

THE GUNS of 6.A.G.R.A



Major P/H. Cunningham, RA,

6 ARMY GROUP



ROYAL ARTILLERY

HQ. 6 ARMY GROUP R.A.

66 (LOWLAND) MEDIUM REGIMENT R.A.

75 (SHROPSHIRE YEOMANRY) MEDIUM REGIMENT R.A.

76 (SHROPSHIRE YEOMANRY) MEDIUM REGIMENT R.A.

78 (DUKE OF LANCASTER'S OWN YEOMANRY) MEDIUM REGIMENT R.A.

75 (HIGHLAND) HEAVY REGIMENT R.A.

COUNTER BATTERY STAFF 13 CORPS

80 (SCOTTISH HORSE) MEDIUM REGIMENT R.A.

2 MEDIUM REGIMENT R.A.

69 (PEMBROKE & CARMARTHEN) MEDIUM REGIMENT R.A.

61 HEAVY REGIMENT R.A.

5 MEDIUM REGIMENT R.A.

194 (U.S.) F.A. GROUP

3 SURVEY REGIMENT R.A.

376 (ARTILLERY) COMPANY R.A.S.C.

655 AIR O. P. SQUADRON R.A.F.

126 METEOROLOGICAL SECTION R.A.F.

21 CDN. METEOROLOGICAL SECTION R.C.A.

40 SQUADRON S.A.A.F.

SYRACUSE * CATANIA * MESSINA * REGGIO * CAMPOBASSO * SANGRO * CASSINO
ROME * AREZZO * FLORENCE * GOTHIC LINE * SENIO * PO * ADIGE



BRIGADIER J. ST. C. HOIBROOK, C.B.E., M.C. WITH THE PRIME MINISTER

F. WARD

FOREWORD

BY

BRIGADIER J. ST. C. HOLBROOK, C. B. E., M. C.

6 Army Group Royal Artillery was formed at Beni Yusef in April 1943 and was one of the pioneer Army Groups R.A. It then consisted of 56 (Lowland) Medium Regiment R.A., 75 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Medium Regiment R.A., and 80 (Scottish Horse) Medium Regiment R.A., and took under its wing 13 Corps Counter Battery Staff. Early in 1944 the Scottish Horse went to the Anzio Bridgehead and was parted from 6 AGRA, but three other Regiments, 76 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Medium Regiment R.A., 78 (Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry) Medium Regiment R.A., and 75 (Highland) Heavy Regiment R.A. joined the Group before the battle of Cassino and remained as basic regiments till the end.

In these early days when everything in the AGRA line was extremely new it was realised that co-operation and the team spirit was the only answer to produce an effective unit. It was then that, in spite of regulations to the contrary the "Sign of the Virgin" was born. Under this sign a body was born which - retaining the individualities of all its regiments - yet worked and lived together as a family, settling all its differences within itself but presenting a solid front to its enemies.

6 AGRA first saw action in the landing in Sicily on

10 July 1943 and fought continuously till the day of final victory in Northern Italy on 3 May 1945. The Group took part in many actions the most notable of which were - Catania - Crossing of the Messina Straits - Campobasso - Crossing of the Sangro - Cassino - Liri Valley - Capture of Rome, Arezzo and Florence - Taking of the Gothic Line - Capture of Bologna and the final victorious pursuit of the defeated enemy to Austria. This volume of action drawings of the various units of 6 AGRA is also a reminder of those units such as 3 Survey Regiment R.A., 655 Air OP Squadron R.A.F., 376 (Artillery) Company R.A.S.C., 126 Meteorological Section R.A.F., 13 Corps Troops' Workshops R.E.M.E. and 40 Squadron S.A.A.F. with which the Group was closely associated and from whom it received every support.

The book is dedicated to the remembrance of the good comradeship and pride in their task which permeated all ranks and to the memory of those who have gone before us in the execution of their duty. I also hope that in the future it will help to retain the spirit of comradeship we had in war in whatever state of life we shall find ourselves, still serving to the Glory of the British Empire, whether as Soldiers, Retired Soldiers or Civilians.

Julian St Clair Holbrook



BRIGADIER T. F. K. HOWARD D. S. O.

F. WARD

FOREWORD

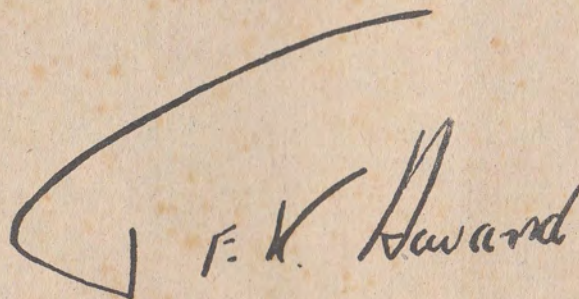
BY

BRIGADIER T. F. K. HOWARD. D. S. O.

I should not come into the story at all. Brigadier Holbrook left to take up another appointment in April 1945 and I was given command of 6 AGRA for the last two or three weeks of the war.

It was like giving the final tap to a truly driven nail with a nicely balanced hammer. It was so nicely balanced too.

Thank you.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink. The signature consists of a large, sweeping 'C' shape that encloses the initials 'T. F. K.' followed by the name 'Howard' in a cursive script.

THE STORY OF 6 ARMY GROUP ROYAL ARTILLERY

Birth of 6 Army Group Royal Artillery.

On 15 March 1943 Headquarters 6 Army Group R. A. was formed at Base Depot R. A. Almaza near Cairo.

In April, it moved to Beni Yusef Camp near the pyramids of Giza, where 13 Corps, in 8 Army reserve, was refitting and preparing for the invasion of the Southern Fortress of Europe. By the end of April, the Group consisted of three Medium Regiments (each with one battery of 4.5" guns and one battery of 5.5" guns) 66 (Lowland) Medium Regiment R. A., 75 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Medium Regiment R. A., and 80 (Scottish Horse) Medium Regiment R. A. who comprised 6 A.G.R.A. until the end of 1943. All three regiments had just arrived in Egypt from UK and several weeks of training exercises were spent in the desert, hardening the troops and accustoming them to the deployment of guns once more.

Invasion of Sicily.

66 Medium who had arrived first in the country, were selected as the assault regiment. They sent their vehicles and guns ahead to Palestine and Syria and on 29 June the regiment embarked at Suez with rumours providing an intriguing list of different destinations. The main body of the Group travelled westwards along the coast road to Tripoli, leaving 75 Medium less one battery to follow up from Alexandria, after imitating 66 Medium by sending vehicles and guns to every conceivable port in the Eastern Mediterranean. So far there was no indication where the landing would take place, though an officer acting as L. O. for 12 Army (Eighth in disguise) must have had a shrewd idea. When taking a bundle of official and registered mailbags to the troops already embarked at Suez, the bottom fell out of one sack and he was horrified to find printed brochures of "Soldiers Guide

Lapt
Cheval
!

to Sicily", littering the platform. Fortunately all the pamphlets were quickly collected before they were seen, and a very nervous officer thankfully continued his journey to Suez. *TRIPOLI*

On 10 July, 227 battery of 66 Medium landed between Avoia and Syracuse at 1030 hrs and were greeted without mishap by three M. E. 109s. The first vehicles started coming ashore next morning and guns were unloaded by midday. Wireless sets were assembled and fitted that night and the battery deployed by 0700 hrs 12 July with an O. P. supporting 13 Brigade of 5 British Infantry Division between Syracuse and Augusta. At 1000 hrs a "murder" was shot and the guns of 6 A G R A became the first Mediums to engage the enemy in Europe. On 13 July, Augusta was captured and the remainder of the regiment had landed with the second wave of the invasion fleet. Dive-bombing continued but only one casualty had been sustained. 227 battery was in action continuously, supporting 5 Div in the capture of Villasmundo, and then passed to under command 50 Div who had just taken Carlentini. On 16 July, the battery fired a four and a half hour counter battery programme to support 50 Div in the capture of Primasole Ridge overlooking the Catania Plain. Elements of 1st German Para Division had been dropped to guard the approaches to the Plain during the nights of 14/15 and 15/16: a further 150 paratroops were dropped

behind the battery during the night 16/17. The battery wagon lines were attacked, but troops of the Durham Light Infantry drove off the attack and eventually rounded up the paratroops on the following day. On 17 July, 228 battery came up and the regiment was in action together for the first time: more excitement was provided that night - the position was dive-bombed and straffed, the L. A. A. regiment of 5 Div knocked down four out of six ME 109s within half a mile of the guns and 228 Battery Command Post was astonished by the arrival of five German paratroopers brought in from C Troop.

On 18 July, 66 Medium moved to Primasole Ridge for the Battle of Catania. Meanwhile H Q 6 A G R A and the Scottish Horse had landed and moved up to join in the battle of the Plain. There was no flash cover for our guns and the enemy had considerable artillery in the foothills of Mount Etna at the northern end of the Plain, one battery of Italian 305/17 Naval guns (12") being particularly troublesome.

On arrival at their position, 66 Medium found two similar 305/17 guns prepared for demolition but left by the enemy. They were of British manufacture, made by Vickers-Armstrong, and dated 1917-1918. After some hard work by E. M. E. 6 A G R A and the Royal Marines they were got into action, turned round and fired back at their opposite numbers, the first shoot being controlled personally by the C.C.R.A.

By 29 July 101 battery of 75 Medium had also joined up and the Group was in action as such, supporting 5 Div and 50 Div in the hard fighting for the approaches to the city and port of Catania. On 7 August Catania fell and the regiments surged forward in an effort to get at the fleeing enemy. The advance was fast and on 14 August the dogs were called off and 6 A G R A moved back to a concentration and rest area at Palagonia where they were met by the remainder of 75 Medium.

Straits of Messina - Invasion of Italy.

