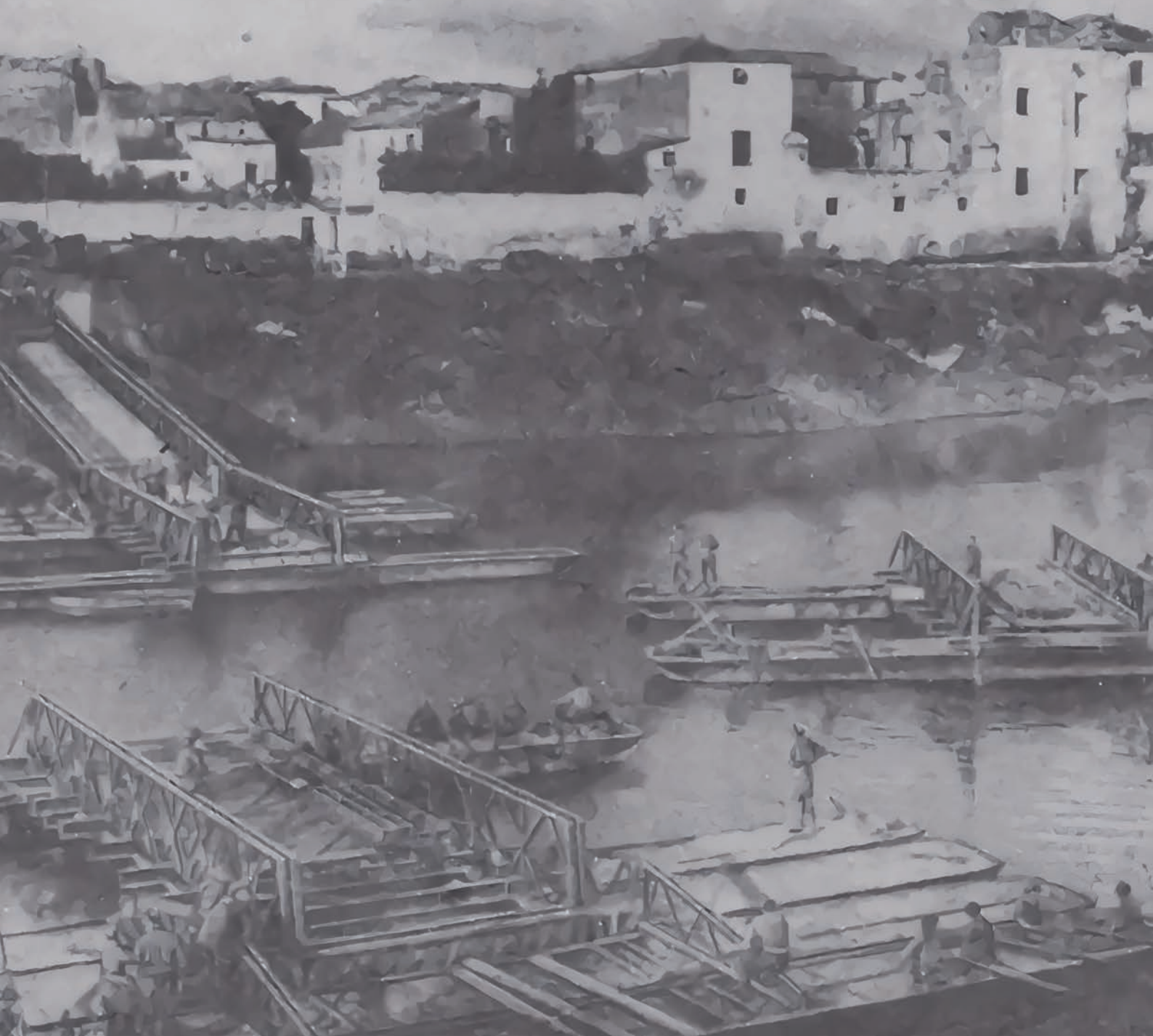




Royal Engineers **Historical Society**

The Italian Campaign Battlefield Tour Map Book

25 - 29 September 2025



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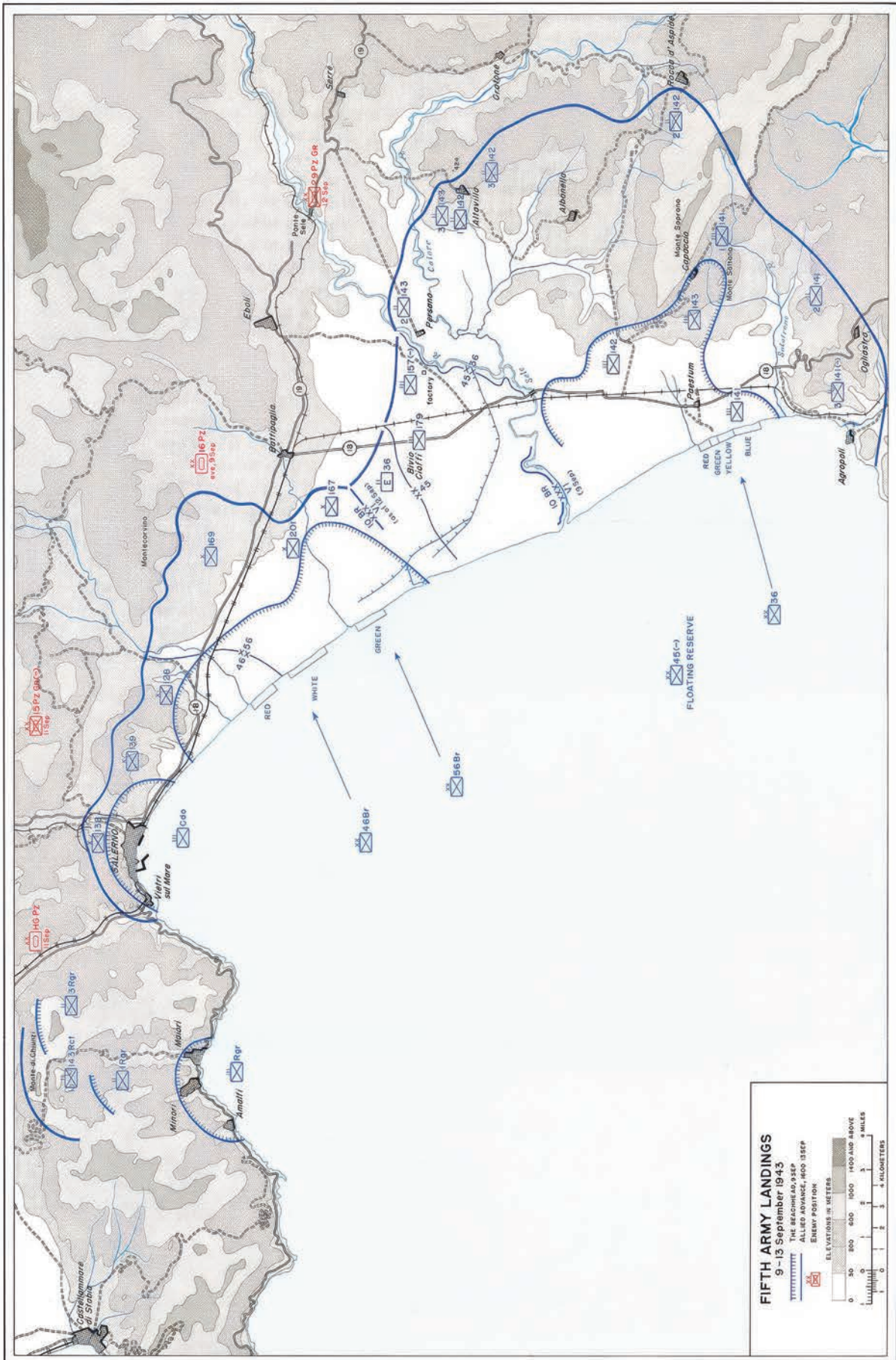
