

HOLLAND

BEFORE THE WAR



The Prince's palace at Soestdijk





The dunes protect the country against the sea from North to South

Scheveningen,
international seaside
resort near The Hague



The North Sea coast





Holland is famous for her cattle stock.
Pedigrees are registered in the Rundveestamboek, the Herd Book



Horses are still favored
to plough the tough Dutch clay

Fields of abundant crops
as far as the eye can see



Canals afford cheap transportation for hay



Modern machinery
takes in the ready crops

Windmills are the useful
and typical feature
of the Dutch polder land,
windmills not only as
mills but windmills
to keep water at
the right level



Behind the dunes, near Haarlem, Spring sees the bulb fields lying like piled carpets

Between Amsterdam and The Hague, agglomerations of greenhouses, seen from the air,
glitter in the sun like the waters of so many lakes



While Canadian soldiers exclaimed at a most modern Holland, they still found that in many parts of the country old costumes are worn

A fisherman of quaint, old Volendam

Oyster vendor at Goes, Zeeland

Woman of Volendam

A family of Walcheren, Zeeland





In the middle of the land,
extend wild, deserted,
drifted sandhills

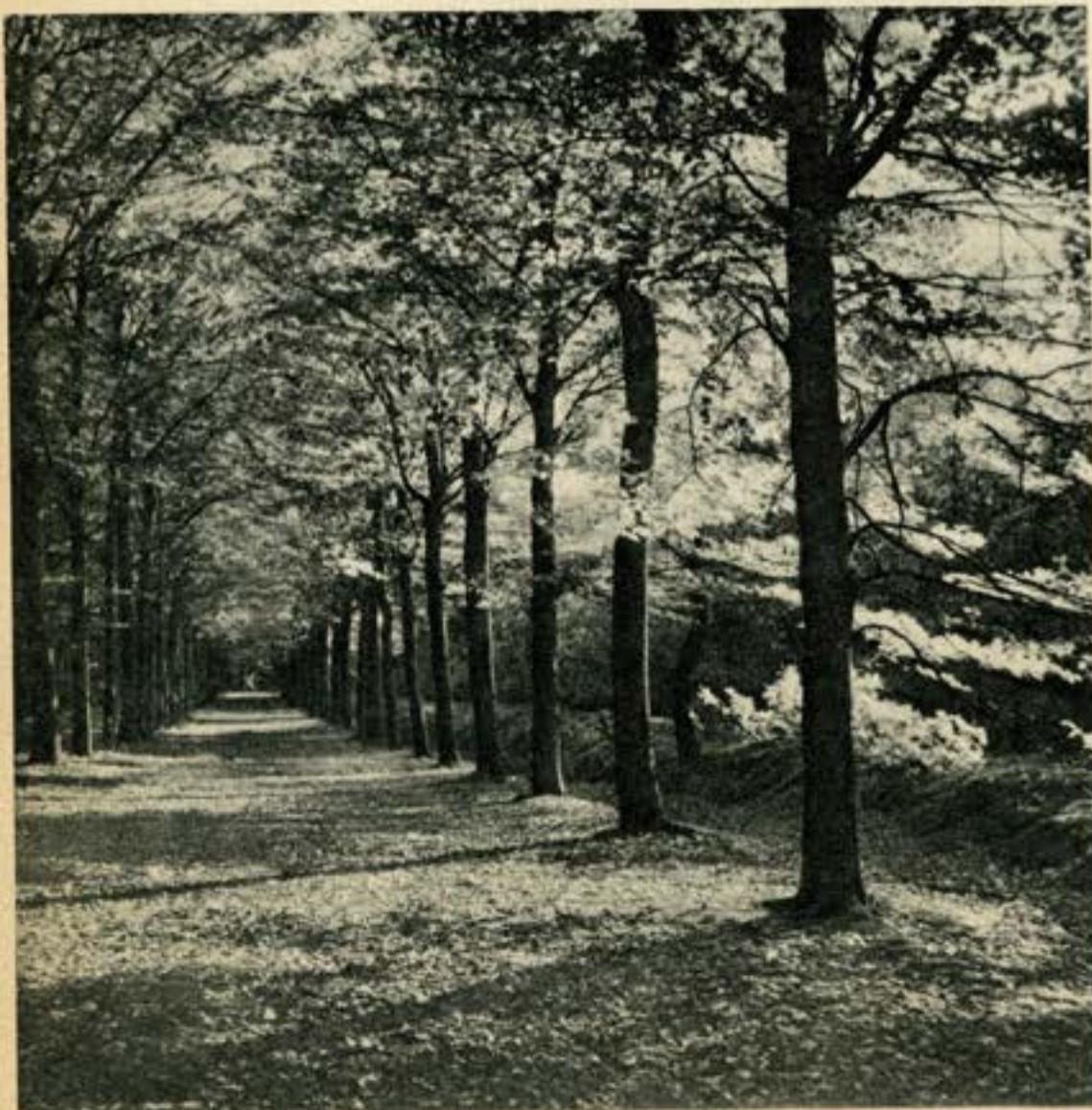
The bare heath is broken by the green juniperus



Village street
in the province
of Limburg



One of the many prehistorical monuments in the eastern part of the country



One of the beautiful alleys
of trees in the higher
eastern central region



The Vecht river flows between alleys of
trees and rows of
17th century patrician houses



The IJsel, a geographically important river,
became famous during the battle
for the liberation of Western Holland



The Waal with the Lower Rhine and the Maas formed the great water barrier between the Canadians and the Germans during the winter operations of 1945



Sailing, a most elegant Dutch sport



Brickworks on the Lek



The river Maas in South Limburg

A modern bridge
across the Merwede canal



A 17th century drawbridge
in Amsterdam,
the Magere Brug



The Muiderslot, a medieval
stronghold on the IJselmeer,
also a centre of culture
in the Golden Age





The Moerdijk bridges link the North of Holland to the South. This new traffic bridge, alongside the railway bridge, was erected in 1936, is more than 1000 yard long and 20 yard wide and has ten spans



The Palace of the Dam,
former townhall of
Amsterdam, was built
on 13689 ramming piles



The Rijksmuseum
in Amsterdam is the
national art's treasury



Amsterdam is sometimes
called the Venice of the
North for its grachten-girdle,
successive belts of canals



The picturesque
Groenburgwal with
the Zuiderkerk
in Amsterdam



The Nieuwmarkt with
its medieval weighing house
in the oldest part of Amsterdam

Veere in Zeeland is a museum
of old architecture and a typical
commercial town of the 17th century



The renowned Alkmaar cheese market
where cheese vendors
esteem their guild clothes





The chunes of the Drommedaris
tower at Enkhuizen
on the Zuiderzee are known
to be the best in the country



The Houses of Parliament reflected in the ever still waters of the Hofvijver, The Hague



Utrecht is dominated by the Domtoren or cathedral tower dating from the XIVth century; its chimes consist of 49 bells

The Gothic Sint Janskathedraal at 's-Hertogenbosch of vast proportions and unusually adorned spires was restored to the Catholic Church by Napoleon after the Reformed Church had taken it over from 1629 to 1810

Modern architecture is well represented by this large factory building on the outskirts of Rotterdam





