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# FORWARD



**The purpose of the History of Delta Base Section contained in the ensuing pages is the making of a brief record to prompt the memories of Officers and men who made the History. The presentation plan undertakes first to place Delta Base Section in the big picture of Supply Service. Next, a sketch history of Headquarters is included as a chronicle of experiences that all had in common. Happenings, closer to the individual, together with his picture are included in History of the Staff Sections.**





*BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN P. RATAY USA  
Commanding General Delta Base Section*



*COLONEL ROYE P. GERFEN, GSC  
Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff*



*COLONEL JAMES A. GASTON, GSC  
Assistant Chief of Staff*

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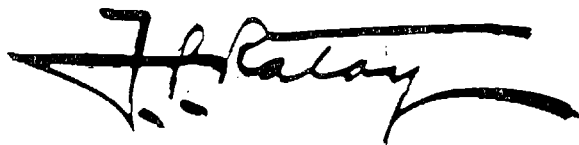
## TO THE COMMAND

The publishing of this History of Delta Base Section as a recording of past activities gives me the opportunity to congratulate the members of this Command for the splendid manner in which our mission has been accomplished.

The task of supplying armies in the field is difficult, particularly in those days of rapidly changing situations and fast moving armies. Our mission was to maintain supply lines thousands of miles long. That the front line soldier never lacked for food, clothing or ammunition is testimonial to your success.

Redeployment of our troops is also a difficult task. This too is being accomplished in that same efficient manner which has always characterized our efforts within Delta Base Section.

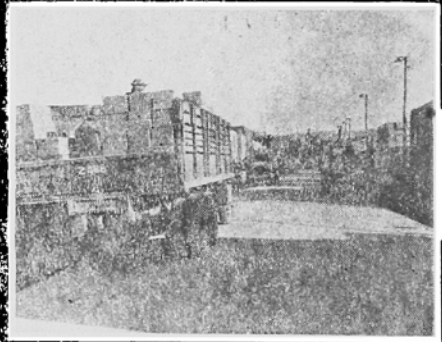
It is hoped that in times to come the reading of this book may bring back memories of our pleasant association and a job well done.



*J. P. RATAY*

Brigadier General, U.S. Army,  
Commanding.





## LINE OF COMMUNICATIONS

A commonplace observation was made into a military maxim by Napoleon Bonaparte when he said that an Army traveled on its stomach. The stomach is no less a factor today than in the time of Napoleon, but the modern Army travels also on tires and half-tracks. The tremendous increase in the amount of material used in modern warfare has multiplied many times the importance of supply since the day Napoleon laid down his rules of war. The Genius who mastered a continent in the first years of the Last Century, moved his armies on bread. Those who have mastered it now, in the middle of the Present Century, have done so on bread and machinery.

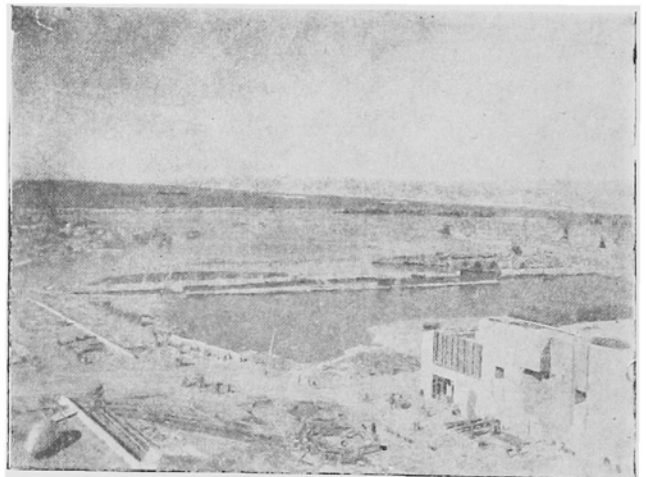
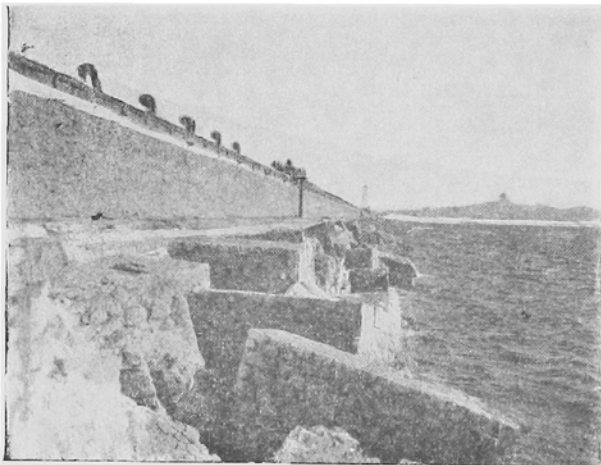
The effectiveness of a Modern Army is as much determined by the supply of the men at the front as it is by the fighting prowess of the combat soldier himself. As a first consideration, someone had to equip him and bring him to the battle zone. Along with him came, initially, some seven tons of various types of material. Subsequently, it required about one ton per month to keep him in the field and in fighting trim. His equipment had to be repaired as well as replaced. Besides being fed and supplied with fighting equipment, he had to be buried when he died, hospitalized when wounded, and finally evacuated to the Zone of the Interior whence he was brought. In modern warfare there is as much activity, and very often more behind the line as on the fighting front.

Nor does Modern War exempt the Supply Service from its toll lists. Mines on the beaches, along the roads and in the fields, explode as readily under the feet and the vehicle wheels of service troops as those of advancing combat forces. The supply convoy, both by sea and by land, is vulnerable to strafing and bombing from the air. The ammunition ship, the ammunition train, even the ammunition dump explodes with greater force than artillery shells or airborne bombs. The hazards of deep water along the beaches, of unbridged streams and chasms are as great for transport as for combat activities. Along with its hazards went the unrelenting toil of the Supply Line.



## BASE SECTION SUPPLY SYSTEM

The outstanding supply agency of the Second War with Germany was the **BASE SECTION**. Its activation and employment became standing operating procedure. It came with the conquering Army and began operations in its immediate wake. The Task Force landed, established a foothold, elements of the projected Base Section came with it, and as soon as possible the Base took over and supplied the invading Force on its progress inland. This procedure applied in the Invasions of **NORTH AFRICA**; in the sweep across **NORTH AFRICA**; in the hop across the **MEDITERRANEAN** to **SICILY**, and the advance through **ITALY**; in the Invasion of **FRANCE**, both North and South; and ultimately in the Battle of **GERMANY**. Base Sections formation was done in a progression pattern. As the War advanced towards and across Fortress Europe, earlier Sections became remote, were discontinued, and their personnel and experience used to form newer Sections nearer the front. **DELTA BASE SECTION** was the product of such a procedure, and as the last Base Section formed in the **NATOUSA — MTOUSA** succession, it was the recipient of the experience and personnel from all the older Sections.



# THE BIG PICTURE

Delta Base Section was a part of a bigger picture. It would be an error in historical perspective not to identify it with the whole scope of the Base Section Supply System. It would not be fair to the personnel that operated Delta Base Section to record their service there without some account of the long background of experience that preceded it. For the bigger picture, one begins with the Invasion of North Africa and ends with the occupation of Germany.

## **INVASION OF NORTH AFRICA**

### MEDITERRANEAN AND ATLANTIC BASE SECTIONS:

The story began with the Invasion of North Africa and included all that was back of it in the way of preparation and planning. The Center Task Force was organized in the United Kingdom, came into the Mediterranean through the Straits of Gibraltar, and on 8 November 1942, struck the North African Coast at Oran, Algeria. Contemporary with it came the Western Task Force, which had been organized in the United States, crossed the Atlantic and struck the African coast at Casablanca, French Morocco. The transfer of the Supply function from Task Force to Base Section was first effected here in North Africa. Mediterranean Base Section was activated on 10 November 1942 at Oran, and the Atlantic Base Section, on 30 December at Casablanca. Some of the Officers and men who came with these first Task Forces, and experienced the establishment phase of the Base Section Supply System, climaxed their service in Delta Base Section.

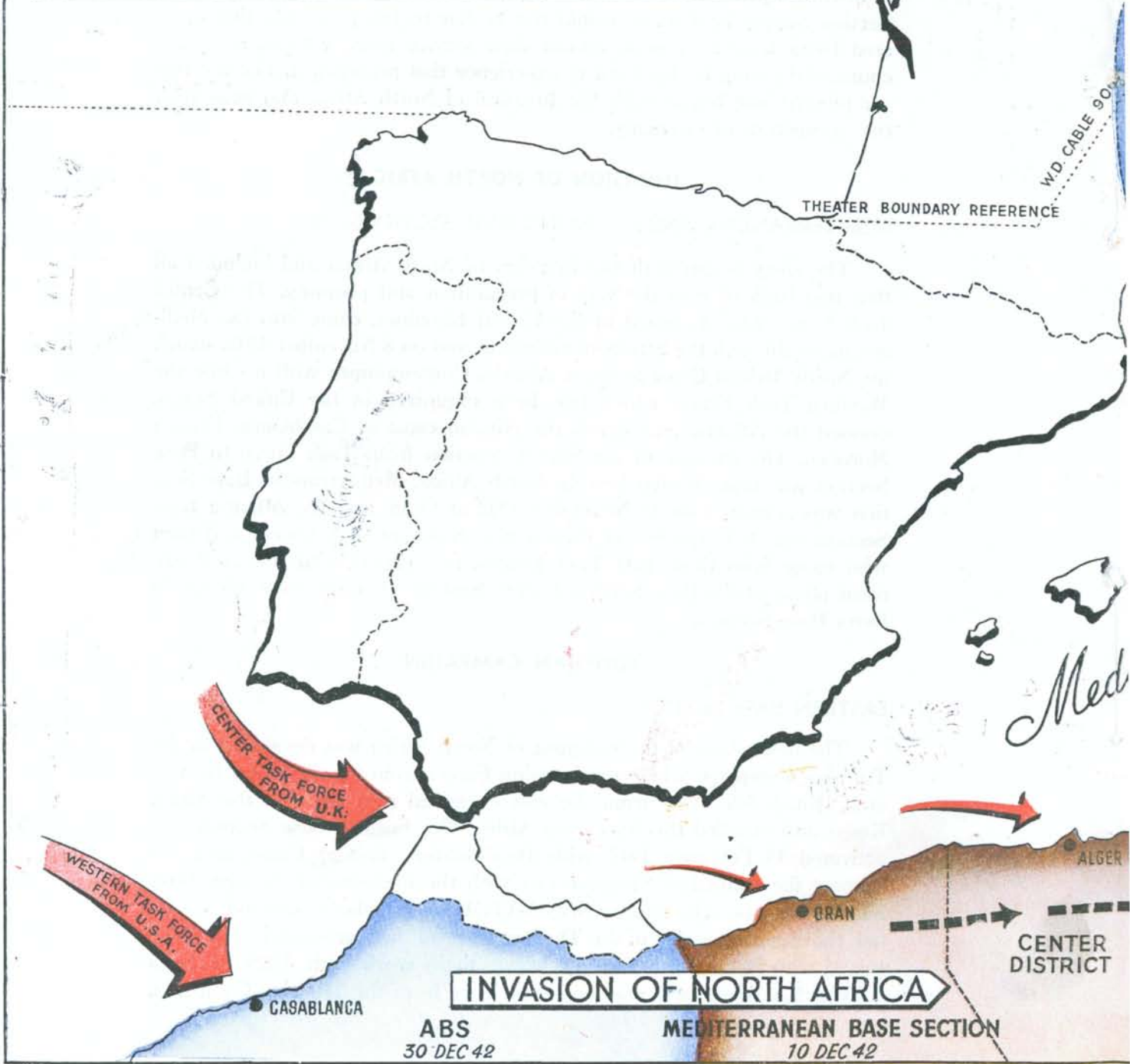
## **TUNISIAN CAMPAIGN**

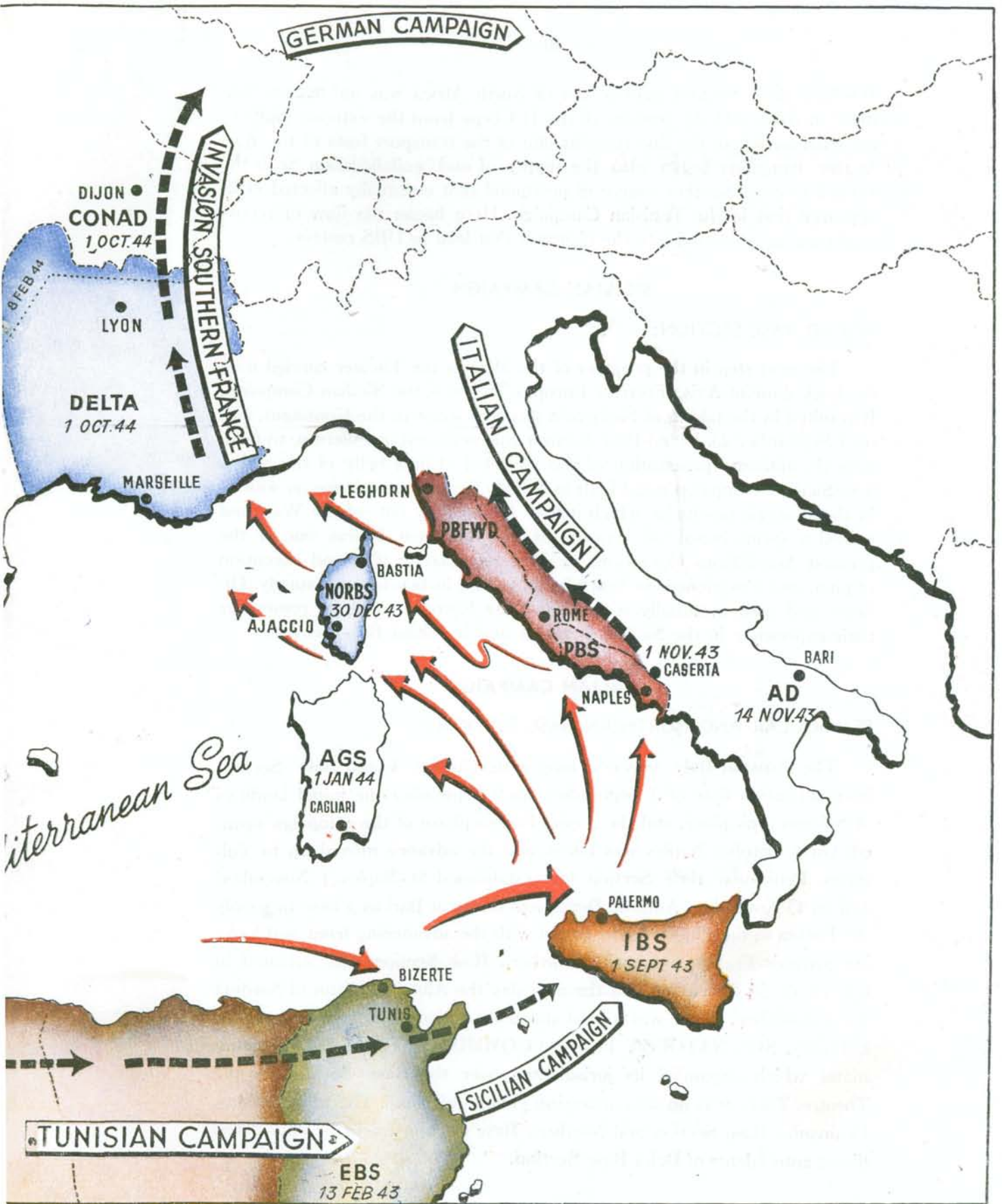
### EASTERN BASE SECTION:

The next phase of the conquest of North Africa was developed in the Tunisian Campaign where the Invasion Forces from the west and the Veteran British 8th Army from the east crumpled and captured the Afrika Korps and expelled the Axis from Africa. The Eastern Base Section was activated 13 February 1943, with Headquarters, first at Constantine, to support the campaign. Simultaneous with the founding of the new Base Section was the activation of SOS NATOUSA, a higher command, to collocate the Supply Service of the Theatre. Part of the personnel that later served with Delta Base Section began their work with EBS or SOS NATOUSA. Also, there was rich experience from the Tunisian Campaign.



# DEVELOPMENT OF BASE SECTION SUPPLY NORTH AFRICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS





Working the road and railway net of North Africa was an accomplishment in itself, and the transfer of the II Corps from the extreme right to the extreme left of the line remains one of the transport feats of the war. In this campaign began also the supply of and collaboration with the French Forces. Another source of personnel that eventually affected DBS appeared first in the Tunisian Campaign. Here began the flow of recovered combat personnel into the channels that lead to DBS rosters.

### **SICILIAN CAMPAIGN**

#### **ISLAND BASE SECTION:**

The next step in the progress of the War in the Theater carried it to the back door of Axis «Fortress Europe» This was the Sicilian Campaign. It resulted in the taking of Sicily as a stepping-stone to the Continent, and on 1 September 43, Island Base Section was activated at Palermo, to facilitate the ultimate penetration of the so-called «Under-belly of the Axis». The Sicilian Campaign rated high in Supply Service experience as well as in the strategic results in which it had forced Italy out of the War and gained a spring-board for invasion of the Continent. It was one of the greatest Amphibious Operations to date, exemplar in plan and execution of plan, and was pioneer in beach-landings and in beach-based supply. Officers and men eventually with Delta Base Section will long remember their experience in the Sicilian Invasion and in Island Base Section.

### **ITALIAN CAMPAIGN**

#### **PENINSULAR AND NORTHERN BASE SECTIONS:**

The thrust at Italy was not long in developing. Island Base Section bore activation date of 1 September, on 9 September the initial landings at Salerno took place, and the Naples-Foggia phase of the campaign opened. On 1 October Naples was taken, and the advance moved on to Volturno. Peninsular Base Section was established at Naples 1 November, and on 15 November, Adriatic Depot was set up at Bari as a base to supply Air Forces in the Foggia Area. Timed with the advancing front and looking towards France, eventually, Northern Base Section was activated in Corsica on 30 December, and the next day the Allied Garrison of Sardina was established. There was a brief stalemate in Italy during the winter. In February, SOS NATOUSA became COMMUNICATION ZONE Command which expanded its jurisdiction over the Base Section in the Theatre. There was no accompanying change of name. The new sections, Peninsular Base Section and Northern Base Section might be considered direct antecedents of Delta Base Section.