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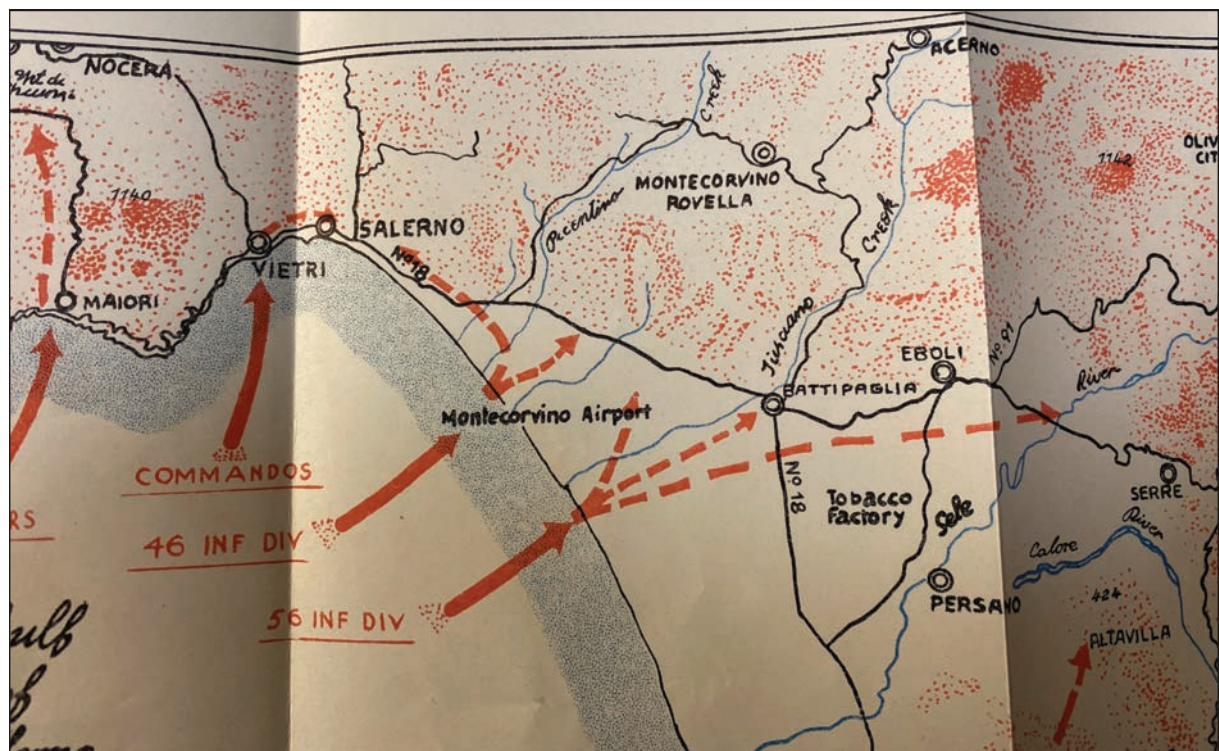
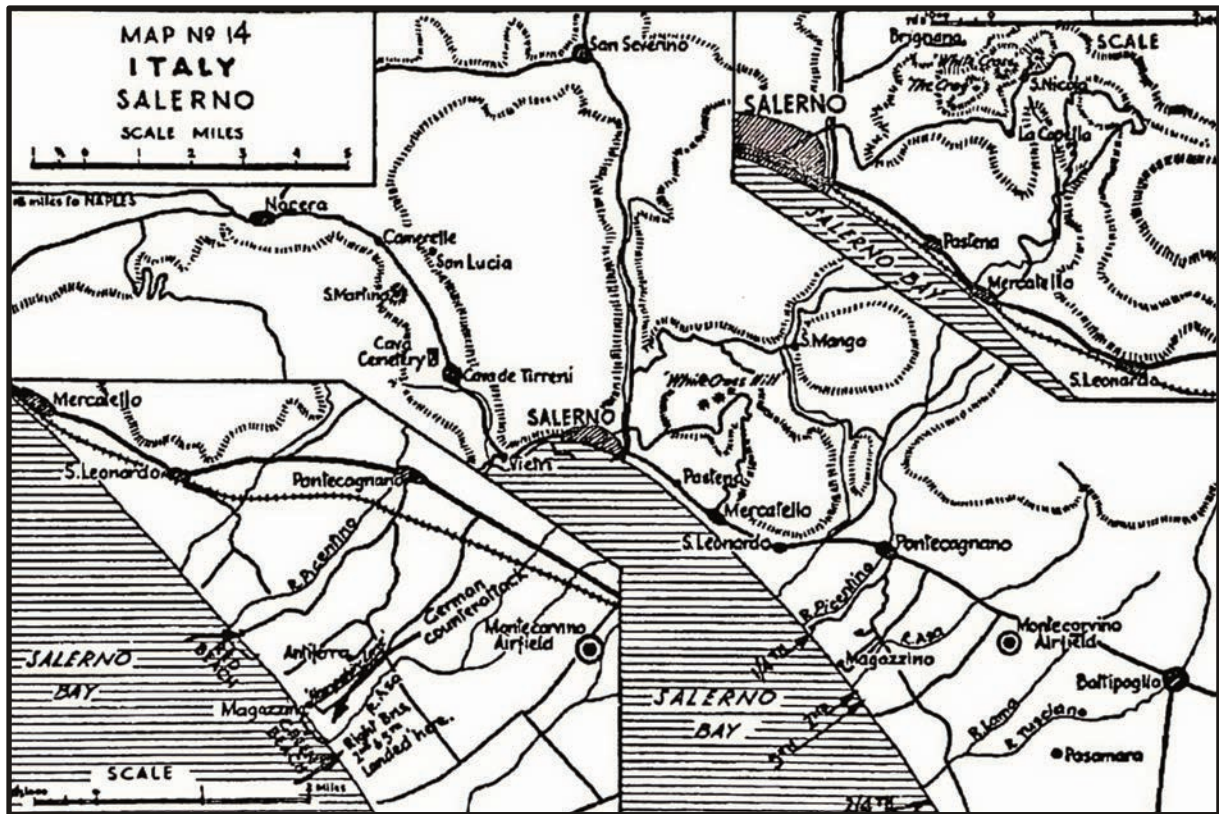
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SALERNO LANDINGS





