

# PHOTOGRAPHIC *avalcade*

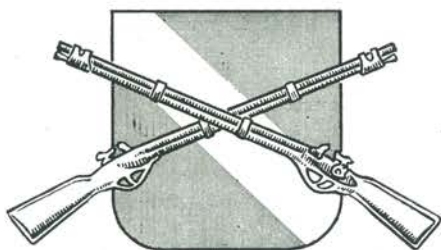
*Pictorial History  
of the*

75

INFANTRY  
DIVISION

1944 - 1945





*Pictorial History  
of the*

**75**

INFANTRY  
DIVISION

1944-1945

C A M P A I G N S

- ★ *Ardennes*
- ★ *Rhineland*
- ★ *Central Europe*  
*Colmar*

V O L U M E O N E

EUROPEAN THEATRE

- ▶ ENGLAND
- ▶ FRANCE
- ▶ BELGIUM
- ▶ HOLLAND
- ▶ GERMANY

OF OPERATIONS

PHOTOGRAPHIC  
*Cavalcade*

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# PRODUCTION

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## LAYOUT DESIGN

ILLUSTRATION TOPICS

William Rath

PRODUCTION MANAGER • JOHN S. ROWE



*"Out of the night that covers me  
Black as the pit from pole  
to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.*



# Preface

It was Christmas, 1944, when we met for the first time on the torn, frozen fields of battle. Gold braid no more. If there were any sharply creased, olive drab uniforms, they were crammed with sweaters, field jackets, and every article of clothing available, issue or otherwise. In place of polished, ox-blood boots, there were outside-in combat shoes, for the green sloping fields of an American army camp. There were rocky, shell torn patches of soil, and always the uneasy, restless noises of things happening. . . . We are fortunate who read this, for we do not have to share the loneliness of those left behind never to forget the suddenness and violence with which they were forced to rest. Call it a dedication if you like, or a hero's epitaph, but let us not forget their sacrifice in order that we might enjoy what they lay down their lives to make possible. The whole world is their tomb, and in far off places, where only history declares it, there is enshrined in every breast, not with words or pictures, but with what is in the heart, a eulogy for them.

Mud-spattered, frozen youngsters in uniform drove their way through portions of France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany, endlessly bogging down in the deep snows of the fateful Ardennes Forest, suffering from extreme cold in the Ruhr Pocket, and nearly dying everywhere they went—all of this and the great American heart and

spirit were indefatigable. The desires and hopes of the GI were common in combat as well as in the peace that was to follow. He thought not of the luxuries alone, but of those basic comforts essential to existing. He wanted to keep clean whenever and wherever it was possible; during the short moments of rest he wanted diversion from the tension of battle, but most of all he wanted that which brought him closest to what he loved and cherished as home—mail. The sacrifice that he was making was to insure the future happiness not only of his family, but of all mankind. These men we shall take as our models, and if we want happiness to be the result of our fight for those already defined freedoms of life, then never shall we be sorry that it was necessary to struggle and suffer for it. It is to those who were lost that we dedicate our time and our energetic thoughts, for losses did not only fall to the enemy, and we did not win a war, we merely won our right to let freedom have an opportunity to be the keynote of our democracy.

Those moral convictions, those ideas of tolerance, and release from oppression of the weak and persecuted are not too high sounding for us all to understand. And now that the sword has been laid away and the dust of our dead blessed, the peace can only survive if we conscientiously live it, and in the face of odds rise to meet them.





*Major General Fay B. Prickett*



COMMANDING 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION FROM AUGUST 1943 TO JANUARY 1945



*Major General Ray E. Porter*



COMMANDING 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION FROM JANUARY 1945 TO JUNE 1945





*Major General Arthur A. White*



COMMANDING 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION





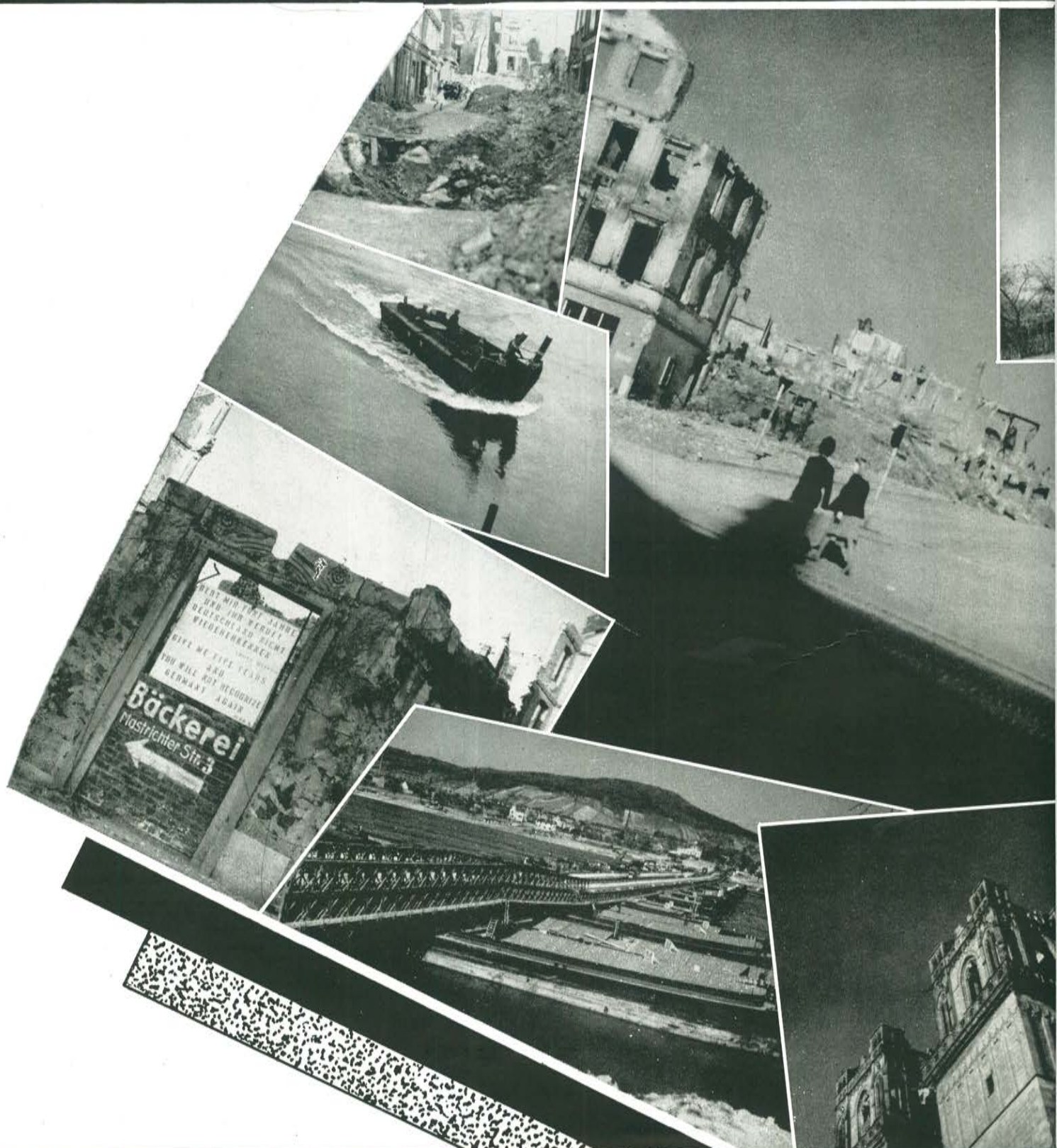
*Brigadier General Gerald St. C. Mickle*



ASSISTANT DIVISION COMMANDER



# REPORT



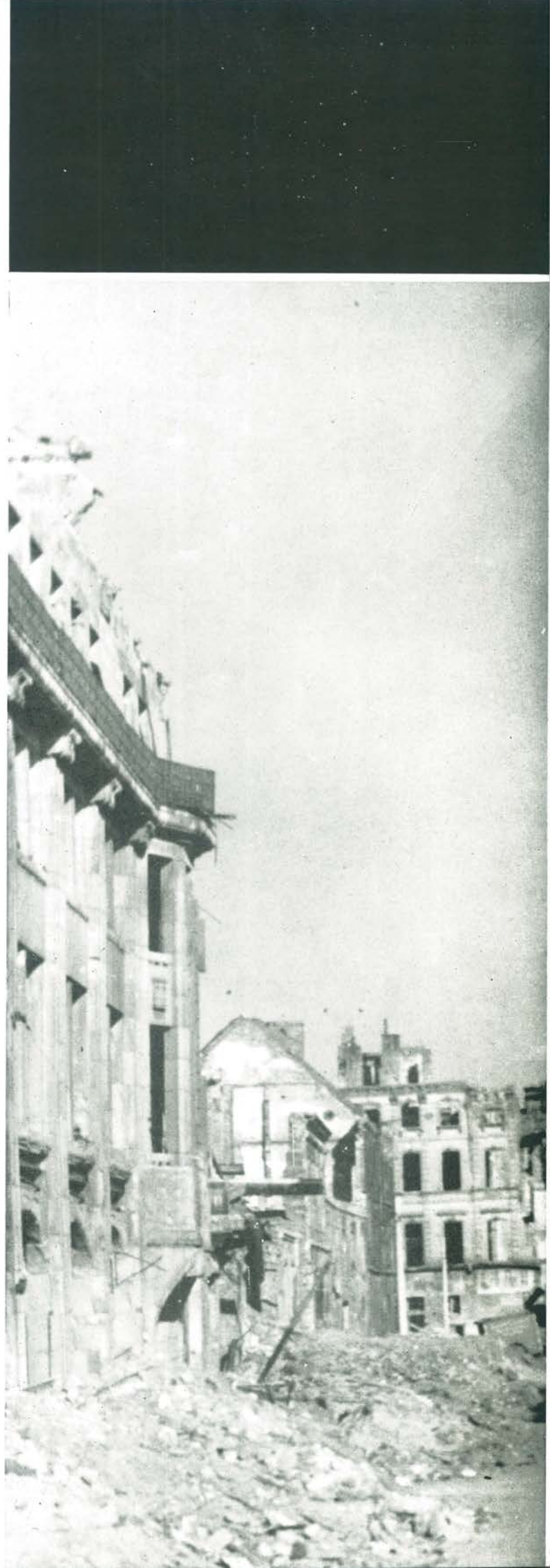








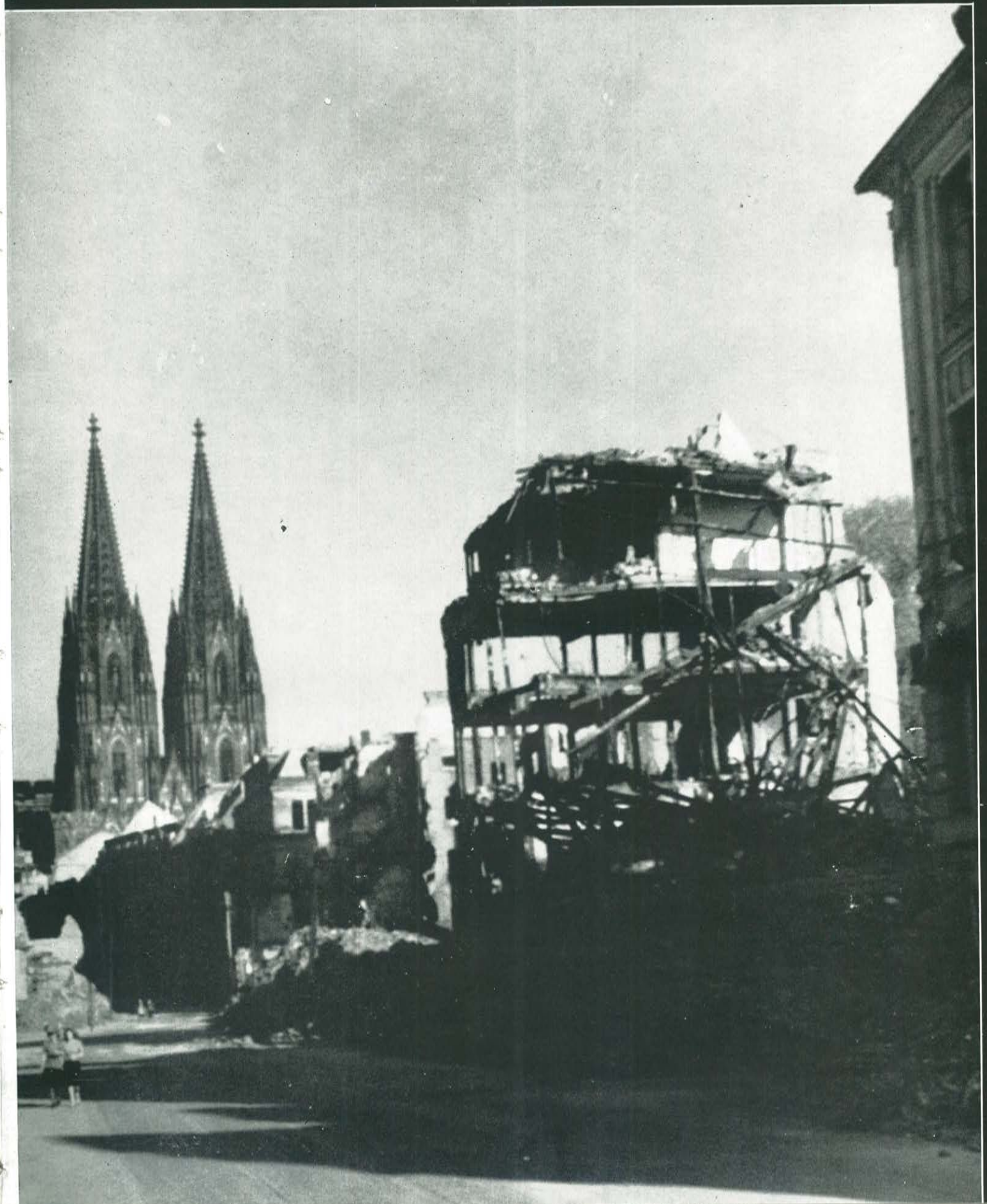
How will the people of our times recall the events through which they have lived? This is the question which was posed by many editorials in newspapers and periodicals for many weeks and months just preceding the climax of the war and after the victory. Would the memory of the scenes of destruction, pictures of gore and sudden death and destruction, help men formulate a plan by which they can retain a peace, lasting and definite? The individual is all important in making such a decision; it is within his power to decide his own fate. The qualities and ideas of the individual are more than ever today reflected in the mass, and it is up to the soldier who helped to fight this war to make the future secure for his posterity. Peace is no longer the duty of a government, but a duty left to the man in the street. From the adventures he has had in World War II, let him decide whether or not the high cost was warranted and another war to be fought could possibly be justified under righteousness. This is Cologne—where American bombs seemed to show reverence for the great Cathedral, but once wide boulevards which led to the hall of worship were soon narrowed by the crumbling debris.





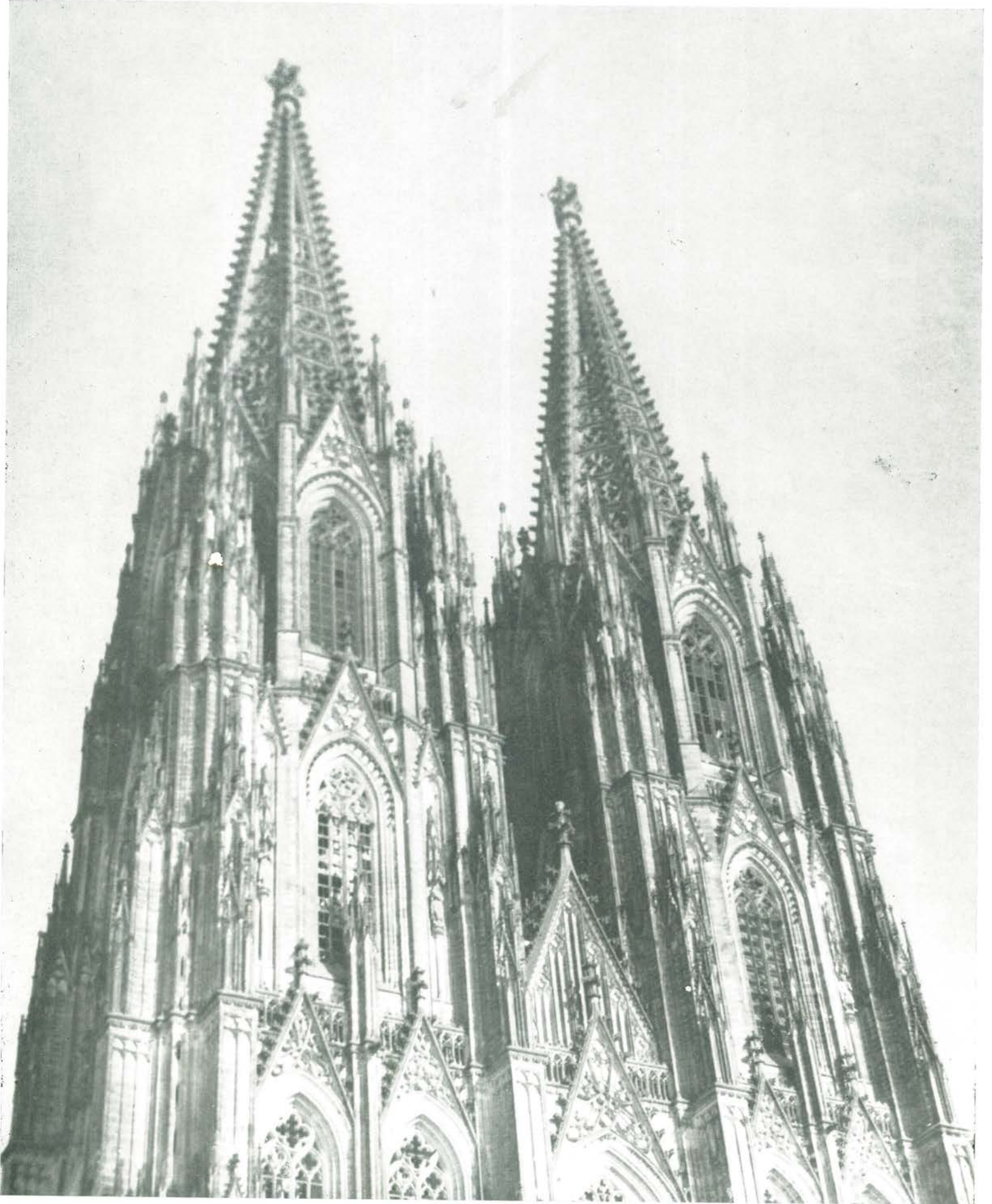
# COLOGNE

G E R M A N Y





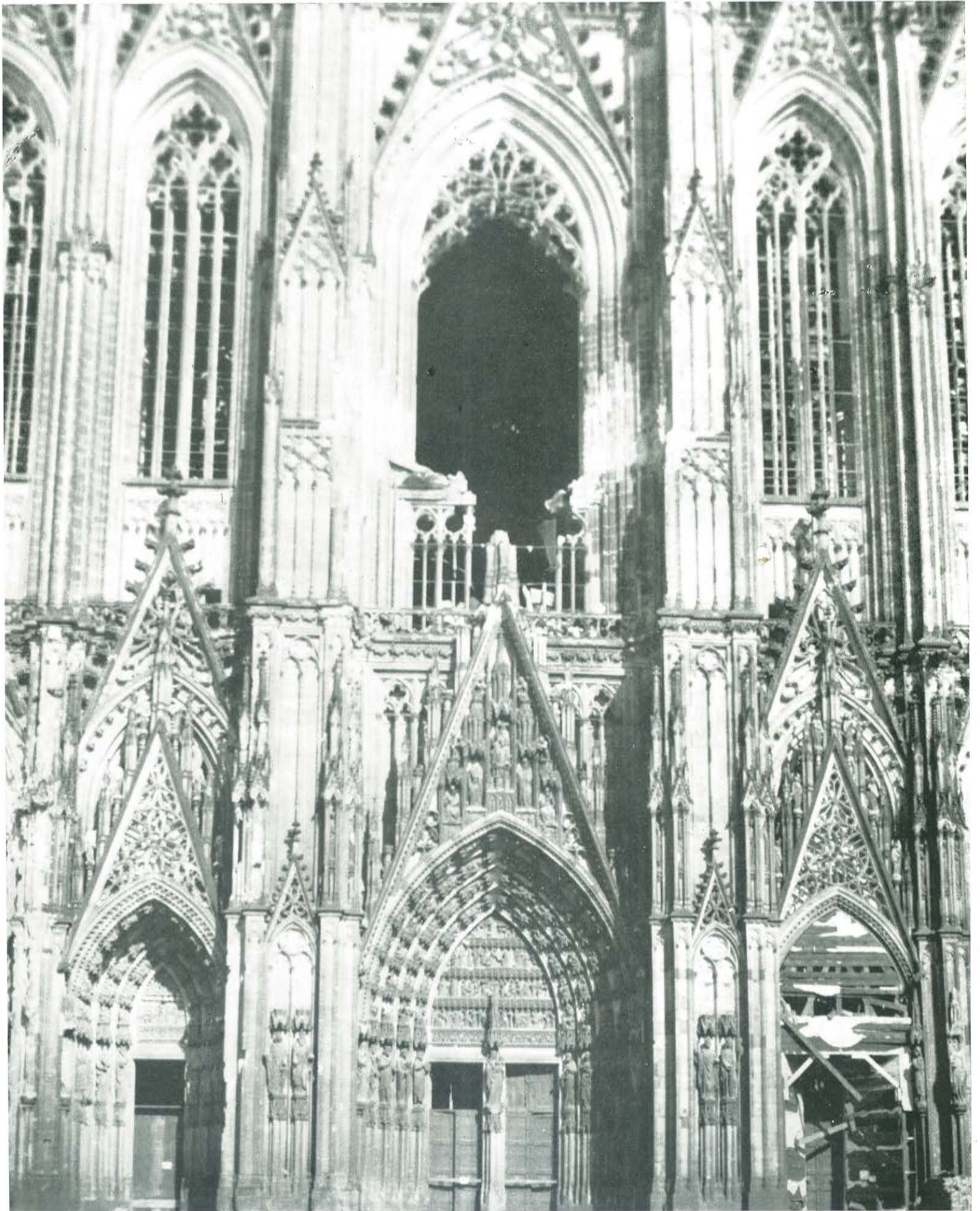
*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



THE POMPOUS CATHEDRAL AT COLOGNE WAS ONLY VERY SLIGHTLY DAMAGED AND ITS SKYSCRAPING TOWERS STILL HOLD THE GAZE OF AWE INSPIRED PEOPLE



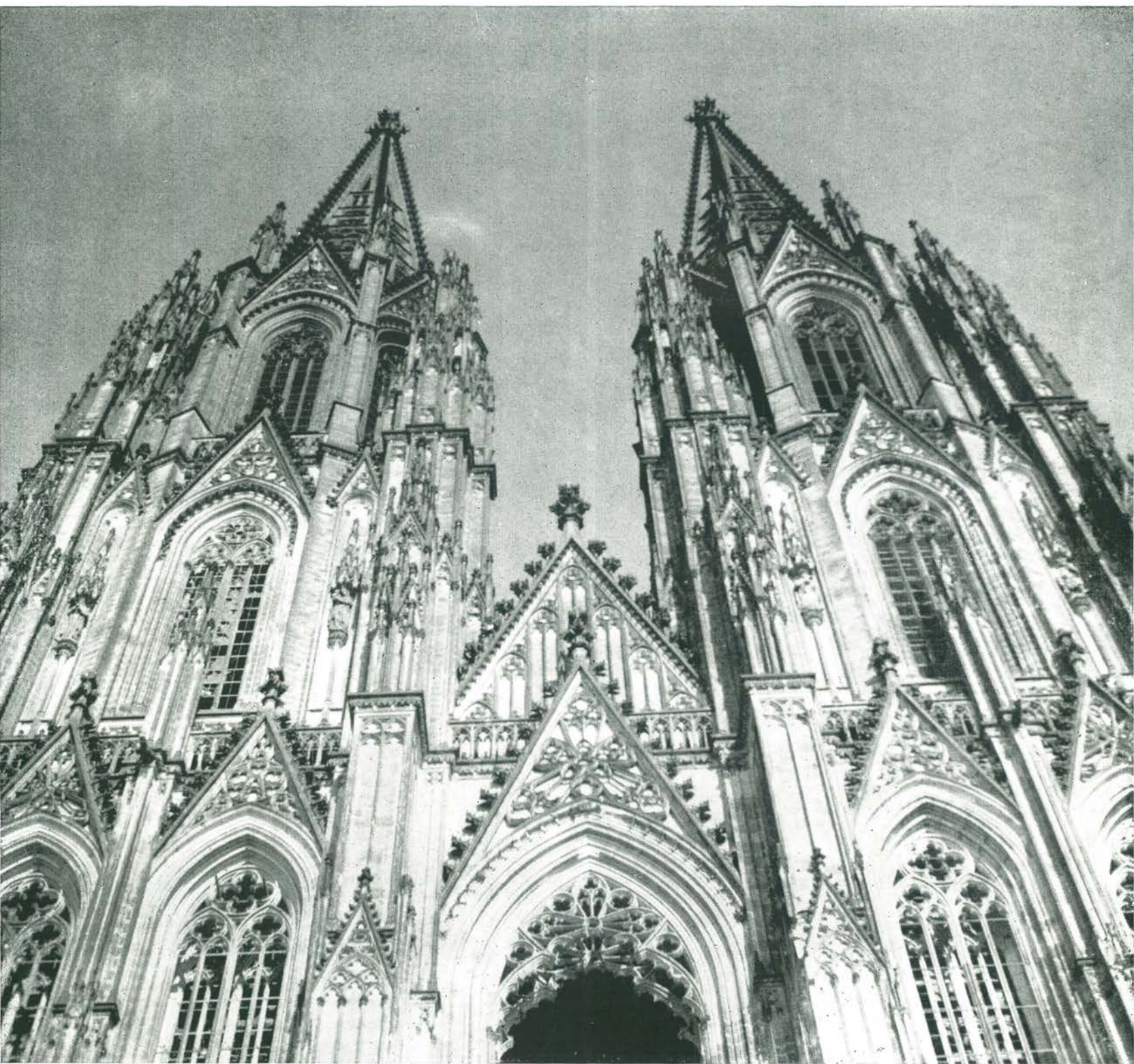
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HERE ARE SOME VERY FEW SPOTS WHERE FLYING METAL HAS INJURED THE DELICATELY DONE MASTERPIECE OF FINE ARCHITECTURE



