

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

UNCLASSIFIED

1 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

Along Adriatic coast, 8th Army troops continue to make firm advance in effort to widen breach through Gothic line.

II Polish Corps On Adriatic flank, stubborn fighting continues in Pesaro between elements of German 1st Parachute Div and Cavalry force; later at night enemy begins withdrawal from town. Farther inland, advance units of 5th Kresowa Div are established in area NW of Bruciate, midway between Pesaro and Tomba di Pesaro. First Para Div opposes elements of II Pol Corps and R flank of I Cdn Corps.

I Canadian Corps Canadian forces make determined effort to take Tomba di Pesaro, about 8 mi. W of Pesaro and E key point of 3 Gothic prepared positions which run SW from Tomba through Montegridolfo to Montecalvo. Second Brig of 1st Cdn Div, supported by tanks, secures Pozzo Alto (2 mi. NW of Pozzo Basso) against heavy resistance and advances to Pt. 119 (NE of Pozzo Alto). During early hours, units of 5th Cdn Armd Div capture and hold Pt. 204 to NW against several enemy counterattacks; later troops of Div take Monte Morrone to SW and continue thrust toward Tomba under heavy shell fire. Opposing L flank of I Cdn Corps and R flank of 46th Div, 26th Panzer Div holds German line from Tomba SW to Montegridolfo, while German 71st and elements of 98th Divs oppose 56th and 4th Indian Divs from Montegridolfo SW to Montecalvo. German R flank guarded by 278th Div and units of Italian Monte Rosa Div.

V Corps British and Indian troops make gains of 1-2 mi. against bitter opposition; on R flank, units of 46th Div advance to crossroads just NE of Montegridolfo; other elements of Div capture Montegridolfo and Mondaine to W and continue mopping up in these areas; to W, Monte Cappelle falls to 169th Brig, 56th Div, which moves into line on L of 139th Brig.

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

O 1
Cont

Montecalvo, western key ridge in Gothic line defense, is secured by 5th Ind Brig, 4th Ind Div, which then pushes NW toward Tavoleto, 2½ mi. NE of Auditoro. Meanwhile 7th Ind Brig of 4th Ind Div mops up pockets of resistance N of Urbino and reports patrols at S. Barbara, SW of Montecalvo.

X Corps Twenty-fifth Brig, 10th Ind Div, maintains positions at Pts. 738 and 837 about 2-3 mi. SW of Pieve San Stefano on upper Tiber R. Reports indicate enemy still holds la Verna, high point N of Chiusi between Tiber and Arno rivers. On L flank, 20th Ind Brig has patrols as far as Poppi on Route 70, NW of Bibbiena.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps British and Indian troops continue to expand ground held N of Arno., pushing enemy back to line of prepared strongholds including Mts. Giovi, Calvana, and Senario. On R flank in area E of Florence, 6th British Armd Div consolidates positions along Route 70 and sends patrols to probe enemy defenses in Sieve Valley along Route 67; in center, in high ground area NE of Florence, 8th Ind Div troops advance 1 mi. beyond S. Brigida (about 6 mi. NE of Fiesole); on L flank, fanning out from Florence, elements of 1st Br Div capture le Caldine and Sesto, 4 mi. NE and NW of city, respectively, and resume advance, R flank units moving to within 1 mi. of Vetta le Croci, N of Fiesole on Route 652L (Florence-Borgo S. Lorenzo road). First Br Div is assigned to screen R flank of II Corps.

II Corps Units of CT 442 (Japanese-American), attached to 88th Div, conduct aggressive probing of enemy positions across Arno R. 2 mi. W of Florence. The main burden of assault in the Fifth Army's Sept offensive to pierce the Gothic Line is to be borne by II Corps, advancing along the axis of the Florence-Bologna highway. First 10 days of month are spent in regrouping and coordinating for the attack.

~~SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1
Cont

IV Corps At 1000, IV Corps troops commence attack across Arno R. except in area W of Pisa. Corps front, extending approximately 50 mi. westward along Arno from point 5 mi. W of outskirts of Florence to mouth of river, is held by 6th South African Armd Div on R, 1st Armd Div in center, and Task Force 45 on L; German troops opposing this line are the 362d, 65th, and 16th SS Divs. Sixth SA Armd Div, attacking with 12th SA Mtzd on R and 24th Guards Brig on L, establishes bridgeheads on both sides of Montelupo and in area 2½ mi. W of Empoli; 12th SA Mtzd is directed against Monte Albano, N of Empoli. In 1st Armd Div sector in area SW of Fucecchio, CCB (R) gains N bank of river between San Croce and Castelfranco and, after advance of 2 mi., is held up by demolitions and blown bridges; with task of taking Monte Pisano, dominating hill mass E of Pisa, CCA (L) moves 1st and 2d Bns (370th Regt) across river E of Monte Pisano, while 3d Bn crosses to W against sporadic sniper fire. TF 45, advancing with 107th Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA) Group on R and 2d Armd Group on L, makes some progress in coastal area; on R flank, 100th Bn (Japanese-American), supported by tanks, crosses Arno at its northernmost bend E of Pisa against scattered opposition; remainder of TF moves up to occupy all ground S of river to sea.

In close support of ground forces, total of 599 fighters and fighter bombers hits roads, bridges, guns, and enemy positions in battle area with main attack in Adriatic sector; numerous transport destroyed and damaged. Thirty-eight A-20s and A-30s make night attack on targets in and N of battle area with good results on Pistoia and RR yards at Ravenna; fires started in barracks near Castiglione (N of Florence, on Route 6620) and among harbor installations at Rimini; 14 additional A-20s hit pontoon bridge over Po R. Guns W of Pesaro successfully hit by 138 B-26s and A-30s. In NE Italy, 26 B-24s escorted by 26 P-38s ineffectively drop 62.5 tons of bombs on Boara Pisani road bridge; to SE, 2 Wellingtons bomb Lussinpiccolo on Lussino I. in N Adriatic. Twenty-eight fighters and 5 bombers attack communications and transportation in NW Italy including shipping in Gulf of Genoa and at Imperia. During night 72 heavy bombers drop 160 tons on Bologna air yards, scoring hits on yards and warehouse areas.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIEDSection IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATERSept
1944

Two British DDs bombard military targets in vicinity of Cattolica, NW of Pesaro on coast. AM is sunk by mine at Civitavecchio, NW of Rome.

Yugoslavia:

Throughout Yugoslavia air and ground forces concentrate on enemy communications. In Croatia, Partisans continue day and night attacks on RRs and RR bridges in Zagreb-Karlovac-Ogulin and Sunja-Sisak areas and harass Sarajevo-Konjic line to SE. In Montenegro, Partisan troops have recaptured Berane, Andrijevica, Matesevo, Kojkovac, Kolasin, and Savnik and have gained control of roads between these places. Partisans reoccupy Debar on Albanian border.

In close support of ground forces, fighters and fighter bombers effectively attack roads, bridges, communications, and shipping targets in Yugoslavia and Albania. Bridges at Zenica, Bosnia, and Kostajnica, Croatia, are objectives for 15 Venturas and A-30s. Two Wellingtons bomb Kraljevica on coast about 8 mi. SE of Fiume. Fifteenth AF hammers targets in Serbia and Vojvodina: 169 B-17s and B-24s drop 478 tons of bombs on RR bridges at Mezgraja, Mitrovica, and Kraljevo with good results; Novi Sad RR center is hit with 42.5 tons with fair results; Nis airfield is target for 55 B-17s which successfully drop 115 tons.

Greece and Aegean:

Reports indicate a large-scale withdrawal of German troops from the Peloponnesus, Ionian Is., and areas of the Aegean.

Five Wellingtons sink small vessel and damage several in Ionian Sea. Operating in Cyclades islands, 2 Wellingtons and 3 Beaufighters hit 2 vessels SW of Thera I. and attack another in harbor at Milos I. Farther E, single Beaufighter strikes military targets on Leros I., while 4 Wellingtons bomb shipping in Portolago Bay on same island.

2 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

UNCLASSIFIED

II Polish Corps Polish troops gain 2-3 mi. in

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER2
Cont

Adriatic sector: Cav force takes Pesaro and advances NW; 2d and 1st Brigs, 3d Carp Div, occupy M. Della Badia and S. Anna, $3\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ mi. W of Pesaro, respectively; later units of Div capture Castel di Mezzo, 4 mi. E of Cattolica on coast, after stiff engagement; 95 prisoners taken, many casualties inflicted.

I Canadian Corps Canadian troops move forward on entire front. Units of 1st Cdn Div occupy Pieve (midway between Gradara and Tomba) and strike N to reach Route 16 7 mi. above Pesaro, thereby pinching out II Pol Corps and trapping many troops of 1st Para Div in pocket between Pol and Cdn units. Tomba, remaining stronghold of Gothic line, falls to 5th Cdn Armd Div; which later at night moves NW to take San Giovanni in Marignano, $2\frac{1}{2}$ mi. SW of Cattolica.

V Corps Troops of 138th Brig, 46th Div, advance quickly, reaching road junction S of S. Maria di Monte ($2\frac{1}{2}$ mi. SE of Marciano) while 139th Brig clears road junction W of Montegridolfo. To SW, 169th Brig of 56th Div reports enemy withdrawing. Right flank of 4th Ind Div engages enemy in stiff fight at road junction SW of Tavoleto; L flank presses attack toward Tavoleto, reaching outskirts of town later in day.

X Corps In mountainous area of San Angelo (on Route 73 about 13 mi. SW of Urbino), patrols of 9th Armd Brig, hampered by mines and demolitions, advance a few mi. to NE. W of Tiber R., advance units of 10th Ind Div contact enemy on general line reaching NW from position near S. Cassiano to La Verna to Pt. 882 in vicinity of Banzena (NE of Bibbiena).

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Against determined enemy opposition, Corps troops make slight gains: in area E of Florence, patrols of 6th Br Armd Div encounter enemy N of Consuma on Route 70; in 8th Ind Div sector, 17th Ind Brig occupies Galiga, approximately 1 mi. E of S. Brigida, while farther W, 19th

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

UNCLASSIFIEDSept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER2
Cont

Brig units advance under heavy shelling to area 1 mi. S of Mad di Sasso (mountain E of Vetta le Groci) and later in day launch unsuccessful attack on this feature; on extreme L flank, strong enemy action forces advance units of 1st Br Div to withdraw to Sesto where they contact units of 442d CT (88th Div).

II Corps CT 349 and CT 442, 88th Div, continue patrolling NW of Florence. Five mi. NW of Florence, the town of Sesto, where elements of 1st Br Div are contacted, is cleared of enemy, and the villages N of Route 66, from Florence up to and including Campi Bisenzio, 2½ mi. N of Arno R. and W of Sesto, are occupied.

IV Corps Troops continue Arno R. crossings throughout night and enlarge spearheads beyond river. Sixth SA Armd Div makes rapid strides: advance units of 12th SA Armd Brig (R) gain lower slopes of Monte Albano and are within 3 mi. of Carmignano, about 6½ mi. directly N of Montelupo; 24th Guards Brig (L), driving N between Monte Albano and Padule di Fucecchio, advance 7 mi. in area N and NW of Empoli, capturing Lamporecchio, Vinci, and Artimo. First Armd Div, aided by bridge just E of Pontedera, advances front 3-8 mi., securing numerous towns to N, including Castelvecchio, Galleno, Colambai, Cascine, Buti, and Bientina (all N of Pontedera); Div is now established along line running W from Padule di Fucecchio through Monte Pisano to San Giuliano (4 mi. N of Pisa), which is occupied by 3d Bn of 370th Regt as it moves NW toward Serchio R. Pisa falls to 435th Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA) Bn which reports town clear at 1640 and moves N, leaving control of town to 434th AAA Bn; W of Pisa, other units start crossing Arno in evening, but progress is slow because of terrain, enemy opposition, and minefields.

In attack on Gothic line positions, 132 B-26s and A-30s strike transportation and RR facilities, destroying 43 MT and damaging 16. Gun positions, strongpoints, and other military targets in battle area are well hit by total of

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

2 468 fighters and fighter bombers. In support of 5th Army,
Cont 32 P-47s score 14 hits on ammunition and fuel dumps, hit
road and RR bridges SE of Bologna, and bomb Montecchio and
Torriglia (NE of Genoa). Bombers concentrate on targets in
N Italy: 72 P-47s damage 3 pontoon bridges over Po R., hit
MV near Spezia, and attack Forli-Rimini, Faenza-Imola,
Faenza-Forli, and Bologna-Modena roads; medium bombers strike
3 RR bridges in central Po Valley; shipping in Gulf of Genoa
at Sestri Levante, Alassio, and Imperia is harassed by
medium and light bombers. During night, Ferrara RR yards
are targets for 72 heavy bombers which drop 229.5 tons with
good results. Same night 13 A-20s start fires in Genoa
harbor, at Portofino, and W of Novi Ligure (SE of Alessandria).

Yugoslavia:

Partisans resume operations against RR lines in N
area, cutting Brod-Vrpolje line in Slavonia in 16 places and
severely damaging Ljubljana-Trieste RR in Slovenia.

Total of 383 B-24s attacks RR bridges at Kraljevo
and Mitrovica, road bridge at Supovac, RR yards (N, S, and W)
at Nis, and RR center at Kraljevo; total of 971 tons of bombs
dropped with good results; both approaches to Cuprija road
bridge in Serbia are effectively cut by 27 P-38s which drop
13 tons; roads and RR targets in Nis-Belgrade area are
strafed by 169 fighter bombers which destroy 82 locomotives,
154 MT, 113 RR cars and damage 24 locomotives, 65 MT, and
113 cars. Supporting Partisan ground forces in Croatia, 15
Venturas score 10 hits on Karlovac RR bridge and nearby
barracks with good results, while 47 light and fighter
bombers hit Tarcin RR station and attack RR targets at
Sunja, 42 mi. SE of Zagreb.

Greece and Aegean:

Northward withdrawal of enemy continues. Samos I.
in E Aegean has been evacuated, as well as Skiathos, Gioura,
and Skyros Is. in N Sporades group and Psara I., just W of
Chios I.

During night 3 Wellingtons, attacking Leros I.,
again bomb Portolago Bay and targets in Lepida Cove.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

3 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY.

Gothic line from position N of Pesaro to point more than 20 mi. inland is completely in Eighth Army hands.

II Polish Corps Polish troops continue mopping up in area of Castel di Mezzo.

I Canadian Corps Canadian troops drive NW with Rimini as their next objective. Units of 1st Cdn Div report Cattolica clear as they push up Route 16 to within 8 mi. of Rimini, where they are slowed up by opposition from enemy holding ridge and road junction S of Riccione on coast. On L flank, 5th Cdn Armd Div secures bridgehead over Conca R. just W of S. Giovanni and advances NW under heavy arty fire to higher ground about 2 mi. SE of Coriano (6 mi. S of Rimini).

V Corps Substantial gains made along Corps front: after heavy fighting in mountainous terrain, Meleto and Saludecio (both NW of Montegridolfo) are captured by 128th and 139th Brigs of 46th Div, respectively; advance troops of 139th Brig then cross Conca R. in S Morciano area N of Saludecio. Heavy fighting continues in Tavoletto area to S. Despite determined enemy resistance, 11th Brig assumes command of 5th Brig sector. Auditore, about 3 mi. W of Montecalvo, is occupied by 7th Brig of 4th Ind Div.

X Corps Patrols are active throughout Corps sector.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Severe storm hampers advance. British 6th Armd Div patrols remain active with little change in forward positions: enemy mortar fire reported in area 1 mi. S of Scopeti, N of Rufina on Route 67. Enemy unsuccessfully attempts to infiltrate 1st Br Div positions.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER3
Cont

II Corps Elements of CT 349, 88th Div, and the 91st Rcn Sq, attached, continue aggressive probing N of Arno R. Sesto receives enemy shells, but general resistance is very light, as enemy is withdrawing to the N.

IV Corps Sixth SA Armd Div resumes advance throughout day despite enemy mines, demolitions, and arty fire; on R flank, units of 12th SA Mtzd Brig contact troops of II Corps near la Querce N of Signa on Route 66, while farther W, other elements gain Hill 614, crest of Monte Albano. In 1st Armd Div sector, units of CCB press forward, reaching outskirts of Altopascio on Autostrade, 8 mi. E of Lucca; Monte Pisano and high ground to N, including Vorno on NW slopes, are secured by troops of CCA; on extreme L flank, 3d Bn, 370th Regt, advancing under increased arty fire, is within mi. of Ripafratta, town at juncture of Autostrade and Route 12, 5 mi. SW of Lucca. R flank of TF 45 continues advance against slight resistance as 107th AAA Group (100th and 435th AAA Bns) pushes N to Serchio R.; elements of 2d Armd Group (39th and 47th LAA Regts) meet increasing enemy fire as they attack strongpoint at Cascine Nuove on N side of Arno R., 3½ mi. from sea.

Bridges and communications hit in N Italy: B-25s strike 5 road and RR bridges in upper Po Valley including objectives at Ronco Scrivia, Valenza, and Chivasso with excellent results; fighter bombers attack similar targets SW of Asti and at Alessandria and score hits on transport in Turin area, causing considerable damage to road and RR targets. In N Italy, total of 64 P-47s attacks ammunition dump E of Parma, hits bridges N of Mondovi (W of Genoa), at Chiarvare (SE of Genoa), and SE of Novi Ligure, and attacks RR yards at Turin and Parma, as well as Modena RR line. Single Wellington hits shipping in Gulf of Genoa. During night, 50 A-20s and A-30s and 4 fighters attack MT, roads, RRs, and shipping along NW coast with generally good results, while on NE coast they destroy 4 enemy planes and damage 1 near Rimini.

Yugoslavia:

Yugoslav reports claim Germans land 600-1,000 troops on Brac I., off Dalmatian coast, in effort to protect islands

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

and coastal ports. Also in coastal area, Partisan force, advancing from Dinaric Alps toward Gracac on Gospic-Knin road, meets heavy resistance N of town.

Fifteenth AF again strikes RR targets in N Yugoslavia: Belgrade/Sava and Belgrade/Pancevo RR bridges are successfully hit by 149 B-17s with 453 tons of bombs, severely damaging center span of Pancevo bridge and N approach to Sava bridge; Subotica RR yards are hit with 6 tons; RR and road centers along Belgrade-Nis-Skoplje and Nis-Kraljevo-Belgrade RRs are strafed by 75 P-51s with good results, as well as 2 airfields near Belgrade where 40 P-38s destroy 39 enemy planes on ground. Fifteen Venturas and A-30s continue to aid ground forces, attacking communications, bridges, and MT in N and central areas.

Albania:

Partisans hold Mat R. area on Adriatic; Burrel farther inland, and Peshkopi, N of Debar. Heavy fighting continues in Drin Valley area in N Albania.

Macchis attack barracks and MT in support of Partisan operations.

Greece and Aegean:

Germans continue to thin garrisons on S Peloponnesus and strengthen them in N Greece and along Bulgarian frontier.

Coastal Air Force (CAF) concentrates on targets in Ionian Is.: Wellingtons attack shipping at Cephalonia, sinking 2 caiques and 3 lighters, hit 2 AKs in Corfu channel and score probable hits on 3 others at Zante I. Operating in Sporades group and in area SW, 7 Wellingtons strike shipping at Portolago Bay, Leros I. and hit vessel N of Crete. Enemy plane damages Wellington off Crete.

4. Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

Heavy fighting takes place in Adriatic sector N of

Conea R.

The Polish Corps Polish troops begin moving into

reserve.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATERCo4
Cont

I Canadian Corps Enemy fiercely defends positions on line extending SW from Riccione on coast through Coriano where severe fighting for possession of Coriano ridge is in progress. During early hours, elements of 5th Cdn Armd Div capture Misano, 2½ mi. E of Coriano, and M. Callera, just to W, under heavy fire and drive off strong enemy counterattacks in these areas.

V Corps Despite heavy resistance, British and Indian troops make 2-mi. gains all along front. Elements of 138th Brig, 46th Div, fight bitterly to take S. Clemente (2½ mi. SE of Coriano) and ground to N, while 128th Brig crosses Conca R. in area W of Morciano after stiff fight; 139th Brig reaches Cevolabbate (1 mi. SW of S. Clemente) against some opposition. Meanwhile, troops of 169th Brig, 56th Div, reach M. Maggiore and advance to Montefiore town, 3 mi. NW of Saludecio; later, 167th Brig passes through 169th Brig and occupies M. Maggiore. On L flank of Corps, 11th Brig, 4th Ind Div, secures Tavoleto and advances NW toward objective, Pian di Castello; Indian units of 7th Brig continue NW from Auditore.

X Corps Some enemy shelling occurs on R flank in 9th Armd Brig sector. Tenth Ind Div improves positions and continues patrolling.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Patrols of 6th Br Armd Div meet heavy opposition, increased shelling, and arty fire along entire front. To L of British troops, 8th Ind Div encounters active resistance and arty fire from S slopes of M. Giovi westward for about 5 mi. to points N and NW of Fiesole. First Br Div gains approximately 1 mi. in area N of Florence.