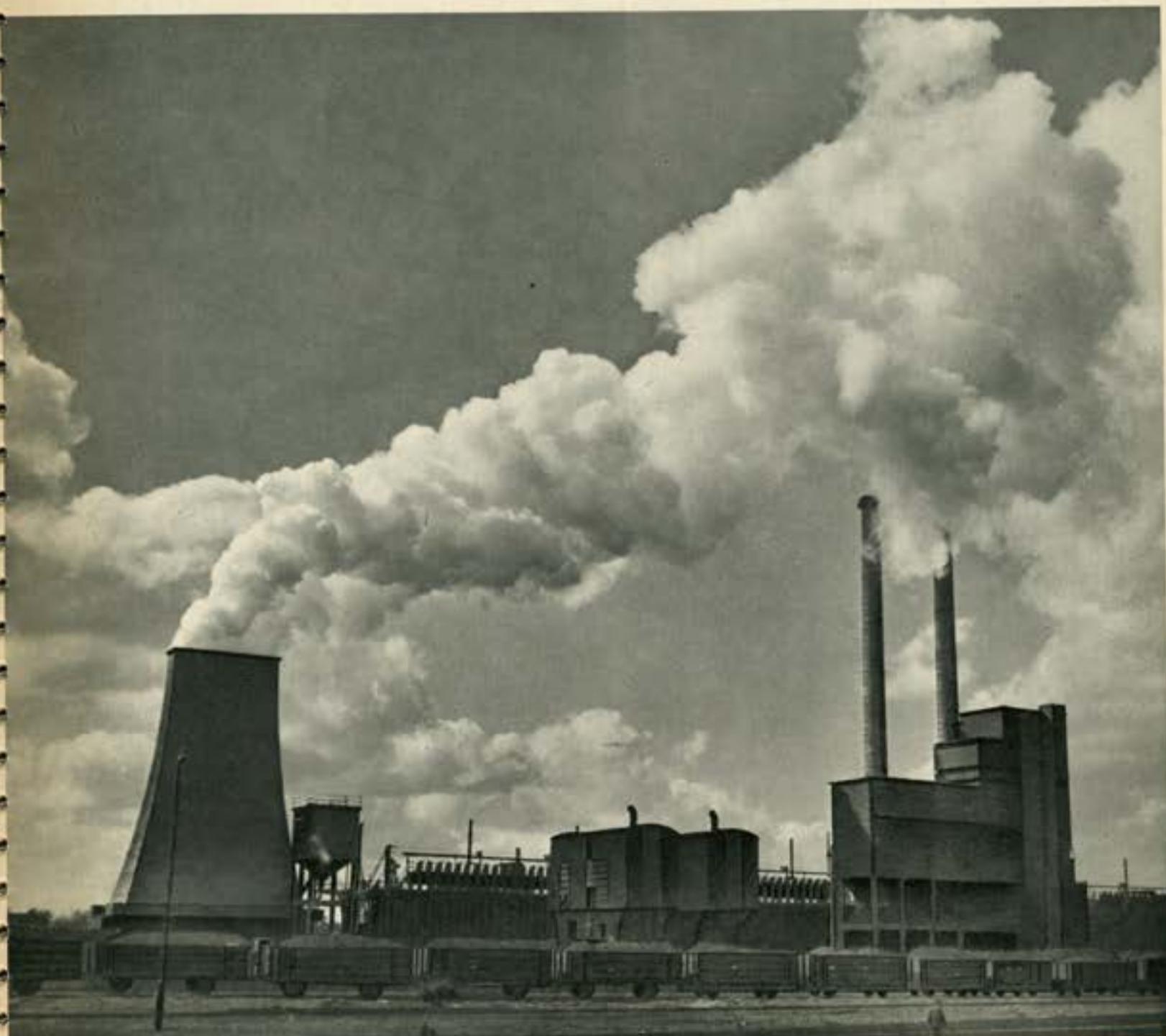
Amsterdam and Rotterdam are the two international harbours of the country

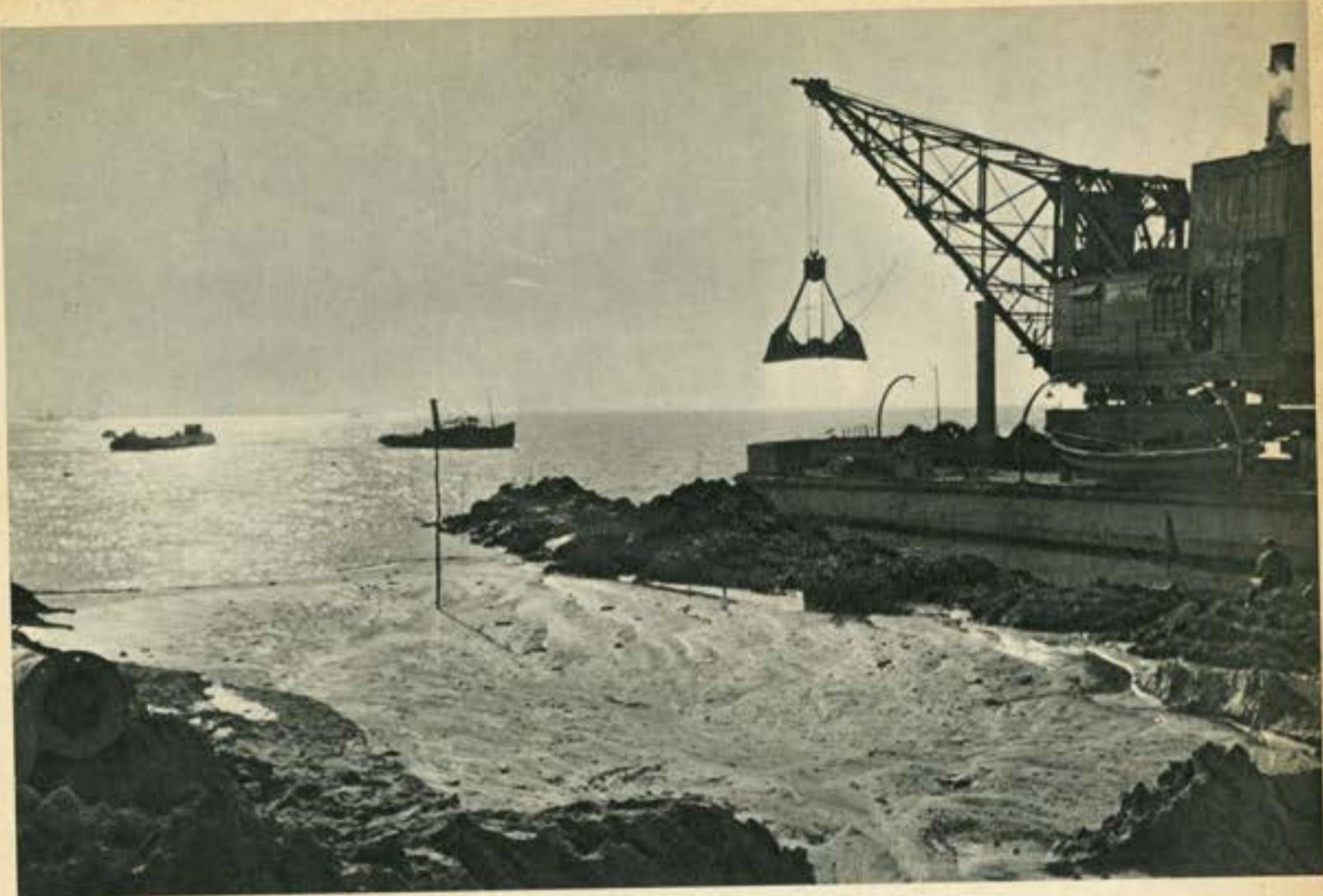
Before the war, great rivalry existed between Antwerp
and Amsterdam for diamond cutting.

