier.

British troops advanced, night 18/19 Sept, into Republic of S. MARINO and captured SERRAVALLE 7887 on NE frontier, and DOMAGNANO 7785 two miles NE of S. MARINO town. West of FAETANO 7983, our advance continues and British and Indian troops of Eighth Army are within one mile of S. MARINO town 7584.

Enemy total of nine divisions on Adriatic front, though steadily reduced in numbers, are still battling strongly on final line of hills west of RIMINI which bars the entrance to PO Valley and last stronghold in Appenine positions.

PW from Eighth Army front since 26 Aug. now total 6300.

We can now reveal that it was the Irish Regiment of Canada who, on 13 Sept, took village of CORIANO 8787. Two other Canadians Battalions made a night attack on four mile ridge where CORIANO situated. Irish crashed through in morning and fought house to house battle for village itself.

CORIANO feature had held up advance of Eighth Army on Adriatic sector for ten days as Panzer Grenadiers solidly positioned in tunnels, cellars and stone buildings. Night attack followed intense bombing and shelling.

/ CONTINUED OVER

1507

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/ CONTINUED.

Canadian Infantry and tanks made the assault and captured a two thousand yard sector of ridge.

Irish Regiment of Canada also took some 70 Panzer Grenadiers in their bag of 130 prisoners at CORLANO. MONTECCHIO 0075, key point for Gothic Line, and important height of TOMBA DI PESARO 9979 both fell to same Regiment during early stage of campaign.

Weather mostly fair but cloudy locally over hills and scattered showers later whole front.

No change Press Release Line.

END ONRB.

SUPPLEMENTARY ONRB - BEGINS: Heading : - What he who runs should read.

German troops of 20th G.A.F. Field Division fighting on Fifth Army front have a new responsibility to bear in midst of their present defensive battles. According to captured document, they are to be questioned by their Commanders about the articles appearing in an official Unit publication Quote The latest for you unquote and any Soldier showing any lack of knowledge of the contents will be subject to disciplinary action.

END SUPONRB.



1508

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

19 SEP Recd 434

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR SOI UNIQUE NO. 242

19 SEPTEMBER 1944

Great success was achieved by Lieut. General MARK W. CLARK'S Fifth Army 18 Sep.

Climaxing days of hard fighting for the three dominant heights well within German defensive zone, American forces of Fifth Army wrested from fiercely resisting enemy the heavily fortified heights of M.PRATONE (9998), which rises to more than 3,300 feet, M.ALTUZZO (9997) and [illegible] (8998). (Note: This is Point 854 on 1/1,000,000 map). British and Indian troops of Clark's Fifth Army contributed materially to success of operation by execution of flanking movements.

Fighting for these features has been as bitter as has any previous action of the Italian campaign. In addition to most determined resistance by veteran German troops equipped with all arms and supporting weapons, Fifth Army forces have had to negotiate rugged mountain masses. Even crests were fortified with dug-in positions and concrete pill-boxes. Emplacements with tank-turret gun tops have also been encountered. Adding to strength of enemy positions were numerous bands of high barbed wire, so placed as to impede mass attack from any direction.

Capture of these features put Fifth Army's Northernmost elements approximately 20 airline miles NE of FLORENCE.

In one enemy arty concentration 2,000 shells were fired. Germans also made maximum use of mortar and small arms.

In central and coastal sectors Fifth Army made additional gains. Minefields were numerous and considerable arty fire received. North of LUCCA Fifth Army infantry captured more high ground on both sides of SERCHIO river.

Brazilian Expeditionary Force of Fifth Army continued to advance.

Further advances have been made on whole of Eighth Army Adriatic front between the coast and Southern frontier of SAN MARINO.

1509

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Greek troops reached Northern edge of RIMINI airfield. Several Panther tank-turrets dug in as in Hitler and Gothic lines, again used by Germans in RIMINI airport area. Accurate pin-point bombing by Desert Air Force fighter-bombers neutralized them. In one case direct hit scored with one thousand pound bomb only 400 yards from our leading troops.

4330

-Over

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Bitter fighting continues for possession of SAN MARTINO IN MONTE L'ARATE (8698). Our men entering village strongly with mortars, bazookas and very close combat.

West of SAN MARTINO Canadian troops attacked 17 Sep and advanced to AUSA river at one point about three airmiles SW of RIMINI. Enemy tanks and infantry conducting bitter defensive battle for river line, but our advance continued.

Farther SW British troops crossed the AUSA at two points with infantry and tanks. Swiftly following disorganized enemy along CERASOLO ridge, our troops captured MONTIVO on 17 Sep and now hold whole ridge overlooking AUSA valley. Pushing on they entered republic of SAN MARINO at FAETANO (7983), where MARANO river crosses frontier about two miles NW of MONTEGUDO. Here a bridge-head was established and our troops advanced one mile toward SAN MARINO city on evening 17 Sep.

Germans counter-attacking in LE GROTTE (7883) area. All German reinfocements in this sector according to prisoners's statements go through SAN MARINO. Positions unchanged further South. Weather overcast whole front. New change Press Release Line: line of MARANO river from sea to FAETANO (R7983) - MONDITORE (R0571) - PEGLIO - PIEVE SAN STEFANO (R4256) - POPPI - DICOMANO (R0181) - POGGIO MONZOGNANO (Q970940) - FRESCLANO (Q7697) - PISTOIA - VIAREGGIO (U9883).

Supplementary Or Record Background

Hitler's reputation for biting carpets should not be taken too seriously according to the Political Education Officer of 1st German Parachute Division. That the belief still persists among Germans is implied by a directive which he issued on 9 Aug to officers of this stubborn formation, and which fell unintentionally into Eighth Army hands.

The P.E.O. says: "Officers must counteract with all possible means and with conviction the assertions made by the enemy as well as even some of our own people that the Fuehrer goes mad with rage and, when he is in that state, tears down curtains, bites the carpet in his rage and rolls in convulsions on the floor".

He adds that there are in actual fact witnesses who know that Hitler is "well above such lack of control" though "many a man in the street, if he were exposed to the disappointments and grief which the Fuehrer has to bear...would have gone under long ago".

Names of the witnesses are not rpt not given in the

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

TACTICAL (Contd)

The Mitchells were unescorted, but they met no fighter opposition, but most formations encountered determined anti-aircraft fire.

Of the attack 2nd Lt. Aloysious L. Bohen, a bombardier, 3015 Letcher Ave., Richmond, Va., said: "The target was well taken care of. The 'frags' fanned out throughout the area and raised hell with enemy troops and guns."

The RIMINI defences received over 1,000 tons of bombs from Tactical Air Force medium and fighter bombers in the 24 hours up to midnight last night.

More than half of this tonnage was dropped by DESERT AIR FORCE Marauders, Baltimores, and fighter bombers, and Tactical Air Force mediums from Corsica completed the carpet of bombs on the stubborn enemy defence line.

The blitz began on the night of September 17/18, when R.A.F. Bostons and Baltimores attacked defended areas at RIMINI, as well as in the Central Sector.

As troops of the 1st Canadian Division were storming the FORTUNATO FEATURE, Spitbombers, Mustangs and Kittyhawks concentrated their morning missions on close-support targets. They bombed guns, defended positions, and strong points. Many hits were scored on houses and gun pits, and roads were cut in several places.

Throughout the day defended positions in other parts of the RIMINI battle area and the Central Sector were plastered by the fighter bombers and by the Marauders and Baltimores.

END TACTICAL &DETAIL

1513

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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END TACTICAL &DETAIL

4329

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

R.A.F. NIGHT BOMBERS (Contd)

Photographs taken during the bombing show that all the bombs fell within the area, and crews reported two big fires, one in the centre of the area, with smaller ones starting round them. The big fires could be seen 50 miles away.

"They were just burning up nicely when we left," said one pilot. "Some of the small fires appeared to be among transport. They were just tiny dots, like lorries on fire."

Another crew reported that artillery fire stopped when they arrived, and broke out again as they flew away from the target. From the battle area crews saw flashes of artillery gunfire.

This is the second time within the past month that the R.A.F. bombers have given night air support to the Eighth Army advance. When the attack slowed up around PESARO, they made three successive raids on a small area packed with enemy troops, and severely battered a Parachute division.

End Strategic.

BALKAN AIR FORCE

Spitfires of Balkan Air Force yesterday carried out a successful beat-up of LLUBLJANA airfield in Slovenia. They found a miscellaneous collection of aircraft, and left five of them in flames, including three Henschel 126 reconnaissance machines. Several other aircraft were damaged.

A train which was passing the airfield also received the attention of the Spitfires. The locomotive blew up in a strafing attack.

Light bombers returned to ZARA, the Dalmatian harbour, where, the previous day, a tanker was hit. More bombs were dropped. The crews saw smoke from the earlier attack, and oil on the water, but no sign of the tanker. It was also noted that a bridge had been blown up.

Mustangs which bombed KALAVAC harbour severely damaged a jetty.

Inland, in support of Partisans' ground operations, Spitfires bombed an enemy garrison in Dalmatia, and Mustangs bombed strong points near PRILEP, south Serbia.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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TACTICAL

Six hours of concentrated bombing ahead of advancing Eighth Army troops yesterday high-lighted B-25 Mitchell attacks on the key defence area of the GOTHIC LINE. The Mitchells blasted the same strongly-held troop and gun area just northwest of RIMINI, on which they put 200 tons of fragmentation and demolition bombs Sunday.

Yesterday's attack by 10 striking forces caused fires and explosions through the area, and a column of smoke that rose to 3,000 feet.

More Tactical.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

1517

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

18 SEP Recd 1944

ONRB

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO. 241 FOR 18 SEPTEMBER 1944

On Eighth Army Adriatic coastal belt, Canadian and Greek troops reached NW corner of Rimini airfield. To West, very heavy fighting continues for S.MARTINO IN MONTE L'ABATE 8693 and surrounding high ground which is fiercely contested by German parachutists, supported by Tiger tanks.

British troops made considerable progress beyond MULAZZANO 8386. Fighting their way from ridge to ridge, they captured CERASOLO 8288 16 Sept and cleaned up high ground dominating the AUSA Valley (see 8595) NE of the village.

Fighting continues against strong resistance for M. OLIVO 8087, at SW end of CERASOLO ridge near SAN MARINO frontier. Many PW taken and heavy casualties inflicted on enemy.

Following capture of TRARIVI 8283 and dominating Pt 475 8282, half mile W MONTESCUDO 8182 16 Sept, both of which held us up previous day, Germans pulled back to the West of these features.

S of River Conca, positions remain substantially the same. Our patrols maintaining contact on Eighth Army central sector.

German losses in infantry during recent fighting are indicated by their use of engineers as infantry in line near S. LORENZO IN CORREGGIANO. Prisoners from 356 Infantry Division recently arrived on Adriatic front to reinforce much battered 98 Division of whom about 1500 were taken prisoner reported that their journey to the front was a nightmare of constant bombing and strafing attacks as they marched through S. MARINO.

Fierce German resistance continued to limit gains by Fifth Army. Enemy from well dug-in positions threw every obstacle in our path, including considerable heavy and medium arty, strong mortar, machinegun and small arms concentrations, and our progress impeded also by thickly sown minefields and heavy wire entanglements at every approach to Gothic Line defense zone. Several strong counterattacks launched by enemy and repulsed. Heavy casualties being inflicted on enemy.

NE of PISTOIA, one of our patrols in a spectacular raid killed 14 Germans, wounded 2 and captured 8 prisoners at a cost of 1 killed and 1 wounded.

No indication anywhere along Fifth Army front that enemy intends to withdraw or surrender. Repprts received from enemy prisoners lead to conclusion that Germans expect to hold Gothic Line at all costs. Paratroopers who oppose us in one sector are fighting fanatically with a complete contempt for death.

N of PESCIA 3484, Fifth Army patrols penetrated enemy territory in several places.

During their first day of battle Brazilian Expeditionary Force, although they have not yet met caliber of resistance, encountered along eastern and central Fifth Army front, have already demonstrated considerable aggressive ability and have advanced more than a mile to take a town.

P.O. Weather fair to fine, becoming cloudy whole front. No change Press Release Line.

END ONRB

WAR DEPT.	
Col. McCARTHY	
Maj.	
Maj. DAVIS	
Capt. STEVENS	
Col. TAVS	
C. C.	

4328

18 SEP Recd 4316

ADD TO ONRB

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

SUPPLEMENTARY TO ON RECORD BACKGROUND ISSUED WITH COMMUNIQUE NO. 241
(to amplify last paragraph in the 8th Army ONRB)

For immediate release

EXTRACT FROM GERMAN SOLDIER'S DIARY - EIGHTH ARMY FRONT 13 JUNE TO 22 AUGUST.

Following extracts from the diary of an NCO of the 44th (Hockdeutschmeister) Infantry Division recently taken prisoner on the Eighth Army front reveals conditions now prevailing in and behind the German lines and the diarist's reactions to them.

June 13: Heavy packs and no transport. We can hardly stand on our feet. Night in the open. June 14: Attacked by fighter-bombers on the road. Air swarms with enemy planes. Ambushed by partisans. June 15: Arrived at Florence but nothing to eat and no money. June 18: Back to Bologna. Once more no report center to be found. Slept with Fascists. June 22: Drew my pay and spent the lot in one afternoon. Slept in the open. It rained. June 24: Went off to "Win" some geese. Got three. Sergeant forgot to bring mail. I'm furious. June 26: Pretty dismal in the company. Many losses. June 29: Enemy planes overhead. June 30: Still no mail. Spent night near Forli airfield. Enemy planes over runway all night. July 1: Fighter-bombers attacked airfield in no uncertain fashion. Continued journey. Have travelled 30 kilometers. 45 letters waiting for me. July 5: We are attacked by fighter-bombers. Three killed. July 6: Marching orders. July 8: Air attack in vicinity. Plagued with mosquitoes. No sleep. July 10: Rain and a lot of lice. July 12: Promoted to staff sergeant. July 19: We have no rations. July 20: Slept in guard room. Only place. July 21: Attempt on the Fuehrer. July 25: Cannot travel farther in daylight. Partisan territory. Two of our men killed during night. Air Force unit took 30 hostages. Wailing of the women. They are to be shot on the spot. Horrible. I can't face the sight. July 29: Rations getting short. No cigarettes. July 30: Letter from my wife. Looks pretty dismal back home. Air attack on Vienna. Ran into company as it was withdrawing. August 3: Tommies attacked at 0300 hrs. August 6: Tommy is shooting with heavy mortars. Has effect on morale. Our task to bring in prisoners. No success. August 8: Sergeant Tischer lost his right foot. Horrible pain. His chaps don't bother about him. August 10: Rations arrive. Mortar demolishes our house. Took my patrol to Bagnolo. Saw 20 Tommies. Didn't shoot. I am too weak with only one NCO and four men. Got back. August 11/12: Marched

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

behind the German lines and the diarist's reactions to them.

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- more -

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EXTRACT OF GERMAN SOLDIER'S DIARY (Contd)

August 21: New positions. Built new bunker, then ordered to take other new positions. Everyone curses and swears. Have become quite indifferent. Am wet through and through. Not a scrap of bread in my rucksack. Swearing and cursing continues. One man collapses and I remain with him. Horrible thirst. I have a drink from a puddle. Seems that Tommy is attacking. We wait for what's coming. August 22: Intense artillery fire falls on our positions. Foxholes only half finished. Screams on our right. Direct hit on heavy M.G. positions. I lay flat and pray. I think of my wife and the child on the way. My corporal loses his nerve. We quarrel. I order section to the chapel one by one. Shells fall on chapel. Corporal wounded. At last fire stops four a;m; Lie down and sleep. Already cheerful of approaching night. We'd like these gentlemen who rule our destiny to see the way we live here - looking death in the eye every moment. We've forgotten how to laugh. Even the little wrist watch from my wife has stopped.

(Here the diary ends)

Next morning the diarist was captured. The whole force defending Monte Foresto.

END SUPPLEMENT TO ONRB

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

INFORMATION DIVISION

O.R.B.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 225.

2nd. SEPTEMBER 44.

BEGINS: Another highly important phase of the Italian campaign which started on eleven May with the attack on the GUSTAV Line has been concluded by the breaching of the Gothic Line by troops of the Eighth Army in the Adriatic Sector. This victory is a climax to a continous and hard fought struggle which has broken in succession the GUSTAV Line the HITLER Line the VIDMONTE Line and the Line east and west through Lake TRASIMENO on which the enemy was able temporarily to make a stand.

The Gothic Line running as it does across the Appenine chain is in the most difficult country of all to attack. The breach in this line therefore is an outstanding success and a decisive victory for Allied Arms.

The attack on the Gothic Line Started in earnest on 26 August when the troops of Eighth Army moving swiftly and silently in to position advanced across the METAURO river and elsewhere along the front and steadily drove the enemy back to his last prepared position - The Gothic Line.

Eighth Army composed as it is of British Canadian New Zealand South African Indian Polish and Italian troops launched on 31 August a powerful attack against the Gothic Line in the Adriatic Sector from PESARO for twenty miles inland.

Bitter fighting continues for the next ridge of high ground north of the FOGLIA river some four to five miles behind the Gothic Line. The enemy has been forced to bring in new formations in an attempt to stem our advance.

In PESARO patrol fighting continues between Poles and German Paratroops along the railway line and north of FOGLIA river. Farther west in MONTECCIO area our Infantry forces across the river have been joined by further Tank forces and bitter fighting has ensued with German Tanks rushed up to meet their threat. South of M. GRIDOLFO feirce fighting continues in a confused situation where the enemy Infantry reinforcements have been met. Fighting continued for M. CALVO. In mountains east of Upper Tiber Valley nearly half of a German Platoon were killed or wounded one mile SW of MERCATELLO 6552.

Eighth Army is not only advancing on the Adriatic sector but all along the front. East of Florence our troops have pushed well forward on to the slopes of the hill masses across the Arno. We are on the outer fringes of M. CALVARI 9080 and M. GIOVI 9480. Our advance toward M. COLONNE 8777 has met stubborn enemy resistance.

A heavy patrol clash took place in area SCOPETI 9976.

To the west of Florence a flying column has penetrated enemy lines and progressed across river Arno to a point south of CALENZANO 7478. Here also the column encountered enemy resistance.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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To the west of Florence a flying column has penetrated enemy lines and progressed across river Arno to a point south of CAMENZANO 7478. Here also the column encountered enemy resistance.

Following up the patrol action of the night 31 August - 1 Sept Fifth Army troops early 1 Sept crossed the Arno in several places in force and rapidly secured bridgeheads for passage of Armoured aelemnts. They found the entire north bank of the river heavily strewn with mines.

The town of CASTELFRANCO 3862 has been taken by Fifth Army and the troops which seized the town continued north.

Negro troops from 92nd Infantry Div in face of enemy resistance crossed the river and advanced to SE slopes on the dominating PISANO hill mass which has afforded enemy excellent observation over the entire west coast sector. The massif sweeps from SE to NE of CALCI. Fifth Army troops of the 100th Infantry Battalion made up of American soldiers of Jananese ancestry have moved into the SW slope of the PISANO Mass.

The strongest enemy Arty on Fifth Army front continued to be met in vicinity of PONTEDERA 2959.

Weather generally fair. END O.N.R. B.
NOFRB.

4326

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

OPERATION DIVISION
ACC

O.R.B.

SEVENTH ARMY.

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO PRESS COMMUNIQUE NO. 225.

2nd. SEPTEMBER 1944.

Begins; Rains fell at scattered points in the RHONE valley and to the east 31 August and the following night adding to the difficulties of operations over extensive area. In VALENCE/area our troops are 150 miles from many of the beaches where they landed 17 days ago and those beyond GRENOBLE are even more distant from initial bases. Contact with the enemy 31 August 1 September in pursuit action up RHONE valley has been largely limited to patrol actions on east bank particularly between TOURNON and BOURG DE PEAGE. French have been advancing rapidly on the west bank and farther west against virtually no enemy resistance. Air observation and other reports indicate enemy is building up his covering positions south and south east of LYONS at same time substantial motor movements have been reported north and northeast from LYONS. Further enemy activity has been noted in area of Alpine Passes across Italian frontier. Of 35000 prisoners taken by French so far 10000 were taken at TOULON and vicinity and 15000 in capture of MARSEILLES. For information VI Corps and 3rd Division see appendix to todays on record background. Weather unsettled. Change Press Release Line coast at NARBONNE BEZIERS MONTPELLIER ALES BARJAC ST. AGREVE VALENCE VOIRON GRENOBLE vicinity of BRIANCON GRASSE NICE. NOFRB.

END O.R.B.

4324

1524

DECLASSIFICATION DIVISION
ACC

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE
APO 758

FOR RELEASE WITH "ON RECORD" BACKGROUND

HISTORY OF VI CORPS

The landing of the VI Corps on Southern France on 15 August 1944 marked its third successful amphibious operation within less than a year. Composed of famous veteran divisions which have been in the thick of the fighting all through the Italian campaign, the VI Corps is respected as one of the most seasoned and battle hardened corps overseas. The two earlier beachhead operations in which the VI Corps played a prominent role were Salerno and Anzio. At Anzio the VI Corps was in charge of all Allied troops (approximately 150,000) during the beachhead period.

VI Corps has had three changes in command since coming overseas in January 1943. Major General E. J. Dawley, who now commands the I. D. School at Fort Bliss, Texas, was the original commander under whom VI Corps came to North Africa. He was succeeded in September 1943 by Major General John P. Lucas, who now commands the 4th Army. The present commander of VI Corps is Major General L. K. Truscott, Jr., who assumed command shortly after the first round of the Anzio operation (February 1944) and has been in command since that time.

First commander of VI Corps was Major General Karl Truesdell, now CG, C and GS School, who took command upon its formation at Fort Sheridan, Illinois in December 1940. Set up as a training corps at Providence, R. I., in January 1943, VI Corps had as its first troops the 1st Division Regular Army, the 26th Division National Guard (Yankee) Division, and a number of assorted units. VI Corps was assigned a training mission and supervised the training of ground force units from Fredericksburg, Virginia, to Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont.

VI Corps conducted maneuvers for its units in Massachusetts in 1940 and participated in 1st Army 1941 maneuvers in North Carolina. The Corps maneuvered in North Carolina again in 1942 in the vicinity of Wadesboro, under Major General (now Lieutenant General) George Grunert, now commanding 1st Service Command, who assumed command early in 1942 and was succeeded by Major General E. J. Dawley, prior to the departure of VI Corps for overseas duty. VI Corps landed first at Oran where for a time they were assigned responsibility for the security of that area. Later they were moved to Rabat and assumed security responsibility for French Morocco.

The past twelve months have been very strenuous for VI Corps. Its landing during the Salerno operation was made at Paestum on 9 September 1943 and the month of December found them slugging their way up the Volturno valley with the terrain and the elements against them and the Germans fighting doggedly for every foot of ground. On January 22, 1944 they leapfrogged up the coast to Anzio landing almost unopposed and throwing the home front into a frenzy of excitement. The tranquility at Anzio did not last long though and for several months VI Corps found itself in one of the most sizzling spots in the war. Holding the beachhead in spite of countless enemy

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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(End)

4123

1525

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

Recd 2 SEP

SECRET
PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE ... F.H.Q.
C. .F.
RELEASED TIME 1030B HRS

COMMUNIQUE No. 225

2 September 1944

NAVY

In his latest messages from Southern France, the Naval Commander reports that the disembarkation of troops and the unloading of their equipment is proceeding satisfactorily. The Navy is also employed in opening ports and clearing minefields.

Nearly 900 prisoners of war, which comprised the Garrison of the islands off Marseilles, were evacuated by 1700 hrs on August 30.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

The full significance of the recent fighting in the Adriatic Sector can now be revealed. Moving swiftly and secretly from distant concentration areas into position troops of the Eighth Army started from south of the METAURO river on 26 August and have fought their way forward over 15 miles of most difficult country with increasing tempo of battle against stiffening resistance driving the enemy back to his final prepared positions of the Gothic Line and inflicting heavy losses on him.

Without pausing Eighth Army launched a series of powerful attacks against the Gothic Line and have now broken through the enemy's elaborately prepared defences on a twenty mile front to a depth of three to four miles. Throughout this operation Eighth Army has been ably supported by its old associate in past victories - The Desert Air Force.

Thus the last known enemy prepared defence line south of the river Po has been successfully breached.

Heavy fighting continues and the enemy has brought up fresh troops in his attempts to stop our advance. Fighting has not been confined to the Adriatic sector as other Eighth Army troops have continued their advance towards the Gothic Line making very important gains north of Florence.

Fifth Army have also seized the initiative and American Infantry supported by tanks have crossed the river Arno at many places between Florence and the sea. The advance continues.

SEVENTH ARMY:

Hampered by scattered rains Seventh Army American and French forces have continued to press forward on the heels of the retreating enemy in the Rhone valley south of Lyons. American troops meanwhile have advanced from the Grenoble area to the north-west some elements being beyond VOIRON. Further limited progress has been made on the right flank where Montes eight miles north-east of Nice has been entered. The French in their advance west of the Rhone are beyond St. Agreve and Charmes. The count of prisoners in Southern France has risen beyond 55,000 of whom the French have taken some 35,000 largely in the capture of Marseilles and Toulon.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

4922

Strong forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday concentrated

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

4322

Strong forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday concentrated their attacks on rail communications in the Balkans. Among the objectives were four railroad bridges and four rail yards in Hungary and Yugoslavia. Formations also attacked the airdrome at Nis and a bridge in the PO Valley. Fighters of the Strategic Air Force carried out offensive sweeps over Hungary, Yugoslavia and enemy-held Rumania, destroying a large number of enemy aircraft parked on Debrecen airdrome, in east central Hungary.

Tactical aircraft flew armed reconnaissances and attacked objectives in the battle areas. Medium and Light bombers attacked gun positions west of Pesaro, while fighter-bombers and fighters were also active against close support targets in the Adriatic sector. Other aircraft attacked ports and shipping off the west coast of Italy and in the Adriatic, as well as communications and guns in Yugoslavia.

In these operations, four enemy aircraft were destroyed in the air, and twelve of our aircraft are missing.

Last night our bombers attacked the rail yards at Bologna.

MAAF yesterday flew approximately 1,900 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE

I 5 2 7

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

O. R. B.

INFORMATION DIVISION
AGC

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO PRESS COMMUNIQUE NO. 224
1ST SEPTEMBER 1944

Eighth Army infantry and tanks following up their patrols across the FOGLIA on 30 Aug are now established on North bank. Steady fighting took place 30 Aug in PESARO, British and Polish troops against German 1 Para Div, their old enemies of CASSINO. Stiff enemy counter attacks morning 30 and 31 Aug were beaten off. PESARO is now divided between Eighth Army troops and Germans.

Following our penetration through outer Gothic Line defences, we have established our position along railway line in town. PESARO, originally a Roman town, became center of art and litterature in 16th Century and at this time was visited by Bernardo who completed his "AMADIS" here and by Torquito Tasso. Important building is 15th Century Palace of Ducal Sforza family. PESARO was birth place and home of composer Rossini.

Further West, active patrolling across FOGLIA continues as far West as BORGO S MARIA (S.0376). On main lateral road W of village, our advance continues and strongpoint MONTECCHIO (S.0075) was captured and our troops, closely supported by tanks, have followed through and established themselves among enemy defences and are now at one point 1000 yards beyond the outer Gothic defences.