## INVASION OF SOUTHERN FRANCE

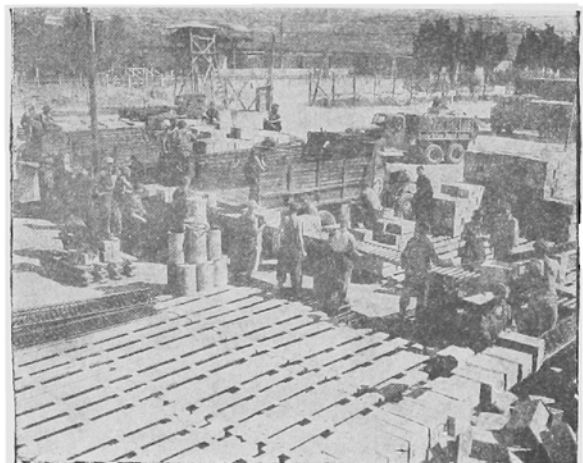
### COASTAL-CONTINENTAL BASE SECTION:

Progress in the Italian Campaign hastened the Invasion of Southern France. The Rome-Arno phase began 22 January 1944, but Rome was not taken until 5 June. On 15 June, French Forces took the Island of Elba. Events of July brought invasion preparations near fruition. Headquarters, SOS NATOUSA moved from Oran and opened at Caserta, 4 July. On 7 July, Coastal Base Section was activated at Naples with the Invasion of France as a specified mission. The forward displacement of personnel and equipment of the older Base Sections made readily available material for the new Section. Atlantic Base Section and Eastern Base Section were skeletalized and put under unified command. Island Base Section was discontinued 15 July, and its compliments of men and material made available for use elsewhere. On 6 August the VI Army Group, the Invasion Force, was activated, and on 15 August the Invasion Army struck the Southern Coast of France. Elements of Coastal Base Section came with the landing forces; on 1 September it opened at Marseille.

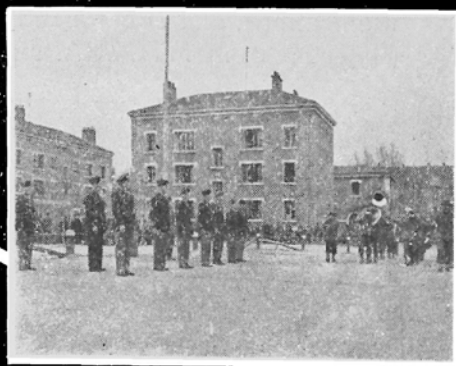
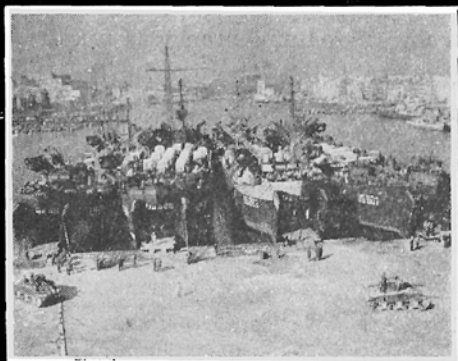
## RHINELAND CAMPAIGN

### DELTA BASE SECTION:

Coastal Base Section, renamed Continental Base Section, had been organized with the specific objective of supporting the Invasion of Southern France. Established at Marseille, it operated beaches, cleared harbors and collaborated with the 6th Army Group in its progress up the Rhone Valley. By the end of September a readjustment had to be made. Combat Forces from the Mediterranean had crossed into ETOUSA Territory and became a component of the Western Front. The long supply line from the Mediterranean had to be adjusted. Continental Base Section was discontinued and its immediate successor, Continental Advance Section was established behind the Armies, with Headquarters at Dijon. Delta Base Section was activated as a Base Section on the Mediterranean, with Headquarters at Marseille. Together they constituted a Southern Line of Communications, and subsequently made the basis of a new higher command projected from MTOUSA, and ultimately transferred to ETOUSA.







## DELTA BASE SECTION

The History of Delta Base Section is made up of three operational phases. The first may be defined as the *Supply Mission Phase*. It was directed to the support of the War on the Western Front from the Mediterranean, and came to a close with Victory in Europe. The second was the *Redeployment Phase* and extended from Victory in Europe Day until American Forces, other than the Army of Occupation, were withdrawn from Europe. After Redeployment there remained a third period of operation, the *Closing Out Phase*. During this phase warehouses were closed, remaining Service Troops sent home, and Headquarters closed.

## SUPPLY MISSION PHASE

As noted above, the Supply Mission Phase extended from activation date to Victory in Europe Day,—1 October '44 to 12 May '45. The operation of Deltabase during this phase has a logical break-down into three parts or sub-phases. These were the establishment phase carried out under the direction of COMZONE NATOUSA, a phase under the jurisdiction of Southern Line of Communications, extending from mid-November 1944 to the dissolution of that command in February 1945; and finally a phase under direct control of COMZONE ETOUSA, extending to Victory in Europe Day.



## UNDER COMZONE NATOUSA

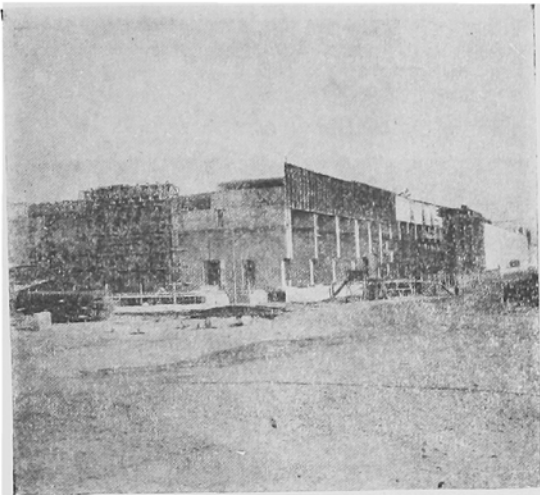
COMZONE NATOUSA gave the prospective Base Section a preactivation training. The period from 15 August, Invasion date, until 1 October, activation date was in the strictest sense of the word, an Apprenticeship for Delta Base Section. The first two weeks, when supply was under control of the 6th Army Group, personnel soon to be with Deltabase was present, and experienced the tense work of the Invasion and of beach-based supply operations. When Continental Base was established at Marseille, 1 September, part of its manning force was ear-marked for Delta Base Section; SOS NATOUSA had used the 20th and 21st Ports (Mobile) as personnel holding units for the structure of the Base Section. The 20th Port became the personnel basis of Deltabase, and its service with the older sections was an apprenticeship for that with the new.

### ACTIVATION

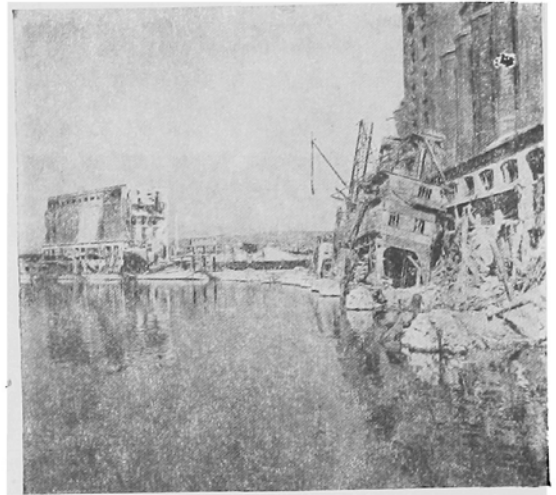
The activation of Delta Base Section came in regular sequence when the troops of the 6th Army Group had advanced so far that the supply line had to be readjusted. The new Base Section, to function in the place of Continental Base Section, was authorized by NATOUSA 22 September 1944, and organized by General Orders Number 42, SOS NATOUSA, 26 September, effective 1 October. Brigadier General John P. Ratay was relieved from command of Northern Base Section and placed in command of the new Section. By General Orders Number 1, Headquarters Delta Base Section, 1 October, General Ratay announced the activation of the Section, took command, and opened Headquarters at Marseille.

### MISSION

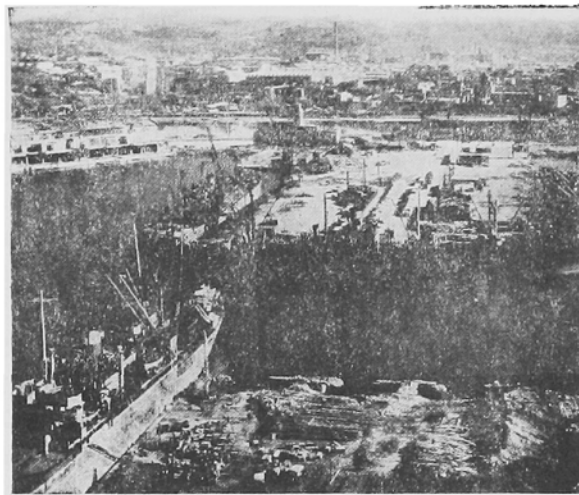
The same day that Delta Base Section was organized, it was assigned a mission. In general, the Base Section Commander's responsibilities were those of the Communication Zone Commander in the area. He was to operate the Port of Marseille and «other harbor facilities», send men and material forward to the 6th Army Group through Continental Advance Section, and evacuate sick and wounded from the advancing forces. This was a large assignment, and general in nature. On 6 October, COMZONE NATOUSA (SOS was changed to COMZONE 1 October) gave Deltabase a detailed break-down of its job. There was no essential change in this during the period of Supply Mission. A more succinct and thorough description of the work of Delta Base Section could not be made than in the document itself.



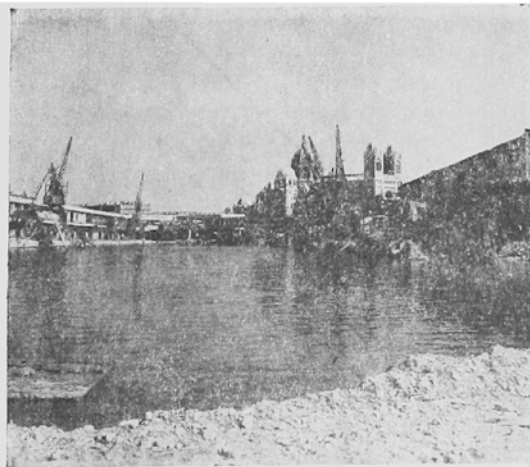
*UNFINISHED SUB PENS*



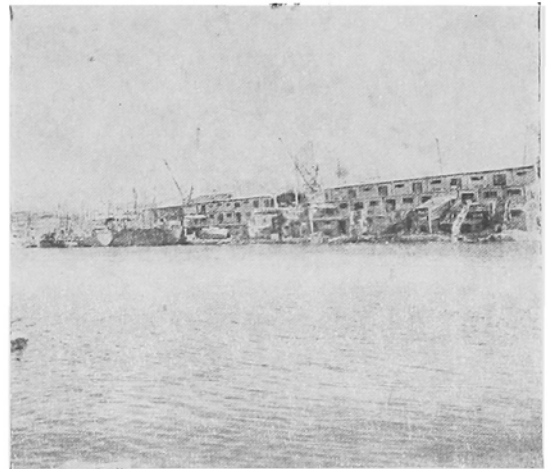
*DEMOLITIONS ON BASIN D'AREN C*



*SHIPPING TIED UP, TRAVERSE DELA MADRAGUE*



*DEMOLITION, BASIN DE LA JOLIETTE*



*BASIN DE LA JOLIETTE*

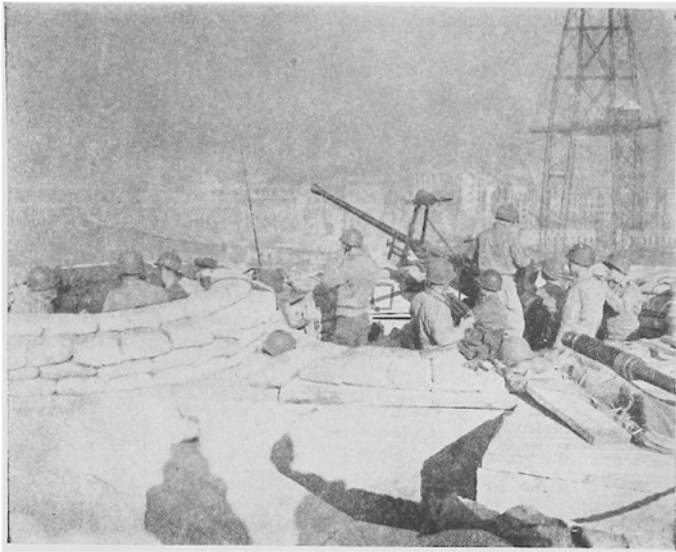
**HARBOR MARSEILLE**



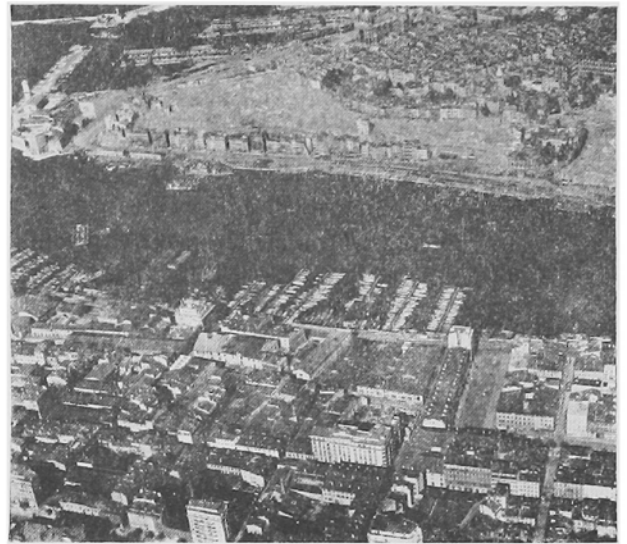
- a. *Maintenance of perscribed levels of supply and the establishment of Base Depots in the vicinity of the major port adequate for this purpose.*
- b. *The procurement of supplies from local sources and the arrangement therefor with civil authorities.*
- c. *The direct supply of all troops located in the Base Section and of such units located outside the Base Section as may be assigned.*
- d. *The establishment of Base maintenance facilities for the Base Section; the reception and disposition of irreparable, unserviceable material, and salvage from installations of the Continental Advance Section.*
- e. *The evacuation of personnel where required from installations of the Continental Advance Section; the establishment of fixed hospitals in the vicinity of the major port adequate for the purpose.*
- f. *The delivery to installations of the Continental Advance Section of supplies requisitioned by it; arrangements for all movements of personnel and material originating in the Base Sections; the coordination of all transportation between Base Sections and Continental Advance Section and the operation of such as is specifically assigned.*
- g. *The operation of port facilities as may be required to support the forces in Southern France.*

The establishment of Continental Advance Section with a relay mission between the Base Section and the Armies supplied was the occasion for specific adjustment in the mission assignment. It was also a relationship that required readjustment from time to time. Initially it stood:

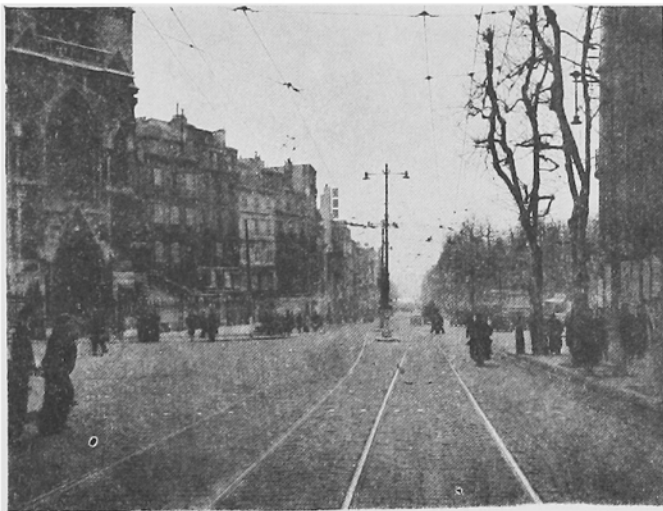
- a. *Supplies of Delta Base Section and Continental Base Section will be controlled from this headquarters by shipments to Delta Base Section for the needs of the total force supported. Exceptions will be made only for specific requirements for units or installations which will be shipped with appropriate special markings.*
- b. *The levels of supply to be maintained by the Combat Forces, the Advance Section and the Base Sections will necessarily vary according to availability of transportation and operational requirements. For the present, they will be as follows:*
  1. **COMBAT ZONE:** *Commanding General, Sixth Army Group, has been requested to establish a level of supply for the field forces of not to exceed 5 days for Classes I, III and V, and 15 days for Classes II and IV. Of this level it is expected that the major commands may desire portions to be held in the Advance Section subject to their call.*
  2. **ADVANCE SECTION:** *Continental Advance Section will maintain levels of supply of 15 days (8 days reserve, 7 days operating) not including supplies being held at request of combat forces.*



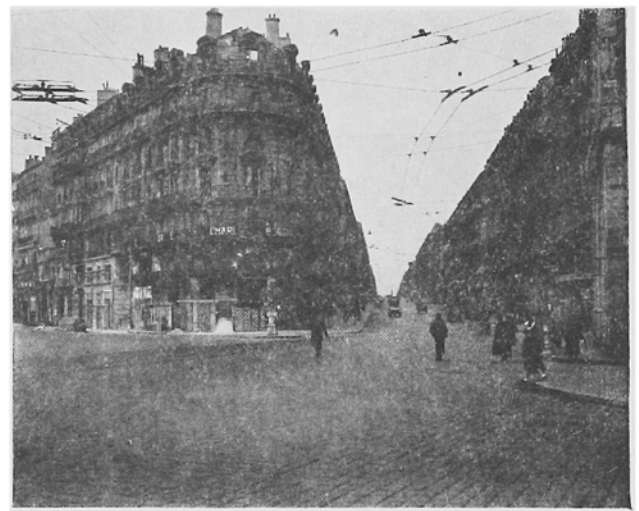
*ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERY  
AT OLD PORT ENTRANCE*