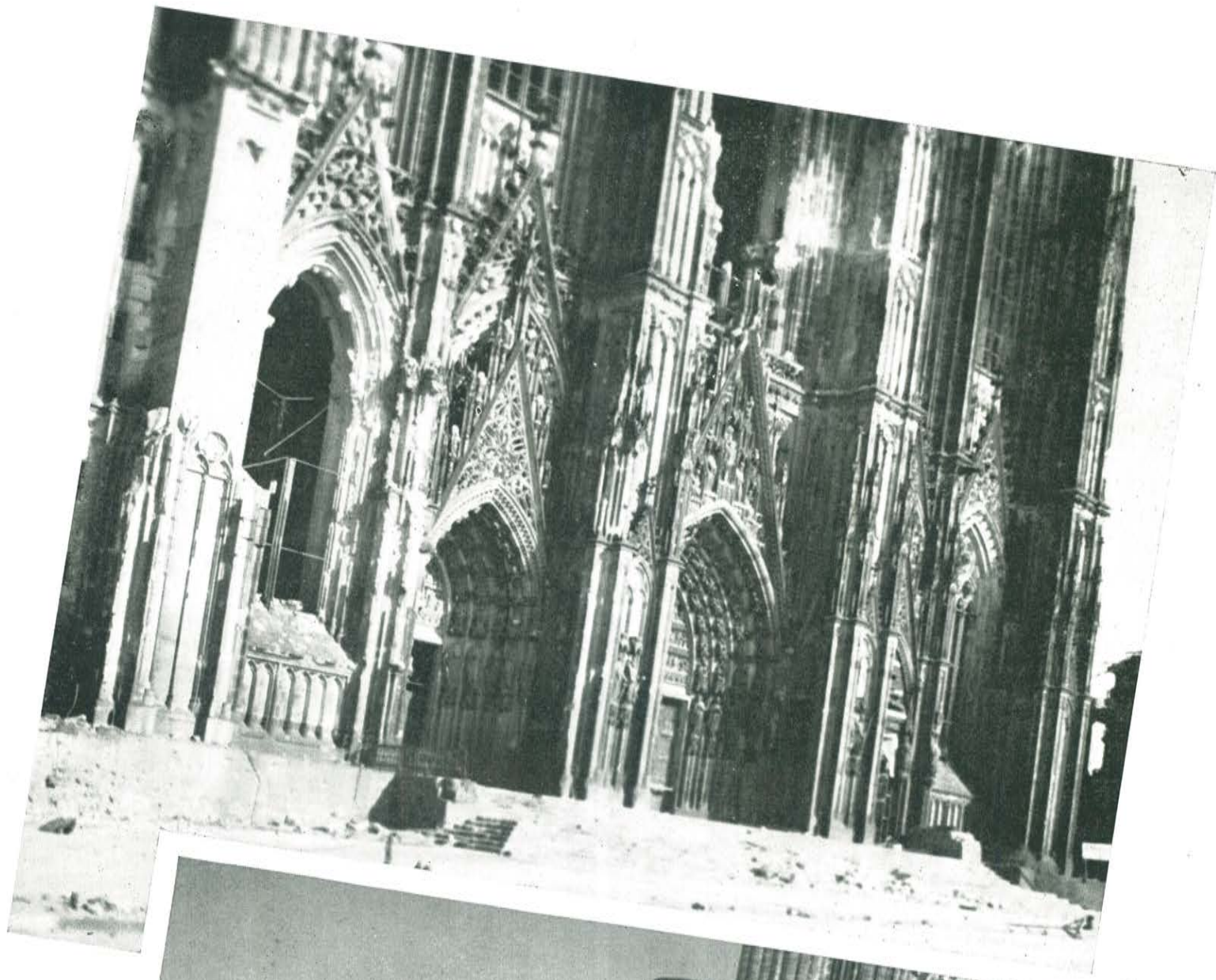
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The tall, architecturally pure spires are unique in every way to the sight-seers who are transfixed by the façade. Well known throughout the world, men came from all parts of Europe to walk through the glorious cathedral. The flamboyant edifice can be seen from a distance of many miles.











**SIGHT SEERS!  
KEEP OUT!**

Beyond this point you  
draw fire on our  
**FIGHTING MEN**

HE RISKS HIS LIFE  
24 HOURS A DAY  
**DO YOU??**



When the Germans were driven into the Ruhr Pocket on the East shores of the Rhine River, the back end of the great cathedral whose altar side looks toward the river could be seen by the enemy very clearly. Civilians and GI sight-seers walking to and fro visiting the hall drew fire not only upon themselves, but on the doughboys holding the near bank of the river. This sign warned those people that sniper fire was present and to stay behind the buildings out of sight of the enemy.









This is the railroad station of Cologne through which passed thousands of travelers daily, vacationing and commuting to every part of the continent.





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—and they gave him the time he asked for. He changed not the world, nor did he change his eventual conquerors, but he did change his Germany so that his people could not recognize it. He kept his word, “*. . . und ihr werdet Deutschland nicht wiedererkennen*”—Hitler. Cologne, Germany’s fifth largest city and now a symbol of defeat, lay in utter waste and death.







Scenes like this were found every place in the city where street cars were stopped haphazardly during an air raid and left shattered and torn in the debris around them.

Only the base pillars of the bridge approach remain intact, while the rest of the span of steel and rivets lay crumpled in the water. Huge frames of twisted steel with ragged edges like those of torn pieces of paper foundered to make a sickening sight. The city's people tried not to show their emotions before the allies, but failed.







AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE IN ANY DIRECTION THERE WAS NOT A BUILDING THAT WAS LEFT STANDING WHICH HAD NOT BEEN BOMBED.





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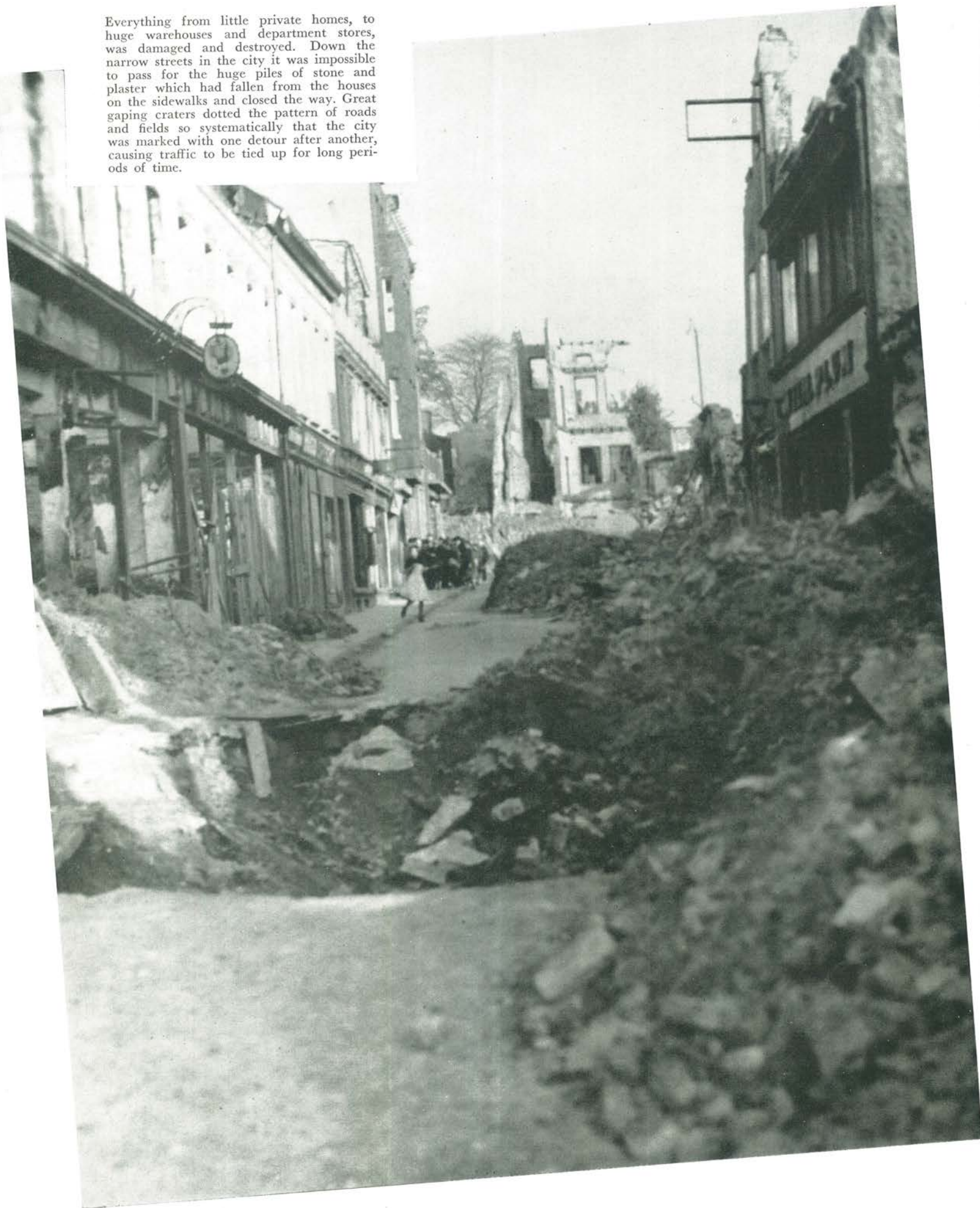


JUST SOUTH OF COLOGNE IS THE CITY OF BONN. THESE TWO TYPICALLY GERMAN SPIRES LOOK OUT OVER A RUINED AND TWISTED CITY



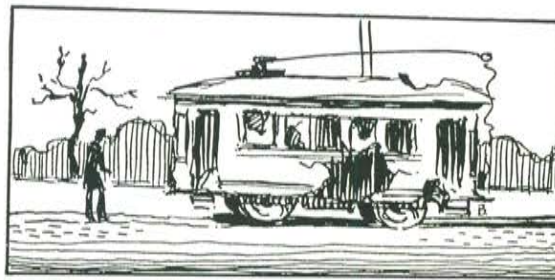
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Everything from little private homes, to huge warehouses and department stores, was damaged and destroyed. Down the narrow streets in the city it was impossible to pass for the huge piles of stone and plaster which had fallen from the houses on the sidewalks and closed the way. Great gaping craters dotted the pattern of roads and fields so systematically that the city was marked with one detour after another, causing traffic to be tied up for long periods of time.





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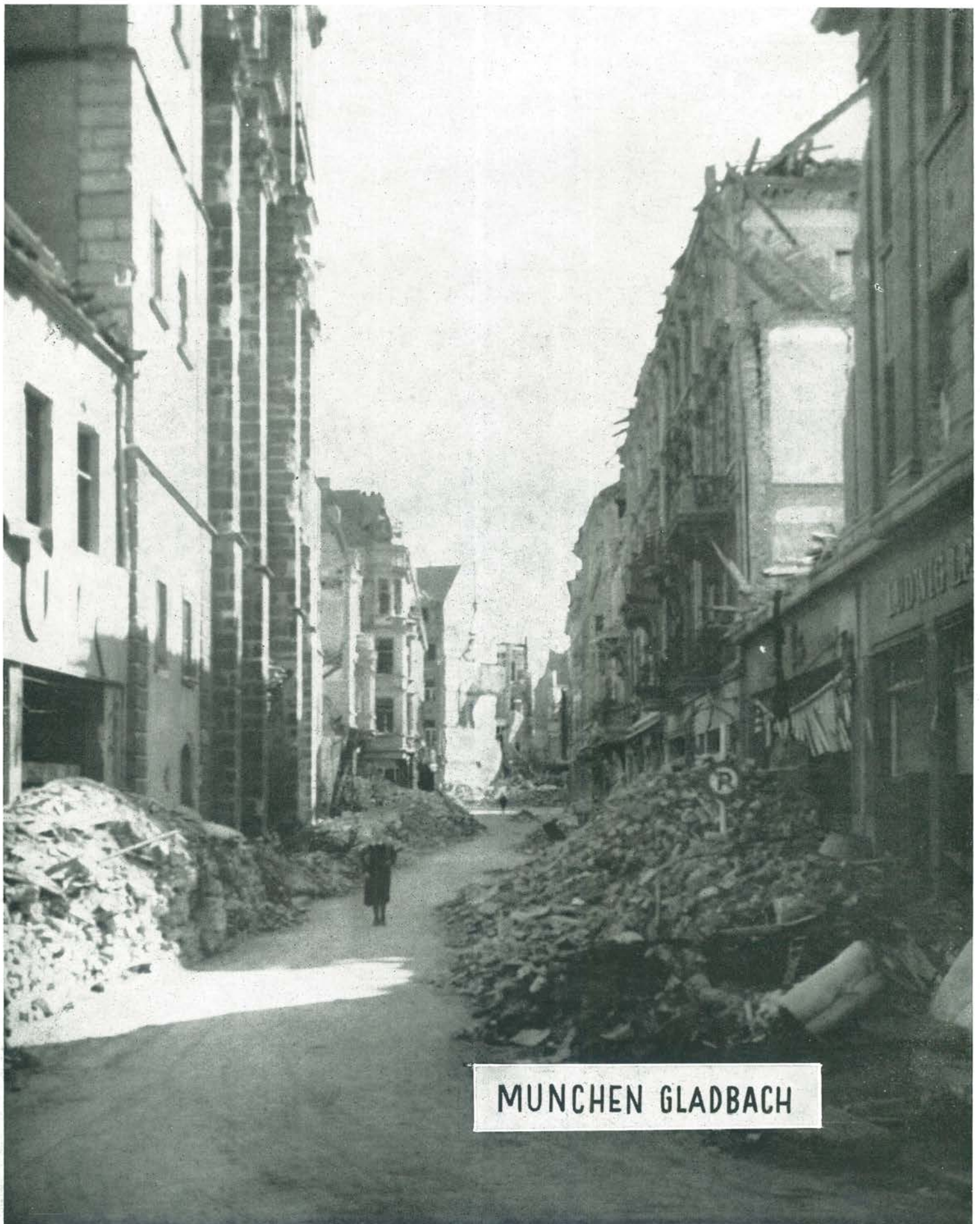
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Only very few buildings remained intact and even those that still stood were marred and chipped where flying shrapnel and debris had been thrown against them. Usually the force with which landing shells would rock the earth caused statues on slim bases like these to crumble.



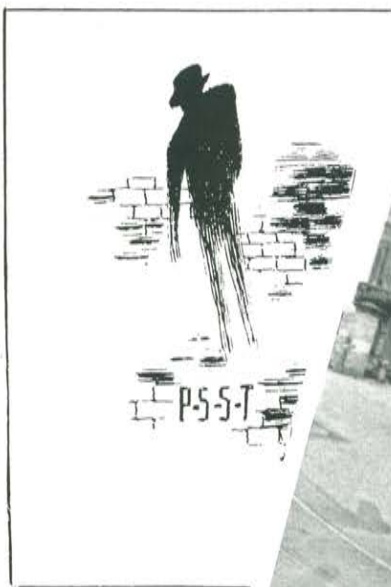




**MUNCHEN GLADBACH**

WHERE SHE ONCE WALKED DOWN THE STREET DOING HER SHOPPING AND GREETING NEIGHBORS WITH "HEIL HITLER," THIS OLD WOMAN NOW CONTEMPLATES THE DESTRUCTION







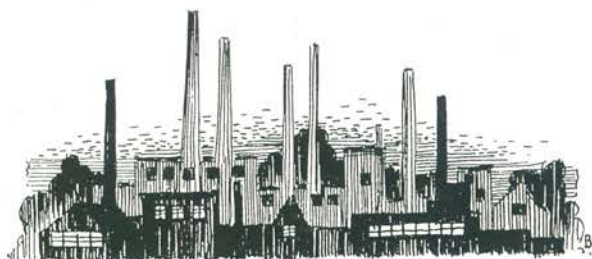
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Modern equipment of war lines the streets in this quaint district, where block after block of houses were razed by the attackers and their missile throwing machines.







Mere words are inadequate to describe the fearful retribution that has overtaken Hitler's Reich. All over Germany millions of houses are gutted or smashed, hundreds upon hundreds of factories, of all types and sizes, are in ruins and can no longer be expected to reach full productivity for years to come. Public utilities, communications, and transportation are all completely kaput, out of business. Millions of Germans are living like rats in cellars and thousands of human bodies still lie hidden under debris not yet cleared to reveal their presence. The most famous cities of Germany no longer exist as anything but rubble and waste. Back as far as October, 1943, German officials stated that 1,200,000 civilians had been killed or were missing in the spectacular air raids over Germany. The total destruction you will view on the following pages . . . is Dortmund. A city of some 50,000 houses, only 2,500 are now habitable. Our cost was great, but here is Dortmund . . .





# DORTMUND

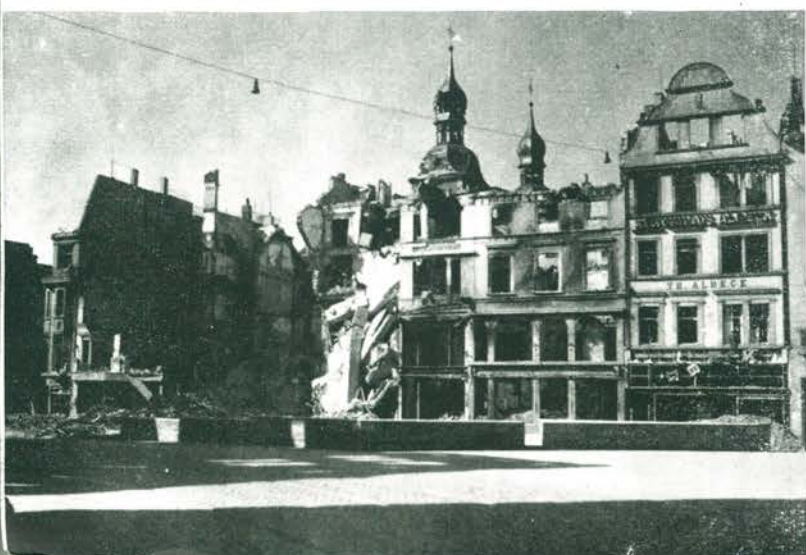
G E R M A N Y





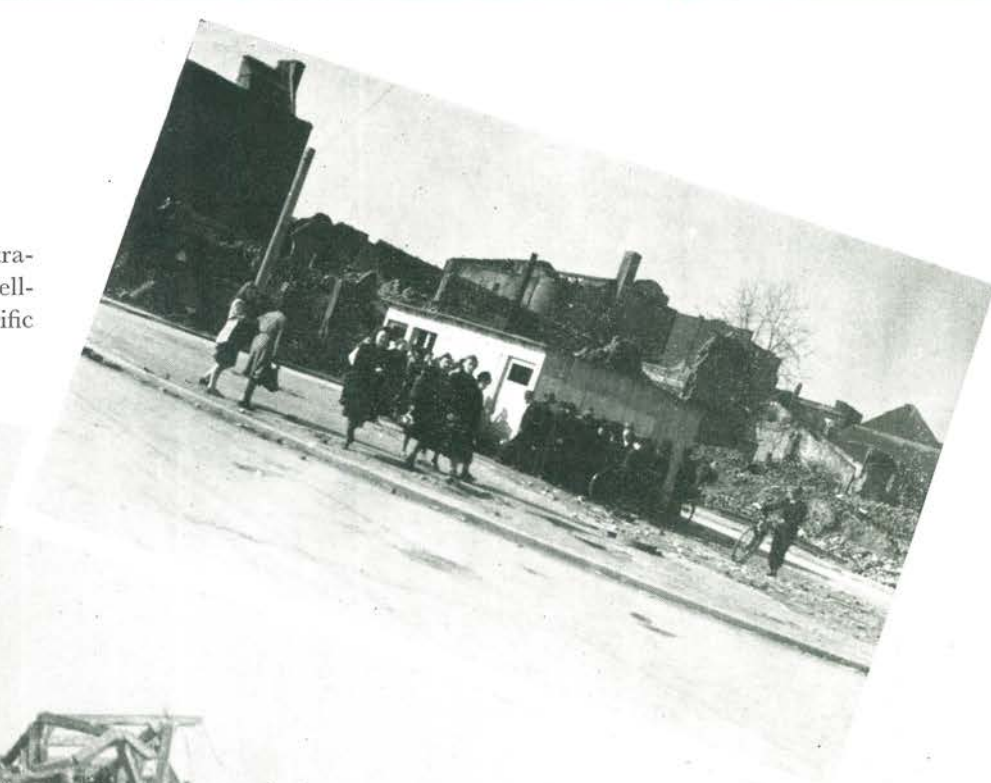


All methods of transportation at a standstill, buildings in the downtown district crushed beyond recognition, the few people who roam the streets try again to orient themselves.





Department stores, governmental administration buildings, little shops and private dwellings, all fell in similar heaps under the terrific bombardment from the air.







Many thousands of bombs that fell on the city of Dortmund were duds, and the huge tonnage of bombs that was dropped could easily be estimated by their number lining the streets, gutters, and alleys. Destruction in the countries of Belgium, Holland, and France, was minor in comparison to this of Dortmund.



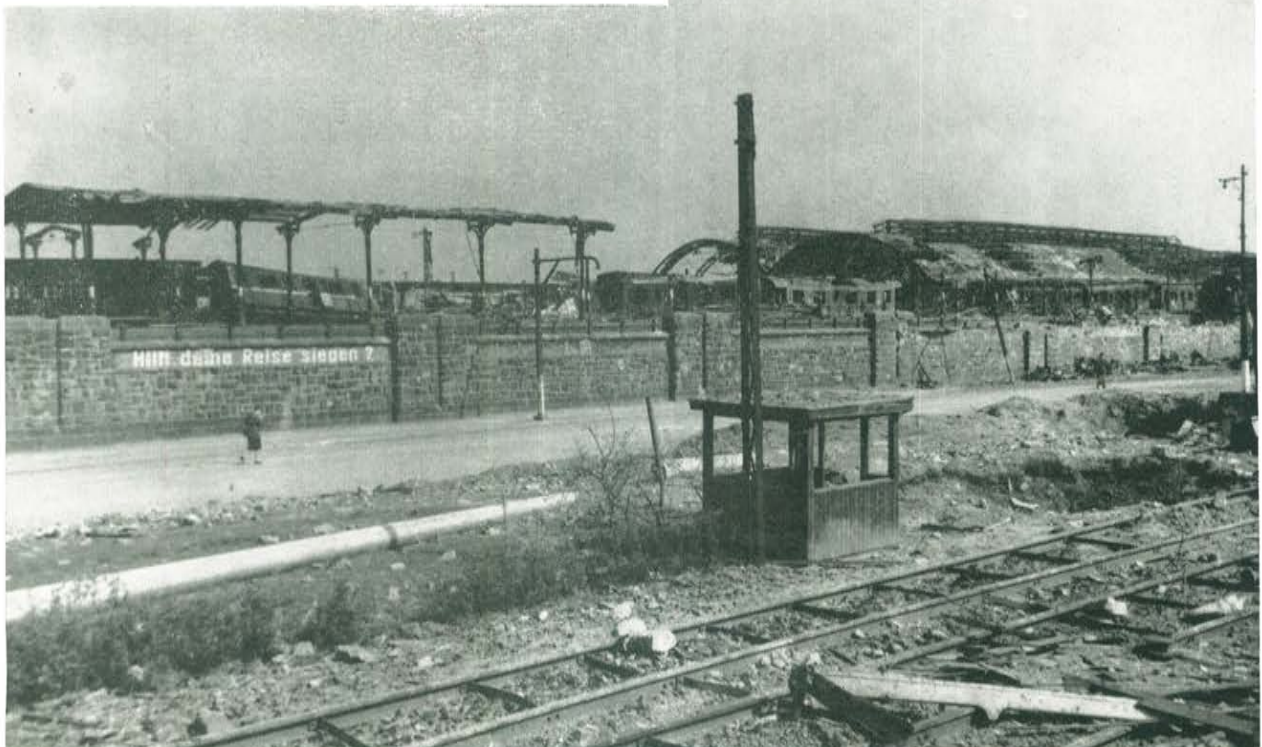
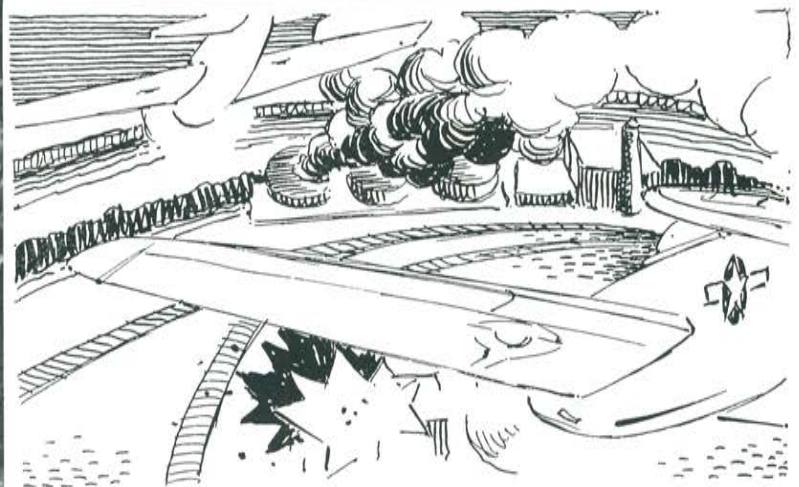


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HANGING PRECARIOUSLY OVER THE STREETS WERE PARTIAL CORNICES OF BUILDINGS, WHICH AT THE SLIGHTEST PROVOCATION WOULD CRUMBLE









In the industrial areas of the city, huge factories were razed and their railroad sidings destroyed. At right a railroad bridge has been neatly blasted by the enemy in an effort to slow Allied traffic on the famous Autobahn. The well known highway was shell pocked everywhere along its modern four lanes and center aisle by Allied bombers which closed escape routes from the retreating Germans. Steel frames and concrete rubble are all that are left of once modern buildings along the main business streets of Dortmund.