At the end of August a series of moves over mountainous roads, rendered almost impassable by demolitions, brought the regiments round M. Etna and along the northern coast road to Messina. There, many a Gun Position Officer looked blankly at the river beds, backyards and terraced vineyards into which he was invited to place his guns; Larkhill had never mentioned this! After that rude start, no occupation was too difficult and no position too tough for a bulldozer and the gunners. The positions at Messina had very little flash cover, and the approaches were extremely difficult, since all movement of guns, ammunition and supplies had to be carried out on a prepared time table by night without lights. No praise can be too high for the Quartermasters and drivers who completed this build-up.

6 A G R A was in position side by side with 5 A G R A during this concentration, and the combined guns of the Groups shook the Italian Forts across the Straits. Stonks and Murders were fired as daily hates on these forts and the results were pretty to watch.

On 3 September, the early morning was shattered by a terrific barrage with tracer fired across the water. The invasion of Italy and the mainland of Europe had begun. Again 66 Medium was the assault regiment but this time the landing was unopposed. The remainder of the Group was across at Reggio by D plus 1 but the roads were so congested that the guns were kept in a concentration area and followed behind the advancing Divisions in 70 mile bounds approximately every four or five days.

Meanwhile 66 Medium pushed on with 5 Div and 1 Canadian Infantry Div, but, apart from sending a flying column to the help of 231 Independent Infantry Brigade which had landed at Pizzo and met stiff resistance, the main obstacles were blown roads and demolitions. Campobasso was reached and 75 Medium relieved 66 Medium who had a short week's rest and refit.

5 Div took over from 1 Canadian Infantry Division and with 75 Medium they thrust on through Isernia and up the central Appenines to the River Sangro. There, gun positions were limited by the mountains and the Regiment had to occupy a position at Rionero which provided no cover and which the

enemy must have appreciated were the only gun areas available to us. The main Army thrust at this time was on the right, where our major Air support was grouped: the centre was the feint. 6 A.G.R.A. meantime had moved across to 5 Corps on the East Coast and with 66 Medium and 80 Medium had supported 78 Div at Termoli, crossed the River Trigno and were now in action for the battle of the Sangro.

Battle of River Sangro.

The build-up for the attack on this river barrier developed on the same lines as at Messina. Guns were in action at Casalbordino and battle positions were prepared and dug close up to the Sangro: again all work had to be done by night and the ammunition dumping programme was spread over several nights. On 28 November, the attack went in with large scale air support.

Heavy programmes were fired in support of 8 Indian and 78 Divs, nine different task tables being produced in three days though not all were fired. The river was crossed in strength but heavy rain hampered the bridges: finally the Sangro bridge was completed and became one of the major triumphs achieved by the invaluable Bailey Bridge.

Beyond the river, 6 A.G.R.A. deployed in the village of S. Eusanio and there with the return of 75 Medium the winter was spent as a complete A.G.R.A.

once more. It was apparent by the New Year that Orsogna was too tough a nut to break in these snow and winter conditions, and apart from the capture of Ortona by 1 Canadian Infantry Div and 5 Canadian Armoured Div, the period settled down to one of harassing and patrol activity with the front line becoming thinner and thinner and thinner until S. Eusanio very nearly was the front line.

It was at the New Year that we lost the Scottish Horse. They were selected to take part in the Anzio Landing and though we always had hopes of persuading the higher authorities that the regiment belonged to us, apart from a brief period in early 1945 we lost them for good. Their blue bonnets however still continue to appear in all the most unexpected parts of the country sometimes with chickens, sometimes with horses and sometimes with guns - we were always very pleased to see them.

In their place came 78 (Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry) Medium Regiment R. A. They had been in Syria for some time and were glad to get into action. They too had a hard beginning and the railway line at S. Eusanio must have seemed a strange first battle position when they arrived.

Cassino and the pursuit to Rome.

The spring came and the Eighth Army moved across to Cassino. The Group deployed for the final

battle of Cassino and its fire power was enormous. 76 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Medium Regiment R. A. and 75 (Highland) Heavy Regiment R. A., became the final members of the basic AGRA. 76 Medium which had been in Syria with 78 Medium, was the sister regiment of 75 Medium - a unique instance of two halves of one Yeomanry Regiment fighting together in the same theatre and in the same Brigade. 75 Heavy had fought with 51 Highland Division in France, as 75 Field: they were now converted, with two 7.2" How batteries, and two 155 mm gun batteries, and keen to get their revenge. 2 Medium Regiment R. A., a regular gunner regiment also came under command. In addition 6 AGRA had 1 Canadian AGCRA under operational command and the operational support of 194 U. S. Field Artillery Group and a H.A.A. regiment, the London Scottish. The total weight of shell from one round gun fire was 7 tons.

The story of Cassino needs no repetition. It is sufficient to say that the monastery had been twice attacked before without success and was now a heap of rubble providing complete protection to its garrison. Detailed preparations for Counter Battery, Air Support, Arty/R. Air O.P. and Close Support were made for four feverish weeks before the battle. On 12 May 13 Corps attacked across the Rapido: 4 British Div and 8 Indian Div established their bridgeheads. Polcorps fought magnificently round the back of the monastery.

78 Div and 6 British Armoured Div were brought in: 1 Canadian Corps advanced to the South of the Aquino line. The Americans and French came in from the left. The communications and Artillery tie-up worked perfectly, and 6 AGRA who were in the middle, can justly be proud of the support they gave at the crossing of the Rapido and the capture of Cassino. Brigadier Holbrook received the C. B. E. for his successful coordination of the artillery in this attack.

One word of thanks and appreciation to the American 194 Field Artillery Group which left us after this battle. Both on the Gustav and the Hitler lines they had been magnificent: the 240 mm hows concussed Cassino whenever retaliation was required, the 8" hows shattered the station and Aquino in spite of the proximity of our own troops, while the long toms and 8" rifles effectively harassed communications and bridges as far away as Pico (a range of 33,000 yards).

The advance swept on and the regiments were out under command of Divisions. AGRA followed gently behind with a small reserve, while the CAGRA travelled long distances each day to see that all were well. They were but they took a lot of catching. The Heavies, thrilled by getting their Long Toms past an RHA Regiment on the road, moved with the armour. On one occasion, the Battery Commander, sent forward to reconce a more advanced position reported over the air that he had found a good gun area but an

infantry battle still in progress. "Move them up" said the Colonel, "the battle will be over by the time the guns arrive" - it was - just.

So to Rome and beyond the River Tiber. Here some regiments got a breather and saw the sights of Rome. The Headquarters, either through loss of direction or at the whim of their Commander, saw most of Rome on their march through the town. The advance continued until Lake Trasimene where it was halted by increased resistance. Brigadier Holbrook was borrowed from us to be C.R.A. 7th Div and Lieut Colonel Thuillier (66 Medium) took over the temporary role of C.A.G.R.A., with the regiments returning to the fold to concentrate resources and break down the Bosche defence.

Arezzo and Florence.

The battle flowed on again with regiments loose, A.G.R.A. keeping close up and joining in at Monte San Savino. Here the advance was checked in front of Arezzo and a full deployment was required before the town was by-passed and resistance ceased. Continuing to Florence, progress was slowed considerable by mines and demolitions. During this pursuit, regiments had been with Divisions - 2 Medium with 6 British Armoured Div, 7th 5 Medium with 2 New Zealand Div, 7th 6 Medium with 6 South African Armoured Div and 7th 8 Medium with 4 British Infantry Div - and from all

accounts they had improved the reputation of the Group. 66 Medium and 7th 5 Heavy had been with A.G.R.A. on the Corps right flank and had mainly supported 4 British Infantry and 6 British Armoured Divs.

It is interesting to record here a technical incident for the benefit of young gunners who may wish to learn the secret behind a quick and successful divisional concentration. The following wireless conversation was heard: -

E. O. O. "Request concentration of all Divisional Artillery on Impruneta forthwith".

H.Q. R. A. "Have you observation on it?"

E. O. O. "No, but its a hell of a big place, man. You simply cant miss it".

Permission was then given and all the guns fired.

About this time His Majesty the King visited 13 Corps and all units were represented at his review.

Again the regiments were gathered in under A.G.R.A. (in some cases unwillingly no doubt after their period of splendid isolation). Florence had been declared an "Open Town" but there were many good targets at its exits and at the foothills to the mountains beyond. The area south of the river contained many delightful villas which now became H. Qs and O. Ps and made house-hunting a more pleasant pastime.

We had a number of celebrated visitors during this period. The Archbishop of Westminster visited an O. P of 7th 8 Medium and lunched at A.G.R.A. The Prime

Minister and Field Marshal Sir Harold R.L.G. Alexander saw a Battery of 66 Medium in action and from an O.P. overlooking Florence watched a concentration of three regiments fired on the slopes beyond the town. To the obvious relief of the CAGRA, the rounds fell together in the intended area and the Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction at the sight and at the thought that the taxpayer's money was being used to good effect. He had previously autographed a 4.5" shell for the benefit of the photographer and this too went on its way with his personal greetings. Later the C.I.G.S. Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, visited 66 Medium with Field Marshal Alexander and saw the R.H.Q. and an O.P. looking down on the River Arno.

Gothic Line.

At the end of August, the Arno was crossed and the thrust continued into the outposts of the Gothic Line across the Pieve. 61 Heavy Regiment R.A. meantime had joined the Group from 10 AGRA and they with 2 Medium and 76 Medium formed a separate party in support of 6 British Armoured Div on the right. The remainder of the AGRA supported 1 British Infantry and 8 Indian Divs through the mountains and in addition assisted in the splendid attack by II US Corps which culminated in the capture of M. Altuzzo. The Gothic Line was forced but we were

still far from the Po valley. Winter drew on, and gun positions became harder to find and still more difficult to maintain; axes through the mountains which had been surprisingly lightly demolished and quickly repaired became a major task to keep in order. Road timings and one way traffic were enforced, and the supply of rations and ammunition required a careful programme. Communications too became an increased problem: 66 Medium and 78 Medium had now joined 78 Div on the road to Castel Del Rio, the remainder of 6 AGRA were at Marradi in the centre and with the Group under 6 Armoured Div on the right the wireless and line layout was far from easy. Mule O.Ps and man handling days had returned and 75 Medium in particular had many an unpleasant trek while supporting 1 British Infantry Div from peak to peak, 75 Heavy too did valiant work: the roads were appalling for moving the 155 mm guns and the platforms were at their worst for deploying and firing 7.2" hows: but they were always there and they always kept firing.