*OLD PORT SHOWING GERMAN  
DEMOLITIONS IN AREA*



*DOWN LA CANEBIERE TO OLD PORT*



*FOOT OF LA CANEBIERE AT OLD PORT*

**IN OLD MARSEILLE**

3. *BASE SECTIONS: Delta Base Section level of supply will not exceed the prescribed Theater level calculated in accordance with the directives of COMZONE NATOUSA, less 15 days of supply authorized to be held by the Advance Section.*

*c. Depots*

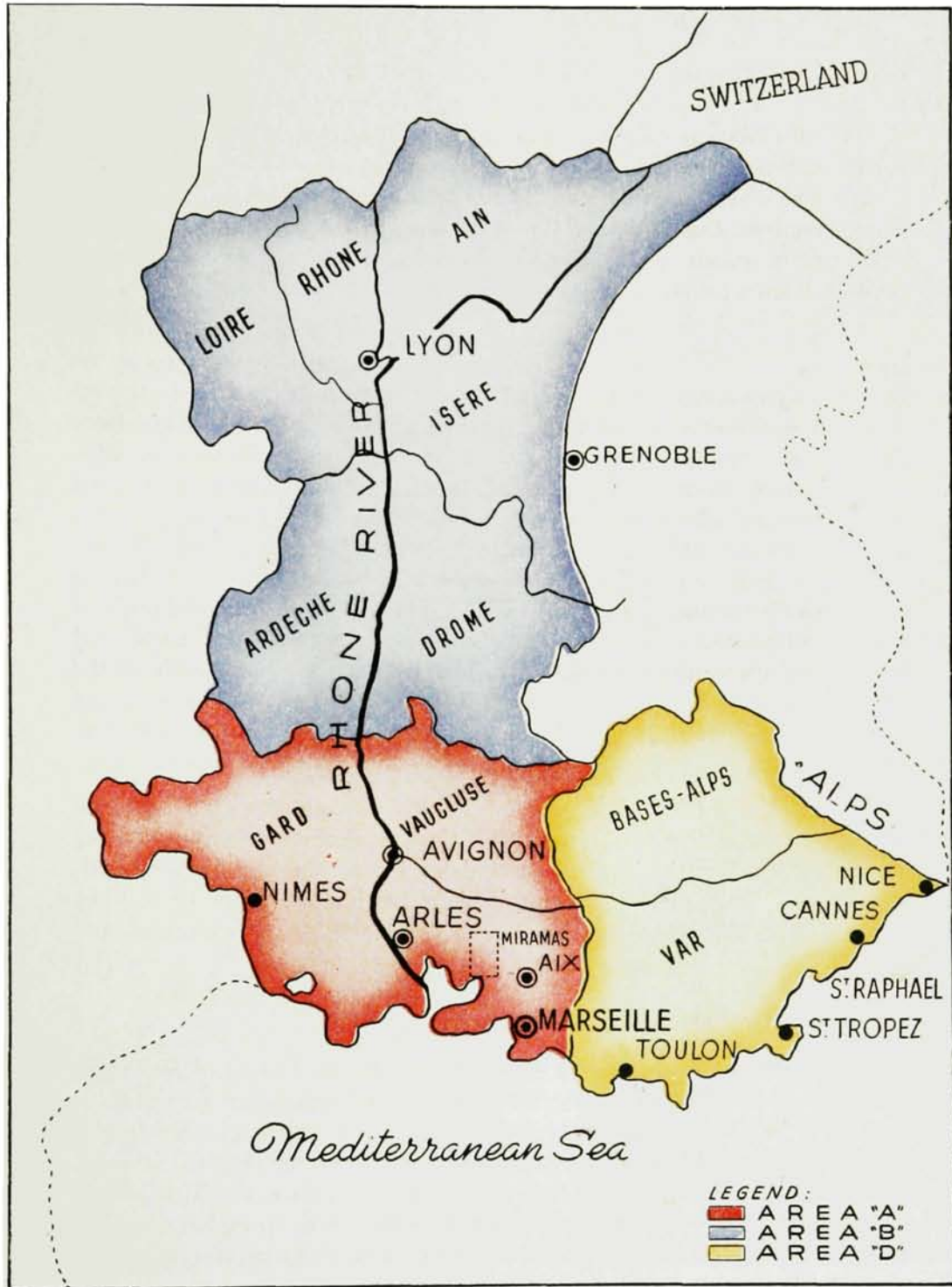
1. *All reports normal to a base section including stock position reports will be submitted direct to this headquarters by both Delta Base and Continental Advance Sections in accordance with existing directives. Deltabase will report as part of its stock position all material in transit to Continental Base Section until it is picked up in Continental Advance Section Stock records. Delta Base Section will develop a Standing Operating Procedure in Collaboration with Continental Advance Section to implement this procedure.*
2. *Exception is made for Ordnance in Continental Advance Section which will not submit Stock reports of Ordnance Class II and IV to this headquarters. Continental Advance Section will provide Delta Base Section with abstract of reverse data on a schedule to be mutually agreed upon by the two commanders. Delta Base Section reports to this headquarters will be based on the combined stock positions of Continental Advance and Delta Base Section. Continental Advance Section will report status of stocks of Ordnance major items to Delta Base Section to be incorporated in Delta Base Periodic reports to Headquarters, COMZONE.*

## **GEOGRAPHY**

A number of important factors in the History of Delta Base Section were introduced by the nature of the terrain assigned to it. Two of these were basic as determining forces. As a Base Section on the Mediterranean, geographic factors determined operations in bringing in supplies and in transporting them to the warehouses and marshalling yards of the Advance Section. A military command is not exempt from the influence of its environment and Geography also determined to a larger degree the nature of house-keeping and administrative problems.

Delta Base Section took over a definite area and the problems that went with it. Continental Base Section had developed the area and higher Headquarters had defined it as early as 26 September. COMZONE MTOUSA adjusted the boundaries on 19 October with lines that stuck for some time. By this definition the forward boundary was «the Northern boundary of the French Departments Ain, Rhone, Loire and Allier». The Rear Boundary was «the Mediterranean Coast of France». No lateral boundaries were included.

# ORIGINAL DELTA BASE SECTION





## THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST OF FRANCE

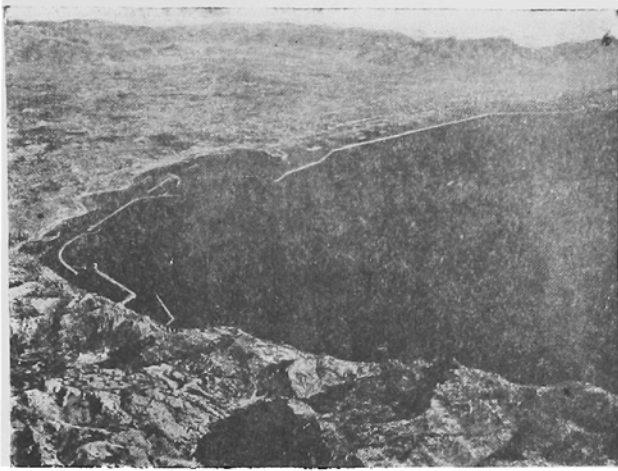
The area of the Rear Boundary carried many features of importance in the development of Delta Base Section. First for consideration came the «Port of Marseille and Satellite Ports», to include Toulon and Port de Bouc. Coupled with these, especially Marseille, was a typical harbor clearance problem as pioneered at Palermo and Naples. Here too was the city of Marseille itself, second city of France and its largest port. Marseille was world famous for its slums, and in spite of German demolition of the celebrated Old Port area, much of the city was typical «off limits» district for American troops. Considering the nature of the work of Delta Base Section, and the make up of its service troops, there would be a definite reflection in such problems as venereal rates and black market operations.

West of Marseille extending beyond the mouth of the Rhone, with the apex at Avignon, lay a triangular-shaped area of great significance in the History of Delta Base Section. The relics of Roman civilization in the region indicate that the use of it as a Base Section was not a new idea. Here the Romans made the Mediterranean Base for their Empire in Gaul, Britain, the Low Countries and the Region of the Rhine. Parts of the area were level, dry and gravelly. It was good terrain for camps and for staging troops. Here, near the Village of Miramas, the Americans had developed a depot in World War One. On the stretch of Coast here, the Rhone Canal, which connected the Mediterranean with the inland waterways of France, debouched to the sea from Lake Berre through the celebrated Rove Canal under the mountains. In the region near the mouth of the Rhone, the cold air from the interior of France, at certain seasons, swept out to sea. Officers and men who saw service in the Miramas area will always associate the «mistral» with their duty in Delta Base Section.

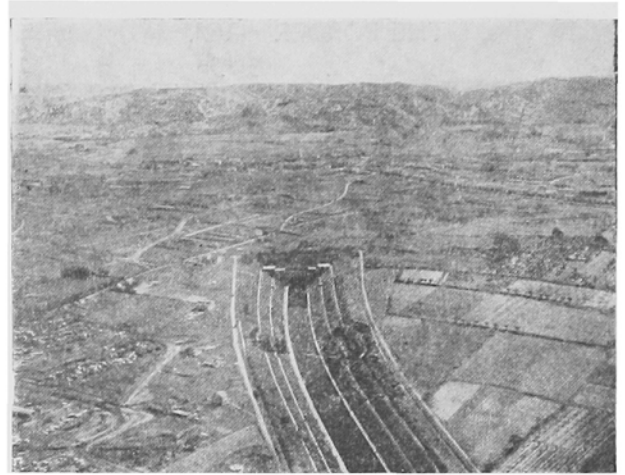
To the east of Marseille, beyond Toulon, lay the Riviera. This area was world renowned as a resort, and the presence of such possibilities was bound to affect the history of Deltabase. Recreation and morale building had high priority in the Army, and fell within the scope of services rendered by a Base Section. The Riviera development was important, and was unique to Delta Base Section.

## THE RHONE VALLEY

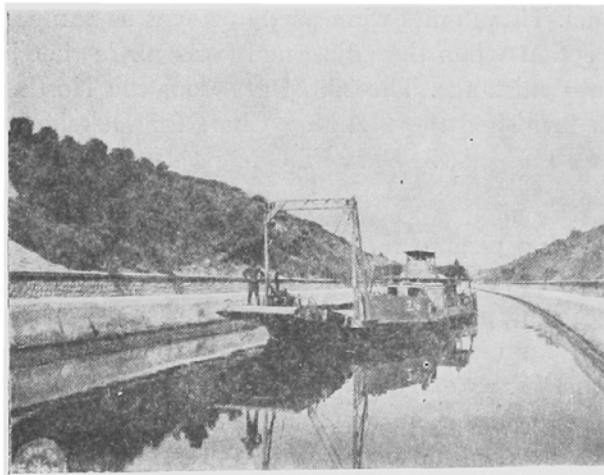
Above the port and Staging Areas, the significant feature of Deltabase territory was the Rhone Valley. This valley was the significant feature in the line of supply that comprehended Delta Base Section mission. It was one of the world's historic highways, and with its waterways, highway net and railway system, was the artery of supply north from the Mediterranean. Delta Base Section area covered this valley north to include the city of Lyon and operated its transportation facilities to carry war materials up to the front.



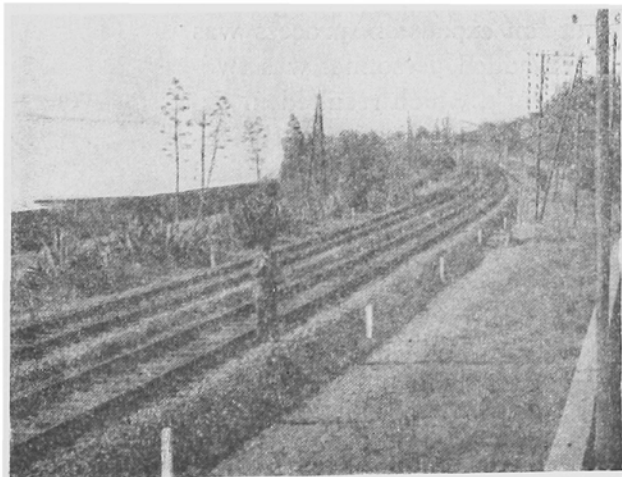
*ROVE CANAL FROM HARBOR TO  
TUNNEL ENTRANCE*



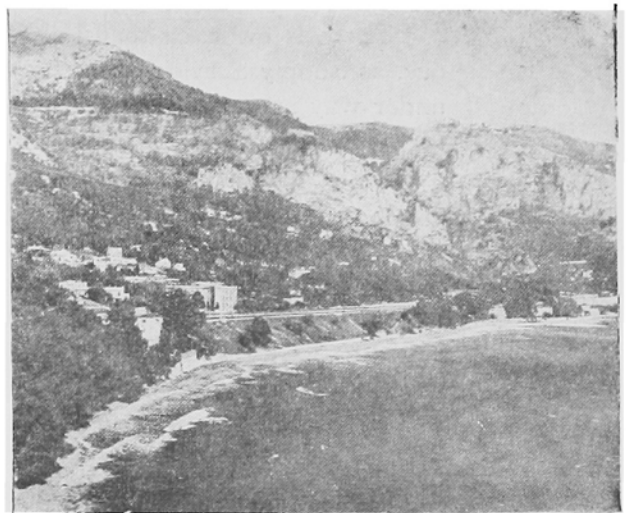
*ROVE CANAL EMERGES TO LAKE BARRE*



*CANAL IN MILITARY USE*



*THE SOUTHERN COAST LINE*



*CORNISHE ROUTES ON RIVIERA COAST*

## THE BORDER AREA

The boundaries on either side the Rhone Valley were not defined at first, but the areas beyond the valley were significant in the history of the Base Section. To the east were the Maritime Alps with the Franco-Italian border, and to the north was neutral Switzerland. To the west lay the extended terrain of Southern France and in the costal area by-passed Germans still held out. The area and the situation in it became a factor in Deltabase History.

## MANNING DELTA BASE

The Officers and men who began the operation of Delta Base Section were present and on the job when the Section began. As noted previously, SOS NATOUSA had done some long-range planning in the making of its last Base Section and had used the 20th and 21st Ports (Mobile) as holding unit for personnel. These units were partly present as components of Continental Base Section when the adjustment was made that brought Delta Base Section into existance. The 20th Port from the Northern Base Section on Corsica furnished the Manning Chart for Deltabase. It carried a compliment of 85 Officers, 5 Warrant Officers, 471 enlisted men and one Nurse.

But SOS had no plan to limit Delta Base Section to the 20th Port Manning Chart. As of 28 September, an allotment of 55 Officers and 5 Warrant Officers was made from Theatre overhead. On this allotment, Officers available for reassignment from older Sections were joined to those of the 20th Port as early comers to Deltabase. The Manning Chart and the Table of Organization, together, netted 140 Officers, 10 Warrant Officers, 471 enlisted men and one Nurse in grade of Captain. There were 5 places available for detail to the General Staff Corps with troops.

There is evidence that Delta Base Section was not personnel ravenous, as Supply Service Commands went, but an expansion process was under way at once. The source of demand for added personnel was two-fold. The first was increase in the amount of work, which resulted in demand for additional Officers and men to carry it. The second was the addition of new functions to the orginal mission. So motivated, the process started. Sections asked for additional personnel for this job and that. Several small additions were made to the allotment during the period that COMZONE MTOUSA was in control, and by 20 October had brought the total to 95 Officers and 5 Warrant Officers. On that date Deltabase was given a unified Table of Allotment. The 20th Port (Mobile), less personnel and equipment was transfered to Peninsular Base Section. Its equivalent in numbers, plus those of the Table of Allotment was authorized in a new allotment. This gave Deltabase 170 Officers, 10 Warrant Officers, and 478 enlisted men as the total authorized under MTOUSA jurisdiction.

**ORIGINAL SECTIONS AND SECTION HEADS**

<b>General Staff</b>	<b>Head of Section</b>	<b>GO</b>	<b>Sec.</b>	<b>Date</b>
C of S	Col. Thomas F. Gunn, GSC	GO-2		1 Oct. 44
	Col. Roye P. Gerfen, GSC	GO-9		20 Oct. 44
ACS, G-1	Lt. Col. Lester R. Lopus, GSC	GO-2		1 Oct. 44
ACS, G-2	Maj. James Todd Jr., FA	GO-2		1 Oct. 44
ACS, G-3	Lt. Col. James A. Gaston GSC	GO-2		1 Oct. 44
ACS, G-4	Col. Julian I. Marks, GSC	GO-2		1 Oct. 44
ACS, G-5	Maj. John G. Martin, GSC	GO-2		1 Oct. 44
Secretary, GS	Capt. Cyril E. Rickett, Inf.	GO-2		1 Oct. 44

<b>Special Staff</b>	<b>Head of Section</b>	<b>GO</b>	<b>Sec.</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adjutant Gen.	Lt. Col Kenneth C. Jones AGD	GO-3	I	3 Oct. 44
Base Pur. Agt.	Lt. Col. Irwin A. Lex, FA	GO-3	I	3 Oct. 44
Chaplain	Maj. Richard T. DuBrau CHC	GO-3	I	3 Oct. 44
Finance	WOJG William Salogub, USA	GO-3	I	3 Oct. 44
Hq. Comdt.	Maj. Harold W. Sax, Inf.	GO-14	I	1 Nov. 44
Judge Advocate	Lt. Col. Willie H.H. Jones Inf	GO-3	I	3 Oct. 44
Liaison	1st. Lt. Pierre Olivier Fr. Ar'y	GO-3	I	3 Oct. 44
Provost Marshal	Col. Lewis E. Goodrich, FA	GO-3	I	3 Oct. 44
Special Service	1st. Lt. William W. Hutt Cav.	GO-3	I	3 Oct. 44
	Lt. Col. Chas. C. Finnigan Inf	GO-8	II	19 Oct. 44
Statistical	Capt. Francis R Woodruff Inf	GO-3	I	3 Oct. 44
Exchange Office	Maj. Milton J. Adler, QMC	GO-4		6 Oct. 44
Inspector Gen.	Lt. Col. Clair F Brickner IGD	GO-7		18 Oct. 44
Public Relations	1st Lt. William W. Hutt, Cav.	GO-10		21 Oct. 44

<b>Special Staff Tech Services</b>	<b>Head of Section</b>	<b>GO</b>	<b>Sec.</b>	<b>Date</b>
CWS	Maj. Marion Gaertner, CWS	GO-3	I	3 Oct. 44
Engineer	Lt. Col. William Harmon, CE	GO-3	I	3 Oct. 44
Ordnance	Col. Mark M. Serrem, Ord.	GO-3	I	3 Oct. 44
Petroleum	Lt. Col. Chas. L. Lockett, CE	GO-3	I	3 Oct. 44
	Maj. Chas. B. Gholso, CE	GO-6	I	13 Oct. 44
Signal	Lt. Col. Ira P. Doctor, Sig.	GO-3	I	3 Oct. 44
Surgeon	Col. Vinnie H. Jeffress	VOCG		
Quartermaster	Col. William E. Barrett, QMC	GO-3	IV	3 Oct. 44
	Col. John P. Neu (acting)	GO-8	I	19 Oct. 44
	Col. John P. Neu (acting)	GO-13		31 Oct. 44
Transportation	Col. Robert H. Clarkson, TC	GO-3	V	3 Oct. 44

<b>Administrative Sections</b>	<b>Head of Section</b>	<b>GO</b>	<b>Sec.</b>	<b>Date</b>
Area «A»	Col. Tom S. Brand, Inf.	GO-3	II	3 Oct. 44
Area «B»	Col. Theodore E.J. Haley, FA	GO-3	III	3 Oct. 44

## SETTING UP HEADQUARTERS

The setting up of a functional Headquarters was not a piece of pioneering, and there was not too much of the trial and error method necessary. The personnel that took over the job was experienced, and for the most part, established in offices that were already functioning. Already, there were procedures established and regulations current. The early period can be described as adjustmental rather than creative.

