

EASTERN



FRANCE



-PATCH

36TH DIVISION NEWS

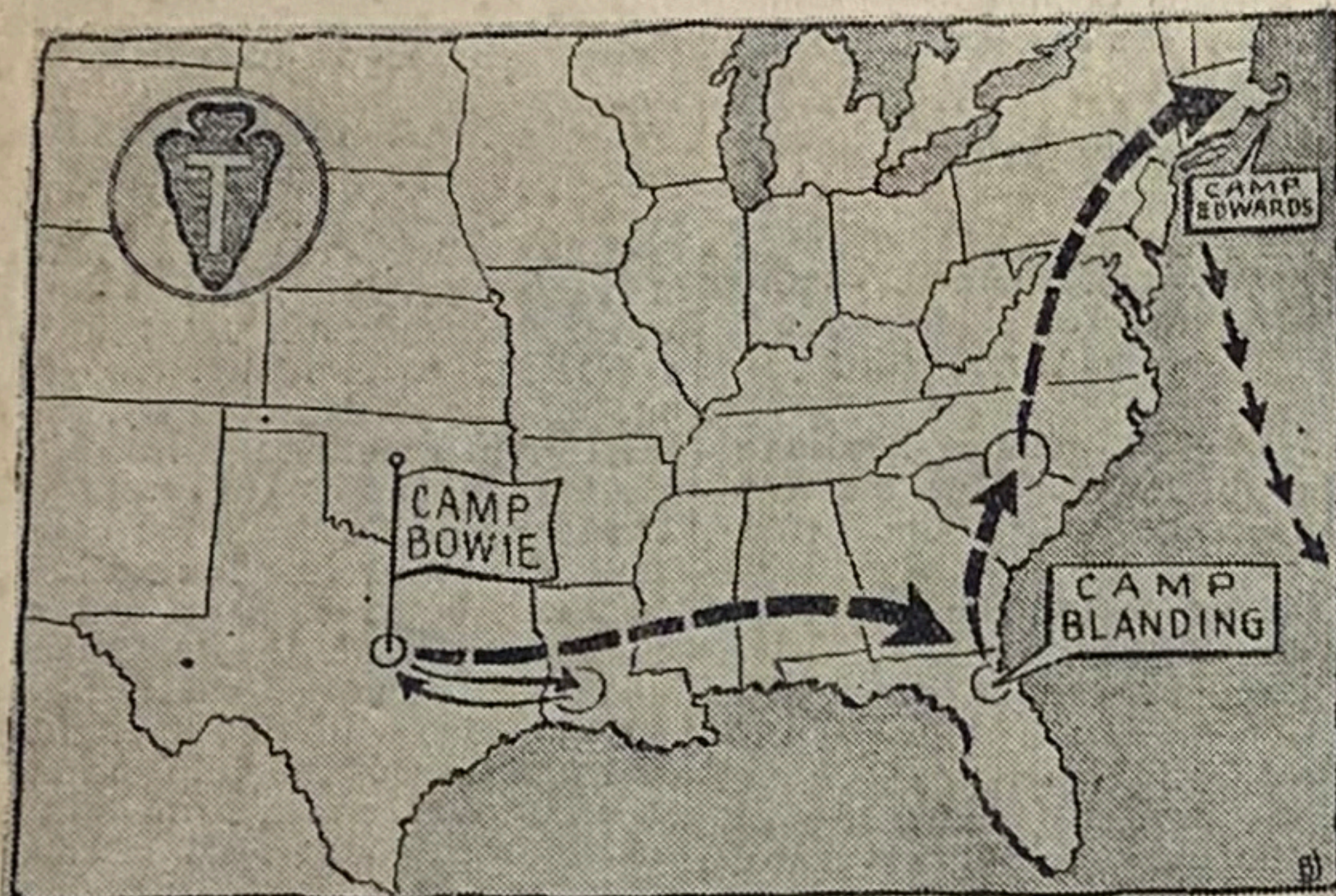
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WEEKLY

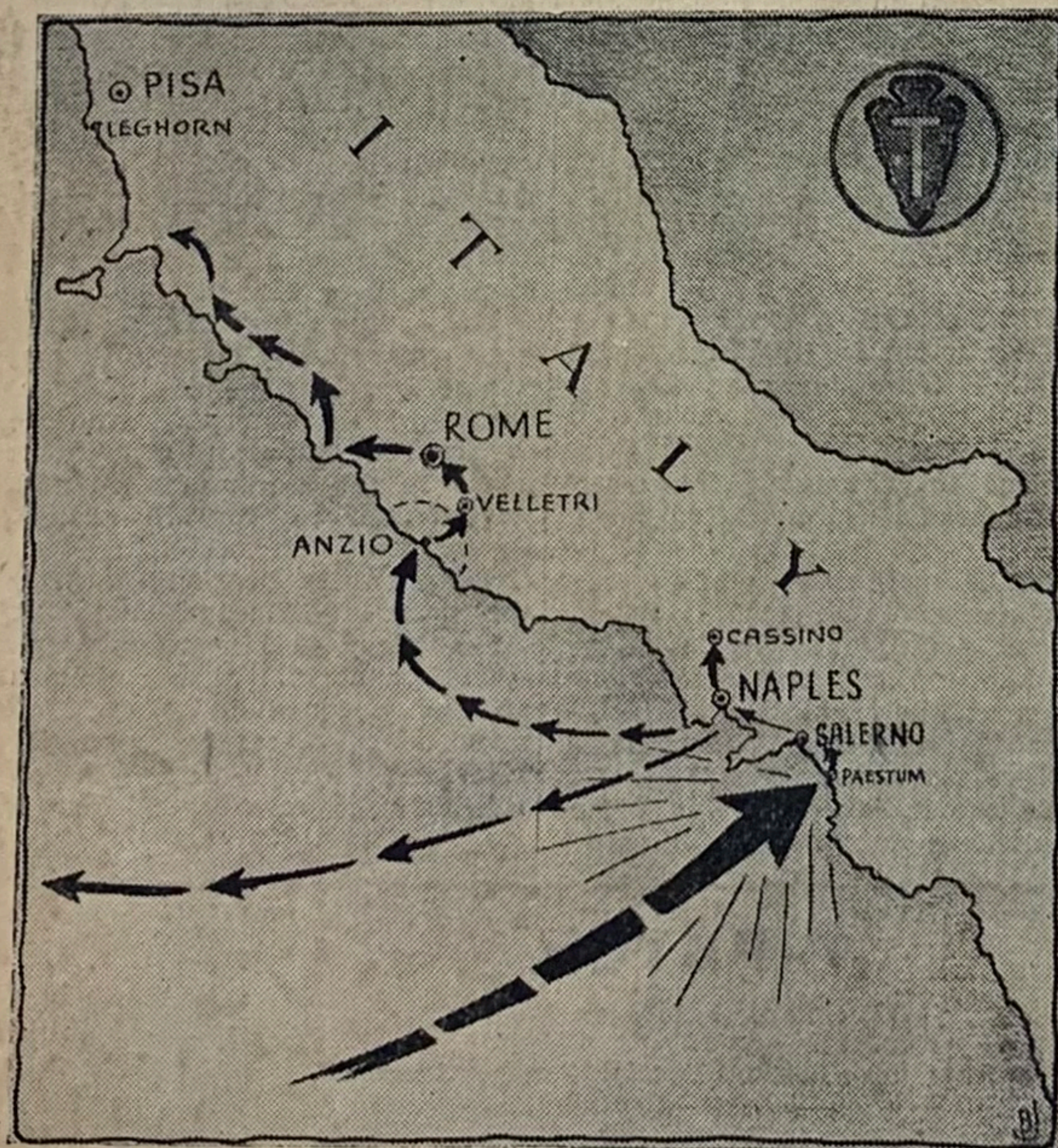
36th COMPLETES FOUR YEARS OF ACTIVE SERVICE

Deep In The Heart Of Texas



25 November, 1940. — Men of Texas respond to the Nation's « Call to Arms » as twelve thousand Texas National Guardsmen and six thousand Selective Service men assemble at Camp Bowie, (Brownwood) Texas, for vigorous training of the great battles to come. Men of the « T-Patch » encountered one gigantic maneuver in the summer months of 1941, and returned to Bowie for more training. February 1942 found the men of the 36th moving in a huge convoy through the deep-south to Camp Blanding, Florida, for amphibious training. Another huge maneuver was made in the Carolinas, and then — Camp Edwards, Mass., for the finishing touches of invasion tactics on Cape Cod. Now, on April Fool's day 1943, a huge armada carrying the men of the 36th departed — destination unknown...

★ ★ 341 Days In Italy



D-DAY — 9 September, 1943 — H-Hour — Zero 3:30 — Assault point — SALERNO ! The boot of Italy had been punctured. Five bloody days on that beach. Five days of the most grueling warfare. The fighting men of Texas swept forward over shattered defenses. Altavilla, Naples, and Cassino. The battle went on through slush, mud, rain and sleet. Up the mountain masses of Maggiore, Lungo, Cammino, San Pietro, and straight to the Liri Valley, gateway to Rome.