II Corps CT 442, 88th Div, is shelled with heavy arty in assembly area SW of Florence during evening. Ninety-first Rcn Sq probes N of Campi Bisenzio and reports considerable demolitions on roads. Screened by Br troops, 91st Div begins to move E

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIEDSept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER4
Cont

below Florence to take over area formerly held by 8th Ind Div, and 34th Div starts movement to S of Florence in preparation for crossing the Arno. N of the river, the Germans are carrying out a general withdrawal to prepared positions in the Gothic Line.

IV Corps Steady advance continues along 6th SA Armd Div front: troops of 12th SA Mtzd Brig are on outskirts of Carmignano; elements of 24th Guards Brig advance to Lazaarèto and Castelletto, 5 and 8 mi. NW of Empoli, respectively, and have patrols as far N as Monsummano. First Armd Div gains average of 2 mi. on wide front between Altopascio and Lucca; during morning, units of CCB are frustrated by stiff resistance from German rear guard as they attempt to enter Altopascio, but later in afternoon are able to occupy town and capture some ground N and W; units of CCA clear enemy from S edge of Autostrade from Altopascio westward to point just S of Lucca; at 1545, 2d Bn, 370th Regt, launches attack on Lucca, progressing slowly to S and W gates of city because of intense arty fire from enemy troops. Farther W, patrols of 100th Bn (TF 45) gain N bank of Serchio R. but are unable to hold positions because of enemy fire; on extreme L flank, elements of 39th LAA Regt, moving N to clear enemy from coastal area, gain about 2 mi.

Tactical targets in battle area are hit by 541 fighters and fighter bombers which cut RR lines in many places and severely damage transportation. Gun positions and fortifications SW of Rimini are successfully hit by 119 A-30s and B-26s.

Submarine base in Genoa harbor is pounded by 165 B-17s escorted by 21 fighters which unload 491 tons of bombs with exceptionally good results; total losses include 5 SSs, 3 DEs, 1 DD, and 1 TB, as well as severe damage to main quay, oil stores, dry docks, bridge, repair yards, ships, and 2 F-boats. In NE Italy, 298 B-24s hammer RR yards and bridges with 818.4 tons; objectives hit include S RR yards at Bronzolo, N yards at Trento, viaduct at Avisio, Tagliamento/Casara and Adige/Ora RR bridges, RR bridge in vicinity of Latisana, and road bridge 3 mi. S of Adige/Ora bridge; Bronzolo N yards ineffectively hit by 26 B-38s which drop 11.25 tons.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

Approximately 385 B-25s and B-26s score direct hits on 16 RR and road bridges along Po Valley in N Italy with excellent results, hitting bridges at Pontevico, Pavia, Canneto, Mantova, Sesto Calende, San Benedetto, Magento, Alessandria, Vigevano, Molare, Novara, Alba, as well as several others. Ammunition dumps SW of Piacenza and N of Modena and factories N of Spezia are attacked by 12 A-20s and 40 P-47s with excellent results. Fighters of CAF destroy enemy plane and damage hangars at Bergamo and harass shipping at Sestri Levante, damaging schooner and MV. During night, 65 Wellingtons, B-24s, and Halifaxes drop 233 tons on RR yards at Ravenna, causing large explosion and fires. Same night 44 A-20s and A-30s attack communications in Po Valley and NW coast, hitting bridge over Po R. at Casale (E of Turin); 7 Beaufighters destroy 2 enemy planes and damage another in Rimini area.

Aiding 8th Army's advance toward Rimini, British DDs successfully bombard military objectives in that area.

Yugoslavia:

Again enemy communications heavily attacked throughout Yugoslavia: in Croatia, Partisans continue active against Karlovac-Ogulin, Zagreb-Sisak, and Sunja-Kostajnica RRs; in effort to hinder German withdrawal, they successfully cut Zagreb-Belgrade, Belgrade-Salonika, and Skoplje-Veles RR lines.

Balkan AF hampered by weather. Seven Hurricanes escorted by 4 Spitfires attack shipping at Milna on Dalmatian coast and damage suspected enemy hq at Preko.

Aegean:

During night small British landing force successfully infiltrates Crete.

Seven Beaufighters score probable hits on 2 vessels 10 mi. SW of Paros I. in Cyclades group.

5 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

I Canadian Corps No further progress made toward Rimini; from sea to Cortiano, enemy is reported withdrawing to N bank of Marano R. First Brig,

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

5
Cont

1st Cdn Div, advances to within 1 mi. of river against slight opposition. On L flank, 11th Brig, 5th Cdn Armd Div, captures Besanigo, 2 mi. NE of Coriano, after determined fight.

V Corps Enemy (29th Pz Div) makes determined effort to hold Coriano, key strongpoint in German positions, and ridges S of Marano R. First Br Armd Div passes through 46th Div in vicinity of S. Clemente and during morning launches attack NW toward Coriano with 2d Brig on R flank; bitter opposition in Coriano hampers further advance, although later in day Br tanks are reported in E outskirts of town; few mi. S, L flank engages troops of German 98th Inf Div in stiff fight near San Savino, capturing 60 prisoners. Units of 167th Brig, 56th Div, contact enemy holding Croce, 1 mi. S of San Savino; other units cross Conca R. 2 mi. SW of Croce. La Gerone, E of Pian di Castello, falls to 11th Brig of 4th Ind Div; meanwhile fighting patrols of 7th Brig meet heavy resistance at Poggio San Giovanni, about 2 mi. W of Tavoleto, and are unable to reach objective.

X Corps Enemy makes local withdrawals in sectors of upper Tiber Valley. Tenth Ind Div units, advancing E from Pieve San Stefano, make gains to within 4 mi. of Badia Tedalda; W of Tiber, M. Faggiolo (8 mi. E of Bibbiena) is occupied without opposition, while forward patrols reach M. Modina and la Verna in high area N of Chiusi.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY:

XIII Corps Active patrolling and enemy shelling continues throughout Corps sector.

II Corps Patrols of 88th Div engage in fire fights with enemy SE of Prato, 9 mi. NW of Florence. CT 362 and CT 363, 91st Div, and elements of 34th Div move unhindered across the Arno from below Florence during night of 5/6.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept.
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER5
Cont

IV Corps On R flank of 6th SA Armd Div, 12th SA Mtzd Brig advances to line extending from Route 66 westward to Tizzana and hence along E slopes of Monte Albano; L flank (24th Guards Brig) secures part of Monte Albano, occupies Monsummano to W, and, directed against Pistoia, is within 5 mi. of objective. First Armd Div maintains defensive positions and improves line along Autostrade; in late afternoon, units of 2d Bn, 370th Regt, occupy Lucca without opposition; Ripafratta, to SW, is shelled by enemy. German troops of 16th SS Div frustrate TF 45's attempt to cross Serchio R.

Communication and military support targets in battle area are well hit by total of 439 fighters and fighter bombers; 3 road bridge spans destroyed; direct hits occur on other bridges, gun positions, dumps, munition factory, and MT workshops. Defense positions S of Rimini and RR objectives are attacked by 111 B-26s and A-30s with good results; 13 enemy planes damaged on ground.

RR bridge at Ferrara is target for 99 B-24s which drop 272 tons of bombs with fair results. Fourteen RR and road bridges from Po estuary to Lake Maggiore are attacked by 234 B-25s and B-26s with direct hits on 6 targets and good concentrations on remainder. Force of 105 P-47s effectively strikes RR center SE of Pontremoli (47 mi. E of Genoa), hits span of Po R. RR bridge, cuts 3 RR lines, scores 6 hits on roads, and destroys other RR targets and 26 MT. Thirty-five A-20s and A-30s make night attack on convoy in Savona area, Milan RR center, harbor at Sestri Levante and MT near by and hit enemy defenses, MT, and ammunition dump in Faenza-Forli-Rimini areas; all targets well hit. Same night, 62 heavy bombers again strike RR yards at Ferrara with 209 tons of bombs well concentrated in target area. In day and night attacks, coastal planes harass shipping in NW Italy off Portofino, Sestri Levante, Albenga, Alessio, Spezia, and Genoa; direct hits scored on large MV in Gulf of Genoa, as well as E-boats and barges; violent explosion on land occurs near Imperia.

British DDs (HMS Undine and HMS Urchin) continue bombardment of gun positions in Rimini area, scoring hits and silencing batteries.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIEDSept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATERYugoslavia:

Important RR lines again attacked in night operations. In W Bosnia, reports claim Partisans capture Drvar, while in central area, other units gain Doboj, Tuzla, Brko, and Samac (along N border of Bosnia).

Village of Pozega and RR targets at Batrina (both towns in Slavonia) and bridge at Konjic, 25 mi. SW of Sarajevo, are hit by 13 fighter bombers.

Albania:

In NE Albania, Partisans and guerillas carry out joint attacks on German convoy on Kukes-Prizren road, killing 70 Germans and destroying 10 MT.

Twenty-one Macchis, patrolling enemy escape routes from Albania to Macedonia, bomb convoy, destroying 8 MT, damaging 4, and killing personnel.

Greece and Aegean:

Six Wellingtons, operating off W coast of Greece, attack harbor installations at Argostolion, Cephalonia, and at Zante I.

Germans continue evacuation of Rhodes; 2,800 Nazis reported to have left in last 2 days.

6 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

Troops continue to meet bitter enemy resistance on Adriatic flank.

I Canadian Corps Along coastal sector, 1st Brig of 1st Cdn Div reaches Marano R. NW of Riccione; inland, forward units of 5th Cdn Div are within 1 mi. of river at point 3 mi. from coast meeting stiff opposition. Enemy shelling occurs during early hours.

V Corps Fierce fighting occurs on whole Corps front; enemy still holds Coriano and ridges S to San Savino in strength. Units of 1st Armd Div are heavily

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER6
Cont

shelled as they unsuccessfully attempt to flank Coriano; over 200 enemy prisoners are taken in determined enemy counterattack. Fifty-sixth Div troops reported firmly established at M. Croce, although heavy fighting continues in this area. To S, 11th Brig of 4th Ind Div secures bridgehead across Ventana R. in Pian di Castello area; other Indian elements pushing toward Poggio San Giovanni are within mi. of objective.

X Corps On R flank, 9th Armd Brig reports all bridges over Foglia R. at Sestino, 7 mi. NW of San Angelo, blown. In ground between upper Arno and upper Tiber Valleys, 25th Brig, 10th Ind Div captures M. Modino after sharp engagement and also occupies La Verna; 20th Ind Brig patrols engage enemy just W of Route 71, NE of Poppi.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps On R flank in 6th Br Armd Div zone, activity is limited to patrolling and arty fire. Directed against M. Giovi, 8 mi. N of Pontassieve, 17th Brig of 8th Ind Div, encounters enemy approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ mi. N of Tigliano; throughout morning 19th Brig is reported under enemy MG and mortar fire. Command of 1st Br Div sector passes temporarily to II Corps at 0001.

II Corps Corps assumes command of entire attack zone, which extends N from the Arno in a belt stretching from 5 to 10 mi. on either side of the Florence-Bologna highway, and within which the British continue to advance N of Florence—at the same time screening concentration of 91st and 34th Divs. Corps arty moves into positions N of Arno R. Patrols of 1st Br and 8th Ind Divs, under 91st Div control, maintain contact with enemy between Sesto and Prato and N of Florence. Portion of 88th Div zone lying E of line running from vicinity of S. Paoli a M., 5 mi. SW of Florence, to Quaracchi, on W outskirts of Florence, and Prato, 9 mi. NW of Florence, is transferred to 34th Div. In W portion of zone, elements of 349th Regt are relieved by the 6th SA Armd Div. Patrols of 91st Ren Sq, now

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

6
Cont

attached to 34th Div, reach Prato with enemy contact. CCT 442 is detached from 88th Div and II Corps, reverting to Fifth Army control.

IV Corps On R flank, IV Corps boundary is shifted about $3\frac{1}{2}$ mi. E and 74th LAA Regt takes over portion of 88th Div sector S of Autostrade. In 1st Armd Div sector, 11th and 14th Bns are relieved by 81st Rcn Sq and 6th Armd Bn, respectively; 81st Rcn Sq takes Chiesina Uzzanese, NE of Altopascio, while 6th Armd Bn moves in face of considerable opposition to Montecarlo and Pocari, both in area NW of Altopascio; farther W in vicinity of Lucca, 370th Regt advances L flank to position paralleling Serchio R. During night 434th AAA Bn relieves 100th Bn on R flank of TF45.

In support of ground forces, fighters and fighter bombers fly 322 sorties between battle front and Po Valley, scoring direct hits on guns and several RR bridges near Rimini and bridge S of Modena; village of Marosca (35 mi. E of Massa) also damaged. Adverse weather grounds medium bomber operations. In N Adriatic, 5 Wellingtons bomb harbor installations at Porto Garibaldi, Porto Corsini, and Ravenna. During night, N RR yards at Bologna are targets for 48 B-24s which drop 176 tons of bombs with good results.

HMS Undine and HMS Aphis again successfully shell batteries and anti-tank guns in Rimini area. At night Coastal Forces encounter enemy mine-laying forces and damage 1 enemy AM.

Yugoslavia:

Heavy fighting continues in Serbia; Partisans secure Svrlijig, Kraljevo Selo, and Kujazevac along Bulgarian border and resume fight for Zajecar. Russian forces reach Yugoslav border at Turnu-Severin on Danube.

Total of 312 B-24s drops 752 tons of bombs on tank and troop concentrations at Leskovac, Sava RR bridge at Belgrade and RR center to SE, and RR yards at Novi Sad; all targets hit with good to excellent results. Balkan AF again attacks enemy targets in support of ground troops: 15 light bombers score direct hits on Konjic bridge, Hercegovina; 44 bombers hit enemy hq at Preko, bridge at Zenica, Bosnia, and RR objectives in SE Yugoslavia; troop train and 3 enemy

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

planes at Osijek, Slavonia, also destroyed in these operations.

Albania:

In cooperation with Partisan forces, 30 Macchis attack MT in S Albania and along Greek border.

Greece and Aegean:

Reports indicate Kalamata on S Peloponnesus completely evacuated by enemy.

Twelve Beaufighters strike convoy (AK and 2 escort vessels) W of Chios I. and damage enemy plane. Maleme airfield in Crete is bombed in day and night raids by Wellingtons.

7 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

Extremely bad weather hinders operations.

I Canadian Corps Canadian troops report little change in forward positions in Adriatic sector.

V Corps Enemy resistance (elements of 98th Div plus armd support) still strong at Coriano and San Savino. Fifty-sixth Div fights stubbornly throughout day in Croce area and high ground to S: attacking at 0300, 168th Brig gains and holds Pt. 151 and Pt. 155 in face of heavy resistance, while 167th Brig battles for Croce and Gemmano feature. Seventh Ind Brig, 4th Ind Div, crosses Veneta R. and is mopping up in Pian di Castello area.

X Corps Right flank progresses through difficult mountainous country; 9th Armd Brig troops, pushing N of San Angelo, reach outskirts of Cavoletto, 2 mi. NE of Lunano on main road leading to Monastero. Elements of 10th Ind Div, advancing E from Pieve San Stefano in area E of Tiber R., make gains of 1 mi. toward Badia Tedalda. Troops NE of Bibbiena continue advance in high ground 1 mi. N of Monte Modina.

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER7
Cont

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps During night 356th German Div begins withdrawal from M. Calvana (9 mi. NE of Florence), while to W, 4th Para Div evacuates M. Senario and M. Morello.

II Corps Continued rcn and preparations for attack are screened by 1st Br Div, temporarily under Corps command. In zone of 34th Div, elements of 1st Br Div continue advance and occupy M. Conca, 6 mi. due N of Florence. All elements of 88th Div N of Arno R. withdraw to assembly areas S of river. Enemy units blocking Corps advance include the 4th Para Div and 356th Inf Div.

IV Corps Enemy continues well-planned withdrawal in South African zone; 74th LAA Regt, covering R flank, moves to Campostina and San Pietro, 2 mi. S and 2 mi. W of Prato, respectively; elements of 12th SA Armd Brig advance N, occupying San Biagio and Quarrata (both in area N of Tizzana), as well as M. Fiore to SW. Little progress made in 1st Armd Div sector except in area N of Montecarlo and Forcari where 6th Armd Bn makes slight gain. Germans bitterly oppose attempts to cross Serchio R. Throughout day light, medium, and heavy arty falls on Pisa.

Adverse weather continues to hinder air operations. Twenty-five fighter bombers bomb road bridges, RR lines, and strongpoints SE of Rimini. Large tug near Trieste is strafed by single B-26.

HMS Loyal and HMS Scarab continue to maintain fire support for Allied troops, bombarding gun positions near Rimini; results unobserved because of low visibility. DDs and lighter craft sink 5 enemy explosive boats which attacked Allied shipping off Cape Ampeglio, 7 mi. from French border.

Yugoslavia:

Enemy forces attack N from Generalaski Stol (SW of Karlovac) into Slovenia. Partisans make little gains in Bosnia, losing Livno and Bugojno (both SW of Travnik); farther N they continue to harass main RR line between Derventa and

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

Doboj, causing severe damage. Despite fierce resistance from an estimated 4,000 Germans and collaborationist troops, Tito's forces capture Zajecar, 50 mi. S of Turnu-Severin; 300 enemy believed killed, 700 taken prisoner. In S Serbia, Partisans drive Germans from Kicevo, NW of Prilep, and take control of Debar-Kicevo-Gostivar sector. W of Nis, Partisan troops occupy Prokuplje and secure Prokuplje-Kursumlija RR. An unconfirmed report indicates Russians at Kladovo in NW Serbia near Turnu-Severin just inside border.

In support of ground forces, total of 71 fighters and fighter bombers damages 5 boats and other military targets on and near Hvar I., hits observation post on Uljan I., and attacks RR objectives in S Yugoslavia. RR installations at Konjic are targets for 6 A-30s. During night enemy E-boat is sunk in Hvar channel off Dalmatian coast.

Albania:

MT in S Albania attacked by 16 Macchis.

Greece and Aegean:

Germans continue withdrawal from Ionian Is.; British report 3,000 enemy have been evacuated from Crete.

At night Maleme airfield is again bombed by 3 Wellingtons.

8 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

Heavy rains continue to hamper operations and movement.

I Canadian Corps Canadian troops report active patrolling, little change in advance positions, and heavy enemy arty in forward area. Third Greek Mtn Brig comes under command of 1st Cdn Div.

V Corps Heavy fighting is in progress around San Savino where arm'd units of 1st Br Armd Div repulse several enemy counterattacks; enemy arty is increasing. Elements of 167th and 168th Brigs of 56th Div seize Croce and Menghino to SE and subsequently repel 2 strong German counterattacks.

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

8
Cont

N of Poggio San Giovanni, 11th Ind Brig gains some ground despite enemy strength; 7th Ind Brig overcomes opposition and mopping up in area of Pian di Castello continues.

X Corps Normal patrolling continues throughout day.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Torrential rains hinder operations along front. Advancing NE from Rufino, 6th Br Armd Div gains some ground and is within 3 mi. of Londa. During morning 17th Brig of 8th Ind Div seizes initial objective M. Giove without resistance, while farther W, M. Calvana falls to 19th Ind Brig.

II Corps In 91st Div sector, 1st Br Div seizes M. Szenario, Bivigliano, and Ferraglia, neighboring localities in an area about 3½ mi. NNE of Florence. In 34th Div sector, a few miles W of this area, 1st Br Div captures and clears M. Morello against very light opposition.

IV Corps South African patrols indicate extensive demolitions are being carried out by retreating Germans (362d Div); R flank (74th LAA Regt) advances to Capozzano about 1½ mi. W of Prato on Autostrade; farther W in area SW of Pistoia, advance units of 24th Guards Brig reach San Maria Spazzavento and Montecatini Val di Nievole, both along Autostrade, against light resistance. First Armd Div maintains contact with enemy by aggressive patrolling. Elements of TF 45 begin Serchio R. crossing; patrols of 435th AAA Bn occupy Vecchiano, while other troops are over the river in vicinity of Avane and Nodica, towns E and W of Vecchiano, respectively.

Sixty-six P-40s accurately attack gun positions and strongpoints in close support of ground troops; N of battle area, 74 fighters destroy 4 pontoon bridges across Po R., crater 2 road bridges at Rimini, and cut approaches to bridge near Imola; much RR equipment and numerous MT destroyed; 5 enemy planes damaged on ground near Udine. In NE Italy, 8 heavy fighters escorted by 9 P-51s score many hits on 51,000-ton liner, Rex, off Capodistria, S of Trieste, leaving

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

vessel awash and on fire. Harbor installations at Porto Garibaldi attacked by 6 Wellingtons.

Ships in Rimini harbor again shelled by British PGs (Scarab and Aphis); return fire generally accurate.

