



MAPRW

1943

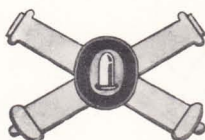
**A
PICTORIAL
HISTORY
1943**

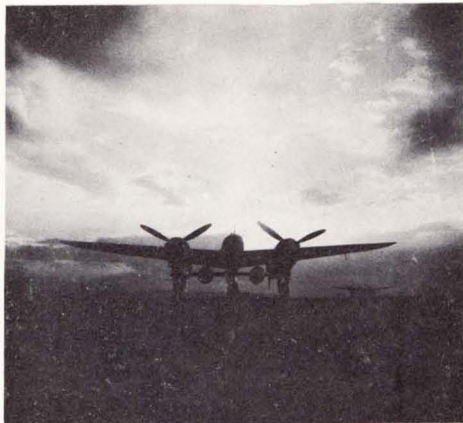
**MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED
PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE
WING**

**PUBLISHED
1944**



FLAK OVER ALGIERS





★ ★ STARS ★ ★
of
THE SHOW



CASABLANCA

Conception

THE ALLIED CHIEFS OF STATE and their Staff, meeting at Casablanca in January of 1943, arrived at some far-reaching decisions relative to the Allied Forces in the Mediterranean. The result was one complete Allied Force, instead of many separate forces, each fighting the Axis in its own way. One phase of Air Force activity which had already been slowly working toward that position was photographic reconnaissance. The Northwest African Photo Reconnaissance Wing, conceived at Casablanca, came into being at Algiers in February. Originally the unit was composed of the 3rd Photographic Group, AAF, and NACIU and 682 Squadron, RAF. Its first year saw an unprecedented growth of the scope of photographic reconnaissance and the expansion of the Wing into the most completely allied tactical unit in the Mediterranean. British, American, French, South African, Polish, Czechoslovak, and Dominion personnel in the Mediterranean Allied Photo Reconnaissance Wing live, work, and relax together today in the knowledge that their combined efforts are making possible considerable shortening of the war to liberate Europe and of its cost in human life. This book is the log of our first year as an Allied unit, operating in the center of world activity--the Mediterranean.

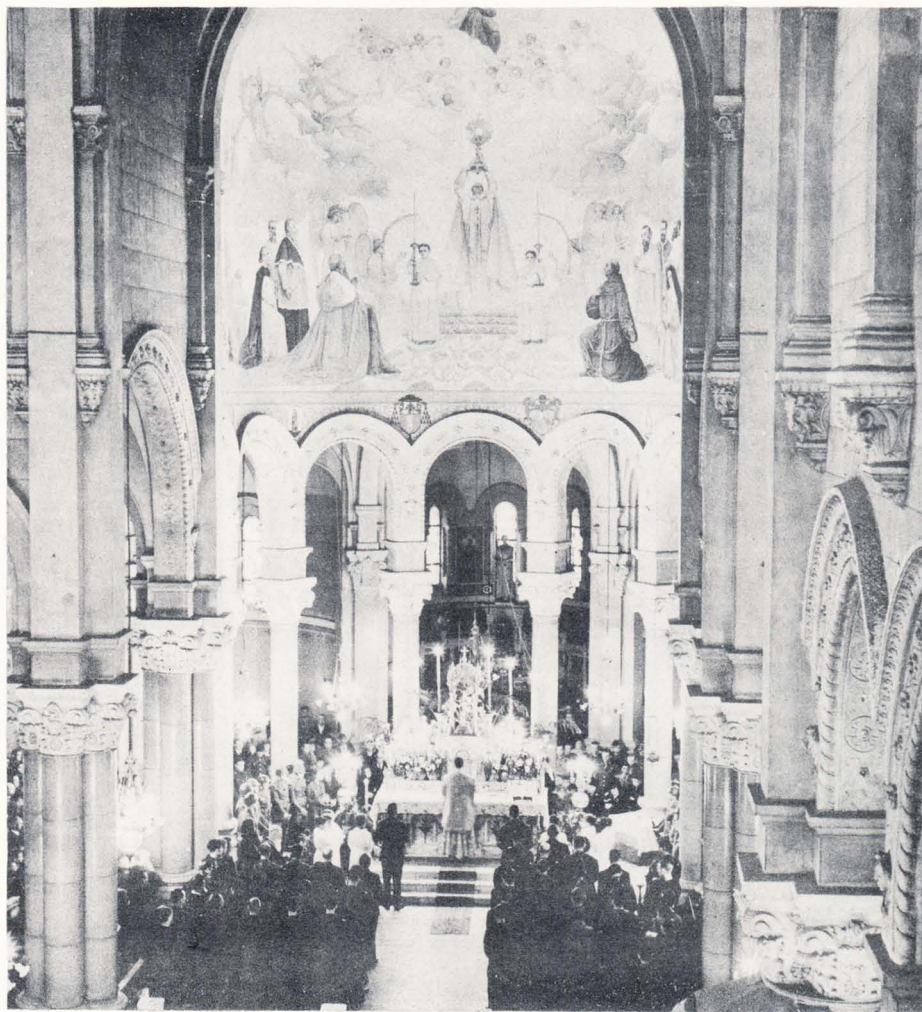


*February
1943*



Born at
ALGIERS





EASTER SERVICE

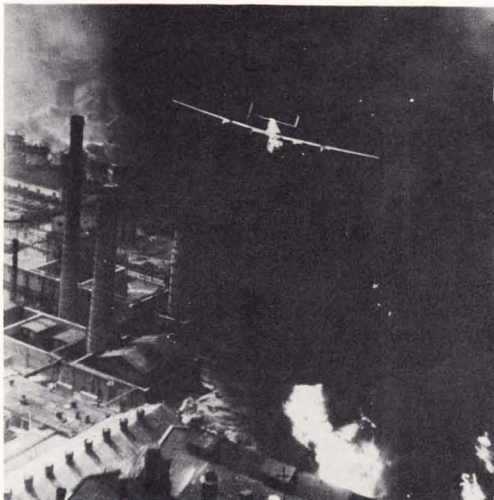
1943

COL. ROOSEVELT



WING COMMANDER FULLER

AIR SUPPORT



Above--B-24 at Ploesti.

Right--Bombs on Leghorn Refinery.

Below--B-25's attacking German air transport over the Mediterranean



INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT OF THE AIR FORCES has been a continuous and ever-growing phase of our work. When the B-24 Liberators attacked Ploesti from smokestack height, plunging homeward through the burning oil-refineries, they were operating according to plans carefully laid on the basis of photographic information. Their success was measured and proved on photos. The B-17 Flying Fortresses at the Leghorn Refinery were performing another task of the same great operation, based on the photo watch of the photo reconnaissance units. Photos also played their part in the planning of the great counter-air transport operation which hastened the end of the Wehrmacht in Tunisia.

LT. COL. POLIFKA

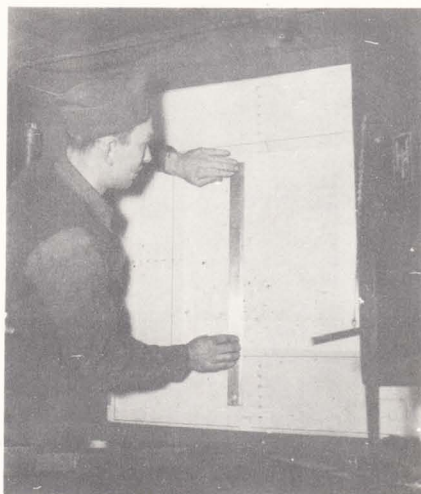
Lt. Col. Karl L. Polifka, known as "Pop" Polifka, pioneered the use of the P-38 as a recon ship in the Pacific before he came to the European theater. As a daring, skillful recon pilot he ranks at the top.

The Progress of the armies in Italy was often made possible by low oblique photographs. This dicing shot (below) by Lt. Col. Polifka was taken over Cassino, 26 November, 1943.