Germans have brought up infantry and tank reinforcements to relieve battered 71 Inf Div in this sector and Panzers are now engaging our forward tanks and infantry.

4½ miles SW of MONTECCHIO, in BELVEDERE FOGLIENSE (9473), we have penetrated the enemy's first line and we are within 1000 yards of MONTE GRIDOLFO (9375). Heavy minefields have been encountered and during night 30/31 Aug, 8 mg positions were mopped up in this area. In area MONTE CALVO IN FOGLIA, N of Foglia River, one of the key points in Gothic Line, MONTE DELLA CROCE (9068), S of MONTE CALVO, has been occupied after beating off enemy counterattack afternoon 30 Aug and our tps are now fighting hand to hand on South slopes of M CALVO.

Close contact is being maintained in Appenines where Germans are now almost back in their main defensive positions.

In Upper Arno Valley, a patrol N of BIBBIENA, reached PARTINA 2464, made no contact but saw many demolitions. Another patrol made contact at CONSUMA 0686, 5 miles W of PELAGO. During the day 31 Aug our patrols crossed River NW of FLORENCE and made no contact with enemy. VINCIGLIATO 8471 occupied. Enemy arty continued to harass our patrols across River both E and W of FLORENCE and small arms fire forced back several patrolling parties. Our patrols engaged in fire fight with 2 strong German patrols immediately W of FLOREN-

1528
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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On Fifth Army front, arty activity continued with a 3-hour barrage in one sector. Vicinity MARCIGNANA 4963 our patrols found N bank of river heavily mined. Patrol located enemy in houses NW of PROSPERO 1663 and laid mortar fire on them. Vicinity PONTEDERA 2858 heavy enemy barrage. Arty believed 81mm fell vicinity CASTELFRANCO

- more -

4321

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

In Fifth Army sector, near W coast, a series of explosions were heard from the sea to area of MONTE PISANO. Explosions believed to be demolitions.

According to PW, Gothic Line renamed Goering Line on grounds it adopted for all round defence.

Weather generally fair.

NORB.

END O.R.B.

1530

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

1531

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

INFORMATION DIVISION
FE SEP 1944 1420

O.R.B.

SEVENTH ARMY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO PRESS COMMUNIQUE NO. 224

1ST SEPTEMBER 1944

VALENCE, Rhone Valley road junction town of some 30,000 population was cleared at noon thirty first august and BOURG DE PEAGE, population 5,500, to the northeast, was taken somewhat earlier. In this sector, enemy retreating rapidly after suffering heavy losses farther south, on highway seven.

General Otto Richter, captured Commander of German 198th Infantry Division, said "19th Army undertaking to extricate itself from Southeast France by any means possible." Known as an ardent Nazi, he predicted that "at West wall defence line, Germans would bring out another secret weapon."

Fanning out to Southwest from Lower Rhone, French have occupied a number of important towns. MONTPELLIER had a normal population of some 75,000, ALES 30,000, BEZIERS 67,000 and NARBONNE 25,000.

Prisoners reported that artillery personnel in NIMES area had received orders to return to Germany by their own resources.

Situation remained unchanged in RIVIERA area, near Italian border. In ALPS, American troops have entered village of CONDAMINE-CHATELARD, which enemy had burned in reprisal for patriot activity. Contact made with enemy just Northwest of nearby LARCHE pass on Italian frontier.

Weather fair. No change Press Release Line. N O R B.

END O.R.B.



4320

1532

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE G.H.Q.
C.M.F.

1st September 1944.

NAVAL ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 224
1st SEPTEMBER 1944

The destroyers referred to are the Loyal and Jndine.

4389

31 AUG Recd

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

INFORMATION DIVISION ACC

SEVENTH ARMY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 223

31 AUGUST 1944

Harassed rearguard of remnants of German Nineteenth Army north of Drome River and fighting to keep open escape route toward Lyon. On Aug 30 from vicinity of Livron to Lyon Germans fighting where forced to and delaying and blocking at heavy cost in men and equipment. Sharp fighting occurred north of Livron morning of 30 August but in afternoon enemy broke contant and resumed his hasty withdrawal. In 10-kilometre pocket south of Livron losses inflicted by our ground forces included 2000 motor vehicles, 1000 horses, 20 75-millimetre anti-tank guns, 12 77-millimetre guns, three batteries of field artillery pieces, six railroad guns, 40 20-millimetre anti-aircraft weapons, eight self-propelled guns and a trailer with printing press. This destruction was in addition to that credited to Air Forces and to quantities of usable equipment captured. Two hundred enemy dead counted along this section of highway. Two German ME 109's undertook to support the withdrawal in area of Allex-Crest with ground strafing. By accepting heavy losses of last several days substantial portion of enemy personnel has succeeded in reaching Lyon area. In fighting in Montelimar area our troops were forced from the village of Clary about five miles northeast of Montelimar night of 28/29 August and retook it with little opposition following day. Nice which American forward elements entered without opposition is largest of French Riviera resort cities having population of more than 200,000. Damage confined chiefly to harbor area. In Alps enemy forces have shown signs of nervousness

1533

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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sort cities having population of more than 200,000. Damage confined chief-
ly to harbor area. In Alps enemy forces have shown signs of nervousness
and have been moving out of frontier passes, particularly Larch and Mt.
Genevre passes to try to contact our forward elements. Count of prisoners
continues to mount and has now passed 50,000. Weather fair. No change
press release line. N O R B

4318

END

SEEN.	INITIALS.	
Col. Mc. CARTHY		
Maj. MAGNUS		
Maj. DRAGE		
→ Capt. SALVADORI		
Col. FAVA		
C. C.		

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

A.A.F. - R.A.F. PUBLIC RELATIONS 31st August 1944
Page 1.

MORNING HANDOUT

S U M M A R Y

15th A.A.F. Mustangs yesterday strafed an airdrome 130 miles southeast of BUDAPEST. Crewmen reported destroying a number of enemy planes on the ground.

Another formation of Mustangs strafed the airdrome at KECSKEMET, 50 miles southeast of BUDAPEST. An undetermined number of planes were destroyed. Locomotives and trains nearby were hit.

Heavy bombers attacked two rail bridges in Yugoslavia, on the main line from Hungary to BELGRADE. The rail bridge at CUPRIJA, 90 miles southeast of BELGRADE, was attacked by Liberators. Hits on the structure were reported, and it is believed the bridge was cut. Fortresses attacked a rail bridge northwest of BELGRADE, but it is believed the target was missed.

KRALJEVO rail bridge, south of BELGRADE, was attacked. Reports indicate the target was missed, but rail lines and nearby roads were hit. One bomber and one Mustang are reported missing.

Medium bombers did not operate.

A-20 Bostons hit a fuel dump south of PARMA, in northern Italy. They also cut the approaches to two rail bridges north of FLORENCE, and effected a rail line cut in the same area.

Spitfires attacked rail lines and motor vehicles in the LYON area with good results. Seven locomotives were destroyed and 39 motor vehicles, one locomotive and 30 rail cars were damaged.

Wellingtons of the Coastal Air Force bombed two vessels in SESTRI LEVANTE harbour, with hits reported. Beaufighters destroyed a 200-foot barge in the DANUBE.

In sweeps over Yugoslavia, military installations were hit and, coupled with sweeps over highways in Greece, a total of nine vehicles were destroyed and a dozen more damaged. Eight locomotives were destroyed and a number of rail cars damaged.

From these operations seven of our aircraft are missing.

M.A.A.F. flew more than 1,000 sorties, of which Strategic flew more than 200 and Tactical more than 500.

1535
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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end Summary
Detail pages 2 & 3. [redacted]

[redacted]

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

SPECIAL HANDOUT (Immediate release)

GROUND EYE-WITNESS STORY OF BALKAN RAIL CHAOS

Any German making a trip to the Western Balkans these days asks himself very seriously if his journey is really necessary. The Balkan Air Force sees to it that it is anything but pleasant. The Guerrillas, too, make train-wrecking a speciality.

This is what happened to a traveller who recently had to go by rail from VIENNA almost into Greece - a journey that took nine days, with any number of interruptions and false starts. He had to change five times between VIENNA and LJUBLJANA, in northern Yugoslavia, owing to bomb damage to the line. Then he went on to ZAGREB via MARIBOR.

On the way a tunnel entrance had been demolished, and all the passengers had to get out and walk a mile with their baggage, in pouring rain, to another train waiting for them at the other end of the tunnel. For our particular traveller it meant two trips to move all his kit.

Most of the lines leading into ZAGREB Station had been cut by air attack, and the traveller's train was further held up by a goods train ahead. The German, bored by the long wait, hung out of the window and watched what was going on.

He saw German uniformed officials get on to the engine, which detached itself from the goods train along with the first four wagons and ambled 400 yards ahead. The engine then reversed at full speed and crashed violently into the remainder of the train.

Wagons right down the train were telescoped, and the locomotive came to rest on top of the wreckage.

The German uniformed officials were partisans who jumped clear

So the traveller continued to BROD - a junction frequently hit along with other main Balkan railway centres by daylight heavy bombers.

All the way he was exclaiming at the quantity of blitzed rolling-stock he saw at each side of the track, and he described as "fearful" the state of the BROD railway yards.

An air raid was expected as his train pulled in, throwing the German passengers into extreme panic. There are no shelters left in the town, and the train-load of passengers joined most of the population in the fields until the Allied bombers had added a further quantity of bombs to the chaos that used to be BROD.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

via MARIBOR.

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At SARAJEVO, the next important station southwards, the bombers were over again, and the passengers made another sortie into the fields.

SARAJEVO is on the rack-and-pinion mountain section of the line. Narrow-gauge locomotives destroyed on this line are even more difficult to replace than those elsewhere, and they are a special preoccupation of Balkan Air Force pilots.

At SARAJEVO our traveller had to stay a while, for no trains are allowed southwards by day because of the unceasing low-flying air attacks. At one time there was a ban on night travel owing to partisans mining the track. Now, the Germans would rather take a chance on the mines than on the bombs.

(Over)

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

SPECIAL HANDOUT (Contd)

That night, however, the partisans wrecked a train ahead, and with the traveller's train unable to use the line, he got a lift to MOSTAR by road.

After transacting his business at a German Corps headquarters near MOSTAR, he flew part of the way back to BROD, to join the main line which follows the mountain spine of Yugoslavia and Albania into Greece, dogged by air raid alarms all the way.

BROD was again taking a packet when his train arrived, but it hastily backed-out to get clear of the oil refinery area, although, as the traveller records, this area was hardly worth attacking, as it was completely ruined.

The train took cover near some woods and did not make the station at all, because the Partisans sabotaged another train and blocked the line. This meant another trudge for the traveller with his kit to join another train, and eventually he reached his journey's end - PRIZREN, in Albania, by pack train.

Motor transport columns are banned from the area by day, owing to the Balkan Air Force's low-level strafing.

The hazards of travel by sea are no less, for the Balkan Air Force pays close attention to German attempts to supply the Dalmatian coastal garrison by using small vessels. A German coaster from FIUME, recently captured by the partisans, was carrying a concert party - a man and four girls - on their way to cheer up the Schmidts and Mullers holding their little piece of the Fuhrer's Empire in Yugoslavia.

These entertainers said they had done their stuff on the Russian front and in Poland under terrible conditions, but that they would rather walk to Russia in the depth of winter than go to the Balkans whatever the conveyance.

During a three weeks tour of BOSNIA, they said, they were in six trains which were shot up by the Allies, and they just missed a ride on a road convoy of 16 vehicles which was strafed, only two of the vehicles escaping destruction. They protested to a German Welfare officer at Belgrade, and he sent them by sea from FIUME to SPLIT.

END.

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END.

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INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

STRATEGIC DETAIL

An airfield on the RUMANIAN border, unusually crowded with German aircraft, was successfully strafed yesterday by 15th A.A.F. Mustangs of an all-Negro fighter group.

The airdrome, 130 miles southeast of BUDAPEST and outside of ORADIA, RUMANIA, was covered with ME-323 Messerburg six-motored transports, Stuka dive-bombers, JU-88 bombers, Gotha gliders, ME-111 and DO-217 bombers, plus ME-210 and FW-190 interceptors. No flak or any aircraft were encountered.

The Negro fighter group made five different low altitude strafing attacks on the field, setting many of the planes on fire and damaging installations. Fires were left burning among aircraft, and several oil tank cars in the vicinity were destroyed.

Captain Alfonso Davis, 24, 2118 North 29th Street, Omaha, Nebraska, deputy group commander, led the Negro fighters over the target.

Another formation of P-51 Mustangs strafed the airdrome at KECSKEMET, 50 miles southeast of BUDAPEST in Hungary, catching other transports, dive-bombers and fighters parked on the field.

The Mustangs not only left the field strewn with burning planes, but also hit locomotives and trains nearby.

No opposition was met. The airdrome has been used as a base for servicing transport aircraft and fighters moving through the Balkans.

"We had a hell of a good time clobbering things over there, and left the place a mess," explained Captain Richard M. Evans, 22, 1028 North Shartel Avenue, Oklahoma City, Okla., one of the squadron leaders on the KECSKEMET mission.

Fighter-escorted heavy bombers of the 15th A.A.F. attacked two rail bridges in Yugoslavia on the main routes from Hungary to BELGRADE.

P-38 Lightnings, for the second consecutive day, used their new high-altitude bombing technique on another Yugoslavian bridge.

Not a single enemy fighter was seen in the air during the whole day's operations. Slight flak was met over only one of the targets.

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Lightning-escorted Liberators successfully bombed a 1,000-foot rail bridge over the MORAVA river at CUPRIJA, 90 miles southeast of BELGRADE. Liberator bombardiers placed a good concentration of high-explosives in the bridge area. Bombardier strike photos indicated the bridge was cut.

Unescorted Fortresses bombed a rail bridge over the DANUBE northwest of BELGRADE. Hampered by a heavy cloud, the Fortresses bombing was poor, and it is believed the target was missed. Slight flak was met over the area.

High-altitude bombing Lightnings attacked a bridge south of BELGRADE, on a rail line from SOFIA to Austria via SAPAJEVO and ZAGREB. Early photo reconnaissance reports indicated the target was missed.

End Strategic
More

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

TACTICAL DETAIL

Corsican-based Thunderbolts of Tactical Air Force yesterday afternoon dive-bombed the railroad yards at ALBENGO, in northern Italy. Twelve hits caused explosions and fires among 50 railroad cars, and ripped up tracks.

A road bridge was destroyed, and roads and rails cut in several places north of FLORENCE. Ten German trucks were also strafed in that area.

French-flown Thunderbolts flew deep into France on similar missions. Hunting was poor, but six trucks and a tank car were destroyed, and roads and rail lines were cratered.

Three sailing vessels and six smaller craft were strafed near LA SPEZIA harbour.

A-20 Boston bombers attacked a fuel-dump southwest of PARMA.

End Tactical

COASTAL DETAIL

A R.A.F. medium bomber attacked two 500-ton vessels in SESTRI LEVANTE harbour, and flashes were seen in the target.

Another R.A.F. medium attacked three 1,000-ton vessels in the same area, but cloud obscured results.

End Coastal

BALKAN AIR FORCE

Mustangs and Beaufighters of Balkan Air Force yesterday turned their attention to enemy road and rail transport in eastern Greece.

The Mustangs found two small convoys near KALABAKA and MONASTIR, and put seven vehicles out of action. Their day's bag included five locomotives and two Staff cars.

The Beaufighters severely damaged three locomotives with rockets near LAMIA.

Other rocket-firing Beaufighters attacked two coastal gun-sites and stores on ZIRJE island, in the Dalmatians. Ten rockets hit one gun-site and eight the other.

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Bombs were dropped on a barracks and railway yard at KARLOVAC in Croatia, and Baltimores successfully bombed a bridge at GOSPIC.

END DETAIL.

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INFORMATION DIVISION
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PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE H.Q.N.A.F.
G.M.F.

Communique No. 223 31 August '44

FOR RELEASE 1030B HRS

NO NAVY COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

In the Adriatic sector patrols of Eighth Army have crossed the River Foglia on a broad front and are now meeting strong resistance from the Gothic Line positions on the high ground to the north of the river. In the difficult mountainous sector of the Appennines, Urbino has been occupied and our patrols are approaching the River Foglia north of this town.

In the Upper Tiber and Arno Valleys further advances have been made and our troops are now close to the Gothic Line.

North of Pontassieve troops of Eighth Army have met stronger resistance, but several important features have been captured.

On the Fifth Army sector there is no change in the situation.

SEVENTH ARMY

Seventh Army troops are continuing their advance northward in the Rhone Valley after overcoming resistance of the withdrawing enemy just north of the Drome River at Livron.

South of the Drome in a single eighteen kilometer section, thousands of destroyed enemy vehicles, horses and guns are double-banked along Highway 7ever.

West of the Rhone French troops have advanced farther northward to the vicinity of Bourg St. Andeol where enemy resistance has been encountered.

On the Riviera American troops have moved eastward through Nice. The enemy is making extensive use of mines to hinder the advance in this area.

In the Alps enemy forces have been active in this vicinity of several Italian frontier passes.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Heavy bombers yesterday attacked two rail bridges in Eastern Yugoslavia, while fighters of the Strategic Air Force attacked enemy aircraft on two airdromes in Rumania and Hungary.

Medium bomber operations were prevented by unfavourable weather.

Fighter-bombers attacked railways and roads leading from the Po...

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Fighter-bombers attacked railways and roads leading from the Po Valley to the Gothic Line, and fighters were active against motor transport and rail lines in the Rhone valley.

Other aircraft attacked ports and shipping in the Adriatic and the Gulf of Genoa, and military targets in Yugoslavia.

From these operations, seven of our aircraft are missing.

MAAF flew over 1,000 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE

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PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

U.S. NAVY HANDOUT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE FALL OF TOULON
by
Chief Photographer's Mate Robert B. Smith, U.S. Navy, of 29 Stamford Avenue, Providence, R.I., as told to George Sessions Perry, Naval War Correspondent of the Saturday Evening Post.

When I left the Flagship of Vice Admiral H.K. Hewitt, U.S. Navy with the assignment to photograph the port installations of Toulon I thought I was going into a captured city, but instead I found I had grabbed a bear by the tail.

It began to dawn on me just before I reached the town of Hyeres when some French troops stopped me and said that the German guns commanded the road up ahead. So I went back to an abandoned German barracks to spend the night and there met Marvin Bailey, another Navy photographer, so we put in together. Two French women gave us some soup that night.

Next morning we got to a French outpost, three kilometers northeast of Toulon, only to find that it was impossible to go any further. We had to circle the city and come in from the northeast. When we reached St. Anne's we found that a German fort commanded and was shelling both roads that led to town. While we were here an advanced scout brought in a German officer who said that there were two more Germans out in No Man's land who wanted to surrender.

Marvin and I followed a squad of French troops out into No Man's land to look for the Germans, and couldn't find them. I lost all my film and while I was looking for it found a German motor pool, most of which was shot up, but there was one good usable truck in the ten.

Once the fort was silent, Bailey and I took a side road into Toulon. But eight kilometers outside the city we were stopped by the French who said that the road ahead was being shelled and we spent the night with the French in their camp. I couldn't sleep very well because of the artillery going all night and got up at dawn to build a fire.

I couldn't find any wood and went outside the camp limits to get some. When I started back somebody jammed a rifle in my back and said: "Boche".

I heard and felt him jerk the rifle bolt and throw a cartridge into the chamber. I yelled "Bailey" just as loud as I could and Bailey came running and jabbering in French as best he could and finally talked the Frenchman out of shooting me.

Later that day we got to the outskirts of Toulon where we found the famous Battalion de Choc were fighting. There were also some F.F.I. forces and these F.F.I. people weren't taking any prisoners. We were on a road that led to Marseilles and the Germans were trying to break through and get to the larger port. The French forces had a tank destroyer in the road and it shot up the first ten vehicles that tried to get through. Some of them were carrying ammunition and the explosions, when they were hit, were terrific.

Then the Germans brought up a tank dragging an 88 but we h[illegible] anti tank gun and made a direct hit on the tank that threw the driver [illegible] through the top. That still left the 88 undamaged behind the tank. Whichever side could capture it first could turn it on the other.

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At about noon our people layed down a terrific barrage and a squad of Battalion de Choc and Bailey and I went up and got the gun and brought it back. There were arms and legs laying around everywhere from the people on the blown up ammunition trucks. As soon as we brought the gun back an old couple came out of a house and brought us a couple of bottles of wine and the old man asked if we were Americans. When he found out that we were he grabbed me and kissed me. I was embarassed. We were the first Americans he had seen and so far as I know the first to get into Toulon.

Then we met an English naval officer who with ten French sailors had parachuted in on D minus 2 to help organize and coordinate the efforts of the F.F.I. He said that one of his men had been captured in a house by the French forces before he could make his identity known.

Then the French marched the captured man out into the light. He had a pistol in one hand but held both hands over his head. Then when he recognised that it was his own people who had captured him he grinned and dropped his arms. But his clothes were dirty and unrecognizable and a

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machine pistol pumped five slugs into him.

Then we heard about two American fliers who had been shot down over the town seven days earlier. They had parachuted down safely. But by the time we reached the place where they had been hiding we found that they had put on civilian clothes and gone off to sneak through the lines.

All the time French nurses were up in the combat area and several times they went out into enemy held territory to rescue French wounded. Finally our group began to get low on ammunition and Bailey and a Frenchman went off in a jeep to get more.

At seven that evening the first Senegalese arrived, worked around the west side of the town and began to herd the Germans into the cross fire of French guns. Thousands of Germans were captured during the night.

Next morning we finally reached the Port area and began shooting pictures of the ruined water front. But when we finished we found that the Germans had been driven out of the fort and into the city jail which they were using for a fort and which covered the only street by which we could get out.

Finally the Senegalese surrounded the place. Anti tank guns were brought up and as they began to lay into the walls, we got by as fast as we could.

And now we've got our pictures and are back.

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ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 22

31 AUGUST 1944

On Adriatic front Eighth Army has forced the enemy back into Gothic Line. For sixteen miles inland there appears to be no German troops south of the FOGLIA River. Polish troops entered PESARO (1280) with infantry and tanks after sharp fight in which casualties were inflicted on enemy and some PW taken. In this sector Gothic Line runs along lateral road 1,000 to 2,000 yards behind FOGLIA River. Our patrols have crossed river and have patrolled up to main enemy positions from PESARO to FOGLIA bend south of M. CALVO IN FOGLIA (9070). Fighting continues in difficult hill country northwest of URBINO (9060). Our forward troops here reached a point from four to five miles northeast of town. We are now consolidated in URBINO which is an art center and home of the National Gallery of Marche Province.

URBANIA (8054) on lateral Route 73 is reported clear. Farther west patrols entered S. ANGELO IN VADO (7253). Shooting in town.

Eighth Army patrols are in contact with enemy in ALPE DELLA LUNA mountains from S. ANGELO to SANSEPOLCRO (4944) in Upper TIBER Valley. CAPRESE MICHELANGELO (3852) has been occupied and S. ANDREA A SCHAGGIO (3555) about three miles northwest is reported clear.

There has been more patrolling up ARNO Valley. Contact was made at POPPI (2061) on ARNO four miles northwest of BIBBIENA (2458) but no contact reported at PAGLIERICCIO (1262) four and one half miles west of POPPI or ROCCA (0853) in PRATO MAGNO heights. Sappers opened Route 71 in SOCI (2363) 5,000 yards north of BIBBIENA engaged the enemy killing three and capturing two.

This extract from letter written on 23 August by N.C.O. in German 211 Grenadier Regiment reflects tone of enemy propaganda and its results on gullible Germans: "It's fairly quiet although Tommy is pushing forward with strong armored forces. At the moment we are in the hills by PESARO. But we will soon sort them out. The English have threatened every member of our regiment who is captured with 25 years forced labor and you can see how they hate us. But then we are acknowledged to be the best regiment in southern theater of perations."

East of FLORENCE UK troops took the town of CONSUMA (0668) while other units attacked the lower slopes of the Hill Mass POGGIO CERRONE (9276) now held by the enemy. Enemy patrols in this area were especially active. One of these patrols crossed a bridge northwest of FLORENCE and were engaged by our artillery and withdrew.

Especially heavy enemy artillery vicinity of MONTELUPO (6065).

On the Fifth Army front the enemy was particularly alert to our patrols attempting to meet each with heavy machinegun, mortar and small arms fire. Heavy enemy artillery fell on PONTEDERRA (2858).

INFORMATION DIVISION
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Fifth Army mortars engaged enemy personnel and mortar positions with good coverage. An enemy patrol was engaged southeast of PISA and driven back across the ARNO River. Another enemy patrol nearer the coast withdrew after a fire fight.

Patrols of the 92nd Infantry Division, a Negro unit, successfully probed enemy positions across the ARNO.

Weather: fair. Change Press Release line along Highway 3 from FANO to CAGLI (R9040) thence BOCCA SERRIOLA (R6737), LAMA (R5638), TAVERNELLE (R4041), BIBBIENA (R2458), TRAPPOLA (R1050), SAN ELLERO (Q9663) thence unchanged to west coast. N.O.R.B.

END O.R.B.

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INFORMATION DIVISION
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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
INFORMATION AND CENSORSHIP SECTION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
31 AUGUST 1944.

General Sir H. Maitland Wilson, Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean Theater, has just returned from a two-day inspection of operations in southern France.

General Wilson conferred at Seventh Army Headquarters with Lieutenant General Alexander M. Patch, and later attended a parade of victorious French troops in Marseilles.

(end)

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ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

29 AUG Recd

INFORMATION DIVISION ACC

O.R.B.

SEVENTH ARMY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO.221
29 AUG 1944

Organized enemy resistance came to an end yesterday in MARSEILLES with the surrender of German forces which had occupied the port areas.

In TOULON also the forts have surrendered on the S.MANDRIER peninsula, bringing to an end resistance there.

Terms of unconditional surrender at MARSEILLES accepted at last possible moment. Just prior to commencement of coordinated attack, morning of 28 Aug, Lt. Gen. Gotthold Schaefer, Commanding German 244 Infantry Division and Supreme Commander of defenses of MARSEILLES, came to terms. Last night thousands of prisoners were still streaming into cages. No estimate can yet be made of the total number. At TOULON, garrison on ST. MANDRIER peninsular estimated at 2000 capitulated also on 28 Aug, bringing area of chief French naval port completely into Allied hands. Even while last shots were being fired in MARSEILLES and TOULON, food supplies were being tracked in and distributed to civilian population.

Flour most needed commodity was first to be shipped closely followed by meat and sugar. French local authorities were distributing 100,000 cans of condensed milk throughout liberated area to meet urgent needs of babies and invalids. Seventh Army also released much emergency medical supplies to care for civilian needs in area.

Civilian labor needs of army being met by enthusiastic volunteers.

Weather fair.

No change Front Release Line.

NORB

END O.R.B.

SEEN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc[illegible]HY		
Maj. MAG[illegible]		
Maj. DRAGE		
Capt. SALVADORI		
Col. FAVA		
C. C.		

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

29 AUG Rec

INFORMATION DIVISION

O.R.B.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD B.C. GROUND TO PRESS COMMUNIQUE NO. "221
29 AUGUST 1944

Eighth Army continues to advance on all fronts.

On Adriatic sector, our troops have occupied FANO 2173 and found it heavily booby trapped. In one house, Polish sappers cleared 25 traps. One sapper was about to take a well earned rest in a comfortable chair when his comrades stopped him. Under the chair was the 26th cunningly concealed.

