



Missing In Action:  
The story of  
Private First Class  
Stuart B. Padnos

*By Jonathan Padnos*  
*May 2015, 70 years later...*

May 4, 1945

Dear Mother and Dad;

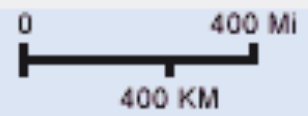
Now that I am again a free man I am writing this letter in which I will try to give an ~~an~~ account of what has happened in the past few months. At the moment I am sitting in my room, in what was once a very luxurious German Officers Barracks. We are in the custody of the Russians who are treating us marvelously.

I was captured on December 15, 1944 during the big German counter attack at the Siegfried line. Not only was I captured but also my entire Battalion including the Colonel that commanded the outfit. It was a hell of a feeling to be surrounded by the enemy. They were in a mad rush to get our cigarettes and "D" bars. They also took all my glasses and broke them so that for the last few months I have been without glasses.

We were marched to a rear line collection center and there I saw the rest of our company including all of the officers. At the collection center I was taken to a hospital and treated for

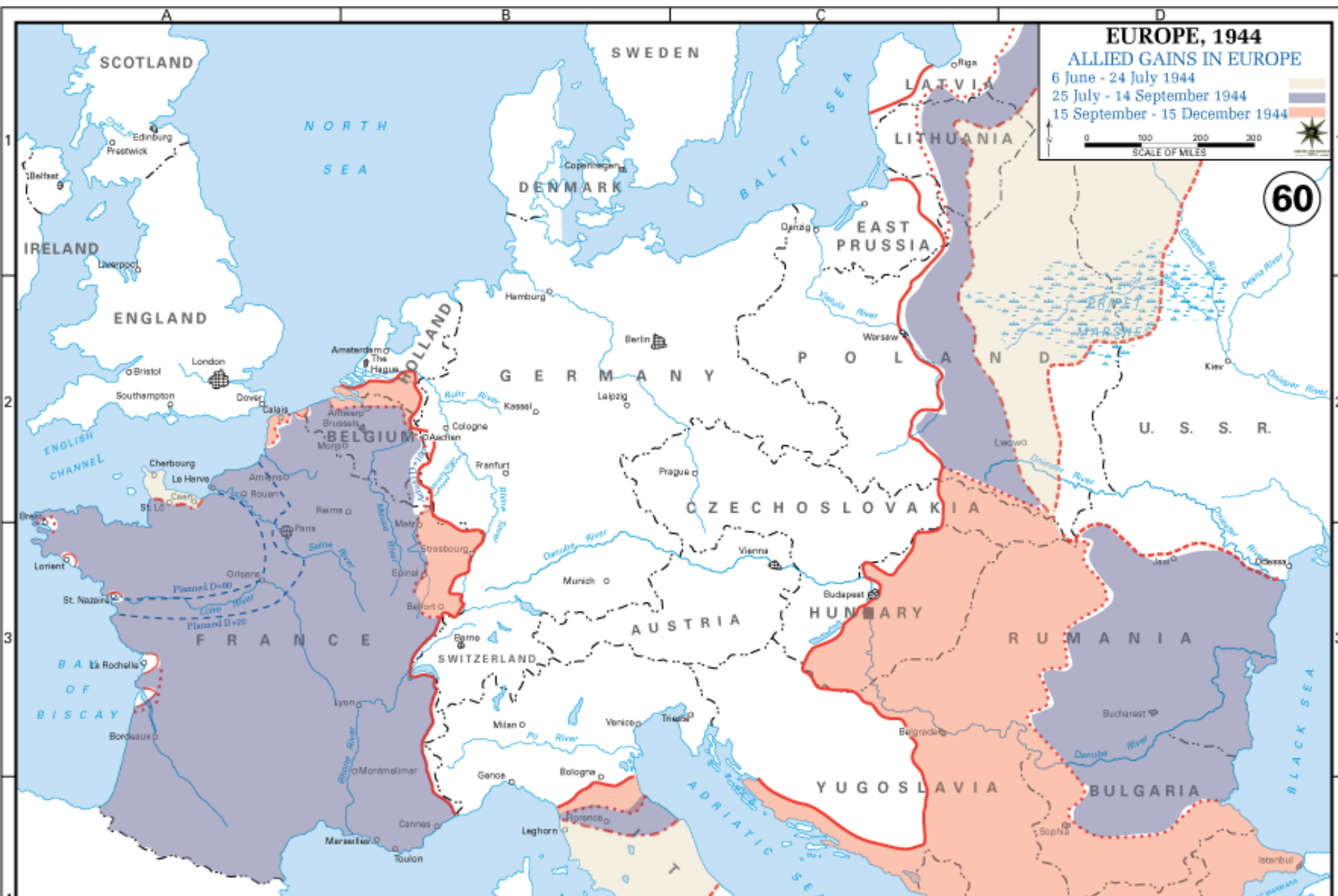


- Axis Powers Pre-WWII
- Maximum Axis Control
- Allies
- Neutral Countries
- \* Major Battles