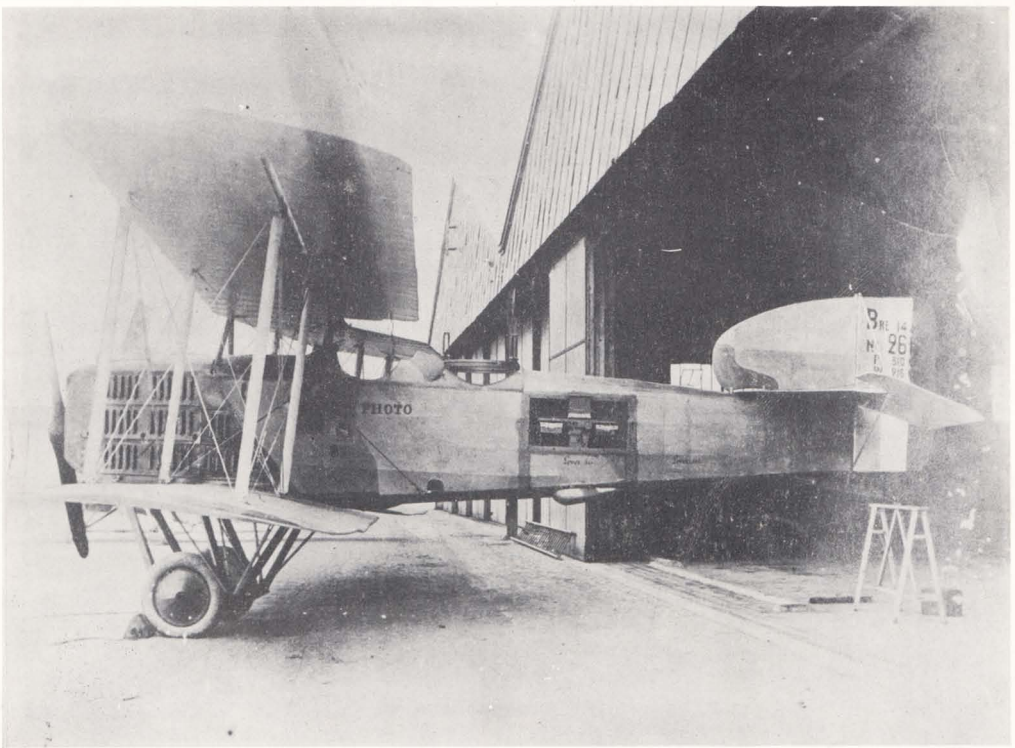




ARMY SUPPORT

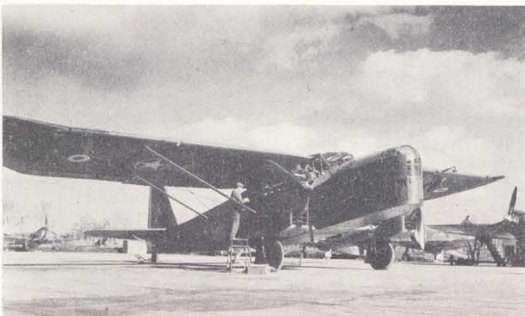


The cameraman and the interpreter, the lab men and the engineer, are all part of the team that lays the groundwork for the advance of our ground forces. Seemingly impregnable positions have been made untenable as a result of photo reconnaissance and interpretation. Enemy dumps, gun positions, and troop movements are spotted by the recon pilot and the interpreter. This information has resulted in the saving of lives and in facilitating the advance of our armies.



L'ARMÉE DE L'AIR FRANÇAISE

brought to photographic reconnaissance a wealth of experience. The French Breguet 14 above was equipped for aerial photography in 1916. The mount seen carried a plate-type camera over the lines before aerial film had been developed to a point where it could take over. Groupe de Reconnaissance 2/33 joined the Allies in North Africa after a storybook escape from behind the enemy's lines. Before this group was re-equipped and ready for operations, however, the French Air Force was participating actively in NAPRW activities. The antedated Potez 540 bomber, long-since in use as a transport, was equipped as a flying laboratory and she and her crew were part of the first experimental field unit placed in operation far in advance of the base laboratories and interpretation unit.

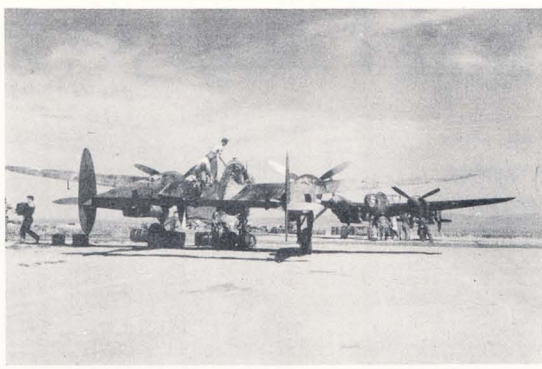




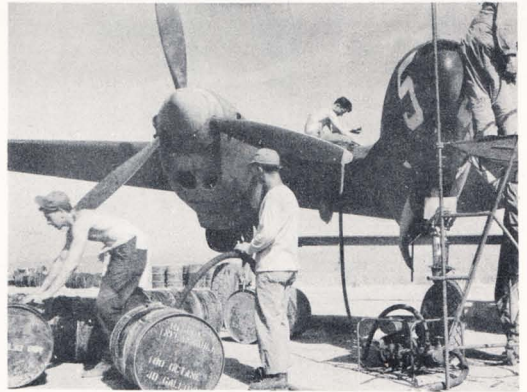
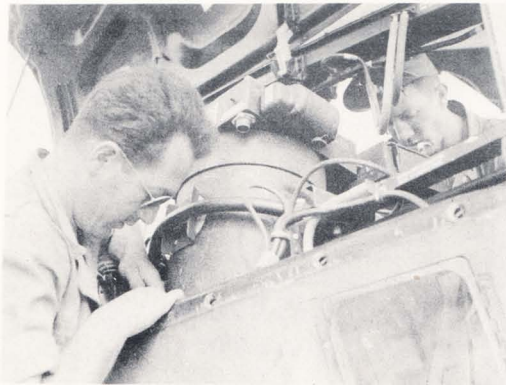
CO, Captain DuBois.

33RD SQUADRON, FRENCH





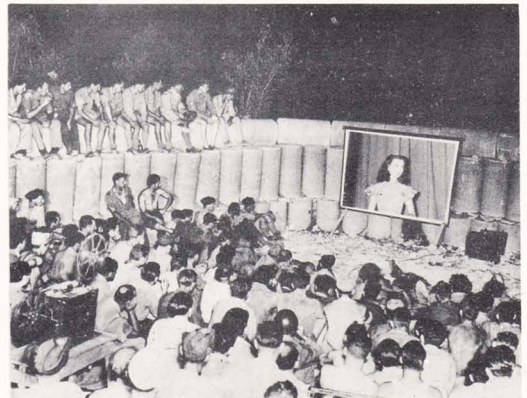
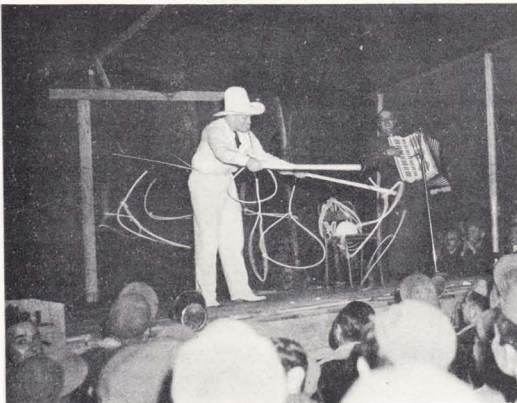
PRE-FLIGHT



"ENTERTAINMENTS"

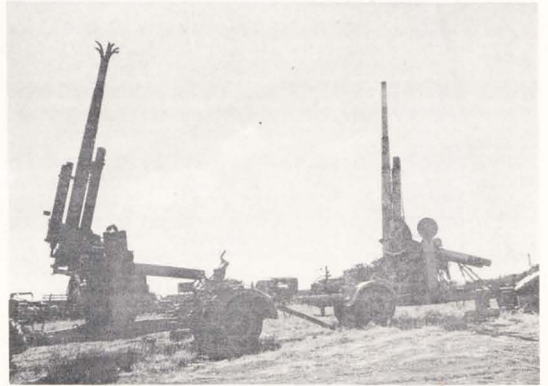
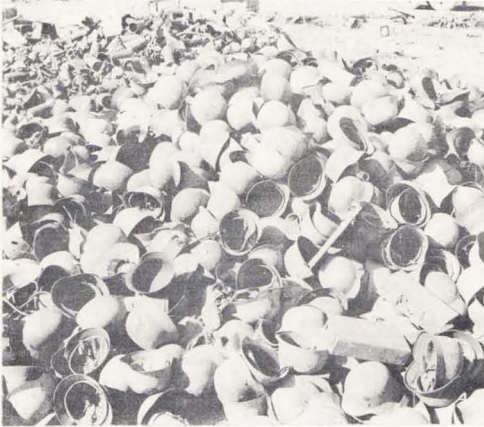


ENTERTAINMENTS have been good and of a wide variety. Martha Raye, Kay Francis, Carol Landis and Mitzi Mayfair (top right) were among the first of the Hollywood fair set to learn to eat C-rations, ride a 6 x 6, and hop from field to field in a C-47, B-26, or whatever is handy. Josephine Baker, top left, became a favorite in North Africa early in 1943, singing to packed houses wherever she went. Vivien Leigh of GWTW (center) toured during the summer for ENSA, and the U.S.O. shows (bottom left) have stayed right with the troops as they moved on toward Germany. The old standby, of course, is the G.I. movie.