SEPTEMBER 9-14, 1943

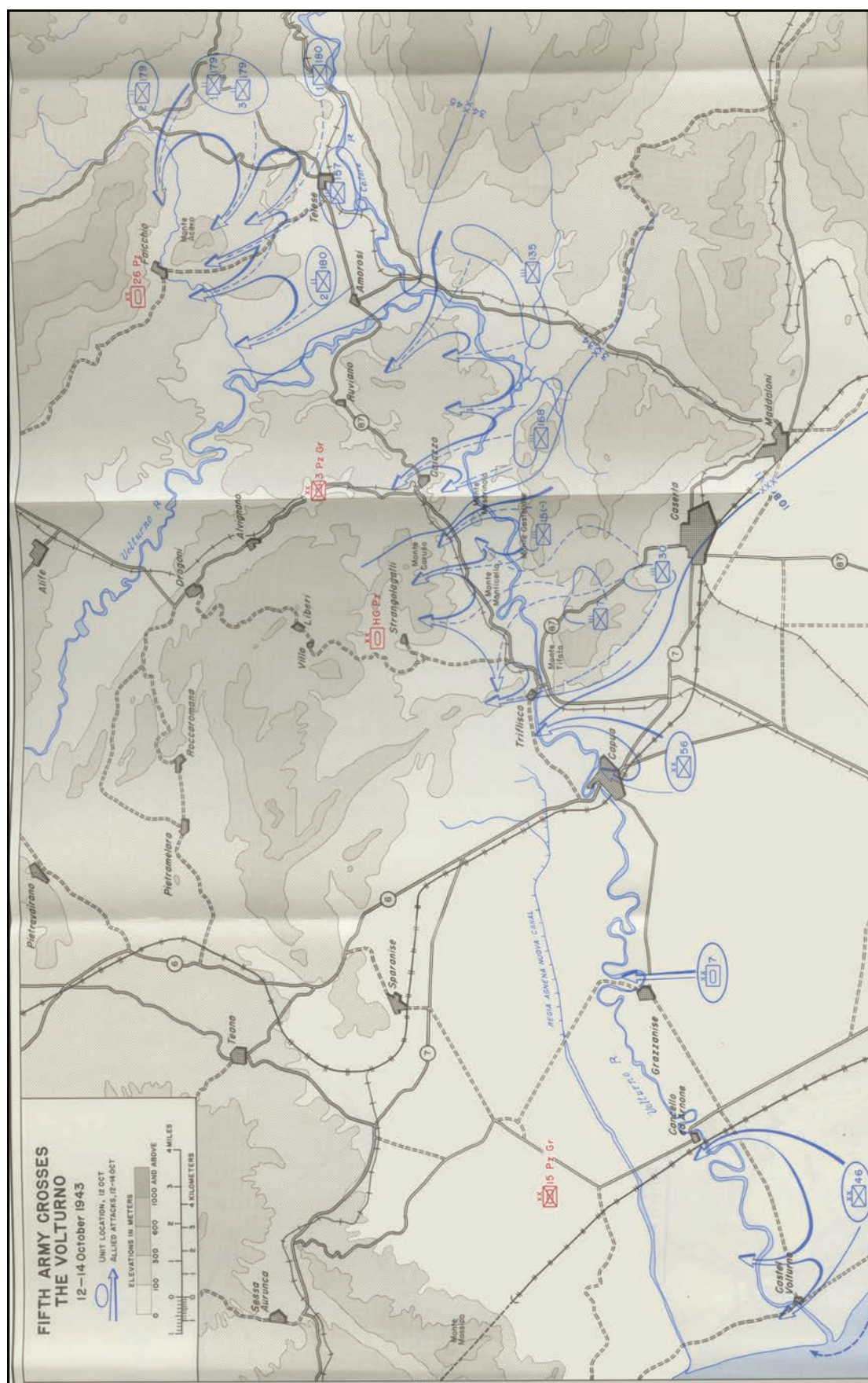


ADVANCE TO THE VOLTURNO
15 September–6 October 1943

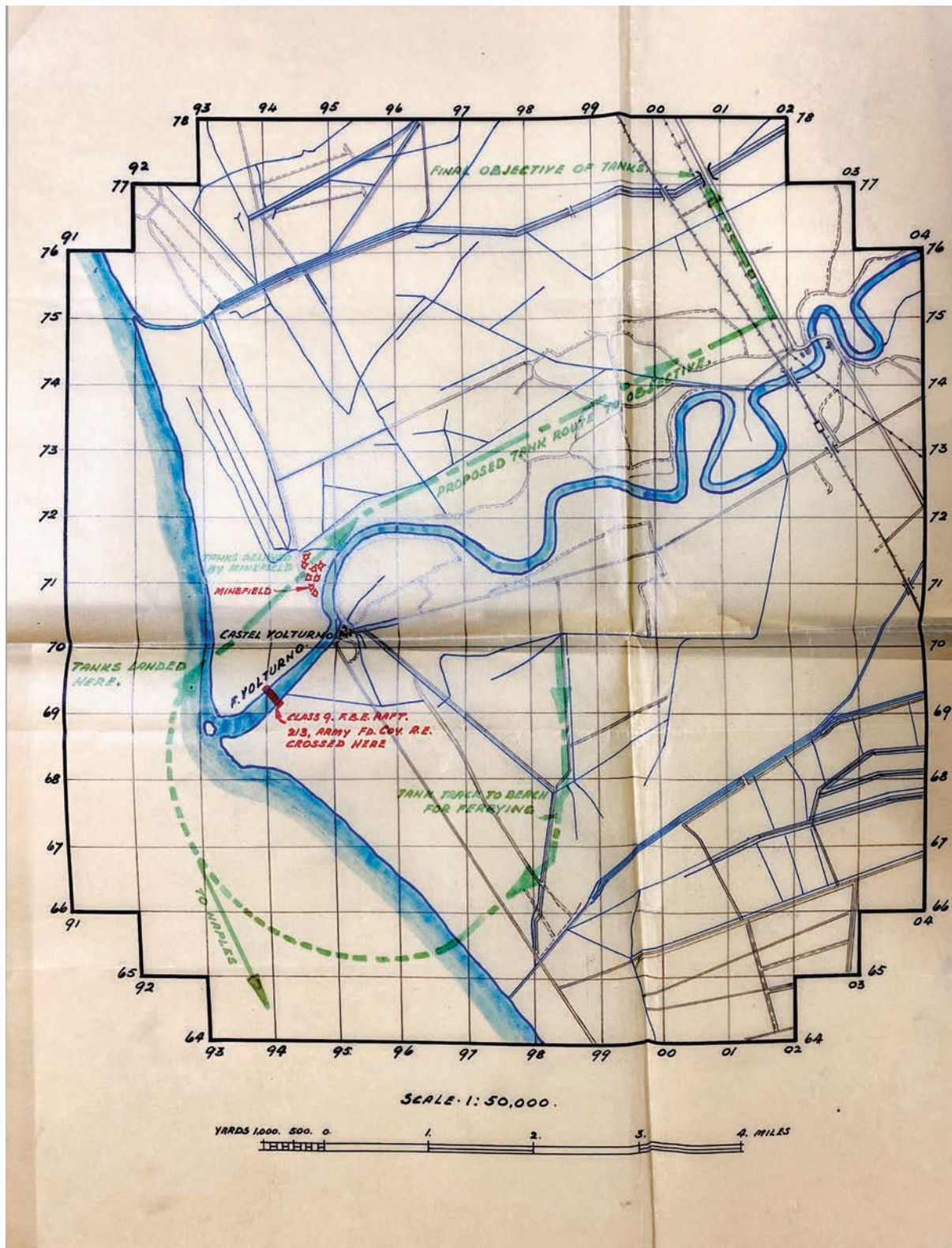
ALLIED ROUTES OF ADVANCE
GERMAN FRONT LINE, 20 SEP
GERMAN FRONT LINE, 6 OCT
ELEVATIONS IN METERS

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 800 1000 1500 AND ABOVE
0 5 10 KILOMETERS
0 5 10 MILES