Yugoslavia:

Partisan forces make substantial gains in Bosnia: German column ambushed on Knin-Bihac road results in 128 enemy killed, 28 MT destroyed; farther inland in E Bosnia, troops mop up Zvornik and continue fighting in W Majevica area; Partisans claim control of Jajce, Donji Vokup, Bugojno on Vrbas R., Busovaca, Lasva, and Tesanj (all towns in central Bosnia). Boljevac, near Bulgarian border N of Nis, and area surrounding town fall to Partisans who also capture Pljevlja and retake Bijelo Polje (both in Montenegro).

Maintaining Allied offensive against enemy communication lines, force of 330 B-17s and B-24s hammer RR yards at Brod, Sarajevo, and Nis and RR bridges at Brod and Belgrade with total of 941.7 tons of bombs; results good except for 21.7 tons dropped on Sarajevo yards. Airfields at Ecka, Ilanasa, and Petrovgrad, all near Belgrade, are strafed by 77 P-51s which destroy or damage 82 enemy planes on ground.

Albania:

During night Partisan Brig attacks German barracks in center of Elbasan; heavy fighting continues in this area. Enemy evacuates Tropoje in N Albania near border.

Greece:

Six Wellingtons bomb Argostolion on Cephalonia I.

9 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

I Canadian Corps Patrols are active on coastal flank. Two strong enemy raids are repulsed during morning by 3d Greek Mtn Brig which takes over 3d Cdn Brig sector. Patrols of 5th Cdn Armd Div reach Besanigo R. S of Coriano, where they are halted by numerous tank obstacles. Some German air activity

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

9
Cont

occurs over Corps sector during night.

V Corps Germans offer fierce resistance along Coriano-Croce-Gemmano line. In 56th Div sector, 167th Brig is relieved by 168th Brig in vicinity of Croce where severe fighting is in progress, resulting in many casualties to both sides; after bitter struggle for possession of Borgo and Gemmano, elements of 169th Brig report both towns clear by 0800; fighting continues on Gemmano feature. Fourth Ind Div, attacking high ground NW of Pian di Castello, continues slight advance in face of enemy counterattacks, heavy fire, and generally stiff opposition. Heavy enemy shelling occurs at Cevolabbate, E of Croce.

X Corps Tenth Ind Div advances in high ground between upper Arno and Tiber Valleys in area N of Chiusi: Monte Castel Savino, 5 mi. NNW of Pieve San Stefano, is occupied without opposition by elements of 25th Ind Brig; other units N of Chitignano report town of Giona, approximately 5 mi. W of Monte Castel Savino, clear of enemy.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Patrols of 6th Br Armd Div continue active. Eighth Ind Div troops are holding M. Gievi-M. Calvana line against enemy which offers delaying tactics; other units, advancing N of Vetta le Croci, are 1 mi. N of Polcanto on Route 6521.

II Corps Ninety-first Div moves to attack assembly area NW of Casellina and E of M. Conca, about 6 mi. N of Florence. Thirty-fourth Div moves to attack assembly area N of M. Conca, commencing relief of 1st Br Div.

IV Corps In area S and SE of Pistoia, 12th SA Mtzd Brig of 6th SA Armd Div moves forward to Ferruccio-Pontassio line. First Armd Div continues patrol activity. In 45th sector, remaining elements of 18th and 23rd Divs gain far side of Serchio R., assuming positions to N.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

9
Cont Tactical targets in and N of battle area are hit by 50 fighters; road and RR bridges SE of Imola and Ferrara, warehouses at Villafranca (SW of Verona), and ammunition dump W of Parma among objectives hit; fighters and fighter bombers strike targets in Adriatic sector scoring hits on shipping, MT, guns, road and RR lines; 2,000-ton MV destroyed S of Trieste and 9 planes damaged on 3 airfields in coastal area; 1 plane destroyed in combat. Shipping at Sestri Levante is objective of Venturas and Wellingtons. Ammunition dump and MT in vicinity of Massa are bombed by 39 A-20s and A-30s in night attack. Also at night, 75 Wellingtons, B-24s, and Halifaxes effectively drop 236 tons of bombs on canal wharves at Ravenna, causing fires.

Direct hits obtained on ammunition dump, batteries, and road junction in Rimini area by HMS Urchin and HMS Aphis. French CL, Duguay-Trouin, engages enemy guns at Bordighera, between San Remo and Ventimiglia, while covering minesweeping activities.

Yugoslavia:

Prilep in S Serbia falls to Partisans.

Balkan AF flies offensive missions in aid of Partisan operations in Dalmatia; 35 A-30s, Venturas, and Beaufighters bomb oil tanks at Dubrovnik, attack gun positions and jetties at Biograd, and score hits on bridges, destroying 6 MT and damaging 14.

Albania:

Reports claim that Konispolis in S Albania on Greek border has been liberated by Partisan troops. In central Albania, troops, attacking along Elbasan-Struga road, ambush 2 troop carriers and capture village of Prenjes.

Greece and Aegean:

Two Wellingtons again attack Argostolion harbor. Operating in Cyclades group, 14 Beaufighters score hits on 3 small vessels S of Milos I. and destroy enemy plane.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIEDSept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER10 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

I Canadian Corps In Adriatic sector, Canadian troops carry out inter-bn reliefs despite heavy shelling.

V Corps Enemy pressure and shelling in Croce area slackens; elements of 56th Div drive back 2 counter-attacks. During morning 138th Brig, 46th Div, relieves 169th Brig of 56th Div on Gemmano feature and continues fight with heavy casualties to both sides. In high ground N of Pian di Castello, 4th Ind Div troops push N beyond Burano R.; patrols report enemy holding town of Onferno in considerable strength.

X Corps Along entire 10th Ind Div front, enemy forces have withdrawn to main Gothic line defenses; Indian units advancing N of Chiusi continue to make good progress and are now established in village of Monte Falucchio, 2½ mi. NW of Monte Castel Savino.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps British and Indian troops resume advance as enemy falls back from Sieve R. to prepared positions of Gothic line. On R flank in 6th Armd Div sector, 1st Guards Brig passes through 61st Brig and occupies Dicomano on Sieve R. preparatory to moving NE up Route 67. In central sector (8th Ind Div), 21st Brig reaches Barbiana and sends patrols N to probe enemy defenses on Sieve R. near Vicchio; lack of roads hamper advance of 19th and 21st Brigs in vicinity of M. Calvana and M. Giovi. First Br Div, relieved of screening II Corps, is shifted E to take over responsibility of Corps' L flank; elements of Div, attacking along axis of Route 6521, reach area 3 mi. S of Borgo

San Lorenzo

III Corps Corps launches attack at 0530 through Br elements. Comd of 1st Br Div reverts to XIII

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER10
Cont

Corps. Ninety-first and 34th Div spearheads driving N meet only delaying action; after elements of 363d Regt cut Route 65 near Tagliaferro, 10 mi. N of Florence, both 91st and 34th Divs are subjected to harassing arty and SA fire from enemy positions N of Sieve R. Although there are enemy mines along the banks and stream bed, troops of the 362d and 363d Regts successfully wade across W of S. Piero (S. Pietro) during night of 10/11. Enemy arty, SA, and mortar fire increase in Div Res area. Thirty-fourth Div Regts 133 and 168 advance to locality 15 mi. NNW of Florence at head of Sieve Valley against harassing arty and SP gunfire. Heavy arty fire falls along regtl front of 168th in afternoon and evening. German 356th Div believed withdrawing to reinforce Corps, leaving 4th Para Div with responsibility for both Futa and Firenzuola axes.

IV Corps Elements of 12th SA Mtzd Brig advance R flank of 6th SA Armd Div as far N as Montemurlo, about 5 mi. NW of Prato, and San Piero to SW; 24th Guards Brig continues contact with Germans in vicinity of Pistoia; by evening, 12th SA Mtzd Brig is relieved by 11th SA Armd Brig. First Armd Div makes steady progress, averaging 2-3 mi. on entire front: in CCB sector, Villabasilica, 8 mi. NE of Lucca, falls to 6th Armd Bn with no opposition; in CCA zone, elements of 370th Regt, advancing approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ mi. along E and W banks of Serchio R. against sporadic MG, and SA fire, are now within $2\frac{1}{2}$ mi. of Ponte a Moriano. On R flank in TF 45 sector, remainder of 434th and 435th AAA Bns cross Serchio R., former pushing to high ground N of river, while latter advances to Autostrade W of Vecchiano; on L flank, TF Lisle (special task force made up from 2d Armd Group) gains far bank of river at Vecchiano in attempt to cover river crossings of 39th and 47th LAA Regts; by 1800 troops reach Bufalina Canal, which runs from Lago di Massaciuccoli to sea, in spite of MG and SA fire.

Throughout day communications, enemy and gun positions in battle area are harassed by 501 fighters and fighter bombers; 18 MT, 10 locomotives, more than 128 RR

UNCLASSIFIEDSept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER10
Cont

cars, 1 plane destroyed, 14 locomotives, 2 MT, and 9 planes damaged. In support of 5th Army, 130 B-25s and B-26s and 59 P-47s effectively attack enemy strongpoints, factory, troop concentrations, and other military targets in Parma-Aulla-Reggio-Piacenza-Modena area. Forty-five light bombers make night attack on Faenza RR yards and factory W of Massa, causing 2 large explosions; fires also started among MT groups N of battle sector. Four bridges in Bologna-Mantova-Piacenza area well hit by 71 B-26s. Seventy-nine B-24s escorted by 73 fighters drop 178 tons of bombs on harbor of Trieste with good coverage on shipping and port installations. Wellingtons again bomb Porto Garibaldi and shipping at Sestri Levante and off W coast of Italy. During night, Milan/Lambrate RR yards are targets for 70 Wellingtons, B-24s, and Halifaxes which unload 138.2 tons with fair to good results.

Coastal craft, operating at night off Savona, sink F-lighter and other small craft. DDs and PGs continue bombardment of batteries and troop concentrations in Rimini area. At dawn, PTs encounter 2 enemy explosive boats and control boat off Ventimiglia; 1 explosive boat explodes, other is lost, as control boat is driven on beach. In support of minesweeping operations, DDs bombard targets in Ventimiglia area.

Yugoslavia:

See-saw fighting continues in main combat areas, especially in Serbia and S Yugoslavia.

In support of Partisan ground forces, 92 fighters and fighter bombers attack transportation in Yugoslavia and Albania; 15 MT and 2 enemy planes destroyed, 11 MT damaged, as well as considerable rolling stock.

Nine Venturas bomb jetty at Durazzo on coast.

Greece and Aegean:

Germans are evacuating Chios and Andros Is. off E coast of Greece. Five Wellingtons continue attacks on Argostolion harbor.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

11 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

I Canadian Corps Little progress made in Adriatic sector; considerable arty fire on both sides. Advance units of 1st Cdn Div contact enemy at San Lorenzo on Route 16.

V Corps Units of 1st Armd Div report shelling and arty exchanges throughout day. Enemy attempts to infiltrate positions of 168th Brig, 56th Div, prove fruitless. Elements of 138th Brig, 46th Div, are twice driven from Pt. 447, W of Gemmano; later in day, they regain position and are now holding it with tanks moving up to support. Twelfth Lancers come under command of V Corps to assume responsibility of Corps' L flank as far as Foglia R. In area W of Pian di Castello, 7th Ind Brig, 4th Ind Div, repulses enemy counterattack on Pt. 573.

X Corps On R flank, 9th Armd Brig patrols reach Foglia R. in vicinity of Mercatale (W of Sassocorvaro) where they draw fire from enemy position. Small advances continue to be made in mountainous area between upper Tiber and Arno Valleys.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Sixth Br Armd Div makes steady gains on R flank of Corps as units of 1st Guards Brig begin clearing Route 67 and hills to N; advance elements thrust NE 3 mi. beyond Dicomano to take Casaromana, reporting extensive mine and demolitions along road. Indian troops continue to enlarge bridgeheads over Sieve R. in Vicchio area as enemy resistance weakens. Farther up Sieve R., elements of 1st Br Div begin river crossing and send troops to far side of river in area E and S of Borgo S. Lorenzo.

II Corps Corps forces are now about halfway between Florence and Firenzuola, important road junction 30 mi. N. Ninety-first Div continues crossing Sieve R. and attacks NW toward Futa Pass

Sept
1944

11
Cont

Section IV. MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

UNCLASSIFIED

at 0500, 362d Regt meeting slight resistance and light enemy fire in gain of 2 mi.; elements of 363d Regt advance about 4 mi. NE, hindered only by mountainous terrain and minefields. The 168th Regt, 34th Div, continues advance to NE across Sieve R., clearing town of Barberino against MG, mortar, and SP fire. Eighty-fifth Div moves up to assembly area 10 mi. N of Florence in vicinity of Vaglia.

IV Corps In 6th SA Armd Div sector, 12th SA Mtzd Brig is again committed to line and Div, advancing with 3 Brigs abreast (11th on R, 12th in center, and 24th on L) gains average of 2 mi. all along front. On R flank, elements of 11th SA Armd Brig thrust NE into mountains W of Route 6620 (Prato-Castiglione road); in center, 12th SA Mtzd Brig gains objective, Pistoia, against no opposition, while farther W, Montecatini and Buggiano fall to 24th Guards Brig which continues advance into foothills to N. First Armd Div maintains positions but engages in extensive and aggressive patrolling. TF 45 resumes advance on both sides of Lago di Massaciuccoli: R flank (107th AAA Group) reaches general line in vicinity of Miniguilla with patrols forward; L flank (2d Armd Group) crosses Bufalina Canal at dawn under some arty fire and pushes on to take Torre del Lago; in effort to win Viareggio on seacoast, tank patrols reach S edge of town where they are halted by canal and demolitions.

Gun positions, close-support targets, and communications in battle area are well hit by 103 light and medium bombers and 447 fighters and fighter bombers; results include direct hits on buildings in Aulla area, 5 bridges and approach to another, supply dump, CP, MT, repair shop, and gun and enemy positions. In N Italy, 132 B-25s bomb 4 areas NE of Pistoia with fair to excellent results and hit RR bridge at Vigevano and RR bridge and approaches at Canneto. On armd rcn to Alessandria and Turin, 32 P-47s damage RR targets, MT, and 4 heavy guns, block tunnel, and hit shipping at Loano harbor in Gulf of Genoa. Airfield in Po Valley area strafed by 105 Spitfires which destroy enemy plane on ground and numerous MT and RR objectives. Four Wellingtons bomb Marina di Ravenna on Adriatic. Other Wellingtons and Venturas attack

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

shipping in Gulf of Genoa. Mosquitoes strafe MT on Mantova-Cremona road. During night, guns in Rimini area are hit with good results by 35 A-20s and A-30s.

British DD, Urchin, and PG, Scarab, continue successful bombardment in Rimini area, destroying gun positions and field batteries. Allied DDs again bombard Ventimiglia area in support of ground forces and minesweeping operations.

Yugoslavia:

Partisans announce that Mljet I. off Dalmatian coast is being evacuated by Germans. Farther S in Montenegro, enemy forces, attempting to hold route W from Serbia through Pec to Adriatic, resume attack and seize Berane and Matsevo and are now directed against Andrijevica. In Skoplje-Nis area, Nazis are forced to retreat as Partisans take Vranje, Bujanvce, and other towns between Skoplje and Nis. Tito's forces continue sabotage on Skoplje-Nis and Belgrade-Zagreb-Ljubljana RRs.

Balkan AF attacks targets in Dalmatia in support of ground troops: 6 A-30s bomb enemy garrison at Sinj; 12 Venturas hit small jetty at Supetar; 28 fighter and fighter bombers destroy 2 coastal defense guns and damage another at Primosten and strike small AK and schooner in Poveljana channel. Communications in Yugoslavia and Albania again objectives of 32 fighters.

Albania:

Continuing to harass German withdrawal, Partisans attack roads in S Valona area.

Greece and Aegean:

Reports indicate enemy is withdrawing from Rhodes and Crete.

During night 2 Wellingtons attack Maleme airfield at Crete, while 3 more strike Calato airfield at Rhodes.

12 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

I Canadian Corps Patrols active along whole front; enemy reported holding line at San Lorenzo in strength.

UNCLASSIFIED

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

Sept
1944

12
Cont

V Corps Fight for Coriano ridge continues. Regrouping and reliefs take place on Corps front: 2d Armd Brig, 1st Armd Div, assumes command of sector N of San Savino; S of San Savino to Conca R., 169th Brig relieves 168th Brig and assumes responsibility of sector; 139th Brig, 46th Div, takes over command of line from Conca R. to Gemmano. S of Gemmano, enemy is determinedly fighting to hold back 138th Brig. Indian troops continue to make slight gains in vicinity of Pian di Castello, as 5th Brig advances $1\frac{1}{2}$ mi. to N; enemy counterattack on Pt. 573, $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. W. of town, is repulsed.

X Corps Little change occurs in forward positions.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY:

XIII Corps Despite enemy demolitions and mines, troops make good progress and are in contact with Gothic line positions in area E and N of Vicchio: forward elements of 6th Br Armd Div advance $2\frac{1}{2}$ mi., reaching positions 4 mi. E of Vicchio; 8th Ind Div clears Vicchio and pushes 3 mi. beyond. In 1st Br Div sector N of Sieve R., units encounter enemy patrols and outposts.

II Corps At 0600, 91st Div begins offensive against immediate approaches to the Gothic Line. Increased SA, MG, and mortar fire is encountered, as well as extensive minefields; 362d Regt reaches vicinity of Mts. Altuzzo and Calvi, 6 mi. N of S. Piero, in slight advance; meeting SA and mortar fire, 363d Regt progresses $2\frac{1}{2}$ mi. over difficult terrain toward Monticelli, well fortified peak overlooking Corps objective of Il Giogo Pass, midway on highway between S. Piero and Firenzuola. Heavy enemy arty fire continues during night of 12/13 in Div Res area, with concentrations in vicinity of S. Piero bridge. Thirtieth Div continues advance N to about 3 mi. SE of Vernio, encountering minefields and increased resistance from pillboxes and well prepared positions. The 133d Regt is stopped before strong defenses of Torricella Hill, about 5 mi. S of M. Coroncina—Div's major objective, 5 mi. W of Futa Pass. Engineers work night and day

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

12
Cont

on road net for Corps drive from the Sieve R. to the Santerno R. through the main Gothic Line defenses.

IV Corps Despite increasing German arty fire and minefields, considerable progress is made along 6th SA Armd Div front as enemy falls back to prepared positions of Gothic Line: R flank elements of 11th SA Armd Brig secure Poggio di Tavello and Poggio di Becco, 3 mi. NE and 2 mi. N of Montemurlo, respectively, while L flank advances 2 mi. in area NW of Montale; meanwhile 12th SA Mtd Brig gains ground directly N of Pistoia and farther W, Marliana, 4 mi. N of Montecatini, falls to units of 24th Guards Brig. Little change occurs in forward lines of 1st Armd Div. Activity of coastal sector (TF 45) is limited to patrolling and consolidating with tank patrols again as far as Viareggio; considerable enemy arty falls in this sector.

Military targets in NW Italy and strongpoints near Firenzuola (25 mi. S of Bologna) are hammered by 109 P-47s and 323 B-25s and B-26s; direct hits occur on bridges at Piacenza, Alessandria, Pavia, and E of Parma; RR line cut near Tortona (E of Alessandria); RR installations and gun positions damaged. In central and E battle areas, close-support objectives are attacked by total of 46 medium, 12 light, and 435 fighters and fighter bombers with particularly good results to RR line near Russi (SW of Ravenna), bridge near Ferrara, and guns in Rimini sector. Total of 137 fighters patrols E battle area, damaging shipping and transportation. Eighty-four Wellingtons, B-24s, and Halifaxes drop 24 tons of bombs on RR yards at Bologna in night attack with good results; same night 42 light bombers hit gun positions near Rimini and communications SW of Bologna. In Gulf of Genoa, Wellingtons and Venturas strike shipping at Sestri Levante, Alassio, Spezia, and E of Savona and in Adriatic hit 2,000-ton MV and 2 other vessels E of Ravenna and wharf installations at Porto Garibaldi.

In Rimini area, Allied MGB blown up by mine. Bombardment of batteries in Rimini area continue with good results.

UNCLASSIFIEDSept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATERYugoslavia:

In NE Serbia near Bulgarian border, Partisans have occupied Pirot, Caribrod, and Babusnica. A Yugoslav communique announces Partisans effect juncture with Soviet forces near Danube R. in Turma-Severin area. Partisans, supported by air and naval forces, begin amphibious operations to drive enemy from islands off Dalmatian coast.

Cloud formation curtails air activities. Six Venturas bomb Makarska, Dalmatia, causing large explosion, while 4 P-51s strafe Pancevo airfield near Belgrade, damaging 4 enemy planes.

Albania:

During night German garrison at Bilshte on Korca-Florina road in SE is attacked by Yugoslav troops.

Greece and Aegean:

Beaufighters attack barracks at Edessa in N Greece and shipping N of Argostolion, Cephalonia. MVs, supported by DD, make night rcn of Kithira I. off S coast of Greece and find Germans have evacuated island. Zante I. also reported clear.

