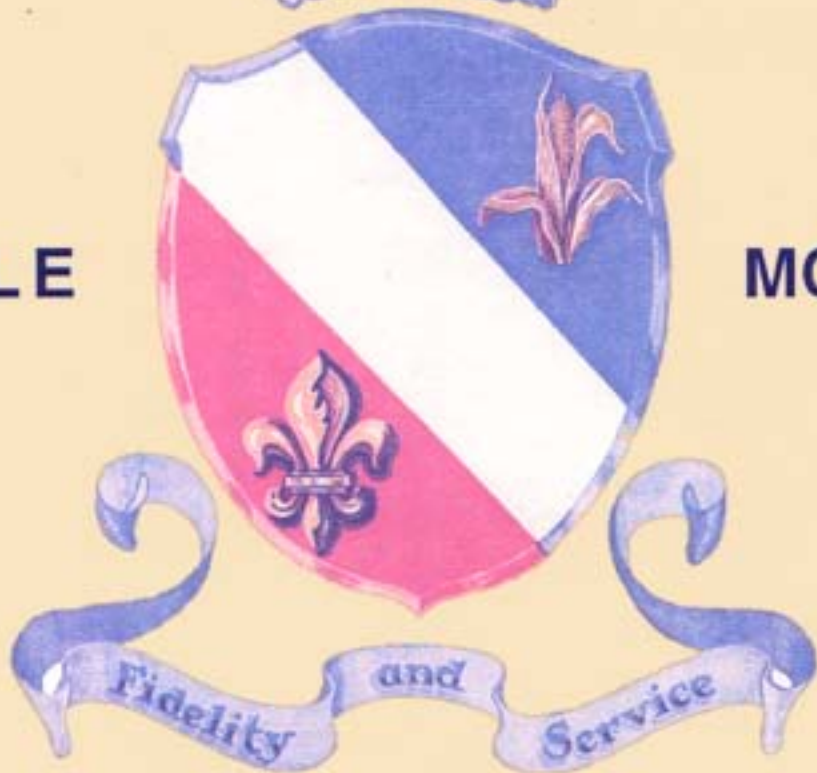


350th INFANTRY



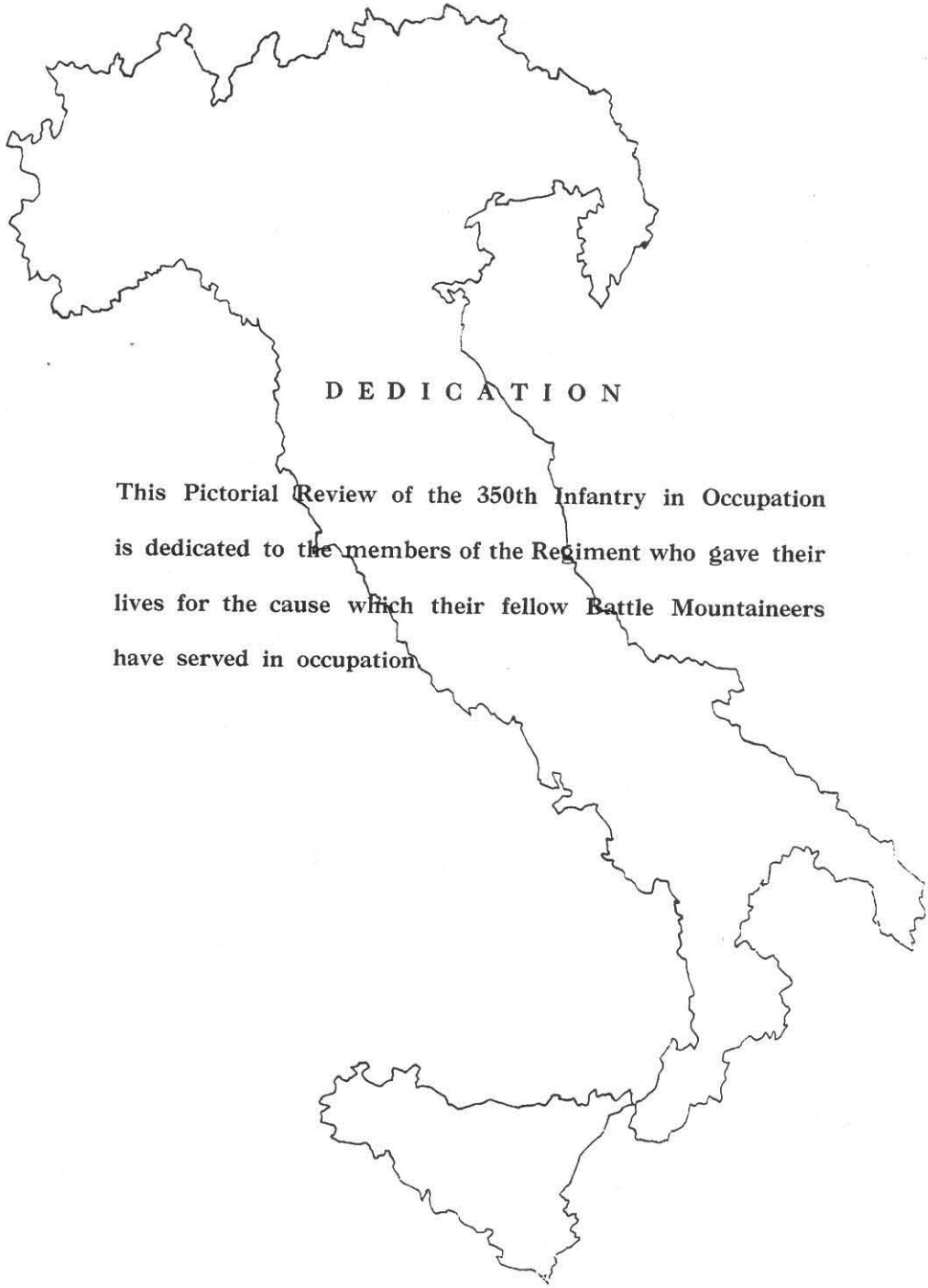
BATTLE

MOUNTAIN



IN OCCUPATION

WITH THE 88TH "BLUE DEVIL" DIVISION IN ITALY



DEDICATION

This Pictorial Review of the 350th Infantry in Occupation is dedicated to the members of the Regiment who gave their lives for the cause which their fellow Battle Mountaineers have served in occupation.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL RALPH E. HAINES
COMMANDING OFFICER, 350TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

F O R E W O R D

This saga of the 350th Infantry in occupation is the last chapter in the glorious, five year history of the «Battle Mountain Regiment» during World War II. We who have carried the banners of the regiment during the days of occupation have striven mightily to uphold the standards and ideals for which our predecessors waged their long, bitter fight up the boot of Italy.

Although our job has been a trying one — beset as we have been by constant redeployment, innumerable supply difficulties, improvised housing, onerous guard duty, continual alerts, and heavy operational missions — still, we realize full well that our lot has been a great deal easier than that of the men who froze in the muddy foxholes of the Northern Appenines.

Our twenty months of occupation have, along with their heartaches, given us many pleasant memories — memories which we will cherish for years to come. We have made many friends — have broadened ourselves by our contact with an ancient European civilization — and have known the deep satisfaction of representing American democracy in a troubled foreign land. We have felt the full thrill of participation in military pageantry — parades, reviews, and ceremonies, symbolizing to the world our country's firm resolve to see through our important occupational mission. We have been welded together into a team as, with the spirit of competition strong in our veins, we have sought to excel in athletics, firing problems, tactical exercises, command inspections, and the like. Our regimental trophy case bears mute testimony to the fact that success has often crowned our efforts.

So we of the «Battle Mountain Regiment» pass along our glorious heritage to posterity, with the full satisfaction of a job well done — conscious of the full implications of our regimental motto, «Fidelity and Service» — fidelity to the ideals for which our predecessors fought and died and service to our country — and in a larger sense to our world.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ralph E. Jaines". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.



Major General Paul E. Kendall, 88th Division combat commander. General Kendall led the Blue Devils through the rough campaigns up the Italian Boot from the Arno River north, and carried on into the primary phase of the Prisoner of War Command.



Major General Bryant E. Moore, Commanding General of the 88th Infantry Division. Assuming command in November of 1945 General Moore led the Blue Devils through one of the most important occupational commitments of the post war transition period.



Colonel James C. Fry, 350th Infantry combat leader. Colonel Fry became Assistant Division Commander in the late stages of the war, and, as General Fry, assumed command of the 88th to conduct the Division through the major portion of the POW Command duties and the first weeks of occupation.



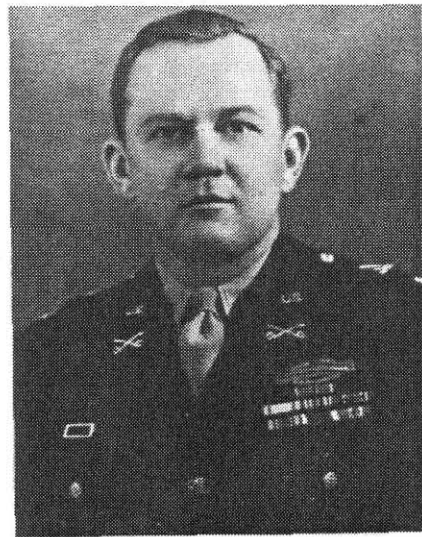
Brigadier General Ridgely C. Gaither, Assistant Division Commander. General Gaither joined the 88th Division in March of 1946 to continue through the closeout of Blue Devil occupation.



Colonel Avery M. Cochran, 350th Infantry commander. Colonel Cochran moved from Regimental Executive to Commanding Officer during combat, to carry through the closing stages of the war, the POW Command, and the first half-year of occupation.



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2



3



4

1. Lt. Col. Ernest V. D. Murphy, Commanding Officer, Third Battalion, 350th Infantry Regiment. Combat in M.T.O. 91st Pine Tree Division 92nd Buffalo Division Joined 350th Infantry for complete tour in Venezia-Giulia
2. Lt. Col. Leon K. Kurland, Commanding Officer, Second Battalion, 350th Infantry Regiment. Africa and Italy 2nd Cavalry Division Combat with 34th Red Bull Division Served complete tour with 350th Infantry in Venezia-Giulia
3. Major Bernard J. Scherer, Commanding Officer, First Battalion, 350th Infantry. Executive Officer, and Battalion C.O. Former member of Green Bay Packers Coach of Battle Mountain Football Team Commanded First Battalion through its largest and most important commitment
4. Major Walter C. Fingerhut, « All timer, » only member of the 350th Infantry to serve with the Regiment from activation at Camp Gruber on through training and maneuvers, combat, POW Command, and occupation to the closeout.

The BLUE DEVIL



PUBLISHED BY THE 88TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Vol. 1, No. 13

Friday, September 14, 1945

Printed in Italy

88th Gets Trieste Occupation Mission

1500 Start Home Under Revised Critical Scoring

First men to be redeployed in accordance with the new reduced critical score level departed from the 88th Division yesterday. The shipment was the first of an initial roster of 1,500 men, all with over 18 months of service, scheduled to leave the division in three consecutive days. Shipment of the 88th will leave the division with a new strength level of 9,000.

The first group comprised approximately 475 and left by train from Verona for the 27th Replacement Depot at Fort Bragg, N.C. The second shipment, leaving 100, is composed of 400 men who are the 11th "Spearhead" Regiment, and will also leave from Verona by rail for the depot.

About 100 members of the 10th "Lodge Mountain" Regiment will

Div Gets French Award Tuesday

Presentation of the Croix de Guerre to the 88th Division by the French will be made at Nice, France next Tuesday, it was announced this week. The presentation will be made by Lt. Gen. Doyen, commanding general of the French 4th Corps, before a formation of 88th Division and French 36th Division troops.

About 100 officers and men, headed by Brig. Gen. J. C. Fry, division commander, are being selected to travel to Nice for the ceremony. Each regimental, Division Artillery and Special Troops will be represented by platoons of 18 selected men and one officer, in addition to a four-man color guard. General Fry will be accompanied by members of the division staff.

Where possible, "old 88th men" will be picked to make the trip. Only a small group will go to France due to the distance involved.

It is traditional that the award be made on French soil whenever possible.

Efforts were being made to arrange an honorarium for the 88th group, but this was called

DOVE CAPITANOT

Chieti—Authorities are still looking for the thief who, dressed in a captain's uniform, took off with a CAP vehicle from the concentration area here recently.

Taking advantage of a taxi system added to visiting officers on official business at the post, the fugitive told his Kraut driver that he had permission to leave the camp. About 30 kilometers away, the POW was ordered to get out and make his way back to Chieti as best he could. Nothing has been seen of the "captain" or vehicle since.

Recon, 351st Men Clear SS Troops

Verona—Entrainment of 45,187 POWs during August and 7,518 during the first nine days of September, under the eye of the 88th Recon Troop at the Verona Staging Area, brought the total number cleared since the beginning of operations to 143,486 this week.

Shipments this month included

To Relieve 'Red Bull' Division In Former Italian Trouble Zone

With its POW mission in Italy all but completed and units preparing to move to a redeployment training area for shipment to the United States, the 88th Division this week was assigned a new important mission, relief of the 34th Division in the occupation of the troubled Trieste area. While first word of the new assignment came in Stars and Stripes, in a story published Wednesday, confirmation was received by Lt. Col. E. D. Beggs, AC of S, G-3, in a telephone conversation with MTOUSA officials, who stated a directive was being prepared for dispatch to the 88th.

23 Auto Accidents Recorded in August

Safety-conscious as a result of the month-long traffic campaign, division drivers had accidents and fatalities to a new low, marking a sharp drop from preceding months, the Office of the Provost Marshal revealed.

With 11 injuries and one fatality in 23 accidents during August, the accident frequency rate dropped to 1.48 for the division, a decided decrease in percentage.

Responsible for more than half the 88th's traffic mishaps was the 340th Infantry, with 12 auto accidents and five injuries; while the 350th accounted for three accidents and four injuries. Although the 351st had but two accidents, one was fatal. The Walter Ketter was killed when his own coverts

Though many were inclined to view the news with alarm, it was emphasized that the move would amount to little more than redesignating the 34th Division. The change, as explained by Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, MTOUSA commanding general, was made to comply with a War Department directive which gives redeployment priority to National Guard units.

General McNarney also pointed out to correspondents that the

When this headline hit the eyes of 88th Infantry Division Blue Devils, they were engaged in the duties of Prisoner of War Command for the Mediterranean Theater, a commitment of major proportions requiring a spread of units from Brenner Pass and the Austrian Border on the north to the Naples-Bari area on the south. The release was received in a calm way; other events had come before..... First Selective Service Division overseas..... First Selective Service Division to enter combat..... First outfit to enter the first European Capital to be taken by the Allies..... Point outfit in major pushes..... First to Brenner Pass and first to make contact with American Forces from the ETO..... Selected as Prisoner of War Command for the Mediterranean Theater.....