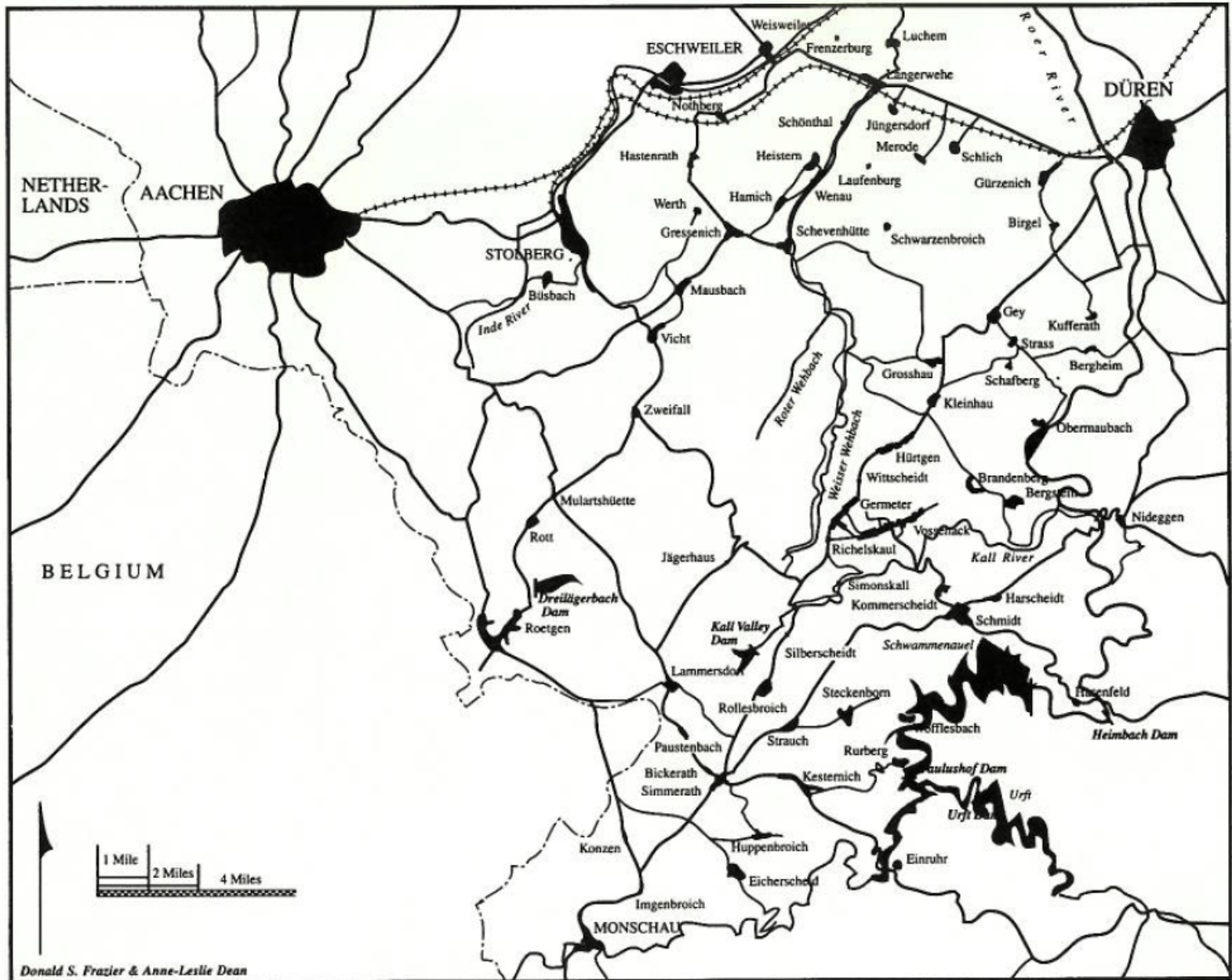


# World War II European Theater

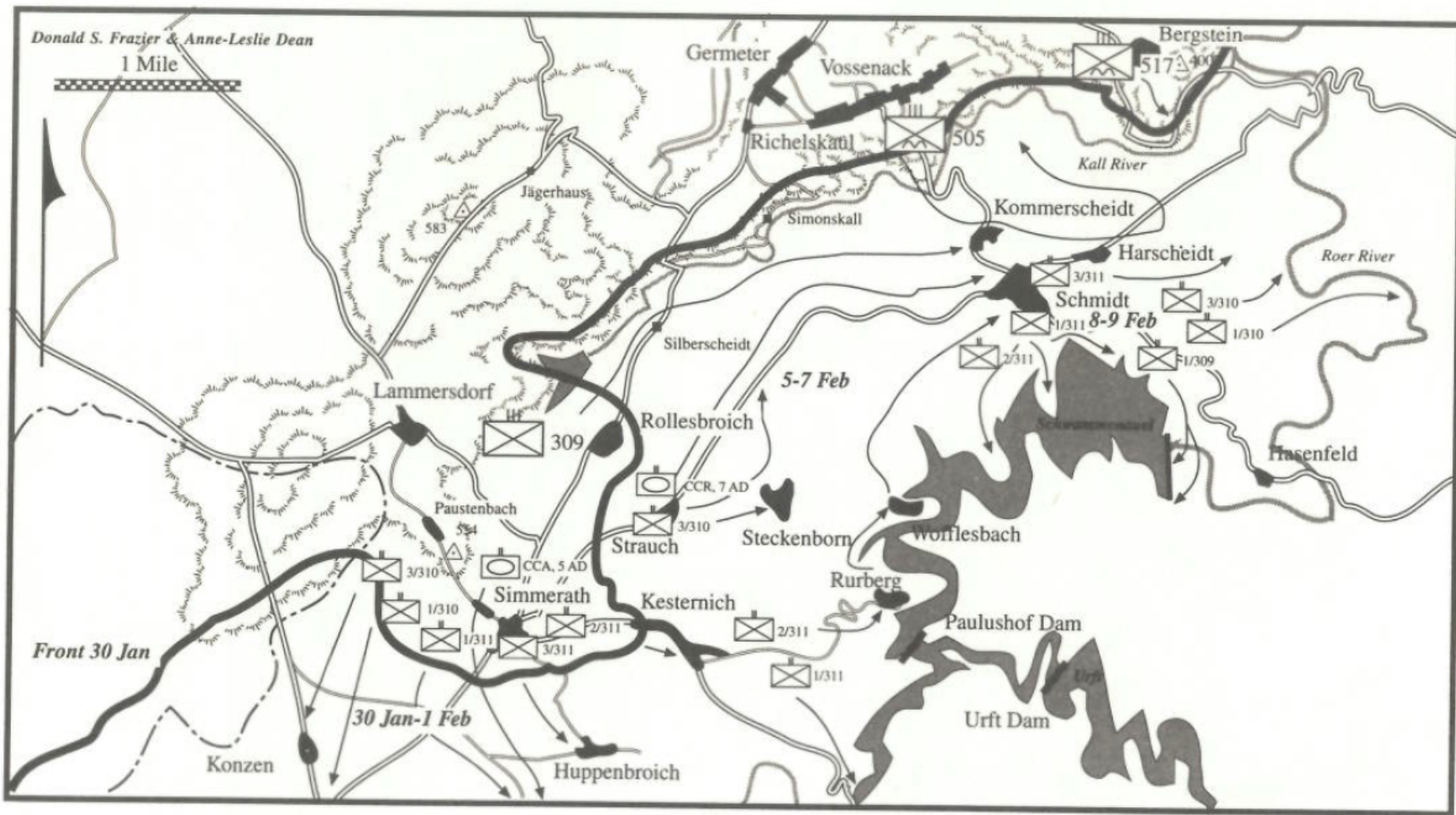