In Amsterdam, it was done in approximately
70 establishments employing nearly 12,000 workers



Mining in Limburg was supplying the country with half its coal needs

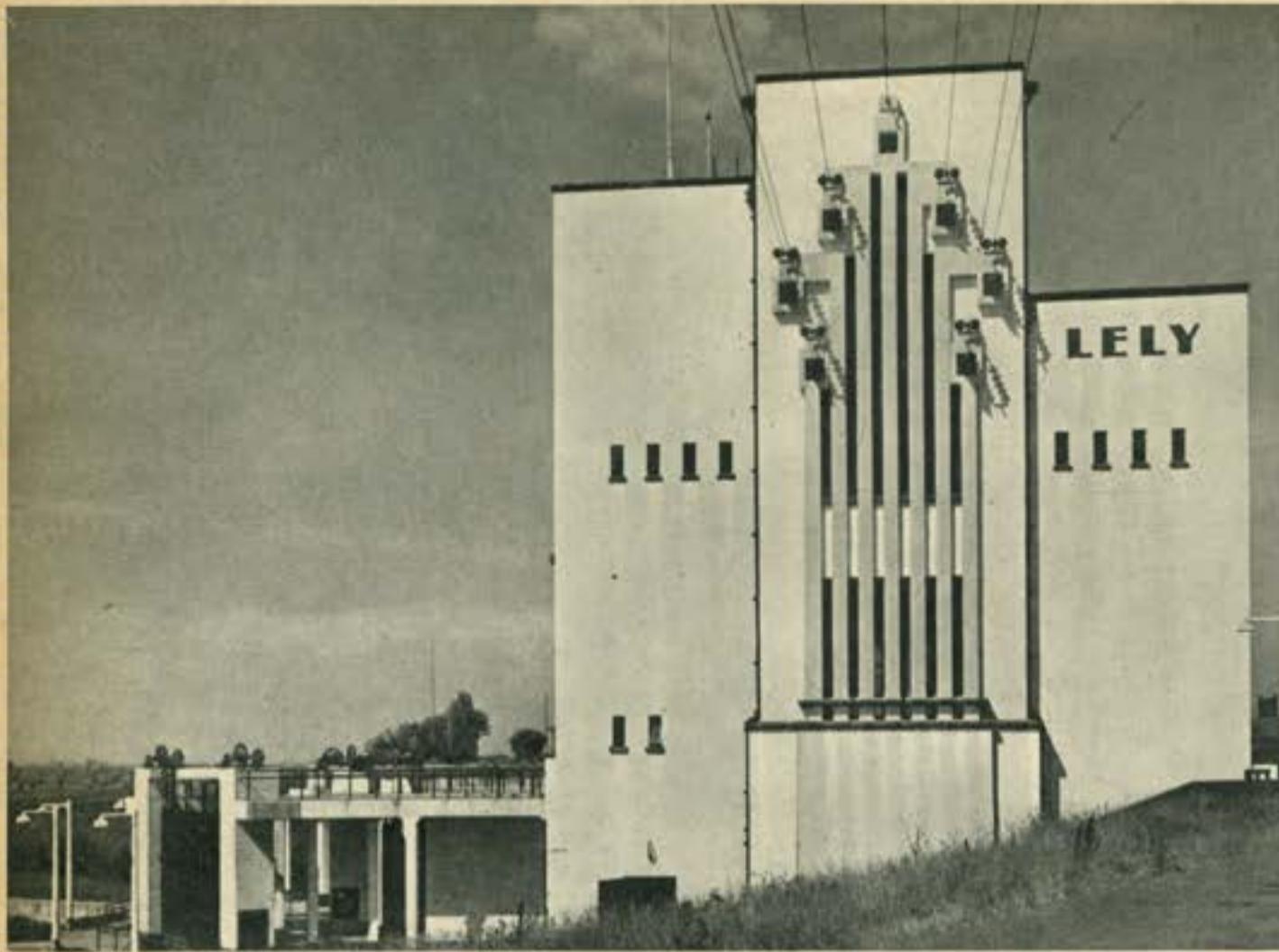




Draining the Zuiderzee was a 40 year project started in 1918 with the progressive building of a 19 mile long dyke.

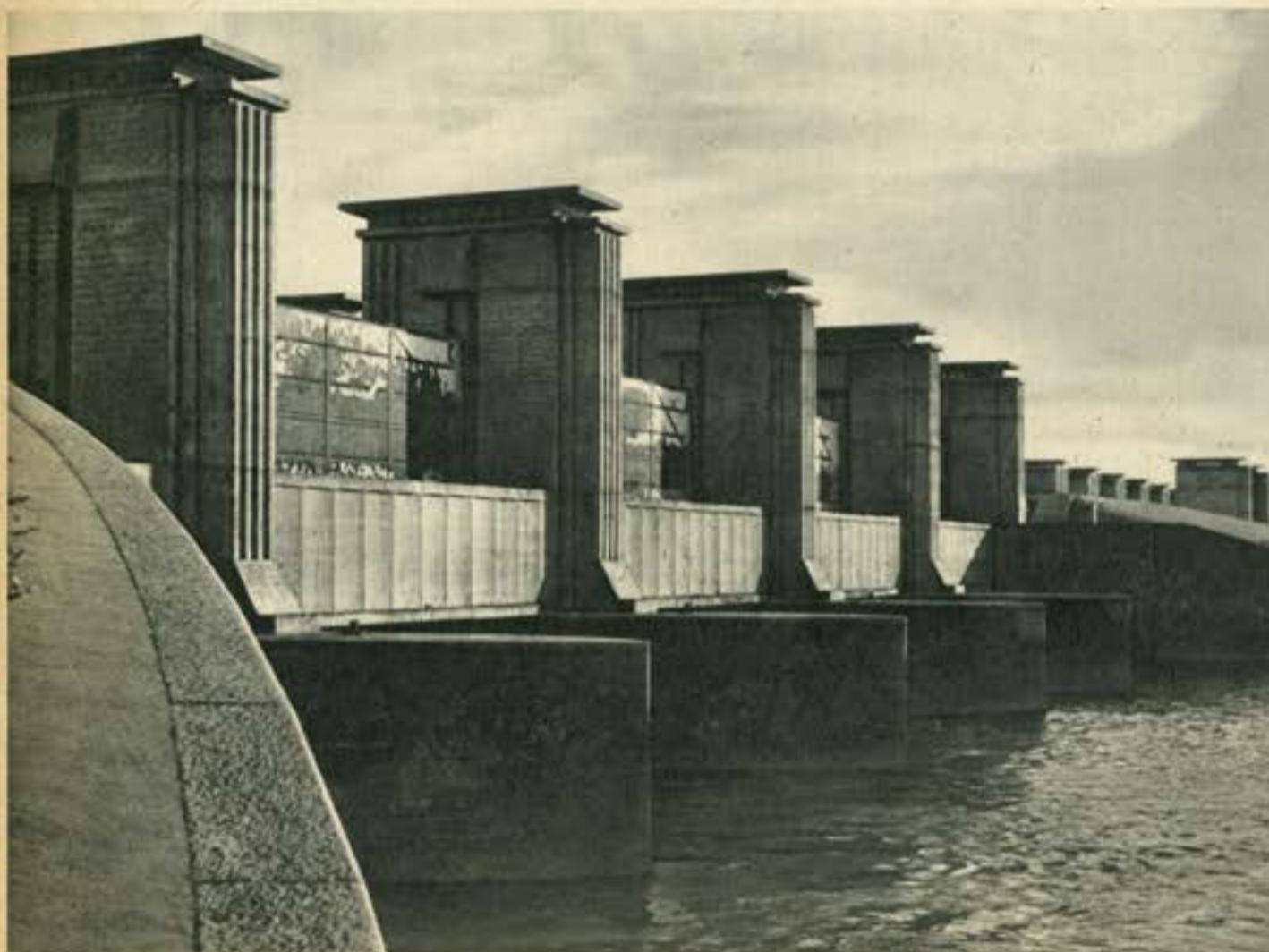
The completed dyke which is a feat of engineering now divides the Zuiderzee into the Waddenzee and the IJsselmeer, the part to be drained.