These high points in a spectacular career set the stage for further distinction through assignment to perhaps the key occupation spot of the post-war world. The 88th Infantry Division dropped preparations already underway for return to the States and directed its attention to the new mission.....



When the word came, the 350th Infantry Regiment was holding down the Pisa-Leghorn-Florence Prisoner of War Sub-Command, a rather unromantic military title for one of Italy's most romantic sections — the *compartimenti* of Tuscany. The Battle Mountain Command Post was set up in the war-devastated port of Leghorn, with First and Third Battalions and Special Units operating the Pisa-Leghorn portion, while the fortunate Second Battalion held forth in the beautiful city of Florence on the banks of the Arno River.

The unit that broke camp on 1 October 1945 to move north to its new area was the 350th Infantry in name, but the point system left so many Battle Mountaineers at the Leghorn staging depot that a skeleton Regiment only took the road. However, within a few days time the relief of the 34th Division would swell the ranks as Red Bull lowpointers switched patches to right shoulders and sewed on the Blue Cloverleaf.....



Nestled at the base of the Julian Alps and edging the Venetian Plain lies the picturesque Friulan town of Tarcento. With a communal population of some 14,000, activities center around agriculture, wines and a certain amount of silk production. In addition to orthodox Italian, a Friulan dialect peculiar to this 6th Century Lombardy Duchy is spoken.

Here at Tarcento in the first few days of October 1945 took place the relief of the 34th Division's 135th Infantry Regiment by the 350th Infantry Regiment of the 88th Division. The Regimental Command Post settled down in the Albergo Italia which was to be home for over a year and a half. Tarcentinians had to get acquainted with a new breed of people. This was not too difficult a task. There had been Germans, Cossacks, Partisans, Fascists, New Zealanders, South Africans, British, Jugoslavs, the 91st Division, the 10th Mountain Division, the 34th Division.....



Most press coverage and general conversation seemed to be directed upon Trieste. Not only the folks at home but the military personnel elsewhere in the Theater imagined the 88th Division as in Trieste. This impression was corrected for Blue Devils in their first contact with the area. A piece of territory known as the Province of Venezia Giulia was under dispute. It might be likened to a small state like Delaware or to a large Texas County. The three regiments found themselves separated by many miles of rough terrain — rough as only the Alps could be.

The Province of Venezia Giulia changed hands from Austria to Italy at the close of the first World War. Located in the northeast corner of Italy, where Italy, Austria and Yugoslavia meet, it boasts of Trieste as a key seaport on the Adriatic. There is shipbuilding at Trieste and at nearby Monfalcone, and fishing in coastal waters. Coal, zinc, mercury and bauxite are to be found in the section. The Isonzo River runs through the province on its way to the sea, and its course is spotted with hydroelectric plants. There is some good farmland in the hinterland, and some industry in the cities — enough reason to cause dispute over possession and disposition between Italy and Yugoslavia. The province settled down to weather a political tug-of-war. The peace treaty of the Allies with Italy would be the settlement. Meanwhile, occupation by American, British and Yugoslav troops would go on under the Agreement of Duino.....



The occupation area could be classed as hilly. Perched atop the hills, and second in evidence only to churches, are many large, castle-like edifices. These buildings are in large part as old as the system of landed estates which they represent. From this point of vantage the landowner could survey his domain, where peasants tilled the many acres of the estate.

Their size and location made these buildings ideal for adaptation as Army installations. The companies of the Battle Mountain Regiment with few exceptions were quartered in the *Castello* or *Villa* type of billet. All property used by American personnel was formally requisitioned. Alternate accommodations for the occupants were the responsibility of Allied Military Government. Owners would be reimbursed by the Italian Government through agreement with the United States Government.

In this instance the Count and Countess moved their valuable appointments into one of the farm out-buildings bordering the barnyard. The GI had his shot at being Lord of the Manor.....



As the war had been so the peace would be — an Allied responsibility. This would be essentially a United States-British task. The spotlight was on the area and the Supreme Allied Commander Mediterranean Theater would want a look at the new occupation division.

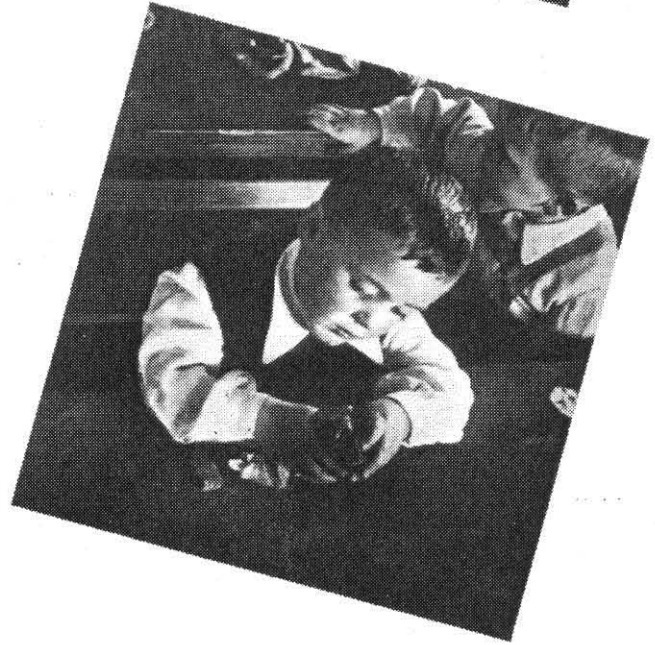
The 350th Infantry drew its first inspection by SACMED in very short order. Here Lieutenant General Sir William D. Morgan is escorted on a tour of the installations by Colonel Avery M. Cochran, Regimental Commander. Lieutenant Charles Witt of Company A leads the way through the company area.

The practice of using short titles as designations had its by-product of humor. Colonel Cochran became SACTAP - Supreme Allied Commander Tarcento And Plezzo....



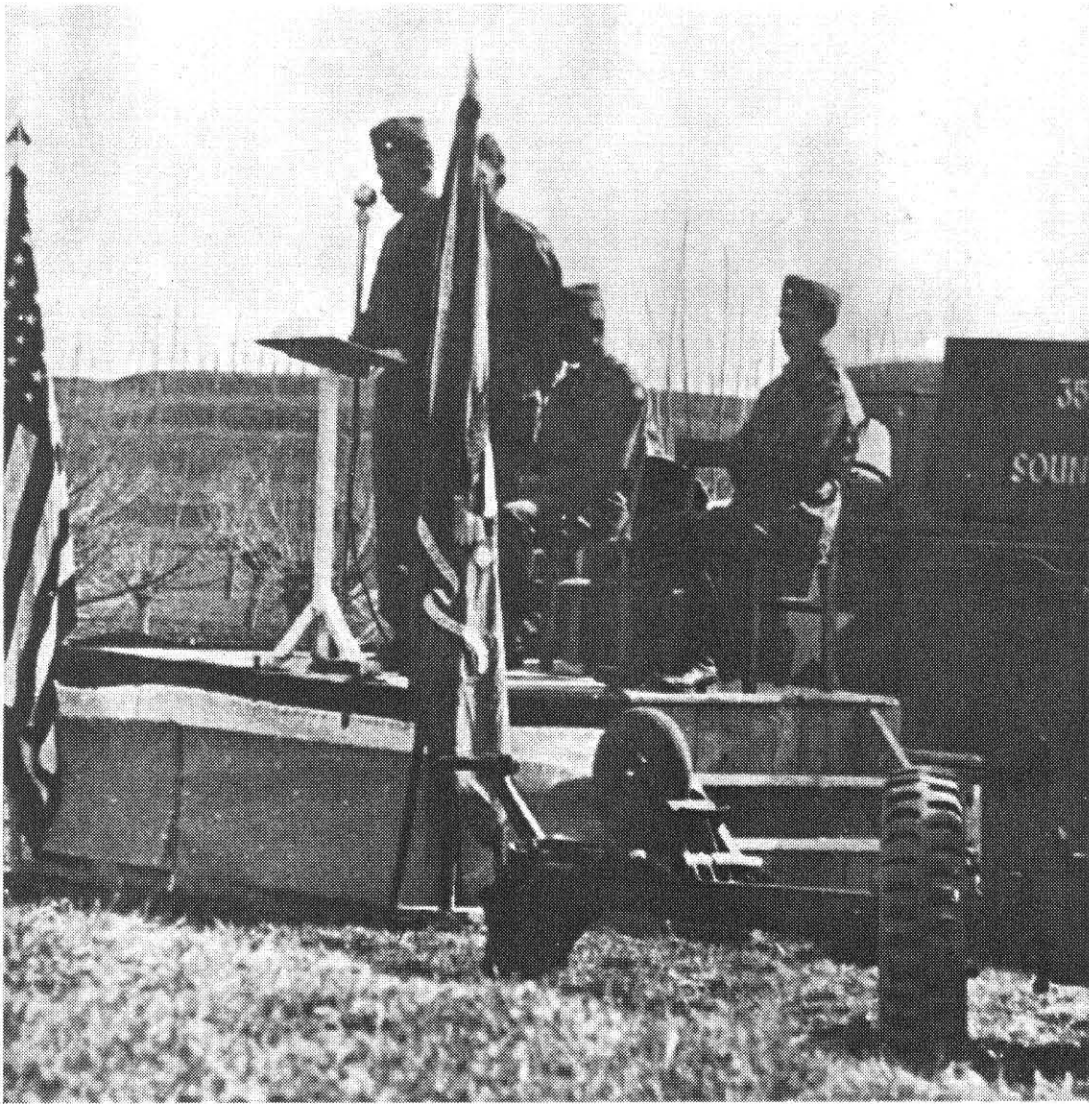
When the 350th Infantry moved into its new area it acquired certain difficulties which had to be overcome. The local populace looked upon the Blue Devils with suspicion and, in some cases, distrust. This was not strange when one considered their history of political mismanagement, wartime destruction and economic disruption. The doings of Fascism and Nazism must be undone, and the field of thought must be remodeled.

The softening process began at once. Under the guidance of chaplains, the first approach to the problem of friendship and understanding was made through the children. A series of parties was held, with movies, ice cream and candy, the latter items supplied by the GI's. Orphanages in the Regimental area came in for particular attention. Holiday periods saw substantial contributions from the Battle Mountain men to charitable institutions. One such group is pictured here.....



During the war years children the world over had lavished upon them the attention of American military personnel. Missing their own families and children, Battle Mountaineers directed their affection to the unfortunate Italian children, and in particular to the orphans whose families were war casualties.

One glance at children such as these at the Nimis Orphanage awakened a feeling of nostalgia....



Expiration of the overseas tour of duty came regularly to personnel of the Regiment. In early Spring of 1946 Colonel Avery M. Cochran, who had led the Regiment through the closing months of the war, the POW Command activities, and the opening six months of occupation, was redeployed to the States. Lieutenant Colonel Ralph E. Haines succeeded to command. The 350th Infantry could consider itself fortunate. It was getting a Blue Devil as Commanding Officer.

Colonel Haines had a record with the Division. He had left the G-3 Section of II Corps during the war days to join the 88th Division as Executive Officer of the sister 349th Regiment. At war's end, Colonel Haines moved to Division Headquarters to become a key figure in the POW Command. Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, came next, to be followed by the post of Chief of Staff. From Chief, Colonel Haines took over the Battle Mountain Regiment.

In the picture above, Colonel Haines is seen delivering his introductory talk at Tricesimo Bowl to the members of the Regiment. Seated are Assistant Division Commander Ridgely C. Gaither and Chaplain Victor M. Dahlke. Standing is Captain Frank A. Williams, Regimental S-3.....



Greece was to hold elections! Would the Allies send observers to witness the voting throughout the country? The Allies (U.S., Britain, France) would.

The 350th Infantry supplied a quota of officers and enlisted men of varied abilities to fill special posts on the Allied Mission For Observing the Greek Elections. Members of the AMFOGE team attended a briefing session at Naples and flew to their assignment.

For his outstanding work as a member of the observer group, Lieutenant Henry E. Cox of the First Battalion was awarded the Army Commendation Ribbon. Lieutenant Colonel Millard G. Bowen Jr., Regimental Executive Officer, reads the citation accompanying the award. At his left stands Colonel Rodger McKay, Commanding Officer of the First Battalion, with Captain Grant, Battalion S-3, at his right. In the rear — the inevitable spectators. Ceremony took place at Tricesimo.....



In the closing stages of the war it was evident that a problem was shaping up in the Trieste region. Marshal Tito's Partisans were moving up Jugoslavia's Adriatic Coast to spill over into the Trieste area. British 8th Army units were hot on the trail of the retreating Germans, and a real race was on between General Freyberg's New Zealand Division and the American 5th Army's right flank 91st Pine Tree Division. The result - many fingers in the pie. Venezia Giulia had the dubious honor of being the pie. Something must be done!