Polish forces are now established along South bank of ARZILLA River. Polish Lancers have occupied M.GIOVE 1770, 3 miles SW of FANO and beyond Route 3. Following up capture of MONTE DELLE FORCHE 27 Aug, leading troops supported by tanks reached CARIGNANO 1471 about 2 miles NE. North-West of MONTECCICCIO, our troops advanced over ARZILLA River and occupied MONTECICCARDO 0470 and are now progressing on to forward slopes of last ridge before Gothic Line on which Germans have taken up positions which they are holding strongly.

Forward elements are now 5000 yards at nearest point from Gothic Line whose concrete and field fortifications have been developed by recent work into strong system of defence. The forward defences follow the course of the lateral road which runs inland from PESARO, North of FOGLIA River to the 1000 ft. peak of M.CALVO, 6 miles due North of URBINO.

Eighth Army troops have captured M.TOMBA 9962, about 2000 yards NW of ISOLA DEL PIANO, against stiff opposition. Our infantry are in contact with enemy on general line M.BARTOLO 0365 - M.GROSSO 0064. We are now established on M.CESANA BASSA 0057 and have pushed on Northwest and captured Point 638, while forward troops have advanced 2000 yards NW, along ridge to Point 594, against slight opposition.

Following occupation of PERGOLA 9056, a patrol to URBINO, 3 miles north, found this Renaissance town empty and we are now pushing on northward into hills.

Situation remains unchanged in Appenines. On central sector, enemy continues to withdraw to Gothic Line. North of ANGHIARI, in Tiber bend, MONTEDOGLIO feature 4245 now clear. Eighth Army troops maintained con act with enemy ROCCA CIGNATA 4149 area, about 2½ miles SE of CAPRESE 3752 which was reported clear. BIBBIENA, on Upper Arno, is still occupied by enemy but generally appears to be withdrawing to ridge North of BIBBIENA Basin, and is now within 5000 yards of his main Gothic position NE of town.

Firm bridgehead now established by our troops across river East of FLORENCE. We now hold strong positions in hills on extreme right sector. Strong enemy patrols near junction of ELSA River and ARNO . Towns of CONSUMA 0668 and RUFFINA 9873 reported clear of enemy.

West of FLORENCE, enemy digging in along river vicinity of BROZZI 7170 and S. COLOMBANO 6969. Enemy planes bombed and strafed the area.

In Fifth Army sector, enemy dropped A.P. bombs and strafed in the vicinity of CASTELFIORENTINO 5550, S.N MINIATO 4659 and CASCINA 2160. Enemy fired heavy harassing arty on Fifth Army positions in coastal sector. All along Fifth Army Arno River front, enemy reacted sharply to our patrols with flares and mg fire.

During his stay in Italy, Mr. Winston Churchill visited his old regiment, the 4th Hussars.

I 5 5 4

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

[illegible] capture of MONTE BATTAGLIA 2078 Aug, leading troops supported by tanks reached C.RIGNANO 1471 about 2 miles NE. Northwest of MONTECCHIO, our troops advanced over MARZILLA River and occupied MONTECICCARDO 0470 and are now progressing on to forward slopes of last ridge before Gothic Line on which Germans have taken up positions which they are holding strongly.

Forward elements are now 5000 yards at nearest point from Gothic Line whose concrete and field fortifications have been developed by recent work into strong system of defence. The forward defences follow the course of the lateral road which runs inland from PESARO, North of FOGLIA River to the 1000 ft. peak of M.CALVO, 6 miles due North of URBINO.

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In Fifth Army sector, enemy dropped A.P. bombs and strafed in the vicinity of CASTELFIORENTINO 0550, S.N MINIATO 4659 and CASCINA 2160. Enemy fired heavy harassing arty on Fifth Army positions in coastal sector. All along Fifth Army Arno River front, enemy reacted sharply to our patrols with flares and mg fire.

During his stay in Italy, Mr. Winston Churchill visited his old regiment, the 4th Hussars.

Weather generally fair. No change Press Release Line. NORB.

END O.R.B.

SEEN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc. [illegible]HY		
Maj. MAG[illegible]		
Maj. DRAGE		
Capt SALVADORI		
Col. FAVA		
C. C.		

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ITALIAN PATRIOT
PRANCH

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 220

28 AUGUST 1944.

On Eighth Army Adriatic front further advances have been made against withdrawing enemy. Polish troops exploiting the METAURO bridgehead penetrated into hills and captured important feature M. DELLE FORCHE (1169) after sharp fight evening 26 August. Polish spearheads are now on the ARZILLA River (1072). PW captured in this sector from German Fourth Parachute Regiment said German order for withdrawal night 25/26 August could not be carried out due to our heavy artillery fire. During eventual retreat paratroopers suffered heavy losses. Our troops pushing on into hill country beyond SALTARA (1163) captured CARTOCETO (1065) and MONTE DELLA MATTERA (0866) northwest of village and highest feature between METAURO and FOGLIA River. During afternoon 26 August advanced fifteen hundred yards northwest and captured Point 381 (0668). In same area our forward elements reached points one half mile north and two thousand yards northeast of MONTE DELLA MATTERA. Majority of enemy now believed to be behind ARZILLA River from FANO (2173) inland. FANO now reported clear. Southwest of MONTE DELLA MATTERA our leading troops crossed MAGGIORE River (0762). Farther west Eight Army troops took FOSSOMBRONE (0456) on main lateral road to FANO. Forward troops are also on M. CESANA BASSA feature (0057). Northwest of FOSSOMBRONE to cover his withdrawal in this area, enemy is carrying out extensive demolitions and using mines and booby traps. There has been no change in Appenine position on east side of TIBER Valley. Patrol found VALDIMONTE (5542) clear of enemy. Northeast of S. GIUSTINO (5241) a patrol out forty-eight hours reports enemy movement on CHIUSI DELLA VERNA (3358) - ORTIGNANO RAGGIOLO (1857) road held by enemy. Patrols report BIBBIENA (2458) still held by enemy.

Our troops advanced during past thirty-six hours two to three miles north of ARNO in vicinity of PONTASSIEVE (9368). Advance slowed up at end of period by increased enemy artillery, demolitions and anti-tank fire. Closer to FLORENCE and to the west, enemy opposition continued with machinegun, small arms and artillery fire. Enemy attempting to shell our bridges across ARNO east of FLORENCE. Our patrols probing strong enemy positions north of the city in which sniping continued. Farther west increased enemy activity along river appears to indicate nervousness about our intentions.

A slight increase in enemy artillery occurred on Fifth Army front. Enemy artillery taken under fire by our guns. Patrol clashes all along Fifth Army front.

For information on the 91st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, see appendix to today's On Record Background.

Weather: fine, whole front.

An ingenious method to meet the requirements of malaria control units

I 5 5 6

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

heavy losses. [illegible]
captured CARTOCETO (1065) and MONTE DELLA MATTERA (0855)
and highest feature between METAURO and FOGLIA River. During afternoon 26
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believed to be behind ARZILLA River from FANO (2173) inland. FANO now report-
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Valley. Patrol found VALDIMONTE (5542) clear of enemy. Northeast of S.
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the city in which sniping continued. Farther west increased enemy activity
along river appears to indicate nervousness about our intentions.

A slight increase in enemy artillery occurred on Fifth Army front.
Enemy artillery taken under fire by our guns. Patrol clashes all along Fifth
Army front.

For information on the 91st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, see
appendix to today's On Record Background.

Weather: fine, whole front.

An ingenious method to meet the requirements of malaria control units
who find difficulty in spreading Paris green on ponds inaccessible due to
minefields is being employed by the RAOC. The method is to fill an M.L. 2"
bomb with Paris green and drop it from an aircraft thus enabling an airburst
to be obtained over ponds and so spreading Paris green on the water surface.
Good effects have already resulted.

No change Press release line. NORB.

END O.R.B.

	INITIAL	DATE
[illegible] HY		
Maj. MACGINIS		
Maj. DRAGE		
Capt. SALVADORI		
Col. FAVA		
C. C.		

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ITALIAN PATRIOT
BRANCH

INFORMATION DIVISION

SEVENTH ARMY
ON THE RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO 220
28 August 1944

In series of actions in last few days in Montelimar area heavy losses inflicted by American forces on various components of Battered German Nineteenth Army amounting in all to possibly 15000 men which were attempting to withdraw northward through Rhone valley chiefly on east bank included were elements of German 11th Panzer and 198th Infantry Divisions possibly reinforced by scattered elements of three other enemy divisions. Better part of two additional German divisions 242nd and 244th lost to enemy at Marseilles and Toulon. Destruction of Rhone bridges largely by Allied bombing has hampered enemy attempts to move northward on both banks and our aircraft have played a telling part in recent operations. Rhone valley actions have been in progress while French maintained impetus of their clean-up of Toulon and Marseilles. Further substantial progress made in both sectors 27 August with Allied air forces heavily bombing enemy manned coastal batteries on fortified Ratonneau island west of Marseilles. Enemy resistance in Marseilles now confined almost entirely to harbor area. It may now be published that flying column which took Grenoble was task force Butler whose commanding officer was Brigadier General Frederick B. Butler. Weather fair. No change press release line. N O R B

END

1558

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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END

SEEN.	INITIALS.	DATE
Col. McCARTHY		
Maj. MAGNUS		
Maj. DRAGE		
Capt. SALVADORI		
Col. FAVA		
C. C.		

1559

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

1560

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Major Magnus Been 43.

INFORMATION DIVISION
CC

O.R.B.

SEVENTH ARMY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO.221
29 AUG 1944

Organized enemy resistance came to an end yesterday in MARSEILLES with the surrender of German forces which had occupied the port areas.

In TOULON also the forts have surrendered on the S.MANDRIER peninsula, bringing to an end resistance there.

Terms of unconditional surrender at MARSEILLES accepted at last possible moment. Just prior to commencement of coordinated attack, morning of 28 Aug, Lt. Gen. Gotthold Schaefer, Commanding German 244 Infantry Division and Supreme Commander of defenses of MARSEILLES, came to terms. Last night thousands of prisoners were still streaming into cages. No estimate can yet be made of the total number. At TOULON, garrison on ST. MANDRIER peninsular estimated at 2000 capitulated also on 28 Aug, bringing area of chief French naval port completely into Allied hands. Even while last shots were being fired in MARSEILLES and TOULON, food supplies were being trucked in and distributed to civilian population.

Flour most needed commodity was first to be shipped closely followed by meat and sugar. French local authorities were distributing 100,000 cans of condensed milk throughout liberated area to meet urgent needs of babies and invalids. Seventh Army also released much emergency medical supplies to care for civilian needs in area.

Civilian labor needs of army being met by enthusiastic volunteers.

Weather fair.

No change Press Release Line.

NORB

END O.R.B.

4007

Major Maynard 13

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

O.R.B.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO PRESS COMMUNIQUE NO. "224
29 AUGUST 1944

Eighth Army continues to advance on all fronts.

On Adriatic sector, our troops have occupied FANO 2173 and found it heavily booby trapped. In one house, Polish sappers cleared 25 traps. One sapper was about to take a well earned rest in a comfortable chair when his comrades stopped him. Under the chair was the 26th cunningly concealed.

Polish forces are now established along South bank of ARZILLA River. Polish Lancers have occupied M.GIOVE 1770, 5 miles SW of FANO and beyond Route 3. Following up capture of MONTE DELLE FORCHE 27 Aug, leading troops supported by tanks reached CARIGNANO 1471 about 2 miles NE. Northwest of MONBAROCCIO, our troops advanced over ARZILLA River and occupied MONTECICCARDO 0470 and are now progressing on to forward slopes of last ridge before Gothic Line on which Germans have taken up positions which they are holding strongly.

Forward elements are now 5000 yards at nearest point from Gothic Line whose concrete and field fortifications have been developed by recent work into strong system of defence. The forward defences follow the course of the lateral road which runs inland from PESARO, North of FOGLIA River to the 1000 ft. peak of M.CALVO, 6 miles due North of URBINO.

Eighth Army troops have captured M.TOMBA 9962, about 2000 yards NW of ISOLA DEL LAGO, against stiff opposition. Our infantry are in contact with enemy on general line M.BARTOLO 0365 - M.GROSSO 0064. We are now established on M.CESANA BASSA 0057 and have pushed on Northwest and captured Point 638, while forward troops have advanced 2000 yards NW, along ridge to Point 594, against slight opposition.

Following occupation of FERMIGNANO+9056, a patrol to URBINO, 3 miles north, found this Renaissance town empty and we are now pushing on northward into hills.

Situation remains unchanged in Appenines. On central sector, enemy continues to withdrew to Gothic Line. North of ANGHIARI, in Tiber bend, MONTEDOGLIO feature 4245 now clear. Eighth Army troops maintained con act with enemy ROCCA CIGNATA 4149 area, about 2½ miles SE of CAPRESE 3752 which was reported clear. BIBBIENA, on Upper Arno, is still occupied by enemy but generally appears to be withdrawing to ridge North of BIBBIENA Basin, and is now within 5000 yards of his main Gothic position NE of town.

Firm bridgehead now established by our troops across river East of FLORENCE. We now hold strong positions in hills on extreme right sector. Strong enemy patrols near junction of ELSA River and ARNO . Towns of CERSUMA 0668 and RUFFINA 9873 reported clear of enemy.

West of FLORENCE, enemy digging in along river vicinity of BROZZI 7170 and S. COLOMBANO 6969. Enemy planes bombed and strafed the area.

In Fifth Army sector, enemy dropped A.P. bombs and strafed in the vicinity of CASTELFIORENTINO 5590, SAN MINIATO 4659 and CASCINA 2160. Enemy fired heavy harassing arty on Fifth Army positions in coastal sector. All along Fifth Army Arno River front, enemy reacted sharply to our patrols with flares and mg fire.

During his stay in Italy, Mr. Winston Churchill visited his old regiment, the 4th Hussars.

1561

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

him. Under the chair was the 26th cunningly concealed.

Polish forces are now established along South bank of ARZILLA River. Polish Lancers have occupied M.GIOVE 1770, 3 miles SW of PINO and beyond Route 3. Following up capture of MONTE DELLE FORCHE 27 Aug, leading troops supported by tanks reached CARIGNANO 1471 about 2 miles NE. Northwest of MONTE BECCIO, our troops advanced over ARZILLA River and occupied MONTECICONDO 0470 and are now progressing on to forward slopes of last ridge before Gothic Line on which Germans have taken up positions which they are holding strongly.

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West of FLORENCE, enemy digging in along river vicinity of BROZZI 7170 and S. COLOMBANO 6969. Enemy planes bombed and strafed the area.

In Fifth Army sector, enemy dropped A.P. bombs and strafed in the vicinity of CASTELFIORENTINO 5550, SAN MINIATO 4659 and CASCINA 2160. Enemy fired heavy harassing arty on Fifth Army positions in coastal sector. All along Fifth Army Arno River front, enemy reacted sharply to our patrols with flares and mg fire.

During his stay in Italy, Mr. Winston Churchill visited his old regiment, the 4th Hussars.

Weather generally fair. No change Press Release Line. NORB.

END O.R.B.

1562

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH 27 AUG Recd

SEEN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc[illegible]HY		
Maj. M[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
C. C.		

43

O.R.B.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 219

27 AUGUST 1944.

Begins: enemy withdrawals continue on whole Eighth Army front. On Adriatic sector night 25/26 August our troops crossed METAURO river on a 6 to 7 mile front and have now established a bridgehead two and one half miles deep from BORGO LUCHEZIA 1566 to MONTEFERCINO 0665 against strong enemy rearguards. Forward Polish troops have pushed on under heavy shell fire one mile west of BORGO LUCHEZIA after meeting considerable shelling and sniping at river crossings. Pressing well beyond the main lateral road morning 26 August, our troops with tank support captured SALTARA 1163 and SERRUNGARINA 0962. Forward elements have reached hills just west of FOSSOMBRONE 0456 where enemy appears to have cleared out.

Farther west in Appenines armoured elements are now firmly established in APECCHIO with forward troops NW of M. BONO 7244, SW at M. VILSELLO 7143 and west at M. DELLA CROCE 6942 without contact. Eighth Army patrols have been active in mountains central sector.

West of Arno enemy counter-attack against dominating M. FORESTO evening 25 August was broken up by our Artillery. In Arno valley Germans appear to have continued their withdrawal. Patrols report CHITIGNANO 2854 clear SW M. FORESTO. We have also established positions in nearby TAENA 2854 without opposition. A patrol also reached CROCE DI SAENA 2856, two thousand yards NW of CHITGNANO. No contact was made west of Arno in the PRATO MAGNO but troops are now established at M. MAGGIO 2455 over looking river and road and POGGIA DELLA RIPA 2254. Patrols northward to POGGIO FALLITO 2256 overcame opposition and later occupied this point and P VIOLINA 2055 about two miles west. Farther west the MADONNA 1554 and MASSERECCI 1053 features have been occupied.

East of Florence the enmy appears to be withdrawing into the mountains north of route 67 and the Arno river. Without opposition British patrols reached points east of PELAGO near the junction of routes 69 and 70.

An Indian patrol made contact with the enemy to the north of S. DONATO 8771 and British troops met with resistance in the same area.

The situation remained unchanged along the Fifth Army front during 26 August with patrols and Arty accounting for most activity. There were a number of minor patrol clashes particularly in the area northwest of MARCIGNANA 4963 near junction of ELSA and ARNO rivers. Both sides employed considerable mortar fire during the night 25/26 August.

Enemy Arty ranged from heavy fire during the night 25/26 August on Fifth Army's right to moderate and light in the central and coastal sectors. Germans made frequent use flares apparently indicating a continued sensitivity to our 2306 patrols. Fifth Army patrols discovered many Booby trapped mine fields.

Elements of the 92 Infantry Division, a Negro formation, are now in combat with the Fifth Army.

A German PW taken by Eighth Army has revealed weakness of Tiger tanks and inadvisability of using them en masse in following description of tank battle fought by his Squadron between May 23 and 25 in CISTERNA area.

His Squadron brought 14 Tigers from France and received in Italy two over Her Establishment. Squadron was ordered to counter-attack Americans advancing from [illegible] NORTH from south

1563

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

BORGO LUCARELLI after meeting considerable shelling and sniping at river crossings. Pressing well beyond the main lateral road morning 26 August, our troops with tank support captured SALTARA 1163 and SERRUNGARINA 0962. Forward elements have reached hills just west of FOSSOMERONE 0456 where enemy appears to have cleared out.

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His Squadron brought 14 Tigers from France and received in Italy two over War Establishment. Squadron was ordered to counter-attack Americans advancing from ANZIO beachead and seeking to link up with troops pushing towards ROME from south. German Squadron formed up behind railway embankment between Mussolini canal and level crossing and engaged American troop concentration with high explosives.

In crossing embankment three tiger tanks were put out of action, one with gear box trouble and two with track trouble. Remaining thirteen crews all had to stop on open ground because as the tanks came down embankment their guns had dug into earth and needed pulling through.

Allied troops were driven back three kilometres and a number of Sherman tanks were surprised and knocked out. First Tiger lost in action had one radiator destroyed by Arty round and limped back to Base. Twelve remaining tanks were order by O.C. Squadron to retreat morning 24 May during which one Tiger was disabled by Anti-tank gun fire and subsequently blown up by crew. Eleven tanks withdrew to original embankment. Five of them continued to hold the Americans and the other six were to tow away three tanks which had failed to cross embankment in initial stage of attack.

CONTINUED OVER

1564

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Four of the six towing tanks had gear box trouble and O.C. Squadron ordered three of the towed tanks to be destroyed and two of the five fighting Tigers to help tow away breakdowns. These eight tanks got back to assembly point at CORI with only four in fighting order. Of these four one was hit by anti-tank fire and two had the familiar gear box trouble. All these troublesome tanks were then blown up which left only one Tiger intact.

Two Sherman tanks captured and converted by Germans came from Rome during night 24/25 May and extricated this last runner which had become unserviceable through being towed in tandem along railway track. By 25 May situation was so bad that it was impossible to get towing vehicles through and O.C. ordered nine Tigers which had reached assembly point to be blown up. Some of the tank crews had returned to Rome with the one Tiger and the Shermans, but O.C. and forty-five men left near CORI marched to ROME. Under Arty fire several times and arrived exhausted.

The PW stated emphatically that this action had a profoundly distressing effect on the squadron morale and decided the Germans against the mass use of Tiger tanks.

Hazy weather turning fine.

No change Press Release Line.

END O.R.B. NOTB.

1565

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ITALIAN PATRIOT

27 AUG Recd 43

SEEN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc.	HY	
Maj. M.		
Mak. D.		
Capt. W.		
Col. [illegible]		
C. C.		

BRANCH

O.R.B.

SEVENTH ARMY.

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 219

27 AUGUST 1944.

PA

TOULON proper cleared after several days fighting with remaining enemy opposition bottled up on island-like peninsula of ST. MANDRIER guarding entrance to France's principal naval port on Mediterranean, and in wooded southern portion of adjacent peninsula to west.

SIX-FOURS fortifications and BREGAILLON and MARVIVO districts southwest of city were taken following capture of forts of ARTIGUES and MALBOUSQUET dominating port area. In MARSEILLES remaining enemy opposition cleared from districts of LES CONTES, LA CAPELETTE, LEPERON, ST. GIMINEZ, MAZARGUES, LES CAILLOIS, LE MARLAN and LA GRANDE POSTE. Square of NOTRE DAME DE LA GARDE basilica on prominent high ground occupied and a resistance pocket at PARC BORELEY ceased firing. Strong point held by an enemy force estimated at several thousand remained on high ground north of the MARSEILLES CANAL in northern part of the city. Other scattered pockets were in districts of QUATRE CHEMINS, ST. JOSEPH, LE CELON and the port area.

Fourth German General Officer to be taken in Southern France, Major General Sigurd Boje, was captured 25 Aug. by French in MARSEILLES. He was commander of Administrative Headquarter in city. One group of eleven prisoners from a guard unit ranged in age from 21 to 71, and five were physically disabled. They said they had been recruited with understanding they were to work as civilians. Instead they were placed under military control and formed into guard units to safeguard depots and marine warehouses.

[illegible]

INFORMATION DIVISION

1566

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

SIX-TOURS fortifications and BRIGADIER [illegible]

districts southwest of city were taken following capture of forts of ARTIGUES and MALBOUSQUET dominating port area. In MARSEILLES remaining enemy opposition cleared from districts of LES CONTES, LA CAPELETTE, LEPERON, ST. GEMINEZ, MAZARGUES, LES CALLOIS, LE MARLAN and LA GRANDE POSTE. Square of NOTRE DAME DE LA GARDE basilica on prominent high ground occupied and a resistance pocket at PARC BORELEY ceased firing. Strong point held by an enemy force estimated at several thousand remained on high ground north of the MARSEILLES CANAL in northern part of the city. Other scattered pockets were in districts of QUATRE CHEMINS, ST. JOSEPH, LE CELON and the port area.

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In northern sector of bridgehead approximately one thousand prisoners have been taken from single regiment who surrendered to Seventh Army American Forces after they had been ordered to advance from CHAMBERY for an attack in vicinity of GRENOBLE. According to prisoners this unit originally was part of a force which undertook to withdraw into Italy.

Prisoners taken in Southern France estimated at 23,000 on 25 August.

Weather clear. No change press release line.

NORB.

1385

1567

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

1568

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

INFORMATION DIVISION
25 AUG 1944
AGO

SEEN.	INITIAL
Col. McCARTHY	
Maj. MAGNUS	
Maj. DRAGE	
Capt. SALVADORI	
Col. FAY	
C. C.	

SEVENTH ARMY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 217

25 AUGUST 1944

The occupation of CANNES, which took place 24 August following taking of GRASSE to northwest, extended bridgehead some five miles farther northeastward along RIVIERA coast.

Limited progress also made on opposite side of bridgehead but otherwise few territorial changes.

In TOULON French forces drew net tighter around enemy still fighting against odds in naval port and nearby area. Principal areas of resistance were port district itself around naval arsenal, and two peninsulas which partly landlock harbor to southwest and southeast. Just west of TOULON, town of OLLIOULES has been occupied by French.

In MARSEILLES sporadic street fighting continued, principally in harbor district.

American forward elements advancing toward RHONE Delta along Highway No. 572 westward from SALON were some eight miles from ARLES.

Force which captured GRENOBLE after a spectacular advance northward from DRAGUIGNAN was a flying column including some armor operating in advance of main body of American troops which subsequently has firmly occupied area with cooperation of FFI.

Weather, fair. Change press release line: unchanged MARSEILLES to MANOSQUE, thence SISTERON, DIGNE, CASTELLANE, GRASSE, CANNES. NORB.

END O.R.B.

1304

25 AUG 1944

SGEN.	INITIAL	PAPER
Col. Mc. MARTHY		
Maj. MAGNUS		
Maj. DRAGE		
Capt. SALVADORI		
Col. FAY		
C. C.		

PAPER BRANCH INFORMATION DIVISION ACC

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 217

August 25, 1944

Mortar fire and arty exchanges continued on Fifth Army front. Enemy personnel and ten vehicles near Cascina (2160) taken under fire and hits scored. Enemy personnel NW of San Prospero (1760) dispersed by Fifth Army mortar fire. SE of Pisa enemy guns believed hit.

On Eighth Army front immediately northeast of Florence a mile beyond Route 67 enemy patrols were active.

Farther to the right both east and west of the Arno river British patrols penetrated some three miles NW and NE of Rignano (9363) without making contact.

Patrols have been active in mountains west of Arno river. Forward elements reached Ornina (2351) and contacted Germans in Tulliano (2551).

East of river in Alpe di Catenaia patrols report Valenzano (2950), Vogognano (2949) and Badia (2948) clear of enemy.

In fight for dominating M. Foresto (3254) we took thirty five PW's and suffered no casualties. Enemy counterattack forming north M. Foresto morning 23 August was broken up by arty. Capture of this important feature and explosions heard from north of Bibbiena (2458) indicate probable enemy withdrawal in this sector to main Gothic Line positions now only about ten miles north of M. Foresto.

Our troops have occupied Trecciano (3651) and patrols pushing on NW night 23 Aug contacted enemy in strength area Caprese Michelangelo (3752) Patrols to Gragnano (4645) NW of Sansepulcro (5044) report enemy positions in this area and also to north of Montedoglio feature (4245) in Tiber bend. Eighth Army arty fired on targets three miles NW S. Giustino (5241) and in areas of S. Gionanni (6937) and Apecchio (7242) in Appenines.

In Adriatic sector Eighth Army patrols are active probing enemy positions. Forward Italian elements have reached important road junction Acqualagna (9248). Polish patrols have crossed Metauro river at several points. One patrol reached ground between railway and road in the Borgo Lucrezia area (1465). Another penetrated two thousand yards beyond river to Bellocchi (1968). In area three miles south of Fano (2173) patrols encountered enemy fire and another patrol in same area found well camouflaged enemy minefields. Three miles north forward elements have reached Madonna del Ponte (2371) at mouth of the Metauro and thirteen miles up the coast from Senigallia.

Much has recently been heard of the activity of Italian patriots behind the enemy lines but not so much has been heard of the less colorful but equally important actitities of the regular troops of the Italian army. The Italian Army, reorganized after the armistice under Allied supervision, has assumed more and more responsibility and has rendered increasing assistance to the Allied cause.