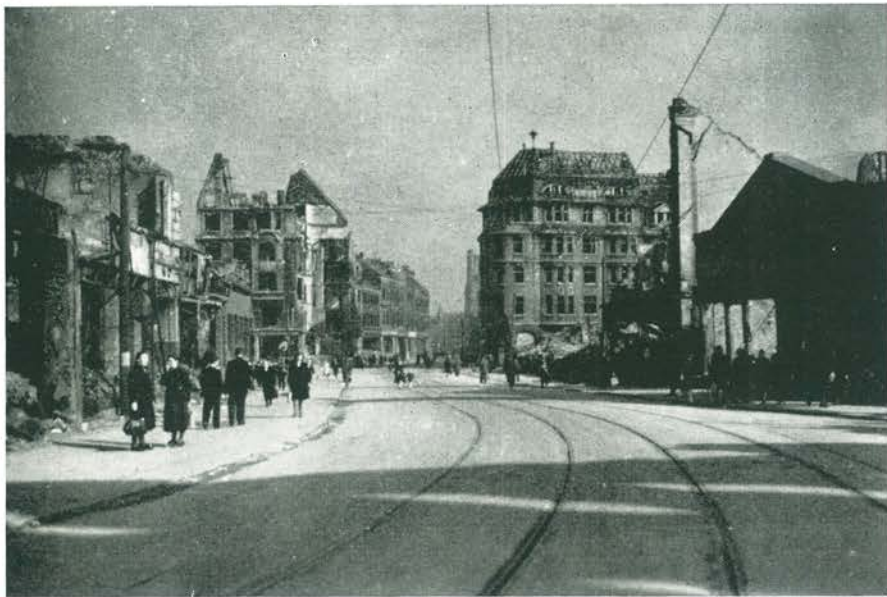




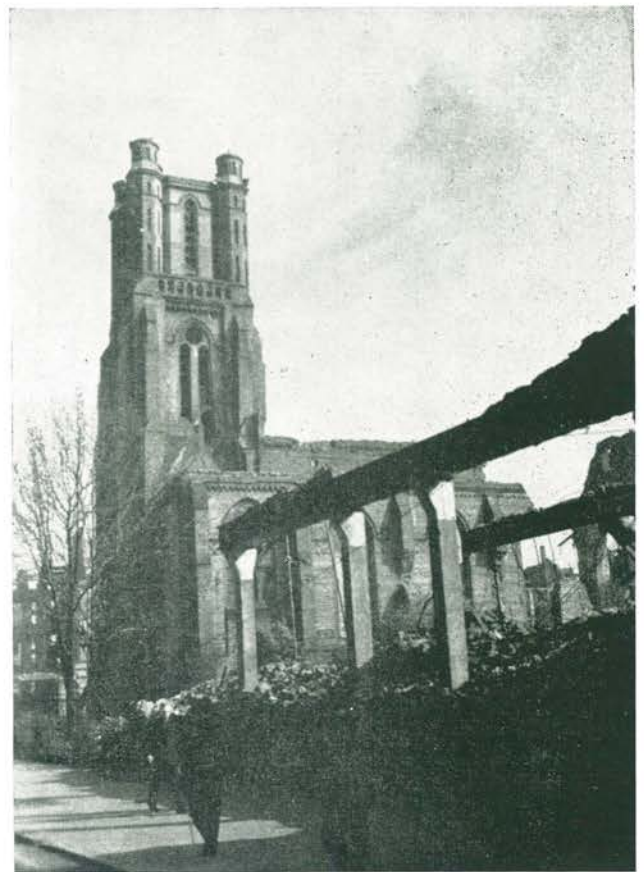




*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



There were no near misses, for what was not hit directly was destroyed by flying timber and shrapnel, or fire which broke out from the blasts. City illuminating gas was instantly cut off by the piercing shells; electricity, water, and telephone lines were brought to an abrupt ending for the shells dug deep into the earth leaving gushing geysers of water and crushed timbers to be cleared later.





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From their homes which now house American doughboys, these Germans take their belongings to places where they are to stay until the troops move on to new conquests.



*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*





HAPPILY AND HEROICALLY THESE FRENCH INTERNEES  
STEP OFF FOR HOME



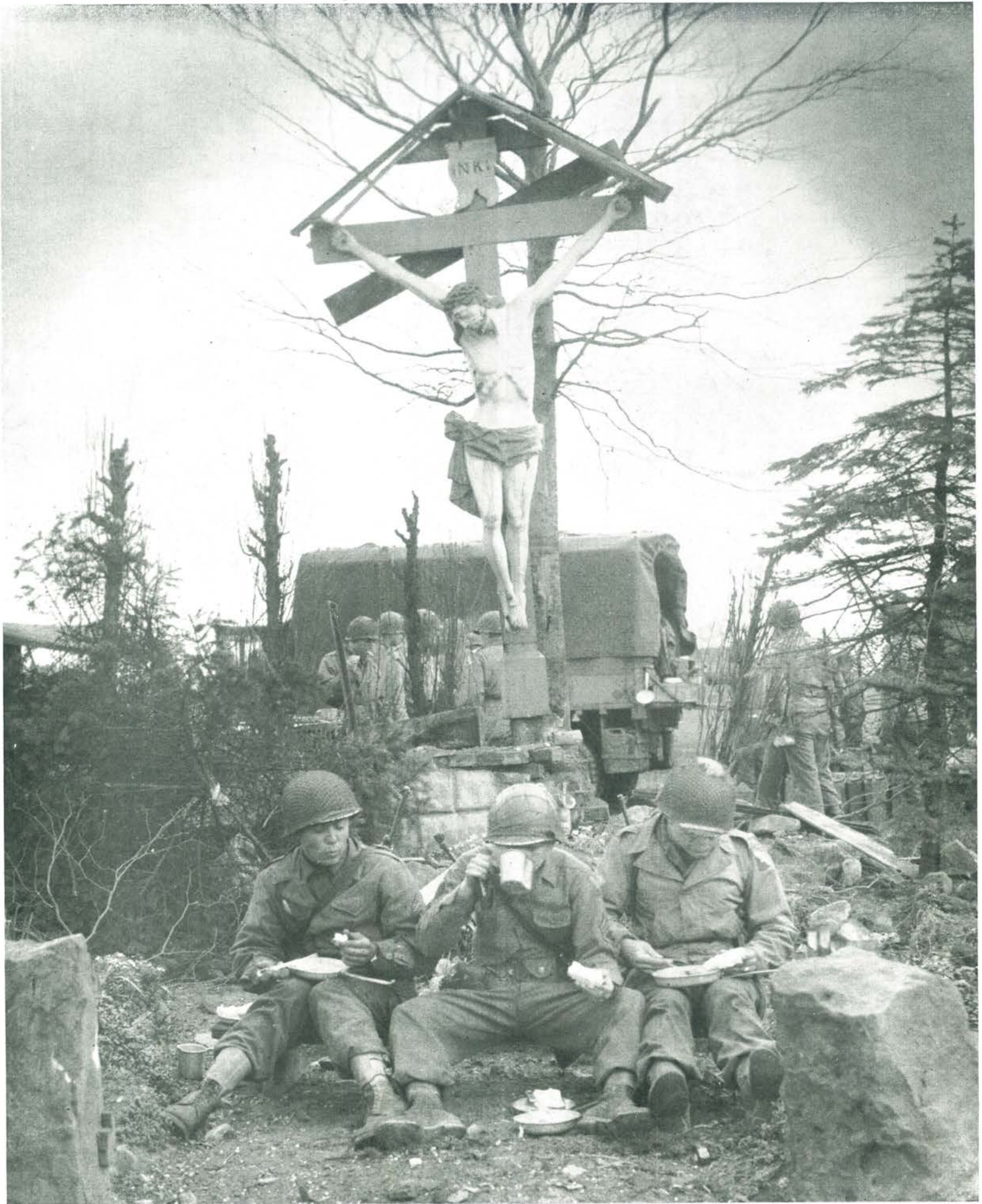




CAMERA-SHY GERMAN WOMAN AND FAMILY TRUDGE  
HOMeward







ALTHOUGH OUTWARDLY DISREGARDING THE ATMOSPHERE OF THEIR DINING PLACE, THESE LADS REALIZED AND EXPERIENCED A SIGNIFICANT SPELL.

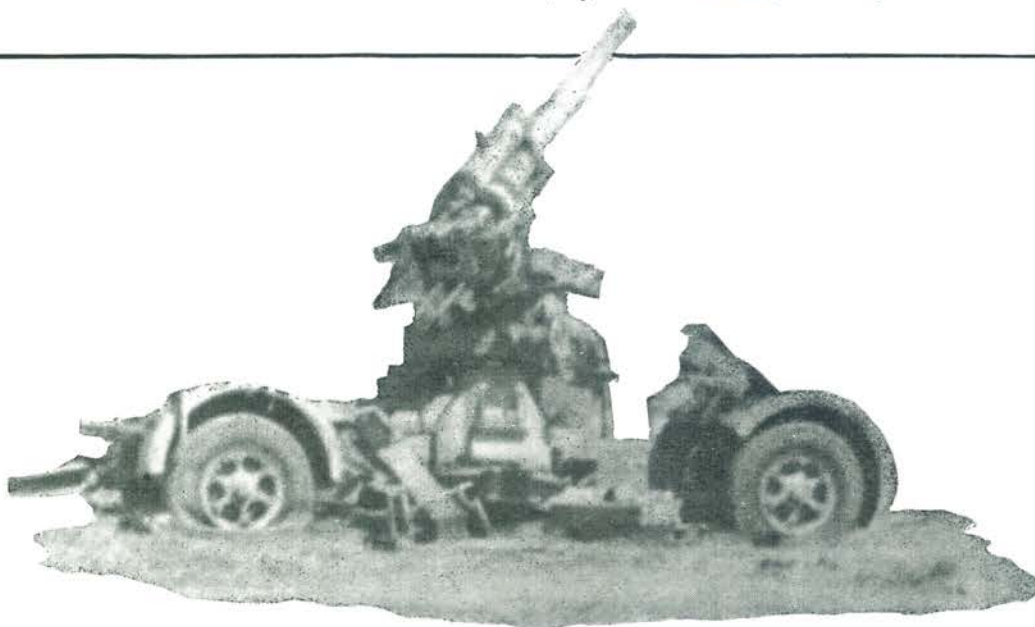




Wesel...



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Wesel was a railroad center near the spot where the 9th Army put up the famous Roosevelt Bridge across the Rhine River. Being a position of such strategic importance it can be readily seen why the town was so completely reduced. A target for every night, it was not long before the inhabitants as well as the enemy forces were blasted out into the fields and cities in the retreat direction. This moribund church being near the rail targets of the town fell prey to the bombs which were dropped.





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The city is no longer habitable, industry was completely demolished beyond any degree of future operation; the German helmet was buried in the soil as never it had been before. The defeat was not only thorough in writing of surrenders and future non-aggression pacts, but the impossibility of advance in the direction of another aggressive move was made by these destructive results.







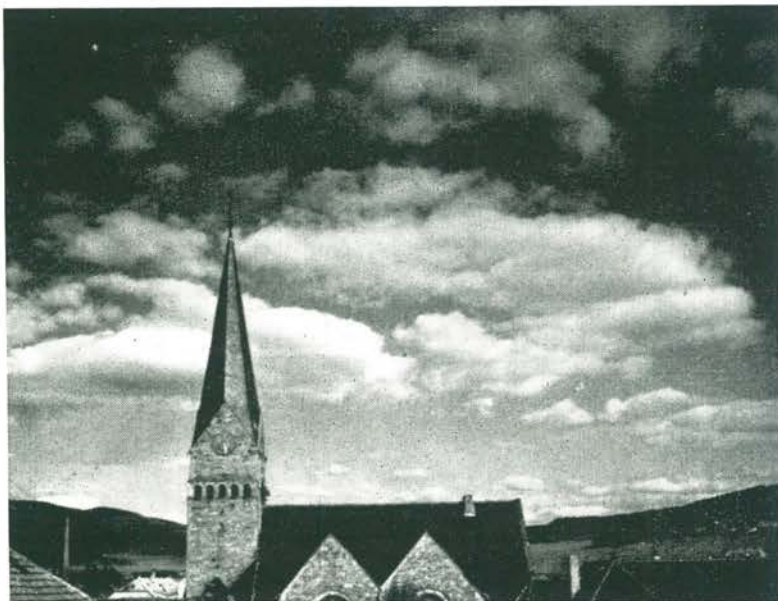
**Plettenberg...**



*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



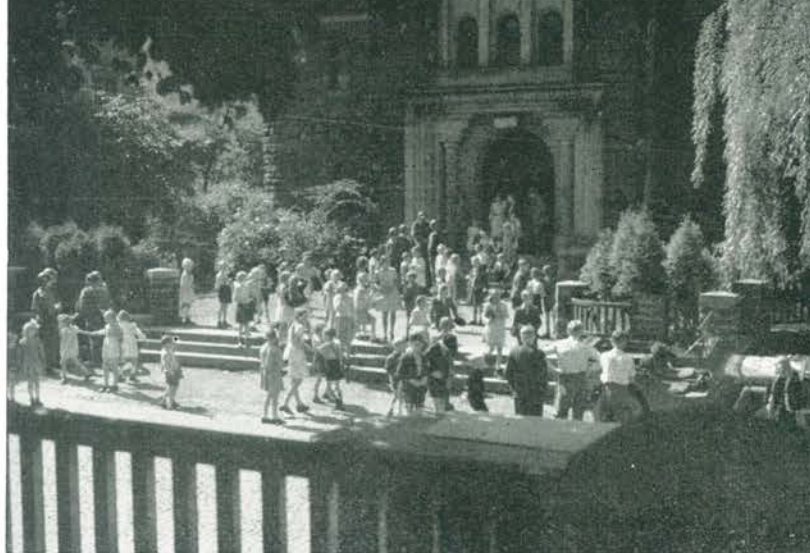
PLETTENBERG, GERMANY, WAS THE 75TH DIVISION'S LAST STAND BEFORE THE END OF THE WAR IN EUROPE WHEN A GREAT RELIEF WAS EXPERIENCED BY ALL







As always, immediately upon arriving at Plettenberg, the Division's units set up their Command Posts and a series of signs throughout the town indicating their locations. Each Division in the ETO had a different letter with which their individual outfits' code name began; in our case it was the letter "D." And so the indicator for 75th Headquarters was Diamond and so forth.



THE CHURCH IN TOWN HELD SUNDAY SCHOOL SERVICES



UNDER SUPERVISION OF GIs, GERMANS DO CARPENTRY WORK

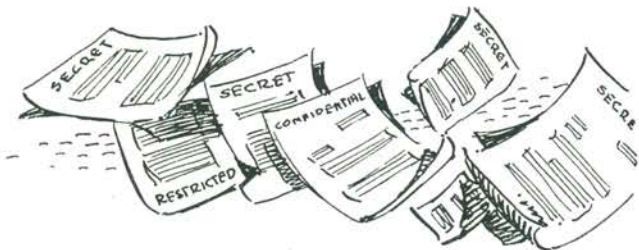




*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



After having had many poor places in which to work, the CPs in and around Plettenberg were far superior and gave rise to more comfort and conveniences. The men appreciated and took advantage of this good living.

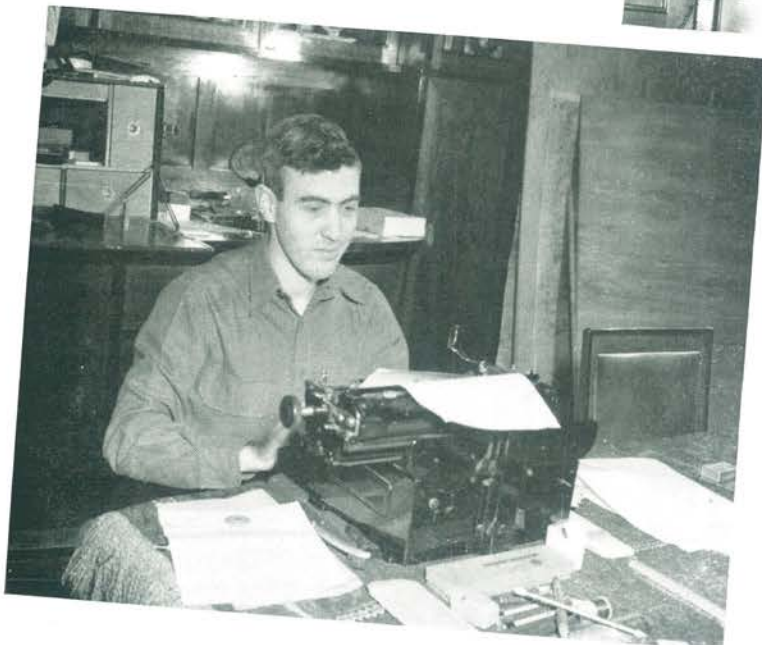
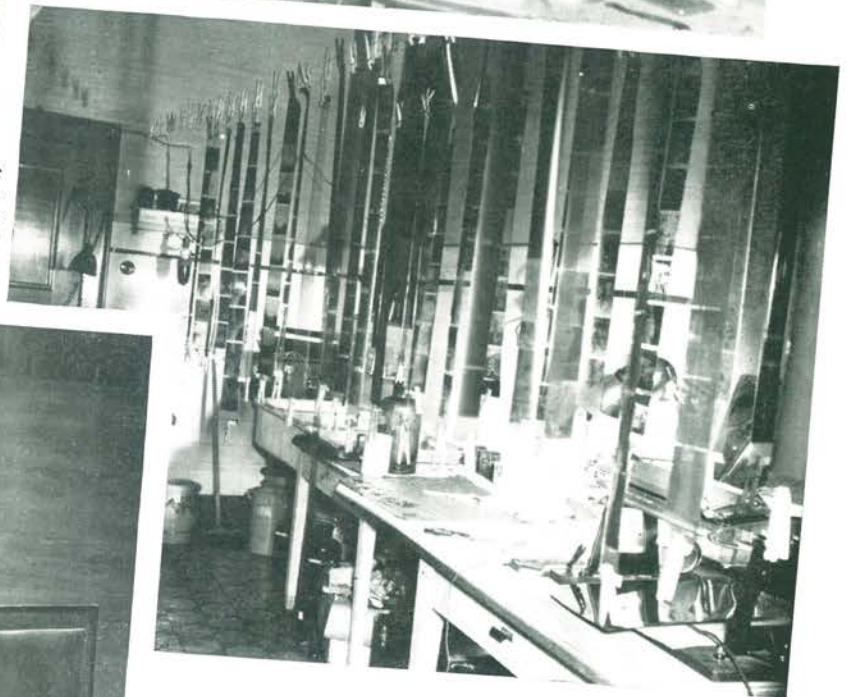




*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



Various rooms of the houses taken over for our use were converted quickly into what ever type of pattern was needed to facilitate our types of operation. This kitchen was suddenly transformed into an army photo-laboratory.

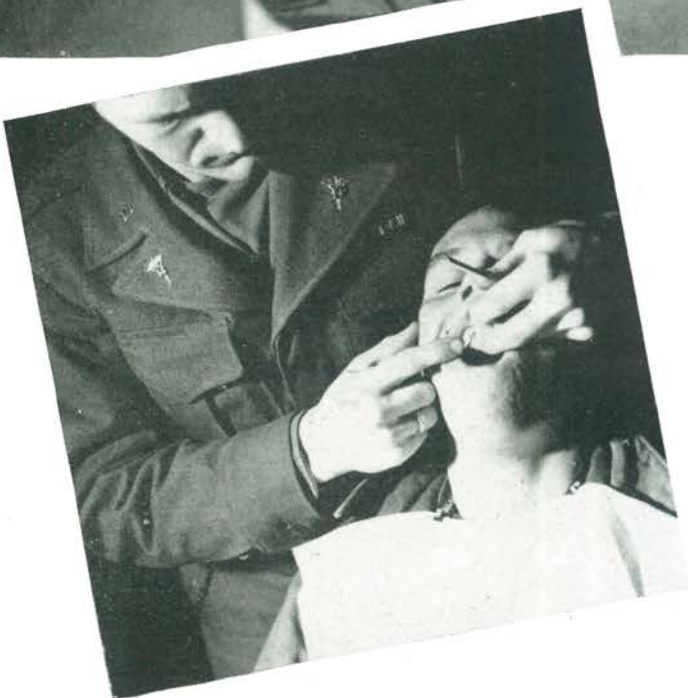




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KEEPING DENTAL WORK UP TO DATE WAS IMPERATIVE AND MEN WERE GIVEN REGULAR CHECKS AND REPAIRS

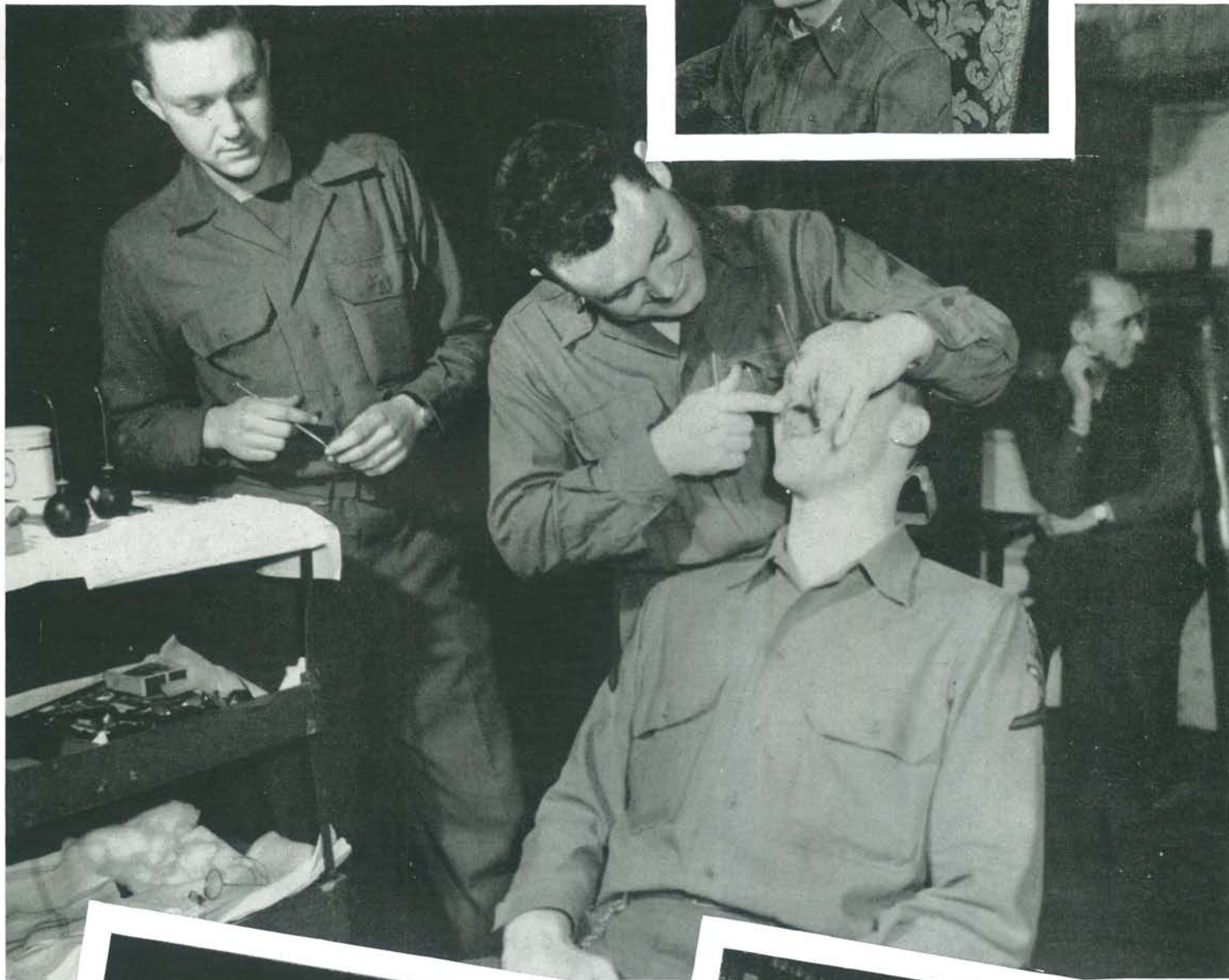




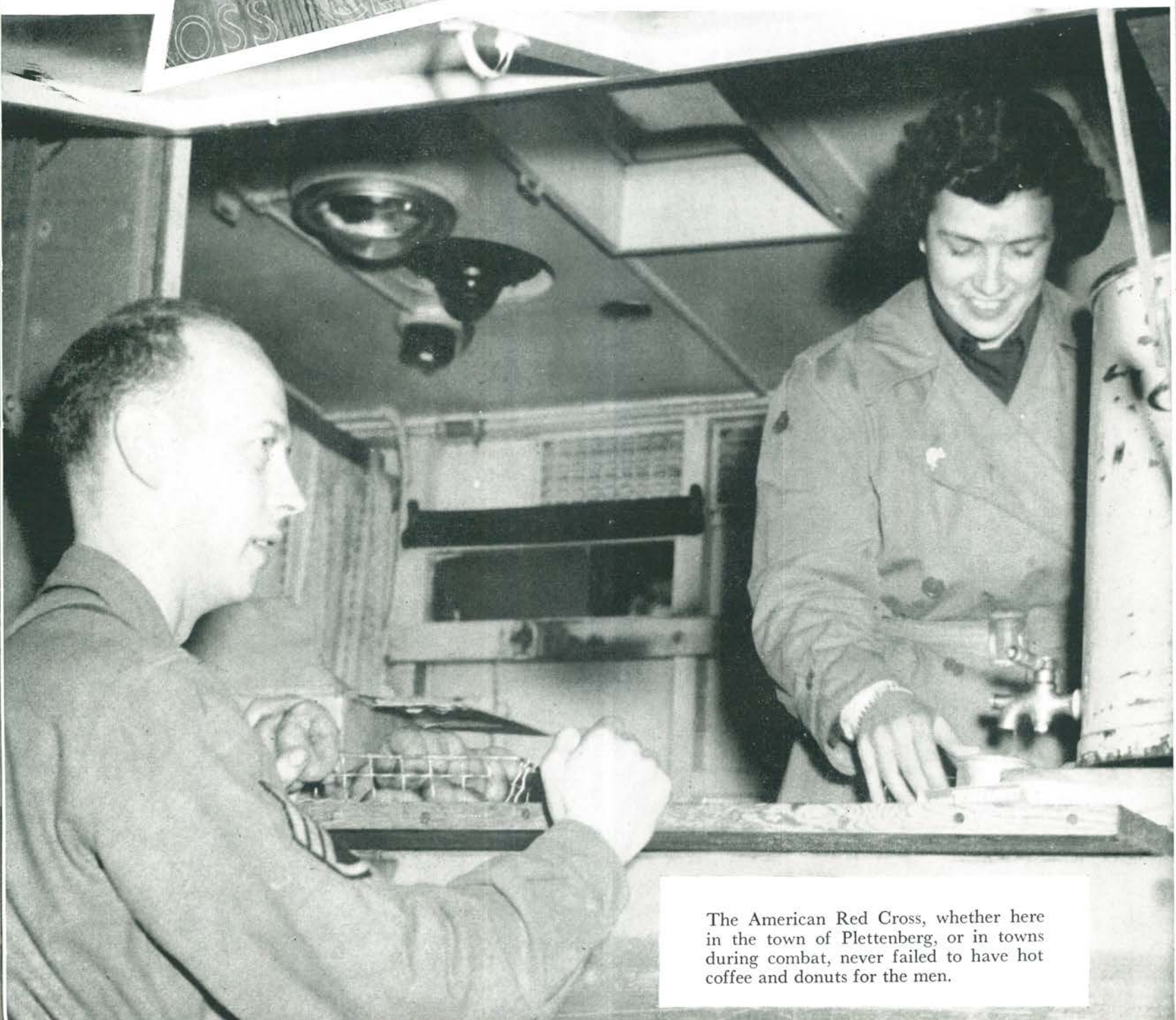
*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



THE WELL STAFFED DIVISION DENTAL SECTION  
HANDLED HUNDREDS OF MEN REGULARLY







The American Red Cross, whether here in the town of Plettenberg, or in towns during combat, never failed to have hot coffee and donuts for the men.