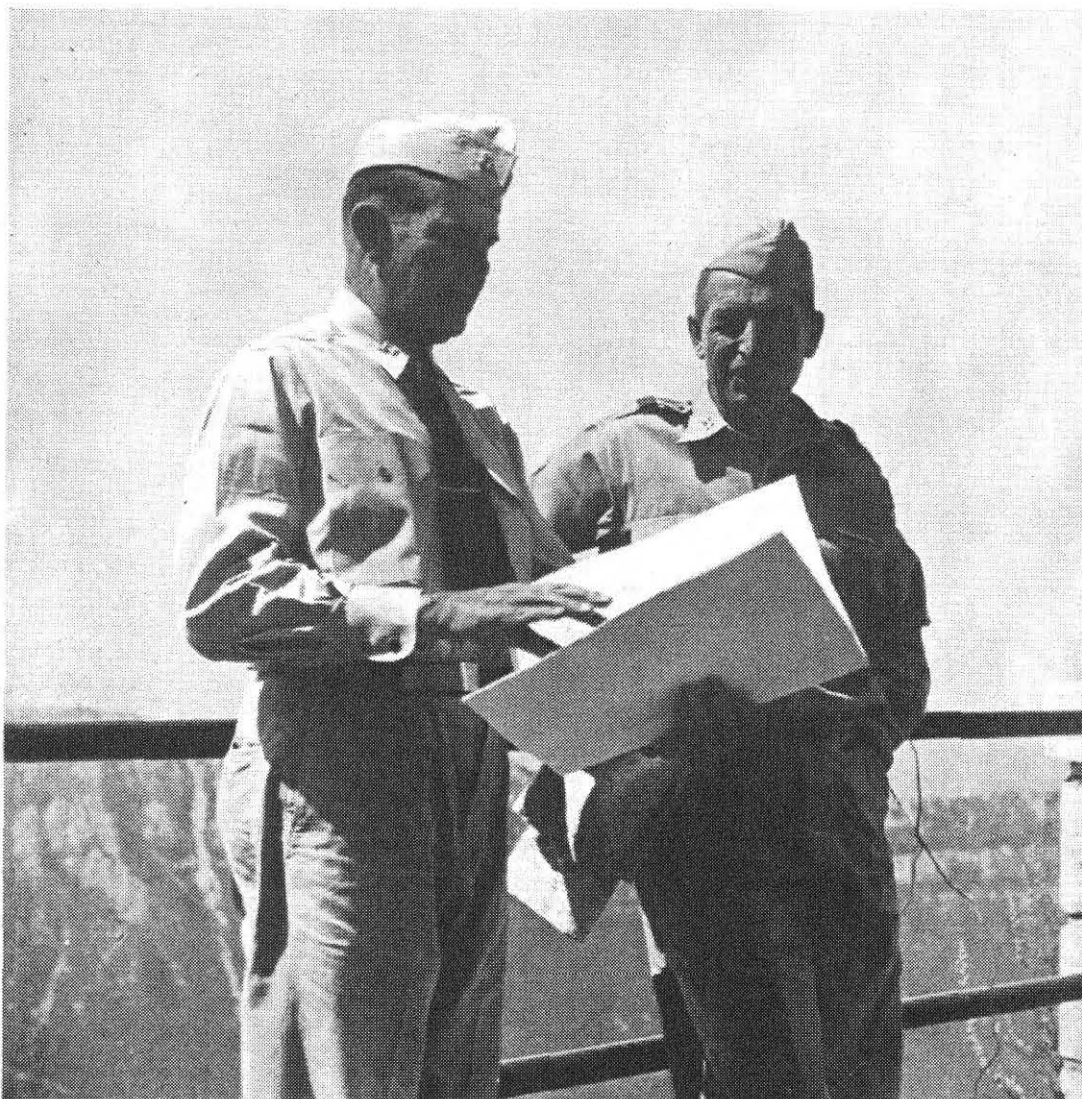
General Morgan, British Chief of Staff of Allied Force Headquarters, met with General Juvanovic of the Jugoslav Army at historic Duino Castle, high on a bluff overlooking the Adriatic, just up the coast from Trieste. Out of their talks came the Agreement of Duino. It would divide the Province of Venezia Giulia into a western Zone A for American-British occupation and an eastern Zone B for Jugoslav occupation. *Main supply routes running north from Trieste would remain in the Anglo-American zone in order to facilitate supply of their forces in Austria.* The dividing boundary of the two zones would be known as the Morgan Line.

Above is a typical scenic view of the Morgan Line area in the Julian Alps...



Trieste has a faculty for being a trouble spot. A key seaport, it lies on the Gulf of Trieste at the head of the Adriatic. It is truly the key to the Balkans. A line drawn from Stettin on the Baltic down to Trieste on the Adriatic might be considered the dividing line of political ideology between East and West. A mixture of peoples and ideas created reason for the classification «City of Strife.»

A portion of the Third Battalion of the 350th Infantry drew the first assignment for Blue Devils to the troubled port city. Their job... to support AMG in its administration of the city... to hold the area in trust until its turnover to the proper source.....



In November of 1945 Major General Bryant E. Moore assumed command of the 88th Infantry Division. Brigadier General James C. Fry, former Regimental Commander of the 350th Infantry, who had moved to Assistant Division Commander and later to Commanding General, returned to the States.

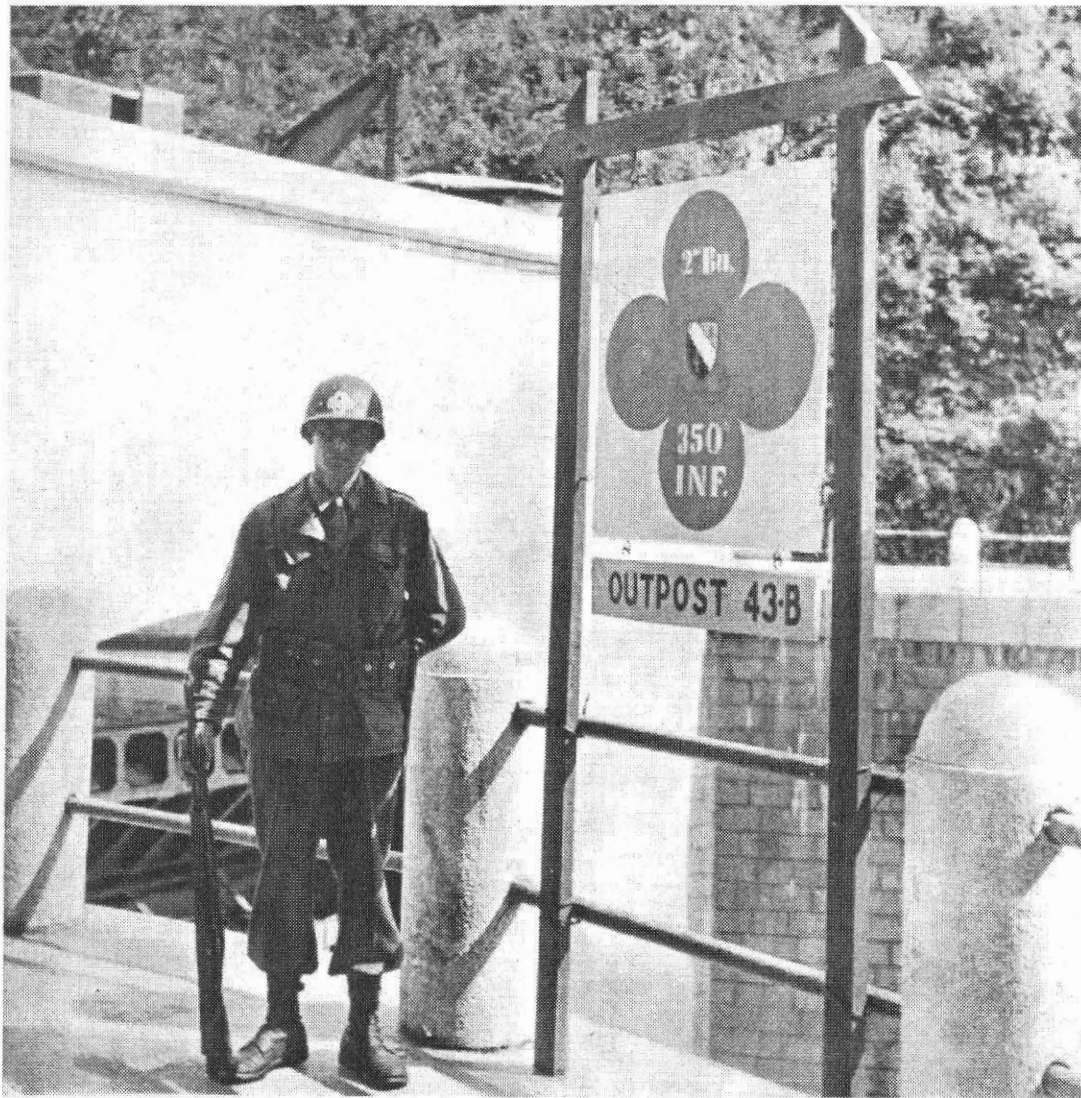
General Moore came with a distinguished war record reaching back to the earliest stages on Guadalcanal as Commanding Officer of the 164th Infantry, and on to the European Theater and command of the 8th Infantry Division. The War Department made a careful selection. This would be a combination diplomatic, political and military situation.

General Moore escorted many visitors of importance through 350th Infantry inspections. This informal but striking pose shows the top Blue Devil with Admiral Burroughs, Senior Naval Officer in the Adriatic, at the Monastery atop Monte Santo...



Morgan Line duty called for top performance from all personnel at all times. Standards must be set and maintained. Only constant inspection could produce the required results.

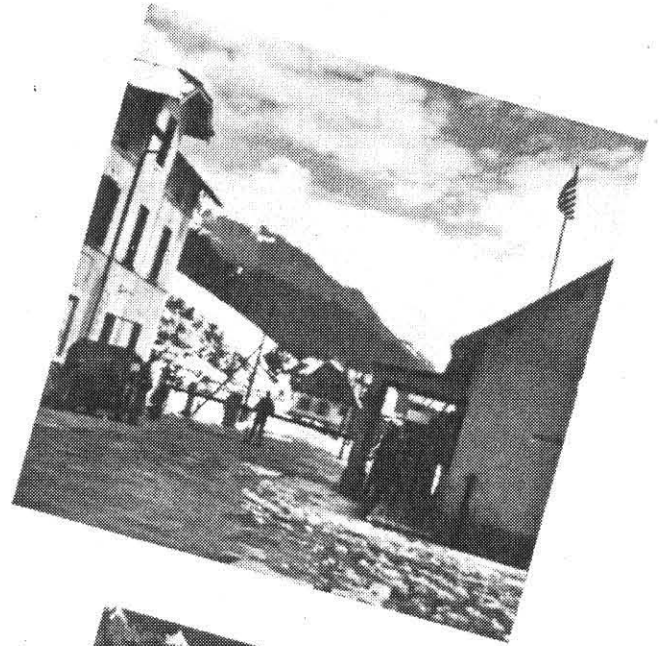
Assistant Division Commander General Ridgely C. Gaither set the pace with a series of Command Inspections through which units were able to assess faults and make corrections. General Gaither is shown inspecting the Second Battalion during its early tour on the Morgan Line in the Volzana-Canale area. He is flanked by the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Leon K. Kurland, and the Battalion Executive Officer, Major James Sutton...



To control traffic across the Morgan Line! That was one of the primary duties of occupation. The Third Battalion was first to represent the Regiment in that duty, taking over the Plezzo-Caporetto sector.

Where a road, bridge or trail crossed the Line a traffic check point was established. A glance at traffic reports would indicate how many individuals, wagons, automobiles or goats had crossed the line in a given period. It was here on the roadpost that the individual soldier was doing the job.

Interspersed with traffic check points were power plants and dams on the Isonzo River, hydro-electric source which ran parallel to the Line in the upper and central sections. One of those posts was 43B, a favorite for inspecting officers. Private Strickland of Second Battalion stands guard....



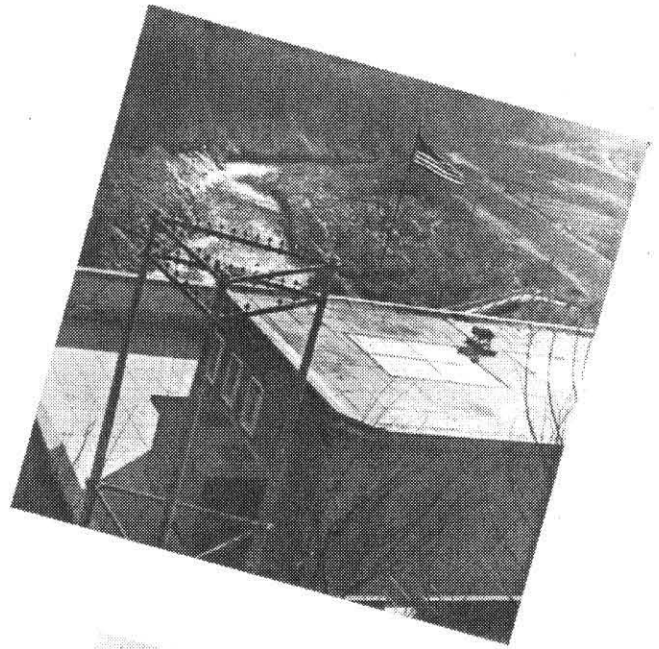
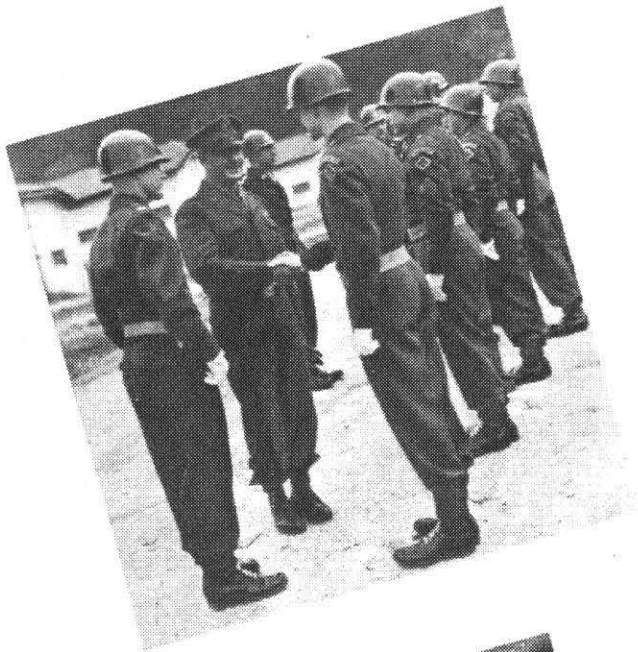
The complement on a Morgan Line Outpost consisted of 12 men and one medic, under command of a sergeant. Billets in most cases were the prefabricated hut. Equipment consisted of a 300 radio, telephone, flares, one machine gun, two bazookas, grenades, and the individual arms — pistols, rifles and carbines.

General Lee is seen speaking with Pfc. Vernon Rhoades, medic in charge of the health on Outpost 40C. Tech Sergeant Charles Heeg stands by.

In the same period 350th Infantry spread to the top of the Morgan Line to assume Post 65, located just about at the point where Italy, Austria and Jugoslavia join. Pfc. Robert Stevenson stands guard at the barrier. Several hundred yards beyond the American block can be seen the Yugoslav post.

Silhouetted against the Isonzo River's swift-moving waters and the snow-covered Julian Alps, Pfc. Roy Partin stands guard at the bridge on Post 49, at Saga.

Post 50 was situated on the far side of the bridge over the Isonzo River near Plezzo. Two Venezia-Giulia policemen walk past the American billet at the post. In the distance lies the Slovene hamlet of Oltresonzia.



Morgan Line traffic control and guard presented an interesting variety of duties. In addition to functions required by the operation of the posts, all must be in constant readiness for inspection.

General Lee, Supreme Allied Commander, shakes hands and chats with Corporal Johnson of A Company during an inspection of the 350th Infantry's sector.....

Hydro-electric plants along the Isonzo River required protection. The plant at Doblari was known to Blue Devils as Post 43I.....

Guards were required to know a few stock phrases in Slovene as a part of post duty. However, basic communication consisted of a combination jargon of Italian, Slovene and English accentuated by arm and hand signals. Pfc. William Smith hears an explanation concerning a missing pass.....

