Donald Appletrad's World War II photographs and diary

Section 7, Pages 181 - 210

These are two World War II photograph albums and a diary which belonged to Donald Appletrad. During World War II, he served in the Office of Strategic Services Headquarters Company 2677 Regiment, United States Army. Donald Appletrad was born October 11, 1909 in Leonardville, Kansas, the son of Olaf and Lydia Appletrad.

Creator: Appletrad, Donald

Date: 1943-1945

Callnumber:

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 308671

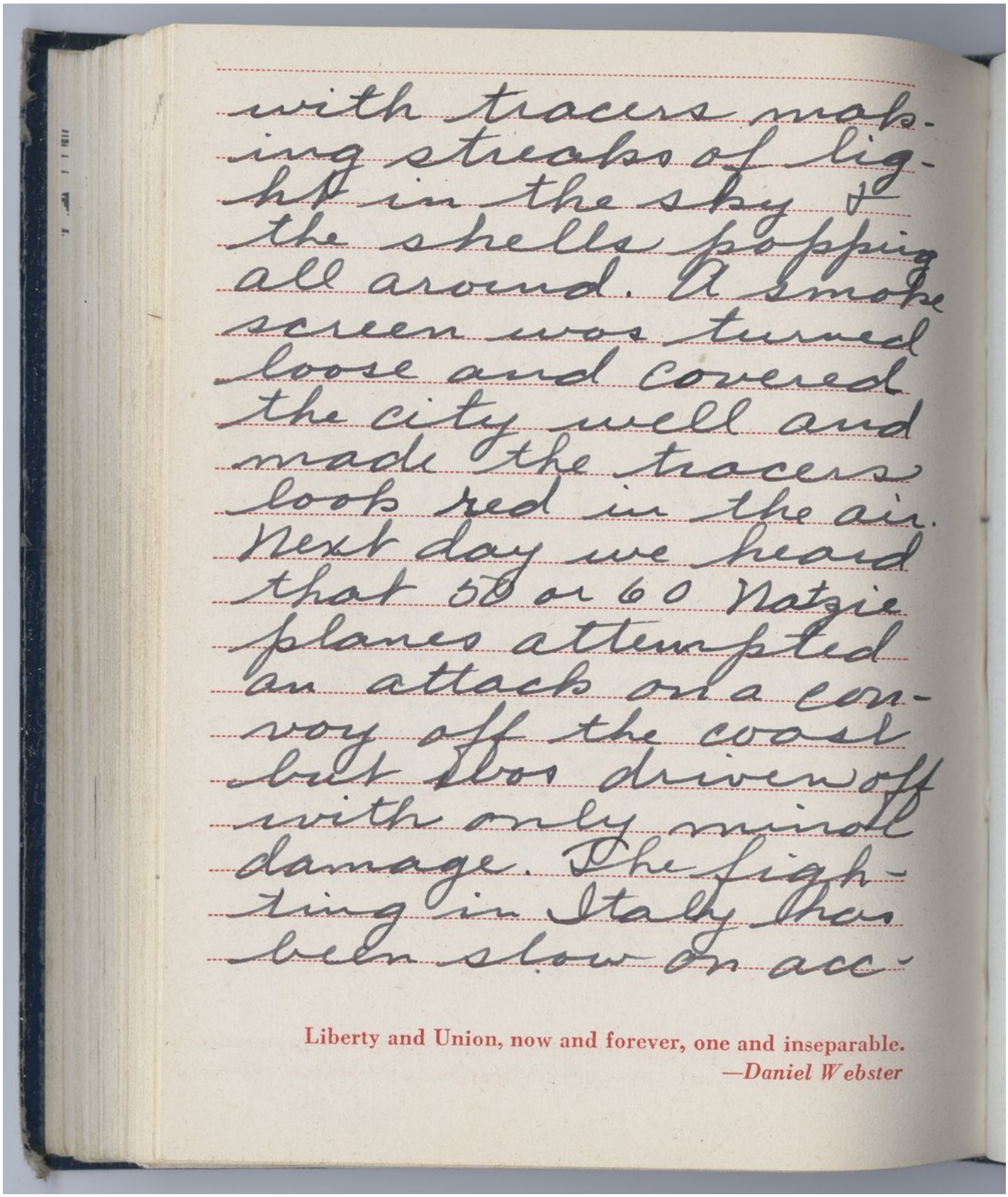
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every hour which
makes it nice for
the fellows on pass.
We turned out quite
a bit of work in
our shop since I
last made an entry.
This morning (Mar 13)
we got up early +
tested our new gas
masks, mine work-
ed O.K. but I sure
hope we never have
to use them. On
Mar. 8 at about 7:30
we had an air ra-
id alert and the
guns down town
sure put
on a show