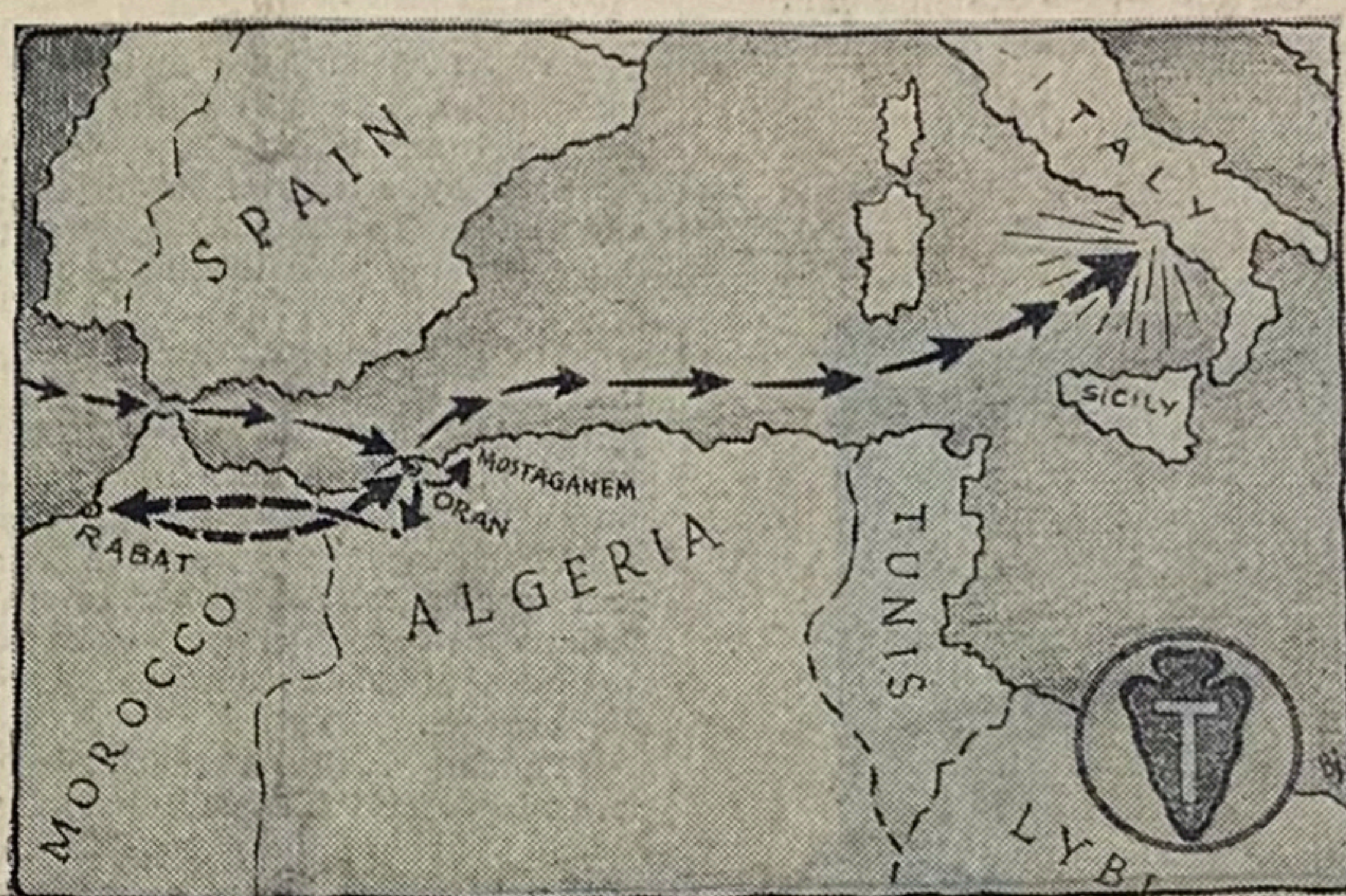
Re-vitalized and ready for action, the Texas Division moved onto the stalemated Anzio beachhead, and by a brilliant maneuver, cracked the German Velletri Line, throwing open the gates to Rome. In a monumental drive through the Eternal City, the men of the 36th swept forward — 240 miles were covered in 29 days, through Civitavecchia, Grosseto and on to the hills overlooking Pisa.

Mail Home

**This Special Edition
of the T-Patch
CAN Be Mailed
to The States.**

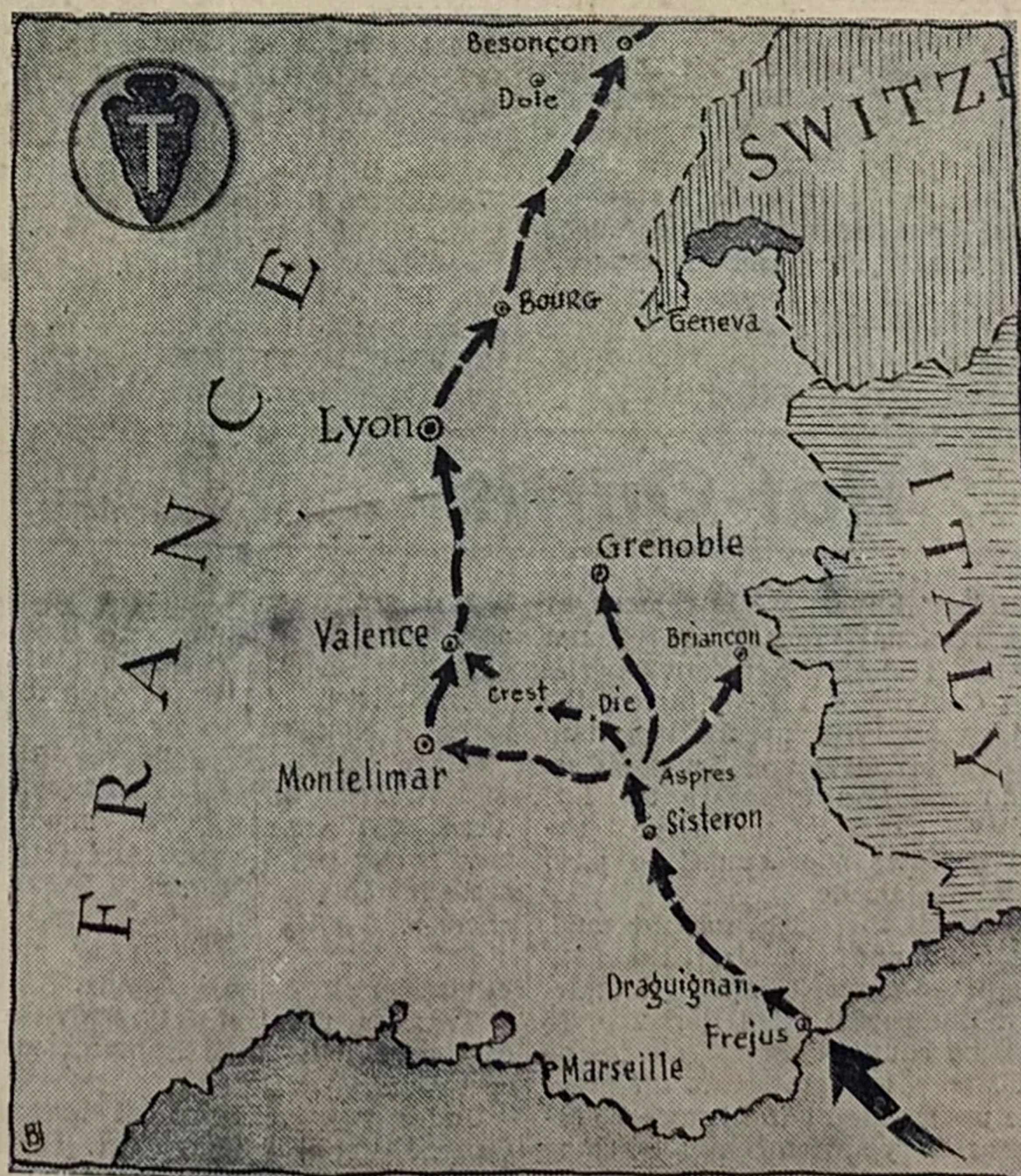
It's Been A Long Trip-Texas To France ; Battle-wise Veterans Are Proud Of Their Record

Afrique du Nord



13 April, 1943, the T-Patchers set foot on foreign soil for the first time — Oran, Algeria. Mountain training followed at Magenta, and then a long overland trip to Morocco, for more training near Rabat. Oran, Mastagenem, Rabat and Casablanca — all had been cities good to the men of Texas, and passes had come often. Then, from the ports from which they had first glimpsed, the doughboys of the 36th turned their backs on Africa and once more steamed out into the blue Mediterranean.

★ ★ Beginning Of The End...



AGAY, France, D-Day, 15 August, 1944... the 36th stormed the beaches of the French Riviera. The « T-Patchers » did not linger long on the shores of the Mediterranean. One week later the Texans were in Grenoble. On up the Rhône Valley rolled the drive. Montelimar was liberated — then Lyons — Bourg, Besançon, Vesoul and Luxeuil. The Moselle River was reached and crossed. Today, the 36th Division stands side by side with its comrades in arms — victoriously doing its part to drive the Nazis and the war to Hitler's Front Door.

Footprints In The Mud Of Time...

By

Vincent M. Lockhart

Capt., AGD.

Division Historian

Footprints in the mud of time...
Sloshing boots and soggy shoes
tell the story of the 36th (« Texas ») Division. Mud has dogged the feet of the doughboys of the T-Patch, has mired the grinding wheels of the artillery and supply trucks, and has coated unending miles of wire laid over unending miles of outstanding conflict.

« Unusual weather » is a laughing by-word that veterans of Camp Bowie, Louisiana maneuvers, « sunny » Florida, the silt-darkened Pee Dee River of the Carolinas, the snow swept peninsula of Cape Cod, the government forests of Algeria and French Morocco, the shell swept beaches of Salerno, the slippery crags of Maggiore, Sammucro, and Castellone, the rolling hills north of Rome, the blue beaches of the Riviera, and the long road into the Vosges stronghold of the desperate Boche-

Fall rains ruttled the roads and swept down old-fashioned overcoat collars as the 36th Division — mostly Texas and Oklahoma men — drove through the muck for 22 kilometers to the banks of the Aisne River. This lone offensive, over a front that modern warfare would assign to a Regimental Combat Team, marked the contribution of the original T-Patch soldiers to World War I. The scene was the Argonne forest about halfway between Reims and Sedan. The roaring tanks of the American First and Third Armies swept through this same country in less than a day in the first great breakthrough in France in World War II.

