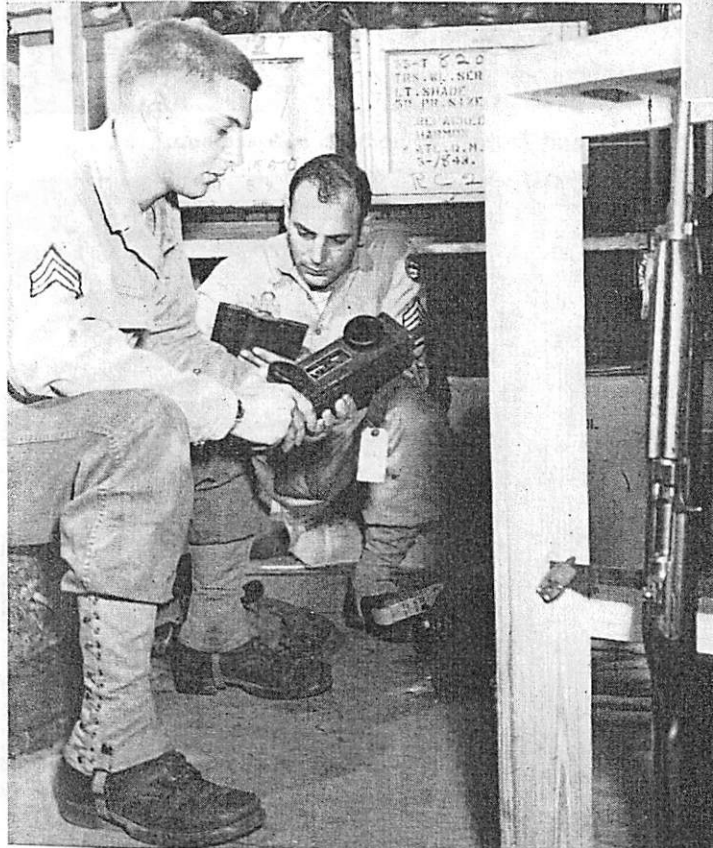
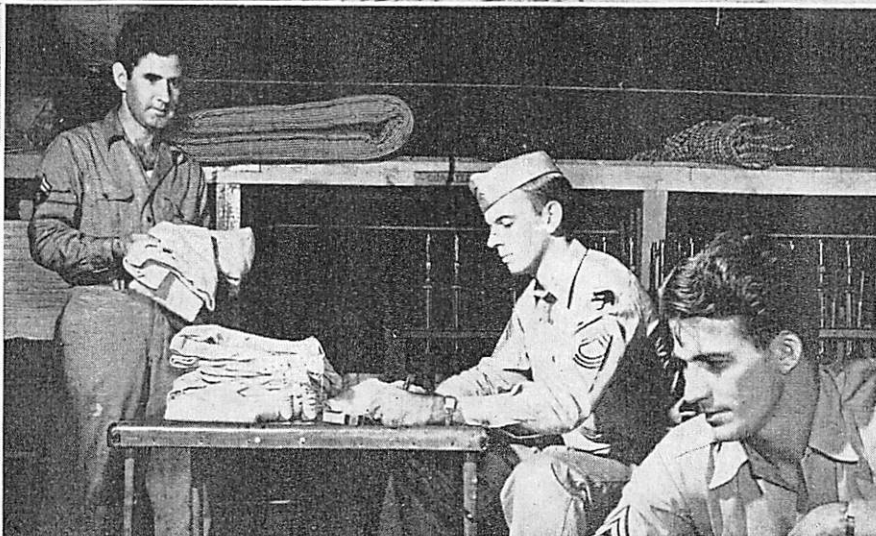
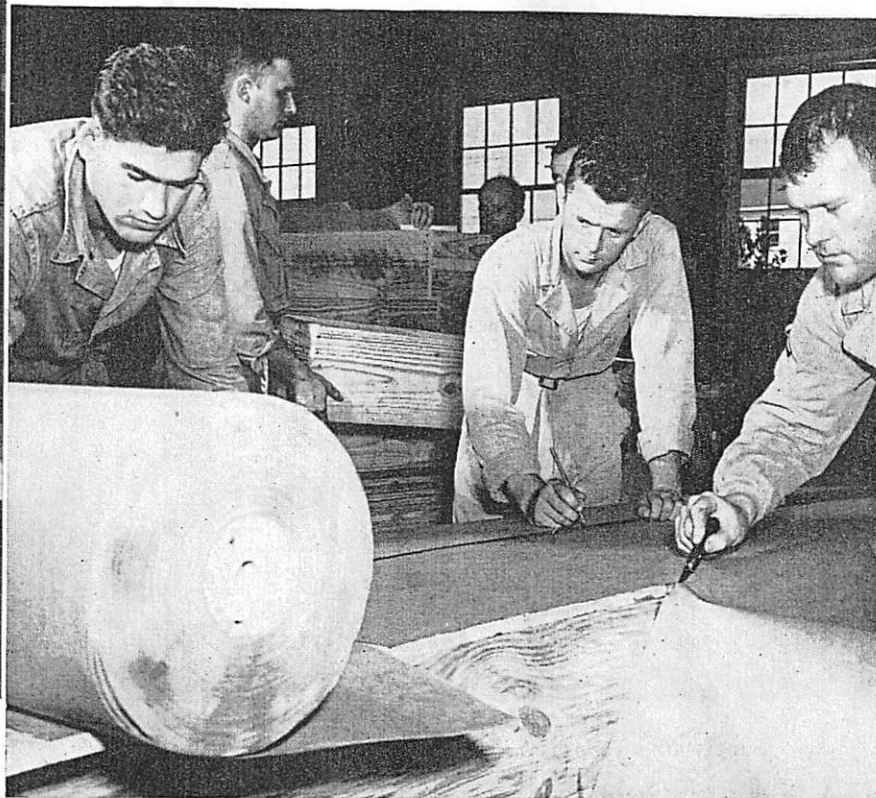


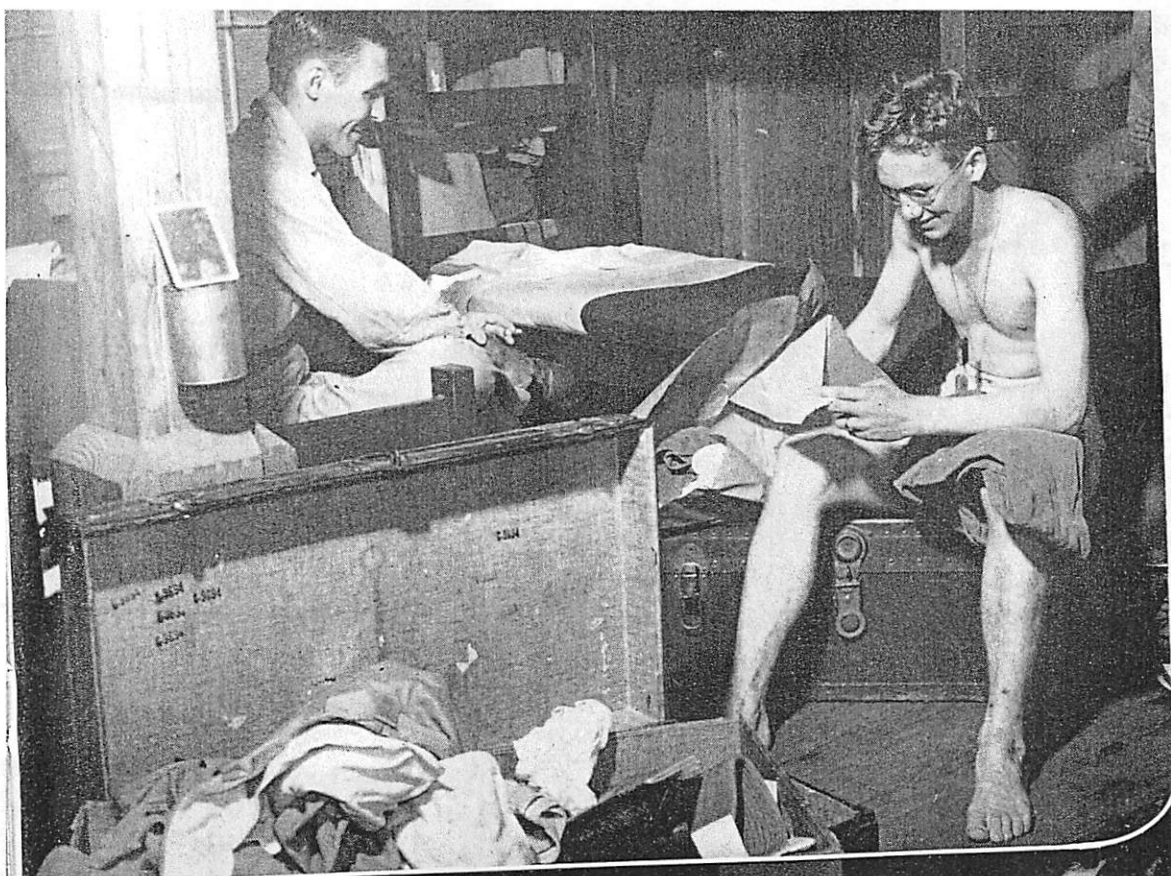


Packing and crating equipment is a big job. . . .



Supply and records are important in any outfit.





FOOTLOCKERS . . . always need cleaning. That's a double-decker bed in the background.



Day isn't officially over until the M-1 gets a cleaning.

Mess Sergeant checks food.

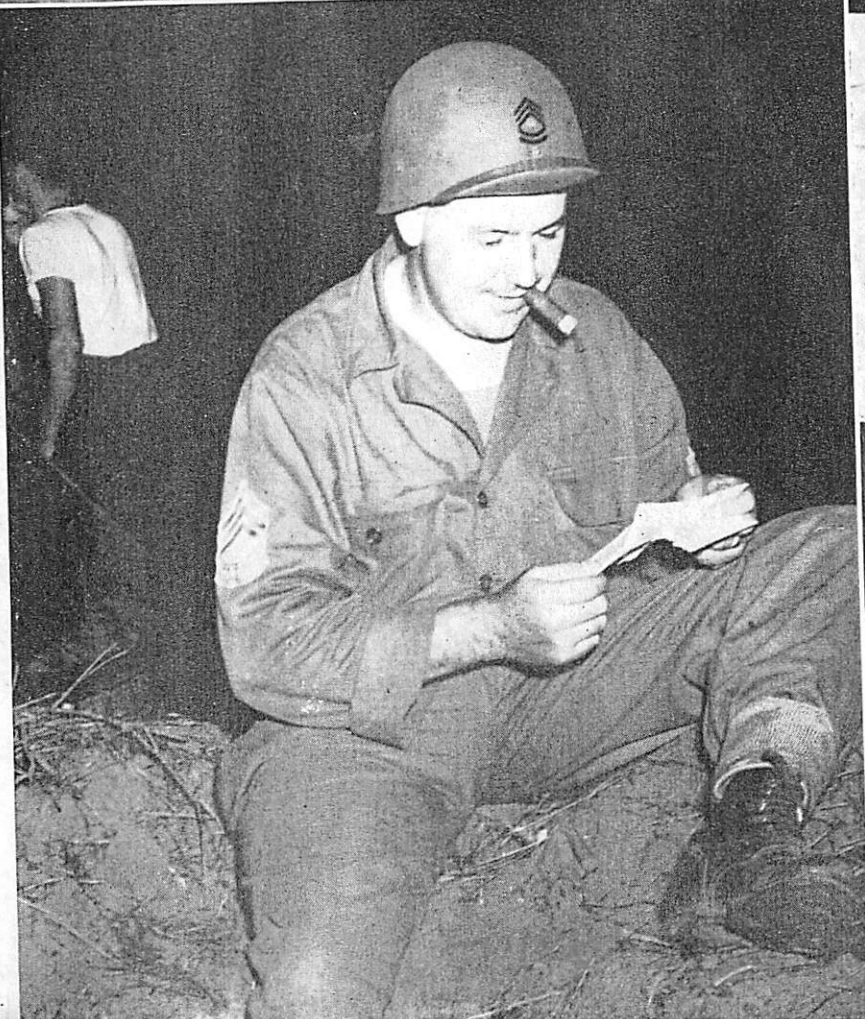


Plenty of dishes to wash.

