



*Album*

359

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**359<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY – 90<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION**

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY  
INFORMATION – EDUCATION OFFICE  
359<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY

Photographs and information contained within this album are the contributions of many members of the regiment.

The staff consists of every man of the unit who by his valorous action and participation in the field of battle has created events worthy of record.

Photo Engraving and printed by Zerreiss & Co., Nurnberg, Germany.

Because History and the “Big Picture”  
Probably will overlook him, this book is dedicated to the  
man who won the war.

## **THE DOUGHBOY**

# A SPEARHEAD REGIMENT

When the blood, sweat, and dirt of war become memories, who will remember the "little things" that G. I. Joe did, to make war just "a memory"? We will, of course. The 90th Division through its battles and conquests will go down in the annals of history as one of the finest and bravest Divisions of World War II.

After our return to civilian life it will be give us great satisfaction to look back at ourselves as we were in combat, and to see ourselves as the heroes of the 359th, one of the great regimental combat teams of the war. We have collected many pictures; all but a few taken by G.I. Joe himself on the battlefield. In so far as photography is concerned, some photos could be better, but that doesn't really matter. They show us things as they were, and as they actually happened with no dressing and special poses. They show us as we were at the time we helped make history.

We have no pictures of D-Day. Men were not in the mood to take pictures while all Hell was breaking loose around them. Storming the "Heinie's" well fortified positions was work enough for that day. Landing on Utah Beach amidst the heavy fire of the enemy was a remarkable achievement. There were a few pictures taken by those few men who can do their job plus under any conditions; but the pictures were unable to be located. However, those men who were on the landing need no pictures to remind them of it. Nor will those men of the 2nd Battalion who were on the transport, "Susan B. Anthony", when it struck a mine and sank on June 7th ever forget. The transport stayed afloat just long enough to enable rescue of all the men. These men were loaded swiftly into small boats amidst gun and shell fire. By the night of D plus 1, the bulk of the regiment was assembled on the beach. The supporting units were ashore D plus 4. Those of you who remember this incident have a picture that is printed indelibly in your memory.

Do you remember Hill 122, which was so fanatically defended by SS men and enemy paratroopers? On the sixth of July fighting heat, dust, and grime as well as the withering enemy fire, the First and Third Battalions rushed enemy positions and took the hill ... only to find themselves almost entirely surrounded by the enemy who demanded their surrender. They evidently did not realize the caliber and spirit of our men, and our answer was a series of grim and furious attacks, which held off the enemy until a task force of the 358th Regiment came to our assistance and helped to completely defeat the enemy defending the hill.

Then came the Seves River. You, who remember, don't you ever wonder why it was called the river when it was actually little more than a creek? Remember the continuous overcast skies? The mud, rain, the hedgerows, and the soggy, freshly plowed ground between the hedgerows? The hedgerows had to be taken one by one while they were literally plastered by artillery and mortar fire until your ears rang in your nerves were nearly shot?

Remember the breakthrough? The enemy was crushed at St. Lo and his flank turned. He withdrew rapidly along the entire line to avoid being encircled. Then, as you remember, began the drive across France. Remember when we were harassed by enemy planes bombing and strafing along the roads through Avranches? Remember the mines laid by the "Heinies" to slow our advance? Our rapid and smooth maneuvering at the Falaise Gap which succeeded in cutting off and destroying the greater part of the Seventh Army? The Division captured 12,335 prisoners and killed 8000 enemy troops from 16-22 August. We also destroyed a staggering amount of equipment in large numbers of vehicles and guns.

When the enemy realized that he was being trapped, he repeatedly attempted to counter attack, but to no avail. The First Battalion took and held the town of Le Bourg St. Leonard and turned back the counterattacks with great success, assisted by tanks and tank destroyers.

Remember Chambois? This town at the end of the "Balcony of Death" was taken by the Second Battalion and held despite stiff resistance by enemy armor and infantry. Remember the streams of prisoners in this town? They were flowing to the PW cage day and night.

We will never forget the historical dash across France, as we struck out across the highways toward Germany. "Attack" and "Move Forward" was the only thought of G.I. Joe. Remember the cheering throngs of Frenchmen, women, and children, as they gave us green apples, wine, and cognac and we gave them cigarettes, chocolate, etc....? Such things as liberating a whole nation are not easily forgotten. Every man had a certain amount of pride in himself and in his buddies, and many weren't ashamed to shed a few tears to see other people made hysterically happy.