The split-sentry system governed post duty. Two men were on duty at all times, one covering the other on the checking of traffic. Men were armed with M-1 rifles, one equipped with bayonet, the other with grenade launcher, as illustrated by Private Orville Alms and Pfc. Don Kell on Outpost 47 near Caporetto.....



Battle Mountaineers had right at hand some of the world's historical treasures, known to them only through the pages of a history book. Rome, the Eternal City, was not far distant, and there were rest facilities. The Blue Devil Division could boast of being first into the city and instrumental in its capture.

The expense of a week in Rome was small — only a slightly uncomfortable 24-hour ride on Train 88. Enlisted personnel spent their week at the Foro Mussolini — now Foro Italia — on the banks of the Tiber. Officers had the Hotel Excelsior next to the U. S. Embassy. It was an impossibility to cover Rome in one week's time. However, the high spots could be touched: The Vatican..... St. Peters..... Roman Forum..... Catacombs..... Palazzo Venezia..... Victor Emanuel Monument..... The Colosseum was at the top of everyone's list.....



Spring of '46 brought rumors of impending maneuvers. Redeployment had rotated personnel at a fast rate, and, in the wide disposition of the operational mission, integration of new men and evaluation of the unit was difficult. There was a way to meet the problem!

The 350th Infantry assembled at Gorizia Airport. Here a model camp was organized. The purpose was a complete regimental shakedown, which might be likened to the shakedown cruise of a new vessel. It was a chance to see what the Regiment had and what could be done with it. The camp was an indication. It was peak perfection! The Regimental Commander could get his teeth into things. Commanders of all echelons took stock. It was a worthwhile operation...



A real favorite of the many pass opportunities available to the Regiment was the tour of Switzerland. Eleven days were granted for the trip, eight of them actually in Switzerland. In earlier passes three separate tours could be chosen from, all excellent vacations. In winter season a city tour and a winter-resort tour were open.

The most striking feature of the tour was the marked cleanliness of the Alps Country, evoking a comparison with home. Cost of the trip was negligible. Thirty-five dollars covered the rate, and an exchange of fifty dollars into Swiss Francs was allowed for purchases within the country. Primary purchase - a watch, of course.

Camera fanatics could go hog-wild. Quite photogenic is the Church of the Reformation at Geneva...



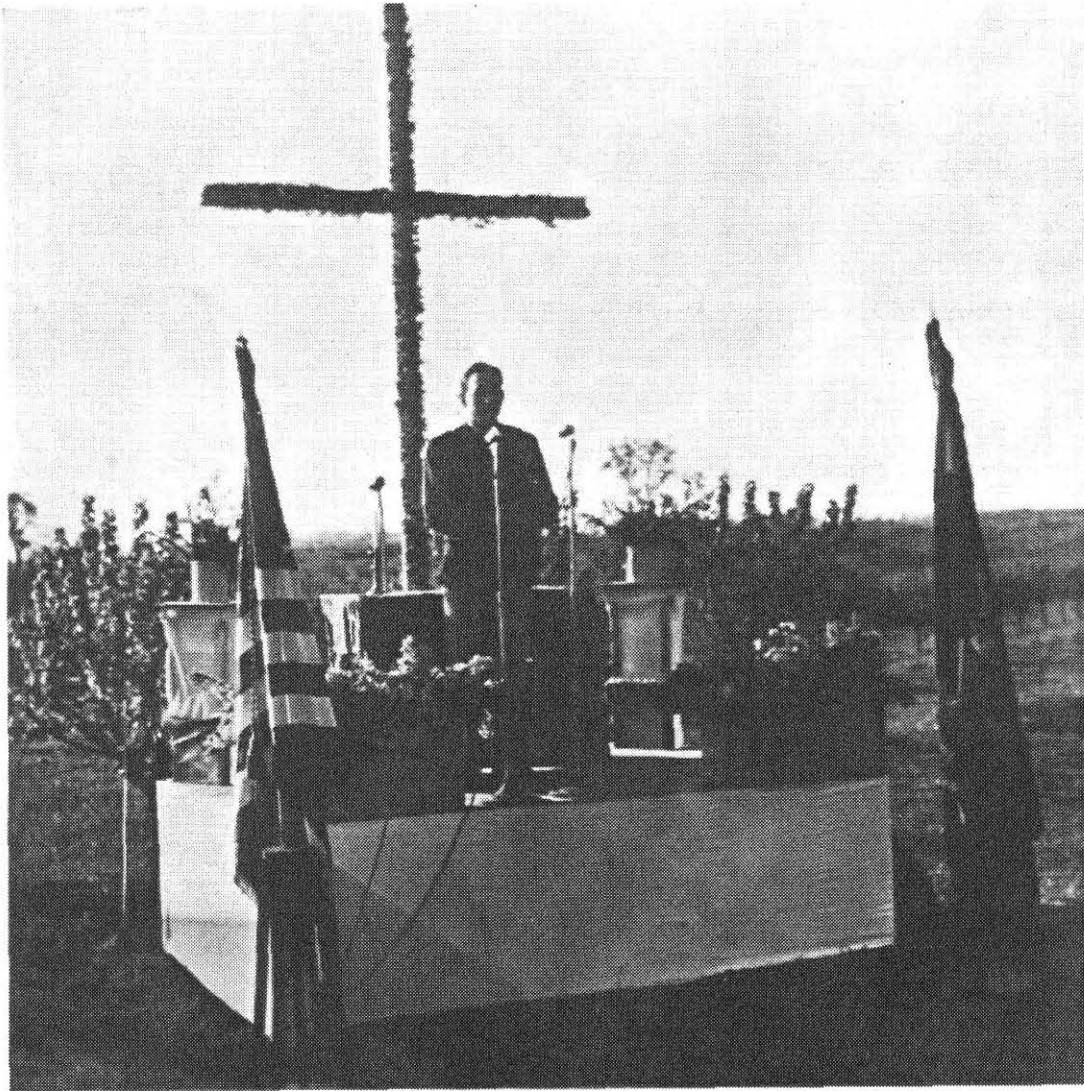
A frequent visitor in the regimental area was Lieutenant General John C. H. Lee, Commanding General of the Mediterranean Theater of Operations, United States Army. Also Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, General Lee kept his finger on Blue Devil operations.

On the occasion pictured above, General Lee presented American awards to six British Officers for their achievements during the fighting in Italy. 350th Infantry staged the ceremony with a Third Battalion Honor Guard and the Regimental Band....



Training held a position of importance second only to the operational mission. Both were carried forward concurrently. The emphasis was placed on proficiency with weapons. The Regiment kept in use a variety of ranges for all types of weapons.

A former Italian Army range was taken over and put to good use. A Battle Mountaineer can be seen in position on the firing point working under the close supervision of his coach...



The 350th Infantry realized full well the needs of the men, magnified in part by youth, the wide disposition of units reducing supervision, the lack of the steadying influence of home and family, and the presence of certain temptations. To meet the obvious need an intensive and aggressive spiritual and recreational program was carried forward at all times. The keynote — leadership on the part of officers and NCO's.

From the moment of his arrival and a greeting by the Regimental Commander, the Regimental Surgeon and the Regimental Chaplain, the soldier had available to him, and was encouraged to take advantage of, every facility to meet his spiritual need.

Chaplain Victor M. Dahlke is seen conducting the Easter Sunrise Service....



In the wide disposition of units and the combination military-civil aspect of the job, normal military police strength in the Division could handle only a portion of the policing details. MP's must be supplemented by Special Police.

The 350th Infantry selected the Intelligence-Reconnaissance Platoon of Headquarters Company to be the Special Police unit. Duties of the SP's were varied and important. Basic traffic control was a normal requirement. Special Police ran foot and motor patrols of regular military type. Activities were combined with those of intelligence agencies and the civil police units, resulting in unauthorized arms searches and political details. A special vice squad supervised the activities of transient prostitutes, coordinating with medical channels as part of the venereal disease control plan, thus making a substantial contribution to the overall record low of cases in the Regiment, which placed 350 at the top of the Division list. In odd moments the SP's might provide color guards and escorts for ceremonies and visitors.

Inspections came regularly for this unit of the Battle Mountain Regiment. Lt. Howard Walker, Platoon Leader, is seen carrying out one of the Saturday standards.....



To hold the area in trust until such time as peace conference decisions would establish rightful ownership. That was the mission of Blue Devils in Venezia Giulia. In the carrying out of that mission, Battle Mountain men were ever on the alert.

In early summer of 1946, intelligence agencies found cause for thought in an overall evaluation of reports. Certain elements might attempt an infiltration of the area with the idea of assuming control through a *fait accompli* rather than to await the proper settlement through the due processes of discussion.

The 350th Infantry got its summer maneuver. The Regiment took the field and moved into the central sector on the Morgan Line....

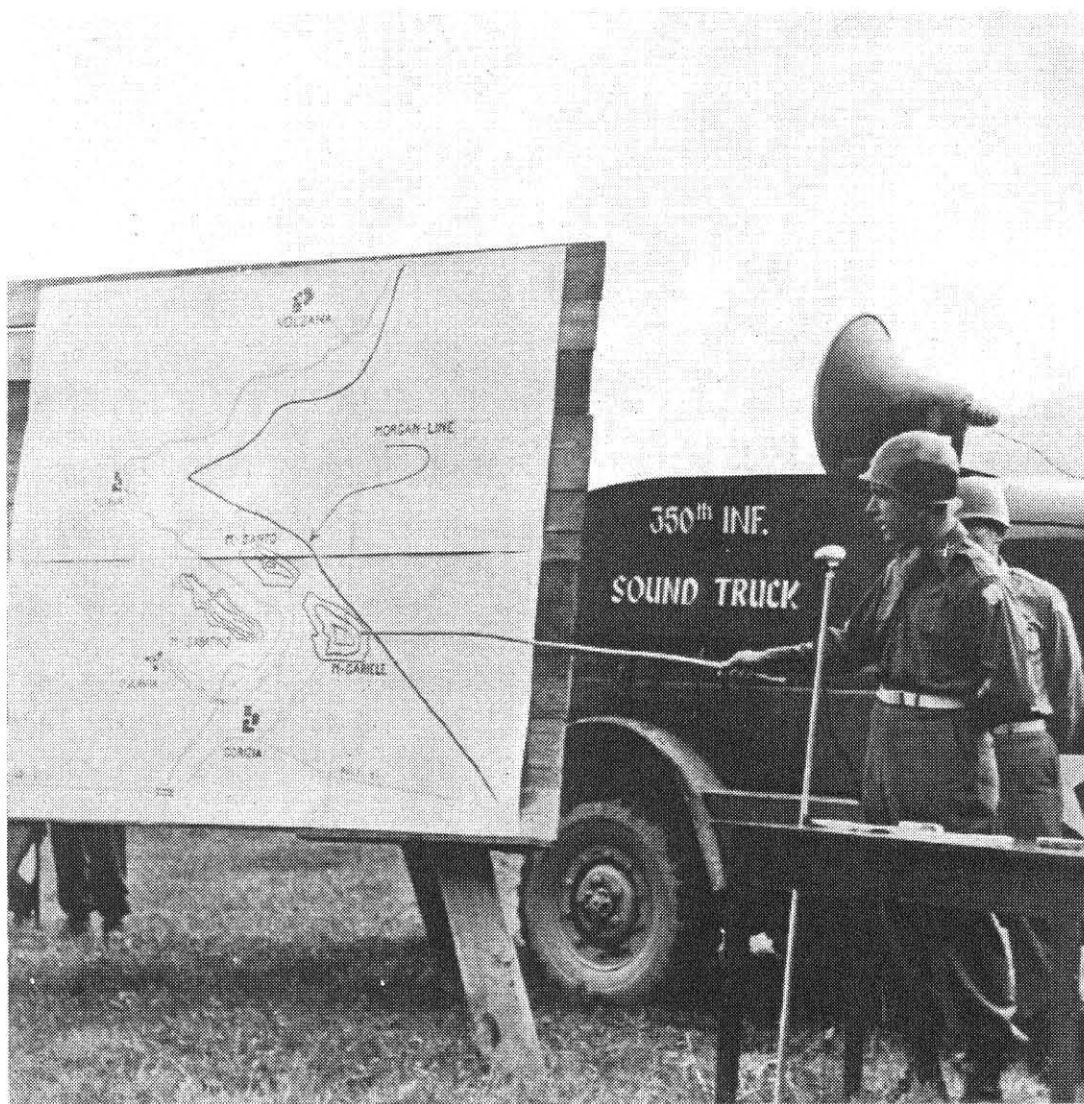


High atop Monte Santo, - hill feature at the edge of the Julian Alps - and visible for many miles out on the Venetian Plain, is the sanctuary of Monte Santo. Religious history dates to 1539, when a shepherdess saw a vision of the Virgin Mary on the mountain. The spot was consecrated and construction of the first church was begun the following year.

The original structure was destroyed in 1785 by order of the Austrian Emperor. The next church had a life span from 1793 to 1915. It was destroyed by the Austrians in the First World War. The church was taken from the Austrians in August of 1917 by an Italian Brigade known as «The Wolves of Tuscany.»

The present church and tower were completed in 1928. A cable car carried visitors to Monte Santo from Canale Highway at the base of the mountain.

The Germans used the hill as an anti-aircraft emplacement in this war. Partisans took the hill from them. Monte Santo was home for some for the Battle Mountain men in 1946....



The central sector on the Line threw 350th Infantry into an area dominated by three principal terrain features which in turn dominated the city of Gorizia, Blue Devil Command Post and heart of its operations. The names Santo, Gabriele and Sabotino were to become very familiar to the Regiment.

Colonel Haines is shown describing the field situation for the members of the Regiment assembled at bivouac headquarters east of Gorizia....



The scattered dispositions put a tremendous load on the communications sections. Many miles of wire must be strung and maintained under normal repair and despite occasional sabotage. Radio nets must be open twenty-four hours daily. Message Center had long distances to overcome on routine rounds. Central telephone boards required backing up by supplementary switches. Civilian facilities must be used in many instances, with language difficulties and overloads of traffic adding to the worries of Como.

Pictured is a communications center on the reverse slope of a hill. A 536 Walkie-Talkie, the more powerful 300 and the familiar Double E 8 telephone may be seen. In the background on the crest of the hill may be seen an observation post.....