Since its formation the troops of the corps of Italian liberation have been operating continuously in the Appenine sector of the front under both Fifth And Eighth Armies. CIL fighting alongside Polish troops of Eighth Army have recently taken part in the successful advance through the mountainous

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Still less has been heard of the valuable assistance rendered by the large number of Italian administrative troops. All these troops employed in the docks, depots and other supply installations in the rear areas have by their work contributed a great deal to the recent Allied victories. The hard work of these Italian units working for the Allied cause in the rear areas deserves high praise and should be appreciated by the Allied Armies in Italy and by the Italian people themselves. Other troops have been placed under command of Armies and are doing valuable work at railheads and dumps. Many Italian engineer units are giving valuable assistance in maintaining the roads so vital to the supply of the forward troops. Special mention must also be given to the Italian pack mule companies who have done magnificent work in all kinds of weather often under heavy enemy fire bringing supplies forward to the fighting troops over country impassable to other forms of transport. Italian morale is rising because the Italian soldier is now conscious of the part he is playing in the liberation of his country.

Weather mainly fine. Press release line MONDOLFO(S2762) to CASTELLEONE DI SAUSA (S1847) thence no change. M O R B.

END

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Major Magnus

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

O. R. B.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 216.

24 AUGUST 1944.

There is little to report from the Fifth Army front beyond normal patrolling and exchanges of artillery, mortar and small arms fire.

Our mortars scattered two enemy mess lines, silenced enemy mortars and gun positions, and dispersed several groups of enemy elements. At one point a hostile tank was knocked out by Fifth Army mortar fire.

On the remainder of the Italian front some further progress has been made.

The situation in Florence is stable. Patrols from both sides were active night 22 August in the northern outskirts and some clashes occured. Throughout the day indiscriminately aimed enemy shells fell in most of the central and southern districts of the city.

Our patrols continued to reconnoitre along the Arno river W of Florence. Also in the Prato Magno Mountains E of the Arno bend Eighth Army patrols have been active. They report CASTELNUOVO 1951 and SALUTIO 2350 clear, but enemy still in TULLIANO 2551 to NW and POGGIO DI ANCONA 2851 across river.

Numerous demolitions in area N ANGHIARI on 21 August may indicate limited enemy withdrawal in this sector. In TIBER bend area N ANGHIARI enemy positions estimated one mile W MONTEDOGLIO on north side river, successfully engaged by our Arty. Troops patrolling up road N. SANSEPOLCRO towards MISCIANO 4946 fired on targets NE in M. VICCHI area 5047 and NW on to roads leading from SANSEPOLCRO . They collected four deserters.

In the Adriatic sector Eighth Army troops have occupied CAGLI 9040. Italian patrols reached MONTE MARTELLO 9645. Forward elements probed beyond S. LORENZO 1446 without making contact. In METAURO river sector Polish elements reached S. IPPOLITO 0956 after some fighting . S. GIORGIO 1759 and FIAGGE 1660 have been captured. At one point patrols have crossed the river and penetrated 1000 yards beyond.

We have consolidated our positions along METAURO river from MONTE MAGGIORE to sea. Battle for METAURO was much fiercer than anticipated. Enemy employed more than fifty 88 MM SP and tank guns including eight Hornets. German losses in men were very high, eighty dead counted on one regimental front alone.

Almost eight hundred prisoners have been captured in this sector in the past ten days making fourteen thousand since 11 May including those taken by Poles since 13 June.

Weather fine. No change Press release line. N O R B

END O.R.B.

4303

Major Magnus

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC 43.

SEVENTH ARMY.

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 216

24 AUGUST, 1944.

Number of prisoners and many other details of capture of MARSEILLES still lacking. Principal port of France, historic MARSEILLES normally busy industrial city of 800,000, with oils and fats, metal working and engineering, railway repairs, chemical, food processing and other plants, and oil and sugar refineries, in addition to its port facilities. Information delayed on extent to which port and plant were damaged by bombing and demolitions.

Meanwhile fall of TOULON appeared imminent, with ring around the naval port city tightened and with French troops in vicinity of port area.

By midday 23 August French had overcome enemy resistance to move into eastern outskirts after taking MONT DU PARADIS, CARQUEIRANNE and MONT DES OISEAUX. Woods were mopped up around latter point. On coast LE PRADET was reached and advance continued toward TOULON fromthis direction. Another force took LA GARDE and pushed forward toward eastern entrances. To north LA VALETTE and FARON occupied.

In city Prefecture Maritime, Place D'armes and neighbouring streets just east of arsenal in our hands, with strong centre of enemy resistance in vicinity of arsenal itself.

MARSEILLES completely encircled by time of its capture by swiftly-moving American and French forces which swept around northern and western shores of ETANG DE BERRE to block last coastal highway leading from city in vicinity of MARTIGUES.

Advance past SALON northwest of MARSEILLES along HIGHWAY NO. 572 put our troops well into Rhone Delta with river at ARLES some twenty miles west of latter force.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Exact figures impossible because of irregular area, but estimated that Southern France bridgehead now embraces from 6000 to 8000 square miles.

Except at TOULON enemy resistance continues to be overcome, with many small units thrown in piecemeal against our advance being destroyed or captured. Although this practice has been employed on other fronts with success, teamwork and aggressiveness of our troops have constantly kept enemy off balance.

Weather fair. Change press release line: Coast at MARSEILLES, excluding TOULON, western shore of ETANG DE BERRE 4301 thence east to PEYROLLES, remainder no change.

NORB. END.

1573
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Major Hagerty

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC 43

Communique No. 216

24 August 1944

RELEASE TIME 1030B HOURS

NAVY:

It is learned that the garrison of the island of PORQUEROLLES surrendered to a U.S. cruiser on August 22, more than 200 prisoners of war being removed. The island has now been garrisoned by French troops.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

In the Adriatic sector Polish and Italian troops of the Eighth Army are now firm on the south bank of the Metauro and in contact with strong enemy positions on the north of the river up to a distance of twelve miles from the coast. In the Upper Arno valley British and Indian troops of the Eighth Army have again been quick to take advantage of a lessening in enemy resistance and have made considerable advances on both sides of the river capturing a number of important features including M. FORESTO. During the night 22/23 August there was considerable enemy patrol activity in the Florence area and there were several clashes between enemy patrols and patrols of Eighth Army and the patriots, which resulted in casualties to the enemy. West of Florence Fifth Army patrols remain active.

SEVENTH ARMY:

French troops have captured MARSEILLES eight days after going into action in Southern France and are driving westward into the LOWER RHONE VALLEY.

A substantial number of prisoners was taken in the capture of the city, in peacetime the principal port of France, and the largest on the Mediterranean. All escape routes were cut by the rapid advance of mobile elements.

Enemy resistance was comparatively slight in MARSEILLES, but continues stubborn in TOULON where street fighting is still in progress with much of the city in our hands.

Northwest of MARSEILLES further progress toward the RHONE RIVER was made with the occupation of SALON. American forces have driven farther westward in the Durance River Valley.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Tactical aircraft yesterday carried out widespread attacks on bridges and enemy transport in the South of France and Northern Italy and continued to give close support to the ground forces.

Other aircraft attacked communications and enemy transport in Yugoslavia and Greece.

Medium forces of escorted heavy bombers attacked an oil refinery, factories and an airfield in the Vienna area. Other attacks a railroad

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Medium forces of escorted heavy bombers attacked an oil refinery, factories and an airfield in the Vienna area. Other attacks a railroad bridge at Ferrara.

In these operations 45 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 29 of ours are missing. Three of our aircraft are missing from night operations on 22/23 August.

MAAF flew approximately 1,900 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE

1573

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH
INFORMATION DIVISION ACC

O.R.B.

SEVENTH ARMY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO.215

23 AUGUST 1944

GRENOBLE, longtime strongpoint of the French resistance movement, was entered after an advance in which American armored and motorized elements formed the spearhead with French Forces of the Interior playing an effective support role. Enemy resistance was spotty during the advance. Stiff fighting took place at DIGNE. Here, the capture took place of Major-General Hans Schuberth, Corps Commander, which was announced earlier.

Situated among the French Alps, GRENOBLE is a city of approximately 100,000 population. It is a railroad center on the PARIS-LYON-GRENOBLE-MARSEILLES route and its position commands important mountain passes of Eastern France. Divided by the ISERE River, it has five bridges.

The French, in their capture of HYERES, ancient Riviera resort town of 20,000, and drive westward toward TOULON, overcame violent enemy opposition. They then pushed westward to the coast, in the vicinity of LE PRADET, some four miles EAST of TOULON. Positions were consolidated on the principal highway from TOULON to the Northeast and Northwest to tighten the ring around the naval port city.

Within the city, French Forces which had entered the Northern and Western suburbs had by the afternoon of 22 August fought their way approximately half way between the railway tracks, which cross the Metropolitan area and the naval arsenal, a half mile distant.

Fighting was violent in TOULON as well as the HYERES vicinity and also at LA FARLEDE, NORTHEAST of TOULON. The enemy opposed the advance particularly from the east and northeast, from well organized defenses and had the support of heavy calibre artillery from the port areas, coastal batteries and antiaircraft guns. In MARSEILLES sector, the French have driven WEST on Highway Number Eight to within three miles of the city outskirts and also into the CHAINE DE L'ETOILE, high ground to the northeast, taking ALLAUCH. Further North, the American encirclement thrust extended

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Schuberth, Corps [illegible]

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In the DURANCE River valley, a column was more than a mile beyond SADENET. Of the 17,000 prisoners estimated thus far, 12,000 already have been evacuated to Italy and Corsica.

Weather fair. No change Press Release Line. NORB

4299

END O.R.B.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH
INFORMATION DIVISION ACC
39A
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O.R.B.

43

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 215

23 AUGUST 1944

Arty fire and patrol activity continued to characterize developments in the Fifth Army sector 22 Aug.

Hostile arty fire was sporadic and harassing. Fifth Army maintained fire on opportunity targets and scored a number of hits on enemy elements.

German troops estimated at 400 strong reported moving northward from an area some four and half miles EAST of PISA, near the ARNO River. The movement was reported to be toward CALCI 1965, at SOUTHWEST edge of MT PISANO mass.

A number of enemy patrols attempting to cross ARNO dispersed by mortar fire.

Enemy sensitivity continued and numerous flares set off by them during night 21/22 Aug in attempt to illuminate areas in which they suspected that Fifth Army patrols were active.

On Eighth Army western front, normal patrolling continues.

Prisoners were captured over the River EAST of FLORENCE when an ambush was effected by the troops of an Indian Division. In PRATO MAGNO massif, Italian patriots have taken two German PWs at MALLA 2148. Patrol on ARNO River saw enemy at TULLIANO 2551. Midday 21 Aug, patrol to a spur of M REGINA forced an enemy platoon to withdraw and took PW.

NORTHWEST ANGHIARI small party seen withdrawing North from point just SOUTH of CAPRESE. Another patrol reported COLLE 3750 still clear. 3 miles NORTH ANGHIARI Germans had mined and booby trapped road junction area. Reacting nervously to our armored sorties against MONTEDOGLIO 20 Aug, Germans put down mortar and arty fire across river into VIAIO area 4444.

In Eighth Army Adriatic sector, strong enemy resistance being encountered on whole front but Polish and Italian troops have forced the Germans to withdraw from many of their hill positions in front of METAURO River. Here, Italian troops patrolling up road NORTH of CANTIANO reached point 3 miles North of town. Patrols also reached point 757 9236 and points close to GRUMALE 9338 and CUPE 9040, just NORTH of CAGLI-PERGOLA road. Meanwhile assault troops penetrated to hill features two to three miles NORTH and NORTHEAST of CUPE.

Polish troops of Eighth Army reached Southern outskirst BARCHI 1354 21 Aug. Striking NORTHWEST our armor reached M SAN GIOVANNI 1061 and consolidated there at dusk but were held up by PIAGGE 1761. By morning 22 Aug Germans had withdrawn and we took MONTE

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

SOUTH EST edge of MT PISANO mass.

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Attacking NORTHWEST from M GRIGIONI area 2060, our infantry 21 Aug contacted armored force on lateral PIAGGE-CERASA road and continued the advance together. We are now patrolling up to ME-TAURO River over the whole 8 milesstretch between MONTEMAGGIORE and the sea.

Weather fine and clear whole front.

Change Press Release Line SENIGALLIA 3758, CASTELLEONE DI SUASA 1847, CANTIANO 8932, thence no change.

- MORE -

4298

1579

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

A captured German document dated 20 July and signed by Colonel Von Hofmann, Chief General Staff, One Parachute Corps, in Italy, reflects the enemy's nervousness about what he described as "the Partisan situation in the corps rear which continues to be a serious menace to the fighting troops and supply services."

The instruction insists on categorical detail that the fight against patriots shall be conducted with maximum severity and orders the immediate shooting of anyone assisting the criminal, treacherous Partisans by giving them food or lodging, or by carrying military messages, weapons or explosives."

Hofmann adds: "I will stand by and support any officer who exceeds our customary degree of restrain in his choice of measures for dealing with Partisans, or the severity with which they are applied..... It is better to act and make mistakes than to do nothing or be slack.

"All civilians arrested in the course of reprisals against Partisans will be sent to concentration camps to be set up for this purpose and will be shipped to Germany as laborers."

END O.R.B.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ITALIAN PATRIOT
BRANCH
22 AUG Recd
INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 214

22 AUGUST 1944

Active enemy patrolling was maintained on Fifth Army front. Increased enemy artillery in action on coastal sector. Self-propelled 88 mm. guns near coast destroyed. Two houses near PISA containing enemy fired on by Fifth Army artillery and five hits scored.

Near CASCINA (2260) our artillery fired with good effect on machinegun and mortar positions.

Southeast of PISA group of enemy taken under mortar fire and dispersed. Twice during night 20 August small enemy parties attempted to cross ARNO River in three small boats each time. All six boats destroyed by mortars.

A Fifth Army patrol was fired on from houses east of CASTELFRANCO (3762). Artillery laid on houses silenced enemy fire.

Most of the day's activity along the Eighth Army front was confined to its right flank in the Adriatic sector.

Our patrols are still active south of the ARNO east and west of FLORENCE. There was increased enemy shelling in this sector.

It can now be said that the city of FLORENCE has been liberated by troops of the Eighth Army and is firmly in our hands. Patrols are now pushing out beyond the confines of the city. The liberation of FLORENCE has taken time and has caused considerable anxiety lest the city should become a battle ground and the historical monuments be destroyed.

Had the troops of Eighth Army forced their way into the city before the enemy had been compelled to withdraw from the town by our continued pressure on his flanks, street fighting would inevitably have broken out. By skill and patience the city has fallen into our hands and extensive damage apart from the demolitions effected by the enemy has been avoided. Unless the enemy decides to engage the city with long range artillery fire, the city will quickly return to normal and full assistance will be brought to the inhabitants by AMG.

When the time is ripe the Allied Armies will continue their advance relieved to know that the city has been spared from irreparable damage.

Two miles east of FLORENCE a patrol of an Indian Division was fired at by the enemy across the river but British patrols which penetrated east of RIGNANO (9372) made no contact with enemy troops.

Patrols active also in mountains north and northwest of AREZZO. Eighth Army elements now established on ridge west of M. REGINA (3250) without opposition. Fighting patrols two miles southwest of CAPRESE (3752) met heavy enemy resistance and withdrew. Strong resistance also met by other patrols a mile or two south of CAPRESE on the road north from ANGHIARI. On the way MANZI (3848) and S. CRISTOFANO (3849) found clear of enemy. At MO. DI SELVADONICA (3950) just to north enemy contacted and prisoner of war taken. We sent out armored patrols

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There has been no change of position in Appenines. 4297

On Eighth Army Adriatic front Italian troops have captured S. MARIA CARPINETA, three miles west of PERGOLA on lateral road to FRONTONE. Polish troops attacked S. ANDREA DI SUASA (1451) but enemy resisted strongly and we were forced to withdraw. Farther northeast reconnaissance elements captured ORCIANO (1655). After occupying POGGIO (1858), our troops pushed on northwest to attack S. GIORGIO DI PESARO (1759) afternoon 20 August but held up by stiff opposition. Remainder of attacking formation captured high ground on M. GRIGIONI (2060). CERASA (2062) was occupied by armored elements. Infantry with tank support broke strong enemy resistance northeast of CERASA in M. ROSARIO area (2263) after fight lasting from dawn until late afternoon 20 August. Enemy used many self-propelled 88 mm. guns including Hornets and his losses in men and material were heavy. One hundred PW's were taken in this area. Heavy rain in METAURO River area made going difficult.

(MORE)

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Germans showing unusual patrol activity. Some enemy patrols shot up our positions at short range with machinegun and mortar fire. One enemy patrol gained Point 102 (2165) only to be driven off by our troops morning 21 August.

Our patrols have reached within one thousand yards of METAURO River near coast. Two enemy Panther tanks were knocked out and captured during fighting on this front.

Total number of PW through Army cage between 11 May - 10 August, including those taken by Polish Corps since 30 June and those passed through medical channels, now amount to 13,171.

That morale of German soldiers in not bolstered up by letters from home is shown in extract quoted from letter to German officer on Italian front from girl friend in Austria: "Here where we are living in ST. VEIT there was a terrific upheaval last week. Trucks driving up and down all day and all night and we could actually hear shooting. Two of my schoolmates have already disappeared. Yet another was taken by partisans, yet another we threw out and so it goes on with something different happening each day. Many of the local business people have been arrested."

Weather generally fair whole front. No change press release line.

Additional O.R.B. begins:

Continuing his tour of the Allied Armies in Italy, the Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, spent the day with the Eighth Army.

In his extensive tour he greeted British, Indian, Canadian and New Zealand troops, who lined the road to cheer him.

He was entertained at lunch by Lieutenant General Kirkman, commander of Thirteenth, the oldest Corps of Eighth Army, who subsequently conducted the Prime Minister to a vantage point from which FLORENCE and the country beyond could be clearly seen.

END O.R.B.

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ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH INFORMATION DIVISION ACC
22 AUG Recd

SEVENTH ARMY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO 214

22 August 1944

In the French sector reconnaissance element have entered Hyères but stiff resistance was still being encountered in this area the afternoon of 21 August including heavy enemy artillery fire. Fighting was still in progress at this time in the vicinity of the Hôtel du Golf near the town which the Germans had converted into a strong point.

To bypass this resistance the impetus of the attack was shifted to the west and met with success. French troops entered the northern and western suburbs the evening of August 21 but the following day were still being held up by strong enemy artillery fire in the area north of the railway tracks. Anti-aircraft guns of the port city's defenses added to the enemy's fire power. The fortress of Goudon (9702) some four miles northeast of the city outskirts was captured by the French.

Meanwhile west of the city forward elements reached the coast near BANDOL (7799) completing the encirclement of the city: Any advance toward TOULON along Highway 8 from the northwest was made difficult by defiles.

Northwest of TOULON the advance reached the outskirts of AUBAGNE (6215) and spread on both sides of the town. In the direction of MARSEILLES infantry elements were within eight miles of France's principal Mediterranean port city. Enemy infantry supported by self-propelled artillery and some tanks were encountered.

American troops after taking the important communications center of AIX (5152) fanned out from the town in several directions and were more than two miles to the west by midday.

Along the south bank of the Durance river a column was making steady progress with some enemy contact and was in the vicinity of LES EUX (4955) the morning of 21 August. Across the river the Pertuis-Manosque highway had been crossed at several points the advance north of DRAGUIGNAN presented a substantial enlargement of the bridgehead in this direction. Among the towns occupied were ST. JUSTIN (3788) and BARRE E (2391). The right flank remained unchanged. Weather, fair: Civil press release line SALINS D'HYERES (1497) SOLLIES-PONT (0105) PIERREFEU (9417) ST. [illegible] (7706) AIX (5152) PEYROLLES (6254) MANOSQUE (7576) CASTELLANE (3500) LA MAPOULE (3062).

General Patch's ORDER OF THE DAY follows. Add to ON RECORD General Patch in an order of the day to all officers [illegible] courage, resource-

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

1585

strong point.

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General Patch's ORDER OF THE DAY follows. Add to ON RECORD BACKGROUND. General Patch in an order of the day to all officers and men of the Seventh Army said "Due to your courage, resourcefulness, zeal, and aggressiveness, we have achieved a great initial victory. The enemy in our area are perplexed and stunned. Except for his coastal defense forces, he is in full retreat. I, therefore, call upon every officer and every man, regardless of fatigue or possible shortages of food and equipment, for an uninterrupted continuation of their maximum energy and endurance so that the enemy may not have time to recover. Reject every temptation which could possibly interfere with this crucial duty. The opportunity for decisive results is in front of us and we must and will move with the utmost speed and effectiveness.

The secretary of War Mr. Stimson, has asked me to convey to his appreciation and congratulations for your initial victory and sends you his best wishes for continued success. My own admiration for your achievements to date is beyond expression. I am proud and greatly honored to command such magnificent troops."

END

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22 AUG Recd

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

21 August 1944

ON RECORD BACKGROU TO COMMUNIQUE NO. 213 FOR 21 AUGUST 1944 BEGINS

No significan changes occured on the Fifth Army front 20 August. There was the usual patrol activity including small patrol clashes and normal artillery missions.

There has been more activity in the last 24 hours all along the Eighth Army front.

Heavy enemy shelling was experienced in the SCANDICCI area (7366) south of Route 67 to the west of FLORENCE. Conditions in FLORENCE itself were somewhat quieter and the provision of supplies to the inhabitants continues. An enemy machinegun post two miles northwest of PONTASSIEVE north of road and river reported by a patrol of an Indian Division.

In mountains both sides of ARNO Valley and in TIBER Valley 19 August situation generally quiet. Enemy gun post at 3150 West M. ALTUCCIA silenced by mortar fire. Germans shelled ANGHIARI.

In mountains north SCHEGGIA (9224) Eighth Army troops have reached a line running generally between CANTIANO, FRONTONE, the road junction at 0436, and north to PERGOLA. S. LORENZO (1446) northeast PERGOLA reported clear. Patrol has crossed S. LORENZO coast road reaching a point about two miles northwest of CASTELLEONE DI SUASA under heavy enemy artillery fire.

When enemy withdrew to ridge beyond CESANO River 18 August, contact was maintained by Polish troops of Eighth Army who attacked strongly with infantry and tanks next day. Eighth Army troops secured high ground between CESANO and METAURO Rivers and forced enemy to withdraw. Prisoners were taken and more are being brought in. Patrols which pressed on to METAURO River met no opposition.

Other forward elements supported by tanks reached CERASA (2063) and contacted enemy. From CASTELVECCHIO Polish troops have advanced northwest and occupied two dominating features on ridge between CESANO and METAURO Rivers, M. CUCCO (2259) and M. BONELLO (2058). Two self-propelled 88 mm. guns were knocked out and captured on this front.

Following capture of dominating Point 171 (2462) 19 August infantry strongly supported by tanks pushed on to attack IL VICINATO (2563) half a mile north. Village was taken after beating off counter attack and we inflicted heavy casualties.

S. COSIANZO (2564) was captured by an infantry and tank column 19 August after overcoming strong resistance.

Platoon commander of the 26 men taken prisoner while sun bathing two days ago is now himself a PW. Dreading necessary explanations of reason for men's prolonged absence he went in search of them. He has now found them -
in a PW cage.

INFORMATION DIVISION
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Weather mainly fine generally. On Eighth Army front thundery showers on high ground but generally fine by night 19 August. No change press release line. 4295

The Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, after staying the night with the Commander In Chief at his advanced headquarters, visited Fifth Army on arrival. The Prime Minister was met by General Mark Clark and General A. M. Gruenter. After General Clark had explained the present situation on Fifth Army front, the future plans for Fifth Army were discussed. The Prime Minister inspected a representative parade of the 34th U. S. Division under command of Brigadier General Harry B. Sherman. The following is a text of the Prime Minister's speech to the parade:

"General Mark Clark, General Bolte, officers and men of the 34th United States Infantry Division, officers and men of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force, officers and men of the United States Negro troops, Americans of Japanese ancestry, and your American officers, I greet you here this morning with feelings of pride that the honor should have fallen to me to inspect these units of the Fifth Army, one of the great Armies of the United Nations which are everywhere advancing victoriously upon the foe.

(MORE)

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"The 34th U.S. Division was first or among the very first of all the United States troops to leave the New World, and carry by their sacrifices and their valour the precious blessing of freedom and justice to the lands enslaved by Hitler's tyranny. That tyranny we shall break. We shall shatter the sources from which its evil powers are derived which will be so obliterated and blasted that for many hundreds of years none will dare to do the like again.

"Officers and soldiers and the representatives of the Women's Army Corps and Army Nurse Corps, we have here in Italy one of the finest Armies in the world. The combination of the Fifth Army and of the British Eighth Army bind together two veteran Armies in a bond of brotherhood and comradeship in arms, and in the sense of marching and fighting shoulder to shoulder for a righteous cause you have done deeds which will long be remembered. The earliest landings in Italy, the long fighting at ANZIO beachhead, the battle of the CASSINO front and the capture of ROME and LEGHORN - all these are episodes which have played a fruitful and an invaluable part in the entire scheme and design of the Allied Armies. No operation could have been more fruitful in this theater than the work which you have done by drawing away perhaps two dozen or more divisions down into Italy where they have been torn to pieces. You have aided notably and most effectively the great battle now proceeding to its victorious climax on the fields of France. But though you have done great deeds in the past and may well be proud of what has been achieved, I come here to tell you today that greater ventures and greater achievements now lie ahead of you, and that you will be playing constantly an absolutely vital part in the long hard struggle for whose speedy end we all strive and for whose speedy end we all pray.

"I wish you - all of you - all the units represented here and the Brazilians - I wish all of you all good fortune, I wish you God speed, may God bless you all."

After lunch the Prime Minister was conducted to an observation post from which he got a good view of the ARNO River and the hills rising to the Gothic Line.

NORB ENDS.

1588

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NORB ENDS.

4294

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ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH
22 AUG Rec'd
INFORMATION DIVISION ACC

SEVENTH ARMY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND

21 August 1944

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO. 213 FOR 21 AUGUST 1944 BEGINS

The French thrust, which followed an intensive naval and air bombardment the morning of 20 August, has resulted in a partial encirclement of the city (TOULON) which the enemy gives evidence of being determined to defend stubbornly. To the northeast, the towns of MEOUNES-LES-MONTRIEUX and SOLLIES-TOUCAS have been occupied. In the immediate vicinity of the port city, the town of LE-REVEST-LES-EAUX was taken along with the adjacent height of MONTE CAUME. To the northwest, the French were threatening to cut Highway Eight, important avenue of withdrawal for the city garrison, some five miles to the northwest of TOULON and were also in the vicinity of CUGES-LES-PINS. There they were about 15 air line miles from MARSEILLE.

The American westward advance into the DURANCE Valley was mostly against disorganized enemy resistance. At PERTUIS, where French Patriot forces were reinforced, forward elements were some 15 miles west of RIANS, occupied the day previous. Fast moving columns were on both sides of PERTUIS by the afternoon and others were pushing on several miles northeast of AIX as well as into the outskirts of this historic town itself. Southwest of ST. MAXIMIN, the advance along Highway 560 reached the vicinity of ST. ZACHARIE. The right sector of the expanding bridge-head remained mostly stable.