Any of the few National Guardsmen left in the Division will tell you that seasonal rains in Texas and Louisiana always waited to start their downpour as the Division rolled to its summer « encampments ». The current period of active duty was born, for the Panhandle elements, in the midst of one of the greatest ice storms in America's history. Camp Bowie (some called it Camp Goole) was knee deep in mud when the 36th moved in, early in January, 1941

The next year's training in the Indian Creek and Rising Star areas, as well as the great Second-Third Army maneuvers in Louisiana in 1941, saw plenty of rain. It was during these maneuvers that Brigadier General Fred L. Walker assumed command of the Division as Major General Claude V. Birkhead retired. The hard and excellent work of « The Old Man » was recognized shortly after the Division was « streamlined » early in 1942, and he was made a Major General.

Camp Blanding, Florida, was the scene of the first amphibious training of the Division which is now a veteran of two landings on hostile shores. The fine points on this

(Con't On Page 2)

36th's Three Commanders Praise Men Of Division



Maj. Gén.
John E.
Dahlquist,
Commanding
General

HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION Office of the Commanding General :

My greetings to the men of the 36th Division can be expressed best by the two simple words : « Well Done ! » Whatever the task may have been since its mobilization four years ago, that's the way the division has always accomplished it.

It is almost fifteen months since the Division at Salerno spearheaded the American invasion of the European Continent. Much tough bitter fighting has been our lot since then. Many of our comrades have had to make the supreme sacrifice that the rest of us might go on. Today we stand at the threshold of our enemy's country. Victory is in sight. We pledge our fallen comrades that we will keep on in the manner they taught us until that Victory is firmly secured.

JOHN E. DAHLQUIST
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding.

Claude V.
Birkhead,
Former
Commander
Of The
36th Division



TO THE 36TH DIVISION :

Because every part of our great country has long been represented in the membership of The Division, the intense pride of Texas, its home, in the unsurpassed record of the « First in Spite or Hell » is now the property of the nation.

I believe you know that the greatest pride in my life is that I was once privileged to lead The Division and my greatest disappointment was that I could not continue with you.

There are others who are no longer with you — many who have made the supreme sacrifice but who will now linger in our grateful memory — others who are carrying the old 36th Division spirit with them to every battlefield in the worldwide war. From these I get letters, hungry for news about The Division and its personnel, and from these I transmit their good wishes and greetings and add my sincerest own to every member, past and present.

No day passes that I do not send up a prayer for the fallen, and for you and yours. God-speed the final victory and the rendezvous in our own grateful America, land of liberty, opportunity and of peace.

Sincerely,
Claude V. BIRKHEAD.



Maj. Gen. Fred L. Walker, former commander of the division, with Brig. Gen. Robert I. Stack, Ass't Division Commander, holding silver « T-Patch » plaque presented to Gen. Walker just before he left the division.

HEADQUARTERS THE INFANTRY SCHOOL Office of the Commandant

Members of the 36th Division :

Four years ago, in November of 1940, you of the 36th — the Texas — Division entered upon Federal Service. Today, as a former commander, I congratulate you upon the magnificent record you have written across those years.

Step by step you have progressed through training, hardships and battle. Today you are veterans; appreciative of the necessity for discipline, wise in the habits of the enemy, gallant and heroic in combat.

You have maintained a cheerful attitude in the midst of trials that have taxed your minds, your bodies, and your souls. You have surmounted difficulty after difficulty while relentlessly driving your enemy before you, until now you stand on his border. Soon you will march triumphantly through his cities.

Your successes have been attained at great cost in the lives of your comrades. All honor to those who have joined the Great Commander, to those disabled by their wounds. Let us ever be reminded of their sacrifices. May we never fail to include them in our prayers.

Though the path ahead be long, the going difficult, my hopes, best wishes and my pride in you, with those of your Invisible Comrades, your families, your former members, will march forward with you always along your way.

FRED L. WALKER,
Major General, U. S. Army.

Twenty-Seven Million Dollars Paid To Division By Finance

From date of mobilization, 25th of November 1940, to the 6th of June 1941 the 36th Division was paid by Major W. B. MILLER, Post Finance Officer, Camp Bowie, Texas. The division Finance Section received training in Maj. MILLER'S office, and on June 6th, 1941 the office was opened by Lt. Col. MYRON G. BLALOCK with Capt. Barry D. Greer, both of Marshall, Texas as his assistant. Lt. Col. BLALOCK was ordered to Washington in November, 1941 and Capt. GREER became the Disbursing Officer on the 11th of November, 1941. On January 1st, 1942 he relinquished the position to Capt. ROBERT L. PHINNEY, of Austin, Texas, because of an assign-

ment. Capt. PHINNEY rose to the rank of Lt. Col. in this position and saw the division through the major portion of its training and a year of fighting in Italy. On August 1st, 1944, he left the division for the United States and Capt. LOWELL E. SITTON, Plainview, Texas, who had been his assistant since September 1942, became Disbursing Officer. The present Assistant Finance Officer is C. W. O. ROBERT K. McLEMORE of Dallas, Texas.

The actual cash paid out by the section from June 6th 1941 to October 30th, 1944 amounts to \$27,232,068.86.

Due to various factors, recent disbursements have reached an all time high. For the last three months there has been disbursed approximately 2 1/2 million dollars. Since slightly over 50 % of all pay is allotted, about the same amount was sent home. Most of the actual cash also reaches the Finance Office again through P. T. A.'s, Soldier's Deposits, War Bond Purchases and Money Orders.

"The Famous 36th Division"

Radio Program
Honoring Division's
Broadcast Over
Texas Network

(An excerpt from the broadcast on Sept. 8, 1944 by Norton McGriffin, over the Texas Quality Network — WBAP, Fort Worth; WFFA, Dallas; WOAI, San Antonio; and KPRC, Houston.)

At Temple, Texas, a stately memorial will one day rise in honor of the 36th Division; it will be a shrine which Texans can visit in the days to come, a museum and auditorium for which funds are now being raised. At Brownwood, Texas, where the 36th was trained, at Camp Bowie, citizens plan to erect a marker which will be dedicated next month, in the 36th Division memorial park at Lake Brownwood. That marker will be of red Texas granite, and the design on the marker will be the T-arrow emblem of the 36th Division.

Such activities here in the Lone Star State bear eloquent testimony to the fact that Texans will remember always the heroic valor of Texas' own 36th; it was over a year ago, September 9, 1943, that a great allied naval fleet escorted into the Bay of Salerno, Italy, barges carrying the 36th Division. It was a hot division, this 36th of Texas, untried in battle but eager to prove its worth to America. Onto the beach at dawn, out of the landing boats, the LCT's and the LCI's, stumbled the men of the 36th, into a flaming inferno of destruction. On the hills behind Salerno were German 88 millimeter guns; below them Nazi machine gunners were thickly sprinkled; the landing at Salerno was no surprise to the Germans.

Someone had blundered; perhaps Army intelligence had believed too many tales told us by Italian officers who had just ceased being pals of Hitler. The Germans were ready for us at Salerno; 2500 yards out in the bay, the shells whined fiercely into our landing craft. But the men with the T and the Tomahawk splashed ashore; theirs not to reason why; all they knew was that the Germans were in front of them strongly entrenched. In the first hours of that fateful September dawn, Texans of the 36th did more than was expected of them. The first wave of assault plunged head-on into Nazi defense troops crossed the beaches and trenches, cleverly criss-crossed. This initial objective was a railroad track which ran parallel to the shore, 1,000 yards inland.

The air for hours was full of shell fragments; the 36th took it. It had to fight with machine guns and rifles and a few light artillery guns against heavy German tanks; our heavy guns did not get ashore until 9:30 that morning. And so the men of the 36th bent their heads to the storm of shell and slogged their way forward. Against them fought veterans of the 16th German Panzer Division; down to the water's edge came Mark VI tanks, heavy steel monsters which seemed inhuman. Thirteen of them attacked a squad of Texans commanded by Sergeant John W. Whittaker; with a single self-propelled 75, he knocked out four at (Con't On Page 6)

Known as a "Hot-Outfit"

By
John Westenberg

November 25th, 1944 will mark the fourth anniversary of the Texas National Guard since it was activated into Federal Service as the 36th « Texas » Division and stationed at Camp Bowie, Texas.

Known as a « hot outfit » during its strenuous amphibious and mountain training at Camp Bowie, Camp Blanding, Camp Edwards and in Africa, the 36th was chosen to spearhead the first American invasion of Continental Europe.

The first assault waves of the « Texas » Division hit the beach at Salerno on September 9, 1943 at 3:30 a.m. led by Major General Fred L. Walker, commanding General. They ran into a concrete wall. For five days the valiant men of the 36th fought bitterly to secure the narrow beachhead, then the break came. The « Texans » made history but those who drove the Krauts back over the fallen bodies of the Yanks had but one thought uppermost in mind — « Bloody Salerno » had to be avenged.

From Altavilla made famous by Congressional Medal of Honor winner Technical Sergeant Charles E. « Commando » Kelly, across the muddy Volturno, up the mountain masses of Maggiore, Lungo, Carmino and San Pietro to the Liri Valley, gateway to Rome, the « T-Patchers » continued to push back the Boche.

Through the slush and the mud, the rain and the sleet the 36th fought on trying to open the gateway. But the ill fated Rapido river crossing caused severe losses to the « T-Men », who crossed to the other side under one of the heaviest enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun barrages yet known. Three attempts to establish a bridgehead failed. The Rapido ran red with the blood of the men of the 36th. Another plan was more decided on — the siege of Mount Cassino and Mount Cairo. The veteran mountain climbers took Mount Cairo but Cassino was another stumbling block.

Following a period of re-grouping and a re-organization, the

36th moved to the stalemated Anzio beachhead area. There a brilliant maneuver enabled them to crack the Velletri line, throwing open the gates to Rome.

During the 30 days following, the 36th traveled 240 miles and captured 5000 prisoners. The important towns of Montalto and Grosseto fell to the victorious « T-Patchers ».

On August 13, 1944, after another period of re-grouping, the « Texas » Division left Italy to take part in its second amphibious operation.