### STAFF SECTIONS

In adjusting the situation, as inherited, to a new functional General Headquarters, there were two guides for reliance. Field Manual 101-5 contained the Army's cumulated experience in Headquarters-making, and Supply Service experience had developed a working complement of Special Sections.

First came the General Staff, headed by a Command Group and including G-5, a General Staff Section recently added to meet conditions peculiar to the War. A full quota of Special Sections was authorized. For purposes of organization and discussion, these can be divided into three groups. First was a group of *Special Staff Section* which took no broader classification; next came the *Technical Services*, priority sections in a Supply Service Headquarters, and finally, *Administrative Section* with housekeeping mission for the Base Section. The Table on the opposite page taken from «History of Delta Base Section from Activation to V-E Day», shows what was done in the way of establishment of Section-heads during the early weeks while the Base Section was under COMZONE MTOUSA Advance.

Each of the newly established Sections faced the problems of development of procedures, and of internal organization. As early as 6 October, each Section was required to make a functional chart, but the files of the Headquarters yielded very few of these documents. When Victory in Europe Day came, on 12 May, the Sections were making organizational charts under the stimulus of the newly developed Control Section. But what happened to the individual Sections should be reserved for the History of the Sections, which is later included.

### ADMINISTRATION

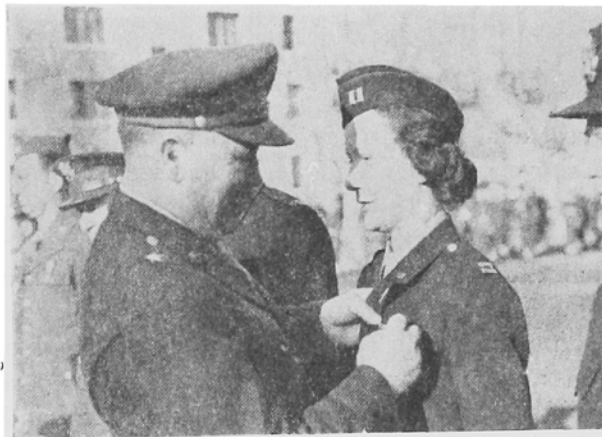
The work of the Base Section involved a great deal more than operating warehouses and supply bases. There was a large administrative responsibility in the nature of housekeeping for the Headquarters and for the Service Troops that made up the command. The Administrative Sections of Headquarters were devoted to this specialization. A Headquarters Commandant was inherited from Continental Base Section, and ultimately, the Section was officially established in Deltabase. Also included was a distinct administrative system with the districts already delineated. Two



6th PORT HAS 3rd BIRTHDAY  
COL CUTS CLARKSON CAKE



3rd GENERAL HOSPITAL HAS 2nd BIRTHDAY  
LT. Mc CABE CUTS CAKE



CHIEF NURSE LACEY RECEIVES BRONZE STAR



OPENING CANEBIERE RED CROSS CLUB  
IN MARSEILLE



PASSING ON THE BRASS IN G-5  
LT. COL. SNOW, MAJOR HALE,  
CAPT. GERSHENSON, LT. JUDITZ

**DOINGS IN DELTA BASE**



of these were set up at once as Sections of Headquarters: Area «A», Marseille and vicinity, Area «B» at Lyon and including territory in the North of the Base Section. The use of area or district Administration became a specialty with Delta Base Section. In the same policy-trend, a system of Group Administration also developed.

Most of the items incident to housekeeping were inherited from the older Section displaced at Marseille. The Headquarters continued to occupy the Caserne Beauveau on Rue de Toulon, but began a program of expanding, and improving office space. The sharing of those quarters with 901 French Base was one of the memorable experiences of Deltabase. During October, housekeeping functions were completely taken over. A «Fire Defense» System was given final form on the 28th. Passive Air Defense was completed on 30 October. Regulations for living and serving at Marseille were now promulgated by the different publications of the Headquarters.

### **STRUCTURE OF THE BASE SECTION**

There was a great deal more to the Base Section than the Headquarters. The «pick and shovel» work was done by Service Troops, and Deltabase History is closely tied to that of the Service Units that composed the Section. Furthermore, Base Section Headquarter's relation to Service Troops was broader than directing them in the work they did in the Section. Processing, staging and shipping them to the front was a regular procedure, and troop handling, including reorganization of old, and organization of new units was a major factor in troop administration performed by the Base Section. With maturing of procedure, G-3 Section handled the troops of Delta Base Section in two lists: Troop List Administration; and Troop List, Operations.

### **NON-TABLE OF ORGANIZATION UNITS**

There were several non T/O units that played a large roll in the History of Delta Base Section, and many Officers and men will recall them in connection with their service with Deltabase. These came directly from the heritage from Continental Base Section and included originally:

2615th Technical Supervision Regiment.

2643rd Movement Control Company.

6619th POW Administration Company.

2601st POW Administration Company.

Before October was over, these units were reorganized, preliminary to transfer to ETOUSA. In administrative affairs, these units were to play a large roll in the Base Section.

SERVICE TROOPS

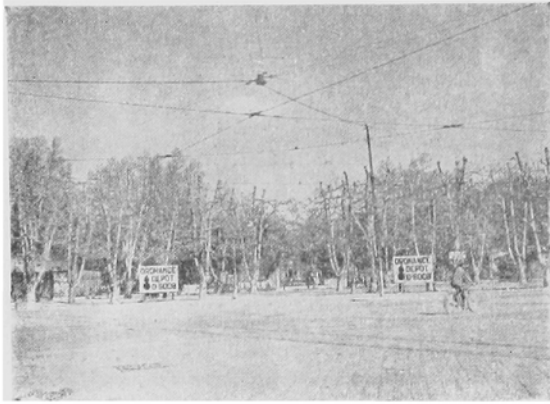
There would be no purpose to attempt to list the Service Units that composed Delta Base Section at any definite time, or to include those it handled during its operational existence. A little glimpse of the original group would give sufficient idea of the make-up of a Base Section, and include most of the old stand-bys. The first group came from a break-down and division of the units with Continental Base Section. While under COMZONE MTOUSA there was addition of units, long to be identified with Deltabase, from the dwindling Base Sections of MTOUSA. At the end of October, the troop list showed the following:

<b>UNITS</b>			
SECTIONS	No. I	No. II	No. III
	Assigned	Asgd, Atchd Elsewhere	Atchd, Asgn Elsewhere
CWS	1	1	1
ENG	12	3	4
MED	12	5	5
ORD	16		
QM	18	4	4
TRANS	57	1	6
POL	9		1
SIG	5		1
PMG	15	2	1
FIN	3		
APU	7		
MRU			1
INF			8
AAA			2
Totals	155	16	34

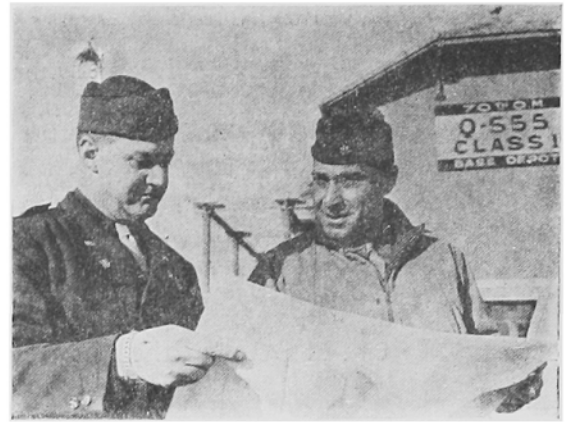
<b>NUMBERS</b>				
STATUS	OFFICERS	NURSES	W O	EM
I	1413	332	60	23260
II	67	0	0	1031
III	151	0	7	4119

KEY UNITS

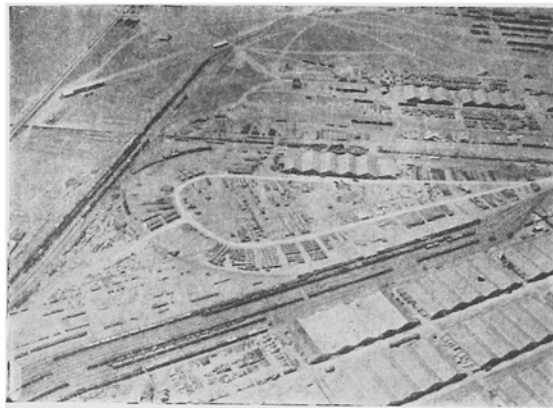
It scarcely makes an adequate presentation of Delta Base Section to lump the Service Troops off as so many units assigned to the various sections of the Headquarters. They were not of equal size or significance. Among them were units of great importance in Deltabase History; units



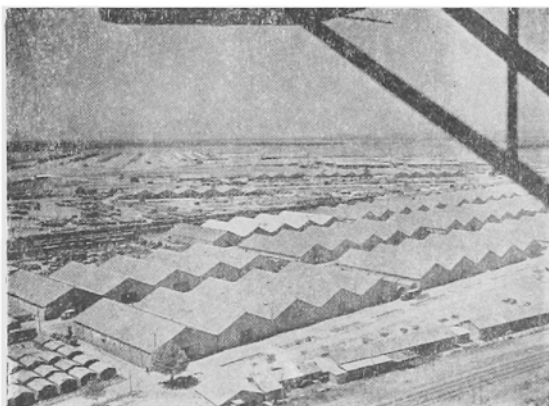
*ENTRANCE 6008 ORDNANCE*



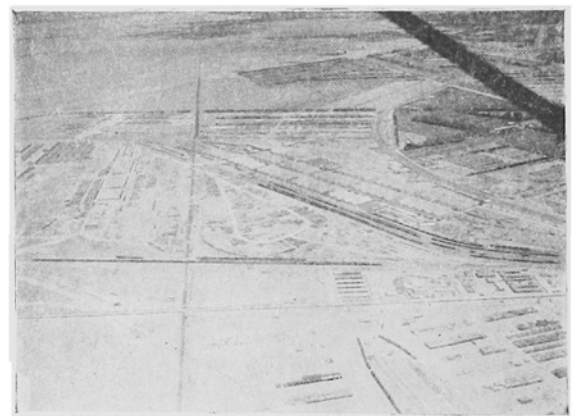
*Q-555 CLASS I*



*MIRAMAS DEPOT*



*MIRAMAS*



*MIRAMAS*

**SOME DELTA BASE DEPOTS**

that held numerous units under them, and around which the Group System of Administration built up. First came the 6th Port, whose Commanding Officer was head of the Transportation Section during the period of the Supply mission. The 70th Quartermaster Base Group was another, and the Commanding Officer was Base Quartermaster during the early days of the Command. Other units figured in installations and Depot developments.

#### NON-AMERICAN ELEMENTS

American elements alone do not make a complete picture of Delta Base Section. As already noted, French Base 901 was a component of the Section, and shared a common Headquarters. Also noteworthy was the development of an inter-section liaison system within the headquarters, to facilitate supply of the French Forces. Troop lists as of 30 October showed a large contingent of 34 units assigned, and 31 assigned but on duty elsewhere. These made a total of 683 Officers, 2226 NCOs, 19 women and 18701 enlisted men. The presence of troops in training accounted for almost one-third of the personnel present.

MTOUSA carried to France its policy of employing Italian Prisoners of War, and Delta Base Section received a large allotment of Italian Service Units. This element of the command built up under the direction of the 2615th Technical Supervision Regiment and by the end of October showed a total of 608 Officers and 12,094 men. These were in 64 units, broken down as follows: Eng. 10; Med 6; Ord. 3; Sig. 1; QM 10; SS 5, and Labor 29.

For Officers and men who served in the Headquarters of Delta Base Section, troop lists would not be complete without the inclusion of the 1242nd Slav Company. This was a non T/O Unit containing 1 Officer and 100 men. It was always closely associated with house-keeping for Deltabase Headquarters.

#### OPERATIONS

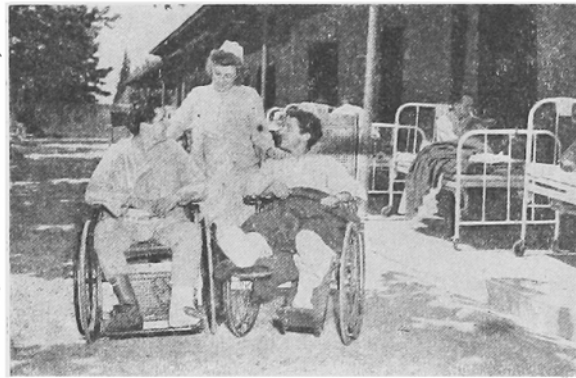
Specifically, what did Delta Base Section do in those early weeks under COMZONE NATOUSA? First priority, under mission assignment, was supply of the 6th Army Group, and that went on full force regardless of circumstances. For the second consideration, whether defined as operative or the result of operations, adjustments made were ultimately of as much importance as supplies delivered.

#### SUPPLY

The flow of supplies to the advancing armies never halted. As of 31 October, the water Traffic Section (Transportation) showed 444,715 tons of general cargo, 147,231 vehicles, and 246,000 personnel discharged in Southern France. During October, 261,886 net tons were sent forward to Grenoble, Lyon, Dijon, Epinal, Toul and other rail-heads. Beach-based supply



*DELTABASE NURSES IN ACTION*



*NURSE CUMMINGS WHELLS PATIENTS  
AT 3rd GENERAL HOSPITAL*



*DELTABASE NURSES IN THE FIELD*  
**NURSES IN DELTA BASE SECTION**

was still in operation and the Beach Control Group as an active component of Deltabase Headquarters. However, the practice of filling requisitions from beach-dumps, and ware-housing or dumping incoming supplies in localities practical for increased use of harbors, changed the entire nature of Port Operations. Also, the great depot areas of Delta Base Section took shape in the Establishment Phase.

At the same time supplies were being shoved to the front, progress was made in developing the facilities of the Base Section. October saw little change in the number of ships unloaded daily, but it saw much change in method. At the beginning of the month there were 42 berths available and 31 working; at the close of the month there were 52 available and 39 working. Railroad facilities were increased, and at the end of October, 6508 cars (all types) 108 Yard and 149 Road Engines were in operation. The pipe-line was making progress, and by 10 November, the 4-inch line was in use to Lyon, and the 6-inch as far as Livron.

#### ADJUSTMENTS

In the heritage of Delta Base Section was the making of a monthly Narrative Report, the files of which stood as a current record of the doings of Deltabase. According to this report the first month developed most of the characteristic problems, opened quests for solution.

To begin with, there were the every day problems connected with discipline. There were few Court Martial cases for October, and the theory was advanced that heavy work and long hours during establishment were responsible for the good behavior of the troops. On the other hand, says the Report, «Venereal Diseases were prevalent in the area and especially in the city of Marseille». Thirty-one licensed houses had been closed. Adequate Prophalactic Stations were set up, and an educational campaign undertaken. There was also the black market, which furnished a special outlet in gasoline and cigarettes. The process of control regulations and investigations were stepped up, with 46 investigations, 36 convictions, and the recovering of over \$4,000 value in goods. Traffic Control also came in for progress. The familiar practice of placing the MPH signs on the back of all DBS vehicles began in the first month of its history.

Conservation was a big category in War-making during the early days of Delta, and the new Section did its share. To conserve Motor transport, six restoration and repair points were made between Marseille and Lyon. To Speed up the return of salvaged materials to supply channels, arrangements were made with civilian agencies. French guards were used to prevent losses by pilferage. The use of civilians was one of the major ways of conserving man power. The training of this personnel was a big item, and the first month might be considered a civilian apprenticeship. A civilian truck pool of 250 vehicles and 500 drivers was built up. The use of



Italian Prisoners of War has already been mentioned and the progress of the War was bringing German prisoners into the picture.

A number of items entered into the routine operations of the Base Section, some of which were booked for a larger place in later months. During October, only 93 persons were evacuated to the Zone of the Interior; personnel able to perform useful service were not sent. Operation of the Staging Areas showed the arrival of 57,724 bodies and the departure of 28,939. Included in these figures were the 100th and 103rd Infantry Divisions, and elements of the 14th Armored Division. A Detachment of the 2nd Replacement Depot operated in the Base Section area. Staging Area personnel was still operating a small Repatriation Center. As of 31 October, there were 2 General and 2 Station Hospitals in the area, with increases imminent, and plans laid for a Base Section Stockade.