Winter 1944 - 1945.

By the end of the year, the Corps front had moved further west; Monte Grande had been taken over from the Americans and the Group was deployed in varying positions of discomfort around and forward of Castel Del Rio. The move to these positions a dis-

tance of only six miles as the crow flies in some cases had entailed a journey of 100 miles down one mountain pass and up another. For the first time a system of relieving regiments to refit was instituted, and 66 Medium moved back to Rome to 7 AGRA, their place being taken by 69 (Pembroke and Carmarthen) Medium Regiment R. A. Bulldozers were at a premium for this change over which took four nights to complete, one troop each night. Later 80 Medium returned for a period whilst 75 Medium were relieved for their rest and refit. Apart from an attack on Tosignano which unfortunately failed, the rest of the winter was spent in improving the accommodation and waiting for the snow to clear and the spring to come.

Spring offensive.

The first sign of the coming offensive was an extensive re-grouping of the Divisions. It soon became evident that the main attack would be from the Plain and that the task of 13 Corps would be to lean heavily, using Monte Grande to the best advantage. 6 AGRA as a formation was obviously not to be a commanding force in this new offensive: in fact one by one the regiments were stolen away and passed to 5 Corps, 10 Corps and Polcorps of Eighth Army in the Plains. For the Headquarters it was an unwelcome movement exercise. Eventually only 66 Medium remained and they with

two H. A. A. regiments and two 7.2" hows and two 155 mm guns, generously left behind by 75 Heavy, fired manfully from main and roving positions in an effort to give the impression that the same number of guns still remained on this part of the front. Finally the attack went in, preceded by a devastating air bombardment. The regiments moved to their final battle position close up to the River Senio and the barrages began. 75 Heavy were in the north with 1 AGRA, 76 Medium in the centre with 2 AGRA, 78 Medium with the Polish AGPA and 75 Medium to the south with 10 Corps. Such was the layout when Brigadier Holbrook learned that he had been appointed C.C.R.A. 3 Corps, Greece and was to leave 6 AGRA. Before he left, however, one more item of history was added: H. Q. 6 AGRA was nominated to take under command five battalions from 10 Indian Div and take over the M. Grande sector as an Infantry Brigade. The sector belonged to us for 30 hours before we were relieved by the Jewish Brigade and we then made our way hurriedly across to the Plain to join 13 Corps, who had just moved through to take up the pursuit between 5 Corps and Polcorps. Thirty hours was not long, but it was long enough for the Brigadier to climb some very rough mountains to take over the sector and reclimb them to hand it back. *Quelle guerre mais quelle exercise!*

Brigadier Howard took over command of the

AGRA at Massa Lombardo but the Headquarters never took full control of the regiments until the deployment at the Po. 75 Heavy were up in the north with 6 Armoured through the Argenta Gap and we had 61 Heavy in their place; 66 Medium were still on M. Grande itching to get into Bologna, the remainder were with the Divisions of 13 Corps - 75 Medium with 10 Indian, 76 Medium with the New Zealanders and 78 Medium, after supporting the difficult Polish attack, were now with the Gburka Brigade also under the New Zealanders.

The advance went on across the River Reno but bridging the river was difficult; then at 1900 hours 24 April CAGRA met Commanding Officers and gave them orders for immediate deployment south of the Po. Roads were congested and the guns were the wrong side of the Reno, but throughout the night communications were laid, ammunition was dumped and guns moved up as fast as roads, bridges and traffic would allow. By nine o'clock next morning the whole Group was in action. Here 75 Heavy came back to us and 61 Heavy went to 1 AGRA. But there was to be no battle for the River Po; the pursuit and our air supremacy had been too much for the Germans and Italy's broadest river was crossed without a fight. But there were still targets and the Air O.P. made the most of them. On one occasion the Flight Commander reported a concentration of vehicles trying to cross

the River Adige by ferry and within range from our positions by the Po. He engaged them and started a fire; some of the Germans rushed to the ferry but he hit the landing stage on the far bank and the ferry had to be abandoned. Back to the near bank, he engaged and hit more vehicles in a wood near by. The Germans ran madly to the river bank and some stripped and dived in - a 200 yards swim in a fast flowing stream. He chased them across, adding to their panic by diving at them with his Auster. His last vivid impression was of a little party running flat out down the road on the far bank in their birthday suits. Meanwhile the pilots chief concern on his return was to stake a claim on one of two staff cars which he had seen them abandon in the wood. Subsequent visits confirmed the presence of the vehicles and the accuracy of the shooting.

The advance was now a chase and there was not enough space on the roads for large numbers of Medium and Heavy guns. 5 Medium moved on with the New Zealanders and 76 Medium with 6 Armoured. The remainder crossed the Po and moved up to the Adige, but our main task now was to keep off the roads, stay where we were and save petrol, and this we did until the surrender of the German Armies in Italy on May 3.

Supporting units.

It is appropriate to name some of the units without whose help and support we could never have done so much. They are placed in no order of priority, - it would not be possible nor would they wish it. All alike gave their best and served us well.

The Counter Battery Staff 13 Corps lived and worked with us throughout Sicily and Italy. Theirs was work which was never ending, and as we advanced, it was possible to check on the ground how well their task of hunting the enemy's guns had been done.

376 Artillery Company R.A.S.C. also worked with us throughout. At times supply lines were long and regiments were scattered, but whether as a Company or with Platoons allotted to regiments, they never failed us. Those who know the roads over which they worked and the weather conditions, particularly in winter, will appreciate how great was their achievement.

3 Survey Regiment R.A. who were with 13 Corps from Sicily onwards were at all times ready with their survey, and their flash-spotters and sound-rangers always produced invaluable information on enemy guns and movement.

655 Air O. P Squadron R.A.F. which became the 13 Corps Squadron, joined us in Italy. They gave us magnificent support in the engagement of targets which could not be engaged by our own ground O. Ps

and in addition they brought back useful information of enemy movement well behind the front line. They liked shooting the Mediums and Heavies perhaps they were easier to see than the little 25 pounder shell!

40 Squadron S.A.A.F. was the Arty/R Squadron we knew best. At Cassino their engagement of enemy artillery positions and rear movement was invaluable. There was the closest understanding between us throughout the campaign. We enjoyed shooting for them and we think they enjoyed it too.

126 Meteorological Section R.A.F. provided us with meteor continuously. The number of balloons sent up by them in the most unlikely places would have filled the heart of any small boy with envy.

One word of appreciation is due to 13 Corps Troops Workshops R.E.M.E. who worked so hard to keep our guns and equipment continuously in action.

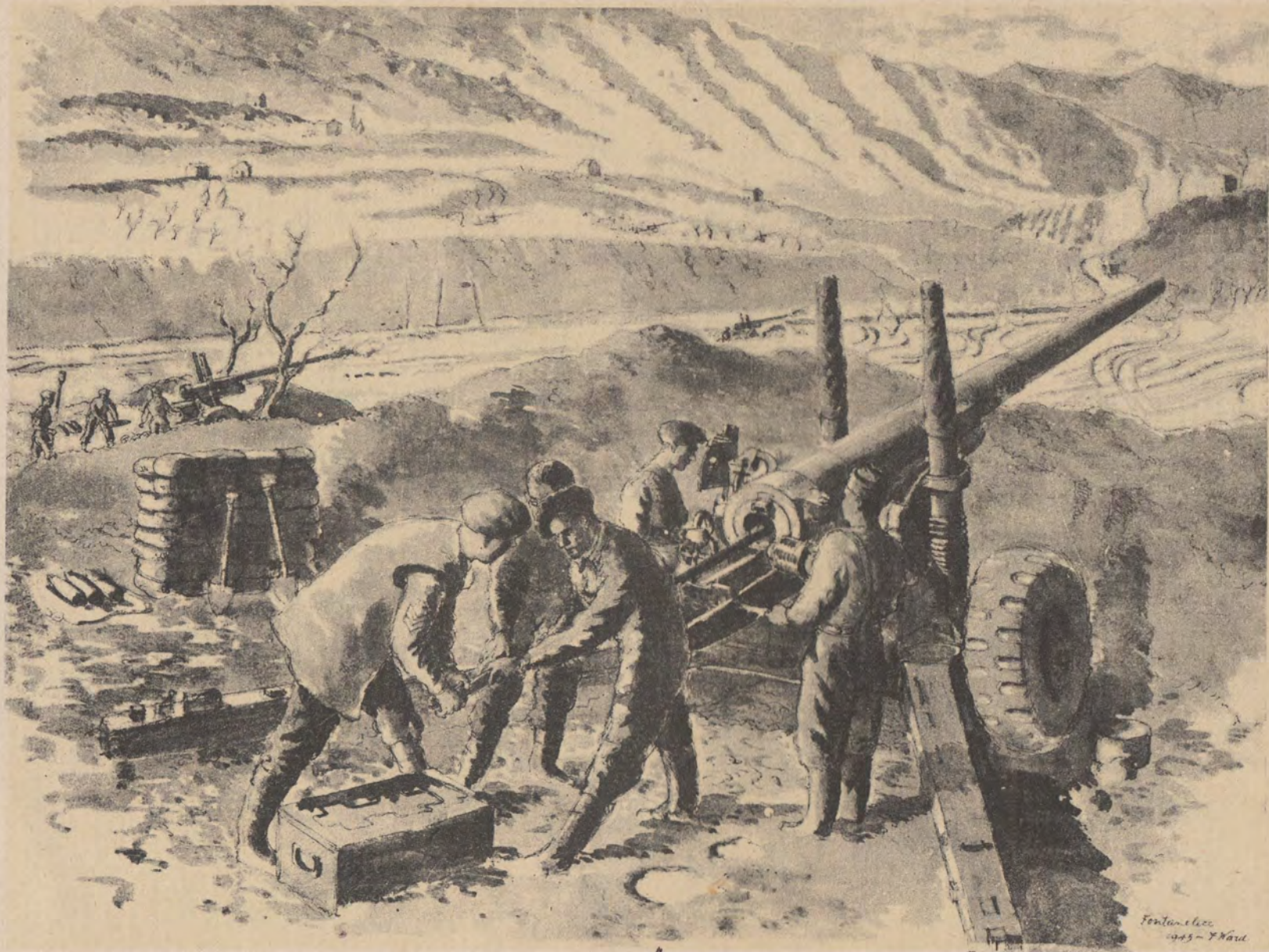
We have been fortunate in always working as part of 13 Corps, and relations with the R.A. staff have at all times been extremely pleasant and easy.