FALL of TUNIS

May 1943



MOST THRILLING VICTORY OF THE YEAR was the final defeat of the Axis forces in Tunisia in May. The hundreds of thousands of prisoners of war dumped their helmets in huge stacks like that above (what ever became of the one you carried back to camp?) and set out to walk or hitch-hike to the stockades along the route to Algiers. More closely watched, their Generals were flown to Maison Blanche, where they were transferred to planes taking them quickly from the theatre. Jurgin Von Arnim, lower right, was the commander Rommel left behind.



INSPECTIONS

SUMMER 1943



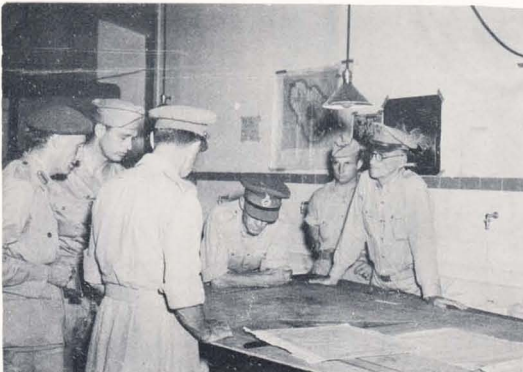
A/M Tedder, S/L Walton,
Col. Roosevelt.



Lt. Col. Polifka, Col. Roosevelt,
Col. M.W. Kaye.



General Eisenhower.



Col. Roosevelt, Col. Dunn,
Gen. Spaatz.



Gen. Spaatz,
Sec. War Stimson.



June 1943



FOLLOWING THE FALL OF TUNISIA, the Italian island of Pantelleria was subjected to one of the most concentrated aerial bombardments in history, which resulted in its surrender before the invasion troops had reached shore. NAPRW compiled several aerial mosaics and a complete study of its defenses, which were systematically reduced by heavy and medium bombers and fighter-bombers. After the fall of this island, the weight of the attack was shifted south to the island of Lampedusa which quickly surrendered, and Lampione and Liucosa followed suit. King George VI, meanwhile, made a tour of inspection of the Allied troops in North Africa and Malta.



MALTA

FROM MALTA--the island base which held out through the years when it was surrounded and under attack--the RAF photo reconnaissance unit provided the information needed to fill the gaps between that procured by Middle East and the information secured by NAPRW. To Malta, in

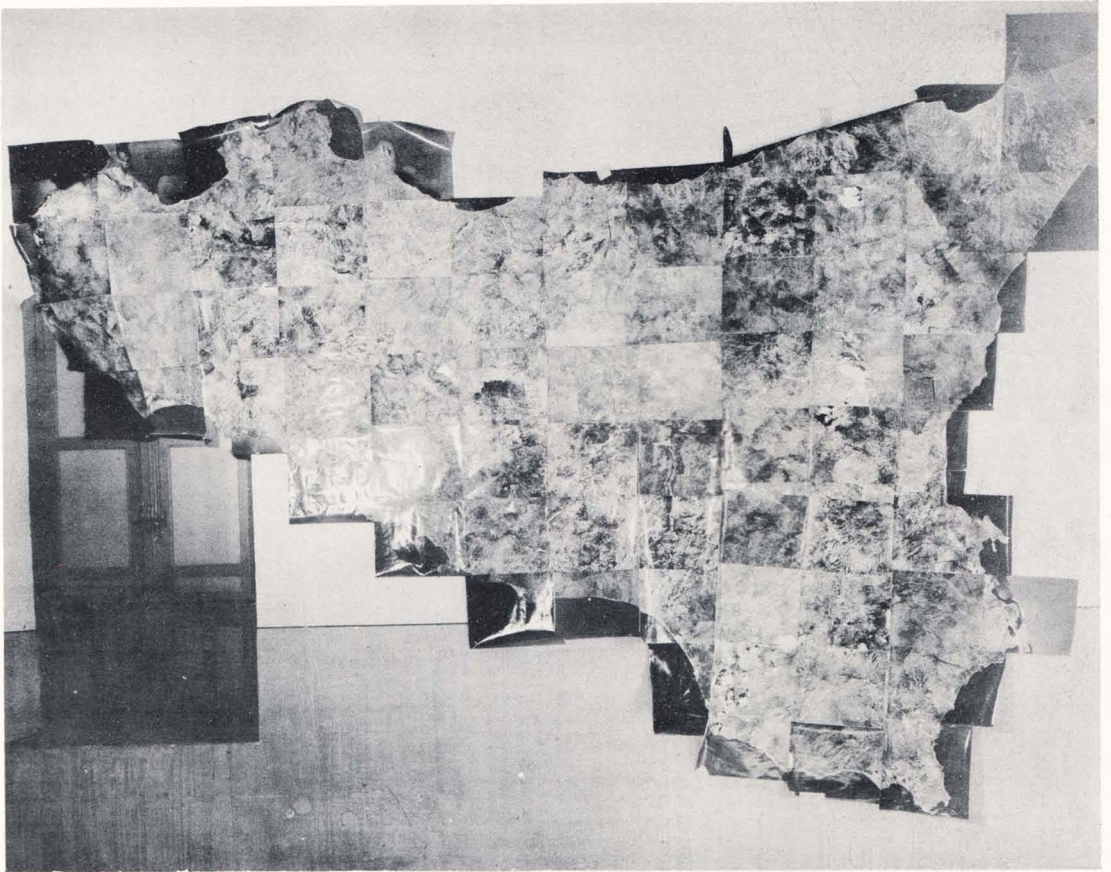
March went a part of Third Photo Group charged with a most important mission--the mapping of Sicily on aerial photographs. Working with PRU Malta, the Americans flew several hundred sorties over the island whose conquest was to seal the fate of Italy. Before the invasion was undertaken, daily photographs of all the island's airfields, ports and coastal defenses were flown by RAF and AAF pilots on shuttle-service missions

--from North Africa over Sicily to Malta, and vice versa. For some time the world's most-bombed stronghold, Malta was still under attack after the Axis had been driven from Africa, as many RAF and U. S. members of MAPRW can testify.

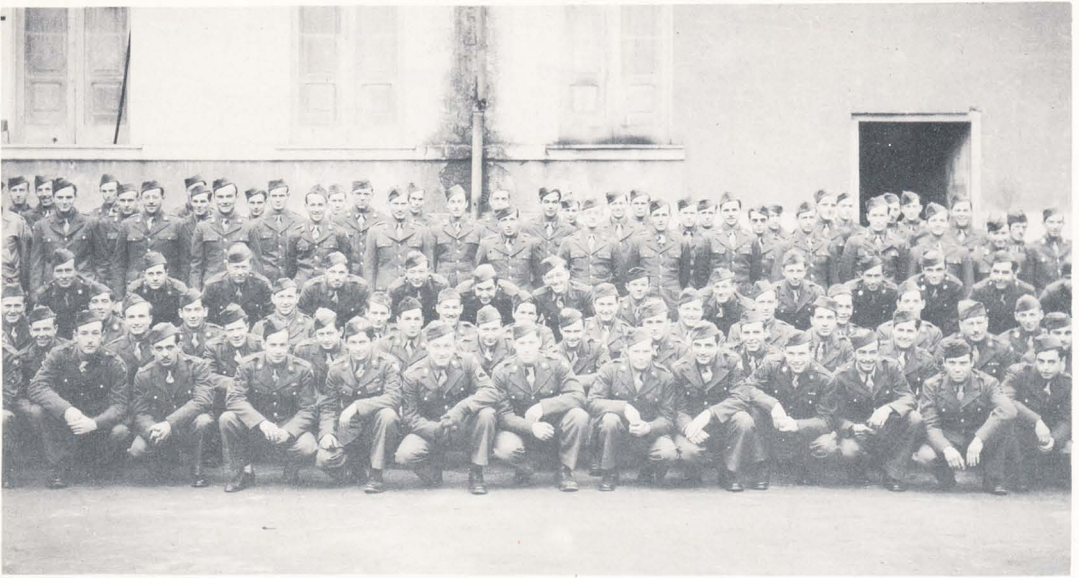
Spark-plug of the Malta PRU was its C.O., Wing Commander Adrian Warburton, center.