The Lely powerhouse regulates the water on the IJsselmeer

The sluices of the Afsluiddijk dam which regulates the water level between the IJsselmeer and the North sea



WAR, TERROR
AND THE
UNDERGROUND
FIGHT



The old Laurenskerk in Rotterdam after the bombing of May 14, 1940

Rotterdam ablaze, May 1940



Rembrandt behind barbed wire in German occupied Amsterdam



German bunkers in the heart of Amsterdam





The fenced-in Jewish quarters in Amsterdam round the old Weighing House

Jews pitilessly deported to Poland



In the last year of the war, German authorities conducted widespread razzias of men between the ages of 16 and 45 in the still occupied regions of Holland



Streets looked deserted as German soldiers started out on razzias



Slave labour
on the way to
Nazi-Germany

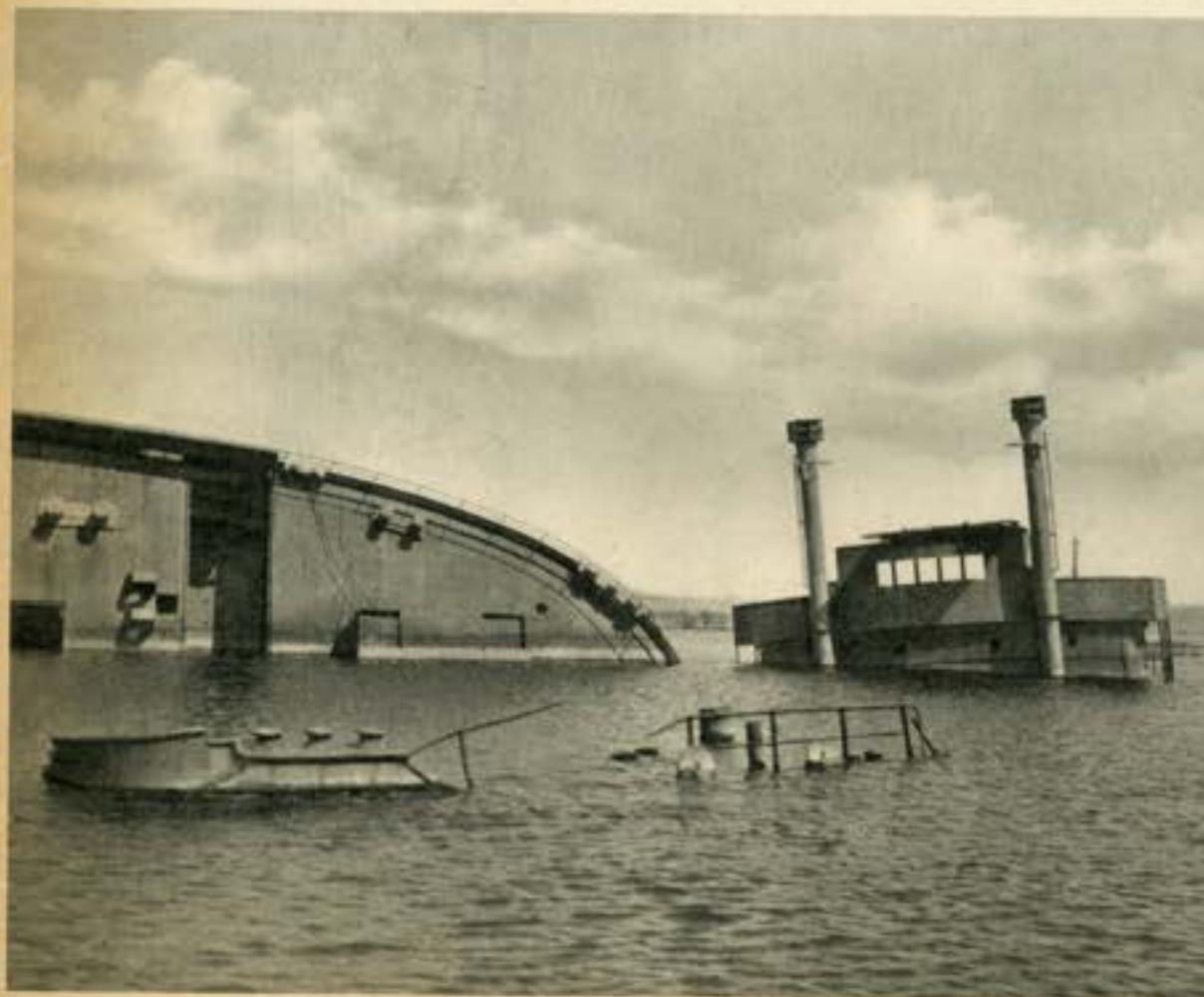


Fearing an invasion from the Zuiderzee, the Germans flooded the prosperous villages of the newly claimed Wieringermeer

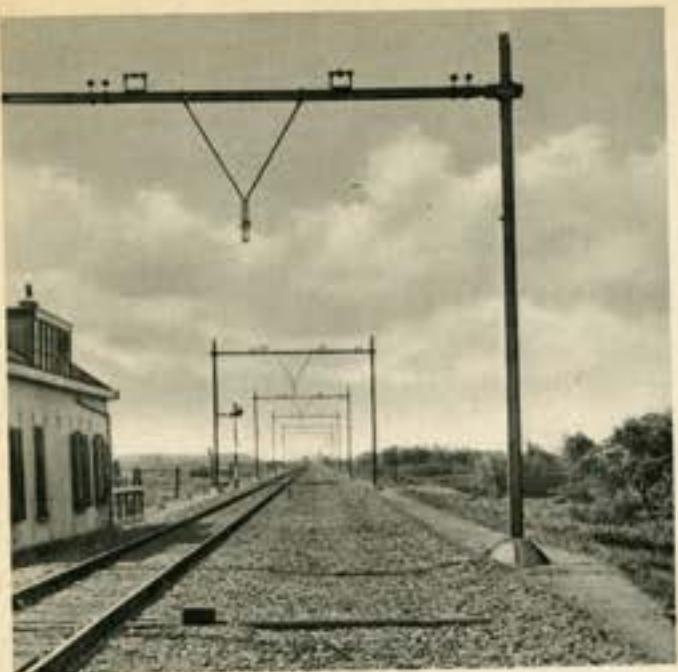
The sea surged through the dynamited dyke unto the rich corn fields



Blown-up cranes in the port of Amsterdam



Sunken ships
to block the entrance
to the harbour



The German occupation bereft Holland of her electric railway net,
her railway and tramway wagons,
her gold and silver money and,
among other things, her national vehicles: the bicycles

Underground activities in Holland:
a radio-set hidden in a telephone directory

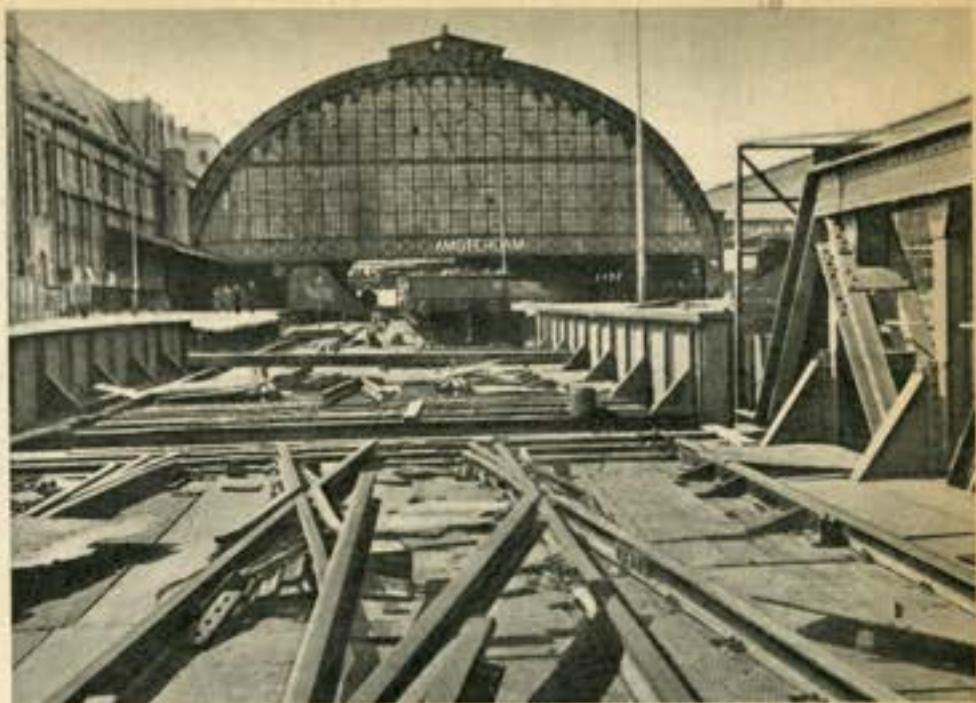


An R.A.F. pilot finds refuge in a Dutch family



Making of incendiary bombs

The Central station in Amsterdam
during The Railway Strike



Blowing up German vehicles



The Gestapo headquarters
in Amsterdam after an RAF attack





Dutch citizens find death in German reprisals

An underground man lays a Dutch flag over the dead bodies of hostages while German soldiers still stand guard across the canal