A third German general officer, Major General Hans Schuberth, has been captured, along with his entire staff of six officers and 30 men. Schuberth, who was Chief of a District Liaison Staff, was well known as an ardent Nazi. Until last June, he had been Chief Administrative Officer for southwest France with headquarters at TOULOUSE and had a reputation of extreme cruelty. It is supposed that his transfer to the area where he was taken was based on this

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of MONTE CAUME. To the northwest, the French were threatening to cut [illegible] Eight, important avenue of withdrawal for the city garrison, some five miles to the northwest of TOULON and were also in the vicinity of CUGES-LES-PINS. There they were about 15 air line miles from MARSEILLE.

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Change press release line: coast at LES SALINS HYERES, SOLLIES-PONT, MEOUNES, ST. MAXIMIN, RIANS, TAVERNES, SALERNES, thence eastward no change. Weather, fair. NORB. END.

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Col Arty Cavalry 43

INFORMATION DIVISION 33A

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

19 August 1944

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 211 for 19 August 1944

Intermittent heavy rains along entire Fifth and Eighth Army fronts 18 August.

Enemy ammunition or fuel dump set afire by Fifth Army arty NW of Pisa.

Approximately 400 rounds of arty dropped by enemy on Fifth Army positions vicinity of Pontedera (2353). Sporadic fire in other areas along Arno River.

Castello Bosco (3458) received long range automatic weapons fire from across river during night 17/18 Aug and a fire fight occurred in this area and vicinity La Rotta (3357). Enemy automatic weapons silenced by Fifth Army mortars.

Scattered enemy patrols repulsed. Direct hits were scored by Fifth Army mortars on an enemy occupied house in the vicinity of Uliveto (1962) across the river north of S. Benedetto (1960) and casualties inflicted.

Two attempts by enemy to cross to south bank of Arno night 17 Aug frustrated and casualties inflicted when raiding parties dispersed by Fifth Army arty fire.

For information on 133rd Infantry Regiment see appendix to today's O-R-B.

Our patrols were again active along entire Eighth Army front.

In Florence the Allies are still getting food, water and medical supplies to the inhabitants over the river while sniping by Fascists continues though on a reduced scale.

Patrolling by British elements continues west of Pontassieve (9378) in the Arno bend area near the southern bank.

2292

In the Arezzo sector British patrol made contact with enemy just west of route 71 some three miles north of Subbiano (2844). In the vicinity of Monte-

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

vicinity of Pontedera (2353). Sporadic fire in other areas along Arno River.

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Patrolling by British elements continues west of Pontassieve (9378) in the Arno bend area near the southern bank.

4292

In the Arezzo sector British patrol made contact with enemy just west of route 71 some three miles north of Subbiano (2844). In the vicinity of Montedoglio (4245) and an Indian Div patrol of one officer and four o/r's surprised and captured 26 enemy occupying a house.

Gragnano (4445) reported clear of enemy by a British patrol of Eighth Army.

In the Adriatic coastal sector heavy rain interferred with operations generally though Polish troops penetrated one mile NE of Mondolfo (2762) increased enemy resistance being met along this sector and farther to the west. No change press release line. W O R B

END

1593

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

Col McCarthy

43

32 A

INFORMATION DIVISION

SEVENTH ARMY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND
19 August 1944

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 211 for 19 August 1944

advanced which in some areas has been unopposed has been relatively small on left coastal sector west of Bormes. In this approach to Toulon (9096) enemy opposition strong. Westernmost push was by American forward elements which by early afternoon of 18 August had reached well into high ground west of La Roquebrussane (9522).

To northeast other troops have pushed on some two miles west of Brignoles (0129) along Highway 7. In Argens valley advance is approaching vicinity of Carces (1137).

West of Draguignan (3345) there has been an advance of some fourteen miles since that town was captured in early stages of landing along Highways 557 and 560. Forward troops well past Salernes (1437) by afternoon of 18 August.

East of Draguignan position established soon after start of operations have remained mostly stable. On right coastal flank heavy calibre enemy gunfire has been received from islands below Cannes (3744).

Elements of one more German division 338th Infantry Division have been identified in northwest sector.

Islands of Port-Cros and Levant were captured by the 1st Special Service Force mixed Canadian-American formation.

Weather unsettled. Change press release line as follows: Coast at Cite des Bormettes (1899) Sollies-Pont (0106) La Roquebrussanne (9522) Bregnoles (0129) Salernes (1447) Draguignan (3345) no change thence to coast at La

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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END

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
H.C. & M.G. SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH

TO	FOLIO Attachment	INFO.	ACTION.
	Col. Mc CARTHY		
	Major McGILL		
	Major BRASS		
✓	Capt. S.W. LOKI	M.S.	
	Chief CLERK		
	LIAISON SECTION		
	Col. LAVA		
	Dr. TREVES		
	Mr. VILLA		
	REMARKS.		

1291

Col. McCarthy 18 AUG Recd

INFORMATION DIVISION
G ACG

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
On Record Background
18 August 1944

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO. 210 FOR 18 AUGUST BEGINS

Patrol activity continued along Fifth Army front yesterday 17 August and enemy showed increased sensitivity all along north bank ARNO.

Hostile artillery fired number of concentrations in coastal sector and more lightly farther inland. Fifth Army artillery and mortars fired at opportunity targets with good effect.

A German self-propelled gun was knocked out by our artillery. North of LA LOTTA four enemy boats destroyed by our mortar fire.

On the entire Eighth Army front activity confined almost entirely to patrolling.

West of FLORENCE one patrol penetrated to UGNANO (7270), just south of the ARNO River, and found it unoccupied. In FLORENCE the situation generally is much quieter though there is still a certain amount of enemy sniping from northwest and northeast suburbs. Troops of an Indian division patrolling the ARNO sector reached ROSANO (9268), one and one half miles southwest of PONTASSIEVE, and found it clear of enemy. Another Eighth Army patrol reached a point two and one half miles northeast of PONTASSIEVE without contacting enemy.

Slight enemy shelling experienced in TALLA (2148) where our troops are now established. Indian troops against little opposition occupied Point 514 (2448). Patrols of an Indian Division found COLLE and SAN POLO (3750) unoccupied. Eighth Army patrols also reached PIANELLO (8337) without making contact, though a patrol to MASSA (8238) was engaged by enemy machinegun fire.

On the Adriatic front Polish troops continue to throw out patrols north of the CESANO River. Sporadic enemy artillery fire fell in this sector.

It may now be released that the Ninety First U.S. Infantry Division, fighting under the command of Major General William G. Livesay, is now fighting with the Fifth Army in Italy.

New press release line SENIGALLIA (3759), SERRA DE CONTI (2239), FABRIANO (1117), CANTIANO (8932), ANGHIARI (4241), SUBBIANO (2845), S. GIOVANNI VALDARNO (0044), thence south of ARNO to mouth of river.

Weather generally fair.

NORB. END.

15977
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Weather generally fair.

NORB. END.

4200

1598

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Col. McCarthy

18 AUG Recd

INFORMATION DIVISION

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Public Relations Branch

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY:

ADDITION TO ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO

COMMUNIQUE NO. 210 FOR 18 AUGUST BEGINS

Embracing more than five hundred square miles, the beachhead area is believed to be the largest created in a combined operation in this war in less than three days. The enemy strongpoint reduced on PORT-CROS was a medieval fort with extremely thick walls.

Known casualties of the three veteran American divisions and other units which formed the spearhead of the assault totalled fewer than three hundred in killed, taken prisoner or missing up to noon 17 August. Elements of the German 242nd and 1486 Infantry Divisions have been identified opposite our forces in Southern France. Weather mostly fair. Press release line LE LAVENDOU, CUERS, BESSE, LE LUC, VIDAUBAN, DRAGUIGNAN, LA NAPOULE.

END. ORB.

1599

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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END. ORB.

4289

1600

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

Cpt Maj Courtly ✓

42

DIVISION A

30

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
On Record Background
17 August 1944

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO.209 FOR 17TH AUGUST BEGINS

Activity on Fifth Army front confined chiefly to patrols. Enemy patrol observed vicinity of FORNACETTE 2460 and a fire fight took place between patrols near VALICELLE 3258. Another enemy patrol SOUTHWEST of ANGELICA taken under fire.

Enemy continued to subject Fifth Army front line positions to artillery, mortar and machinegun fire.

(For information on 361st Infantry Regiment::::see appendix to today's On Record.)

Along ARNO River, from EMPOLI to PONTASSIEVE bend, there is little change in position. Eighth Army troops held up by extensive demolitions, blown bridges and mines.

Morning 15th August strong Eighth Army patrol supported by armoured cars entered UGNANO 7170 on South bank of river to investigate civilian report of enemy patrol. No enemy found but road in Southern outskirts village heavily mined.

In FLORENCE, no change in positions. AMG Services working smoothly in Allied-controlled part of city. Patriots continue report reign of terror in German-controlled town and that food situation there is grave. Yesterday enemy brought tanks into FLORENCE and killes civilians and some carabinieri. Proclamation broadcast by Eighth Army yesterday prohibiting carriage of arms in AMG-controlled area except by carabinieri and authorized persons. Allied-controlled sector of ARNO contains most beautiful historic buildings in FLORENCE. They include BRUNELLESCHI's Fourteenth Centure Duomo with CAMPANILE by Giotto, The UFFIZI ART GALLERY formerly connected to PITTI PALACE GALLERY by corridor across PONTE VECCHIO and the PALAZZO MEDICI.

In PRATO MAGNO sector patrols are active. On 14th Aug a strong daytime patrol advanced to summit of Mt. ACUTO 2248 NORTHEAST of TALLA in mountains WEST of Route Seventy-One. In

1601

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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In PRATO MAGNO sector patrols are active. On 14th Aug a strong daytime patrol advanced to summit of Mt. ACUTO 2248 NORTHEAST of TALLA in mountains WEST of Route Seventy-One. In ANGHIARI area, Eighth Army elements now established in SAN CROCI 4443, 2 miles NORTHEAST ANGHIARI. EAST of Tiber, in FRACCANO 6336 area, 4 Germans deserted, three of them from a regiment of the 1st Para Division.

On Eighth Army's Adriatic sector, arty active both sides. Little change in main positions. Civilians report that enemy occasionally visit PERGOLA 0842. Our patrols found town clear of enemy. Patrols NORTH of CESANO River made contact. Enemy has strong defense positions NORTH of CASTELVECCHIO 2457, beyond lateral road.

Weather mainly fine whole front. NORB. END

1602

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

16 AUG Recd

DECLASSIFICATION DIVISION

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 208

August 16, 1944

Fifth Army arty fired with good results 14 August on tanks and vehicles vicinity San Giovanni alla Vena (2461). Six enemy trying to cross the Arno just east of Pisa killed and their rubber boat sunk by small arms fire.

Farther east near Pinocchio (4561) small arms and rocket fire received by Fifth Army troops from across river. Small enemy patrols dispersed by our MG mortar and small arms fire.

Civilians say women and children have been killed by Germans while attempting to cross the Arno. In one case they say two women and three children paid three Germans 700 lire to let them across. Same three Germans waited until they were half way over then shot at the women and children killing one woman.

That Germans attached importance to holding Empoli (5363) on Eighth Army's western flank appears evident from enemy broadcasts 13/14 Aug alleging all Eighth Army's attacks against town had failed. Our troops found roads in town blown and heavily mined. Mopping up enemy in town now completed. Empoli is glass manufacturing centre. Patrolling continues along Arno west of Florence.

Patriots, civilians and exmilitary personnel all doing everything possible to assist our services to operate smoothly in city. Patriots particularly invaluable Allies in present situation and cooperating courageously despite risk of reprisals.

AMG now feeding three-fourths population of Florence. On south bank eighty thousand Italians being fed. On north bank two hundred fifty thousand being supplied across river in triangular area bounded on south side by Arno River on west side by Viale Principe Umberto, Viale Principessa Margherita hinging at Piazza Cavour and bounded on east side by Viale Principe Ambadeo Viale Principe Eugenio. Enemy line runs from west to east along north bank Mugnone canal and at right angles from canal along Via delle Mille other side of railway line on east side to Campo di Marte stadium on city's eastern outskirts which is nomansland. Between German lines and Allied controlled sector north of river lies area housing scores of thousands inhabitants unable to get food.

Enemy has tanks round Florence and any activity in streets running at right angles from German held Via delle Mille provokes tank and MG fire. Enemy patrols also penetrate this nomansland. Thirteenth Aug uniformed Italian Republican Blackshirts were seen for first time and engaged patriots in Piazze G Vasari adjacent to railway line. In area beyond German line on outskirts of Florence not known if civilians able to get food but thought probable small supply comes from country.

In Forbici area NE of city on Fiesole road enemy preventing evacuation of 150 wounded civilians. Thirteenth August 80 civilian casualties from German mortar fire in area Campo di Marte. Little change along Arno east of Florence.

Patrols active in Prato Magno mountains. In Alpe di Catenaia east of Route 71 enemy holding reverse slopes of M Regine (3250). In Tiber valley elements of Indian division occupied Viaio (4343) two miles NE of Anghiari (4241)

On Adriatic front Eighth Army troops following up their successes in Fran-

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

1604

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On Adriatic front Eighth Army troops following up their successes in Frontone (9737) area sent strong fighting patrol two miles west of Frontone and after inflicting casualties and taking PWs compelled enemy outpost two and one half miles SE Cagli (9040) to withdraw. Farther east patrols confirm Montoporzio (2356) and Castelvecchio (2457) both occupied by enemy. Florence Misericordia Society is active in present fighting. This voluntary society formed in Twelfth century is non-political organisation run by laymen of all classes majority poor people whose aim it is to do good help sick and wounded anonymously. Members are unpaid. To hide identity they wear dominoes and masks. Modern organisation works from society HQ with ambulances. They answer phone calls for help and are doing invaluable work in Florence helping those who need succor.

Weather fair whole front. N O R B.

END

4287

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

1605

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ACTIVITIES IN ITALY
On Record Background
By Agent 2/14

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO. 207 FOR 15 AUGUST BEGINS

A number of brisk patrol clashes marked the action along Fifth Army's front during 14 August, and Fifth Army artillery effectively fired on various targets of opportunity.

LA ROFFA, some three miles southeast of PONTEDERA (2859), was scene of sharp fire fight when a Fifth Army platoon engaged an estimated three squads of Germans. In PONTEDERA itself all but one of a small enemy patrol were killed or captured. Hostile reconnaissance patrols repelled by outposts in vicinity of CASTELLO DEL BOSCO (3458) mile north of LA ROFFA.

Fifth Army patrols reported village of ROFFIA (4662) heavily mined and booby trapped.

Action during day-light along ARNO River at a minimum. Movement by either side near ARNO usually draws prompt fire from troops across river.

Active patrolling continues in Eighth Army western sector. Our positions in area between EMPOLI and MONTELUPO were heavily mortared during night 13 August. Our troops were mopping up enemy pockets of resistance in EMPOLI area 13 August, and by 2000 hours had killed 25 enemy. Three explosions reported morning 13 August north bank of ARNO two miles east of SIGNA (6670). One of them was power station, cause not reported.

Our tanks and mortars harassed Germans in area both sides of ARNO River bend west of SIGNA while our artillery and mortars engaged enemy on ARNO three miles east of this town.

Position in FLORENCE continues improve steadily. AMG continuing get supplies to north bank. Shelling of city almost ceased. East of FLORENCE our artillery has scored two direct hits on ARNO bridge where river turns southwest three miles west of PONTASSIEVE.

In patrolling into PRATOMAGNO guards contacted enemy area DONNINI about two miles northeast RIGNANO and Route 69. In same mountains farther south British infantry made contact POGGIO DI LORO (0850) few miles east of CASTELFRANCO.

In mountains north of AREZZO patrols active probing enemy positions. Troops of Indian division found BICCIANO (2145) unoccupied. East of Route 71 Patrol found BADIA (2948) unoccupied. Northwest of ANGHIARI fighting patrol located enemy in area of COMPANNO feature (3947).

On Polish front Eighth Army troops following their capture of FRONTONE have captured MONTE VECCHIO (0137) two miles eastward. Normal patrolling and harassing fire continues in remainder of sector.

Weather: Fifth Army clear Eighth fine with outlook fair.

NORB. END.

4286

Maps Regrets

43 14 AUG Recd

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
On Record Background
14 Aug '44

The situation along Fifth Army front remained unchanged 13 Aug with arty exchanges predominating. A number of enemy SP guns observed EAST and WEST of PISA, on North side of ARNO river, taken under fire by Fifth Army arty.

Hostile arty fire generally light and scattered and harassing rather than concentrated. Increased fire by German 88mm dual-purpose guns reported.

Hostile horse-drawn arty and twenty track vehicles seen approaching factory area in NORTH PISA 13 Aug.

A Fifth Army patrol entered ISOLA (4863) without meeting resistance.

Two twin-engined German planes dropped flares and a few bombs during night 12/13 Aug. No damage or casualties resulted.

On Eighth Army's Western sector, New Zealand troops now well established in EMPOLI. No change along ARNO to FLORENCE.

In city, efforts being made by AMG to bring food and water to civilian population on North bank now meeting with greater success as indiscriminate firing of 12 Aug has died down. AMG continue their valuable work.

Patrols active on ARNO bend EAST of FLORENCE. In mountains, NORTH of AREZZO, enemy remains quiet. German equipment found abandoned at Pt 785 (3048) NORTHEAST of SUBBIANO. German patrols more active in mountains NORTH of PIETRALUNGA.

On Adriatic sector, we captured FRONTONE 9737, on the URBINO-FABRIANO North-South railway. Further East, our patrols in close contact with enemy in whole sector and confirm that enemy holding positions NORTHEAST of MONDOLFO, near coast.

Weather, Fifth Army front, clear. Eighth, mainly fine with settled outlook.

The following pamphlet was found in the SUBBIANO area in mid-July: 1285

"The Commander in Chief of the German Armed Forces announces.

"Hitherto, the German armed forces have done all that they have been compelled by the necessities of war to do: correct and friendly behaviour and consideration for the civilian population. This friendly behaviour implies completely friendly behaviour on the part of the civilian population. If outrages and attacks by

1606

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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"In order to guarantee the security of the lines of communications and supply services, I order that, from this moment,

- OVER -

4285

1607

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

1608

"ONE. Whoever is found in possession of arms or explosives and does not report them to the nearest German Headquarters WILL BE SHOT.

"TWO. Whoever gives shelter to bandits, protects them or gives them clothing, food or arms ...WILL BE SHOT.

"THREE. If it is found that anyone knows a group of rebels or even a single rebel without having reported them to the nearest headquarters, he.....WILL BE SHOT.

"FOUR. Whoever gives information to the enemy or to the bandits on the location of German headquarters or military dumps ....WILL BE SHOT.

"FIVE. Any village where it can be proved that there are bandits or where attacks against German or Italian soldiers have been made, or where acts of sabotage intended to damage or destroy warlike stores, have taken place....WILL BE BURNT..TO THE GROUND. Moreover, male inhabitants of the village over 18 years old...WILL BE SHOT. Women and girls will be interned in labour camps.

"Italians. The well being of your country and the fate of your families are now in your hands. The German armed forces will carry out the above orders justly but without mercy and with all the severity that the consequences of the case demand.

"The Commander in Chief of the German armed forces."

1. The Bailey Bridge over the River TIBER at A 73L7 was built by the Royal Engineers of Eighth Army under difficult conditions and, when completed, in fact bore more resemblance to a civilian girder bridge than the normal Bailey though constructed mainly of Bailey parts, with an improvised decking of local timber.

2. Of the original four-arched bridge, three arches had been irreparably damaged and the fourth completely destroyed by Allied precision bombing. The need for a high level bridge as

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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"The Commander in Chief of the German armed forces."

1. The Bailey Bridge over the River TIBER at A 7317 was built by the Royal Engineers of Eighth Army under difficult conditions and, when completed, in fact bore more resemblance to a civilian girder bridge than the normal Bailey though constructed mainly of Bailey parts, with an improvised decking of local timber.

2. Of the original four-arched bridge, three arches had been irreparably damaged and the fourth completely destroyed by Allied precision bombing. The need for a high level bridge, as opposed to a floating bridge, and the lack of suitable large girders from civilian sources resulted in this special use of Bailey parts.

3. Sappers helped by Pioneers demolished the three remaining arches and using original piers, built a decked dual carriage way taking class 70 vehicles one way and class 40 traffic two ways. The bridge is 22 ft. wide and 2340 ft. long, and was finished in twelve and a half days. N O R B .

END

1609

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

1610

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Bulletin (LH 8)

Rome's leading football team "Roma" is to play a team representing Naples. The Match is to take place on September 3rd.

Col. Poletti is much amused by his having inspired a ~~пежжхх~~ couplet:

Caro Colonnello Poletti
Meno ciarle piu spaghetti
("Dear Colonel Poletti
Less talk - more spaghetti")

"Il ~~Ra~~ Popolo"is worried about the number of congresses, meetings and conventions in the name of the working classes. The audiences mainly consist of professors, lawyers and journalists - but seldom working class elements.

~~Тихорякакийжжжелинкка~~

The Rome

~~Имя~~ black market price of Musolini's books is rising; the price for Trotzky's books is falling. One is practically unobtainable in Rome.

1611

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

13 Aug 44 43 14/8/44

26

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
On Record Background
12 August 1944

INFORMATION DIVISION ACC

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO. 204 FOR TWELFTH AUGUST BEGINS

Heavy rains in Fifth Army sector slowed up road movements and hampered activity 10/11 August with result that only scattered artillery and small arms fire were encountered along Fifth Army front. Most of our patrols to the River ARNO made no contact with enemy, but one probing along river west of PISA encountered hostile enemy patrol and forced it to withdraw after exchange of small arms fire. Another Fifth Army patrol crossed river, made contact, and withdrew.

Self-propelled enemy gun southeast of PISA silenced by Fifth Army artillery. There was some enemy harassing artillery fife on road junctions in forward areas.

On western flank Eighth Army troops after stiff fighting reached several villages between ARNO River and Route 67 west and northwest of EMPOLI including S. MARIA (5263) and AVANE (5264). Forward troops are encountering stiffening opposition. Fighting continues area cross roads (4964).

In enemy pocket in ARNO band between EMPOLI and MONTELUPO, enemy have been pushed back from Route 67 500 to 1000 yards on 2000 yard front to a line either side FIBBIANA (5764).

Our troops heavily shelled at SAN COLOMBANO (6969) and withdrew half mile southwest.

In mountains north of AREZZO activity slackened after recent battles for peaks. West of Route 71 enemy activity less in PIANALE sector, but east of Route 71, CASTELLO (3350) and ALFUCCIA (3350) features persistently and heavily shelled yesterday. Active patrolling continues whole sector.

On Eight Army front in Polish sector now confirmed that enemy withdrawn over CESANO River from MONTEPORZIO (2356) to coast. At southwest end of sector advance elements reached points two miles east and northeast of CASTELLEONE DI SUASA (1747) and slight resistance met. Forward troops crossed river and reached point on road one mile north MONTEPORZIO but withdrew south of river owing to enemy artillery and machinegun fire.

Polish troops of Eighth Army, following up successful attack of last two days, have established bridgehead over CESANO River area (3060) about two miles from coast, and patrols have reached lateral road one mile beyond river (at 2861) without contact but under shell fire.

German PW discloses that German officers tell other ranks they must fight to death when opposed by Indian troops because Indians kill all enemy captured. That this is untrue is constantly impressed on Germans by our propaganda.

Weather fine morning showers afternoon fine all but west coast, night 11 August.

4285

NORB. END.

11 AUG Recd 43

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
On Record Background
11 Aug 1944

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO.203 FOR 11 AUGUST 1944 BEGINS

Activity on Fifth Army front was characterized by light patrol action and scattered harassing artillery fire. Several patrol clashes occurred in which prisoners were taken by Fifth Army units.

The 4 under water bridges which the enemy was seen trying to construct across the ARNO on 9 Aug consisted of rubble and rocks piled in shallow river to form a ford a few inches below surface of water. It was wide enough to accommodate one vehicle.

Activity on Eighth Army's western flank confined to active patrolling across ARNO. Situation in EMPOLI remains same. Little activity apart from sniping. Our army commander's policy not shelling town while German arty fire on southern half of town was yesterday less than normal.

In ARNO loop British troops of Eighth Army are occupying places and features recently vacated by Germans on withdrawal of their main forces to NORTH of river following capture of Pt 567 on 8 Aug. Our troops are held up by extensive demolitions and mines in this area.

MORRI (9465), CASTELLUCCIO (9065), M ACUTO (8865) found clear. Guardsmen patrolling down ARNO Valley before first light yesterday 9 Aug reached Point two miles SOUTHWEST of PRATO (9967), contacting enemy. Armoured elements up Route Sixty-Nine reached a point two and a half miles SOUTHEAST of PONTASSIEVE.

Our patrols are active on western slopes of PRATO MAGNO ranges. In mountains NORTH [illegible] main positions remain same. SUBBIANO on Route Seventy-One and BIBBIANO two and one half miles due WEST were enemy's main artillery targets yesterday. In Appenines patrolling continues.

On Eighth Army adriatic sector Polish troops opened new attack morning 9 Aug on 6 mile front from RIPE to coast, one mile NORTHWEST SENIGALLIA. Preliminary attack against LA CROCE, one mile NORTH of RIPE, started 0730 hrs, followed by main attack with tanks at 0800 hrs. At 0835 hrs, village was captured and is now consolidated. NORTHEAST of LA CROCE, troops of Carpathian Div captured important high ground 2 miles NORTHEAST LA CROCE, parallel with CESANO River, and repelled enemy counterattack on latter feature. FRANCAVILLA (2857) and Pt 162 (3259) also captured.

By nightfall, Poles had advanced about 2 miles along whole sector on to commanding hills overlooking CESANO Valley. MONTERADO (2657) and SCAPEZZANO (3359) were attacked night 9 Aug and we are reported established in both. Heavy storms in sector slowed down our attacks.

Since Polish offensive started, 300 PWs have been taken. Enemy infantry supported by SP guns and mortars fought fiercely, launching in all five counter attacks. Enemy losses in men and material are heavy. It is reported that Germans have withdrawn across CESANO River and that Eighth Army troops are up to SOUTHEAST bank.

War of nerves waged by Indian troops of Eighth Army fighting in mountains is indicated by letter found on PW , written during break on sentry duty. "I am very worried about sentry duty here because Indian troops are opposite us. One must keep alert and watchful the whole time because they creep up on one slowly and unobtrusively, their knives between their teeth, and kill us unawares." Another PW said that in attack on PIANALE feature few nights ago, Indian troops got within 30-40 yards of Germans before they realised they were being attacked.

ACC

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features recently vacated by Germans on withdrawal of their main forces to NORTH of river following capture of [illegible] on 8 Aug. Our troops are held up by extensive demolitions and mines in this area.

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Weather Fifth Army front : heavy continuous rain night 9/10 Aug followed by cloudy with fair visibility. Eighth Army : intermittent thundery rain.

Note CASTELLEONE (1849), CORINALDO (2351).

NORB

END ON RECORD BACKGROUND

1613

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12 AUG 1944

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
A Record Background
12 August 1944

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO. 204 FOR TWELFTH AUGUST BEGINS

Heavy rains in Fifth Army sector slowed up road movements and hampered activity 10/11 August with result that only scattered artillery and small arms fire were encountered along Fifth Army front. Most of our patrols to the River ARNO made no contact with enemy, but one probing along river west of PISA encountered hostile enemy patrol and forced it to withdraw after exchange of small arms fire. Another Fifth Army patrol crossed river, made contact, and withdrew.