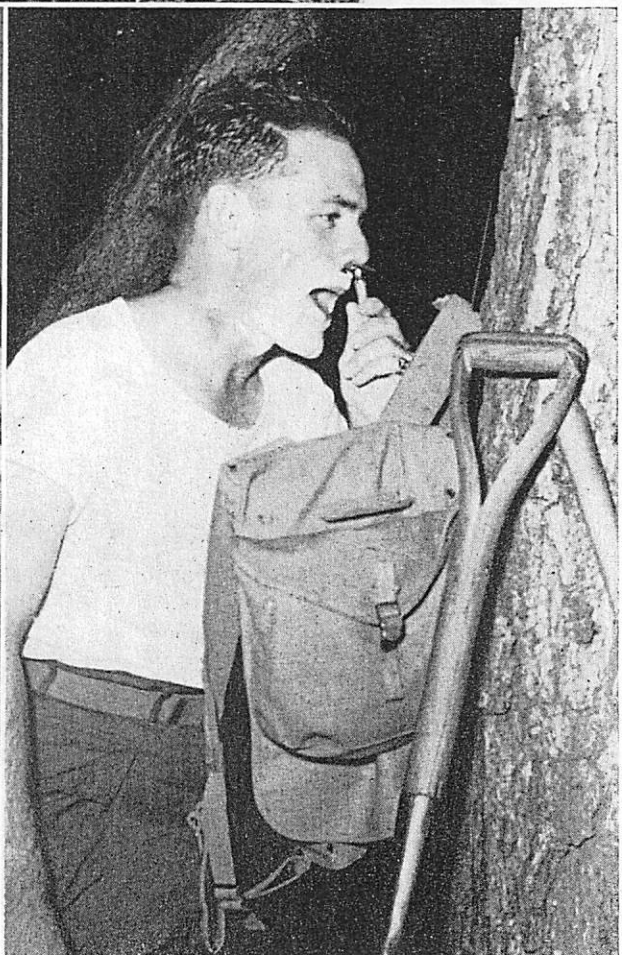


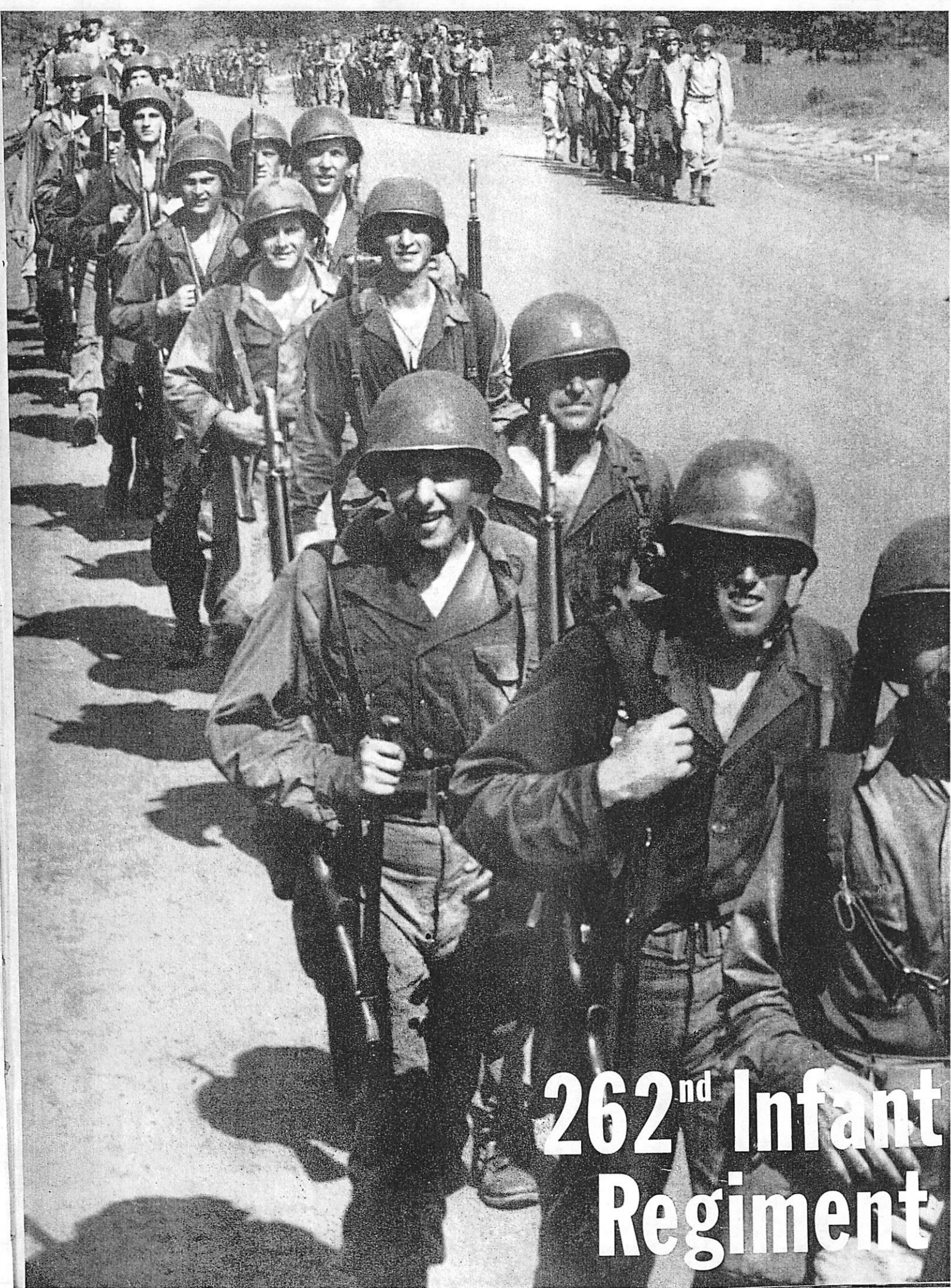
Bag lunches for the field.



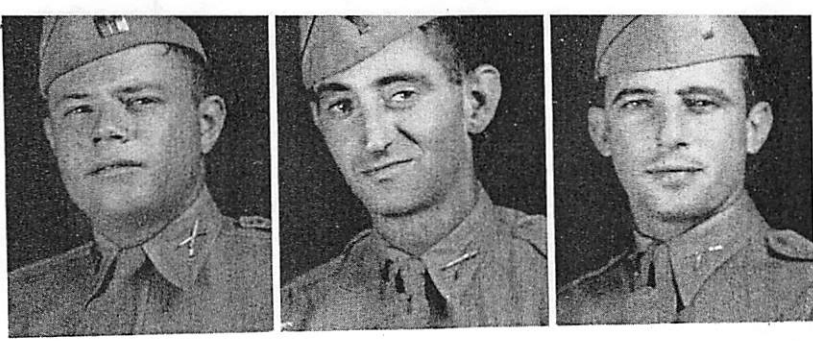


the
FIELD





**262nd Infant
Regiment**



C O M P A N Y E



*Small
Top
Bottom*





COMPANY E

THE PANTHER DIVISION

"... confident and ready to move into action ..."

The Panther Division, first unit of its size and type in American military history to bear the numerical designation sixty-six, was born April 15, 1943, at Camp Blanding, Florida, where in a simple activation ceremony the Division colors were presented to Major General H. F. Kramer, Commanding General, by Major General Robert C. Richardson, Jr., then commanding the VII Corps of Second Army, to which the 66th Division was initially assigned.

America's traditional faith in a citizen Army was exemplified in this new Division for its original strength consisted of some 15,000 recruits, fresh from civilian life, whose military experience in most cases included a few days spent in one of a dozen induction centers scattered throughout the nation. These potential soldiers were from every stratum of American life, from every state in the union, and they represented practically every trade, skill, and profession.

To mold this raw material into a fighting force, a cadre of officers and non-commissioned officers was selected from the 89th Infantry Division, then stationed at Camp Carson, Colorado. Added to the cadre were scores of young junior officers just commissioned at the various officer candidate schools—Infantry, Field Artillery, Cavalry, Quartermaster, Signal, Ordnance, Medical, and Chaplains Corps. The Division staff and the key officers in subordinate units, core of the new organization, had been selected in January and February and joined the Division after completing specialized courses in service schools and at command and General Staff School. General Kramer was named Commander by the War Department January 6, 1943. His Chief of Staff was Colonel William E. Donagan, GSC, later succeeded by Colonel John W. Keating, GSC. Brigadier General Francis W. Rollins was placed in command of Division Artillery, and Brigadier General Joseph A. Cranston was named assistant Division commander. General Cranston was succeeded in November, 1943, by Brigadier General James W. Barnett, who in turn was succeeded in March, 1944, by Brigadier General George J. Forster.

Early in May, 1943, the Division initiated an individual training program for the purpose of "teaching our troops how to kill and how not to be killed on the battlefield, to develop leadership and teamwork, to harden the officers and men mentally and physically, and to forge each link in the chain of command." This individual training was completed at Camp Blanding early in August, 1943, and evidence that the recruits of a few months

ago had learned the fundamentals of military life was revealed in a score of 93.4% made in tests conducted by VII Corps.

The Division was directed to move to Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas, August 7, 1943, and opened its new command post at that station August 13. There, during the months of September through December, 1943, the process of developing basic fighting teams went on and training in operations by larger units of combat teams was completed in January, 1944. The new year began with preparations to further integrate the Division as a unit. Problems were conducted in the field during part of January, and in February, under the watchful eyes of XXI Corps of Fourth Army, a series of prescribed division problems was undertaken. The Division was then earmarked to participate in maneuvers scheduled for Louisiana Maneuver Area in April, 1944.

Plans to participate in the maneuvers were interrupted late in March with an order to move to Camp Rucker, Alabama. The Division began this move April 10 and established its command post April 19 at the new station where it was assigned to the IX Corps of Second Army. About this time several thousand replacements from Army Specialized Training Program schools, Infantry Replacement Training Centers, and Army Air Corps joined the Division and for the next few months the immediate task was the training of these replacements to take their part in the Division team. The training process of individuals and subordinate units continued until late in September when the Division again moved into the field for a one-month period to complete individual training, to participate in field problems, and to complete preparations for a movement overseas.

During the year from August, 1943, to August, 1944, the Division was confronted with a major problem in furnishing replacements of trained officers and men for oversea service in other units earmarked for such duty. During that time the Division transferred to ports of embarkation, to other branches of the service, or to other units ready for movement overseas enough officers and men, ranging from generals to privates, to man another entire division. Today, even before the Division is ordered into combat, Panther-trained officers and men are serving on every war front. The task of adjusting to the losses of thousands of men and officers has required relentless and tireless concentration on training. In spite of the losses, the Division continues its preparation for the battle tasks ahead—confident and ready to move into action at any time and at any place.

In Memoriam

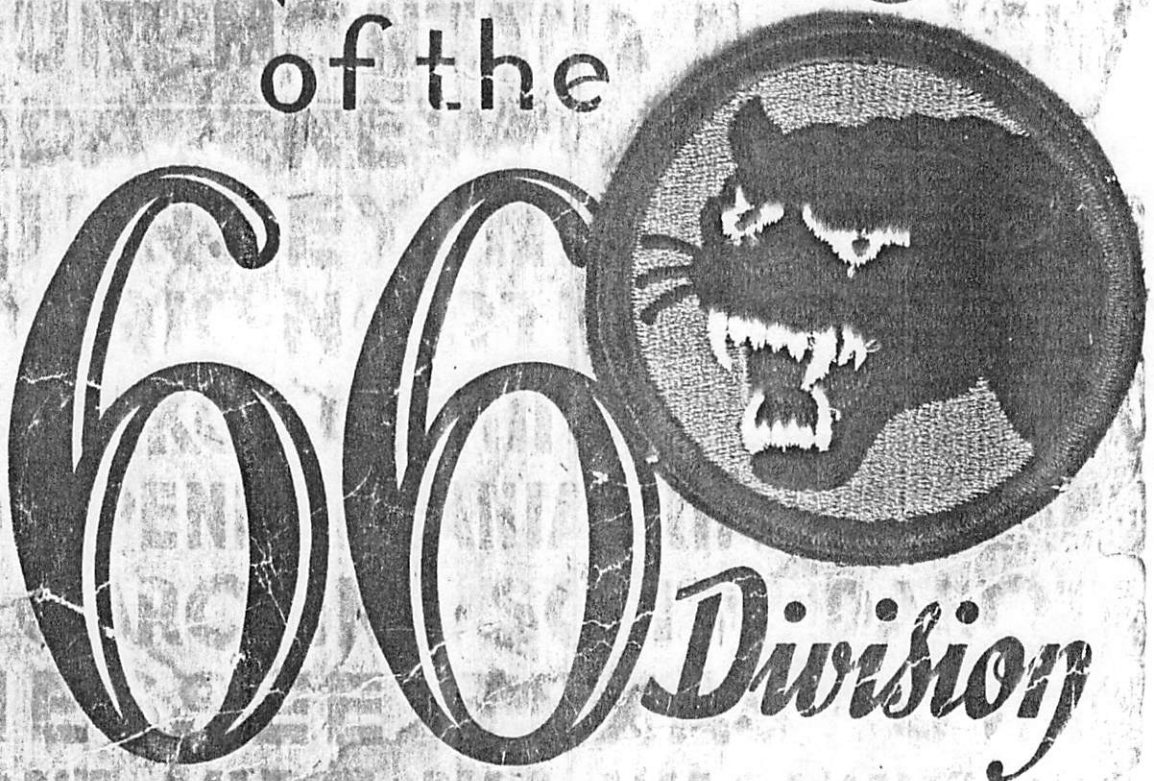
We pay tribute to the memory of these men who died while serving with the 66th Division.

T/SGT. HOWARD F. ATKINS, Company B, 264th Infantry.
S/SGT. EUGENE M. ASBURY, Company A, 266 Engineers.
T/5 GEORGE A. CADA, Headquarters Company, 264th Infantry.
T/5 JOSEPH F. SMITH, Headquarters Company, Third Battalion 264th Infantry.
PFC. ROBERT H. MEISSNER, Company G, 264th Infantry.
PFC. EMERSON D. WASHBURN, Headquarters Company, Third Battalion, 264th Infantry.
PFC. CHARLES BARROWCLOUGH, JR., Company M, 264th Infantry.
PFC. MARVIN BLUMBERG, Company M, 264th Infantry.
PFC. EDWARD H. DeGRASSE, Company M, 264th Infantry.
PFC. RALPH R. JAUREZ, Company M, 264th Infantry.
PFC. NORMAN H. RANDALL, Company M, 264th Infantry.
PFC. CARL R. SCHNARR, Company M, 264th Infantry.
PFC. ARFAD S. SZABO, Company M, 264th Infantry.
PFC. EVERETT CHARLES BULFIN, MP Platoon.
PFC. JAMES E. DUDLEY, MP Platoon.
PFC. CLIFFORD C. NEWBRAUGH, Company E, 262nd Infantry.