Few will forget the dust of the unpaved roads, the mud and the sweat, the aching feet in the swollen eyes, the lack of rest. Few want to forget those things. As miserable as they were at the time, each man has pride in himself for doing a good job under trying conditions. We were all concentrating on keeping the Heinies on the move -- backwards! As long as we kept them on the run they couldn't fight back very effectively, and we kept pushing, until that day in September when we ran into strongly fortified positions just outside Metz. Metz was a fortress that in all history had never been taken. We showed the Germans that there are was no impenetrable fortress as far as we were concerned. Although we had to dig in outside of Metz and wait for our thin supply lines to build up, we struck through the enemy's main defense line and onto the Moselle River, the crossing of which was considered one of the finest and most efficient military operations in history.

Crossing the Moselle on November 9, 1944 was a complete surprise to the Germans. The initial assault by the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 359th was followed by stiff resistance. The situation became extremely difficult for bringing men and supplies across. By smooth and brave maneuvering in the enemy was held off until our reinforcements arrived, and the beachhead across the Moselle was securely and definitely won.

Remember the Siegfried Line? The 90th Division had to fight for every foot of ground to the Saar River at Dillingen. Fighting through one of the thickest belts of pillboxes in the Siegfried Line was probably the most difficult battle the 359th Infantry went through. Enemy weapons of all kinds were zeroed in on the entire area. Cold, sleet, snow, frostbite, frozen feet and hands, as well as terrific enemy small arms and artillery fire, made this campaign one of the bitterest ever fought. Remember how the companies, battalions, and regiments, fought desperately for their strategic positions? Enemy troops would infiltrate in recapture pillboxes we had once fought for and won. It took the combined efforts of our biggest and best guns, including the 240, to neutralize the pillboxes. Then came the "Bulge", and the 90th was ordered to shorten its lines drawback to protect its flank. Remember?

Moving to the southern side of the "Bulge" on the 7th of January 1945 the 90th went to the assistance of our beleaguered troops, who were disorganized by the sudden fury of the "Bulge". On the morning of the 9th the 359th Infantry went into the attack. Hampered by snow and cold, as well as by seasoned enemy troops the forward progress of our regiment was somewhat impeded. The fanatical hopes of the enemy to reach the sea, had to be beaten out of him slowly but surely. In spite of heavy losses, the regiment drove ahead through the rolling, forest matted Ardennes. The towns that fell behind one by one were: Berle, Longvilly, Troisvierges, etc.... finally after three weeks of sweating, freezing, and fighting under the most difficult conditions and terrain, the "Bulge" was gone. The final effort of the German Army had been stopped, and bleeding and dying, Germany knew she would never rise again. She knew now that she was fighting against a superior army, and her resistance had slowed down considerably after the "Bulge".

Remember when we went back to the Siegfried Line again on the 6th of February? The difference in enemy resistance? In most instances it was lighter and weaker, but we caught heavy artillery and tank fire.

Will you ever forget the sloshy mud over the tops of your boots as we trudged across the fields turned into a swamp land by the melting snow? The enemy was pretty low in manpower by now, and a good number of pillboxes were not even manned. Those that were manned had only skeleton crews. We ran into some stubborn cases occasionally, but on the whole, the Siegfried Line was overrun fairly easily, and in a little more than two weeks it lay behind us to become one more of our unforgettable memories. We now continued the task of pursuing the retreating Germans.

Remember dashing across Germany as fast as possible and following the famous 4th Armored Division? We had to use all available vehicles and ride all day and night at times in order to keep up with a fleeing enemy.

Our task was to clear out all pockets of resistance left behind in the rush. Remember when the 90th headed for Mainz, and the Rhine? On the 22nd of March 1945 the attack on Mainz was begun. It was thoroughly bombed from the air previously, and even while we were on the march to the city, artillery was pounding the edge of Mainz to a pulp. Fanatical resistance was met in the rubble of bombed buildings, but large number of Germans surrendered when they saw it was hopeless to continue the fight. Our losses in Mainz were light although sniping by enemy troops was frequent throughout the city. Moving from pocket to pocket, the regiment cleared the city and a path to the Rhine.

On the morning of the 24th, we crossed the Rhine on a pontoon bridge at Nierstein. Remember when the "Heine" planes attempted to strafe us on the bridge? They were chased away by very effective antiaircraft fire, and several were shot down.