Under the command of Major General John E. Dahlquist, they landed at Agay, France, on August 15 without as much as getting their feet wet. Their losses on the Riviera were negligible. The Texans have avenged « Bloody Salerno ». Exactly one week later they were in the town of Grenoble.

The Germans were forced into a disorganized retreat. At Montellimar the 36th halted in its rapid advance. For one week they poun-

(Con't On Page 6)

T-PATCH

36th « Texas » Division News

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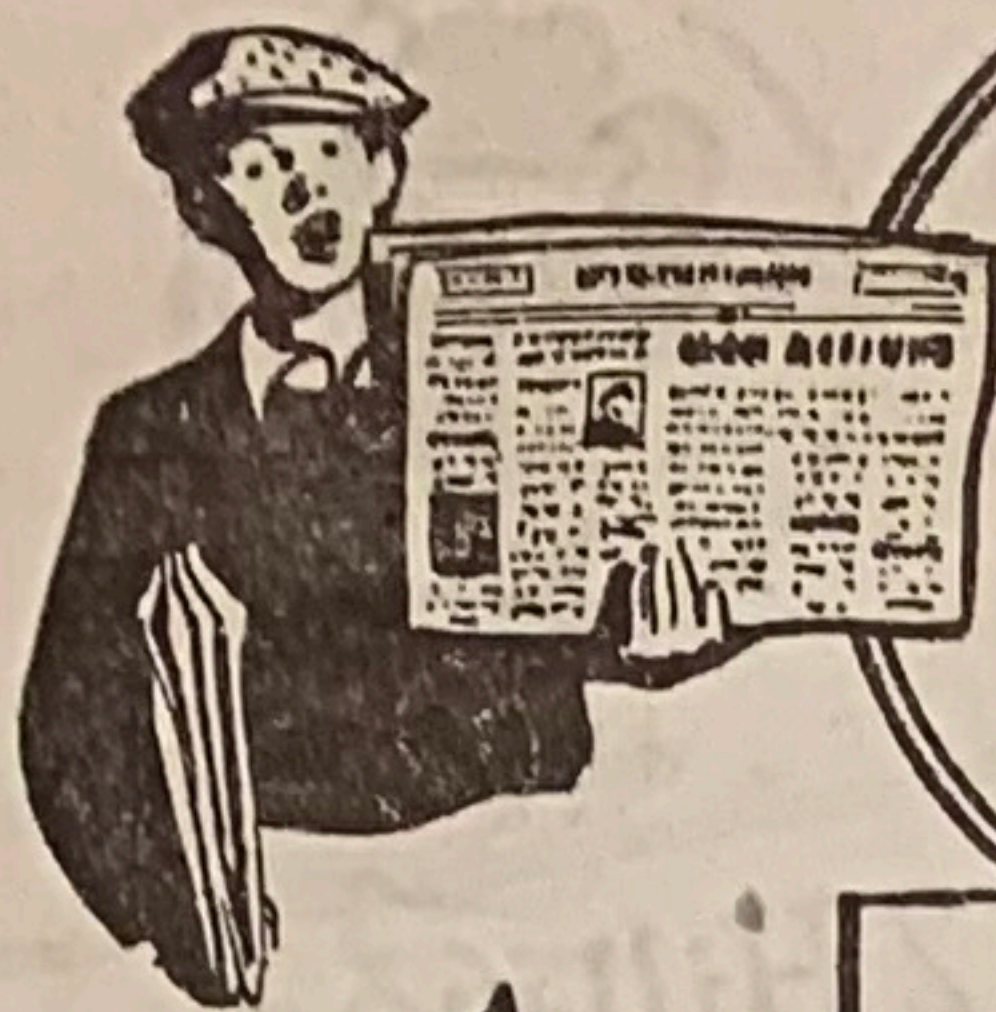
Vol. 2 N° 12

EASTERN FRANCE

Nov. 26, 1944

IMP. « LE COMTOIS », BESANCON





36TH DIVISION

Anniversary
ISSUE

HOMEFRONT

HEADLINES

T - PATCH

36th Division Biggest Texas News Story of '43

FDR, Riot, Hurricane Prominent

By JACK KRUEGER
Associated Press State Editor.
Thirty-Sixth Division. Roosevelt. Hurricane. Race Riot. Fire. Oil. Industry booms. Governor vs. rationing. Longhorns win. Murder mystery.

These are keywords in the biggest Texas stories to burst into print in 1943, and they cover a lot of ground.

There were other stories, other big stories, but these on the basis of the play "Texas" paper-saving editors gave them, were tops.

This catalogue was a kind of delight editors: stories of specific spot happenings worthy of the bold-est headline type. Only two of them—rationing and industry—were of the looser, spread-out kind which get their reader-impact through sustained development.

Last year the story selected editors as the year's biggest Texas was "the war."

In this 12-month the war story came into sharp, often pair focus. The Thirty-sixth division, only great army unit bearing brand

36th Division Is In! It's Our War Now!

The 36th division is in that bitter for the beaches at Salerno.
The 45th is in there too.
At least that's what the German there has been no denial from Gen. Clark.

The 36th is the former Texan boys. is mostly from Texan boys.

36th Division Doing Great Combat Job On Italian Front Says Official

The 36th division—not an all-Texas outfit any longer but still in spirit and in great

Clark Praises 36th Division

AUSTIN. (AP)—A letter from Lt. Gen. Mark Clark, commanding the 5th Army, praising the 36th division's performance in Italy.

Sometimes this took a at macabre form. I was going up a road that on the scene of fighting ours before. I stopped to a grim but curious sight. to one side of the road vical ornate

trenches, the barrage was on the hilltop and bracket the enemy platoon on the farther slope, forestalling a counter-attack. The mission demanded split-second timing and

Texans Led Attack at Salerno, Fought With Valor and Humor

36th Division in Thick of the Battle; One Unit Snared 21 Germans by Using Tactics Learned on Sand Table at Fort Benning

By John O'Reilly
By Wireless to the Herald Tribune
Copyright, 1943, New York Tribune Inc.
ALGIERS, Nov. 24.—The 36th Division, composed mainly of Texans, was the spearhead of the American invasion at Salerno and is still in action in Italy.

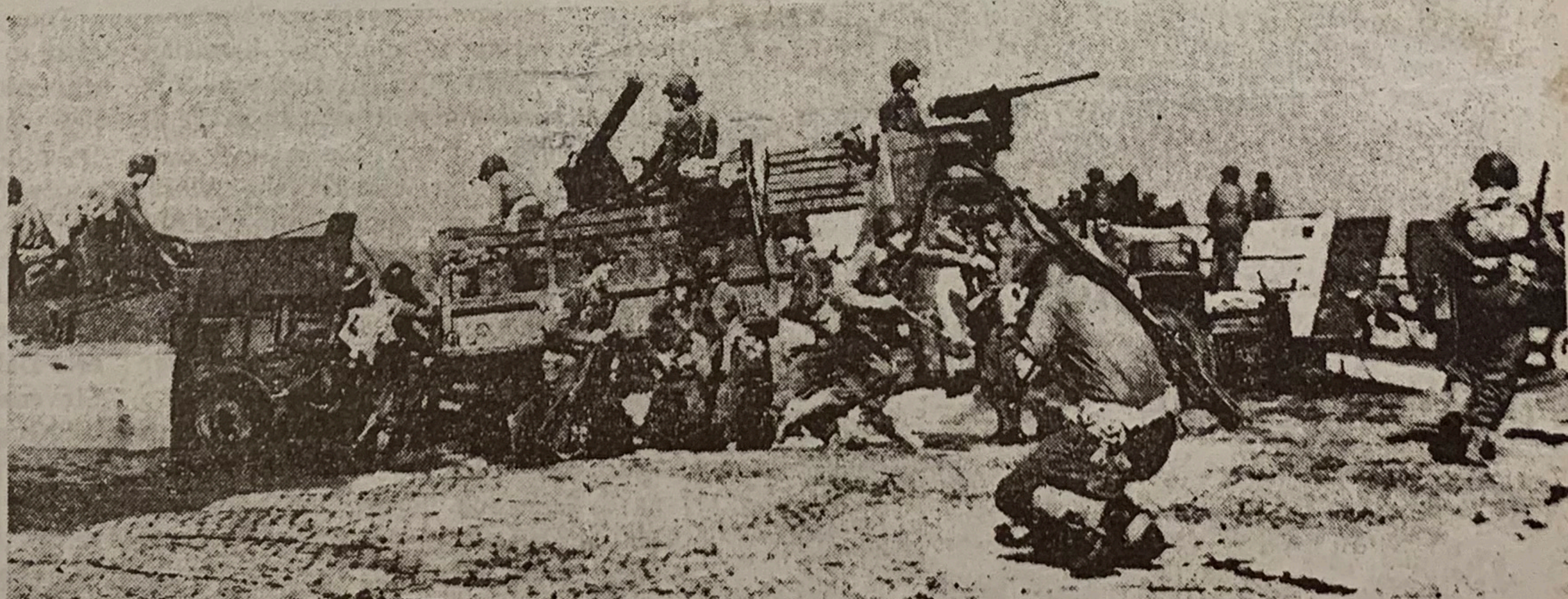
Italians Folded Up After Hearing Texans to Attack but Nazis Fought Fiercely

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—"Italians heard the Texans were coming and folded up," the men of the famed 36th Division quipped just before they went into the Salerno landing, the War Department reported Wednesday.

The 36th was in the thickest of fighting for that beachhead. Division has been changing original form

CALDWELL, Jan. 12 (AP) Burleson County's casualty in the Italian invasion alone reached 61, with the receipt War Department news of deaths of two additional well boys of the 36th Division.

Messages received Tuesday told of the death of Corp. E. Reeves Jr., son of Mrs. Reeves and John Reeves, in action Dec. 9, and of Luksa, son of



GERMAN 88-MM SHELLS were whistling overhead as these fighting men (now identified as the 36th Division) charged ashore.