Map 1. The Hürtgen Forest and Roer River Dams



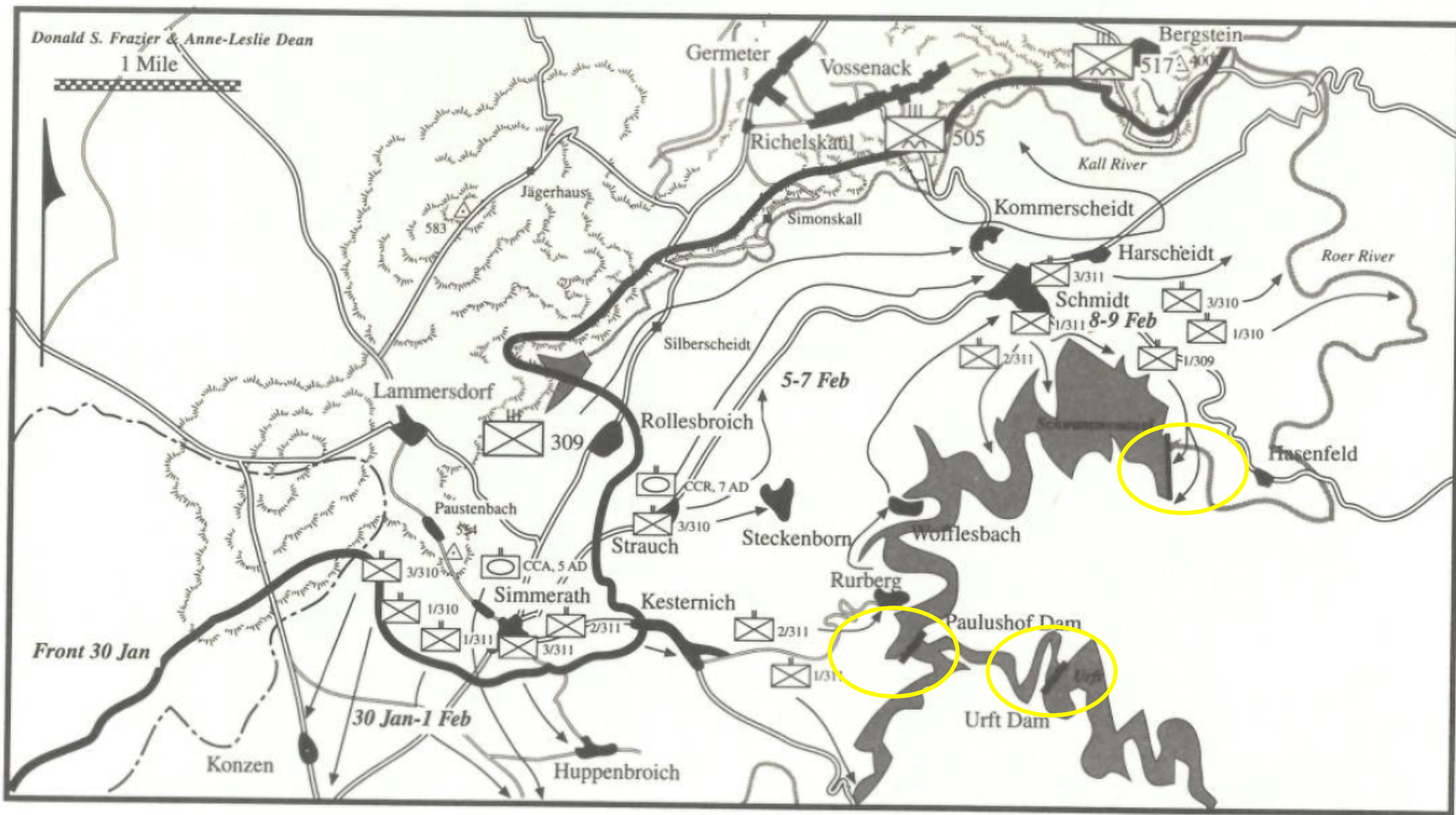
Map 6. 4th Infantry Division, November-December 1944