It is not possible to mention all the units who have supported us from time to time, but to all those whose names do not appear, we would like to say thank you for help willingly given and for work splendidly done. This story of 6 AGRA is a story of magnificent team work shared both by the basic AGRA regiments and all who have come at any time under our command.



GETTING INTO ACTION.

F. WARD



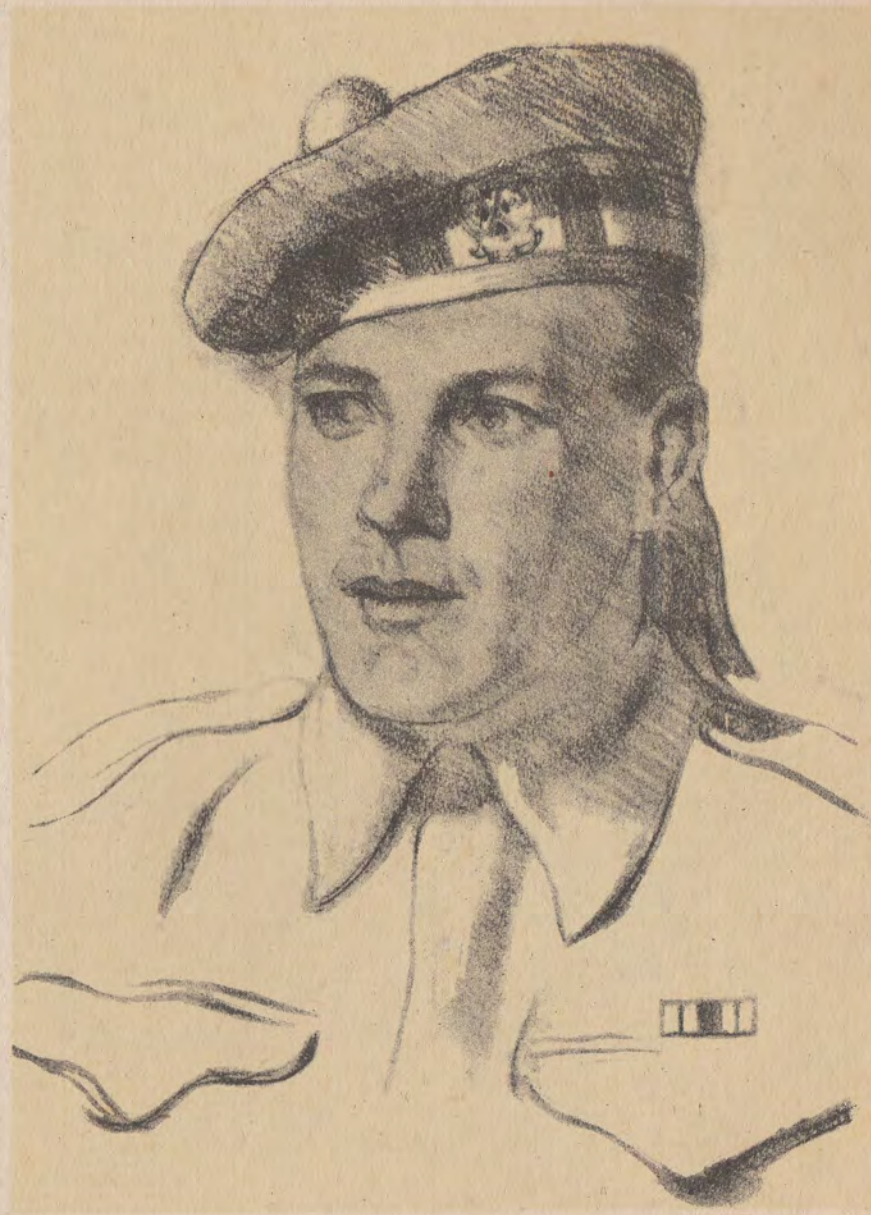
4.5" FONTANELICE.

F. WARD



7.2" NEAR FONTANELICE.

F. WARD





DEATH & DESTRUCTION.

F. WARD



LANDING IN ITALY.

F. WARD



ITALIAN PARTISAN.

F. WARD



ITALIAN OFFICER P. O. W. SEPT. 6. 1943.

F. WARD



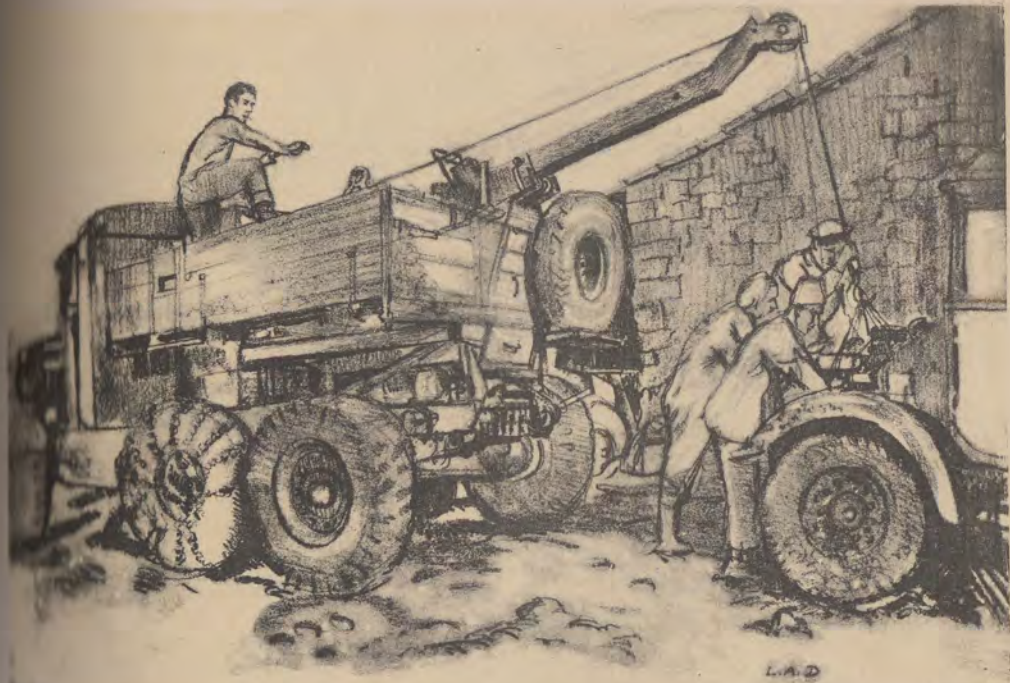
BATTERY COMMAND POST.

F. WARD



LEISURE MOMENTS.

F. WARD

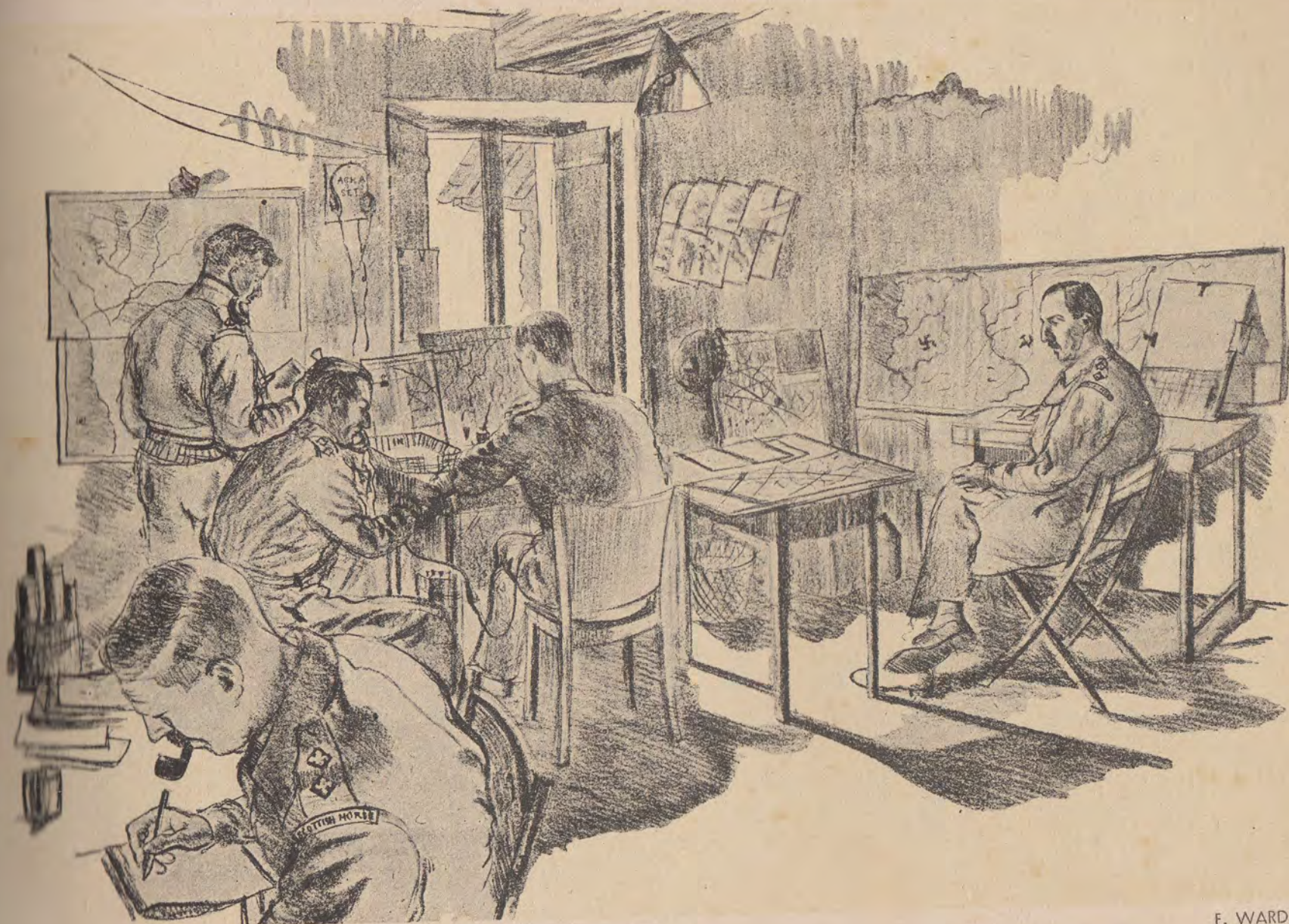




SURVEY REGT.