L. S. B. Shapiro, accredited to headquarters of Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark, commander of the Fifth Army, traveled to Salerno Bay aboard Gen. Clark's

visions will keep constant pressure on the British-American force by frequent sharp counter-attacks. The Sele River line of demarcation will be held by German troops as long as possible. Battipaglia must be regained at all costs. A strong

The Salerno Plan in Operation

Allied Invasion of Italy in Which Texas' 36th Division Came Out With Honors

German Scheme to Blast Troops Into Exhaustion and Then Attack Was Completely Wrecked.

BY L. S. B. SHAPIRO.
War Correspondent of the Montreal Gazette.

North American Newspaper Alliance.
August 17 was a red-letter day on the front pages of the Allied world. At first light on that day, patrols of the 7th Army entered Messina. Word flashed triumphantly to the outside world. The Sicilian campaign was over. On the afternoon of that day, President Roosevelt arrived in Quebec to begin his formal conferences with Prime Minister Churchill and Canada's Premier Mackenzie King.

On that evening, in a drab and dusty encampment somewhere in North Africa, a signals runner handed into the headquarters office a two-word code message. Lieutenant General Clark, commander of the 5th Army, looked at it, summoned his chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther.

The message instructed General Clark to put into immediate op-

ular maneuver, and raced in a direct line for Salerno Bay. Zero was nine hours beyond the night seas.

Less than an hour the first shots were fired in the Salerno

visions will keep constant pressure on the British-American force by frequent sharp counter-attacks. The Sele River line of demarcation will be held by German troops as long as possible. Battipaglia must be regained at all costs. A strong

lowed by one or two companies of infantry.

North of Salerno City, Rangers and Commandos clung to their mountain pass positions. German troops had cut in be-



We threw everything and by nightfall the beach was str

Salerno Was a Roughhouse, So 36th Took Care of Itself

(Editor's note: Symbolic of the spirit and strength of Texas soldiers was the battle action of the state's own 36th division in the invasion of Italy. Here, as a record before the eventful year 1943 ends, integrated from many dispatches, the story of how the 36th stormed the beaches at Salerno is told again.)

By the Associated Press
The first wave of fighting men from Texas swept onto the flat, sandy beach of the Bay of Salerno near dawn, against scattered fire from shore batteries and German 88's, and the attack seemed going well.

barges over the last thousand yards to the shore, and pinned the first wave to the beach.

Then each man knew that attack had been no surprise.

"Who started that story night about the war being over?" Growled one, as his hit shore under the blaze of arms explosions. The night as the transports knifed the gulf, had come.

Luling Soldier Was 1-Man Army in Salerno Fight

ROME, Aug. 12 (AP).—The award of the Congressional Medal of Honor to Tech Sgt. James M. Logan of Luling, Texas, was not made because he was the first to land on the beaches at Salerno.

Recognition of his battle against the enemy when they attempted to land on the American 36th Division beach some hours after the distinguished battle of the Battle of Rome after he had been six months with a division at Salerno again as its breakthrough announcement of award to the division made from weeks ago.)

36th Division Private Wins Honor Medal

WITH THE 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION IN ITALY.—By moving forward on his own initiative and knocking out three well-placed German machine-gun nests near Alta Villa, Pvt. William J. Crawford, 26-year-old rifleman of Pueblo, Colo., enabled his outfit to continue its advance and earned him award of the Medal of Honor.

Private Crawford was captured on the day of his heroic feat and is now a prisoner of war. Arrangements will be made for presentation of the medal to his father.

When Company I attacked an enemy-held hill 424 on 1943, the Third Private Crawford attacked as Base company. After of the hill, the down by intense and small arms of these guns, on a terrace on Private Crawford on his own the hill under within a few placement and ved the ma three of the

2 Hills in Italy Monuments to 36th's Courage

BY STAFF CORRESPONDENT
WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Hills 370 and 960 are behind men of Texas' 36th Infantry Division in Italy now, but the conquest drew upon their every resource of courage and strength in fighting as fierce as any in the war, the War Department reported Wednesday.

When the 36th launched its attack on the hills on the night of Dec. 23, every Texas private in the division knew what lay ahead. He knew that Hill 960, stretching 3,000 feet skyward and dwarfing Hill 370, was crawling with enemy machine guns and snipers with tions. He knew that the hills were the key to the entire sector.

VETERANS OF ANZIO IN RIVIERA SMASH

Third, Thirty-sixth and Forty-fifth Infantry Outfits in Invasion—1st Airborne Behind

ROME, Aug. 18 (AP).—American infantry divisions that invaded southern France were identified today as the Third, Thirty-sixth and Forty-fifth—all veterans of the Anzio beachhead campaign and formerly part of the Fifth Army. Troops of the United States First Airborne Force landed behind the German lines, an official announcement said.

Sept. Platoon was a Platoon reaching day as the Third, platoon enemy fire. L. which w. his imme ford, with Initiative, enemy fire yards of ti single-hand chinegun a crew with a abling his

One-Man Army Tells How He Won Coveted Medal Of Honor

The following was written for AP Features by Sgt. Charles E. Kelly of Pittsburgh, member of the 36th division, winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor, in response to a request that he tell how he won it.

By SGT. CHARLES E. KELLY
SOMEWHERE IN ITALY.—It was at Salerno where we landed on Sept. 9. We had orders to occupy the high points and we went 22 miles inland without any opposition. The Germans were withdrawing before us. Then we reached Altavilla where we met an attack.



I volunteered for a patrol. I located and came back and

With the AEF in Italy

The Durable Old 36th Sets Bunch of Brand New Records for War's Books

BY KENNETH L. DIXON.
WITH THE AEF IN ITALY, June 26 (Delayed) (AP).—Since our Army headquarters has announced that detailed reports on the activities of the 36th Division up to date may be released this is as good a time as any to recount how the one-time Texas outfit has set a bunch of brand new records for war's history books.

Successful assault on Rome from the south; (2) Continued the attack, hounding the Germans 240 miles as the road widens from the Anzio jumpoff point; (3) Captured more than 5,000 prisoners, not to mention additional thousands killed.

their historic drive would substantially shorten the war. It seemed right and just to those who have followed the 36th throughout nine months of bitter battle.

Immortal 36th Endured Great Hardships Says Its Commander

AUSTIN, March 30. (AP).—Never in the history of the United States have American soldiers had to "endure greater hardships or have performed greater deeds of heroism than this campaign in Italy."

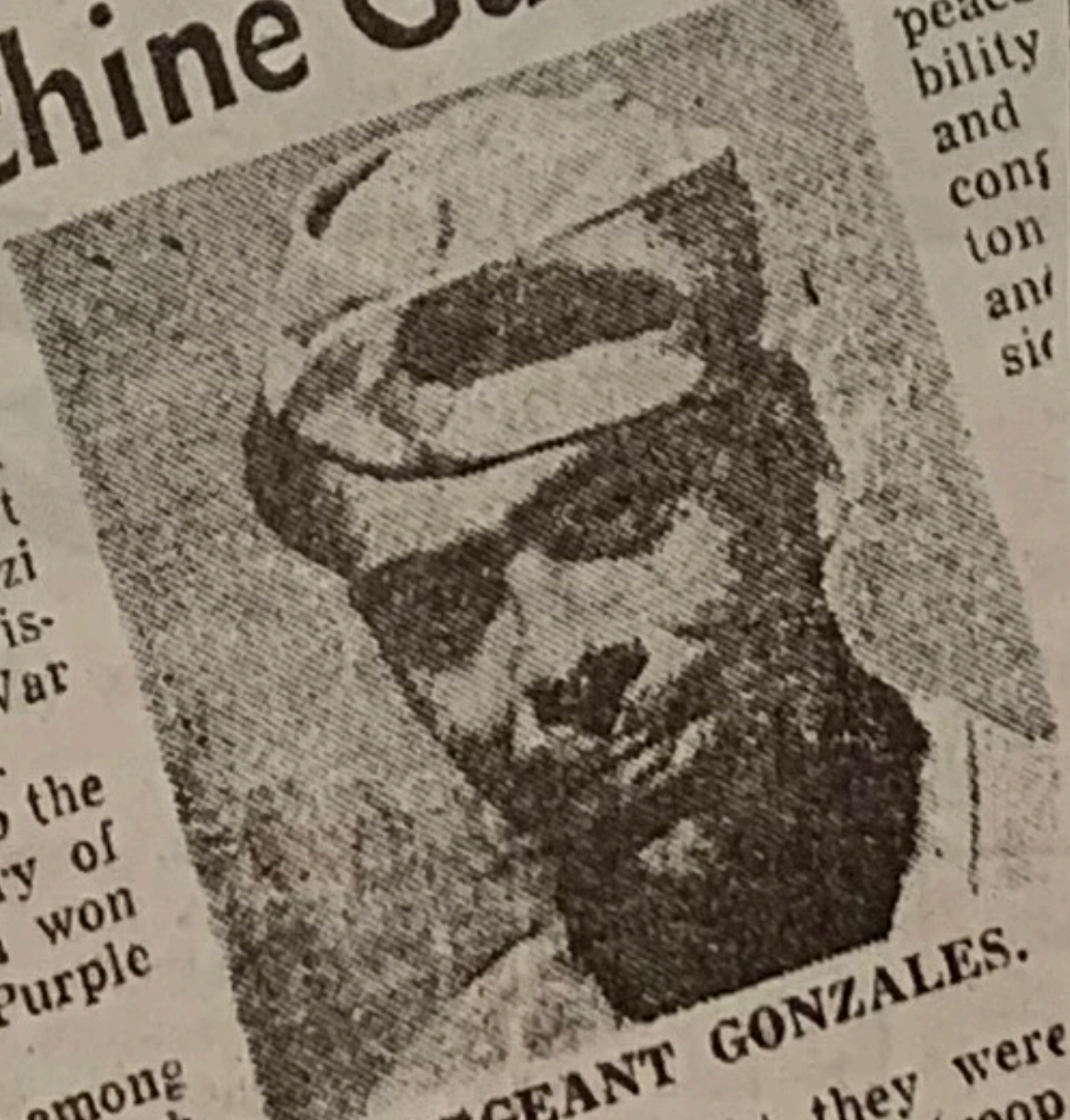
Gov. Coke Stevenson today released a letter from Maj. Gen. Fred L. Walker, commander of the 36th division, including that praise of the division and other remarks.