After the crossing of the Rhine, the whole backbone of the German Army seemed to be broken. We went through town after town, meeting only very slight resistance. And on some days we would take as many as five towns without a shot being fired. On approaching the Czechoslovakian border, however, the enemy resistance stiffened. We encountered some of the so-called "Hitler's Brats". Remember the 15 and 16-year-old kids that were put up against us?

On May 4th, the 2nd Battalion was near the Czech border when representatives of the German 11th Panzer Division, once one of the best in Germany, came in to offer unconditional surrender. This once proud and mighty division had been reduced to a strength of 9,050 troops, and its armor to one Mark V and six Mark IV tanks. Remember when the troops came in to surrender? They came in an unbelievable variety of vehicles, some of which were being towed by others. Some had broken down on the roads, snarling traffic. Remember the rifles, automatic weapons, ammo, panzerfausts, and grenades. Remember the rain all that night? It made operations more difficult, and it took days to straighten out the lost and broken down vehicles.

On May 7th the 1st and 2nd Battalions jumped off into Czechoslovakia on tanks, tank destroyers, and trucks. At 1140 hours word reached the regiment that the German High Command had signed an unconditional surrender. At that time, the regimental CP was in Cachrov; the 1st Battalion CP in Kolinec; and the 3rd Battalion in Radinovy, Czechoslovakia. We then occupied the nearest towns to await the formal cease of hostilities which occurred just 11 months and 2 days after the landing on Utah Beach.

Remember?



MAJOR GENERAL HERBERT L. EARNEST



BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSEPH M. TULLY



Col. Robert L. Bacon; Lt. Col. Leroy R. Pond, (Dec.); Lt. Col. James F. Smith;  
Lt. Col. Donald R. Gorton; Major Leonard C. Dull, (Dec.)



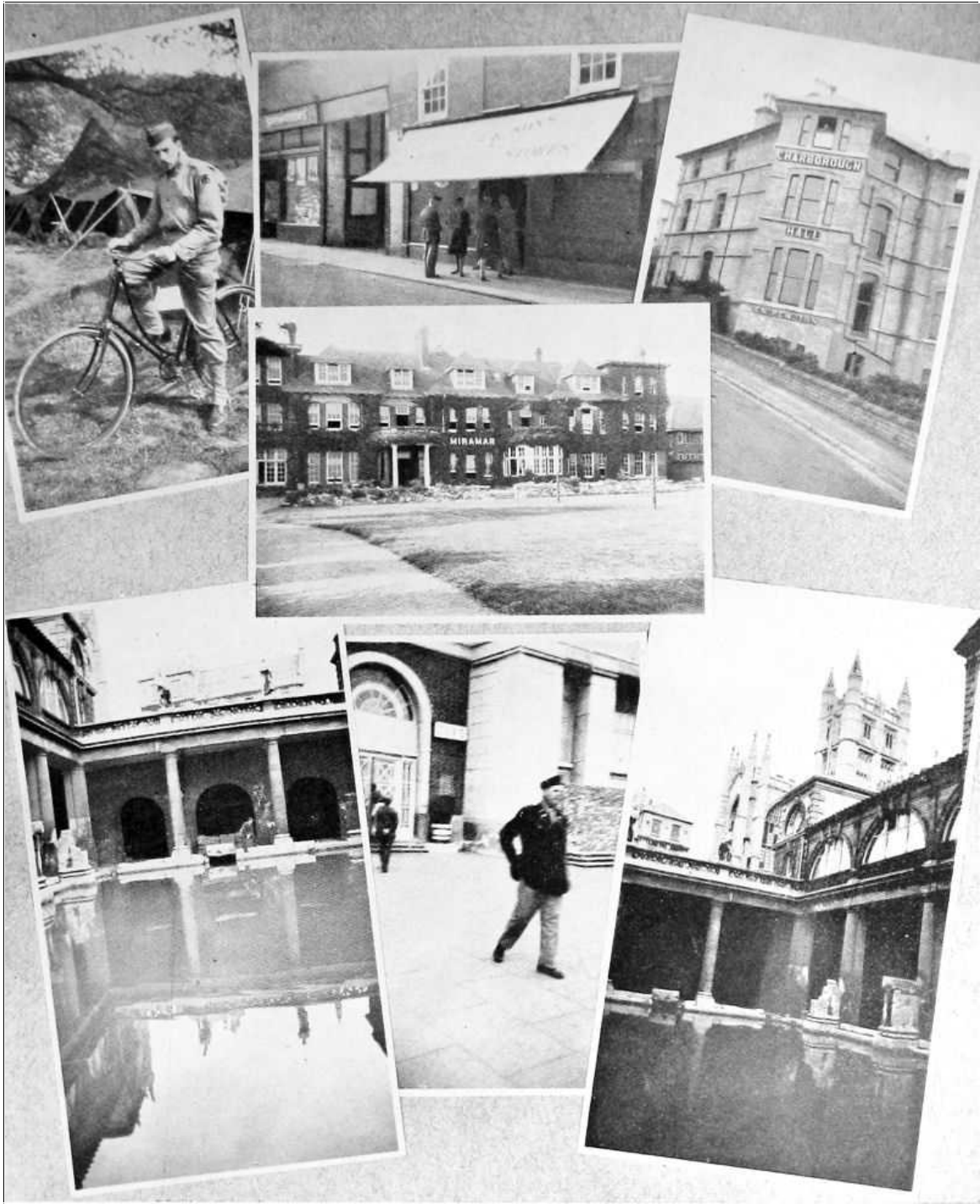
Pride in our organization, precision in drill, and the will to attack comprise the training at Camp Barkeley, Texas.



