



It was here in the land of windmills, dykes, and canals that the 75th Division operated with the British 2nd Army. The largest part of the work for them was to get accurate reconnaissance reports on enemy activities and positions on the opposite banks of the numerous rivers and canals with which they were confronted at the time. River waters were high, and there was the constant threat of dykes and dams being blown, allowing the heavy waters to slow up the progress of the drive. Weather was rainy and bleak for the most part, but often gave cover to patrolling groups. Our close contact with the English soldiers here gave us a good insight into their mannerisms and pluck for the battle. They had their afternoon tea regardless of where they were or what they were doing.



THE MAAS AND CANALS HOLLAND





BARGES AND FREIGHTERS, SHELL-TORN AND SCUTTLED, WERE ALL ALONG THE MANY CANALS. THESE WERE OFTEN THE HOMES FOR THE WORKERS' FAMILIES





THIS WRECKAGE STOPPED THE USE OF THE BARGE, AND BLOCKED THE CANAL FOR FURTHER PASSAGE



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

The Division gained high praise from the commanders and men of the British forces with whom they worked during operations on the Maas River, and in the Roer - Maas triangle. British engineers excelled in bridge construction. Their congeniality in combat with the doughboys of the 75th can not be passed off as incidental to the good results we obtained together.



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



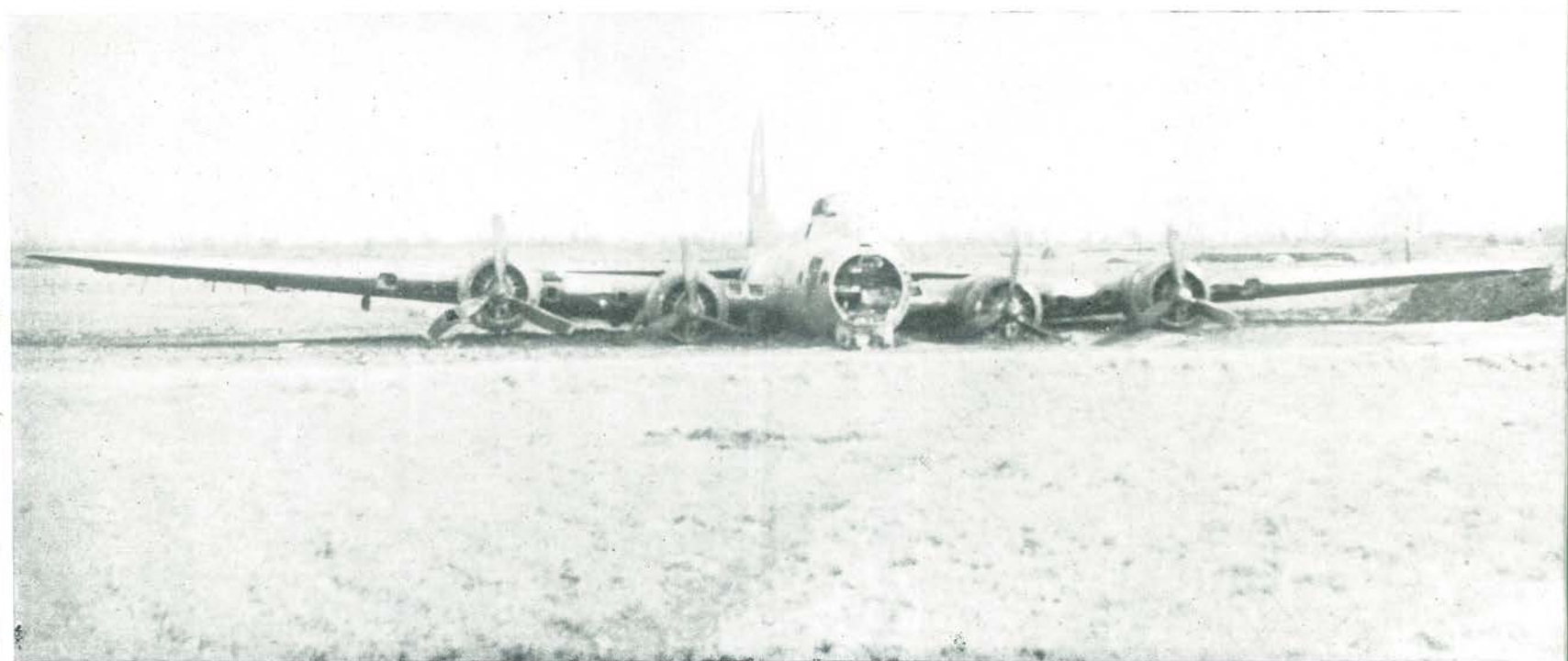
the seventy fifth **75** *infantry division*

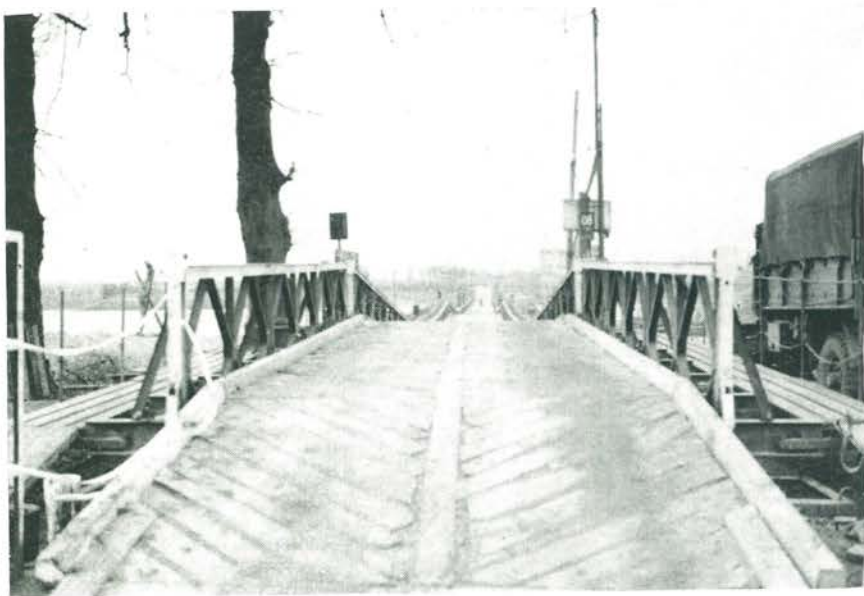


the seventy fifth **75** *infantry division*



With the huge fleets of heavy bombers and fighter support that were sent into enemy territory, it was inevitable that many of our ships would meet with disaster in the face of German attack. Minnie, the Mermaid, was one of the less fortunate but in unloading her bombs on the enemy, no doubt, avenged destruction.





The English boys were proud indeed to be able to take a part in the bridge work. With their typical cocky attitude, they could be found in small groups at work in a similar session to that of our own GIs. They were generally a plucky bunch of big men.

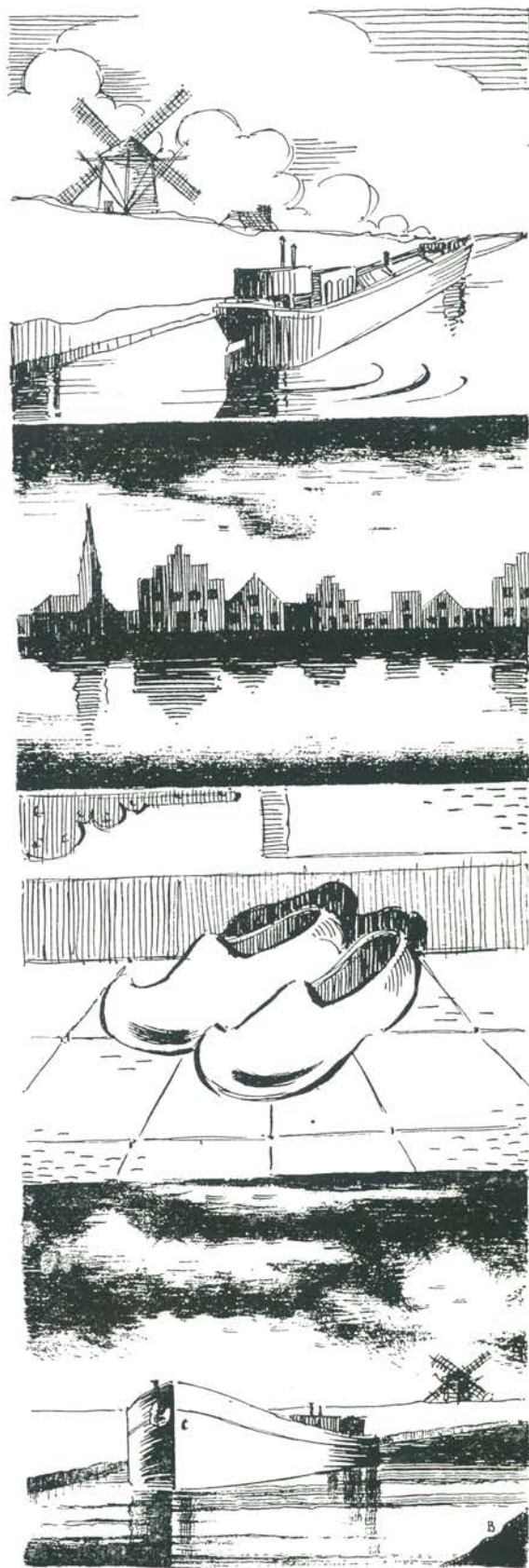


the seventy-fifth **75** *infantry division*



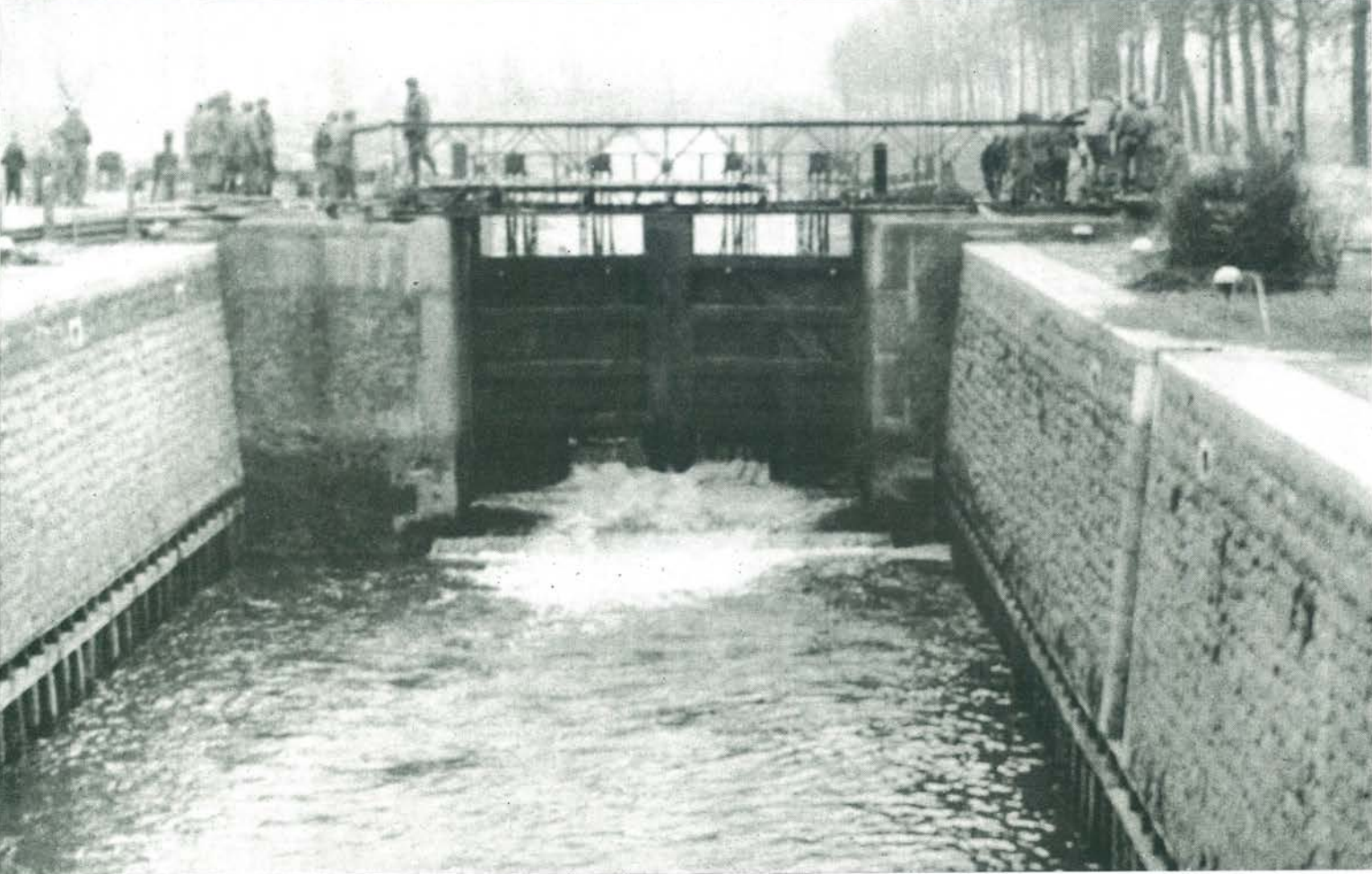
It was seldom, with the vast amount of work at hand, that time could be found to have groups of men pose for the camera; but in this instance the progress of the job on hand warranted the time taken out. The children always received the tenderest treatment from the sympathetic American soldier, and here, elated by the sight of the camera, they pose gleefully.



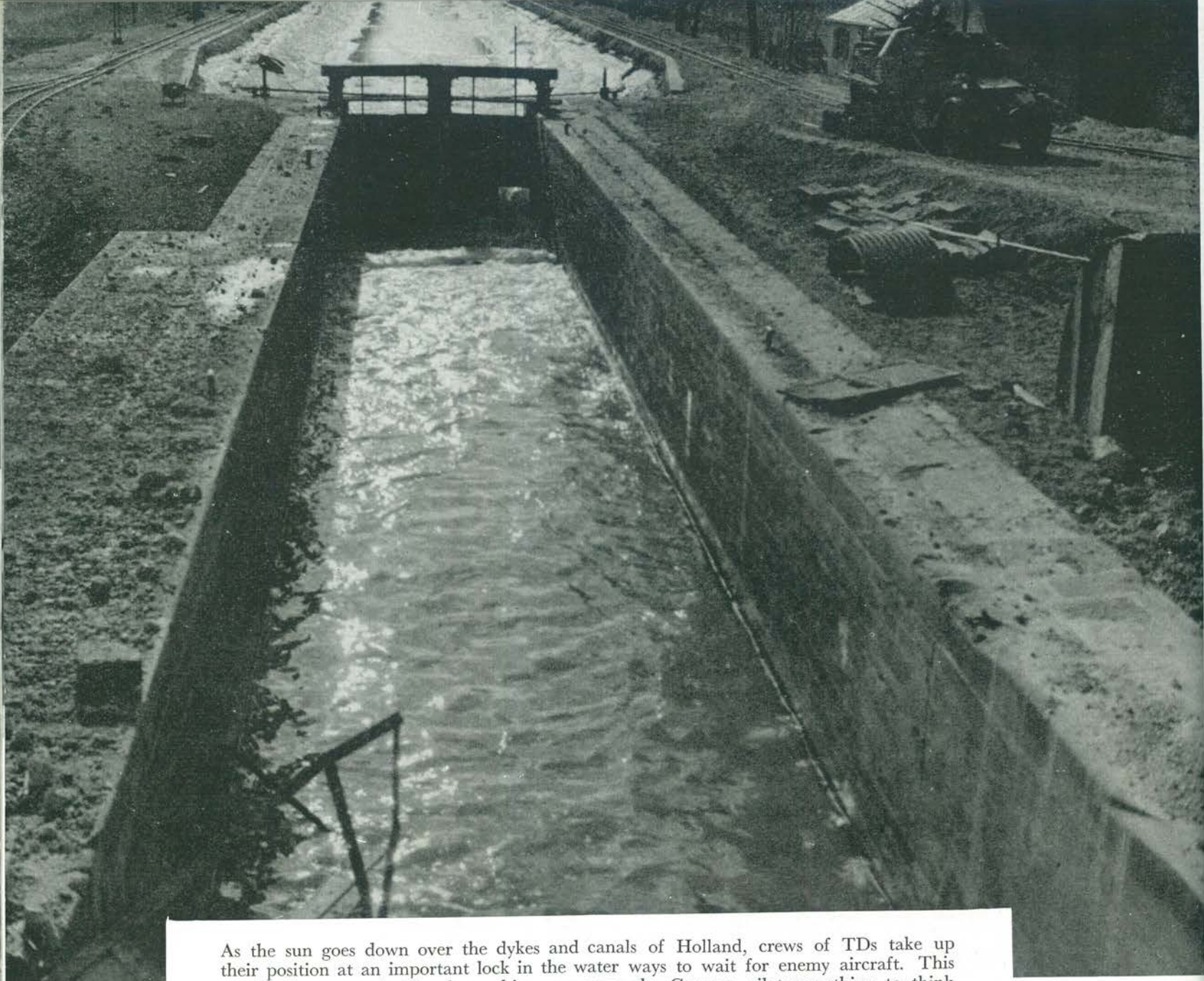


the seventy-fifth **75** *infantry division*



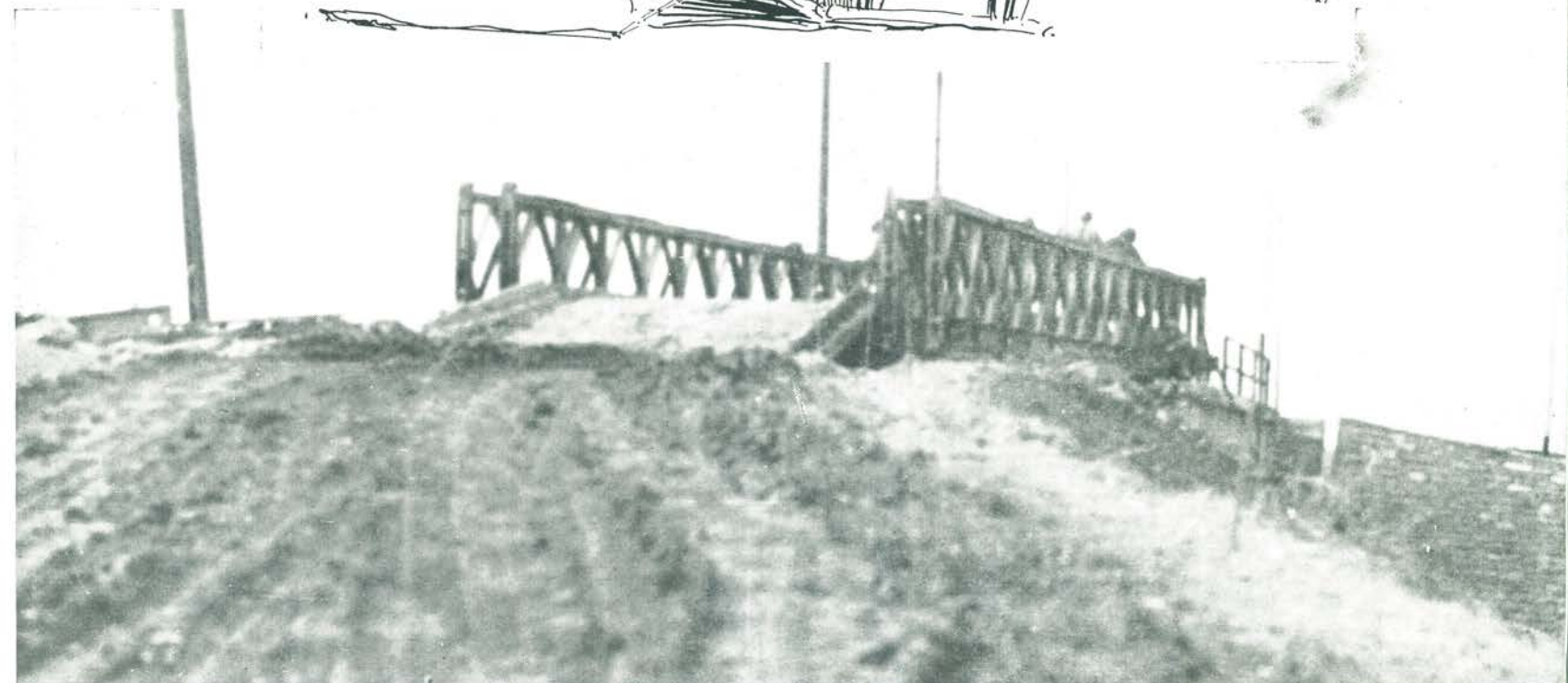






As the sun goes down over the dykes and canals of Holland, crews of TDs take up their position at an important lock in the water ways to wait for enemy aircraft. This quadruple mounted .50 cal. machine gun gave the German pilot something to think about other than his target. Each strategic spot was solidly and completely covered with anti-aircraft weapons so that it was a virtual death trap for the stray, strafing fighter planes. The 75th Division and their attached units were credited with having eliminated many of the enemy's Luftwaffe during their activities in the fray. Artillery positions drew attack from the air, but were carefully protected, and continued their job heroically.

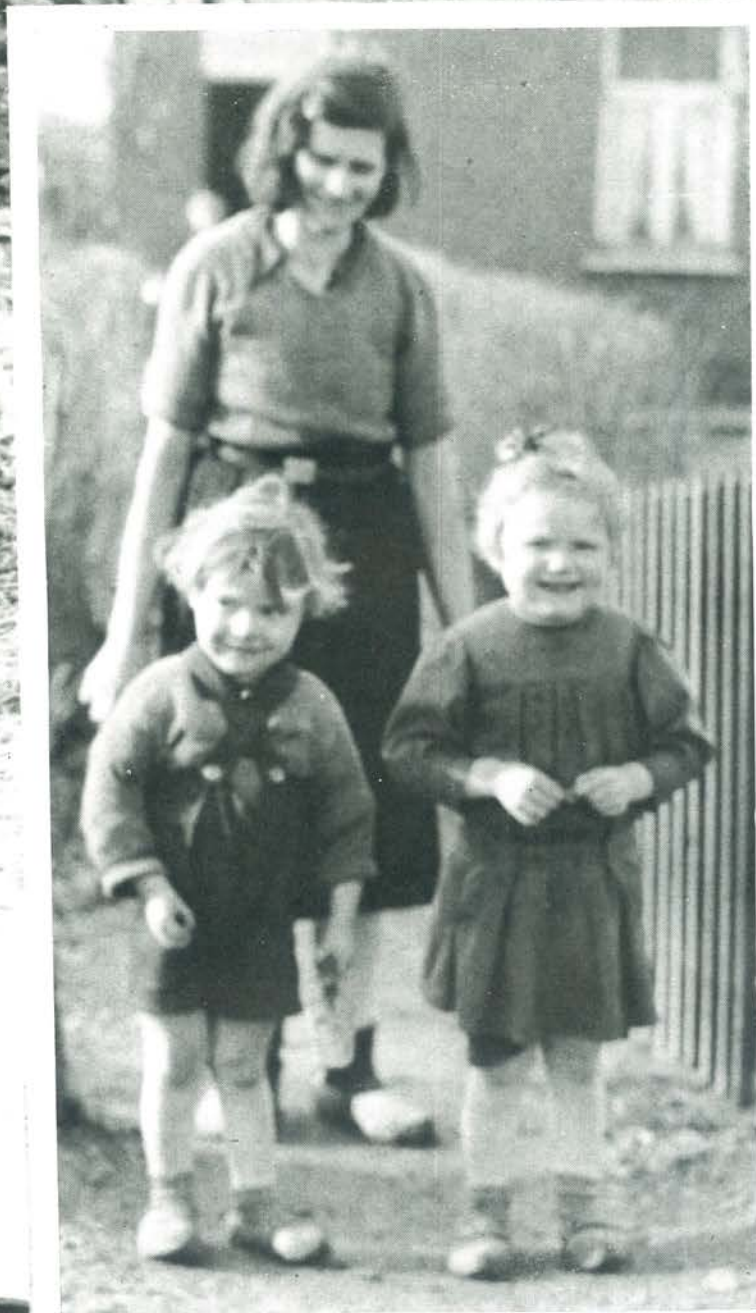






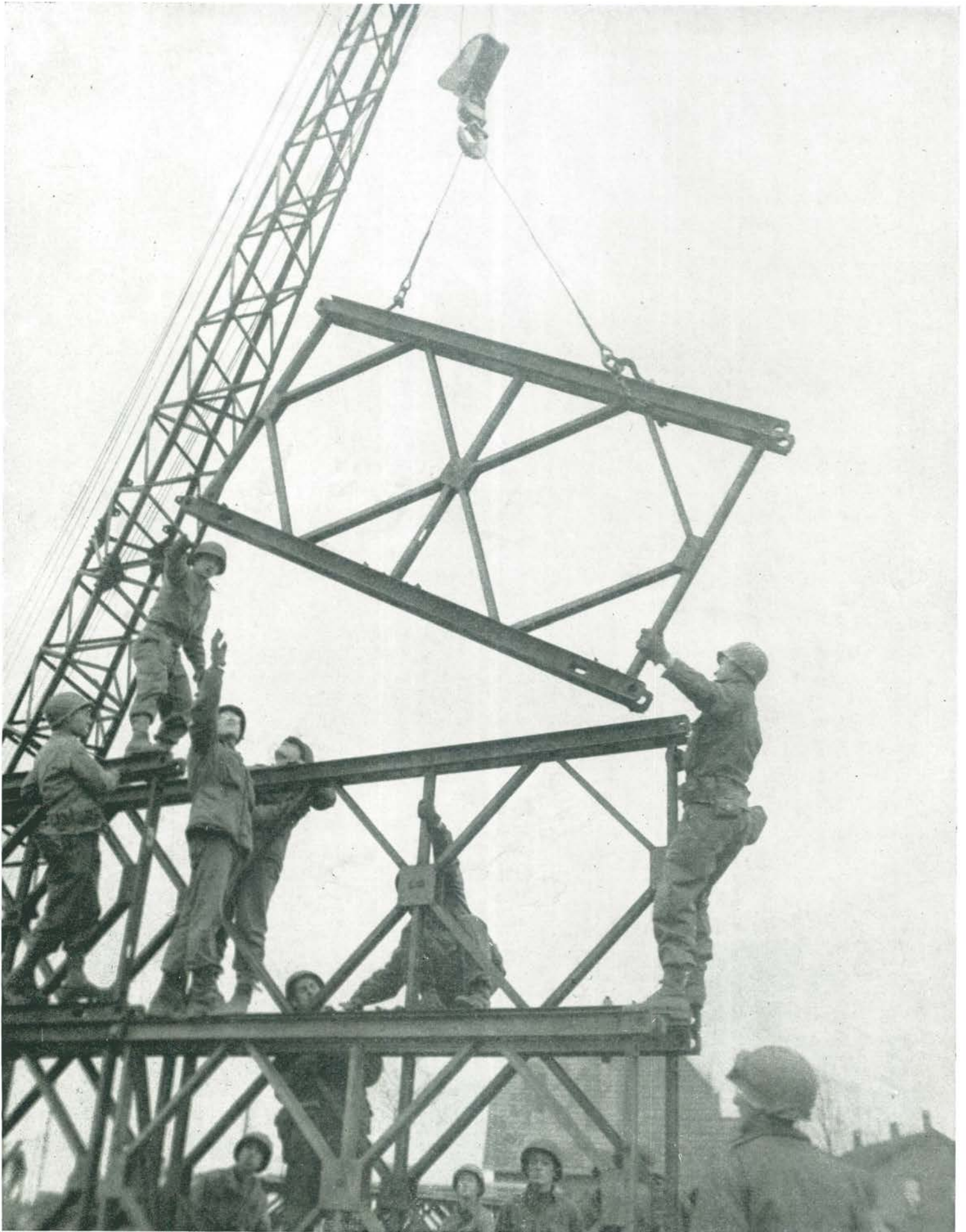
The land of windmills has more than windmills as can readily be seen in the lower shot looking across an open field toward the town.