F. WARD





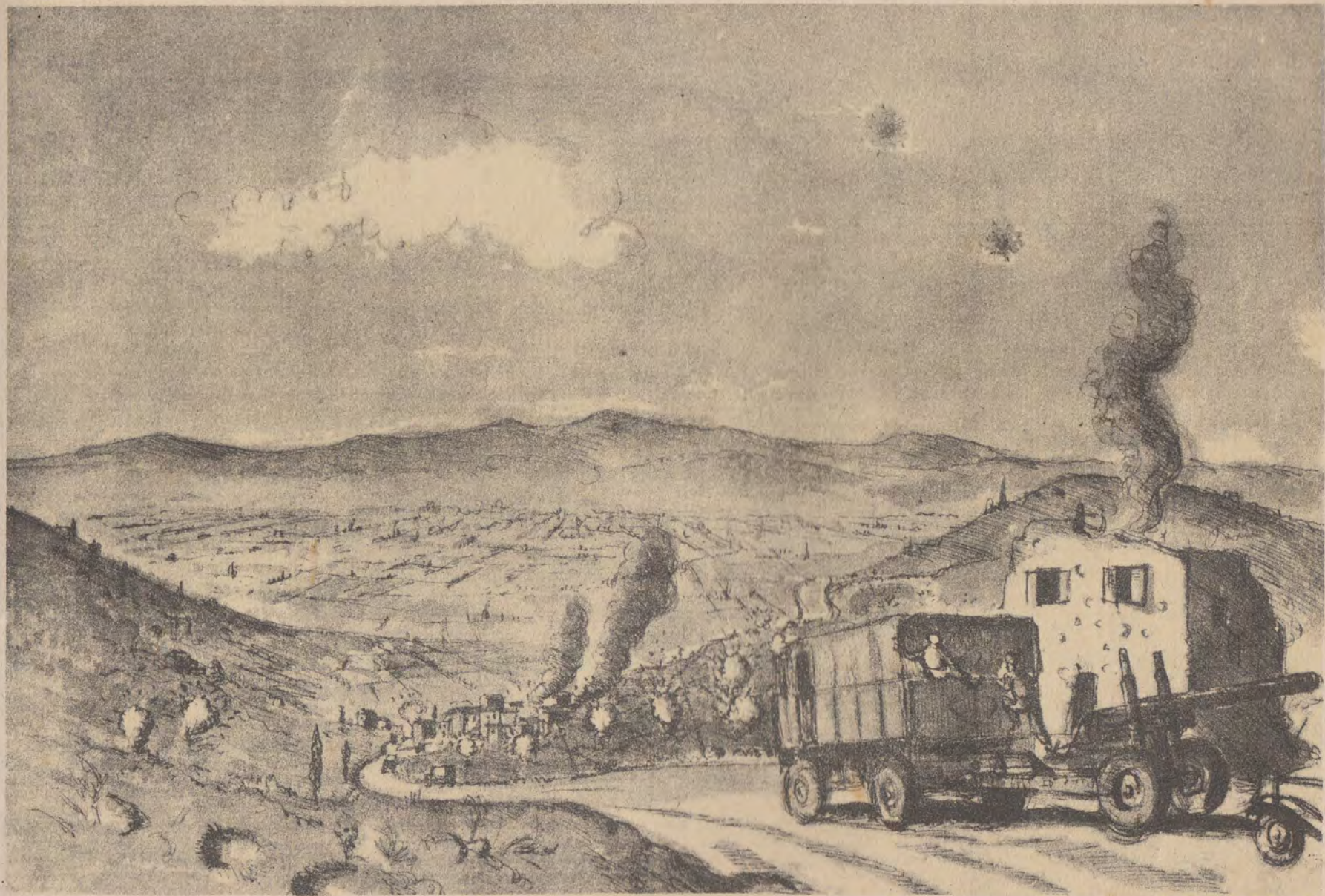
REGIMENTAL OFFICE.

F. WARD



HQ. 6. AGRA. CASSINO.

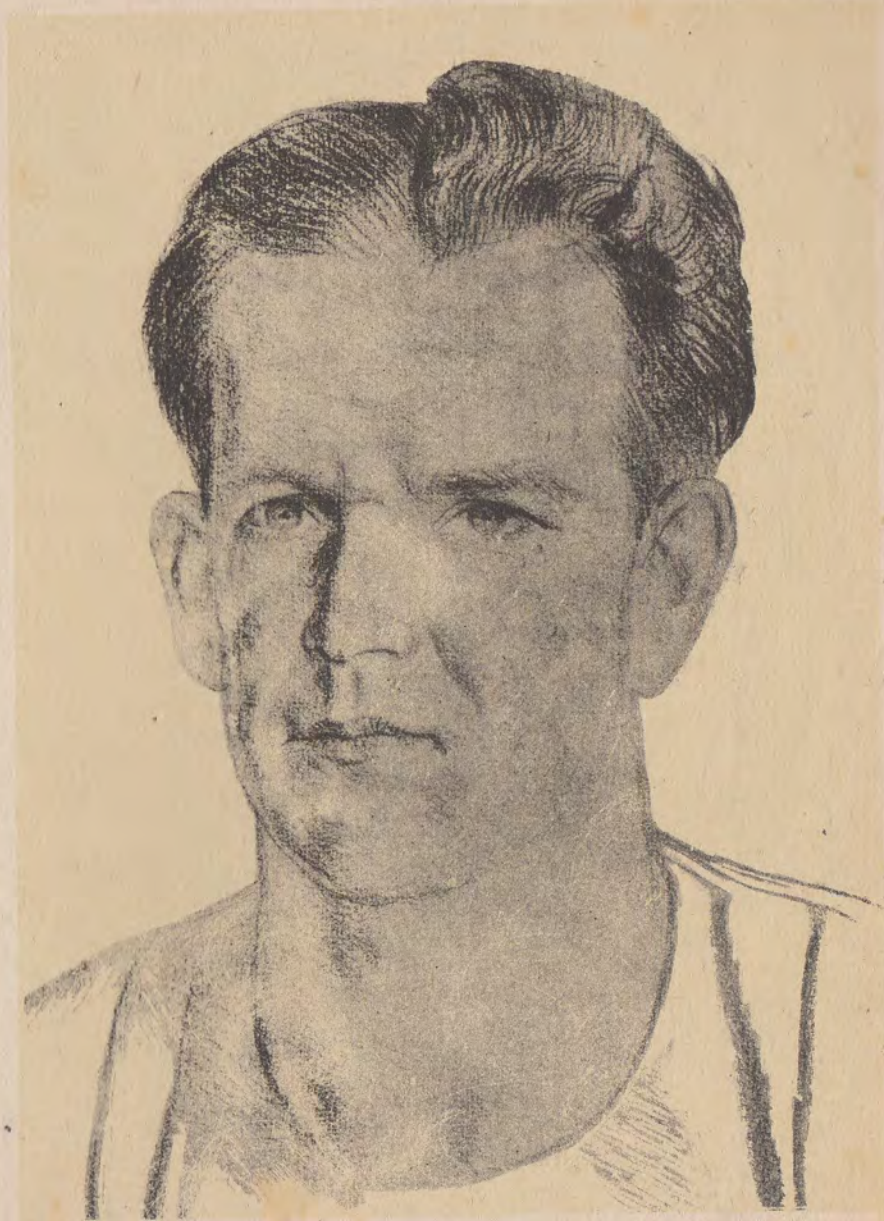
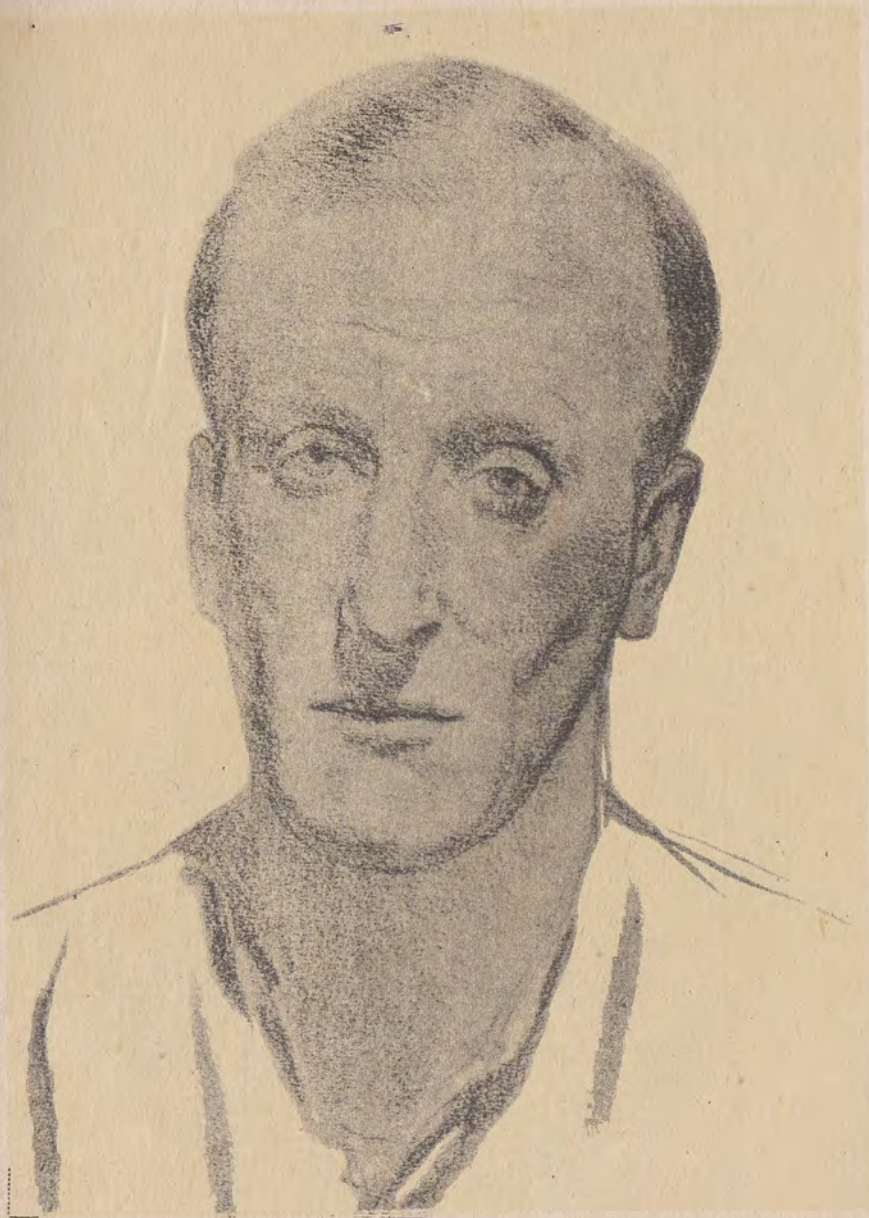
F. WARD