SICILY



PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT in the conquest of Sicily in July and August of 1943 included this aerial photomap of the entire island--the largest single aerial photo mosaic ever compiled up to that time. Every photograph was taken on a combat sortie, many in the face of stiff opposition from enemy flak and aircraft defenses. Lt. General G. S. Patton, commanding the 7th Army, commended the 12th Squadron for their work in close support of his forces, giving them "no small share" of the credit for Palermo's fall.



12TH PHOTO RECON. SQ.



G.I.



ROGER LARSON, DICER

CAPTAIN LARSON, formerly with the RAF Eagle Squadron, was one of the ace recon pilots of this war. He flew missions in direct support of the armies in Tunisia, and was killed 13 February 1943 on a special courier flight to Tripoli for the Eighth Army.



Captain Roger Larson and
Colonel Elliott Roosevelt.



Captain Larson's famous dicing shot of the
Amphitheater at El Djem, 12 December 1942.



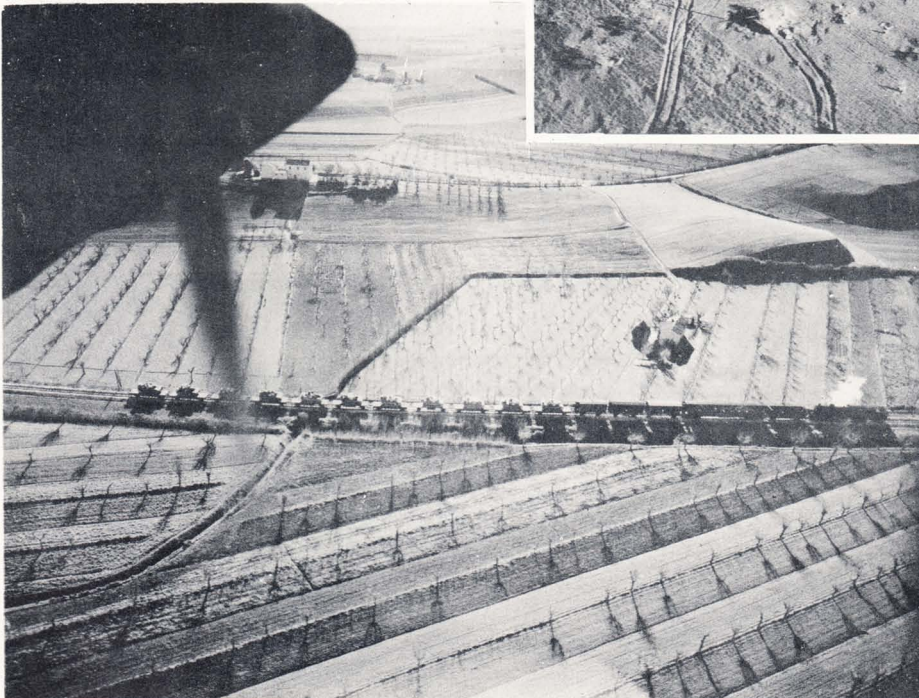
LEON GRAY, DICER



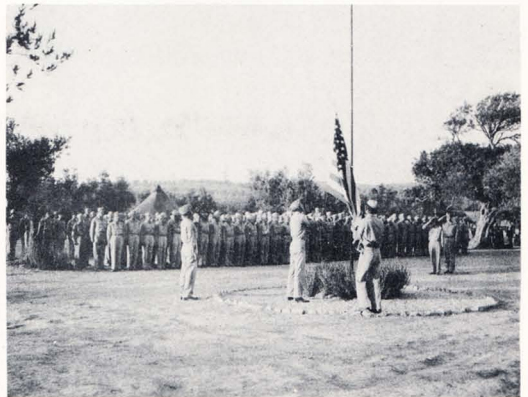
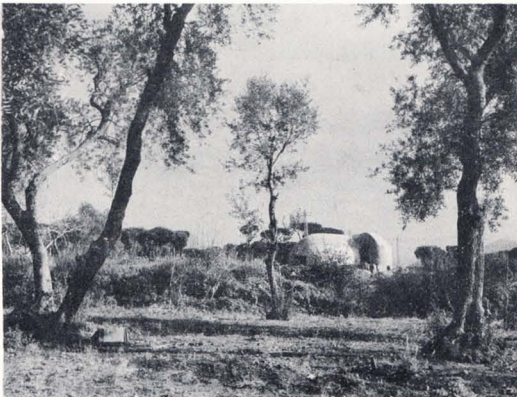
Major Leon W. Gray, former CO of 5th Group, DFC and cluster, Air Medal with 11 clusters, with the famous old 67, which was shot down and ditched in the Adriatic on its 97th mission. Major Gray was saved by air-sea rescue.

Tank battle near Ortona, Italy. Photographed by Major Gray from 200 feet.

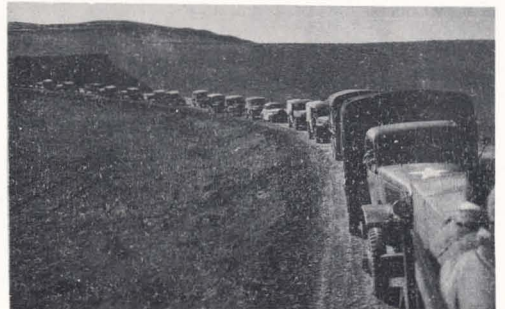
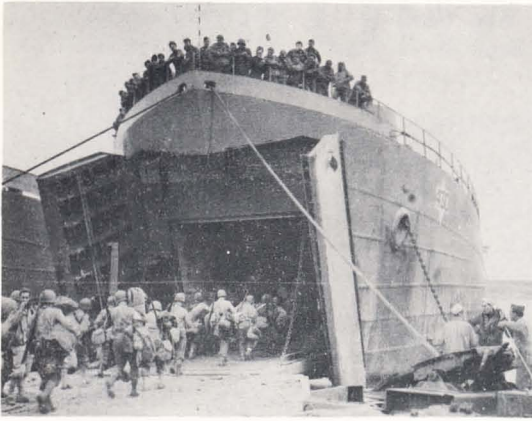
Below, German tanks being shipped by railroad. Photographed near San Benedetto Del Tronto, Italy, by Major Gray from 200 feet.



SCENIC SHOTS



MOVEMENT *to* ITALY





*LT. COL. KARL L. POLIFKA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER*



*MAJ. PHILLIP A. KENNEDY
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE OFFICER*



MAJ. MORGAN GOODHART A 1



LT. COL. CHARLES L. MARBURG A 2



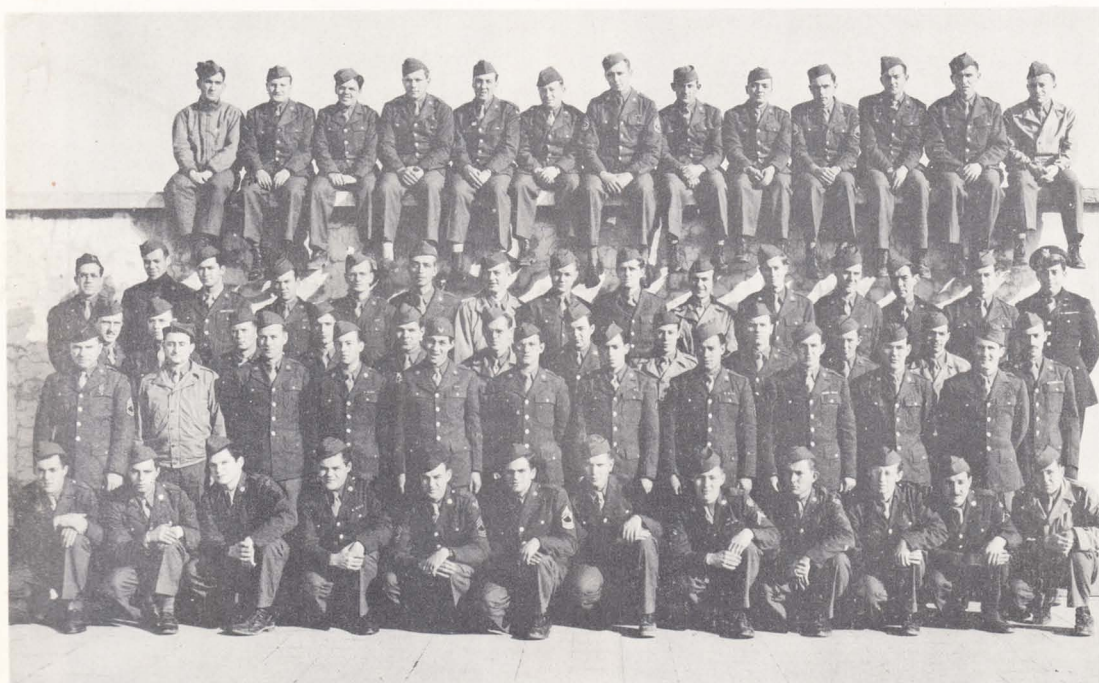
MAJ. LEON GREY A 3



LT. COL. MITCHELL A 4



HQ. SQ. 90TH WING



Everybody Knows -



MAJ. GOODHART AS "J. B."



