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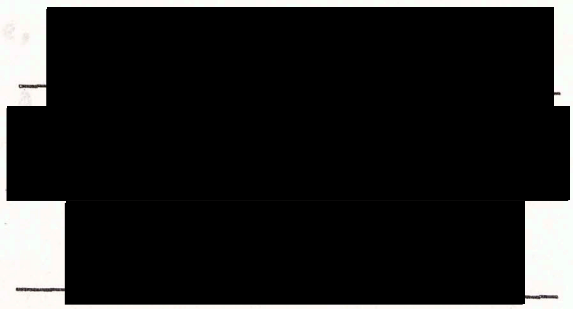
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A THESIS

APPROVED FOR THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

BY



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
I.	THE FORTY-FIFTH INFANTRY DIVISION	1
II.	HOT OFF THE PRESS	16
III.	THE NEWS -- 1940-1945	40
IV.	THE NEW FORTY-FIFTH INFANTRY DIVISION	64
V.	THE NEWS -- 1949-1953	71
EPILOGUE		82
BIBLIOGRAPHY		83

THE HISTORY OF THE FORTY-FIFTH DIVISION NEWS

CHAPTER I

THE FORTY-FIFTH INFANTRY DIVISION

The history of the 45th Infantry Division began long before the Oklahoma Army National Guard was organized and given its name. The Thunderbird patch worn by all members of the 45th is an Indian symbol which was adopted when Adolph Hitler began using the swastika in Germany as his identification. Until this time the 45th had used an Indian symbol similar to the swastika as its patch.

The story of the 45th Division began in the legislative assembly of the Indian Territory in 1895. Groups of men who had formed as bands of volunteers, militiamen and Indian scouts were brought together to organize companies for self-protection. At the call for service in the Spanish-American War, the territory that later was to become the state of Oklahoma supplied the nation with a troop of Rough Riders and four companies of infantry.

The end of the Spanish-American War brought about a more efficient organization of the National Guard, but the inertia of peace and the American indifference and dislike for anything associated with the military was responsible for slow progress. The veterans

of the war, however, formed a sound nucleus for what was to become the 1st Infantry Regiment, Oklahoma National Guard. Through the years that followed the militia remained on a regimental basis although auxiliary units were added to it from time to time.

Difficulties in Mexico brought a crisis along the Mexican border in 1916, and the Guard was called into federal service by President Woodrow Wilson. This call organized the Guard into an efficient military force. To many of its officers who had battled to keep the Guard alive, this was a great opportunity for national service. Units were reorganized and new enlistments and assignments were made while the mobilization continued. The Guard served well in the Mexican conflict and was mustered out of federal service and returned to state control in March, 1917.[1]

Less than one month later the Oklahoma National Guard again was called into federal service -- this time to serve in World War I. As an organization the old National Guard served well, and at the conclusion of the hostilities in Europe, all members who were inducted into federal service were discharged from the Army and, by law, from further military service to the state.[2]

Under the National Defense Act of March, 1918, the War Department authorized the organization of one regiment of infantry in Oklahoma. So many communities asked for units that the order was amended to

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[1]Albert Love Enterprises, ed., 45th Infantry Division (Atlanta, Ga.: Albert Love Enterprises, 1951), p. 4.

[2]Ibid.

allocate two regiments. Federal recognition was given to all these units by September 3, 1918. These units formed the beginning of the 45th Infantry Division.

The National Defense Act of 1920 authorized the formation of the 45th Infantry Division for the states of Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. The two regiments which had come into existence in World War I were designated as the 179th and 180th Infantry Regiments. The 156th Infantry Regiment was assigned to Colorado, and the 158th Infantry to Arizona and New Mexico.

The 70th Field Artillery Brigade was organized as rapidly as authority could be obtained. The regiments that composed this brigade were the 160th and 189th Field Artillery. The elements of the 158th Field Artillery Regiment assigned originally to Colorado and Arizona were transferred to Oklahoma communities in 1923, and so the brigade was filled. The 120th Medical Regiment was organized in Oklahoma about the same time as the First Battalion of the 120th Engineer Regiment. The remainder of the Engineers were allocated to Arizona and New Mexico.

The 120th Ordnance Company, the 45th Signal Company, the 45th Military Police Company, a veterinary company, and a motor transportation company were organized simultaneously in Oklahoma. The motor transportation company, along with other units, was incorporated into the 120th Quartermaster Regiment in 1937. The veterinary company of the 120th Medical Regiment was reorganized as the 2nd Collecting

Company in 1938.[1]

From the time of its organization until 1940, few changes occurred in the Guard's structure. Annual summer encampments, weekly armory drills and frequent calls to state duty during times of disasters constituted the principal activities of the units within the division. Companies occasionally were mustered out at one location and reorganized in another. Training methods and facilities were improved as well as the quality and efficiency of both officer and enlisted personnel.[2]

The first divisional commander was Major General Baird H. Markham, who served from 1920 until 1931. Major General Roy Hoffman then commanded the division until 1933. General Hoffman was succeeded by Major General Alexander M. Tuthill of Arizona until his retirement in 1935. Major General Charles E. McPherren commanded the 45th Division until 1936 when Major General William S. Key was promoted to division commander.

With the growing uneasiness in Europe, the United States felt that the efficiency of its civilian military units should be brought up to a high peak of readiness. To accomplish this, all National Guard units were federalized for a period of one year. The 45th Infantry Division was called into service of the United States on August 31, 1940, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 8530.[3]

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[1] Ibid., 5.

[2] Ibid.

[3] The 45th Division Historical Board, ed., The Fighting Forty-Fifth (Baton Rouge, La.: Army & Navy Publishing Co., 1946), p. 6.

The call came shortly after the Louisiana war games with regular Army units in which the division had participated. Troops from the four southwestern states were ordered to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for twelve months of intensive training.

As the year progressed, training became more vigorous, and the European war grew in intensity and scope. Before the stipulated year had passed, the length of service was extended for an indefinite period as the United States prepared for possible entry into the conflict. The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, was proof that such training would be put to good use in the months to come.

The division prepared for its role in World War II for three years. From Fort Sill the Thunderbirds moved to Camp Barkeley, Texas, and then continued their training at Fort Devens, Massachusetts; Pine Camp, New York, and finally Camp Pickett, Virginia.

The division underwent a streamlining in 1941 when the War Department changed all Tables of Organization to meet new war conditions. The brigades were abolished, and the division lost some of its old components. The 159th Infantry Regiment was transferred out of the 45th, and artillery and service regiments became battalions.

By the time the Thunderbirds received the alert for overseas movement in March, 1943, many changes in personnel had been made. Major General Troy H. Middleton commanded the division which now was made up of men from many states in the Union. Many of the men mobilized in 1940 remained. Others who had been called up left the division as cadre for divisions which were being organized, and many

of the enlisted personnel had left to earn their commissions at officer candidate schools.

After three months of final intensive training at Camp Pickett, Virginia, the division began loading for its Atlantic crossing.

The convoy was on its way on June 8, 1943. It passed the Rock of Gibraltar on June 21, and the next day the first leg of the voyage ended near Oran, North Africa. Troops had practice landings and dry runs before setting up temporary camp. The days were spent conditioning the men physically and preparing equipment.

This was it -- the eve of what was, up to that time, the greatest amphibious operation ever attempted in history -- the Allied ground attack upon the island of Sicily.[1]

Sicily

The invasion of Europe began in the early morning hours of July 10, 1943, when the 45th Infantry Division, along with other American and British units, struck the south and east coasts of Sicily.

Joint plans worked out with the Air Force and Navy were to be put into operation. Warships were to shell the coast and enemy installations prior to the landing of the assault waves, and would continue to give fire support until division artillery could take over. The Air Force had already softened some of the enemy defenses by repeated bombings, which had been especially heavy on July 9. Paratroopers also were to be used in the initial attack.

The first assault troops of the 45th Infantry Division hit the

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[1] Ibid., 13.

beach in the dark at 4:25 a.m. on July 10. The long ride from the ship in the landing crafts, the climax of the tension and the rolling waves took their toll in seasickness. To the individual, the landing represented complete chaos and confusion.[1] Many units were split up and landed on beaches assigned to other units. In the rush for the beaches many of the boats were misdirected. The division's first casualties occurred when a boat struck high jagged rocks and overturned.

Two factors contributed greatly in overcoming the first difficulties. One was the long and thorough training of the division which enabled the men, even when they were separated from their units, to fight until they could rejoin their units. The second factor was the initial Italian resistance, which was not as strong as had been anticipated. Italian units had been formed indiscriminately and consisted mainly of coastal troops and Home Guard. The former surrendered immediately and in many instances stood with bags packed, ready to be taken prisoner.[2]

The day after D-Day found the battle still continuing. Resistance became greater as the 157th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) moved toward Comiso Airdrome with the 179th RCT approaching the town from another direction. In a coordinated attack with perfect teamwork, the town was taken. German air activity continued to harass the forward-moving 45th all day, and late that afternoon a warning was received from corps headquarters that paratroopers might be landed

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[1] Ibid., 16-17.

[2] Ibid., 17.

behind the forward lines.

After heavy fighting the 180th Infantry captured Biscari then turned north toward the city airfield. Here the battle against elements of the Herman Goering Division and Italian units was long and bitter. The enemy resisted desperately, using every weapon of a reinforced infantry battalion supported by tanks and artillery.

As early as July 12, the Italian units became disorganized and quit fighting. With German troops, however, the Italians fought and died courageously.[1] When forced to withdraw, the Germans would leave a hard-core non-commissioned officer with the Italians to force them to provide resistance to cover their retreat.

If the Italians were left alone they often surrendered in masses. They became a serious problem to the Americans in that a large number of troops was required to guard and evacuate the Italians and to gather and guard the immense quantities of captured arms and ammunition.

The heaviest fighting in Sicily took place at Bloody Ridge. This was the high ground that the enemy had to retain to save Sicily. The high command of the German army had ordered the troops to hold the island at all cost. Consequently the battle for Bloody Ridge became the last and most grim and determined stand of the enemy.[2]

Addressing the division after the successful Sicilian campaign, General George S. Patton said, "Born at sea, baptized in blood, your

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[1]Albert Love Enterprises, p. 8.

[2]Ibid., 8.

fame shall never die. Your division is one of the best, if not the best, divisions in the history of American arms."[1]

Naples

The successful ending of the Sicilian campaign was to result eventually in Italy's being eased out of the war. Agents of the United States and Italy held a secret conference in Rome to arrange the surrender of all Italian sea, land and air forces. Surrender came after British forces had landed in southern Italy.[2]

The Germans, However, had not surrendered, and the fighting continued. The 45th Infantry Division was a component of the Fifth Army, and plans were made for a combat team to embark from Palermo and Termini-Imerese. The remainder of the division was to make a landing above the battle lines where the Germans stiffly resisted the British army at Salerno, 40 miles below the great seaport of Naples.

The 45th met great resistance. So vicious and persistent was the bombardment and effort of the enemy to push the Americans back into the sea that the fate of the expedition became a matter of great concern. The Navy was notified to stand by for evacuation of troops from the beachhead if necessary. At that point General Middleton, commander of the division, sounded the battle cry that turned

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[1] Ibid.

[2] Walter Phelps Hall and W. Stearns Davis, The Course of Europe Since Waterloo (4th ed.; New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1957), pp. 822-824.

the tide.

"Put food and ammunition behind the 45th," he said, "we are going to stay here." It was the most forceful, and the last, attempt to drive the Allied troops off the shallow plain. After a day of constant fighting it was evident by late afternoon that the back of the German defense had been broken. The name Salerno became synonymous with valiant fighting and incredible feats of daring, with a fighting spirit which equalled that of the great American battles of any war.

Salerno was safe. The contact with the enemy was broken and for the Thunderbirds the war again became a relentless march east of Naples and northward through hills and over land which literally was strewn with tons of cunningly concealed land mines. Through Persano, Eboli, Campagna and finally Contursi moved the 45th. In Contursi the men had an opportunity to bathe for the first time since leaving Sicily a month earlier.[1]

During September the weather turned very bad. Dust became deep mud, but the Panzer troops, who had the advantages of well-fortified positions and unlimited supplies, were unable to hold the 45th Division.