13 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

I Canadian and V Corps launch coordinated attack for key points in Coriano-San Savino ridge.

I Canadian Corps Despite mines, MG fire, and fierce opposition, 11th Brig of 5th Cdn Armd Div completes capture of Coriano ridge and surrounds Coriano itself where bitter fighting is in progress.

V Corps First Br Armd Div advances toward objective; 43d Ind Brig gains position approximately 1 mi. W of Coriano preparatory to Wadi R. crossing; 18th Brig attacks highground in Passano-San Savino area, capturing San Savino and taking many prisoners. In 56th Div sector, 169th Brig, with tank support,

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

13
Cont

captures Il Palazzo, S of San Savino, and clears ground to La Serra, just W of San Savino, against heavy resistance; other units of Brig are directed on San Marco to S. No further progress is made on 46th and 4th Ind Div fronts because of continuous strong pressure from enemy; reports indicate Onferno still held by enemy.

X Corps Patrolling continues with 20th Ind Brig troops in area NE of Bibbiena. Tenth Ind Brig assumes command of 25th Brig sector.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps British and Indian troops begin assault on Gothic positions. First Guards Brig (6th Br Armd Div) and 21st Ind Brig (8th Ind Div) establish line in mountainous terrain 4 and 5 mi. NE of Vicchio; 21st Brig commences attack on prepared positions on M. Veruca, 1 of 3 mountain strongholds guarding approaches to Femina Morta. On L of 21st Brig, 3d Brig of 1st Br Div advances astride Route 6521 to reach vicinity of Ronta (about 5 mi. NE of Borgo San Lorenzo) which is held in strength by enemy.

II Corps Approximately 6 mi. N of S. Piero, 91st Div makes very slight advance toward strongly defended Mts. Calvi, Monticelli, and Altuzzo against stiff resistance--pillboxes, barbed-wire entanglements, and minefields; enemy has excellent vantage points and prepared fields of fire. SE of Vernio, 34th Div advances N a slight distance against growing enemy opposition. Eighty-fifth Div is put in line on R of 91st to concentrate power of Corps against increased resistance now that Gothic Line has been reached, takes over new attack zone between 1st Br Div and 91st Div, and from just E of Scarperia continues attack N astride the Florence-Firenzuola highway, under heavy SA, MG, and mortar fire throughout the day.

IV Corps In mountains approximately 8 mi. N of Prato, units of 11th SA Armd Brig seize M. Acuto after heavy fighting and gain M. Pratocavolo about

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

13
Cont

4 mi. SW; N of Pistoia, on both sides of Route 66, 12th SA Mtzd Brig makes slight progress. General advance takes place along 1st Armd Div front in face of increased enemy arty: NE of Pescia, elements of UCB (on R) reach area 2 mi. beyond Massa e Cozzile, while farther W, they enter Pietrabuona; troops of CCA (on L) reach Apennine foothills on arc extending W from Sagromigno to Ponte a Moriano and thence to Ponte San Pietro, on Serchio R. about 3 mi. W of Lucca; at Ponte a Moriano, fierce opposition from German 42d Div halts units of 370th Regt, although later in day troops enter and occupy town; 1½ mi. W, patrols reach M. Catino. Sixth Combat Team, Brazilian Expeditionary Force, comes under command of Corps at 0001. Activity of TF 45 is limited to regrouping and patrolling.

Tactical targets in battle area are hit by total of 728 fighters and fighter bombers with excellent results. In N Italy, 28 P-47s damage roundhouse and ERs at Pontremoli RR yards, score hits on Chiari yards (W of Brescia), and destroy numerous RR installations. Total of 223 B-25s and B-26s concentrate on troop concentrations, gun and defense positions in Firenzuola area, and RR bridges at Peschiera (on Brescia-Verona line), Tortona, and Castelnuovo with generally good results. Guns at Rimini are again hit by 96 B-26s and 59 A-30s, while, in night attacks on battle targets, 42 light bombers bomb town, starting fires. Meanwhile in Bolzano area of N Italy, 109 B-24s unload 290 tons of bombs on Brenner Pass line, including Avisio viaduct and Ora and Mezzocorona RR bridges. Wellingtons continue attacks on Porto Garibaldi; additional Wellingtons and Venturas harass shipping in Gulf of Genoa with fair results.

During night, Allied coastal forces, attacking F-lighter convoy between Portofino and Spezia, are engaged by 2 enemy DDs; results include 1 DD left sinking and probable hits on F-lighter.

Yugoslavia:

Partisan troops continue attacks on Knin-Bihac road in Dalmatia, in Bosnia they occupy Petrovac. Eighteen medium and light bombers score hits on jetties at Ploca, Croatia, and other objectives at Tiranj, Dalmatia. Supporting Partisan ground forces, 38 fighters

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

and fighter bombers destroy 2 MT and probably 1 enemy plane and damage other communication targets in raids over Yugoslavia.

Albania:

Partisans attack all centers of German resistance in N Albania with considerable success and carry out nightly patrols into Tirana, Elbasan, and Kukas (E of Elbasan).

Greece and Aegean:

During night 92 Wellingtons, B-24s, and Halifaxes drop 194 tons of bombs on 3 enemy airfields near Athens (Eleusis, Kalamaki, and Tatoi) with fair to excellent results. Preveza on W shore of Greece is effectively bombed by Wellingtons. Five additional Wellingtons make night attack on Maleme and Heraklion airfields in Crete. Five Beaufighters damage enemy plane over Calato airfield on Rhodes.

14 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

Considerable advance made in Coriano-San Savino-Monte Colombo area.

I Canadian Corps In 1st Cdn Div sector, 3d Greek Mtn Brig attacks before dawn, reaching position S of San Lorenzo-in-Strada preparatory to crossing Marano R.; 3d Cdn Brig, with tank support, gains far side of river $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. farther inland under heavy shell and mortar fire; by nightfall these troops have established firm bridgehead across Marano R. which they hold despite number of heavy counterattacks. Troops of 5th Cdn Armd Div clear enemy from Coriano. Corps' L flank moves up as 12th Brig of 4th Br Div, after passing through 11th Cdn Brig, attacks against light opposition to reach position just SW of San Salvatore; later in day, German resistance increases and several enemy counterattacks are repulsed.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER14
Cont

V Corps Substantial gains made in high ground area between Coriano and Gemmano; Pt. 128, $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. SW of Coriano, is captured by elements of 1st Br Armd Div, while 18th Brig launches attack toward Vecciano on N bank of Marano R., meeting enemy within 2 mi. of objective; 167th Brig, 56th Div, moves through 169th Brig, reaching general line of road paralleling river S of Vecciano; in 46th Div sector, patrols of 139th Brig, directed on Monte Colombo, secure village of Il Poggio; Montescudo, W of Monte Colombo, falls to 128th Brig later at night. On extreme L flank, patrols of 4th Ind Div report meeting enemy in area N of Poggio San Giovanni, 2 mi. W of Tavoleto.

X Corps Active patrolling continues on Corps front.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps NW of Florence, Indian and British troops are meeting bitter opposition from Gothic line positions. Patrols of 1st Guards Brig of 6th Br Armd Div, operating astride Route 67, reach San Godenzo Pass, where they are halted by increasing arty and mortar fire as well as road conditions; later at night, enemy withdraws N to Monte Peschièna (N of San Godenzo). Twenty-first Ind Brig of 8th Ind Div secures M. Veruca and resumes advance as far as western approaches to Alpe di Vitigliano, 6 mi. NE of Vicchio; Gattaja to W is reported clear. Slight advance made in 1st Br Div sector; on R flank in area N of Vicchio, elements of Div thrust 2 mi. beyond S. Maria Vezzano; 66th Brig (L flank) attacks N with object of taking Prefetto Hill, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mi. S of M. Pratone.

II Corps No major changes of position in Corps sector. The 363d Regt, 91st Div, makes slight progress in assault on Monticelli peak. To the W, 361st Regt begins attack N at 0545 to outflank Futa Pass, moving up between Monticelli and M. Calvi. Because of difficult terrain, mules bring ammunition and supplies. Troops are under intensive MG, mortar, and arty fire from enemy's prepared positions on heights to the front and sides.

UNCLASSIFIED

209
UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

14
Cont

Eighty-fifth Div encounters very stiff opposition, with SA, MG, and mortar fire: 338th Regt attacks along S crest of M. Altuzzo but is unable to advance; to the E, 339th fails to make appreciable headway in attack on Hill 732, strongly fortified point on the Verruca mass; both Regts are under fire from neighboring slopes and are slowed by wire barriers and mines. E of Vernio, paralleling Prato-Bologna highway, 34th Div continues attacking N, supported by arty, against determined enemy resistance, encountering minefields, barbed wire, and crossed MG fire. Ninety-first Rcn Sq screens Corps' L flank with road patrol 10 mi. N of Prato.

IV Corps Against heavy opposition, troops of 6th SA Armd Div push slowly toward Gothic Line defenses on R flank, units of 11th SA Armd Brig gain high ground just N of M. Acuto and secure M. Cerreto to L; farther W in area N and NW of Pistoia, 12th SA Mtzd and 24th Guards Brigs make limited advance. First Armd Div reports no progress except N of Pescia, where elements of CCB (6th Armd Bn and 81st Rcn Sq) occupy positions in vicinity of M. Cupola; CCA maintains contact with TF 45 on L flank. Strong armd patrols of 435th AAA Bn encounters enemy in S outskirts of Viareggio, resulting in some enemy casualties.

Battle area hammered by Allied planes: enemy transportation, communication, and defended positions in Firenzuola sector attacked by 539 fighters and fighter bombers and 204 medium bombers with many direct hits; farther E, guns and strongpoints near Rimini and S of Cesena (NW of Rimini) are hit by 231 medium bombers with generally good results to RR installations, buildings, and roads. Total of 220 fighters and fighter bombers attacks communications in Milan-Genoa and Po Valley areas; RR bridge in Po valley damaged, as well as roads, MT, barges, and RR objectives. Five Wellingtons start fires among harbor installations at Porto Garibaldi; Venturas, Wellingtons, and B-26s bomb scattered concentration of barges and small shipping in Gulf of Genoa. Despite adverse weather, 4 light bombers attack transportation S of Modena during night.

Field battery near Rimini well covered by fire from British PG, Aphis. In night attack, RTs blow up F-lighter between Portofino and Spezia.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

Yugoslavia:

Pozega, in W. Slavonia NW of Brod, has been captured by Tito's troops.

Air operations hindered by weather. Three Venturas score hits on Omnis harbor, 12 mi. SE of Split. RR objectives in Belgrade-Nis area, Hq at Sillates, town of Omnis, mole at Trpanj (15 mi. N of Zara), and other shipping targets are hit by 39 fighter and fighter bombers. Coastal forces, operating among Dalmatian islands at night, sink enemy PT boat.

Albania:

Partisans resume attacks on enemy convoys and positions on roads between Tirana, Kavaja, and Elbasan; troops launch attack on Germans holding outskirts of Tirana.

Operating in support of ground troops, 20 Macchis hit enemy objectives in central Albania.

Greece and Aegean:

Five Wellingtons again bomb Preveza. Eleusis, Tatoi, and Kalamaki airfields are again targets for 84 B-24s and Wellingtons which drop 202.4 tons with good to excellent results. Three vessels in Paroikia harbor, Paros I., are damaged by 16 Beaufighters, while 5 Wellingtons continue attacks on Heraklion and Maleme airfields in Crete. During night 2 CCs and DD attack shipping N of Crete.

15 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

I Canadian Corps - Steady progress made in Adriatic sector as troops expand bridgehead S over Marano R.: on R flank, 3d Greek Mtn Brig, 1st Cdn Div, captures San Lorenzo in Strada against vigorous opposition and sends patrols about 1 mi. N with Rimini airfield as objective; 3d Cdn Brig secures San Lorenzo in Corr. (W of San Lorenzo in Strada) after stiff fight, capturing 60 prisoners, while units of 1st Cdn Brig, protecting L flank of 3d Cdn Brig, cross Marano R. S of Lorenzo in Corr.; in 4th Br Div sector, 12th Brig holds 2 bridgeheads over river

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

15
Cont

2 mi. NW of Coriano under enemy MG and mortar fire; later, in area 1 mi. W, 28th Brig passes through 12th Brig and advances to Bagli, 3½ mi. NW of Coriano. Fifth Cdn Armd Div goes into reserve.

V Corps On R flank, units of 18th Inf Brig, 1st Br Armd Div, after crossing Fornaci R. in area 2½ mi. SW of Coriano under heavy mortar and shell fire, continue toward objective across Marano R. Enemy forces withdrawal of 167th Brig, 56th Div, at Casiccio, 1½ mi. NW of Croce although later in day, troops are able to reoccupy town and send patrols to Marano R.; 168th Brig takes over L flank of Div from 169th Brig and is established at Croce and San Marco, both in area S of San Savino. Forty-sixth Div makes slow advance westward: forward elements of 128th Brig encounter enemy beyond Montescudo, while in area NW of Gemmano, 139th Brig occupies Monte Colombo and captures Taverna, approximately 1 mi. S, after stiff fight, continuing advance toward Gessa. In area W of Gemmano, Zollara and Pt. 204 fall to 11th Brig, 4th Ind Div, with little opposition.

X Corps No further progress made on Corps front.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Elements of 1st Guards Brig, 6th Br Armd Div, secure Corella, 5 mi. E of Vicchio, and are now pressing attack on M. Peschiena. Slight gains made in 8th Ind Div sector as elements direct effort toward Femina Morta feature: 17th Ind Brig moves up to attack M. Stelletto, 5 mi. NE of Vicchio under heavy MG and mortar fire, while to N, 21st Brig seizes Alpe di Vitigliano and pushes approximately 2 mi. beyond. In 1st Br Div sector, 3d Brig advances 1 mi. in mountainous terrain E of Route 6521; meanwhile, after beating off enemy counter-attack, 66th Brig gains initial objective, Prefetto Hill, but is unable to advance further because of enemy fire on its L flank.

II Corps Corps' assault on Gothic Line meets very heavy resistance including pillboxes, concrete

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

15
Cont

fortifications, barbed wire, minefields, ditches, and mutually supporting emplacements with interlocking bands of fire. The 91st Div makes only a slight advance; 363d Regt resists four counterattacks on Monticelli during night of 15/16. Eighty-fifth Div, attacking on 5-bn front, is counterattacked at close quarters and makes only slight gains to just S of M. Altuzzo in area 7 mi. NE of S. Piero; 337th Regt moves forward to follow up advance of 66th Inf Brig, 1st Br Div, toward M. Pratone, 2½ mi. NE of M. Altuzzo. Div operations in neutralizing pillboxes and strongpoints are supported by 752d Tk Bn and 805th TD Bn. Thirty-fourth Div makes some progress against determined resistance from hillside emplacements: 135th Regt makes gain to about 6 mi. SW of Futa Pass, taking M. Frassino after 3-day struggle. This height, N of Barberino and dominating the approaches to the main Gothic Line, a few thousand yards farther N, was defended by 10th Para Regt, 4th Para Div, the boundary between this Div and the 334th Gren Div lying directly N of it. The 133d Regt repulses heavy counterattack from W at 0830, after seizing a hill 2 mi. E of Vernio and the Prato-Bologna highway.

IV Corps German opposition bitter along South African front: in area approximately 9 mi. N of Prato, elements of 11th SA Armd Brig commence struggle for enemy strongpoints, M. Moscoso and Poggio Alto, NE and N of M. Acuto, respectively; to L, units of 12th SA Mtzd Brig receive considerable and accurate arty fire in attempt to take M. Pozzo del Bagno, 5 mi. NE of Pistoia; meanwhile in area N of Montecatini, 24th Guards Brig repulses German attack on their positions in vicinity of Montagnana; other units advance to reach Avaglio farther W; heavy enemy shelling and mortar fire occur in these areas. Sixth Combat Team of BEF (reinforced) relieves 2d Bn of 370th Regt and 434th AAA Bn of TF 45 in area between Lucca and Lago di Massaciuccoli and assumes command of sector at 2400. In coastal sector of TF 45, Germans begin withdrawal from Viareggio: special task force of armor and infantry occupies city during morning, later today 434th AAA Bn

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER15
Cont

passes through and establishes positions on N edge of town despite heavy enemy shell fire.

Adverse weather curtails medium bomber operations. Total of 424 fighter bombers attacks military targets and communications N of battle area, hitting guns and tanks near Bodeno (NW of Ferrara), road bridges near Cesena and Modena, fuel dump N of Firenzuola, ammunition dump S of Bologna, and defense positions near Rimini. Four enemy planes are destroyed, 2 damaged in strafing attacks near Venice and Vicenza to NW. Throughout day 131 fighters and fighter bombers strike communications and transport in N Italy, hitting guns, factories, roads near Pavia, and RR lines in Verona-Mantova area; total of 27 MT destroyed, 21 damaged. In close support of ground forces, 54 light bombers make night attack on military targets in Rimini and Firenzuola areas with good coverage.

During night, PTs sink F-lighter and possibly another in Gulf of Genoa between Savona and Genoa. Enemy positions and road junctions near Rimini are again shelled by British DDs, HMS Loyal and HMS Kimberley; all targets well covered.

Yugoslavia:

At Grdelica in Serbia just E of Leskovac, Partisans ambush estimated 400-500 enemy troops attempting to reach town; 95 enemy reported killed, many wounded.

Jetties at Ilkon, Dalmatia, are targets for 6 Venturas, while 38 fighters concentrate on objectives along coast, including gun positions E of Hvar I. and towns of Sumartin, Dalmatia, and Jablanica, Hercegovina. During night coastal forces sink large landing craft and 3 other vessels off coast of Dalmatia.

Albania:

Four Partisan bns continue attack on German positions in suburbs of Tirana, forcing mixed enemy troops back into city after bitter battle; highway communications in area E of city are harrassed by Partisan and guerilla forces. Troops resume attacks on German convoys advancing along Elbasan-Struga and Kukes-Prizren roads; many enemy killed and wounded.

UNCLASSIFIED

214
UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

Greece and Aegean:

Force of 327 heavy bombers escorted by 84 P-51s pounds Salamis submarine base and Eleusis, Kalamaki, and Tatoi airfields with 686.8 tons of bombs; damage includes 51 enemy planes destroyed on airfields, DD (Turbine), floating dock, and SS sunk, DD damaged, 2 floating cranes destroyed, and SS missing; 200 Germans reported killed. Fighters effectively strafe Megara and Eleusis airfields. Wellingtons continue attacks in Aegean: Maleme and Heraklion airfields are again night targets for 5 planes, while Calato field at Rhodes is again bombed by others.

16 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

I Canadian Corps Troops are within 3 mi. of Rimini as 3d Greek Mtn and 3d Cdn Brigs of 1st Cdn Div reach Rimini airfield which is heavily mined, and San Martino in Monte l'Abate; 1st Cdn Brig, after passing through 3d Cdn Brig, meets stiffening opposition in attack toward coast. Farther inland, 28th Brig, 4th Br Div, improves positions in Cersolo area W of San Patrignano.

V Corps In thrust W from Coriano, 1st Br Armd and 56th Divs gain some ground along line paralleling N bank of Marano R.: at 1900, 43d Ind Brig, 1st Br Armd Div, attacks W across Marano R. in area about 1 mi. NE of Vecciano, reaching hills $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. from river; in same general area, 167th Brig, 56th Div, after being halted by Germans holding high ground S of Mulazzano (NW of Vecciano), resumes attack westward toward Monte Olivio. Right flank of 46th Div makes little progress because of strong enemy opposition at Trarivi, S. of Marano R. approximately 1 mi. N of Montescudo; on L, 139th Brig, advancing W of Gemmano, approaches San Maria within 1 mi. of Gesso. Indian troops press enemy withdrawal along 4th Ind Div front: forward elements of 11th Ind Brig, advancing W, report Marazanno (W of Zollara) and area to S clear; inf units occupy villages of Monte and La Serra, both within mi. of Onferno;

UNCLAS

UNCLASSIFIED

215

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

16
Cont

patrols of 7th Ind Brig report enemy withdrawn from Onferno.

X Corps Patrols of 10th Ind Div maintain contact with enemy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Despite heavy shelling, forward units of 1st Guards Brig, 6th Br Armd Div, reach summit of M. Peschiena. M. Stelletto is occupied by 17th Ind Brig of 8th Ind Div in face of mild enemy shelling and mortar fire. Troops of 1st Br Div resume pressure on enemy positions around Ronta and high ground to E; on R flank, 3d Brig is established on S slopes of M. Giuvigiana, E of Route 6521 in area about 3 mi. SE of M. Pratone, undergoing several counterattacks as it attempts to gain mountain feature; on L flank, 337th Regt of 85th Div passes through elements of 66th Brig to assume responsibility of seizing M. Pratone; meanwhile, 66th Brig swings E directed against M. Paganino, E of M. Pratone, in order to protect II Corps' R flank.