Self-propelled enemy gun southeast of PISA silenced by Fifth Army artillery. There was some enemy harassing artillery fire on road junctions in forward areas.

On western flank Eighth Army troops after stiff fighting reached several villages between ARNO River and Route 67 west and northwest of EMPOLI including S. MARIA (5263) and AVANE (5264). Forward troops are encountering stiffening opposition. Fighting continues area cross roads (4964).

In enemy pocket in ARNO bend between EMPOLI and MONTELUPO, enemy have been pushed back from Route 67 500 to 1000 yards on 2000 yard front to a line either side FIBBIANA (5764).

Our troops heavily shelled at SAN COLOMBANO (6969) and withdrew half mile southwest.

In mountains north of AREZZO activity slackened after recent battles for peaks. West of Route 71 enemy activity less in PIANALE sector, but east of Route 71, CASTELLO (3350) and ALTUCCIA (3350) features persistently and heavily shelled yesterday. Active patrolling continues whole sector.

On Eight Army front in Polish sector now confirmed that enemy withdrawn over CESANO River from MONTEPORZIO (2356) to coast. At southwest end of sector advance elements reached points two miles east and northeast of CASTELLEONE DI SUASA (1747) and slight resistance met. Forward troops crossed river and reached point on road one mile north MONTEPORZIO but withdrew south of river owing to enemy artillery and machinegun fire.

Polish troops of Eighth Army, following up successful attack of last two days, have established bridgehead over CESANO River area (3060) about two miles from coast, and patrols have reached lateral road one mile beyond river (at 2861) without contact but under shell fire.

German PW discloses that German officers tell other ranks they must fight to death when opposed by Indian troops because Indians kill all enemy captured. That this is untrue is constantly impressed on Germans by our propaganda.

Weather fine morning showers afternoon fine all but west coast, night 11 August.

NORB. END.

4282

Page for Diagram

DECLASSIFICATION DIVISION ACC

23

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMM. NO. 202

August 10, 1944

The enemy reacted sharply to patrols and artillery fire along Fifth Army front 9 August and patrols both sides active. Hostile artillery fire generally sporadic and harassing.

No significant changes of position occurred but there were a number of brisk fire fights along the front.

Enemy attempts to construct underwater bridge south of San Giovanni alla Vena (2461) frustrated by Fifth Army artillery fire.

One hostile aircraft flew over San Miniato (4759) 9 August and strafed area without causing damage or casualties.

Action has flared up on Eighth Army's Adriatic front where Poles and Italians opened a new attack morning 9 August.

In Florence sector south of Arno Canadians with 250 partisans cleared armed and hostile fascists from the area between Via del Serragli and Via Romana. Approx 150 men and women found in possession of small arms and grenades have been arrested. West of Florence there has been little change.

To east in Arno bend as a result of capture of Pt 557 (8866) Eighth Aug by British infantry main German body has withdrawn north of Arno and only have patrols on south bank of river in the sector. We hold all high ground south of river.

Further details of capture of Pt 557 and monastery: Infantry started attack on Pt 557 at 0520 8 August. Fire was encountered from road to E. Two counterattacks were driven off. By 0800hours we were on Pt 557 in strength and in gardens of monastery at 1140 further troops attacked monastery and spur to east after stiff fighting at 1300 hours lodge was cleared and 29 PW taken. Monastery itself was then attacked and by 1415 hours whole position was taken and garrison was liquidated all were killed or captured.

Total PW taken 3 officers and 67 other ranks. In this action Churchill tanks got well up the feature to commanding positions so that when Germans formed for counterattack they were under tank guns and not heavy fire. This well demonstrates the good hill climbing performance of Churchills and their value in this kind of country.

Considerable enemy shelling and mortaring continues on the mountains. Patrols to Bagnona (2047) on Italia made contact with the enemy. Our attack on Pianale (2047) northeast of Monte Grillo was held up by heavy enemy opposition from the southern slopes.

Reports that Guiliano (2948) was burned are correct. Two German soldiers found wounded in village were thought to be victims of partisans. As reprisal Germans poured petrol on houses and set fire to the village. The two Germans were in fact wounded by one of our patrols.

Active patrolling continues in Apennines.

In the Adriatic sector Polish troops of Eighth Army have got first objective in new attack and capture Francavilla (3037) one mile south of Cesano river.

An Italian general, Potente of Partisan Garibaldi Brigade was killed three day ago in a skirmish south of Florence mopping up Italian Fascist snipers and a British liason officer wounded by his side. Funeral of general August 10.

Weather cloudy and some showers on most parts front. N O R B.

END

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Weather cloudy and some showers on most parts front. N O R D.

END

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9 AUG Recd 43

22

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
On Record Background
9 August 1944

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO. 201 FOR NINTH AUGUST BEGINS

Operations in the Fifth Army sector remain relatively quiet with intermittent artillery exchanges and aggressive patrolling by Fifth Army units and the enemy. Fifth Army patrols probed German positions north of ARNO River.

Several enemy patrols driven back by Fifth Army troops and casualties inflicted. A Fifth Army mine laying detail south west of PISA engaged by enemy patrol. In the fierce fight Germans received artillery support but retired on arrival of Fifth Army tanks.

Hostile tanks going into position southeast of PISA engaged by Fifth Army artillery and one direct hit observed. Other enemy groups also seen and taken under our mortar and artillery fire.

Fifth Army's frontline dispositions now run generally along the south bank of the ARNO River throughout the southern portion of PISA through SAN BENEDETTO (2061) thence generally along Route 67 to Fifth Army's right flank.

On western flank of Eighth Army front EMPOLI still no men's land. Enemy still occupy pocket between ARNO and Route 67 from EMPOLI to MONTELUPO. We have now secured latter town. Enemy has blown bridge across ARNO south of SIGNA.

Activity on south bank of ARNO in FLORENCE sector confined to active patrolling across river.

In ARNO loop east of FLORENCE British fighting patrol with strong artillery support crossed a spur in M. PILLI area (8864) reaching houses northeast of M. PILLI where they met heavy enemy mortar fire from Point 557 and withdrew. Point 557 (8866) on summit of which is a monastery was strongly held by Germans. British infantry attacked it 7 August, repelled a counterattack and are now firmly on hill having taken monastery and prisoners.

Enemy bridgehead across ARNO bend stretches from point four miles east of FLORENCE eastern city bounds to three miles south of PONTASSIEVE (9468). East of Route 69 British troops hold general line RIGNANO (9461), REGGELLO (0157), CASTELFRANCO (0352), LORO CIUFFENNA (0947). In PRATOMAGNO range northwest of AREZZO much contested M. GRILLO was successfully attacked. Yesterday 7 August found us firmly established on this feature after much opposition. Troops of an Indian division met strong opposition in attack just northwest of GRILLO overlooking ARNO Valley.

Fierce fighting continues for commanding features in mountain masses north of AREZZO. 4280

Our stretcher bearers were still counting German dead yesterday 7 August in M. REGINA area in ALPE DI CATENAIA east of Route 71. They saw approximately 30 enemy corpses. Prisoners taken there during the Gurkhas' attack on M. REGINA when interrogated were unable to answer coherently and appeared to be badly shaken. The enemy still hold M. REGINA. Enemy 7 August shelled M. FILETTO (3348) to south.

1617

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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A patrol to GIULIANO (2948) on hill above ARNO Valley reports village burned down by enemy. Northeast of ANGHIARI spandau and sub machine gun fire, while across TIBER widespread shelling area SANSEPOLCRO.

On Polish front there is increased enemy artillery and mortar fire. Our patrols are in contact. Germans are holding ridge CASTAGNA (0838), S. PIETRO (1342), LORETELLO (1442), CASTELLEONE (1849), CORINALDO (2351).

Weather fair and visibility moderate over whole Italian front.

NORB. END.

1618

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- 9 AUG Recd INFORMATION DIVISION ACC

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
On Record Background
8 Aug 1944

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO.200 FOR EIGHTH AUGUST BEGINS

Usual artillery exchanges and patrol activity continued along Fifth Army front 7 August.

During early hours 6-7 August enemy fired approximately 325 rounds light artillery into SAN MINIATO area 4659. This was followed by infiltration attempt by 40-man patrol which driven back a number of Germans being killed.

Other infiltration efforts in ELSA River area 5060 also repulsed.

Little change in Eighth Army front along South bank of ARNO. Either side of FLORENCE, recce patrols continue across the river. Enemy bridgehead across ARNO EAST of FLORENCE is scene of fierce fighting and there is little change in positions in country in ARNO bend SOUTH of PONTASSIEVE. Enemy hold Pt. 557 (8866) in strength.

Advancing against light opposition afternoon 6 August, Ghurkas and Sikhs captured PONTENANO 1747 and 4000-foot LA CESTA feature (1548). In high ground, both sides of Route Seventy-One, fierce fighting for hill features continues. West of Route Seventy-One, enemy's counterattack in force 6 Aug resulted their recapture M GRILLO 2346. Both sides heavy casualties. We still hold M FERRATO. Eighth Army troops now hold general line across Route Seventy-One from BIBIANO (2445) along road to ARNO River to about 2 miles NORTH of SUBBIANO on Route Seventy-One.

Our troops still firmly established on M CASTELLO (3350) in ALPE DI CATENAIA, East of Route Seventy-One. Ghurkas in a kukri charge attacked in strength 6 Aug saddle between M REGINA held by enemy and M CASTELLO. During fierce hand to hand fighting Ghurkas killed 60 enemy and took 35 PWs. FELICITA Ridge (3349) occupied by British and they firmly on FILETTO (3348).

In Appenines, East of TIBER, river patrols active and general patrol line runs from SANSEPOLCRO (4944), S GIUSTINO (5241), PIETRALUNGA (7329), CANTIANO (8932), along lateral road to SASSOFERRATO (0728).

On Polish front enemy opposition firm. Our patrols and artillery active.

Weather along Eighth Army front stormy with thunder and rain. Clear Fifth Army sector.

Italian civilians say Kesselring gave 'carte blanche' to Commander of German 4 Paratroop Div to act as he saw fit in Florence. Result was wanton destruction ofbridges and demolitions either side of PONTE VECCHIO. Low level air photographs reveal extent of damage caused by the demolitions and also absence of damage to town North of river in German hands thus disproving German communique allegation that we had shelled FLORENCE. In Southern district, mouth of River, German shells fall but civilianslife goes on and families with shopping baskets throng streets.

International character of Eighth Army typified by way many different nationalities along whole Italian front working and fighting side by side successfully as they did in Africa with same respect for each other's merits. An Indian Div itself made up of many races is supported by Canadian armor. British guardsmen ride on South African tanks. British gunners and sappers support New Zealanders. Italians and British troops fight under Polish command. Highlanders form part of an Indian Div. Italian Patriots are harassing Germans behind while Pioneers of many races do unromantic but

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

across ARNO EAST of FLORENCE [illegible] change in positions in country in ARNO bend SOUTH of PONTASSIEVE. Enemy hold Pt. 557 (8366) in strength.

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NORB END ON RECORD BACKGROUND

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
...C. & K.G. SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH

TO	FOLIO 20 Attachment	INFO.-	ACTION
✓	Col. Mc CARTHY	Chm	
✓	Major. MAGNUS		
	Major. DRAGE		
	Capt. SALVADORI		
	Chief CLERK		
	LIAISON SECTION.		
	Col. NAVA		
	Dr. TREVES		
	Mr. VILLA		

REMARKS.

7 AUG Recd

INFORMATION DIVISION

20

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 199

August 7, 1944

Characterized by sporadic artillery and morter fire and active patrolling Fifth Army sector along Arno River to the sea remained relatively quiet. Several enemy morter positions neutralized by Fifth Army fire.

Twenty direct hits scored by tank destroyer fire on house occupied by German personnel northwest of Pisa (1065). Another enemy occupied house set on fire by morters.

German motor column moving along coast north of river attacked by Fifth Army artillery. Enemy observed using mule pack trains on western slopes of Monte Pisano east of Pisa.

Eighth Army troops are now up to Arno river and have cleared south bank for stretch of three miles from east of Florence city bounds to Montelupo (5965) 12 miles west of Florence with exception of small pockets of enemy northeast of Montelupo and south of Signa (6570). Empoli and Montelupo continue to be no mans land with our patrols in and out of both towns. At Arno river our troops engaged by enemy MG fire. Enemy shelling continues on Florence sector which in our hands south of River. Our guns are not shelling any part of the city. We have not yet had more than recce patrols over river and these have returned.

It is clear that from defensive positions they hold across river either side of city Germans will oppose any Eighth Army attempts to cross.

Apart from small parties with MGs on north bank there is little enemy activity in town. There will be no need for city itself to become battlefield. Enemy resisting on ridge of high ground running north and sout in arno bend southwest of Pontassieve (9368) but steady progress is by British troops reducing German bridgehead.

Advance of our armoured cars tanks and infantry reached general line from Paterno (8666) east to Route 69 three miles from Pontessieve. East of Route 69 British forward troops reached Santa Agata (0059) meeting heavy shell fire this point.

In hills northwest of Arezzo forward troops of an Indian division reached M Capanino (2043) NE of Castiglion. Germans have counterattacked on M Grillo (2346) which we occupied three days ago. In this attack tanks in support at M Ferrato (2145) inflicted heavy casualties. Enemy resistance strong in area Alpe di Catenaia. Our troops advancing from Castello (3750) NE of M altuccia (3449) which now firmly in our hands met counterattacks at Sasso Della Regina (3250) altitude 1247 feet. Enemy is using MGs and morters in stubborn defense of this difficult fighting country.

In Tiber valley patrols entered Sansepolcro (4944) and S Giustino (5241) bothreported clear of enemy.

On Polish sector contact made with enemy on 20 mile front after his withdrawal to high ground forward of Cesano river so that our line has advanced 2 to 3 miles. Montale (1840) and Ostra Vetere (2446) occupied by Italian troops of Eighth army. S. Lucia captured (1748) Polish infantry supported by tanks and Ripe(2854) occupied. Polish troops pushed along coast. And now one mile beyond Senegallia (3858).

1822

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

by mortars.

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Weather cloudy unsettled and rain in parts. No change press release line. Between Cassino and Florence 50,000 prisoners have been captured by Allies. An enemy officer who deserted the Allies stated that before withdrawing to

(OVER)

4278

1623

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Florence enemy command circles several times said it was important not to make quote the same mistake unquote as in Rome by leaving the blowing ofbridges until too late. In contrast to their intentions with Tiber bridges where they were rushed by rapid Allied advance enemy was determined to blow Arno bridges in time. N O R B

END

1624

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5 AUG Recd

Ed. Hq, Courtney 43

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC 19

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
On Record Background
5 Aug 1944

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO.197 FOR 5 AUG 1944 BEGINS

The final advance of Eighth Army to banks of ARNO SOUTH of FLORENCE is nearly completed. Suburbs SOUTH of River are in our hands. To East and West, Dominion, Indian and British troops are bearing down on ARNO on 25 mile front between MONTELUPO and PRATO MACNO massif. At one point British armour and infantry are at BACNO A RIPOLI (8466) close to River.

All bridges except PONTE VECCHIO blown by Germans. Covering parties engaged our approaching troops. PONTE VECCHIO resembles old London Bridge with shops built across bridge on both sides narrow pathway. Bridge possibly spared because unsuitable for wheeled traffic. Clear that enemy intends to oppose crossing of ARNO on both sides of city which remains an enclave in nomansland. Enemy holds all commanding heights on either side of city around FIESOLE (8272) with strong artillery. Eighth Army activity in valley under direct observation. Message received this August from Florence National Committee of Liberation reported that Germans fully prepared to blow up city bridges and had evacuated inhabitants on whole North bank.

In Western sector of Highway Sixty-Seven troops of an Indian Division have advanced well beyond their bridgehead across PESA River 2 miles North of MALMANTILE (6466). Farther East, forward elements have reached SCANDICCI (7467) in network of small dusty roads West of Highway Two.

Eighth Army troops pushed on up this road night Aug 3rd through GALLUZZO (7664) and S GAGGIO (7867) and early morning Aug 4th reached outskirts of city. Enemy shelling this area has been more intense. East of Highway Two, British troops advancing with tanks took GRASSINA (8163) where encountered SP guns and in further advance morning 4th, forward elements held general line of road from INCISA (9356) to FLORENCE with BAGNO A RIPOLI most forward point and RIGNANO (9461) also occupied. Leading troops five miles South and Southwest from PONTASSIEVE (9469) important junction of highways.

British troops continue steady advance in valley East of Highway Sixty-Nine and have cut small lateral road from REGGELLO 0157.

In ALPE DI CATENAIA, patrols report no enemy activity SOUTH of PALCIANO.

Patrols slightly farther East have met German machinegun fire from M FILETTO (3448). SUBBIANO (2845) in our hands and leading troops about two miles farther North. Troops of an Indian Div made Bally with tanks NORTH of ANGHIARI toward VIAIO 4444 without opposition.

In wild country NORTH of PIETRALUNGA, MONTE SPLENDOIA (7335) found clear but enemy hold M ROSSO to West.

On Polish front successful patrolling continues across MISA River.

Along American Fifth Army front scattered enemy arty fire and patrol activity both sides. Fifth army arty engaged enemy movements NORTH of ARNO and made direct mortar hits on enemy posts.

Weather mostly fair.

No change Press Release Line. NORB

1625
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

All bridges except PONTE VECCHIO blown by Germans. Covering parties engaged our approaching troops. PONTE VECCHIO resembles old London Bridge with shops built across bridge on both sides narrow pathway. Bridge possibly spared because unsuitable for wheeled traffic. Clear that enemy intends to oppose crossing of ARNO on both sides of city which remains an enclave in nomansland. Enemy holds all commanding heights on either side of city around FIESOLE (8272) with strong artillery. Eighth Army activity in valley under direct observation. Message received this August from Florence National Committee of Liberation reported that Germans fully prepared to blow up city bridges and had evacuated inhabitants on whole North bank.

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Along American Fifth Army front scattered enemy arty fire and patrol activity both sides. Fifth army arty engaged enemy movements NORTH of ARNO and made direct mortar hits on enemy posts.

Weather Mostly fair.

No change Press Release Line. NORB

ADDITION TO ON RECORD BACKGROUND

8277

Although the enemy has proclaimed that he regards FLORENCE as an open city he has seen fit to use it for his military traffic and when outfought South of city has blown all the bridges except the historic PONTE VECCHIO.

His paratroopers are however posted along the Northern bank of the ARNO within the city limits.

END

1626

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

1627

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH

TO	POLIC Attachment	INFO.	ACTION.
	Col. DE CARTHY		
✓	Major AGLEN		
	Major LE JO		
	Capt. GUY LOCU		
	Chief CLERK		
	LIAISON SECTION		
	Col. PAVA		
	Dr. PAULS		
	Mr. VILLA		
	WORK.		

7 AUG Recd

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
On Record Background
6 August 1944

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 198 SIXTH AUGUST BEGINS

On Eighth Army front interest has switched to ADRIATIC coast where Germans withdrawing along whole sector. Poles and Italians have advanced several miles beyond MISA River.

British and Dominion troops now hold line about 1000 yards south of ARNO both sides of FLORENCE from MONTELUPO to point four miles from city's eastern bounds. We occupy sector of FLORENCE on south bank of river where active patrolling continues.

On western flank of Eighth Army front our troops patrolled into EMPOLI. Farther east on Route 67 forward elements found MONTELUPO occupied and are now 500 yards away at nearest point on north bank of PESA River. German long range guns in commanding hills north of FLORENCE are shelling city south of ARNO with 17 cm. guns. We are not using any artillery against the city. There is considerable sniping activity in town and lively duels are frequent across river by PONTE VECCHIO from cover of demolished buildings.

On Route 69 Eighth Army forward troops have advanced beyond RIGNANO. In the PRATOMAGNO Mass, LORO CIUFFENNA (0947) occupied and patrols active in high ground north of CASTIGLION (1940).

Pushing up Route 71 forward elements are beyond SUBBIANO and in hills west of road we occupy BIBBIANO (2445) and M. GRILLO (2346) which overlooks River SALUTIO Valley. East of Route 71 in ALPE DI CATENAIA, MONTE ALTUCCIA (3349) captured after heavy fighting.

On the Polish front patrols have contacted enemy in GENGA area (1427). Between SASSOFERRATO and Route 76, Italian infantry of Eighth Army have reached BARBARA (2144) across river also SERRA DI CONTI (2240) south of MISA River. Forward patrols reached NEPOLA (2246) River. Farther northwest Polish troops also across the river to BRUGNETTO (3052) MONTE DI RIPE (2952) on the NEPOLA and SAN VITO (2649) without contact.

All SENIGALLIA now in our hands and Eighth Army troops have advanced against slight shelling beyond the port to CAVALLARI (3360), SCAPEZZANO (3359) and RONCITELLI (3156) two miles beyond MISA River. Work on repairing port installations at ANCONA proceeding in record time and most of port now in use.

Guardsmen who with South African infantry and armour have been leading troops in advance from ROME to FLORENCE to commemorate successful and happy association with their Dominion comrades and in honour of good work done together have incorporated South African Division flash with their own.

Fifth Army patrols crossed the ARNO River to probe enemy positions and returned after several hours behind German lines. Enemy continued to attempt patrol infiltrations in Fifth Army sector. A small enemy patrol contacted in coastal area and all killed or captured.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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Enemy footbridges across ARNO destroyed at several points by Fifth Army mortar fire. There were scattered exchanges of mortar fire. South PISA was shelled and mortared by the enemy on August 4.

Here is some data on the ARNO River. The ARNO from FLORENCE to the sea has a wide bed 250 to 600 feet. In Summer, however, there is little flow and the actual water gap may vary from 40 to 340 feet between FLORENCE and PISA and thence 400 to 600 feet to the sea. Between FLORENCE and PISA the Germans were able to ford the ARNO at several places and to build causeways as well as pontoon bridges. In FLORENCE and PISA the river has steep masonry embankments almost 20 feet high. Elsewhere the river has natural banks of varying heights from CAPRAIA (5965) to the sea. There are floodbanks on one or other or both sides of the river.

NORB. END.

16291
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

1630

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
PATRICI BRANCH

TO	FOLIO Attachment	INFO.	ACTION
✓	Col. Mc CARTHY	Cfkn	
	Major. MAGNUS		
	Major. DRAGE		
	Capt. SALVADORI		
	Chief CLERK		
	LIAISON SECTION.		
	Col. RAVA		
	Dr. TIEVES		
	Mr. VILLA		

REMARKS.

Please Copy para 11 only. U.S.

Col. McCarthy

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
On Record Background
3 Aug 1944

17

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO. 195 FOR THIRD AUGUST BEGINS

Further important advances made on Eighth Army front south of FLORENCE against dogged resistance. Enemy shows no sign of abandoning policy to defend every inch of ground and is holding remaining commanding hill features in his possession most tenaciously.

British and Indian troops of an Indian division have crossed PESA River on two mile bridgehead south and southeast of GINESTRA (6463) and penetrating a mile in depth on north bank have taken that village. In further attacks north of SAN MICHELE and LA ROMOLA our troops captured commanding features of LA POGGIONA (7262) and a hill to west in very fierce fighting in which many PW were taken. Several enemy counter-attacks east of EMPOLI repulsed.

Farther east in advance over GREVE River STRADA (8256) captured by men of guards brigade operating with South Africans. PONETA (8056) also in our hands. In this area advance continues in face of fierce resistance. Enemy SP guns well forward and receiving active support of his field arty, bulk of which still south of FLORENCE.

In mountains east of Highway 69, troops of a British division advanced two miles north from MONTE MAGGIO and MONTE SCALARI and now have line just south east of INCISA (9455) which Germans hold. East of PRATO MAGNO Mass enemy being pushed back up ARNO gorge. Our leading elements in sight of SUBBIANO (2845). On remainder of this front active patrolling continues.

In ANGHIARI area GALBINO feature (3941) now secure. Slight shelling vicinity east of TIBER. FELICITA (6038) reported clear.

Increased enemy patrolling and light harassing artillery, small arms and mortar fire were main activity in Fifth Army sector.

Fifth Army artillery dispersed 200 enemy infantrymen who crossed ARNO and were forming for counter-attack northeast of PONTEDERA (2959) evening first August. Strong Fifth Army combat patrol sent out to clear up situation made no contact with enemy.

Enemy also withdrew after sharp patrol clash west of CASCINA (2161). Several other enemy attempts to cross ARNO east and west of PISA broken up by Fifth Army mortar fire.

Here is a typical example of determined enemy resistance now being faced by Eighth Army south of FLORENCE. One of our armoured cars met enemy infantry during counter-attack. German infantryman jumped on car and tried to drop grenades through top. Driver accelerated car under olive trees and branches thus swept German onto ground. In same action squadron commander in armoured car saw German soldier standing in middle of path levelling a bazooka at car. Though commander drove straight on German didn't move. Car's three inch howitzer eliminated German.

Italian civilian reports that Germans been clearing all civilians from stretches of north bank of ARNO east and west of FLORENCE.

Following is a translation of a notice found in the SAN UBALDO Monastery

631
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

of FLORENCE.

In mountains east of Highway 69, troops of a British division advanced two miles north from MONTE MAGGIO and MONTE SCALARI and now have line just south east of INCISA (9455) which Germans hold. East of PRATO MAGNO Mass enemy being pushed back up ARNO gorge. Our leading elements in sight of SUBBIANO (2845). On remainder of this front active patrolling continues.

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Following is a translation of a notice found in the SAN UBALDO Monastery at GUBBIO: "Proclamation to the Italian People. In the past days criminal elements of the civil population have repeatedly ambushed and shot at German soldiers. By way of punishment for such acts certain villages have been burnt down and a number of the male inhabitants summarily shot according to law. The German army therefore declares: para one, that the inhabitants of each village are collectively responsible that there will take place in their village no acts of sabotage and no attacks on individual German soldiers. Para two, that whoever is aware of the presence of bandits or saboteurs and does not immediately denounce them to the nearest German post is thereby an accomplice and open to be called to account for the misdeeds of such criminals. Para three, that villages in which attacks on German soldiers or acts of sabotage occur will be razed by fire and a number of male inhabitants shot. Para four, that the burgomaster, magistrates and priests are called upon in the interests of the security of their fellow citizens to demand of the inhabitants of their townships calm and order and cooperation in the hunting down of bandits."

Weather generally clear. No change press release line. NORB. END.

1632

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

1633

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC 16
M.S.

4 AUG Recd

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE 193

1 August 1944

Further progress made all along Eighth Army front. Enemy counterattacking fiercely and are in considerable strength south of Florence. Five German divisions on defensive front formed south of city in wide semicircle. Prisoners taken indicate immediate approaches to Florence guarded by three of best German divisions 4 Parachute 29 Panzer Grenadiers and 3 Panzer Grenadiers. Clear that enemy determined to make real stand as long as able but Eighth Army's advance relentlessly forcing him from successive strongpoints. Tiger tanks supporting Germans in strong resistance. New Zealanders veterans of Alamein playing important part in battle. In recent hard fought advance of South African Div to within less than six miles of Florence prominent part has been played by a Guards Brigade. Germans holding north banks of Arno and Pesa rivers very firmly. Our patrols active in this sector. Enemy shelling decreased. West of Highway Two we still hold San Michele (6862) d in spite of another counterattack when five enemy tanks entered town. In advance 31 July La Romola (7160) two miles east of San Michele captured. Counterattack on San Andrea (7450) also repulsed and Eighth Army troops now captured village.