ROAD UNDER SHELLFIRE.

F. WARD

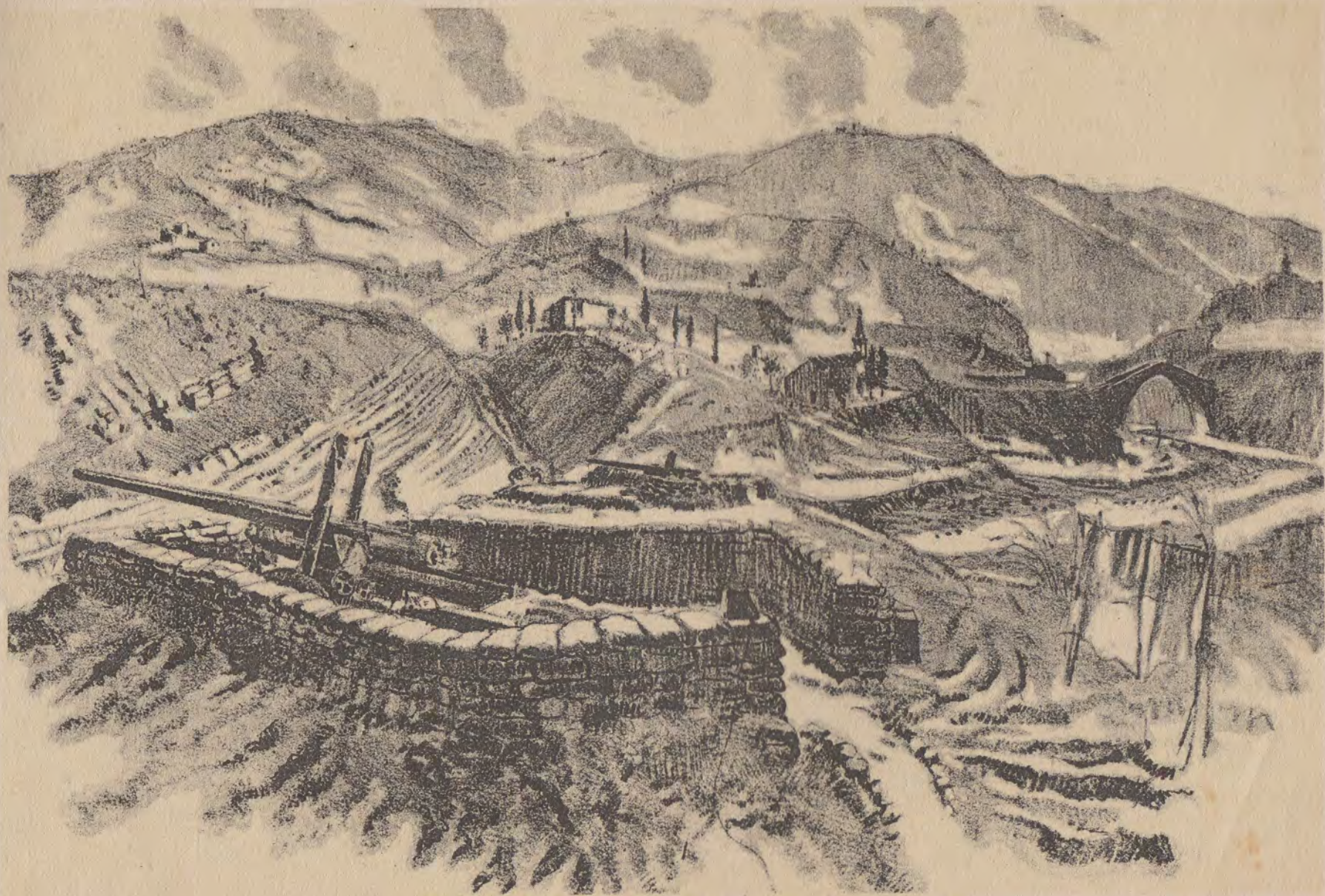






EYES OF THE GUNS.

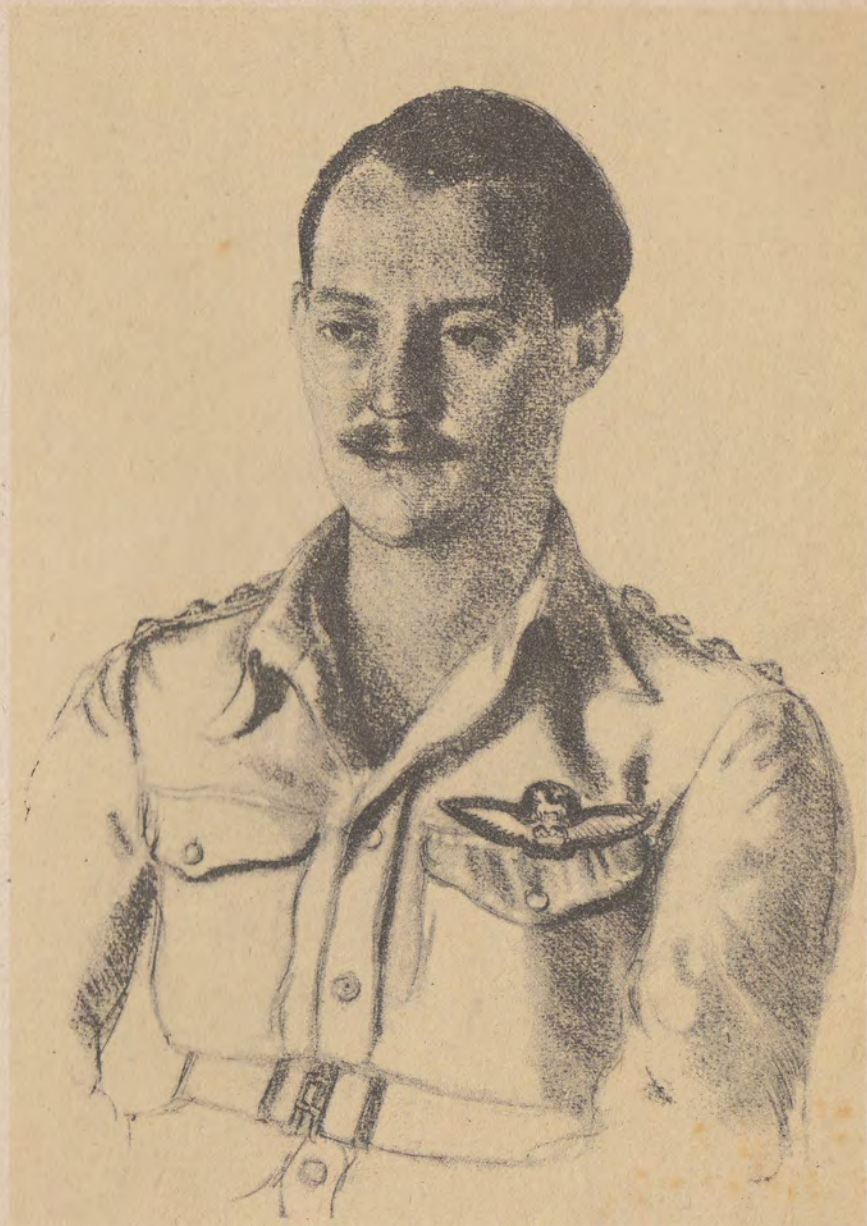
F. WARD



WINTER - CASTEL DEL RIO.

F. WARD







MOBILE MET: SECTION.

G. MEDDEMEN



7.2"s IN ACTION.

F. WARD



SURVEYORS. RA.