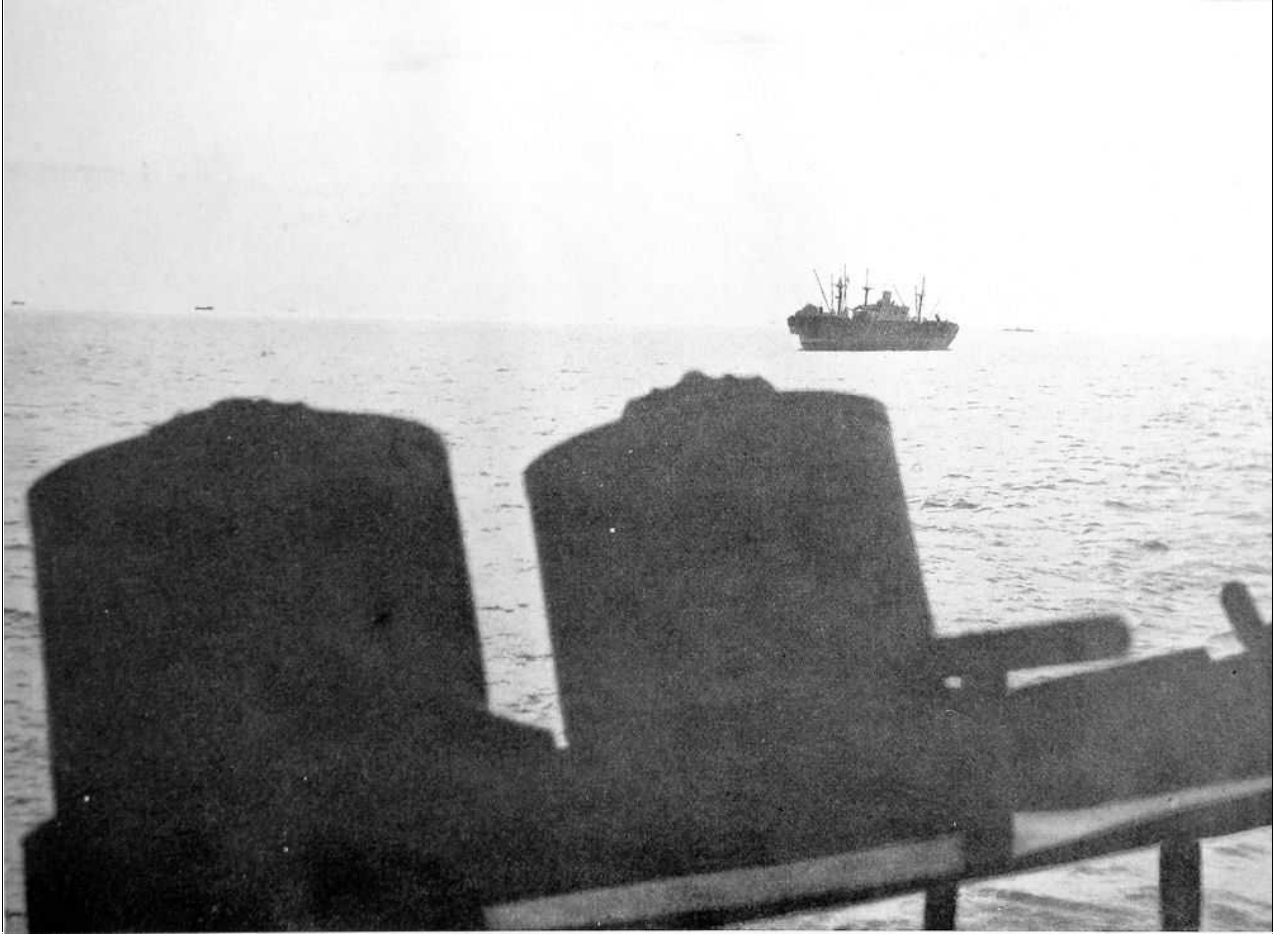
English architecture, picturesque landscapes, and rustic fences intrigue us. The cinema occupies many recreational hours.