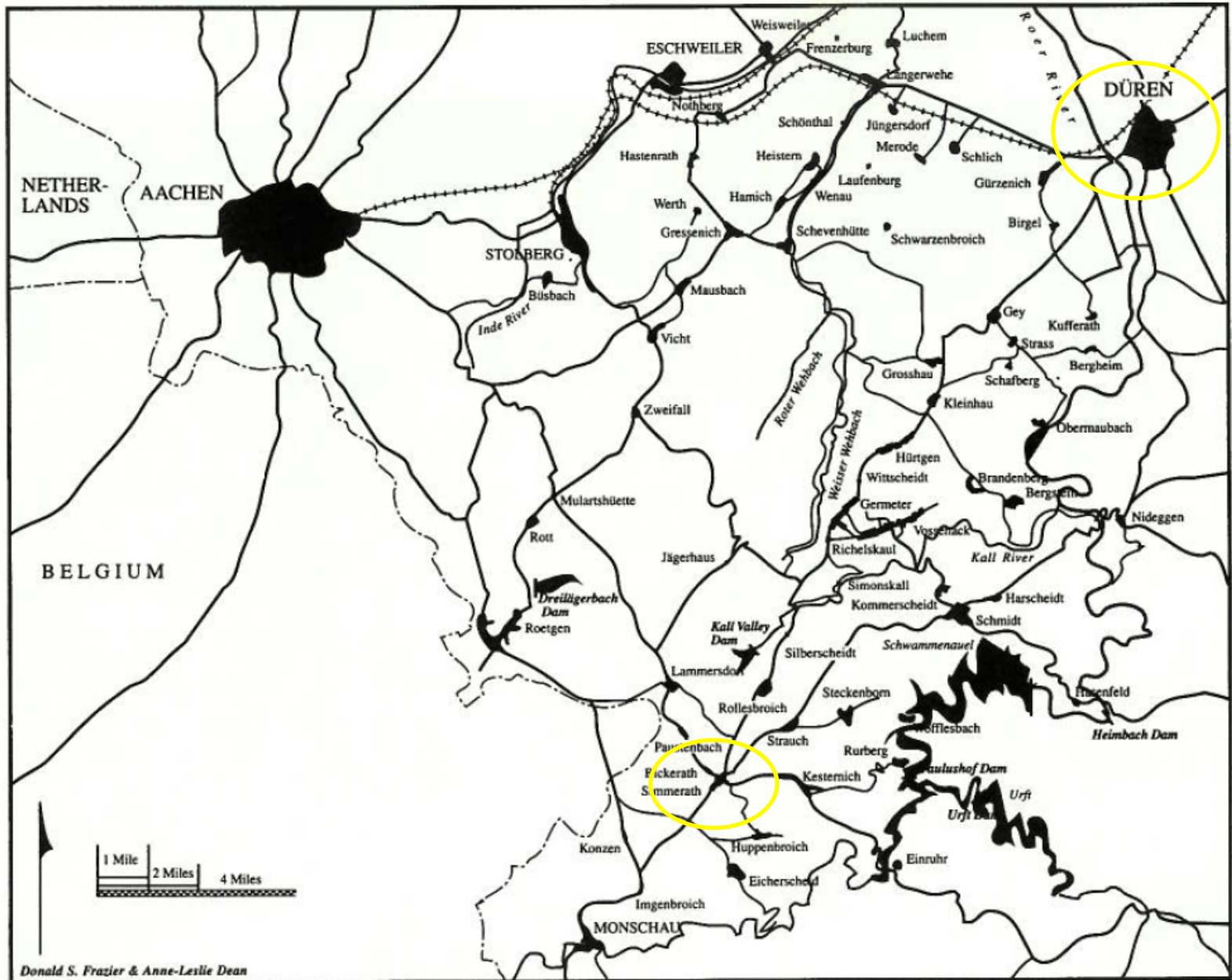








Map 6. 4th Infantry Division, November-December 1944



Map 1. The Hürtgen Forest and Roer River Dams



COLLEGE MEMORIAL

*Golden*  
Photographer  
100 University Ave. Boston, Mass.