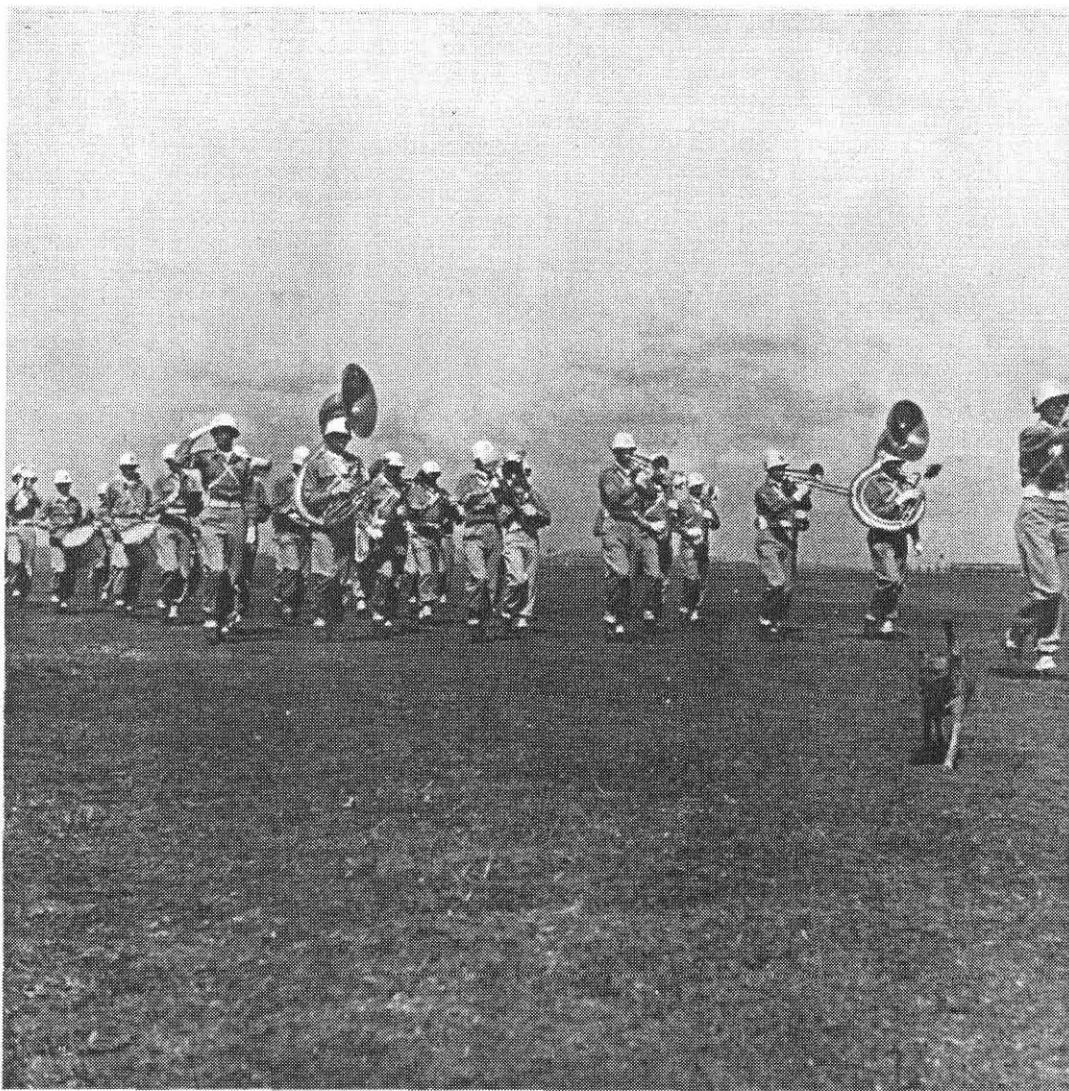
The Heavy Weapons Companies went into position at strategic points. Operational preparedness went hand in hand with training. The emphasis was placed on crew-served weapons. Plenty of gun drill preceded range firing and field problems. Fire power was kept up to date.

Field positions were sandbagged and camouflaged. An M Company crew are seen on the alert with their Browning 'heavy'.....



There were incidents in the occupation area. Reports were voluminous, running the gamut from a harsh-spoken word to the shooting down of a plane. Men were killed!

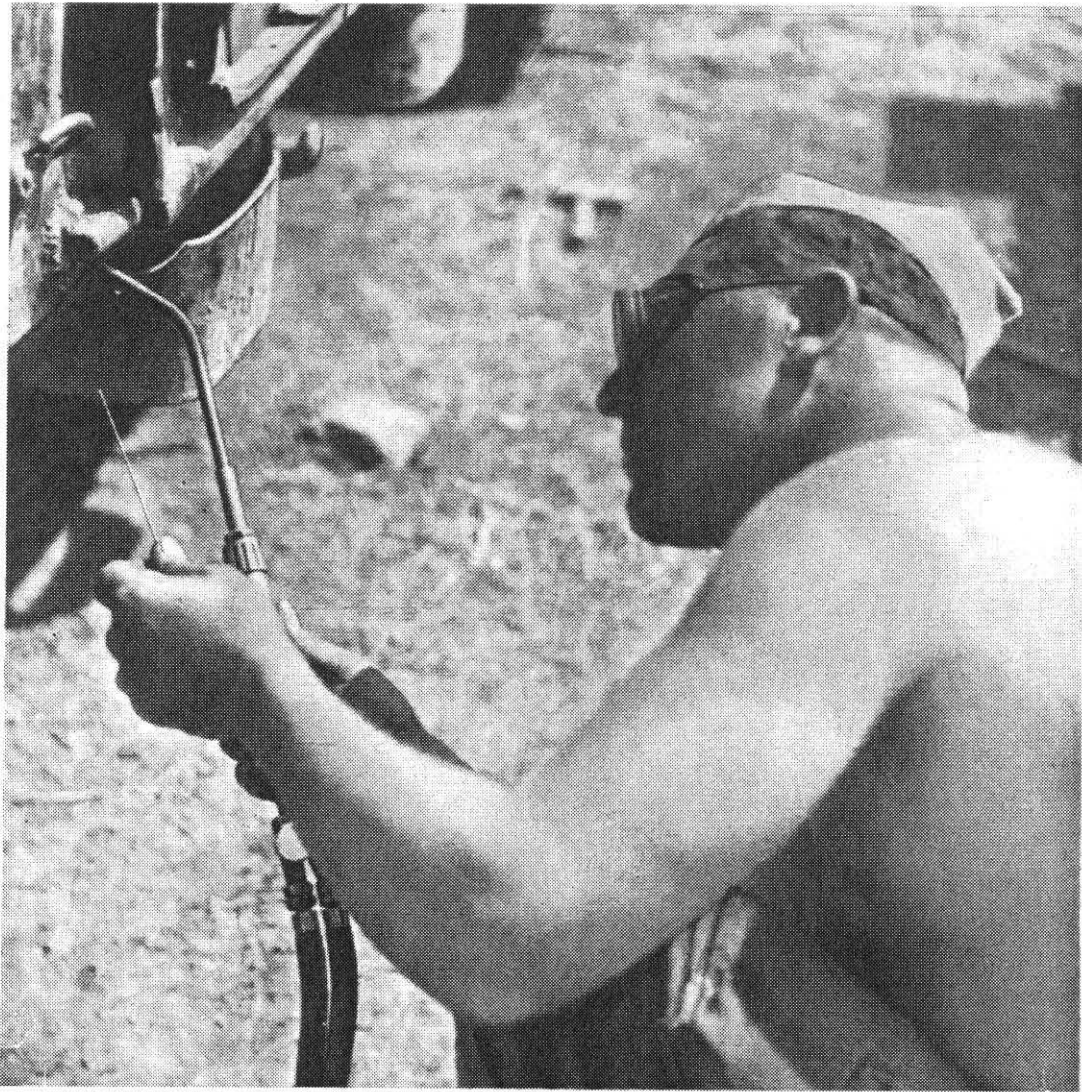
In the huge job of keeping the Regiment supplied, the Transportation Section carried the loads for the S-4. The grand GMC 2 1/2 ton 6 x 6 had an herculean role. On this occasion, Pfc. Charles Dornon of Service Company took truck Number 37, cleared the motor pool at 2230 hours, breaking the standing regulation requiring an armed guard, and headed north on Highway 13 to carry his load of fuel to the First Battalion, engaged in a problem at Valbruna Training Area near the Austrian Border. It was a long haul. At One A. M., as he eased his truck onto the Bailey Bridge a short distance south of the town of Ugovizza, Dornon came under automatic weapons fire from both sides of the road. Ducking low, and with his cab well sprinkled with lead, Dornon gunned out of that spot, miraculously untouched. His vehicle was pierced by twenty-one bullet holes! The pierced headlight, cab and windshield can be distinguished in the picture. As Dornon passed the nearest CP he flashed the word! A search was made! The culprits escaped unknown.....



The Table of Organization authorizes one band for an Infantry Division. The 350th Infantry Regiment went a bit beyond T/O and had its own band, an idea originated by Colonel Cochran and perpetuated by Colonel Haines.

The band played for all types of ceremonies. In development they reached such a stage of perfection in music and sharpness in appearance that they came to be in general demand for many functions.

In the picture they are stepping by the reviewing stand at Gorizia Airport. Band Mascot «Dusty» is out on point.....

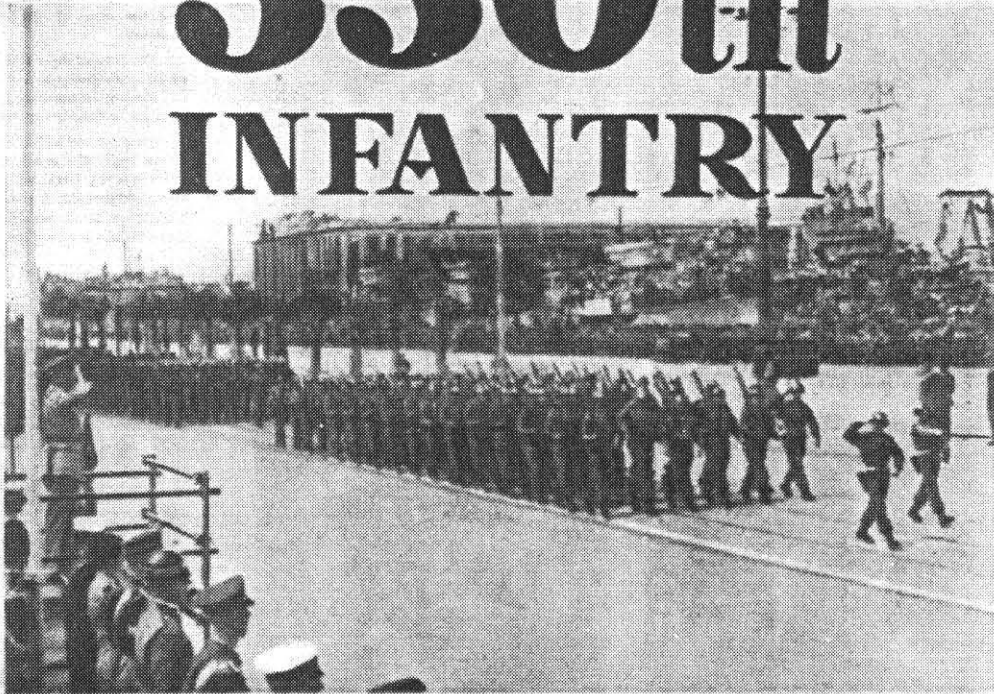


One of the less spectacular jobs, but also one of the most important to the outfit, is the job of mechanic. The mechanics are the men who keep the transportation rolling.

A welding job is a hot one under a broiling Italian sun.....



350th INFANTRY



'BATTLE MOUNTAIN' REGIMENT

The 350th United States Infantry Regiment, in war and in peace, has compiled a noble record for itself. Called the "Battle Mountain" Regiment because of its gallant defense of Mt. Battaglia, the 350th takes its place along with the best regiments in the United States Army today. This Regiment traces its accomplishments in the past war from its entrance on the lines near Minturno in March '44, thru the Ausente Valley, across the Amensio Valley, the push to the Arno River, the "Spearhead" assault thru the Gothic Line to Mt. Battaglia, and the drive to Mt. Grande. Very proudly did the men of the 350th parade in Gorizia and in Trieste

showing the desire to follow the traditions set by their predecessors.

Lt. Col. Ralph Haines, the Regimental Commander, has encouraged mass participation in athletics. During the past months he has guided the Regiment thru many regimental, battalion, and company field problems and it has been through his efforts that the 350th was and will be well represented in Division athletics.

The regimental crest bears the inscription "Fidelity and Service" referring to the loyalty, honesty, and faithful and exact observance of duty exercised by the members of the 350th.

"FIDELITY AND SERVICE"

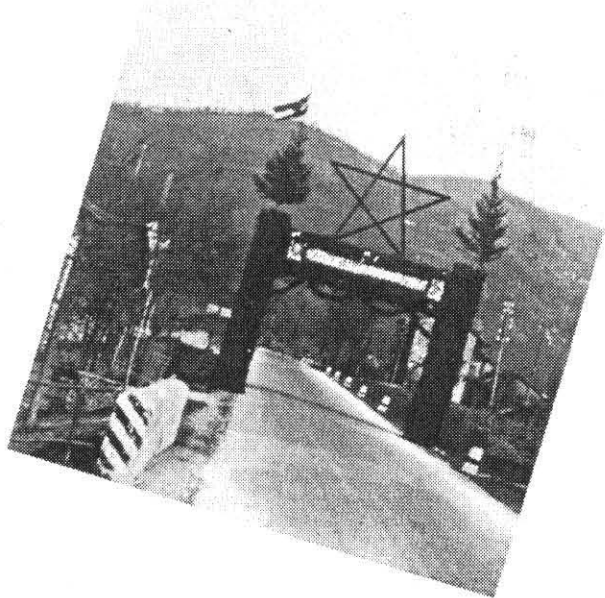


American Forces brought the frontiers of Democracy to Venezia Giulia. Blue Devils must implement American policy — attain America's goal of world cooperation and lasting peace.

There were tense moments — moments when firmness must be employed to counterbalance heavy-handed methods by certain elements whose indelicate policies were in opposition to the spirit of modern cooperation and understanding.

The scene above was a tense moment in Battle Mountain occupation. Several hours previous to the picture-taking, a Yugoslav deserter had been picked up in the American Zone by the 350th Infantry's Third Battalion. Shortly, Yugoslav officers appeared at an outpost to demand his return. On the basis of all regulations, this was refused. The 'Jugs' departed, leaving behind the intention to return with troops to retrieve their missing man.

When the Yugoslav officers returned — alone — to the outpost, they were met by Captains Bermingham and Palermo (in helmets) of the Third Battalion, and Captain Berger and Lieutenant Posich of the G-2 Section. Along the Line, the Third Battalion was prepared. The bluff had been called! Out of the discussion came agreement. The Yugoslavs returned to their headquarters — without their man....