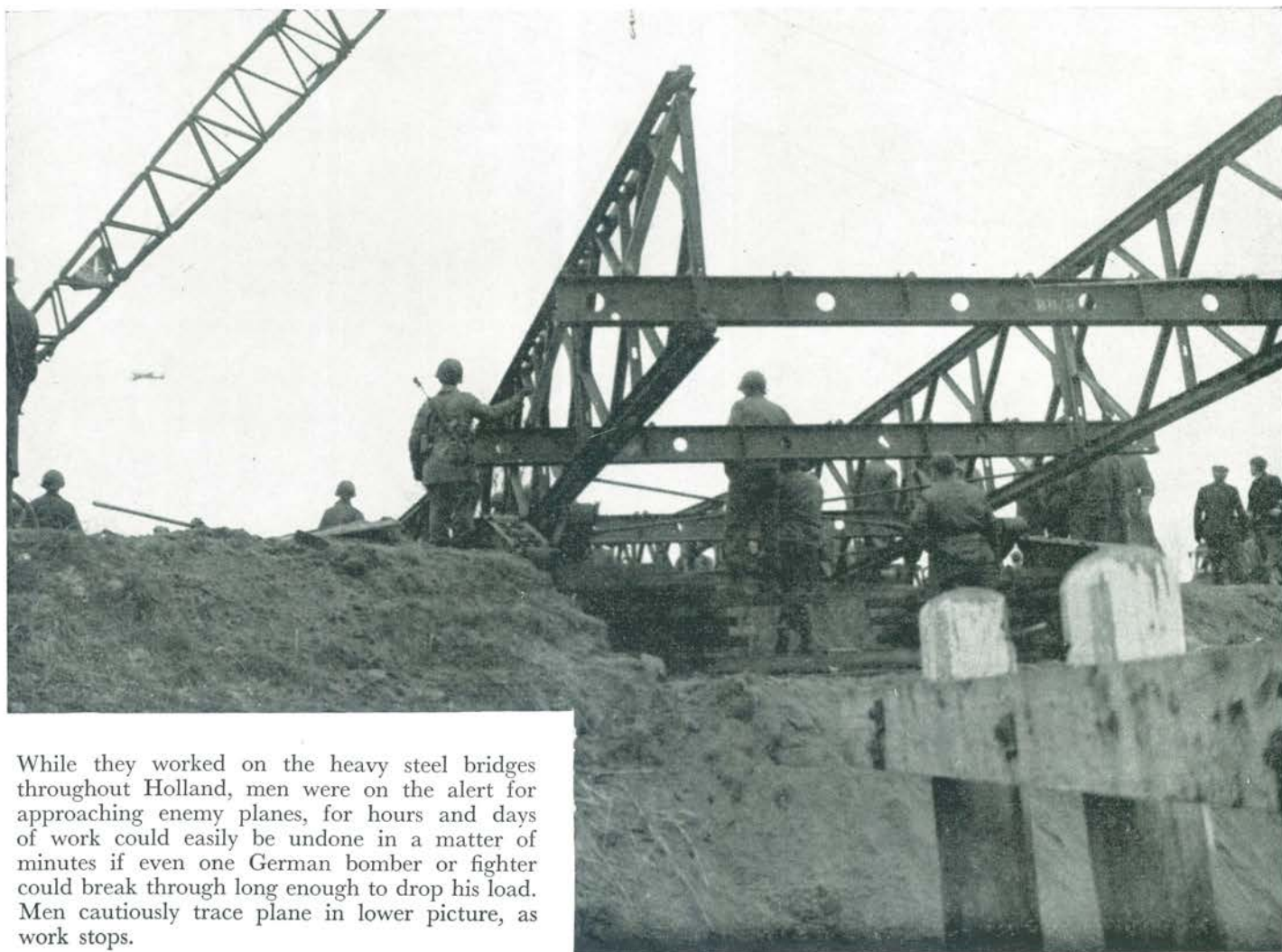


THE ENERGETIC DUTCH ARE KIND AND WILLING PEOPLE

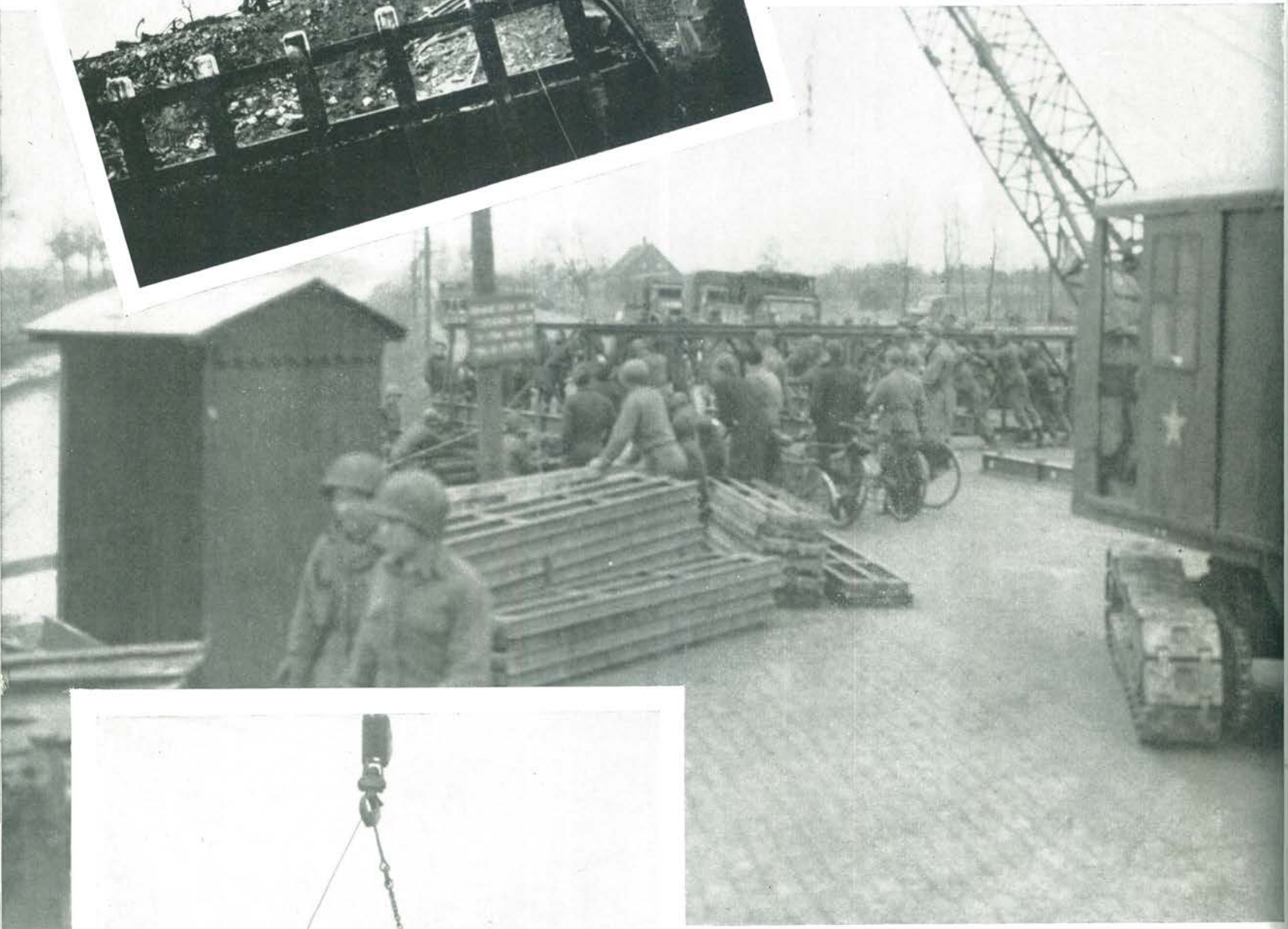




CRANES WERE NOT NORMALLY USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF BAILEY BRIDGES, BUT WHEN HANDY THEY HELPED TO SPEED WORK



While they worked on the heavy steel bridges throughout Holland, men were on the alert for approaching enemy planes, for hours and days of work could easily be undone in a matter of minutes if even one German bomber or fighter could break through long enough to drop his load. Men cautiously trace plane in lower picture, as work stops.



Unbelieving people watch the speedy construction of bridges which will soon carry tens of tons of heavy equipment and men across its span. This type of prefabricated steel building was new to them, and their wonder was that of youngsters watching a New York excavation.

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

IN COMBAT IT WAS NOT ONLY DEFEATING THE ENEMY BY GUN AND MISSILE, BUT WORK LIKE THIS



Man, in his construction of bridges and roads in combat, has added to nature, but at a cost far beyond cash accounting. His sweat and toil and thought should have gone into the erasing of the stigma of poverty. Slums and swamps could have been transformed into mansions and fertile fields.



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WITH THE SPEED OF CONSTRUCTION, CARE HAD TO BE TAKEN AT EVERY TURN, FOR TONS OF IRREPLACEABLE EQUIPMENT WERE AT STAKE



Reinforced steel and concrete pillboxes fell to the tremendous power of the onslaught, as did simple churches of God, built in peace and for peace

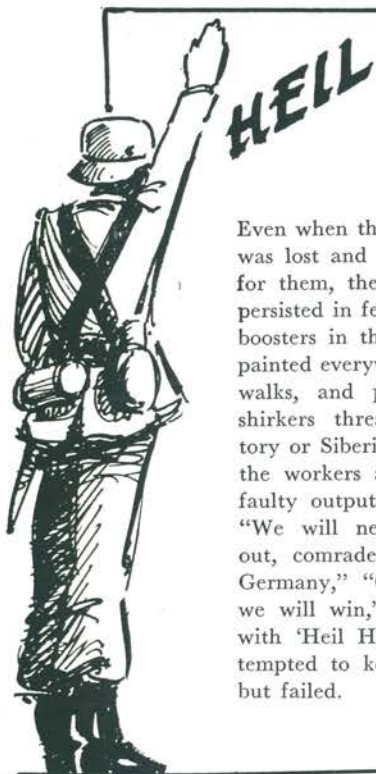
It was ironic, and even in the high interest level of combat, men were able to see the incongruity of the situation which prevailed.



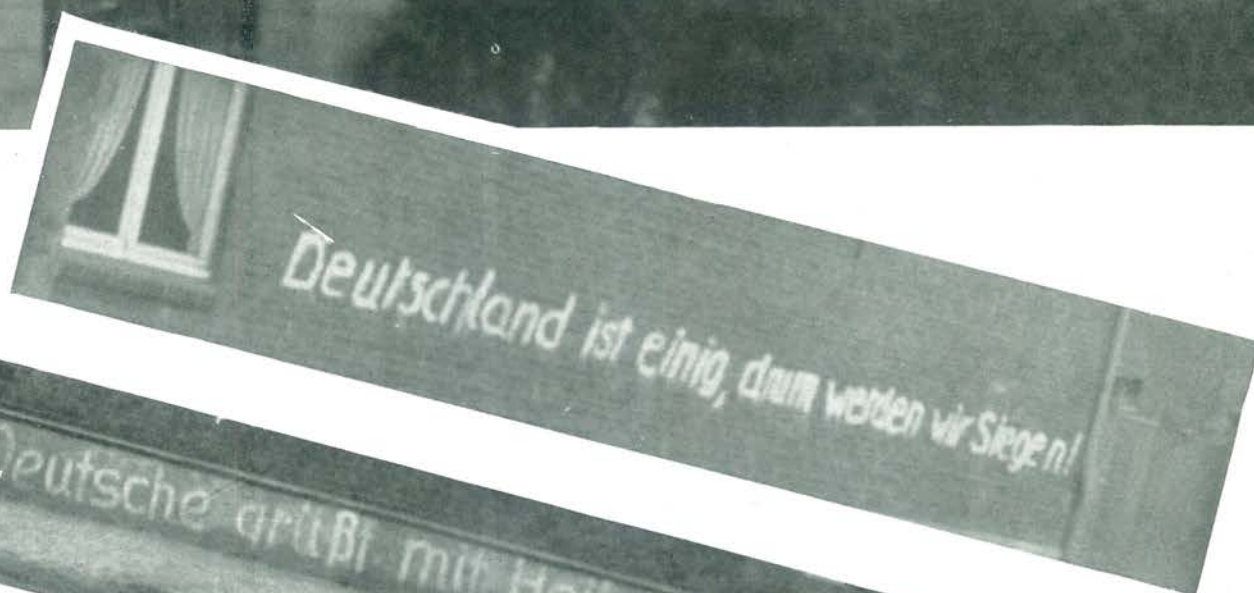


With the many roads destroyed and detours plentiful, it was necessary to have road signs in great quantity in order that convoys as well as messengers could find specific units which were always moving to new areas. In the upper picture men are painting signs for that purpose. German signs were also used and usually were carefully checked as to accuracy before they were left for reference to troops on the march.





Even when they knew that their fight was lost and that nothing could win for them, the German propagandists persisted in feeding the public morale boosters in the form of little sayings painted everywhere on buildings, sidewalks, and posters. For the work shirkers threats appeared as "Victory or Siberia," supposed to frighten the workers against absenteeism and faulty output on the assembly lines. "We will never capitulate," "Hold out, comrades, for all goes well in Germany," "Germany is united and we will win," "The German salutes with 'Heil Hitler,'" all of these attempted to keep German morale up but failed.



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



Through the means of these beautiful photographs we are able to catch a glimpse of the Alp Mountain range in Switzerland. On army sponsored tours the boys visited the country and stayed in specially reserved hotels. Sight-seeing trips took them to various towns of interest and to the green sloping valleys. All who went will remember the beauties of the snow covered mountain passes in the Alps.



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All who returned from here can not but praise enthusiastically the wonders of the country. The people were so amiable and kind, many of them had never seen a GI before, or even a jeep. While at sunny lakeside resorts the men enjoyed the company of the lovely girls who spoke many languages, but basically German, French, and Italian. The peaceful serenity of the country gave to the visitors the mental pleasure that they sought.





Photo by Royter



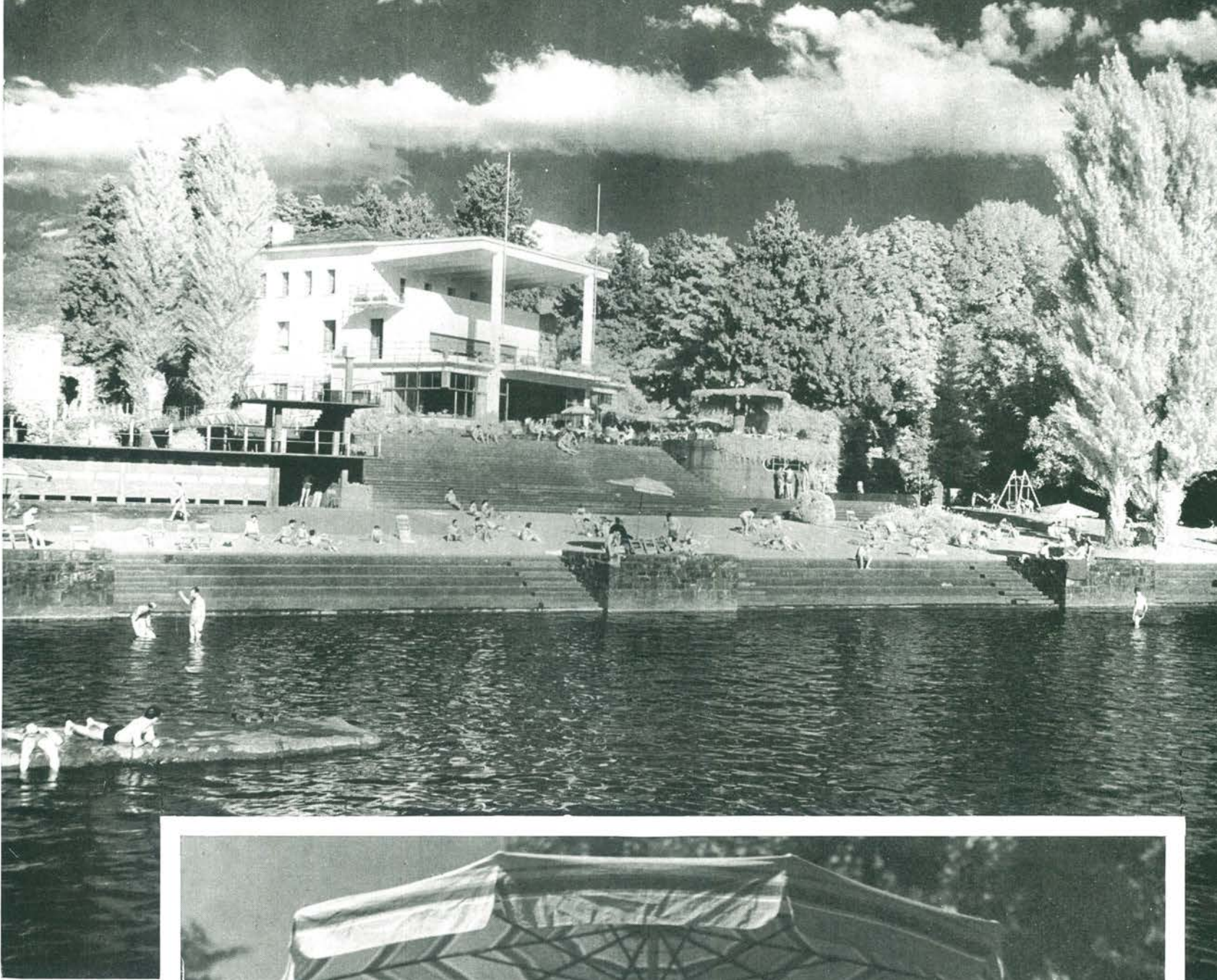
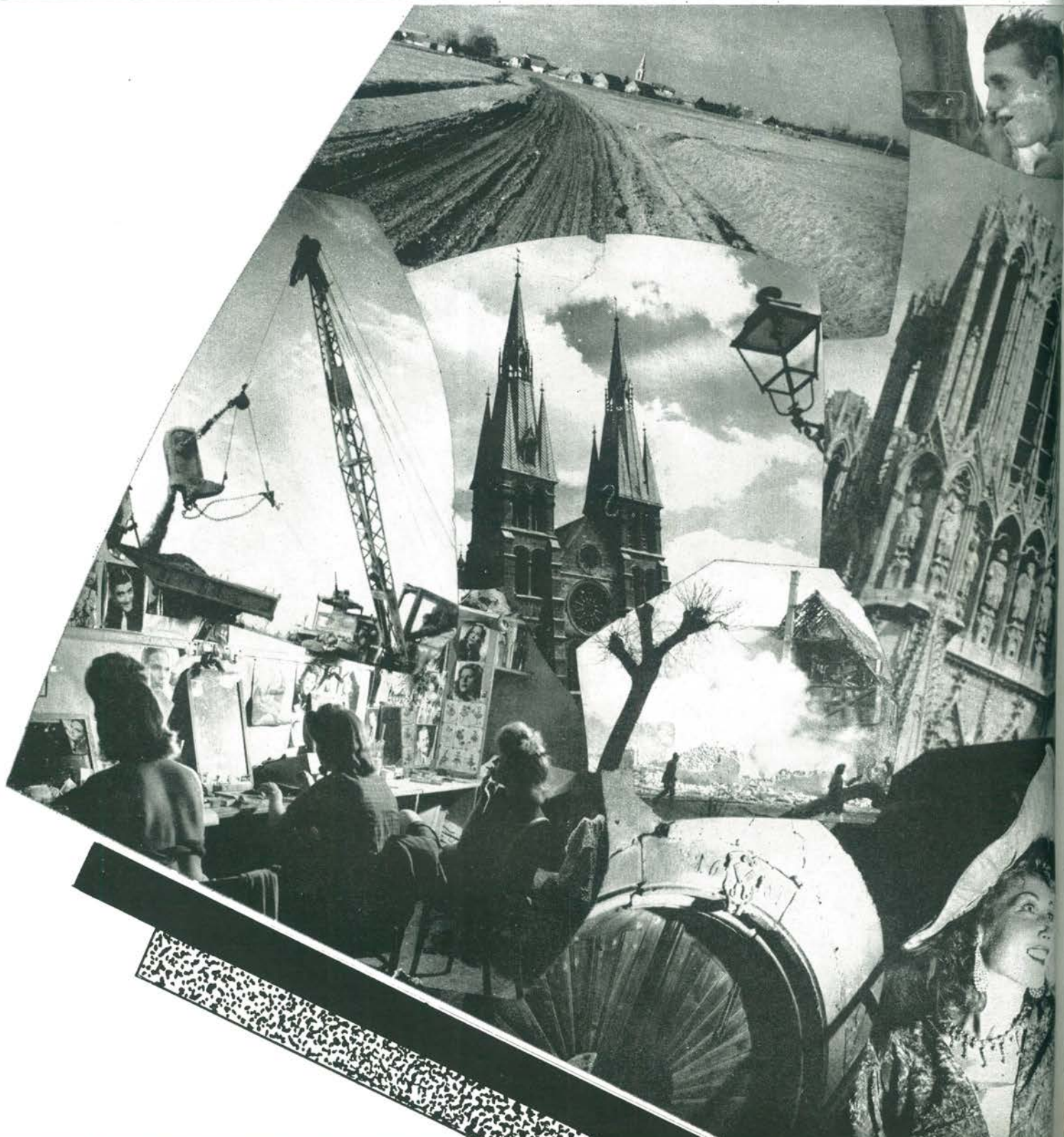


Photo by Royter



SPRING



WAP





In the hour of danger the honor of Paris was at stake. She took on the bitter fruit of heroic responsibilities to rally the entire nation around her. During the four somber years of German occupation the French concentrated their will to resist in Paris. Because of her sacrifices and eventual rise, the people guarantee the destiny of Paris. Today the American soldiers are welcomed in the city whose streets and monuments they had only been able to glimpse during their brief furloughs. The editors of this book have tried to give you a record in photographs of the thoughts you carried away with you when you left Paris. Some day while thumbing through these pages you may say to your wife, children, and friends: "Here is the Eiffel Tower, in height, comparable to our own modern skyscrapers. It was the first thing we saw upon entering the city and we weren't disappointed. Even the people were gloriously happy at the sight of their tri-color flying atop the symbolic structure of steel, And here's the Arch of Triumph. . . ." The Parisians will be happy to greet us as their friends and allies forever.



PARIS

FRANCE





EIFFEL TOWER
Symbol of Paris



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

The Eiffel Tower was one of the most interesting spots for the visiting GI who wanted nothing more than to mount the 984 foot frame and look out over the colorful panorama. It was built in two years (1887-1889) by the engineer Eiffel, and formed part of the Exhibition of 1889. From the third platform, which is reached by lift only, one has a unique view extending for miles in clear weather.



AN ANT HILL VIEW OF THE FIRST LANDING ON THE TOWER, DWARFS THE SIGHTSEERS ABOUT THE INNER RAIL, THE STRUCTURE IS BREATH-TAKING

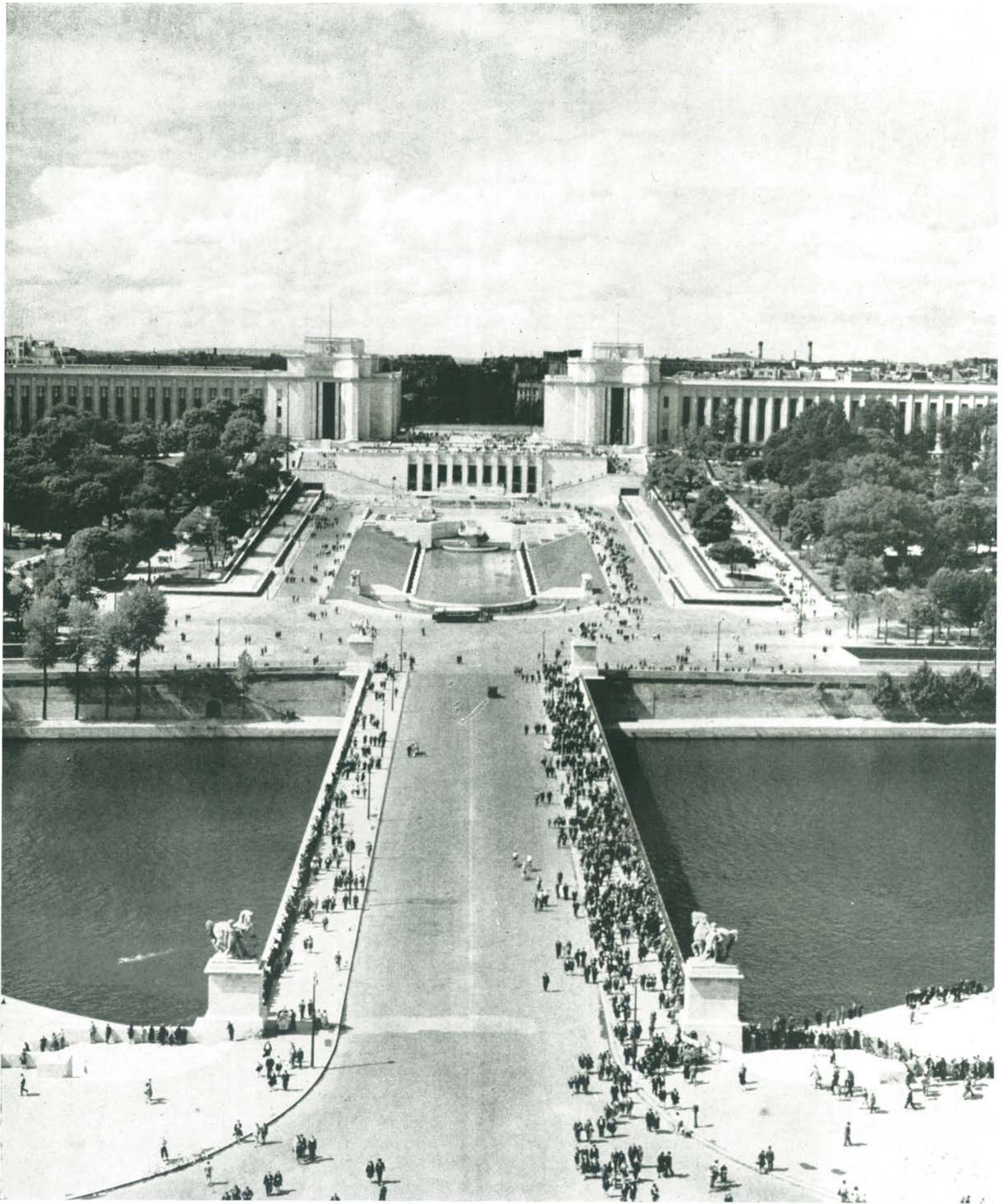
the seventy fifth **75** *infantry division*



PALAIS DE CHAILLOT

Formerly the Trocadero





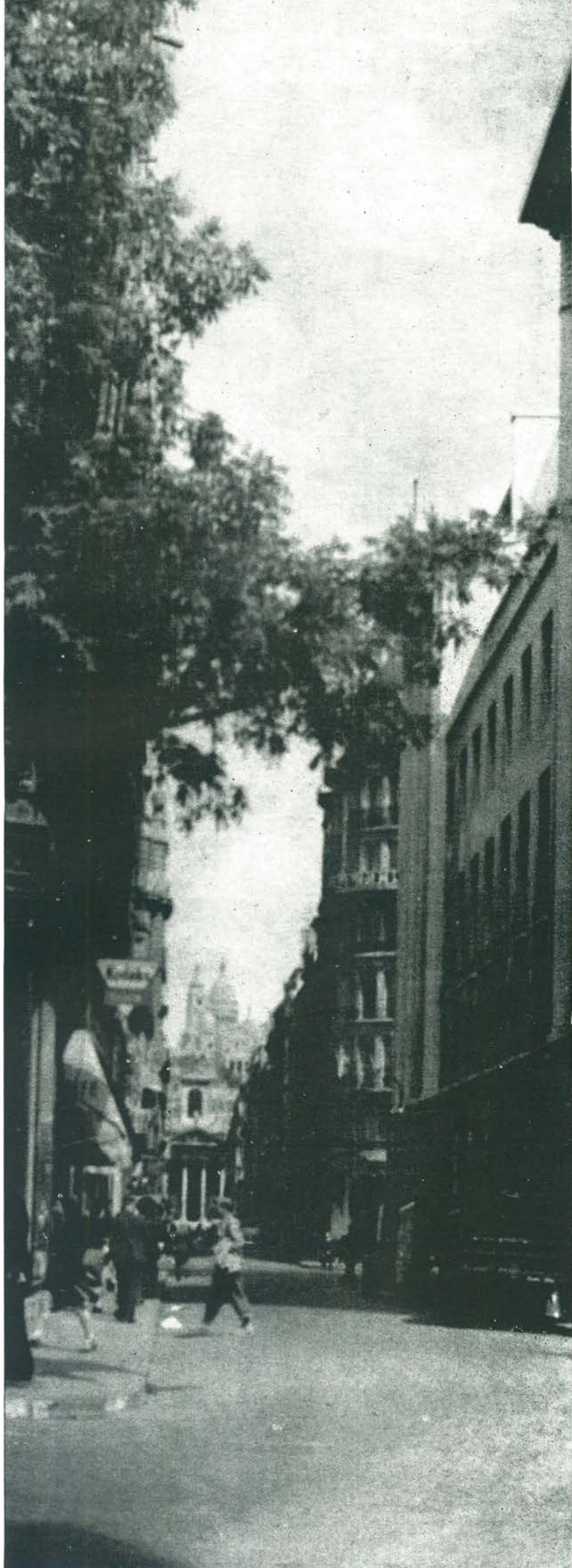
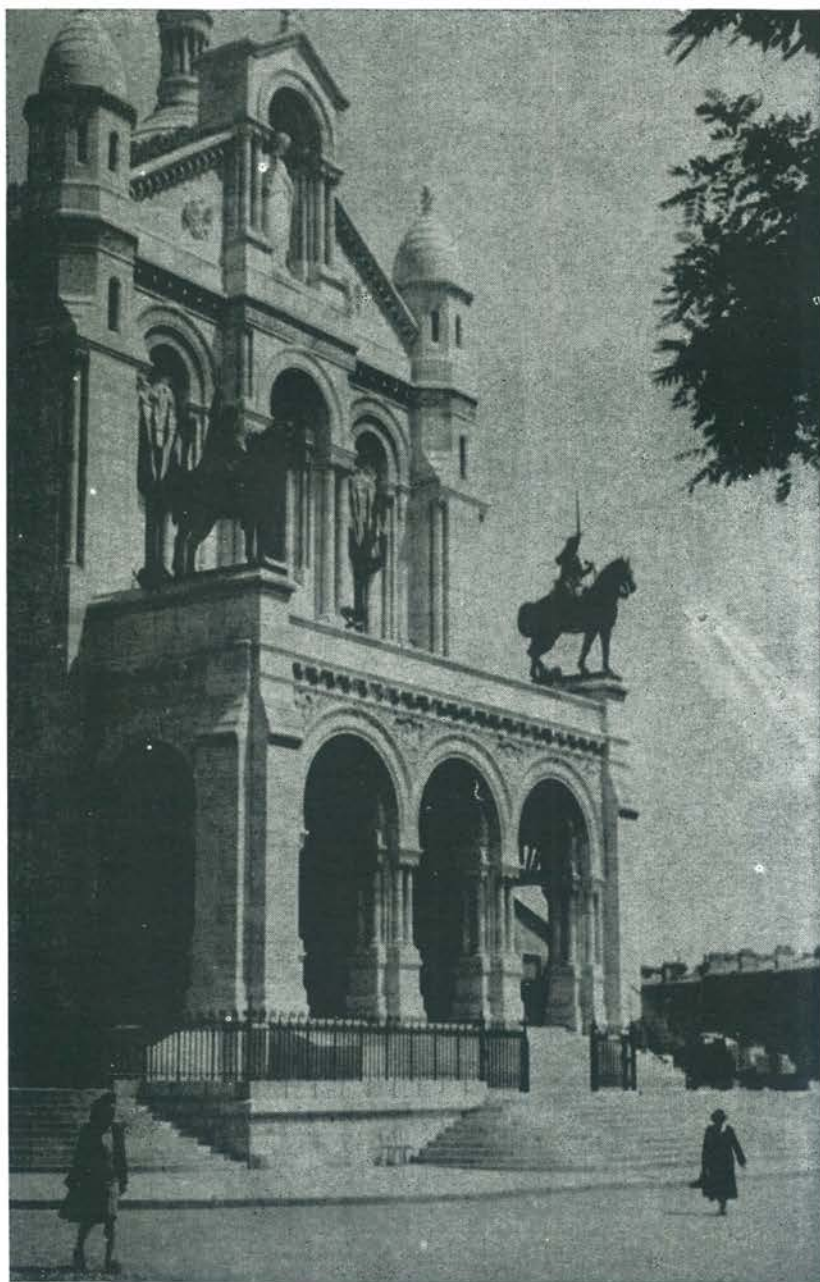
PONT D' IENA
Modern Esthetics