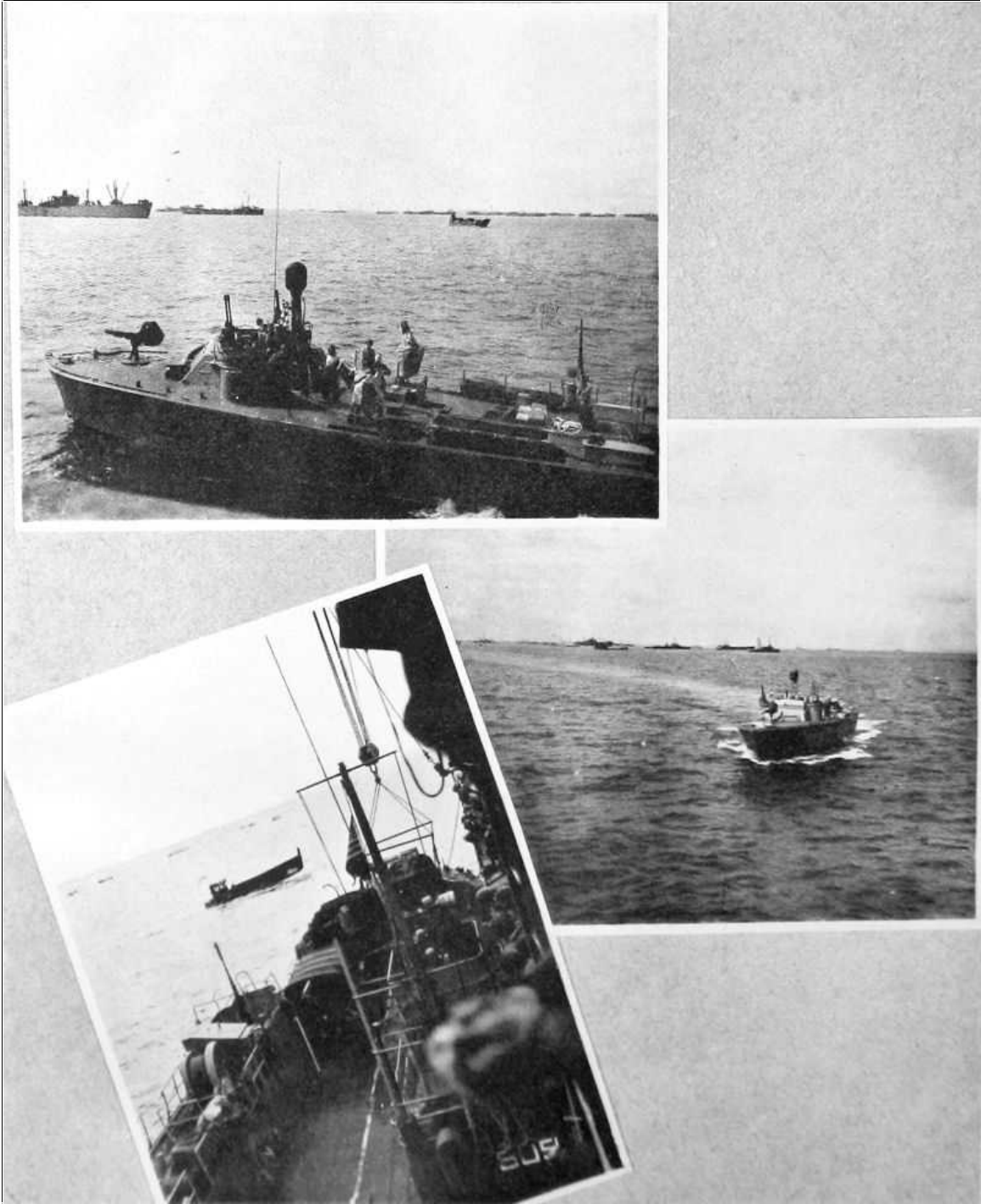
The seashore, botanical gardens, and ecclesiastical edifices prompt constant interest.