Capri



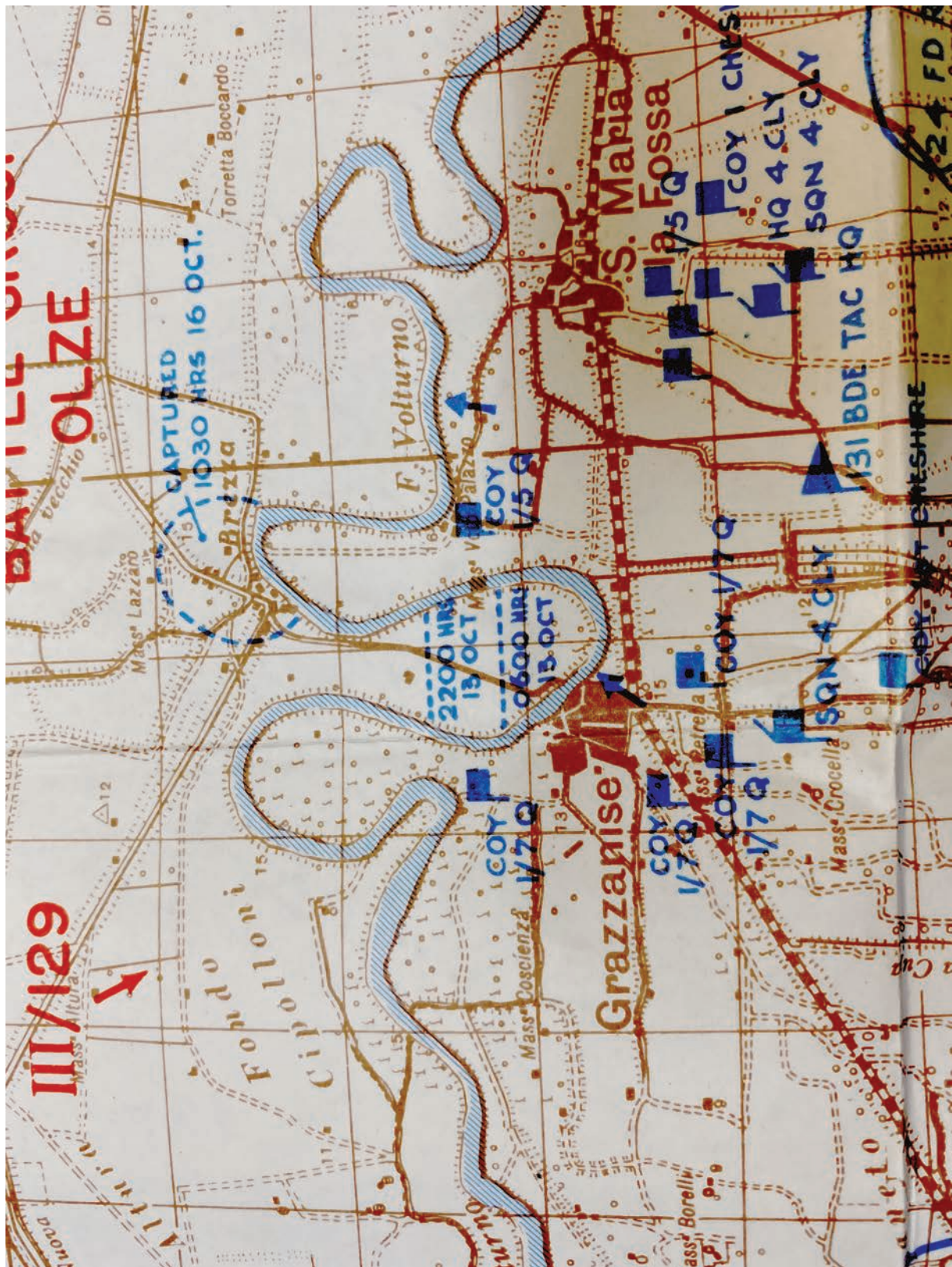








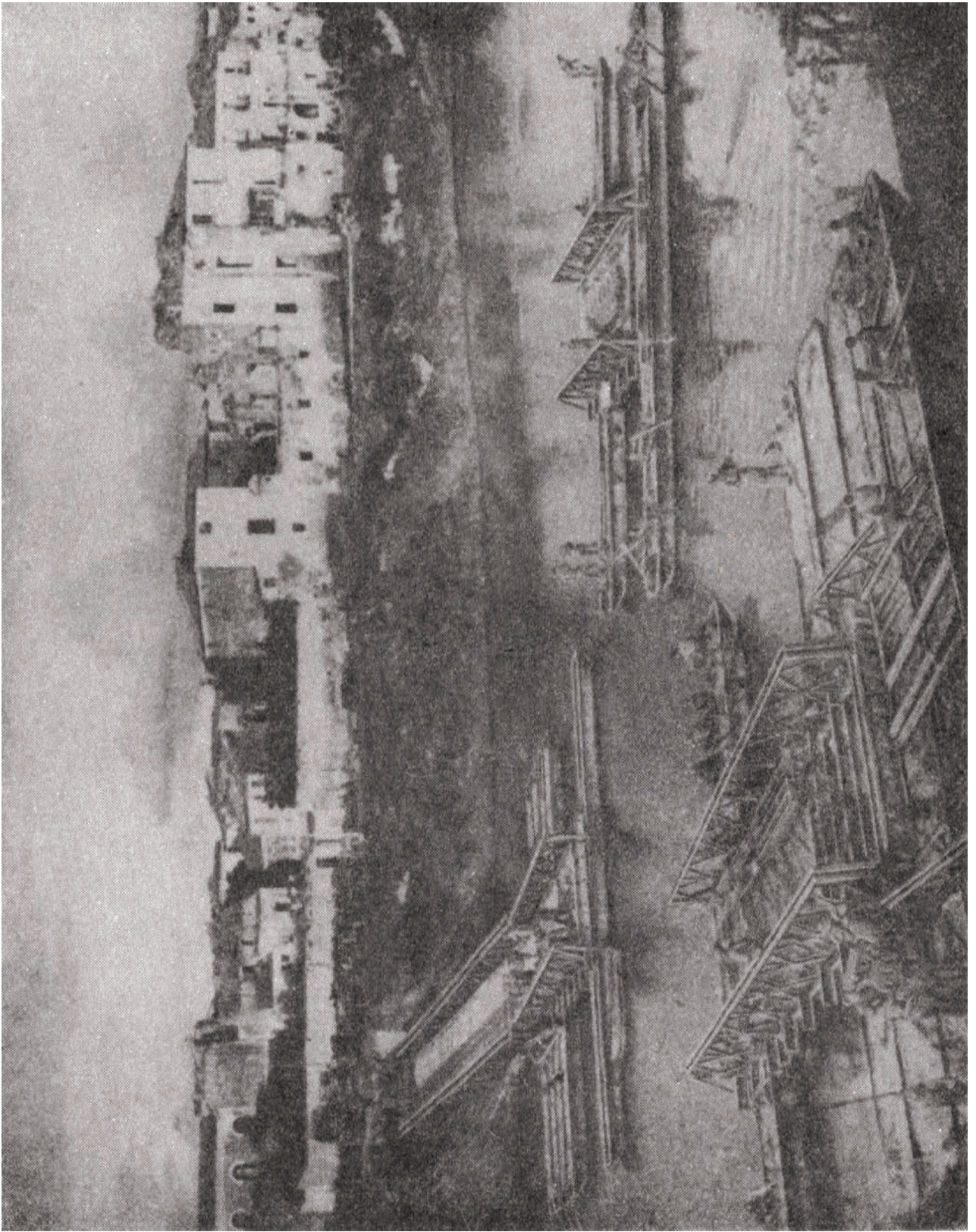










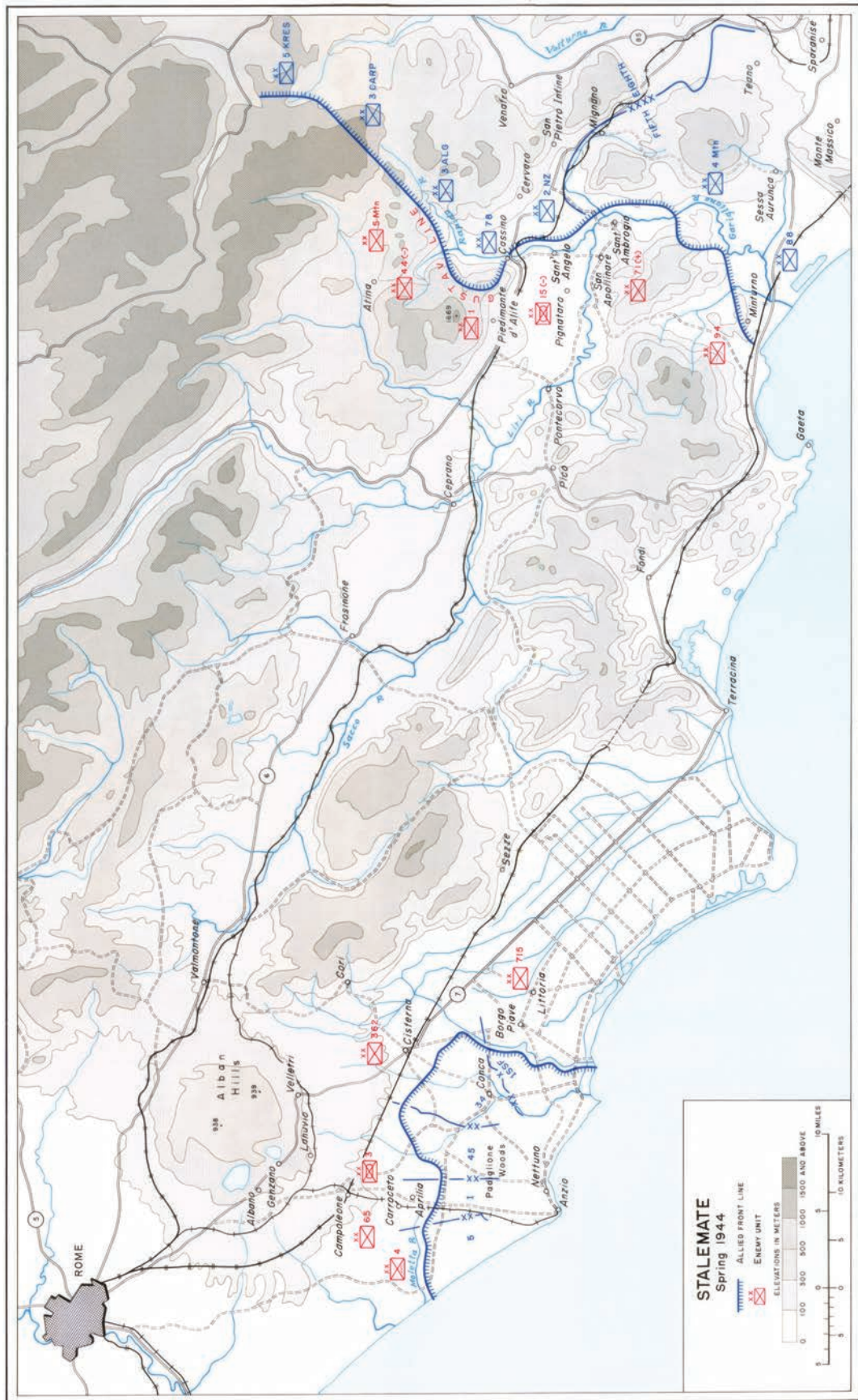




LESSONS FROM THE VOLTURNO CROSSING

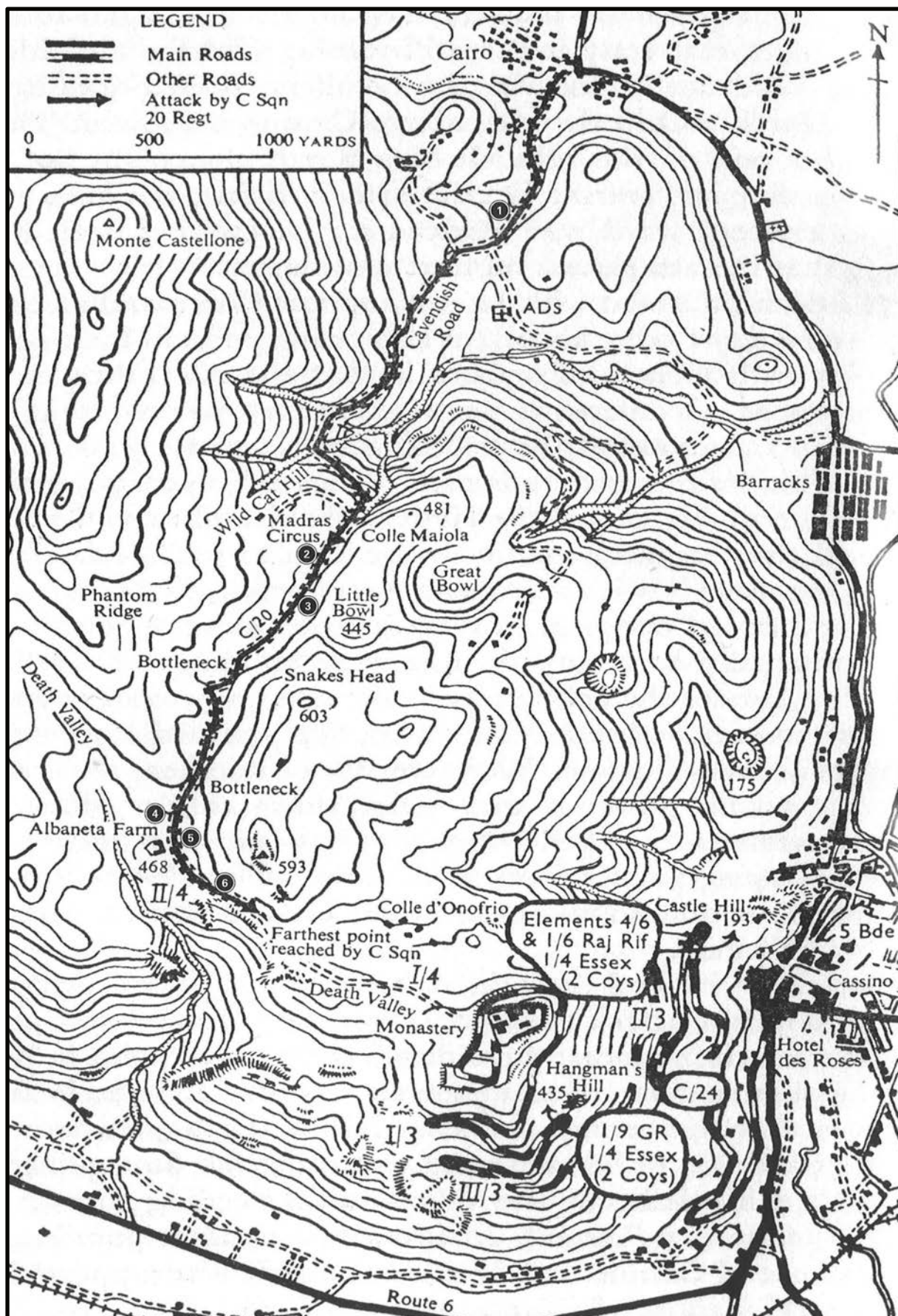
- Engr offrs and NCOs must be trained in patrolling on their own and with other arms
- Sappers must change from 'exercise mode' to 'operations mode'
- Training bridging sites are chosen to avoid damage not to simulate operational conditions. Ferrying is vital in getting key equipments over quickly. Approaches consume as much time and effort as the actual bridge
- Basic skills such as Gin and Sheers need to be second nature
- Improvisation must be encouraged
- Reserves are needed close at hand to replace eqpt losses
- Officer casualty rates will be higher than the norm, so offrs must be trained to step up to the next level of command