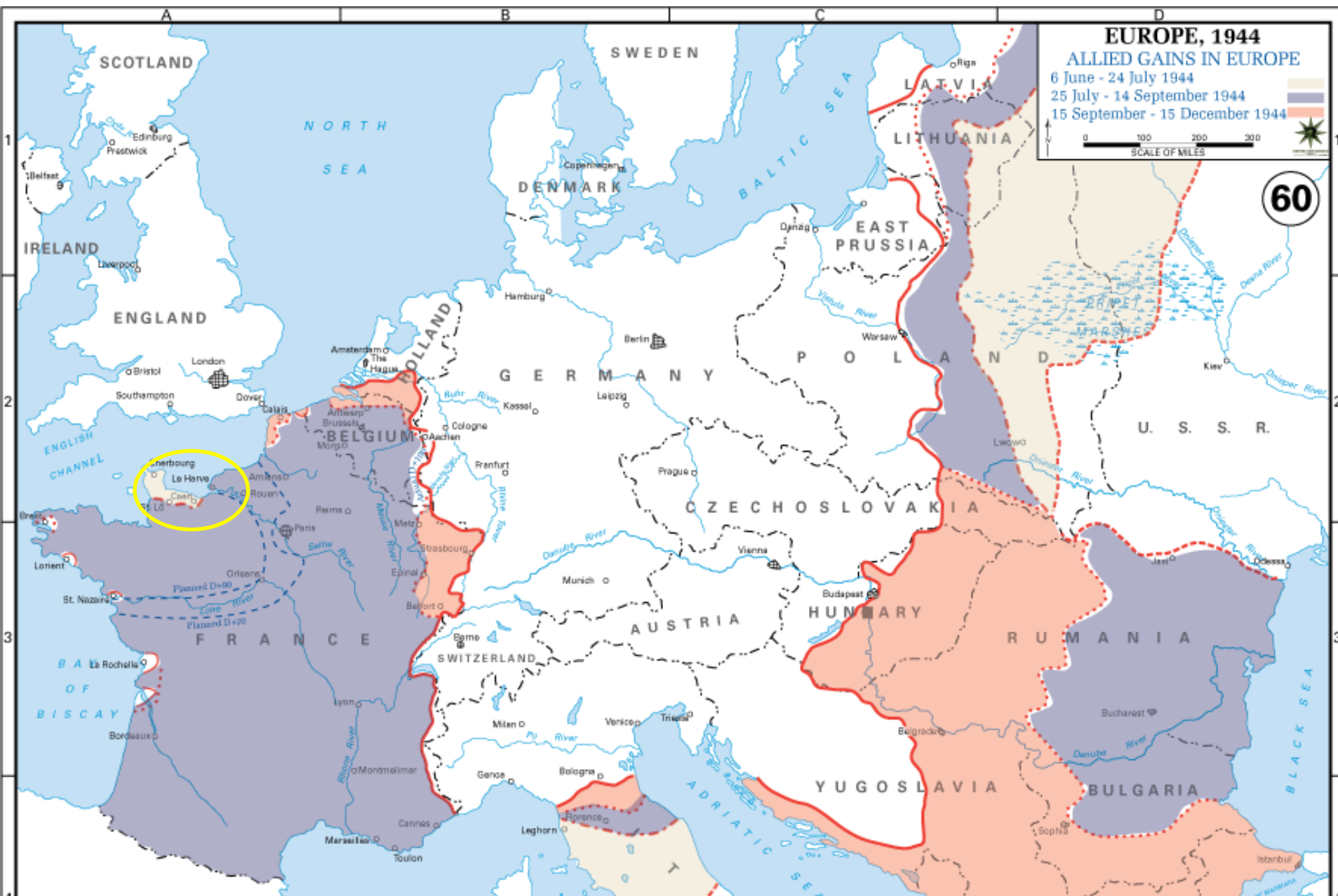
ΦΣΔ  
1942

*P. L. ...*

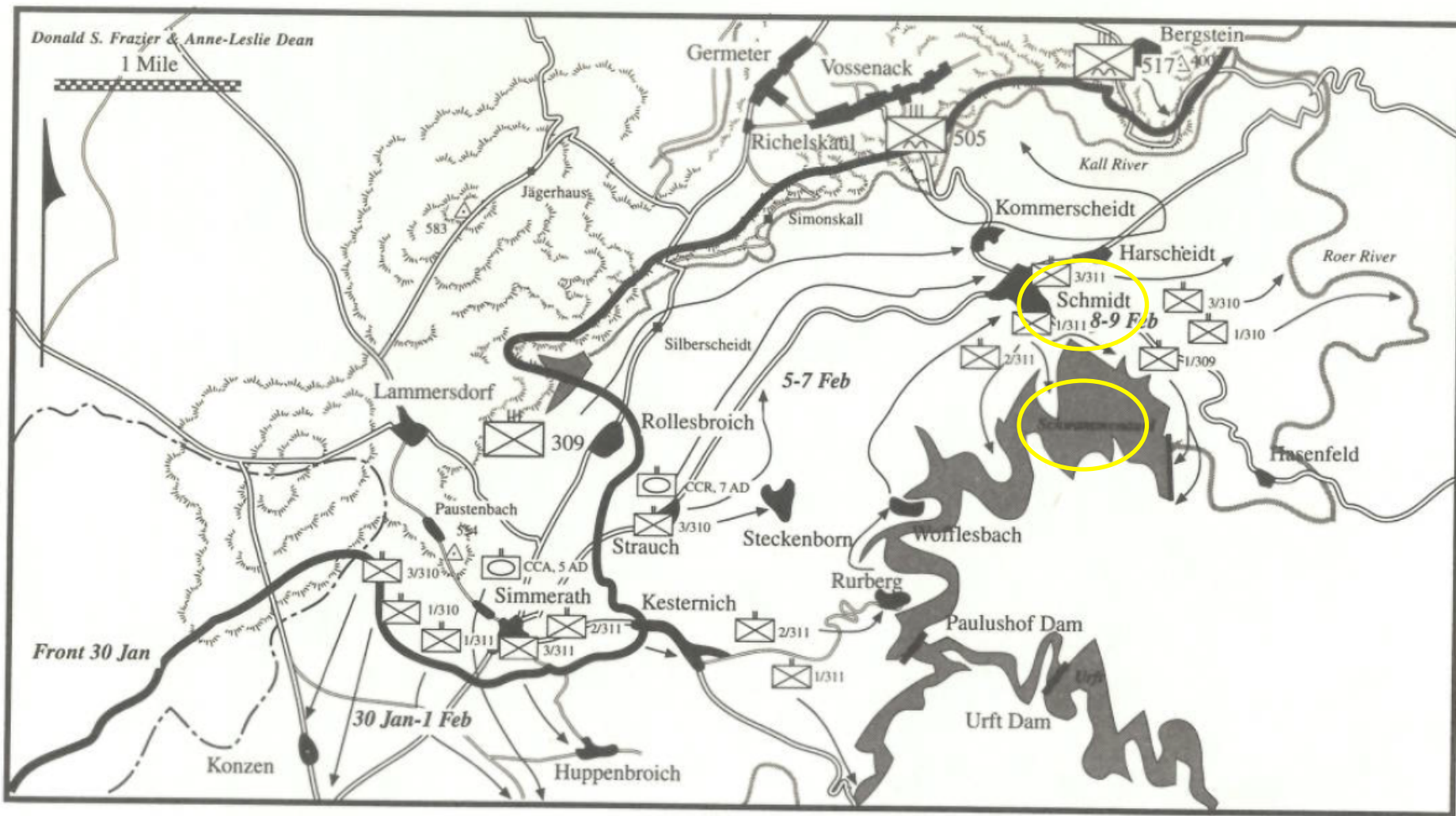












Map 6. 4th Infantry Division, November–December 1944

# The Holland Evening Sentinel

SUBURBAN DELIVERY—WEEK DAY EVENINGS

Zeeland, Saugatuck, Douglas, West Olive, Hudsonville, Fennville, Hamilton, East Saugatuck, Montello Park, Central Park, Virginia Park, Jenison Park, Macatawa Park, North Shore Drive, and District No. 2

FORTY-NINTH YEAR—No. 152

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN, TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1945

EIGHT PAGES—PRICE FOUR CENTS

## NAZI THREAT SHIFTS TO SOUTH ZONE

### Bombers Lash at Germans After Sunday's Raids Net 205 Planes

London, Jan. 2 (UP)—Flying Fortresses and Liberators, 1,000 strong, smashing at German tank and troop concentrations, rail yards, road and rail junctions and bridges behind Marshal Karl von Rundstedt's Ardennes salient today.

For the 11th straight day the 8th air force struck powerfully at the bottlenecks of the transport network at the base of the bulge in Belgium and Luxembourg.

An announcement that tank and troop concentrations were included in the day's targets did not include in which direction they were moving. Field dispatches said the Germans were pulling out of the westernmost part of the salient.

In furious air battles yesterday, at least 205 Nazis planes were shot down.

A three-hour parade of RAF

bombers last night raided the Volwinkel freight yards near the western front railway bottleneck of Dusseldorf and the Minister Stein benzol plant near Dortmund in the Rhur.

Berlin claimed that the Allies lost 427 planes yesterday, including 327 destroyed on airfields in Belgium and Holland.

The night blow came as the Allied air forces were tallying the score of one of their greatest daylight victories of the western war, a triumph stemming from an abortive attempt by the Luftwaffe to knock out a cluster of RAF and USAAF air bases in France and the low countries.

The Germans threw 250 to 300 planes into their sneak punch and admittedly caught some of the Allied bases off guard, inflicting damage and casualties. At most

points, however, the Americans and British fliers were waiting and gave the raiders a resounding beating.