October began with the 45th moving with the 34th Division to the Calore River. The marked increase of artillery fire, the continued rainfall, the demolition of all bridges in the area, the mining of roads and all probable bypasses made the going extremely difficult

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[1]Albert Love Enterprises, p. 9.

for the weary men who fought slowly northward against the combination of adverse factors.

Under heavy rainfall in November, the division moved into the bald, rocky mountain area around Venafro. Here Hitler's "Winter Line" had been constructed and was ordered held at all costs. Huge boulders and ledges provided the Germans with excellent cover.

The difficult battle against General Kesserling continued, and the advance moved slowly northward. Christmas Day was spent on the mountains above Venafro in a cold rain. On January 4, 1944, the division began to be relieved, and by January 9 its responsibility for the sector had ended.

The division was sent into rest areas before embarking for Anzio in northern Italy.

Anzio

The 45th entered the Anzio campaign with the second wave on January 28. For a short time the going was easy, but it was feared that the enemy was moving up reinforcements. By February 7 the German artillery fire had become very heavy and counterattacks had to be repulsed by the Americans on the beachhead.

After 79 consecutive days of combat, the division was relieved on April 10 to move back for rest. On April 27 the division was sent back to the front lines. The beachhead had become a large battle sector as the troops continued the fighting through the Alban Hills and the final drive on the fortified city of Rome.[1]

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[1] Ibid., 13.

Anzio was no longer a battlefield. The 45th Infantry Division had been in the thick of the battle all the way and emerged with a reputation never to be forgotten.

Southern France

After a short battle for Rome, the division was withdrawn on June 14 and began intensive training for another amphibious operation. This time the destination was southern France.

The landing was well known in advance by the Germans, but the knowledge only served to throw them into panic rather than to aid them. For two weeks bombers had hammered away at the Riviera coastline. On the night preceding the assault a great naval invasion fleet supplemented the Air Force by shelling the coast.

From the first day of the invasion, August 15, 1944, American troops met friendly cooperation from French civilians who had waited for years for their "liberation." Their assistance was tremendously important from an intelligence viewpoint. The 120 days at Anzio had taught the 45th Division to expect the worst of any fighting. The smoothness of the southern France invasion, one month after Allied landings in northern France, gave the Thunderbirds a feeling of exhilaration as they rapidly progressed.

Germany

The members of the division fought well all across France to Germany. On December 13 the Thunderbirds spent their 365th day in battle. The day was marked by more fighting -- the 157th RCT attacked the enemy through mountain terrain, and the 180th battled for the key

position of the approach to Lembach, Germany. Knowing that the city could be successfully assaulted, the Germans left a fanatical infantry detachment in the mined and road-blocked city and shifted the weight of their delaying force to the rugged terrain on the city's outskirts. The Thunderbirds took Lembach along with the neighboring town of Wingen on December 14.

So confused was the enemy by the flanking moves of the Thunderbirds that only isolated groups could give effective resistance to the division's entrances into the German home land. The 45th Division now claimed the honor of being the first unit of the Seventh Army to fight on German soil.

The division pushed into Germany on December 15 but met stiff resistance. During the month of February the division limited its action to patrolling and harassing the enemy's troops. The Germans continued to send over barrages of artillery. By the time the 45th was relieved, in early March, the offensive had cost the Germans many troops and a large amount of equipment.

The division was moved back from Germany into France to reorganize and prepare for its last all-out campaign -- against the industrial region of the Saar. The Thunderbirds were attached to the Seventh Army in order to reduce the Saar pocket, an area of tough resistance which was required as a base for the drive across Germany. The 45th was given the task of reducing and mopping up a sector of the Saar region.

On March 21, six days after the campaign began, the division

command post was set up in the heart of the bombed Homberg, Germany. Units of the division moved eastward toward the Rhine River as other troops cleared the territory to the west.

The Thunderbirds, attached to the XV Corps, crossed the Rhine on March 24, and moved farther into Germany. They took part in the fierce battle for Nurnberg, the shrine city of the Germans, opened the way to Munich and liberated the concentration camp at Dauchau. Garrisoned at Munich, they guarded the Dauchau camp. These duties gave the Thunderbirds no time to celebrate V-E Day when it became effective May 9, 1945.

After the end of World War II, the 45th Infantry Division was returned to the United States and deactivated from federal service. The division that had come from four states was reorganized in 1946 and all units were assigned to Oklahoma.[1]

The 45th Infantry Division had come into federal service in 1940 to prepare for war. It later left a trail of victories from Sicily through the strongholds of Nazism to the heart of Germany. The late General George S. Patton called it "the division second to none in the annals of United States history."[2]

The praise was the result of the experiences in which the division proved itself -- seven bitterly fought campaigns, four amphibious landings under enemy fire and 511 days in almost ceaseless combat.

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[1] Ibid., 22.

[2] Ibid., 5.

The history of the division does not end here. As new conflicts erupted the 45th Infantry Division again was mobilized, this time under the colors of the United Nations in Korea.

The following chapters will give a detailed account of the history of the 45th Division News -- the printed spokesman of the combat soldier.[1] Full accounts of conditions surrounding the publication of each issue and analysis of the content will be given to show the spirit of the News, the men who printed it and the problems they encountered in producing a war-time newspaper.

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[1]Bill Mauldin, Up Front (New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1945), p. 26.

CHAPTER II

HOT OFF THE PRESS

The 45th Division News was the first Army newspaper of the "national emergency" in September, 1940. Shortly after the division had been called into federal service, Major General William S. Key, division commander, gave orders to establish a newspaper which would represent the division and help keep the men informed. To Lieutenant Colonel Walter M. Harrison, division intelligence officer, went the job of managing the paper. In civilian life, Harrison was managing editor of two Oklahoma City newspapers, the Daily Oklahoman and the Oklahoma City Times.[1]

The News changed personnel constantly as it was moved from camp to camp, but its original format was retained. The first edition was issued October 4, 1941, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Printing was done by the Lawton, /Okla.,/ Constitution, which did not receive any pay for its services until January 1942.[2]

Staff members of the News during World War II included reporters Bill Barrett, peace time Cleveland Press staff member, and Fred Sheehan, formerly of the United Press in New York and Washington, D. C. Bill

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[1]Walter M. Harrison, Log of the 45th (Oklahoma City, Okla., 1941), p. 23.

[2]Ibid., 44.

Mauldin served as cartoonist until he was transferred to Stars and Stripes, daily newspaper of the U.S. Army. Sergeant George Tapscott of the Daily Oklahoman was the photographer.

Sergeant Don Robinson, who later became editor of the News, was first in charge of the radio department of the 45th Division press section under Captain Fred Stoft, division public relations officer. Robinson had been an announcer for radio station WROL in Knoxville, Tennessee, and later worked for the Daily Oklahoman before joining the Army. He became involved with the News while the division was on maneuvers in Louisiana. With headquarters in Shreveport, the press section covered move than 10,000 miles gathering news to keep local and home town newspapers supplied with information about the division.

Shortly after the division returned to Camp Barkeley, Texas, Sergeant Joe Stocker, who had been editing the News, went to officer candidate school, and Robinson was assigned to take his place. The News then merged with the Camp Barkeley paper with Robinson as editor. Major William B. Ruggles, formerly associate editor of the Dallas Morning News, was in charge.

When the 45th Infantry Division next was transferred to Fort Devens, Massachusetts, the staff was separated. Some of the men decided to stay with the Camp Barkeley News and others with the 45th press section. Those who stayed with the News included Robinson, Mal Anderson, Merle Tenenbaum and George Tapscott. They crated and shipped as much as possible to the new installation.[1]

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[1]Don Robinson, News of the 45th (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1944), p. 32.

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For security reasons, no editions of the News were printed while the division was stationed at Fort Devens, but the press section remained busy writing feature stories for local newspapers and working as public relations people. Since the men were near a large city where they could go for leave, they were happy even though they were much farther from home than ever before.[1]

Later the division was moved by truck to Pine Camp, New York. The 45th Division News started publication again and quickly became the most frequently quoted newspaper in northern New York. The Watertown Times, the Syracuse Post-Standard, the Rome, New York, paper and others were delighted with the men's gripes about the weather, which plunged to 40 degrees below zero.[2]

Both the Post-Standard and the Times printed as much "good" information about the division as possible, but when the Watertown Times printed a story commenting about 19 men of the division being arrested for drunkenness, the News staff was not pleased. The next week the News printed the results of a survey, conducted after the arrests, that showed hardly any men of the division were reported drunk. It was not until the Thunderbirds were in Sicily that they learned that the newspaper meant no ill will against the division.[3]

After spending the winter in Pine Camp, the division was ordered

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[1]Robinson, p. 36.

[2]Ibid., 43.

[3]Ibid., 44-45.

to Camp Pickett, Virginia, for the summer. Although the Camp Pickett News was printed on the post, the 45th Division News resumed publication. The policies of the two papers were complementary, since the Camp Pickett paper could not devote much space to the men of the 45th. The Thunderbird staff had to spend half of each day in training and the remainder of the day putting out a paper.

While the 45th was at Pickett, rumors began floating around the camp about overseas duty, and Bill Mauldin began collecting material that he might need overseas. He stowed away so many pencils that he gave the rest of the press section a three-year supply when he got to Sicily. He hoarded paper and envelopes, bought ink by the quart and fixative by the gallon, and soon had more equipment than the rest of the staff put together.[1]

The division finally was moved to the staging area at Hampton Roads, Virginia, where it was to prepare for shipment overseas. In this area mail was censored, no telephone calls went out or came in, and men who had never made wills made them then.

On board ship the morale was high, even though space was cramped and there was very little to keep the men busy. Before leaving the United States, editor Robinson had given instructions to staff members on the various ships in the convoy for issuing shipboard papers. Each ship thus had its own mimeographed daily edition of the News. At first news was obtained from American radio stations and later from the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), but because of the nature of the papers, no files were kept.

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[1] Ibid., 48.

The 45th Division's next stop was North Africa, where the troops regained their land legs and went through more training for the combat that was to come. The men did not know where they were going until they again boarded ship and found on their bunks pamphlets introducing them to Sicily. They were to take part in an amphibious landing which would mark the introduction of American troops onto European soil for the first time in the war.

Sicily

D-Day came and went. The staff of the News made it without a scratch, although it did get split up, and some rumors spread about its fate. One day after the landing, the staff members began to think about putting out the News. They wanted to print the first American newspaper on Axis home soil. Vittoria, Sicily, they heard, had fallen, and they were about to leave to find printing facilities when Clark Lee of the International News Service informed them that Vittoria was still in enemy hands. He had just returned from the town on foot because the Germans had found his jeep.[1]

Later that day word came down from headquarters that Vittoria had fallen, and the staff was given the go-ahead to start for the town. Tapscott was left behind as liaison man, and Mauldin and Robinson hitchhiked to Vittoria, where they found an interpreter through the Army's Civil Affairs headquarters and proceeded to one of two print shops in the town that could do the work.

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[1] Ibid., 72-73.

At the first shop they learned from the printer's neighbors that the owner had gone to the country. They went to the second shop and found the owner, but all his workers were in the Italian army. The News staff returned to the first shop and persuaded the neighbors to go find the owner. He arrived about 4 p.m. and they went to work.

The Italian printers could not read American script, and the News staffers had to go over all their copy, lettering it just like type. At this point their typewriters were still in the rear supply area. Because of the slow progress the staff decided to print a small paper, two pages with three columns to a page.

The staff soon ran into another problem. The Italian alphabet contains no w's, k's or y's. The printers had a few such letters for spelling foreign names but not enough to print the entire paper. As the printers began running out of the letters, the staff began changing the copy to eliminate words with those letters. Deciding they needed some international news, Robinson sent Mauldin back to the coast. He returned late in the evening with some news reports, and it appeared that the first paper would come off the press the next day.

Because there was no electricity, the staff took turns cranking the press by hand. The first copy of the 45th Division News on foreign soil came off the Vittoria press as Volume IV, Number 1, on July 13, 1943.