"COME AND GET IT





WHILE IT'S HOT"





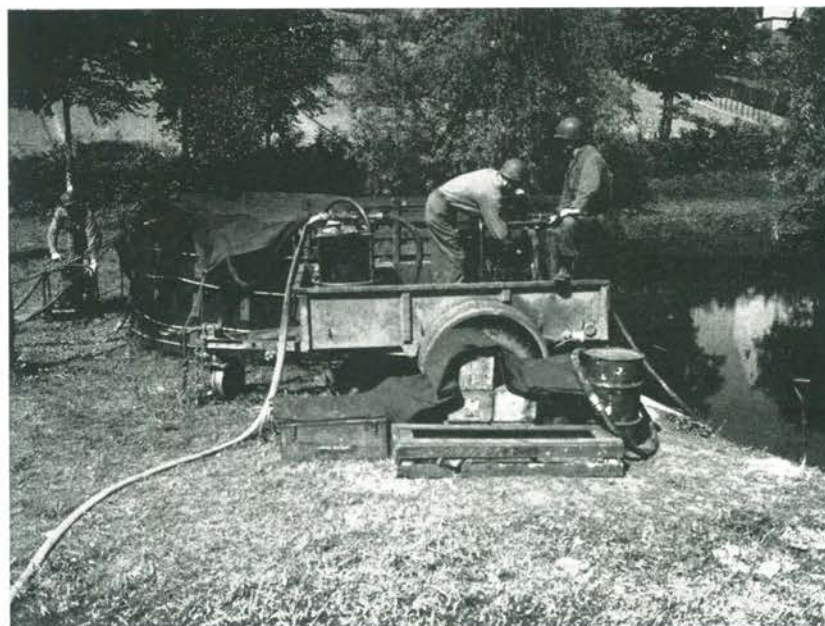


Note the expressions on the faces of these American boys who were grateful for the opportunity to be able to speak with someone of the opposite sex intelligently and with understanding. The men behind the camera shouted, "Ain't ya' ever seen a goil before, fella' . . . ?"





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THERE WAS NO MEDICINE WHICH COULD BE OF ANY VALUE WITHOUT THE PURE WATER WHICH WAS TO BE HAD FROM THE WATER POINTS





*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



Not only was the job of purifying water in combat important, but it was equally vital when the Division settled in towns like Plettenberg where it was necessary not only to purify water so as to increase the supply, but also to test the civilian supply which was already in operation. With men living so close to one another the dangers involved in contracting a germ carried by water could result in catastrophe. Therefore to the men of the water points which were set up for us during our time spent overseas, and to their diligence, knowledge, and tireless work, we all wish to express our undying gratitude.



*the seventy-fifth* **75** *infantry division*



BY FOLLOWING THE WATER POINT MARKERS ONE COULD USUALLY COME UPON INSTALLATIONS SUCH AS THIS AND BE SURE TO FIND THE PUREST WATER



*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



INTELLIGENCE UNITS WERE ARRESTING AND TAKING INTO CUSTODY MANY SOLDIERS WHO WERE ABLE TO DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS CIVILIANS





*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



EVERY DAY HUNDREDS OF SUCH MEN WERE APPREHENDED, WHO, REALIZING THAT IT WAS ALL OVER FOR THEM, DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO EVADE ARREST

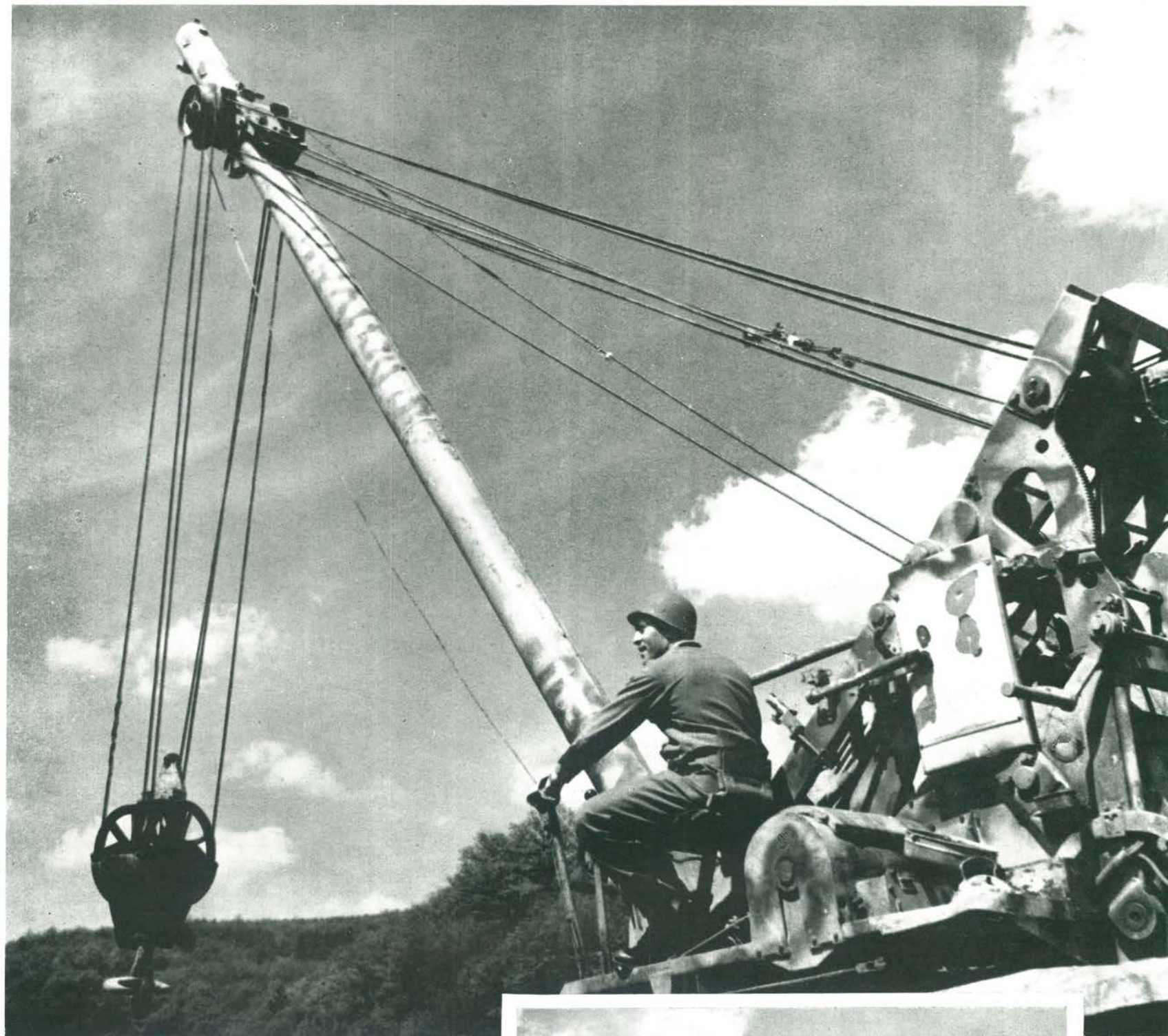




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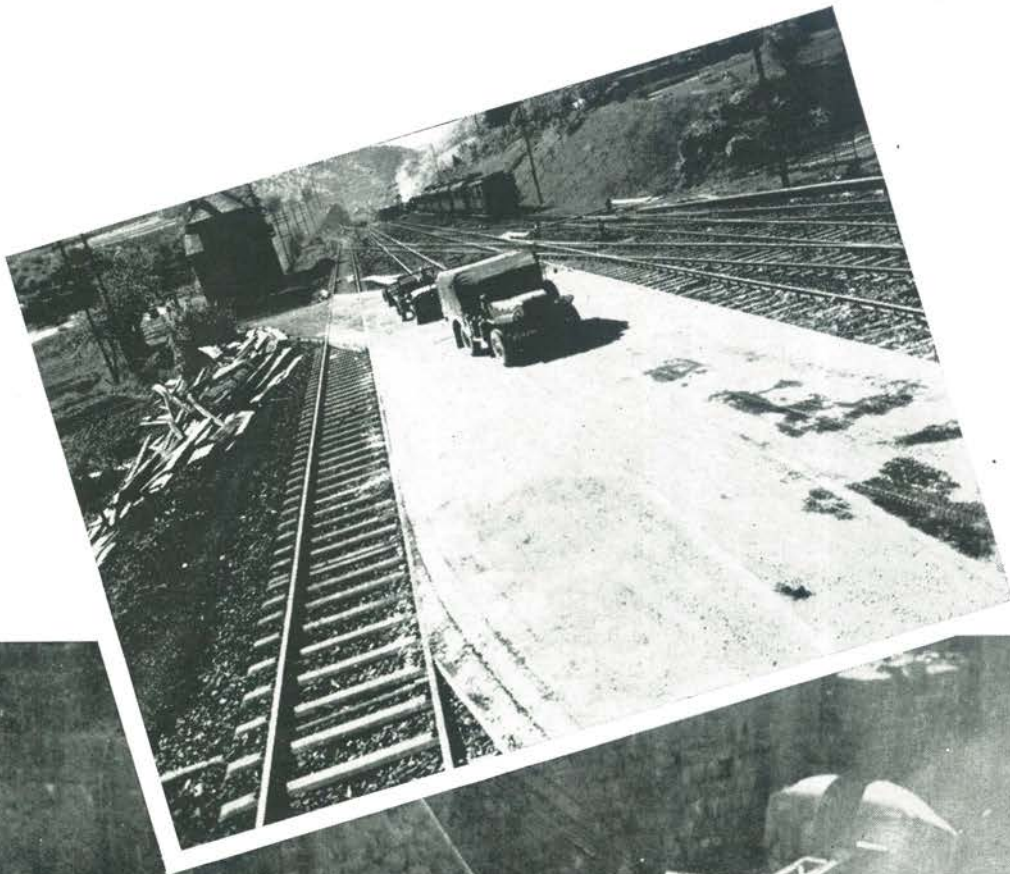


This captured German military derrick was used by the engineers to repair bridges, remove road-blocks and wreckage. It saved time in operations where heavy equipment was at high priority level and impossible to obtain. While the derrick was working on clearing the heavy steel wreckage of a bridge in the town, other machinery was used to construct a bypass so that convoys which jammed the highways everywhere would not be held up.





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It can be readily understood why this 37-ton derrick was of so much value when you look at the tremendously huge section of riveted steel plates that had to be moved. It was capable of lifting 20 tons at the length of its arm. This was the part of the long network of rails that had to be cleared through Altena and Plettenberg in order to open the roads for hauling supplies.





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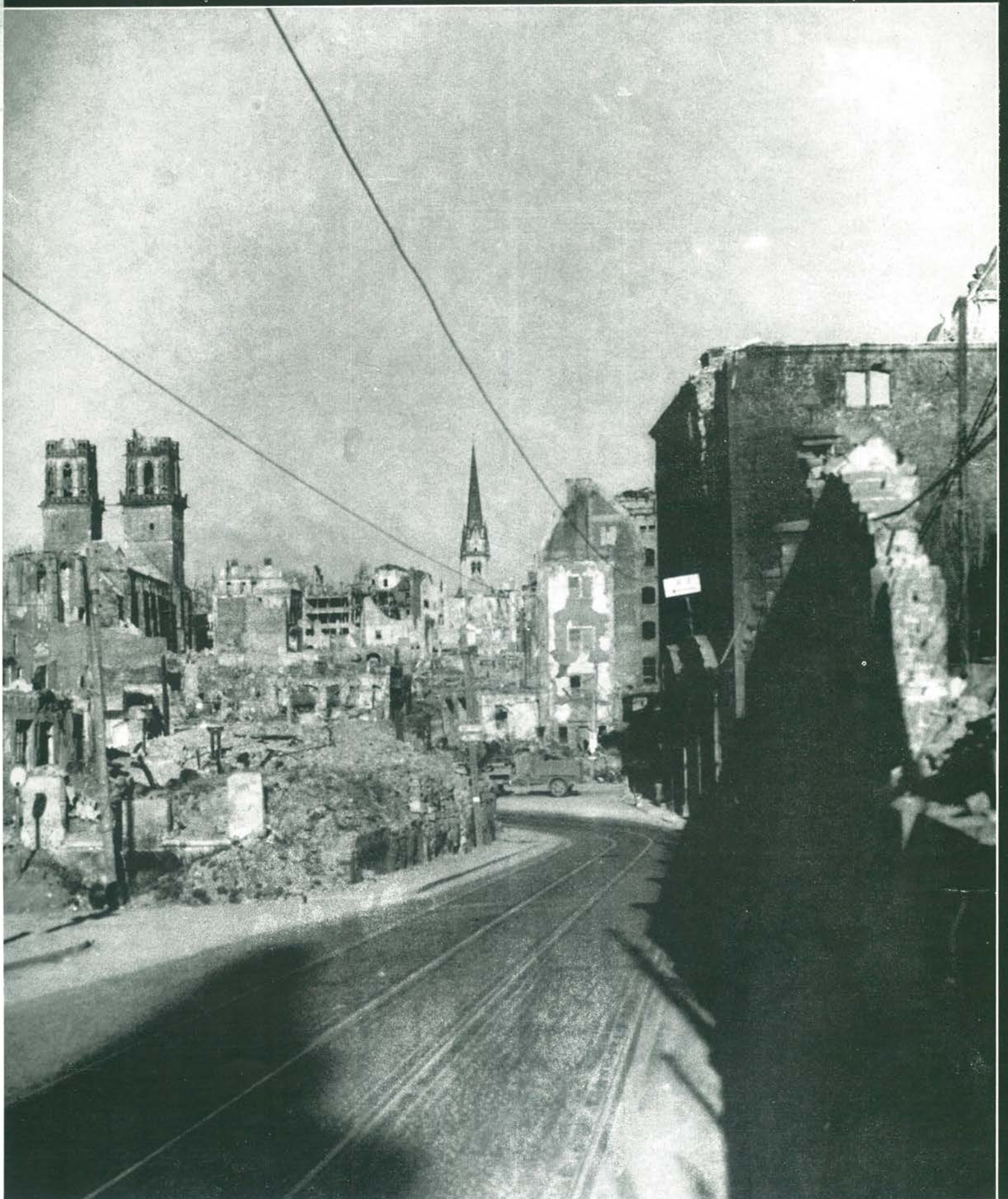
The city of Kassel bridged the Ruhr Pocket and Eastern Germany and completed the border line from Paderborn through to Marburg and Bonn. It, too, was a city which will never in the long years to come forget the frightful havoc which rained from the skies and the surrounding countryside. Kassel's total defeat was reflected in the eyes of every man, woman and child who aimlessly wandered through the streets gathering the few scraps of belongings which still incredibly stayed intact. Although the manner of the American soldier was not that of scorn nor of pity, he retained that air of aloofness which was necessary to control the imagination of the German in his overthrow. What the people were thinking beneath their placid mask was difficult to understand for they smiled and greeted us everywhere with only the satisfaction of a courteous but firm reply. The policy of our army was to present an air of firmness without crudeness, and a display of our military might.





# KASSEL

GERMANY







THE EFFECT OF OUR MILITARY MIGHT





WAS BY NO MEANS LEFT TO THE IMAGINATION

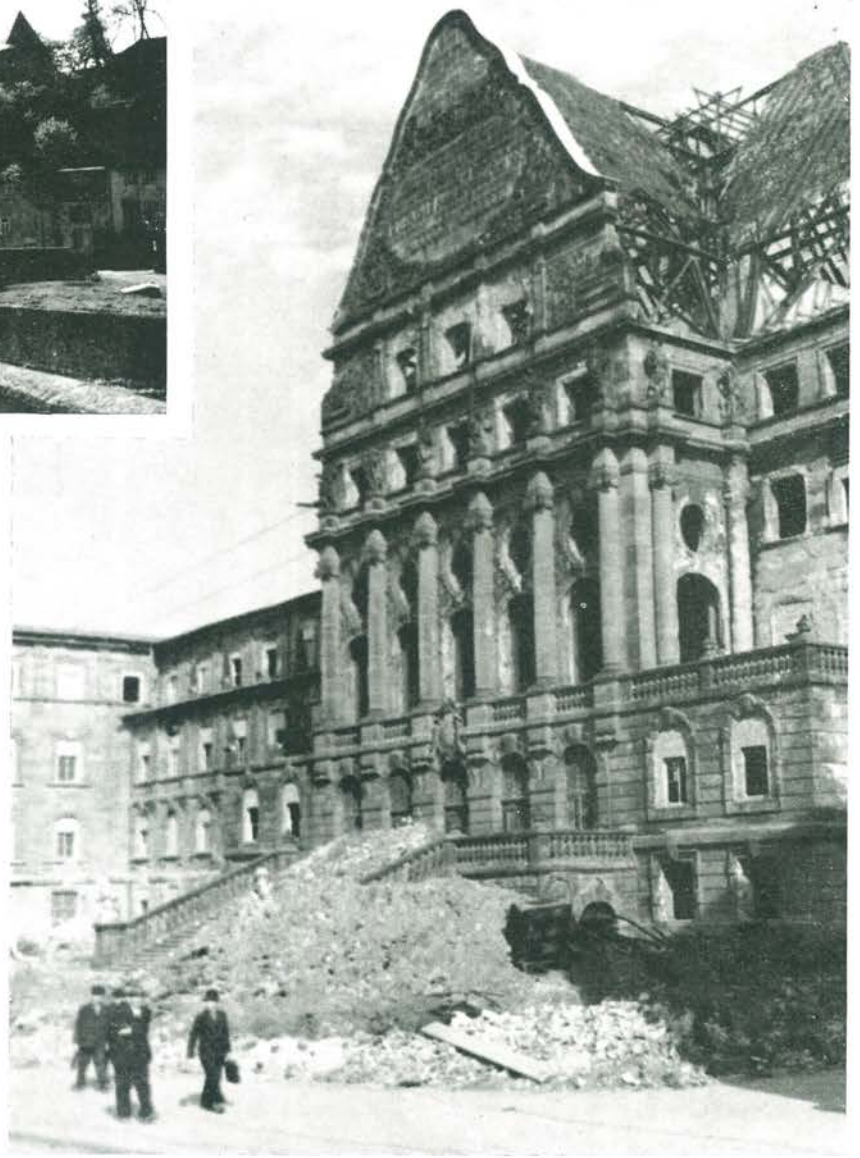




The Germans understood militarism and respected us when they saw our power. From the time of our arrival into their cities until we left to allow occupation forces to take over, the people expressed their appreciation for even the slightest concession to them, such as the permission to allow them to form bread and food lines outside the shops in town. They were forced to observe curfew laws posted by town majors and could do nothing without proper authority and consent. Justice was their only consolation, for never were the military authorities unfair according to the rules of occupation.









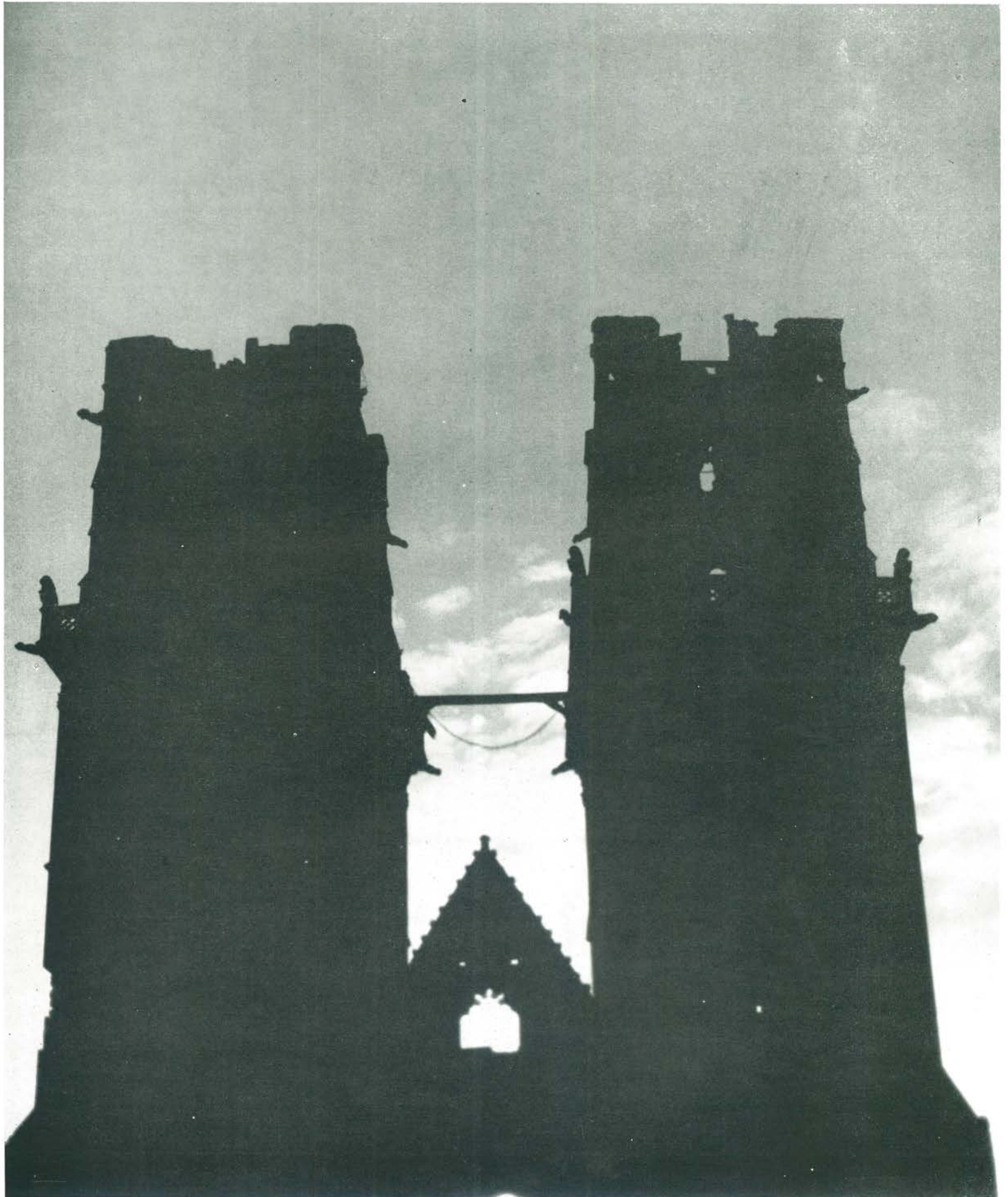
*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



FROM THESE TOWERS, OF THE VERY FEW STRUCTURES WHICH REMAINED, ONE COULD SEE NOTHING BUT STONE AND STEEL FLATTENED TO THE GROUND

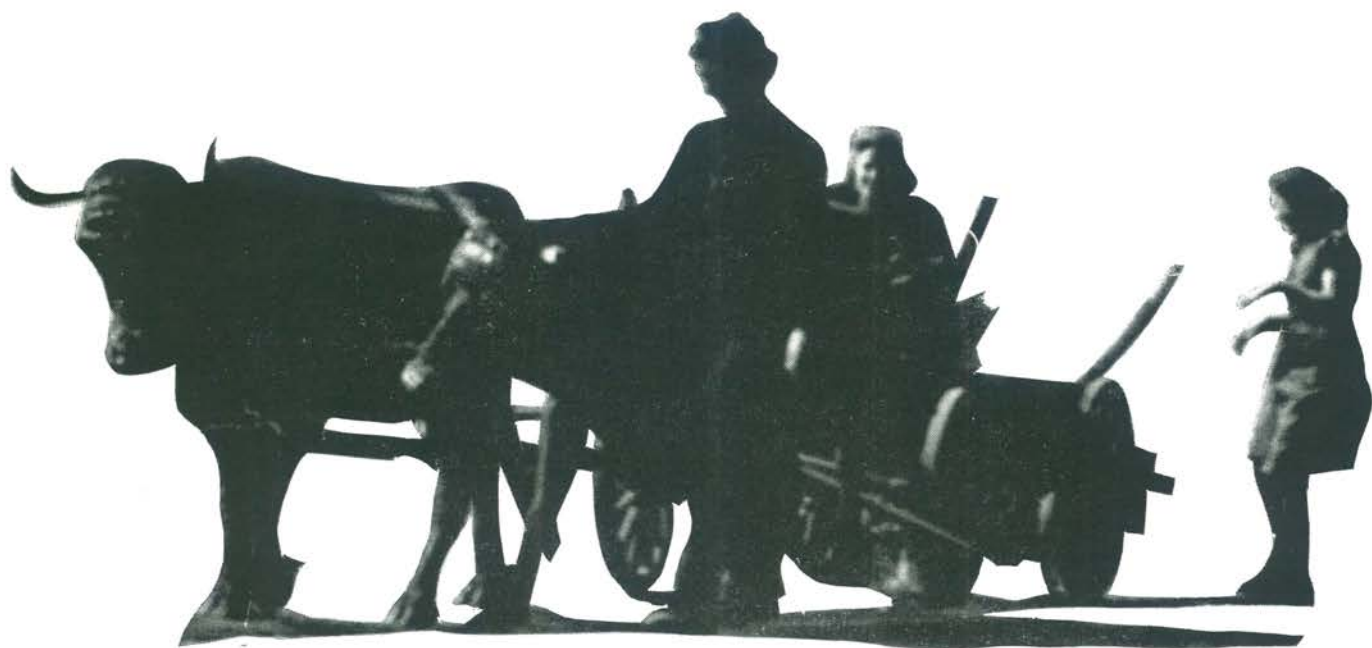


*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



THE SUN COMES UP AND PEERS FROM BETWEEN THE CATHEDRAL TOWERS ONLY TO ILLUMINATE A SCENE OF DEVASTATION





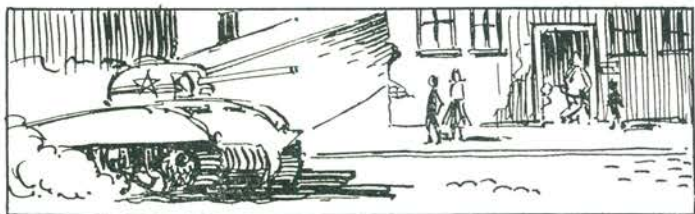
With their horses and oxen pulling little hand made carts or wagons, these people go about cleaning the streets of littered debris. The work was endless, for this condition existed everywhere, and only modern equipment could do the job quickly.