F. WARD

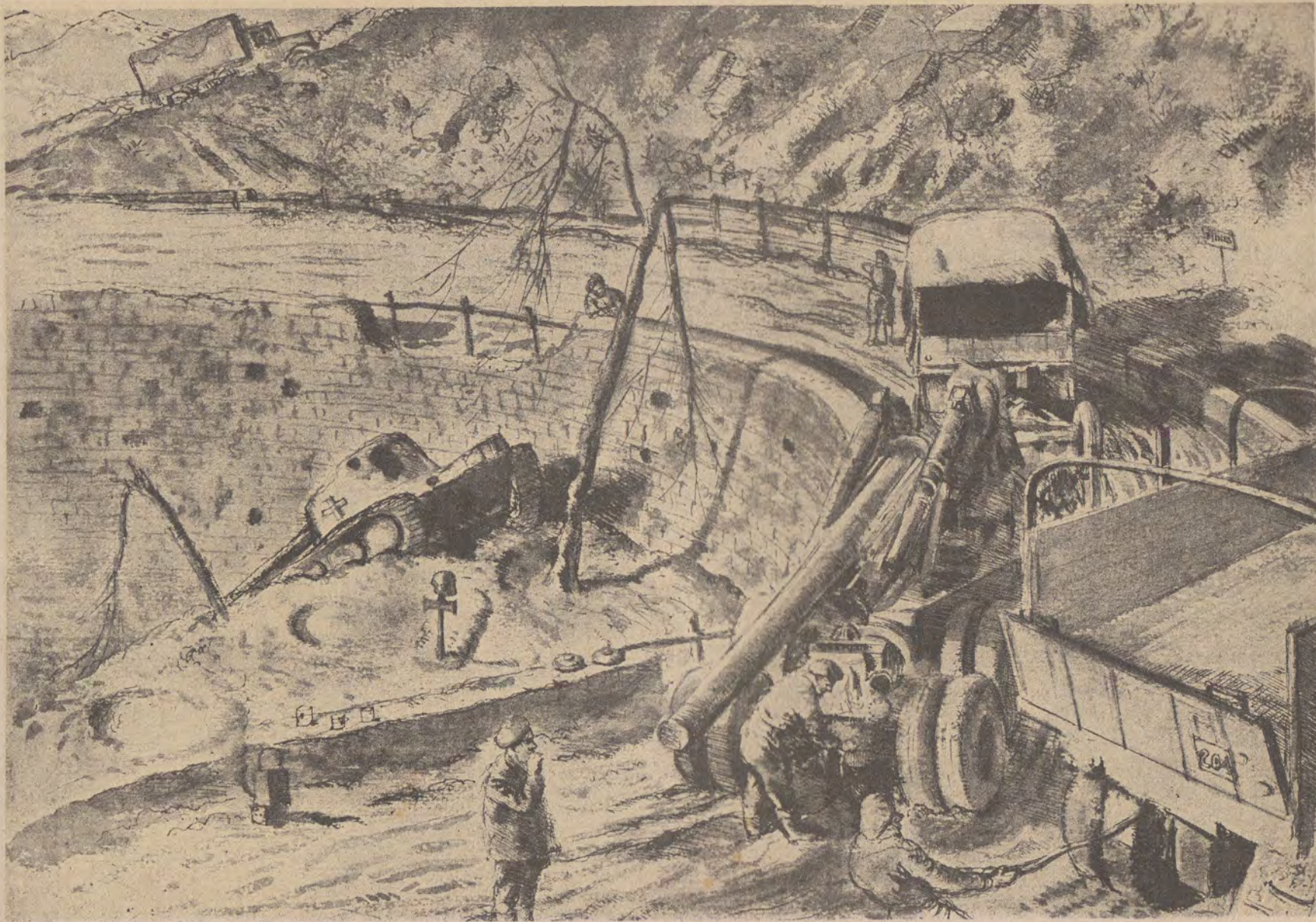




GUN WORKSHOPS

GUN WORKSHOPS.

F. WARD



A SPOT OF BOTHER.

F. WARD



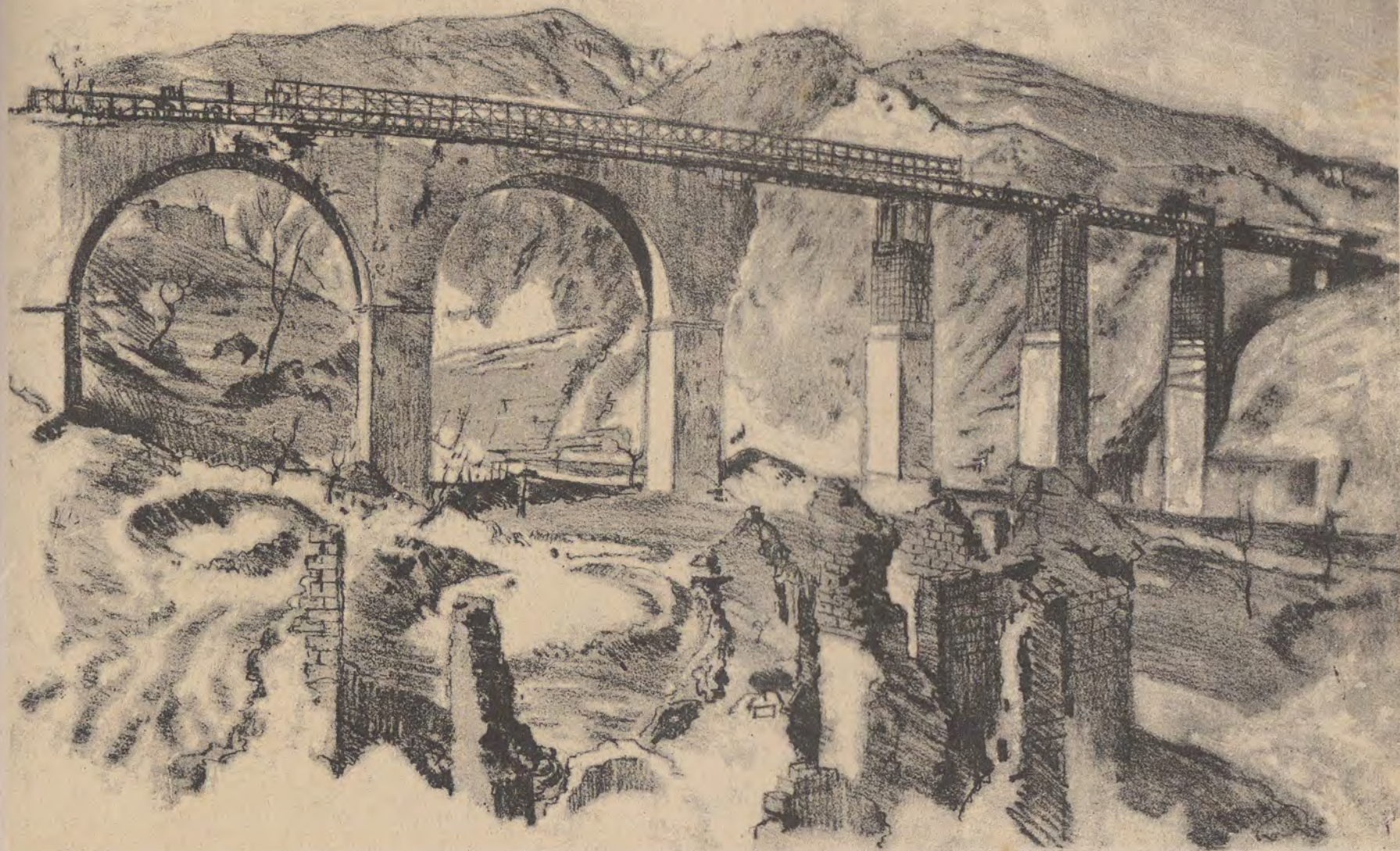
R. SIGS.

F. WARD



FIRENZUOLA.

F. WARD



BAILEY BRIDGE.

F. WARD



CASTEL DEL RIO.

F. WARD



WINTER QUARTERS.