II Corps Movements of 91st Div are hampered by barbed wire and mines. The 362d Regt advances N of Galiano, on the Tavaiano R., against SA and automatic weapons fire. Part of the Regt is held under heavy MG, mortar, and arty fire on the slopes of M. Calvi, 6 mi. due N of S. Piero; other elements, farther W, advance more than a mile N along Route 65 and are stopped by minefields and AT ditch and automatic weapons fire just above Montecarelli, about 3 mi. S of Futa Pass. On the Div R flank, 347th FA supports 363d Regt in its continuing assault on Monticelli. Resistance lessens slightly in 85th Div sector and small penetrations are effected. Attack by 1st Br Div on M. Pratone has been stopped and 337th Regt passes through the British to continue the attack but is halted S of M. Pratone by heavy mortar and MG fire.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER16
Cont

IV Corps Enemy resistance bitter in 11th SA Armd Brig sector: elements of Brig resume fierce struggle for M. Moscoso and Poggio Alto, driving enemy (troops of 362d Grenadier Div) from positions on latter with grenades and bayonets; W of Poggio Alto and in area 6 mi. NE of Pistoia, other units win new positions on M. Pozzo del Bagno after severe fight. Twelfth SA Mtzd Brig makes slight gains in center of Div, while 24th Guards improves positions in area on L flank. In face of enemy shelling, elements of 6th CT, BEF, move forward to take Massarosa (N of Lago di Massaciuccoli) on L flank, while other units secure N slopes of M. Comunale and Mo di Civia. TF 45 regroups and consolidates its positions for attack.

In support of 8th Army, total of 529 fighters and fighter bombers maintains pressure on enemy supply lines, troop concentrations, and guns in battle area; numerous RR facilities, MT, and other objectives destroyed. Throughout W battle sector, roads, RR bridges, and guns are effectively hit by 93 fighter bombers. Fuel dumps and enemy positions in Rimini and Bologna-Rimini areas and Ronco Scrivia RR bridge attacked by total of 372 medium and light bombers with good to excellent results. Wellingtons and B-26s continue shipping attacks in N Adriatic. Pontoon bridges across Po R., gun positions at Firenzuola, RR yards at Lugo (N of Faenza), and MT are bombed by 40 A-20s and A-30s in night attacks.

Coastal batteries and troop movements again bombarded in Rimini area by British DD, Kimberley. U.S. DDs, Edison and H.P. Jones, shell targets in Ventimiglia area with good results. PTs, operating in Gulf of Genoa during night, sink F-lighter off Cape Noli and another off Portofino.

Yugoslavia:

Despite increasing opposition, Partisans make some gains. In W Slavonia, troops attack Daruvar against stiffening resistance and continue fight for surrounding area. NW of Sibenik, Benkovac is occupied by enemy. Germans are attempting evacuation of Orebic garrison on Peljesac peninsula, while to N, Allied force surrounds remaining enemy garrisons at Sumartin and Supetar on Brac I. Zajecar near Bulgarian border has been recaptured by German troops. Farther NW in Serbia, Partisans enter Vackjevo, although enemy continues to hold out in barracks.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

In support of ground troops, 18 medium and light bombers attack Sumartin and Skradin, Dalmatia, with fair results; 69 fighters and fighter bombers destroy 6 MT, damage 8, and probably destroy 3 gun positions throughout Yugoslavia and Albania.

Albania:

Bitter fighting is in progress in hills above Tirana.

Aegean:

Reports state British forces start unopposed landing on Kithira I. between Crete and mainland. Germans continue withdrawal from Cyclades islands: Ceos, Tinos, Sira, and Cythnos Is. are found clear.

During night 6 Wellingtons drop 7½ tons of HE on Portolago, Leros I., starting fires near S end of jetty. Aircraft operating from CVE sink 5 small vessels off Milos I., strafe AK inside harbor, and destroy 23 MT between Candia and Suda Bay, Crete. CC sinks 3 small ships, damages 2 off Milos I.

17 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

I Canadian and V Corps troops on Adriatic sector continue to make good progress despite fierce enemy resistance and heavy arty fire.

I Canadian Corps Troops of 1st Cdn Div continue bitter fighting for possession of Rimini airfield and San Martino: 1 co. of 3d Greek Mtn Brig is established on NW corner of field fiercely struggling to gain building in that area; W of airfield, 2d Cdn Brig makes 2 unsuccessful attacks on San Martino; farther S, 3d Cdn Brig reaches Ghetto in face of enemy counterattack. High ground just E of Cerasolo is held by 28th Brig, 4th Br Div, despite enemy counterattack; later in day, Brig plus sq of tanks is reported in Cerasolo.

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER17
Cont

V Corps On R flank of 56th Div, San Patrignano falls to 168th Brig and forward elements are less than 2 mi. from Serravalle on Route 72; L flank troops are temporarily halted 500 yds. SE of M. Olivo by stiff opposition. Forty-sixth Div makes some progress against heavy resistance: enemy reported withdrawn from W part of Montescudo feature; Trarviri and surrounding area fall to elements of 128th Brig; pushing N, 2 bns of Brig cross Marano R. W of Vallecchio and continue thrust westward to within 500 yds. of border of San Marino Republic. On L flank of Corps, in area W of Gemmano, forward elements of 11th Brig, 4th Ind Div, occupy Gaiano; meanwhile, units of 7th Brig find Trebbio, 1 mi. E of Monte Altavelio, held in considerable strength by Germans.

X Corps Patrols report enemy has withdrawn from Poggio dell'Aquila, 5 mi. NE of Pieve San Stefano in 9th Armd Brig sector, as well as from Biforco, approximately 4 mi. N of Chiusi, in 10th Ind Div sector. N of Pieve San Stefano, Bulciano is strongly occupied by enemy.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps On R flank, troops of 61st Brig, 6th Br Armd Div, press up Route 67 to within 1 mi. of San Godenzo where they encounter severe road damage; farther N, 1st Guards Brig continues assault against enemy on reverse slopes of M. Peschiena. In 8th Ind Div sector, 17th Brig captures Poggio Atiglio, just N of M. Steletto, and is now holding position in face of some opposition; both Brigs prepare for attack NE on Femina Morta. Third Brig, 1st Br Div, gains M. Giuvigiana and is within 1 mi. of Razzolo on Route 6521; 66th Brig is unable to progress because of heavy fire from German positions on M. Pratone.

II Corps Eighty-fifth Div seizes key terrain features along the Gothic Line defenses: 337th Regt occupies crest of M. Pratone by midnight; 338th captures M. Altuzzo against very

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER17
Cont

stiff resistance; 339th takes Hill 732 by 0750 and captures and occupies M. Verruca by 1215. Positions are improved and consolidated in left zone of 91st Div: 363d Regt makes final assault on Monticelli, a key point within the Gothic Line, and gains control of peak by midnight. No material gains made in 34th Div sector, where resistance continues strong; 133d Regt, still engaged in yard-by-yard struggle to take Torricella Hill, is raked by fire from neighboring ridge on L.

IV Corps South African troops resume attack to breach Gothic Line defenses held now by German 16th SS Div; 11th SA Armd Brig continues to hold M. Moscoso and repulses several enemy counterattacks on strongholds, Poggio Alto and M. Pozzo del Bagno; aggressive patrolling takes place on rest of front. First Armd Div begins 3-pronged attack during morning, gaining average of 2½ mi.: on R in area N of Pescia, 81st Rcn Sq seizes Aramo, Vellano, and San Quirico, while 11th Armd Brig pushes N, directed at Castelvecchio; approximately 8 mi. W, 14th Armd Bn, attacking on E side of Serchio R., presses to outskirts of Gignano despite MG, SA, and mortar fire; NW of Ponte a Moriano, 3d and 2d Bns of 370th Regt make gains in hills on W side of river. Sixth CT, with 2d and 3d Bns leading, are within 2 mi. of objective, Camaiore, approximately 6 mi. N of Massarosa, encountering only mines and demolitions. In coastal area TF 45 resumes attack, gaining about 1½ mi. along entire front; 47th LAA Regt advances to Montigiano-Montramito line, while 434th and 435th AAA Bns gain ground from Montramito to sea.

Throughout day military installations in Rimini-Firenzuola and communications in Po Valley areas are constantly harassed by total of 576 fighters and fighter bombers, causing many explosions and direct hits on enemy positions and RR objectives. Troop concentrations W of Rimini and defense positions nearby are well covered by 167 medium and light bombers. In N Italy, 37 P-47s cut RRs and damage roads in Turin-Milan area. Shipping off Rovigno (Istrian peninsula), Imperia, and Porto Maurizio (just W of Imperia) is attacked by Wellingtons, Venturas, and B-26s. Later at night, 92 heavy bombers drop 22 tons of bombs on RR yards at Brescia with good concentration.

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

17 Coastal forces, operating in Gulf of Genoa off
Cont Punta del Mesco, blow up 2 F-lighters during night. HMS
Loyal and HMS Lookout (DDs) continue to shell gun positions
and enemy movement at Rimini.

Yugoslavia:

Partisan troops continue active along Croatian and
Dalmatian coast. Tuzla, German stronghold in E Bosnia, and
Doboj to SW are reported captured by Tito's forces; 150 killed,
500 taken prisoner.

Shipping and buildings at Zara are targets for 12
Venturas and A-30s; several river-craft, large AO, and quayside
buildings destroyed. In support of ground forces, 50 fighters
and fighter bombers attack enemy positions and communications
throughout Yugoslavia, setting fire to buildings at Valjevo,
NW Serbia, creating 4 road blocks on Slano-Gruda road, Dalmatia,
and destroying 10 MT. In Slavonia, 8 B-24s drop 20 tons of
bombs on Vincovci RR yards, while additional heavies attack
yards at Osijic with 12.5 tons; results fair at both targets.

Albania:

Partisans report capture of Berat in central Albania
as well as 2 airfields in same area; further reports indicate
Germans are continuing withdrawal from S Albania and rein-
forcing Tirana-Durazzo areas where stiff fighting is in progress.

Greece and Aegean:

Peloponnesus is now clear of enemy except for coastal
strip between Patras and Corinth and part of Isthmus of Corinth.

RR at Missolonghi, on W coast of Greece 20 mi. NW
of Patras, is straddled by Wellingtons with some damage result-
ing. Targets at Crete and in Aegean are attacked with good
results: single A-30 obtains several strikes on convoy of 10
vehicles W of Candia, while carrier-based planes hit objectives
nearby, destroying 11 MT and 1 enemy plane; during night, Porto-
lago Bay, Leros I., is again bombed by 5 Wellingtons with severe
fire damage. Meanwhile Allied CC bombards large AK in Milos
harbor.

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

18 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

Enemy desperately fighting for defensive positions in Adriatic sector.

I Canadian Corps Severe fighting continues as troops battle for Rimini airfield. Units of 3d Greek Mtn Brig, 1st Cdn Div, relieve 1st Cdn Brig on W side of field under heavy MG and mortar fire. German elements of 1st Para Div hold San Martino despite several more attacks. At 0600, units of 2d and 3d Cdn Brigs launch attack on San Fortunato feature, across AUSA R. about 3 mi. SW of Rimini, but are temporarily halted on RR line about 1 mi. SE of objective by very heavy fire. Fourth Br Div also prepares for assault on San Fortunato: attacking with 2 Brigs abreast (12th on R and 10th on L), Div advances 2 cos. each across AUSA R. in area N of Falciano, approximately 5½ mi. SSW of Rimini, and moves forward to secure bridgehead over Budriolo R., where R flank meets heavy fire.

V Corps British and Indian troops push westward, scoring gains of almost 2 mi. along entire front. In 1st Br Armd Div sector, 18th Brig relieves 28th Brig (4th Div) at Cerasolo. After heavy fighting, 168th Brig of 56th Div captures M. Olivio and drives back 2 enemy counterattacks. High ground 2½ mi. NW of Trarivi is gained by 128th Brig, 46th Div, which passed through 138th Brig. Fifth Ind Brig, 4th Ind Div, advancing toward San Marino, captures Faetano and establishes bridgehead over Marano R. at point 1 mi. S of town; Poggio San Giovanni falls to units of 4th Ind Div.

X Corps Some enemy shelling occurs along front.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps In 6th Br Armd Div sector, 1st Guards Brig clears enemy from M. Peschiera; other units continue pressure in area N and NE of San Godenzo.

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER18
Cont

From hill position N of M. Steletto, unit of 1st Bn of 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles of 17th Ind Brig (8th Ind Div) launch attack on Femina Morta feature; by noon bn reaches lower slopes of mountain and after 5 hr. of fighting succeeds in securing mountain; reports indicate 25 enemy killed, 46 taken prisoner. First Br Div troops make slight gain in area E and W of Route 6521.

II Corps Elements of 362d Regt, 91st Div, continue bitter fighting to take hills N of M. Calvi and secure Morcoiano, 2½ mi. E of Montecarelli; 363d consolidates position on Monticelli, and 361st occupies Apparita, 3 mi. to the NW, against strong resistance. After 3 days of bitter fighting in 361st Regt sector, with reduction of pillboxes, breaching of minefields, and blowing up of barbed-wire entanglements, enemy shows signs of weakening, however, and inability to bring up adequate replacements. Eighty-fifth Div pushes N toward objectives of Mts. Frena and Montale, overlooking Santerno Valley from the S, and M. Coloreta, the dominant mountain NE of Firenzuola; 338th Regt makes rapid progress N of M. Altuzzo and secures Barco and Rifredo, 4 mi. S of Firenzuola, on the highway. Enemy is withdrawing to positions N of Santerno R. Little advance in 34th Div sector, where resistance is stiff along entire front.

IV Corps In 6th Armd Div sector, National Mounted Rifles (NMR) maintains contact with II Corps and send patrols up Frato-Castiglione road and into area NW; Poggio Alto and M. Pozzo del Bagno completely in South African hands as advance continues N; remainder of Div reports little change in forward positions except in area 4½ mi. NE of Pistoia. In face of stiffening resistance, 1st Armd Div continues attack: at 1330, objective Castelvecchio is secured by elements of 11th Armd Bn despite SA and MG fire, while just NE, M. Liguana is reached by other units; 2d and 3d Bns of 370th advancing against bitter opposition in high ground W of Serchio R., take Hill 612 and M. Castellacchio, NW and SW of Ponte a Moriano, respectively; later at night, 3d Bn withdraws from position on Hill 612 to permit arty to

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIEDSept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER18
Cont

fire on enemy's forward elements. Units of 6th CT encounter enemy in hills near Orbicciano, about 5 mi. NE of Massarosa; farther W, other elements move on Camaiore and by 1830 enter and occupy town with no resistance. Enemy increases arty, MG, and SA fire in TF 45 sector, although gains are made of approximately 3 mi. in coastal area; 434th Bn, directed against Pietrasanta, is less than 2 mi. from objective.

Total of 645 medium and fighter bombers continues to hammer enemy positions in Firenzuola-Castiglione sectors, while 87 more fighters attack army support targets N of battle area, causing much damage to transport; gun positions and troop concentrations in Rimini area are targets for 143 B-25s which drop 219 tons of bombs with good results. Ninety-four B-26s hit RR bridges in N Italy with 160 tons; targets include bridges at San Giovanni, Legnago, Sesto Calende, and Bologna. In Po Valley area, 144 P-47s cut RR lines in Brescia-Piacenza-Verona area and at Vercelli, block tunnel in same area, and bomb Cremona RR yards with good results. Coastal Air Force, in sweeps over Gulf of Genoa, damages 8 barges and 2,500-ton MV off Imperia and scores direct hits on mole. In support of 8th Army, 97 Wellingtons, B-24s, and Halifaxes make night attack on troop and equipment concentrations in Rimini area with 340.8 tons of bombs.

Coastal batteries and positions are again bombarded by British DDs with good results. In night raid, Coastal forces, operating between Sestri Levante and Spezia, sink F-lighter. USS DDs, Edison, Hilary P. Jones, Madison, and Ludlow, bombard enemy targets at Ventimiglia, San Remo, and Porto Maurizio; at San Remo, 1 ship and ammunition dump destroyed, 12 smaller craft, coaster, and fuel tanks set on fire; at Porto Maurizio, 8 small craft sunk or damaged, oil tank and ammunition dump set on fire, and enemy battery silenced; considerable return fire from enemy batteries.

Yugoslavia:

Further gains made along Dalmatian coast: Commando #43 lands on Solta I., W of Brac I.; Trpanj on W end of Peljesac peninsula reported clear of enemy. Partisans enter Nicksic in Montenegro at noon. In S Serbia, Tito's forces capture Gradsko, and Kavadarci, all along R. and occupy Devdelija-Veles RR and road, to SW of occupy Resan near

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

Lake Ohrid. Enemy thrust from Veles toward Prilep is repulsed by Partisan troops. Attacks on Nis-Skoplje RR continued.

Force of 154 B-17s successfully drop 455 tons of bombs on objectives in NE Yugoslavia, hitting Sava and Novi Sad RR bridges and RR center at Subotica. Buildings at Zara are again effectively hit by Venturas and A-30s; to NW, Spitfires damage barge at Lun and wireless station at Rab I., additional Spitfires attack airfield at Ljubljana, Slovenia, destroying 5 enemy planes, 2 probably, and damaging 3. Fighters score direct hits on jetties at Nin and Razanik, N of Zara.

Greece and Aegean:

Another Commando force lands on Kithira I. Germans begin evacuation of Milos I. in Cyclades group.

Candia harbor and Heraklion airfield bombed by HMS Aurora (CC) during night. Carrier-borne aircraft destroy 25 MT in Crete. During night DDs sink enemy SS 10 mi. S of Milos I.; 47 prisoners captured.

19 Italy:BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

I Canadian Corps Troops make good progress in drive for Rimini. First Cdn Div continues advance: 3d Greek Mtn Brig crosses Rodella R. about 3 mi. S of Rimini and moves forward against slight opposition; San Martino falls to 1st Cdn Brig which presses enemy withdrawal up Route 16 toward Rimini; to SW, 2d Cdn Brig establishes bridgehead over Ausa R. 1 mi. W of San Martino; at noon, 3d Cdn Brig reaches objective, San Fortunato, and begins attack against stiffening resistance.

V Corps Troops advance into eastern half of independent state of San Marino on line paralleling Route 72 and are directed against town of San Marino. Approximately 4 mi. SW of San Fortunato, 18th Brig of 1st Armd Div occupies M. Arboretta in face of German counterattack, which operation causes enemy (256th Div) to pull back to alternative positions on Ceriano ridge 2,000 yds. in rear; severe fighting continues. In area 1 mi. SW,

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER199
Cont

168th Brig, 56th Div, recaptures Tramontana after being driven off during morning. Elements of 128th Brig, 46th Div, occupy Domagnano, on Route 72 about 3 mi. NE of San Marino, and continue N, advance troops securing Serravalle. Units of 4th Ind Div move rapidly W toward town of San Marino; farther S, patrols of 11th Ind Brig find Sasso Feltrio and Gesso (both towns W of Marazzano) unoccupied.

X Corps At 1200, 10th Ind Div (less 10th Ind Brig) passes to command of 8th Army. First Guards Brig and Wheeler Force take over 10th Ind Div sector under command of X Corps.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Troops of 61st Brig, 6th Br Armd Div, relieve 1st Guards Brig on M. Peschiena. Indian elements make firm gains in mountains as 19th Ind Brig (committed on R of 17th Brig) advances to reach slopes of M. Giogo di Villore, N of M. Peschiena, and other dominant heights in that area. Sixty-sixth Brig, 1st Br Div, pushes to within 100 yds. of M. Paganino, just E of M. Pratone, where it is delayed temporarily by MG fire.

II Corps CT 337 of 85th Div captures M. Acuto, N of M. Pratone, and 339th Regt seizes M. Frena, 2½ mi. to NNW, while 338th continues advance N of Barco toward Firenzuola. The 361st Regt, 91st Div, captures height of Castel Guerrino about 2 mi. W of Barco. At 0700, behind rolling arty support, elements of 362d Regt assault enemy strongpoint just N of Marcoiano; in the W of its sector, 346th FA pounds S. Lucia—about 2 mi. S of Futa Pass on Route 65—in preparation for an attack N toward the pass. Enemy is beginning to withdraw all along Div front. Thirty-fourth Div continues to improve positions and protect Corps' L flank; hard fighting continues in sector of 135th Regt, which clears several hills in the N of the S. Margherita-Montecarelli area. Eighty-eighth Div moves up from Scarperia to NE of Barco, passing through lines of 85th Div to take up positions on the Corps' R flank.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

19
Cont

IV Corps In 6th SA Armd Div sector, troops of NMR, advancing along Prato-Castiglione road (Route 6620), reach Gricigliana, 10 mi. from Prato; farther S, contact is made with 91st Rcn Sq of II Corps at Usella; farther W, elements of 11th SA Armd Brig suffer considerable casualties in area N of Pozzo del Bagno because of heavy enemy arty and mortar fire. First Armd Div consolidates gains, maintains defensive positions, and in vicinity of Castelvecchio, repulses enemy attempts to infiltrate area. On 1 of 1st Armd Div, 2d Bn of 6th CT, BEF, makes slight advance along front despite increasing stubborn resistance. With objective Pietrasanta and surrounding towns, TF 45 resumes advance at 0900, encountering demolitions and severe opposition from troops of German 42d Div; later in day, Pietrasanta falls to 434th AAA Bn, while Capezzano to E is gained by 47th LAA Regt; meanwhile, 435th AAA Bn secures Motrone and Fiumello on coast.