I get ahead by fighting hard,
But fighting keeps my spirit strong.
—*S. E. Kiser*





with tracers making streaks of light in the sky & the shells popping all around. A smoke screen was turned loose and covered the city well and made the tracers look red in the air. Next day we heard that 50 or 60 Natzie planes attempted an attack on a convoy off the coast but 4 were driven off with only minor damage. The fighting in Italy has been slow on acc-

Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable.
—*Daniel Webster*

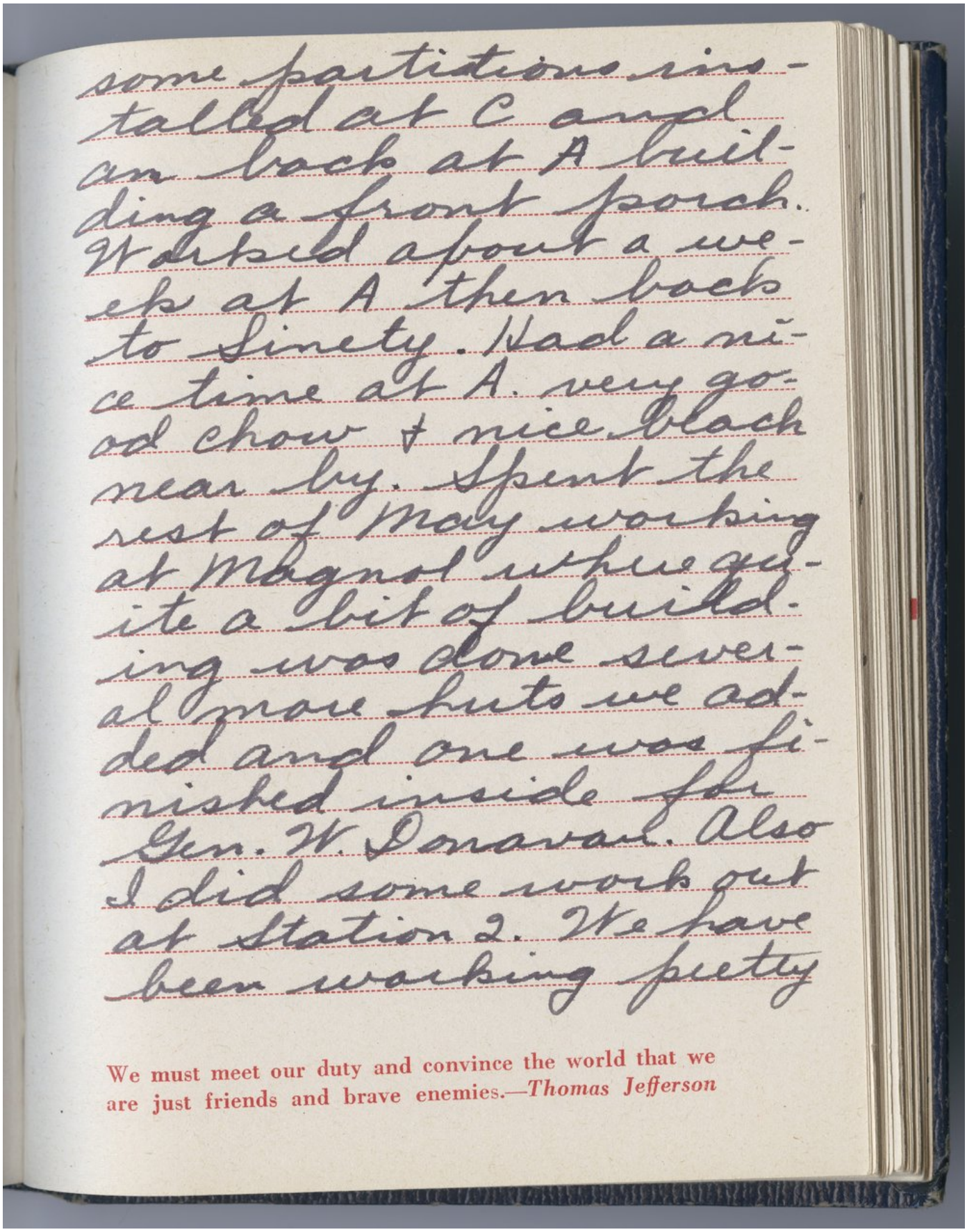
ount of bad weather
but little old diary
Ill have some good
news for you one
of these day I hope.
3/13/44 - 5/10/44 - Quite
a bit took place be-
tween these dates
including a phys-
ical exam, quite a
few improvements
around camp. We
now have hot sho-
wers a screened in
latrine a hut for
a mess hall and a g-
ood start on floor-
ing our tents and
all to have them f-
inished soon. Our orga-