Shrouded in the mist and rain of the season, Paris presents itself from high upon the platform of the Eiffel Tower, as a shimmering beautiful city with many water ways and bridges of note. Paris is a city, more than a city, it is a capitol, which to some, surpasses all others and is imbued with all the grandeur of a nation. She is not the legendary "Gay Paree," but a city whose drawn countenance reflects the four years of oppression and physical privation. Even now she is fine and cultured,



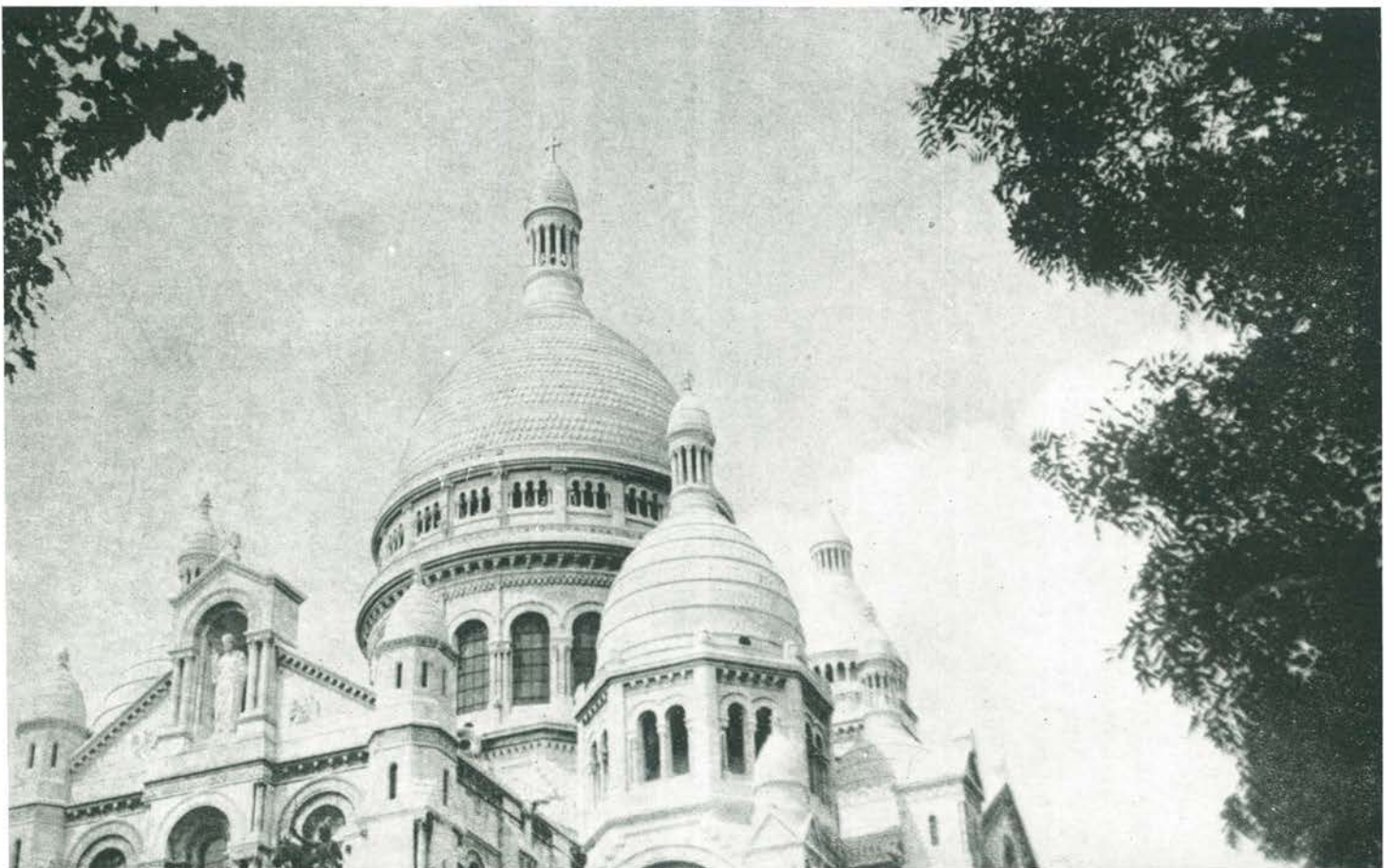
The hill of Montmartre is capped by the magnificent church of Sacre-Coeur Basilica. The lofty dome of the white monument can be seen for miles around Paris. In Byzantine style, the church was completed in 1910.



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

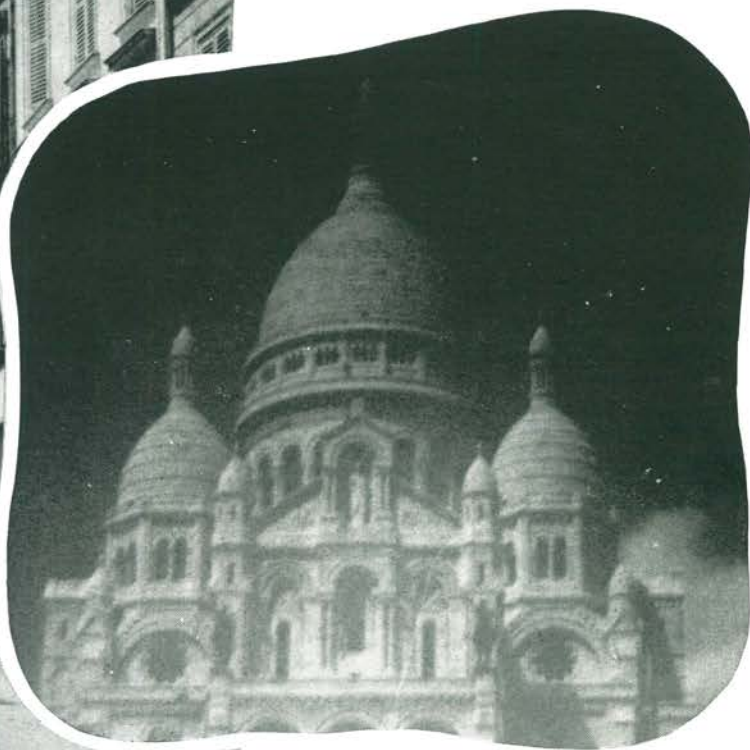


THE VIEW FROM THE TERRACE IN FRONT OF THE GORGEOUS CHURCH IS MAGNIFICENT



HUGE DOMES WITH ALL THEIR WHITENESS DOMINATE THE CITY OF PARIS . . . A BYZANTINE SCENE OUT OF THIS WORLD

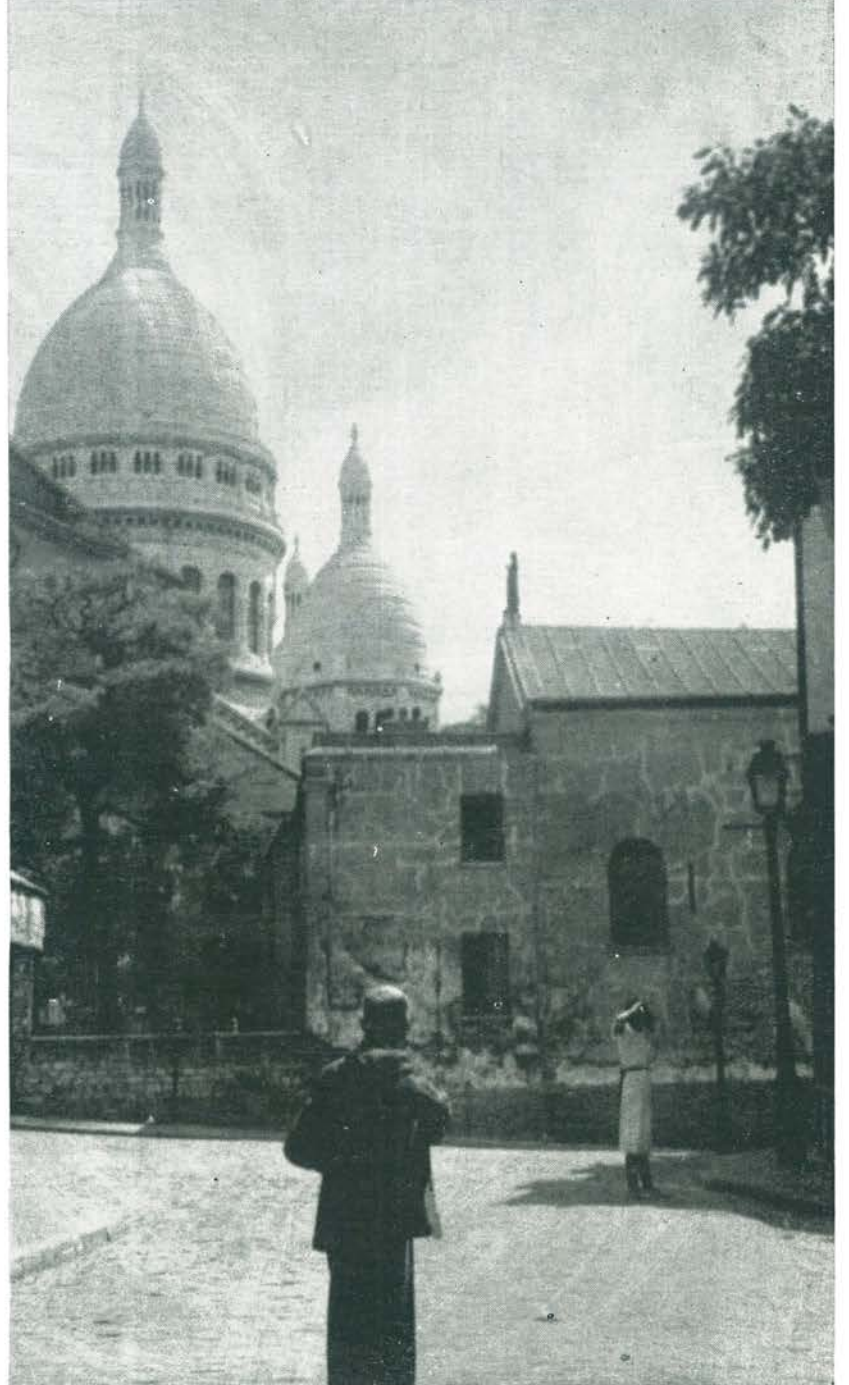
the seventy fifth **75** *infantry division*



THE FAMOUS STREETS OF PIGALLE AND THE MONTMARTRE ALL LEAD TO THE SHRINE



SOLDIERS FROM EVERY VILLAGE AND TOWN IN ALL OF EUROPE CAME ESPECIALLY TO GAZE DUMBFOUNDED AT THIS PICTURE OF BEAUTY

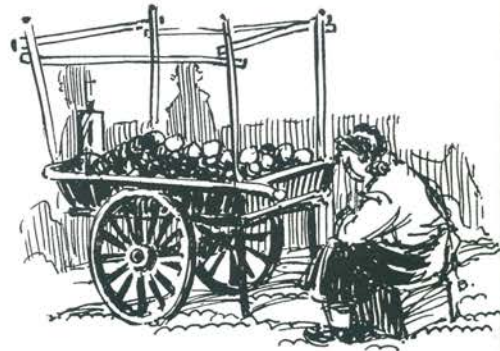




THE STREETS OF THE BOHEMIAN MONTMARTRE ARE LINED WITH ART WORKS



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



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

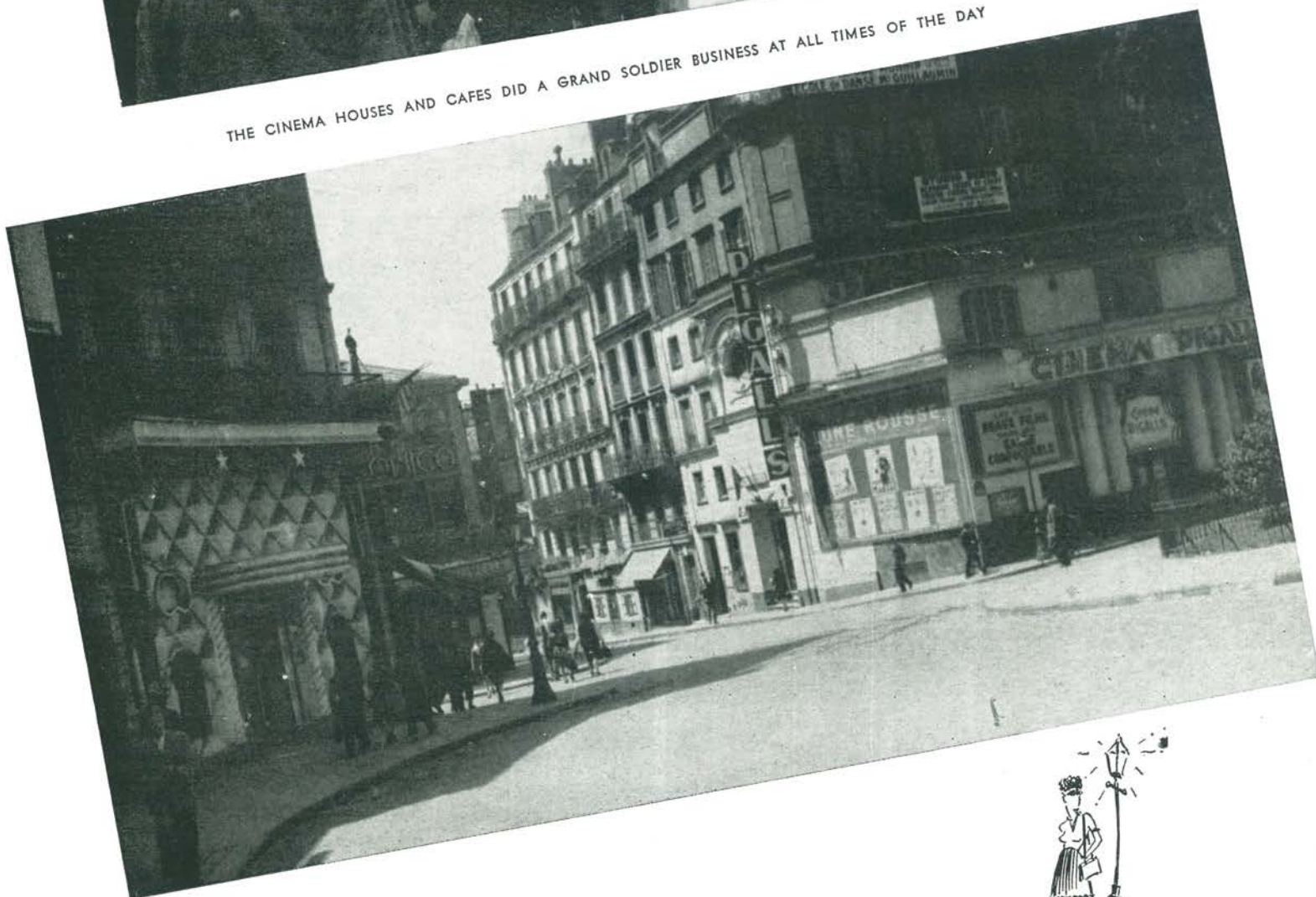
Many soldiers will be able to extol the interests of the well known Pigalle section of the city with its bars and cafes tucked neatly away in narrow picturesque streets and alleyways. The soldier fathers of the first war in Europe, too, remember these scenes of Paris.



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



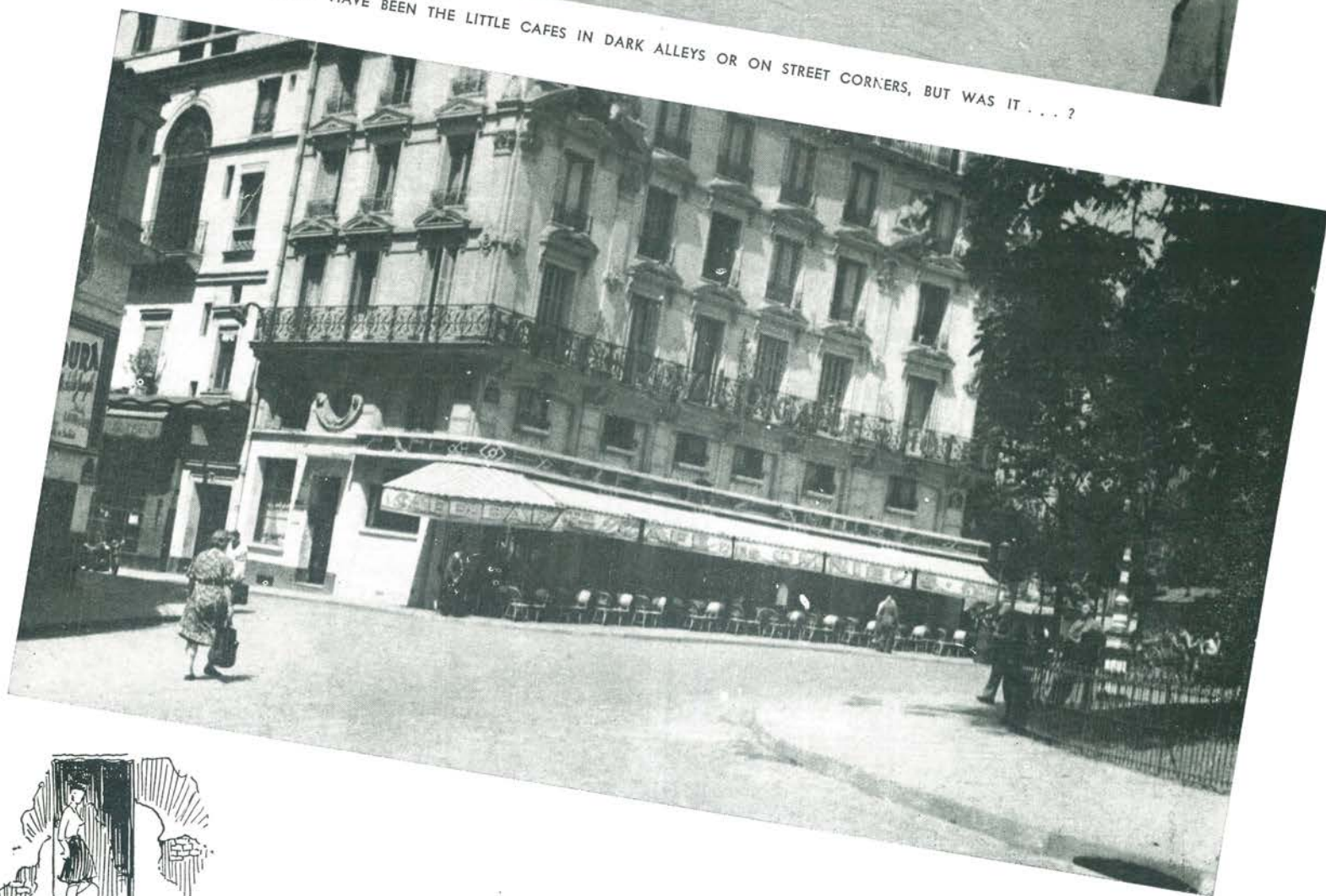
THE CINEMA HOUSES AND CAFES DID A GRAND SOLDIER BUSINESS AT ALL TIMES OF THE DAY



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



IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE LITTLE CAFES IN DARK ALLEYS OR ON STREET CORNERS, BUT WAS IT . . . ?



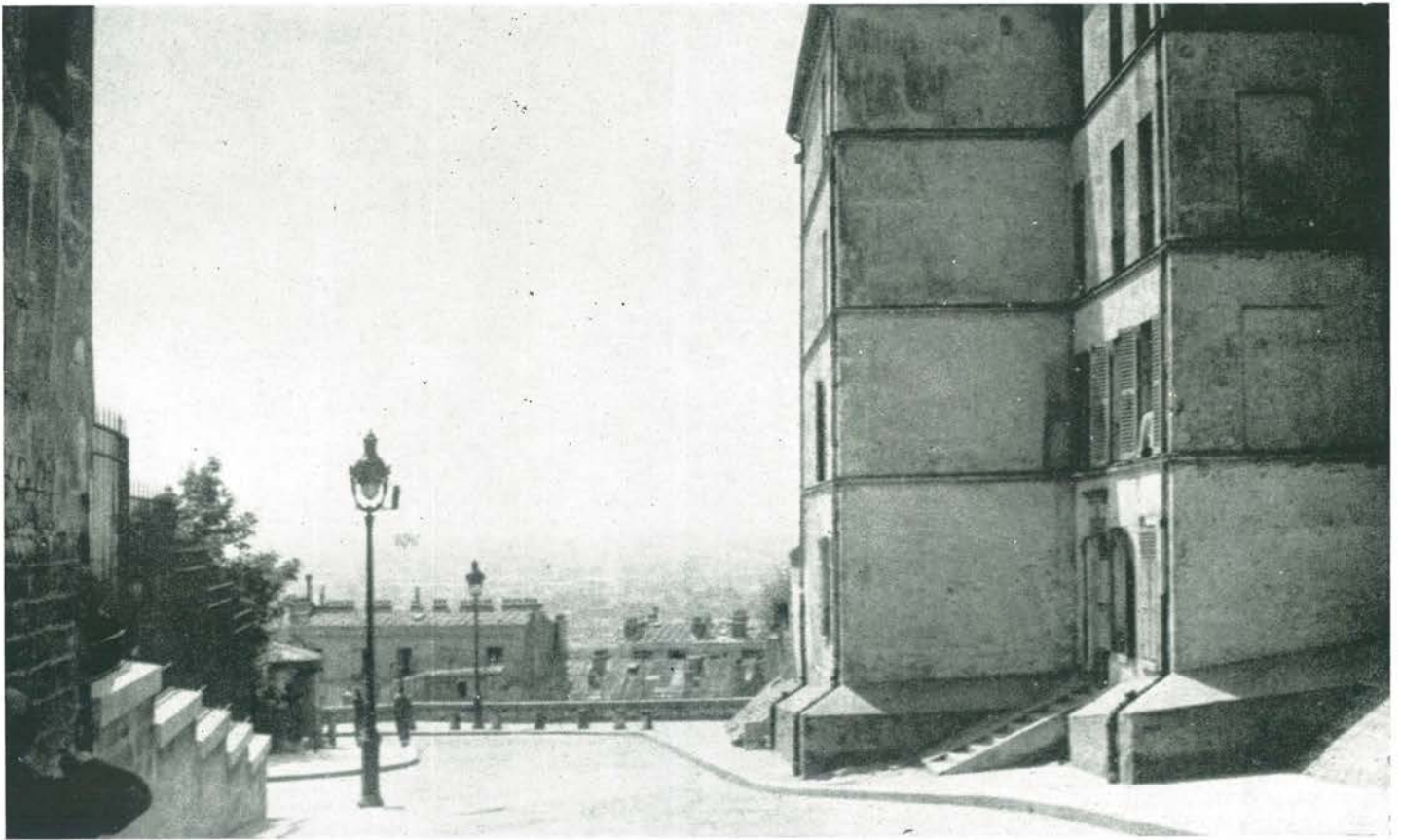
the seventy fifth **75** *infantry division*



LUNCH HOUR IN PARIS COULD BE COMPARED WITH THAT OF MOST AMERICAN CITIES WHEN PEOPLE RUSHED FROM BUSINESS OFFICES EVERYWHERE



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



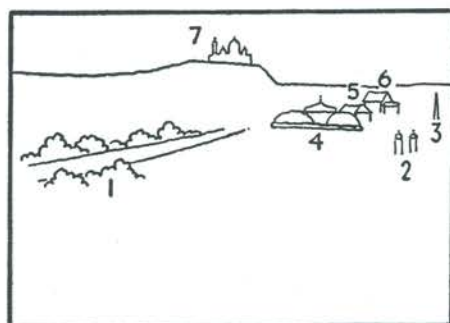
LITTLE RESTAURANTS WHICH BEFORE THE WAR CATERED TO WORKING PEOPLE, WERE NOW CLOSED EXCEPT WHEN WINE WAS AVAILABLE



Paris, which is typical of all of France in this respect, has many cathedrals aside from the well known Notre Dame. As can be seen, here at the foot of the hill leading up through Pigalle to Montmartre, is one of the many picturesquely quaint old churches which can be found in Paris.



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



LOOKING EAST

From the Eiffel Tower

1. Banks of the Seine
2. Pont Alexandre
3. Obelisk
4. Grand Palais
5. Madeleine
6. Opera
7. Sacre-Coeur, Montmartre



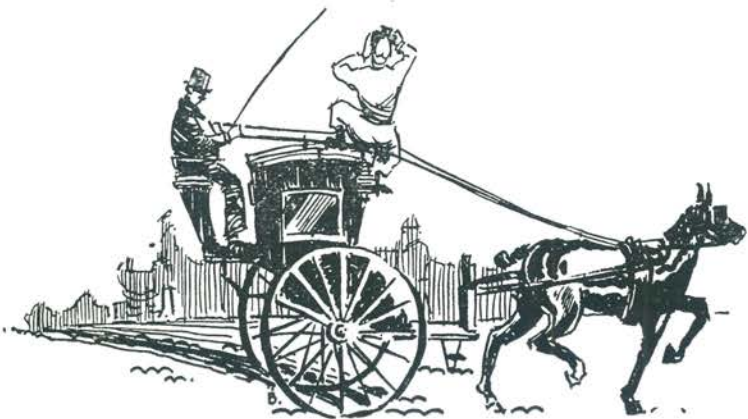
Just off the Champs-Elysees is the Great Palais which was built for the Universal Exhibition of 1900. Adorned overhead by tremendous leaping horses and statues, the ornate building is unforgettable. Its huge size made possible the exhibition of real houses, but now it is used mostly for horse shows and automobile shows.