The arrangement made at Duino for a temporary administration of the Venezia Giulia area provided for a Yugoslav Detachment to be on duty in the Anglo-American Zone A. For their control of the Zone B side of the Morgan Line, the Yugoslavs introduced a system of posts similar to that functioning in Zone A.

The temporary control of the area left many Italians on the Slav side of the Morgan Line and many Slovenes on the Italian side. The ethnological aspect of drawing a new international boundary for permanent settlement of the dispute was a key question and consideration in peace conference discussions. A unanimous solution was impossible. Some residents of Venezia Giulia of both nationalities would wind up under another country's flag.

At top General Lekic, Yugoslav 4th Army Commander, and Colonel Bencic of the Yugoslav Detachment are seen inspecting the troops. At top right is a typical Yugoslav sentry on duty along the Zone B side of the Morgan Line. At lower left may be seen a small demonstration in progress in one of the towns in the disputed area. Flag waving was a familiar scene in the occupation zone; it was one of the more passive actions on the part of the heterogeneous population. Arches with the star were one of the familiar sights in the predominantly Slovene areas.....



Red Cross Field Directors and Red Cross Girls were a part of the unit. The Clubs were a center of activity for the men. The girls planned activities in keeping with the season. Many famous resorts were within easy distance of the Regiment.

Here Tarcento Club Director Janie Wittemore has a group of Battle Mountaineers on the beach at Grado, popular summer resort on the Adriatic Coast between Venice and Trieste....



When the 350th Infantry began its concentrated processing of Prisoners of War in the Modena-Verona POW Sub-Command, large central cages put real material within reach and suggested a possibility too good to overlook. From the many thousands of prisoners of straight Wehrmacht category, the Regiment screened and formed a unit of some three hundred men. These included specialists in many fields. There were musicians, tailors, leather workers, metal craftsmen, plumbers, carpenters, painters, mechanics, artists, photographers and general strong-back men. Their purpose — to contribute their talents to the general good of the Regiment.

The company was placed under the command of a German officer, and had its First Sergeant and a medical officer. German personnel ran the mess and did the company administration. The whole was placed under the command of an American officer and three enlisted assistants. In effect, the German Service Company became the twentieth company of the Regiment. They moved complete with German transportation to the occupation area.

It was that type of unit which received its share of inspections. Above, Captain Fritz, German Commander, reports his unit ready for inspection to General Gaither, Assistant Division Commander....



The GI loves his chow. Meals are the high point of the day, placed so by an appetite fostered by soldiering. Working in the field under a pyramidal tent is no more difficult a task for the soldier cook than work with the indoor facilities. Equipment is made for all-around use.

Men on bivouac in the summer of 1946 could get some good baking. This later developed into what Third Battalion knew as Murphy's Bake Shoppe, named after the Battalion Commander, Colonel Murphy...



At Tarcento, the local theater building had been used by the Germans as a Chemical Warfare Supply Depot. American Forces changed things. When closeout came this was a War Department Theater seating five hundred persons at 20 cents for the latest 35 millimeter shows. Equipment was comparable to that in Radio City. Seats were a bit harder.....

The Germans used many, many horses in their Army. Thousands of these horses were picked up by Allied Forces, particularly in the Po Valley Campaign. These horses were put to good use. Pleasure stables were set up at battalion level, and, with captured equipment, some real riding could be enjoyed. General Harding and General Moore often inspected.....

One of the big attractions was the Battle Mountain Sugar Bowl, where a GI could get ice cream, coca cola and sandwiches, served by pretty Italian girls.

A former Tarcento Bar and Cafe was adaptable for Battle Mountain use. Conversion resulted in a fine Enlisted Mens' Club, with coke, beer and dancing.....



The Medical Detachment had a big job in occupation. Aid men must handle the outpost work. Each Morgan Line Roadpost had its medic. Serious illness must be treated by doctors at command posts many miles apart. The health standard in Italy was low, placing a burden upon the Medical Sections. Doctors must insure purification of water and DDT'ing of billets ; inspect messes and check preparation of locally procured vegetables ; treat gunshot wounds and accident injuries ; practice bedside manners with dependents ; instruct soldiers in the dangers of venereal disease.

Training must go forward at the same time. The staged patient on the litter is T/5 George Spasnik of Clairmont, New Hampshire. The scene is the field bivouac area.....



Holding down the key spot in occupation, and only American Division in the entire Mediterranean Theater, the 88th was in the spotlight. Venezia Giulia with its city of Trieste was a trouble spot in the post-war world. The area and its occupation were news copy.

There were a number of tense situations, but peak attention centered on the region during the period immediately following the shooting down over Jugoslavia of the two C-47's. Things were at a ticklish balance.

This composite news shot illustrates a portion of the coverage given to the Blue Devils. Publications include Life, The New York Times, The Saturday Evening Post and the New York Herald Tribune.....



The occupation was an Allied responsibility. A combined American-British Force handled the Zone A commitment. The organization of the military for the combination force in Venezia Giulia was on Corps level.

13th Corps in the first year of occupation was composed of two major units — the American 88th Infantry Division and the British 56th London Division. This was appropriate in that the 88th Division had been an outstanding American 5th Army unit and the 56th London an outstanding British 8th Army unit during the Italian Campaign. In late stages the 56th was relieved in Venezia Giulia by the British 1st Armored Division. Attached to the Corps throughout was a small Yugoslav Detachment.

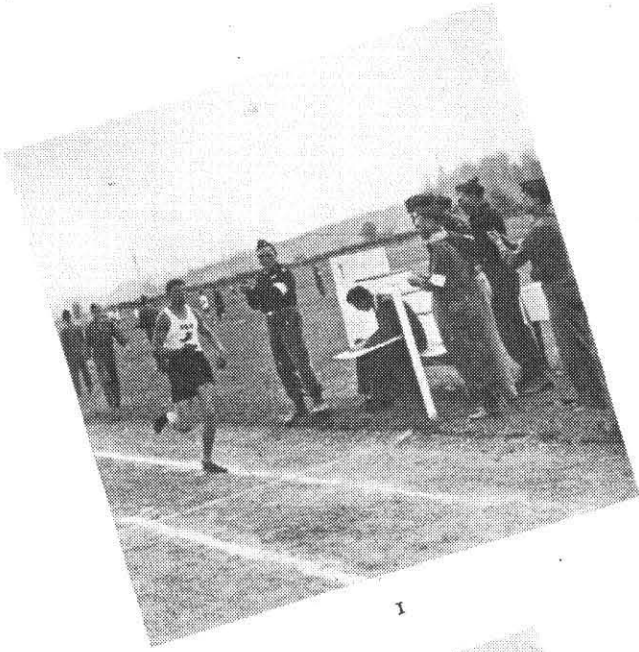
Corps Commander was British Lieutenant General Sir John Harding, KCB, CBE, DSO, MC. Boasting a distinguished record dating from World War I and along through the African and Italian Campaigns of World War II, energetic General Harding was a familiar figure to Battle Mountaineers. He is shown speaking with Platoon Sergeant Mills of Cannon Company in the course of an inspection of the 350th Infantry.....



In late May of 1946 the first families of Blue Devils docked at Naples. Many children must become acquainted with Daddy all over again. Fathers and babies saw each other for the first time.

Big problem for families was the problem that bothered the States — housing! Division dependents would be housed in an American Colony on beautiful Lido Island off the city of Venice. This would place them some three hours from Division area. Husbands could spend weekends with families, who in turn would be allowed one mid-week visit with the man of the house.

Real Estate Officers and Allied Military Government began to have headaches! By closeout most families would have alternate accommodations of sorts at hubby's military area.....



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2



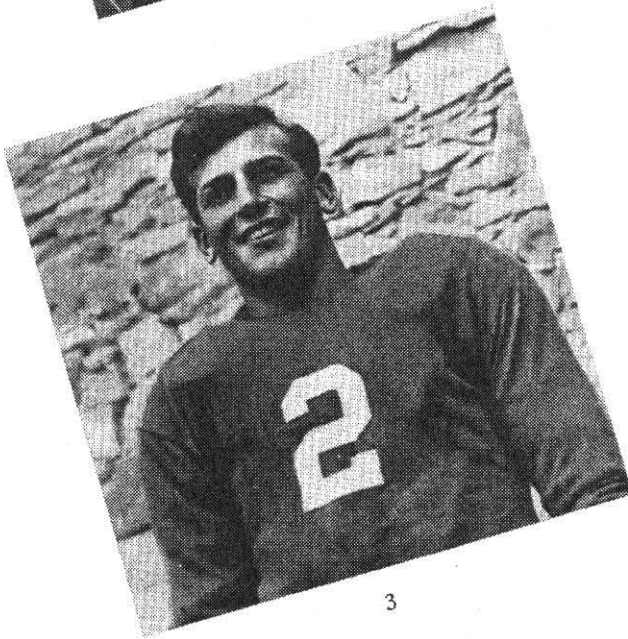
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4

The 350th Infantry pushed sports. Real effort went into the events of the season. All regimental facilities were thrown behind the competitions, and results looked something like this :

1. Pfc. Stewart Halsey, top distance runner of the Division..... 350.
2. Division Boxing Champs, 1946..... 350.
3. Division and Theater Basketball Champs, 1946..... 350.
4. Division Baseball Champs, 1946..... 350.



1. « Oh You Palooka ! » Without qualification the Regiment's Number One Fan in all sports was its Commanding Officer, Colonel Haines.
2. « These broadcasts are sponsored by Hocemo Tooth Paste and Zivel Shaving Cream ! » Captain Bell took time off from Regimental S-2 duties to act as sports announcer.
3. « Handsome Mel ! » Top all-around athlete was Sergeant Mel Massucco. Generally considered the best back in the Division, his pitching was also first-string quality. He was pretty to watch. The outfit expected to hear of Mel in college sports.
4. « C'mon Daddy ! » Little Margaret Yost was a top fan, too. Daughter of Lt. Max Yost, Regimental Athletic Officer, she could cheer both the Regiment and Daddy on, for Daddy participated in many sports.....



On 20 August 1946 the 350th Infantry assembled at Gorizia Airport. The purpose — to participate in a Division Review. Many reasons would be advanced for the all-out parade. An individual and a unit were to receive awards for combat achievements. These were surface reasons. Many saw greater significance. Two EATS (European Air Transport Service) C-47's had been shot down while off-course over Yugoslav Territory on the Udine-Vienna run. The new aircraft carrier Franklin D. Roosevelt was expected at Trieste. The United States 12th Fleet was on maneuvers in the Eastern Mediterranean. Captions on news releases of the Division Review insisted that Uncle Sam was « flexing his muscles. »

Few members of the Division would remember a similar occasion in Blue Devil history. Colonel Haines, Major Fingerhut, Captains Boatner and Bell, perhaps one or two others, would recall the day in Montecatini near Florence when General Clark attached streamers to the guidons of the Second Battalion of the 350th Infantry and read the citation-of-unit award for the defense of Mount Battaglia. Those few would remember, too, the rest period when the Division staged a review at Florence Airport, under fighter cover, to hear Generals Clark, Truscott, Keyes and Kendall speak of the forthcoming push from the North Apennines into the Po Valley, which Blue Devils would spearhead.

Looking at the 350th Infantry Color Guard passing the Reviewing Stand, a stereoscopic thought and eye might see a Spirit of '46 superimposed upon the Spirit of '76.....



During the fighting in Italy, misery reached such transcendental heights that any soldier would have vowed never again to go near the scene of that misery. However, after the war those thoughts of misery were tempered by a strange desire to return to the scenes of some of the nightmarish combat experiences. For those Blue Devil Battle Mountaineers who remained on into occupation the opportunity presented to revisit war scenes under the auspices of peace.

Well up on the list was the North Apennines sector in the Gothic-Winter Line region where the 88th and the 350th knew some of their roughest days. Mount Adone, which along with Monterumici formed the key to the German defenses of Bologna and the Po Valley, could be seen from Highway 65. This view is taken on the outskirts of Livergnano — the town known as Liver «n» Onions to GI's — where Battle Mountaineers fought and died.....



The importance of the mission being fulfilled by the 88th Division could be estimated by the number and distinction of VIP's. A state of readiness must be maintained at all times. Visitors represented Corps, Theater, Congress, Civilian Agencies and the War Department.

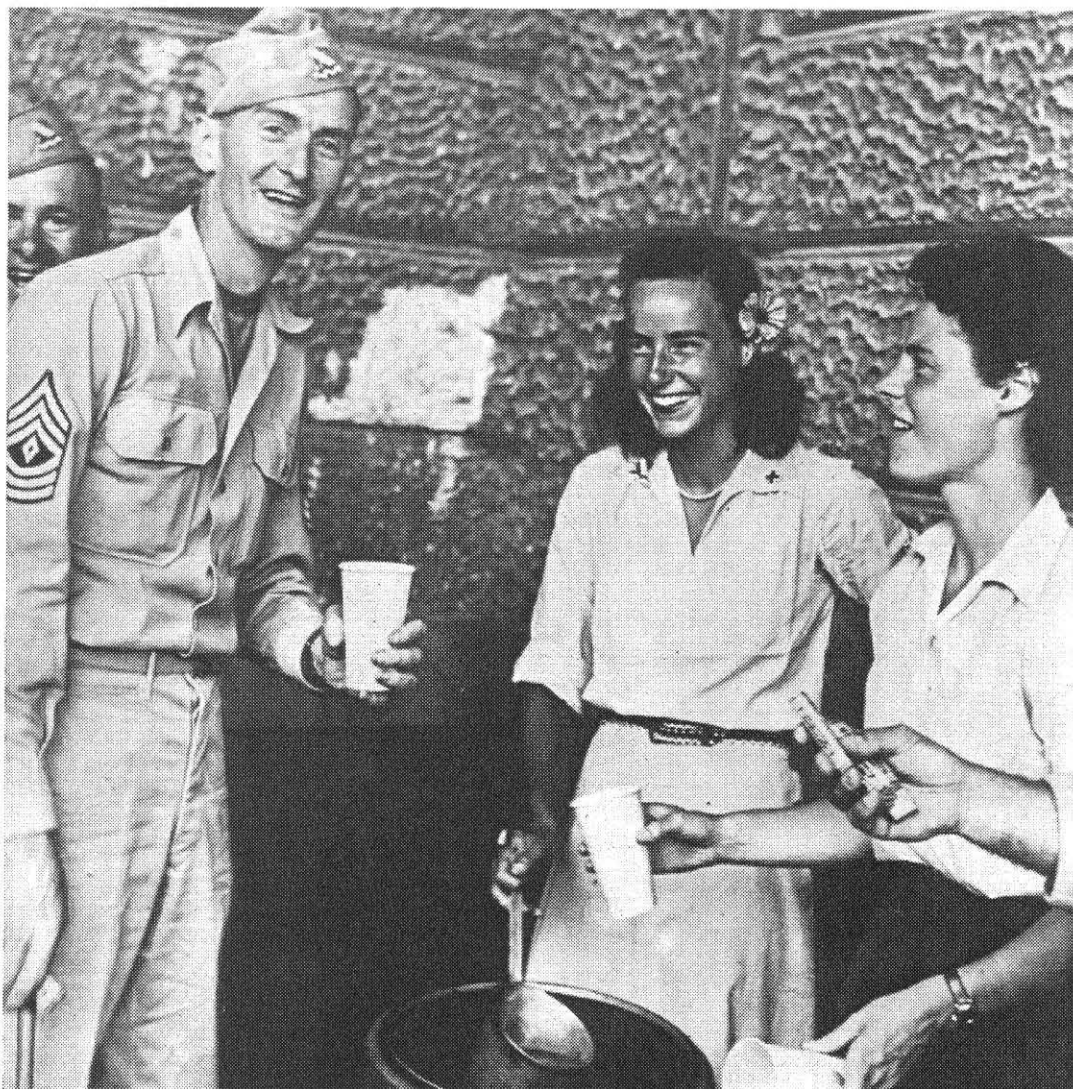
One such visitor was Major-General William H. Arnold, Deputy Chief of Operations, G-3, the War Department. He is shown on an inspection tour of the 350th Infantry accompanied by General Gaither and Colonel Haines. In the background are aides and Colonel Bowen.....



