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# Here's a Report on the Fighting Of Each U.S. Division in Sicily

**The "Fightin' 1st" veterans from Tunisia distinguished themselves again while others, new to battle, took the campaign in stride.**

**W**HAT kind of battles did the 45th Division fight? I used to know some of those guys when we were at Pine Camp last summer."

"Before I got into this training cadre, I was with the 16th Infantry. What did they do over there against the Germans?"

These are the questions that the average soldier asks about the Sicilian campaign. We couldn't get the answers from news reports while the fighting was going on because censorship didn't allow the correspondents to name specific units engaged in most of the battles.

Everyone knows now that the American Seventh Army did our fighting in Sicily alongside the British Eighth Army. Commanded by Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr., it consisted of six divisions organized into two corps, one under Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley and the other under Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes. Here is an account of what each of those six divisions did during the 39-day campaign—gathered by YANK correspondents who covered the action and from other sources. It is as complete a Who's Who of the American forces in the Sicily campaign as we can publish now. A lot of the play-by-play details are still restricted military information, of course, and will probably remain that way until the end of the war.

The map shows clearly the course of battle and the principal routes of invasion followed by each of the American divisions. There were many offshoots from the main invasion routes, as units of the divisions mopped up bypassed areas en route, but only the main invasion routes are indicated. The British and Canadian operations, also shown on the map, were in many respects more important than our own and often even merged with them, but in this summary we are concerned only with the American divisions which YANK readers know.

The first Americans to land on Sicily, after seven days of "saturation" bombing by Allied air fleets and heavy shelling by men-of-war, were the troops of the 82d Airborne Division, pioneer American airborne outfit and without battle experience. The airborne infantry and paratroopers of the 82d, carried to Sicily in giant C-47s and gliders late in the night of July 9, were blown off their course by buffeting winds and landed in scattered groups over an area perhaps 40 to 50 miles wide.

After cutting enemy communications and disorganizing rear installations far inland along a line running roughly from Licata to Vittoria, the paratroopers and airborne infantry re-formed into a solid division. In these operations, separate combat teams mopped up several Sicilian towns, including strategic Vittoria, just north of Scoglitti on the southeast seacoast. One tough 82d detachment was charged by Italian horse cavalry but broke the charge with tommy guns. In a continuous drive along the southern coast, the 82d swept headlong to Campobello and Marsala and seized Trapani on July 25, fanning out from the city to wipe up surrounding areas.



Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr.

Maj. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott and Lt. Col. William O. Darby



Maj. Gen. Terry Allen

Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes

Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley

A few hours after the 82d descended from the sky, the Rangers, under Lt. Col. William O. Darby, came ashore on the beach at Gela as a shock battalion, paving the way for the main American seaborne invasion force, which landed early on July 10 through waters whipped up dangerously by an unexpected squall.

This main invasion force hit the Sicilian beaches in a three-pronged drive. The 1st Division waded ashore behind the Rangers at Gela. Its right flank was covered by the landing of the 45th Division at Scoglitti. The left flank was protected at first by the 3d Division landing at Licata and later by the 2d Armored Division,

which apparently rolled its tanks and half-tracks out of the boats somewhere between Licata and Gela. Meanwhile, the Rangers were already fighting inland ahead of the 1st Division, veering to the westward out of the line of the 1st's advance. Within 10 days, they took Porto Empedocle and moved swiftly along the southwest shore.

The "Fightin' 1st," under Maj. Gen. Terry Allen, fought one of the bitterest battles of the campaign at the very beginning. Hampered by a lack of tanks, Allen's men were quickly thrown back to the Gela beaches by strong German counterattacks. Aided by airborne troops, but mostly through its own resolute fighting, the 1st Divi-

## These American Divisions Were in Action at Sicily



1st Division trained at Fort Devens, Mass. It was the first U. S. division to go into action in 1917, one of the first to land in North Africa and fight in Tunisia.



2d Armored Division got its first real taste of action in Sicily. It used to be Lt. Gen. Patton's old outfit at Fort Benning, Ga., in the days before Pearl Harbor.



3d Division distinguished itself at the Marne in 1918. It saw limited action in Morocco last fall where it landed after training at Fort Lewis and the Presidio.



45th Division, Oklahoma National Guard outfit, saw action for first time in Sicily. They call it "the Indian Division" because it has some 1,500 Indians from 28 tribes.



9th Division, activated at Fort Bragg in 1940 by Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers, CG of the ETO, was first U. S. unit to enter Bizerte during final drive of Tunisia battle.



The 82d Airborne Division was Sgt. York's outfit in first World War. It trained at Fort Bragg after it was converted into an airborne division at Claiborne in 1942.