## SERVICE UNDER SOLOC

In early November, Delta Base Section was transferred to the European Theatre of Operations, and became part of a new Command. It was the only Base Section transferred from one Theatre to another, and as a result, its History was somewhat different from that of any other Section. It was progeny of one Theatre and the step-child of another.

There was a basic shift in higher command. COMZONE MTOUSA was deactivated and absorbed into MTOUSA. The Commanding General, key personnel, and major portions of Sections were formed into a new command and transferred to ETOUSA. This new command was the Southern Line of Communications, with Headquarters at Dijon. With higher Headquarters in France, COMZONE ADVANCE was absorbed, and Delta Base Section came under the new ETOUSA unit, SOLOC. Continental Advance Section, and a different type unit, the First Military Railway Service, along with Delta Base, made up the new higher command. It comprehended those parts of ETOUSA, and that part of the Supply Service of the Western Front that had been projected from the North African-Mediterranean Theatre.

The transfer of units and territory gave ETOUSA two ways by water, to the Zone of the Interior — the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Delta Base Section was the key to the Mediterranean.

### DEVELOPMENT OF HEADQUARTERS

The shift from one Theatre to the other made no marked change in development patterns. Deltabase came under ETOUSA personnel policy immediately. However, supply procedures under SOLOC remained essentially the same as developed in NATOUSA — MTOUSA.

### PERSONNEL

When transferred to ETOUSA, Delta Base Section carried an allotment of 170 Officers, 10 Warrant Officers, and 478 men. Anticipating the transfer, ETOUSA made a small allotment to Deltabase. This was for 10 Officers and 20 enlisted men to cover a Liaison Group, and introduced to Deltabase records a group known as Detachment «L».

On 20 November SOLOC came into immediate control, applying ETOUSA personnel policy. Delta Base Section was required to submit to higher headquarters Manning Charts with section break-down, and also a request for any additional personnel needed. On 30 December a new Table of Allotment was granted authorizing 248 Officers, 12 Warrant Of-

fficers and 588 enlisted men. A small change in allotment was made on 11 January, and on 25 January Delta Base published its first official Table of Organization.

But personnel in a command is never static, changes came immediately. Two small additions were made in favor of Judge Advocate and Civil Affairs Sections. Then, in January came big developments. The prospect of the end of War in Europe put special emphasis on Delta Base Section for Redeployment, especially to the Pacific. By the close of January an expansion plan had matured. With it went the disbanding of SOLOC, and with that the availability of a large group of experienced personnel. On 9 February Delta Base Section was given a new allotment which amounted to 363 Officers, 25 Warrant Officers and 1037 enlisted men.

The fact cannot be passed without mention that the first WAC's in Delta Base Section came as treasure trove from SOLOC. This group was made up of 4 Officers and 65 enlisted women. Of this, 3 Officers and 48 enlisted women were Signal, Communications personnel.

#### STAFF SECTIONS

The structure of Headquarters as represented in Staff Sections underwent normal development during the weeks under SOLOC jurisdiction. A Deputy Chief of Staff was added to the Command Group and Lt. Col. James A. Gaston, formerly G-3, selected for the job. Also, a telescoping of sections took place when Special Services was made a sub-section of G-1, and the Base Purchasing Agent a subordinate of G-4. In December, the Financial Section, renamed Fiscal Section, was placed on full Staff Section status, and Major Oscar M. Lewis began his work as Base Fiscal Officer. Special Service came in for another change in January when it was superceded by the new Special and Information Service Section. Lt. Col. Charles C. Finnegan was put in charge of the new Section. There were chronic changes of head in the Petroleum Section, averaging one a month.

There was also changes in the Administrative Sections. The Miramas Depot District was set up with Colonel Charles J. Johnson as Commanding Officer. Next came the United States Riviera Recreational Area under Colonel Warren E. Pugh, and then the Lyon Depot with Colonel Austin N. Higgins in command.

Evolution of organization of Headquarters was marked by the publication of an official organization chart on 23 December. In February, just as the SOLOC land-slide was being assimilated, a second chart was authorized.

#### ADMINISTRATION

The Base Section was a housekeeper as well as a supply agency, and the growth of Deltabase was reflected immediately in the development of housekeeping-type Administration. In close-in administration of Headquarters, the Headquarters Command had been set up 1 November. There



*CAPT. VANNAUKER — G-4*



*COFFEE AFTER V-E DAY CELEBRATION*



*WAC'S RELAX AT VILLA*



*WAC'S HAVE GARDEN*

**WAC'S IN DELTA BASE**

was a normal attrition of functions performed by Headquarters Commandant, and close affiliation with Area «A» Marseille District.

The development of «District» Administration was one of the most, if not the most, important one of the period. The Districts had been inherited, and it has been noted that they were organized under Sections of the Headquarters. The policy, really system, of district administration used by Deltabase was worked out during the period of SOLOC jurisdiction. The areas were redesignated «Districts» 29 December, when Areas «A», «B», «D» became Marseille, Lyon and Riviera respectively. Just what was included in district administration might be left for inclusion in the History of the several Districts.

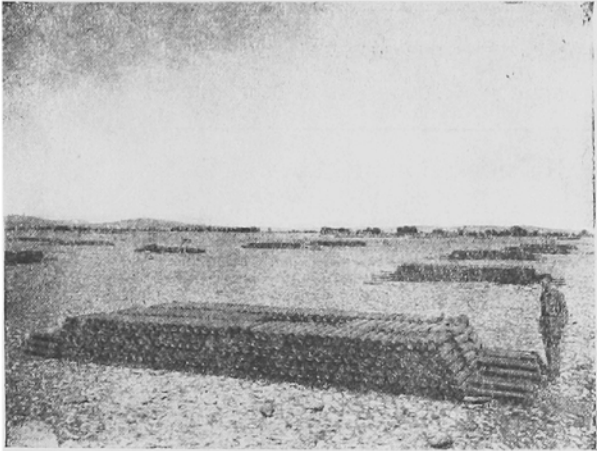
There was expansion by the way of creation of more districts. On 15 December, the Miramas Depot District was established. This was carved out of Area «A», included the region around the Village of Miramas in which was developing the greatest concentration of dumps and warehouses in Europe, and had policy antecedents in the group system rather than district administration. Another area was set up officially, 20 January. This was the United States Riviera Recreational Area, a project that had been in the making for several months. It was carved from the territory of the Riviera District and the District Commander remained in charge of the new Recreational area.

The administration policy of the Base Section was best reflected in the *Group System*. This was announced 18 November in Circular Number 9, *Administration of Base Section*, and was incorporated bodily into Circular No. 1 — *The Regulations of Delta Base Section*. As a principle it was carried beyond district formation. The larger Service units came within the meaning of the policy and the 6th Port, the 70th Quartermaster Base Group, and the 231st Ordnance Base Depot assigned administrative control of the units in their vicinage.

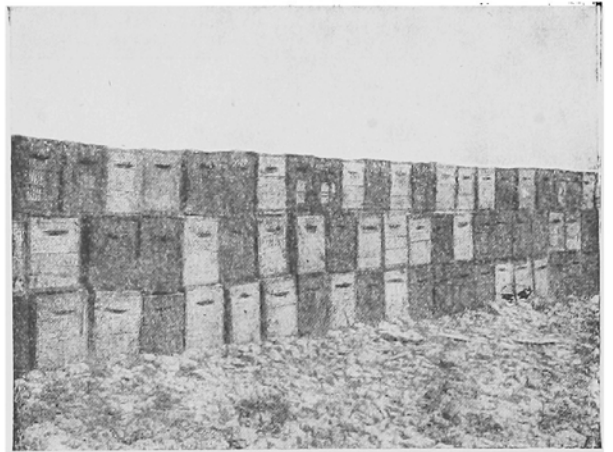
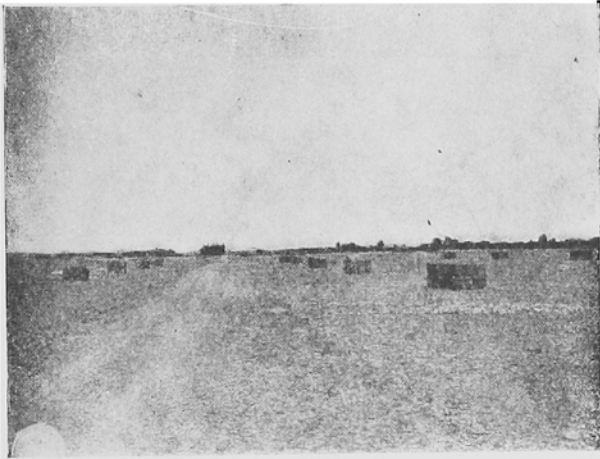
Another practice developed, that of handling personnel by «detachments». This applied to the Administrative Sections, was used on any detached personnel, and was the initial method used when WAC's were added to the sections of Deltabase.

## STRUCTURE

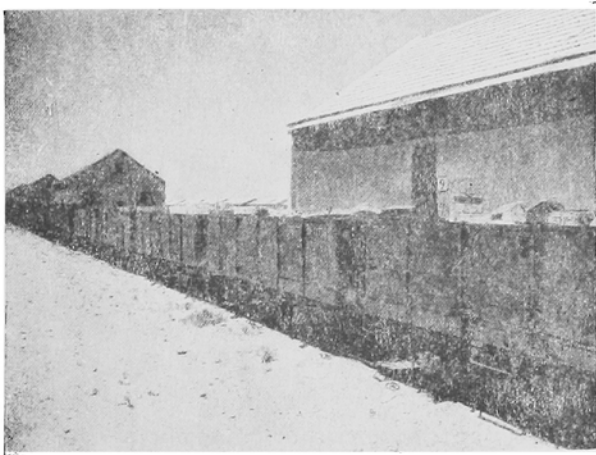
The make-up of the Base Sections did not change in its essentials. There were some additions to the Service Troop list, and some subtractions, but the original components became «stand-by's». The processing and sending forward of Service Troops was one of the Base Section's important functions, but it didn't change the pattern of the permanently assigned units. The number of units in the command during the months December — February were:



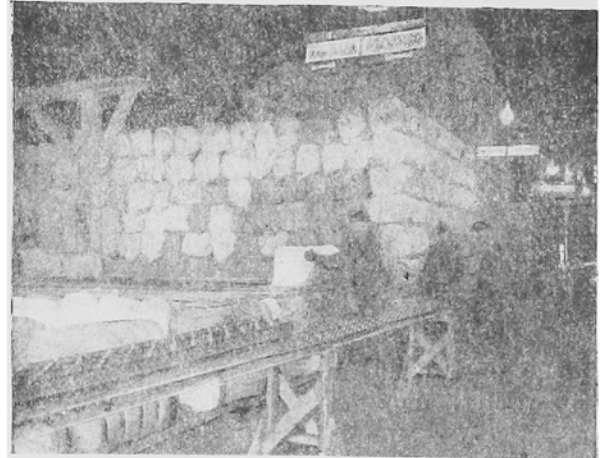
AMMO — DUMPS AT MIRAMAS



AMMO — DUMPS AT MIRAMAS



LOADING ORDNANCE



WAREHOUSE 55A QM DEPOT

**SUPPLIES IN DELTA BASE SECTION**



	I Assigned					II Assigned, Attached Elsewhere					III Attached Assigned Elsewhere				
	15 Dec	31 Dec	15 Jan	31 Jan	15 Feb	15 Dec	31 Dec	15 Jan	31 Jan	15 Feb	15 Dec	31 Dec	15 Jan	31 Jan	15 Feb
CWS	2	4	4	4	4										
ENGR	21	22	22	22	25	3	6	5	5	5	4	2	7	7	7
MED	15	17	23	27	25	4	4	6	6	5	11	12	8	9	32
ORD	29	31	32	32	36						4	1			1
POL	8	8	7	7	6	1									
QM	29	30	32	33	35	6	6	6	5	6	5	3	4	4	4
SIG	9	11	11	17	17						1	2	6	5	5
TPN	78	86	85	88	89	6	6	6	6	6	17	7	7	11	12
H.CMD	4	4	4	4	5										
'AAA															
APU	7	7	8	8	6										
BAND	1	2	2	2	2										
FIN	5	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	1					
MIS											1	1	1	1	1
MRU				1	1						1	1	1		
PMG	13	14	24	25	27	1		2	2	2	10	18	27	29	27
SPEC	3	3	4	4	4						1	5	5	8	16
FA													1	1	1

*A representative total of American Troops for the month of February was: 47, 321*

The non-American components remained an important part of the command. The French 901 Base continued in its co-functional position. The Yugoslavs continued housekeeping, and the use of Italian Service Units continued, with some growth. There was a large field of development in the use of German Prisoners of War. Their numbers increased greatly and their employment became a matter of policy formation. On 15 February there were 120 units, broken down in assignment to: Civil Affairs 1, Engineers 30, Medical 8, Ordnance 16, Petroleum 5, Quartermaster 3, Signal 3, and Transportation 27.

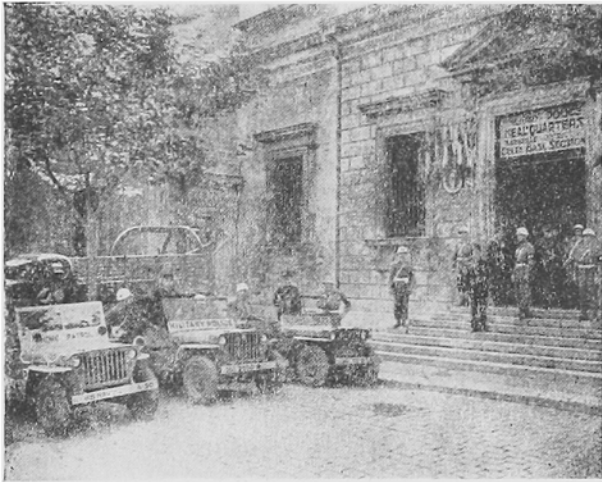
The «Narrative Report» chronicled the events at Deltabase for the entire period under SOLOC jurisdiction and used the categories originally established. In that of discipline, the reports still insisted that it was a major problem. The number of Court-Martial cases was not large. There was a hiatus in General Court operations during most of November be-



*SEEN ABOUT MARSEILLE*



*RESPONSE TO WIRE REEL DRIVE*



*MP HEADQUARTERS*



*TIRE CONSERVATION POSTER*



*QM SALVAGE*



*GI SHOPPING CENTER OPENS*

cause of a snarl in authorization, and the result was a back-log of cases. Meantime, Merchant Seamen were the occasion for a growing business. November showed 257 cases, with fines totaling \$13,960, and figures for December showed a slight increase.

*Traffic Control* was handled in the method already set up. A series of roadblocks were established, and were reported, at the end of November, as doing good work in recovering lost vehicles. A system of checking both drivers and vehicles was developed, but in spite of it, thefts in November showed 198 losses, and there was an increase in December. In January, the tire conservation campaign was netting a still closer check on vehicles.

The problem of *Veneral Disease* remained chronic. Reports for November showed 35 units out of 149 reporting as having excessive rates, with colored three times the white. Establishment of PRO Stations, education campaigns and «off limits» techniques were used and fully developed. December saw a program of publishing names of units with excessive rates and curtailment of passes and privileges, and it was reported as working well. Then came the holidays, and on 10 January there was a control conference at Delta Base Section, As a result, G-5 sought greater cooperation from the French authorities, and more areas were put «Off Limits».

Then there was *conservation* — conservation of material and supplies, and conservation of man-power. The measures already set up to conserve material were further promoted. In November, in vehicle maintenance, a campaign to correct minor defects was begun on the theory that «a stitch in time saves nine». To relieve pressure on Ordnance, qualified organizations were authorized to do their third echelon maintenance, and further civilian facilities were acquired. The program was augmented in December by the great tire conservation campaign. Delta Base Section made impressive use of Burma-Shave type signs in the Marseille area.

*Black Market* control was one of the chief problems in preventing leakages of supplies. The nature of the great Port town of Marseille plus the nature of the troop make-up of the Base Section combined to make the control of the black market a primary problem. Strict check on requisitions, on truck traffic, and investigations by CIC were the chief reliances for control. Common pilferage and ways and means to check it made another aspect of black market problem. Report as of 25 November showed a total of 2,345 arrests and a recovery value of \$4,733.00. December showed an added 1,027 arrests and a recovery value of \$71,550.00. Also it was necessary to inaugurate a follow-up system to see that French citizens involved were sufficiently punished. January saw the curtailment of dealing in blue seal money by establishing a Class B agent in the staging area to pick up blue seal from new arrivals. Also, the punishment of French civilians involved in Black market deals was shifted to jurisdiction of the French Military.

*Salvage* played an increasing roll in the conservation program. The use of reclaimed lumber gained in November, and the sending of unusable vehicles to repair shops further back was facilitated. The sale of waste products locally picked up, and there was gain in number of laundries, repair shops, etc. The development continued into December, which month also brought in the use of large amounts of captured German material. Acquisition and installation of modern tools stepped up ordnance repair to a figure that was impressive. There was a Theatre-wide drive to rescue jerricans and wire-reels, and a Deltabase drive to salvage packing boxes. Briefly, and as a conclusion, the salvage function reached full growth in the Base Section in January.

There remains in the agenda of conservation of material the item of *local procurement*. The Services operated individually in this matter and their story belongs properly to the History of the Sections involved. The securing of supplies locally was tied up with French allocation in Paris, and involved some red-tape. In December a Local Resources Board was appointed by the 70th Quartermaster Group. In January, local procurement made a good showing: Ordnance procured 25,000 gallons of alcohol; Signal \$16,109 of equipment; Quartermaster \$251,243, estimated at a saving of 3301 ship tons, and Engineers got 55,890 tons of material, mostly crushed rock.

The conservation of *man-power* loomed large in the period. All practices used formerly were continued. The on-the-job training of French civilians continued. By mid-November a total of 16,525 were employed in the Base. By 16 December this number had mounted to 20,748 employed for the most part by 6th Port and Quartermaster. French authorities expressed a wish that expansion be curbed in order that civilians be absorbed into industry. The demand for civilian labor had pretty well stabilized in January and the source was also pretty well exhausted. Satisfactory negotiations with French authority and with Labor were current.