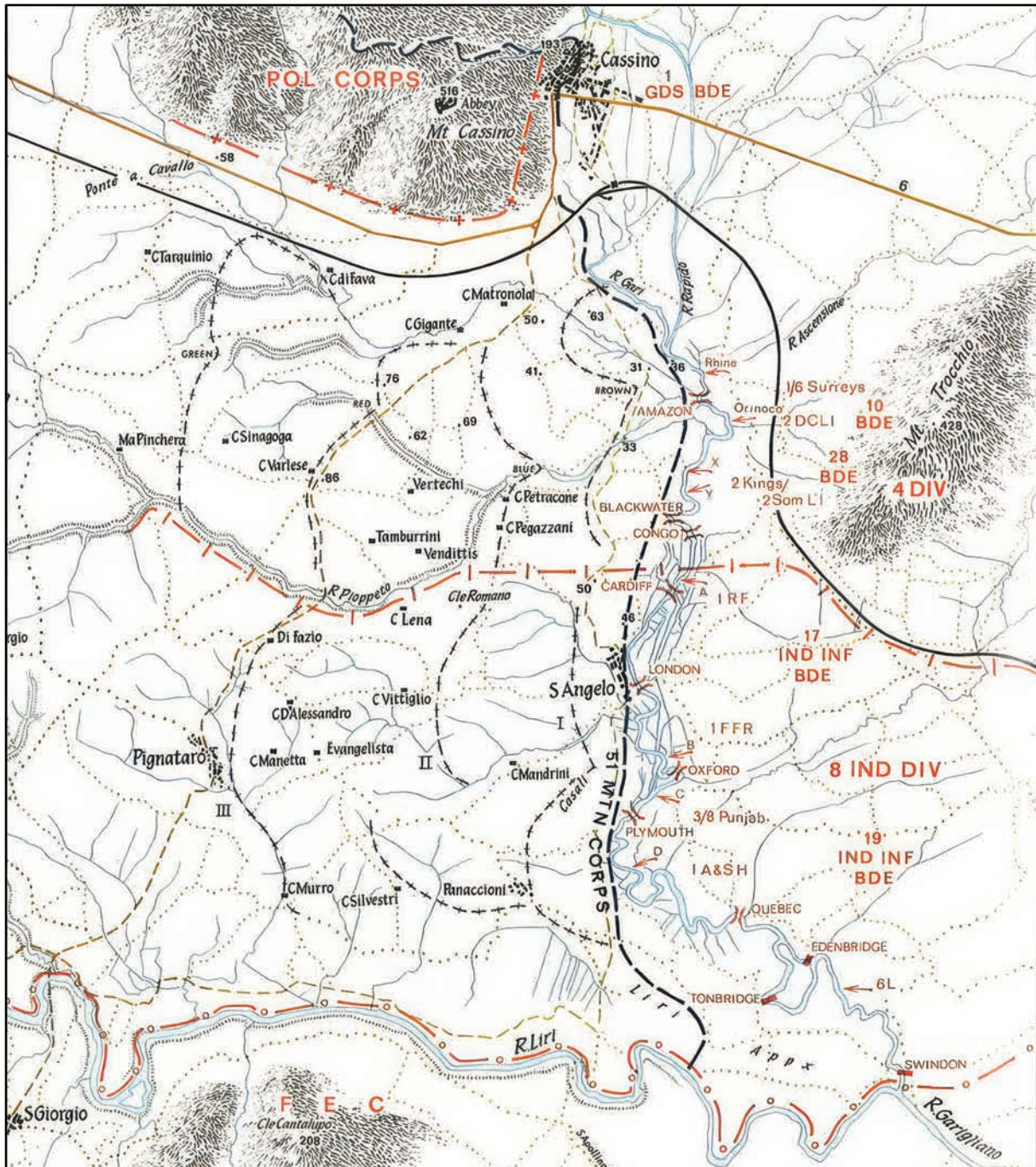
THE BATTLES FOR MONTE CASSINO

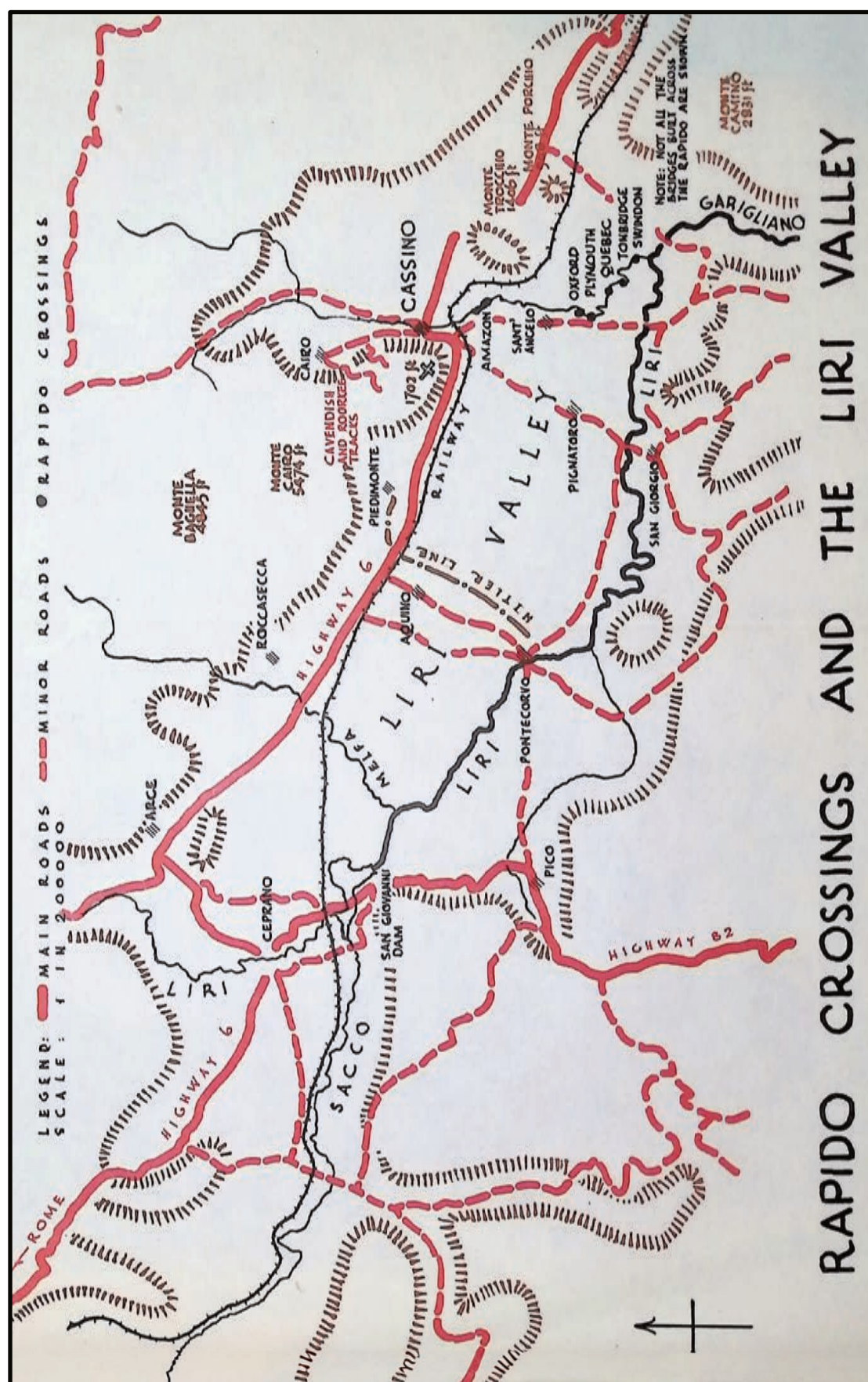