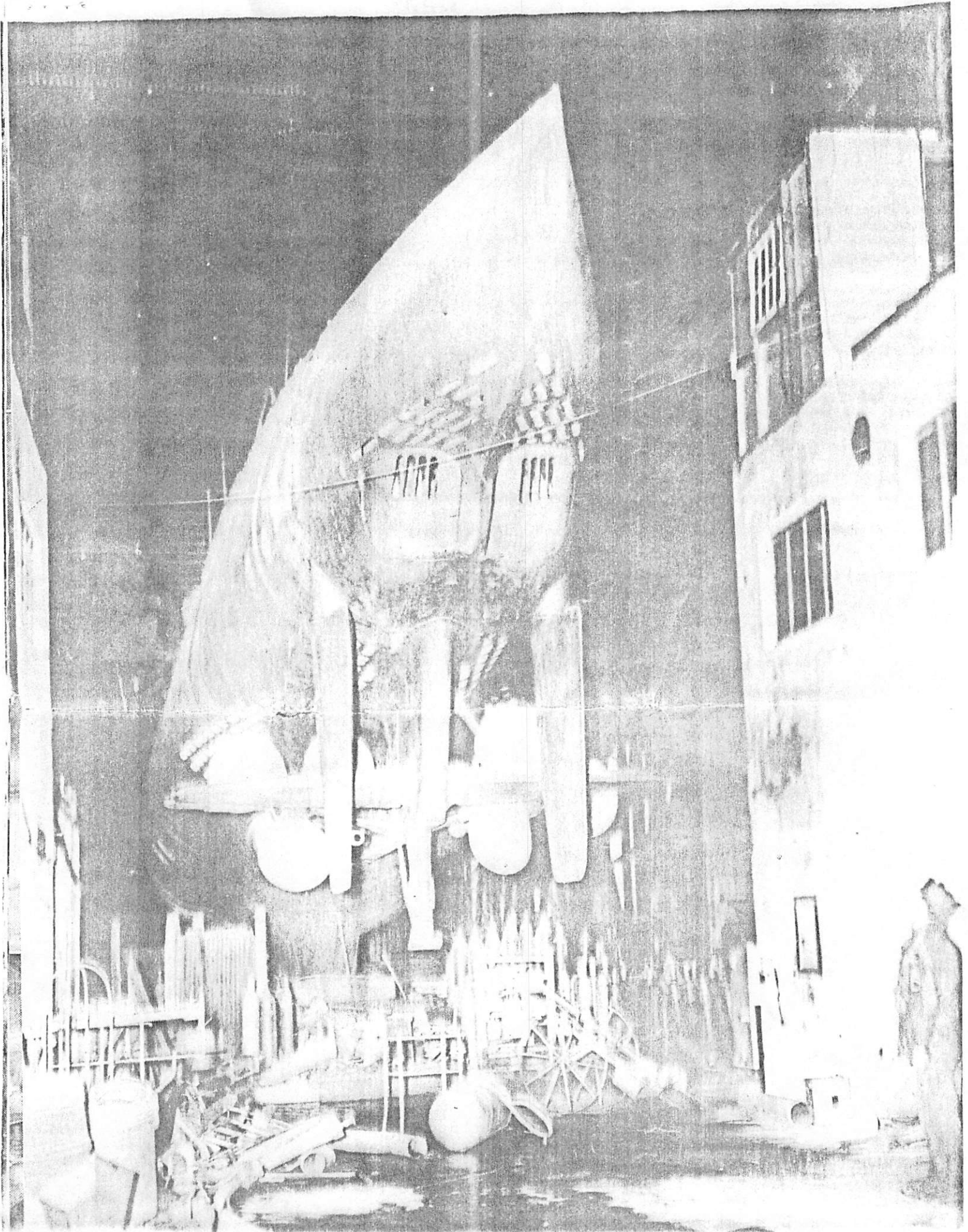
PFC. THOMAS E. HART, Company L, 264th Infantry.
PVT. RICHARD H. BREEN, Company B, 262nd Infantry.
PVT. EDWARD J. HAAS, Headquarters Company, Third Battalion, 263rd Infantry.
PVT. THOMAS E. SAYLOR, Company D, 263rd Infantry.
PVT. LEONARD G. GREIG, Company M, 264th Infantry.
PVT. ROBERT E. SWELLIE, Medical Detachment, 264th Infantry.
PVT. ALBERT F. EGGERS, Battery A, 870th Field Artillery Battalion.
PVT. JOHN D. BAILEY, Service Battery, 870th Field Artillery Battalion.
PVT. MELCHIOR J. KOOB, Service Battery, 870th Field Artillery Battalion.
PVT. ALBERT F. WINNER, Service Battery, 870th Field Artillery Battalion.
PVT. GEORGE J. BROOKHART, Company C, 266th Engineers.
PVT. RICHARD C. MILLER, Company A, 263rd Infantry.
PVT. DANIEL F. RIORDAN, Company L, 263rd Infantry.
PVT. LAWRENCE F. SPITTEL, Company L, 264th Infantry.
PVT. RALPH E. MINTON, MP Platoon.
PVT. LARKIN E. HUFFAKER, Company B, 264th Infantry.
PVT. JOSEPH B. LLOYD, Company B, 263rd Infantry.

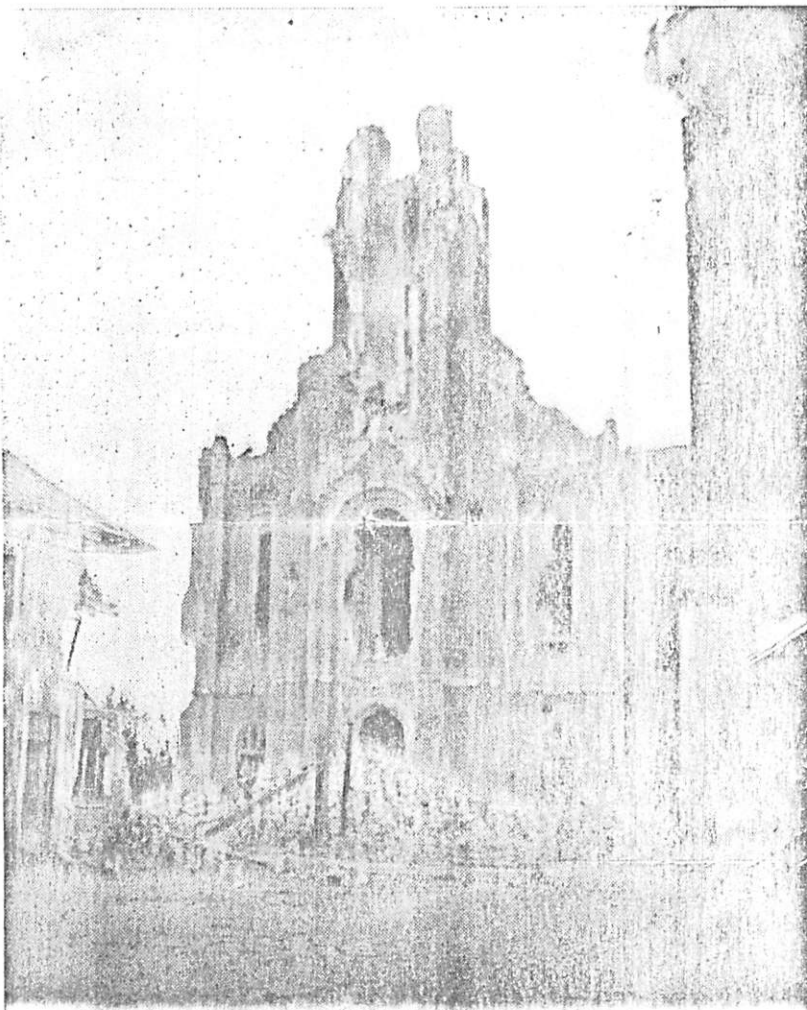
Melvin F Whaley
1421 Canal St
Modesto CA 95354

**40,000
BLACK
PANTHERS**
of the



Division



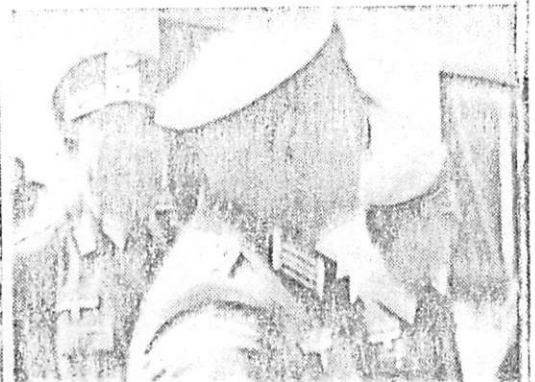
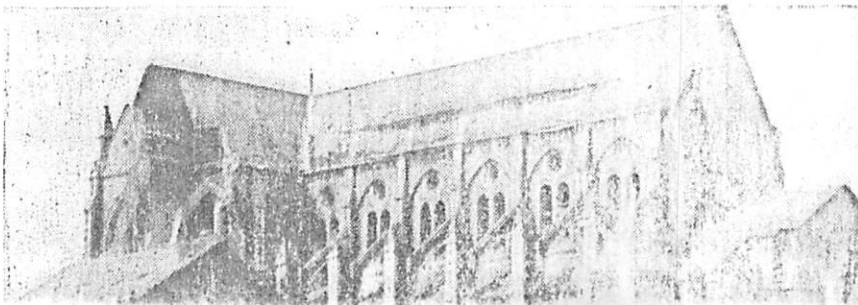


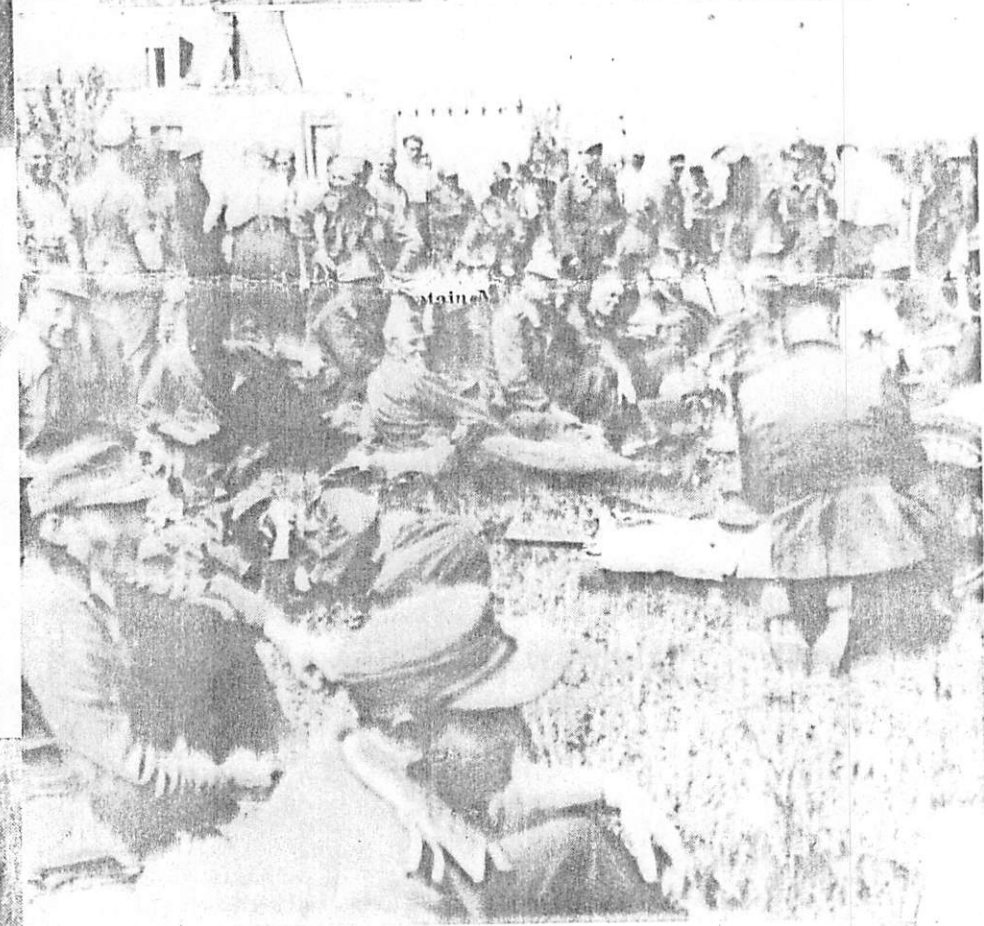
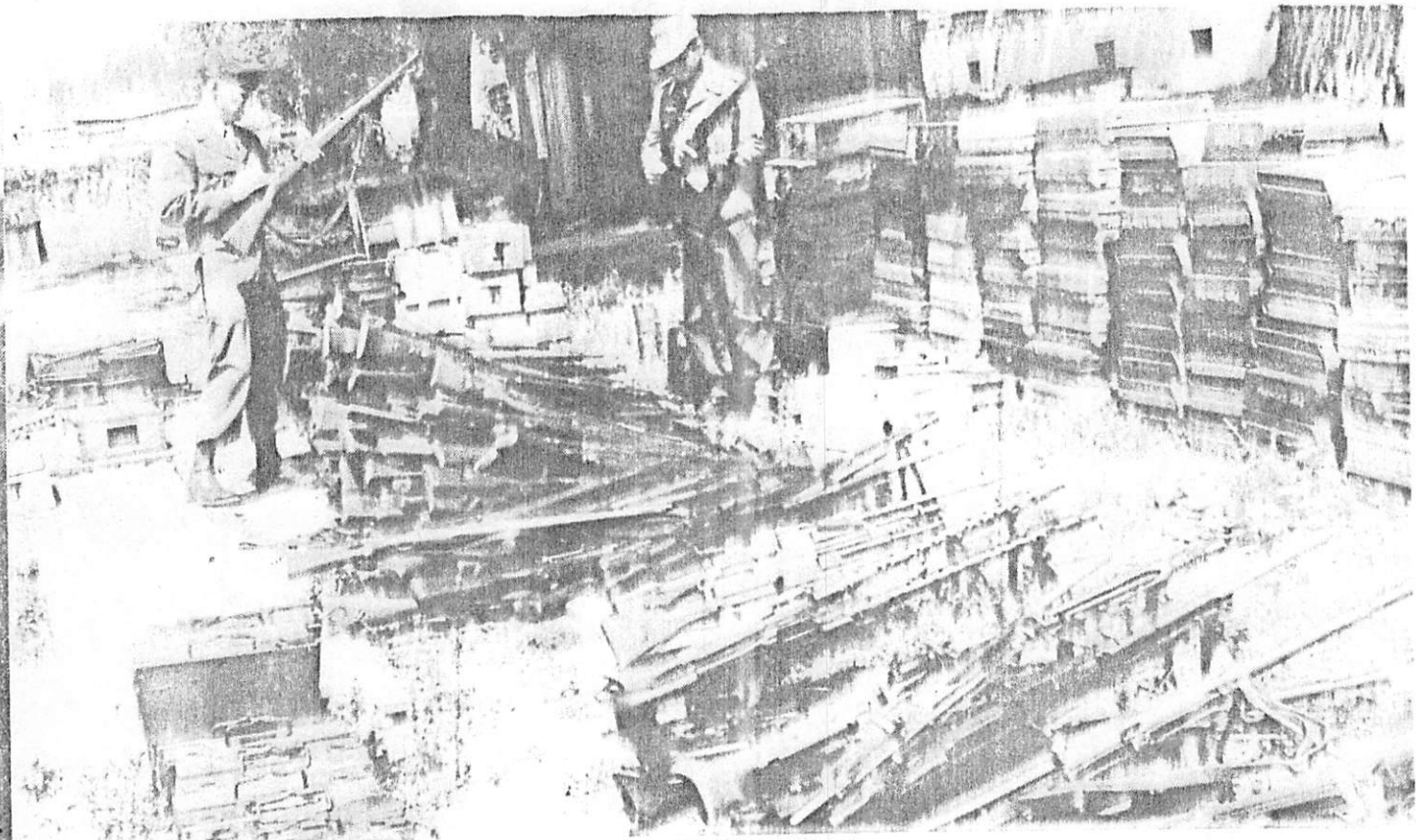
Shell-torn walls of a once-beautiful French church rise out of the rubble of Bouvron, fragile evidence of the bitter war fought on the Brittany peninsula (left).