Practically in Division's backyard was the historic city of Venice. It made an ideal rest center spot, and could be reached from any part of the Blue Devil zone in two to three hours.

The Division established a non-commissioned officers' school on Lido Island with a five-week course of training along the lines of the Military Academy. Many of the instructors were Battle Mountaineers, along with a proportionate quota of students.

Venice had sightseeing material. One item of interest — The Bridge of Sighs. Story has it that prisoners, crossing the bridge from the Doges Palace after being sentenced, paused here for a last look out at light and air, heaved a sigh, and passed on into the dungeon.....



One of the major problems of occupation could be summed up in one word — redeployment! Units had a constant rotation of personnel, and a difficult time keeping up with the loss of key men. Understudies must be learning, ready to take over as expiration of service placed men on orders.

The Regiment did the send-off in style. A staff officer said the farewell, the Regimental Band played and the Red Cross were on hand with refreshments. That, of course, meant the girls could supply the charm to mellow the parting ceremony. Here First Sergeant McHale gets coffee, doughnuts and charm from the charming Janie and Carol. In the foreground is the hand of that man Marty Lehds, ARC Field Director and official gum dispenser....



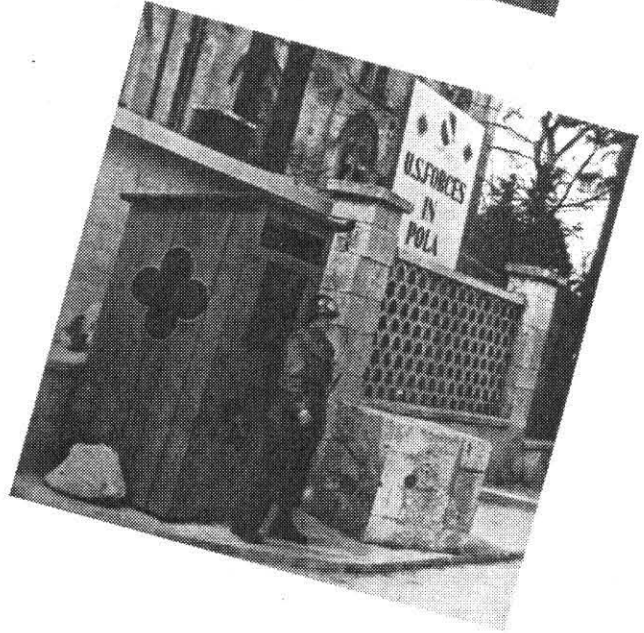
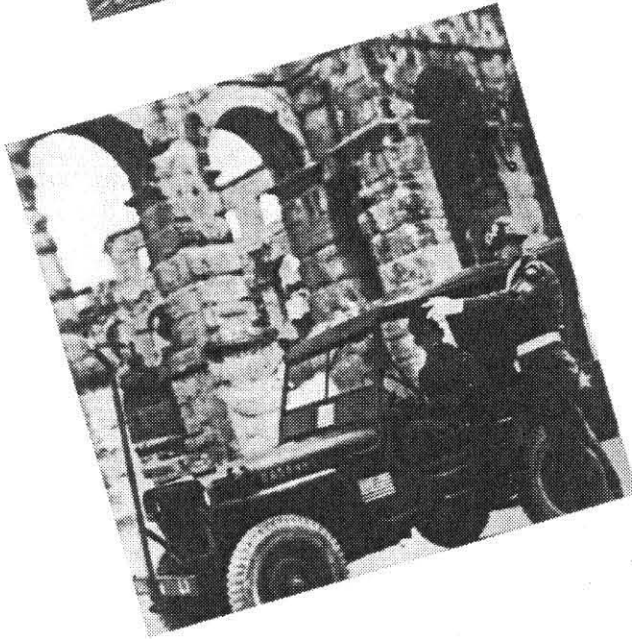
New men entering the ranks of the Battle Mountain Regiment were not assigned immediately to companies and positions. They must first undergo an orientation program. A Provisional Training Company received them. Here they were greeted by the Commanding Officer, the Regimental Surgeon and the Regimental Chaplain, and for one week were given a series of lectures covering the history of the Division, its occupation mission, and its area, supplemented by basic military subjects and discipline. The period culminated in a tour of the Division area and a closing exercise.

Here a cycle of new men are formed under Captain William G. Bell, Regimental S-2, in charge of the orientation. The scene is Piazza Liberta, Tarcento, and the company is listening to the remarks of the Assistant Division Commander, General Gaither.....



The soldier was the backbone of the Blue Devil Division : Battle Mountaineers came in for plenty of attention in the course of many inspections. That attention might be quite high-ranking. For example —

Corporal John Chaich of Company L stands at port answering the questions of his Division Commander, Major-General Bryant E. Moore. Corporal Chaich is under focus of other rank as well. At General Moore's left is Company Commander Captain McAuliffe. At the General's right is Platoon Leader Lieutenant Sweeny. Next is Regimental Commander Lieutenant-Colonel Haines, Battalion Commander Lieutenant-Colonel Murphy, and Regimental S-3 Captain Williams. The occasion is the inspection of L Company prior to its move to Pola to join the British in the occupation of the Pola Enclave until the ratification of the treaty of peace.....



Many unfortunate situations developed out of peace conference decisions. Perhaps outstanding among these was the city of Pola at the tip of the Istrian Peninsula. A center of Roman civilization, butt of pirate raids, Austrian naval base, undergoing constant change in a changing section of the world, Pola once again was to shift its nationality, this time from Italian to Yugoslav. The predominantly Italian population refused to remain under opposition rule. As Ratification Day neared, thousands of Italians packed their belongings, closed their homes and businesses, and moved by boat to Venice, to spread out in Italy and add to the already difficult internal situation.

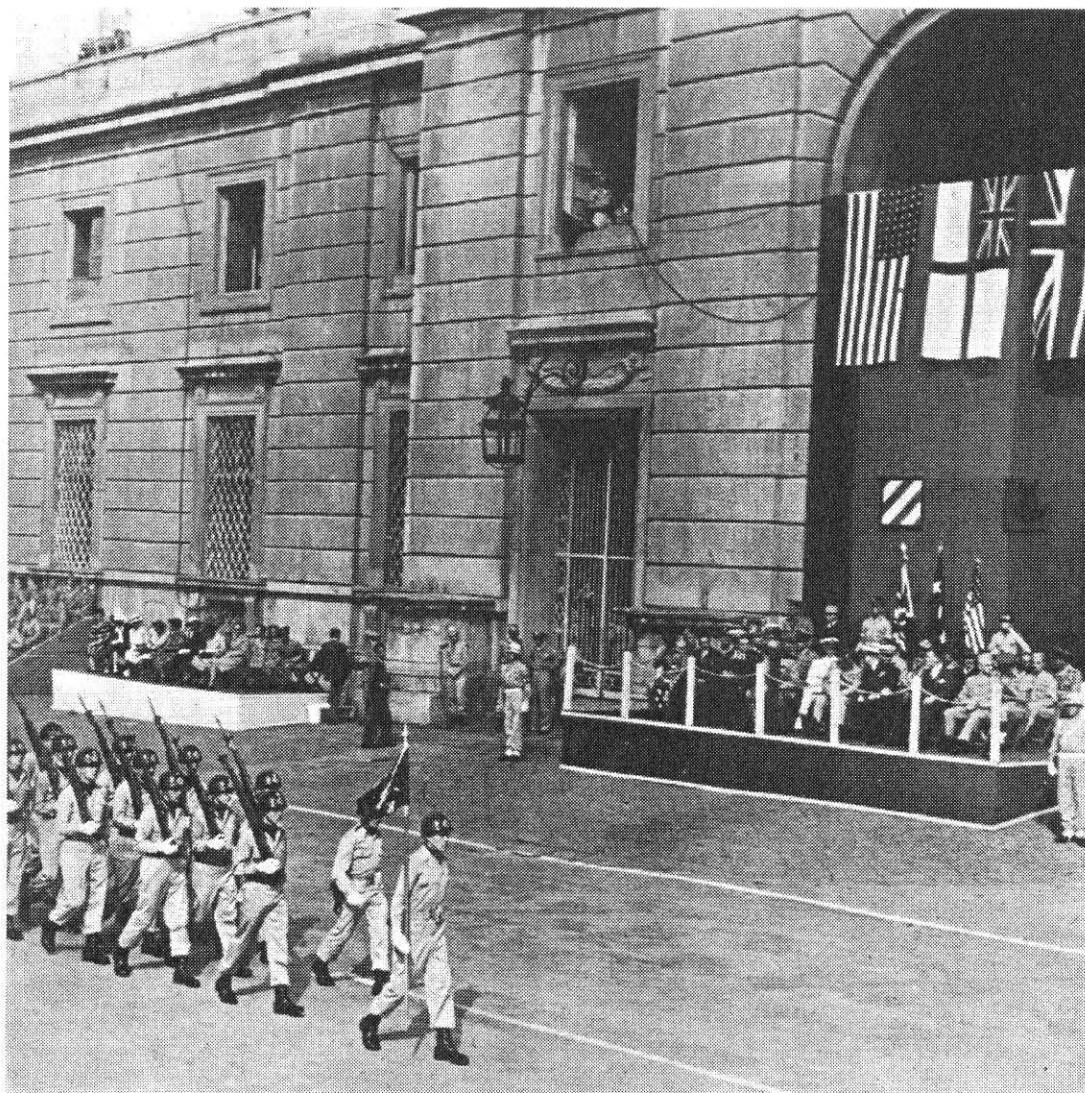
To the 350th Infantry's Third Battalion went the important assignment of joining the British in the occupation of the Pola Enclave in October of 1945, as the 88th Division entered the occupation zone. And to the Third Battalion of the 350th Infantry went the Pola assignment for the closeout phase. Company L cleared Trieste in a LST, to debark at Pola and enter upon their tour of duty. They found Italians being bundled into trucks to evacuate the already partially deserted city. Duties at Pola included military police work as illustrated by Pfc. Richard Auberg, and guard as executed by Pfc. Chester Jawor. It was a ghost city in which Company L completed its tour.....



Strange incidents of a somewhat international nature were prevalent along the length of the Morgan Line, and with all their serious implications, were not without humor.

Of the key terrain features in the Battle Mountain Sector, one was Mount Gabriele. On the southwest face of Gabriele and close to the top, a whitewashed rock inscription visible for many miles proclaimed « Hocemo F L R J ». A fair translation indicated that « We want the Federated Peoples Republic of Jugoslavia. »

One morning the Gorizia area awoke to find that something new had been added ! This time — « Hocemo Moore » ! The sign was in the sector of the Third Battalion of the 350th Infantry. Attempts to change it back to its original form failed. There were reverberations in the controlled press.....

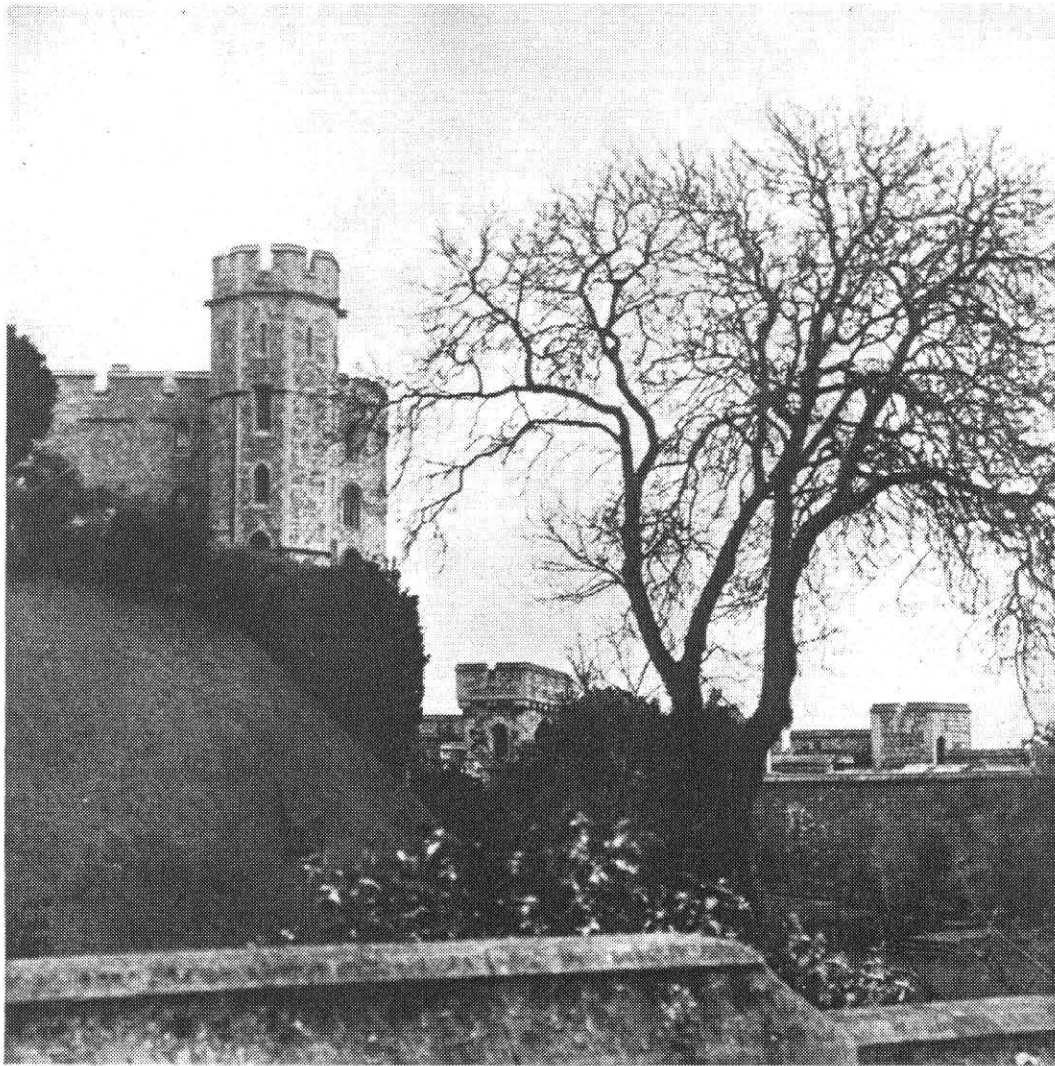


Throughout the occupation tour the 350th Infantry was called upon to supply many a Guard of Honor. The Allied nature of some ceremonies often required an Anglo-American Guard. 5 October 1946 marked the third anniversary of the capture of Caserta, Italy, by the American 3rd Division and the British 56th London Division. Caserta was the site of the Royal Palace where in January of 1944 Allied Force Headquarters set up operations.