At least 188 German planes were destroyed in a series of dog fights over the Allied airfields and the front lines, including 84 shot down by the RAF and 104 by U. S. pilots.

In one attack, 35 of a raiding force of 50 German planes were shot down by American fighter pilots who took off under fire to take on and beat the enemy at a cost of one plane.

Another 17 enemy aircraft were downed by the fighter escort of a 1,600-plane U. S. 8th air force armada that bombed the Dollenberg oil refineries and other targets northwest of Brunswick and railway bridges in the Coblenz area.

### Two Nazi Spies Who Land From Sub Are Caught

#### FBI Chief Warns That Germany Is Stepping Up Sabotage Efforts

New York, Jan. 2 (UP)—J. Edgar Hoover, FBI director, warned today of a new "intensified" effort by Germany to send saboteurs to this country as he revealed the arrest of two agents landed a month ago by submarine on the coast of Maine.

The men, arrested in New York, were William Curtis Colepaugh, 26, a native of Connecticut with a discharge from the U. S. navy, and Enrich Gimpel, 35, a German citizen, interned for a time in this country but sent home as an exchange prisoner only to return as a spy. They landed Nov. 29 in Frenchman bay.

The two men, trained in espionage and sabotage in Berlin, Dresden and the Hague, were equipped with \$60,000 in U. S. currency, forged birth certificates, copies of those of the Connecticut department of health, forged discharges from the U. S. navy, secret ink and other parapher-

### Wounded Day Before Start of Nazi Assault



Pvt. Edward C. De Witt was wounded in action Dec. 15 in Germany, the day before the beginning of the German counter-attack, his wife was informed in a war department telegram Sunday. Mrs. De Witt and their four-month-old daughter, Sharon Jean, are making their home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Bruijschart.

Pvt. De Witt entered service Sept. 29, 1942, at Fort Custer and received his basic training at

### Byrnes Calls for 4-F Draft to Help War Production

#### Reconversion Plans, Must All Be Shelved, He Warns in Report

Washington, Jan. 2 (UP)—An administration request for new laws to tighten government controls on manpower, including a draft of 4-Fs for essential war work, faced the 79th congress today on the eve of its opening session.

The request, together with other recommendations to bolster the war effort on the home front, was made by War Mobilization and Reconversion Director James F. Byrnes in a 20,000-word report to the new congress which begins its two-year existence at noon tomorrow.

Declaring that the nation's industrial and manpower resources are still far below totally mobilized, Byrnes told congress that the following legislation was needed to enable the war program to "ride on a horse instead of a mule":

1. Authority to assign 4 million 4-Fs to war jobs as well as mil-



Pfc. Stuart B. Padnos

### Stuart B. Padnos, Infantryman, Is Missing in Action

Word was received this morning by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Padnos, 188 East Eighth St., that their son, Pfc. Stuart B. Padnos,

### Reported Fleeing Western Bulge of Belgian Salient

#### But Attack Between Saarland, Upper Rhine; Third Army Gaining

Paris, Jan. 2 (UP)—German forces were reported fleeing the western-most bulge of the Belgian salient today but to the southeast they were building up an attack of considerable strength on a front of about 50 miles between the Saarland and the upper Rhine.

The new German push was centered in the Bitche area of northeastern France. Supreme headquarters announced that around Bitche the Nazis gained a mile and a half, cut the road running five miles southeast to Ebernstein, probably captured the latter town, and still were pressing on.

U. P. Correspondent Clinton Conger said the Germans threw in several attacks of battalion strength, some 800 to 900 men each, against the 7th army lines around Bitche Sunday night and were continuing their onslaught with increasing force.

The Germans now are active

### Holiday Deaths at 241, Including 48 In Train Wreck

Deaths caused by accidents during the three-day holiday week.

### Arrange Services Here For Rev. A. Van Raalte

Local funeral services for Rev. Albertus Van Raalte, 55, pastor of the Clearfield, Pa., Presbyterian church, who died Saturday of a heart attack at his home, will be held at the Nibbelink-Notter Funeral chapel Wednesday at 2 p.m. Dr. E. D. Dimment will officiate and burial will be in Pilegrim Home cemetery.

### Main Highways Clear, But Many Others Closed

All main highways in this area were open to traffic today.

# The Holland Evening Sentinel

Zeeland, Saugatuck, Douglas, West Olive, Hudsonville, Fennville, Hamilton, East Saugatuck, Montello Park, Central Park, Virginia Park, Jenison Park, Macatawa Park, North Shore Drive, and District No. 2

FORTY-NINTH YEAR—NO. 225

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1945

EIGHT PAGES—PRICE FOUR CENTS

## Big Fire Loss In 6 Counties

Allegan County School and Other Buildings Lost; 25 Structures, Much Timber Burns at Muskegon

An unprecedented ban on open fires and smoking in lower Michigan's wooded areas was suggested today after volunteers battled flames which had already ravaged 7,340 acres in six counties.

Acreage burned by counties was reported officially as: Muskegon, 3,000; Midland, 2,000; Allegan, 1,200; Clair, 640; Isabella, 300; and Mason, 200. A smaller fire was reported under control in Kent county.

Fire which swept over the 1,200 acres in the Pullman-Bravo area in Allegan county destroying the Norwood school, three houses, a garage, three barns and several farm sheds, appeared to be under control today, although a number of men were "mopping up" after hundreds joined in battling stubborn flames several hours Tuesday night.

Holland firemen responded to five alarms inside the city Tuesday and early today and extinguished three grass fires and two lumber pile blazes.

## Zeeland Honor Students Named

Philip Meengs with a 3.933 average is valedictorian and Eileen Beth Schermer and Glenn Van Haltsma with averages of 3.928 are co-salutatorians of the 1945 Zeeland High school senior class, according to Sum of Zeeland Pub-

## U.S. and Britain Are Reappraising Supplies of Food

House to Conduct Its Own Probe; Forecasts On Meat In Conflict

Washington, March 28 (UP)—The United States and Great Britain announced jointly today that they were reappraising the entire food supply and requirements problem in the light of an "increasingly critical" situation.