La Baule beach one of the most famous in France, and formerly a mecca of American tourists, is a deserted stretch of sand, heavily barricaded and mined against an Allied invasion. Instead, 66th Infantrymen moved into it by land.

Entire sections of St. Nazaire were razed by continual bombardments, but streets were cleared sufficiently for occupying forces to take up their stations (lower left).

A cackly Nazi officer arrogantly watches his captors. (lower right).





Nazi arms and equipment were stacked at various points in the pockets and marked on maps for the convenience of occupying forces. An American officer and German non-com inspect weapons at an arms dump (above).

Herded into prisoner of war enclosures, these supermen wash out their mess kits after a meal on canned rations (left).

Black Panther infantrymen, guarding Nazis in one of the temporary enclosures, pause to watch this group of prisoners warming their evening meal (lower right).

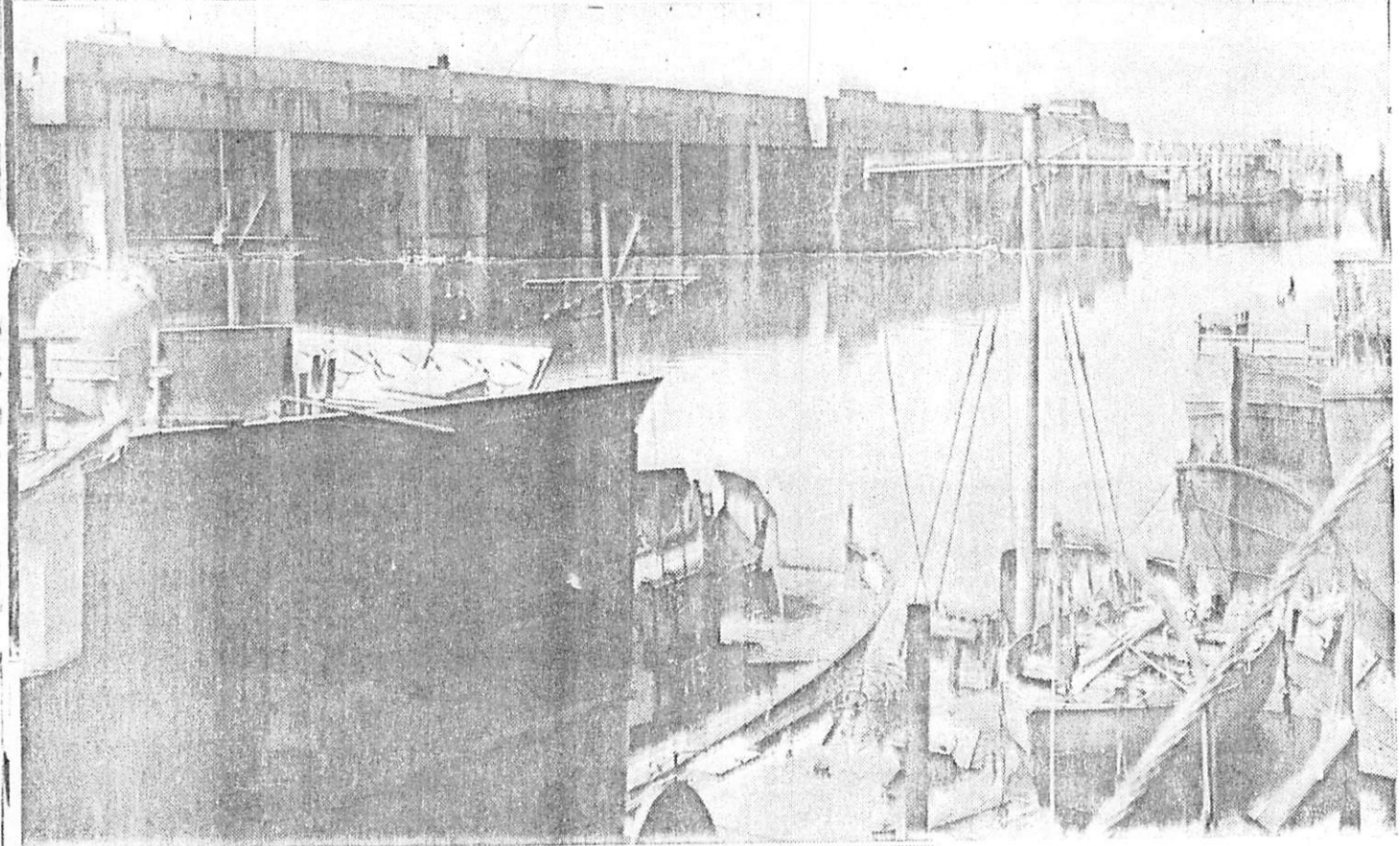
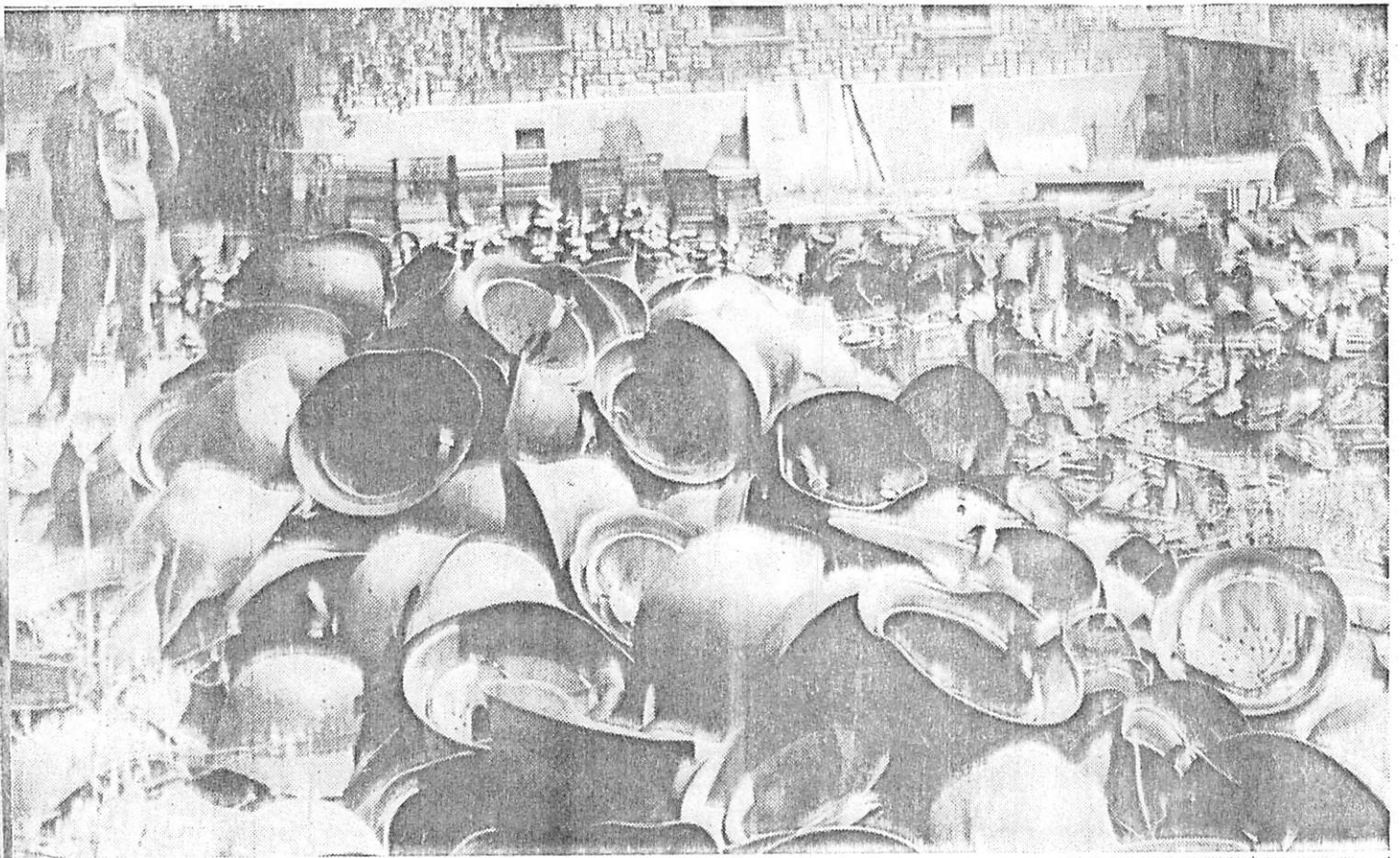
One of the huge submarine pens in the St. Nazaire pockets forms the background for this picture of a 66th Division convoy (lower left).



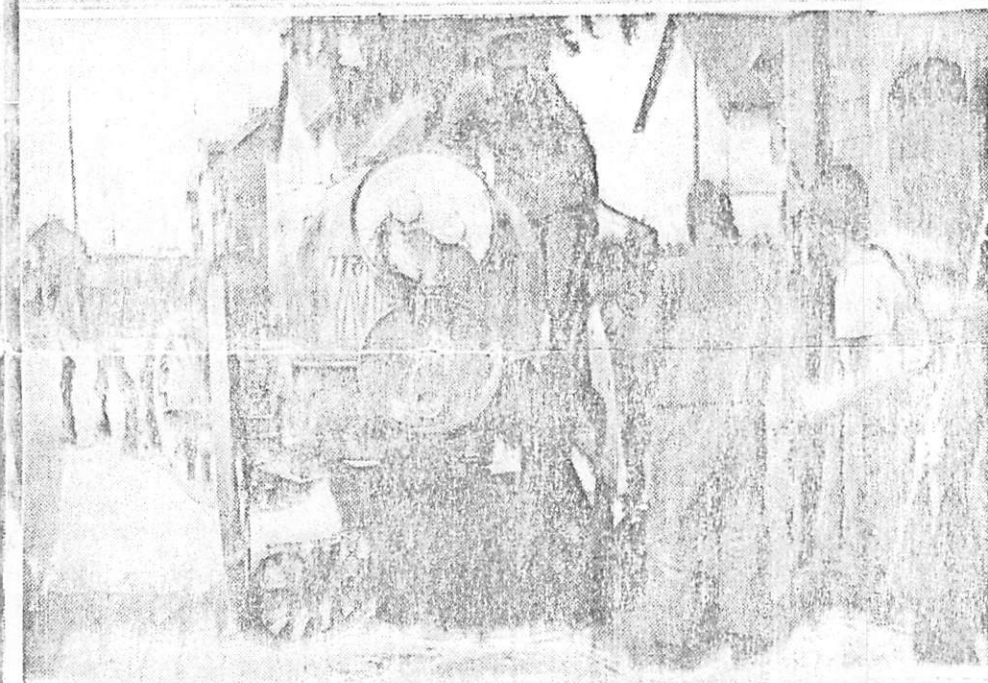
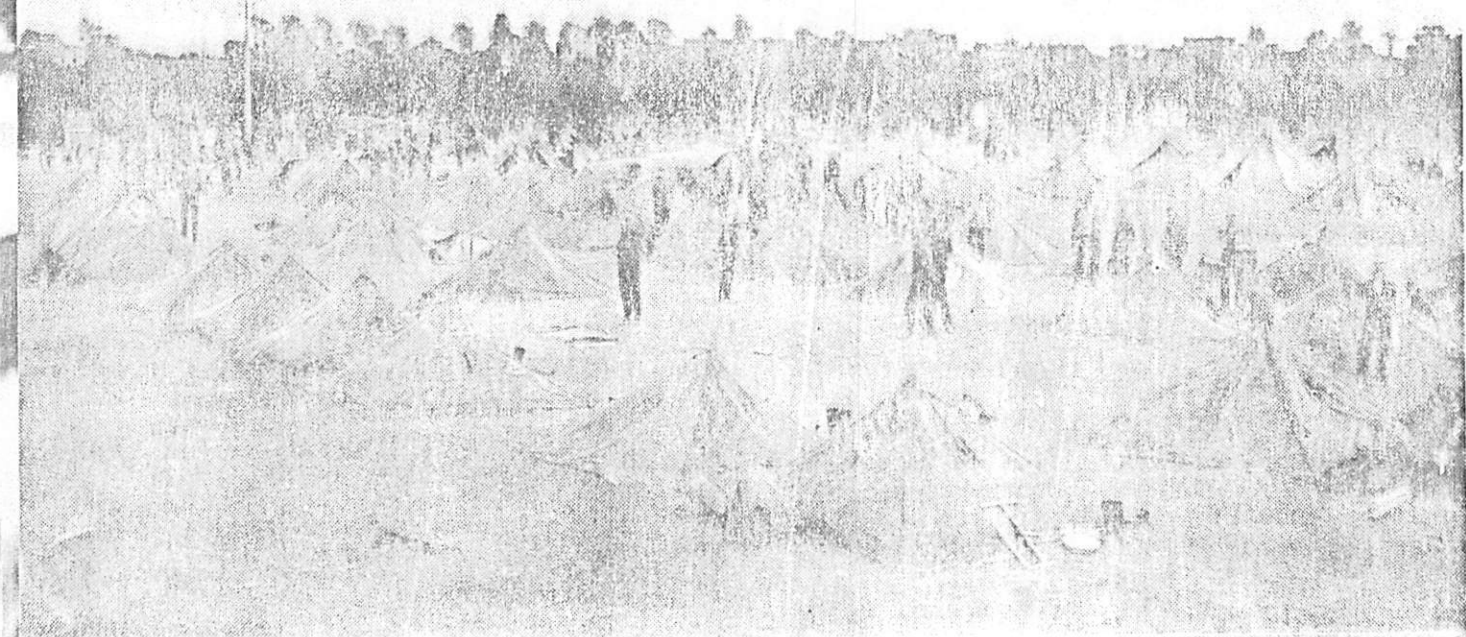