"Trophies" a German Mark IV which he knocked out with zooka at Cassino.

Sunday, July 30, 1944.

Texan, in First Hour, Gets Four Machine Guns

BY BASCOM N. TIMMONS.
WASHINGTON, July 29.—Just one short hour after he went into combat for the first time, Tech. Sgt. Manuel S. Gonzales of Fort Davis had cleaned out four Nazi machinegun nests and won the Distinguished Service Cross, the War Department reported Saturday.



SERGEANT GONZALES. Sick that they were our troop

General Dahlquist's Estimate Of "Fighting 36th" Division

THE "FIGHTING 36TH" Division was all Texan when it went into training at Camp Bowie some months before Pearl Harbor. Then it was constituted from Texas National Guard, which had kept itself in fighting trim by training since World War I, and as consistently had maintained its target-practice.

By the time it reached Salerno—after fighting through the Tunisian campaign—the 36th Division was only half-Texan. When it went to battle at Anzio, broke through the Velletri Line and opened the way for the Allies' drive upon Rome, the Division was but one-fifth Texan. The first 10 days at Salerno had cost it about 5,000 men. Another 2,000 fell at San Pietro; three days' fighting along the Rapido River took 1,500 more.

So many replacements were sent in by the time the 36th smashed through at Velletri and headed for Rome, on May 25, that it was no longer Texan in fact, but all-American. Yet so readily did the newcomers fall into its tradition, that it remained Texan in spirit.

The Division fought along the road to Rome just as it had fought on the road to Tunis, and as at Salerno, where it successfully carried out "the war's most difficult operation." That was

the first American beachhead to be established on the European Continent, and the first to be won against entrenched German opposition.

The Fighting 36th had blazed the trail for D-Day on the French coast (June 6), in which operation another Texas organization (the 90th Division) figured creditably.

Today—fighting along the Arno, close to historic Pisa, with Berlin as its ultimate goal—the 36th Division has a new commander. Maj. Gen. John E. Dahlquist (who acknowledges himself a non-Texan) has succeeded Maj. Gen. Fred L. Walker, who has been called home and assigned to Fort Benning (Georgia).

Concerning his new command, General Dahlquist has written to Governor Stevenson at Austin:

"No greater privilege has ever been given me. The 36th Division is one of the finest in the Army. Its war record to date is one of which it is, and should be, extremely proud."

That showing, the new commander credits largely to "the fact that the 36th is a Texas Division." Certainly, under a leader who believes in it so thoroughly, the 36th cannot do otherwise than carry on to new feats as brilliant as any achieved up to now.

Fourteen Months Of Combat Pile-Up Record-Breaking Total Of Awards

Over 1200 Silver Stars ;
1748 Bronze Stars For 36th

The fighting men of the 36th Texas Division have piled up a tremendous list of awards and decorations in the past 14 months of combat, since 9 September 1943 to 31 October 1944.

Five men of the 36th have received the nation's most cherished award — the Congressional Medal of Honor. The most notable wearer of this decoration is T/Sgt. Charles (Commando) Kelly, formerly of 143rd Infantry Regiment. T/Sgt. James M. Logan, 141st, a one-man army from Luling, Texas was the second 36th to receive the CMH. Lt. Arnold Bjorklund, Seattle, Wash., and Pvt. William Crawford, both of the same company of 142nd, received their award for action that took place on the same day in the same sector, near Altavilla, Italy, September 1943. The fifth CMH will go to Sgt. Homer L. Wise, who will be formally announced in next weeks T-Patch.

The following is a total of other awards and decorations, covering a 14 month period :

Distinguished Service Cross	59
Distinguished Service Medal	1
Legion of Merit	24
Silver Star	1203
Soldier's Medal	33
Bronze Star Medal	1748
Air Medal	30
Division Commendation	1000

Oo, La-La ! Passes To Paris

If you're one of the lucky individuals who can get on the limited number of 48 hour passes to Paris that are now authorized, you're in for a real trip... The Louvre, Notre-Dame Cathedral, Eiffel Tower, and « eye-ful » mademoiselles... Get out your phrase book, grab two blankets and your messkit, and when you report to the Central Registration Office, 11 Rue Scribe, located in the American Express Building across from the Opera House, most of your troubles are over. Your billet and your meals will be arranged by the American Red Cross Club.

Units of the division have been notified of their quota, and trips started November 17th. Uniform will be the same as prescribed for Seventh Army area.

★ 36th DIVISION ★ PASSES IN REVIEW

On the huge, table-top replica of the beaches of Salerno, staff officers of the 36th Infantry Division studied the possibilities that loomed before them.

The 36th Division had been readied to make the first invasion of Hitler's Festung Europa. As part of the newly organized Fifth Army, the men were members of the first United States Army of World War II activated abroad. Their's was distinctly a United States Army.

On the morning of September 9, 1943, a huge invasion armada carrying the Fifth Army and escorted by a great Naval Flotilla entered the Bay of Salerno, Italy. One of the units was the 36th. To it went the honor of spearheading the invasion. Known as a « hot outfit » and untried in battle, the men were mostly from Texas and eager to prove their worth to America.

Behind them lay months and years of training. Before them lay the unnamed battlefields of Hitler's mighty European fortress. For the trials ahead the men reviewed the lessons learned at far off Camp Bowie, where the Texas National Guards were activated into Federal Service on November 25, 1940 and became known as the 36th Infantry Division. The T-men recalled the Louisiana and Carolina maneuvers of 1941 and 1942, the training received under hot Florida sun at Camp Blanding and the cold New England weather of Camp Edwards.

They remembered the thirteen days it took to travel from New York to Oran over a calm Atlantic Ocean. The sight of land, even if only a huge mountain mass in the distance swelled their pride. The day was April 13, 1943.

Algeria and Morocco had been pleasant. The North African nights cool, the days work-filled but interesting. Oran, Mastaghenem, Rabat, Casablanca — all had been cities good to the boys from Texas and passes had come often.

As the time drew near for their debut as fighting men, the boys were confident, ready. They had waited a long time. Then from the ports from which they had first glimpsed it, the doughboys of the 36th turned their backs on Africa and once more steamed out into the blue Mediterranean.

D-day began for the men long before a full moon came out of the smooth Tyhrennean Sea to hang like a searchlight over the beaches. The men destined to be the first on Italian soil were lowered into the landing craft shortly after midnight. The beaches were ten or twelve miles away.

The boys from Texarkana and Brownwood, from Dallas and Houston, Jersey and New York were tense now. Their eyes strained toward the towering, dark mountains across the beaches, searched expectantly the star lighted Italian skies.

Led by Major General Fred L. Walker of Columbus, Ohio, the Texans stormed the beach at dawn out of the LCT's and the LCT's, stumbled the men of the 36th. Into a flaming inferno of death and destruction they ran. On the hills behind Salerno were German 88's; below them enemy machine guns were thickly sprinkled; the landing at Salerno was no surprise to the Germans.

2500 yards out in the bay, the shells whined fiercely into the landing craft. The T-Pachers splashed ashore against a strong and well entrenched enemy. In the first hours of that fateful September dawn, the Texans did more than was expected of them. The first wave of assault troops, the 1st and 3rd battalions of the 141st Infantry Regiment, crossed the beaches and plunged head-on into Nazi defense trenches, cleverly criss-crossed. The initial objective was a railroad track which ran parallel to the shore, 1,000 yards inland.

Shells screamed overhead, started falling among the ships fighting to surge closer to the sandy beaches. Fires from burning craft began to send dull streaking glows

out over the water. The noise of the attack grew into bedlam.

The 36th stood and fought there on the Salerno beach until the waters of the bay were churned into a crimson foam; they fought against German panzer units— heavy steel monsters—who had neared the water's edge in an attempt to drive the T-men back into the sea. In spite of the red hot steel which tore big gaps in the wall of the Texan line, the 36th fought on until the Mark IV's retreated into the hills. The doughboys would not be driven into the sea. Boys in combat less than half a day became veterans; their acts of bravery and heroism became routine.

To consider the beachhead secure, the high ground of Altavilla and Albanella had to be taken. Resistance at Albanella was quickly overcome but a different story was recorded at Altavilla. For six days, the battle raged back and forth. It was there that Technical Sergeant Charles E. « Commando » Kelly, became a one-man Army which won for him the first Congressional Medal of Honor to be presented to an enlisted man in the European Theater.

The Texans secured the beachhead. They refused to be driven back into the sea. In their hearts they had carried with them the memory of the earlier 36th which lost 5000 casualties in the Meuse-Argonne battle in 1918. They remembered that one of the regiments of the 36th, the 141st, was born during the whirlwind days of the Texas revolution, fought under the Stars and Bars in Hood's immortal Texas Brigade, served in the Spanish-American War and in World War I. They recalled that they were heirs of a great military tradition. Concealed in the Lone Star Battle Flag they carried into battle lay a capsule which contained the message Colonel William B. Travis wrote to the world when Santa Anna besieged the Alamo. Said Colonel Travis, « I shall never surrender or retreat. » There on the beach at Salerno, the men of the 36th made good again their promise. They pushed the Germans back.

The third battalion of the 141st, composed of men from San Antonio, Luling, Gonzales, Weelder, and San Benito, received a presidential citation for valor. As the Germans withdrew to Naples, the 1st Battalion of the 143rd Infantry made an amphibious assault south of Naples, caught the Germans by surprise and hastened their retreat northward. Then with other units of the Fifth Army, the 36th slugged its way into Cassino.