**Altena...**





### CHILDREN AND THE GI MESS HALLS

Wherever there was an army kitchen one could find all of the town's youngsters milling about in an effort to scrunch some scrap of food or sweet chocolate as a luxury they had missed for years. At first the non-fraternization policy forbade these gifts, but soon after, fraternization with 8-year-olds and under was permitted.

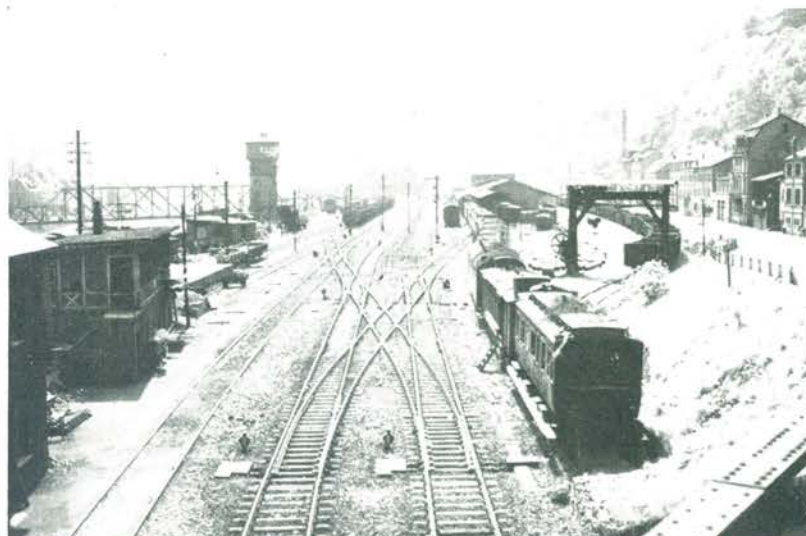
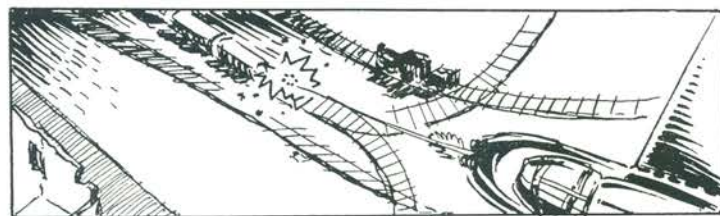




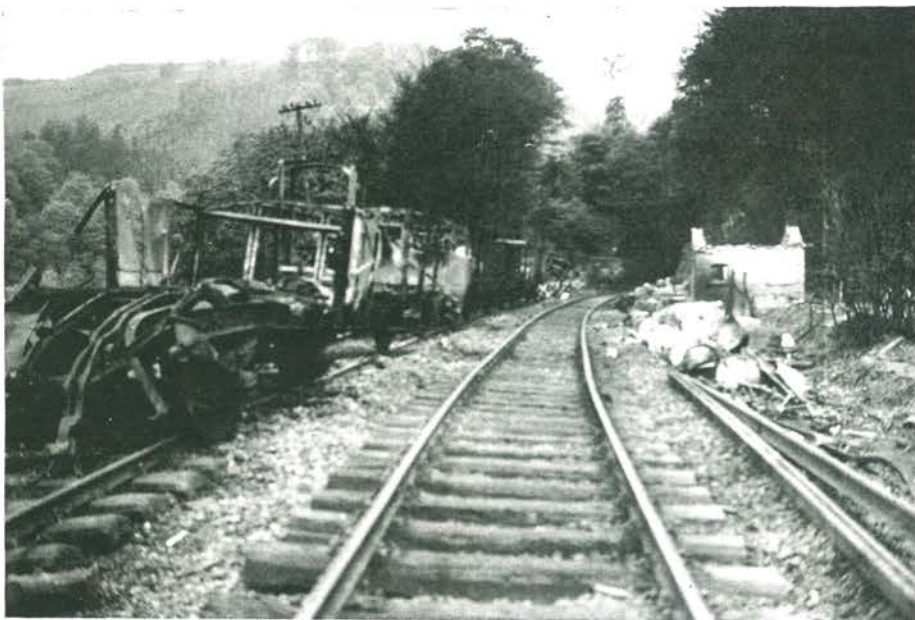
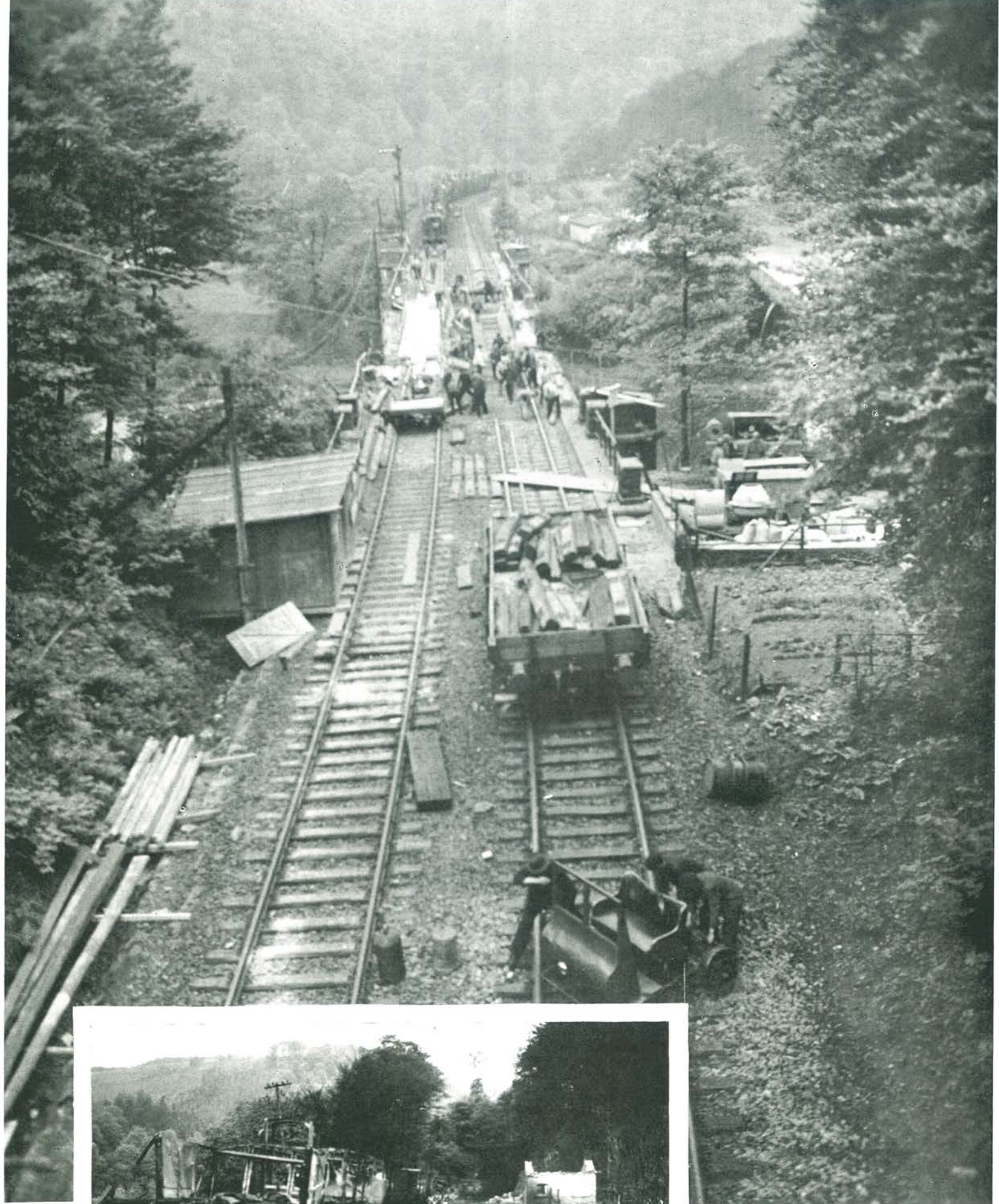


## THIS WAS THE RESULT OF THEIR FOLLY

The tremendous network of railroad yards around Altena which was damaged by planes, now was hampering transportation facilities dangerously. Vital equipment, lumber and fuel which had to be expedited were held up because of the inadequate systems of transportation. German labor was immediately conscripted for this task, and railway offices were taken over by Engineers.

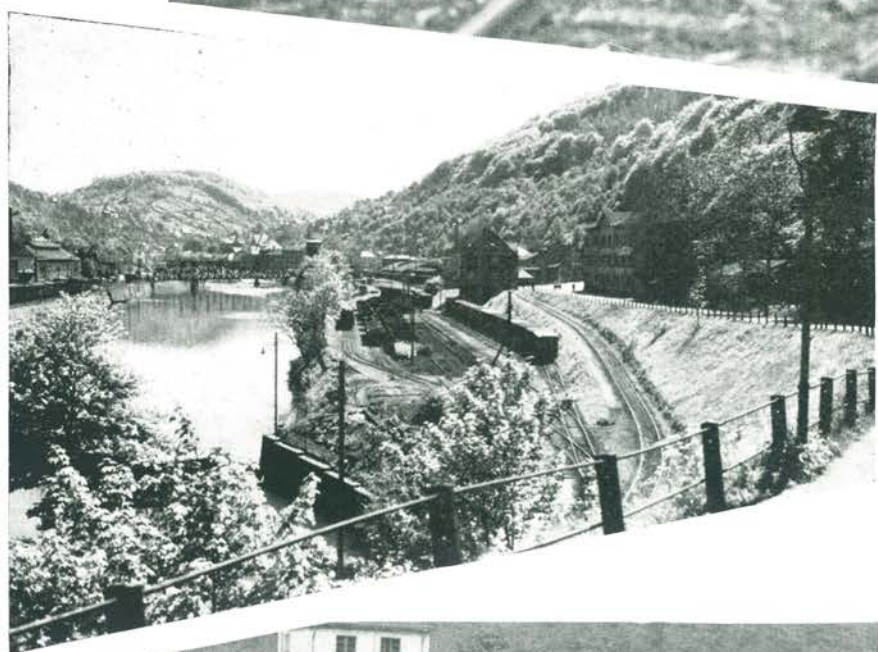






Hard at work with every type of native implement they had, these workers knew that it was to their advantage as well as to the conquerors to rebuild the ways. Lower picture is entrance to tunnel where munitions cars were holed up and caught fire while repairs were getting under way.



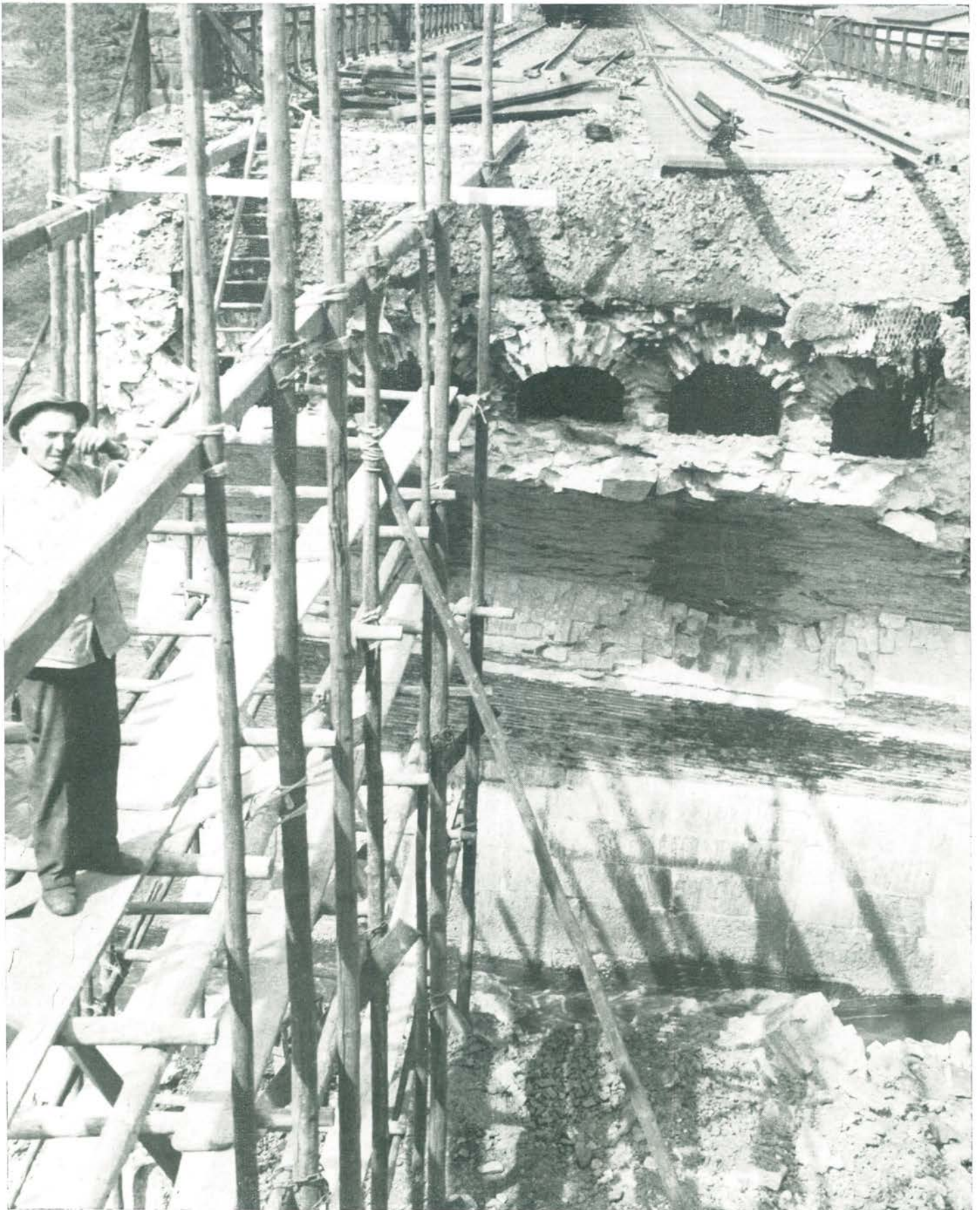


The remains of German munitions train which caught fire in tunnel are dragged out onto sidings to allow the passage to be cleared and repaired. Below German laborers lay rail on one of the very many rail bridges which had to be rebuilt to insure the carrying of material for the section reconstruction and rehabilitation of the area.





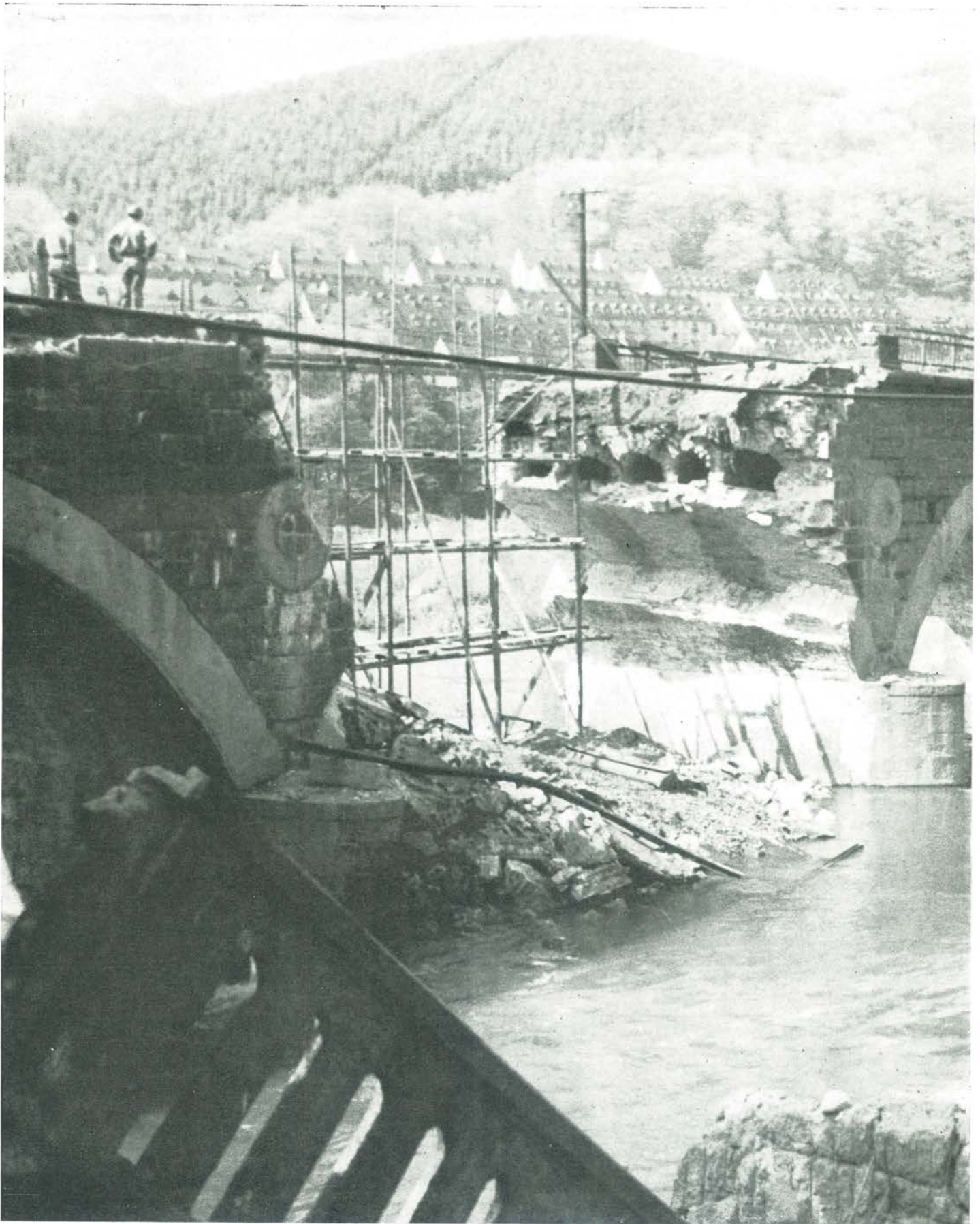
*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



IN FIXING THIS STRUCTURE MEN ARE NOW LACING TOGETHER, ALMOST PRIMITIVELY, A SCAFFOLDING FROM WHICH THEY WILL WORK LATER



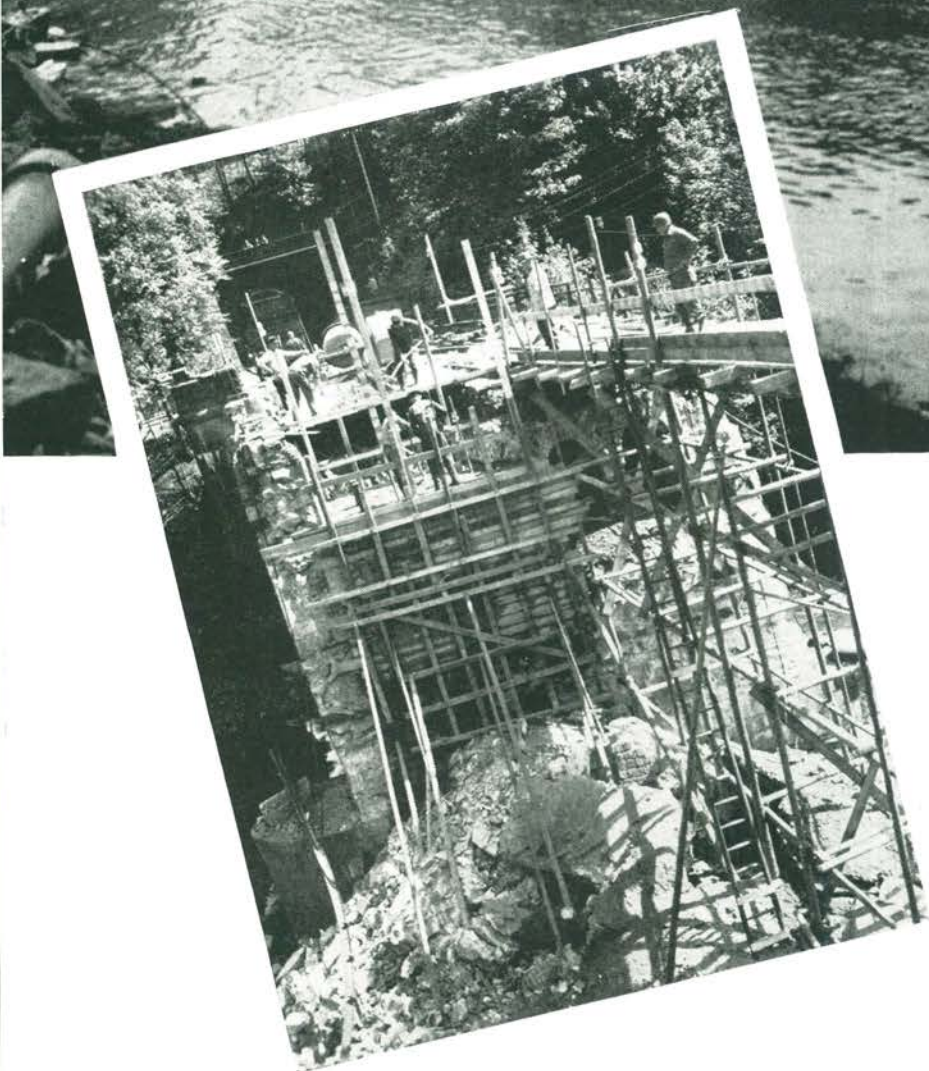
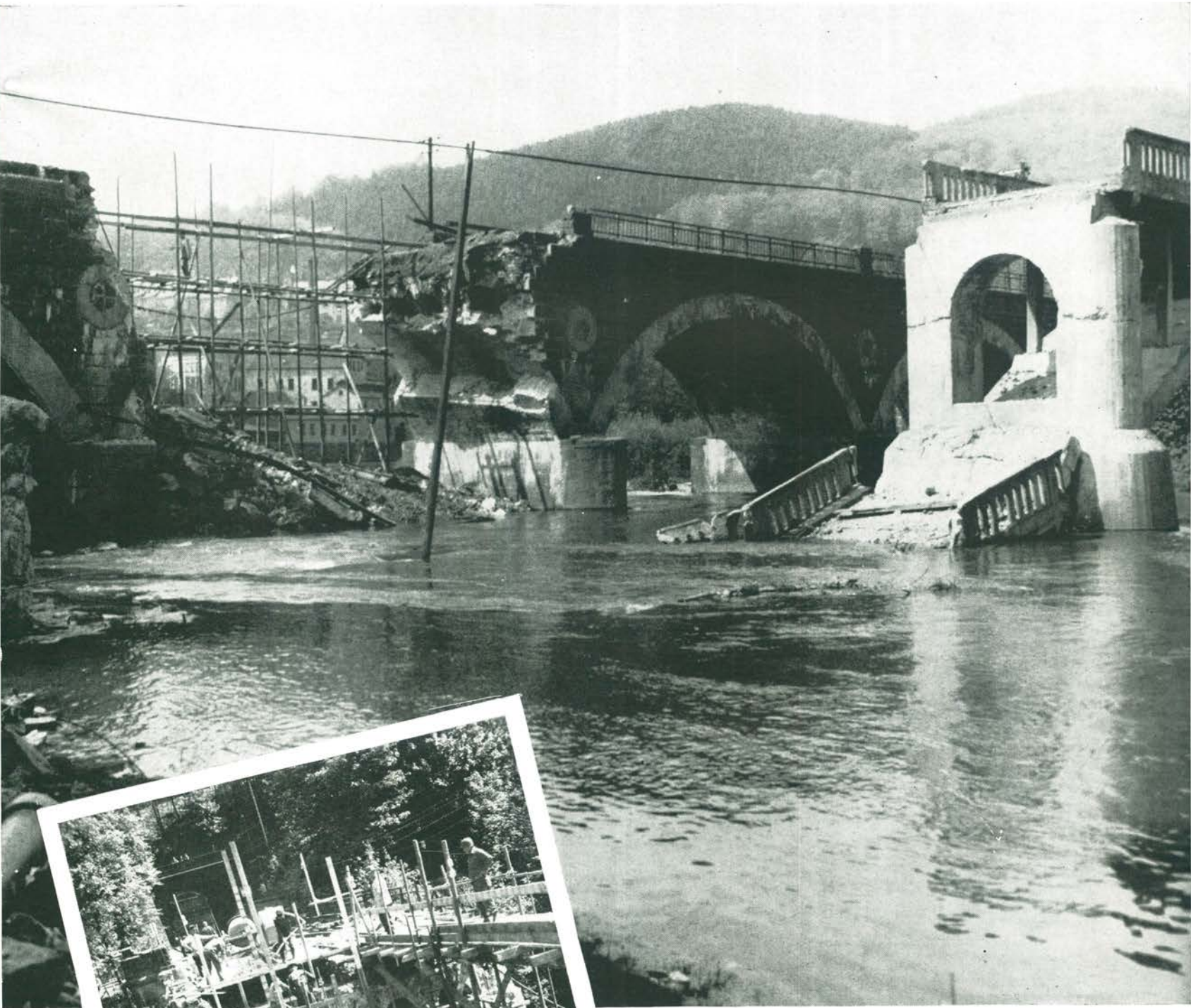
*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