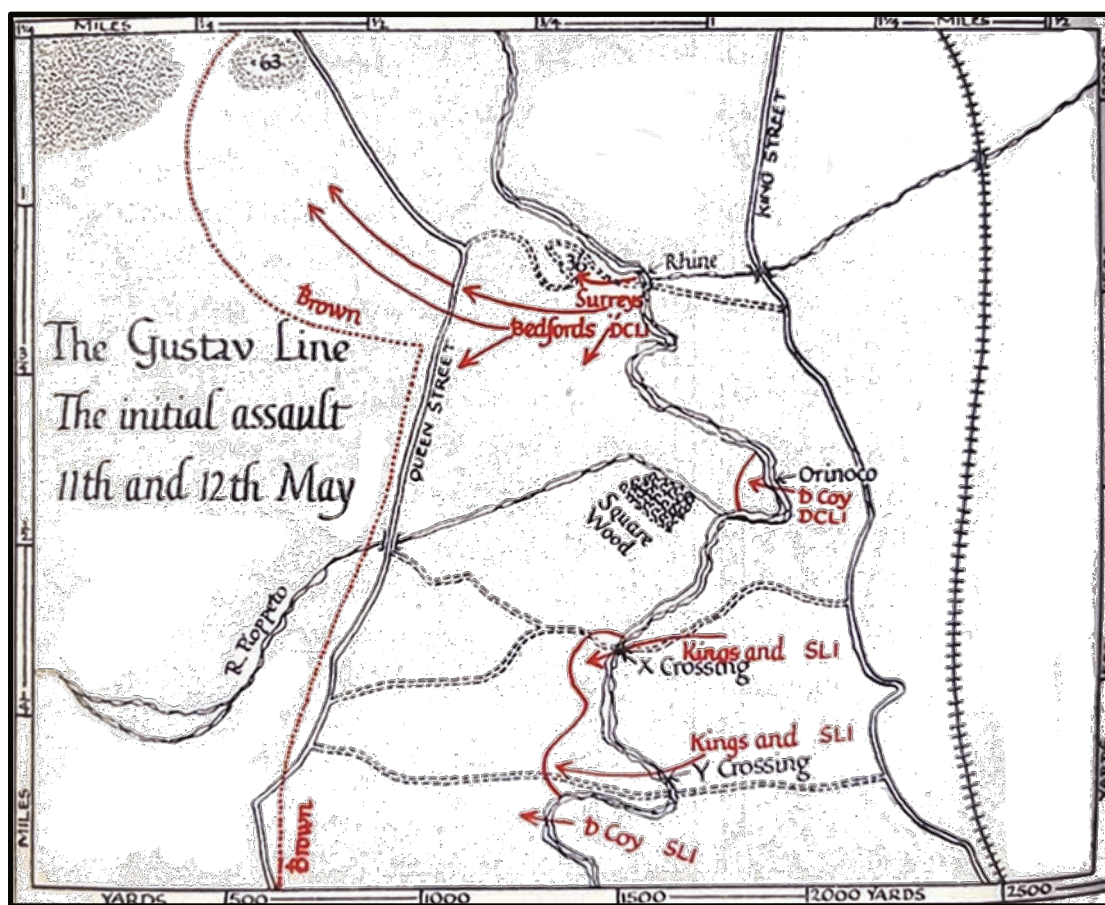
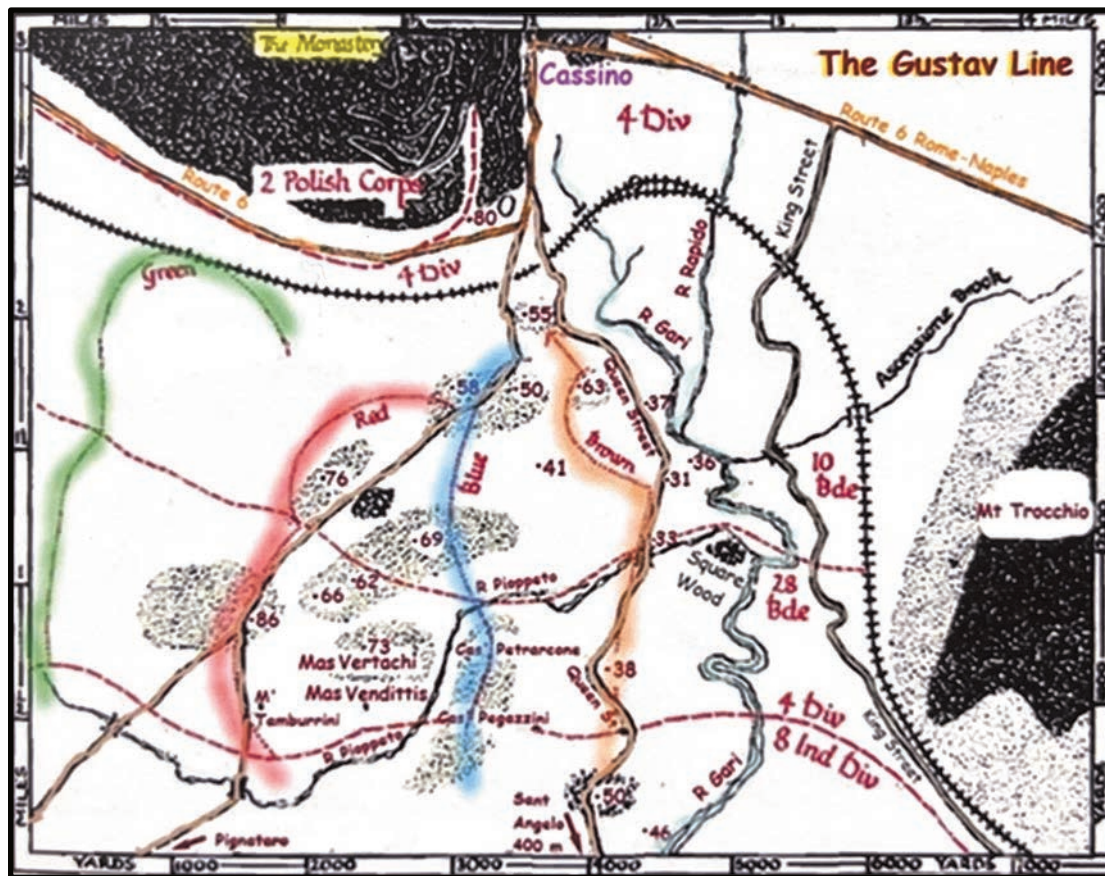