The employment of Italian Prisoners of War remained one of the great sources of man-power conservation. At the close of November there was a total of 133 company-size units, 42 of which were in CONAD. The total was 22,000, of which 18,000 were on duty in Delta Base. The employing agency was the 6830th Technical Service Regiment using in this service 168 Officers and 281 enlisted men. Of these, 47 Officers and 155 enlisted men were CONAD. The employment of Italians was an established practice, the problem was in development of Administration of these units.

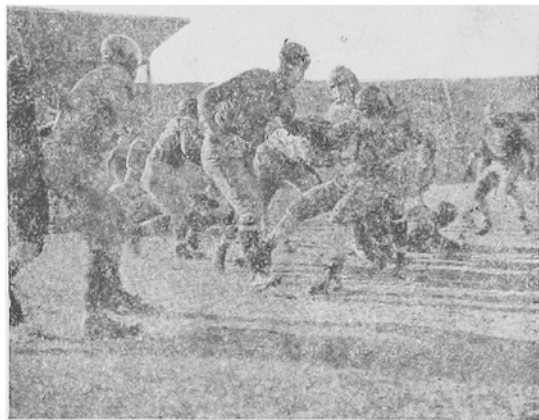
Then the German Prisoners of War began to pile up as a source of labor. In December, 142 Companies were in process of organization. The prisoners were classified as to skills and the units assigned to appropriate Services. A table of organization of 212-man companies was used. By the

end of January all 142 companies in project were requisitioned by the Services, and 108 had been filled, 106 shipped, two waiting, and 34 still unfilled.

The historian of the earlier days of Deltabase, in the Narrative Report, included a section on Operations. In this he carried a number of things not covered in the work of any particular section. In these operations, in November, the staging Areas showed 20,510 arrivals, 23,762 departures and a daily strength of 16,500. December saw a larger number; the Regiments of the 42nd, 63rd and 70th Infantry Divisions arrived and were equipped. In January, elements of three more Infantry Divisions were staged, but the total of 13,592 arrivals and 4,221 departures was much under December. During the period there was considerable organizing and processing units in the Supply Service. Most of the material came from AAA units assigned to the Section.

Evacuation to the Zone of the Interior began to assume importance in the period. This consisted of psychos and wounded requiring more than 90 days hospitalization. In December, all lifts were ordered filled, even if necessary to take patients scheduled for less than 90 days hospitalization. During January, 1703 patients were evacuated. At the same period Delta Base Section was cooperating with SHAEF in the repatriation program.

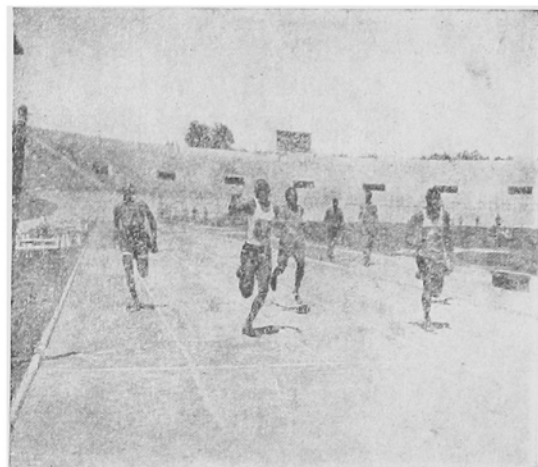
But there must be an end to the things included in operations. The supply work went on, and the Technical services rendered account for it. Sections performing specialties will render their own account.



RIVIERA BOWL FOOTBALL GAME  
1 JANUARY '45



*GENERAL RATAY PRESENTS  
ATHLETIC AWARDS*



*SGT. MOORE WINS 100 METER DASH  
TRACK MEET, 4 JULY '45 AT MARSEILLE*

## SERVICE UNDER COMZONE ETOUSA

The dissolution of SOLOC introduced a new period of the Supply Mission Phase of Deltabase History. SOLOC had been a sort of intermediate command in COMZONE ETOUSA. It controlled and collated all the elements that had come from NATOUSA — MTOUSA, but once the establishment was effected, and ways and means worked out, there was no longer any logic in the retention of SOLOC. As a result, it was discontinued effective midnight 12 February, and the units that composed it came directly under COMZONE.

The new period, introduced by the passing of SOLOC, in the nature of the case, entailed several items of change. Delta Base Section came directly under COMZONE for Administration. It also meant the absorption of a large quota of personnel loosed by the defunct SOLOC Command. Transactions were now direct, and Delta Base Section was the ETOUSA door-way to the Mediterranean.

### **OPERATIONAL SUMMARY:**

The period, 12 February to 12 May, saw the War to a Victorious conclusion but it made little fundamental change in the position of Delta Base Section. It remained the intake for supplies that went forward to the 6th Army Group. Continental Advance Section displaced forward as the Armies advanced, and Burgundy Intermediate Section began operations at Dijon. The changes nearer the front affected very little the operations of Delta Base Section.

The progress of the war, as it neared its close, was such as to increase certain kinds of work done by Delta Base Section. The increase in Prisoners of War taken, made corresponding increased activity in handling them.



The release of Nationals of various countries increased repatriation work done by the Base Section. The job of rearming the French had been allocated to Delta Base Section and resulted in one of the most important developments of the period in the Lyon Depot District. Delta Base Section also increased in importance in the role of morale builder for the Theater. The development of the United States Riviera Recreational Area was a unique feature in Delta Base Section during the period.

There were some significant policy changes during the period from the dissolution of SOLOC to VE-Day. One of the most important was the transfer to ETOUSA Supply procedures. Another significant development, within COMZONE ETOUSA, and reflected in the Base Section, was the setting up of a «Control» program. A Control Division was established in Headquarters COMZONE ETOUSA, and SOLOC personnel with experience in the field was transferred to it. A Control Section was added to the structure of Delta Base Headquarters.

Towards the end of the operational phase, developments began to anticipate the end of the war in Europe. Staff Sections concerned made plans for redeployment. A program of expanding the Staging Areas to meet the prospective need was completed. Procedures in handling supplies reflected the possibilities of transshipment to the East. Delta Base Section was ready for action when the flow of men and material turned, and came down, instead of going up the Rhone Valley.

#### **DEVELOPMENT OF HEADQUARTERS**

Developments in Headquarters for the period were marked by two things. First, it was a period of expansion in numbers. Second, it was a time of attainment of maturity in structure and function.

Delta Base Section began the period with a large increase of personnel available from the disintegration of SOLOC. This was covered in the allotment of 9 February and included 363 Officers, 25 Warrant Officers and 1037 enlisted men, together with the 6839th WAC Headquarters Company. This was an overhead unit of 4 Officers and 65 enlisted women.

COMZONE also brought Deltabase more directly under control for personnel administration. First, it required the submission of manning charts of the Sections. Then, on 27 February, COMZONE gave Deltabase a Table of Organization, the first it had had presented by higher headquarters. This provided for 18 Sections with a total of 252 Officers, 18 Warrant Officers and 245 enlisted men. A Branch Immaterial allotment of 134 Officers, 12 Warrant Officers and 452 enlisted men was included, General and Administrative Sections, with the few Special Sections not included in the Table of Organization drew their personnel from the Branch Immaterial list. The G-1 function for the Headquarters was mostly juggling the grades and ratings in this branch immaterial column. Delta Base Section had, as of 27 February a grand total of 386 Officers, 30 Warrant Officers and 1,413 enlisted men.



GENERAL RATAY WITH COLONEL GUNN, DIRECTOR RIVIERA RECREATIONAL AREA, APRIL '45



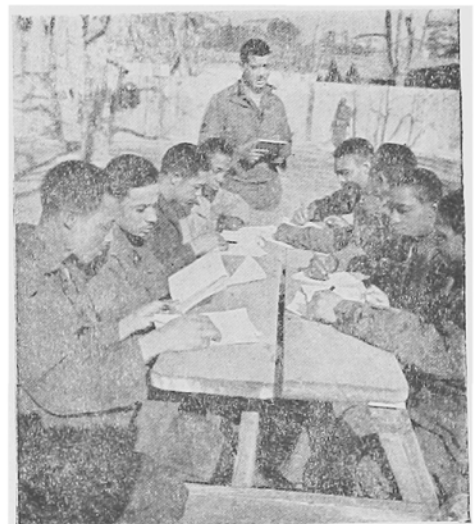
MARGIE STEWART SELLS BONDS ON THE RIVIERA



SOLDIERS FROM SAME TOWN MEET ON RIVIERA



DISPLACED FAMILY REPATRIATED THROUGH DBS



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN DELTA BASE SECTION

There were small items of policy and adjustment of interest to some who served at Delta Base. The WAC unit was absorbed and became an integral part of Headquarters personnel. There were various attempts to acquire additions of personnel for special purposes. The period marked a personnel climax in Deltabase History.

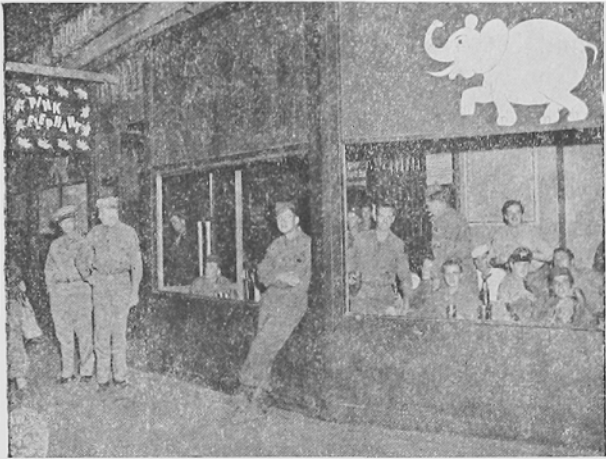
There was a change in the structure of the Headquarters. Claims Teams had operated in the Section from the beginning, but Claims was not set up as an official section of Headquarters until under COMZONE ETOUSA, Colonel Ray C. Thomas was announced as Base Claims Officer. The Statistical Section was redesignated Control Section 28 February, and on 29 March, Major Edward L. Bloom was announced Section head. In March, the Petroleum Section was closed out, its functions divided three ways: Quartermaster, Military Pipeline Service, and Transportation. Personnel went to Quartermaster Section. In April, Special and Information Service was pulled apart and set up as Information and Education and Special Service Section. Major Richard B. Belser and Lt. Col. Charles C. Finnegan were section heads. Also, in April the Military Labor Service was established Lt. Col. Austin F. Gilmartin was Section head. The personnel of 5th Labor Supervision Area made up the working section without change of designation. Within the Command Group a Liaison and visitors Bureau was created in March.

There was some change in Heads of Sections already established. Lt. Col. Thomas K. Lynch became G-1 after Lt. Col. Lopus was made head of the Control Section and sent to the States. Major Mark Finley became Public Relations Officer in March. In April, Lt. Col. James C. Conine became Transportation Officer, and in May, 4 days before the War ended, Colonel James E.B. Mc Inerney became Ordnance Officer. In March, Colonel Malcolm H. Harwell became Commanding Officer of the Lyon District. In April, the command was passed to Colonel William R. Schaeffer, and Colonel Charles F. Poe became Commander of the Lyon Depot.

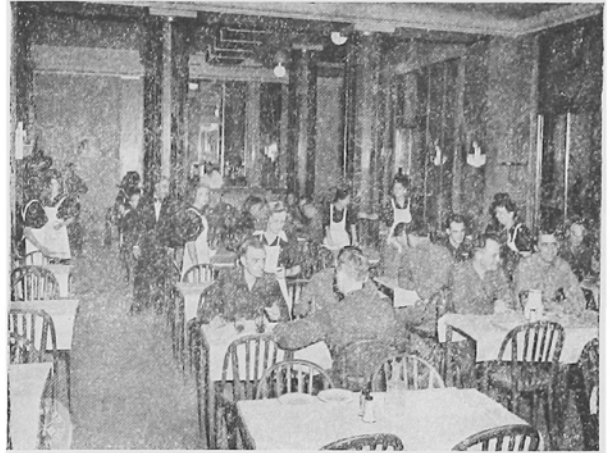
A control project, just as the War closed, required each Section to produce an organizational and functional chart, which required a little operational introspection. At the same time, an organizational chart of Headquarters was published which showed the structure of Delta Base Section at its Height.

#### PROCEDURES

By the middle of February 1945, Delta Base Section Headquarters was functionally mature. In spite of the absorption of SOLOC personnel, and significant developments that came at the same time, very little change or modification in procedures was necessary. Consequently, staff procedures changed little from those prescribed in Circular No. 1. In the field of Supply Service procedures, little significant change was made in spite of the fact that the dissolution of SOLOC brought Beltabase directly under COMZONE ETOUSA.



*THE PINK ELEPHANT ON CANEBIERE*



*LINDER, JUNIOR OFFICER'S MESS*



*AMERICAN BEER IN MARSEILLE*



*PX-OFFICER'S CLOTHING STORE*



*DINING ROOM LACITOT RECREATION HOTEL*

In the realm of Staff procedures, developments reflected the increase of personnel which made possible bigger and better operations in many sections. Also there was the steady flow of addition to and amendments of the provisions of Circular No. 1. The accumulated change was rounded into a new compendium of regulations which superseded the basic Circular. This was Circular No. 30, 14 April, «Base Section Directives».

For Supply Service procedures, the dissolution of SOLOC brought Delta Base Section under ETOUSA Supply Policy. This naturally resulted in an adjustment problem, since there was a difference in policy between SOLOC and ETOUSA. The SOLOC Policy had developed in the long sweep of supply operations in support of the African and Italian Campaigns. The ETOUSA Policy had developed in the United Kingdom and had in it modifications developed from experience in the Invasion of France. The ETOUSA directive in force when SOLOC jurisdiction ceased, was Standing Operating Procedure No. 7: Supply Procedure on the Continent, 2 February 1945.

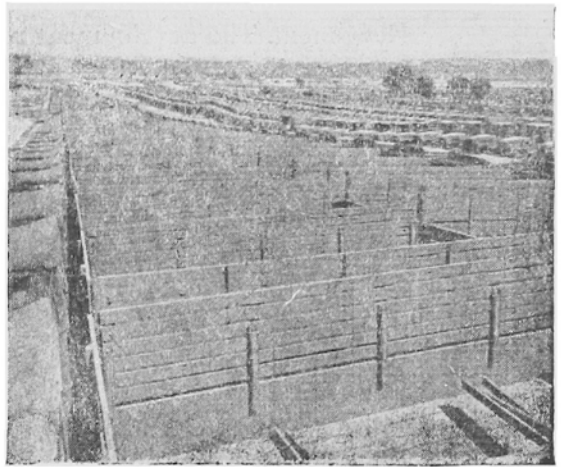
The transition was a gradual process, worked out on a day by day operational basis. The procedure of Deltabase gradually became those of ETOUSA. On 19 March 1945, ETOUSA published *Standing Operating Procedure No. 7: The Depot Supply System and Requisitional Procedures*, which superseded that of 2 February 1945.

The Administration aspect of Deltabase development during the period was probably its most significant. Several items incident to Headquarters Command can be used for a beginning. The Headquarters Commandant retained his large administrative function, but lost some supply work to District jurisdiction. The WAC's were incorporated into the administrative system built up in the Headquarters Command, but continued, nominally, the 1st WAC Detachment «for Administrative purposes only».

In the development of Districts, this period saw the working out and putting into operation on a larger scale, the United States Riviera Recreational Area. This rates its own story in the History of Delta Base Section, but it is also worth a look at Base Section level. Stress on morale building had long been a practice with the American Army, and the tense nature of the Present War put it at a premium. The Riviera was world famous as a playground, its possibilities were immediately recognized. Thus, Delta Base Section became the directing agency of the greatest recreational and morale-building project of this or any War.

In administrative category came also the product of the French Rearmament program. This was the establishment of the Lyon Depot. It was a special development, for a special purpose, and has a history of its own. The Rearmament program had its ramifications in Headquarters as well, when G-4 created a special sub-section to handle French Supply.

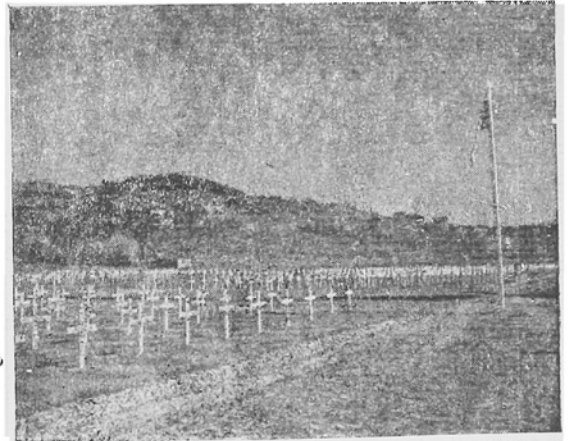
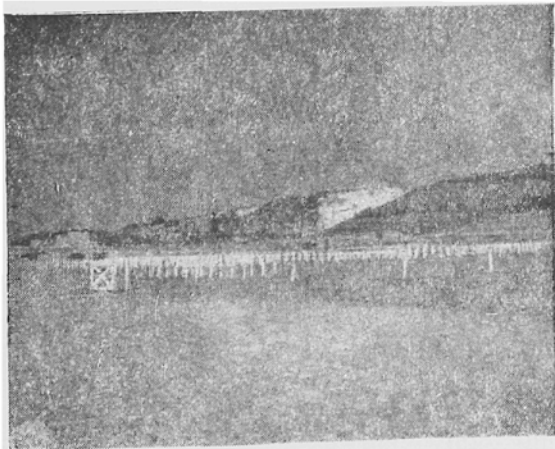
An interesting application of Area Administration policy came in the establishment of the 5th Labor Supervision Area on 23 February. Its func-



*TANKS AND TRANSPORTION READY TO LEAVE FRANCE*



*MONUMENT TO AMERICAN DEAD OF WAR NO. 1*



*PART OF FRANCE THAT WILL BE FOREVER AMERICA  
MILITARY CEMETARY AT MONTILEMAR*

tion was the outgrowth of the work of the 6830th Technical Supervision Regiment. The development reached sufficient scope to be tied into Headquarters, in April, by the creation of the Labor Service Section.