Staff members worked for Civil Affairs for a few days, but since Vittoria was too far from the main body of the division to continue printing the paper there, they moved to Caltanissetta.

The paper's new offices, in Caltanissetta's old city hall, had damask-hung walls, rose-upholstered furniture, crystal chandeliers and big hardwood doors with drapes. The staff found a new interpreter who located not one printer, but seven, all short in stature, who soon were nicknamed the Seven Dwarfs. The printers had the same problem with the w's, k's and y's, but they found a different solution. When they ran out of these letters in one type face, they put away the case and switched to another size and type face.

While in Caltanissetta the staff had good news breaks. One banner, "Palermo Falls," headed a four-page paper, which also was printed without benefit of electric power. Since the staff had no transportation for delivering the newspapers, they put them in cardboard boxes and hitchhiked rides to the troops.

Soon they decided to move again in order to catch up with the advancing troops. The staff chose as its base of operation the city of Palermo where Mauldin had gone to try to get some plates made of his cartoons. The cartoonist learned that the only engraver in Palermo had gone back to farming after his shop had been bombed. Mauldin persuaded him to go back into business, and they moved the equipment to a chicken coop. Then the engraver informed Mauldin that he had no acid. When Mauldin overcame that difficulty by purchasing the acid at a chemical plant, he discovered that the engraver also had no zinc. The engraver, however, knew of a casket maker who had zinc. Mauldin borrowed a car, went to the casket maker's shop, and bought some zinc which had to be ripped from the lining of one of the caskets.

Although the process was extremely slow -- the two had to substitute the sun for arc lamps and a wood fire for gas -- the last Caltanissetta issue had a cartoon by Mauldin, even though nails were driven through the corners of the plate to hold the engraving on the wood base.[1]

In Palermo the News staff became good friends with some liberated guerrilla fighters who were of Yugoslavian descent and enjoyed helping their American friends. Because of language difficulties, the newsmen were unable to explain that they were nowhere near when the Yugoslavs were set free.

The News was issued five times in Palermo. Through an Army agency the staff found a large printing plant on the map, but when the News staff arrived at the site, however, the building was still burning from a bombing hit. The owner, who spoke English, explained that his largest presses were gone, but his composing room and small press room were intact. He had the first linotype that the staff had seen in Sicily. The News again became a five-column tabloid as it had been in the United States.[2]

Correspondents swarmed over Palermo. Many saw the News and sent out stories crediting the paper as the source of the information. The staff helped Demaree Bess of the Saturday Evening Post and often encountered Ralph Martin of Stars and Stripes and Yank.[3]

All the correspondents were getting their information firsthand, but the 45th Division News obtained most of its information from

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[1] Ibid., 86-88.

[2] Ibid., 92-93.

[3] Ibid., 83.

BBC and reporters seldom went to the front. For this reason the staff members felt a little better when Palermo was bombed -- they could honestly say they had been under fire.

Italy surrendered while the 45th Division News was being printed in Palermo. When a country is conquered, one might expect a sorrowful attitude on the part of those who are defeated. Not so the Italians -- they celebrated. The people paraded down the streets and set off fireworks. They had good reasons for being happy -- they were getting rich off the Allies. Sicilian workmen were accustomed to getting 25 to 40 lire a day. When the Americans came in, they not only demanded but got 40 lire for a shave and a haircut.[1]

The 45th Division News also was affected by the rising prices. The paper's first printing bill in Sicily was $4.50 for a job that tied up a print shop and three workmen two and a half days. Later bills were almost as high as they had been in the United States, where wages were at least 1,000 percent higher. Engravings cost more there than they did in America.[2] The printers were paid in American script.

While the staff was in Palermo Bill Mauldin decided to publish a book, Sicily Sketchbook, which contained some of his best cartoons and writings.[3]

From Palermo the staff of the News moved back to a rest area. Captain Richard G. Hargood, a special service officer, told the men

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[1] Ibid., 103.

[2] Ibid., 103-104.

[3] "Mauldin Book on Press," 45th Division News (Palermo, Sicily), Sept. 1, 1943, p. 1.

that the general approved the paper they were publishing and that they were entitled to a few days of rest.[1]

Italy

It was soon time for the division to move again -- this time to Italy. Irving Richtel, the driver assigned to the 45th Division News, discovered that his truck had a flat tire as the convoy was ready to pull out for the port of embarkation. The other trucks in the convoy left without the staff as the men worked frantically on the tire. One of the Sicilian children tried to sell them a maintenance manual he had taken from another truck.

After the tire was changed, the motor would not start, and the staff had visions of spending the war in the motor park while the 45th was fighting in Italy. After an hour's delay, the newsmen began the trip. It was not far to the port, but they were delayed by another motor convoy and arrived so late that they were sure their ship had already pulled out. However, they found out that their outfit had not even arrived. There was only one road, and yet the newsmen never learned how they had passed their group.[2]

After hearing many rumors about how hard the landing in Italy would be, the 45th went ashore without being fired on. However, this quiet did not last long. After the division moved into the bivouac area, the Germans began bombing and strafing the beach. From the safe

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[1]Robinson, p. 105.

[2]Ibid., 108-109.

distance of the bivouac area, the men of the News staff watched the battle in the darkness. Then they heard something whistling toward them. Richtel dived for the nearest foxhole, and the other men hit the ground where they were standing. There was a thud nearby but no explosion. The next morning they found the nose of a big antiaircraft shell thirty feet from where they had stood.[1]

Once again it was time to think about putting out a newspaper. Maps indicated that Salerno was the only nearby town large enough to have a job printing shop. When the staff got to Salerno, the town was still under periodic shelling, and the only civilians there seemed to be demobilized Italian soldiers. All the shops were closed while their owners sought refuge in the hills.

This was no place to print a paper. The staff members turned around and headed back to the bivouac area until they could return to persuade a printer to open his shop for business. They waited a few days to see if the enemy would quit shelling the city. When the shelling continued, the News staff decided to return to Salerno to try to print a paper there anyway. Until then the 45th Division News had never been printed when in range of enemy guns.

All the print shops in Salerno had been hit. The staff combined the facilities of two shops, found the printers and went to work.[2]

The News staff moved into an apartment in a building which had been bombed. It had no furniture, water or lights, and the windows,

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[1] Ibid., 110-111.

[2] Ibid., 125-126.

which did not fasten tightly, sometimes banged in the wind during the night.

Mauldin, who liked to be alone, set up his studio in an apartment with a grand piano and a full-length mirror, in front of which he often posed for his cartoons. When he was merely seeking inspiration, he could be heard at the piano in a one-fingered version of the "Marine Hymn." He emerged from the apartment only at mealtime.[1]

Reporters Sheehan and Barrett, photographer Tapscott and their driver, Richtel, made most of the trips to the front line, where they had some unusual experiences. Once when they were looking for one of the division's infantry regiments, they followed the directions of a soldier who seemed to know what he was talking about. The men passed through an infantry outfit going forward and came into a little Italian town at the same time as a combat outfit, whose men were carrying their guns ready to fire.

"Where is the other regiment?" yelled one of the staff members.

"We don't know," came the reply, "but we don't think they're ahead. We're just taking this town."[2]

The Germans were just 300 yards away.

While in Salerno, the staff became friendly with some of the local Italians, which enabled the men to take advantage of some of the local hospitality and enjoy some delicious and large Italian meals, much preferred over military C rations.

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[1] Ibid., 126-127.

[2] Ibid., 132.

The 45th Division had now pushed farther into Italy, too far for the reporters to travel back and forth with news. Robinson headed to Naples to see what the situation was there and he found some good printing facilities, but no power to operate them. In the past they had overcome this problem by turning the presses by hand. Hence, Robinson returned to Salerno, put the men into a truck, and left for Naples.

Mauldin made all the arrangements for quarters. He managed to rent two rooms with six beds, such a luxury that the men decided to go to bed early. Because of the bedbugs, however, they moved the next morning to a vacant apartment with no beds at all, even though their landlady assured them that all beds in Europe had bedbugs.[1]

In Naples, as well as in all the other areas of the Italian campaign, the natives were very helpful. The staff of the 45th Division News had used local interpreters who were willing to work for very little, if any, pay. At one time the men were having trouble with the printers, who were not doing what the staff instructed through the interpreter. Shortly thereafter, Robinson found out that the interpreter spoke not only broken English, but also broken Italian. The problem was soon corrected.[2]

When the division moved into one town, young Italian boys, who had stolen some hand grenades from an enemy garrison, actually helped the Americans take the town by throwing the grenades at the Germans.

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[1] Ibid., 140.

[2] Ibid., 102.

Even though some of the boys were injured by premature explosions, they continued to throw them, making it easier for the American soldiers.[1]

The printers in Naples also were very cooperative. The weather turned very cold, but despite the lack of glass in the windows and heat in the building, the printers continued to work, wearing overcoats to keep warm.

Tapscott was lucky enough to find a photo finishing shop where he could process his film and make prints, just around the corner from his apartment. He always tried to furnish his own paper, as it often was hard for the Italians to get supplies, but when he couldn't, he bought it from the owner of the shop.[2]

Tapscott felt that much of the Italians' cooperativeness was because of the money the people were being paid and because they also thought that if the Americans had good memories of them, they would be treated better when the war ended.[3]

The 45th Division News was printed in Naples for about eleven months while the division moved farther into Italy, making another amphibious landing at Anzio. Because of the intense German resistance, Anzio was the toughest battle of the war for the Thunderbirds.[4]

To get late news from the front, staff members hitchhiked from

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[1] Ibid., 102.

[2] George Tapscott, private interview at the Oklahoma Publishing Co., Oklahoma City, July 3, 1968.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Fred Sheehan, Anzio, Epic of Bravery (Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1964), p. 91.

Naples to Anzio on a Navy ship. On one such trip Tapscott had gone to Anzio and was returning to Naples when the sea became so rough that the ship had to seek shelter near a British-held island. In the middle of the night the wind changed direction and began to crush the ship against a high rock cliff. Tapscott kept his camera clicking as the men, including some German prisoners, jumped from the ship to the cliff. After the ship was abandoned, it broke in two and sank. Several men, including some of the prisoners, were drowned.

Tapscott was very eager to develop his film to send to the news services and immediately returned to his photo shop. However, he ran into trouble. Earlier Tapscott had written home asking his family to send some of his books which he had promised the Italian shop owner. The books had not arrived, but the shop owner did not believe Tapscott. To get revenge, the shop owner reset the timer in the developing room. When Tapscott processed his film, the negatives were so thin that the image was difficult to see.

The negatives were still usable, and Tapscott took them to the censor who quickly ruled against sending out the pictures. They showed an American ship sinking, and the censor was not allowed to release such pictures.[1]

Everyday events made life in Naples interesting. One day Sheehan, Barrett and Tapscott were out looking for news. Tapscott was driving the jeep, and all were very wet from the rain. The air was

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[1]Tapscott interview.

chilly, it was getting dark early because of the clouds, and the muddy, rutted road had very little traffic. Sheehan was singing and Barrett was throwing in bits of harmony when he felt like it. The three came upon a lonely looking military policeman who stood at a crossroad and told people which direction to go. Wearing an Army raincoat and holding an Italian umbrella, the guard told them to watch for an escaped prisoner who had stolen some women's clothing and kidnapped a baby.

As the newsmen continued down the road, the night grew colder and wetter. The road dipped through a bypass where the Germans had blown out a bridge in their retreat, and Tapscott slowed down as the road grew rougher. Then a figure, carrying a bundle, appeared on the road ahead. It looked like a woman, or a man in women's clothing, carrying a baby.[1]

Barrett cocked his pistol, Tapscott's hands shook at the wheel, and Sheehan was ready for anything. They pulled along side the woman, who kept her back to them. There was just enough light for them to think they saw something like fuzz on her cheek. They immediately ordered her to put up her hands and turn around. When she did, the men saw that she was nursing a baby. They immediately drove off.

Later one of the men commented, "No disguise could be that good."[2]

The stay in Naples had been an enjoyable one for the staff of the News. They were far enough behind the lines to be away from danger and had a place to sleep out of the cold.