LT. COL. OSMUN AS "COACH"



TERRY COWLING THE M.C.



F/LT. EWAN AS "TUBBY"

Everybody Knows-

(CONT'D)



*S/SGT. IRWIN DELONG
VETERAN ENLISTED INTERPRETER*



*3rd P.I.D'S M/SGT. BILL WOODRUFF
WHO TAKES SO MUCH RIBBING*



*GENIAL MAJOR ESMIOL
90th WING ADJUTANT*



*F/O PEGGY THORPE, OF
"C" SECTION*



*M/SGT. DON SWANSON 90th WING
SGT. MAJOR*



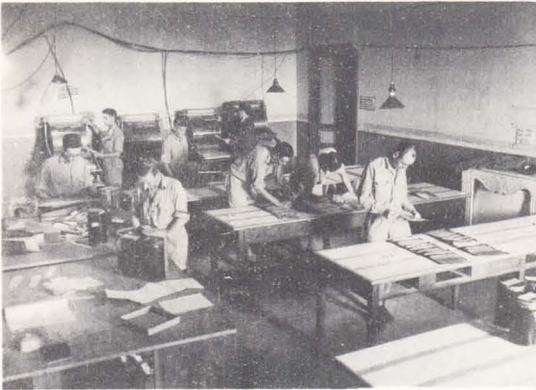
R A F

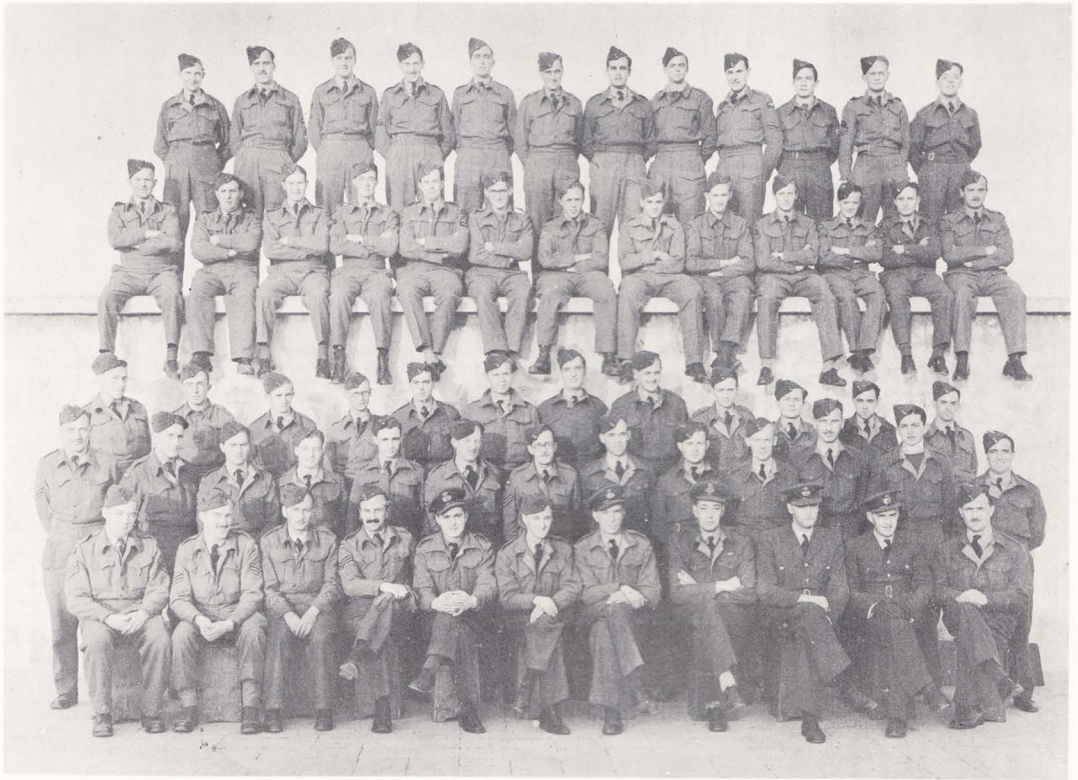


HQ. UNIT

RAF LAB WORK

There are many steps and many technicians involved between the receipt of a demand by the photo officer and the study of the photos by the interpreters.





RAF HQ. UNIT



RAF



HQ. UNIT

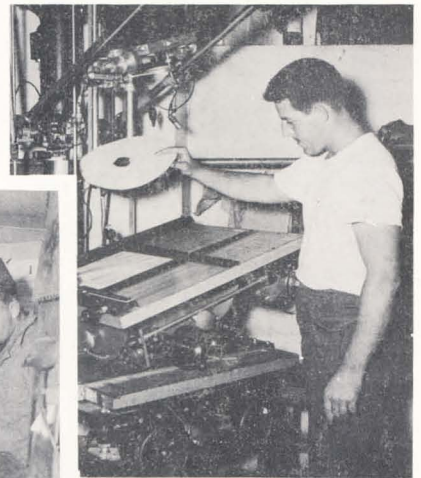
ENGINEERS AT WORK



CAPT. ELDON D. SEWELL, WING ENGINEER



Laying Mosaics



Restituting Prints



Reproducing



Modeling

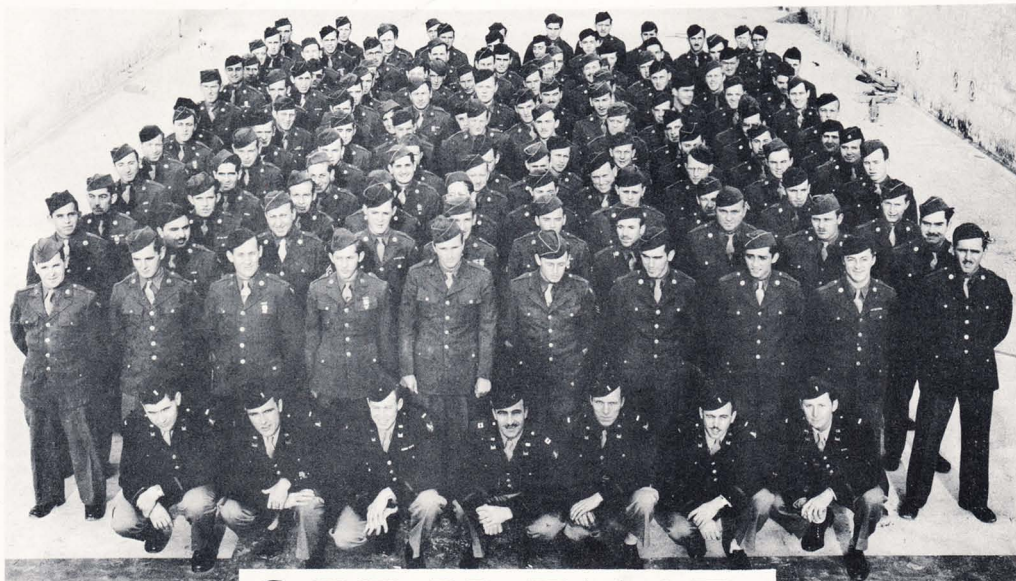


Compiling



CO, Capt Robert A. Memory

951ST ENGR.



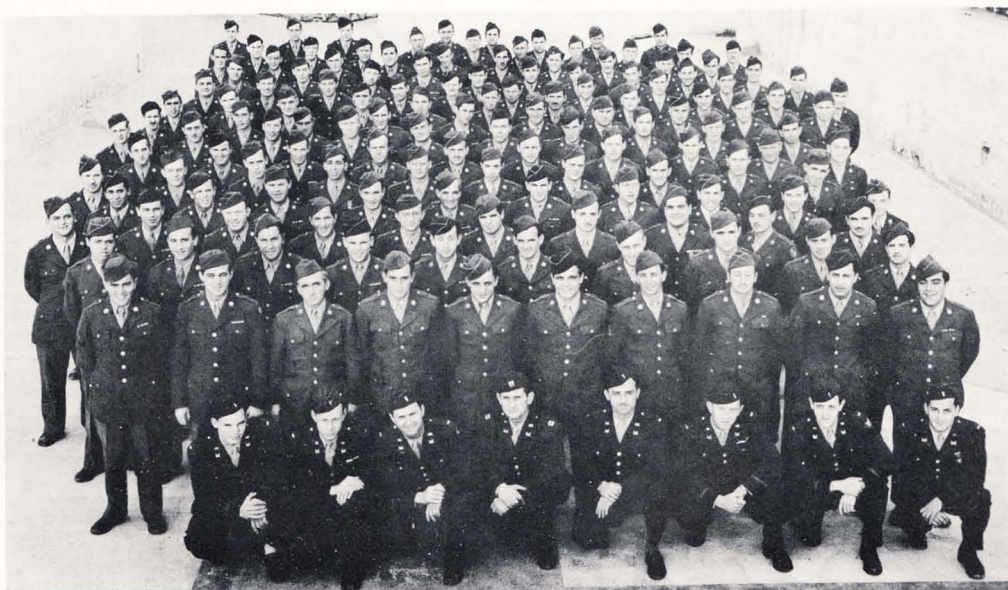
CO, Capt Roger E. Amidon

953RD ENGR.