## STRUCTURE

There was little change in structure during the period, as applied to troop units. There were some additions to the units that made the troop lists of the Section, and too, a few losses. Several Table of Organization Administrative units were activated, and a special item was the organization of a number of provisional administrative units. There was continuation of full scale operations in breaking up Ground Force Units and activating and processing Service Units from them. The business of activating and assigning German Prisoner of War Units continued full force. A change in Table of Organization in procedures was adopted.

## INSTALLATIONS

Most of the development of installations in Deltabase was part of the History of the Section that directed the unit concerned. Likewise, in the various District Commands, there was constant up-building and growth. This was especially true in the Lyon Depot District. One significant development was the building of facilities in the Staging Area with a target capacity of 70,000 by VE-Day.

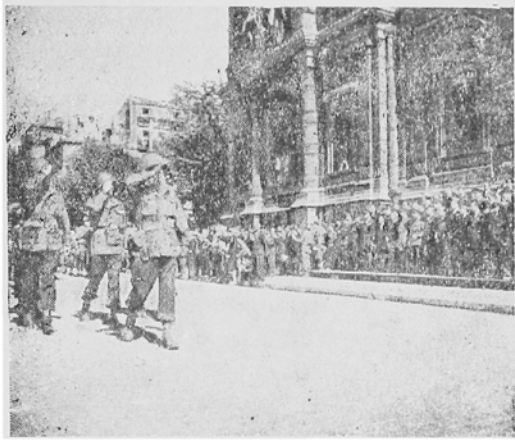
The coming of Prisoners of War into the Base Section resulted in the addition of two fixed U.S. Army Hospital Plants in Delta Base Section. These were added to the list of numerically designated Plants by General Orders No. 40, 5 April 1945, and were Plant Number 4418 at Calas, and Number 4419 at Le Thalonet.

Another significant installation made during the period was the Continental Central Prisoner of War Enclosure No. 427. This was established by General Orders No. 46, 20 April 1945 and had been authorized by COMZONE ETOUSA, «Organization Order No. 248», 13 April 1945. It was located at St. Victoret and had a capacity of 40,000.

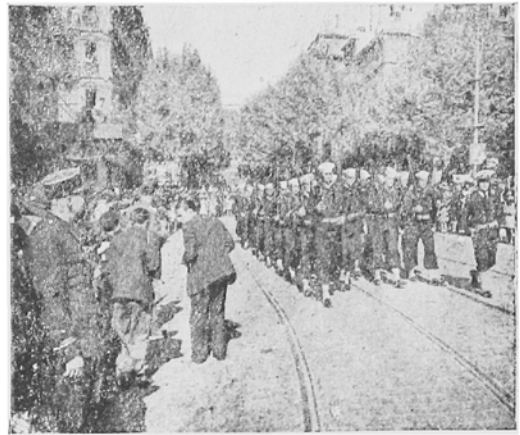
## OPERATIONS

With the dissolution of SOLOC the monthly «Narrative Report» ceased, and this valuable cross-section of operations at Headquarters level was no longer available for History purposes. Shortly afterward, the G-4 Periodic Report which contained much material of a similar nature was discontinued. Progress reporting took the place of the older record-making. These reports did not personalize, the problem aspects, and how things that were done, were done, did not appear.





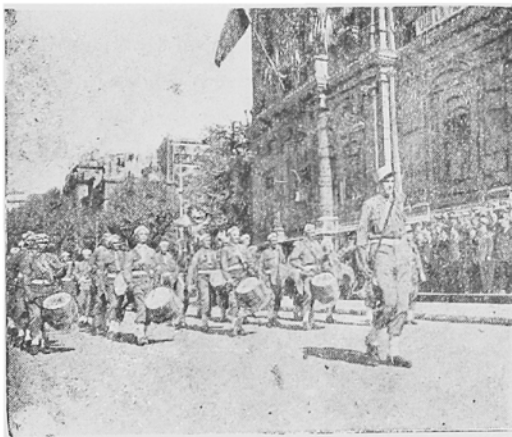
*AMERICAN TROOPS PASS  
THE PREFECTURE*



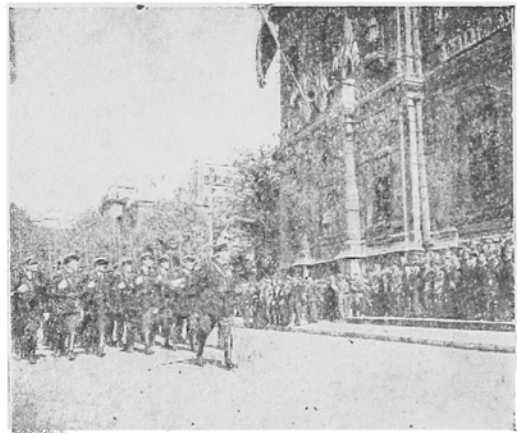
*AMERICAN SAILORS IN  
THE PARADE*



*MAN IN THE STREET BROADCAST*



*FRENCH AFRICAN TROOPS  
IN PARADE*



*THE GENDARMES PASS  
THE PREFECTURE*

**CELEBRATING V-E DAY IN MARSEILLE**

## THE REDEPLOYMENT PHASE

The Redeployment Phase of Delta Base History needs no definition. It is significant that Victory made little difference in the position of a Base Section. As a matter of fact it advanced the relative importance of the Base. The combat unit was through with its mission in Europe; it would use less equipment, but it still had to be fed and it had to be redeployed either to the States or to the East.

The position of Delta Base Section as ETOUSA outlet to the Mediterranean gave it a place of enhanced importance. All men and material sent from ETOUSA through the Mediterranean would be handled by Deltabase. After all direct shipments were cleared, there was still a practicable route to the States through Gibraltar. The position of Deltabase was stressed by Redeployment. ETOUSA cut down the number of Base Sections to two: Chanor, on the Atlantic, and Delta Base Section on the Mediterranean.

Events of the Redeployment Phase moved in an even sequence, and there were no distinct divisions or sub-phases in it. It began with plans made before VE Day and reached a climax with the closing of the first of the Staging Areas, that at Arles, and it ended when the last of the troops were redeployed. This left only the closing out phase, when DBS cleared its warehouses and released its personnel.

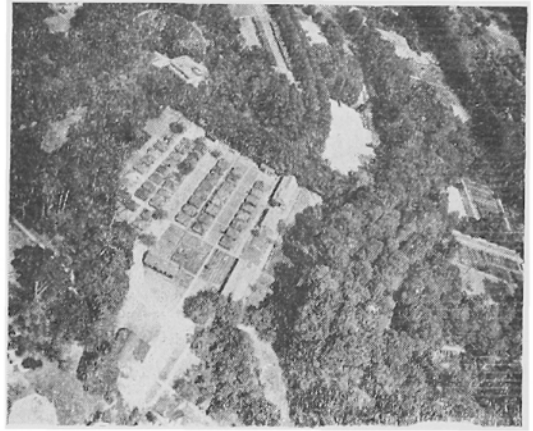
### HEADQUARTERS

Deltabase Headquarters was functionally mature when Redeployment began, and had already made adjustments in anticipation of the change in the job to be done. As a result, there were no great changes in store for Headquarters. With continued importance of mission, the Headquarters reached a climax in personnel and in functional efficiency during the period.

There was little change in personnel policy or in the structure of the Headquarters. COMZONE policy remained the same, and it continued to control most of the sections directly in Table of Organization allotments, as set up on 27 February. The Branch Immaterial group was also maintained for General Staff and other sections not specifically included. Under the policy, the chief duty of G-1 for the Headquarters was clearing special section allotments with COMZONE, and parcelling out Branch Immaterial grades and ratings to the sections not controlled directly by higher headquarters.



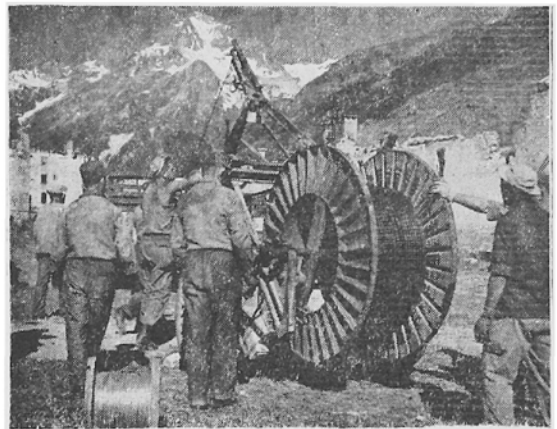
*ORDNANCE — 600*



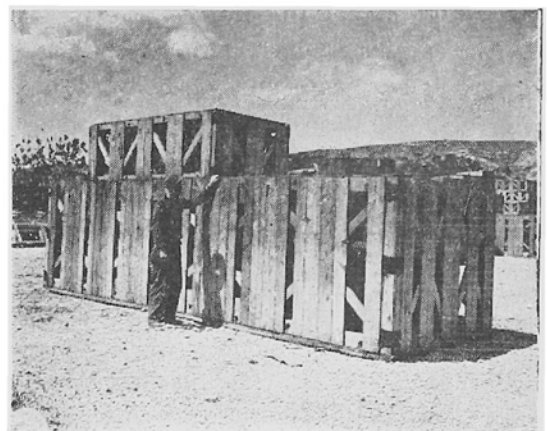
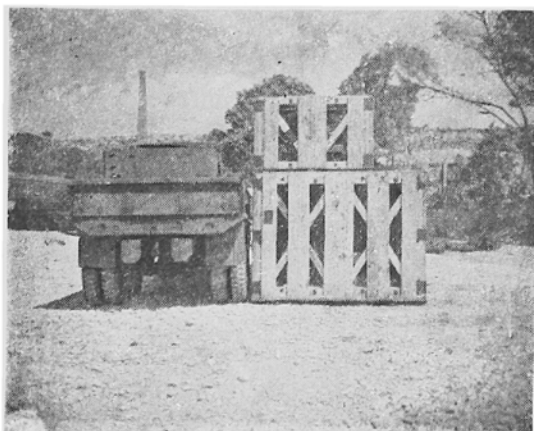
*3188 SIGNAL SERVICE BATTALION*



*ORDNANCE — 6008 AND STADIUM*



*SIGNAL TROOPS INSTALLING FRANCO-ITALIAN TOLL CABLE IN HIGH ALPS*



*CRATED AND READY TO GO*

**TECHNICAL SERVICES OPERATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS**

The personnel growth of Headquarters was constant under successive grants from COMZONE. On 13 May, the Branch Immaterial column was boosted by an increase of 5 Majors to serve as «leave train commanders». On 19 May the growth curve took a sudden upward turn with the addition of personnel from the dissolved 3rd Port Headquarters. This added to the Branch Immaterial column a total of 84 Officers and 335 enlisted men. In less than a month the column was on the up again. This time it gained 53 junior Officers and 51 enlisted men of 3rd and 4th grades. With those additions, Deltabase became a large Headquarters, and attained its greatest height in personnel expansion.

The various sections under COMZONE control received additions from time to time. This process was a matter pertaining to individual sections and is handled in the subsequent discussions of Sections. The cumulated allotment to Sections, plus the addition to the Branch Immaterial column brought Delta Base Section to its maximum in personnel. As of 15 August, the official closing date of the first Staging Area, that at Arles, the number stood:

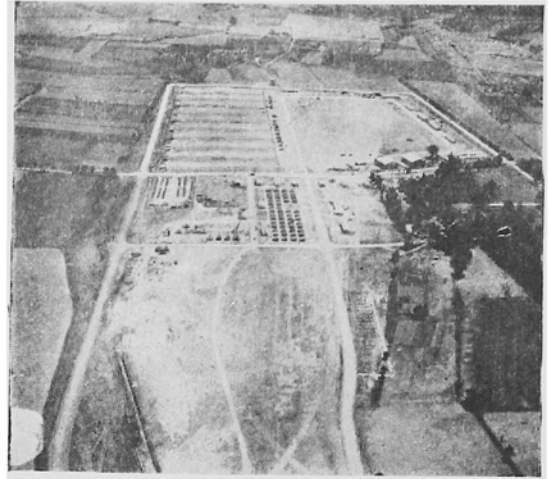
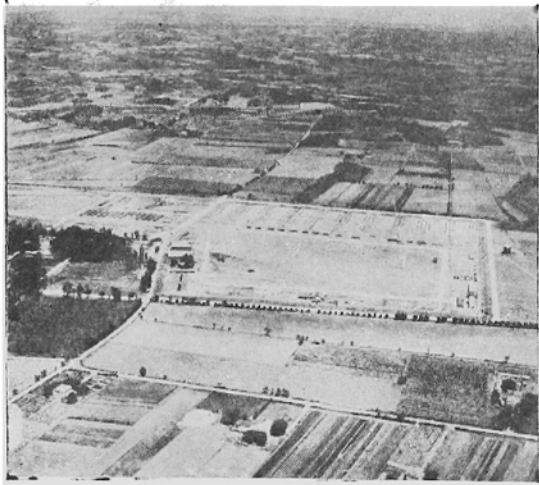
	OFFICERS	WARRANT OFFICERS	ENLISTED MEN
T/O	285	16	446
B.I.	276	12	833

The Sections, the basic structure of Headquarters, underwent little change during the period. Naturally, there was some change in personnel and modifications within Sections. On 26 May, Chief of Staff, Col. Royce P. Gerfen was announced Deputy Commander of Delta Base Section.

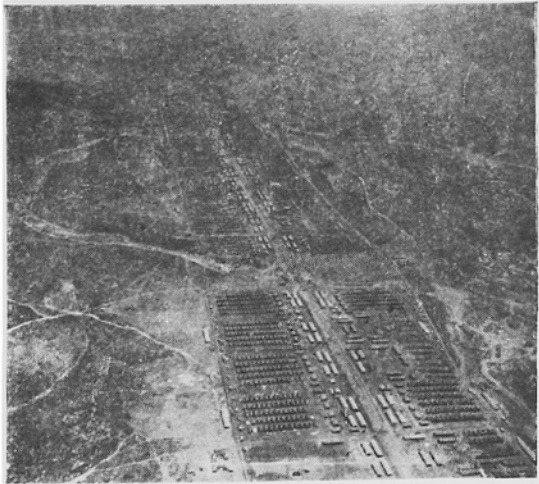
There was more shifting of Section heads during redeployment. This was necessary in some instances, to replace personnel returned to the States. A raise in rank was also discernable in new Section heads, related to availability of more rank made possible by early plans of Redeployment in the Theatre. On 24 May, Colonel William D. Schaefer, Commanding Officer of Lyon District, took over also the Command of the Lyon Depot. A month later, 23 June, Major Melvin M. Carmel was made Acting Base Purchasing Agent in place of Lt. Col. Lex, who returned to the States. Then, on 16 July, Major Patrick J. Winkler was announced Base Purchasing Agent. On 25 July, Major William R. Brown was announced Base Exchange Officer vice Lt. Col. Adler, returned to the States. Two changes of head in late July reflected the availability of more rank. Colonel Albert P. Baston became Ordnance Officer, and Colonel Thomas B. White headed the Military Labor Service Section.

### PROCEDURES

It was normal that procedures in a Headquarters functionally mature should change very little. The regulations contained in Circular No. 30, remained the body of laws for the command as applied to both procedures; the Staff Memorandum file remained thin. 25 June, Sunday hours were



*DISCIPLINARY TRAINING CENTER*



*CALAS STAGING AREA*

**IMPORTANT DELTA BASE INSTALLATIONS**

shortened to set the days work from 9:30 to 4:30, and half the day optional with the Section head. The use of the Circular series receded even more than the Staff Memoranda. Only 10 were published in the period, and none of those had more than incidental importance. The two publications, Staff Memos and Circulars, cumulated very little in addition to the contents of Circular No. 30.

The Headquarters settled down to government by the Daily Bulletin. Directive letters from higher Headquarters were put into effect through the Bulletin, and new Administrative regulations were published there. Officers and men watched the Bulletin for light and guidance. Redeployment questions became so pertinent that on 30 May a special section on *Redeployment of Personnel* was introduced, a feature that persisted for a month. Those who watched the Bulletin throughout the summer will recall how it gave information on turning in old issue Francs and getting new; how it adjusted the curfew laws in June, when the presence of redeploying troops increased nocturnal skirmishing. The Bulletin kept the command informed on areas not conducive to health and longevity, and marked «off limits». Besides the many regulations that came in the Bulletin, Deltabase personnel looked to it for daily Officer assignments and for the movie or USO Shows presented in Marseille.

Though change was not rapid or drastic, there was an accumulation of items not included in the body of the law, Circular No. 30. On 15 August, a circular to supercede No. 30 was on the press.

#### SUPPLY

Deltabase had made complete adjustment to COMZONE ETOUSA supply procedures, as laid down by SOP No. 7, and admendments. The change of situation, when Germany capitulated, did not result in any reversal or radical overhauling. Annex «E» on Quartermaster, and «G» on Transportation were published on 15 June, and 12 Changes had accumulated by 15 August. Interpretation and application of the new document fell largely to Technical Services and G-4.

#### CONTROLLING

One of the unique developments of the period was «Control». It was largely experimental, and doubtless will be one of the developments of the War that will be studied as a trial balloon. As already noted, Control was worked out in Delta Base Section in the months just prior to VE Day. Its chief mission was the collation of the many reports by which higher Headquarters controlled the Supply Services. In the original mission, it checked chiefly on established procedures, and with the reversal of situation, brought with VE Day, resulted in a corresponding shift of stress in Control. Stress was now put on fact-finding and centralizing information for the Chief of Staff. Control Sections were set up in major units, in the



*ST. VICTORET STAGING AREA*



*ARLES STAGING AREA*

**TEMPORARY STAGING AREAS, DELTA BASE SECTION**



6th Port and 70th Quartermaster Group, and injected as a function into the Staff Sections. Applied to redeployment, Control Sections were established in the Staging Areas. All these Sections centered information to Base Headquarters, and there, through Secretary of General Staff, it went to the top. Progress Reporting was continued, and «bigger and better» reports was the rule for the period.

### OPERATIONS

The coming of Victory in Europe made a complete change in the operational pattern of Delta Base Section. The section was mature as regards to structure and procedures. There was little need for internal adjustments, but there was a complete shift in the nature of the job to be done.