AFTER CLEARING AWAY ONLY THE DEBRIS DIRECTLY IN OUR PATH, A SCAFFOLD IS CONSTRUCTED



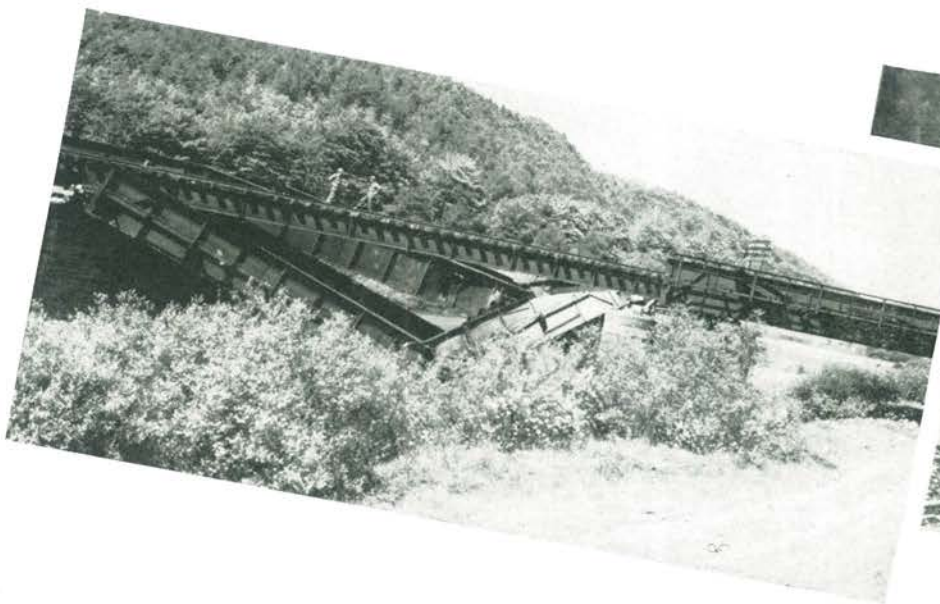
*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



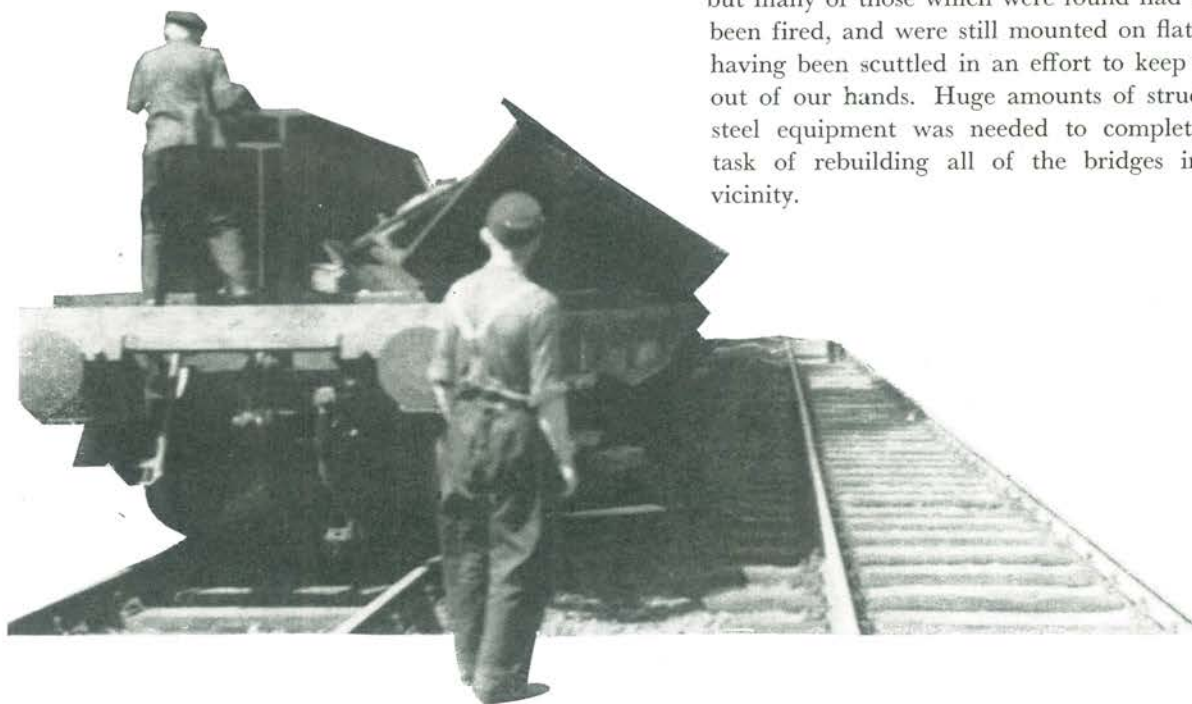
The more essential of the two bridges in the upper photograph is apparently the railway bridge, for the highway span remains untouched as work begins on scaffolding of the other. The lower picture was taken near the completion of frame from which men could begin laying the concrete bed.



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The railway gun above was completely ruined; but many of those which were found had never been fired, and were still mounted on flat cars, having been scuttled in an effort to keep them out of our hands. Huge amounts of structural steel equipment was needed to complete the task of rebuilding all of the bridges in the vicinity.

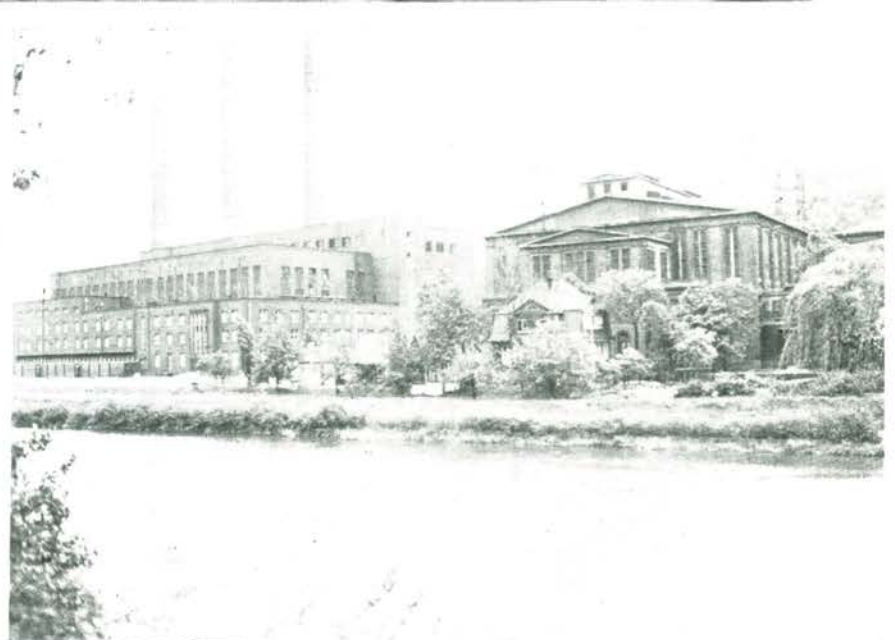




*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



The lack of coal as fuel for the power plant threatened the large area's power supply, and one of the initial reasons for getting the work on railways under way was to relieve this situation. These cars are lined up at the siding by the plant, which is viewed in lower shot.

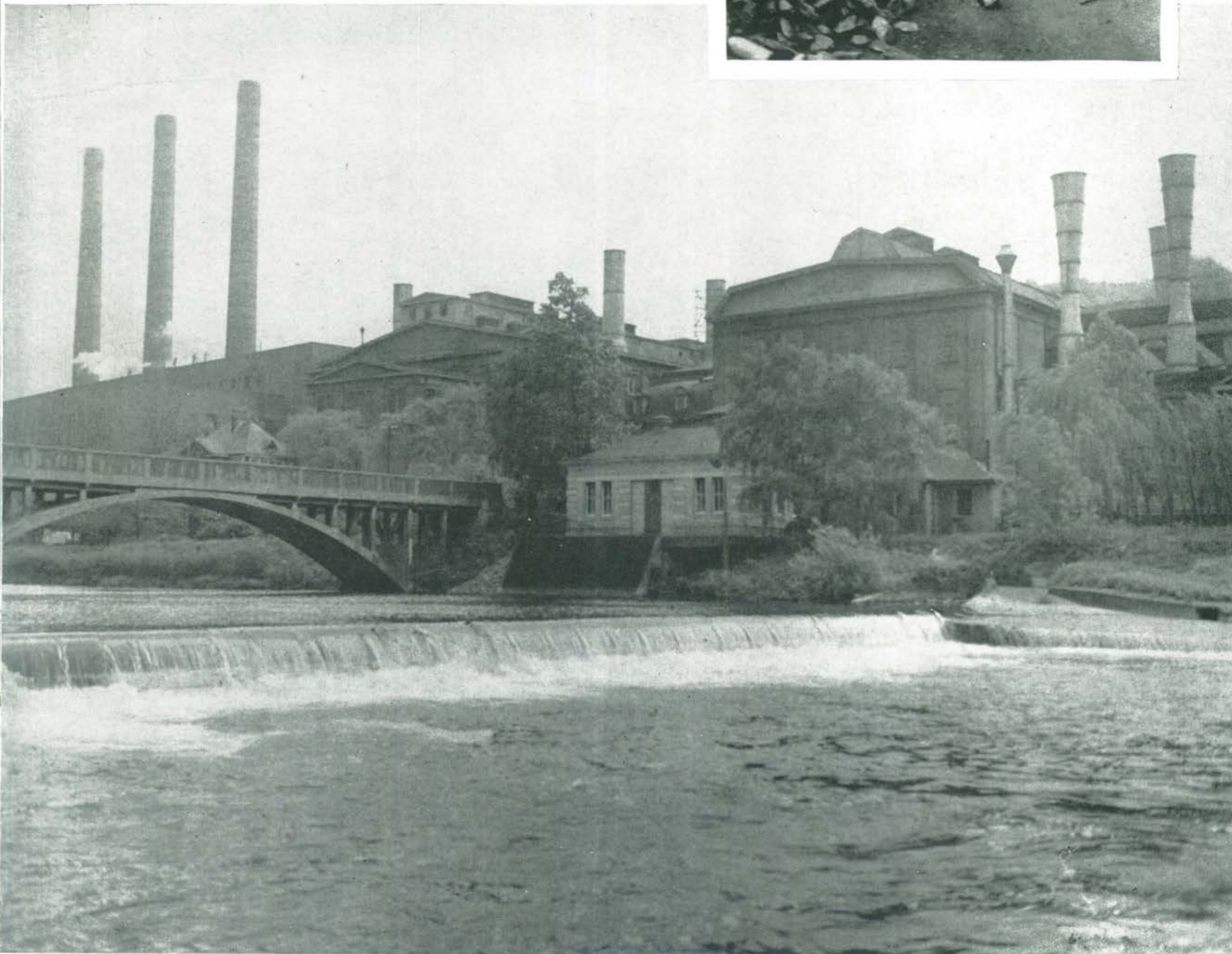
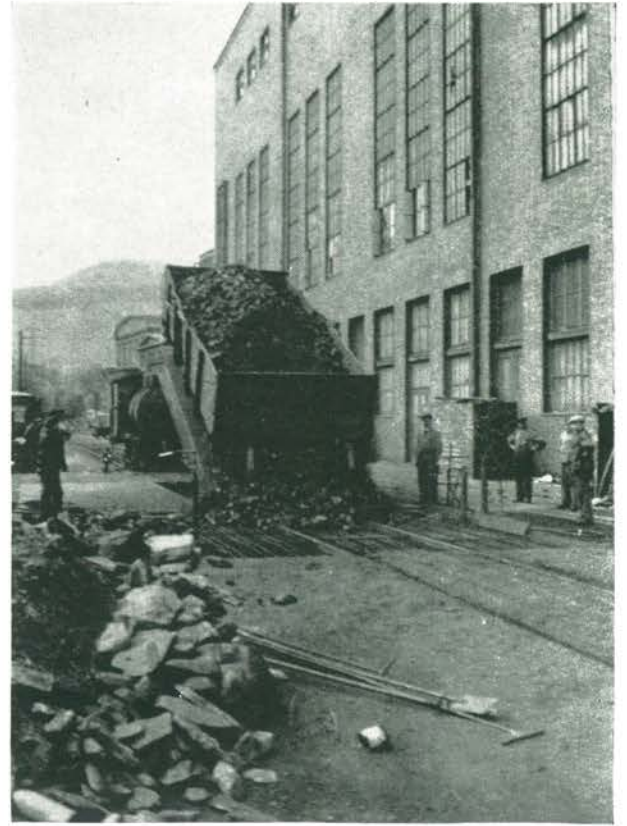




*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



Here are scenes of a power house and water washing over the dam in the river. Coal is being unloaded, and chances are that it was not stored long enough to allow the dust in it to settle, for the shortage due to transportation was great







Many of the units of the 75th took over various lake and river resorts where they could swim, fish, and even run speedboats and kayaks in their "after combat" leisure. Diving boards were built, and the environment here in one of the more beautiful spots did the men good.





*the seventy-fifth* **75** *infantry division*



AS LITTLE GERMAN CHILDREN STAND BY AND WATCH, GIs LIE ON THE SPRING-BOARD AND PEACEFULLY BATHE IN THE SUN

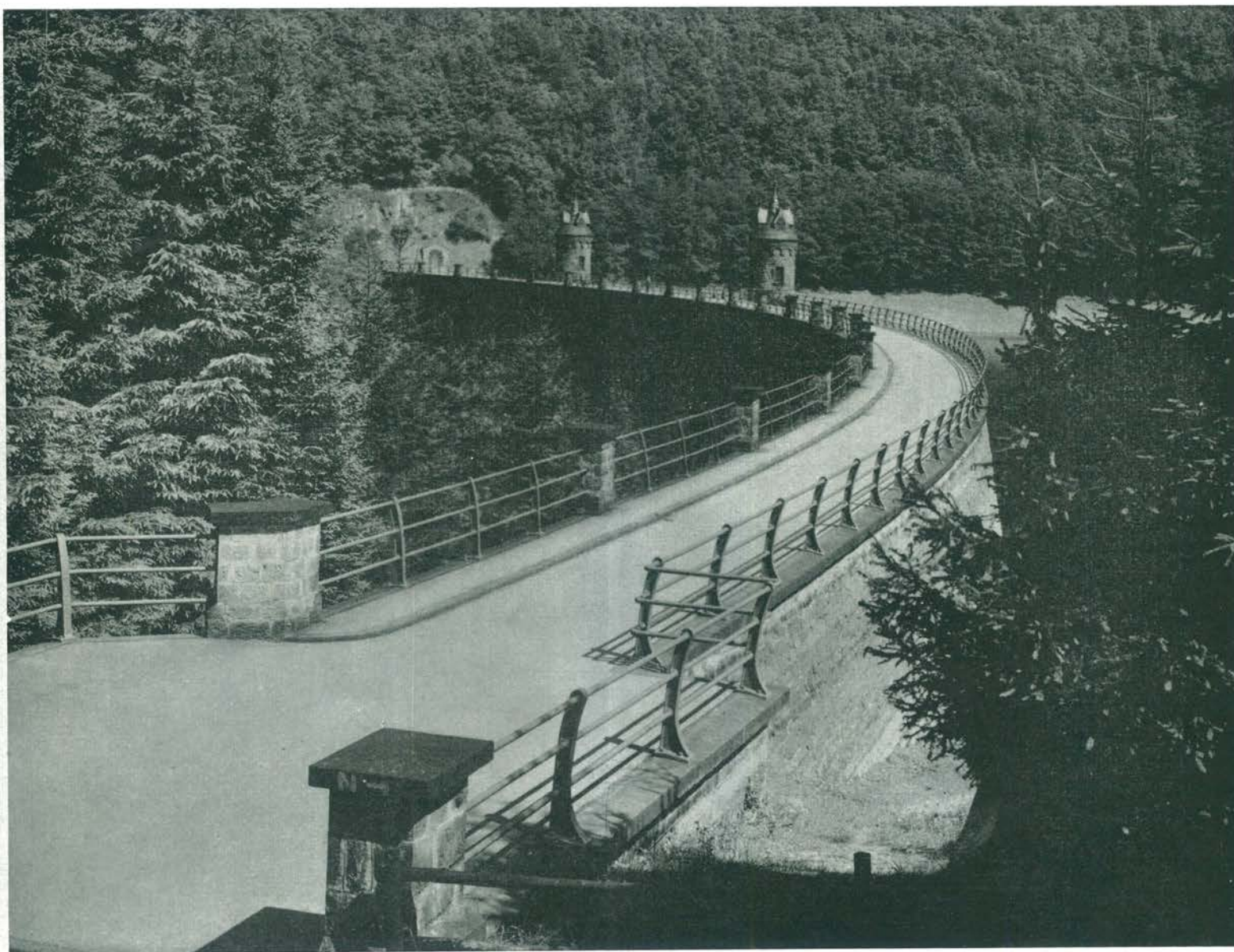


*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



From the walk around the top of this dam could be seen a decorative scene extending into wooded regions for miles. Camping out here did not in the least resemble bivouacing in pup tents during the war. Men who had said earlier that they would never sleep in a pup tent again unless it was an absolute order, took the first opportunity to set up in one at such places as this. It was secluded and quiet and answered every requirement of the men.





In this typically beautiful mountain resort spot near Altena, soldiers not only enjoyed the lake for boating and fishing, but also for the opportunity it afforded the amateur photographer. In need of such relaxation the men were often permitted to take days at a time here and rotate, so that the vacation from duties came often. It was during our stay here that we celebrated VE Day.







One of the most important single targets for the Army Air Forces as well as the ground forces in this war, was the Ruhr of Germany. It had the most tremendous concentration of industry and coal mines in the world. These huge factories were within easy reach, and could not go underground and still operate efficiently. The entire valley was the scene of hundreds of smoke stacks, one after the other, pouring smoke from their bowels continuously. The Germans, in an effort to stave off attack from the air, devised methods whereby attacking planes would be misled and bomb false targets illuminated for the purpose. Here, too, was the famed Krupp works which turned out Germany's huge guns for the battle; bombed and attacked, she finally could no longer rebuild and repair fast enough to continue operation. When the Americans entered, the area was literally shambles. In the last phase of the war in Germany, the 75th Division met the enemy in the Ruhr Pocket, which generally covered an area east from the Rhine to Dortmund and then south to the Ruhr River, where they battered him to submission.





# THE RUHR POCKET

## G E R M A N Y







These pictures typify the action that took place in the Ruhr sector, for all was blasted unmercifully in death and destruction. The Germans who remained in this pocket were trapped and with their horse-drawn vehicles, munitions low, and food supply lines gone, their only way out was to fight until the occasion for surrender presented itself.







German vehicles such as the ones in this assembly dump came from previous scenes of violence as pictured below. Battered and smashed in the wake of the advancing armies these automobiles and trucks rest where they were smashed from the roads. Bottom, tracks can be seen where bulldozers scraped the pieces aside.









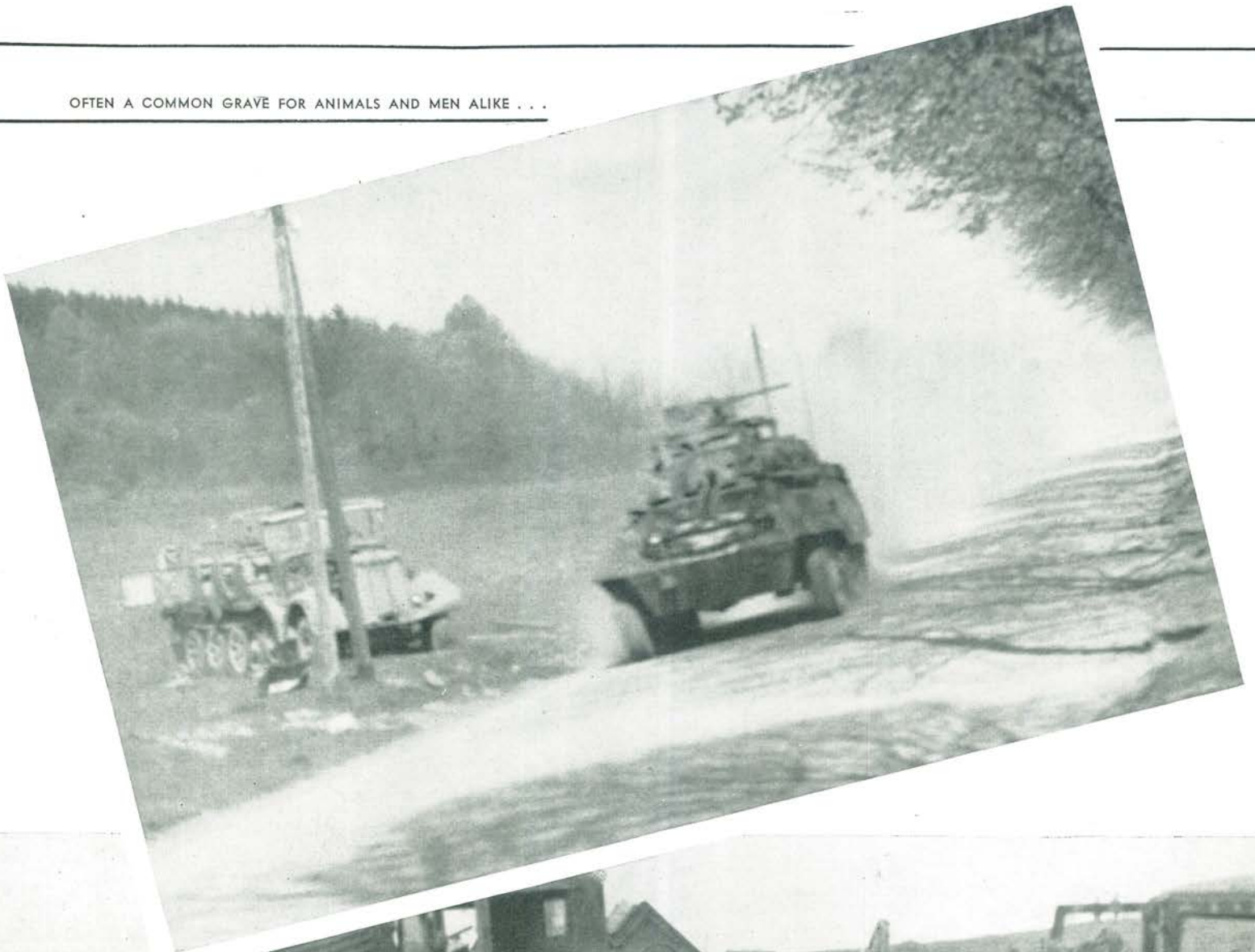
Overturned Germans tanks and anti-aircraft pieces are strewn across the fields in the long shadows of the many churches in the little farming towns and villages scattered about the Ruhr.





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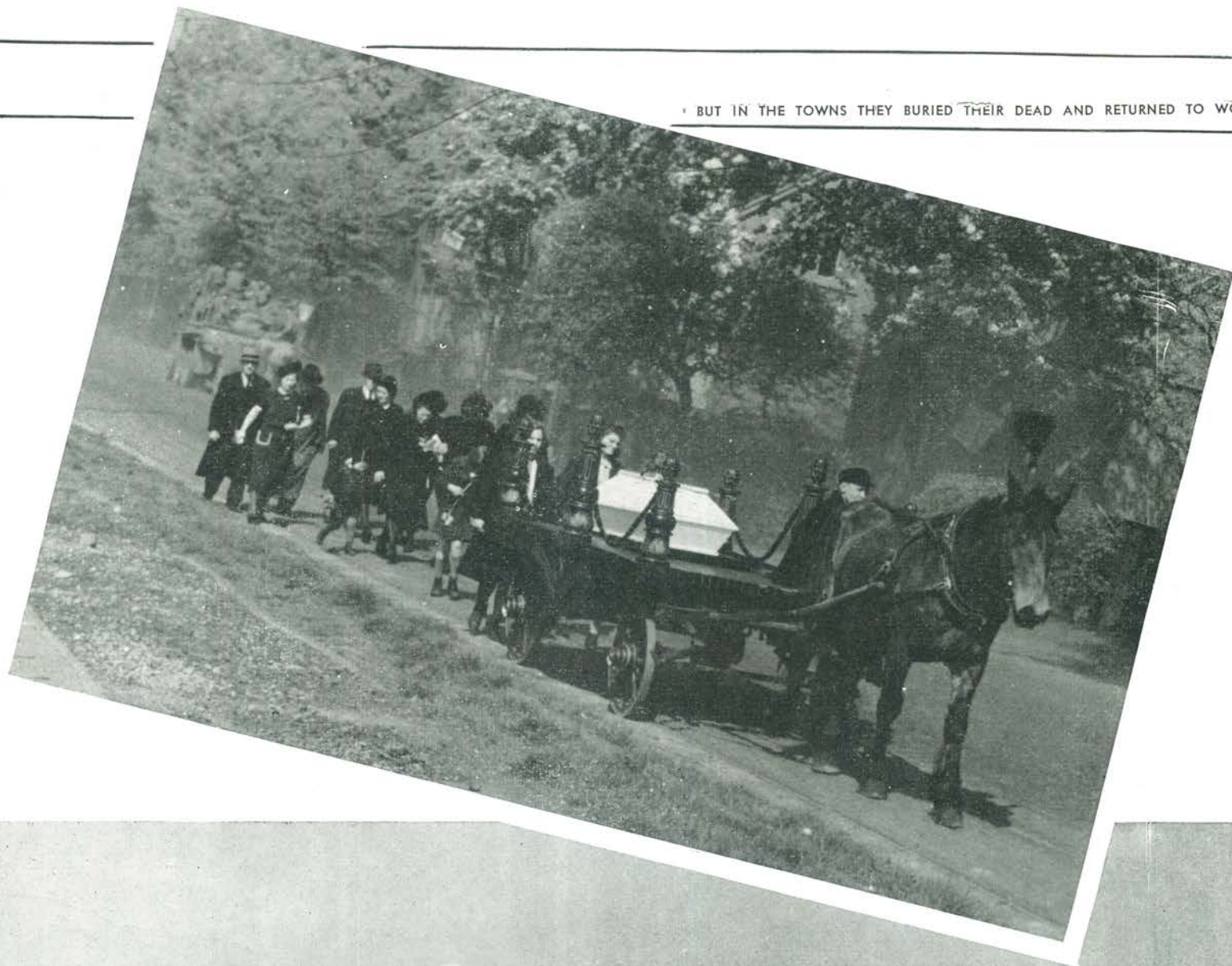
OFTEN A COMMON GRAVE FOR ANIMALS AND MEN ALIKE . . .