CO, Capt Eldon D. Sewell

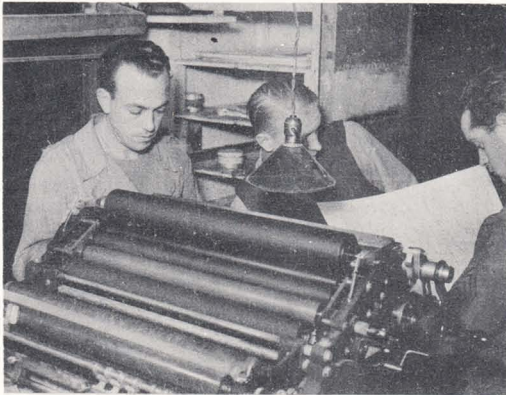
954 TH ENGR.



CO, Capt E. Manuel Hawtof

956 TH ENGR.

ENGINEERS AT WORK



Lithographing



Drafting



Repairing



Print Filing



Plotting

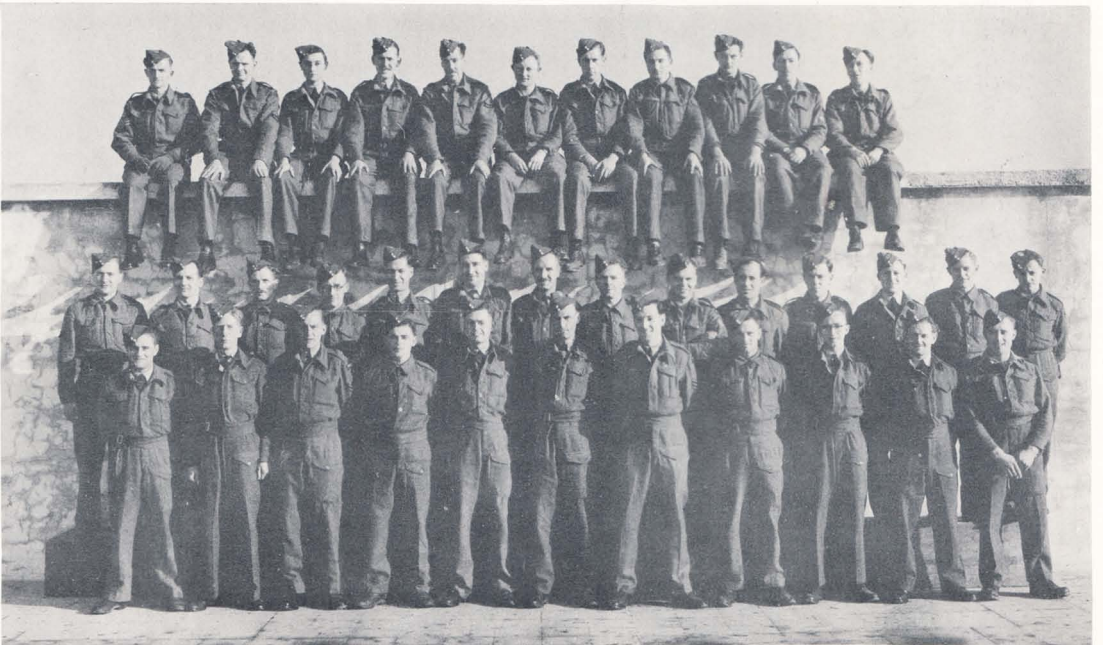


Photographing



CO, W/C Gordon E. Hughes, DSO, DFC & Bar.

336 WING RAF





CO, Major E. U. Brierly.

60TH SQ. SAAF



CO, S/Ldr. J. Morgan.



682ND RAF

THE MALTA PRU, which became probably the best known photo recon unit of its size among the war-rooms of the Allies before the invasion of Italy, was 683 Squadron, Royal Air Force. From the George Cross Island whence it had kept watch on the Central Mediterranean from within the enemy's lines, the Squadron moved on to Europe, where it is now a part of 336 Wing.

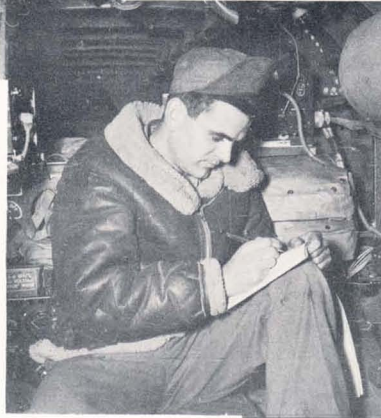


S/Ldr. Harry Stancliff Smith, C. O.



683 RD SQ
RAF

NIGHT MISSION





CO, 1st Lt. Richard Burnor.

15TH COMBAT MAPPING SQ.





G.I.

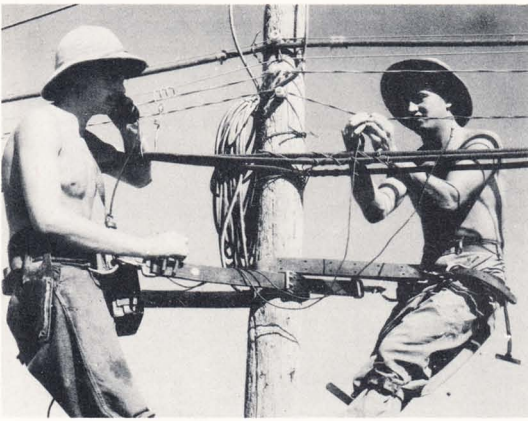




5TH PHOTO GROUP

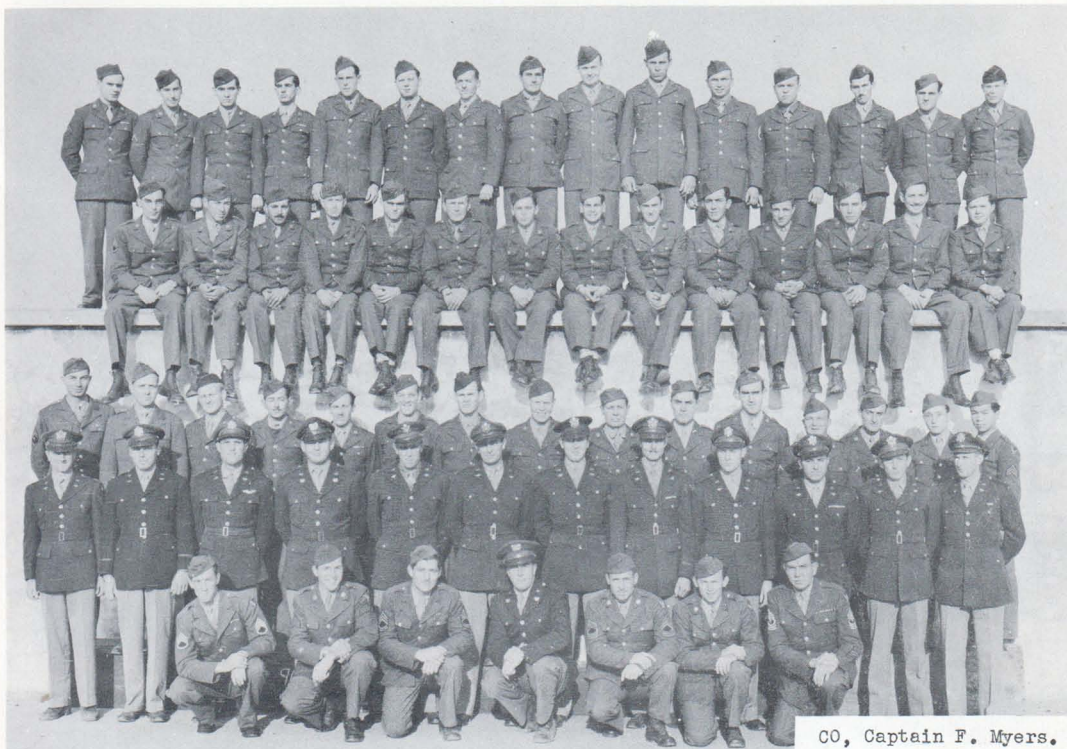


CO, Major Leon Gray.