Everywhere 66th men went there were wildly cheering Frenchmen. Many cities had organized reception committees who stopped cars and showered Yanks with flowers. All along the country roads, French civilians in their Sunday bests greeted Panthermen. Greeting 66th men, too, were a lot of signs marked « Mines ». The Germans, under terms of the surrender, were made to mark clearly all mine fields. In the lower photo, a 66th soldier peers warily into a forbidding field.



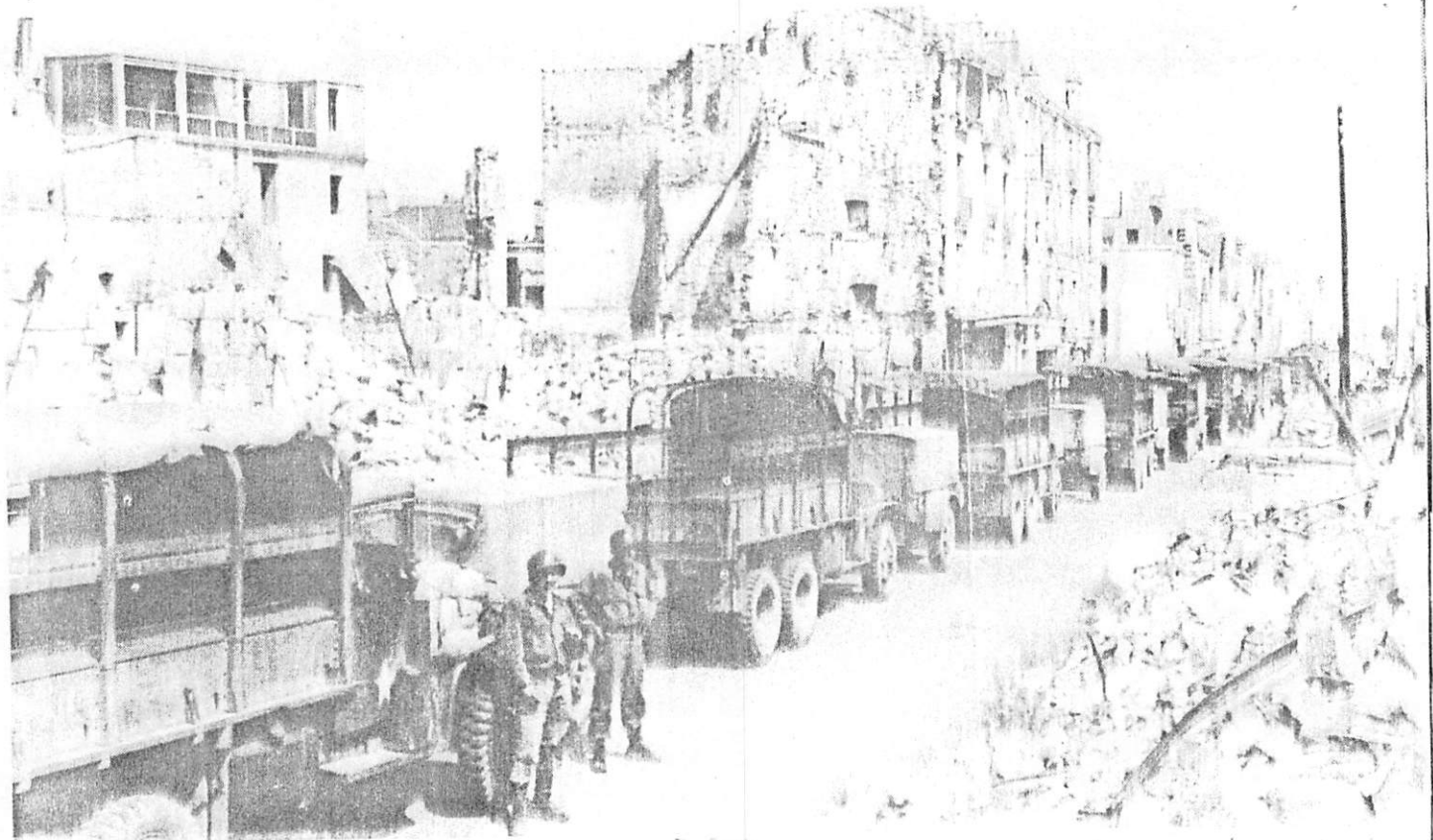


Here are the famous U-boat pens



As soon as occupying forces moved into the pockets, the huge task of guarding, screening and shipping German soldiers to permanent prisoner of war camps began. Meanwhile, they simply pitched tents and waited their turn (top photo). German equipment that would help reduce Allied responsibilities as far as feeding was concerned was allowed to accompany the prisoners into confinement. Nazi soldiers are pictured at left filling a home-drawn water tank. French civilians, rid of the Nazis for the first time in more than five years; and American soldiers, with half of their war job done, joined in the revelry throughout the Brittany peninsula (lower photo).



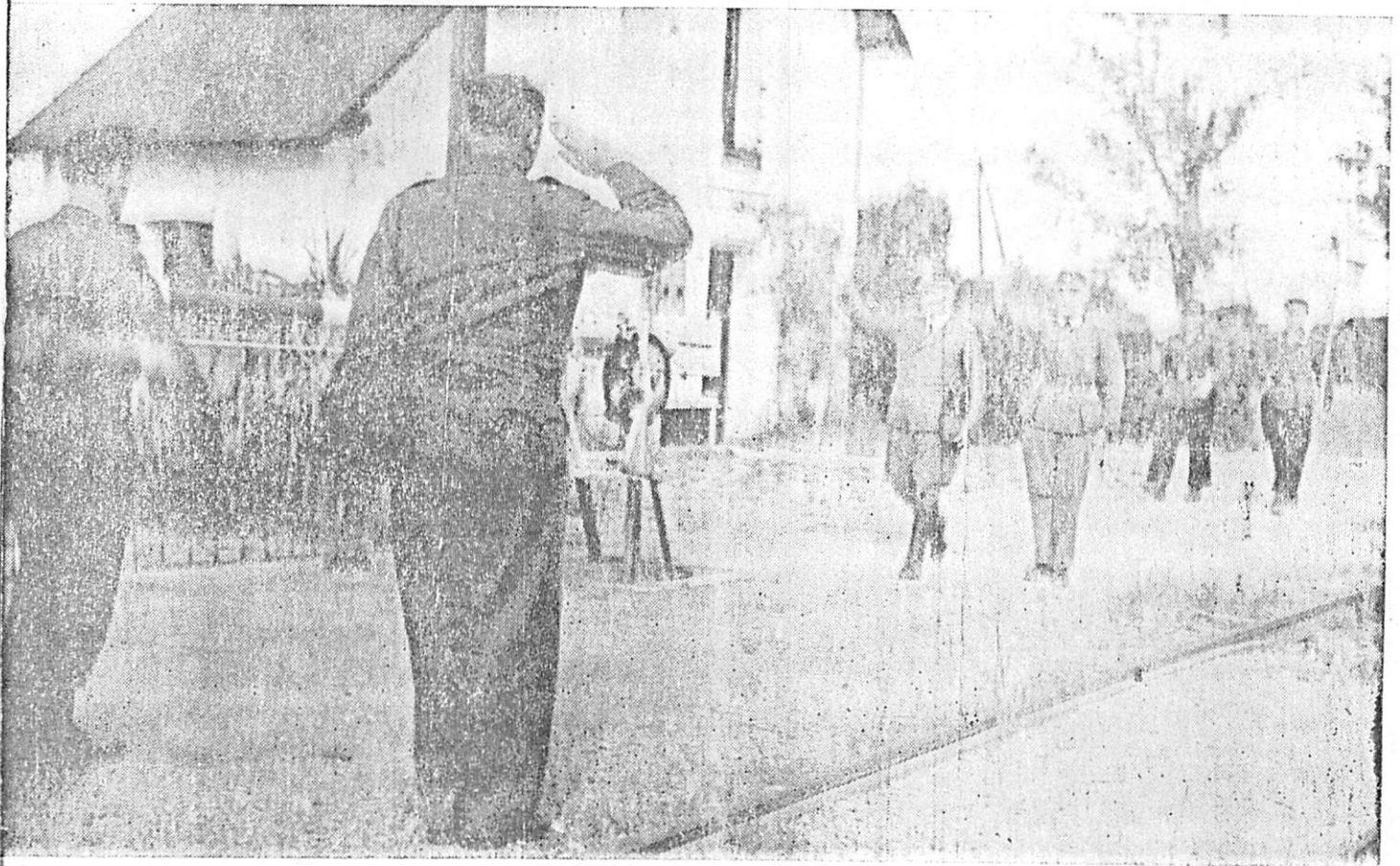


Convoys of the 68th Division passed block after block of rubble in the war-torn city of St. Nazaire (above).

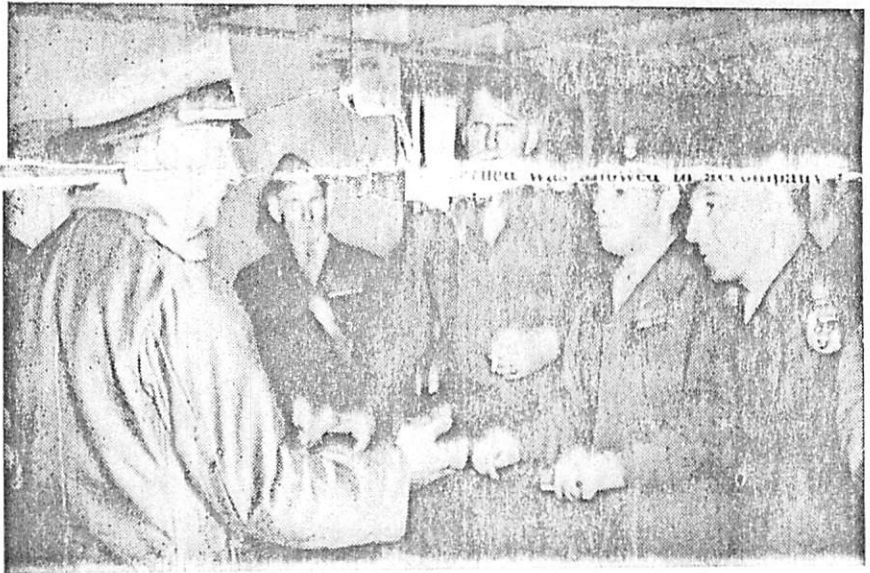
Approximately 120,000 French civilians remained in the St. Nazaire pocket during the fighting for the port. The two Frenchmen (right) to 68th Division guards (left) typify the hardy souls who preferred to remain in their homes instead of being evacuated to a safer section of France.

The city of La Baule, famous for its beach resorts, dressed in its war-time best to receive Black Panthermen occupying the city (bottom).