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

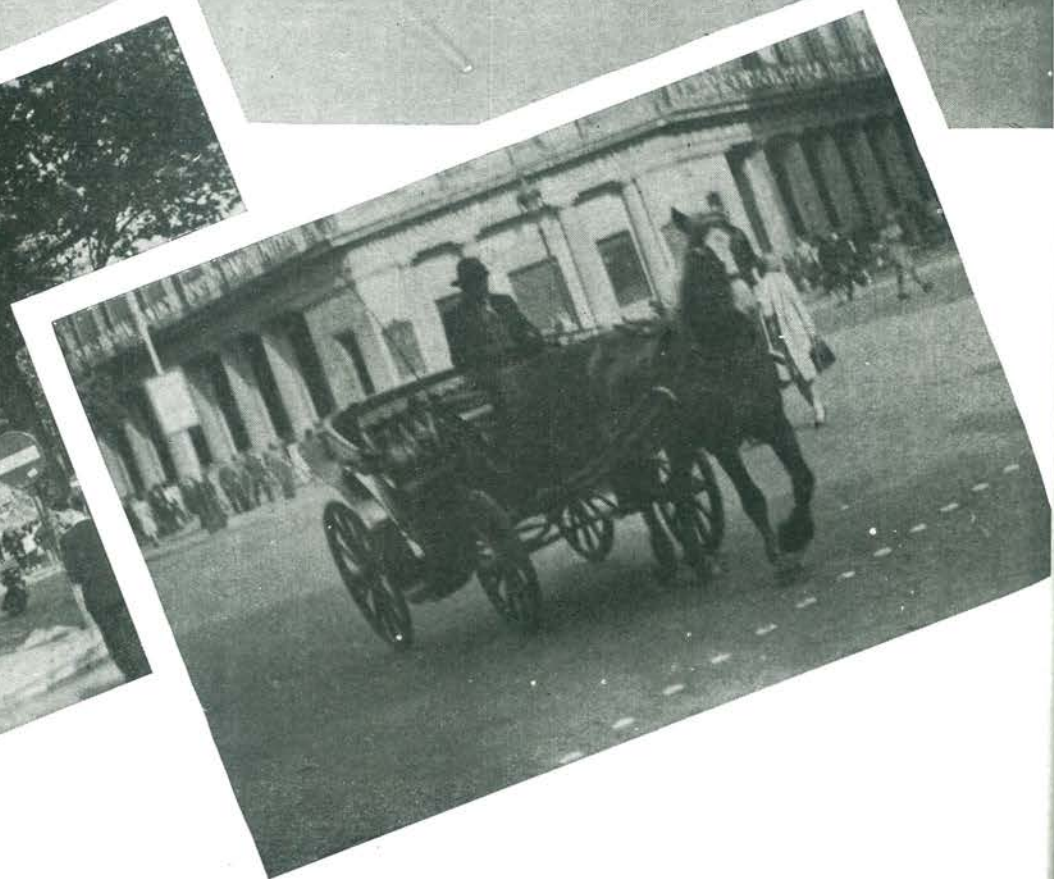
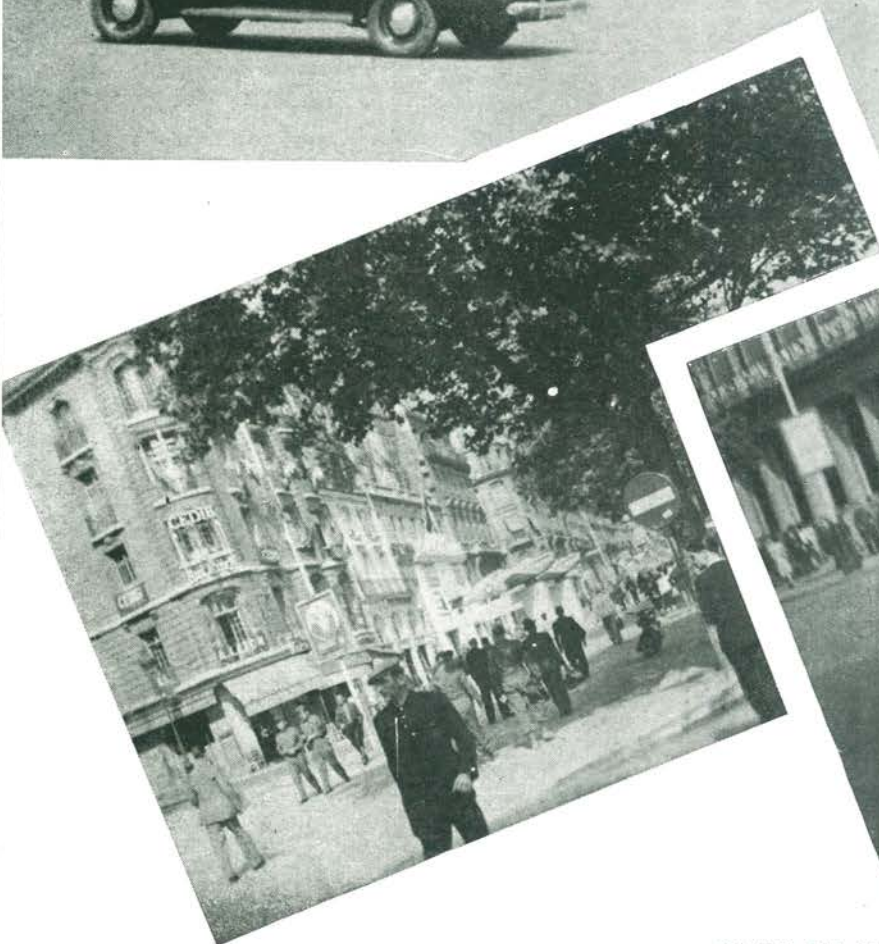


GRAND PALAIS
A City of Heroic Statues



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

LOOKING DOWN THE RUE ROYALE TOWARD THE MADELEINE



ON THE RUE DE LA PAIX

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



Place de la Concorde was formerly named Place Louis XV and then later in 1792 became Place de la Revolution. It was on this site that many hundreds of people including Louis XVI were guillotined. Sightseers stop for long periods of time to view the Obelisk in the center of the place erected by Louis-Philippe.



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



Paris in the Spring—although many of the private automobiles are gone, the vast numbers of bicycles which travel the streets of Paris now by and far replace them adequately. The anger in crossing crowded streets no longer lay in being wary of the fast moving gas driven car, but rather in the speeding, foot propelled contraptions which race helter-skelter through narrow openings in the traffic. Flying skirts and colorful patterns danced by at every corner and along the green boulevards of the Champs Elysees. Sidewalk cafes, with their polka-dotted awnings, were always jammed.



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



BUSINESS . . . ALMOST AS USUAL



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



There were girls at every traffic turn, and GIs too . . . the police observed the traf-
fic, the GIs the girls.



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



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



CHEVAL DE MARLY
A Touch of Modernism

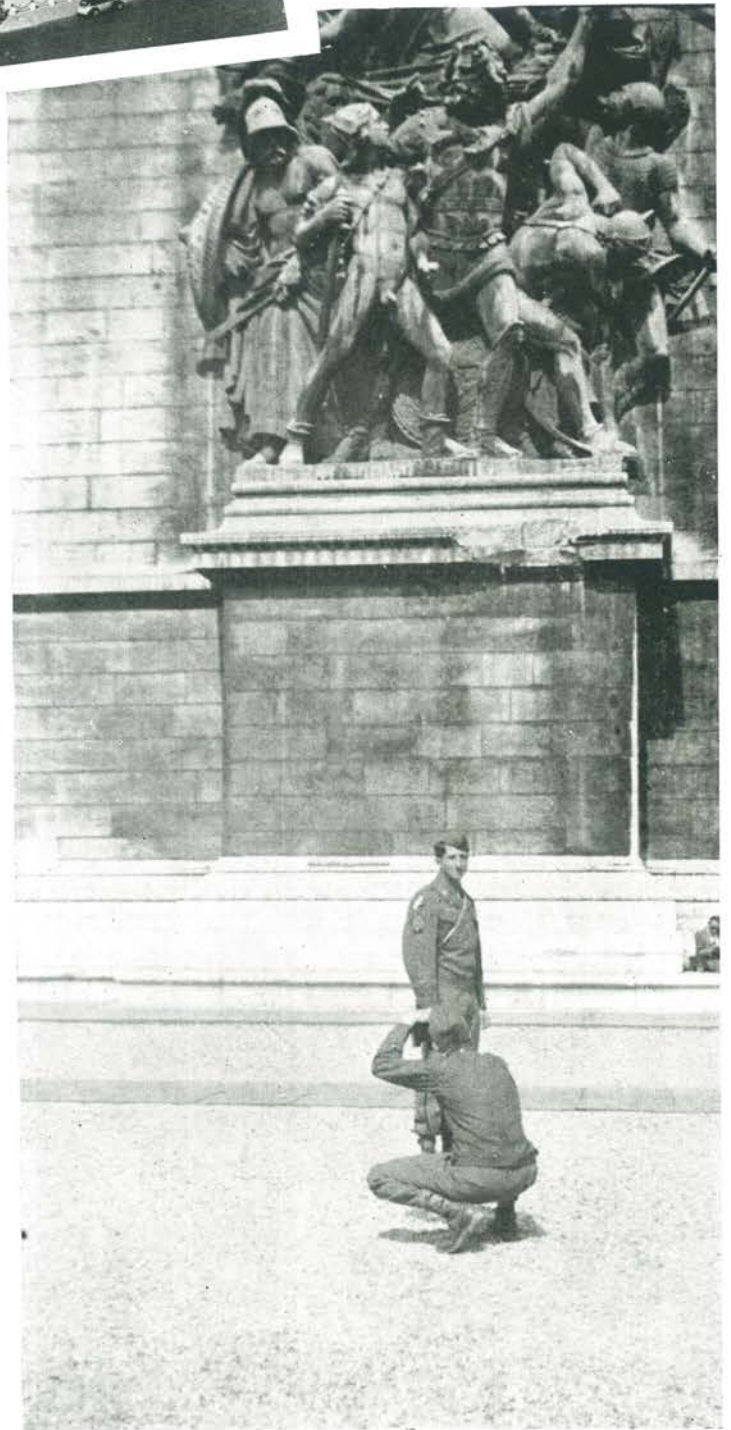
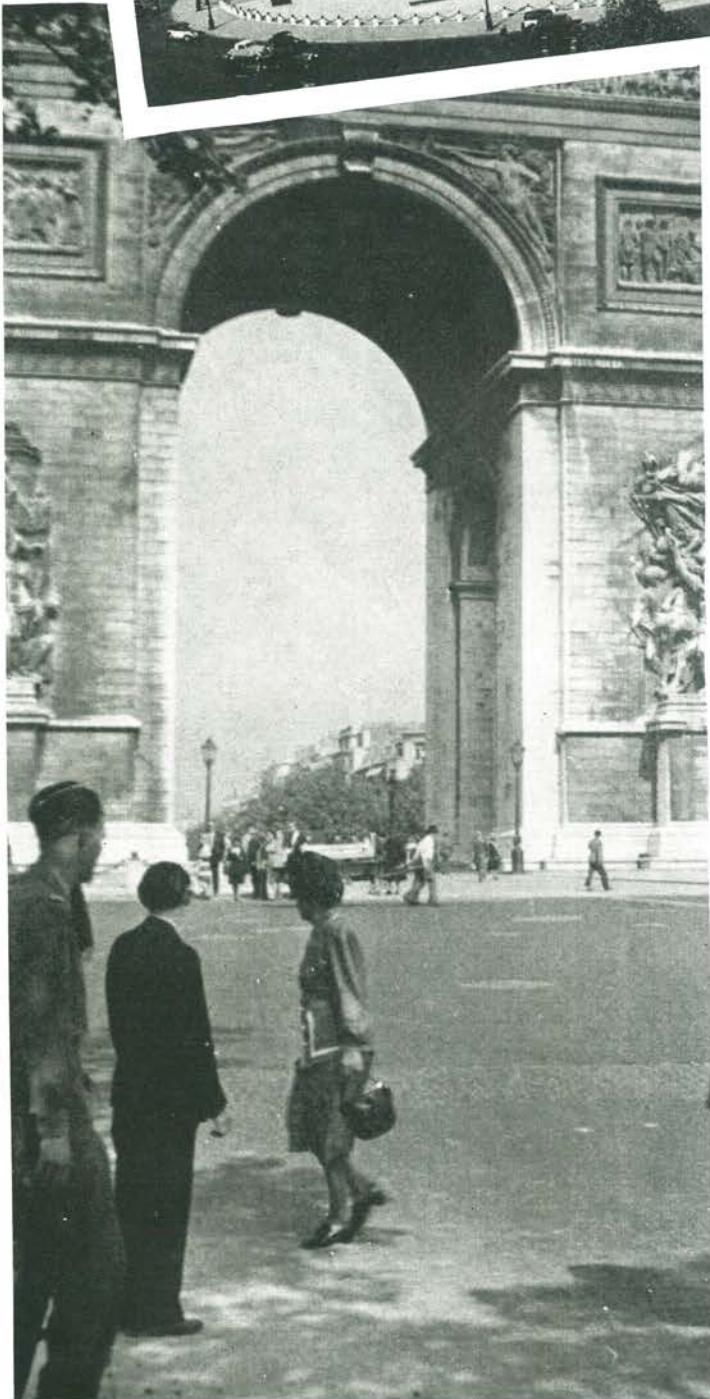


L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE
Napoleon's Glory

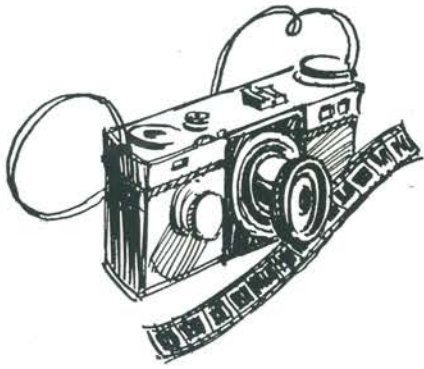
the seventy fifth **75** *infantry division*



Perhaps the second best known spot in Paris is the famous Arch of Triumph. Visiting American boys came to the "Flame of Remembrance" to pay homage to France's Unknown Soldier, and to take pictures of the tomb to carry home with them as pictorial memoirs. The splendid monument was designed at Napoleon's command by the architect Chalgrin in 1806, and is considered one of the chief architectural glories of the city of Paris.



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



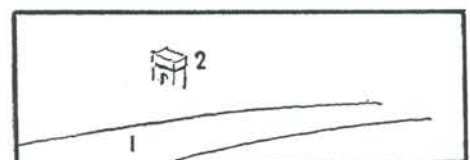
the seventy fifth **75** *infantry division*



LOOKING SOUTH

From the Eiffel Tower

1. Seine River
2. L'Arc de Triomphe



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

The Seine River, which runs through the city of Paris, is spanned by many famous bridges. The two best known and beautifully constructed are the Pont de la Concorde and Pont Alexandre III. Looking up the river (upper) toward the Concorde bridge one can see the peaceful river leisurely flowing through the arched supports where many boat races and regattas are held.



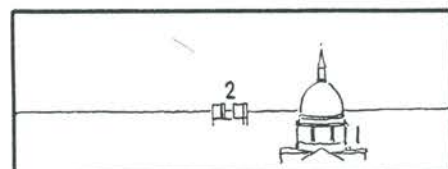
the seventy fifth **75** *infantry division*



LOOKING NORTH

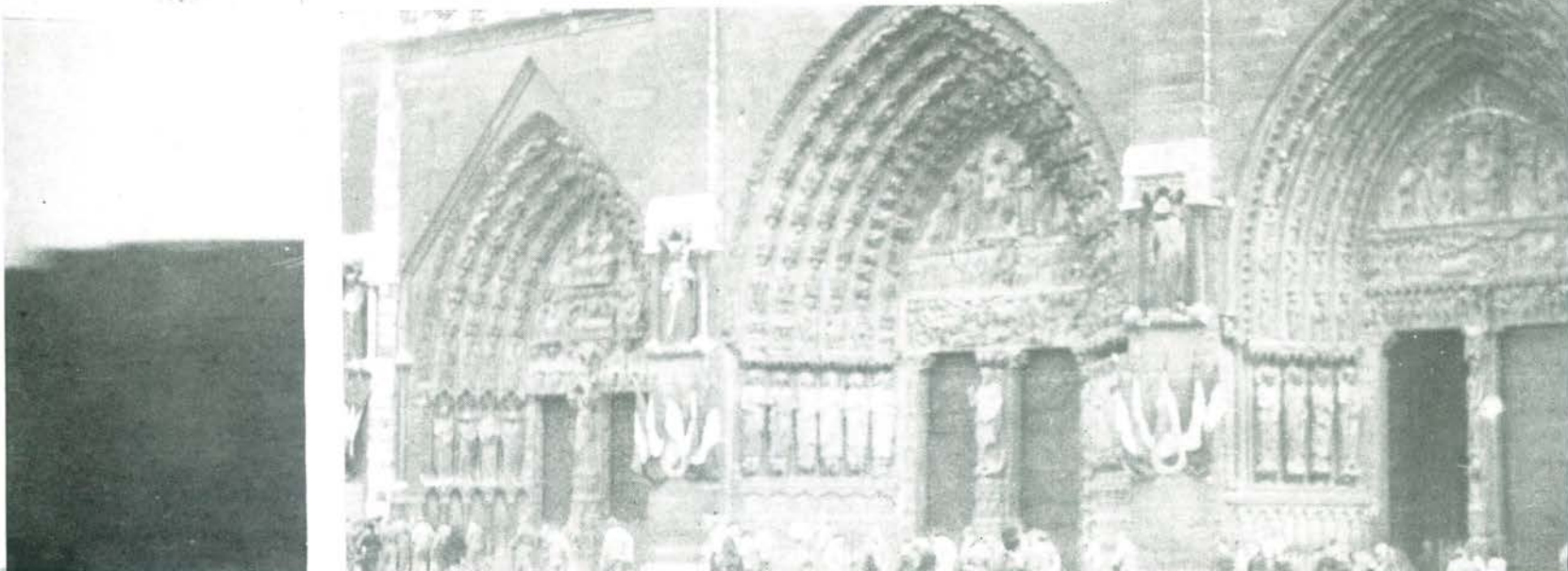
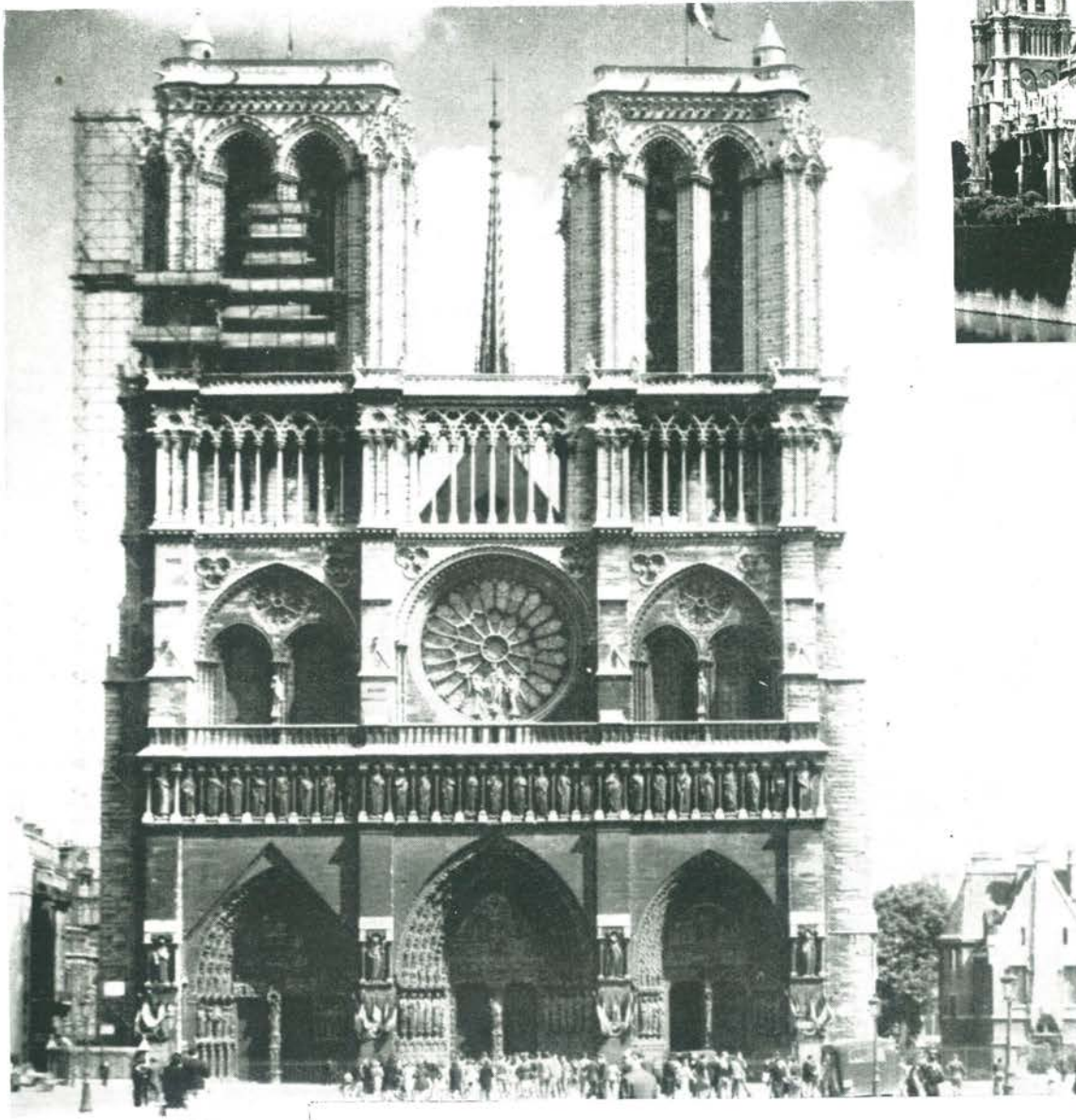
From the Eiffel Tower

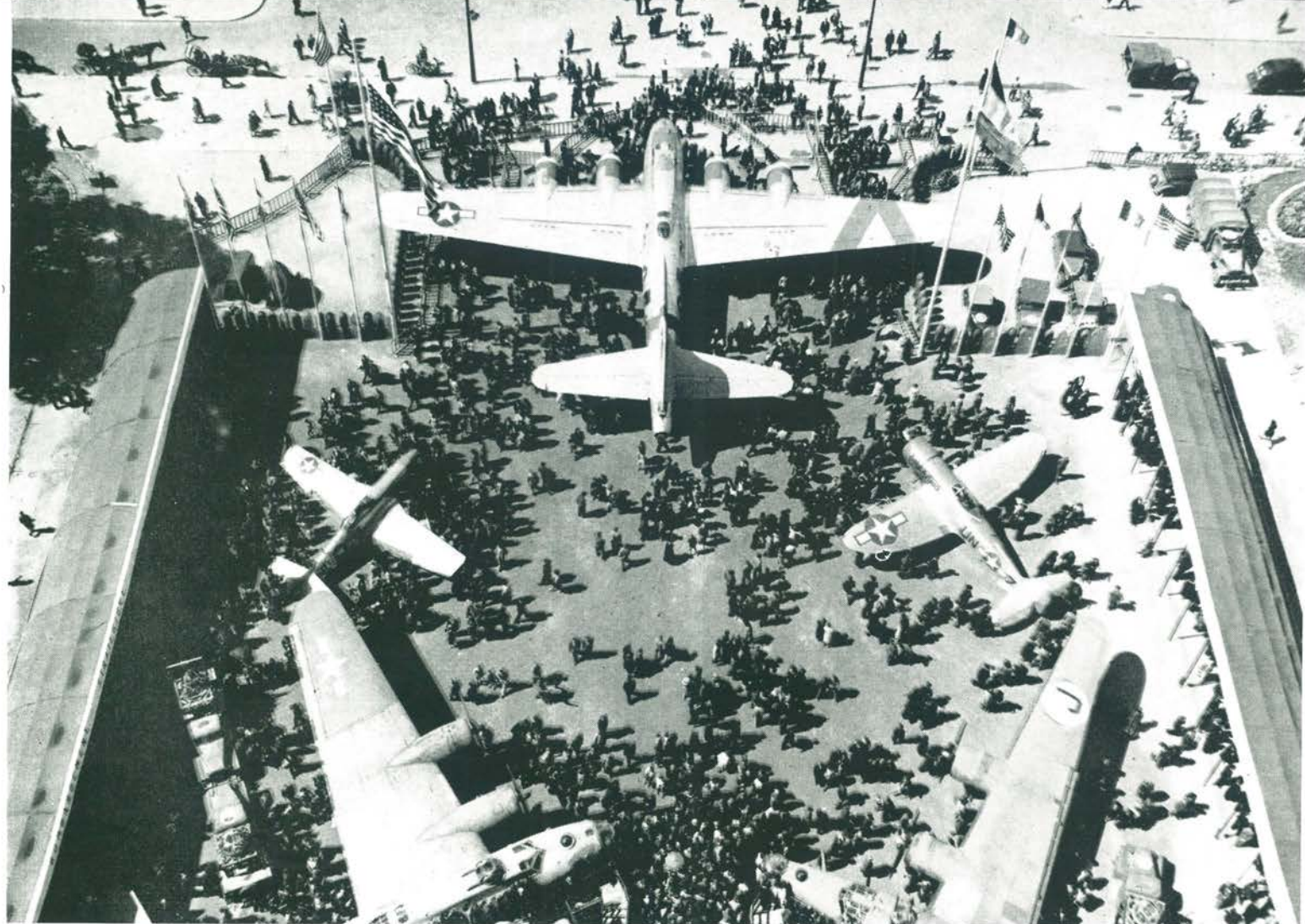
1. Notre Dame Cathedral
2. Des Invalides



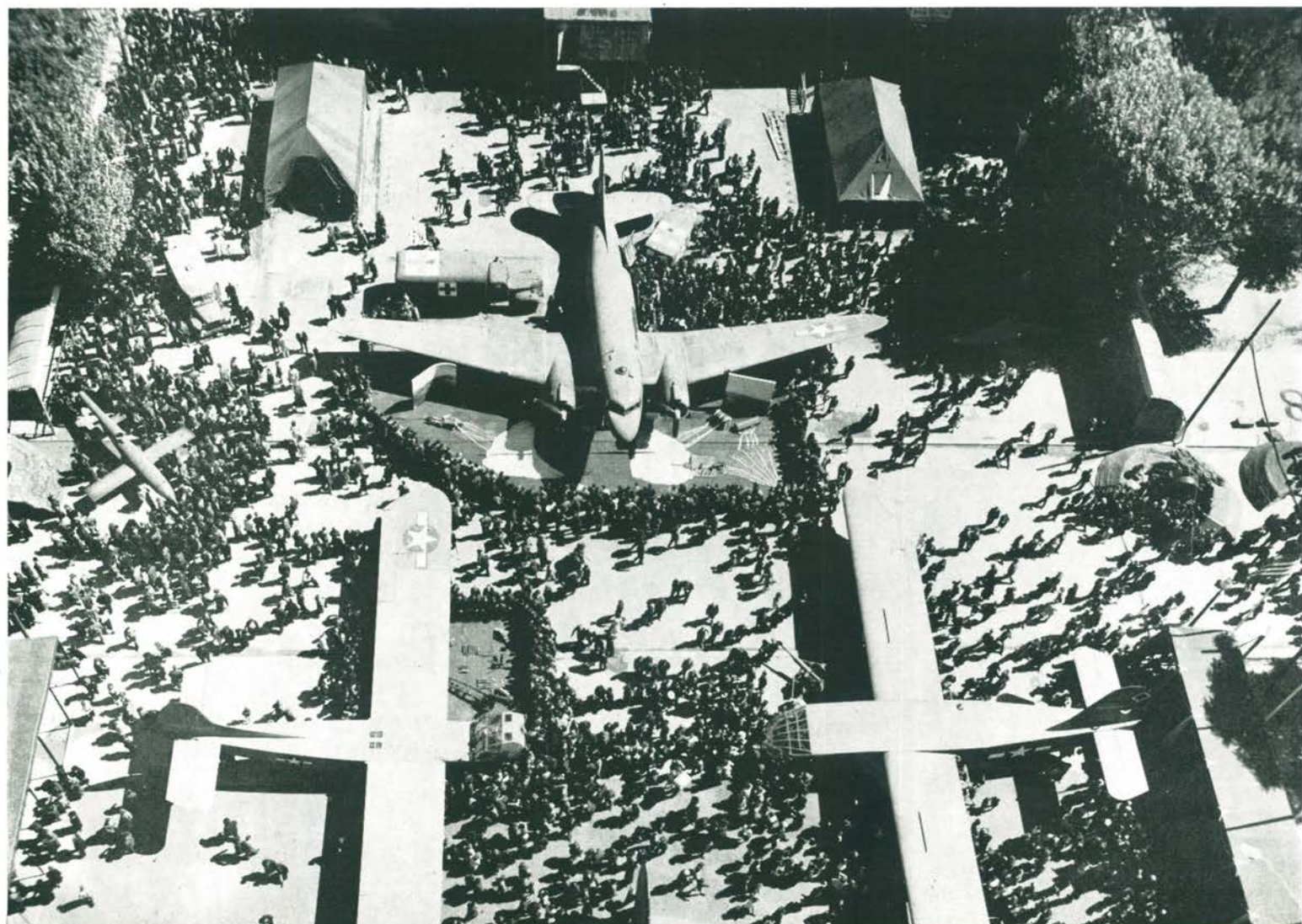
the seventy fifth **73** *infantry division*

There are few people the world over who do not immediately connect the magnificent Cathedral of Notre Dame with the Paris of all ages. King Philipp-Auguste, wishing to perpetuate the memory of his reign, built this important cathedral.