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[1]Robinson, p. 149-150.

[2]Ibid.

France

From Anzio the 45th Division pulled back to rest and prepare for the invasion of southern France. The troops, assisted by the French underground whenever possible, met little resistance as they entered France and began their move northward. When the division entered Grenoble, the city was intact. Very little damage had been done because it had not been strongly defended. Immediately after the Germans had withdrawn from Grenoble, the townspeople put up sand bags to keep them from coming back.

Grenoble was the next home of the 45th Division News. The staff found very good printing facilities there, as well as very cooperative people. In fact, it was sometimes hard to get out a paper, as there were so many other things to do that were more fun.[1]

It was in Grenoble that the staff saw its first execution. The Germans had operated an officers' training camp there, using young French men who had collaborated with the enemy. When the Germans left, some of the students were captured by the French Maquis, a strong underground organization, given a fair trial and sentenced to die for treason. Tapscott witnessed the execution and took pictures of it. As he was leaving, an elderly Frenchman told him to send the pictures to the United States and explain that this was the way that good French people treated traitors.[2]

Unlike Sicily or Italy, the language barrier was no problem

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[1] Tapscott interview.

[2] Ibid.

here. The people of Grenoble were very well-educated and were familiar with many languages, partly because the town was near a large ski resort area frequented by the well-educated European families.

The lack of transportation was a key problem of the News in Grenoble. The staff had only one jeep, which was not enough for getting to all the areas where news was being made. To help solve the problem, Tapscott talked to a lieutenant who had a 1937 model Ford convertible and persuaded the lieutenant to let him use it while the officer was at the front. The car had once belonged to some German officers, now prisoners. Tapscott got permission to use the car but never again saw the lieutenant, who was killed in action. With this car the staff was the envy of the press section.

From Grenoble the 45th Division News moved to Nancy, France, and set up shop. They stayed with the mayor of a small town just outside Nancy, one of the few times they were able to sleep in a bed without worrying about bedbugs.[1]

Winter was approaching and the temperature was very low. In order to keep warm, the people not only slept on feather beds, but they also covered up with them. On one of the colder nights, the mayor's wife took pity on Tapscott and gave him a hot water bottle to keep his feet warm. This was a very satisfactory solution until, in the middle of the night, the stopper came out. Tapscott can still remember the remarks made by the other two staff members who were sleeping in the same bed with him.

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[1] Ibid.

"It turned out to be a very cold night," the photographer said.[1]

The division continued to move -- this time into the Vosges mountain area of northeast France. The News was moved from Nancy with the other troops and continued to be issued, but, it was soon returned. The 45th had entered Germany and then was ordered back to the area around Nancy to reorganize and attack from a different direction.

Germany

When the division went back into Germany, it left France for good. The Thunderbirds liberated the prisoner of war camp at Dachau, Germany, where they saw the worst atrocities of the war. "This was what, in the minds of the 45th," Tapscott said, "the whole war was about."[1]

He took pictures of bodies stacked like cordwood in boxcars. In the crematorium the smell was so bad that he had to set his camera outside, go in to shoot a picture, come back out to get his breath and reset the camera -- this process continued until he was finished. Many of the photographs he shot there were too horrible for publication.[3]

From Dachau the division moved to Munich, its last battle before V-E Day on May 8, 1945. In Munich the News staff found the printers to be very cooperative. The professional newspaper people in Munich were more interested in doing their job than worrying about the defeat

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[1] Ibid.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Ibid.

of the Germans by the Allies.[1] The German people told the Americans that they did not know of the atrocities that were being committed by the German army.

Tapscott could not believe them at the time, but as he looks back he now thinks that they were telling the truth. He feels that a government with such tight security could do many things without the people knowing.[2]

After V-E Day the division was split up and bore no resemblance to the original 45th. It was no longer the division from the southwest, as nearly all the original members were released and sent back to the United States.

The last editions of the 45th Division News in World War II were issued at Munich.

Hardships and Rewards

Throughout the war the newspaper's staff members had experiences which were not necessarily part of publishing the News, but they show some of the events surrounding the publication of a combat newspaper. Every soldier or correspondent who has ever been in combat could probably tell his own stories. To help show some of the hardships and rewards experienced by the men, the following pages will record some of their stories.

While at Camp Barkeley, Texas, Tapscott became well known for sleeping in his darkroom. This was easy to do, day or night, without being disturbed, since all he had to do was lock the door, and the

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[1] Ibid. [2] Ibid.

others thought he was processing film. Because he was always in the darkroom, he could not tell if it were day or night.

Robinson and Mauldin took full advantage of this to play a practical joke on the photographer. They telephoned him at 2 a.m. to tell him it was 9 a.m. and the general wanted his picture taken at 10 a.m. Tapscott, without looking out of the darkroom, proceeded to shave and get dressed. When he finally did go outside, the stars were shining brightly.[1]

Tapscott just turned around and went back to bed.[2]

Mauldin wanted a private office at Barkeley in which to do his cartooning. Workmen constructed one which did give him some privacy, but it was so small that only by tilting back his chair about six inches, could he come out and join in conversation with the other staff members.

When the division was going to Louisiana for war games, Robinson was in charge of radio publicity. He went ahead of the convoy to arrange for local spots publicizing the convoy movement. His first stop was radio station WFAA in Dallas, Texas, where he quickly arranged a fifteen-minute broadcast by promising the appearance of Major General William S. Key, division commander. Robinson had never met the general and had not asked him to appear on a radio broadcast.

Robinson then went to station KRLD where he set up another program. He was to appear with Captain Stoft, public information

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[1]Robinson, p. 47.

[2]Tapscott interview.

officer. The only problem was that this program began only fifteen minutes after the WFAA program was to end. Even though the schedule was tight, Robinson thought he could make it on time.

The general agreed to appear, but only if he saw all the questions that he would be asked on the program, which Robinson gladly furnished. The program was so successful that the announcer decided to continue and asked some questions of his own. When it finally was completed, Robinson had five minutes to reach the KRLD studio. He barely made it and was out of breath the entire time the program was on the air.[1]

At Barkeley Tapscott had introduced Mauldin to a girl he had been dating. Mauldin later married her and she moved each time the division did and lived in an apartment off-base. While at Pine Camp, New York, Mauldin left the post every night to go home. Tapscott, deciding to play a trick on the cartoonist, found some of the cheapest perfume in town and put some on Mauldin's overcoat. Tapscott heard that when Mauldin got home "all hell broke loose."[2]

From Pine Camp the division went to Camp Pickett, Virginia, and then to their port of embarkation. Because of their being on ships and for security reasons, there is little record of what happened to the staff on the trip. Barrett, Sheehan and Tapscott were on one ship and Robinson and Mauldin on another.

From the establishment of the News until the division went

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[1]Robinson, p. 19.

[2]Tapscott interview.

overseas, the photographers worked very closely with the Daily Oklahoman and the Oklahoma City Times. The Oklahoman furnished the News with a camera and supplies as long as rationing allowed. In return Tapscott sent the Oklahoma City papers pictures of the division in action.[1]

The day of the landing in Sicily found Tapscott escorting Italian prisoners to a prisoner of war compound. It was late at night, and fighting was still going on. Tapscott said he did not know who was more frightened, the prisoners or the rear echelon soldiers escorting them. The Navy was still shelling, and the enemy was shooting at planes carrying paratroopers.

When one of the airplanes crashed in flames near the detail, "I think I was the first one to hit the ground," Tapscott said. "Not knowing what to expect from the prisoners, I looked up and there was a little Italian reaching out his hand to help me up. The Italians didn't want us to get hurt, because they wanted a safe escort."[2]

Tapscott seemed to have a knack for getting into tight places. As stated earlier, the News staff did not go to the front line very often, but once the photographer went unintentionally. He met one of his friends from Oklahoma City who was in another unit. His friend asked him to spend the night with him in his unit so they could visit. Tapscott said he would, and they left in a jeep. They drove about two miles toward the Anzio front, then walked along the road for about 200 yards and crawled in a ditch for, it seemed to Tapscott,

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[1] Ibid.

[2] Ibid.

quite a distance. By this time it was dusk, and they crawled out to an old house in the middle of "no where." Tapscott spent a very restless night in the house, especially after he found out that it was a forward observation post for his friend's artillery unit.

"With friends like that," Tapscott commented, "who needs enemies."

He returned to his area without incident, but the entire episode was of no use to the News, because the unit Tapscott visited was not in the 45th Division.[1]

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[1] Ibid.

CHAPTER III

SURVEY OF THE *NEWS*

Almost every military camp in the United States has some type of newspaper. It may be a mimeographed sheet full of jokes or a full-size printed paper with all the departments found in any metropolitan newspaper. A camp newspaper is probably the most widely read publication on any military post. It is the medium by which the men get news about their buddies and information about camp events.

In reading over notes made by soldiers during World War I, Robinson often came upon the comment, "I'd have given $10 (or $100) for a newspaper." It was Robinson's hope that in the next war, the Army, looking back on the *45th Division News*, would decide that every division needed a newspaper. Commanders in World War II said that the *News* was second as a morale factor only to the United States mail.[1]

Shortly after the 45th Division was called into federal service in 1940, Major General Key, commander of the division, decided that the men should have a newspaper, one which would be written especially for the enlisted man. However, the early editions did not reflect this as much as later ones.

Because a masthead was not included in the first edition of

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[1]Robinson, p. ii.

the News, it is impossible to list the complete staff. The officer assigned to oversee the project, however, was the division intelligence officer, Walter M. Harrison, formerly managing editor of the Daily Oklahoman. The organization of the first staff was different from later ones, because the information section was under the supervision of the intelligence section. In later years a completely separate section was formed for public information activities, which included writing news releases for state and local newspapers, working with radio stations and putting out the 45th Division News.

Volume 1, Number 1 of the News came off the press October 4, 1940, a five-column tabloid printed by the Lawton /Okla.,/ Constitution. The staff planned to publish the paper every Friday at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, the division's home base.

News stories informed the men of the division of military events and, in doing so, gave many details about military activities, including troop movements, transfers and promotions. This story appeared in the first issue:

"The first new division in Uncle Sam's expanding Army to launch the war department's 44-hour a week training schedule!

"That honor goes to the 45th Division . . ."[1]

All promotions and transfers of personnel by regiment were listed on following pages. Had the United States been at war, these facts would have been very helpful to the enemy.

Body type was eight point Roman, with editorials set two

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[1]"Ours Is Only One of Four to Hit Ball Monday," 45th Division News (Ft. Sill, Okla.) Oct. 4, 1940, p. 1.

columns wide in ten-point type beneath the masthead, which contained information about the policies of the News. The editorial column did not always consist of editorials, but sometimes included straight news stories set in the larger type. The paper was edited by officers and men of the 45th Division for the men of the command. Printing costs were paid out of the income derived from the canteen. The paper was not sold, but was given free to the men of the division. No paid advertising appeared in any of the issues, in contrast to the News published during the Korean crisis which did carry advertisements.

The News accepted all editorial contributions but asked that no poetry be submitted. The staff also required that all letters be signed, and no anonymous letters were printed. Copy deadline for the Friday paper was 6 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding publication.

In the editorial column of the first edition appeared a letter written to the men of the division by Major General Key. Following is an excerpt from that letter:

> Why Publish a Newspaper?
>
> A camp newspaper is an important element of the training routine.
>
> One of the most vital factors in the building of a fighting unit is morale.
>
> A good Division newspaper can do much for an outfit by giving an account of progress, digesting orders, reporting company activities, individual promotion, developing acquaintance and pride in individual and collective advancement.
>
> This is the purpose of the 45th Division News. It will be published each week on Friday by and for the officers and men of this command.
>
> The paper will be paid for out of profits from the canteen fund. It will carry no commercial advertising. It will be distributed among all units without cost. At the outset the distribution will be three papers to each tent in every company street. Later it may be possible to increase the press run to provide every individual officer and man with a copy of each issue.