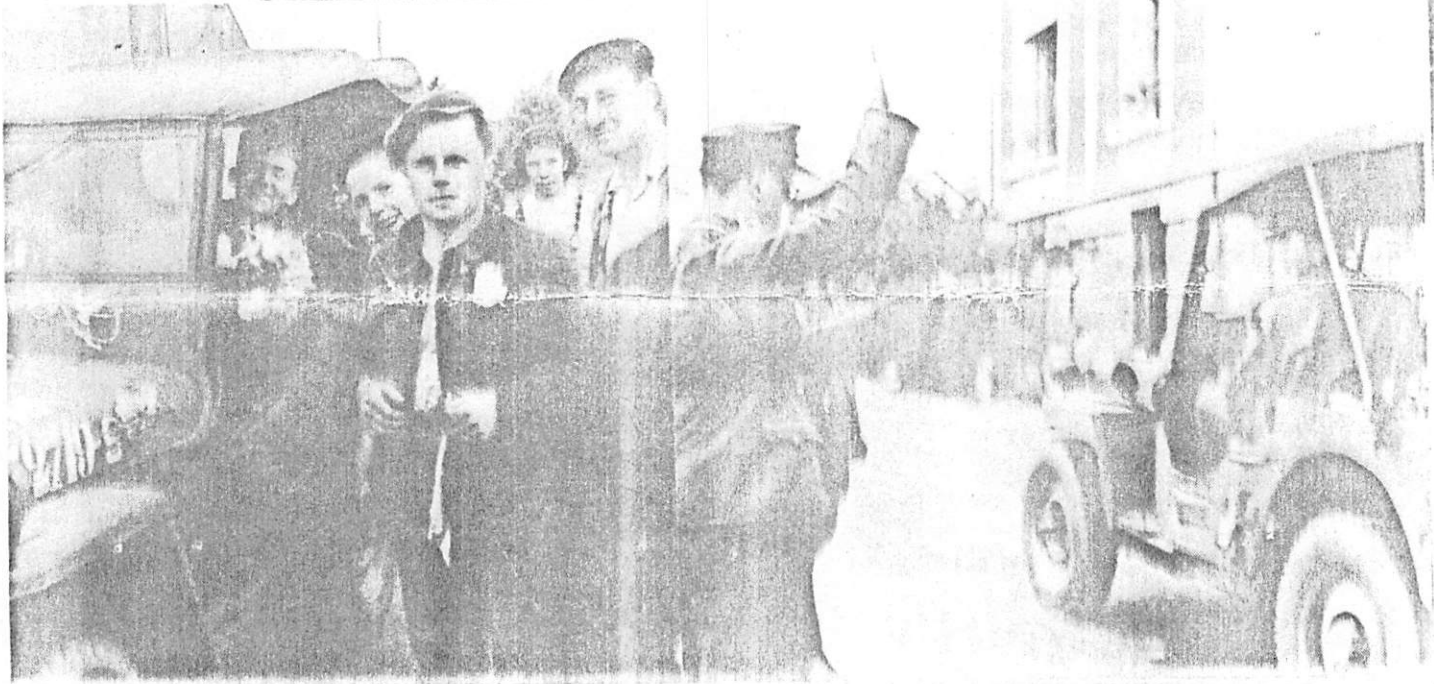
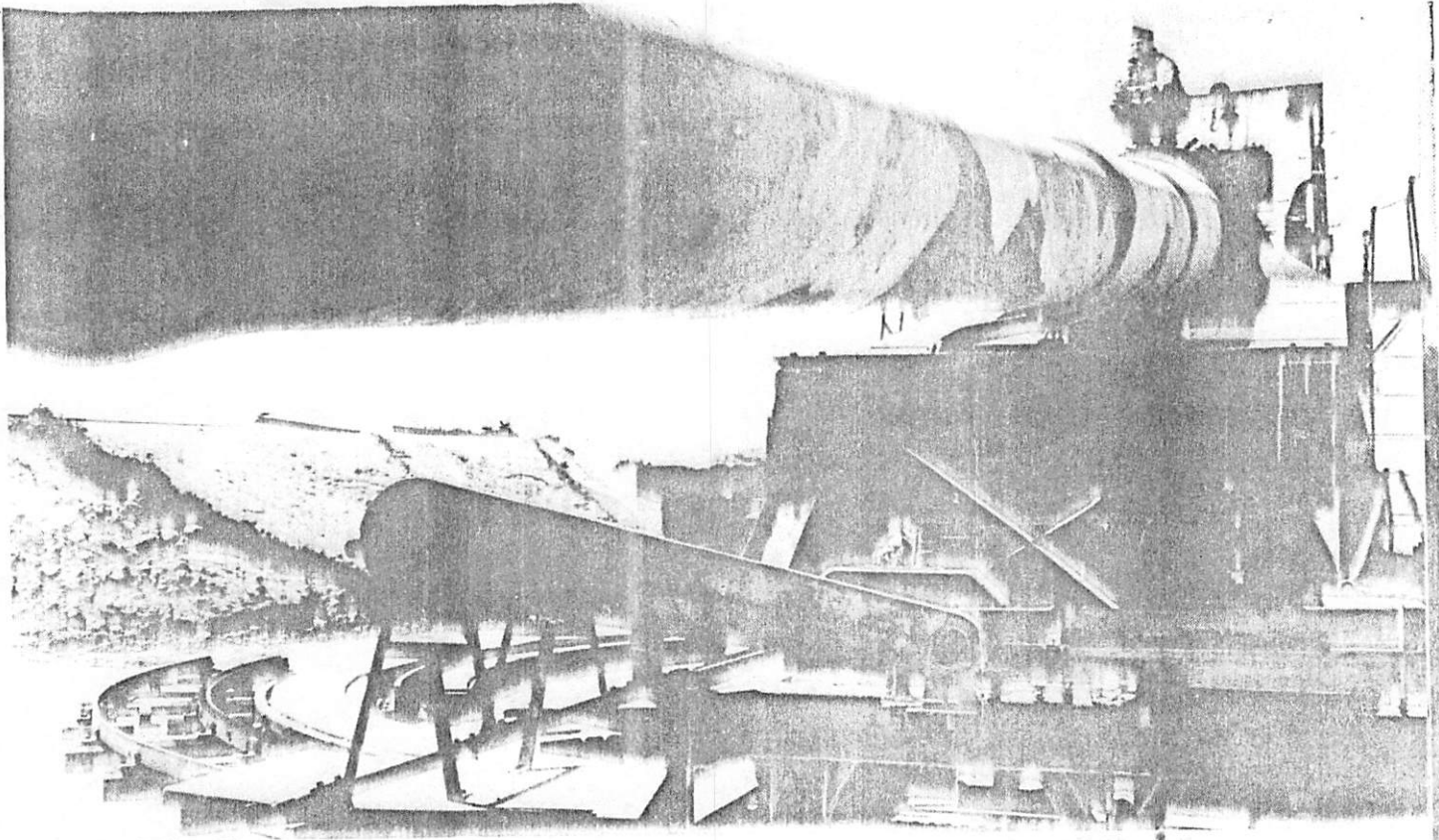


First meeting with the Germans in the pockets took place 7 May 1945. Again on the 8th Colonel John W. Keating, 66th Chief of Staff, met with them to sign the surrender. In the top photo he meets Captain Mueller.



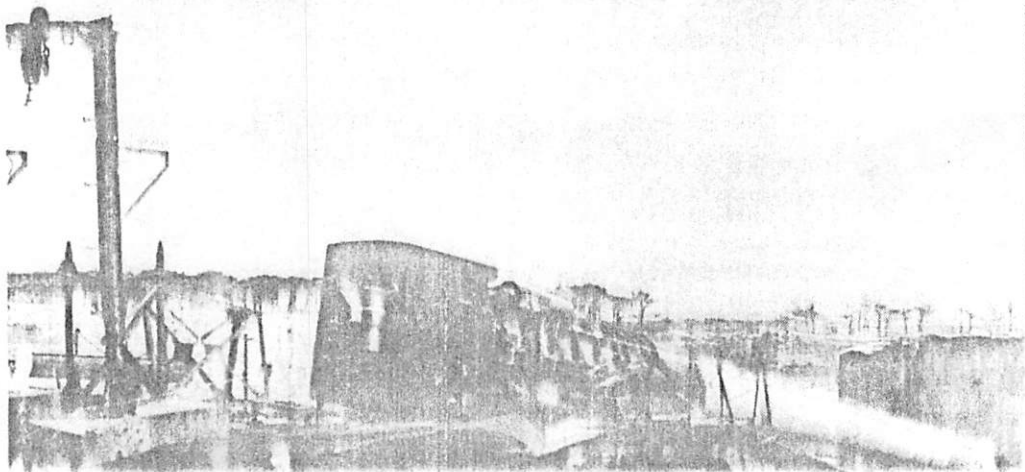
June 1, 1945. Meeting took place in a shell house near Cordemais, France... in the middle of no man's land, silenced by a temporary truce. Once inside the cafe, the Germans started to haggle. Mueller was evasive... spoke vaguely of « technical » difficulties. Colonel Keating demanded immediate surrender and sent the Germans back for authority to sign. Later that afternoon (lower photo) representatives of the 66th met the Germans again... this time outdoors. The Germans, headed by Major Engelken, Junck's chief of staff, came prepared to sign.

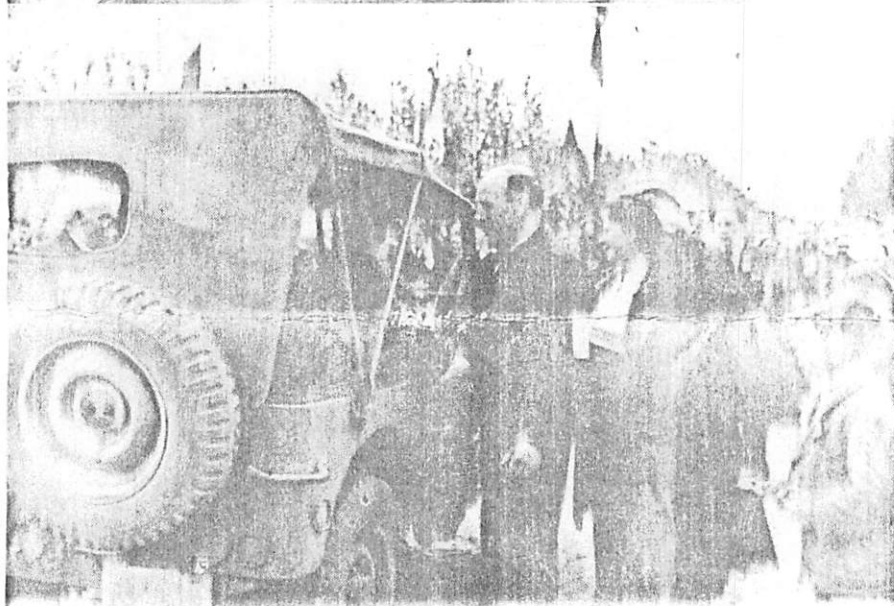




The three largest guns on the French Atlantic coast opposed Black Panthermen along the Quiberon peninsula, but an artillery outfit with the 66th knocked out all three. The huge barrel of the 340 millimeter gun (top photo) hurled a 700-pound shell 21 miles.

Determined not to rub their conquerors the wrong way, Nazi soldiers and even officers saluted every soldier and vehicle that passed





Typical of the reception 66 th men received in Lorient are the pictures at the top and center where men were mobbed by liberated French civilians. Everybody gives flowers. The infantry didn't ride in... they walked (lower photo).





The surrender meeting with Major Engelken, Nazi chief of staff, and the German interpreter in the center. At the right is Major Charles McKew Farr, Jr., Division Assistant G-2.

Hueller (in the lower left photo) tried hard to retain his arrogance to the end... even to the monacle. The surrender terms didn't please him. The smooth-appearing Engelken was ruffled only once... he blew his nose.



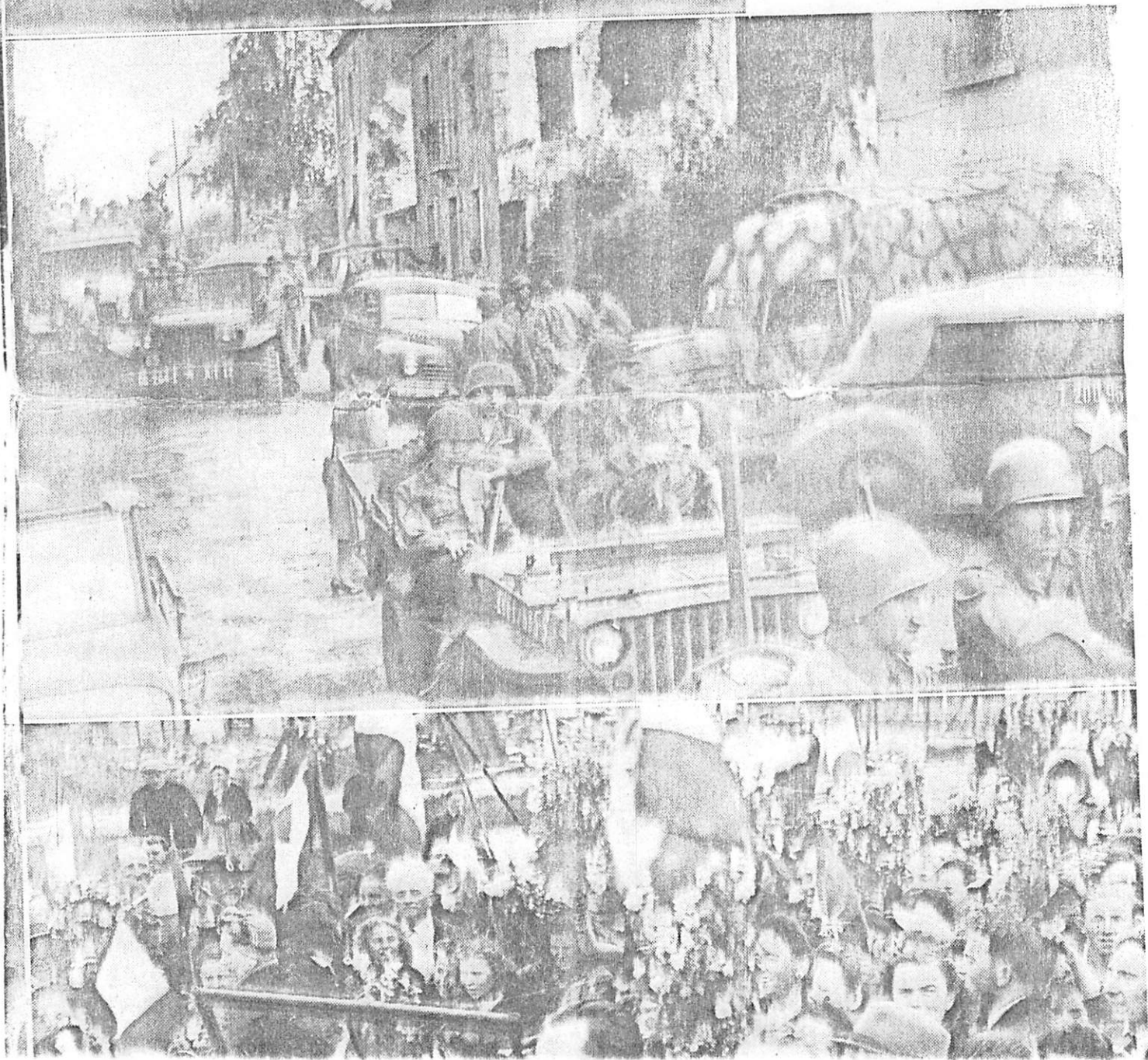


After a lengthy reading of the terms, Major Engelken signed the surrender of 28,000 Germans in the St. Nazaire pocket, Lorient surrendered the day before. Colonel Keating and the 66th Division party walked to the Allied outposts with the Germans after they signed the surrender. They were in no mood for talking. In the lower photo the Nazis gave the Panthermen what was probably their last Heil as they left for their own lines.