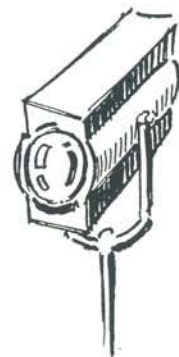


IN AUGUST, 1945, BENEATH THE EIFFEL TOWER COULD BE VIEWED THIS EXHIBITION OF AMERICAN AIRCRAFT OF WORLD WAR II



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





The Folies Bergere—Not only the soldiers who came to Paris on furlough went immediately to ticket offices to make their reservations early, but also the French themselves came from every small town and village, near and far, making plans to witness the great show. Glamorous, vivacious, colorful, vaudeville, just what the doctor ordered for our entertainment-starved boys in Europe. Some of the stars of the show included (opposite page, upper left) Simone Idy, (right) Lyne de Souza, and the lucky young fellow in kilts, Monsieur Nelson—no relation to the honorable Admiral Lord Nelson. . . . The girls in the stage shot below are Les Parisiennes.



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



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

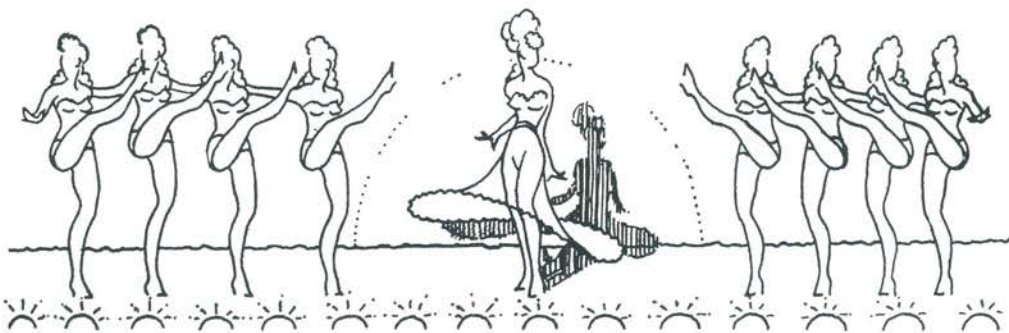


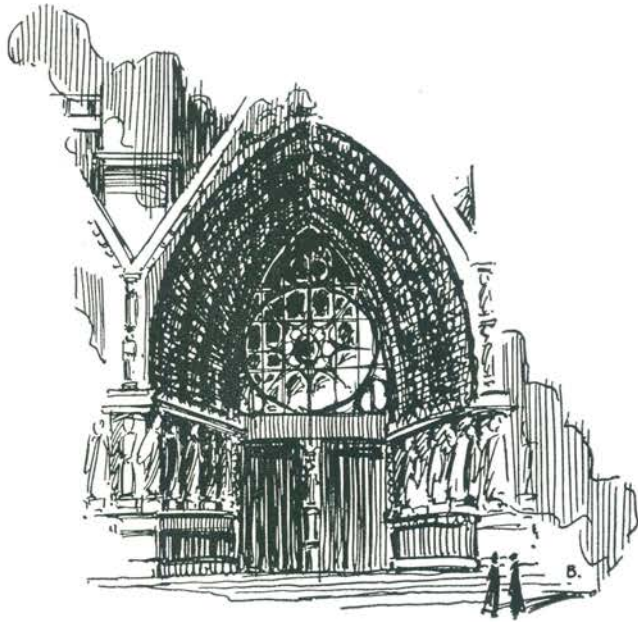
SHOWGIRL

Mlle. Nicole Roy

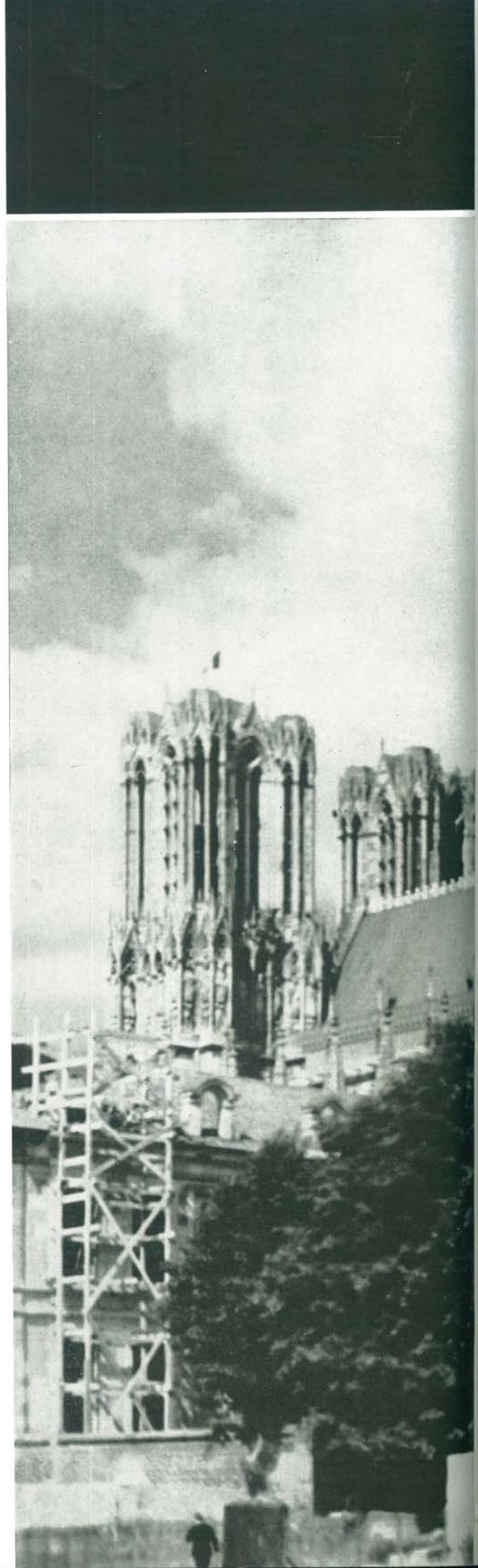


the seventy fifth **75** *infantry division*





The ancient city of Reims is located about 97 railroad miles from Paris and is a great hub for highways, railroads, and water ways. Dispersed all about the city was the 75th Division administering the redeployment at the 17 camps in the tremendous area. It was not long after their arrival that the men were to learn of the city's fame as the center of the Champagne well of the world. Reims is literally honeycombed with extensive "champagne subways"—subterranean cellars dug into the soil for the storage of champagne at even temperatures. Reims has had a long and troubled history. The city was Christianized in the third century. One of her chief claims to fame lies in the ancient tradition of crowning of kings of France within her folds. The tradition started in 1179 with Philip Augustus, and ended with Charles X. Only three kings in that long series were not crowned in Reims. During the French Revolution, mobs attacked the Cathedral which was the site of the coronations, and in 1830 the ceremony was abolished. Reims Cathedral remains one of the finest specimens of Gothic art in all the world and our troops took every opportunity to view it. A beautiful feature is the west facade, a masterpiece of the Middle Ages.

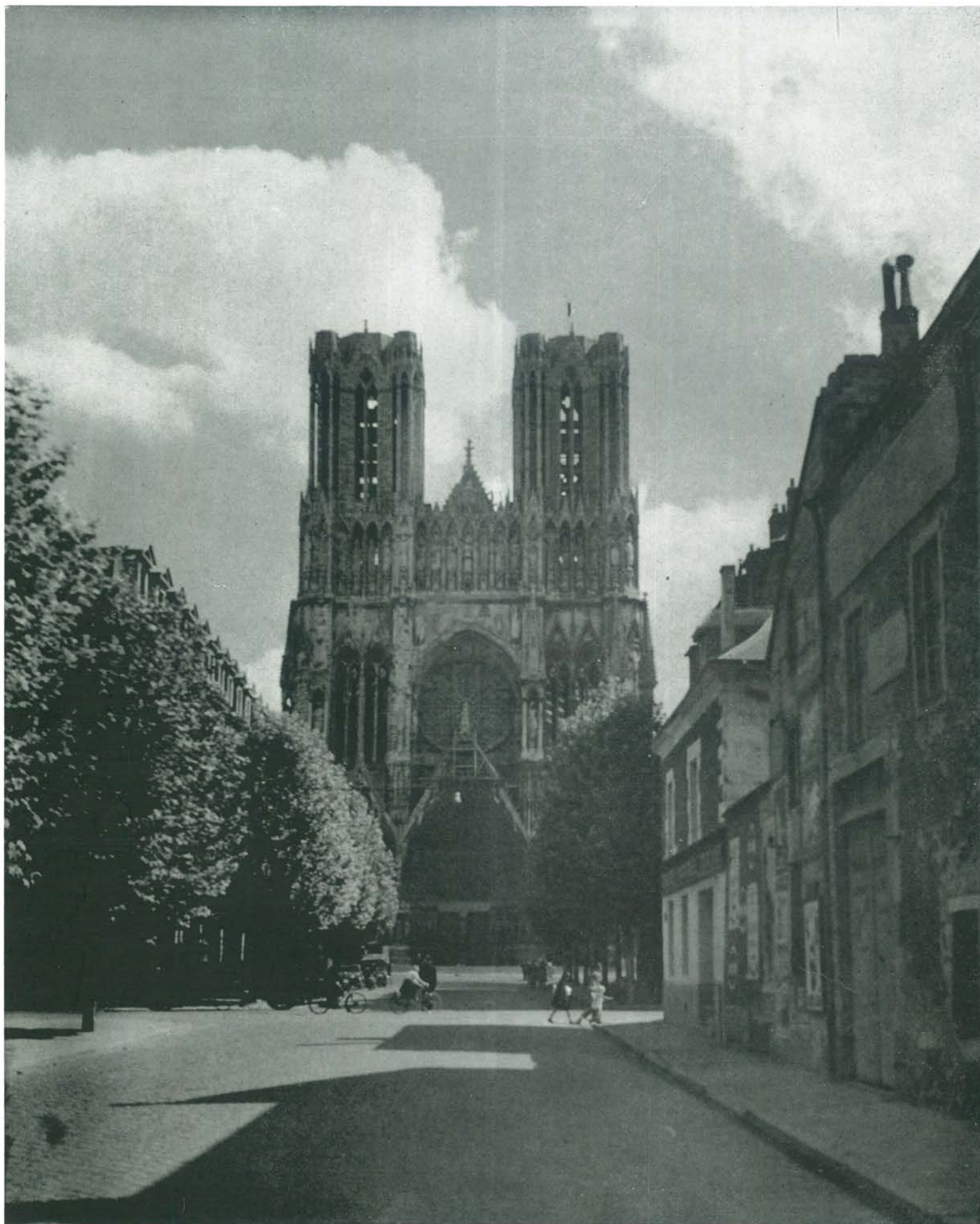


REIMS

F R A N C E

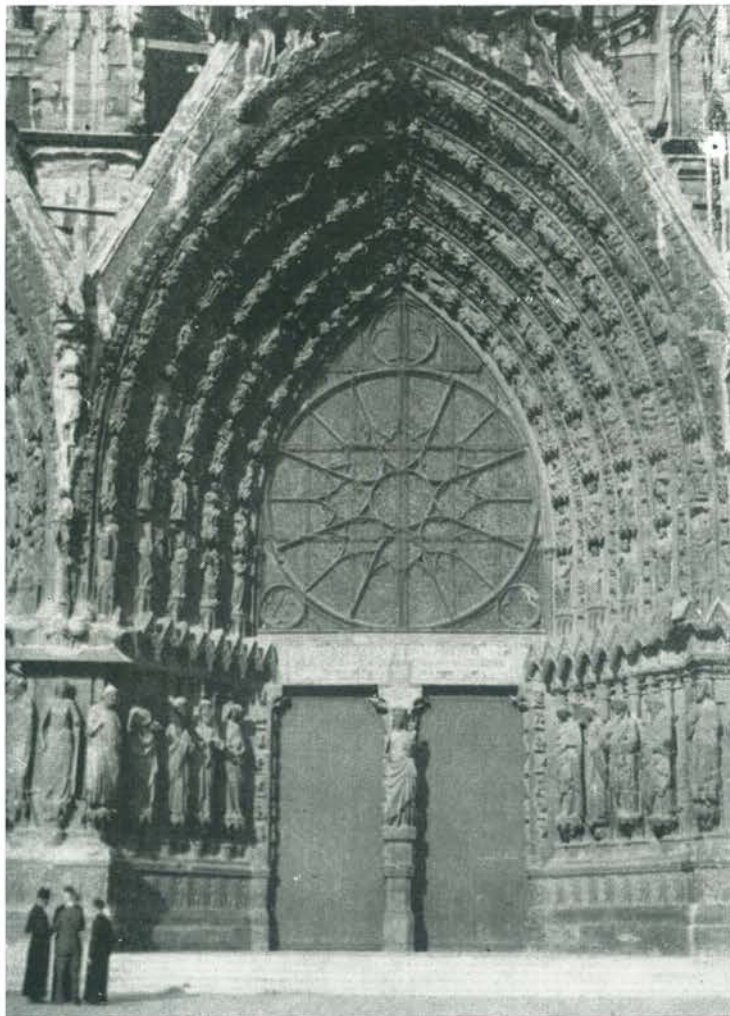


the seventy fifth **75** *infantry division*



RUE J. D. ROCKEFELLER JR. IS NOT A VERY IMPRESSIVE LOOKING STREET, BUT BASKING IN THE LIGHT OF THE CATHEDRAL IT HAS BECOME FAMOUS

Heavily damaged during the fighting at Reims, the famous Rose Window of the west façade was removed and safeguarded, but replaced in its frame at the end of the war. Little holy medals and relics were sold by street merchants all about the church, and many men purchased such souvenirs to be sent to their homes. The photograph which is commonly seen in America and over the world is the one on the preceding page looking up the Rue J. D. Rockefeller, Jr., to the façade of the Cathedral. Although aged and worn the three portals of the structure are beautiful and awe inspiring for those who see them.





THIS IS THE BEAUTIFULLY MODERN AND UP TO DATE LIBRARY OF REIMS, WHICH DIRECTLY JOINS THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE CATHEDRAL
THERE ARE ALSO THE BUSINESS DISTRICTS, AND SCENES LIKE THIS

THE CITY HAS LOVELY STATUED SQUARES EVERYWHERE



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



THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF REIMS, AS WELL AS THAT OF ALL OF FRANCE, CAN BE DEPICTED IN THE LOVELY CATHEDRALS

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



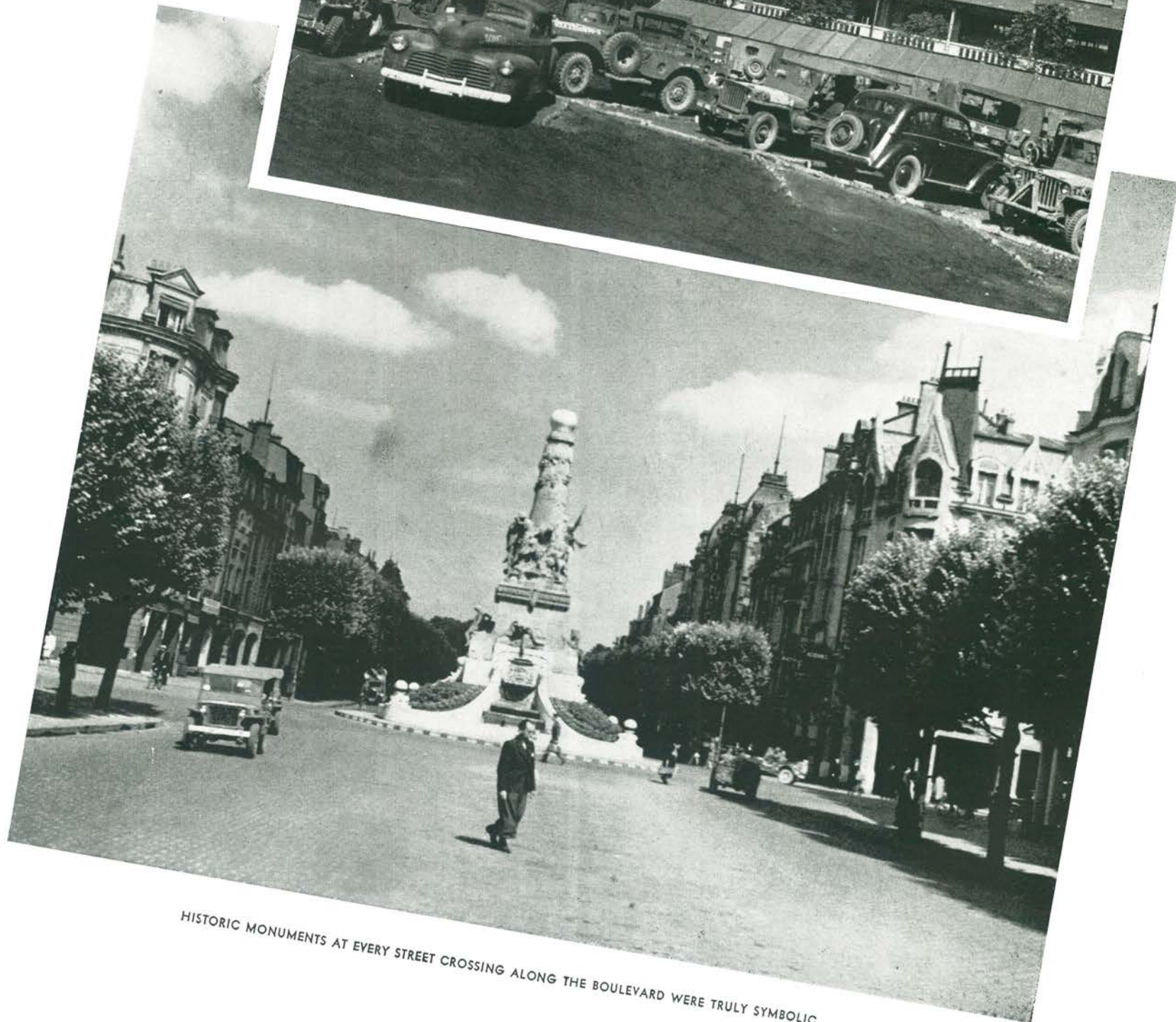
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCES



Two places of interest in the city for visiting Americans were the Museum of Fine Arts, containing paintings of the French school, some old masters, and also archaeological collections, and the large Abbey-Church of St. Remy built in the 11th century.

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SHAEF, WHERE IN MAY 1945 AT THE END OF THE WAR, IMPORTANT SIGNINGS TOOK PLACE



HISTORIC MONUMENTS AT EVERY STREET CROSSING ALONG THE BOULEVARD WERE TRULY SYMBOLIC



This could easily be Paris, Nancy, or Verdun, for each, although different in many ways, is the same basically. The people are the same in their daily routine of work as well as ideas, and the settings are similar in that the architecture, parks and gardens have resembling layouts, and squares all have the historic and freedom ringing note — Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite . . .





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IN COMMEMORATION OF THEIR EVERY HEROICALLY GLORIOUS DEED IN THE PAST FOR FREEDOM AND PEACE, THERE IS ERECTED A MONUMENT





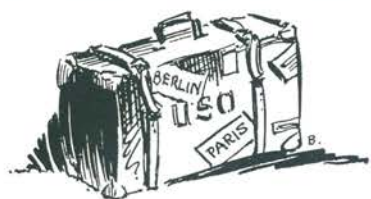
THE BOYS WERE WILD OVER PRETTY LITTLE DIXIE DUNBAR'S DANCING



A BIT OF COMIC BALLET WAS GREAT



USO shows didn't come often, but when they did, look out! The boys wanted nothing better than to see some real American entertainment, and be able to shout at the entertainers good naturedly, knowing that what they said was being understood in the light it was offered. This was the Rockette show and their precision work can be understood by carefully scrutinizing this shot . . .



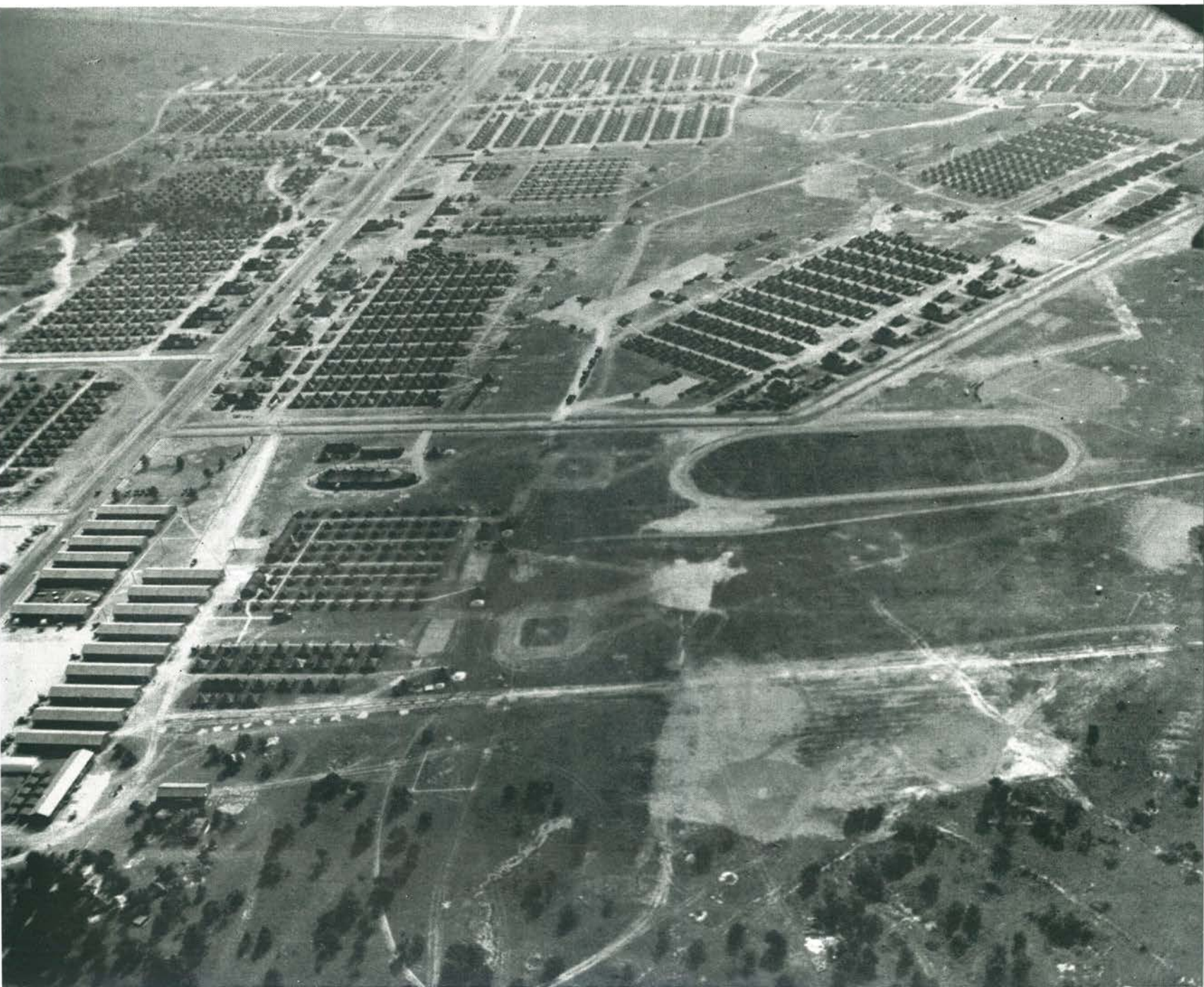
Vivacious Marion Carter (above) didn't have to use her beautiful singing voice if she didn't want to, for her presence alone was enough for encore whistles from the eager audience. Straighten up and fly right men, it's no dream.





100 Square miles

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



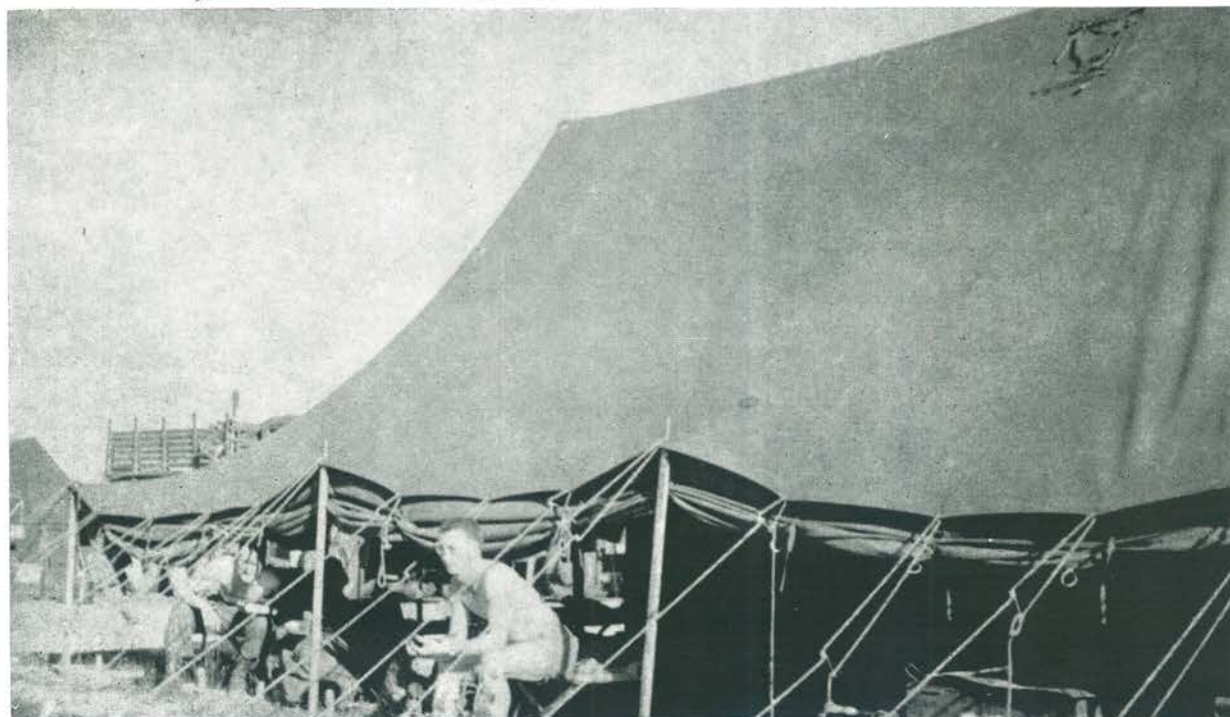


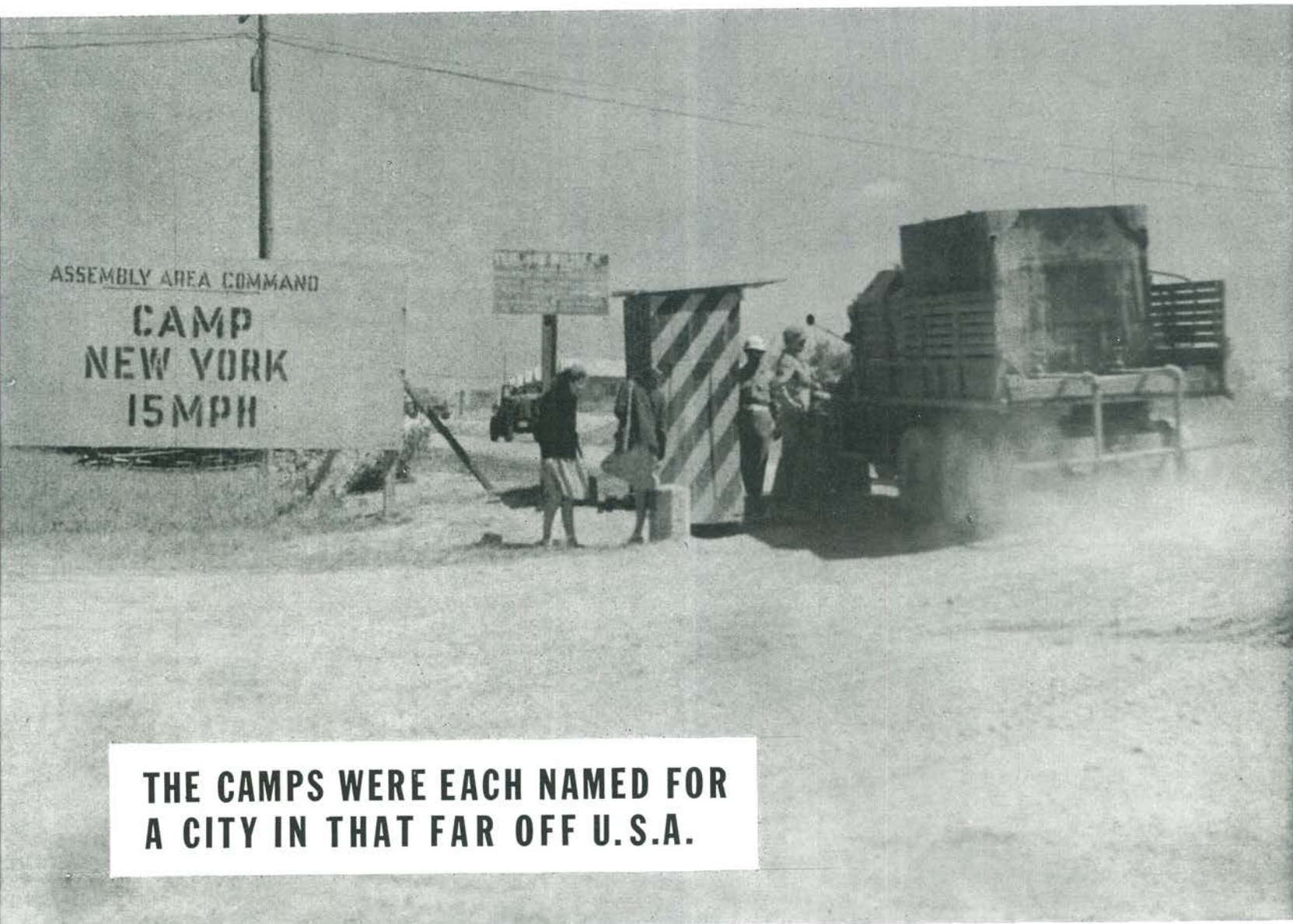
V-E Day, the day when men of the Division began to think of another long trip to either the CBI or South Pacific, and worry as to whether or not they might see the good old United States en route, found them in and around Plettenberg, Germany. Actually, for the time, they were playing an occupation role and were pleased to know, that at least for the present, there was to be considerable rest from the strain of combat. Then there came the news that the 75th was to leave Germany and go directly into France where they were to staff the "100 Square Miles of Camps" under the Assembly Area Command in the province of Champagne, France.