In this sector enemy using new type Booby Trap operated by tying grenades to trees with trip wires across road at height to catch aerials of passing wireless trucks thus exploding grenades and doing much damage to truck andwireless crew.

East of Niwiawat Two South African patrolling to Greve River found three crossings strongly defended. Farther east British troops have repulsed five counterattacks against our positions on Monte Scalari (8852). Forward patrols have reached San Martino (9351).

On east bank of Arno forward British troops are holding general line 9951-9751 Germans reported holding River Ericsco in strength. North exits of Castelfranco (9351) still covered by German machine gun fire. Faella (9951) now reported clear.

North of Arrezzo enemy pushed farther back up precipitous Arezzo Bibena valley on Highway 71 have reached Arno gorge three miles from Subbiano (2845). In Anghari area(4341) west of Tiber Valley troops of Indian Division advancing with tanks toward Prato (4743) delayed by large minefields. Germans holding Monte Fumo (6638).

In hills east of Arno Frecano (6236) Passerina (5738) Lama (5638) clear of enemy.

Patrolling continues in Adriatic sector.

No significant changes or developments along Fifth Army front thirty first July or previous night. Patrol activity on both sides less than usual. But enemy artillery showed slight increase. Number of large calibre shells fired into Leghorn by Germans. Fifth Army arty fired normal missions and continued to fire on targets of opportunity.

Weather mostly fair. No change press release line. N O R E.

END

4374

1634

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
PATRICIA BRANCH

TO	INFO.	ACTION.
POLIO Attachment		
Col. Mc CARTHY		
Major. MAGNUS		
Major. DRAGE		
Capt. SALVADORI		
Chief CLERK		
LIAISON SECTION		
Col. FAVA		
Dr. TREVES		
Mr. VILLA		

REMARKS.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
On Record Background
3 Aug 1944

-4 AUG Rec'd

4/8/R.S.S.

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO. 195 FOR THIRD AUGUST BEGINS

Further important advances made on Eighth Army front south of FLORENCE against dogged resistance. Enemy shows no sign of abandoning policy to defend every inch of ground and is holding remaining commanding hill features in his possession most tenaciously.

British and Indian troops of an Indian division have crossed PESA River on two mile bridgehead south and southeast of GINESTRA (6463) and penetrating a mile in depth on north bank have taken that village. In further attacks north of SAN MICHELE and LA ROMOLA our troops captured commanding features of LA POGGIONA (7262) and a hill to west in very fierce fighting in which many PW were taken. Several enemy counter-attacks east of EMPOLI repulsed.

Farther east in advance over GREVE River STRADA (8256) captured by men of guards brigade operating with South Africans. PONETA (8056) also in our hands. In this area advance continues in face of fierce resistance. Enemy SP guns well forward and receiving active support of his field arty, bulk of which still south of FLORENCE.

In mountains east of Highway 69, troops of a British division advanced two miles north from MONTE MAGGIO and MONTE SCALARI and now have line just south east of INCISA (9455) which Germans hold. East of PRATO MAGNO Mass enemy being pushed back up ARNO gorge. Our leading elements in sight of SUBBIANO (2845). On remainder of this front active patrolling continues.

In ANGHIARI area GALBINO feature (3941) now secure. Slight shelling vicinity east of TIBER. FELICITA (6038) reported clear.

Increased enemy patrolling and light harassing artillery, small arms and mortar fire were main activity in Fifth Army sector.

Fifth Army artillery dispersed 200 enemy infantrymen who crossed ARNO and were forming for counter-attack northeast of PONTEDERA (2959) evening first Agust. Strong Fifth Army combat patrol sent out to clear up situation made no contact with enemy.

Enemy also withdrew after sharp patrol clash west of CASCINA (2161). Several other enemy attempts to cross ARNO east and west of PISA broken up by Fifth Army mortar fire.

Here is a typical example of determined enemy resistance now being faced by Eighth Army south of FLORENCE. One of our armoured cars met enemy infantry during counter-attack. German infantryman jumped on car and tried to drop grenades through top. Driver accelerated car under olive trees and branches thus swept German onto ground. In same action squadron commander in armoured car saw German soldier standing in middle of path levelling a bazooka at car. Though commander drove straight on German didn't move. Car's three inch howitizer eliminated German.

Italian civilian reports that Germans been clearing all civilians from stretches of north bank of ARNO east and west of FLORENCE.

Following is a translation of a notice found in the SAN UBALDO Monastery 4273

1635

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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of guards brigade operating with South Africans. PONETA (8056) also in our hands.
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4273

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Weather generally clear. No change press release line. NORB. END.

6336

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

1637

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
PATR. IS BRANCH

TO	FOLIO / Attachment	INFO.-	ACTION
	Col. Mc CARTHY		
	Major. MAGNUS	C. O.	
	Major. DRAGE		
	Capt. SALVADORI		
	Chief CLERK		
	LIAISON SECTION.		
	Col. FAVA		
	Dr. TREVES		
	Mr. VILLA		

REMARKS. file

1638

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Col. McCarthy

4 AUG Recd M.S.

14

TRANSMISSION TIME 0800 HOURS. 2 AUGUST.

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC
4/8/55

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

1 August 1944

SUPPLEMENT TO 'ON RECORD' BACKGROUND TO BE RELEASED AT 1100B HRS, 2 AUGUST 1944

Continuing his tour of the Allied Armies in Italy His Majesty spent the day inspecting Canadian troops.

On arrival, His Majesty was met by General Sir Henry Maitland-Wilson, Supreme Allied Commander, and by Lieut.-General Burns, Commanding a Canadian Corps.

Canadian troops lined the route taken by His Majesty to the parade ground where His Majesty reviewed representatives of a number of Regiments and before them decorated Major John Keeser Mahony with the VICTORIA CROSS for gallantry in the recent operations.

His Majesty was entertained to lunch and a number of senior officers were presented to him.

After lunch His Majesty was escorted by General Alexander to a viewpoint from which General Alexander was able to describe the opening phases of the present campaign and from which CASSINO and MONASTERY HILL were clearly visible.

- END -

E3712

Col. McCarthy

- 4 AUG Recd

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
On Record Background
2 Aug 1944

4/8/55

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

13

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO.194 FOR SECOND AUGUST BEGINS

Progress continues along whole Eighth Army front where Germans though fighting as fanatically as they have done at any time in Italy including their defence of CASSINO are being forced back as our grip tightens in semi circle SOUTH of FLORENCE. In this sector troops of an Indian Division occupied CASTIGLIONI (6460)

In western sector active patrolling on ARNO and PESA river lines. Yesterday our troops made raid [illegible] HILL railway station and inflicted casualties. Advancing New Zealanders destroyed an enemy communications as "Elite Troops" now firmly established [illegible] infantry and tanks in LA ROTTA (7161) and hold general line PESA RIVER - SAN MICHELE - LA RONDA - SAN ANDREA. They have taken 30 additional P W S, killed many enemy and knocked out 2 Tiger tanks. German arty active in this sector.

EAST of Highway Two, patrols active and guardsmen reached 8154 and 8353 without contact but enemy activity noted in IMPRUNETA - next objective in this sector.

In mountains WEST of Highway Sixty-Nine British troops advancing along whole sector, meeting little opposition, occupied SEZZATE (8454), pushed on to 8554. Also advanced NORTH from MONTE SCALARI and captured MONTE MAGGIO. MONTE MASSO - next dominating height - held by Germans 3 miles away.

Advancing up Highway Sixty-Nine to INCISA forward, British troops are 3 miles from town and 2 miles past FIGLINE. Our troops occupied new positions in area 9751 - 9851 on high ground above ARNO valley. From here eastward to CASTELFRANCO, heavy shelling and mortaring.

NORTHWEST of AREZZO enemy machinegun fire heard in hills northwest of CASTIGLIONI (1944). In mountains NORTHWEST of ANGHIARI Point 689 (3845) and Point 764 (3744) captured night 31 July against slight opposition.

Our patrols active in APPENNINES and on Polish front where stiff opposition met across MISA river.

Aggressive Fifth army patrols wereactive along ARNO River line. 2 enemy attempts to infiltrate patrols through our lines on left flank were driven off before crossing of riverwas made.

Enemy activity also observed behind smoke screen EAST of PISA and effectively broken up by counterbattery fire. Normal exchanges of arty and small arms and mortar fire along Fifth Army front.

Records show that Colonel Count Stauffenberg who recently was executed as the attempted bomb assassin of Hitler was seriously wounded 8 April 1943 by a shell of the 1st British Armd Division at MEZZOUNA in Tunisia, losing an eye and an arm. He was then Chief of Staff of 10th Panzer Division, commanded by Major General Von Broich. Stauffenberg like Von Broich was cavalry officer of old school and like him no friend of Nazi regime. He had witnessed 2 German disasters having been brought to Tunisia by Von Broich from Stalingrad front in November 1942. After his wound he was next heard of as the Colonel on Staff of C[illegible]

1639

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

In mountains WEST of Highway Sixty-Nine British troops advancing along whole sector, meeting little opposition, occupied SESTALE (8454), pushed on to 8554. Also advanced NORTH from MONTE SCALARI and captured MONTE MAGGIO. MONTE MASSO - next dominating height - held by Germans 3 miles away.

Advancing up Highway Sixty-Nine to PISA forward, British troops are 3 miles from town and 2 miles past FIGLINE. Our troops occupied new positions in area 9751 - 9851 on high ground above ARNO valley. From here eastward to CASTELFRANCO, heavy shelling and mortaring.

NORTHWEST of AREZZO enemy machinegun fire heard in hills northwest of CASTIGLIONI (1944). In mountains NORTHWEST of ANGHIARI Point 689 (3845) and Point 764 (3744) captured night 31 July against slight opposition.

Our patrols active in APPENNINES and on Polish front where stiff opposition met across MISA river.

Aggressive Fifth army patrols were active along ARNO River line. 2 enemy attempts to infiltrate patrols through our lines on left flank were driven off before crossing of riverwas made.

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(MORE - OVER)

4271

1640

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

The Czech army has now entered lists in Italy against the Allies - according to reliable reports, entire armed forces of Protectorate of Behemia and Moravia were sent down to Italy toward end of May and now operating on Security duties in Northern Italy, mainly concerned with protecting railway lines and fighting Italian patriots. Force is said to number some seven thousand men all Czechs by nationality and race who wear Czech uniforms. They were originally raised from members of the dissolved Czechoslovak army for internal duties and ceremonial purposes in the Protectorate and were assured that they would not be employed outside country.

These Czech troops must not be confused with Slovak Division which has been in Italy for some time employed so far as labour troops on construction of Adolf Hitler and other defensive lines. In theory Slovakia is an independent ally of Germany.

Weather mostly fair.

No change press release line.

N O R B

1641

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
On Record Background
31 July 1944 - 2 AUG Recd

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 192 BEGINS

With Germans still fighting fiercely to delay Eighth Army advance on FLORENCE, our infantry has reached generally to south banks of PESA and ARNO below confluence north of which enemy holding strongly. Our forces well established across railway line running along ARNO Valley east from EMPOLI to vicinity of MONTELUPO and have consolidated positions.

Several counter-attacks from high ground southwest of FLORENCE repulsed. Enemy night of 29/30 July made strong sally with Tiger tanks and motorized infantry into SAN MICHELE (0902) but withdrew to positions in high ground to north. In enemy attacks 30 July, British and New Zealand artillery with fighter bombers of Desert Air Force have inflicted heavy losses on enemy.

West of Highway Two enemy outposts eliminated one being SANTA LUCIA (7855) and taken more German parachutist prisoners. Immediately south of FLORENCE our troops still in hills overlooking GREVE River while Germans hold IMPRUNETA strongly and have been heavily bombed there. In STRADA vicinity positions remain unchanged.

Our troops now firm on MONTE SCALARI heights just west of Highway 69 after repelling counter-attack. Patrolling active in this sector and additional prisoners taken.

East of FIGLINE British troops advanced and now established in CASTELFRANCO (0351) they have crossed FIGLINE-CASTELFRANCO road in several places and in close contact with enemy. German positions in this area shot up by concentrated fire of tanks and one position hoisted white flag.

Northwest of AREZZO hills of PRATO MAGNO gradually being cleared of enemy and Patriots active in this difficult country. Patrolling into hills north of AREZZO and one patrol found L'APIA (2342) unoccupied. Another patrol ambushed enemy patrol in hills and killed ten Germans. Enemy appeared to have withdrawn slightly in this sector.

Northeast of AREZZO our patrols penetrated deeply across AREZZO-ANGHIARI road all along flanks. This next lateral road north of Route 73 which main AREZZO-SANSEPOLCRO road. Our leading troops thousand yards northwest of ANGHIARI. In this area line now runs from this town to two and half miles south of SANSEPOLCRO.

In APPENINES our patrols again made contact with enemy outposts and exchanged shelling. Polish front shows little change. There is constant patrolling harassing fire and many enemy casualties.

Inventory shows during ANCONA action of Polish troops of Eighth Army following enemy equipment captured or destroyed: SP guns 16, [illegible] guns 75 millimetre [illegible], 50 millimetre 28, 14 centimeter three, seven point six centimeter four, howitzers 105 millimetre 17, 150 millimetre four, 88 millimetre AA guns four, coastal defence guns seven, tractor guns five, total 108.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

West of Highway Two enemy [illegible] Immediately south of [illegible] (7855) and taken more German parachutist prisoners. our troops still in hills overlooking CECINE River while Germans hold IMPRUNETA strongly and have been heavily bombed there. In STRADA vicinity positions remain unchanged.

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Inventory shows during ANCONA action of Polish troops of Eighth Army following enemy equipment captured or destroyed: SP guns 16, AT guns 75 millimetre 50, 50 millimetre 28, 14 centimeter three, seven point six centimeter four, howitzers 105 millimetre 17, 150 millimetre four, 88 millimetre AA guns four, coastal defence guns seven, tractor guns five, total 108.

Considerable quantity automatic infantry and AT weapons and other equipment also taken or destroyed.

Prisoners taken between 17 July and current date total more than nine hundred and eight hundred enemy killed. In entire period of action in ADRIATIC sector prisoners number twenty eight hundred and more than two thousand enemy killed.

On Fifth Army front showing increased resistance and sensitivity to our patrol activity enemy 30 July and previous night employed considerable small arms and automatic weapons fire from positions along north bank of ARNO. During hours of darkness Germans used hundreds of flares to keep river illuminated along various sectors of Fifth Army front. Artillery exchanges occurred but most hostile artillery sporadic and harassing in nature. No material changes in positions took place.

Weather mostly fair. No change in press release line. NORB. END.

1643

declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

- 2 AUG Recd

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE 189

29 JULY 1944

Fighting in a gradually contracting arc in hills south and southwest of FLORENCE, Eighth Army troops are pressing Germans hard on last hill line before city.

To the southwest our troops have made further advances toward Arno and reached within two and half miles of MONTELUPO (6065) and two miles of EMPOLI (5464) without making much contact. Villages of SCOSCIANO (6258) and BOTTINACCIO (6060) secured. Ground all along south of Arno and Pesa rivers gradually being cleared. Forward elements expected soon to contact enemy main positions.

New Zealanders night of 27/28 made somewhat spectacular advance southwest of FLORENCE, pushing forward more than two miles from their bridgehead over Pesa at CERRETI (6859) to break through enemy line and get footing on hills. This provoked violent enemy counter-attacks morning of 28 July by infantry and Tiger tanks but although a leading company had to pull back at one point about eight hundred yards our positions firm and gains held less than 6 miles from FLORENCE.

Driving north some two miles along Highway Two column of tanks and other forces held up by mines and demolitions. Somewhat farther east and immediately south of city advance of mile or more made by South Africans who crossed Grove River two miles south of IMPRUNETA (7859). Advance took them well beyond MECATALE (7754) their spearheads being some three thousand yards north and two thousand yards northeast of village overlooking river Grove. Up where river joins Route Two northeast of SAN CASCIANO (2358) all country cleared south of river to within 1500 yards of STRADA (8257).

Along hills on west side of Arno Eighth Army made further limited advances our troops being due west of FIGLINE (9051) along hill crests and have taken a 2500-foot peak just short of MONTE MORGIO (8653) and MONTE SCALARI (8653) two dominating heights in this area. Deep valley between our troops and these mountains.

In Arno valley riflemen and tanks have advanced three to four thousand yards north of SAN GIOVANNI (9246) on northeast bank of river and are within two miles of CASTEL FRANCO (0352) where enemy guns reported. Area due north of AREZZO under shell fire as enemy still holds PRATO MAGNO mountains and valley to east.

East of Route 71 in mountains northeast of AREZZO British and Indian troops have driven foe from positions held until now in CAMPIANO (3139) area. German parties seen retreating shot up. Advances made west of Tiber up valley along whole sector and toward MONTALTI (4341) to depth of between 1500 and 2000 yards. SCOLANO (4337) taken.

Continual patrolling in Appenines where contact slight but enemy still in evidence. SASSOFERRATO (0727) and PERTICANO (0024) clear.

In Adriatic sector Italian troops fighting with Eighth Army have beaten off strong enemy counter-attack southwest of OSTRA (3248) and northwest of ESI (3827). Southern part of SENIGALLIA (3798) occupied.

Keeping close contact with Germans all along their sector are troops of Fourth British Division. Zero hour 2300 hours eleventh May signalled beginning of German debacle which has now brought Eighth Army to gates of FLORENCE. First task of campaign was to cross Rapido river and liquidate CASSINO and Fourth British Division contributed largely to successful result. One week after its assault boats crossed Rapido on D-Day its troops moved into CASSINO whose capture ended difficult phase of campaign. In course of historic operation Fourth British Division took over 750 prisoners almost exactly year after its famous

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Driving north some two miles along Highway two column of tanks and other forces held up by mines and demolitions. Somewhat further east and immediately south of city advance of mile or more made by South Africans who crossed Grove River two miles south of LE[illegible]. (7859). Advance took them well beyond MECA-TALE (7754) their spearheads being some three thousand yards north and two thousand yards northeast of village overlooking river Grove. Up where river joins Route Two northeast of S.N CASCIANO(2358) all country cleared south of river to within 1500 yards of STRADA(8207).

Along hills on west side of Arno Eighth Army made further limited advances our troops being due west of FIGLINE(2651) along hill crests and have taken a 2500-foot peak just short of MONTE .AGGIO (8633) and MONTE SCALARI (8653) two dominating heights in this area. Deep valley between our troops and these mountains.

In Arno valley riflemen and tanks have advanced three to four thousand yards north of S.N GIOVANNI (9246) on northeast bank of river and are within two miles of CASTEL FRANCO (0352) where enemy guns reported. Area due north of AREZZO under shell fire as enemy still holds PRATO MAGNO mountains and valley to east.

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In Adriatic sector Italian troops fighting with Eighth Army have beaten off strong enemy counter-attack southwest of OSTRA (3248) and northwest of JESI (3827). Southern part of SENIGALLIA (3730) occupied.

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Arty exchanges and patrol activity were principal developments along Fifth Army front. Situation remained unchanged in all sectors. There was usual mortar automatic weapons and small arms fire by both sides and enemy fired number of short arty concentrations on routes south of PISA.

Invaluable assistance rendered by Fifth Army arty air observation posts (light aircraft)during recent offensive is shown by figures just compiled. From 11th May when offensive started until 4th June date of capture of Rome arty observation planes flew total of 8600 hours. This figure indicates about 8000 missions,mission being defined as adjustment, registration, or surveillance of arty fires, or a reconnaissance or patrol flight of at least one hour's duration. Practically every Fifth Army field arty pilot has received Air Medal (35 missions or some outstanding act) and have as many as seven clusters to Air Medal. Two field arty pilots have been awarded Distinguished Flying Cross, one posthumously.

Weather mostly fair. No change press release line. N O R B END

1645

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

43
30 JUL Recd
M.S.
2
10

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON HEAD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE 18[illegible]

29 JULY 1944

Fighting in a gradually contracting arc in hills south and southwest of FLORENCE, Eighth Army troops are pressing Germans hard on last hill line before city.

To the southwest our troops have made further advances toward Arno and reached within two and half miles of MONTELUPO (6065) and two miles of EMPOLI (5464) without making much contact. Villages of SCOSCIANO (6258) and BOTTINUCCIO (6060) secured. Ground all along south of Arno and Pesa rivers gradually being cleared. Forward elements expected soon to contact enemy main positions.

New Zealanders night of 27/28 made somewhat spectacular advance southwest of FLORENCE, pushing forward more than two miles from their bridgehead over Pesa at CERBAIA (6859) to break through enemy line and get footing on hills. This provoked violent enemy counter-attacks morning of 28 July by infantry and Tiger tanks but although a leading company had to pull back at one point about eight hundred yards our positions firm and gains held less than 6 miles from FLORENCE.

Driving north some two miles along Highway Two column of tanks and other forces held up by mines and demolitions. Somewhat farther east and immediately south of city advance of mile or more made by South Africans who crossed Grove River two miles south of IMPRUNETA (7859). Advance took them well beyond MEGA-TALE (7754) their spearheads being some three thousand yards north and two thousand yards northeast of village overlooking river Grove. Up where river joins Route Two northeast of SAN CASCIANO (2358) all country cleared south of river to within 1500 yards of STRADA (8257).

Along hills on west side of Arno Eighth Army made further limited advances our troops being due west of FIGLINE (9651) along hill crests and have taken a 2500-foot peak just short of MONTE MORGIO (8655) and MONTE SCALARI (8653) two dominating heights in this area. Deep valley between our troops and these mountains.

In Arno valley riflemen and tanks have advanced three to four thousand yards north of SAN GIOVANNI (9746) on northeast bank of river and are within two miles of CASTEL FRANCO (0352) where enemy guns reported. Area due north of AREZZO under shell fire as enemy still holds PRATO MAGNO mountains and valley to east.

East of Route 71 in mountains northeast of AREZZO British and Indian troops have driven foe from positions held until now in CAMPIANO (3139) area. German parties seen retreating shot up. Advances made west of Tiber up valley along whole sector and toward ARCHIANI (4341) to depth of between 1500 and 2000 yards. SCOIANO (4337) taken.

Continual patrolling in Appenines where contact slight but enemy still in evidence. SASSOFERRATO (0727) and PERTICANO (0024) clear.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016
1646

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Weather mostly fair. No change press release line. N O R B END

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Allied Armies In Italy
On Record Background
28 July 1944

28 JUL Rec'd

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 188 FOR 28 JULY 1944 BEGINS

Eighth Army made further substantial gains on both flanks 26-27 July, scoring advances up to three miles southwest of FLORENCE and on ADRIATIC coast, and occupying number of towns.

In advance toward ARNO west of FLORENCE our patrols pushed some two miles northwest from CASTELNUOVO (5254) in ELSA River Valley and others thrust more than mile beyond VALLECHIO (5354). In one of days best advances troops of an Indian Division drove some three miles northwest of MONTESPERTOLI (6454).

Few miles farther east substantial gains made by New Zealand forward troops with tks to River PESA in vicinity of CERBAIA (6859) which still held by enemy. Bridgehead secured under considerable fire. On highway two armored car elements entered road junction town of SAN CASCIANO (pop 142000) without opposition demolitions there delaying further progress toward FLORENCE which some seven airline miles distant. MERCATALE (7755) to southeast cleared and forward elements progressed mile beyond town. Immediately south of FLORENCE advance reached two miles south of STRADA (8255). Germans have at least one more defensive hill line between our nearest positions and FLORENCE.

Continued strong opposition met with in push up ARNO Valley northwest of AREZZO but limited advance made to PANELLI (9348) which clear of enemy.

In high ground northeast of AREZZO Point 666 (3540) taken. Earlier attack on high ground in area of MONTE CASTIGLIONE (3638) appeared to have been surprise and subsequent counter-attacks repulsed.

In TIBER Valley and vicinity heavy fighting took place in several areas and casualties inflicted on enemy town of CITERNA being taken and gains made to north. Point 347 (4437) recaptured after counter-attack forced withdrawal night of 26-27 July. Tanks and infantry reached SANTA FISTA (4939) and inflicted casualties.

Advance of Polish forces in ADRIATIC sector was on front of more than ten miles against weakening enemy resistance. Patrols crossed River MISA under mortar and arty fire and forward troops were fighting in outskirts of SENIGALLIA on coast afternoon 27 July. Approaches to river mined and all bridges blown. Towns occupied included MANDRIOLA, SAN ANGELO, FILETTO and OSTRA and patrols reached VACCARILE (2845).

German parachutist prisoner captured by South Africans in west sector said his battalion reduced to 85 men.

No major developments along Fifth Army front but arty exchanges increased and number of patrol clashes occurred in right sector.

In right portion of front some small German patrols wiped out on south bank of ARNO. Enemy minelaying party taken under fire on north bank and was dispersed.

[illegible] of enemy targets 27 July and fired at troop

1648
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

by enemy. Bridgehead secured under considerable fire
armored car elements entered road junction town of SAN CASCIANO (pop 142000) without opposition demolitions there delaying further progress toward FLORENCE which some seven airline miles distant. MERCATALE (7753) to southeast cleared and forward elements progressed mile beyond town. Immediately south of FLORENCE advance reached two miles south of STRADA (8255). Germans have at least one more defensive hill line between our nearest positions and FLORENCE.

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In right portion of front some small German patrols wiped out on south bank of ARNO. Enemy minelaying party taken under fire on north bank and was dispersed.

Our arty kept up hammering of enemy targets 27 July and fired at troop concentrations, self propelled guns, tanks, supply and ammunition dumps. Enemy continued to use smoke to screen his operations in certain areas north of ARNO particularly in right sector.

In coastal sector our arty active in shelling German defenses along PISA line night of 26-27 July. Enemy earlier fired two heavy concentrations into Fifth Army sector.

Hostile aircraft made brief appearance night of 26-27 July dropping flares, anti personnel and hundred pound bombs. No casualties or damage resulted.

German troops in Italy have not been faring too well on rations sent ffom Germany according to information obtained by Fifth Army. Only food arriving from Germany consists of canned cheese, bread and sardines. This slender fare augmented by such foraging as troops can do locally. When procurement of food in Italy undertaken officially by German military payment made in occupational currency.

Weather mostly fair.

No change press release line. NORB. END.

1649

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Allied Armies In Italy
On Record Background
28 July 1944

29 JUL Recd

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 188 FOR 28 JULY 1944 BEGINS

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Few miles farther east substantial gains made by New Zealand forward troops with tks to River PESA in vicinity of CERBAIA (6859) which still held by enemy. Bridgehead secured under considerable fire. On highway two armored car elements entered road junction town of SAN CASCIANO (pop 142000) without opposition demolitions there delaying further progress toward FLORENCE which some seven airline miles distant. MERCATALE (7753) to southeast cleared and forward elements progressed mile beyond town. Immediately south of FLORENCE advance reached two miles south of STRADA (8255). Germans have at least one more defensive hill line between our nearest positions and FLORENCE.

Continued strong opposition met with in push up ARNO Valley northwest of AREZZO but limited advance made to PANELLI (9348) which clear of enemy.

In high ground northeast of AREZZO Point 666 (3540) taken. Earlier attack on high ground in area of MONTE CASTIGLIONE (3638) appeared to have been surprise and subsequent counter-attacks repulsed.