The liberation of Holland started with the paratroop-landings at Arnhem, September 1940, and the 2nd British Army dash across Noord-Brabant to rescue our airborne force



British Airborne troops advancing over a field after their gliders had landed

THE LIBERATION
OF HOLLAND

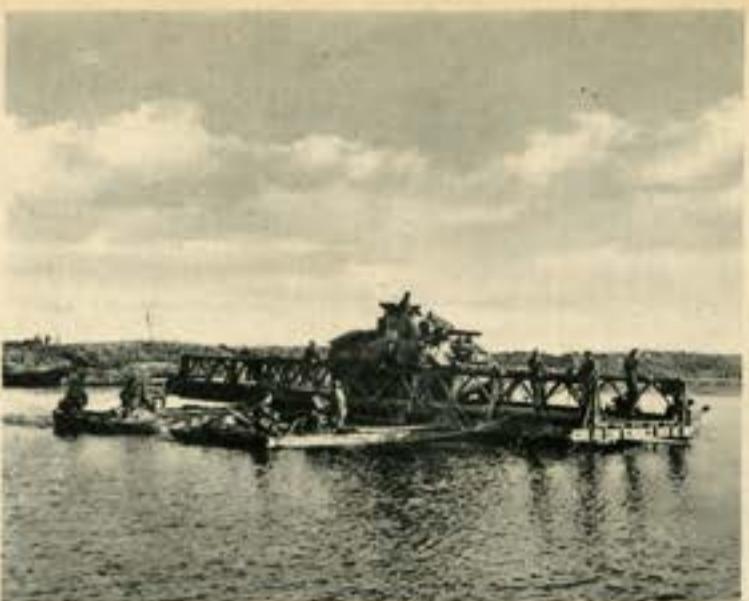


Alligators loaded with
troops take to the sea
near Terneuzen



The seaborne attack
on Flushing went in after
the town had been set on
fire by the air force

A Bailey raft takes
a Sherman tank across
the Zuid-Beveland canal



The important Nijmegen bridge was captured on the 2nd British Army drive to Arnhem, September 1944





The whole area around Nijmegen was flooded by the Germans in February 1945



Soldiers of an American division
who fought with First Canadian Army
during the drive to the Maas river

Snow warfare on
the Nijmegen front,
January 1945



A transport column
wading through mud
in the Nijmegen region





Gunners of the 5th Fd Regt,
RCA, manning a 25 pdr gun
in the Nijmegen salient



Soldiers, white camouflage,
for the use of . . . a standing
patrol on the
Nijmegen front



Soldiers of the 49th British Division crossing the IJssel near Westervoort, April '45, to capture Arnhem



The land approaches to Western Holland from the Waal were sown with mines



In this factory warehouse, war had made unusual lighting effects



A tank crossing the Twente canal



Setting haystacks on fire was one German last-ditch defence around Holten, between Deventer and Almelo

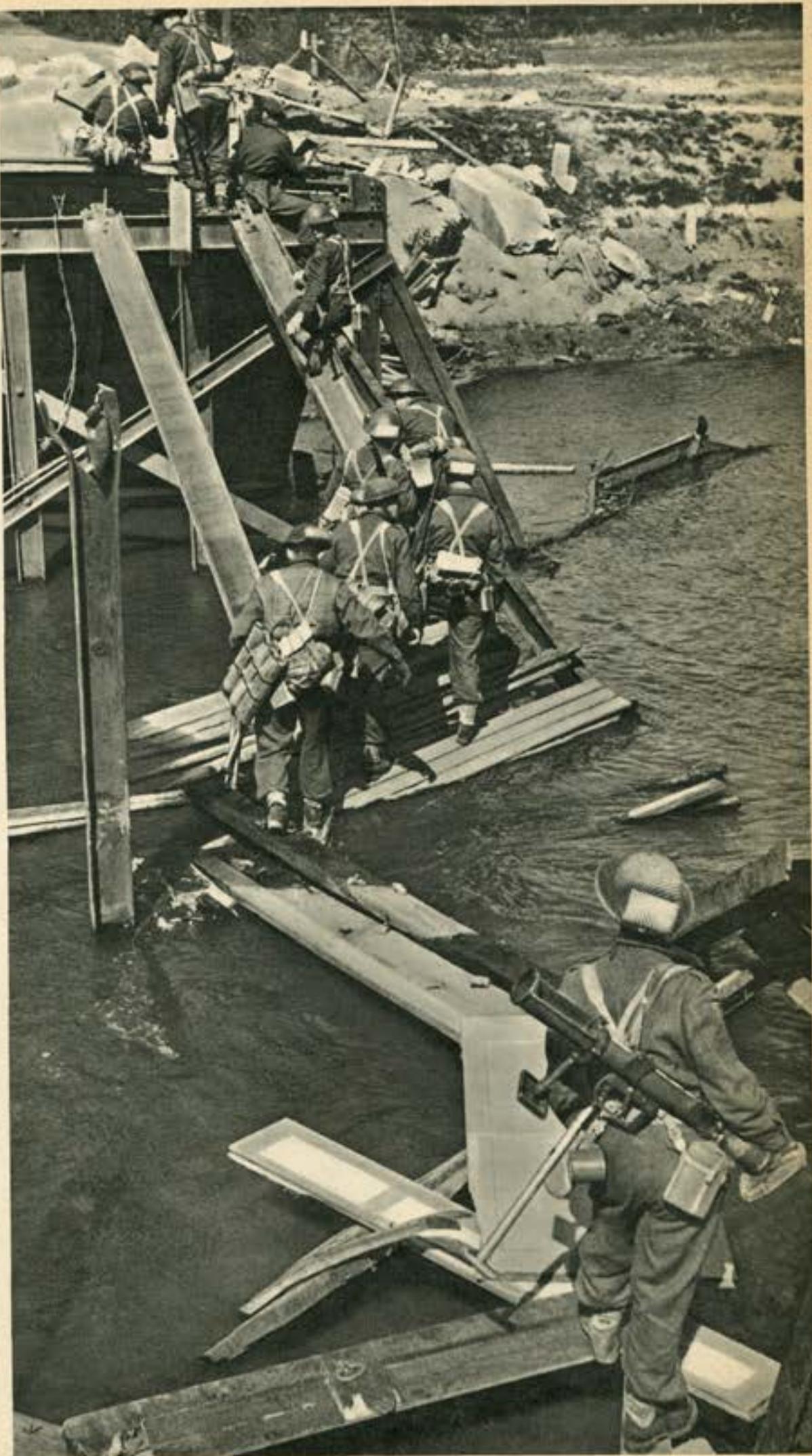




As the battle for Zutphen is progressing, civilians return home to salvage some of their belongings



An anti-aircraft post
on the IJssel
opposite Zutphen



A platoon of infantry crossing
the Regge near Ommen
on a make-shift bridge



Stretcher-bearers put a rubber boat afloat on a shallow river to bring the wounded back in comfort