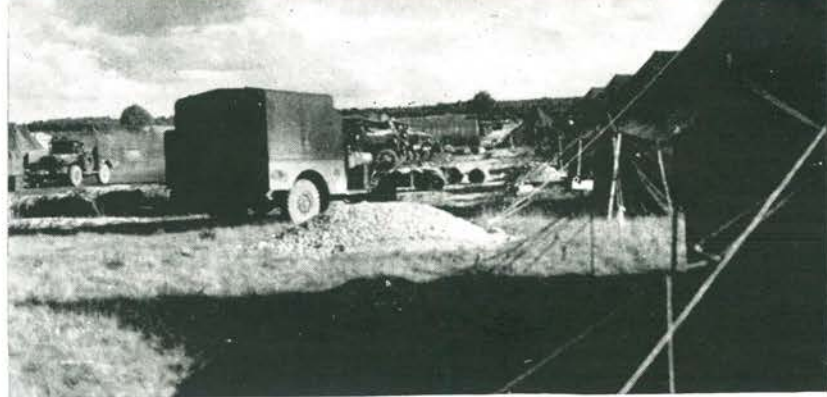
After the long hours of driving in the dust and heat, the units came upon what looked like fields of canvas in huge squared-off sectors. It was good to get out of Germany and into France, and the rumors of the next assignment were apparently true, for here they were in what some of the men called the "Dust Bowl." Into 17 different camps spread over a tremendous area, the units of the division were scattered to handle the redeployment processing of outfits leaving the ETO. Many said that soon after our arrival we would be redeploying ourselves, but everyone hoped beyond hope that he would be home for Christmas, 1945.

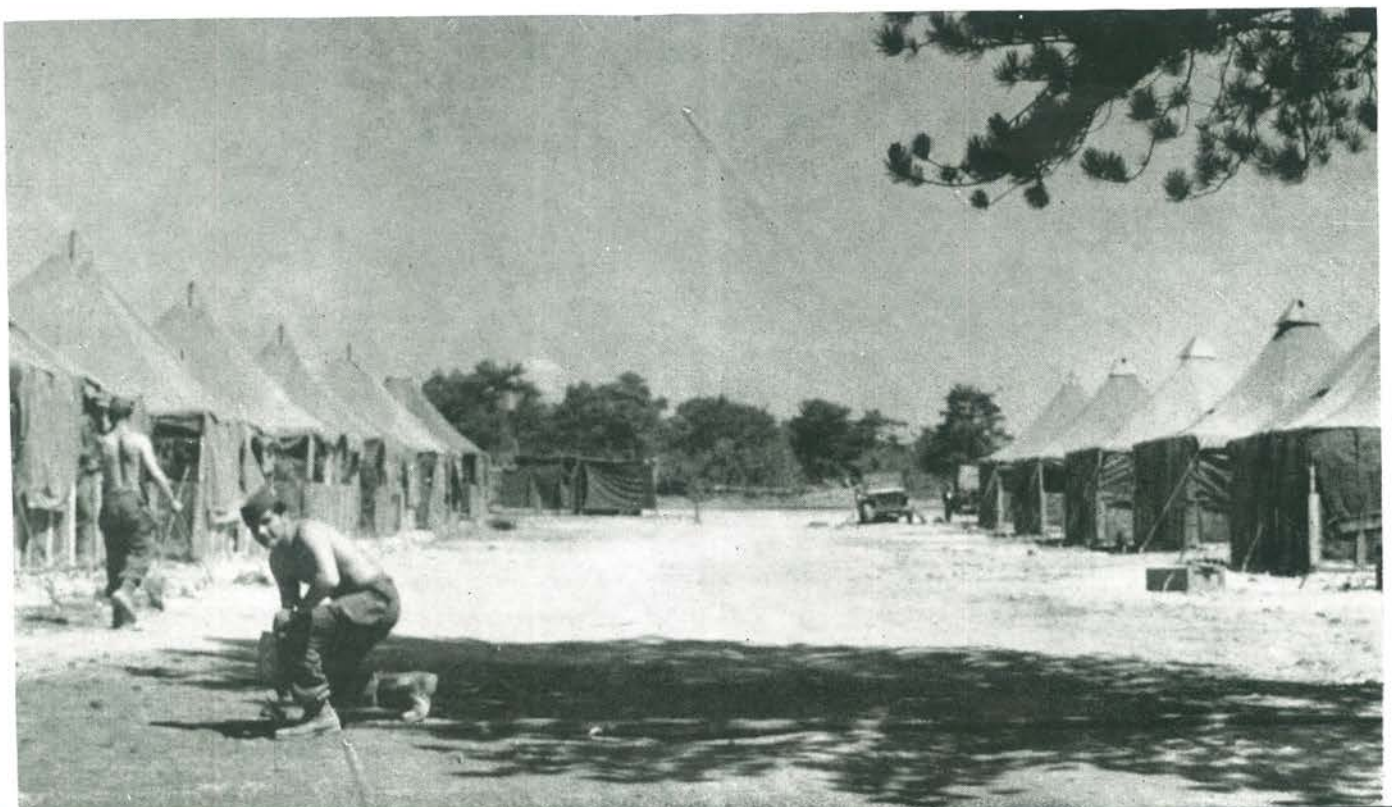




THE CAMPS WERE EACH NAMED FOR
A CITY IN THAT FAR OFF U.S.A.









Chalons sur Marne ...



AS IN EVERY SMALL CITY OF FRANCE, CHALONS-SUR-MARNE BOASTS ABOUT THE BEAUTY OF ITS GOTHIC CHURCHES



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This peaceful scene is characteristic of the relief experienced by the troops of the Division at the news of the surrender of the Japanese on September 2, 1945. With the acceptance of the peace, men took time out to enjoy the serenity of the town.





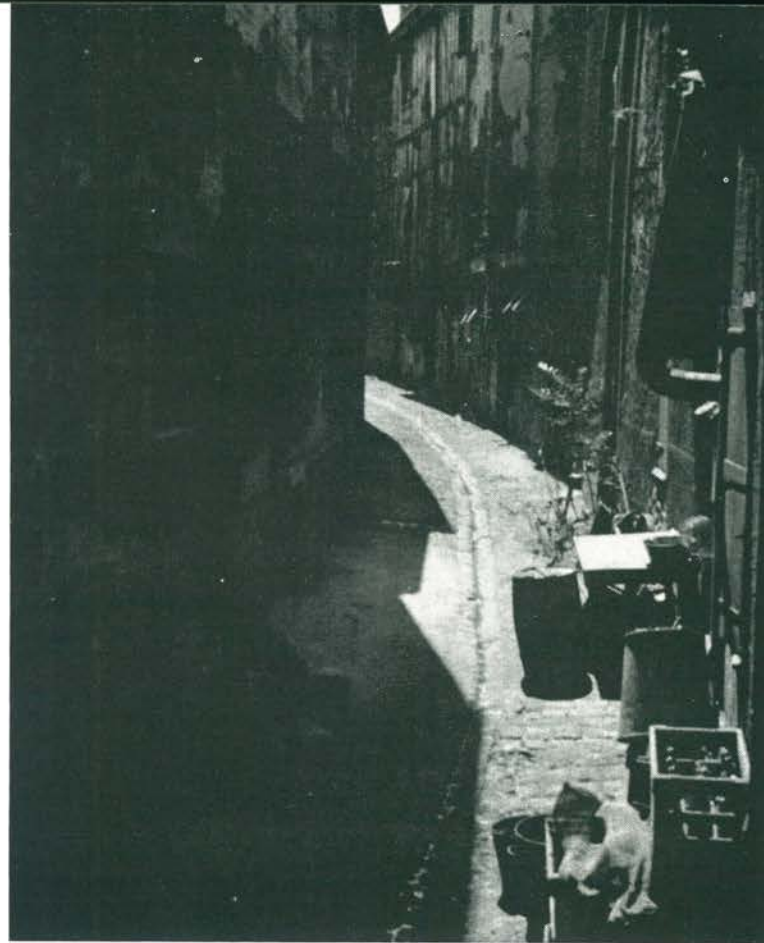
Each Sunday, troops now living under garrison conditions, attended church services for all religions, and were thankful for the opportunity to observe the holy days as they did at home—there was a feeling about it which brought them closer to native environment.







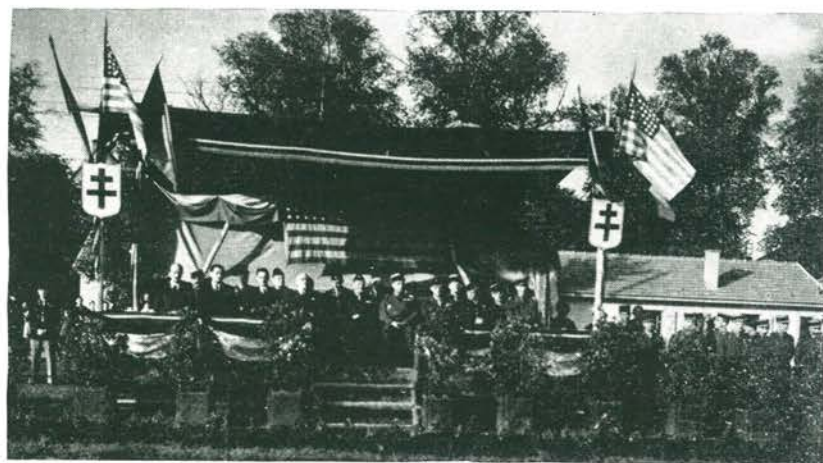
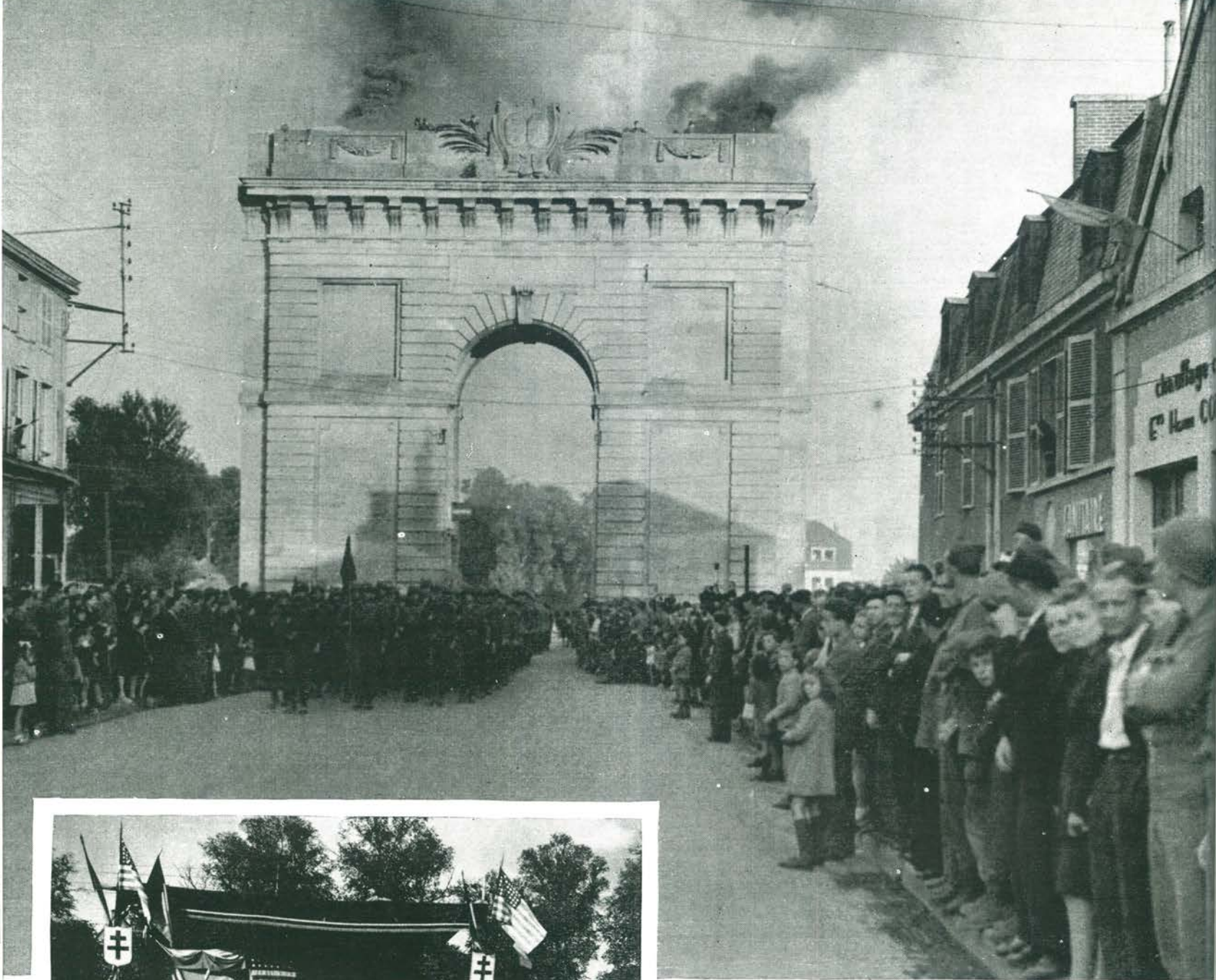
BULLET MARKED, AGE-WORN DOORS STILL STAND IN DIGNITY



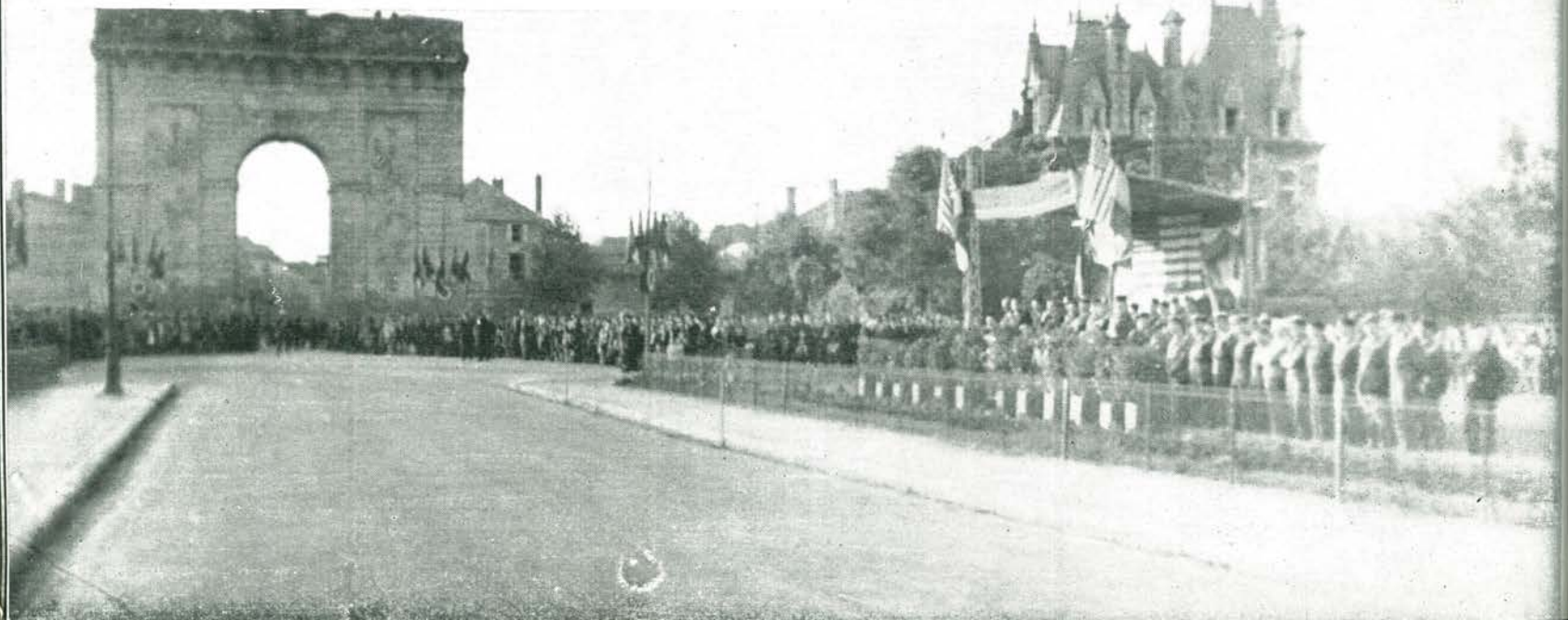
ONE OF THE MANY NARROW, DARK STREETS OF THE ANCIENT CITY



IN THE CENTER OF TOWN IS THE HÔTEL DE VILLE, OR TOWN HALL, WHERE THE OFFICIALS HAVE THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES



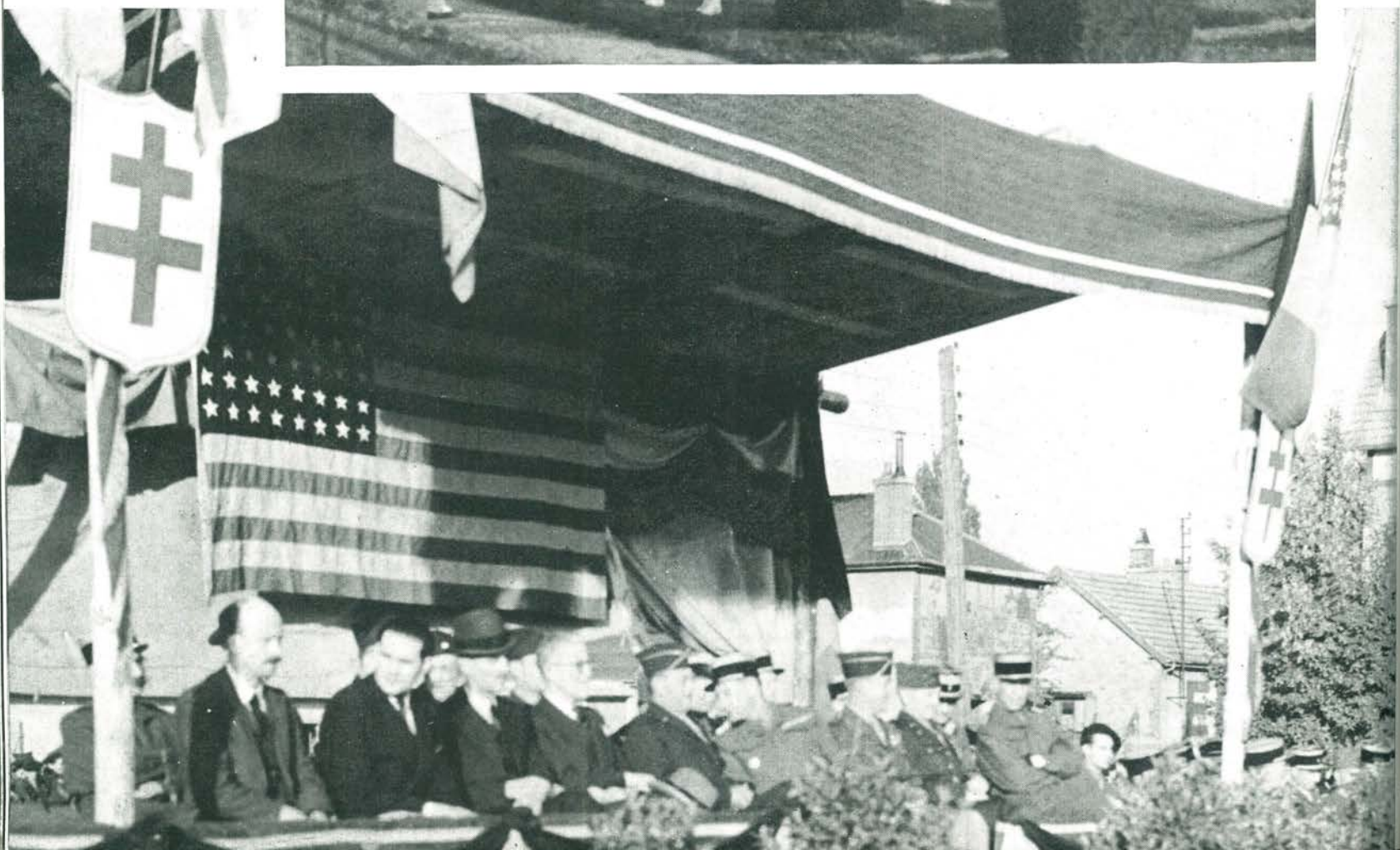
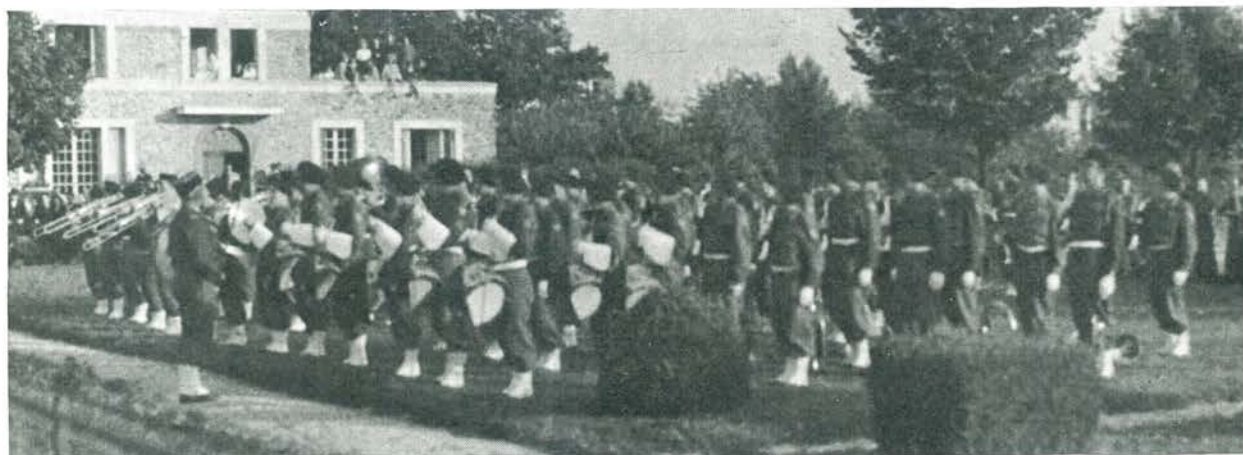
Chalons-sur-Marne has its own Arch of Triumph here pictured as the 275 Engineer Combat Battalion parades smartly for the cheering throngs of people who line the sidewalks. As the colors passed the civilians raised their hats and the





French soldiers snapped to attention and saluted. The sound of marching feet and the music of the band put everyone in the spirit of the occasion. After long years of occupation this was a welcome relief to the townspeople who screamed joyously.





REWARDING THE HEROES AND HONORING THE DEAD

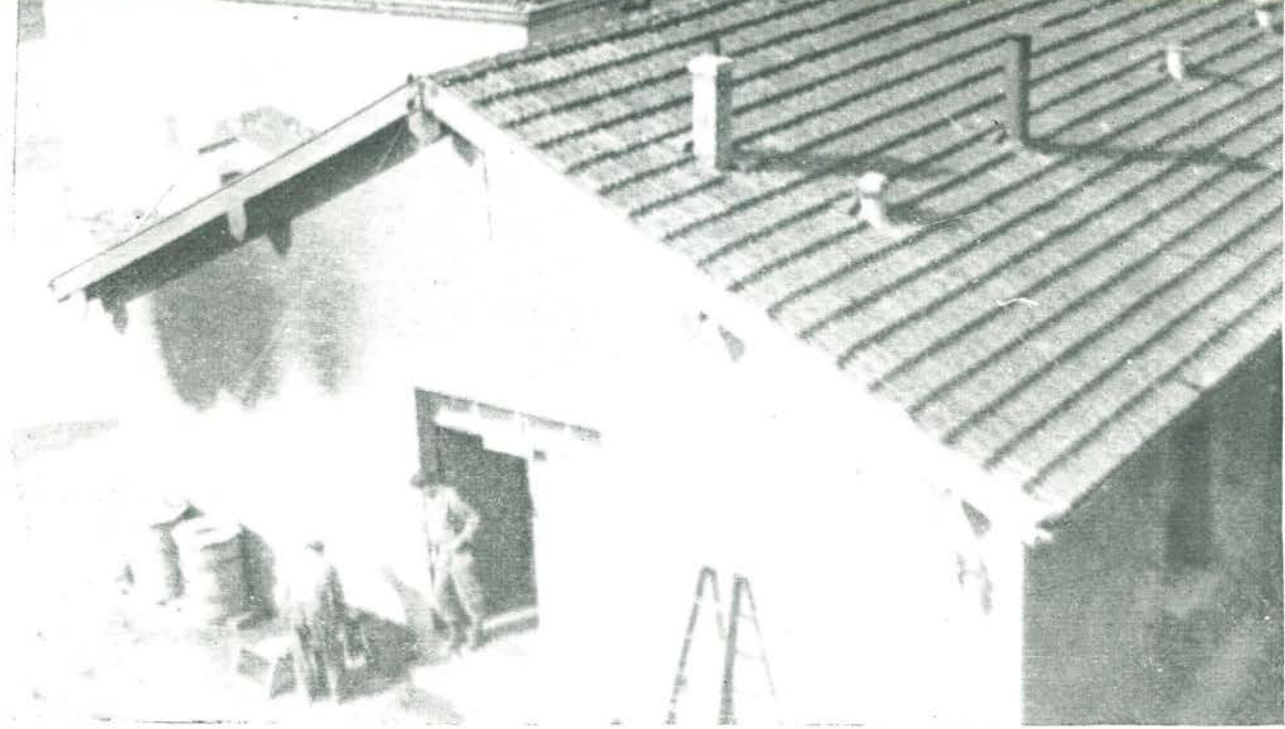
This monument below the bullet marked wall is where 100 Frenchmen were executed by the Germans. Here the French soldier pays his tribute to the dead while the brave deeds of comrades in arms are rewarded.





The Caserne Chanzy, famous as a French garrison during World War I, was used as barracks by the Quartermaster Company and Engineer Battalion of Headquarters of the Division. The ingenuity of the men made a comfortable camp of the enclosure.