> The 45th Division News is the only publication sponsored by this command. No authorization for the solicitation of men or merchants will be issued to encourage any other newspaper or magazine.
>
> The initial issue of our paper is a splendid medium through which to deliver a personal message to everyone in the division. . . .
>
> Wm. S. Key
> Major General
> Comdg, 45th Division
> Ft. Sill Div. Training Center[1]

The aim of the News was to include information from every unit in the division. To accomplish this the staff arranged to have a correspondent in every unit. This was handled much as country correspondents in rural newspapers are today. The information about a particular unit was printed under the heading of that unit, such as "120 Medical." Every unit was not mentioned in the paper each week, and there was no particular pattern of rotating various units. The news from any particular unit probably was printed when it was received. The masthead carried an extensive list of all the unit reporters until the division went overseas.

The first managing editor listed was Captain Bertus Kemmers. His name first appeared in Volumn I, Number 2. The only other name listed was that of assistant managing editor, Lieutenant Paul Bachmann.

Several columns appeared in the News. "Hourly Rest," whose author's pseudonym was Gim Crack, began in the first issue and was written in the form of an uneducated boy's letters to his mother. The letters told of his experiences in the Army:

> Dear Ma,
> I bin trying to rite yew a noat ever since we bin hear but today is the furst time I fownd a plase where the sargent

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[1]Major General William S. Key, "Why Publish a Newspaper?" Ibid., 3.

didn't find me to do something. The other day i found out the name of the outfit we beong to -- is the Medical Corpse.[1]

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

Another column describing military experiences, "Private Pete," appeared in the same issue and was defined as an "off-duty reflection of a high-ranking private in Uncle Sam's Army."[2]

"Camp Briefs," a column of short news items about the men, was begun in the second issue on October 7, and included information such as "Private Herley D. Lair was injured in an auto accident and is now in the base hospital."[3]

"Passing in Review" first appeared in the October 25, 1940, paper. This column originated with Roy P. Stewart, who, although officially not assigned to the 45th Division News, played an important part in its development.[4] When the division was first mobilized for federal service in 1940, Stewart was assigned to the division as a reporter for the Daily Oklahoman and Oklahoma City Times. He later joined the Army and was assigned to the administrative staff at Camp Barkeley. While in this position he helped the News by giving the staff advice on how to operate. Even though Stewart was never with the News after the division entered the war, he remained in very close contact with it. After Stewart gave up "Passing in Review," which

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[1]"Hourly Rest," Ibid.

[2]"Private Pete," Ibid., 2.

[3]"Camp Briefs," Ibid., Oct. 11, 1940, 2.

[4]Pendleton Woods, private interview at Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co., Oklahoma City, Okla., July 2, 1968.

contained a capsule report of all major national or international news events during the week, the column was written by whoever was editing the paper.

The October 25, 1940, issue of the News also carried the name of John Waddell as the paper's official sports editor. He edited both military and civilian sports news and wrote a weekly sports column.

One of the features that helped make the News famous first appeared in the October 25, 1940, issue -- the first cartoon by Bill Mauldin, which was headed "Star Spangled Banter." The characters bore little resemblance to his famous Willie and Joe whom he later developed, but his early cartoons did have a soldier named Joe, an Indian. As Mauldin developed as a cartoonist, the Indian lost some of his characteristics and evolved into the Joe of Willie and Joe fame. Not until the cartoonist begin working for Stars and Strips three years later did Mauldin introduce the team as Willie and Joe, however.

Mauldin was not a member of the original 45th. Prior to joining the division when the alert for mobilization was sounded in 1940, he worked as a free lance artist in Phoenix, Arizona.[1] Mauldin's cartoons satirized military life from an enlisted man's viewpoint. He selected a different subject each week, generally gripes expressed by the enlisted man, and drew an appropriate sketch and comment. His first cartoon showed four K.P.'s peeling potatoes, and Joe, the Indian starts a conversation:

"All Joe do is walk up to young feller - Got two shiny bars on his shoulder, ask young feller has he got extry chaw o'terbaccy.

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[1] 45th Division News (Camp Barkeley, Tex.) March 14, 1941, p. 4.

Now Joe peel taters all day." Other characters added comments such as, "You're lucky you didn't ask a shave-tail with a shiny gold bar or new corporal."[1] Before Mauldin came to the News, other cartoons had appeared under the heading "Louie McGoon." They were drawn by Dallas Coley, first staff cartoonist. For a short time both cartoons appeared, but never in the same issue.

The News continued to print military information that could have been valuable to the enemy in time of war. A front page story in the October 25 issue told of a new .30 caliber M-1 carbine rifle which was being issued to the division. Other stories discussed training progress and techniques and gave a biographical sketch of the senior brigadier general of the division.

A full list of staff members was carried in the mast for the first time on January 17, 1941. Editor was 2nd Lieutenant Lewis H. Day, and staff writers included Privates Waddell and Johnnie Pepper. Private Mauldin was listed as cartoonist, and photographer was Private A. Y. Owen.

Editorials printed in the News were often aimed at building up the morale of the men, and in the January 24, 1941, issue, the editor appealed to the men to be proud members of the 45th Division:

A Matter of Pride

> You are the 45th Division!
>
> I mean you, Private Smith, or whatever your name may be.
>
> Not many persons get down to the area to see the troops when they are under close scrutiny and compelled to pay close attention to regulations.
>
> Everybody sees you when you go home on a weekend pass in uniform. And almost everybody judges the Army by what it sees

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[1] "Star Spangled Banter," 45th Division News (Ft. Sill, Okla.), Oct. 25, 1941, p. 1.

you do and how you wear your clothes.

Are you proud of your division? Don't just say you are proud. Check your person, your conduct, . . .[1]

In the same issue Mauldin's cartoon was printed three columns wide and five and one-half inches deep. The cartoons remained that size in most of the stateside issues and appeared either on the front or back pages.

In order to build up reader interest in the News, the staff announced a contest in the January 31, 1941, edition. Open to all enlisted men of the 45th Division, the contest stipulated that the winner write a letter in 150 words or less stating "What the Army Has Done for Me." The winner was Private Travis G. Irick, who said the Army had given him good clothes and three meals a day. He added that the Army also had helped him to get to bed on time.[2]

A new staff writer, Private Johnnie Riddle, was added to the masthead in the February 7, 1941, issue.

During the last of February and the first of March, 1941, the division was moved from Ft. Sill to Camp Barkeley, Texas, just outside Abilene. The first edition of the News issued there was printed by the Abilene Reporter - News as Volume I, Number 22, on March 7, 1941.[3] It was a five-column, eight-page tabloid, the most pages the staff had ever printed. In addition to the regular features, it contained

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[1]Lewis H. Day, "A Matter of Pride," Ibid., Jan. 24, 1941, p. 3.

[2]Ibid., Jan. 31, 1941, 1.

[3]A. Y. Owen, telephone interview in Oklahoma City, Okla., July 16, 1968.

extensive information on Camp Barkeley and the surrounding area, particularly on Abilene. Many pictures and feature stories introduced the division to the area and informed the men of recreational facilities.

Mauldin was given a high honor by the Army Times, the national weekly newspaper printed for all Army personnel. The News printed an excerpt from the Times' story:

> He is potentially big time. In other words, his is the best we've seen yet by a soldier-artist.
> That's what the Army Times, national weekly newspaper for the U.S. Army, has to say of Bill Mauldin, staff cartoonist for the 45th Division News. . . .[1]

In the early months of the News the staff changed quite frequently. The third new managing editor was listed in the masthead during the last part of March, just six months after the News was founded. Riddle, who had been a staff writer, was promoted to editor under the new managing editor, Captain Fredrick Stoft, formerly division public relations officer. Other additions to the staff included Sam O. St. John, feature writer, and Private Robert Duncan, staff photographer.

"Water Bucket," a column written by Waddell, the sports editor, appeared regularly in each edition. The sports page often was decorated with art work of sports activities. Pictures were included with many of the sports stories.

The 45th Division News obtained its first state editor, Joe Stocker, formerly a reporter for the Oklahoma City Times, on June 20, 1941. He began a column entitled "Private Patter" which contained

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[1] 45th Division News (Camp Barkeley, Tex.) March 14, 1941, p. 4.

small personal notes about members of the 45th and other military units, such as men who had the unusual names of Corporal Sargent, Lieutenant Musick and Sergeant Melody.

On July 3, 1941, one day before Independence Day, the News published a special edition in commemoration of July 4. The front page carried a photograph three columns wide by seven and one-half inches deep which showed three soldiers marching and playing the fife and drums. An American flag waved as shells exploded in the background. Below the picture was a feature story, "Freedom Rededicated," by J. Sheppard Pepper:

"There is no fanfare in the Declaration of Independence, no waving of flags, but merely a group of facts and a conclusion. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor. . . ."

From Camp Barkeley the division was ordered to Louisiana for maneuvers. Volume I, Number 43, carried this front page notice on July 31, 1941, "Publication of the 45th Division News will be suspended following this issue for the duration of the Louisiana war games." This marked the first time since its establishment in October, 1940, that the paper had suspended publication for any reason.

During the Louisiana war games the staff was kept busy writing stories for newspapers in communities surrounding the maneuver area and for home town newspapers. Regimental, brigade and special unit reporters were asked to continue sending in news from their units.[1]

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[1] Ibid., July 31, 1941, 3.

Even though the maneuvers continued only one month, publication of the News was suspended for five months. When the paper did resume publication on December 13, 1941, it began with a new number, Volume II, Number 1, and on a new day, Saturday, rather than Friday. The only reason given for the long delay was that complications prevented publication.[1]

The News was still a five-column tabloid, and most of the issues, except for some special editions, were only four pages long. The first issue of the new volume contained many new names of staff members and assignment changes. Major Lee F. Gilstrap had become public relations officer, and Sergeant Joe Stocker was editor. The new sports editor was Private Dumit. St. John became picture editor, and Sergeant George Tapscott was named photographer, replacing Owen, who had been released from the service. Don Robinson, who later became editor, was listed as staff adviser.

Tapscott had been a copy boy for the Daily Oklahoman before being activated in 1940 with the 45th Infantry Division. He had joined the National Guard in 1936 as a private and had been promoted to sergeant by the time he joined the staff of the News.

"When A. Y. Owen left," Tapscott said, "the News was really desperate for a photographer, and I fast-talked them into letting me have the job."[2]

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[1]The absence of papers during this period apparently was caused in part by financial problems. Walter Harrison earlier made reference to the problem of paying the printer in Lawton, and when the News resumed publication after the suspension, subscription rates were listed for the first time: Officers, $1 per year, and mail subscriptions, $1.50 per year.

[2]Tapscott interview.

Tapscott stayed with the 45th Division News until he was released from the Army after the end of the war in 1945. He rejoined the division in 1947, one year after it had been reorganized. He is now chief warrant officer of the information section, and in civilian life is a staff photographer for the Oklahoma Publishing Company.

On January 3, 1942, the News printed a special New Year edition containing a review of all the important news events during the first year of military service.

After the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, the content of the paper's stories changed. A policy that the News would contain no information helpful to the enemy was explained in a story which appeared on February 6, 1942:

> Maybe you've noticed that the 45th Division News has changed a bit in the past few weeks. You're not finding as much straight-out news about the division as you once did. . . . You're picking up the usual gossip via the Army grapevine or seeing things happen right around you. . . .
>
> The paper now has to be submitted to intelligence for censorship because the United States is at war.[1]

Censorship had a visible effect on news content as evidenced by headlines appearing on the front pages before and after Pearl Harbor. Headlines in the January 10, 1941, issue included: "45th Division Vital Part of Armed Forces," "Key to Check Every Phase of Training," "Chaplain Assigned to Special Troops," "Recruit Duties Scheduled for 650 Selectives" and "Canteen Shows $48,000 Profit In Three Months." These contrast with headlines in the December 13, 1941, issue, less than a week after Pearl Harbor, "Big Time Shows at Barkeley," "U. S. Agents Helping with Tax Returns," "Odd But True: Soldiers Innards Backards,"

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[1] "Our New Code," 45th Division News (Camp Barkeley, Tex.), Feb. 6, 1942.

"Corps Official Is Appointed 179th Chief" and "Private Donaghey Has a Corner on Jinxes."