### HANDLING SUPPLIES

A complete readjustment in supply handling came when Redeployment began. Requisition of Supplies from the Zone of Interior was adjusted to meet the changed situation. The forward flow to the Advance Section readjusted in kind, receded in volume and ultimately, with, Redeployment, reversed in direction. Stocks in warehouses climaxed at this time and then began to decrease as supplies were poured out to Redeploying units. The Lyon Depot, with French Rearmament as its purpose, began a rapid decline, but was still intact on 15 August, and its closing out remained to be done. Stocks in the great depots at Miramas and Rognac began a decline, but there remained a huge shipping problem for a later phase of Deltabase operations. Smaller depots began to close by 15 August.

Redeployment gave packing and processing of supplies for shipment to the East a first priority. Anticipating the close of the War in Europe, shipping procedures had been modified to send materials forward, that would not stand re-shipment to the East, and hold that that was in condition to go. Also, conservation of packing cases was begun before Germany quit the War. Processing and packing material for shipment became a priority scarcely second to staging troops. German prisoners of War were found very effective, especially in crating work. A camp was established on the site of the Old Port slums, conveniently dynamited by the Germans and cleared by the French. The clatter of hammers, making crates, were heard around the clock, in the area. There too, the various Port Battalions entered into loading competition, and the contest was at its height when V-J Day deviated the flow of material.

### STAGING

Staging troops had been within the mission of Delta Base Section from the first, but with the coming of Redeployment and the transfer of troops to active Theatres, it became first priority. Deltabase was prepared to meet the situation. Before V-E Day the Staging Areas of the Base had been

put in shape to handle 70,000 troops. This objective was easily reached, and on time, but just as it was realized, a cable from COMZONE required 130,000 in addition to the initial figure of 70,000. Staging was to be a big, hurried job.

On 15 May the first step in officializing the greater staging program was taken. General Orders No. 56 provided for the reorganization of the 25th Staging Area Company in the vicinity of Calas, France, and redesignated it the 25th Staging Area Battalion (Prov). A Table of Assignment of personnel was furnished. It provided for 5 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer and 14 enlisted men in Battalion Headquarters. The body of the unit was broken into two columns: Unit Staging Group, and Casual Staging Group. The Unit Staging Group carried a total of 53 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer and 758 enlisted men; the Casual Group was provided with 33 Officers and 211 enlisted men. This gave the new unit an aggregate of 91 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers and 1022 enlisted men. The establishing order provided that additional personnel required would be furnished by DS from available sources. The staging unit was a large one, the enterprise undertaken was large scale. The reorganization made no change in command and Colonel J.T. Miesegeas remained Commanding Officer of the area.

On 24 May the 130 thousand additional capacity was cared for by the reorganization of two additional units. The first of these was the 26th Staging Area Battalion (Prov), organized in the vicinity of St. Victoret, with an initial strength of 66 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, and 568 enlisted men. The assignment of the personnel was prescribed by table, and the capacity was set at 30,000. The unit was directly under the 6th Port.

The same General Order organized also the 27th Staging Area Battalion. This was in the vicinity of Arles, had an initial strength of 225 Officers, 6 Warrant Officers and 1952 enlisted men. A table with break-down of assignments was supplied, and provisions made that the new unit have capacity of 100,000. The same general provisions applied as in the case of the 26th.

A christening was held on 25 May for the staging units born the 24th. General Orders No. 63 designated the Staging Areas of Delta Base Section:

NUMBER	DESIGNATION	LOCATION
Staging Area No. 1	Calas Staging Area	Vicinity Calas
Staging Area No. 2	St. Victoret Staging Area	Vicinity St. Victoret
Staging Area No. 3	Arles Staging Area	Vicinity Arles

The staging program at Delta Base Section became one of the big re-deployment enterprises in the Theatre. It involved great problems, and because of its intensity, entailed much inconvenience and discomfort. The idea got under way that Deltabase staging would be done in the beautiful Riviera country, and the expectancy of men to be redeployed through the

Mediterranean was edged. It was beautiful country but much of it wasn't coast line and sea vistas. The area was dry, the weather hot, and on some days the mistral blew. There were references, not subtle, to the Delta Dust Bowl.

Building, equipping, and making operational in so little time so large an enterprise was a tremendous story in itself. The construction problem alone was gigantic; then came the supply and transportation problems once a staging place was provided. And it was a perfect challenge to all the morale-building agencies of the Command. The Red Cross was faced with a job much larger than it was manned and equipped to handle; Special Service faced the problem of providing entertainment; and Information and Education found Staging a sterile ground. Bus lines were established into Marseille to bring in redeploying personnel to enjoy such recreational features as the city provided, and mix with the crowds on the Canebiere.

The handling of the Staging Areas was not left to Deltabase devices alone. Into the picture came the 66th Infantry Division to act as host unit for the areas until Redeployment was complete. The adjustment of administrative jurisdiction between Division and Base authority was another feature of Deltabase History in the Redeployment period. The Division was a combat outfit that had just come from the mission of containing the Germans in the Bordeaux Area. Combat-conscious, the men with the Black Panther patch on their shoulder mingled with the Base Troops in the vicinity of Marseille.

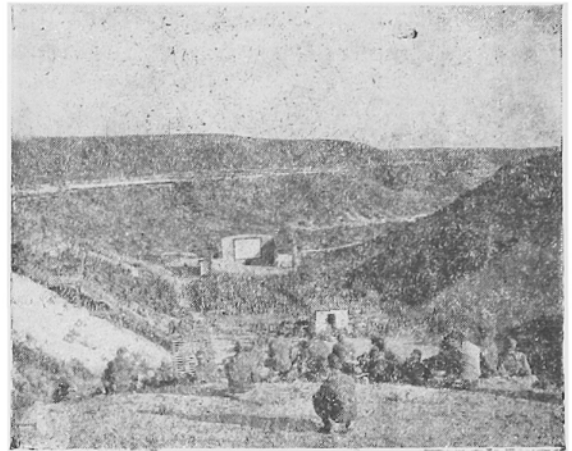
The staging job was also reflected in adjustment made in Deltabase Headquarters. G-3 faced the problem of training troops in staging, providing facilities rather than actually training the staging units. G-4 was the General Staff Section most directly affected since it had to build the units up to Table of Equipment strength as well as provide supplies for the area. The sub-section of G-4, organized to handle French Rearmament, was now used for the new job. In personnel, the pick-and-shovel job fell to Adjutant General. A separate group was set up to handle this, and established in the stable, shared by the Jugoslavs, near the Chaplain and Control Sections. Procedures were developed but the process was too intense and shifty to justify publishing an SOP. The units scheduled for the East rolled through. As of 15 August, the day the Arles Area was scheduled to close, the first Anniversary of Invasion of Southern France celebrated, and Japanese capitulation announced, 562 units and 123,108 personnel had cleared for active Theaters.

#### STAGING AIDS

The bringing of Service Troops into the Staging areas, processing and shipping them out, did not complete the story. It wasn't that easy, and there was a definite rebound throughout the entire Base. A great many facilitating agencies had to be set up — transient messes, camps, supply points, etc. One of the most important, and probably the best example of



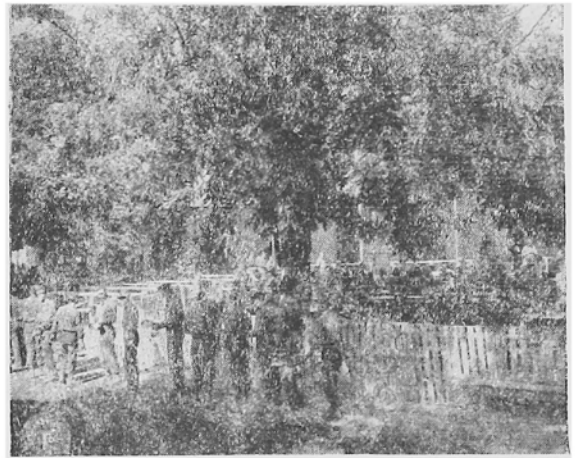
AT HEADQUARTERS



NATURAL STADIUM



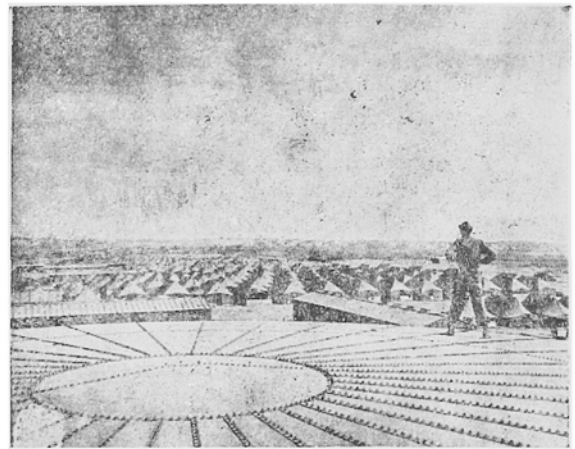
ON LAKE BERRE



A CHOW LINE



IN A KITCHEN



THE TENT CITY

**STAGING AT CALAS**

the process was the Intransient Camp at St. Rambert. On 12 July, Major Paul W. Davis was made Commander of the Camp.

#### SPECIALTIES

One of the greatest services of Delta Base Section during Redeployment was in the field of morale-building. This had its chief expression in the work of the U.S. Rest and Recreational Area. This was the biggest thing of its kind ever projected; it turned in figures that will remain impressive in a War of large figures. Brig. Gen. Riley F. Ennis took command in mid-August.

Another specialty, entirely a Redeployment project, was connected with the Educational Program. University Center Number 2 at Biarritz was set up and supplied by Delta Base Section. Besides the house-keeping job at Biarritz, the Base Section carried out an Educational program within the command. The story belongs to the Information and Education Section.

There were a number of things that were specialties with Delta Base Section, some were specialties unique to the Section.

#### CIVILIANS

The record of employment conformed to the general pattern of the period. Curtailment of employment had begun even before the surrender of Germany, and introduced a new phase in Section History. Bi-monthly reductions were made, and the reduction program made a regular report category for Control. As of 15 August, the Base still employed 16,248 French civilians. In the conservation of man-power, the civilian employment program in Delta Base Section must be recorded as highly successful.

#### DISPLACED PERSONS

The work of Deltabase in handling displaced persons was not abated by Redeployment. On 19 June, VOCC established RAMP Reception and Transient Camp No. 7, as of 2 May, and was confirmed and made a matter of record. It had a capacity of 3,000 rescued Allied Military personnel and ex-Prisoners of War. The repatriation program through the Mediterranean continued, and in late July, a shipment of Zionist Jews was sent to Palestine.

#### PRISONERS OF WAR

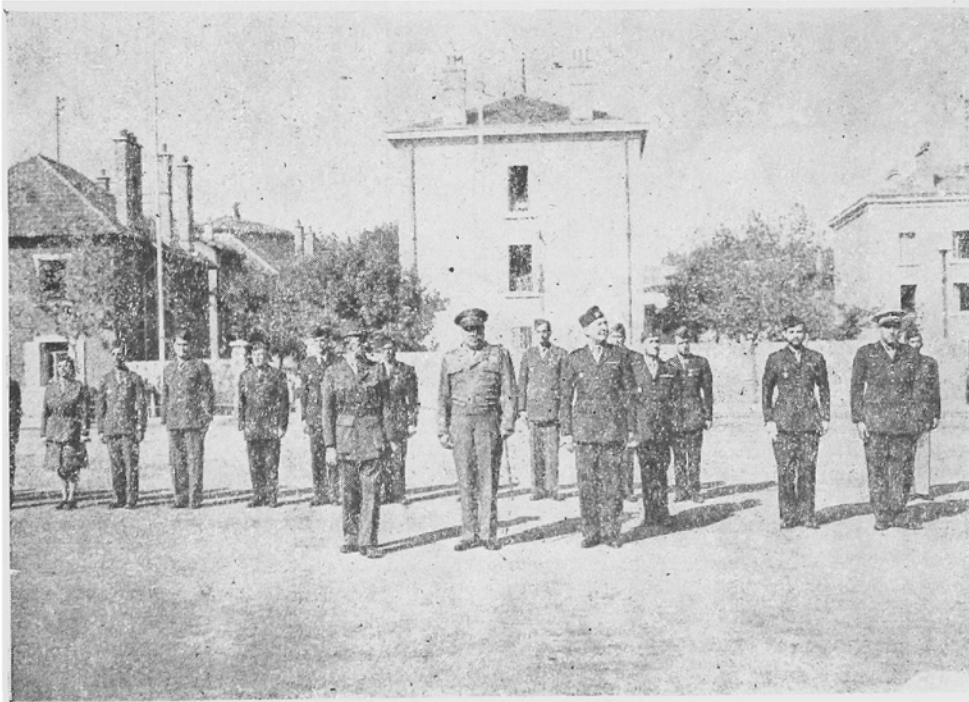
The using of Prisoners of War reached a climax in the period. The Italian Units, introduced at the very first as a product of NATOUSA policy, began another phase of their long service, the homeward phase. There was still the problem of status with their return. There was reorganization of Yugoslavian Units; the 1204th was retained in its position as housekeeper to Deltabase Headquarters.

The greatest development of the period in the employment of Prisoners of War was, naturally, with the Germans. Large numbers had flowed into the Base Section during the last days of German resistance. On 19 June, Continental Prisoner of War Enclosure Number 404 was established. This had a capacity of 65,000. Major Joseph L. Hunter was made Commanding Officer. At the opening of Redeployment, a policy of curtailing the use of German Prisoners was undertaken. However, most of the troop administration was in relation to German prisoners of War, and German prisoner labor packed material slated for C.B.I. The Military Labor Service Section formed at the beginning of the period was one of the active sections of the period.

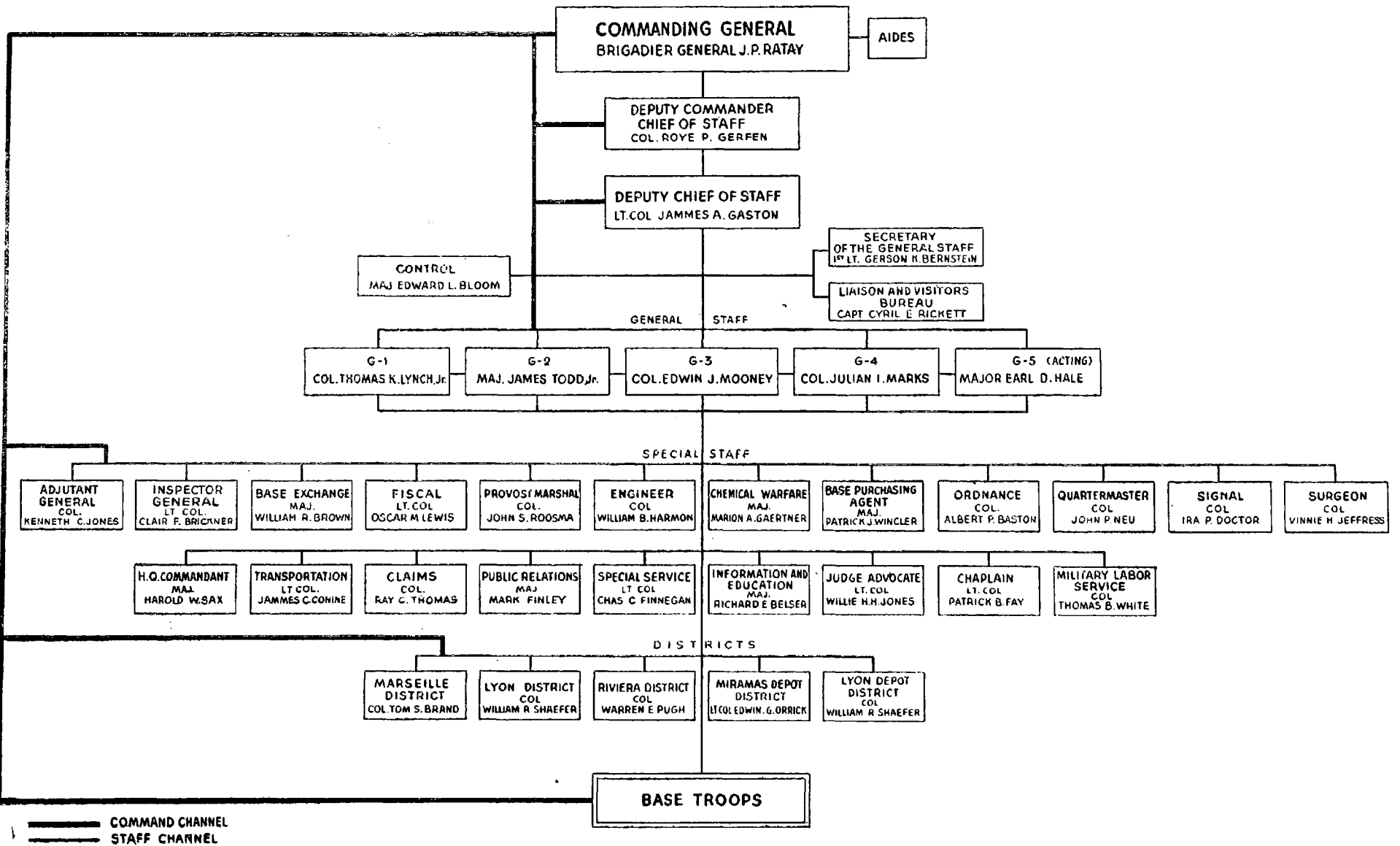
#### V-J DAY

V-J Day, 15 August, did not introduce a new phase in Deltabase History. Redeployment continued without halt. There was one significant difference — redeployment would be directly to the U.S.A. and not to C.B.I. Delta Base Section would send home all men and materials from the Theater, that went by the Mediterranean.

The change of situation necessarily changed some high-level plans for the Section. COMZONE, which had changed name to United States Forces European Theater, published 1 August, number 1 of Series «L» «Planning Directives». This contained tentative plans and target dates which had to be revised with the surrender of Japan.



# DELTA BASE SECTION



——— COMMAND CHANNEL  
 ——— STAFF CHANNEL