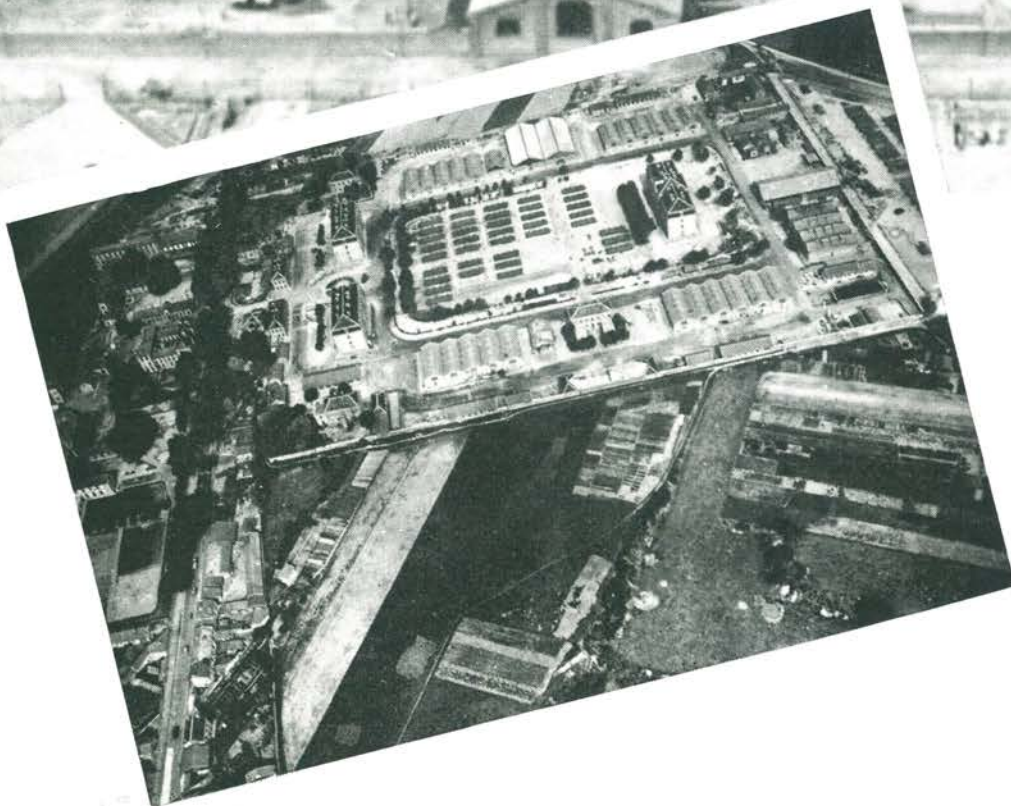




From these aerial shots you can pick your old camping place during your stay at Chalons. The dusty roads and parking lots, the guard at the gate—you drew guard, too, remember; the French WACs across the fence, think hard now . . .



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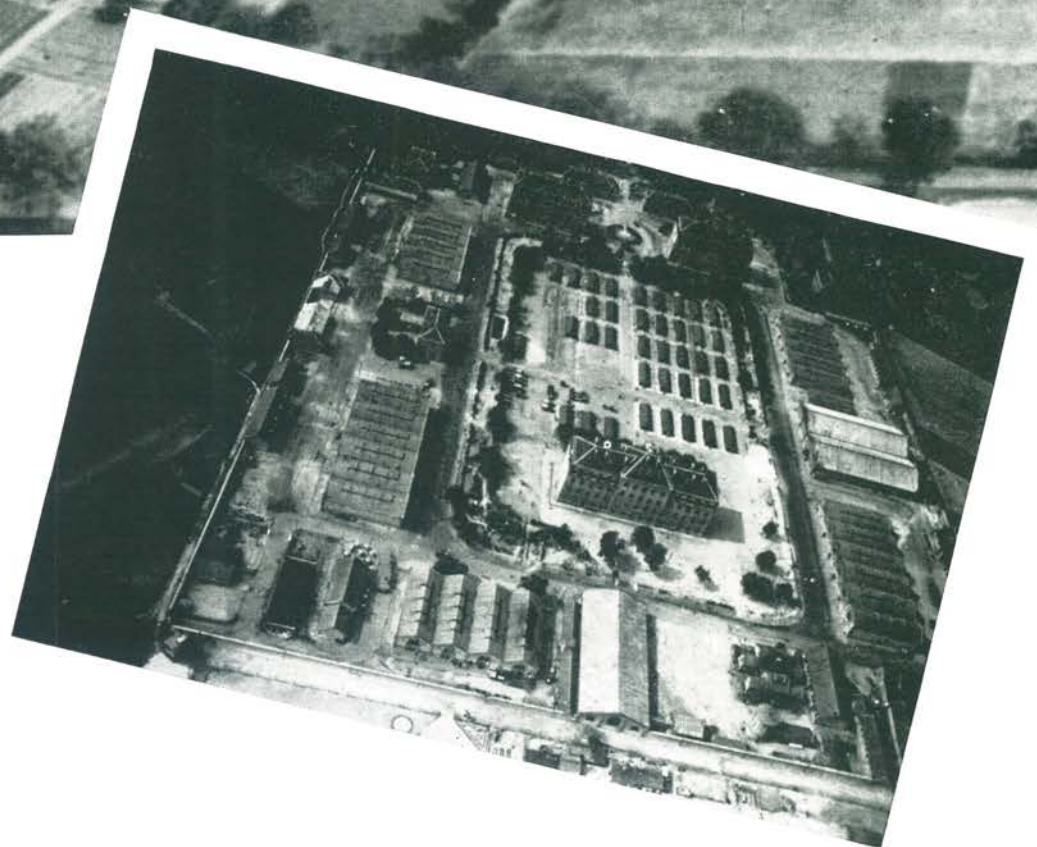


LOOKING DOWN ON THE 16TH GENERAL HOSPITAL

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



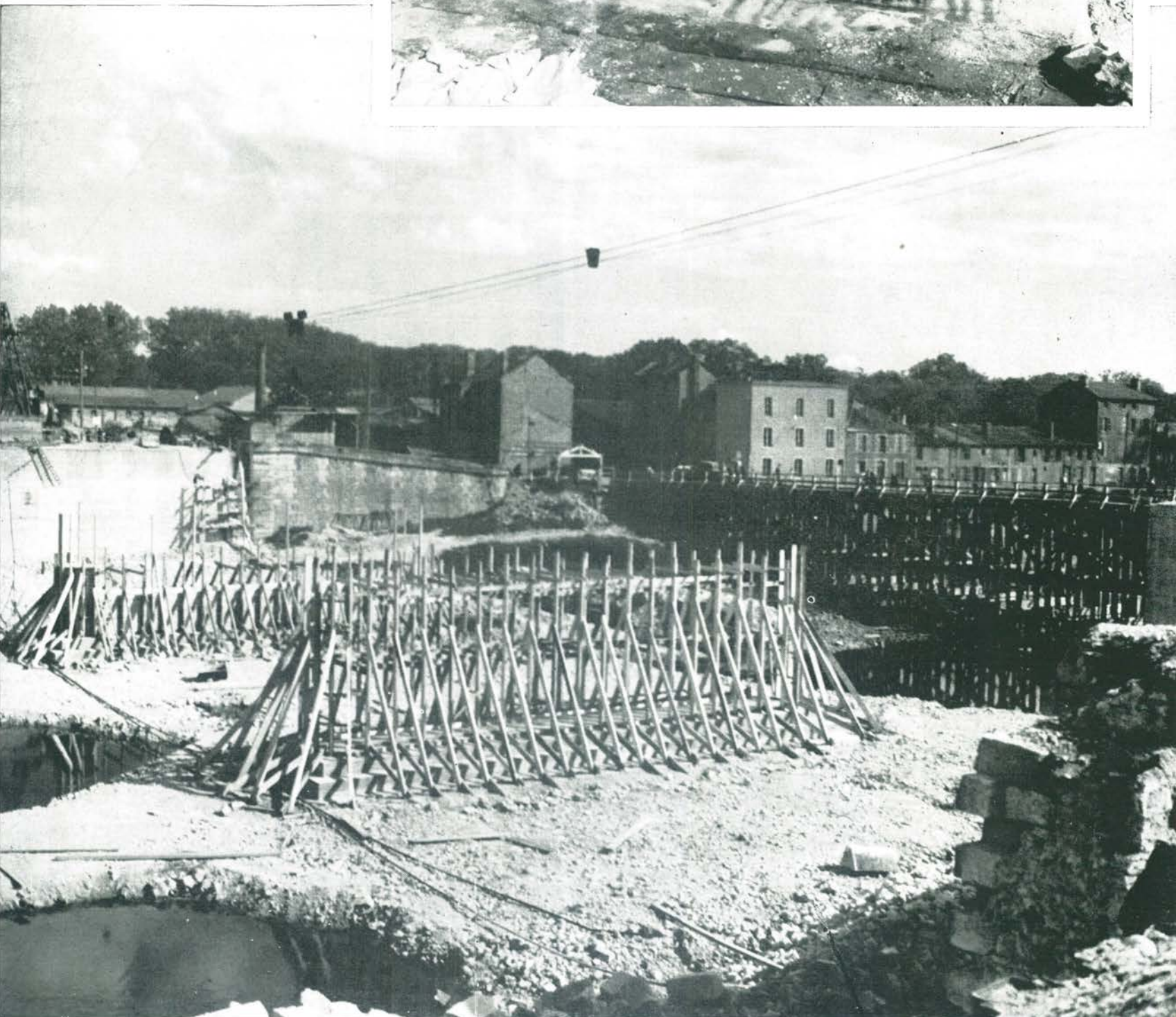
JUST UP THE ROAD FROM CASERNE CHANZY . . .





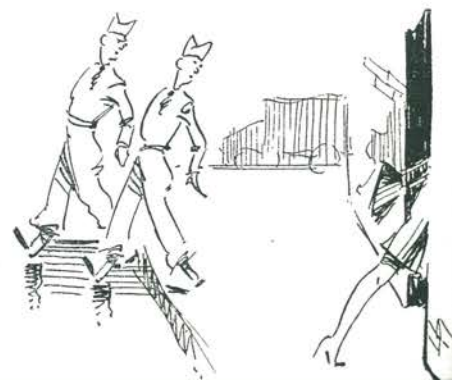
This is the famous old church of Saint-Alphin which was constructed from the 12th to the 14th century and still remains in use in the ancient city of Chalons-sur-Marne. Statues and stone carvings are worn from the rain and wind. Across the street are little modern shops of the town and down the street is the Place de la Republique where many street festivals are held.

In Chalons-sur-Marne there was a highway bridge on the main road through town, which was known to the soldiers as N-77. Blown during the battle, it is now on the way to reconstruction. The temporary bridge in the background was built by army engineers in 16 days, and it was estimated that it would take the German army at least three months, and the French civilians nine months to build.

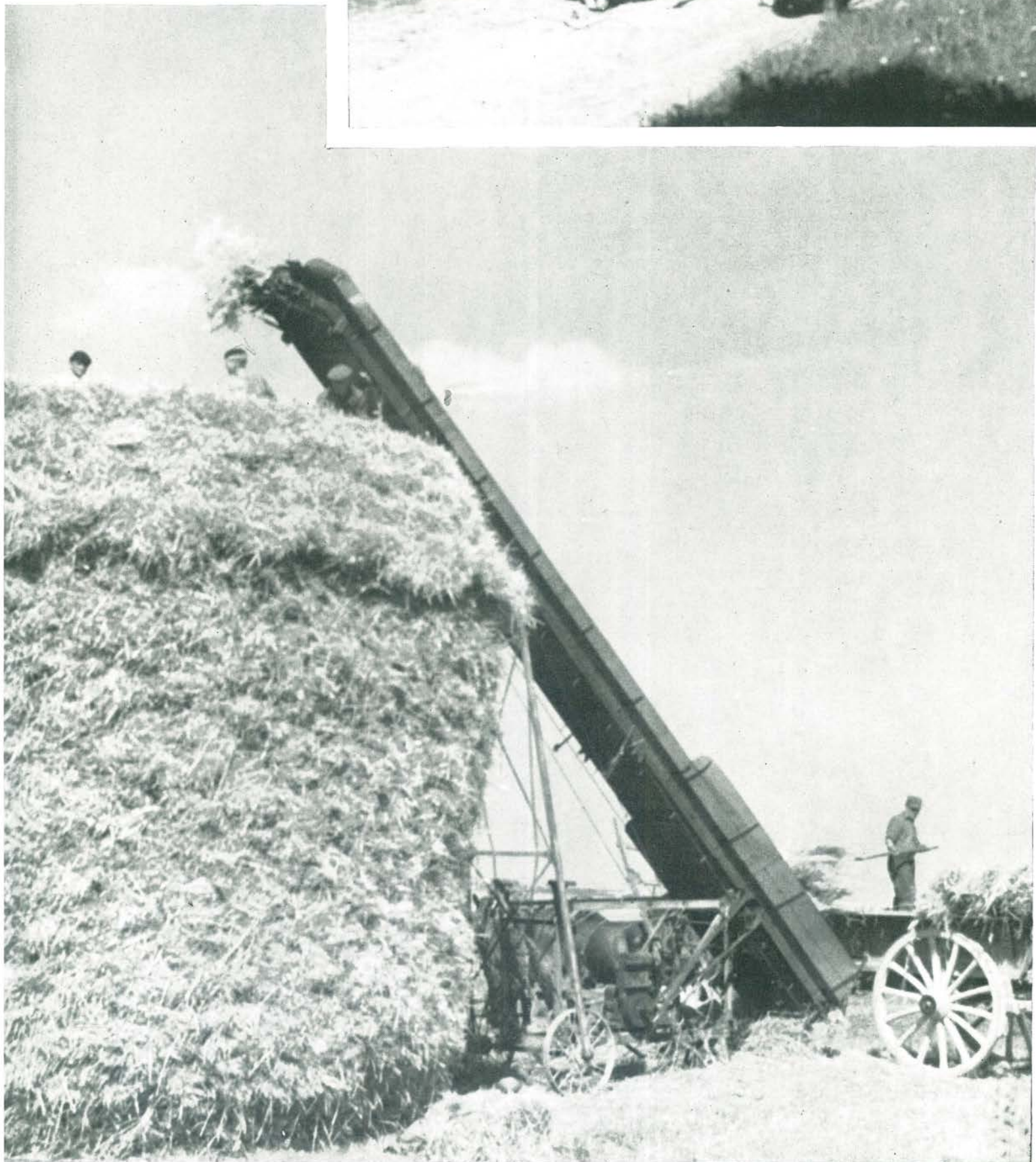




The American Red Cross building was here in this residential section of the town, and the army sponsored the Casino Theater at left.



In the Champagne region of Reims and Chalons the farms are huge and very productive. Truck farm products, however, and Champagne grapes, are their basic crop and product, since most of the livestock was considerably depleted during the occupation by the Germans.

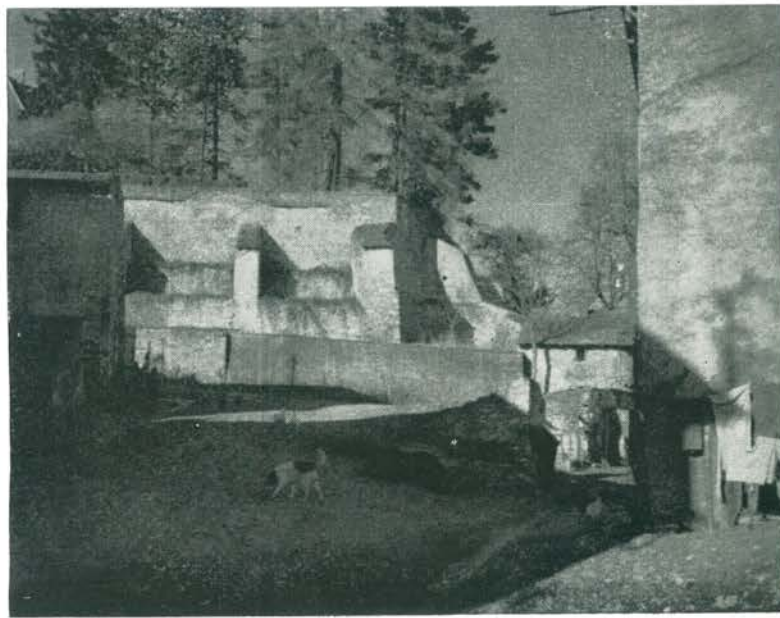


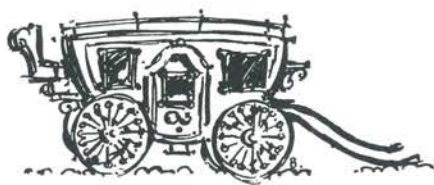


IN THE CENTER OF THE LITTLE TOWN IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE CITY WAS BUILT AROUND THE CHURCHES WHICH HAVE STOOD FOR CENTURIES

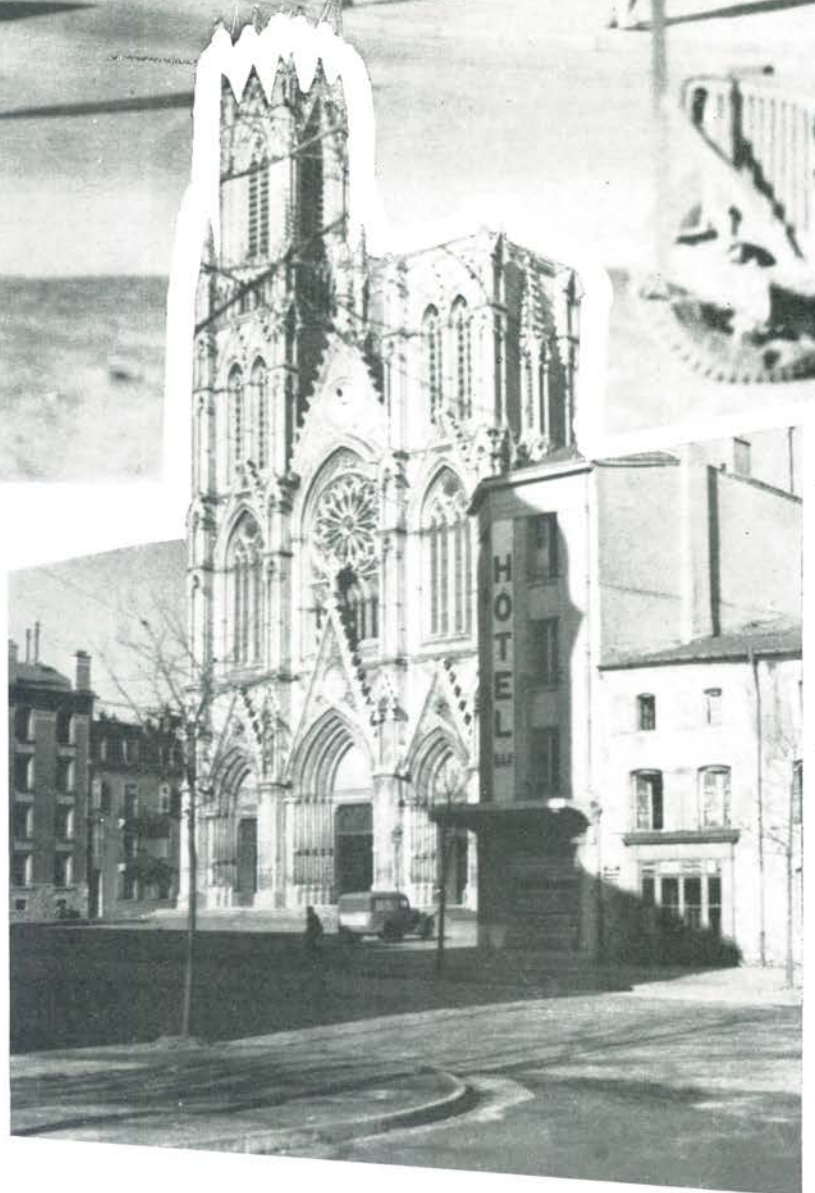


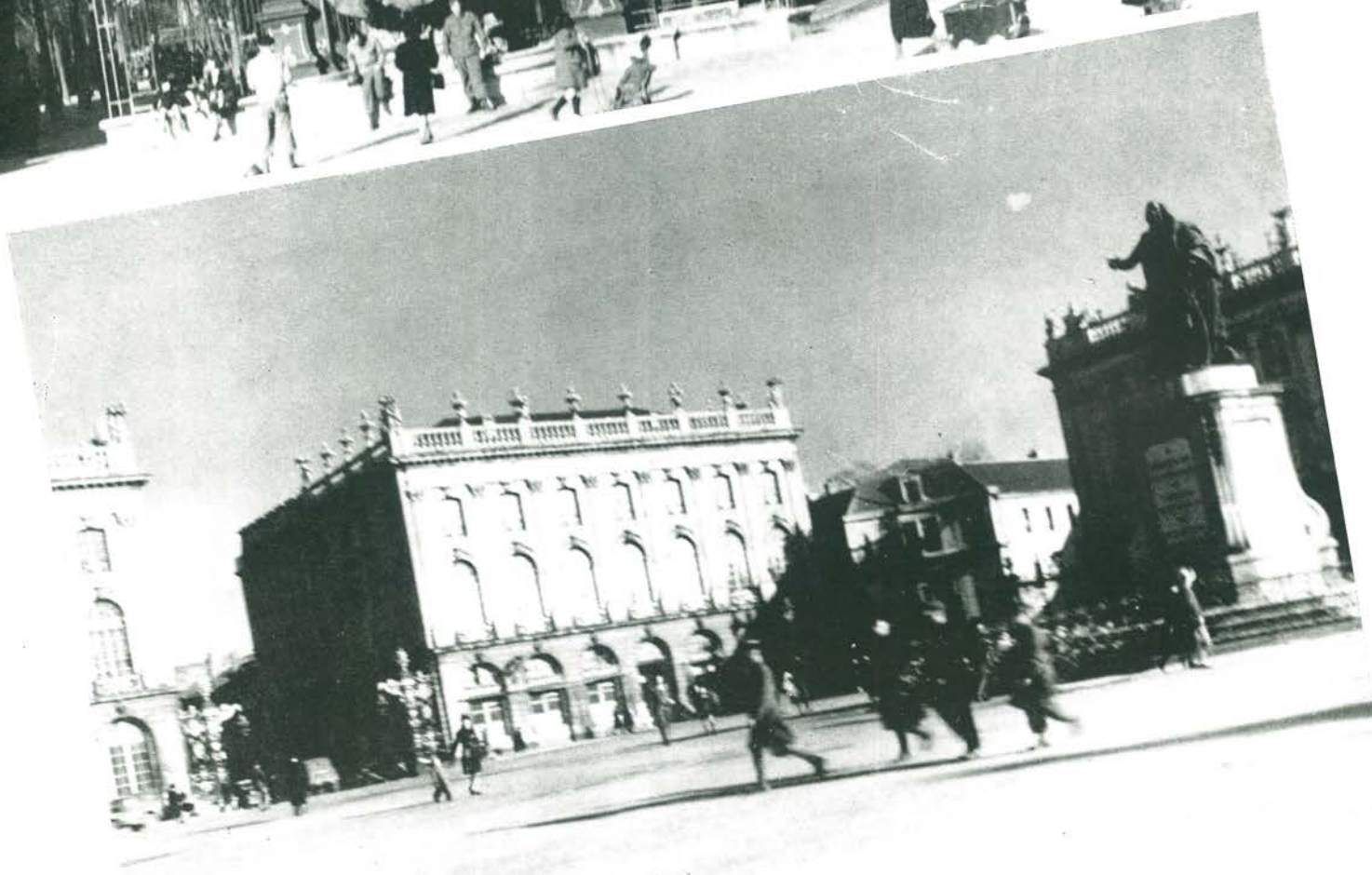
Nancy...





The city of Nancy is known to the French as the "Coquette Flower of France," and is famous as a center of learning, for her Ecole de Medecine and Ecole Forestiere are renowned the world over. To understand the city's fame as an art spot of the world, one has only to wander through the Renaissance streets which are adorned with beautiful sculpture, and colorful gardens and public forums. It is the vibrant provincial capital of Lorraine where the rolling green hills surrounding the town are fruitfully fertile, and yield almost all of the fine wines, meats, and vegetables, consumed by the "Nanciennes."







Charmes...

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



It was because of stories like these that came out of the little towns like Charmes which made it possible for intelligent American boys to feel no pity, or twinge of regret at the sight of all the German dead strewn about. The stark staring dead were those same criminals who, when quitting the little village of Charmes, burned, gutted and utterly destroyed everything within sight; did they have a reason, was this warfare reasoned to be the means by which they could justify their attack on the world?



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In their distress, the people of the town went out of their way to do what little they could to make the GI comfortable in his hard fight to beat the enemy back and out of the occupied, friendly cities of France. Clean clothing was of course of the highest priority in the eyes of the weary soldier.





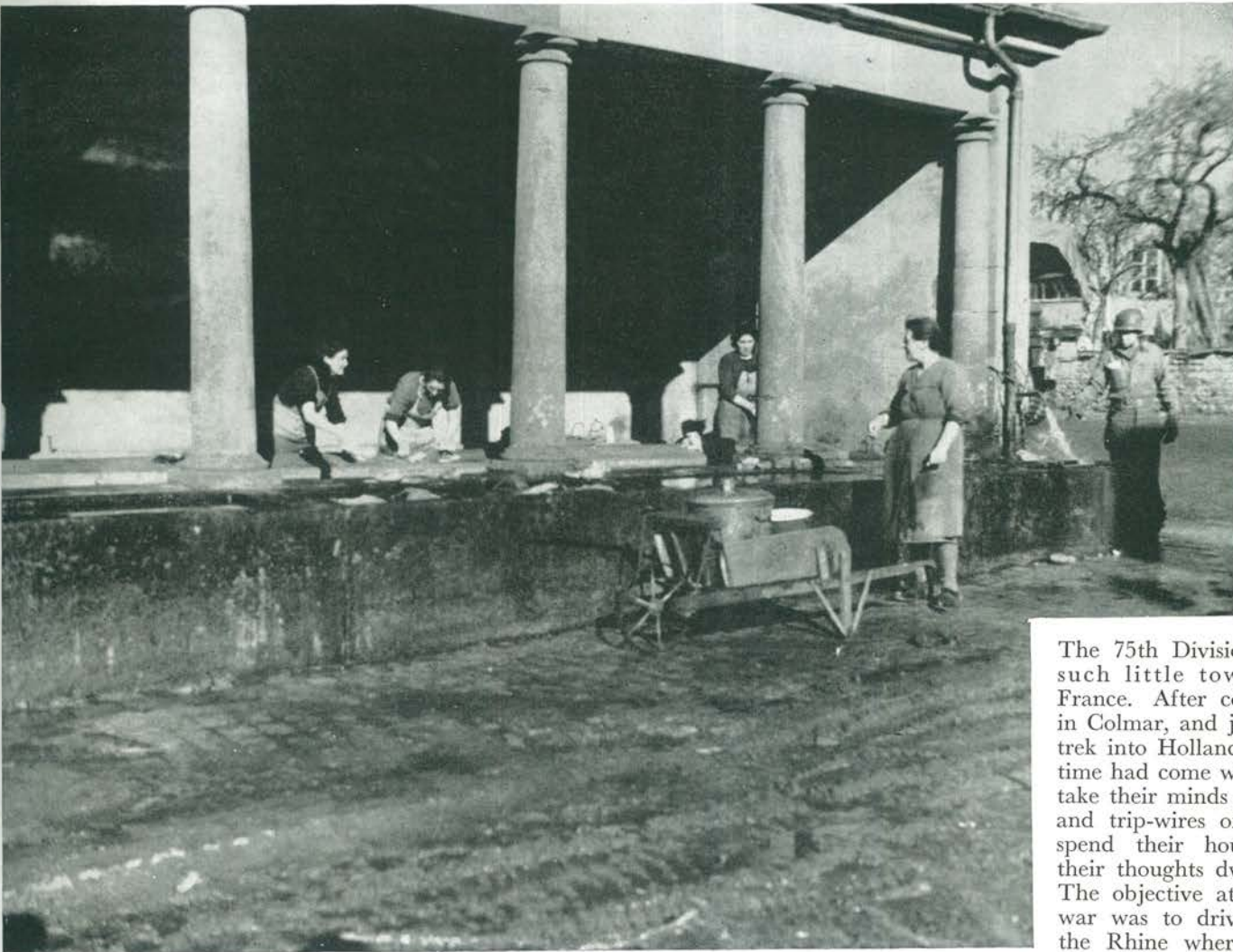
IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THAT THESE PRIMITIVE METHODS WERE STILL BEING USED



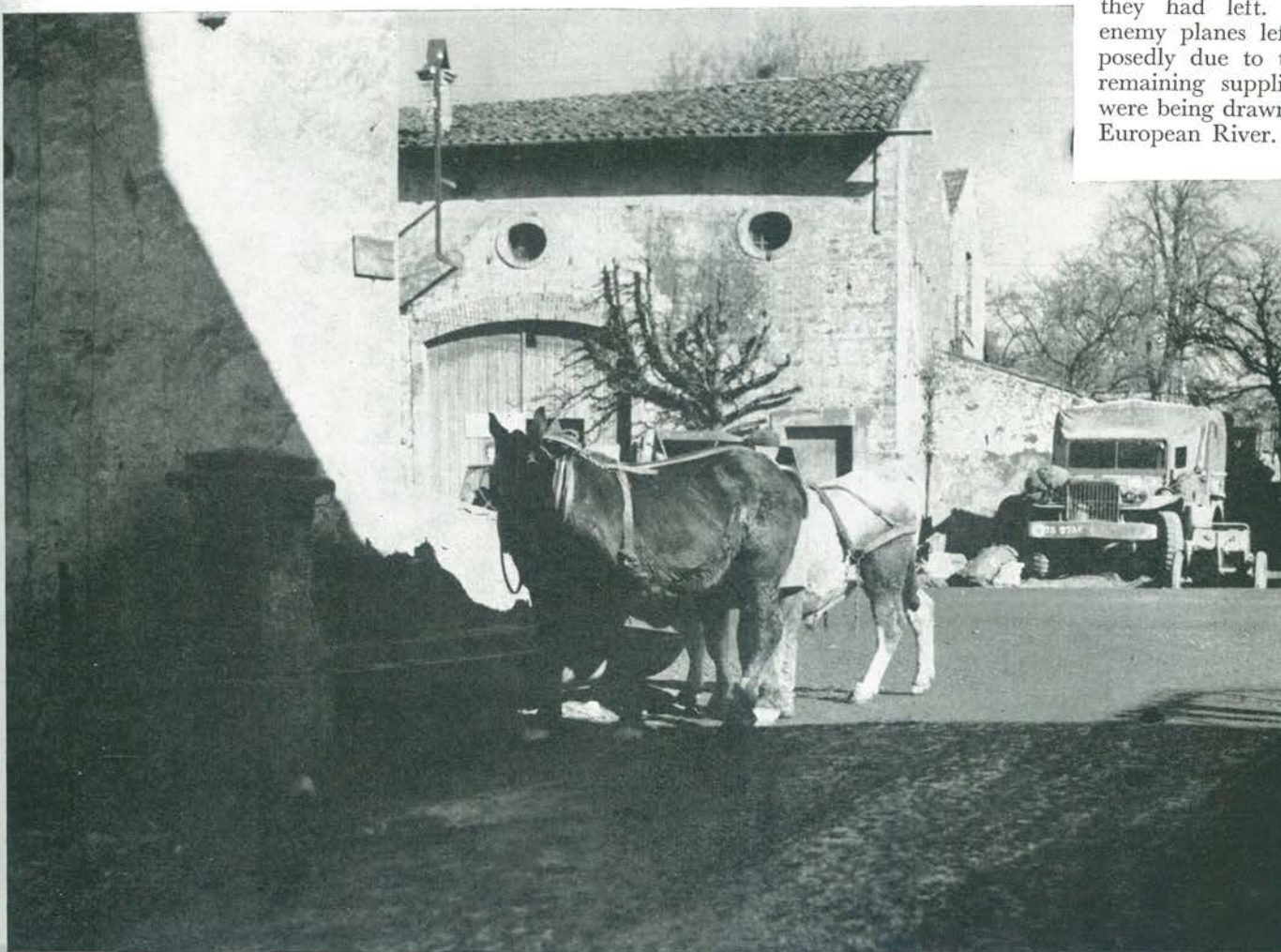


Essegney...