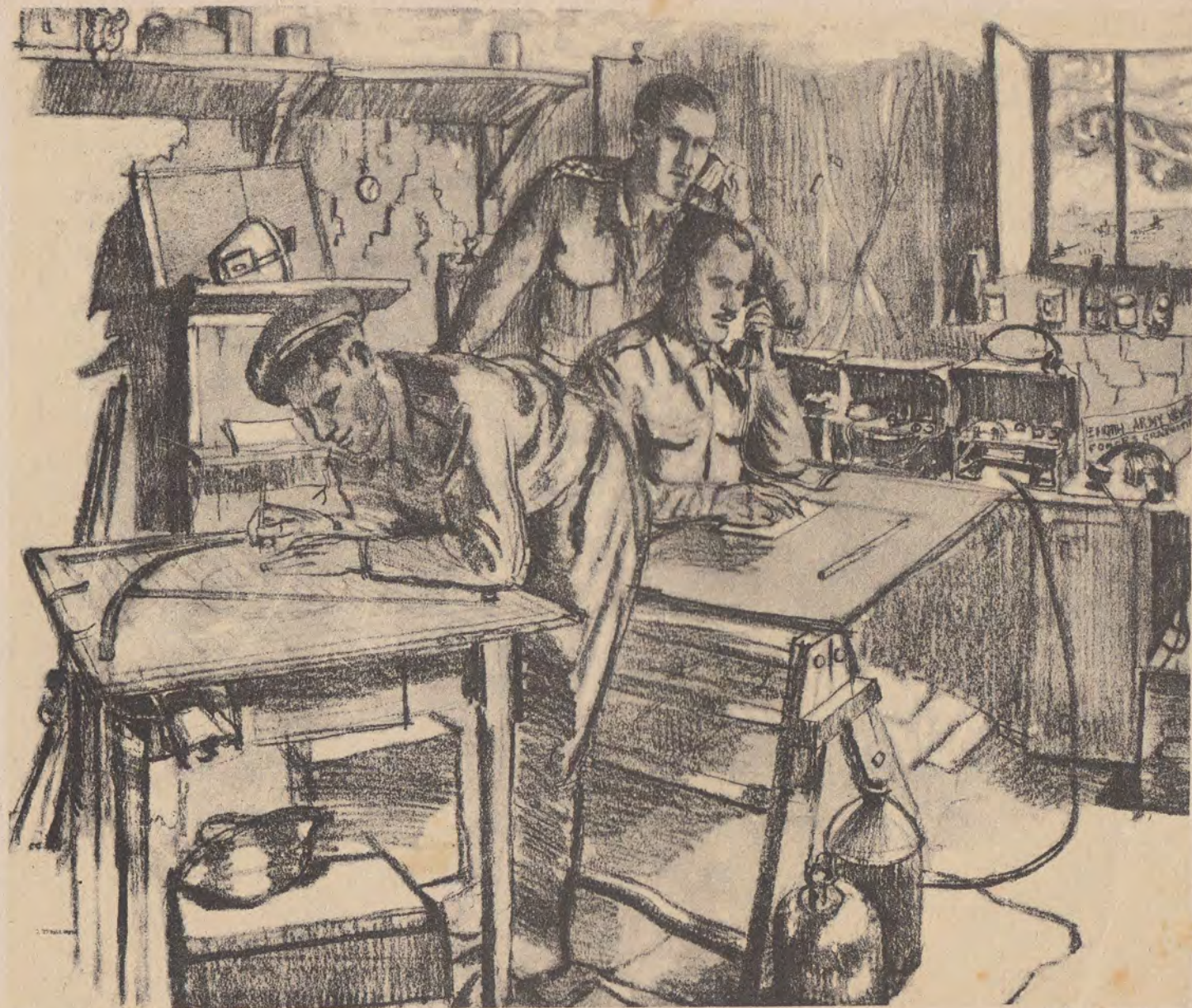
F. WARD





MUD & MOUNTAINS.

F. WARD



COMMAND POST.

F. WARD



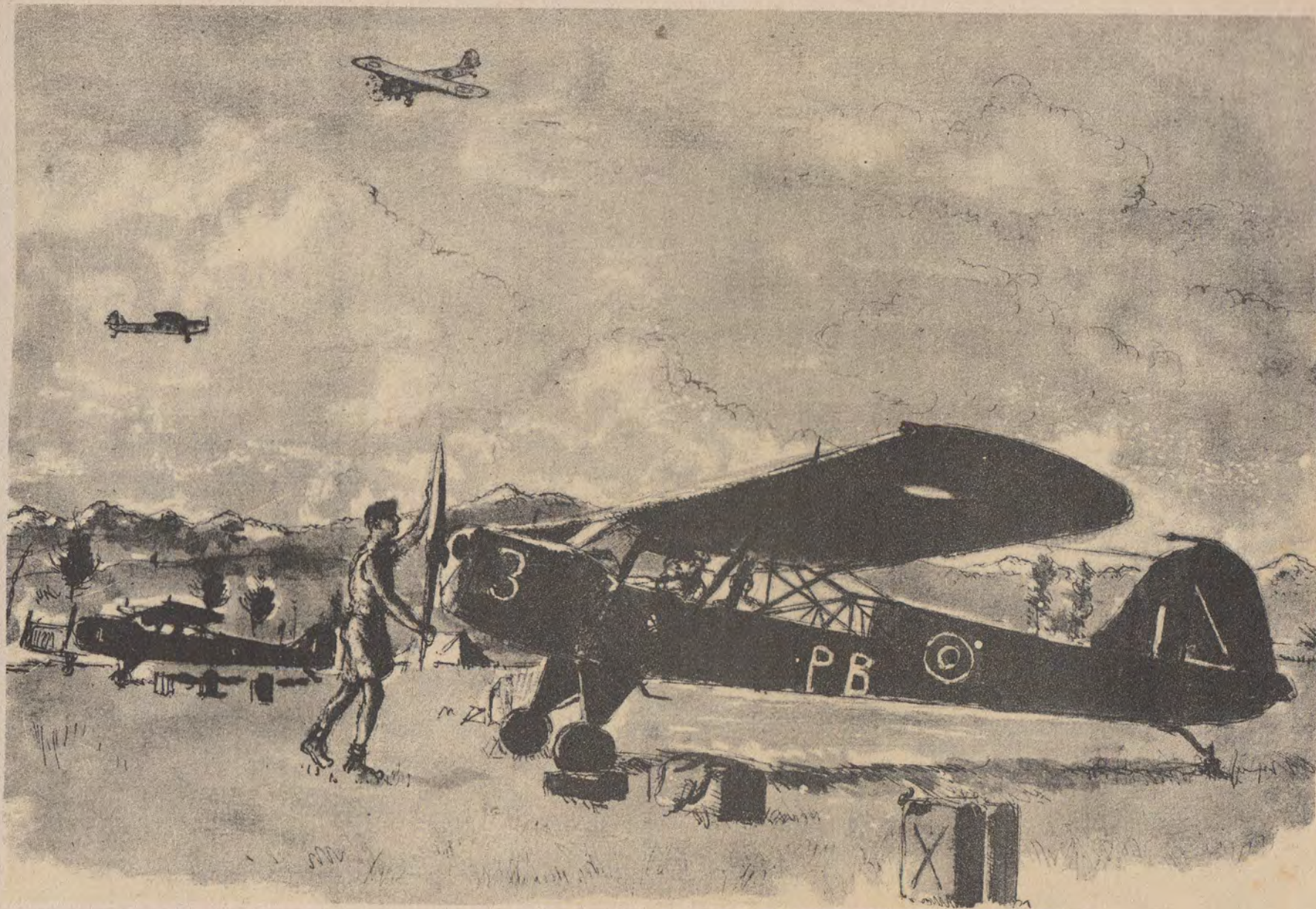
4.5" FONTANELICE.

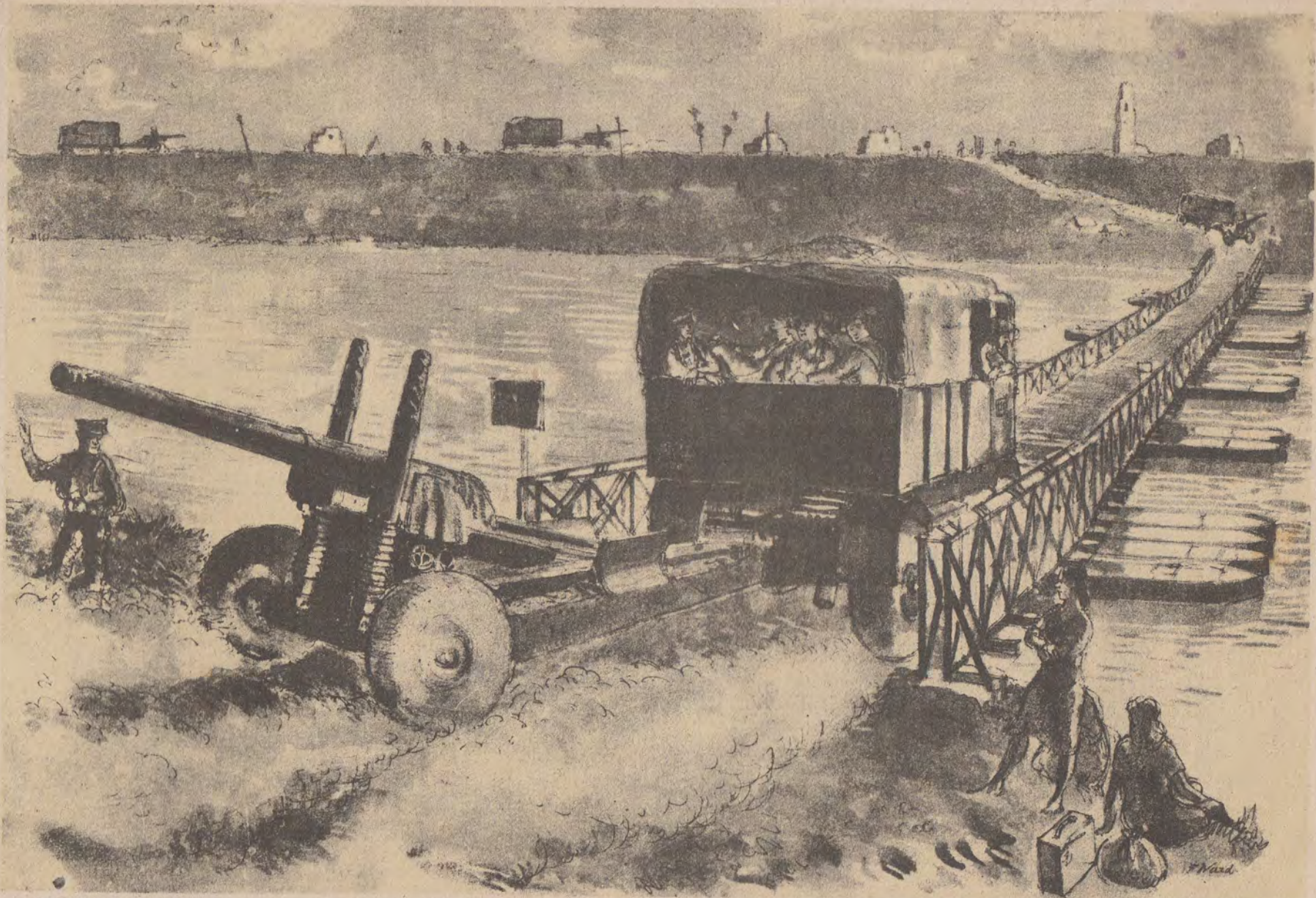
F WARD



WESTERN VALLEY.

F. WARD





CROSSING THE ADIGE.

F. WARD





CASSINO - WITH CERVARO MT. TROCCHIO MONASTERY & MT. CAIRO.



F. WARD