The mountain masses of Lungo, Cammino, Maggiore, San Pietro, and Castellone Ridge were occupied under adverse weather conditions. The Italian winter with its wind, rain, slush, snow and mud, was compared to the fighting during the days of the American Revolution. Said General Walker, « The sufferings at Valley Forge do not even compare with the privations the men of the 36th faced in Italy. »

Near Cassino, the 36th fought their way across the Rapido River, into the barbed wire, the mortar fire and the mines of strongly entrenched Germans. Two attempts failed; the third was called off. The Texans now reinforced with replacements from Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Illinois and California, had attempted the impossible and almost succeeded.

Then came Anzio. On May 26, 1944, the 36th was committed to the line. In a brilliant flanking maneuver which caught the Germans completely by surprise, the 142nd infiltrated the German lines to occupy the high ground above Velletri and trap more than 500 Germans in the city below.

The 29 day whirlwind advance that followed from Velletri thru Rome and beyond to the hills overlooking Pisa, liberated 240 miles of territory and netted 5000 prisoners for the 36th. The 143rd entered Rome, aided in its liberation. To

(Cont' On Page 6)

Senator Tom Connally Of Texas Cites Valorous Deeds Of 36th Division For Congressional Record

Commendation of
Thirty-sixth Infantry Division

★
EXTENSION OF REMARKS
of
HON. TOM CONNALLY
of Texas
IN THE SENATE
OF THE UNITED STATES

Monday, August 9th, 1944.

Mr. CONNALLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have in the RECORD an article from the Dallas (Tex.) News relating to the Thirty-Sixth Infantry Division, the members of which came from my state, and to Maj. Gen. Fred L. Walker, former commander of the Thirty-Sixth Division, during its operations in Italy.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows :

VALOROUS DEEDS OF THE TEXAS
THIRTY-SIXTH WIN GENERAL'S HIGH
PRAISE.

Fort Benning, Ga., July 25. — Back among familiar surroundings Tuesday was Maj. Gen. Fred L. Walker, former commander of the Thirty-Sixth (Texas) Division, which gained fame for its fighting in Italy.

General Walker, nearly two decades ago, was a student at the Fort Benning Infantry School. He assumed the duties of commandant of the school after a conference at post headquarters with Brig. Gen. William A. Hobson, post commander.

« I have observed our soldiers in battle on the Italian front over a period of 10 months and I am convinced that our soldiers are better than the Germans, » General Walker said.

In a report to Lt. Gen. Ben Lear, United States of America, Commanding General Army Ground Forces, in Washington, General Walker said our soldiers are « more cheerful, » more confident, better marksmen. After having seen our men going through the hardships of last winter during which they were subject to almost continual

rains, mud, cold rations, and continual artillery and mortar fire, maintaining a cheerfulness far superior to the enemy, I feel confident that they are capable of being made into the best soldiers in the world. »

The Thirty-Sixth Infantry Division, which General Walker commanded, has seen some of the bitterest fighting of the war — under fire of the enemy's guns at Salerno. They were in the fighting at Altavilla, made one of the hardest crossings of the river in the war — the crossing of the Rapido — and fought at Cassino. They were one of the divisions in on the capture of Rome.

« The Thirty-Sixth Infantry Division is a great outfit and I hated to leave it, » General Walker said. « The public knows the deeds of some of its more publicized heroes such as Sgt. Charles (Commando) Kelly and Sgt. James Logan and Pvt. William Crawford, who won the Medal of Honor, and Sgt. Manuel Gonzales, who won the Distinguished Service Cross. But the division has hundreds of other heroes, real infantrymen who have proved that they're the kind men you like to soldier with. »

Although an Ohioan himself, General Walker's face lit up with pride when he talked about the Thirty-Sixth, which was the Texas National Guard before it was inducted into Federal service in 1940. He assumed command September 13, 1941.

Although Selective Service trainees who filled out the division to combat strength and replacements from all over the Nation have given it an All-American flavor, General Walker says the citizens of Texas still regard it as their own.

He was notified before he left Italy that Texas Highway 36 has been renamed Thirty-Sixth Division Memorial Highway and plans are going forward to erect a monument to the division on that highway near Temple, Texas.

General Walker was not an eye witness to Sergeant Kelly's feats which won for him the Medal of Honor, but he visited the Mayor's house at Altavilla — the scene of Kelly's exploit — after the Germans had been pushed out of the city.

« The third story window from which Kelly dropped mortar shells as grenades on the advancing Germans was about 70 feet above the ground with a deep ravine below that, » he said. « From there it was easy to make the shells fall on the points so that they would detonate. »

« The Thirty-Sixth Infantry Division has suffered heavy casualties several times, » he continued, « but our men have had what it took to come back and give it back to the Germans in kind. Although we've seen less days of action than some of the other divisions, we've seen the toughest kind of action of all, storming a well fortified beach and rivers. »

General Walker is proud of a letter received, just before he left Rome, from Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark, United States Army, in which the Fifth Army Commander said in part :

« My heartiest congratulations on your new appointment, I am delighted that the Infantry School will have such a skilled commandant. »

The Fifth Army regrets the loss of one of its veteran commanders but realizes the importance of the role you are to play in the training of infantry for future battles.

« At this time I wish to express my very best wishes for every success as commandant of the Infantry School as well as to extend my congratulations for the superior job which you performed as commander of the Thirty-Sixth. »

Four Years Of Deservant Glory

It started in November, of nineteen forty,
During the coolness of a mild Texas fall ;
The 36th Division was mobilized,
To answer our country's call.

We built Camp Bowie, thru hardships, untold,
We continued to build, and deservingly bold ;
The « T-Patch » brought fame where ever it went,
While through the nation, our men, we sent.

Through Florida, and Camp Edwards we fully scored,
No place or no time, were the civilian bored ;
We included new men, and « Yankees » too.
And they carried on with high-spirit thru.

We landed in Africa, the « Whole Gang » was there,
Our next movement, we knew not where ;
Then glory bestowed us on « Salerno Day »,
And the « T-Patch » made history, that's here to stay.

Thru Italy, we stormed, many loses sustained,
But the ole 36th, thru it all remained ;
We gallantly endured the hardships with burning pain,
Thru the snowy-icy winters, and the drenching rain.

The gay Riviera was landed upon, another milestone to gain,
Again the « T-Patch » was on hand, to contribute to our fame ;
But still we've suffered, the « old gang's » are few,
And yet, our new men are fighters' true.

Those of us who recall the days,
When maneuvers and week-ends were our ;
Can look ahead with one thought in mind,
That spirit of the « T-Patch » will never sour.

May we bow our heads, and reverently pray,
For the comrades who are not here today ;
No glory too high can they obtain,
And there memories, we cherishly sustain.

We've recalled the days while we are here,
When our barracks were crowded with laughter and cheer ;
But now, four years, of terror and regime,
Brings back only memories, and the future, a dream...

Cpl. Dick Pratt.

★ The Infantry Soldier ★

HEART AND BACKBONE OF THE AMERICAN ARMY

By Clarence Lasky
141st Infantry Regiment

The veteran and much publicized 36th « Texas » Division have pushed the Krauts around in Italy and now France — pushed the « supermen » over hundreds of miles on battlefields, and now, right into the Hun's backyard.

In France, it was a case of hitting the enemy by surprise with everything possible, dig him out and flatten his beachhead defenses and chase him continually without a let up. That, they did with the air-corps, navy, artillery and engineers all chiming in, until now, he is back up on the doorsteps of his fatherland.

Yes, the infantry did the bloody and toughest part. You'll find soda jerkers, salesmen, farmers and truck drivers in this branch and a man from about every job and profession in America. Some now are battle wise, weary and have had their share, while others are replacements, who have to acquire battle instincts. Not long ago, these doughfets were having a snort at the nearest bar, dancing in a ballroom with their sweethearts, making future plans with their partner in life — but now, they're engaged in some of the hardest fighting imaginable in the toughest terrain possible. Just look back in Italy, when everywhere we turned, observation was incessantly on us, and now the same is beginning to hold true again. As one buck sergeant put it, « When someone asks who took those mountains, crossed that river, captured the most prisoners — why one doesn't have to look far or think for a

moment, as he knows it's his own battle-tested and unsung, 36th.

Talk to any other branch of service — tankmen, engineers, quartermaster, navy — any of them — and they will all respond, « Yes, it's the foot soldier who has the toughest and hardest life and full credit goes to him for winning wars. It's unbelievable what load and hardships he has to endure. » The big battles and victories that are blared over the radio and which headlines the front pages are now resting in history books for the GI Joe. In later life they will be fond recollections.

No grade school youngster will know of Hill 695 in the Vosges Mountains where a battalion of the 141st Regiment was without food, water ammo, and medical supplies for 7 days and survived the ordeal with miraculous courage until other elements attacked, attacked and attacked, time and time again, to relieve pressure on them.

Again, no one will probably recall the battle of Montelimar, where a regiment had the retreating German 19th Army encircled, emplacing tremendous casualties on both manpower and vehicles. Yes, the Jerries escaped but not until they paid dearly and severely. One look at the battlefield afterward revealed thousands of the « supermen » dead, vehicles strewn from hell to high water, tanks burned and now charred wreckage. How the infantry managed to hold and inflict such heavy casualties will only be revealed when one looks through the regimental history.

No one can fully describe how it feels to live in a foxhole, mud covered from persistent rains with

cold and mist nipping at every living organ. Clothes wet, weapons rusty, hunger, sickness and sudden death are reflected, on the foot soldier, who wanders around in a green OD suit with an M-1 as his basic weapon. Yes, that's his basic instrument but he is versatile, inasmuch as he can handle all weapons efficiently. He drives anything from a bicycle to a 2 1/2 ton truck, cooks, lays wire, and can repair all deficiencies with his mechanical aptitude.

The question arises how does the foot soldier does it — one word expresses fully the answer, GUTS. It carries him through when artillery and mortar fire is continually pounding, when attacking a wooded area and what lies beyond an unknown factor, walking cautiously through a mine field, night patrols when one cannot see his hand in front of his face.