The 75th Division rested at many such little towns as Essegney, France. After coming off the line in Colmar, and just before the long trek into Holland, the long awaited time had come when the men could take their minds off incoming shells and trip-wires of booby-traps, and spend their hours restfully—but their thoughts dwelt on the future. The objective at this phase of the war was to drive the Germans to the Rhine where it was expected that they would put up a last all-out defensive to save what little they had left. There were few enemy planes left in the sky, supposedly due to the fact that their remaining supplies and equipment were being drawn back to the Great European River.



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Essegney had suffered its share of destruction and death in the passing of the Germans, and now had licked its wounds and healed sufficiently to make our stay comfortable and clean. Some men were taken in to sleep in large, soft beds, while the rest made use of their sleeping bags in warm, clean rooms.

Church services were attended by the men at the town's aged temple in the central square of the village.



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

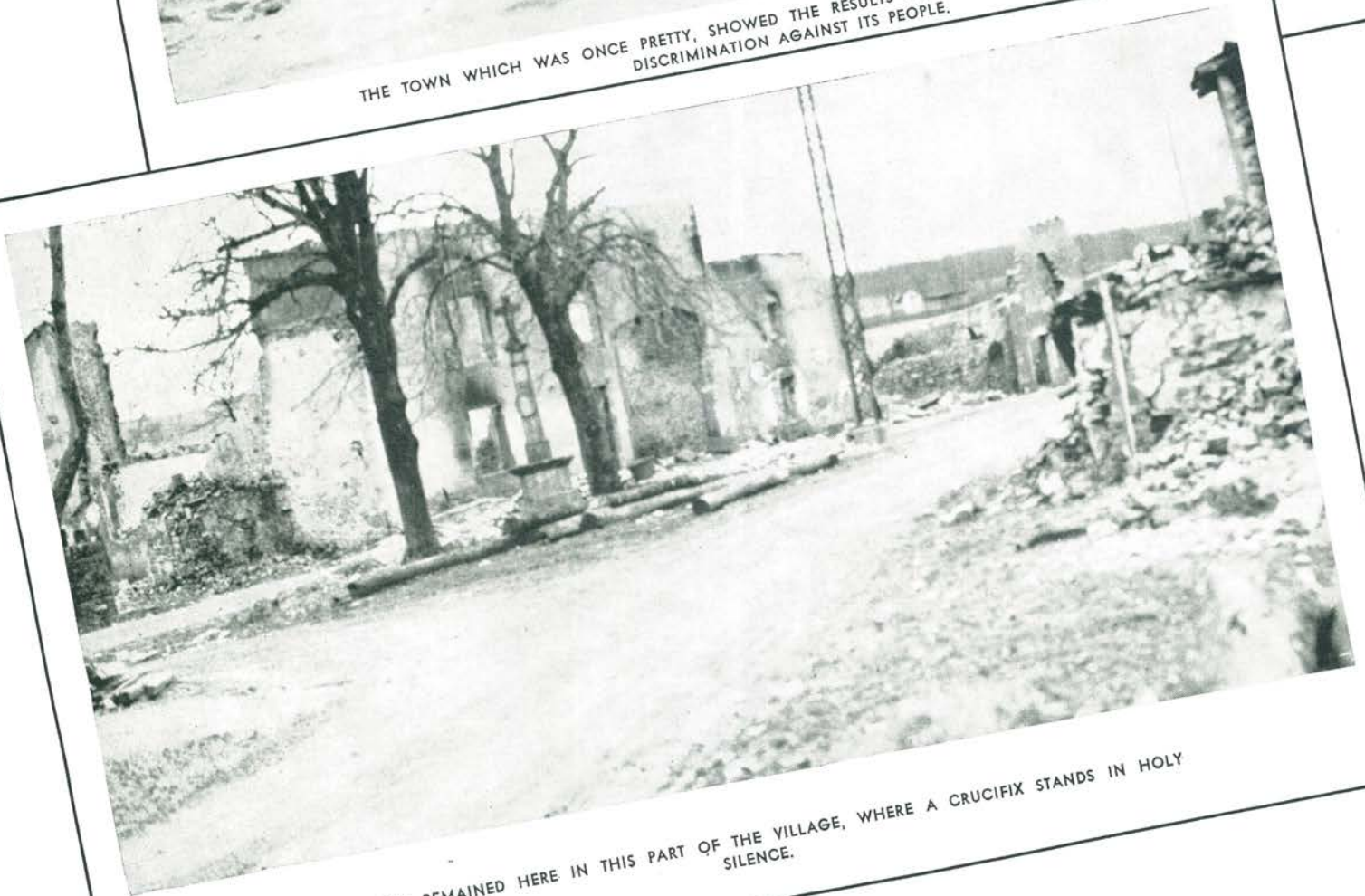


The women worked hard and showed the signs of their labor. Very few men were left, and those who did remain were too old to handle the large amount of heavy duty farming and construction which was necessary to carry on their lives.

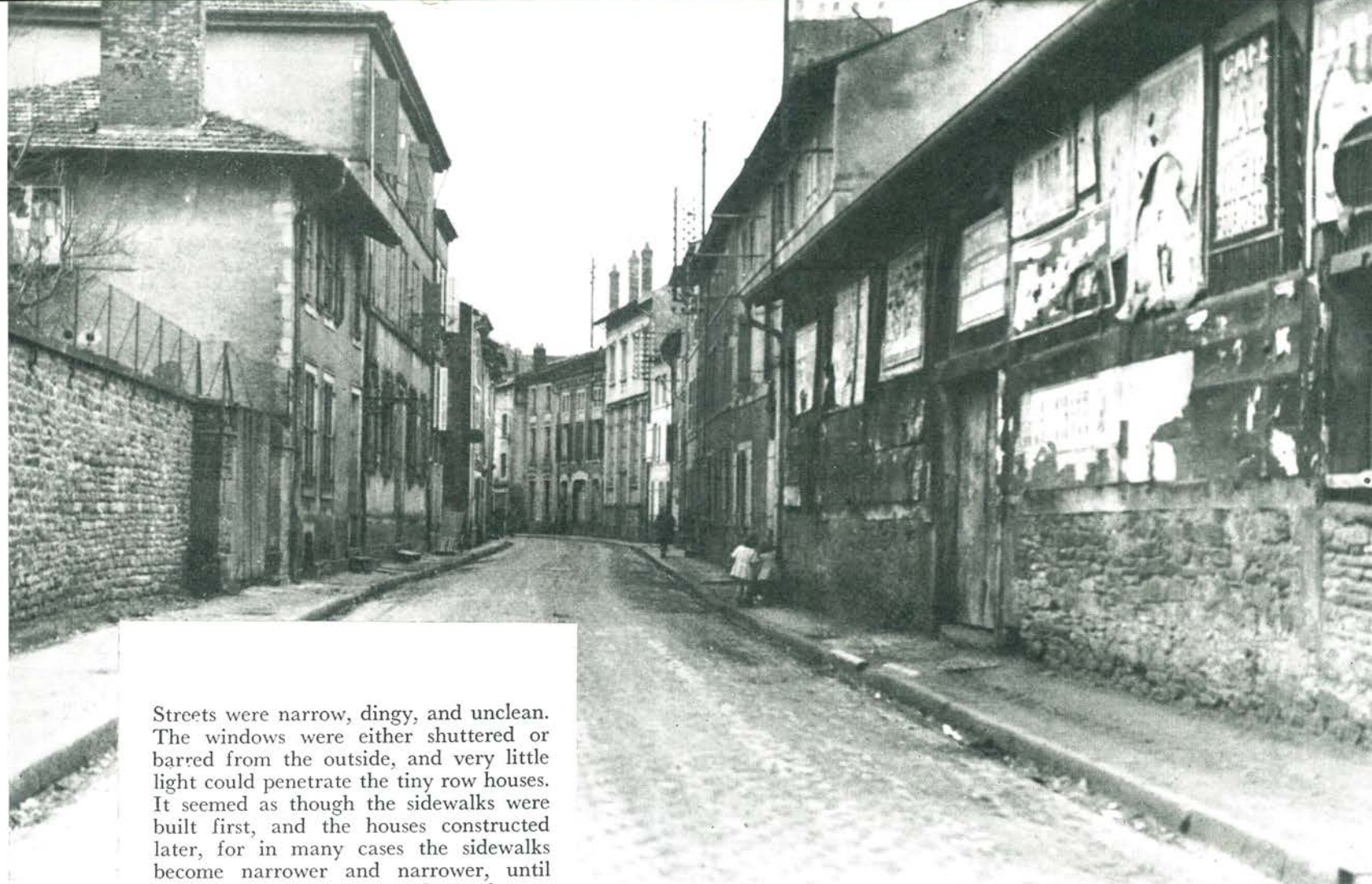




THE TOWN WHICH WAS ONCE PRETTY, SHOWED THE RESULTS OF OCCUPATION AND THE GERMAN DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ITS PEOPLE.



SHAMBLES REMAINED HERE IN THIS PART OF THE VILLAGE, WHERE A CRUCIFIX STANDS IN HOLY SILENCE.

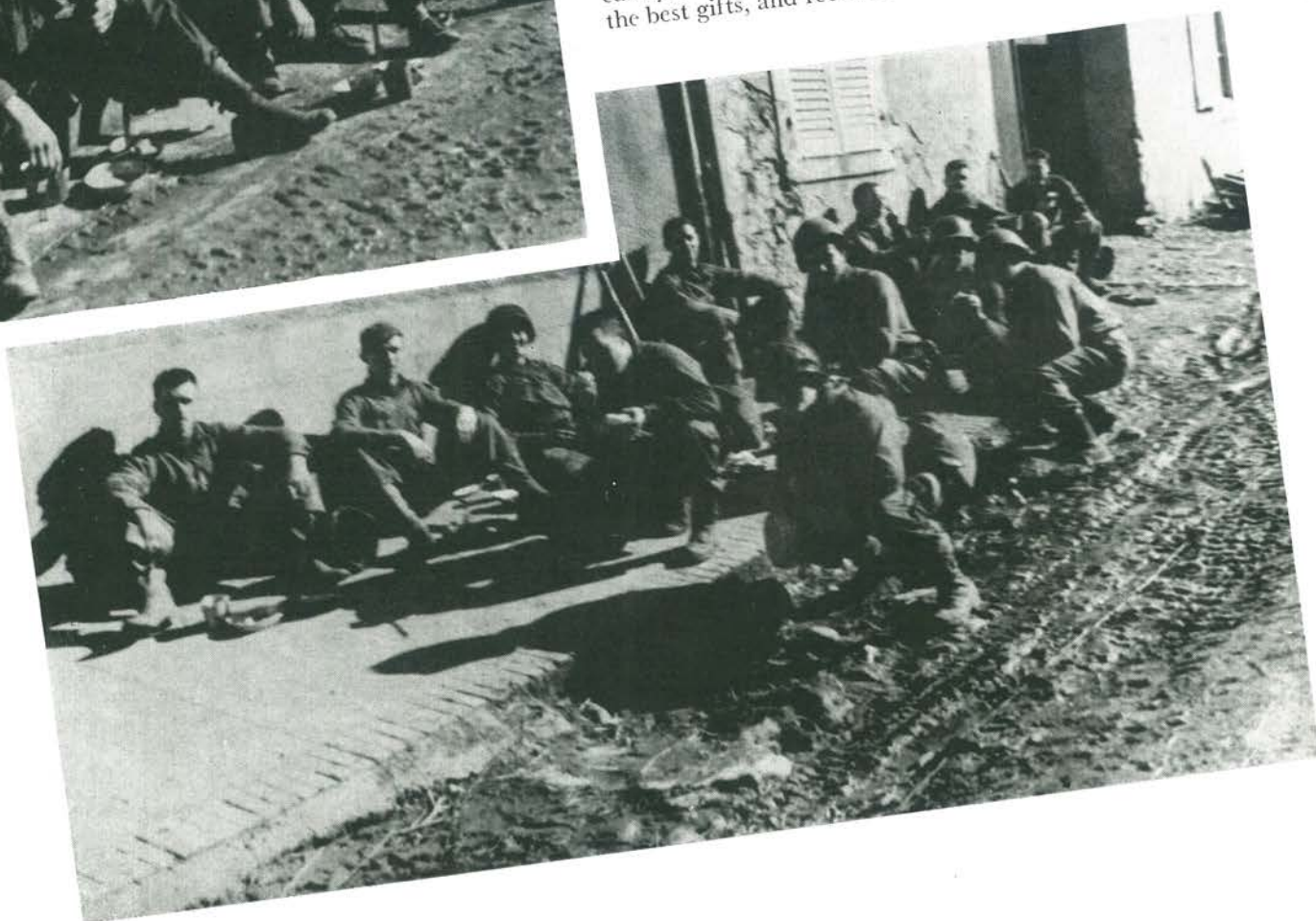


Streets were narrow, dingy, and unclean. The windows were either shuttered or barred from the outside, and very little light could penetrate the tiny row houses. It seemed as though the sidewalks were built first, and the houses constructed later, for in many cases the sidewalks become narrower and narrower, until finally there were none. Cows, horses, sheep, and men alike, used the street, and hardly ever utilized the walks.





There was no mess hall problem here, the kitchen was set in the doorway of a barnyard, and the men ate out in the sun alone, the main road through the village. Some were invited into the little living rooms of the homes where they made themselves at home as much as possible under the circumstances. They found that most of the places were particularly clean inside, despite their outward appearances. Soldiers gave the natives ration cigarettes, and sometimes candy-bars and confection; the children always got the best gifts, and received them gratefully.





Primitive means of transportation were prevalent, and although horses and oxen did much of the heavy hauling, men and women often were to be seen harnessed to a wagon straining and tugging up the long, steep, cobblestone streets. Logs for fire-wood were the principal loads hauled. Everyone assisted in the work at hand.



The terrain was excellently suited to tank and armor warfare, but the heavy rainfall made the movement in the muck and mire slow and arduous. Half tracks and medium tanks, which had been whitewashed for snow camouflage, were now repainted regulation army O.D., for the snows were gone, and night advances continued. In the open fields and across the plains where there were few trees and little wooded growth, it was easy to count the vast number of shell holes and craters left by the barrages of our heavy field pieces. Foxholes were everywhere, for they had afforded the only protection. Not all of the people here in Alsace were in complete accord with the ideals of the Allied armies and for the first time since the men of the 75th Division had come into these lands of strange ideas and languages, they met a people who were not wholeheartedly rooting for them. That "all out for the liberators" feeling which they had encountered in Belgium and other parts of France did not exist here.



THE ALSACE PLAIN

F R A N C E



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



From early dawn until nightfall, paths had to be made for advancing armor, supplies, and men. There was safety from enemy planes in the semi-darkness, and when possible, the work was done during these hours.



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



While working roads across the open expanses, heavy equipment was easily spotted by enemy aircraft. Men were constantly on the alert manning the .50 caliber MG to ward off attack while the men behind the shovels worked on. . . .



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



In Alsace while the heavy snows were melting, and there was much rain with which to contend, culverts and bridges comprised the greatest part of the work for engineers. Debris of the original crossings had to be cleared before combat Baileys and fills could be started. The men usually had words to describe the conditions which made work difficult.



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



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



IT WOULD BE A DAY'S WORK WELL DONE IF JERRY COULD KNOCK THIS TEAM FROM THE AIR—HE TRIED MANY TIMES BUT FAILED

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



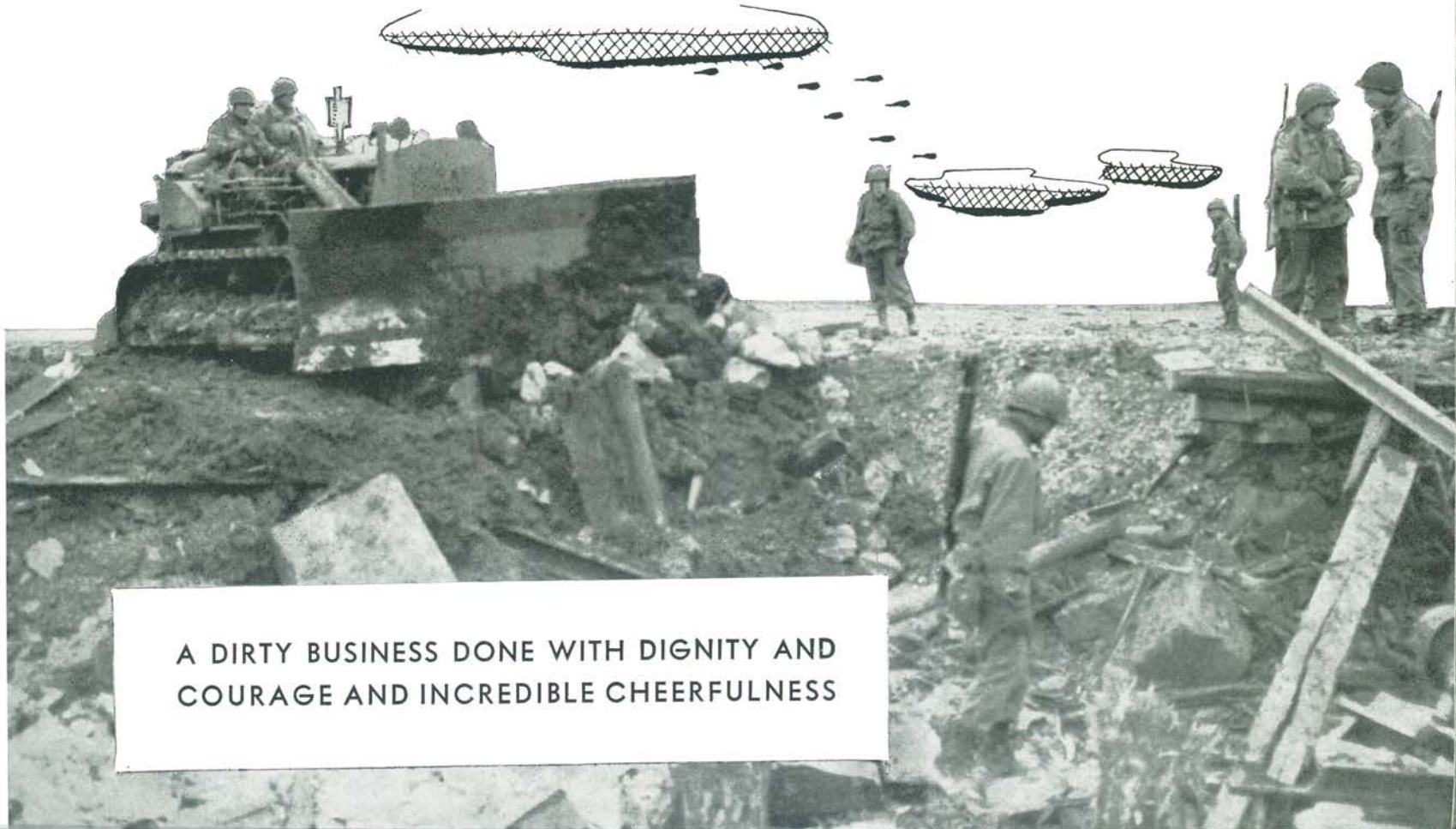
the seventy fifth **75** *infantry division*



As in everything else, the sight of men in pain falls into the same dull pattern of war which makes youngsters hard, old men. Scenes of dead and injured being removed from the fighting areas was commonplace. The treatment given the wounded was the finest and most sympathetic that could be gotten anywhere under the circumstances.

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Often working alone, and with no support available, recon troops stood by to relay information to engineers as to the position of the enemy in relation to the site under operation. Troops in great numbers could not pass until bridges were built and made safe to accommodate them. Bridges carried the front-line troops across streams, rivers, gulches, ravines, or draws, which otherwise would have constituted a serious obstacle to rapid movement. Full advantage was always taken of existing structures.



A DIRTY BUSINESS DONE WITH DIGNITY AND
COURAGE AND INCREDIBLE CHEERFULNESS

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

Some men left desk jobs to come into the army and work in the mud to get caloused hands and hardened muscles, but they never complained. Others who were accustomed to the rough work were those who became the men in charge, for this was merely repetition for them, and what was to be done next and how to do it was right at their finger tips.



The average GI is an intelligent man, more so than any other soldier in the world. He knows the score and he is a realist; the conditions under which he lives make him one out of necessity. Basically his concerns in action were to get the job done, come out alive not shattered mentally, and finally come home. This existence could not but change him; six months, one year, two, even three and four, could only make him more comfortable as the time went by. The change was not a conscious one; but it is there, and sooner or later he will realize it. Perhaps then he will feel lost again, away from the men with whom he shared so many dangers, with whom he worked and sweated not in the spirit of competition but in the spirit of mutual and righteous gain. These pictures tell a story; study them carefully. . . .

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



They knew what their job was, and they did it. It is not necessary for anyone to speak for the sluggers who were in there blocking out for the men who were carrying the ball. We have, undoubtedly, begun to realize even at this late stage of the game, that no matter how a war starts, it will end in mud. It has to be fought out—there are no short cuts or clever angles to make the job easier. When it's over, all the GI wants is an even break, a chance to get started.

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All of the comforts of home . . . except, of course, for a few little incidentals like having to crawl out the door on your hands and knees in the muck of the melting frost; wearing a heavy steel helmet as protection against the elements; carrying a rifle or sidearm in case something that had to be shot appeared; never a dull or idle moment in the life of the dirty faced GI in combat.



Schlettstadt...



Yet here another town which lay open to the ravages of war was crying out for a complete and quick victory over the hated enemy. Like the rest of the abused nations of Europe this little town knew what peace meant, and also, what they would have to go through in waste, destruction, and death to get it.

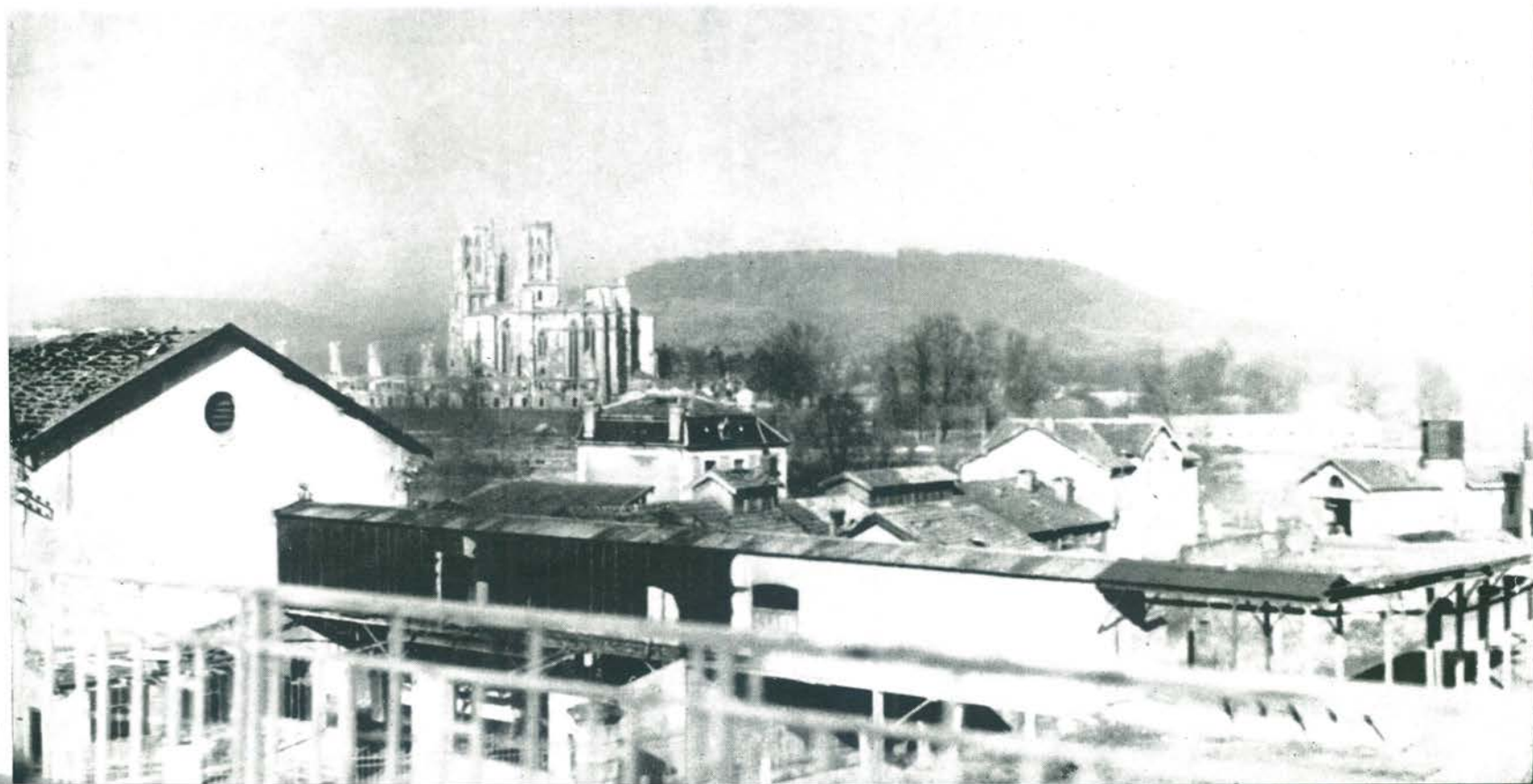




The result of the glorious war for the Germans was no longer the drinking of the finest wines and champagnes of France; the little man under his heel trembled no longer, for he was



now the big man in spite of the condition in which his country and homeland was left to be rebuilt.





THE FARMER'S FIELDS WERE RUINED BY THE SHELLS AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT OF WAR WHICH ROLLED OVER THEM CONSTANTLY





BUT HE KNEW THAT SOON, SOMEDAY, HE WOULD REBUILD, AND REBUILD WITH THE CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE THAT THE GERMAN WAS BEATEN







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



And the cost of the war is not being figured in francs, or in centimes, or any other kind of money, but in lives and suffering humanity, in groups who will starve for years before they shall ever be able to enjoy even the necessities. Were it not for the meager scraps of food that they have scraped from army rations, many would be dead now.





The children must live a life the course the war has left to them in reconstruction, poverty and famine. Theirs will be a task to rebuild the work of centuries which evil men of the world tore down in short years.