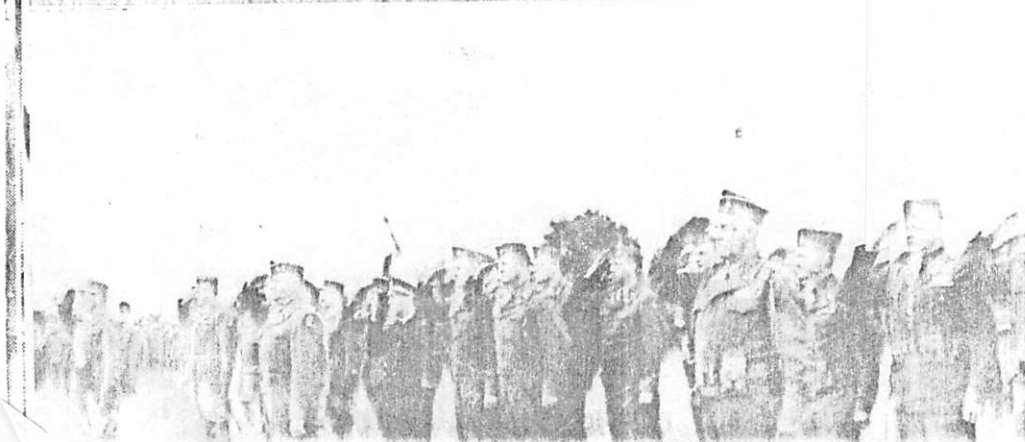
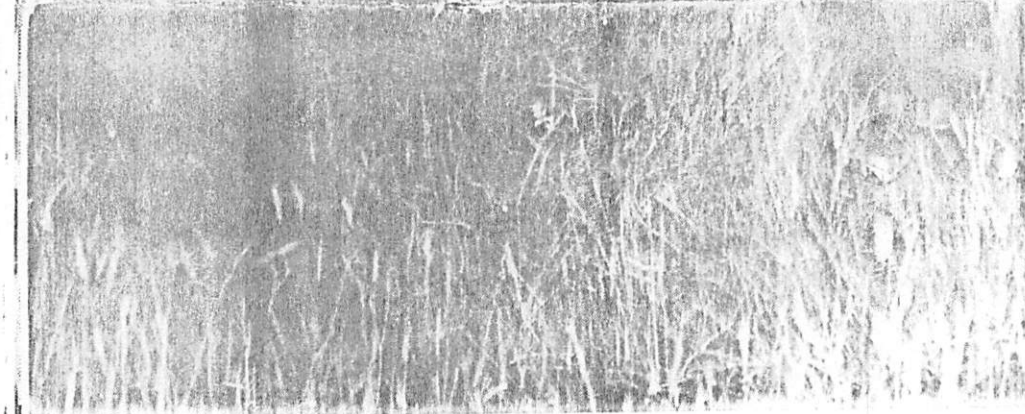
Smiles of victory are shown at the left. Left to right are Brig. Gen. Borgeis Desbordes, Major General Kramer and Brig. Gen. Rollins. Long before the official time of the surrender, 66th men lined up on the perimeter of the Lorlent pocket, ready to move in on the dot. When they did go in, they were greeted by disgruntled Germans and wildly cheering crowds of French civilians.





At 1000 11 May 1945 the St.Nazaire pocket with 28,000 Germans fell to the 66th Division. Major General Junck, St.Nazaire commanding general, handed his pistol over to Major General Kramer.

M.P.'s took the Nazi general into custody shortly after the ceremony. With General Kramer and his staff were Brig. Gen. Forster and Brig. Gen. Chomel and their staffs (lower photo). Recon troops who formed part of the guard of honor were inspected by the general after the ceremonies (lower right).





PANTHER

This picture tabloid is devoted for men of the 66th Back Pan... Division who conquered 50,000... in the St. Nazaire and... pockets of France. Pictures... show the last days of the night... the Nazis built in France... desperate last-ditch measure... to the empire they... out of a peaceful world. With capitulation of the two Atlantic coast... all Nazi resistance in France came to an end.

Graphically shown here are the... the signing of the surrender... Black Panthermen... the 350 square... August 1944. Not shown are the long cold arduous days of battle... of the 66th endured... because personal discomfort, pain and danger cannot be photographed... only experienced.

... Major General



R E S T R I C T E D

On 15 May elements of the 66th Division commenced movement to the vicinity of Koblenz in the Fifteenth U. S. Army Rhine Province. Ten days later, under the control of the XXIII Corps, the division assumed the responsibility for the occupation and military government of Regierungs Bezirk Koblenz.

On 27 May, the division started movement to an assembly area near Marseille, France.

Total battle casualties of the 66th Infantry Division for their 4½ months in the European Theater of Operations were 79 officers and 2,170 enlisted men.

There has been recorded at some length our knowledge of the gallant 66th Division, both from personal contact and from the record. This knowledge fills us with confidence that under their able division commander and yourself, the men of the 66th Division will not fail in the important tasks ahead. Together we can fulfill the Theater Commander's high requirements and never let him down.

With every best wish to you and those under you in this new assignment, I remain, with personal regards,

Faithfully yours,

/s/ John C. H. Lee
/t/ JOHN C. H. LEE

Lieutenant General, U. S. Army"

Major General John B. Anderson
Commanding XVI Corps
APO 197, U. S. Army

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL LAUER:

Henry C. Stringer
HENRY C. STRINGER
Lt Col, AGD
Adjutant General

DISCRIMINATION "D"

- 3 -
R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D
HEADQUARTERS 66TH INFANTRY DIVISION
TO 454
UNITED STATES ARMY

15 August 1945

The following letter written by Lieutenant General John C H Lee, Commanding General of Communications Zone, European Theater of Operations, to Major General John D Anderson, Commanding General, XVI Corps, is a concise history of the Division and should be of particular interest to every member of this command. It is therefore being published in order that each member of the Division may have a copy.

HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATIONS ZONE
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
United States Army
Office of the Commanding General
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
15 August 1945
POWERING COMMITTEE

Dear General Anderson,

As I have already told you, it is with great satisfaction we learned not only of your gallant XVI Corps' assignment to assist in the great redeployment task confronting the Theater Commander, but especially the three fine combat divisions placed under your command and thus available to assist in the stupendous task that jointly faces the XVI Corps and the Communications Zone.

In this respect I would make special reference of the splendid 66th Infantry Division which we of the Communications Zone have known and admired from our initial contacts. We have seen it overcome great handicaps -- victoriously. We have every confidence that, assisted by such a dependable combat division, we shall be able to achieve the otherwise impossible task that faces us in redeploying and re-shipping troops destined for the Pacific Theater at the earliest practicable date, as well as the remainder of the three million soldiers of the U. S. destined to continue on as our occupying forces in Germany.

From the historical files available to the Communications Zone, we are well aware that the 66th Infantry Division was activated 15 April 1943 at Camp Blanding, Florida, with a cadre of officers and NCOs from the 89th Infantry Division. After three months of individual training, the division moved to Camp Joseph T. Robinson for unit training.

Under the XXI Corps of the Fourth Army, it completed division-series exercises and transferred 5,000 fully trained men to ports of embarkation as overseas reinforcements. On 12 April 1944, one year after activation, the division moved from Camp Robinson to Camp Rucker, Alabama, and was assigned to the IX Corps of the Second Army.

The records reveal that from March 1944 to July 1944, approximately 7,000 reinforcements were received by the division from ASIP, Reinforcement Training Centers, Army Air Forces and the AAA Command. A special training program for these reinforcements was instituted.

The infantry regiments sailed from New York 15 November 1944 and arrived at Southampton 26 November. The balance of the division departed one week later. It was in England that the Communications Zone first became personally acquainted with the gallant 66th while it was being quartered near Dorchester, Dorset County, and devoted itself to the personnel and equipment preparation for combat.

The first great test of the Division came in December shortly after it had embarked to the Continent. On Christmas Eve the 14,000 ton S.S. Leonoldville, carrying approximately 2,500 troops of the 262d and 264th Infantry Regiments, was torpedoed and sunk 5 miles from Cherbourg. Fourteen officers, including two battalion commanders, and 784 enlisted men were killed or missing. To those of us who personally met the surviving officers and men, we knew that we were in the presence of undefeated soldiers, men who could not ever be defeated.

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WEL 66th DIVISION HERE

1,400 PANTHERS SIGN UP FOR I AND E STUDIES

When the Information and Education Section was established in the Division in September 1944 one of its functions was to provide information on available educational opportunities to all men within the 66th Division. Today the I & E office reports that over 1,400 men have been enrolled in the past seven months. This has been accomplished through the facilities of the United States Armed Forces Institute.

This Institute makes available to all men, regardless of their background and professional experience, a chance to study in their chosen field during « off duty » time in the Army. It offers courses in a wide range of subjects in many different fields at the high school and college level. Four different types of courses are available under the headings of University Extension Correspondence Courses, USAFI Correspondence Courses, USAFI Self-Teaching Courses and USAFI Group Study Courses. All types of courses except University Extension Correspondence Courses are obtained from the EIO Branch of USAFI located in England. The EIO Branch speeds up the delivery of textbooks and lessons, but it generally takes from one to two months to receive the USAFI materials.

Successful completion of a USAFI course pays off. The man who completes a course and passes the final examination receives a Certificate of Proficiency from the Institute; information about the course is entered on his service record; a permanent record is sent to USAFI Headquarters at Madison, Wisconsin for future reference and the man is then eligible to apply for another course at no additional cost.

In addition, many high schools, colleges, and universities in the United States are granting credit for military experience and for USAFI courses taken while in service. The Institute will supply anyone free of charge, whether he has taken a USAFI course or not, with a form to apply for credit toward a high school or college diploma or to obtain consideration for a future civilian job based upon experience, training, and schooling received in the Army.

I & E Officers throughout the Division have full particulars on available courses and methods of applying for educational credit.

Dreams of Home and Even Gets Paid for It

T/4 Donald Benson of 66th Division Headquarters, put his dreams of home to work and it netted him a cash return. He was prize winner of a contest conducted by McCall's Magazine in which the contestants were to give their ideas on the « Home of Tomorrow » in 200 words or less. Sgt. Benson

General Pins Combat Badge



Panther commander, Major General Kramer, pins the Combat Infantryman's Badge on a 66th Division soldier who has displayed his ability under enemy fire. Over 7,000 men of the Panther Division have earned the right to wear the award.

Pantherman Attends Historic Ceremonies at Old German Fort

Selected as its outstanding soldier, Staff Sergeant James O. Gibson of Hardinsburg, Kentucky holder of the Silver Star, represented the Black Panther Division in Army Day ceremonies at Fort Ehrenbreitstein, Germany.

Sergeant Gibson has distinguished himself for heroism and soldierly conduct, the basis for the selection, along with the longest combat time and most combat decorations. Each infantry regiment nominated its outstanding all-around soldier and the final selection was made by the Division Chief of Staff, after a personal interview with each nominee.

Every division in the EIO sent a representative to the ceremony, at which the same American Army of Occupation flag, which was lowered from Fort Ehrenbreitstein on January 23, 1923, was again raised over the headquarters. General Omar N. Brad-

Panthers Are Good Ball Players, Nantes Scribe Tells Readers

Nantes newspapermen were duly impressed by two basketball teams of Black Panther military policemen, but their stories infer that maybe the MPs' rang in a squad of giants against the Frenchmen in their recent game.

« There is no doubt left now, our basketball players know they will have much to do to become as good players as the Americans », the reporter said, writing in the Nantes L'Avenir de l'Ouest. The MPs' A team beat « Entente Nantaise A », 43 to 30, and the B team beat Nantes' B squad, 29 to 23.

« I know that the fact that our Allies were such big men was an advantage for them, several of our players looked like children in comparison; yet, from the point of view of technique we found out that our teams would have to improve also. » However, he concluded with the

66th Sends 11 Nazi Vessels To Davy Jones' Locker at Lorient

**GERMAN CRAFT IN BESEIGED
HARBOR FINDS PANTHER
ARTILLERY DEADLY**

LORIENT. — Black Panther artillerymen became the talk of the Division when they sank a big German freighter at Lorient, but few have heard of the feats they've performed since then.