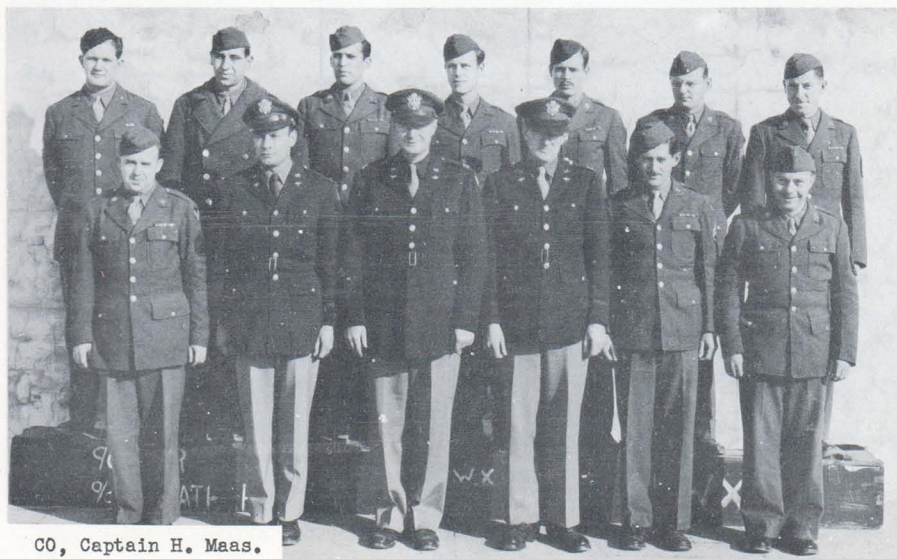
ACTIVITY *Shots*





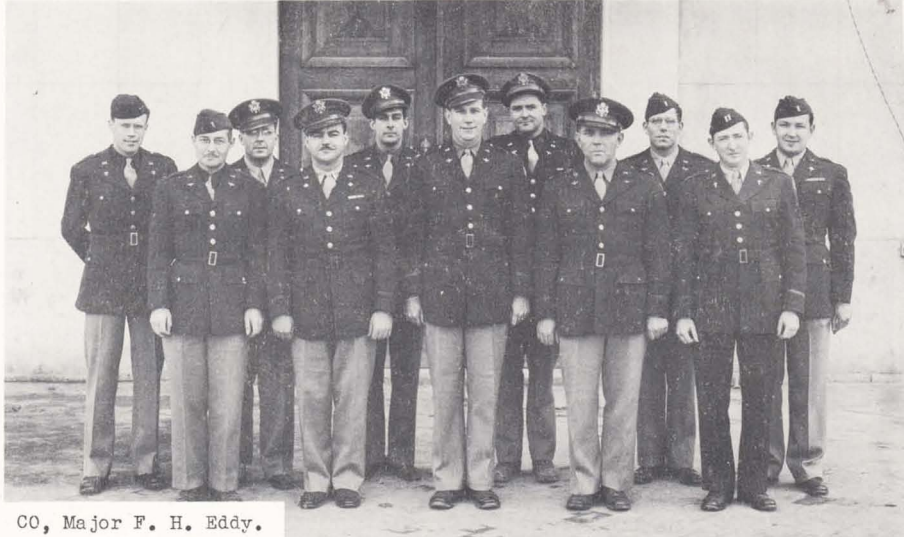
CO, Captain F. Myers.

3RD PHOTO TECH SQ.



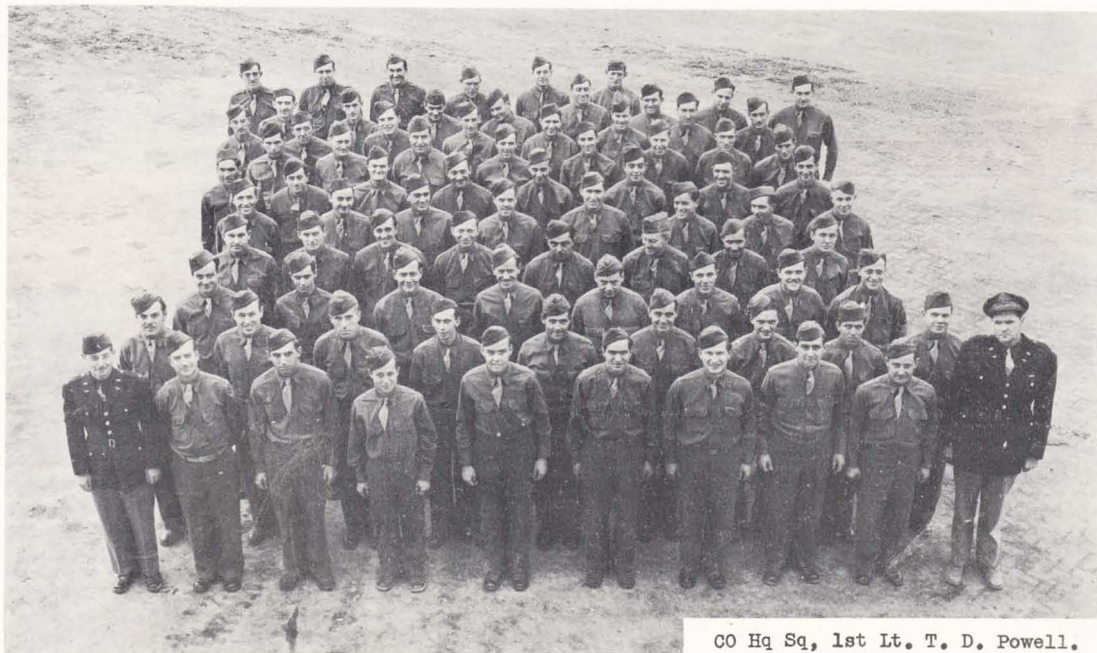
CO, Captain H. Maas.

3RD
P.I.D.



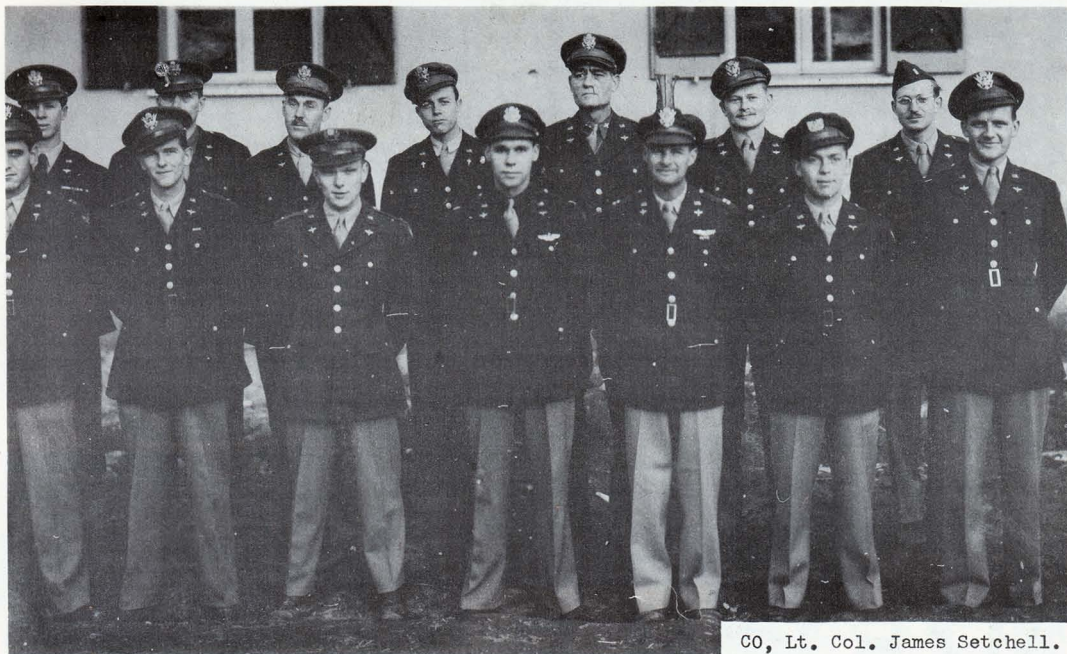
CO, Major F. H. Eddy.