Seventy-two medium and light bombers drop 71 tons of bombs on enemy positions W of Rimini with good concentration. Total of 379 fighter bombers and 110 fighters attacks support targets in 8th Army battle area, scoring many hits on communications and enemy positions. Wellingtons and B-26s bomb barges in Gulf of Genoa and Chioggia (S. of Venice). MT and RR facilities damaged by 66 Spitfires on rcn mission.

During night, US DD shells MT, RR yards, and troop concentrations in Ventimiglia area.

Yugoslavia:

Allies make good gains among S Dalmatian Is.; Brac, Korcula, Mljet, and Murter Is. are now in Partisan control; Germans still hold out in E end of Hvar I., as well as on Solta and Drvenik, both islands W of Brac. Reports indicate Negotin in NE Serbia near Bulgarian border has been recaptured by Tito's forces. Germans are again in control of Prilep in S Serbia. In Skoplje area in Serbia, Germans, supported by airborne troops, are engaged in heavy fighting in effort to break through to N.

Ninety-six B-24s drop 264 tons of bombs on RR bridges at Mitrovica and Kraljevo with good to excellent results. Military targets along Dalmatian coast hit by CAF

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

and BAF: installations at Gruz attacked by Wellingtons; 12 Venturas and A-30s successfully strike shipping targets at Kraljevica and Dubrovnik, while 3 more Venturas attack Makarska; total of 93 fighters and fighter bombers destroys 500-ton vessel, numerous RR objectives, and MT in same general area.

Greece and Aegean:

Germans continue gradual withdrawal from W Greek ports and coast line. Two enemy planes destroyed on Larissa airfield.

Eight Beaufighters operating from E Mediterranean bases destroy 500-ton vessel near Gavriou, Andros I., about 60 mi. E of Athens. Shipping and harbor installations at Portolago Bay, Leros I. are again targets for 5 Wellingtons. Three A-30s machine gun MT and roads W of Heraklion, Crete. Meanwhile, carrier-based planes, on armd rcn over Kos and Rhodes, destroy 9 MT.

20 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

I Canadian Corps Reports indicate elements of 1st Para Div are withdrawing to N bank of Marecchia R., leaving rearguard troops in Rimini. On R flank, units of 1st Cdn Div continue attack on Rimini, reaching RR line and Bellariva S of city against little resistance; throughout day, Greek troops encounter heavy MG fire. By morning, troops of 2d and 3d Cdn Brigs capture town of San Fortunato and clear Fortunato feature, taking approximately 300 prisoners. On L of Cdn units, 10th Brig, 4th Br Div, secures Pt. 97, about 2 mi. SW of San Fortunato, against fairly heavy resistance and attacks high ground W.

V Corps British troops battle for Ceriano ridge and surrounding hill positions against very bitter opposition: 2d Armd Brig, 1st Br Armd Div, directed against Pt. 153 from road junction 2½ mi. N of Serravalle, advances 700 yds.; despite stiff opposition, Ceriano and high ground running NE fall to 169th and 7th Armd Brigs (56th Div), respectively, elements of 46th Div, pushing NW from Serravalle, reach area ½ mi. W of town.

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER20
Cont

X Corps Regrouping is completed on Corps front: on R flank, HCR and KDG (King's Dragoon Guards) take over command of 9th Armd Brig sector; 1st Guards Brig assumes command of 10th Ind Brig sector. Wheeler Force reports some enemy shelling.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Units of 6th Br Armd and 8th Ind Divs push forward in effort to maintain contact with retreating Germans. Reports indicate enemy is withdrawing from Casaglia Pass, objective of 1st Br Div. Resuming attack, 66th Brig secures M. Paganino; advance elements are now 7 air mi. NE of Borgo San Lorenzo.

II Corps Elements of 362d Regt, 91st Div, attack N toward Futa Pass from SE of S. Lucia; units of 361st occupy high ground overlooking Santerno R. NE of Futa Pass. Advancing N of Barco, 338th Regt, 85th Div, is harassed by SP gun, MG, and arty fire, while to the E 339th Regt makes slight advance that is countered by heavy SA and arty fire. The 337th Regt crosses Santerno R. near S. Pellegrino; enemy fights only brief delaying actions.

IV Corps Enemy tenaciously holds ground on R flank of 6th SA Armd Div; NMR continues to protect Corps' R flank and maintains contact with II Corps; on L of NMR, 74th LAA Regt is committed in M. Moscoso area to give added strength to 11th SA Armd Brig. Twelfth SA Mtzd Brig, pressing up Route 64, advances to area a few mi. beyond junction with Route 66. Twenty-fourth Guards Brig makes substantial gains on L flank as some troops reach M. Cavalluccio, 5 mi. NW of Pistoia, while others, directed at Serra, NE of Vellano, cut mountain road running NE from Pescia. Relief of 1st Armd Div begins. Elements of CT, BEF, resume advance at 0800: units of 3d Bn, attacking E toward M. Prano (stronghold about 3 mi. NE of Camaiore) reach Falcigoli and Hill 833; other elements gain E and S slopes, while still others are pinned down by intense arty fire. TF 45 resumes attack at 1000: 47th LAA Regt (on R)

UNCLASSIFIEDSept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

and 434th AAA Bn (in center) are held up by mines, demolitions, and harassing mortar fire; along seacoast, 435th AAA Bn advances slowly toward objective, Forte dei Marmi.

Medium bomber operations cancelled because of bad weather. Total of 253 fighter bombers makes successful attack on close-support targets in Rimini area with direct hits on enemy positions and bridges. In N Adriatic, 4 barges off Chioggia are hit by Wellingtons, while 3 Beaufighters sink schooner and damage small vessel S of Trieste.

HMS Kimberley and HMS Lookout (DDs) engage coastal batteries and guns N of Rimini: all targets well covered. DDs continue bombardment in Ventimiglia area.

Yugoslavia:

Partisans make some progress in Croatia, capturing Perusic. Bitter fighting continues in Banja Luka area.

Continuing aid to Partisan ground forces, 2 Wellingtons attack MT and damage dock area at Dubrovnik; 56 fighters and fighter bombers attack objectives along coastal Yugoslavia, including barracks at Banja Luka, Bosnia, coastal guns near Novi, Croatia, enemy hq, ammunition dump, and troop concentrations. During night MVs attack 3 enemy armd launches near Solta I., damaging 1.

Albania:

S of Fiera, W of Berat, 21 Macchis and P-39s make effective attack on MT, destroying 16.

Greece:

MT park of 200 vehicles near Pedinon, N of Salonika, completely destroyed. Yugoslav reports claim Germans are evacuating Patras, port in NW Peloponnesus, and Selianitika to W. Fighters destroy 2 enemy planes on ground at Larissa airfield.

21 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

UNCLASSIFIEDI Canadian Corps Greek troops capture Rimini,

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER21
Cont

while Canadian units secure area inland: 3d Greek Mtn Brig enters Rimini against little opposition and establishes bridgehead over Marecchia R. in N part of city; advancing N, 1st and 2d Cdn Brigs with tank support cross river in areas 1 and 3 mi. W of Rimini, respectively. In 4th Br Div sector, units of 10th and 28th Brigs make 1 mi. gain, reaching positions approximately 3 mi. SW of San Fortunato.

V Corps. Elements of 43d and 2d Armd Brigs of 1st Br Armd Div, occupy Pt. 153 (2 mi. NE of Ceriano) and area just SW without opposition. Strong German counterattack forces troops of 169th Brig, 56th Div, from Ceriano, although by noon, elements are reestablished in town as well as at San Cristina, 1 mi. N. Forty-sixth Div advances toward Verucchio (3½ mi. N of San Marino) where German 278th Div offers heavy resistance: 139th Brig, after passing through 128th Brig, captures Pt. 305 in area 1 mi. E of Verucchio and sends patrols into town; 138th Brig gains some ground in area to SE. In 4th Ind Div sector, 5th Ind Brig secures Borgo Maggiore and Monte Giardino, W and SW of San Marino, respectively; San Marino falls to 11th Ind Brig which takes over command of 5th Brig sector; forward troops are now at Pt. 431 just N of town.

X Corps Patrolling continues on Corps front.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Despite enemy withdrawal, 6th Br Armd and 8th Ind Divs progress slowly because of unfavorable weather and difficult terrain. Leading units of 1st Br Div make substantial gains along an 8 mi. front with advance positions along line running parallel to and within 5 mi. of Marradi and Paluzzolo: advancing astride Route 6521, 2d Brig seizes M. la Faggeta, mountain overlooking Casaglia Pass, as well as Crespino farther E; 66th Brig gains Casaglia Pass and secures M. Carzolano directly N.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER21
Cont

II Corps Key road junction of Firenzuola, now abandoned by the enemy, is occupied by 338th Regt, 85th Div, under harassing fire from SP guns to the N. Attempts of 310th Engrs to construct Bailey bridges across the Santerno here are forestalled by accurate enemy concentrations. Slowly advancing N, clearing the enemy from the ridges, 339th Regt reaches M. Coloreta, 2½ mi. NE of Firenzuola. On Corps R flank, 88th Div assumes command of R half of 85th Div sector and of zone stretching NE on a widening front along both sides of the Santerno R. and the Firenzuola-Imola highway, its boundary with XIII Corps being the ridge divide between the Saterno and Senio rivers. At 0500, 88th Div launches attack to NE from vicinity 4 mi. SSE of Firenzuola, with 349th and 350th Regts advancing to a line about 4 mi. NE of Firenzuola. The 363d Regt, 91st Div, consolidates position in vicinity of Poggio Pioto, 1 mi. SW of Firenzuola. Enemy has already withdrawn across the Santerno R. in this sector. The 362d captures M. Gazzaro, 2 mi. S of Castro San Martino, and advance elements train MG on Futa Pass. Attacking under rolling arty support, other elements of Regt approach the pass from the S, where hills in S. Lucia area are well defended. With enemy shelling heavy on its left flank, 34th Div continues attacking N against strong resistance from numerous pillboxes, with 91st Rcn Sq screening L flank and 34th Rcn Troop blocking and patrolling on R flank. Aided by the armor, 133d Regt takes Torricella Hill. Elements of 135th progress to 2½ mi. N of M. Frassino, route of advance paralleling Prato-Bologna highway 3 mi. W.

IV Corps In area NW of Pistoia, patrols of 6th SA Armd Div probe N from M. Cavalluccio to Poggiobello under heavy enemy arty and mortar fire; farther W, 24th Guards Brig makes some progress, reaching position about 1 mi. N of Avaglio, and Serra which falls later in day after stiff fight. At 0150, 1st Bn of 370th Regt completes relief of 14th Armd Bn and takes over positions W of Serravalle. At same time 370th Regt assumes command of CCA sector; on W side of river just S of Vol d'Ottava, unit of 370th Regt repulses enemy patrol. Troops of 6th CT, BEF, maintain contact with enemy (German 42d Div) all along front; units of 3d Bn resume attack

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

Sept
1944

21
Cont

on M. Prano at 0900 but are unable to take feature because of bitter resistance. Despite increasing SA and arty fire and extensive demolitions, advance positions of TF 45 are now along line running W from Albiani on Route 1 westward to Forte dei Marmi which falls to 435th AAA Bn.

All tactical air operations cancelled because of adverse weather. Single heavy bomber is able to bomb installations at Porto Garibaldi.

During night Allied naval units continue to bombard enemy strongpoints and coastal batteries N of Rimini, silencing 1 battery and damaging enemy transport.

Yugoslavia:

Partisans continue to show considerable strength in Bosnia where they capture all of Banja Luka except fortress; Yugoslav communique claims 3,000 enemy killed, 4,000 captured during last 5 days fighting. Along Dalmatian coast, Partisans take many strongpoints on Omis-Split road, as well as Novigrad and Smilic to NW. Throughout night Partisans harass enemy personnel and communications in N Serbia, killing 60 Germans and destroying 13 vehicles.

Fiftieth AF attacks RR targets in N Yugoslavia: RR centers at Osijek and Vinkovci, Slavonia, are targets for 42 P-38s and 3 B-24s which drop total of 36 tons with good results; 46 B-24s unload 118 tons on Novi Sad RR bridge, scoring direct hits on center and W approach; B-17s effectively attack Brod yards with 64.75 tons. MT convoy along Dalmatian coast and E-boat off Dubrovnik are hit by 6 Wellingtons, while 4 P-39s destroy radar station and attack gun positions at Rogoznica, Dalmatia.

Albania:

Coastal area between Drin and Mat rivers is evacuated by enemy.

Four P-51s destroy enemy plane and damage another at Tirana.

Greece:

During night 70 Wellingtons, B-24s, and Halifaxes drop 162.7 tons of bombs on port facilities at Salonika with

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

very good results; 1 Wellington missing. Two P-51s continue attack on Larissa airfield, destroying German plane and probably another.

22 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

Troops continue to establish and consolidate bridgeheads over Marecchia R.

I Canadian Corps At 0600, 2d New Zealand Div takes command of 1st Cdn Div sector. Fourth NZ Armd Brig, which relieved 3d Greek Brig in coastal area, crosses Marecchia R. NW of Rimini and advances astride Route 16, reaching area 3 mi. above Rimini; despite mines and booby traps, 3 bns of 5th NZ Brig gain N bank of river between Routes 16 and 9; about 2 mi. farther inland, patrols of 4th Br Div reach river $1\frac{1}{2}$ mi. S of San Giustina where they are hampered by muddy terrain.

V Corps Directed on Sant'Arcangelo, 43d Ind Brig of 1st Br Armd Div secures San Martino di Molini, approximately 3 mi. N of Ceriano, advances NW to river, and during night undertakes crossing. On L of 43d Ind Brig, troops of 169th Brig, 56th Div, reach crossroads near Corpolo, 3 mi. NNE of Verucchio, where they are ordered to regroup and improve present positions. Despite mines and bad weather, 46th Div makes some progress: rcn elements make river crossing $1\frac{1}{2}$ mi. SE of Trebbio (3 mi. SW of Corpolo) and push NW toward Poggio Berni; Verucchio falls to elements of 139th Brig. On L flank in 4th Ind Div sector, forward patrols of 11th Brig take several high ground positions NW of San Marino, cross Marecchia R., and are now in contact with enemy at Pt. 456 and Montebello, $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. from river in area 3 mi. SW of Verucchio.

X Corps Extensive patrolling continues over whole front: advance troops are reported at Carpegna, approximately 8 mi. NW of Lunano, and in area 1 mi. N of Badia Tedalda; in upper Tiber and Arno Valley areas, 1st Guards Brig reaches Poggio Vescovi about $2\frac{1}{2}$ mi. W of Castelsavino.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

22
Cont

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Sixth Armd Div continues to follow enemy withdrawal NE. In 8th Ind Div sector, 19th Brig receives slight shelling on M. Giogo di Villore where it is established; 17th Brig relieves 2d Brig of 1st Br Div in area NE of Crespino. First Br Div is now directed on Marradi-Paluzzolo road (Route 934) which is defended by 3 mountain heights (Mts. Carnevale, Gamberaldi, and Toncone) all beyond road.

II Corps Hill 952, commanding Futa Pass from W of the highway, is taken by 362d Regt, 91st Div, in all-day fight against heavy arty, mortar, MG and SA fire, culminating Div's attack on Gothic Line and marking opening of drive for Bologna. The 168th Regt, 34th Div, moves N of S. Margherita against scattered opposition; elements of 135th seize M. Citerna, 2 mi. NW of S. Lucia. Ninety-first Rcn Sq enters Vernio on Bologna-Prato highway, 2½ mi. W of S. Margherita, finding town unoccupied. Smoke screens are laid to protect 85th Div traffic at Firenzuola. Elements of 337th and 339th Regts move NE to assist 349th Regt, 88th Div, in attack on M. La Fine, 6 mi. NE of Firenzuola.

IV Corps Increased shelling and demolitions indicate Germans are withdrawing along 6th SA Armd Div front; on L flank in area NW of Pistoia, 24th Guards Brig improves positions and completes occupation of Serra. No further advance made in 1st Armd Div sector where regrouping and active patrolling continues. R flank elements of 6th CT, BEF, hold positions in face of considerable mortar fire; L flank moves forward in area N and NW of Camaiore to conform to advance of TF 45's R flank. Troops of TF 45 encounter intense enemy arty, mortar, and MG fire especially along 435th AAA Bn sector; L flank units on coast make slight gain.

UNCLASSIFIED

Total of 213 medium bombers hits targets in N Italy, including RR bridges at Nervesa (NW of Venice), Padua, Modena, Cittadella (NW of Venice), Legnago, Vercelli, Treviglio (W of Brescia), Canneto, and Vigevano. In support of ground troops, 309 fighters and fighter bombers attack roads, RRs, and

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

22 Cont communications in battle area. Fuel dumps near Ravenna and workshops near Forli are objectives for 48 A-30s which drop 41 tons of bombs. In Gulf of Genoa, Venturas bomb shipping off Sestri Levante, while in Adriatic, 2 Beaufighters attack 200-ton vessel off Cape Promontore, Istrian peninsula. During night, 67 Wellingtons, B-24s, and Halifaxes unload 177 tons on San Benedetto pontoon bridge in Po Valley through heavy clouds. Same night 32 light bombers start fires in Cesena and attack MT in nearby area.

HMS Loyal (DD) again shells roads and enemy positions N of Rimini. Meanwhile, USS Edison and USS Woolsey (DDs) make night bombardment on batteries and storage dumps in Ventimiglia area; all targets well covered.

Yugoslavia:

Partisans make considerable progress: communique from Tito's Hq claims Yugoslav forces have captured Arandjelovac, Lazarevac, and Lajkovac, all E of Valjevo in N Serbia, and have linked up with troops operating in W Serbia; 70 towns and villages in Croatia have been occupied during last few days.

Weather severely hampers air activity. Fighters, in offensive sweeps over Yugoslavia, cut RR lines, destroy 2 gun positions, 2 enemy planes, and 7 MT, as well as other RR targets.

Albania:

In effort to harass German withdrawal northward, 500 Allied commandos (#2 Commando) and supporting arms successfully land on Albanian coast 5 mi. N of Sarande; later during morning, troops repulse German column advancing N along coastal road from Sarande-Delvino, killing 80 and taking 50 prisoners in bitter engagement.

Wellingtons attack communications near Durazzo on coast.

Greece and Aegean:

Despite Allied operations and weather, Germans continue withdrawal from Greece and islands.

Larissa RR yards again well hit as 111 B-24s drop 185.7 tons of bombs. Ten mi. N of Trikiri channel (entrance to Gulf of Volos), 3000-ton AK is sunk. Air forces continue

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

to hamper German evacuation; 12 Beaufighters attack shipping at Vathy on Samos I., and hit other targets in same general area, destroying 240-ton troop-carrying vessel.

Aegean:

SS PLM No 16 (French bulk cargo vessel, 3,754 tons) sunk by enemy action at 39-11 N, 23-22 E.

23 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

I Canadian Corps Enemy offers increased resistance to New Zealand elements which make 2 mi. gain to positions about 5 mi. NW of Rimini. Farther inland, 28th Brig, 4th Br Div, captures San Guistina on Route 9, 2½ mi. E of Sant'Arcangelo, and is directed against San Vito to N. Fifth Cdn Armd Div assumes command of 4th Br Div sector; 12th Cdn Brig moves through leading troops to point ½ mi. NW of San Guistina.

V Corps Heavy opposition continues along general line Sant'Arcangelo-Poggio Berni-Montebello in Corps sector: advance elements of 43d Ind Brig, 1st Br Armd Div, encounters stubborn resistance and heavy shelling from elements of 20th GAF Div in area 1-2 mi. SW of Sant'Arcangelo; elements of 139th Brig, 46th Div, gain N side of river in area 4 mi. SW of Sant'Arcangelo, where they are attacked by inf and tanks; after securing Torriano ridge approximately ½ mi. SW of Scorticata, 11th Ind Brig of 4th Ind Div engages enemy midway between Scorticata and Montebello, but is forced to withdraw from position because of heavy pressure.

X Corps Patrols follow enemy withdrawal on Corps front and report Pennabilli, about 10 mi. NE of Badia Tedalda on Marecchia R. and Scavolino a few mi. E clear of enemy; W of upper Tiber Valley, forward units continue advance in high ground area.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER23
Cont

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps On R flank, elements of 6th Br Armd Div, advancing up Route 67, reach position overlooking Montone R. in area approximately 8 mi. from Dicomano. British troops resume drive into German defenses, establishing front positions on a parallel less than 3 mi. from Marradi and Palazzuolo; 2d Brig on R takes initial objective, M. Carnevale, about 2½ mi. NW of Marradi, and directs attack against Marradi.