Censorship was new to the staff, but members became very much acquainted with it before the war was over.

Preparation for the war continued, and the Army decided to enlarge Camp Barkeley for more troops. A new newspaper, the Camp Barkeley News, was established for both the 45th Division and the incoming troops. Most of the staff of the 45th Division News worked on the new paper until the division was moved to Fort Devens, Massachusetts. Because of security reasons, however, the 45th Division News did not resume publication until the division was moved to Pine Camp, New York.

While at Fort Devens, the members of the News staff were assigned to the public relations section. The division included many Indians, and the people in that area of the United States thought that Indians were savages and viewed them with some apprehension. To help overcome their fears, members of the News staff organized Indian dances for area residents.

At one of the dances a radio broadcaster named Ann Michaels asked a scarred, stone-faced Indian soldier, who could have passed as Geronimo in a Hollywood production, to tell her something about the dances.[1] She selected simple words carefully so that he would be able to comprehend and answer.

"As I see it," the Indian replied, "the dances are a series of progressions." He concluded his lecture by comparing the Indian dance

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[1]Robinson, p. 39.

chant and action to that of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.[1] In a similar incident, another woman asked Tapscott if the Indians had to be penned up at night.[2]

The 45th Division News was printed at Pine Camp, New York; Camp Pickett, Virginia, and on board ship as the division moved overseas. These papers were numbered as Volume III, but because the division moved quite frequently and security was very tight, no issues were available for study.

Sicily

Volume IV, Number 1, was printed July 13, 1943, in Vittoria, Sicily, shortly after the invasion of the island. The three-column, two-page paper was printed in six-point type on a very light-weight paper stock, with a page size seven by ten inches, and contained no pictures. The lead story on the front page told of the cities that the Allies had captured in Sicily since the invasion began. The paper carried no masthead listing staff members; however, Robinson was editor.[3]

The staff also printed the second paper on Sicily at Vittoria, but the format changed drastically. It was a mimeographed sheet with only one wide column of typewritten news. All headlines were set flush left, and the nameplate, as well as some of the headlines, were hand-lettered. The back page carried a cartoon by Mauldin which appeared to have been drawn by hand on a stencil. The image was very difficult

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[1] Ibid.

[2] Tapscott interview.

[3] Robinson, p. 76.

to make out.

As stated earlier, the News often acquired its information from second-hand sources. This hazardous practice sometimes caused problems, as evidenced in a story that appeared July 19, 1943:

> The story concerning Lieutenant Colonel William H. Shafer /escaping from the Germans/ that appeared in the last edition of the Division News was entirely erroneous. The story was given to a News reporter by two soldiers who had just returned to the front from the collecting point and who maintained they had just seen the colonel there.[1]

The first American court martial in Sicily was reported in this issue. It was a rape case in which the accused soldier was sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor.

Another Mauldin cartoon also was included, and its reproduction was much better. Still named "Star Spangled Banter," it showed two Germans in a foxhole surrounded by exploding shells. The caption read, "Vot Good Iss It for Der Fuehrer to Tell us God Iss on our Side? Der Americans Haff Got all Der Indians."

The first issue published in Caltanissetta, Sicily, on July 22, 1943, was a four-page, three-column paper which contained no pictures. Pages measured seven by ten inches and contained three columns of six to 12 point printed matter. Many of the stories were printed in Italics.[2] The lead story in this edition was headlined "Palermo Falls." Headlines in these issues often were just phrases and contained no verbs, and some stories had no headlines. At that time the News was printing some information supplied by the Office of War Information.

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[1] News of the 45th (Vittoria, Sicily), July 19, 1943, p. 1.

[2] Robinson, p. 83.

All news of battles was printed after the campaign had ended and contained no casualty list or information concerning troop movement.

The July 22 edition also carried a story quoting General George S. Patton's praise of the 45th Infantry Division:

> The 45th Division, a green outfit, went into combat with two veteran outfits, and asked for no favors, and made no excuses. They kept up with the other outfits. I'm damned proud of every officer and man in the Division.

The next edition of the News on July 29, 1943, carried as the lead story a report on the downfall and surrender of Italian leader Benito Mussolini. The story, "Benito Finito," and the one about the fall of Palermo were the two best news breaks the 45th Division News had during the stay on Sicily.[1]

Two other important stories were included in the July 29 issue. One reported General Dwight D. Eisenhower's radio broadcast to the Italians, in which he said that the only obstacle in the way of peace was the Italians' collaboration with the Germans. The other story, concerning an event in Oklahoma City, was unusual, because almost all the articles in the News pertained to the men of the division. The story had no headline and read "Oklahoma City--Ex-Gov. Leon Phillips and Robert F. Fitzgerald, former pardon and parole officer, are out on bail after being charged with accepting bribes in connection with paroles."[2]

A column, "By the Right Flank," written by the editor, appeared for the first time in the July 29 paper, along with a column of bulletins. This issue was the last printed at Caltanissetta, and it

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[1] Ibid., 84.

[2] 45th Division News (Caltanissetta, Sicily), July 29, 1943, p. 2.

contained the Mauldin cartoon which had been printed using zinc taken from a coffin. Nail heads also show on the drawing, since there was no bevel around the edge of the plate in which to drive nails into the wood base.

The staff then packed its gear and moved to Palermo. Although the printing facilities there appeared to be in much better condition, the first Palermo issue was late. The print shops had been bombed, and the staff had to wait until they stopped burning in order to combine the facilities of two plants to have enough equipment.

For the first time in Sicily the News contained halftone engravings when it was printed in Palermo, and its overall appearance was the best since it had left the United States. The paper was able to return to the size which it had been at home, a five-column tabloid.

The paper did have one major fault, however, the type changed size from six to eight point within a story, because the printers did not have enough characters to print complete papers in English.

The Palermo issues began to have more columns and better written feature stories. Mauldin became one of the new columnists. His "Quoth the Dogface" was written with the same spirit as he drew his cartoons, and satirized the problems which confronted the combat soldier:

"Probably the most concrete proof that the Sicilians think we're tourists is the way they use the highways. Bicyclists, pedestrians, chauffeurs and mules have a hearty contempt for Army trucks. . . ."[1]

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[1]Bill Mauldin, "Quoth the Dogface," 45th Division News (Palermo, Sicily) Aug. 11, 1943, p. 3.

The masthead of the first Palermo edition listed the publication date as "Every now and then," and the address as "None, we're transients." It also included the entire staff of the News, which had stabilized and contained most of the members who would finish the war with the paper. Robinson was listed as editor, and Mauldin as cartoonist. The photographer was Tapscott, and the two reporters were Bill Barrett and Fred Sheehan. The initials of the printer, I.R.E.S., appeared in small type under the masthead.

In the same issue was Barrett's feature story, "Mules Differ in Character Soldiers Find, Compare Betsy with Shiftless Beast," which appeared on the second page and told about the soldiers' problems in handling the mules which were used for carrying supplies.

The News often carried many small stories. One page of a Palermo paper had twenty-one articles, but contained very few names. Headlines sounded something like book titles -- "There'll Always Be a Few More Flies" and "How To Be Sure To Whip A Cop."

Mauldin's column, along with his cartoons, became a regular feature of the News. Other columns previously mentioned also continued to appear. For convenience the distribution point for the papers was listed as the division special service center.

The September 1, 1943, issue contained a special feature story on the history of the Sicilian campaign by Thomas Henry of the Washington Star and North American Newspaper Alliance. In an editor's note preceding the story, Robinson wrote, "We reprint it here, both as a history of the campaign and as an example of the news the folks back home are reading about us."

The Sicilian campaign was over, and the division prepared to move to Italy. The last edition of the News printed in Palermo, Sicily, appeared on September 1, 1943, the tenth 45th Division News printed on Axis soil.

Italy

The first edition of the 45th Division News to come off the press in Italy was printed on September 29, 1943, in Salerno. No longer tabloid size, the pages again were seven by ten inches. The lead story of the four-page paper told of Allied victories. However, the longest story in the paper was Mauldin's column. It filled four entire columns, which was almost half the paper.

He discussed problems of war in a light manner, such as how war destroys crops. He said the infantry crushed the weeds, the artillery scared away the birds, and chemical warfare killed the bugs. Machine gunners pruned the trees and engineers took care of irrigation.

As with earlier editions, the first paper printed in Italy also had trouble with type faces. Within one story the type size might vary from six to twelve points. In Salerno many of the stories were about the battle for Naples, Italy.

The staff moved to Naples in October. The paper retained its small size and continued to have trouble with type faces. All w's and y's were printed in capitals and the stories contained both sans serif type and script. The mast was printed in a very bold face type.

In the October 21 paper issued in Naples, Mauldin's column was printed in six-point script, which made it very difficult to read. The staff helped sponsor the sale of Christmas cards drawn by Mauldin

in Naples. The sales were very good, and the money was used to pay off printing bills and finance some special editions.[1]

The first special edition appeared on December 4, 1943. With six pages rather than the usual four, it contained many pictures and two full-page feature stories about the Army Air Corps and the Engineers.

The next edition of the News was the biggest undertaking the staff attempted.[2] It was the December 25, 1943, special Christmas issue, and work on the paper began six weeks before the publication date. The biggest problem the staff encountered was arranging for the color printing. Both the printer and the engraver were Italians and could speak only their native language. None of the staff members could speak Italian well.

A front page, four-color plate depicted Italians and American soldiers viewing a nativity scene. It was the work of a local artist and was drawn especially for the 45th Division News. The same artist also did a pen and ink sketch to accompany a Christmas story on the second page which was written for the paper by Prof. Tarquinio Vallese of the English Department of the University of Naples. The story gave an account of Christmas in Naples. A color illustration on the fourth page was done by Bill Mauldin, and was a full page Christmas cartoon printed in four colors. It compared a soldier's activities on Christmas morning to a little boy opening his presents.

The paper used in the Christmas edition was much heavier and better than had been used previously. The Psychological Warfare Board

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1"Division News is in the Bucks; We're Flush Now," 45th Division News (Naples) November 27, 1943, p. 1.

2Ibid., December 25, 1943, 2.

helped the staff find the paper. Enough copies of the Christmas edition were printed to enable each man to have one. In some earlier issues in Sicily and Italy, the ratio sometimes was one copy for every twenty-five men.[1]

The staff not only covered the Anzio campaign from Naples, but also collected news about the Battle of Venafro by driving a few miles to that sector.

The first two editions printed in 1944 contained no Mauldin cartoons but did include his column. In the second edition on January 15, a letter from actress Hedy Lamarr to the men of the 45th was printed on the front page.

On January 22, 1944, Mauldin had a half page cartoon on the back page, but no column. Two characters closely resembled the Willie and Joe he drew in later cartoons. He transferred to Stars and Stripes in February, where he became a special correspondent and cartoonist. He gave his reasons for leaving the News in the February 22 issue, explaining that the new job was a good opportunity, because Stars and Stripes was a daily publication and would enable him to draw cartoons for all the men in the Army every day rather than just once a week. After Mauldin left, the News had no cartoonist, so "Blondie" appeared for the first time in the March 22 issue. The cartoon strip was furnished by King Features Syndicate through Camp Newspaper Service. The same issue contained six, instead of the usual four, pages.

The nameplate of the 45th Division News had changed very little since the first issue in Oklahoma, but on April 15, 1944, a new emblem

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[1]"Color Issue Brings News' Best Wishes," Ibid.

was added. The Thunderbird insignia was centered and overprinted on the nameplate.

The News acquired a new full-time staff member and a contributor in April, 1944. Joe Stenard was assigned to the staff as artist, and Bill Harr was listed as a contributor in the April 28 issue. The News also began a new feature in this issue. It consisted of a drawing and information about men of the 45th Division who had won high military honors while in the service. The information was printed in a box which usually was centered on the page. The first such feature which appeared was on the back page, but later ones were printed on other pages. Harr remained as a contributor until July 1, 1944, when he left and was replaced by George Dennis.

