




AFRICA  
SICILY  
ITALY

*Mission Accomplished*



## THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE FLAK ALLEY...




Flying Forts blazed their trails from Ploesti to Berlin.

**G**ROWING from a few squadrons into two mighty airforces, American air power played its full share in the Mediterranean victories. Targets lay in Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, Austria, Yugoslavia, Greece, Roumania, Czechoslovakia, and Germany and the 12th and 15th Air Forces took them as they came.

As well as tactically supporting the ground troops, American aircraft flying from Mediterranean bases participated in the great campaign which crushed the Luftwaffe, strangled the German oil industry, and crippled the German transportation system.

For the men who flew the planes these missions meant sweating combat and enemy fighters. For the men who kept the planes in the air there were long hours of work and long hours of waiting.

The lines of blasted German tanks and trucks, the demolished bridges, flattened railroad yards, and battered factories testified to the kind of job they did.



Wholesale destruction of the Luftwaffe was carried out in support of the May offensive.



Railroad yards were vital targets.

# INTO THE PROMISED LAND



Pointing the way — the Po Valley lay ahead.



The 81th moved fast through Vicenza.

**W**HEN the blow came, the Krauts lasted exactly 23 days. The drive was launched 7 April by the Eighth Army on the right and the 92nd division on the left. Main Fifth Army forces attacked below Bologna a week later. Suddenly the Krauts collapsed. In quick succession Bologna, Modena, Ferrara, Parma, Verona, and Venice fell to the men who had fought for 19 months to reach the Po valley — "The Promised Land." All divisions, the 10th Mountain, 1st Armored, 34th, 88th, 91st and 92nd were in on the kill.

Before the Fifth Army could reach Milan, Italian Partisans drove the Germans out and placed the bullet-ridden, battered body of Mussolini on display. Twenty-five German divisions were whipped. The show was over in Italy.



91st Div. men used a blown bridge to cross the Adige river.



Men of the 34th were 11st into Bologna.



1st Armored tanks led the way.



OVER wadies and wastes of North Africa, the unsmiling hills of Sicily, and the Black mountains of Italy, Allied soldiers made history in the Mediterranean campaign. They fought over roads the Romans built; across battlefields of long ago; through ancient ruins and modern cities; across endless ridges and through dusty or flood-swept valleys. They took the bait the Germans had and advanced almost 3,000 miles—from El Alamein and Casablanca to the Brenner Pass.

This is their story—of Arabs and Indians; truck drivers and tail gunners; K-rations and trench feet; endurance and courage; the Anzio Express and Hill 609.

To those who were killed in action, this book is dedicated.



Men got battlewise in a hurry. It was a tough, hardfought campaign from start to finish.



Tanks and infantrymen teamed together to flush the last snipers out of Bizerte.



## OUR FIRST D-DAY

**I**n the bare country of Tunisia where trees and brush are scarce and the rocky slopes steepen at times into cliffs, American soldiers first learned about the Krauts and how to beat them.

These men, lowrunners of the great armies that were to fight in Sicily, and Germany, learned their lessons on the beaches of Casablanca, Oran and Algiers and in defeats at Kasserine Pass and Fondouk. They took a post-graduate course in the mountains; from Sedjenane station to Medjez el Bab and emerged to help knock the Nazis out of Africa.

D-day was D10 & November, 1942. It was but the first of many D-days before the mission in the Mediterranean would be accomplished.



Hill 600 near Medjez. The Germans had to be knocked off with grenades and bayonets in one of the fiercest fights of the war.



What these men learned the hard way saved lives in Sicily, Italy and France.



The price was high.

**"COME ON IN  
AND GIVE UP!"**

THE 36th and 45th divisions and the British 10th Corps punched the first wedge into Hitler's Fortress Europe near Paestum on the Gulf of Salerno.

H-hour, D-day was 0330, 9 September 1943. A voice blared out in English over a loudspeaker apparently from the landing area:

"Come on in and give up." The Krauts were yelling.

It took seven critical days to secure the beachhead. But the navy, airforce, and men on the beaches beat off the full weight of every German counter-attack.

The Eighth army landed at the toe and instep of the boot 5 September. When patrols of the Fifth and Eighth linked up 16 September, the Germans had begun to retreat. Naples fell 1 October. By 6 October Fifth army troops were on the south bank of the Volturno river. They had battered their way 48 miles in 27 days.



Reinforcements kept coming.



Huge quantities of supplies were landed.



Naples harbor was heavily damaged.



Hazi time bomb in Naples post office killed and injured many civilians.



First lap on the road to Rome.





Service troops were targets too.

Maples handled more tonnage than New York.

# SUPPLIES KEPT COMING

WHEREVER the armies fought, supplies got there. For every man in the line were a number of others backing him up — unloading boats, driving trucks, repairing guns, directing traffic, building bridges, repairing railroads, and stringing communications.

During one day at Salerno, three battalions of the 45th division artillery fired almost 7,000 rounds. Part battalions and shore engineers bucked those shells across the beaches to where they'd do some good despite bad weather, air raids, and artillery fire.

Throughout the campaign, supplying the armies was monotonous, hard, without glamour or recognition and often dangerous. Had it not been done there could have been no landings, no advances, no victories.



MP's kept vital traffic moving.

Engineers rebuilt the railroads.





# ATTACK! BREAKTHROUGH! ROME!

**T**HE blow came from the south at 2300 11 May. After three bitter days the 85th and 88th divisions and the French Corps blasted the Gustav line from the Liri valley to the sea. The Beachhead division hacked their way out 12 days later and on 25 May leading elements of the forces coming up from the south made contact with men from Anzio.

The Kasubs were badly beaten and the Fifth moved rapidly toward Rome. At dusk 4 June, special task forces moved into the city. The next morning the main body passed through — the first army in history to capture Rome from the south.

There were cheering crowds, flowers, vino and the prettiest girls seen in Italy up to that line. The men who had walked and fought all the way from Minturno and Civitavecchia took the reception in stride. In the afternoon they moved out of the city and back into the war.



Snipers caused plenty of trouble in Riv.



Romans thronged St. Peter's square to offer thanksgiving.



Italian civilians, who lived near the Gustav line, came out of the hills after seven months.



The final fight for Rome took place in the outskirts.



Crowds swarmed around every jeep.



Soldiers from private to general will always remember Joe and Willie, Sgt. Bill Mauldin's miserable, grimy humongous dogfaces.

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