One of the destroyed bridges on the IJssel near Zutphen



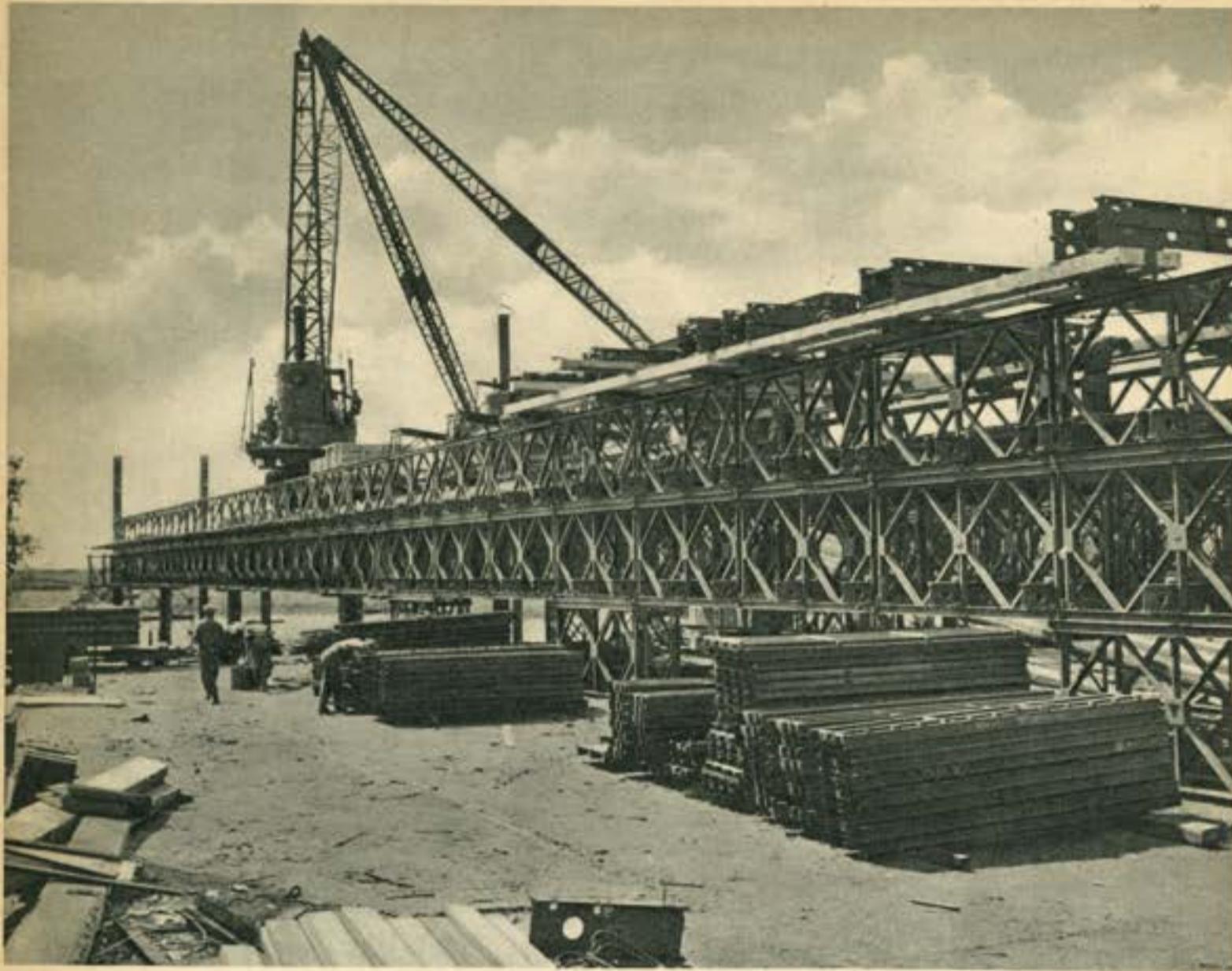
The armour reaches the outskirts of Groningen, April 1945

House clearing in Deventer



A tank in a protecting role while soft vehicles roll North of Arnhem





Royal Canadian Engineers assemble a Bailey bridge across the Lower Rhine at Arnhem

Queen Wilhelmina visits the people of Walcheren Island

Prince Bernhard at the Westerbork Jews' camp





The demolished quays
at Venlo in Limburg

A blown-up bridge at Arnhem





The Peel area, on the Maas, sight of a great tank battle

HUNGER WINTER IN WESTERN HOLLAND



During the winter of 1945, the elementary needs of a cold and hungry population had to be satisfied.

Here, deserted houses in Amsterdam are pulled down for want of fuel

Even cinders are
carefully sifted



Houses are bereft of their
woodwork and
rendered uninhabitable





When tired and starved,
waiting for freedom was hard

Central kitchens kept many people from starving to death



Homeward bound with food supplies from the country



Old age was there
with cold and hunger



Fietzen (bicycles) trips of hundreds of kilometers to get food had put most women and old men in the front line in a war against hunger



Hunger attacked the nation in its young generation

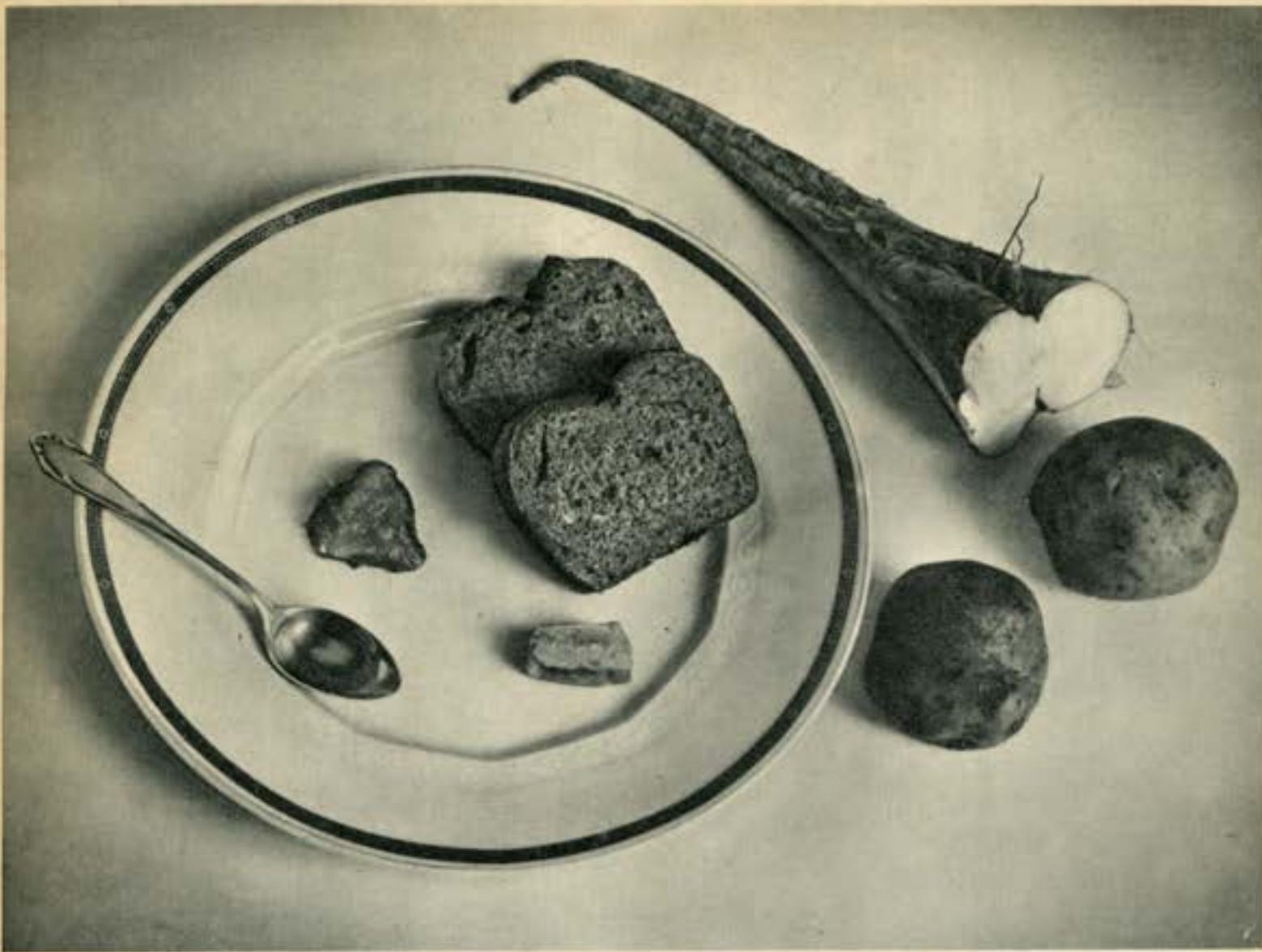


Rickets branded youth . . .

And in the temporary relief of a bowl of soup . . .