The announcement by the state department and the British embassy was made in connection with the visit here of Oliver Lyttelton, British minister of production, and J. J. Llewellyn, minister of food. It revealed that the two Brits were sent here by Prime Minister Churchill at the invitation of President Roosevelt to work out difficult food problems with high American officials.

"All relevant factors will be discussed, including the levels of consumption and the reserves necessary to support the war effort in the countries concerned," the announcement said.

Meanwhile, conflicting reports on the food supply came from the war food administration and the OPA.

Sen. Harlan Bushfield, R., S.D., said he couldn't believe it, but Deputy Price Administrator James Brownlee assured him it was so. He said the civilian meat supply averaged 16,303 million pounds a year from 1936 to 1939 while this year it will be around 17,022 million.

Bushfield said he "understood there was a meat shortage." The senate committee went ahead with its investigation amid these other food developments:

## Where Allies Speed Ahead in Reich



## Reds Mass New Forces For Assault on Berlin

London, March 28 (UP)—Russian troops have captured the Polish Baltic port of Gdynia.

London, March 28 (UP)—The Red army drove within 21 miles of the Austrian frontier and about 65 miles of Vienna today with a lightning thrust to Sarvar on the Raba river, 26 miles west of Papa.

Other Soviet columns were pushing toward Cosma, 75 miles southeast of Vienna and were reported already across the Raba river just east of Cosma.

Moscow dispatches for the first time spoke of the drive as aimed at an ultimate junction with the

northeast battled through the streets of the twin Baltic ports of Danzig and Gdynia and their liberation appeared near. The Russians had reached the center of ancient Danzig.

The 1st Ukrainian army cleared Rybnik, Polish Silesian stronghold, at the approaches to the Silesian gap through the Sudeten mountains into Czechoslovakia, and also seized the fortress city of Strehlen, 80 miles northwest of Rybnik.

An imminent attack against high ground on both sides of Sadowa, on the Yugoslav border,

## Tanks Racing Almost Unopposed Over Reich

### Strafed by Own Planes, Prisoners Form 'POW'

By John McDermott

U. S. First Army in Germany, March 28 (UP)—A thousand American and British soldiers who had been captured by the Germans stood in the sunlight for six hours with their naked backs spelling out in giant letters P O W—prisoners of war.

They were attempting to save themselves from their friends—pilots of P-47s who were diving and strafing under the mistaken impression that they were shooting at Germans.

I heard the story today of one of the strangest incidents of the war from an American lieutenant who talked from a stretcher in a hospital. The quick thinking of the officers who ordered the men to strip off their shirts and get into formation to spell out the letters POW saved many lives. So did the guts of the prisoners, most of whom held their formation in the face of expert and terrifying dive bombing. Out of all the men who were in the formation, only one broke and ran for cover, the lieutenant said.

### Stuart Padnos, Missing In Action, Is Prisoner



Pfc. Stuart B. Padnos, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Padnos, 188 East Eighth St., received a card this afternoon from their son, Pfc. Stuart B. Padnos, which revealed that he is a prisoner of the Germans and is not ill or wounded. He was declared missing in action since Dec. 16, in a war department telegram received here Jan. 2. The card received today was dated Dec. 24.

### Third Army Spearhead Reported Only 210 Miles Southwest of Berlin

U. S. 1st Army GHQ, March 28 (UP)—The U. S. 1st army today reached Bellinhausen, 221 miles southwest of Berlin, in a 23-mile advance.

Paris, March 28 (UP)—American and British forces today joined in a northern tank blitz that swept around the corner of the Ruhr at a 20-mile a day pace and one 3rd army spearhead was reported 210 miles or less southwest of Berlin.

A front report from the 3rd army said the Germans were making a "general movement to the east and southeast" in front of the pulverizing jabs of the 1st and 3rd U. S. armies—possibly toward Bavaria and the mountain region for a final do-or-die stand.

Paris, March 28 (UP)—The seven Allied armies of the west struck with their full armored power along the German 200-mile battle line east of the Rhine today in a series of break-throughs that sent American tank columns to within 230 miles or less of Berlin.

Hundreds of American and British tanks swept ahead of the advancing infantry divisions and raced almost unopposed across the flaming reich anywhere from 20 to 90 miles beyond the Rhine. The entire German front appeared to have disintegrated.

Into a few blazing hours that threatened Germany with her greatest military disaster of the war were packed these developments:

Louis Padnos  
190 E. Eighth St.  
Holland, Mich.



Section 562, P L & R

# The Hebrew Observer

## OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

VOL. III

APRIL 1, 1945

NO. 19

### NATIONAL CLOTHING DRIVE HEADS APRIL ACTIVITIES

#### PFC. STUART PADNOS PRISONER IN GERMANY

We rejoice with Mr. and Mrs. Louis Padnos in the good news they received from their son Pfc. Stuart Padnos who had been reported by the War Department as missing in action in Germany on December 16th. Last Wednesday afternoon they received a prisoner of war post card from their son dated December 24th and stating that he was well and not wounded. We are very much elated at this good news and are happy that the parents' prayers were answered.

Kriegsgefangenenlager M. Stammlager VI G Datum Dec 29, 1944  
 Camp des prisonniers Date

Dear Mom & Dad; I'm fine so don't  
 worry about me. So far they have  
 treated us o.k. Write to me & send  
 packages of food through the Red Cross  
 let Barb know where I am also  
 Florence Kantor. I am not sick  
 & wounded so don't worry about me  
 Love STUART

Kriegsgefangenenpost  
 Correspondance des prisonniers de guerre

Bestimmtes Gebiet  
 Unbestimmtes Gebiet  
 Nichtversandbar  
 Rücksendung

Postkarte Carte postale

An  
 A

Mr & Mrs Louis PARNOS

Gebührenfrei! Franc de port!

Absender:  
 Familienname  
 Vor- und Zuname  
 Name et prénom  
 Mc S. B. PARNOS

Gefangenennummer:  
 No. de prisonnier

Lager-Bezeichnung:  
 Nom de camp  
 siehe Rückseite  
 voir au dos

11031  
 U.S. CENSO Deutschland (Allemagne)

Empfangsort:  
 Lieu de destination  
 Holland, Mich

Straße:  
 Rue  
 1825 24 St

Land:  
 Localité (Préciser avec)  
 Département  
 U.S. America



### INSTRUCTIONS

**MAIL TO EUROPE:** WRITE VERY CLEARLY BETWEEN THE LINES OR TYPE OR PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS.