In TIBER Valley and vicinity heavy fighting took place in several areas and casualties inflicted on enemy town of CITERNA being taken and gains made to north. Point 347 (4437) recaptured after counter-attack forced withdrawal night of 26-27 July. Tanks and infantry reached SANTA FISTA (4939) and inflicted casualties.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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FLORENCE which some seven airline miles distant. MERCATALE (7753) to south-east cleared and forward elements progressed mile beyond town. Immediately south of FLORENCE advance reached two miles south of IMPRUNETA (8255). Germans have at least one more defensive hill line between our nearest positions and FLORENCE.

Continued strong opposition met with in push up ARNO Valley northwest of AREZZO but limited advance made to PANELLI (9348) which clear of enemy.

In high ground northeast of AREZZO Point 666 (3540) taken. Earlier attack on high ground in area of MONTE CASTIGLIONE (3638) appeared to have been surprise and subsequent counter-attacks repulsed.

In TIBER Valley and vicinity heavy fighting took place in several areas and casualties inflicted on enemy town of CITERNA being taken and gains made to north. Point 347 (4437) recaptured after counter-attack forced withdrawal night of 26-27 July. Tanks and infantry reached SANTA FISTA (4939) and inflicted casualties.

Advance of Polish forces in ADRIATIC sector was on front of more than ten miles against weakening enemy resistance. Patrols crossed River MISA under mortar and arty fire and forward troops were fighting in outskirts of SENIGALLIA on coast afternoon 27 July. Approaches to river mined and all bridges blown. Towns occupied included MANDRIOLA, SAN ANGELO, FILETTO and OSTRA and patrols reached VACCARILE (2845).

German parachutist prisoner captured by South Africans in west sector said his battalion reduced to 85 men.

4260

No major developments along Fifth Army front but arty exchanges increased and number of patrol clashes occurred in right sector.

In right portion of front some small German patrols wiped out on south bank of ARNO. Enemy minelaying party taken under fire on north bank end was dispersed.

Our arty kept up hammering of enemy targets 27 July and fired at troop concentrations, self propelled guns, tanks, supply and ammunition dumps. Enemy continued to use smoke to screen his operations in certain areas north of ARNO particularly in right sector.

In coastal sector our arty active in shelling German defenses along PISA line night of 26-27 July. Enemy earlier fired two heavy concentrations into Fifth Army sector.

Hostile aircraft made brief appearance night of 26-27 July dropping flares, anti personnel and hundred pound bombs. No casualties or damage resulted.

German troops in Italy have not been faring too well on rations sent ffom Germany according to information obtained by Fifth Army. Only food arriving from Germany consists of canned cheese, bread and sardines. This slender fare augmented bysuch foraging as troops can do locally. When procurement of food in Italy undertaken officially by German military payment made in occupational currency.

Weather mostly fair.

No change press release line. NORB. END.

1651

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

28 JUL Recd

43 R.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY /

ON RECORD BACKGROUND

JULY 26, 1944

on broad front toward Florence
Keeping up momentum of their advance, Eighth Army troops made gains up to three miles in several areas.

Astride Highway Two and to west New Zealand troops are once more fighting against German parachutists, their old enemies from Crete and Cassino. West of highway they have driven enemy back five miles north from Tavernelle (7246) since that town occupied two days ago and still rolling on with tanks and infantry. Advance reached to within two miles southwest of San Casciano (6956) across Pesa river valley. This type of main road in valley country less enclosed and therefore better for tanks than most of remainder of front. Ricardo (6849) captured.

Germans forced reluctantly to withdraw all along line and our tank and infantry thrusts pressing them hard in many places in this sector. East of Highway Two and northwest of occupied Grove (8937) Eighth Army forces have advanced some six thousand yards north from Pierle Hill (8043) up road toward Mercatale (7734), southeast of San Casciano, keeping close contact, and now holding strong position to cover Mercatale. Fabbrica (7548) overlooking highway and [illegible] Pesa valley in also our hands and tanks armored cars and motorized infantry advanced about two thousand yards further north.

Farther east British forward elements pushing on toward lateral road from Figline to Grove and advanced more than two miles in twenty-four hours. Guardsmen after consolidating on Monte Domini (8747) just east of Grove moved on more than two miles to north against little opposition.

North of Arno infantry and tanks fighting way forward against heavy shelling with enemy in command of all observation so that progress slow although this infantry not in great force.

In hills northeast of Arezzo troops of an Indian division successfully attacked two objectives to pierce hostile defense line in rugged hill country. Campriano (3239) taken and our troops past town.

In Tiber Valley there has been some advance neare Belvedere (5934) and forward elements made local gains in vicinity of San Sepolcro (4945). Le Ville (4536), just west of Monterchi (4756) cleared.

In Apennines tense situation resolved with occupation of Monastery at Gubbio and release of women and children held as hostages.

Activity in Adriatic sector confined chiefly to active patrolling and arty exchanges.

German prisoner explaining stubborn resistance to Eighth Army advance on left flank said he and comrades told British were so furious at effect of flying bombs on England they would shoot any captured German immediately.

1652

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Germans forced reluctantly to withdraw all along line and our tank and infantry thrusts pressing them hard in many places in this sector. East of Highway Two and northwest of occupied Greve (6937) Eighth Army forces have advanced some six thousand yards north from Monte Pilli (6048) up road toward Mercatale (7754), southeast of San Casciano, keeping close contact, and now holding strong position to cover Mercatale. Fabbrica (7548) overlooking highway and [illegible] Pesa valley in also our hands and tanks armored cars and motorized infantry advanced about two thousand yards further north.

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German prisoner explaining stubborn resistance to Eighth Army advance on left flank said he and comrades told British were so furious at effect of flying bombs on England they would shoot any captured German immediately.

Reacting sharply to aggressive patrolling by Fifth Army units across entire sector, German stepped up their arty, morter and nebelwerfer fire 25 July against south bank of Arno river.

Fifth Army infantry completed occupation of San Romano (3960) and San Miniato (4659) Tuesday morning and few remaining snipers being mopped up by early morning. In this general area particularly bitter fighting occured for possession of steep railroad embankment which runs almost due east and west about mile south of Arno. Patrols surprised enemy digging in on embankment's reverse slope and Germans wiped out in ensuing action.

(OVER)

4265

1653

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Other resistance sporadic and mopping up of isolated pockets east of San Romano continued.

Patrols operating in San Miniato sector encountered number of tanks and self-propelled guns night of 24/25 July but directed arty fire so effectively that Germans made hasty withdrawal.

Below Pisa enemy continued to shell that part of Pisa lying south of Arno and also covered likely river crossings with considerable mortar fire. Hostile arty also directed against main approach routes south of Arno. Enemy strong points in horseshoe loop of river some two and half miles east of Pisa offering strong resistance to elements penetrating area 25 July. Enemy held Caprona (1863) area taken under fire by arty and number of enemy guns knocked out.

On coast German patrol crossing Arno to enter Marina di Pisa (0061) immediately dispersed and driven back to north bank after fire fight with Fifth Army patrol

Increased use of nebelwerfers reported along entire Fifth Army front. Number of small concentrations of enemy troops possibly forming for counterattacks taken under arty fire and dispersed.

Weather fair. No change press release line. N O R B

END

1654

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

43

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO.185 FOR 25 JULY 1944 BEGINS

Virtually all enemy positions south of ARNO river in front of Fifth Army left and central sectors wiped out 22/23 July as forward elements moved into southern section of PISA. Entire wooded area of TENUTA DEL TOMBOLO on coast was cleared and MARINA DI PISA at mouth of ARNO entered by recce units which found town unoccupied and withdrew.

To east of PISA where river forms an inverted U some enemy strongpoints remained and our troops did not enter this sector. On right flank determined enemy counter attack in progress about two miles south of SAN MINIATO after-noon 23 July. Number of self-propelled guns employed by enemy in this action well as smaller weapons with troops in considerable strength.

Town of SAN MINIATO (Pop. 21,400) occupied as well as PONTE A EVOLA, SAN ROMANO, SAN TORANO and ANGELICA in same general area. Three dominating heights seized near river in Fifth Army eastern sector.

Units crossed ARNO c nal to enter CASCINA occupied by advanced elements 22 July.

Along entire front enemy continued to pepper our advancing troops with machinegun and small arms fire. Numerous fire fights reported all along southern bank of ARNO. Arty fire which has been strong in central sector in vicinity of PONTEDERA continued to harass town and large calibre shells again fired into LEGHORN.

Northwest and north of POGGIBONSI our troops made substantial progress occupying TAVARNELLE (7346) along with nearby MONTE MOROCCO (7445) and pushing on northward along Highway Two to vicinity of STRADA which is some 12 miles from FLORENCE. In same sector but farther west further advances of 2 miles made beyond CERTALDO (6145) and MONTEBELLO (5947) captured.

To east of Highway Two situation unchanged in vicinity of GREVE where South africans meeting continued strong resistance. In mountains north of MONTE SAN MICHELE and in ARNO valley gains made by Eighth Army SAN GIOVANNI being taken on Highway Sixty-Nine. Northeast of town forward elements almost as far as MONTEMARCIANO (0447). British troops are fighting on tower slopes of PRATO MAGNO 4,700 foot mountain mass commanding Arno valley where Germans resisting strongly. North of river TERRANUOVA (0440) cleared. North of LATERINA Eighth Army troops are beyond CAMPOGIALLI (1342).

In immediate AREZZO sector advances slight but to east further features consolidated in ALPE DI POTI.

In Tiber valley following capture of CITTA DI CASTELLO after several days stiff fighting our troops have advanced some three miles. Soldiers of famous Cavalry Regt with British infantry of an Indian Div captured city which built on site of Roman town and bitterly contested. 98 Germans killed and 30 bodies found on hill beyond town. Enemy elements still resisting on MONTE SANTA MARI. MONTERCHI road.

In monastery at GUBBIO enemy still holding out and German Commander in building has threatened to turn in into another CASSINO. 300 women and child-ren still being held there as hostages by Germans.

In Adriatic sector Polish Infantry against heavy resistance has reached [illegible]. Enemy arty and mortars

1655

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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In monastery at GUBBIO enemy still holding out and German Commander in building has threatened to turn in into another CASSINO. 300 women and children still being held there as hostages by Germans.

In Adriatic sector Polish Infantry against heavy resistance has reached point east of OSTRA but little change otherwise. Enemy arty and mortars active and some prisoners taken.

Weather mostly fair. No change Press Release Line. NORB.

9284

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

1656

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

43 Rm.
24 AL Recd

Col McCarthy
INFORMATION DIVISION
OCC

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

JULY 23, 1944

ON THE RECORD BACKGROUND--For the third consecutive day since seizure of hill masses south of Arno, Fifth Army troops patrolled along river and cleared out remaining pockets of resistance south of river. Reconnaissance patrol from 442nd Regimental combat team ventured to point within two miles of Pisa and returned night of 21/22 July.

Near coast Fifth Army units well across both Antifossetto and Arno canals and mopping up area just south of Arno. Enemy positions to left of Highway One more lightly held than those to right below Pisa.

To east enemy attempted vainly to retake Castelfiorentino (5056) and small groups of snipers still in section of town east of Elsa River.

Enemy fire 21/22 July consisted chiefly of small arms and machine gun fire but some mortaring all along Fifth Army front. Furthermore shells believed from a 280 millimetre railroad gun between Pisa and Viareggio on coast fired into outskirts of Leghorn.

As characteristic of enemy action past few days Germans covering all bridges and canal crossings with machine and anti-tank guns. Some patrols reported tanks moving along line of Arno near Pontedera (2059) indicating preparations for attempt to inflict heavy losses on any effort to cross river in that area.

Every indication Arno strongly fortified on both banks from Pisa to mouth. Especially strong fortifications consisting of minefields, pillboxes, wire, antitank guns and ditches, machine-gun nests and concrete road blocks observed vicinity of San Piero a Grado (0562) demolition of causeways across river consists generally of cratering both bank approaches at several points and cratering causeway proper by destroying culverts and bridge spans.

City of Pisa itself not badly damaged although demolitions observed. All bridges reported prepared for demolition and three bridges in city knocked out. Mouth of Arno blocked by sunken ships, pontoons and iron bars.

Should be noted that Gothic Line does not meet west coast in Pisa area but some fifteen miles northwest of Pisa where it runs approximately due east north of Pistoia (5288) and Borgo San Lorenzo (9086), thence to approximately Borgo Pace (6554) to Adriatic north of Pesaro.

Will be seen therefore there is still much ground to be covered before contact with main defense line gained. Line of Arno to Aquila is natural defense line on which enemy naturally expects to delay our advance.

Further advances made along Eighth Army front on both flanks and in upper Tiber valley.

On east coast Poles and Italians pushing on toward Misa river, one of number of parallel natural barriers, encountering heavy enemy gunfire. Advance now three miles from Senigallia (3708) where two enemy arty troops silenced and explosions soon. Infantry has established positions on Monte Torcellina (3338).

Patrol from Gubbio (8418) found monastery just outside town still occupied by enemy, presumably also housing women and children who Germans threatened to massacre if place attacked.

Patrols active contact with enemy in Appenines and hills around Citta di Castello (3157), pop. 34,500, from which enemy withdrawn leaving town heavily mined. Gains of nearly two miles in sector to east of town where resistance appears to [illegible] soldiers of an armored regiment killed seventy enemy [illegible] on heels after get-

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785042

groups of snipers still in section of town east of Elsa River.

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City of Pisa itself not badly damaged although demolitions observed. All bridges reported prepared for demolition and three bridges in city knocked out. South of Arno blocked by sunken ships, pontoons and iron bars.

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Further advances made along Eighth Army front on both flanks and in upper Tiber valley.

On east coast Poles and Italians pushing on toward Misa river, one of number of parallel natural barriers, encountering heavy enemy gunfire. Advance now three miles from Senigallia (3758) where two enemy arty troops silenced and explosions seen. Infantry has established positions on Monte Torcellina (3338).

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Patrols active contact with enemy in Appenines and hills around Citta di Castello (3157), pop. 34,500, from which enemy withdrawn leaving town heavily mined. Gains of nearly two miles in sector to east of town where resistance appears to be weakening. In this area soldiers of an armored regiment killed seventy enemy who had hidden in cellars of houses which tanks knocked down on heads after getting inhabitants out of way.

Our patrols active north of Arezzo and have taken additional prisoners. On north side of Arno long range patrolling in Castiglion area. Gains of few thousand yards made on north bank of Arno to both sides of Terranuova (0344), northeast of Montevarchi (0340) and also toward San Giovanni (0046) where enemy resisting strongly.

In hills west of Arno valley infantry report Castelnuovo (9344) clear. Guardsmen advancing on northern slopes of Monte San Michele (8844) heavily shelled 21 July and stopped by completely demolished road but making good progress again following day and advanced two thousand yards. South African troops being held in advance beyond Panzano (8348) toward Monte Pili by demolitions and blown bridges.

(OVER)

1658

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

1659

ON RECORD BACKGROUND PAGE 2 23 JULY 1944

Prisoner from German air force regiment which cut to pieces by Fifth Army reported German High Command has imposed harsh penalties on officers found guilty of not having sufficiently opposed Americans and given orders to withdraw without reasons deemed sufficient.

A First Lieutenant Nagel, commander of first battalion of 40th G.A.F. Jaeger regiment said to have been degraded and condemned to three years hard labor for having given order to withdraw three hours too soon. A Lieutenant Heinke of same regiment reported to have given his men orders to withdraw and then committed suicide.

Similar illustration of brutal enemy determination to hold off advance at all costs given in treatment of men of 30th SS Panzer Grenadier regiment at hands of officers. According to prisoner one of his friends retreated in face of tank attack and following morning summoned by company commander who shot him same afternoon. Same prisoner stated one of comrades who in fear left front lines without permission helped bury dead in rear. When he returned to his company his commanding officer, First Lieutenant Bamberger, gave him choice of shooting self of being shot by lieutenant. Straggler regardless of rank, prisoner said, struck in face by company commanders and sent back to line.

Weather mostly fair. No change press release line. N O R B

END

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

1660

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

21 JUL Recd
43 hr

Colonel McCarthy

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INFORMATION DIVISION

4

PR/2254 21 July 1944

REMARKS :

TO : All officers.

All officers are reminded that the contents of any A.C.C. Communique may not be divulged under any circumstances to newspapermen or other unauthorised personnel.

for Georges Lenclume Lt
John V. HUGHES.
Major A.C.
Director
Information Division

1282

1661

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Allied Armies in Italy
[illegible]

Begins With improved weather conditions the Allied Armies in Italy have kept up their pressure against the enemy.

In the Adriatic sector Polish troops of Eighth Army driving northwest from the river LESINO have made good progress in difficult mountain country.

In the Upper Biferno Valley other troops of Eighth Army are closing in around the town of CITTA DI CASTELLO which has been stubbornly defended by the enemy for some considerable time. West of AREZZO along Highway Sixty-Nine further progress has been made north of MONTEVARCHI while in the mountainous area north of MADDA our infantry has taken MONTE QUERCIABELLI QUERCIABELLA and MONTE SAN MICHELE which is a dominating height in this area.

In the Fifth Army sector advances have been made to the outskirts of CASTELFIORENTINO. Near the coast south of PISA enemy resistance is still being encountered north of Highway Sixty-Seven. End

1201

Begins Polish troops crossed ESINO river on front of some fifteen miles in rapid pursuit of enemy withdrawing northwest of ANCONA along Adriaticcoast. Gains of several miles made also in other sector notably in vicinity of AREZZO and on left flank north of RADDA and west of Upper Arno valley.

In Adriatic sector forward elements by afternoon 20 July were in vicinity of MONTE MARCIANO (4450) north of MONTE SAN VITO (4146) and area of MOREO D'ALBA (3746). strong enemy resistance met with near coast. Meenwhile Italian troops pushed on ferther inland beyond IESI.

In Upper Tiber Valley forward movement was limited but patrols reached some three miles east of CITTA DI CASTELLO from which enemy showed no intention of withdrawing and also MONTE CASALE (6630) several miles farther east. Other elements well northwest of CITTA DI CASTELLO and some two miles southeast of MONTEVARCHI.

In AREZZO sector advances of two miles or more made north and northeast of city. To north leading elements reached just east of GIOVI (2640) up Highway Seventy-One and to northeast were some six miles from AREZZO in vicinity of CAMPRINA (3240)

Farther west in rapid advance of three miles or more RICASOLI (0241) cleared and leading troops occupied feature to northwest. Pushing on far as five miles north of RADDA Eighth Army troops occupied Point 768 (9240) and Point 570 (9141) without opposition.

Five French youths who deserted to Allies in Italy from N S F E - National Socialist Transport Corps which only voluntary French Transport organization in occupied Europe - say recruits joined to avoid compulsory labor in Germany to sabotage enemy equipment and since they arrived in Italy from Russia to desert to Free French on this front. Percentage joining from political conviction said to be negligible.

Reconnaissance and combat patrols of Fifth Army continued to probe German positions of Arno during one of quietest 24 hours periods since offensive began 11 May.

At least one patrol crossed river night of 19/20 July while others engaged small enemy pockets of resistance and sniping crews. Few German strongpoints remain between ANTIFOSSETO canal north of LEGHORN and ARNO.

From behind canal enemy poured machinegun and small arms fire on patrols and apparent that canal is to be used as minor defense and delaying line.

Since noon 19 July Germans have been throwing harassing fire of various calibre into LEGHORN in obvious effort to disrupt restoration of Port city. Heavy arty barrage also received at COLLE SALVETTI about six miles east of LEGHORN.

On right of Fifth Army sector loose contact maintained with enemy. Germans have been taking every advantage of terrain offering opportunity for defense. Advances on right slowed up by mines and demolitions but our troops by noon 20 July had moved mile beyond CERTALDO.

Enemy patrols also active one making way into CASCINA just south of ARNO where it meets canal. Others attempted to harass our left flank.

Strong enemy outposts have been constructed at various points along north bank of river especially in areas where river could be forded. Pill-boxes and anti-tank guns noted.

4260

Fifth army engineer units exploring possibility of restoring port of

1662

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Fifth army engineer units exploring possibility of restoring port of LEGHORN found enemy had methodically destroyed every potentially valuable facility. Eight ships sunk in northern approaches to harbor and eight more sunk in southern approach. Quays blown in by demolitions placed every few feet and before they can be used must be rebuilt.

4260

(more)

1663

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

No cranes were found intact and port warehouses destroyed. All approaches to harbor as well as harbor itself have been thickly mined and bridges and access roads knocked out.

At present enemy has clear observation on port from MONTE PISANO three thousand foot hill mass dominating LEGHORN and PISA . Numerous field guns placed on slopes and all approaches lined with pillboxes machinegun emplacements and anti-tank guns. Enemy also has number of heavy ackack batteries across top of MONTE PISANO.

Following is translation of Russian document signed by Commanding Officer of 303rd Infantry Regiment of 162nd Infantry Division. This is one of Russian "Legionary" divisions in German Service which has been fighting against Fifth Army in western sector of Italian front. Incident referred to occurred when division was operating against Yugoslav Partisans:

"During night OF 4/5 February 1944 some Legionaries mostly Kalmuks wickedly and threacherously killing their German NCOs and comrades passed over to Partisan side. These persons behaved not only infamously and despicably but by crossing over saved themselves from being sent to their graves. From numerous inquiries from prisoners it is known what happens to deserting Legionaries. The Partisans receive traitors at first with welcome and promise them much. In reality they turn them into slaves and people without hope. Apart from that they are held under strict supervision. At slightest non-fulfillment of an order they are punished by shooting.

" So the miserable traitor believing lying enemy propaganda sends himself to grave.

"It is difficult even for us to imagine what a warlike and industrious Legionary is who has been many months with his Platoon Commander, who accompanied him on leave - he too has left in his turn his native home. Apart from that the Legionary was given opportunity of admiring fine German culture. Culture and learning to kill cooly. Strong reliance was placed on him.

" Legionaries now everything depends so much on you.

"Some of you have sullied honor of Regiment, you must now restore this honor and justify reliance placed in you. Look for the irreproachable fulfilment of your duties in your works. Observe and identify at opportune moment the traitors and disturbers of order and so help destroy them. Prove anew you are honest fighters and comrades. If cares oppress you and you feel unfairly treated then appeal to your commanders or to me.

"Legionaries, I place my entire confidence in you finding honest affection. In meantime do not yourselves look too late for order in your midst."

Order was dated Fifth February.

Weather unsettled.

No change press release line.

NORB. End.

1664

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Colonel Mc Carthy 43 R291

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
ON THE RECORD BACKGROUND
20 July 1944

ON THE RECORD BACKGROUND--Fifth Army troops following capture of Leghorn completed control 18/19 July of high ground overlooking Arno river from south.

Patrols along Fifth Army left sector probing enemy strength along Arno but encountering only small arms and light arty fire. Germans have been forced to withdraw to north bank of Arno because dominating terrain south of river has given our arty observation over valley. Fifth Army units reported only minor contact with enemy. Sniping parties armed with automatic weapons have been left behind by retreating enemy to cover demolitions and minefields which continue in abundance in this area.

The 442nd infantry regt which saw bitter frontline action throughout battle for Leghorn protected right flank of units which actually entered city and then pushed northeast to points several miles beyond. The 442nd Regt seized high ground two and a half miles east of Leghorn overlooking city itself and dominating Arno valley.

The 100th Inf Battalion a component made up of Hawaiian-Americans detached from parent organization for final phase of operation entered city behind task force which seized Leghorn. Battalion which has one of proudest records of any Fifth Army unit now engaged in effort to restore normality in shattered city.

Other elements cleared town of Colle Salvetti (1520) seven miles northeast of Leghorn and high ground in this sector overlooking Arno.

In central sector of Fifth Army front units continued to mop up isolated remnants of German rearguard positions. Here heaviest enemy arty being encountered. In this area German prisoners testified they had been completely bewildered by sudden breakthrough and said numerous isolated units had been wiped out. Mine concentrations in central sector continued to prove especially heavy. An enemy patrol driven back from outskirts of Pontedera (2858) which taken 18 July.

Considerable progress with advances ranging up to three or four miles registered on right sector. Towns of Certaldo (6144) San Appiano (6840), Vico Val Delsa (6540) Poppiano (6633), Linari (6833) and San Donato (7643) were occupied and Certaldo-Gambassi and Poggibonsi-Castellina roads were crossed. Advance continue five miles north of Castellina which occupied 17/18 July. Elements on right sector were less than three miles south of important road junction of Castel Fiorentina.

With capture of Ancona one of most important and difficult obstacles on Adriatic coast Eighth Army now facing stiff opposition pushing along coast and inland across Esino river toward Gothic line.

Polish troops found port city thoroughly mined and demolished by retreating Germans. Harbor full of sunken ships among them King of Italy's yacht private yacht.

Eighth Army pushed on beyond port and cut coast road at Torretta a mare (5647). Using some armor troops moving inland established bridgehead across Esino River ten miles west of Ancona and south of Chiaravalle (4646). By afternoon 19 July Eighth Army forces were along River from mouth to six miles or more inland.

Mopping up continued west and southwest of Ancona. Enemy left much valuable equipment and arms in this sector.

After occupying Santa Maria Nuova (4435) Italian troops moved onward to vicinity of Iesi (3737).

In Fifth sector our troops make slow progress northwest of

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city itself and dominating Arno valley.

The 100th Inf Battalion a component made up of Hawaiian-Americans detached from parent organization for final phase of operation entered city behind task force which seized Leghorn. Battalion which has one of proudest records of any Fifth Army unit now engaged in effort to restore normality in shattered city.

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In Tiber valley sector our troops made slow progress northwest of Citta di Castello (5831)forward elements being some two miles southeast of Monterchi (4834). Blocking way to relatively open country beyond Citta di Castello area stubbornly defended.

In Arezzo sector forward elements continued methodical advance northwest and north against resistance which at times fierce reaching vicinity of Loterina (1538)and Castiglion (1840) both north of Arno. Other troops were at Arno some three miles south west of Loterina. This town defended stubbornly Germans employing bazookas in infiltration tactics. Stiff fighting going on for Monteverchi (0340) fifteen miles down Arno from Arezzo.

Patrols east and north of Arezzo report many mines and demolitions. Leading British troops reached Gello (3237) northwest of city. Five miles north of city Route 71 under shell fire.

In Eighth army western sector Radda (8736) taken and advance of two to three miles made both to north and west where enemy shelling encountered.

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A Yeomanry regiment has been in hard fighting on high ground east of Castiglion (1840).

Enemy documents captured by Eighth Army show continuing worry over shortage of equipment and inferior arms and ammunition. Rifle butts made of plastic or inferior wood frequently break beyond repair. All available German troops including slightly wounded have been ordered to comb countryside to salvage equipment "to last round of ammunition".

Conservation of tanks evidently of more concern to enemy than conservation of manpower judging from document captured by Fifth Army dealing with principles of withdrawal of armor and infantry. Document said infantry and engineers must maintain security and good withdrawal conditions for armor and tanks are favored to extent that tank commander may even postpone withdrawal unless overruled by division commander.

Introduction to document which dated 26 June explains "last week a Tiger tank and three Mark III's were lost in process of withdrawal because it was impossible for crews to perform emergency repairs. Infantry withdrew without assuring their protection. Engineers carried out demolitions and placed mines behind them making withdrawal of tanks impossible."

Weather rainy. No change press release line. N O R B

END

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