Hunger still loomed, frightening for its delayed action





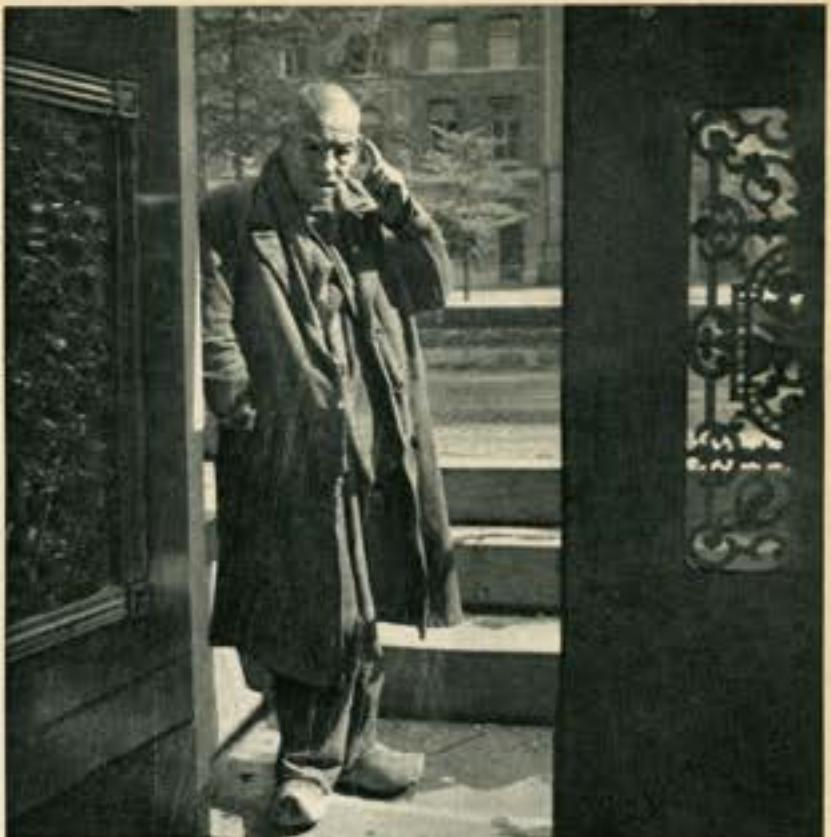
The official daily 'starvation' ration of 665 calories



. . . and its effects



The rickety youth ...



The oedeme swollen old age ...

Brought the extremes of a nation on the same level of physical exhaustion . . .



While Death kept in waiting ...



And finally took its toll



A food armistice on the Dutch front re-kindled the hopes of a desperate population

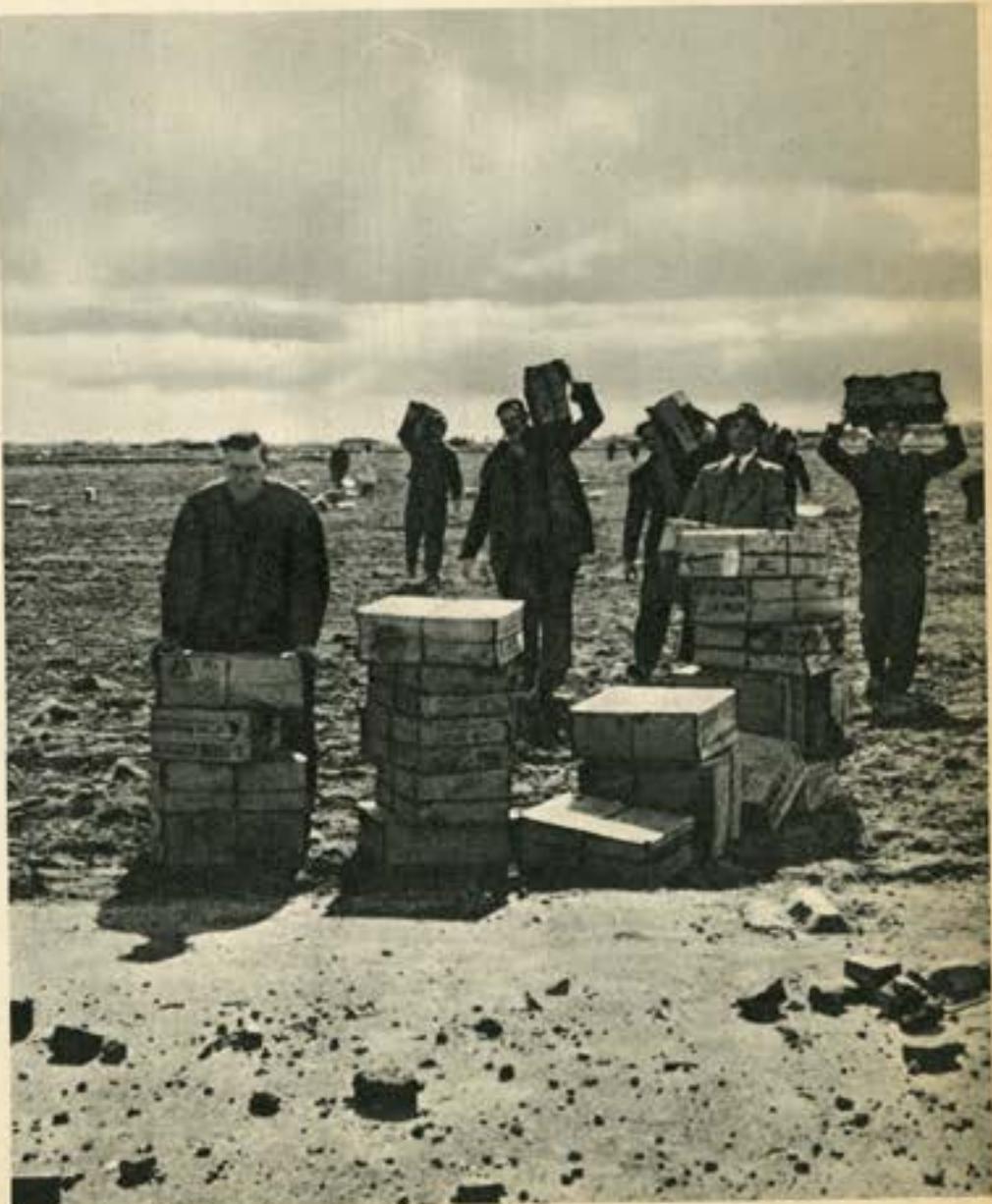


Planes came flying over the main cities . . .