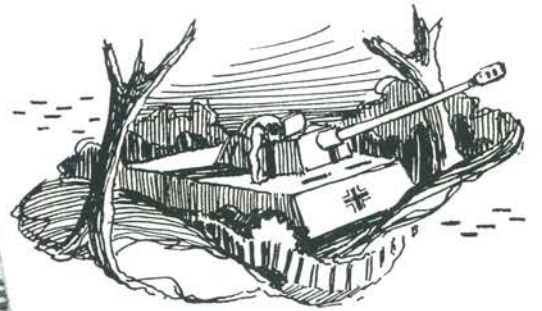
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BUT IN THE TOWNS THEY BURIED THEIR DEAD AND RETURNED TO WORK





*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*





*the seventy-fifth* **75** *infantry division*

Our own half-tracks and tanks suffered severely and knocked out equipment was salvaged to replace parts in those which were still able to fight. Plates in the tracks were used over and over for they were vital materials difficult to replace quickly. It was about this time that we began to hear about the T-34 multiple rocket launcher mounted on an M-4 tank; new developments all the time. . . .





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The rumbling and roaring of our huge prime mover frightened the civilians and animals everywhere in Europe, for never had they seen such quantities of heavy equipment before. Children lined the streets to watch the haulers carrying tons of shells for heavy artillery up to gun emplacements behind the lines.



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Few of the pretty rows of houses or quaint country scenes were not marked by some modern piece of fighting apparatus either passing through, or covering a road or intersection of importance. As traffic rolled on Displaced Persons waited for transportation.









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THIS RAIL YARD SCENE WAS TAKEN AT DATTLEN WHERE THE ENEMY BLEW THEIR BRIDGES AFTER THEM AND GAINED ONLY VERY LITTLE TIME



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Although the Germans claimed that the destruction of large railway yards by the allies could have been more effective if the main lines had been cut instead of the damage being done in the yards where there was a more efficient team of workers operating, here is a picture which proves that they were wrong.

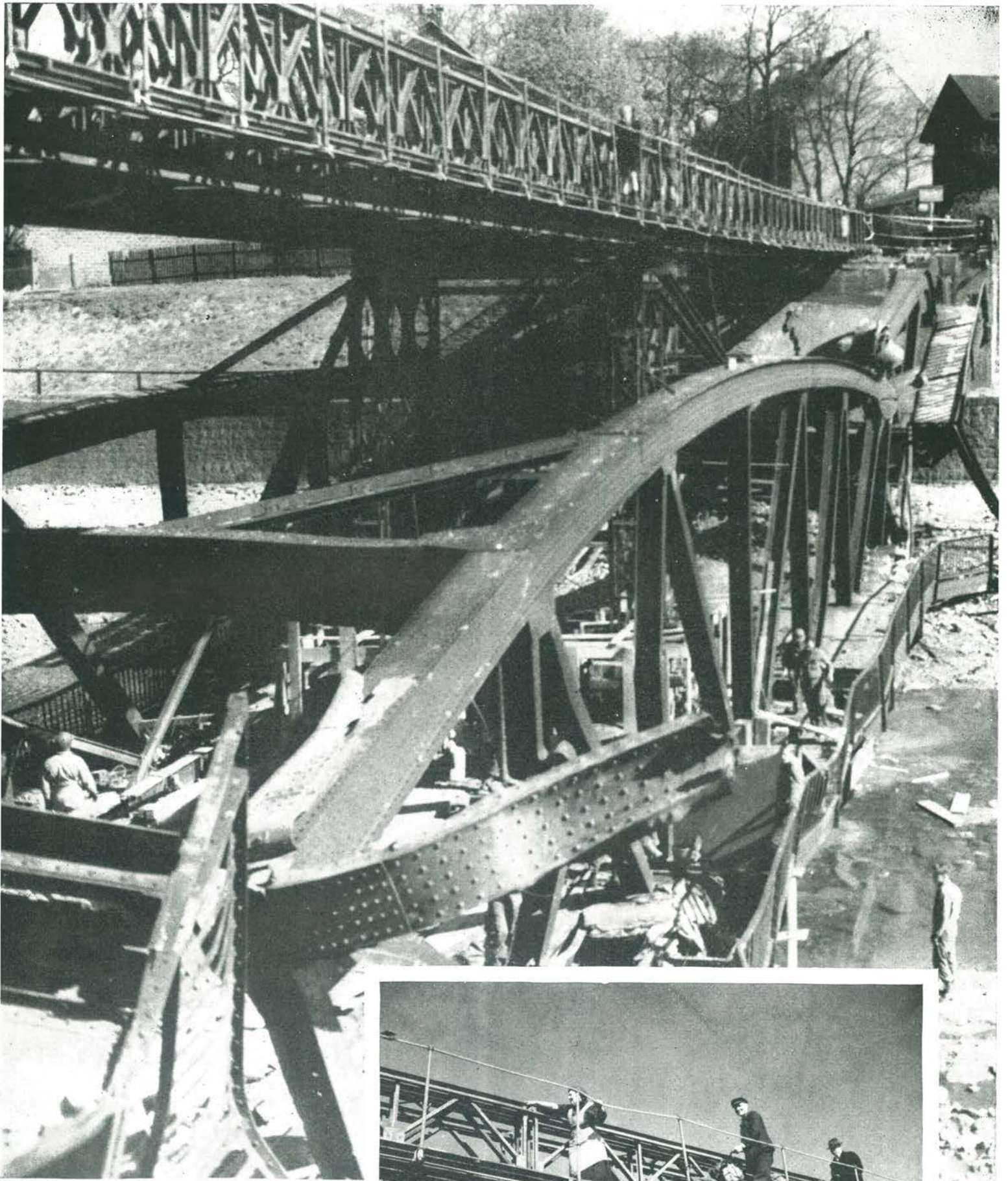




*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*







The new bridge was constructed next to the one which was blown out, and the operation was simplified since a great deal of the work was done on the deck of the old bridge below.





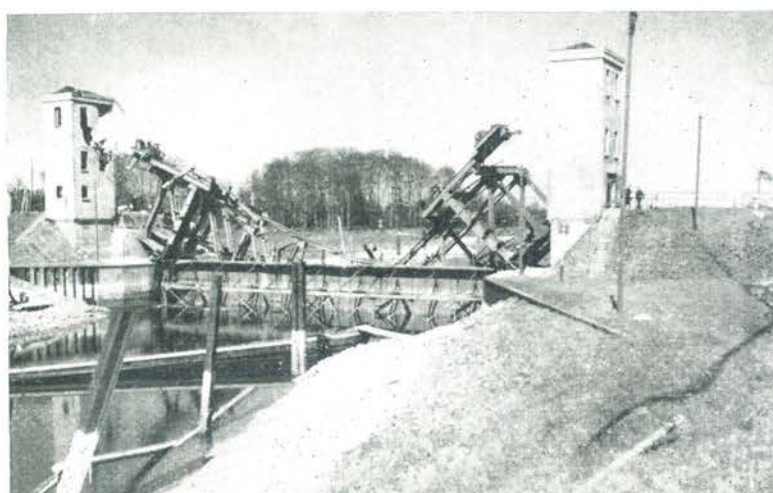


These barges rest on the bottom of this canal near Dattlen, Germany, for the operation of the locks and water inlets had been suddenly curtailed. All types of bridge spans across the numerous canals were destroyed and usually lay limp and torn in the flow of the canal tide. Often for advancing troops these waterways gave considerable trouble and had to be bridged as though they were comparatively large rivers.





This is a unique type of bridge, wherein the canal has been filled across its width with soil and timber, and, in order to permit the canal water to flow normally, a power pump can be seen pumping the water through a three-inch hose.







THESE GIs ENJOY A LITTLE BIT OF DRINKING WITH THEIR THOROUGHLY





ENJOYABLE COMIC PLAY ACTING, STRICTLY AD-LIB AND NO PROMPTING





THESE DISPLACED PERSONS WERE THRILLED AT THE IDEA OF POSING FOR A PICTURE. THE NEARBY POOL WAS ALMOST THEIR ONLY SOURCE OF WATER







**Siegen...**





The panorama of Siegen was a clean one with little white houses and neatly cultivated fields in the suburbs. This photograph was taken from the veranda of the administration building of a former German garrison which was later converted into a Displaced Persons (DP) camp.





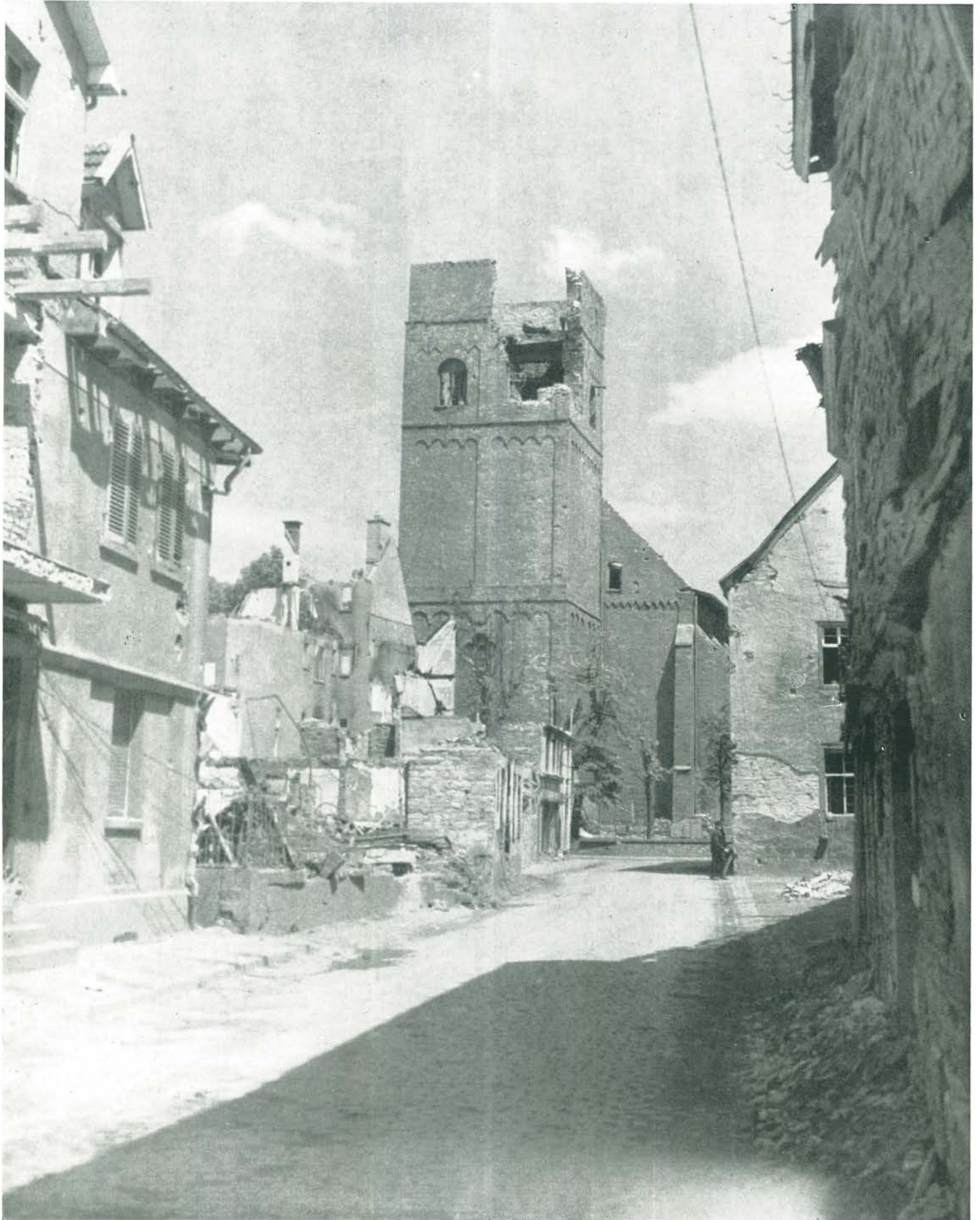


It was in this camp at the time the Division was housed in the area, that hundreds of Russian slave laborers were trying to leave the country in effort to find some means of transportation to take them home. Below is a corner of Siegen where hitch-hikers try vainly to get a ride.





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A NEAR MISS ON A MILITARY OBJECTIVE OFTEN MEANT THAT AERIAL BOMBS WOULD KNOCK OUT DWELLINGS OF NO STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE





THIS TIME—WEARY OLD WOMAN COOKS HER MEAGER DINNER AS BEST SHE CAN WITH THE LITTLE THAT SHE IS ABLE TO PROCURE IN THE VICINITY





Moldy bread is placed on the lid of a discarded oil can cover to dry enough to be safely eaten. The men were starved and showed the evidence of long years of hard,

fruitless work under the heel of their German keepers. Their sincere devotion to the allied armies knew no bounds.







After the fall of the German armies the DPs looted what they deemed essential to living more decently before attempting the long journey homeward. The young girls made it a point to get the best clothes they could while in the process of gathering foodstuffs.







With a strong determination to regain face in the eyes of the world, Russians young and old smile again although their spirits have been trampled.





THE WOMEN DID THEIR WOOD-CHOPPING LIKE VETERAN LUMBERJACKS ALONG WITH THE MEN, AND THOSE WHO WORKED FOR THE ARMY WERE FED ARMY RATIONS







These people utilized anything they could find for cooking utensils and formed little groups throughout the camp. Remnants of fires and former group dining places can be seen, lower left. A grateful child thanks a smiling GI for an orange he was given.





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THESE DP's READ THEIR BULLETIN BOARD REGULARLY IN THE HOPE THAT SOON THERE MAY BE SOME AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION TO THEIR HOMES



THESE SMILES IMPLIED THAT THE "LAISSEZ-FAIRE"  
SYSTEM COULD BE FOLLOWED, BUT ARMY SAID TO GI,  
"NO DICE . . ."





In typical costume of the Russian peasant, these women hurry about their simple chores happy in the fact that the winter frosts are gone and they can again discount the worry for warm clothing. Women could be seen wearing the German soldiers' regulation boots and coats, content with the cover they afforded. These men too, cook their own food, and do not expect that it be done for them by the women at a nearby fire. In order to keep clean they had to wash their own few clothes as often as possible and take infrequent baths in nearby streams. Nevertheless the filth was inconceivable to us who visited.







Disease and sickness were rampant in the camp, resulting in a terrific death rate. As soon as the 75th moved into the vicinity of Siegen, they took over the task of reducing it by building sanitary latrines, improving drainage, and testing and purifying water.



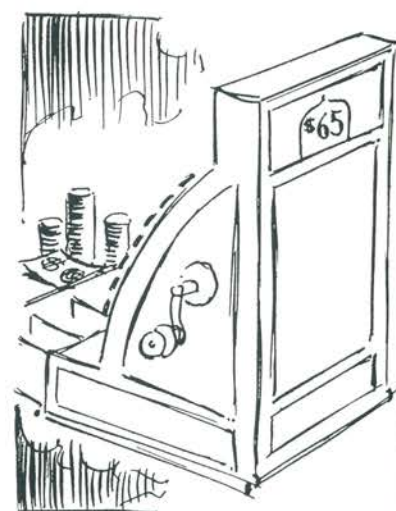


*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*



THIS PRETTY AND YOUTHFUL FRENCH WAC SERGEANT WAS IN CHARGE OF AND SUPERVISED THE FEMALE SECTION OF THE CAMP





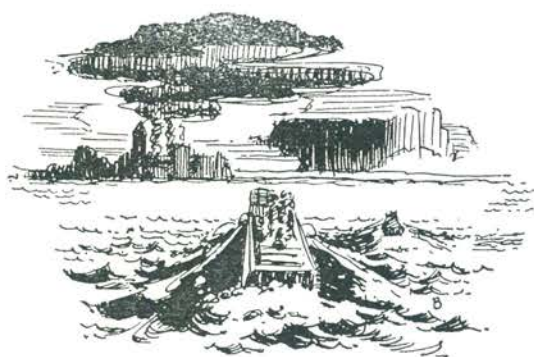
These buxom girls thought immediately of their beauty treatments, and no sooner had the sun arisen in the morning than out they would be to bask in its rays until work again was necessary. Their bathing attire was flimsy but it served their hardly naive wants very suitably.











On the Western Front soon after the U. S. Ninth Army crossed the Rhine, it became just another European river. It was not the obstacle that the allies had earlier contemplated. Although opposition was comparatively light according to expected figures, much planning and precision execution was necessary. The amphibious assault went off according to schedule, and so smoothly, that it was not long before engineer ponton outfits were laying 500 yard spans across the famed river. Bridges protected by smoke screens and barrage balloons were soon scenes of bustling activity. The bridge approaches were still being worked on after the floating sections had been completed. Not many hours after the first troops in assault hit the Eastern banks of the river, airborne troops under cover of mist and fog landed behind enemy lines to lock the Wehrmacht in vicious fighting behind the lines. Every known means of support was being afforded the troops on the move. Safety measures were instituted to insure the holding up of vital bridges which were to send thousands of troops across their frames.





# THE RHINE

## GERMANY











On the 75th Infantry Division's front at the Rhine River, this night photograph depicts some of the action which took place. The Army had one of the greatest concentrations of artillery in history for this outstanding operation which proved to be entirely successful.

In these shots can be seen the tracer bullets racing across the sky into enemy areas, shells bursting brightly on the opposite shore, sweeping the beaches and German lines for miles with phosphorus shells and heavy, medium, light artillery and mortars.





To cover the varied types of work necessary in this tremendous operation, the Division had to take over various types of civilian factories and shops, wherein they could turn out vital materials with the greatest possible speed. Carpenter shops, steel and metal work plants, even houses and sheds were utilized for the prefabrication of bridge materials and parts. Men could even be found working out on the sidewalks in the towns.





After strafing several military objectives both plane and pilot were destroyed by accurate fire of the 440th AA Battalion attached to the 75th Division throughout the many campaigns.





These men have turned this sidewalk and garden into a saw and lumber mill where they are cutting timbers for bridge pilings and superstructure. Lumber was cut very often from the wooded areas nearby and brought to places like this for final shaping to suit immediate needs. The men were quartered generally in the home adjacent to their places of work, and after falling out in the morning, went there directly.



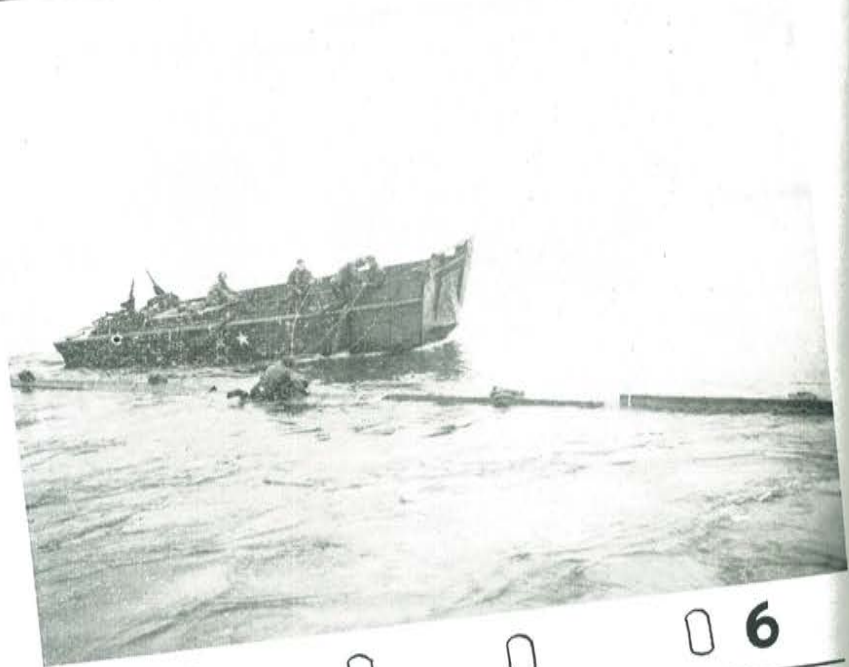


*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*

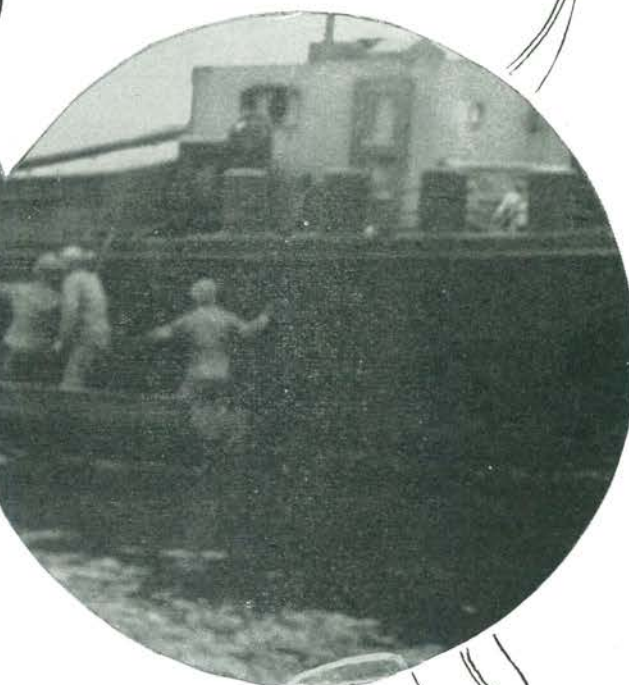


AT THIS POST, AN OBSERVER CHECKS ON THE SUCCESS OF A SMOKE SCREEN LAID DOWN BY ARTILLERY ON THE OPPOSITE BANK



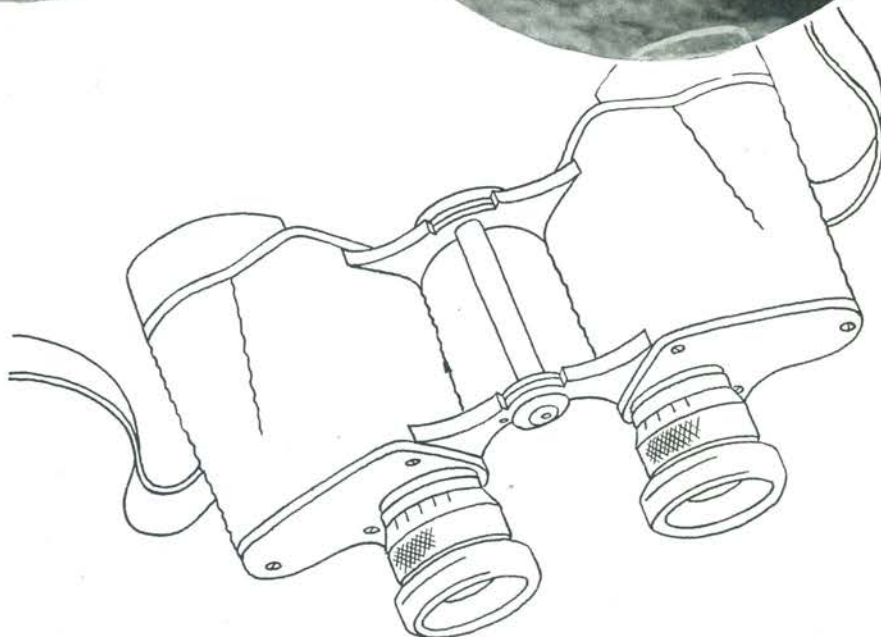




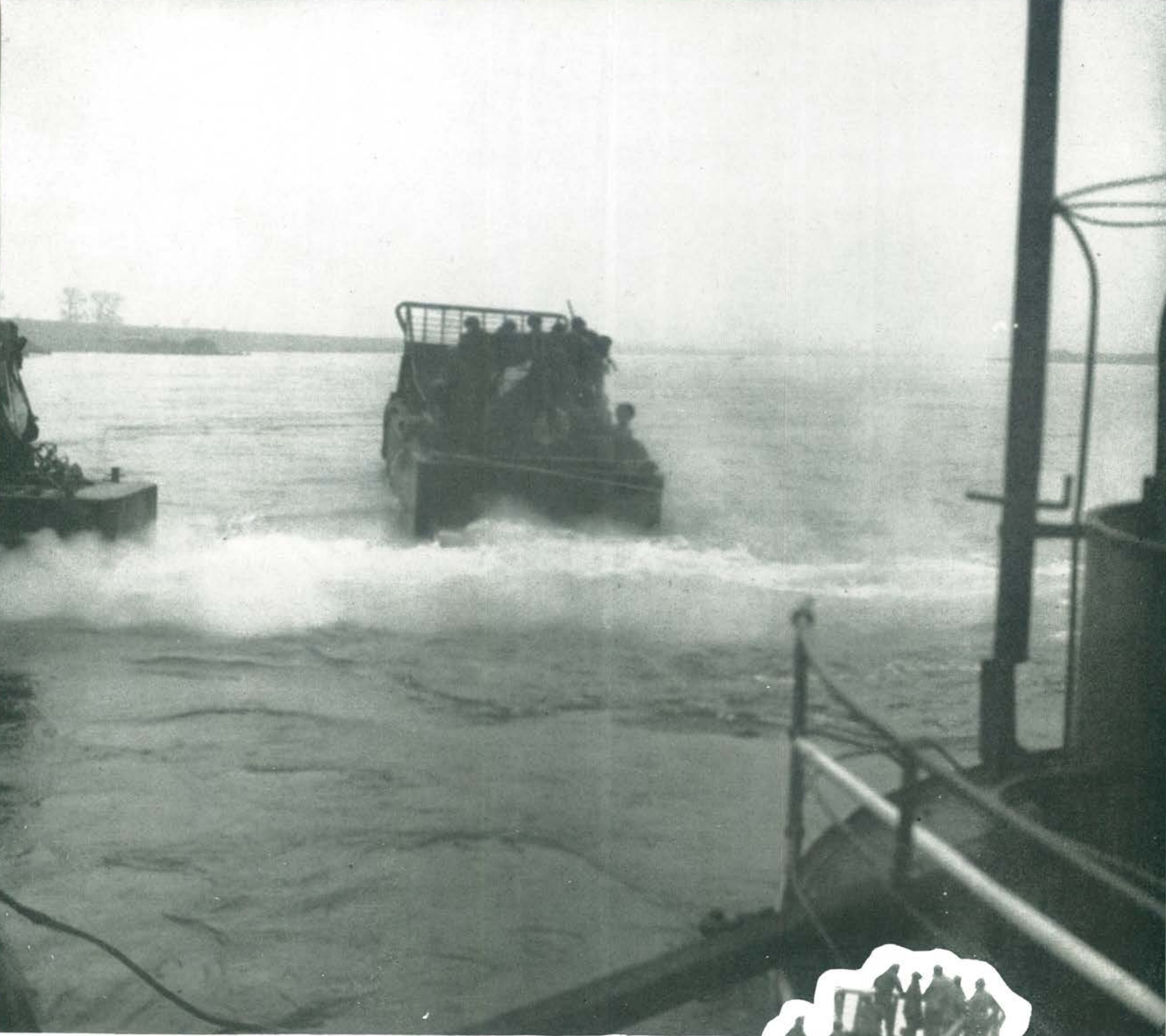


### EPISODE ON THE RHINE

1. Preparing Storm Boat for River
2. Boat Upset on Barge Anchor Chain
3. Men Grasp Chain from Swift Current
4. Two Men Cling to Floating Boom
5. LCM Puts Out to Help Men on Boom
6. Floundering Victims Are Rescued
7. All Are Taken Aboard Barge