K Company drew the assignment for the occasion. Captain Bermingham had a sharp outfit in the composite Guard of Honor which included a company of the 24th Guards Brigade of the famous Scots Guards.

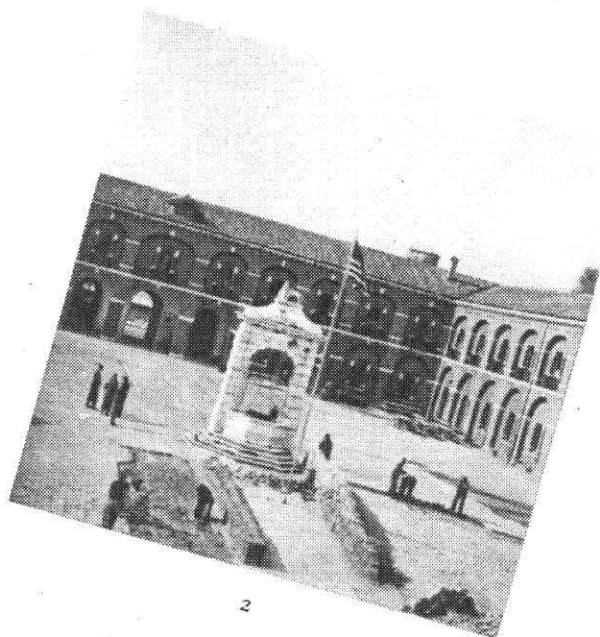
In the reviewing stand : Lt. Gen. Sir William D. Morgan, Supreme Allied Commander ; Lt. Gen. John C. H. Lee, Deputy Supreme Commander ; Maj. Gen. Bryant E. Moore, 88th Division Commander ; Alcide De Gasperi, Premier of Italy ; Admiral Richard C. Connally, Commanding U. S. Naval Forces in European Waters ; David Keye, U. S. Charges d'Affaires in Rome ; Sir Noel Charles, British Ambassador to Italy ; Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone, head of Allied Commission ; Dr. Roberto Lodati, Mayor of Caserta, and many others.

Of K Company the Supreme Commander wrote to General Moore..... « I was most impressed with the turnout and bearing of the company of the 350th Infantry Regiment which took part in the ceremony at Caserta..... I would be glad if you will convey my appreciation to the Commanding Officer and all ranks under his command..... ».



Pass opportunities available to members of the occupation forces were notable. Within Italy there were close-by points such as Venice, Cortina and Trieste. A bit farther afield were Florence, Rome, Pompeii, Pisa, Rapallo, the Isle of Capri. Other countries could be visited: Switzerland, France, England. Many men managed a token visit next door in Austria, and a part of their service was in an area which would soon be Jugoslavia.

Most local passes cost nothing. Major tours had negligible charges; the most expensive barely exceeded one hundred dollars. Beautiful pictures could be taken of historic points, such as the one above of Windsor Castle in England. Truly, such passes were the equivalent of an education.....

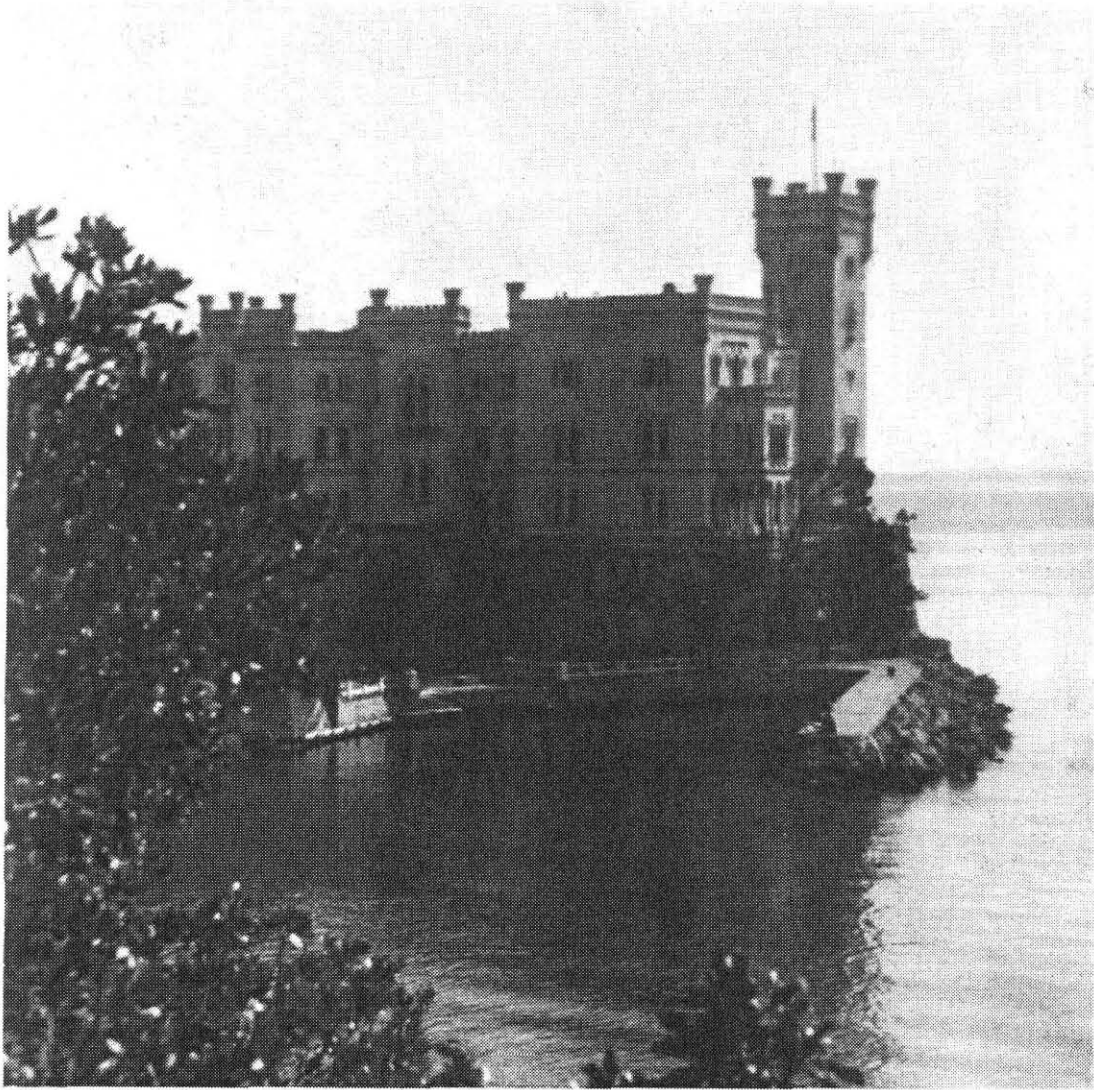


1. Famed in song, the Isle of Capri was a favorite pass center.
2. A large Caserma on Lido Island off Venice provided ideal quarters for the NCO School.
3. There were marriages during occupation. Italian girls were favorites with the Americans. Lieutenant Smith of Headquarters Company married the charming Tecla of Villa Fredda.
4. A view looking up the Torre River from Tarcento. One of the silk factories at Bulfons may be seen in the center of the picture.....



In order to provide all possible recreational facilities for the men of the Regiment, central clubs were established, and each company had its own small club in the company area where parties and dances could be held. In the late stages of occupation ice cream parlors were opened.

The central Enlisted Mens' Club at Tarcento was a favorite spot. Here music was supplied alternately by Italian and German orchestras. Pretty Italian girls served coke from the Division Coca Cola Plant at Cividale and beer from the Division Brewery at Feltre.....



In 1854, Erzherzog Ferdinand Maximilian von Hapsburg, younger brother of Franz Joseph of Austria, was serving as a Rear Admiral of the Austrian Navy at Trieste. While on a pleasure cruise along the coast, a summer storm forced young Maximilian and his party to take cover in a cove. Impressed with the beauty of the spot, he decided to build there a marble castle which he would call Miramare — Wonder of the Sea.

Maximilian was shortly to accept the post of Emperor of Mexico. Thirteen years after construction was begun on the castle, Maximilian was shot to death in Mexico. The castle was completed in 1870, and remains today as a point of historical interest in the Trieste area.

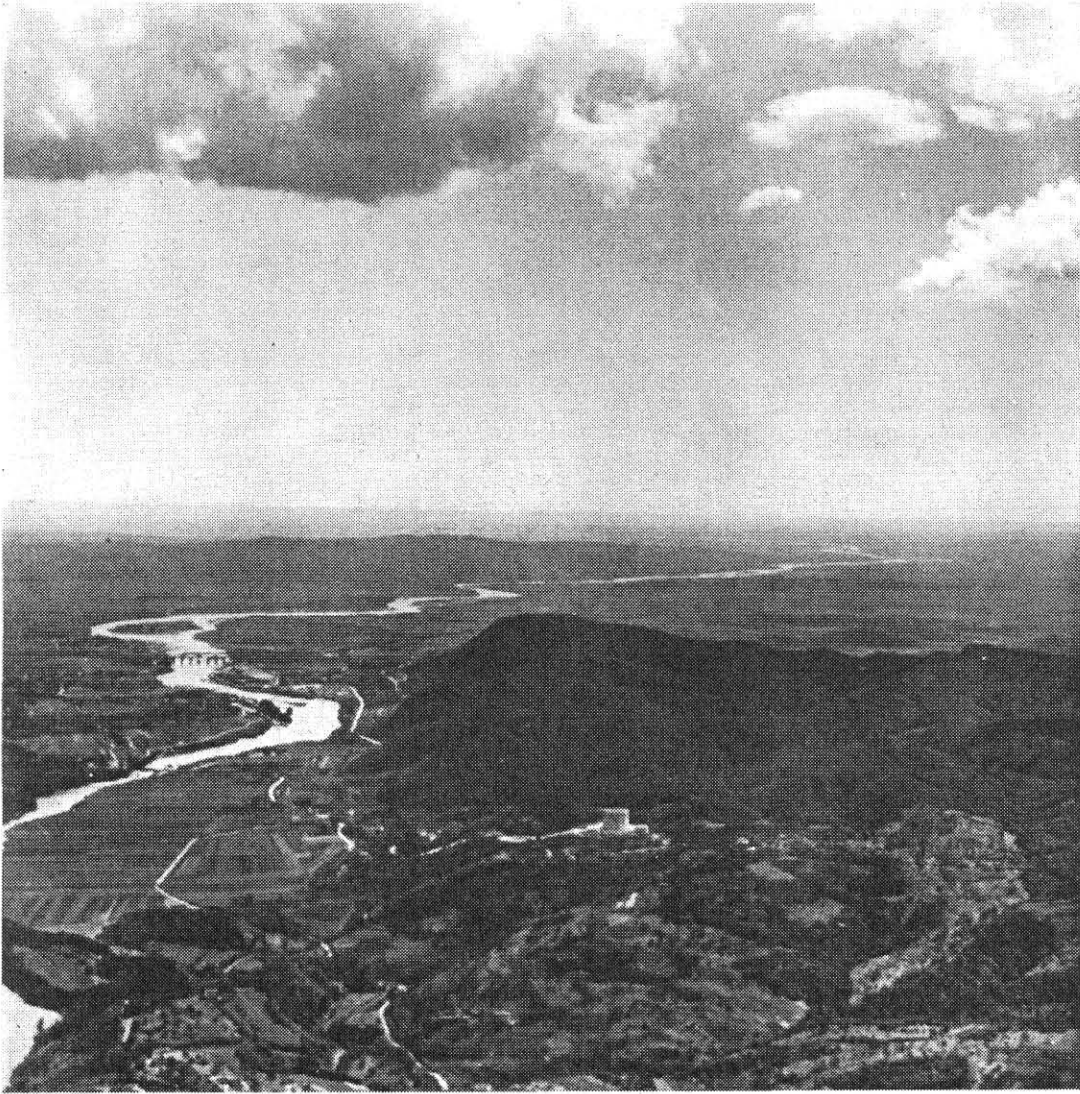
56th London Division and British 1st Armored Division used the castle as their Comand Post during their stay in Venezia Giulia. Miramare became headquarters for TRUST, Trieste U. S. Troops, for the period in occupation in the International Zone.....



The 350th spent two Thanksgivings and two Christmases in its occupation tour. Poverty surrounded the Regiment. Those four occasions plus many others were devoted to an attempt on the part of the Battle Mountaineers to bring a little sunshine into the lives of some of the world's unfortunates.

Usual procedure was to have as guests in each company mess the poor children of the neighborhood up to 10 % of company strength.

The group above were guests of the First Battalion's Headquarters Company on Thanksgiving Day of 1946. First Battalion was stationed in the troublesome Collio area north of Gorizia. Many of the children were of Slovene extraction.....



The cloudy-green Isonzo River cuts down through the Province of Venezia Giulia, emerges from the Julian Alps onto the Venetian Plain, and winds its way into the Gulf of Trieste and the Adriatic.

Spread along the east bank of the Isonzo, the city of Gorizia lies on the Plain at the base of the Alps. Peace treaty decisions along ethnological lines would establish the Italo-Yugoslav boundary in a manner which would leave the city to Italy, and the dominating heights of Sabotino, Santo, Gabriele and Daniele to Jugoslavia.

In the middle foreground can be seen the monument to Italy's dead of World War I. Some 22,000 remains are deposited here.....

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