II Corps CT 349 of 88th Div seizes M. La Fine, and, moving abreast with the 351st Regt on its R and the 350th farther E, advances along Firenzuola-Imola road 1½ mi. beyond Coniale against slight resistance. The 350th Regt captures and occupies M. Faggiola, 7 mi. E of Firenzuola, and 760th Tank Bn garrisons it for flank protection. Eighty-eighth Div's steady progress NE is driving a wedge between the German Tenth and Fourteenth Armies. On Corps L flank, 133d Regt, 34th Div, cuts Prato-Castiglione road near Montepiano and occupies this town against negligible resistance.

IV Corps On R flank of 6th SA Armd Div, NMR continues to contact L flank of II Corps along Route 6620, occupies San Ippolito, below Vernio, and il Goggio just to N; in area 5 mi. N and NW of Pistoia, 24th Guards Brig advances to reach San Felice and M. Blocchi, respectively. Little change occurs in 1st Armd or BEF sectors; enemy tenaciously holds M. Prano. Forty-seventh LAA Regt advances R flank of TF 45 in vicinity of Val di Castello, 2 mi. NW of Camaiore; considerable enemy arty fire falls on whole front.

RR and road bridges in N Italy attacked by total of 206 B-24s which drop 528 tons of bombs with generally good results; targets hit include Venzone RR viaduct and RR bridges at Latisana, Santa Donna Piave, Casarsa, Pinzano, and Ponte di Piave; RR and highway bridges at Santa Donna Piave completely destroyed. RR and road bridges in Po Valley and Padua areas and fuel dumps in vicinity of Padua are successfully hit by 229 B-25s and B-26s. In attack on Spezia Harbor,

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER23
Cont

27 B-25s leave Italian CL Taranto burning after direct hits on bow, center, and stern. Bridges and close-support targets in Cesena area attacked by 261 fighter bombers and 152 B-26s and A-30s; many hits scored on guns, mortars, buildings, MT, and RR facilities. Four Venturas harass shipping off Imperia and Alassio; in N Adriatic, 2 schooners are destroyed in Umago harbor, Istrian peninsula, and another damaged at Fiume.

At 0615, AH St. Andrew is struck by mine off Pescara; no patients on board. USS Woolsey and USS Edison (DDs) bombard Ventimiglia area, hitting observation post and other targets.

Yugoslavia:

Partisans, with combined naval and air support, make good gains along Dalmatian coast: enemy garrisons on Solta and Drvenic Is. (W of Brac I.) are clear as well as some strongpoints on Peljesac peninsula; advancing NW along coast, Partisan forces are as far as Drnis, NE of Sibenik, and are pressing toward Zara. Tito's troops continue offensive against RR lines: E of Ljubljana in Slovenia, Partisans capture fortress of Litija and RR bridge over Sava R. after 2 hr. of bitter fighting; farther W they severely damage enemy-held Trieste-Zagreb line, killing 550 enemy troops according to Yugoslav communique; in S. Serbia, troops maintain operations against enemy column advancing on Prilep-Veles road.

In support of ground forces, 22 Venturas, A-30s, and Hurricanes bomb military targets along coast with particularly good results at Podgorica; 11 fighters and fighter bombers also attack in Bosnia, setting fire to fortress at Banja Luka. During night 3 enemy I-boats are sunk by coastal forces in central Adriatic.

Albania:

Partisan troops attack 3 enemy positions in and near Elbasan, killing 35.

Ten Macchis and P-39s destroy 2 MT and damage 3 in sweeps over Albania and N Greece.

Greece and Aegean:

Two DDs (HMS Whaddon and HMS Belvoir), operating off coast near Corfu, engage 3 enemy ships (believed to be

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

PTs), setting fire to 1; DD slightly damaged in this operation.

Continuing to harass German evacuations, 12 Beau-fighters again attack shipping, destroying 800-ton vessel in Denoussa harbor in Cyclades group.

Sixty paratroops of Special Boat Service are dropped on Cape Pappas, NW Peloponnesus, in order to seize Araxos airfield. British SS probably sinks medium AK in Aegean Sea.

24 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

I Canadian Corps Enemy believed withdrawing in direction of Rubicone R. R flank troops of 2d NZ Div are slowed up by enemy MG fire from far side of Fontanaccio R. on coast; meanwhile, L flank gains some ground in 6th NZ Brig sector 4 mi. E of Savignano, 3 mi. NW of Sant'Arcangelo on Route 9. Later at night, units of 6th NZ Brig, advancing astride Route 16, also makes some progress toward Bordonchia, 6 mi. NW of Rimini. Farther inland, in area of San Vito, 12th Brig, 5th Cdn Armd Div, pushes 1 mi. toward Uso R. against heavy opposition.

V Corps Progress made along entire Corps front. Enemy resistance weakens in 1st Br Armd Div sector, as 43d Ind Brig seizes Sant'Arcangelo (heavily mined and booby-trapped) and thrusts W as far as Uso R. One mi. E of Poggio Berni, advance units of 139th Brig of 46th Div, secure Pt. 106 and move SW toward Pt. 155. After heavy fighting in high ground in Scorticata area, 11th Brig is now consolidating gains and improving positions in that area.

X Corps Patrolling continues with elements operating 8-10 mi. in front of forward positions; no contact with enemy. First Guards Brig relieved by 2d AA (Anti-Aircraft) Brig.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Sixth Armd Div's R flank makes slow progress because of inability of tanks to operate in mountains; relief place in 1st Brig sector. Units of 2d and 6th Brigs of 1st Br Div

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

24
Cont

advance approximately 2 mi. along entire front, reaching objectives, Marradi and Palazzuolo, respectively; later at night, elements of 2d Brig make unsuccessful attempt to reach summit of M. Gamberaldi, mountain dominating Palazzuolo-Marradi road, 2½ mi. N of Marradi, and are forced to retreat after suffering severe casualties.

II Corps Resistance stiffens on 88th Div front; enemy local counterattacks inflict heavy casualties. The 351st Regt advances 2 mi. astride Firenzuola-Imola road between M. La Fine and M. Faggiola, to vicinity of S. Andrea. Elements of 349th Regt improve positions on M. Fine, repulsing two enemy counterattacks during afternoon. The 338th Regt, 85th Div, advances due N of Firenzuola to attack Tre. Poggioli, in order to come down from the NNE on M. Canda on E side of Radicosa Pass, 4½ mi. NW of Firenzuola. A 339th Regt bn moving W from M. La Fine area to assist the 338th Regt is stopped W of Castelvecchio by mortar and SA fire from enemy fortified position at Montarello, to the W. Ninety-first Div makes substantial gains against light opposition: 361st Regt captures Covigliaio, near juncture of Route 65 and highway connecting with Firenzuola, cleaning the town out house by house with hand grenades and rifle fire while under heavy mortar fire that covers all roads; then is held up by strong enemy delaying action N of this juncture. Montepiano, about which 133d Regt, 34th Div, is assembled, receives an estimated 1,000 heavy caliber rounds of enemy arty fire during day and night. At 0530, 135th Regt attacks against moderate resistance and occupies strategic heights 6 mi. NE of Vernio in 1½ mi. advance N of M. Citerna. The 168th Regt strikes N from M. Tronale toward M. Coroncina, 1½ mi. distant, reaches the summit, and holds it against repeated counterattacks.

IV Corps R flank of 6th SA Armd Div resumes advance with only minefields and difficult terrain delaying progress. At 1430, 12th SA Mtzd Brig takes over sector of line held by 11th SA Armd Brig enabling latter to support NMR's advance up Route 6620;

[REDACTED]

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

24
Cont

farther W, 12th SA Mtzd and 24th Guards Brigs continue to follow enemy withdrawals up Route 64 and 66, respectively. Patrolling and reliefs take place in 1st Armd Div sector; enemy arty light. Sixth CT, BEF, commences attack for German mountain strongholds: on R flank, 2d Bn moves toward M. Acuto, 5 mi. E of Camaiore, at 0900, gaining W and S slopes by afternoon; 1st Bn is halted on S slopes of M. Valimono just to SW by fierce enemy resistance; patrols are again driven back from M. Prano by MG fire. Despite moderate arty fire, 47th LAA Regt of TF 45 is able to occupy M. Costa and Val di Castello.

Air operations hampered because of bad weather. In support of 8th Army, 220 fighters and fighter bombers maintain pressure on enemy supply lines and other military targets in Bologna-Ravenna-Cesena areas, scoring direct hits on 4 bridges, RRs, and gun positions; RR yards at Forli, Cesena, and Faenza are hit by 101 medium and light bombers; 20 P-47s damage bridge near Parma and cut RRs near Imola. Wellingtons make night attack on 1,000-ton vessel and sink 1 of 2 escort vessels. Beaufighters attack E-boats E of Bari.

HMS Loyal (DD) fires 434 rounds at gun positions and batteries N of Rimini; all targets effectively covered. DDs again shell objectives in Ventimiglia area.

Yugoslavia:

Progress continues along Dalmatian coast as Partisans gain control of area S of Sibenik from Primosten to Marina; enemy tenaciously holds Rogoznica.

Operating along Adriatic in close support of ground troops, fighters and fighter bombers attack barracks near Drnis, RR lines N of Dubrovnik, hq at Ljubuski, Hercegovina; light bombers strike town of Sibenik.

Albania:

Further landings made in Albania as Commando #40 goes ashore N of Sarande to cut off German withdrawals. Partisans continue attacks on Tirana-Elbasan road farther N.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

Supporting Allied ground operations, fighters and fighter bombers strike gun positions in and near Sarande.

Greece and Aegean:

Reports indicate Kithira I. occupied by 600 more British troops.

Three Allied planes drop additional personnel and equipment on airfield near Cape Pappas. Strategic AF hammers targets in Greece: 252 B-24s successfully drop 473 tons of bombs on airfields at Kalamaki, Eleusis, and Tatoi; W RR yards at Salonika are targets for 58 B-24s which unload 142 tons with good results; Skaramagna submarine base and harbor facilities are hit by 52 B-24s with 140 tons; all targets well covered; 20 aircraft destroyed at Eleusis and Kalamaki airfields. Four Spitfires attack MT on Crete. DDs bombard small vessel near Argostolion, Cephalonia, while others (Terpischore and Termagant) destroy convoy of 5 vessels (including 2 F-lighters) E. of Scarpanto I., SW of Rhodes. AK loaded with ammunition is sunk at Vathy, Samos I., causing many casualties.

25 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

Troops begin Uso R. crossing on 2-Corps front.

I Canadian Corps Continuing attack against strong resistance, 6th NZ Brig, 2d NZ Div, pushes 2 mi. farther up Route 16 and clears Bordonchia; L flank troops hindered by enemy threat. Twelfth Cdn Brig, 5th Cdn Div, forces Uso R. crossing near San Vito, 6 mi. NW of Rimini, after heavy fighting.

V Corps Farther up Uso R. in area W of Sant'Arcangelo, forward troops of 1st Br Armd Div, despite stubborn opposition from enemy rear guards, establish bridge-head over river and advance approximately 1 mi. Elements of 46th Div occupy Camerano (N of Poggio Berni), later encountering heavy mortar and arty fire W of town. To S, Indian troops secure Trebbio and make river crossing in area W of village.

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER25
Cont

X Corps Patrols reach Verghereto, about 9 mi. N of Pieve San Stefano, as well as La Lama, 10 mi. N of Bibbiena.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps On R flank, elements of 6th Br Armd Div seize San Benedetto on Route 67 against scattered resistance and make slight gain to NE. Farther N, M. Scarabotte and Biforco, both about 2 mi. S of Marradi, fall to units of 17th Ind Brig with no opposition. Despite heavy resistance Marradi and Palazzuolo as well as high ground in that area, are captured by units of 1st Br Div; units of 2d Brig are pinned down at foot of M. Gamberaldi by severe MG and mortar fire.

II Corps Eighty-eighth Div encounters increasing resistance along entire front; 351st Regt assists 349th in attack on M. Pratolungo, directly NW of S. Andrea; to the NE, on the other side of the Firenzuola-Imola highway, 350th Regt advances upon M. Carnevale and M. Battaglia, from which enemy forces hold up Div advance on that side of the road, some 12 mi. SW of Imola. Eighty-fifth Div also meets with strong resistance; elements of 338th Regt occupy M. Tre Poggioli, 4 mi. SE of Monghidoro, but are driven off during late afternoon by enemy counterattacks by combat patrols and inf in co strength with tank support. The 91st and 34th Divs continue advance N, frequently exposed to enemy arty and mortar fire from three sides. Their objectives are Mts. Oggioli and Bastione, which dominate hilly country between Castiglione, on Corps' L flank, and Radicosa Pass, N of Covigliaio, on Florence-Bologna highway. Elements of 34th Div, attacking N along Prato-Castiglione road, capture Baragazza, 2 mi. SE of Castiglione, at 1500.

IV Corps Advance continues against German 16th SS Div on extreme R flank along Corps' boundary; elements of 11th SA Armd Brig move cross country approximately 8 mi. to M. Casciaio, 4 mi. N of Vernio, where they relieve elements of 34th Div of responsibility of screening L flank of II Corps;

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER25
Cont

advancing up Route 64, units of 12th SA Mtzd Brig reach positions within 1 mi. of il Signorino on Route 64 N of Croce di Uzzo, while farther W, 24th Guards Brig meets no opposition in push to Osteria. At 1630, 1st Armd Div (less CCB) is relieved by TF 92 (composed of 370th RCT and CCB) which assumes responsibility for sector. Troops of TF 92 prepare to advance into mountains N of Pescia in effort to clear E-W part of Route 12 and to continue progress along Serchio Valley. Heavy resistance is met in BEF sector: M. Valimono falls to elements of 1st Bn of 6th CT; units of 3d Bn, supported by steady arty fire, resume assault on M. Frano from SE and NW. With 39th LAA Regt protecting R flank, TF 45 moves forward along entire front; 47th LAA Regt is within mi. of objective, Vallecchia, 2½ mi. N of Pietrasanta; 434th and 435th AAA Bns establish bridgeheads over Seravezza R. and begin attack on Querceta on Route 1 to N.

Operations again restricted because of weather. In support of 8th Army, total of 594 fighters and fighter bombers attacks roads, RRs, bridges, troop concentrations, guns, and strongpoints; several bridges destroyed, roads cut. Wellingtons and Beaufighters continue to harass shipping in Adriatic, while Venturas bomb escort vessels and barges in Gulf of Genoa. Barracks near Rovigo (N of Ferrara) are effectively hit by 24 A-30s.

HMS Lookout (DD) continues support to 8th Army offensive in Rimini area, shelling enemy battery, tanks, mortars, and paratroops. German shore batteries engage Allied AIs, causing them to withdraw.

Yugoslavia:

Partisans continue attacks on highways and RRs in Slovenia and Serbia; farther along Dalmatian coast, they are reported to have gained several positions on Peljesac peninsula. Attacking W from Pirot, joint Bulgarian and Partisan forces advance toward Nis.

Supporting Partisan ground forces throughout Yugoslavia, fighter and fighter bombers effectively attack communications, barracks, and other military targets.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

Albania:

Partisans make some gains in Berat area: troops attack 3 enemy columns along Fiera-Ljusna road, causing 146 enemy casualties; German positions are also objectives of Partisans in night attacks. Approximately 1,000 German troops begin drive from Valona in attempt to clear Partisans from Valona-Mifol coastal road; bitter fighting continues along Shushice R. to S.

Troop concentrations at Delvino in S Albania are targets for Venturas.

Greece and Aegean:

Fifty-one B-24s escorted by 8 P-38s drop 119.75 tons of bombs on harbor installations at Piraeus, Scaramanga, and Salamis; results fair to good at Scaramanga and Salamis; poor at Piraeus. Fighters successfully attack coast-defense guns on Corfu. Amorgos and Andros Is. in Cyclades group are reported clear of enemy. Enemy withdrawal from Lemnos I. (N Aegean) continues.

26 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

I Canadian Corps Reports indicate large number of enemy mines in Uso R. area; all river crossings are under shell and mortar fire. On R flank, 6th NZ Brig, 2d NZ Div, gains N bank of Uso R. at point 2 mi. from coast, while on L flank, elements of 5th Cdn Armd Div continue Uso R. crossings, establishing bridgeheads at 3 points in area of San Vito.

V Corps Fifty-sixth Div assumes command of 1st Br Armd Div sector; 169th Brig passes through 43d Ind Brig and makes slight advance NW on Route 9 toward objective, Savignano on Rubicone R. Little fighting occurs in 46th Div positions. Advance units of 7th Ind Brig of 4th Ind Div, supported by tanks, secure Cornacchiara, approximately 2 mi. W of Poggio Berni, and advance about $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. NW, despite enemy mines and shelling.

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

26
Cont

X Corps HCR patrols cross Marecchia R. 5 mi. SW of Montebello; farther W, San Piero in Bagno (2½ mi. N of Bagno on Route 71) is occupied by Wheeler Force.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Corps troops meet increasing enemy resistance; extensive and systematic demolitions and mountainous terrain make advance costly and slow. Patrols of 6th Br Armd Div find Bocconi on Route 67 strongly occupied by enemy. In 8th Ind Div sector, German MG and mortar fire halt 17th Brig's attempt to take M. Castelnuovo, mountain dominating Marradi to NE. Later at night, 2d Brig of 1st Br Div makes another unsuccessful attack on M. Gamberaldi.

II Corps Against heavy enemy resistance, 350th Regt, 88th Div, continues advance NE of M. Faggiola. On Div W flank, 349th Regt attacks to E at 0600, capturing M. Pratolungo. Eighty-fifth Div advances slowly over exposed ground in the face of intensive mortar and arty fire. Elements of 338th Regt fight throughout day for Sambuco, W of Belmonte, making little headway against an enemy well emplaced in many fortified houses. To the N, 339th Regt captures strongpoint of Montarello, which blocked way to Tre Poggioli. Ninety-first Div advances slowly in area NW of Firenzuola, over difficult terrain and against stubborn resistance.

IV Corps Enemy (16th SS Div) begins withdrawing from defended positions, leaving behind extensive minefields and demolitions. Elements of 11th SA Armd Brig, 6th SA Armd Div, improve positions near M. Casciaio, take M. Gatta to N and seize M. della Scoperta, 4 mi. NW of Vernio; resuming thrust up Route 64, units of 12th SA Mtzd Brig reach M. Lattai and have patrols on slopes of Poggio Croce di Uzzo, S of il Signorino; meanwhile 24th Guards Brig, pushing along Route 66, are in vicinity of Saturnana, about 5 mi. NW of Pistoia, and are also established in Momigno to SW. Troops of TF 92 commence attack, moving slowly forward; units of CCB gain high ground near M. Battifolle, NW of Castelvecchio without opposition; elements of 370th RCT advance to Colognora

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIEDSept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER26
Cont

and Boveglio (both in area W of Castelvecchio), while other units are approaching M. Pietro Pertusa, approximately 3 mi. NE of Ponte a Moriano. In BEF sector, M. Prano falls to patrols of 3d Bn of 6th CT with no resistance; on R flank, other Brazilian troops directed on Pescaglia make slight advance, reaching Torri di Fiano. TF 45 resumes attack: 47th LAA Regt seizes Vallecchia, but attempts to capture Ripa and Corvaja in same general area are repulsed by intense enemy SA, mortar, and arty fire; 434th AAA Bn advances its line N and takes Querceta.

Throughout day, 113 fighters and fighter bombers attack military targets in central battle area and communications in N Italy, scoring hits on 4 enemy concentration areas, 2 supply dumps, hq S of Bologna, and RR objectives in Po Valley and near Parma. Meanwhile 312 B-25s and B-26s attack road and RR bridges along Po R., including targets at Pavia, Cassano d'Adda (NE of Milan), Ostiglia, Sesto Calende, Piazzola, Galliate (W of Milan), and Cittadella. Six Beau-fighters and 4 Venturas harass shipping in N Adriatic and Gulf of Genoa, respectively. Bridge N of Valona is bombed by single Wellington; target straddled. During night Coastal Air Force planes destroy 2,000-3,000-ton AO off Rapallo in NW Italy and 2,000-ton MV off Sestri Levante.

Targets successfully bombarded in Rimini and Ventimiglia areas by DDs.

Yugoslavia:

Reports indicate Germans are still occupying E end of Hvar I. Partisans concentrate on lines of communication, capturing Sunja (SE of Zagreb) except for RR station which is heavily fortified; Zagreb-Karlovac, Zagreb-Brod, and Sarajevo-Brod lines again sabotaged.

Air operations restricted by weather. In effort to aid Partisan troops, 12 A-30s bomb Drnis with good concentration in center of town; 2 observation posts severely damaged by 18 fighters. In Slovenia, 84 Wellingtons, B-24s, and Halifaxes make night attack, dropping 201 tons of bombs on Borovnica RR viaduct (between Trieste and Ljubljana) with good results.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATERAlbania:

During morning Partisan troops counterattack in Valona area and drive Germans back into town.