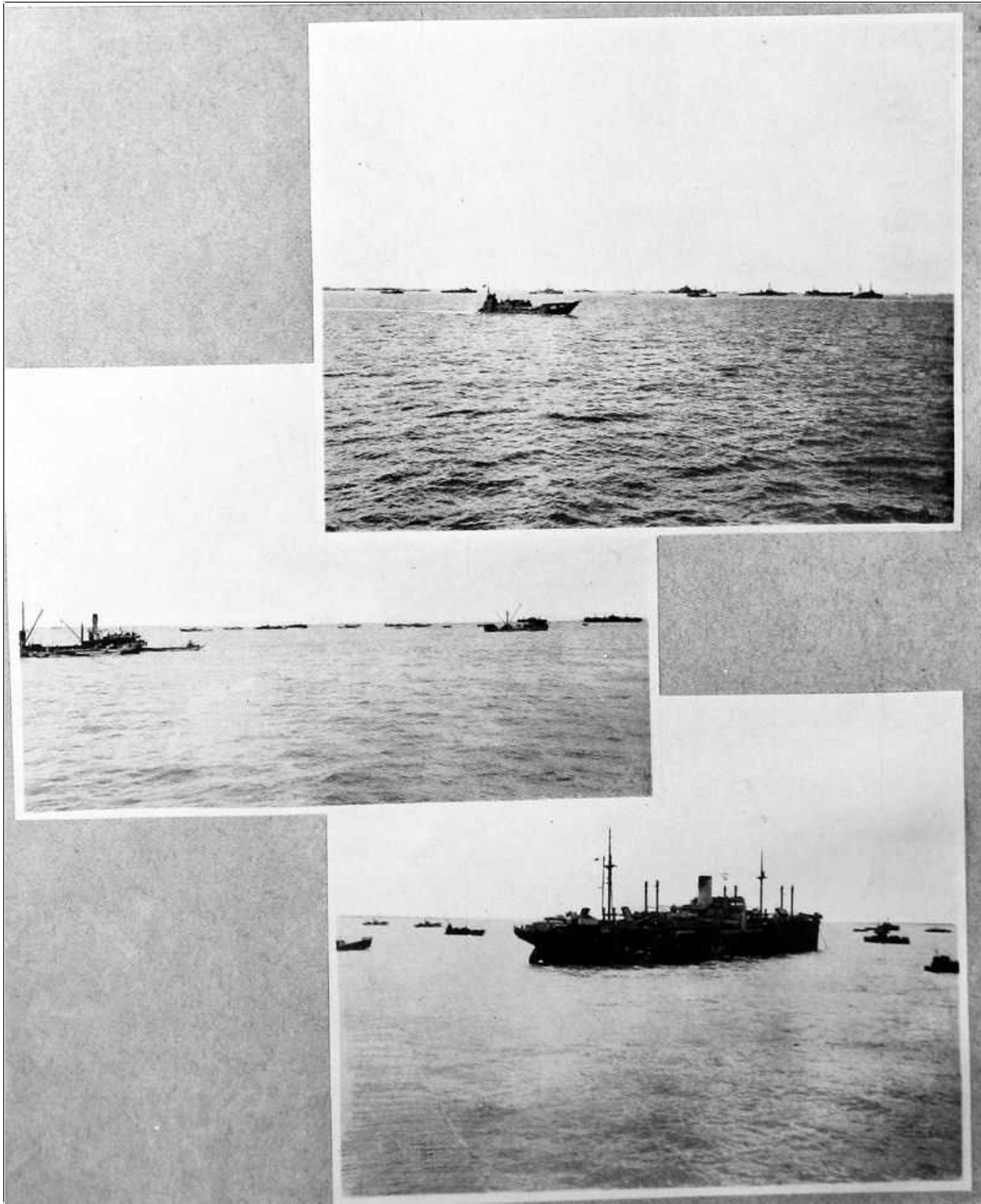
Bicycles are the mode of transportation. The "Miramar" Red Cross Club and the pavilion are often frequented in Bournemouth.



Lying in readiness



Couriers ply the choppy waters as anxiety stirs the convoy.



The brood of assault boats leave their mother ships.