It's the doughboy all right — the guy who plods along overloaded, the guy who, if lucky, gets 5 or 6 hours sleep out of the 24 hours in a day. Mud up to his ankles, emplacements full of water, all night marches — Yes, that's Joe of the Infantry. Right now he is unsung but daily the social students are beginning to realize that war has to be won by the Infantry with the aid of other branches of the armed services.

Yes, the Infantry is the heart and backbone of the American Army.

Westenberg con't page 2

ed the German forces trapped in the Rhone valley. When the smoke cleared, the road before the city was literally buried with German dead and wrecked equipment.

Lyons was the next large city to fall. Continuing their push to the flooded lowlands of the Moselle river, the « T-Patchers » ran again into inclement weather. Braving the adverse conditions, they pushed on, and are bringing the war ever closer to Hitler's front door — and final victory.

TEXAS RADIO BROADCAST

(Con't From Page 2)

close range and was promoted on the spot to a commission. At Salerno Sergeant James M. Logan of Luling, Texas, first man ashore from his boat in the first wave which hit the beaches, went to work with his rifle, firing point blank into the German infantry pouring down to meet the invaders. He won the Congressional Medal of Honor in a battle where every man was a hero.

The 36th stood and fought there on the Salerno beach until the waters of the bay were churned into crimson foam, fought until the stubborn panzer units retreated into the hills, fought in spite of the red hot steel which tore big gaps in the wall of the Texans. They would not be driven into the sea, although Hitler's most fanatical troops did their best to stamp out the bridgehead.

They shoved the Germans into Naples and beyond; with other units of the Allied Fifth Army, they slugged their way to Cassino.

Infantry units of the 36th were suffering heavy casualties; replacements came in from New Jersey, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania, including one Charles « Commando » Kelly, 145 pounds of wildcat. At Cassino infantrymen of the 36th fought their way across the Rapido River, into the barbed wire, the mortar fire, the mines of strongly entrenched Germans. Two attempts failed; the third was called off. Texans had attempted the impossible, and had almost succeeded.

Then came the landing at Anzio; the swift push to Rome by way of Velletri where the 36th Division out-flanked some of Germany's best units, to take part in the final assault on Rome. Next the Texans, native sons and honorary citizens, fought their way from the Eternal City to the Gothic line, smashing

36th Division Band Stars On First Edition Of 7th Army Radio's "Army Highlights"

On Thursday November 16, the American Expeditionary Station, Radio 7th Army, presented « Army Highlights » featuring the achievements of the men of the 36th Division.

The program opened with eight bars of « The Eyes Of Texas », introducing the « T-Patchers » of Texas — the spearhead of the first American invasion of continental Europe. Featuring the 36th Division band of 21 pieces, the program presented the 36th's favorite singing star, Nelson Jung, and Jon Forte, composer of one of the best soldier songs to be produced

overseas, and the story of the division and the men in it.

Lt. Ralph Turner, master of ceremonies for the program, concluded his sketch of the 36th : « Texas to France — a long trip — a trip which hasn't been easy, but the valiant men of Texas and those from the other 48 states, who now make up the 36th, are proud of their record established over that journey — a record of spirited, determined, and courageous combat — a record which shall continue until they've won the kind of peace and security they want. »

36th PASSES IN REVIEW

(Con't From Page 5)

the Gothic line, the Boche retreated when the 36th was taken out of the line. A new and more important assignment was in store for the T-Patchers, now veterans of amphibious, and mountain combat.

Major General John E. Dahlquist of Minneapolis, Minnesota, led the Texans when they invaded the French Riviera. As part of the reorganized Seventh Army, the 36th and other veteran American Divisions, spearheaded the attack.

Bloody Salerno had been avenged. The 36th landed without ever getting their feet wet. The assault of units was made according to plan and the initial objectives were successfully occupied. The enemy had been taken completely by surprise. Quickly taking advantage of this, the 36th broke through the prepared enemy defensive positions and crushed the forces marshalled against them.

Frejus and San Raphael were liberated by D plus one. The impetus of the initial assault was sustained and progress continued to be rapid in all sectors. French people originally shocked by the impact of the mighty blow and not accustomed to freedom after their four years of oppression, became

joyful, throwing flowers, forcing kisses on soldiers, giving freely of their precious wine. Their day of jubilation was at hand.

Draguignan, Digne, and Sisteron were freed in quick succession. At Grenoble, the 143rd received an ovation that the veteran doughboys will always remember. With even less than organic transport, the 36th reached the Rhone river valley and was making dispositions for the great battle of Montelimar.

Task Force Butler, a fast moving, hard hitting composite force had streaked to the north as far as Gap and caused great disruption and consternation in the German forces on the right flank before it was turned to the west.

The surprised, shaken and disorganized German army feeling itself harassed from all sides and recognizing the precariousness of its position tried to salvage itself by withdrawing up the Rhone Valley. But at Montelimar, it suddenly found its escape route blocked by the 36th Division.

The retreating army forced into the Montelimar pocket between the river and the heights occupied by the 36th Division, was hammered unmercifully by artillery. The battle was bloody. Great numbers of the enemy were annihilated, enormous quantities of supplies and equipment were captured or destroyed and hundreds of prisoners were taken.

The valley opened, the 36th took up the pursuit of the fleeing Germans. A platoon of combat engineers entered Lyons, and aided the French in liberating their third largest city. Louhans, Besancon, and Vesoul were quickly liberated in spite of stiffened enemy resistance.

Infantrymen from the 142nd and 143rd who had liberated Luxeuil-Bains, returned a few days later to take their first hot bath since arriving overseas. Weeks later, Mayor Jean Pattegay, on behalf of the people of Luxeuil, presented to General Dahlquist and his 36th Division, a blue, white and gold battle standard decorated with the white star of Liberation and the Torch of Liberty. The standard commemorated the liberation of the city by the T-Patchers.

Day by day enemy resistance increased. The T-Men encountered every conceivable natural and artificial barrier that the Boche could think up. All were overcome, but the rapidity of the advance decreased in intensity.

The Moselle River threatened to be another Rapido, but the lessons learned there were not forgotten. In the face of Hitler's vaunted SS troops firmly dug in on the opposite banks of the river, the 141st crossed to the other side, established a bridgehead and secured it against enemy counterattacks. The battle for the Vosges Mountains had begun.

From Texas to France in four years, the 36th has traveled over land and sea, by truck, train, and ship, but mostly on foot. The training has been tough, the fighting hard, but soon it will be from Texas to Berlin. The objective will have been reached, the mission accomplished.

That is the record of the driving 36th « Texas » Infantry Division of the United States Army.

FOOTPRINTS IN THE MUD

(Con't From Page 1)

technique were drawn out at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, and again at Arzew, Algeria, after the Division came overseas in April of 1943.

The bloody shores of Italy south of Salerno are now famous for the attack which was spearheaded by the 36th (« Texas ») Division in their baptism of fire. Their gallant deeds there won a Presidential citation for the Third Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, and the award of the Medal of Honor for T/Sgt. Charles E. (« Commando ») Kelly of the 143rd Infantry, 1st Lt. Arnold J. Bjorkland and Private William J. Crawford of the 142nd Infantry, and Staff Sergeant James E. Logan of the 141st Infantry.

Out of the line seven weeks for replacements and training, the T-Patch men relieved the Third (« Rock of the Marne ») Division in the Mignano sector of the mountains of Italy. The bitter cold of snow, sleet and rain added to the tremendous terrain advantages of the stubborn Nazis, but the « Men of Texas » drove the Boche from the rocky crags of Mount Maggiore, Mount Lungo, and the now famous Hill 1205 (« Mount Sammuero »). Depleted and weary, these men rested a scant two weeks before re-entering the line to sweep the remaining crags of the Liri Valley and then attacked across the icy, treacherously swift flowing Rapido River on the night of 21 January 1944. For sheer bravery, drive and determination, no other action of this war can compare to the gallantry of those fateful two days. Bloody from attacks from three sides, the remnants of two regiments came back across the stream, and the Division was recommitted in the snowy Mount Castellone area. Mount Castellone was the cornerstone to the Cassino operation. Without it, no assault on the famed Abbey Hill could have been attempted. The bitterly defending Germans counterattacked again and again, but again and again the men of the 36th drove them off with devastating casualties to the enemy.

A long rest in the pleasant Italian spring weather, refitting, retraining, and many a company commander was heard to say :

« My company is better now than it ever was. » This mettle was tried, and found true as Damascus steel when the Division moved by boat to Anzio and launched the offensive at Velletri which broke the backbone of German resistance. The clever flanking movement of seizing Mount Artemisio behind the fortified city of Velletri caught the Nazis napping, and the jubilant 36ers, remembering the yard by yard movements of the winter, ruthlessly drove the tortured men of Hitler 240 miles to the hills overlooking Pisa.

As the Texas Division was feverishly re-equipping, training and preparing for another great amphibious assault on Hitler's Festung Europa, Major General Walker was recalled to the States to command The Infantry School, and Major General John E. Dahlquist assumed command.

Versatility proved its value in the August assault landing on the Riviera coast, when the 141st Infantry landed on two narrow, almost impossibly rocky « beaches » and drove immediately to their objectives. The 143rd followed them in, passed through on the flank, and did not hesitate as they reported « on objectives ». The 142nd Infantry, unable to land as originally planned because of failure of engineer and naval groups to clear underwater obstacles, followed on the same beaches, and the great rout of the Wehrmacht in Southern France was begun.

It was swift blows here and dash for there as, aided by the indomitable Maquis, the 36th moved on to Draguignan, Castellone, Sisteron, Aspres and Montelimar. At Montelimar, the 36th barred the way for approximately four German divisions, and extracted a toll of a division of enemy and a vast multitude of vehicles before the desperate Nazis broke out to run away to the north.

Covering almost 400 miles in 30 days, the advance then slowed as it reached the Moselle River. Veteran web-feet were called upon again, and yard by yard a stubbornly resisting enemy was driven back into the Vosges Mountains, where again rain and the cold and mud and snow hampered the driving men.

Footprints in the mud of time...