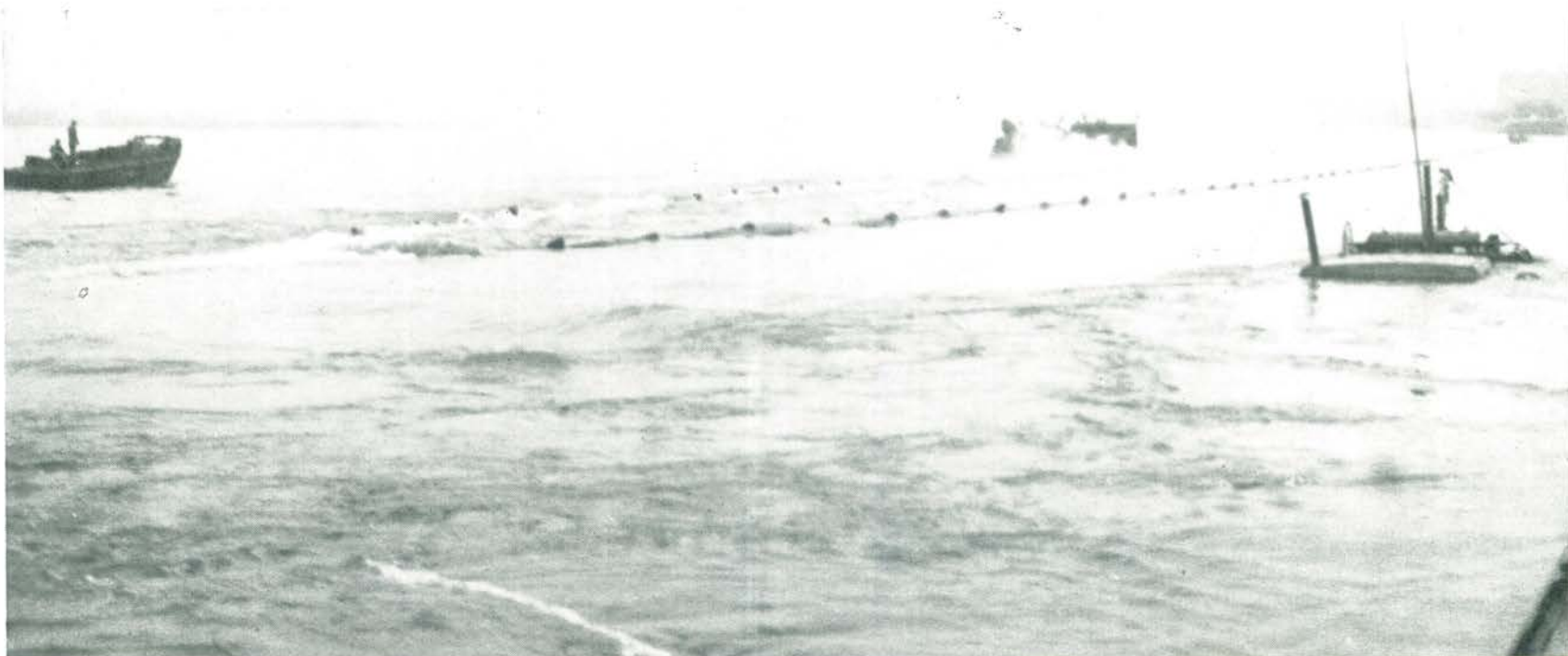
in conjunction with the LCMs (Landing Craft Mechanized) there were many Navy Operators who piloted them for our use in bridge and boom construction. The combination was unusual for us, but efficient team work resulted.





Smoke pots can be seen burning in the distance to cover the bridge. Upstream a boom is under construction which will prevent floating mines from damaging

the span below (upper). Below is a shot of an LCM drawing a boom across the river to be securely anchored on opposite shore.

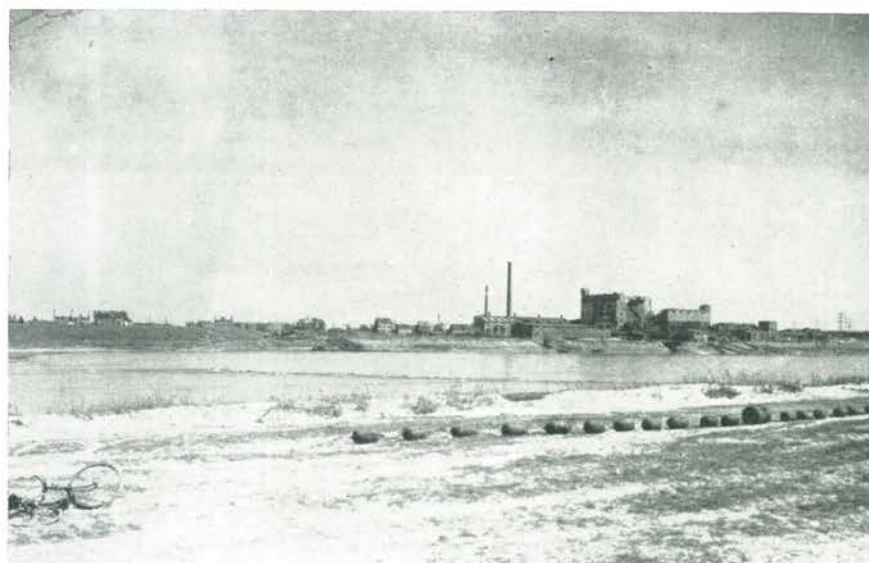




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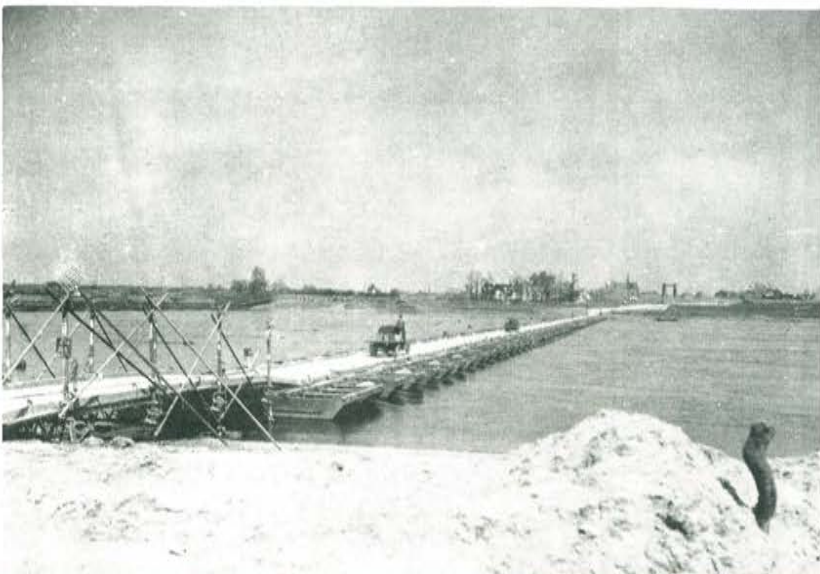
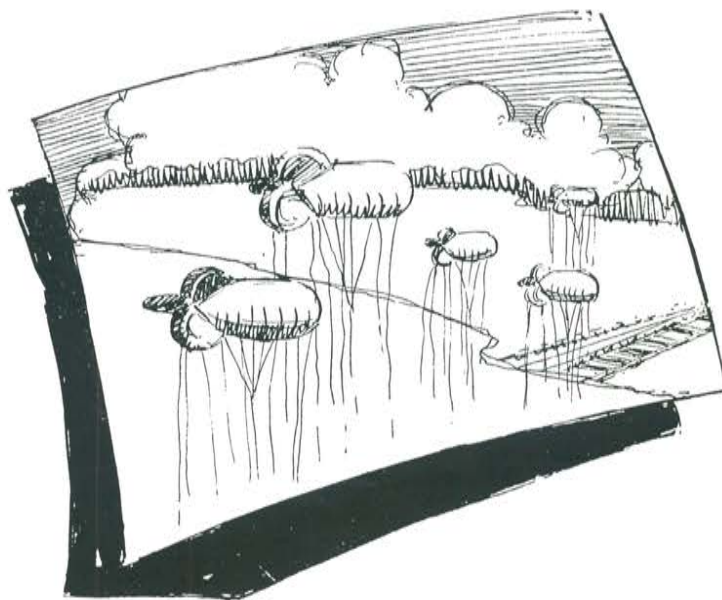




This floating Bailey bridge was one of the many initially put across the Rhine to support troops and equipment pursuing the enemy into Germany. At right is pictured an extra section of a floating mine sweeping boom to be used in case of damage to one in use. The shot below is one of a road barricade which proved to be of little use.



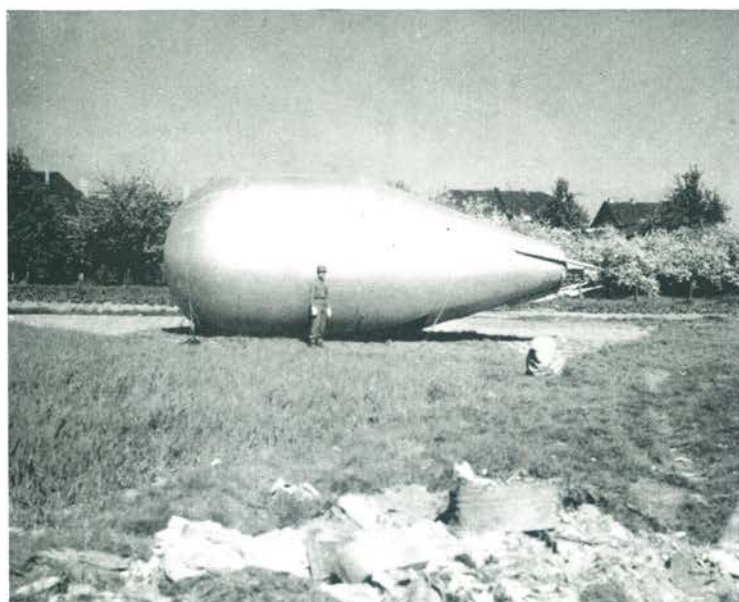








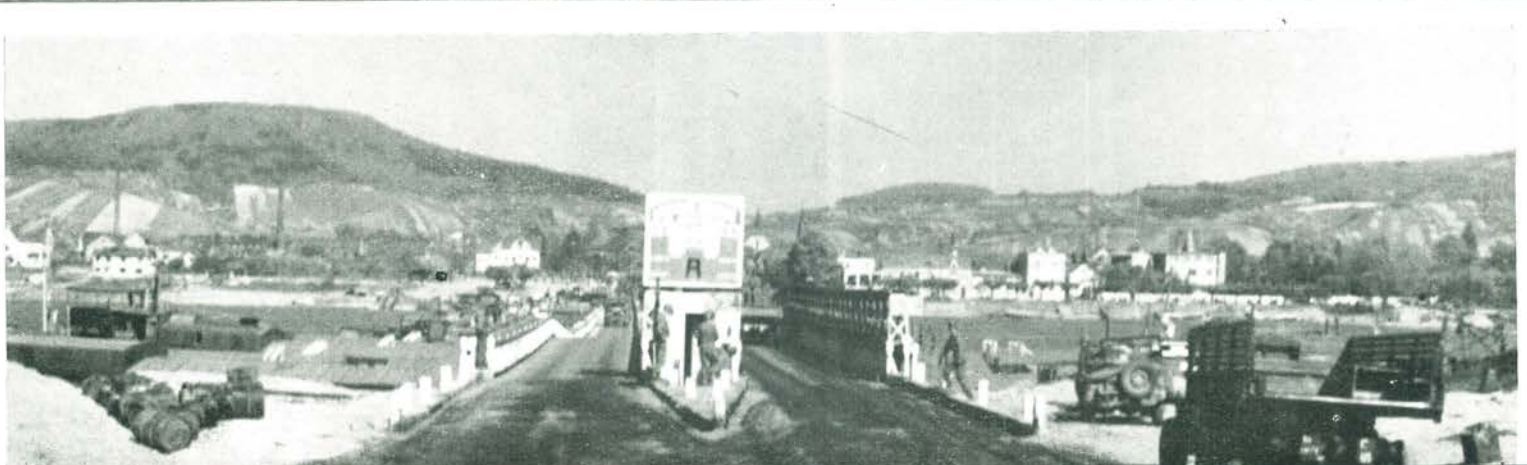
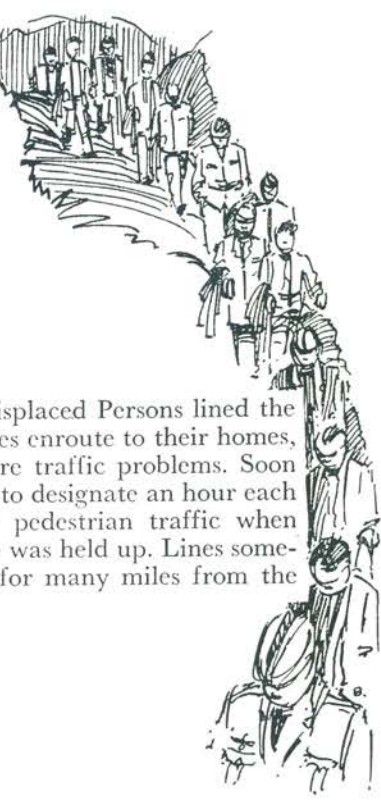
General Hodges' First Army bridge was constructed just South of the city of Cologne in the vicinity of Remagen. In order to facilitate the job, barges were taken off the river and used as floats. The bridge was put up to help relieve the congestion of traffic on the famous Remagen bridge and came into considerable use when the latter collapsed. Barrage balloons were utilized to keep enemy aircraft out of possible range.



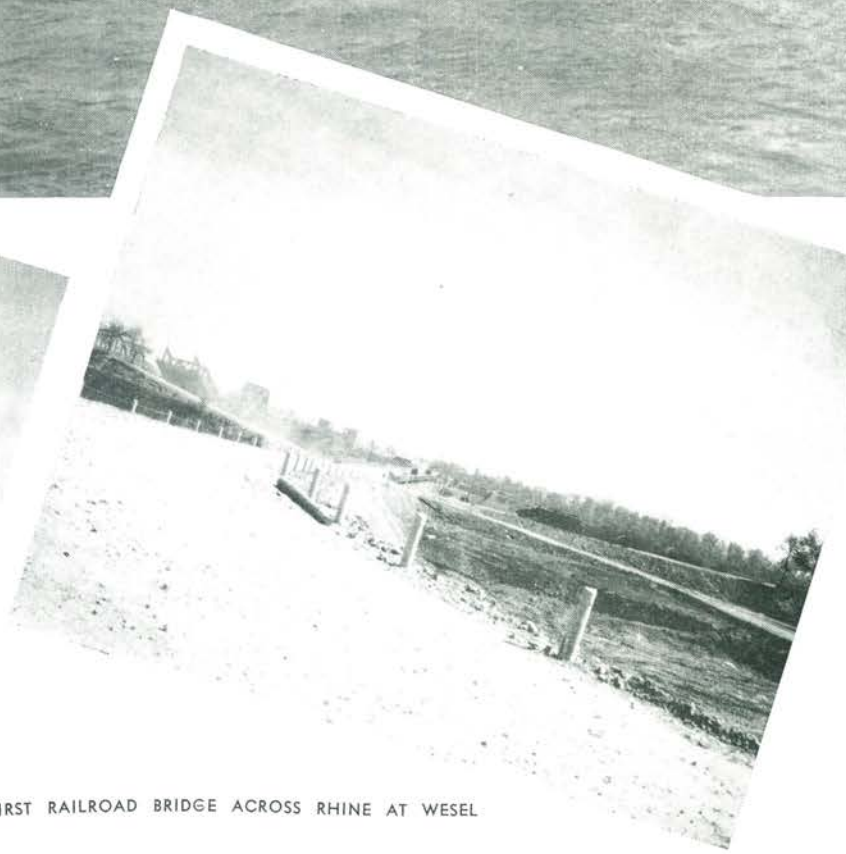
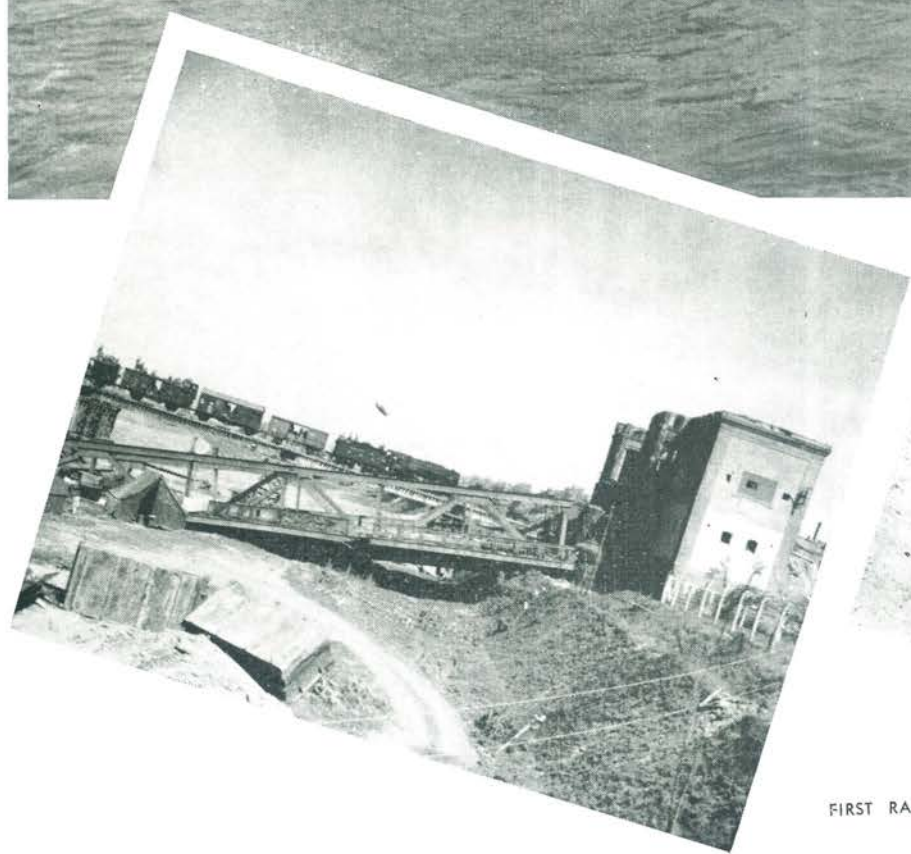




Thousands of Displaced Persons lined the bridge approaches enroute to their homes, and caused severe traffic problems. Soon it was necessary to designate an hour each day for civilian pedestrian traffic when all other passage was held up. Lines sometimes extended for many miles from the bridges.



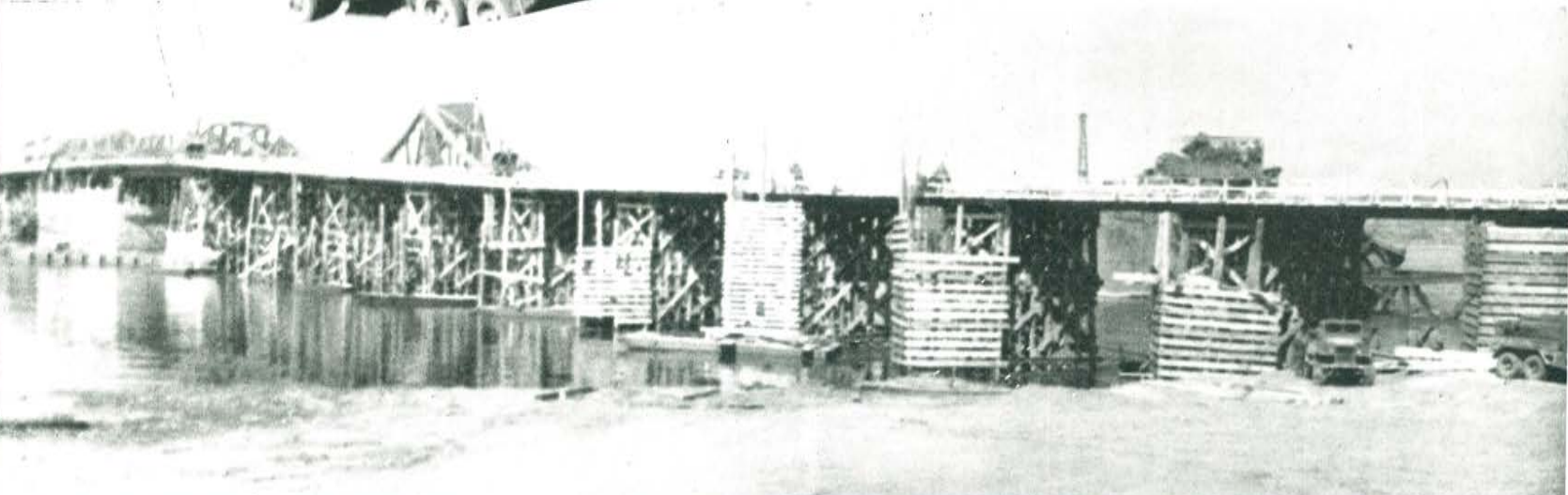
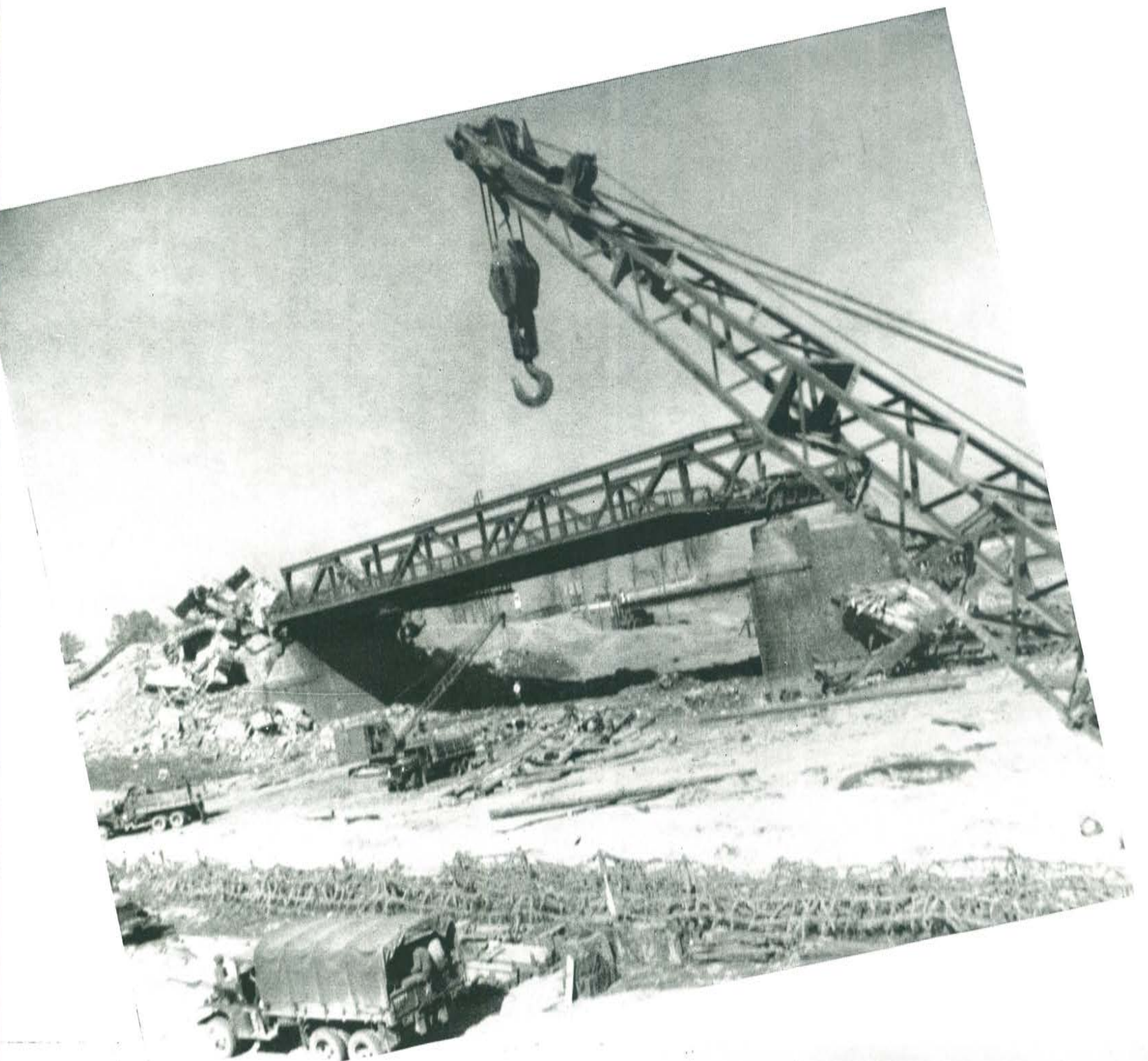




FIRST RAILROAD BRIDGE ACROSS RHINE AT WESEL



*the seventy fifth* **75** *infantry division*







The famous Roosevelt Bridge across the Rhine was a fixed bridge and it is possible to see from these photographs how carefully it was built. Timbers were secured about the base of the pilings to protect them from damaging debris in the swift moving river.