In direct support of ground forces, Wellington bombs bridge N of Valona, straddling target but causing some damage.

Greece and Aegean:

British make good progress in NW Peloponnesus: under cover of DDs and AMs, they land troops and equipment near Katakolon and push forward toward Araxos to join initial assault force in effort to take Araxos airfield; objective secured later in day with no opposition.

Seven Beaufighters destroy 12-in gun on Corfu, damage range finder, and destroy numerous huts. Other Beaufighters, operating from E Mediterranean bases, shoot down 3 enemy troop-carrying planes N of Suda Bay, Crete, and another off Maleme.

27 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

I Canadian Corps On extreme R flank, 3d Greek Mtn Brig comes under command of 2d NZ Div along Route 16 and, after reaching Vena R., advances 1,000 yds; 6th NZ Brig with inf and tanks continues thrust from bridgehead over Uso R., crossing Veno R. 6 mi. S of Cesenatico on Adriatic in effort to clear ground to Rubicone R. Eleventh Cdn Brig relieves 12th Brig and moves W to occupy San Mauro, 1½ mi. NE of Savignano.

V Corps In 56th Div sector, 169th Brig's advance on Savignano is held up by enemy mortar and arty action; other units of Div reach outskirts S of town. Forward troops of 46th Div advance NW to Canonica, 2½ mi. W of Sant'Arcangelo, and area 1 mi. beyond. Contacting L flank of 46th Div, troops of 7th Ind Brig of 4th Ind Div encounter enemy opposition at Tribola, N of Cornacchiara; later units push to within ½ mi. of Montalbano; approximately 3½ mi. W of Sant'Arcangelo against increasing enemy resistance.

UNCLASSIFIEDSept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER27
Cont

X Corps Active patrolling continues in Corps sector. N of Bagni, troops of Wheeler Force reach area within 1 mi. of Sarsina on Route 71 and farther W meet Germans near San Sofia about 8 mi. N of Bagno.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Advancing astride Route 67, units of 61st Brig of 6th Br Armd Div take Bocconi (less than 4 mi. NE of San Benedetto) and push $1\frac{1}{2}$ mi. beyond, meeting defensive fire as enemy withdraws. In 8th Ind Div sector, 19th Ind Brig makes gains of 1-2 mi. in hills SE of Marradi, taking M. di Gamogna and contacting R flank of 17th Ind Brig below M. Castelnuovo; 17th Ind Brig resumes attack against M. Castelnuovo, gaining SE slopes of mountain despite bitter opposition. Second Brig, 1st Br Div, again fails to take M. Gamberaldi; 66th Brig is approximately 2 mi. from Palazzuolo continuing local advance along entire front.

II Corps Operations of 88th Div continue to be hampered by SA, mortar, MG, arty, and SP gun fire, but 350th Regt succeeds in capturing M. Acuto, just E of S. Andrea. At 0600, 351st enters Cestel del Rio on the Firenzuola-Imola highway. The 338th Regt and elements of 339th Regt, 85th Div, supported by tank machine guns and HE fire at close range, attack and recapture Tre Poggioli; enemy uses 75 mm and 105 mm SP guns as well as heavy SA and mortar fire. By 1400, elements of 338th Regt capture Sambuco, where enemy resisted house by house; town has been levelled by point-blank fire from supporting tanks. From northern slopes of M. Beni and M. Freddi, 91st Div launches attack against M. Oggioli, 5 mi. NW of Firenzuola, using extensive arty firing and support of heavy air bombardments. After taking Bruscoli, 4 mi. E of Castiglione, at 0850, with little resistance, 135th Regt proceeds $1\frac{1}{2}$ mi. NE toward M. Bastione, meeting increasing resistance consisting of MG, SA, arty and mortar fire. Ninety-first Rcn Sq enters Castiglione on Bologna-Prato route, 6 mi. N of Vernio and about 30 mi. S of Bologna, finding town unoccupied.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER27
Cont

IV Corps In advance up Route 6620, M. Coroncina, about 1 mi. NE of M. Casciaio E of road, is occupied by elements of 11th SA Armd Brig (6th SA Armd Div) which relieve units of 34th Div (II Corps) on that feature; other troops of Brig gain positions just NW of Castiglione; meanwhile 12th SA Mtzd Brig continues advance up Route 64, some units occupying M. Cornato (6 mi. N of Pistoia) and others as far as Collina just N of Poretta; 24th Guards Brig (L flank) moves out of line to support attack up Route 6620 and responsibility for sector falls to TF 92. Elements of TF 92 continue 4-pronged attack in face of enemy intense fire: CCB, directed against Lucchio, 5 mi. N of Castelvecchio, is less than mi. of objective; to W, 2d Bn of 370th Regt wins high ground overlooking Lima R. near Bagni di Lucca; 1st and 3d Bns, advancing on each side of Serchio R., make gains of about 4 mi., 1st reaching within 1 mi. of where Route 12 turns E and 3d nearing Borgo a Mozzano from W. Brazilian troops improve positions and resume attack in effort to take Pescaglia, 8 mi. W of Borgo a Mozzano. TF 45 receives increased arty fire from enemy positions along Gothic line.

Adverse weather cancels medium bomber operations. Despite weather, fighters and fighter bombers effectively attack battle targets, scoring hits on RR installations, roads, guns, towns, and MT; 29 locomotives and 20 MT destroyed, 4 locomotives, 2 MT damaged. In Gulf of Genoa, shipping off Sestri Levante and Portofino is again struck by Venturas; in N Adriatic, Beaufighters damage 2 vessels off Trieste and attack 5 more off Umago and Grado. During night, 79 light bombers and 13 fighters attack objectives in Po Valley with good results, hitting Forli, Faenza, and Modena RR yards and 4 barges off Porto Garibabldi.

Yugoslavia:

Partisans resume fight for Peljesac peninsula, capturing Ston on neck of peninsula; to N, Pag I. is liberated by Allied naval and Partisan forces. Heavy fighting is in progress in Banja Luka area: German column (estimated at 5,000), which crossed Sava R. at Gradiska in effort to relieve Banja Luka, is driven back by Partisan forces; other

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

enemy troops with same objective are moving W from Prnjavor, E of Banja Luka; Tito's troops have gained airfield at Banja Luka. Farther E, Gracanica, E of Doboj, has fallen to Partisans; 90 killed and 130 taken prisoner in these operations. Fighting continues at Krivelje and in Nis-Leskovac area in Serbia. Germans still in control of coastal highway in Montenegro. Russian troops are reported to have reached Caribrod, SE of Pirot on Bulgarian-Yugoslav border.

In support of Partisans in N Yugoslavia, fighters and fighter bombers attack troop concentrations, barracks, MT, and guns. During night, Allied LCF and LCG, operating off Croatian coast, attack convoy of I-boats, sinking 2 and possibly another and damaging others.

Albania:

Reports claim Himare on coastal road in S Albania and Argyrokastron to E have been freed by Albanian Partisans. Wellingtons bomb MT on Valona-Durazzo-Lesh coastal road; Macchis strafe barracks near Dholana and destroy guns near Sarande.

Greece and Aegean:

Germans continue withdrawal from Greece and islands. British reports indicate heavy fighting just S of Yannina-Arta road in NW Greece S of Albanian border. Islands of Poros and Idra off E coast of Peloponnesus reported clear of enemy. Eight Beaufighters attack shipping approximately 20 mi. N of Siros I., scoring hits on 3 vessels; in night attack 4 additional Beaufighters destroy 2 enemy planes and damage another in vicinity of Crete.

28. Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

I Canadian Corps Troops meet stiffening opposition in Adriatic sector: 5th NZ Brig, 2d NZ Div, relieves 6th Brig and approaches within 500 yds. of Rubicone R. where it meets heavy resistance; during morning, 11th Cdn Brig of 5th Cdn Armd Div is unable to advance because of fierce fighting in San Mauro; later in day, elements on R reach positions $1\frac{1}{2}$ mi. N of town; L flank units establish bridgehead on N bank

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

28
Cont

of Rubicone R. in area to SW, but during late afternoon, fierce enemy counterattack forces these troops to S bank.

V Corps Corps troops meet continuous strong resistance on line running SW from Savignano to Tribola; heavy German counterattacks in Savignano area cause slight withdrawal of 169th Brig troops; stubborn fighting continues in 46th Div sector, as 139th Brig battles in vicinity of Canonica; enemy still strong at Montalbano and Tribola.

X Corps Patrols are following up enemy withdrawal.

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Despite heavy rains and firm resistance from enemy positions, Corps troops continue slow advance NE along main highways--Dicomano-Forli, Marradi-Faenza, and Palazzuolo-Castel Bolognese. Enemy determinedly holds M. Castelnuovo in strength. Farther N, after 2d Brig's attempt to take M. Gamberaldi, 66th Brig sends unit NE from Palazzuolo to attack M. Toncone in effort to outflank M. Gamberaldi from N.

II Corps Corps breaches a strong German delaying position with seizure of Mts. Canda, Oggioli and Bastione by elements of the 85th, 91st, and 34th Divs, respectively, and holds M. Battaglia. M. Canda, E of Radicosa, is seized by elements of 338th Regt in difficult weather but against light resistance, as enemy is retreating N. M. Oggioli is occupied at 1545 by 361st and 363d Regts; elements of 361st are also at La Posta, 2 mi. S of Monghidoro. M. Bastione is captured at 1100 by troops of 135th Regt. Elements of 168th Regt occupy Montefredente, 5 mi. NE of Castiglione, with little enemy contact. Bn of Italian patriots holds M. Battaglia, in extreme NE of Corps front, until 350th Regt, 88th Div, reaches it after taking M. Carnevale, 2 mi. SW. Elements of German 44th and 715th Inf Divs fail in counterattack in regtl strength with arty and mortar support. Casualties on both sides are heavy.

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER28
Cont

IV Corps In 6th SA Armd Div sector, R boundary is shifted 2 mi. E to line of Gambellate and Setta rivers and L boundary is moved to N-S line approximately 6 mi. E of Pistoia; zone of 12th SA Mtzd Brig, which is being withdrawn from line, passes to 74th LAA Regt. Sixth SA Armd Div resumes advance with 24th Guards Brig on R and 11th SA Armd Brig in center: 24th Guards Brig reaches Sparvo, 3 mi. N of Castiglione, against light opposition; units of 11th SA Armd Brig occupy San Damiano to SW. In TF 92 sector, 81st Rcn Sq, moving N against sporadic fire, reaches Prunetta, 3 mi. N of Momigno; while to W, 11th Armd Bn advances line as far as Lucchio and Zata. At 2100, R boundary of 6th CT, BEF, is shifted about 6 mi. E to include Serchio Valley; later at 2400, 3d Bn of 6th CT relieves 3d Bn of 370th Regt and prepares for advance up Serchio R.; other troops reach Pescaglia as well as Pommezzano, NW of M. Matanna, on extreme L flank. Enemy resists advance of TF 45 along coast with heavy arty, SA, and MG fire.

Adverse weather cancels medium and light bomber operations. Thirty-six P-47s drop 9 tons of bombs on RR lines and roads NW of Spezia; 10 fighters destroy RR and MT targets N of battle area. SW of Grado, 4 Beaufighters and a Wellington set fire to 2,500-ton MV and escort vessel.

Allied DDs continue bombardment in Ventimiglia area, hitting troop and gun positions.

Yugoslavia:

Bitter fighting continues in main combat areas as Russians close in from W, thereby threatening German northern escape routes; reports indicate Russians cross Danube into Yugoslavia at Orsova, W of Iron Gate on river, capturing Tekija, just S of Orsova, and villages in Miroc Planina along river. Enemy, surrounded in fortress and barracks in Banja Luka, is besieged by Partisan troops. Hvar and remaining southern islands off Dalmatian coast are reported clear of enemy. In Slovenia, Tito's troops, continuing the offensive toward Drava R., capture Podravska, Slatina, and Cadavica; reports claim Zagreb-Karlovac-Ogulin, Brod-Vincovci, and Sunja-Kostajnica lines severely damaged by Partisan sabotage. Partisans continue active against MT columns on coasts in

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]
UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944

Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

Montenegro, while in Hercegovina, RR station on Dubrovnik-Mostar line is completely destroyed.

Greece and Aegean:

Three enemy planes are destroyed and 2 planes and 2 gliders damaged by 29 fighters in strafing attack on Sedes/Salonika airfield. N of Crete, 4 Beaufighters destroy 2 enemy planes in night attack, while 4 additional fighters probably destroy 2 small vessels and hit several others in Gavriion harbor, Andros I. DDs (HMS Liddesdale, HMS Zetland, and HMS Brecon) enter Pegadia Bay, Scarpanto I., SE of Rhodes, silence shore batteries, and sink small vessel; HMS Liddesdale receives 3 hits and some casualties in this engagement.

29 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

Heavy rains and swollen rivers hamper troop operations.

I Canadian Corps Little progress made on Corps front. Enemy still holds ground S of Rubicone R. between coast and Route 16, although forward elements of 2d NZ Div are along river line from Route 16 to point about 3 mi. SW; during morning L flank troops are forced to withdraw because of enemy pressure, but subsequently regain original positions. Continuing the line S, 5th Cdn Armd Div units are also along S bank of river as far as Savignano.

V Corps Fifty-sixth Div troops continue fight in Savignano area; 169th Brig patrols push to RR station in town and ridge to S; late at night, German 90th PG Div withdraws from Savignano across Rubicone R. Positions on 46th and 4th Ind Div front remain unchanged.

X Corps Patrols of Wheeler Force encounter enemy in area 3 mi. S of San Sofia, approximately 8 mi. N of Bagno.

UNCLASSIFIED
[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIEDSept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER29.
Cont

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Slight enemy shelling occurs on 6th Br Armd Div front; 61st Brig seizes M. Fuso, key feature on Dicomano-Forli road N of Bocconi, and M. Collina to NW. Enemy withdraws from M. Castelnuovo, enabling 17th Ind Brig of 8th Ind Div to take feature and surrounding hills. In 1st Br Div sector, unit of 66th Brig seizes M. Toncone after sharp fight, which operation outflanks M. Gamberaldi and causes enemy to withdraw; 2d Brig captures its objective and is now directed on M. Grizzano to N.

II Corps CT 351 of 88th Div attempts to take M. Capello, NE of Castel del Rio and W of M. Battaglia, but is held in position with hard fighting throughout day; 350th Regt incurs heavy casualties in repulsing further German counterattacks on M. Battaglia and is under heavy enemy shelling from N, NE and SE. At Montefredente, 2 mi. SW of Fornelli, elements of 168th Regt, 34th Div, repulse local counterattack.

IV Corps Advance continues on R flank in area N of Castiglione as 24th Guards troops press 1 mi. N from Sparvo to reach Creda under heavy arty fire; 11th SA Armd Brig consolidates positions on San Damiano and surrounding area. At 0645, CCB, with 74th LAA Regt under operational control, is detached from TF 92 to take over zone extending along Route 64, where it is established on M. Cornato. In TF 92 sector, units of 370th Regt, pressing forward toward Route 12, approach Piteglio, NW of Prunetta. Advance troops of 3d Bn of 6th CT, BEF, moving up Route 12, are less than mi. SW of Borgo a Mozzano; Stazzema, N of Pommezzano, falls to 2d Bn elements which are now directed against Pania della Croce, dominating peak to N. German arty fire is lessening in TF 45 sector, although troops still make no gains.

Bad weather again responsible for cancellation of nearly all missions. Fifty-two fighter bombers cut RRs leading S from Milan in 17 places and also damage other communication targets.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATERYugoslavia:

Two enemy columns relieve besieged German troops in Banja Luka. Along N Dalmatian coast, Partisans capture Jablanac, enemy stronghold in Podgorski channel opposite Rab I. Resuming offensive in E Bosnia near Serbian border, Partisans gain control of Srebrenica and neighboring towns.

Weather restricts Balkan AF. Four Spitfires bomb and strafe Tkon on Dalmatian coast with numerous hits in town.

Greece and Aegean:

Sixty British commandos, dispatched from Kithira I., land at Kalamati on mainland of Peloponnesus. Seven Beaufighters, flying over SW Aegean at night, destroy 3 enemy planes and probably another and damage 3. HMS Black Prince (CL) and HMS Tumult (DD) bombard Siros I. in Cyclades group, sinking 5 lighters and AK and damaging harbor installations.

30 Italy:

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY

I Canadian Corps Reports indicate enemy in strength on N bank of Rubicone R. with some strong-points on S bank. Canadian positions improving slowly against tough opposition. Late at night there is considerable enemy arty fire along front lines of 11th Cdn Brig (5th Cdn Armd Div) sector.

V Corps Troops make some progress in Corps area. In 56th Div sector, 169th Brig secures Savignano and continues mopping up; 167th Brig thrusts W toward Rubicone R. Units of 128th Brig relieve 139th Brig and advance to occupy Montalbano, while to S, Tribola is taken by 7th Brig of 4th Ind Div. Throughout night heavy enemy shelling occurs all along Corps front.

X Corps Advance troops of Wheeler Force patrol to Spinello, 4 1/2 mi. SW of San Sofia.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER30
Cont

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps On R flank of 6th Br Armd Div, 61st Brig is forced to withdraw from M. Fusco because of bad weather; most of Div moving along Route 67 are now within 20 mi. of Forli directed on Rocca S. Casciano. Seventeenth Ind Brig (8th Ind Div) begins relief of 2d Brig (1st Br Div), taking over position on M. Grizzano. First Br Div moves forward and is now within 15 mi. of Faenza: 2d Brig advances 3 mi. N of Marradi; meanwhile during morning, 3d Brig assumes command of 66th Brig sector and gains 1 mi. in area 2 mi. N of Palazzuolo.

II Corps Attacking with 2 bns, 351st Regt, 88th Div, takes M. Capello by 1800, after 36 hrs of continued assault. On Corps' W flank, 34th Div attacks N of Montefredente, advancing slowly against scattered resistance. During last week of Sept heavy rains impede Corps' operations over already difficult terrain, but at month's end 4 divs are through the Gothic Line, over the northern ridges of the Apennines, and prepared to continue the attack to the N into the Po Valley. In 88th Div sector, elements of at least 8 divs have been identified in enemy reinforcements poured in to prevent advance of 88th to Highway No. 9, up which troops are retreating from Rimini in direction of Bologna.

IV Corps Heavy enemy pressure during night causes elements of 24th Guards Brig to withdraw from Creda to new positions where they repulse counter-attack; to N, other units begin attack on M. Catarelto, 4½ mi. N of Castiglione, making slow progress against bitter opposition but reaching upper slopes by night. Elements of TF 92 cross Lima R. to enter La Lima (where Route 66 joins Route 12) and prepare for advance NW. On L flank of TF 92 in area E of Bagni di Lucca, troops cut Route 12 in 2 places. Major Gen. Dutra, Commander in Chief of the Brazilian Army, assumes command at 0001 of 6th CT, BEF, and TF 45 and these forces continue operations as TF Dutra. Borgo a Mozzano and Fornoli, farther N at junction on Serchio and

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIEDSept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER30
Cont

Lima rivers, fall to 3d Bn of 6th CT as it moves up Route 12 in face of MG and mortar fire. Little change in TF 45 zone; troops receive considerable MG, SA, and mortar fire.

U.S. Fifth Army casualties 1-30 Sept include 1,284 killed, 5,616 wounded, and 300 missing.

Despite poor weather, planes are particularly active against communications and RR targets in Po Valley: 160 medium bombers hit RR bridges at Voghera (NW of Alessandria), Piacenza, Cittadellá, Borgoforte (SW of Mantova), Sannazzaro de 'Bur (SE of Pavia), and Magenta (W of Milan) and road bridges at Galliate and Sesto Calende; direct hits result on all objectives; 293 fighters and fighter bombers cut RRs in 21 places and score hits on road bridge S of Empoli and another S of Modena. Shipping off Ravenna and Maestra Point is attacked by 2 Beaufighters which score hits on 4 trawlers. During night, San Benedetto pontoon bridge is objective for 49 Wellingtons, B-24s, and Halifaxes which drop 114 tons of bombs, hitting S and W approaches of bridge. Same night, 42 light bombers start fires at Forli, Modena, and Imola RR yards and hit Bologna-Ferrara RR bridge.

Yugoslavia:

According to reports from Moscow, Russian troops cross Danube and thrust into Yugoslavia from positions S of Turnu-Severin, occupying about 20 localities including Kladovo and Negotin. Partisans continue to sabotage RRs in Croatia and Slovenia and harass Belgrade-Salonika line.

Air operations cancelled because of weather.

Albania:

Partisans gain Berat power station. Meanwhile Allied commando forces harass enemy in Sarande-Delvino area to S.

Greece and Aegean:

Heavy fighting occurs W and SW of Yannina during night; enemy losses severe.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIEDSept
1944Section IV: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

30 Eight Beaufighters, in night attack over Crete,
Cont destroy enemy plane NW of Candia. Same night HMS Black Prince
 bombards Maleme airfield and suffers superficial damage from
 enemy fire.

UNCLASSIFIED