**MAIL TO FAR EAST:** LIMIT MAIL TO JAPAN TO 24 WORDS. TYPE OR BLOCK PRINT ONLY—DO NOT WRITE IN SCRIPT.

*Remember that Legible Mail can be handled Faster*

DEAR JOUNGA,

I WAS HOME WHEN THE  
POST CARD YOU FIRST MAILED  
ARRIVED & WERE WE EVER  
OVERJOYED. I HAD GONE HOME  
FOR EASTER AND WE GOT  
THE NEWS THE AFTERNOON  
BEFORE THE FIRST GATHERING.  
WE CALLED EVERYONE - BARB  
AND ALL, BUT SHE WAS NOT  
HOME. HOWEVER LATER  
THAT NIGHT SHE CALLED  
US. I HAD PHOTOSTATIC  
COPIES OF THE CARD MADE  
AND WE SENT THEM TO  
ALL THE FAMILY & TO BARB.  
WE HAD NOT HEARD FROM  
YOU FOR 3 1/2 MONTHS. WE

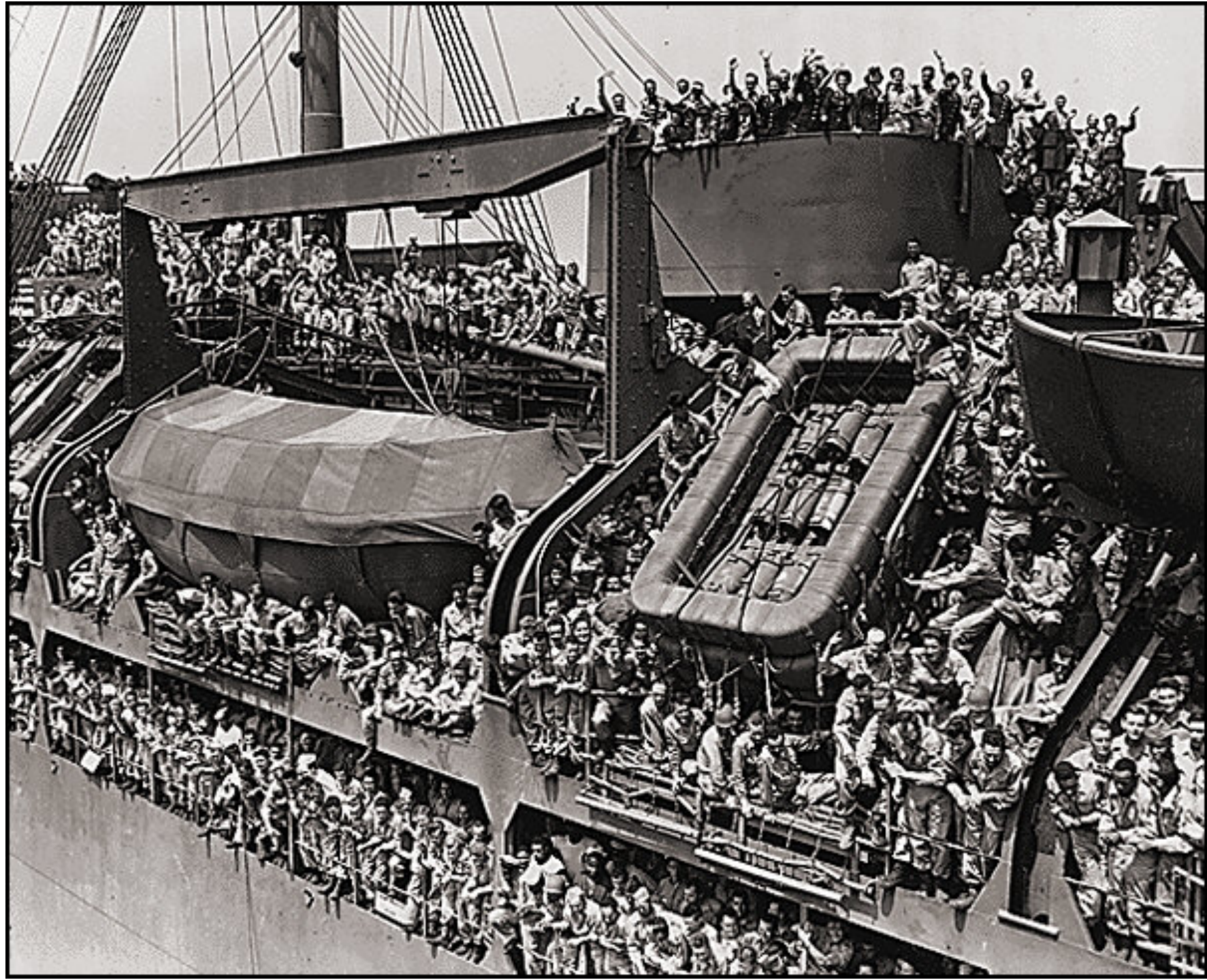
TOP PANEL  
TAKE? ALL AT HOME IS GOING  
WELL. I WAS GLAD TO HEAR  
YOU WERE NOT WOUNDED  
OR SICK. WE WILL TRY TO  
SEND YOU PACKAGES AS  
SOON AS WE ARE ABLE.

JUST ABOUT EVERY ONE IN TOWN  
CALLED OR CAME OVER WHEN  
WE GOT THE NEWS.

ALL MY LOVE, SEYM.

CP1 S. K. PADNOS, 16118933  
814th AAF BU "A"  
STOUT FIELD, IND  
Box 475









STUART B. PADROS

*To you who answered the call of your country and served in its Armed Forces to bring about the total defeat of the enemy, I extend the heartfelt thanks of a grateful Nation. As one of the Nation's finest, you undertook the most severe task one can be called upon to perform. Because you demonstrated the fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out that task, we now look to you for leadership and example in further exalting our country in peace.*

*Harry Truman*

THE WHITE HOUSE