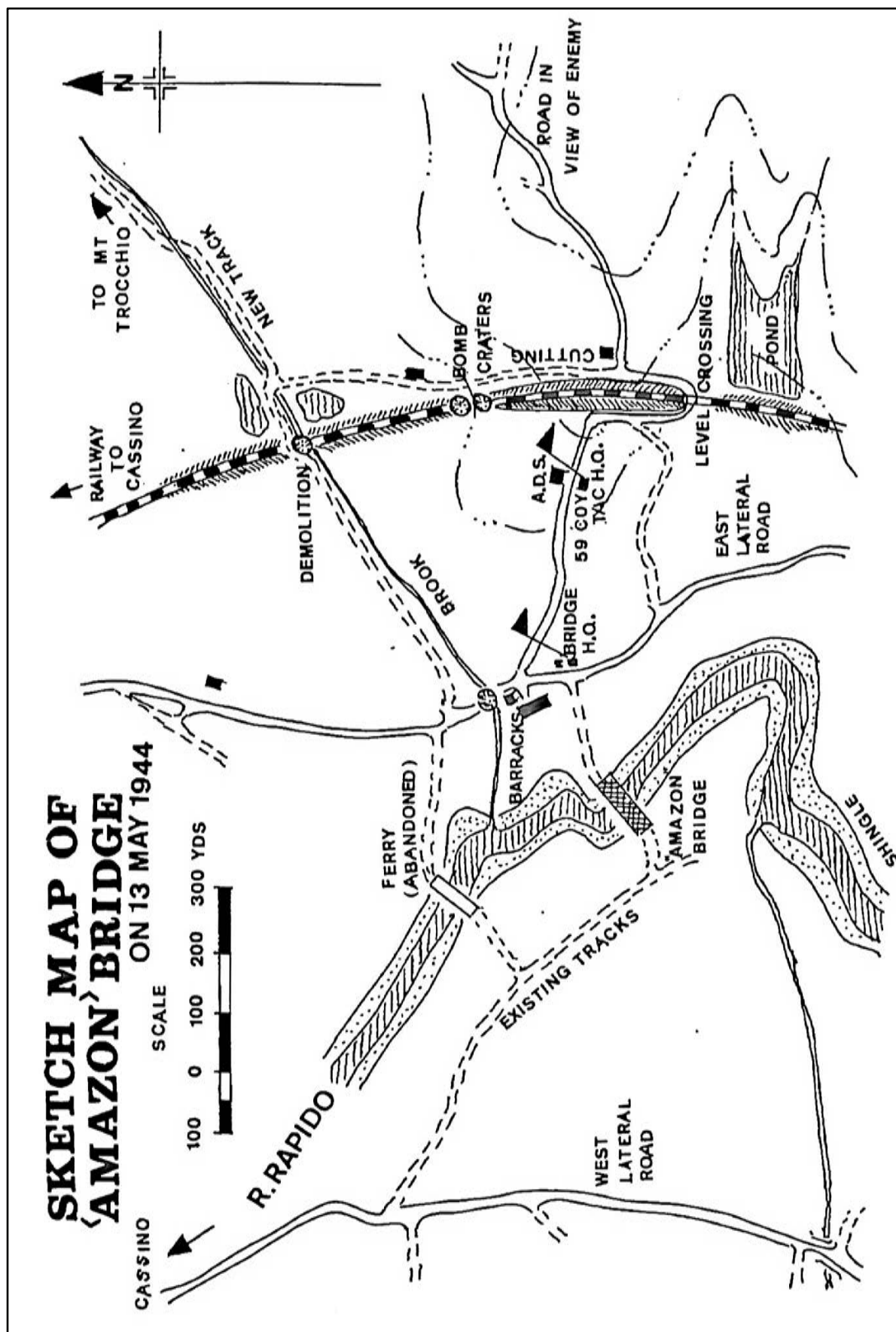
CASSINO · Vista di Monte Trocchio



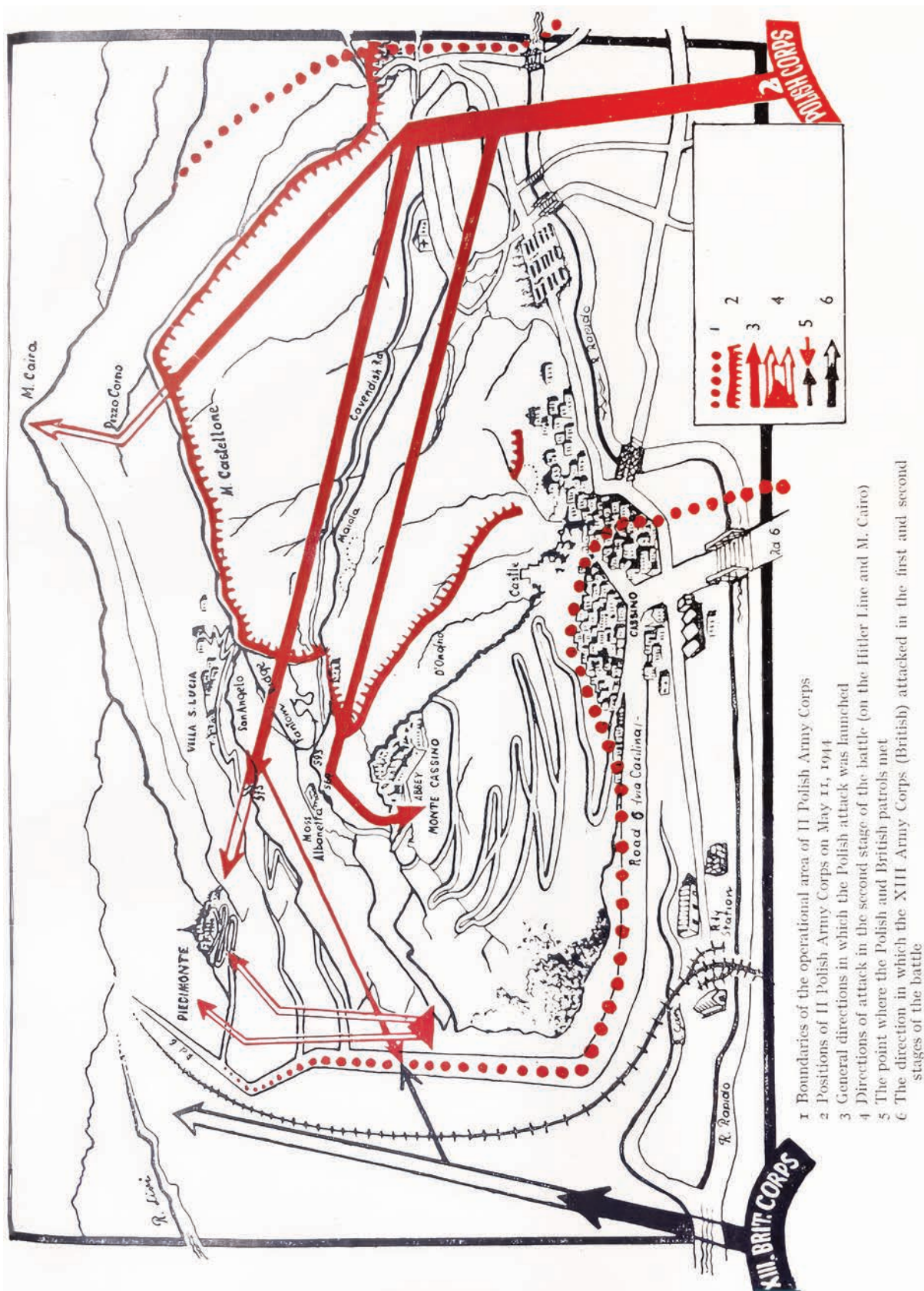








Time	Event	Time	Event
1700	Work starts on track to bridge. 225 bulldozing site, 7 and 59 Coys moved to harbour area.	2255	Work 100% complete near bank. Work 30% far bank. Unloading 90% complete. Bridge 30% complete. Estimate bridge open for traffic...
1715	Smoke not yet thick enough – MG fire.	2300	CB fire OK for further hour.
1720	Work about to start.	2320	Still being shelled. Nose complete
1733	Conditions most unfavourable, work has not started because lorries have not arrived.	2350	All stores unloaded, bridge started, ETC 0200
1755	Report that work has started on approaches.	2359	All stores unloaded. Bridge proper started. Nose complete, build commenced. 59 Coy took over. Daniell reported ETC of 0200...
1810	Report that approach 25% complete. D6 working on bank.	0010	18 reinforcements collected for coys
1900	7 Coy moved to waiting area, the railway cutting.	0015	8 Fd Sqn to clear en minefield
1950	D6 now a casualty – replaced by D4.	0100	Tanks turn up, sent away, ETC 0300.
2000	7 Coy moved out, 59 Coy moved in (to waiting area). D7 damaged, D4 OK. Maj Low (OC7) wounded.	0100	Sherman tanks heard, Daniell ran to stop them. Enemy fire increased due to tanks. Tanks sent away, Sgt Parry (59) went over ...
2013	Work 5% complete. Four bridging lorries arrived on site.	0115	Bridge 30%, unloading 100%. ETC 0200 hours.
2013	Work interrupted by enemy action – not located.	0115	Heavy enemy artillery fire, counter fire ordered, some too short. Enemy fire reduced. 8 Fd Sqn on site to clear enemy ...
2015	Urgent – being shelled from direction southwest. Work interrupted.	0130	All lorries unloaded. Bridge 60% complete. Bridge open at 0300 hours. Still being shelled.
2025	They have no details of shelling – we will get some. Asked if smoke was OK.	0200	Asked RA for more CB fire if possible. 2 Fd and 5 Med Regts laid on
2025	Lt Severn of 7 Coy reported bulldozing complete, nose started.	0200	8 Fd Sqn recce group cleared, bridge at far bank but stuck.
2030	Direction of shelling – 200 degrees.	0200	Second machine gun taken on by Sgt Parry and rescue of 8 Fd Sqn recce group. Bridge reached far bank, lead transom stuck ...
2030	Track finished, launching rollers finished. Section of 7 Coy on site. 225 Coy finished track and rollers.	0215	Heavy mortar fire on bridge, several wounded.
2035	Maj Morton rang – he has delivered bridge equipment and D7 to 10 Inf Bde HQ. Phoned Lt Hartley at Amber ref D7: get it forward ...	0230	Bridge 75%
2035	Maj Low (OC 7) reported injured – both legs (time message received by CRE).	0330	Enemy MG in position on far bank. Infantry are assisting
2040	Smoke OK (from 225).	0330	Construction nose on rollers. Bridge proper still 20 feet short. Dozer damaged, tank sent for.
2130	Bridge lorries on site.	0340	Bridge launched – open to infantry
2130	Getting dark. Lt Notley and CSM Tatton (both 59 Coy) took control of bridging lorries, which were unloaded ...	0345	Tank pushes bridge. More artillery fire due to noise of tank.
2135	Require arty concentration for at least one hour. Progress of bridge good but slow. Phone RA who asked for more details ...	0400	Very heavy shelling from 230°.
2145	Two cas – reserve not required.	0400	Bridge complete, pushed off home bank rollers. D4 and all hands, 4 bays decking, as per Cuneo. D4 failed. Bolton went ...
2200	Bridge site being shelled by own arty from 70°.	0430	Ramps started. All sappers building to finish.
2200	Launching nose complete. Lt Hobson (7 Coy) asked for 59 support. Lt Bolton went with 2 Sect, tried to build ferry, failed ...	0500	Bridge complete, 10 bays. Daniell reported bridge complete and open.
2230	Still being shelled by own arty.		







This Battlefield Tour has been organized by the Royal Engineers Historical Society (REHS), with the support of the Institution of Royal Engineers and is led jointly by Major General John Drewienkiewicz and Colonel Don Bigger