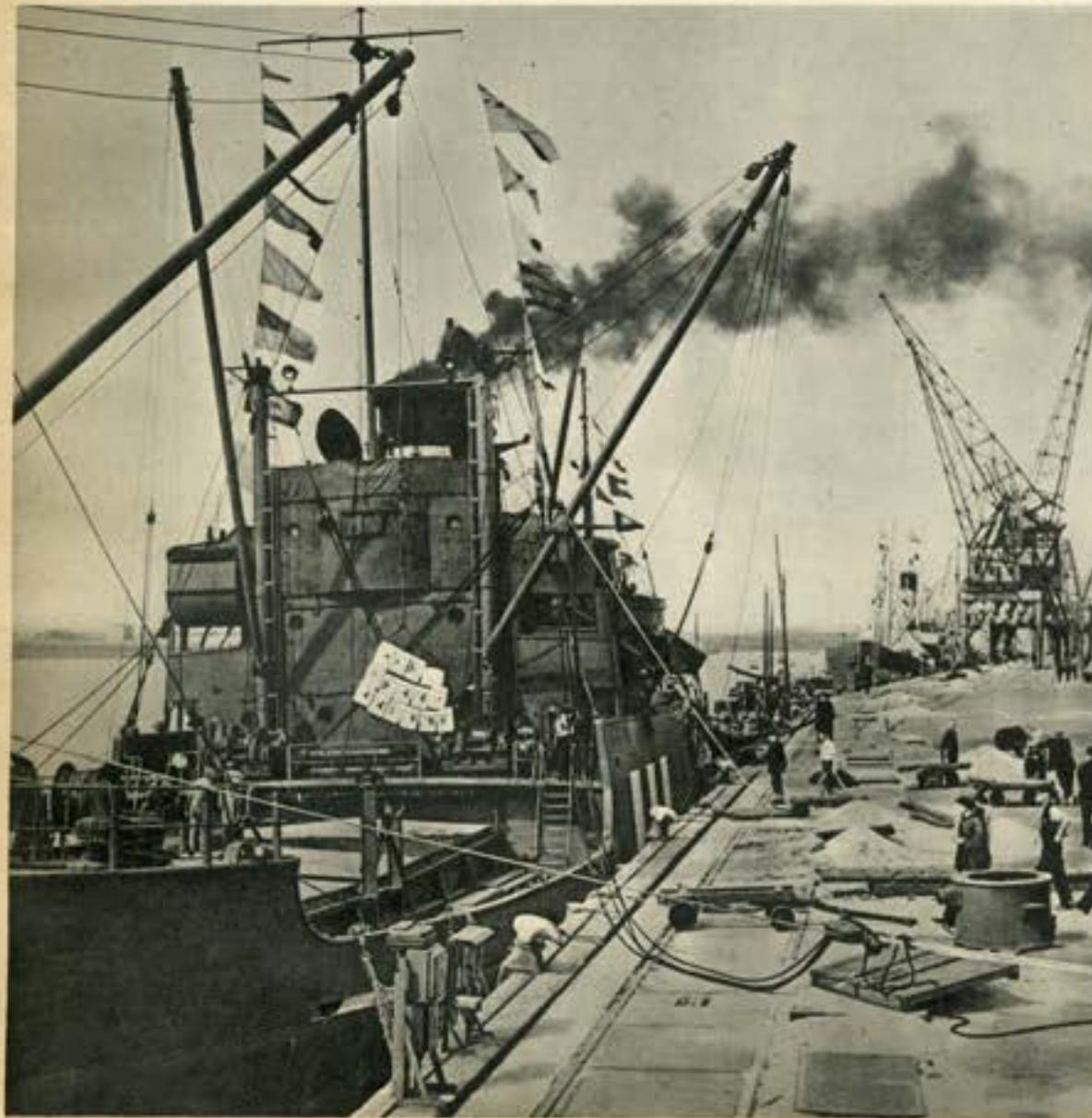
To drop their food parcels . . .

In the neighbouring airfields



CAPITULATION AND CELEBRATIONS

Food convoys left the Canadian area for the still occupied and German starved territory



The port of Rotterdam was cleared to allow food ships to enter



The food armistice resulted in the complete capitulation of the German Forces in Western Holland. The terms of capitulation were imposed by the Commander of 1 Canadian Corps, Lieutenant-General Charles Foulkes, and signed at the Hotel de Wereld, Wageningen, May the 7th 1945. H.R.H. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands was present

Later, General von Blaskowitz, Commander of the German Forces, was arrested at his headquarters



Victory was complete



While the Air Force filled
the air with rumbling noises . . .



Generals reviewed
their victorious troops



The final capture of Arnhem marked the last phase of the liberation of Holland

When the capitulation came, the Canadians found the German Holland Fortress still well equipped for what the enemy thought would be a last ditch defence



Instead they marched out
into captivity – often
guarded by the people they
had oppressed yesterday



The boastful enemy that had thundered into Holland five years before, now paced a path of defeat on the road to the Reich







Amsterdam shows overwhelming enthusiasm as the first elements of Canadian troops reach the capital

British troops of the 49th division enter liberated Utrecht



The German military rule is indeed . . . Kaput



In Zeeland, the soldier had had the individual contact



But in the suddenly
liberated masses of
Western Holland,
cheering crowds surrounded
him for days on end

Windows overlooking the streets were often the best place for the jubilant Dutch to see the liberators



Signing autographs seemed to be the reward of darker days behind



And the days went by as the guests of Holland . . .

Did they know about Pied Piper?



One of them was missing



The Canadians took
to sailing but the Dutch
are born sailors



Amsterdam prepared for a Grand Victory Parade which was held on June the 30th 1945

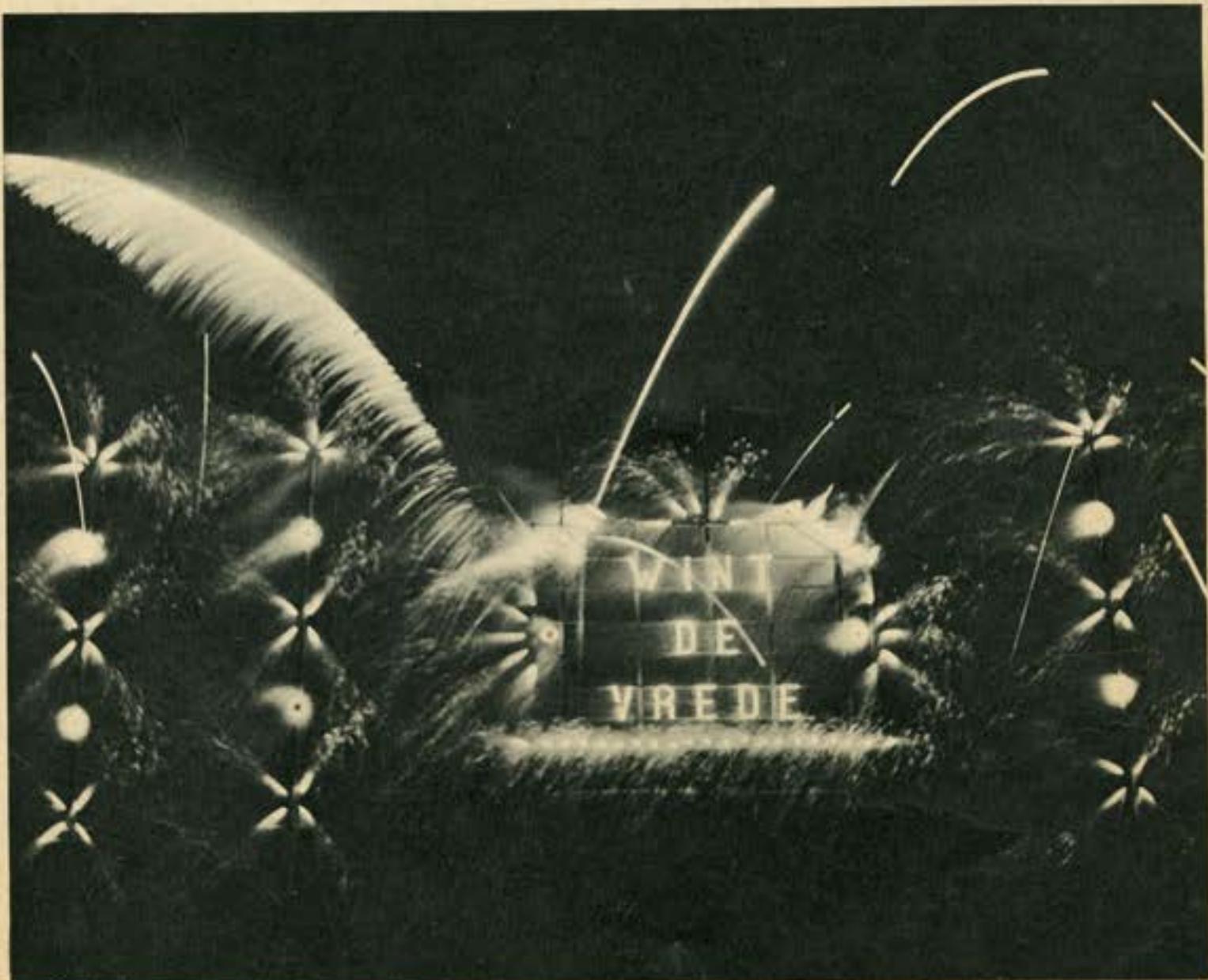


H.M. the Queen of the Netherlands, General H.D.G. Crerar and Lieutenant-General Charles Foulkes
watched the troops marching past from the balcony of the Palace of the Dam





The joy of liberation was as boundless as the possibilities of peace



COLOPHON

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