STAFF 34TH GROUP



CO Hq Sq, 1st Lt. T. D. Powell.

HQ. SQ.



CO, Lt. Col. James Setchell.

3RD PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP





CO, Captain Warren.

975TH M.P. CO.



CO, 1st Lt. R. J. Kemmer.

1023RD SIGNAL CO.

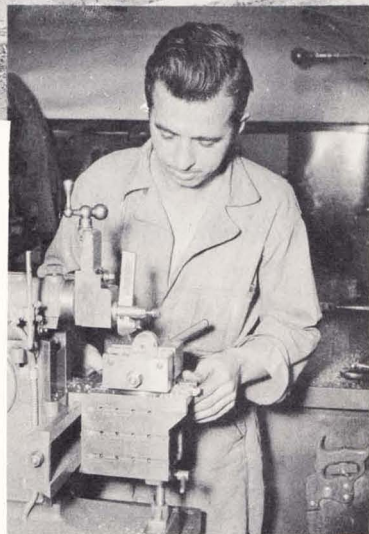


CO, Captain Wayne A. Maloy.

354TH SERVICE GP.



Lt. Col. J. W. Osmun,
Staff Weather Officer.



CO, Captain J. W. Kodis.

12TH WEATHER DET.



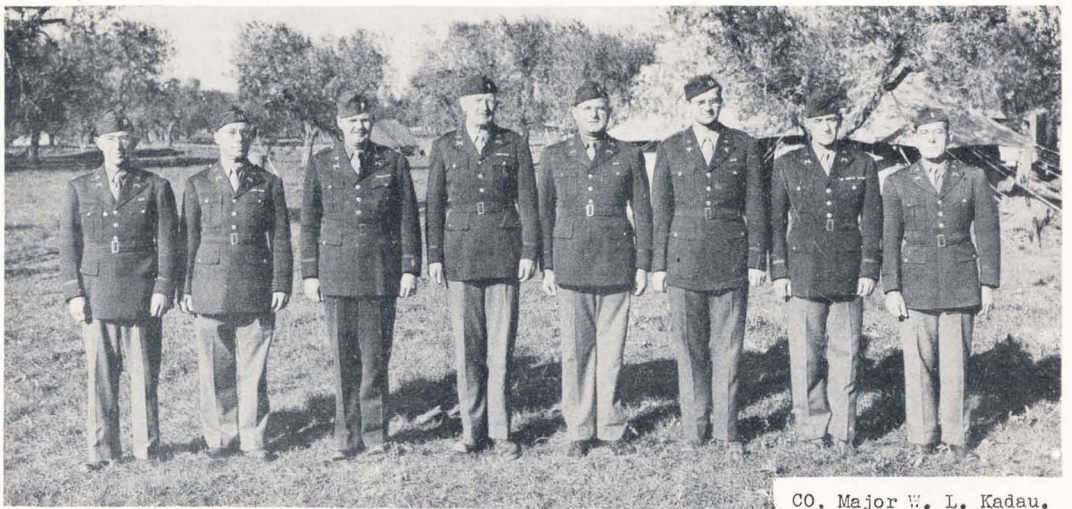
CO, Captain John E. Harrington.

1149TH Q.M. CO.



CO, 1st Lt. Richard T. Hill.

1948TH Q.M. TRUCKING CO.



CO, Major W. L. Kadau.

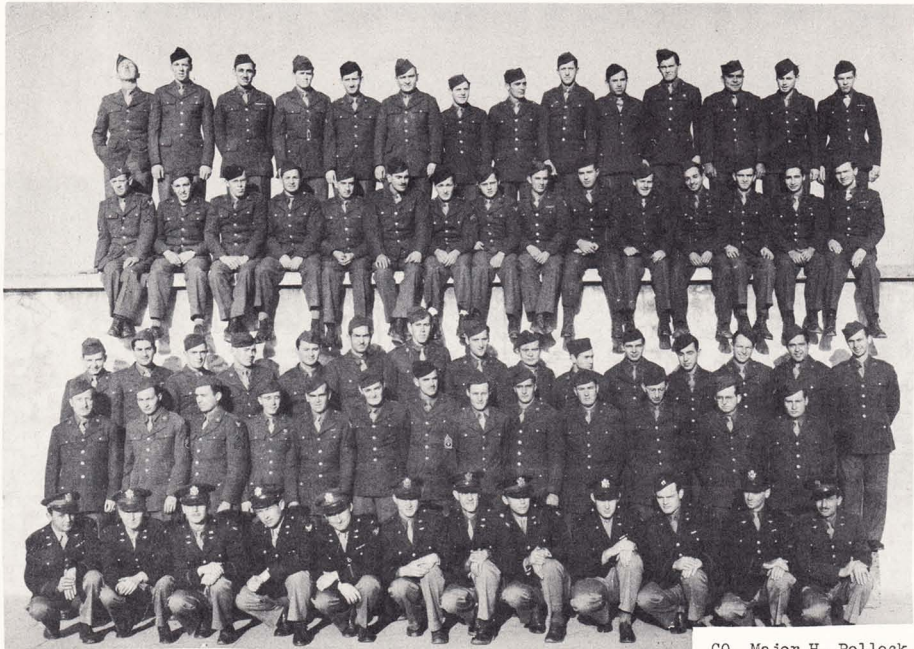
734TH M.P. BATTALION





CO, Major Elmer Johnson.

13TH P. I. D.



CO, Major H. Pollock.

4TH PHOTO TECH SQ.



CO, Major Silliman.

5TH COMBAT MAPPING SQ.

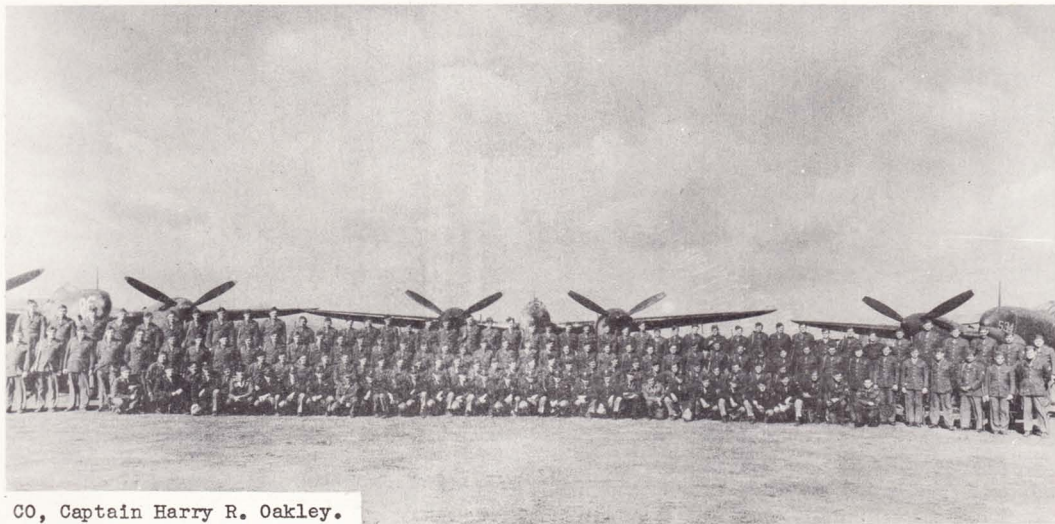


CO, Captain Lawson F. Reichard.

1777TH ORDNANCE CO.



23RD PHOTO RECON SQ.



CO, Captain Harry R. Oakley.



90TH WING DISPENSARY



Captain L. F. Brown.

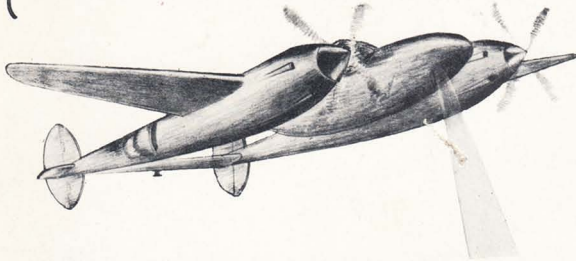


Major B. M. Merkel.



Major Tom Shields, Wing Surgeon.

Mediterranean Allied Photo Reconnaissance Wing



1938

General Werner Von Fritsch of the German High Command said:

"THE MILITARY ORGANIZATION WITH THE BEST
AERIAL PHOTORECONNAISSANCE WILL WIN
THE NEXT WAR."

1944

A Captured German Divisional Order said:

"ENEMY AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE DETECTS
OUR EVERY MOVEMENT, EVERY CONCENTRATION,
EVERY WEAPON, AND, IMMEDIATELY AFTER
DETECTION SMASHES EVERY ONE OF THESE
OBJECTIVES."