Since the News was nearing an anniversary date, the staff published a special issue on July 8, 1944, to commemorate the division's first year in combat and the paper's first year of publication in Europe. Issued as Volume IV, Number 44, it was printed in two different sizes -- a four-page pony edition which the men could mail home and an eight-page regular edition. A new column appeared for the first and last time in the regular edition. It carried the headline "Society Notes," which was set in a very light script, and described a dance sponsored by one of the division's units. Waddle was listed as society editor.

Harr did not stay away from the News very long, because in the August 6 edition he was listed along with five other men as a contributor to the News. Others were George Dennis, Harry Palmer, Jack Hallowell and Robert Perkins.

France

The 45th Division pulled out of Anzio in August and moved to southern France where it made another amphibious landing. The News moved to printing facilities in Grenoble, France, where the first edition printed there, Volume V, Number 6, was issued August 25, 1944. As were all the other issues of the paper, it was printed on letterpress equipment in six and eight point type. The size of the first French edition was unusual; it was five columns wide, but the columns were only half as long as a tabloid column. Other than its unusual size, the paper had a very good appearance. The halftone pictures were relatively sharp, and the format looked much like a metropolitan paper. The paper contained column rules, which, in previous editions, had been used only intermittenly. All regular features appeared in the issue with the exception of the profile on men who had won honors.

The News moved to Besancon, France, in September, where one issue was published. The next paper, dated October 4, 1944, was published in Nancy, France. The paper had sponsored a contest for a patch to represent the men who had fought at Anzio, and the recipient of the winning design, who won a $10 prize, was announced in this issue.[1]

While in Nancy the first and last classified section appeared in the paper on February 9, 1945. It contained five ads with no explanation of why it was printed.

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[1]The winner of the contest was Sergeant Jack Clapp of the 45th Infantry Division, who is now an employee of the Oklahoma Army National Guard and lives near Edmond, Okla.

Before the division went overseas, the 45th Division News had carried a regular editorial column. Not until the Thunderbirds were in France did another editorial appear in the paper. It was printed on the front page of the March 9, 1945, issue published in Nancy and urged the men of the division always to look neat and clean. A new column also appeared in the same edition, "What's Your Answer?" Men submitted answers to questions printed in the News.

Germany

The first German edition was Volume V, Number 30. Because of security reasons, no date was given and the place of publication was listed only as Germany.[1] Volume V, Number 31, was printed in Munich. The two-page paper carried a story about the end of the war in Europe on the front page and another related story on the second page. The headline covered two-thirds of the front page and consisted only of two words, "War Ends," set in 260 point wood block type.

On May 13, 1945, the News carried a special story on the prison camp at Dachau. Pictures described in Chapter II were taken by George Tapscott.

The 45th Division News was published for the last time in Europe on July 10. It was a special second anniversary combat edition giving a short history of the division. Shortly thereafter the war ended for the Thunderbirds and the division left Europe.

The history of the News during World War II had come to an end.

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[1] Tapscott interview.

CHAPTER IV

THE NEW FORTY-FIFTH INFANTRY DIVISION

When peace came and soldiers returned to civilian life, the 45th Infantry Division was reorganized in Oklahoma in 1946. The division remained basically the same as it had been during World War II, but the 279th Infantry Regiment was created to take the place of the 157th Infantry which remained in Colorado. The first commander of the reorganized 45th Division was Brigadier General James C. Styron of Hobart, Oklahoma.

Eighty-nine units of the division had been organized and had received federal recognition by the end of 1946, and seventeen additional units received recognition before April, 1947. From reorganization until 1950, the division attended annual two-week summer encampments at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

In the summer of 1950 the division was preparing for the annual summer camp which was to be held at Fort Hood, Texas, when it was alerted for federal service by President Harry S. Truman. The 45th Infantry Division was one of the first four National Guard divisions called up for federal service during the Korean crisis. Thunderbird units spent many days during the month of August preparing to report for active service on September 1, 1950. Reconnaissance

teams went to Camp Polk, Louisiana, the mobilization station for the 45th Division, in late August.[1]

As the Guardsmen prepared to go on active duty, the recruiting program was intensified to fill all the positions in the division. Richard Robinson, a master sergeant assigned to division headquarters in Oklahoma City, coined a recruiting phrase that was used successfully in Oklahoma and other parts of the United States -- "Go With the Men You Know."[2]

Service elements of the 45th Division were federalized on August 22 to help prepare for the induction of the Thunderbirds, and the remainder of the division was transferred from state control on September 1, 1950, to become a part of the United States Army. Advance detachments of the division arrived first at Camp Polk, followed several days later by two motor convoys. By September 10, 1950, the entire division was either at, or en route to, Camp Polk.

Because the training camp had been closed since the end of World War II, the first few weeks were spent in house cleaning and the rehabilitation of unit areas in preparation for draftees who would be added to the division in order to bring it up to full strength. Officers' and non-commissioned officers' schools also were established to provide the division with effective leadership.[3]

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[1]Albert Love Enterprises, p. 23.

[2]Ibid.

[3]Pendleton Woods, "History of the 45th Infantry Division," (short mimeographed history of the division, prepared in Oklahoma City, Okla., March 7, 1966), pp. 5-6.

By November 7, 1950, the division had received a sufficient number of draftees to begin Army training programs. The Korean situation was too serious even to permit a Christmas holiday furlough, and men had to be content with a 72-hour pass either for the Christmas or New Year holiday.[1]

The intensive training continued into 1951. Early in January the 45th Division received an additional 4,000 draftees who were organized into a training regiment.

In the midst of the training program, the division was alerted for shipment to Japan. The formal training program ended as the men prepared for the movement overseas. Division personnel began to depart from Camp Polk by train to a reactivated port of embarkation in New Orleans, Louisiana. By April 1, 1951, the entire division was afloat, with the exception of the 4,000 draftees who had arrived at Camp Polk too late to finish training before shipment began.

Japan

The voyage to Japan took nearly one month. The Thunderbirds went through the Panama Canal, and some of the men received short passes at the canal's southern end. Some of the ships docked at San Francisco, California, for a few hours while the others continued to Japan.

The division made the first peaceful foreign landing in its

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[1]Albert Love Enterprises, p. 23.

[2]Woods, p. 6.

history as the troops disembarked on Hokkaido at the ports of Otaru and Muroran, and were moved by Japanese trains to Camp Crawford and Camp Chitose.[1] Division headquarters was opened at Camp Crawford, and other units there included the 279th Regimental Combat Team and some separate companies. The remainder of the division was located 40 miles to the south at Chitose, where a new tent city had been built on volcanic ash next to an air base, which during World War II had been a kamikaze training field.

After housekeeping chores were completed, the division began an intensive training program to complete the training begun at Camp Polk. Most of the troops who remained behind at Polk rejoined the division in June and were integrated into the ranks. The training time was very valuable according to a high ranking officer who observed the division's first training maneuvers in Japan. "Major General Roderick Allen, commander of the XVI Corps, to which the division had been assigned, said that the 45th was the finest trained division he had seen."[2]

Korea

Training continued and as winter approached the preparations for combat intensified. In early November the orders were received for shipment to Korea. The 45th Division, which included many veterans of World War II, had been selected as the first National Guard Division

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[1]Woods, p. 6.

[2]Albert Love Enterprises, p. 2.

to enter combat in Korea.[1]

The Thunderbirds landed at Inchon, Korea, and proceeded by rail to an area near Yonchon, where they prepared to relieve the 1st Calvary Division in the front line positions near Chorwon. Advance units of the division were in combat on December 10, 1951, and by the beginning of 1952 all units were in operation against the Chinese Communists.

The division was assigned to the I US Corps and occupied front line positions on the Line Jamestown for 209 days, from December, 1951, to July, 1952. Through the winter of 1951-52, the Thunderbirds fought limited patrol actions and improved the defensive positions overlooking such Korean landmarks as T-bone Hill, Baldy, Dagmar, Eerie, Alligator Jaws and Pokkae.[2]

A phase-out program began in March, 1952, to gradually replace with newly trained officers and men those National Guardsmen whose terms of service were nearly completed. The phase-out was completed in July.

On May 20, 1952, the enemy displayed an increased ability to approach the United Nations defenses, and the need for an improved line of combat outposts was indicated.[3] During the period from June 4 to June 13, a series of surprise attacks by UN forces secured eleven new positions north of Line Jamestown, forward UN defensive position. Enemy reaction to the seizures was violent, and throughout the remainder of June and prior to July 18, action centered around enemy attempts

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[1] Ibid.

[2] Woods, p. 6.

[3] Ibid.

to recapture some of the outposts. The intensity of artillery and mortar fire was greater than previous Korean action. After repulsing enemy attacks against the newly established outpost line without the loss of any territory, the division obtained relief on July 18. The US 2nd Division took over the Thunderbird sector as the division moved to reserve areas in the X US Corps area. The 45th Division Artillery was placed under operational control of X Corps and was assigned a mission in support of the 7th and 8th Republic of Korea Divisions.

The reserve period was marked by a rapid turnover of personnel as National Guardsmen and the original draftees of the division were replaced. The two-month reserve period provided an opportunity for the new men to be integrated into the units and to repair equipment. While in reserve, the division was augmented with South Korean forces.[1]

At the end of September the division moved out of reserve and into the line above Inje, east of the Punch Bowl battle area, where it relieved the 8th Republic of Korea Division. In October, 1952, the division held an important sector on Korea's eastern front.

Meanwhile, in September, 1952, the state of Oklahoma began reorganizing the 45th Infantry Division, designating it as the 45th Infantry Division (NGUS)[2] to distinguish it from the 45th Infantry Division still on active duty.

When the 45th Infantry Division returned to the United States from Korea in April, 1954, and disbanded, the 45th Infantry Division in Oklahoma dropped the NGUS from its name and received all the

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[1] Ibid., 7.

[2] National Guard United States.

official colors from the Department of the Army in an official ceremony held at the Oklahoma State Fair on September 25, 1954.

The division conducted its summer camps at Fort Hood, Texas, from 1953 through 1959 and at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, from 1960 through 1967, with the exception of 1961, when it went to Fort Polk, Louisiana, during the Berlin crisis.

Under a 1959 reorganization, the division's three regiments and their supporting artillery units were replaced by five battlegroups, each of which had five infantry companies in addition to supporting units. The division's structure was changed again for a short time in 1964 to allow for the "tailoring" of the division to emphasize elements required to meet the conditions which might be brought about by enemy and terrain.

In late 1965, as a result of the manpower need caused by the war in South Vietnam, the Army National Guard organized divisions of full strength "ready" units," designated as Selected Reserve Forces (SRF), which could be called up on short notice in the event of an escalation of the war or an emergency in another part of the world. Units in the 45th Division comprised approximately one brigade of the Selected Reserve Forces.[1]

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[1]Woods, p. 8.

CHAPTER V

THE NEWS -- 1949-1953

The 45th Division News was originally a newspaper for the 45th Infantry Division on active duty with the United States Army. Pendleton Woods joined the division in 1949 and established the first peace time 45th Division News, which, printed on slick paper in a magazine format, bore little resemblance to the News printed during World War II.

The peace time newspaper, consisting of five issues printed from June to October, 1949, was the official publication of the Oklahoma National Guard, the 45th Division and the division association, and was the only peace time News ever published. All issues listed Woods as editor; Harry Barnes, business manager; C. R. Janssen, advertising manager, and Mel Weber, sales representative. All issues of the peace time News carried advertising which was sold in Oklahoma communities having National Guard units by a member of the Guard who was paid on commission.

Woods worked very closely with community newspapers, which often helped furnish news and engravings for his publication. But when the local papers began to complain about the News carrying advertising from their merchants and the possible reduction in their ad

linage, Woods felt, in view of the circumstances, that he should discontinue the publication, since the News could not be published without advertising to pay the expenses.[1]

The 45th Division News was back in publication after a short time, however, in September, 1950, when the Thunderbirds were mobilized for the Korean conflict. The first edition of the News greeted members of the division when they reported to Camp Polk, Louisiana, for training. Its editor, Al Kaff, formerly with the Daily Oklahoman, arrived at Camp Polk early to see about printing the paper, which later was distributed free to the men of the division. Dedicated to his job, Kaff gave up a commission to become editor of the 45th Division News, since the Army required that the editor of the paper be an enlisted man.[2]

The staff, under the supervision of Woods, who was the public information officer, made an arrangement with a printing shop owner in Shreveport, under which the staff furnished all editorial material for the News, and the printer sold advertising and printed the paper as if it were his own. The advertising paid the printing costs and the remaining money was profit for the owner of the shop. This arrangement was used for all the issues of the News published in Louisiana.[3]

The first issue of the 45th Division News published at Camp Polk came off the press on September 6, 1950, as Volume VI, Number 1. Very different in appearance from earlier editions printed during

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[1]Woods interview.