Gun crews have sunk 10 more boats in the same harbor, their size ranging from an 1250-Ton mine layer to harbor craft. Reports coming in from alert artillery crews sound as though a coast artillery outfit had gone to work on the harbor.

Their bag includes a steamship, mine layer, steam barges and dredges, and even a floating pier. For a long time, German vessels enjoyed immunity because of the heavy fogs and mists which shrouded the harbor, but the advent of spring gave artillery observers the visibility for which they were waiting.

The first vessel sunk, however, remains the greatest single artillery feat on this front and one of the rare ones in ETO warfare. Our accuracy led to destruction of a freighter.

The Nazis were confident that their ship was out of range of Panther artillery and calmly headed for the

port. First Lieutenant Leonard Sink of Berrin Springs, Michigan, artillery spotter for the 66th, was in his plane when he noticed the steamer plowing through the harbor. It wasn't the first vessel Lieutenant Sink had glimpsed briefly in the harbor, but when it edged closer to Panther batteries he started to take notice.

He radioed Lieutenant J. T. Mack, Cambola, Pennsylvania, at a gun battery, informing him that there was a less-than-fair chance of reaching the vessel. The crew went to work. The first round was a little off. Lieutenant Sink adjusted.

The fact that the boat was at extreme range made little difference. Panthermen were out for a sinking. Excitement was high. In the middle of everything, some German batteries started some counter-fire. The ship was forgotten for a moment while those guns were silenced. Then the long barrels of the 66th guns swept back to the boat.

Gradually the rounds crept closer to the boat. Finally a hit. Fifty-nine rounds in all were fired; about half of them hit the boat. Result: the boat sank.

But the story doesn't end there. A German barge ventured out to attempt salvage operations. Sixty-sixth artillerymen sent that down to Davy Jones' locker, too.

BLACK PANTHER

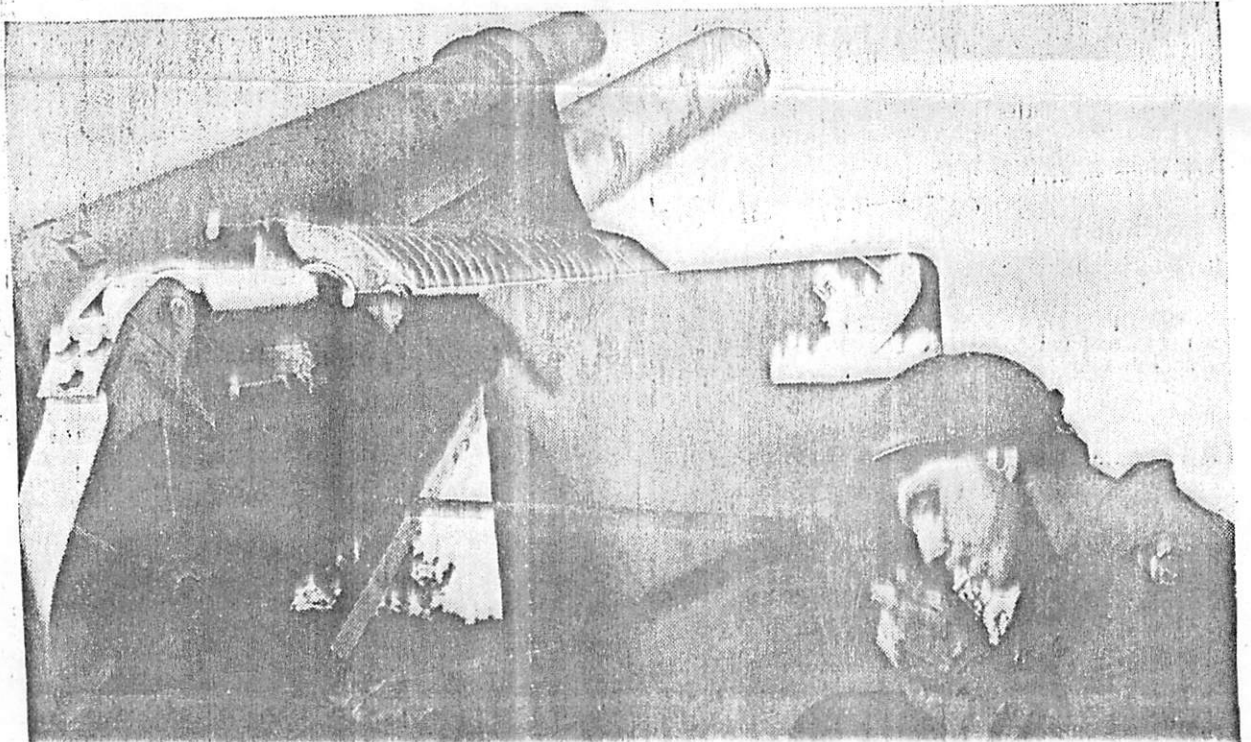
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Sinking of the ship brought the obvious remark: "Sink sighted ship; Sink sank same." Although many claim to be the first to pull the gag, origin of the remark is generally attributed to the commander of the battalion that fired the mission.

Men of the battery lost little time in painting a Nazi ship on their gun shield. They claim its the first field artillery piece in the ETO to sink an ocean-going vessel. In charge of the gun crew was Sergeant Robert Premoshis of Monessen, Pa. Others of the gun crew include Pvt Paul Aulita Long Island, N.Y.; T/5 Frank Hornyak, Mahway, N.J.; Pfc Joseph Calzone, Cumberland, Md.; Pfc Stanley Augustine, Chicago, Ill.; Pfc Pres Tamru, Camden, N.J.; Pfc William Campbell, Front-Royal, Va.; Cpl. Eric Maxwell, Deerfield, O.; Pfc Alden White, West Hartford, Conn.; Pfc Francis Hammerstrom, Detroit, Mich.; and Pfc Earl Helmlinger, Jackson Center, O.

ONE NAZI BOAT LESS...

His Job Done; Gun Crew Chief Sgt. Robert Premoshis Lights Up



CO 261119
alter: 2/5/45

RESTRICTED

BLACK PANTHER



N° 1

Bulletin of the 66th Infantry Division

1 May 45

Infantry, Tanks Assault Nazis

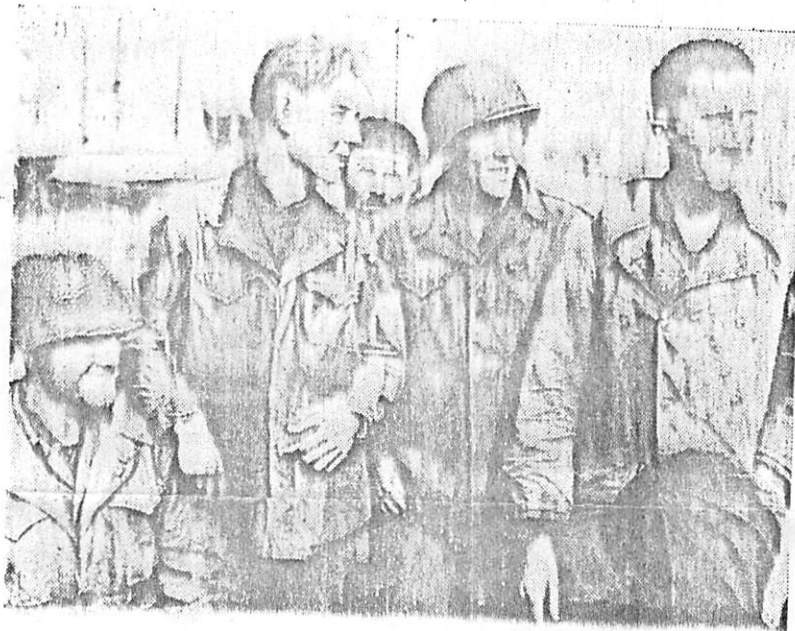
Guns Silenced, Prisoners Taken in Dawn Attack

SAINT-NAZAIRE. — With a triple combat patrol attack at dawn, Black Panther infantrymen last week continued their assault on Nazis in the St Nazaire pocket by cutting into German lines, inflicting heavy casualties and returning with a number of prisoners.

During the bitter fighting, Panther doughboys destroyed numerous machine gun positions, bunkers and road blocks. With one patrol supported by light tanks, the three combat patrols attacking along parallel lines ran into intense enemy fire. Despite fierce resistance by strongly emplaced Germans, the infantrymen accomplished their mission of destruction, seized prisoners and returned to our lines. The enemy suffered an estimated 51 casualties. Two tanks were lost in the action.

Hundreds of rounds of artillery and mortar shells helped the infantry on its mission. Individual acts of heroism marked all three attacks
(Continued Page 3)

Panthers Freed From Nazi Prison



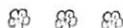
Four soldiers of the 66th Infantry Division who were brought over to our line during a recent prisoner exchange flash a big smile at the sight of Yankee-held territory and the thought of some American food. The soldiers were exchanged from the Lorlent pocket. Left to right, the men include T-5 Roy M. Lee, Vinton, Ark.; Efc John D. Feavola, Bishop, Calif.; Efc Kenneth Irvin, Logan, Ill., and Pvt William E. Widtz, Chicago. The picture was taken in a small motor boat which carried them from the German lines which are visible in the background.

TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE 66th INFANTRY DIVISION:

« The Black Panther, » which begins publication with this issue, is designed to describe operations of the division in combat, to report the activities of component organizations, and to help you keep informed about friends and companions within the command.

I am sure you will find its columns interesting and informative. You are invited to use these columns if you have a worthwhile story to tell. I hope « The Black Panther » will continue to reflect the high degree of morale, comradeship, and combat efficiency which has characterized the division since it undertook operations against the enemy four months ago in France.

FIRST ETO ISSUE OF 66 TH BULLETIN ROLLS OFF FRENCH PRESSES



This is the 66th Division's first attempt at a weekly bulletin in the ETO. The idea is to chronicle by word

Although the Black Panther is limited in size, no bulletin of the Division would be complete without a cross-section representation of every unit in its columns. To be sure of representation give your I & E Officer human interest stories and combat experiences about your self or the men in your unit. He will forward them to the Division I & E Officer. We need your full cooperation, for as a bewhiskered sage once said: « A newspaper is like a baby... easy to conceive but hard to produce »



EDW/RD

CENTRUM VOOR HISTORISCHE
DOCUMENTATIE

Evere,

CHD N° 4521

SGR N°

Bijlage(n) : file

Dear Mrs WHALEY,

We received your inquiry about the "LEOPOLDVILLE"
in good order.

Enclosed you will find some copies out of a
recently published book about the Belgian Merchant Navy during
WWII (Only available in French !).

As a matter of fact the "SS LEOPOLDVILLE" was a
merchant vessel taken into account (leased to ?) by the Royal
Navy for the time of the hostilities. There are no archives
concerning this disaster in our possession but we contacted
the owner for eventual additional information. If we get
anything new about the ships history we will forward it to
you.

In the hope of having been of help in your
historical research, we remain,

Sincerely,

M. PAULISSEN
Brevet Colonel
Chief of the Research
Center of the Army

Mrs Betty WHALEY
1421 Canal Drive
MODESTO Ca
95.354
U.S.A.



Officially, the Lorient pocket fell at 1600 10 May, 1945. At brief but impressive ceremonies conducted in a sprinkling rain, Lt. Gen. Fahrmbaeker, CG of Lorient, surrendered to Major General Kramer. According to military tradition, he was presented to General Kramer by Colonel [Name obscured]. General Fahrmbaeker saluted General Kramer (upper photo) and then handed over his pistol in token of surrender (cover page). With General Kramer was Brig. Gen. Rollins, Lorient commander; Brig. Gen. Boignis Desbordes, French commander at Lorient and their staffs (center left). Following the ceremony, General Kramer inspected Fathermen at the surrender. He took a look at the pistol General Fahrmbaeker gave him. In answer to a query on the pistol's condition, the general commented: « I'd say about class B. »



OCTOBER 2ND 1996

FROM : MELVIN F. WHALEY A.S.N.38041596
1421CANAL DR.
MODESTO CA. 95354

TO THE STAFF AT THE MUSEUM.

LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SAY A SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION WHEN WE WERE THERE IN SEPT. WHILE VISITING , WE REMARKED TO THE OFFICER IN CHARGE , WE DID NOT SEE A BLACK PANTHER 66TH DIVISION SHOULDER PATCH IN THE DISPLAY.

I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE THIS PATCH ALONG WITH ADDITIONAL INFO THE DIVISION WAS ACTIVATED AT CAMP BLANDING FLORIDA AND MOVED TO CAMP ROBINSON FOR UNIT TRAINING IN APRIL 1943. NOT LONG AFTER THAT I GOT WITH THE 262 INFANTRY .AND STAYED UNTIL IT WAS DE ACTIVATED IN EUROPE.

CROSSING THE ENGLISH CHANNEL ON CHRISTMAS EVE ON THE H M S LEO POLDVILLE WE WERE TORPEDOED , LOSEING FOURTEEN OFFICERS AND SEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY FOUR ENLISTED MEN.. MOST OF THE 262 AND 263rd. .

IF ANY MEMBER OF THE ORIGINAL BLACK PANTHER DIVISION SEES THIS WRITE , PLEASE WRITE . I'M SURE WE HAVE HISTORY TO SHARE THATS NEVER BEEN TOLD . . . TIME IS NOT ON MY SIDE AS I AM NOW SEVENTY FOUR YEARS OLD . .IF YOU KNOW OF ANY REUNIONS WRITE OR CALL.

I WILL CLOSE FOR THIS TIME . SINCERELY,



MELVIN WHALEY