[2]Ibid.

[3]Ibid.

World War II, the News was a full size eight-column, sixteen-page newspaper which carried advertisements by merchants in the communities surrounding the post.

Displayed on the first page was a letter from Major General Styron, division commander, to the men of the division:

"Once again our country has called upon the 45th Infantry Division to be prepared to defend our way of life and those ideals and privileges which we Americans hold so dear, from aggressor nations which, in their ruthless march to power, would destroy them."[1]

On the same page appeared a story about the 45th Division News' most famous alumnus, Bill Mauldin. He was in Hollywood, California, helping produce a film of his book Up Front, and had consented to do a special cartoon for the men of the 45th which would appear in the next issue.

The News contained stories furnished by men in the division as well as information furnished by Armed Forces Press Service, such as "Sports Quiz," which appeared on the sports page along with "Warmin the Bench," a sports column written by the staff.

At Camp Polk the staff of the News included only one person who had served with the division during World War II, Tapscott, the photographer. In addition to Kaff, other staff members included reporters George Randol, formerly of the Omaha World Herald, and Bill McNaught, formerly of the El Reno American; Ron Pyer, formerly of the Daily Oklahoman, as the second photographer, and full-time cartoonists

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[1]"From Our Boss," 45th Division News (Camp Polk, La.), Sept. 6, 1950, p. 1.

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[2]Ibid., Sept. 13, 1950, p. 1.

Wally Kilborn and Charles Delk. Woods had been promoted to division public information officer, and his assistant was Jim Jackson, who had been a reporter for the Daily Oklahoman.

The second issue, on September 14, carried on the front page the cartoon by Mauldin, which depicted a combat soldier dressed in full pack standing in the rain ankle deep in mud. Mauldin wrote the caption in the form of a poem:

> The atom's mighty energy
> Won't win this war apparently
> and spreading gas, it's plain to see
> Would be a terrible atrocity.
> The jet plane ain't what it's cracked up to be
> So the fighting always lands on me,
> The obsolete old infantry.[1]

In the same issue a new feature appeared for the first time, "The Men You Know," a personal column including many small articles about the men. The newspaper was heavily supported by local merchants, and advertisements in the first few issues were aimed at welcoming the men of the 45th Division to the area and acquainting them with local merchants. One merchant sponsored a full page ad listing the entire major college football schedule for the 1950 season.

The editorial content of the News concerned military matters that interested the men of the division, special features, personal columns and some home town news. The newspaper usually contained eight pages and looked much like any community newspaper.

The News had a very good sports page and covered camp sports as well as athletic events in Oklahoma. The sports page of the September 21 issue contained a long list of Oklahoma high school

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[1] Ibid., Sept. 13, 1950, p. 1.

football scores.

While in the United States, the paper often printed editorials, which generally appeared on the same page as the masthead and often were aimed at building the morale of the men and making them feel needed members of the 45th Division. The News also carried regular cartoons drawn by the two staff cartoonists in almost every issue.

Feature stories about the 45th Division during World War II often appeared in the Camp Polk issues of the News, including one on November 9 about the liberation of the Germans' prison camp at Dachau, with pictures taken by Tapscott.

The 45th Division News changed names and became the Thunderbird News on December 7, 1950, because it carried advertising, a practice prohibited by Army regulations in official publications. The paper did not use the official name of the division until it began publication in Japan.[1]

A special story taken from the book of Luke in the Bible about the birth of Christ appeared in a box in the upper left hand corner of the front page of the 1950 Christmas issue on December 21. The next issue of the paper, December 28, 1950, contained a large amount of advertising from merchants in Oklahoma City who wished the men of the division a happy new year. This issue also contained Kaff's list of the top ten stories the News had printed since the division was mobilized:

1. Oklahoma National Guard, the 45th Infantry Division activated for federal service.
2. Thunderbird gridmen end perfect season.
3. Draftees arrive to fill 45th to full strength.

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[1]Woods interview.

4. Thunderbirds moan when Army cancels 10-day Christmas leave.
5. Two former members of Nazi prison camp members of 45th Division.
6. Home folks provide free airlift, aid Sooner Thunderbirds in getting the most out of 72-hour pass.
7. Thunderbird boxer whips all-Oklahoma team in Oklahoma City.
8. 45th becomes first to have Ranger outfit recruited from ranks.
9. Two former Thunderbirds rejoin outfit in high positions.
10. Teenage drill squad from Guthrie, Oklahoma wins division-wide drill contest sponsored by the News.[1]

"This Ain't the Army," a regular cartoon series by Kilborn, began to appear in the News in January. Ideas for the cartoons were submitted by the men of the division, and the contributors' names were printed in the cartoons. The February 1, 1951, issue announced a cartoon contest to be judged by Mauldin, the winner of which would win $10 and have his cartoon distributed nationally by the Associated Press. The contest had hardly begun when rumors began spreading around Camp Polk about possible duty for the 45th in Japan, and on February 24 the News printed an extra -- a mimeographed sheet printed only on one side, headlined "45th Alerted for Japan."

Until the division left the United States, the News printed stories telling the men what to expect in Japan. The March 8 issue carried a large number of advertisements from Oklahoma City firms wishing the Thunderbirds luck in Japan.

Of all the editions of the News, only one movie review was included, that of Mauldin's story, "Up Front," which appeared in the March 15, 1951, issue. Written by Jackson, it did not praise the

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[1]"Top Ten Stories," 45th Division News (Camp Polk, La.), Dec. 28, 1950, p. 3.

film highly:

"It has little of the cutting adroitness Mauldin developed in his war-time cartoon. . . . ."

"Without the satire, the movie is just another war picture with perhaps a little more to offer than most. . . ."[1]

The winning entry of the News' cartoon contest appeared in the March 22 issue, drawn by Private Al Summers, who later went to work for the newspaper as a full-time cartoonist in Korea.

While at camp Polk, the News sponsored a drill contest, but because the type of drill to be used was "jodie drill" and not the Army regulation drill, the assistant division commander and the training personnel would not approve. The training personnel took charge of the contest, conducted it according to Army regulation and so upset Kaff that he did not even attend the event.[2]

The last edition of the stateside News was issued on March 29, 1951, and contained stories about events which had occurred while the division was at Camp Polk and more feature articles about Japan. To help pay for the paper, donations were solicited from division members and former Thunderbirds.

When the division was shipped overseas to Japan, the News staff was separated. Woods was on the troop carrier Pope, Kaff on the Gaffie, and the rest of the staff was assigned to the Buckner and other troop carriers. Each ship had daily mimeographed editions of the News printed separately for the men of that ship and operated

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[1] Ibid., March 15, 1951, p. 1.

[2] Woods interview.

independently of the other shipboard papers.[1]

The papers printed on the ships did not carry the name of the 45th Division News because of the difficulty of keeping the volume and number sequence in order when several different editions were being published each day.[2]

Japan

The division moved into Japan, and the staff of the News set up shop at Camp Crawford on the island of Hokkaido, where it was frequently interrupted by slight earthquakes.[3] The same problem which followed the World War II News staff across Europe also plagued this staff -- members found an offset printing plant in Sapporo capable of publishing the News, but none of the printers could speak English. Kaff had to help them set the correct letters.

Enroute to Japan the staff lost Tapscott, their chief photographer, when he became ill on board ship and had to be hospitalized in California. He was unable to rejoin the News and completed his enlistment in the photographic section at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

The first edition of the paper printed in Japan appeared on May 10, 1951, as Volume VI, Number 31, and again was named the 45th Division News, since it no longer carried advertisements. Printed weekly at a cost of 54,000 yen, ($150), the News, the only English language newspaper printed in Hokkaido, had been reduced to a nine

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[1] Ibid.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Jim Jackson, private interview, Oklahoma City, Okla., July 20, 1968.

by fourteen inch, five-column, four-page paper.[1] While in Japan, and later Korea, all of the editorial content of the News was written by the staff because no news service was available.[2] The staff had one less photographer, and a new cartoonist, Flicky Ford, had replaced Delk. Jack Gunter, formerly of the Daily Oklahoman, was added to the staff as a photographer on July 12, replacing Tapscott.

A type face designed with an oriental flair was used in almost all headlines, and the body copy was set on a typewriter. Each Japanese edition included pin-up pictures, and Kaff continued to write editorials. A third reporter, Private Mike Miller, was added to the News staff on September 31. Available issues included a cartoon, "Mac," whose artist was not listed.

The News issued a second "extra" on August 22, 1951, which was printed on a mimeograph and was devoted to the suspension of the Korean peace talks which had begun in July.

The last issue of the News available for study was printed in Japan on October 25, 1951. It carried a story, hinting what the fate of the division might be, which asked for volunteers for service in Korea. By December 10, 1951, the 45th Division was in Korea and again enjoying the issues of the News.[3]

Korea

The division received orders for assignment to Korea in

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[1]"The 45th Division News Gets Printed, And How," Oklahoma Publisher, (Oklahoma City, Okla.) Oct. 1951, p. 7.

[2]Jackson interview.

[3]Woods interview.

November, 1951. Unlike the staff in World War II, the Korean News staff did not operate as an independent unit. Closely supervised by officer personnel, members lived with the division and were assigned to Division Headquarters.

Shortly after moving to Korea, the 45th Division News obtained a new cartoonist, Al Summers, a soldier from Chicago, who had won the cartoon contest sponsored by the paper.

"Summers was very talented," Woods smiled, "but I literally had to kick him out of bed to get him to work. If he hadn't been so talented I would have had him transferred off the staff."[1]

Summers' cartoons often were funny at the expense of officers. All of his cartoons were printed in Stars and Stripes, as well as in the News, and when a general thought one of the cartoons was lampooning him, he caused the staff to be verbally reprimanded by its commander.[2]

The tabloid News in Korea was printed in Pusan on Wednesday of every week by the Korea Times-Press for a war-inflated 900,000 won ($150), and again the printers could neither read or understand English. Kaff went to Pusan from Division Headquarters every week to supervise the printers. Although the 800-mile round trip usually took two nights and one day, the News was printed under this arrangement until the division left Korea.[3]

All the men who were mobilized in 1950 with the 45th Infantry Division were phased out of the division and shipped home by July,

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[1] Ibid.

[2] Ibid.

[3] "Korea's Only English Press Prints 45th Division News," Daily Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, Okla.), Jan. 9, 1952, p. 3.

1952. Kaff was the last member of the staff to leave, but instead of taking his discharge in the United States, he remained in Korea as a correspondent for United Press International.[1]

Until the end of the Korean conflict, the 45th Division News continued publication with staff members from regular Army units. After Korea, the peace time publication of the Oklahoma National Guard was named the Oklahoma Guardsman and served members of the 45th Infantry Division and the Oklahoma Air National Guard. The Guardsman is published monthly in Oklahoma City by the information section of the Oklahoma Army National Guard. During the 45th Division's annual two weeks of summer training, the information section publishes a mimeographed news sheet daily for the division.

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[1]Woods interview.

EPILOGUE

All officers of the 45th Infantry Division were ordered to attend a meeting in Oklahoma City on February 18, 1968, to be briefed on the organization of a new Oklahoma Army National Guard and to receive new assignments. The division that had fought so galliantly across Europe and had held the line in Korea was being retired. With few exceptions, these plans were viewed with disappointment. The 45th Infantry Division ceased to be an active component of the reserve force on February 28, 1968, and all personnel were given assignments in the new Oklahoma Army National Guard. Thus, with the end of the division came the end of its printed spokesman, the 45th Division News.

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