A man should be upright, not be kept upright.
—*Marcus Aurelius*

nization is growing
daily and we have
quite a few civilian
French, Spanish and
Italian prisoners wo-
rking for us. All our
officers are now at
Magnol. We have or-
ganized a baseball
team and to date
have one game won
and one lost to our
gang of Aussies. Our
shop has been very
busy and I have be-
en doing quite a bit
of outside work at
our various station
including screening,
a new kit-
chen at A.



Ambition, the soldier's virtue.
—*Shakespeare*



some partitions installed at C and an back at A building a front porch. We did about a week at A then back to Sinety. Had a nice time at A. very good chow & nice block near by. Spent the rest of May working at Magnol where quite a bit of building was done several more huts we added and one was finished inside for Gen. W. Donavan. Also I did some work out at Station 2. We have been working pretty

We must meet our duty and convince the world that we are just friends and brave enemies.—*Thomas Jefferson*

steady, not many days off. We have been having some good movies in camp lately. We now have our tent all fixed up, cement floor, boarded up half way & screen above that and we have a good screen door so we took down our mosquito bars. About 15 fellows who were on limited service who had come here in March on detached service from the replacement camp at Camastell were ordered back some to

General Taylor never surrenders.
—*Crittenden's reply to Santa Ana*

be sent home (lucky guys) Several of the boys were fine guys and we sure hated to see them go. Also Jim one of my buddies went home on a Medical Discharge.

June - 4 - 1944. Had to work to-day so no pass. Got my promotion to day and now Corporal (ahem!) Am to get 4 or 5 days off soon & may go on a hunting trip in the mts.

June - 5/44. - Back to Magnol to work. We still have quite

Only free peoples can hold their purpose and their honor steady to a common end.—*Woodrow Wilson*

a bit to do there.

June 6-44- Same old thing to day. A fellow sure gets stale when he misses his day off every so often. (Invasion starts)

June 7-44- Ditto nothing new to report. Everyone is listening to the news as the Invasion is on and we are all kind of anxious.

June 8. 44- Invasion seems to be going good, hope it continues until we beat the pants off those Krauts.

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.—*Wendell Phillips*

June 9-44. - To day I worked at the Spanish desk, doing some screening.

June 10-44. - Well I had hoped for a pass tomorrow but no dice, was kind of mad but cooled off when Lt. Terwilliger promised me Thurs. Off. Took my usual Sat. nite bath & to bed early.

June 11-44. Back to work at Magnol. Built some platforms on new mess hall & helped some on kitchen



Arise, go forth, and conquer as of old.
—*Tennyson*

roof. Gee Ill be glad when we get done there.

June 12-44- Hurrah! a day off at last. Was going to rest & sun bathe but darn it got started fixing shelves in our tent & didnt rest 15 min all day. No hum.

June 13-44- Back to work to day finishing work on kitchen roof, changed some hinges, put roofing on new dispatch office. No show tonite so to bed & my dreams, early.

That government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.—*Lincoln*

June 16- Well we were to go on our boar hunt to day but wont get started until about 5 PM. Left camp at about 5, loaded down with equipment. Our weapons consisted of 1 .46 automatic and 4 carbines with 600 rounds of ammo. We went in a command car with a trailer behind. Our party consisted of 1/Lt Lt. Jack Tech. Sgt. Joe Hummey - cut, Pvt. Chet Kephen and myself. We arrived at our desti-

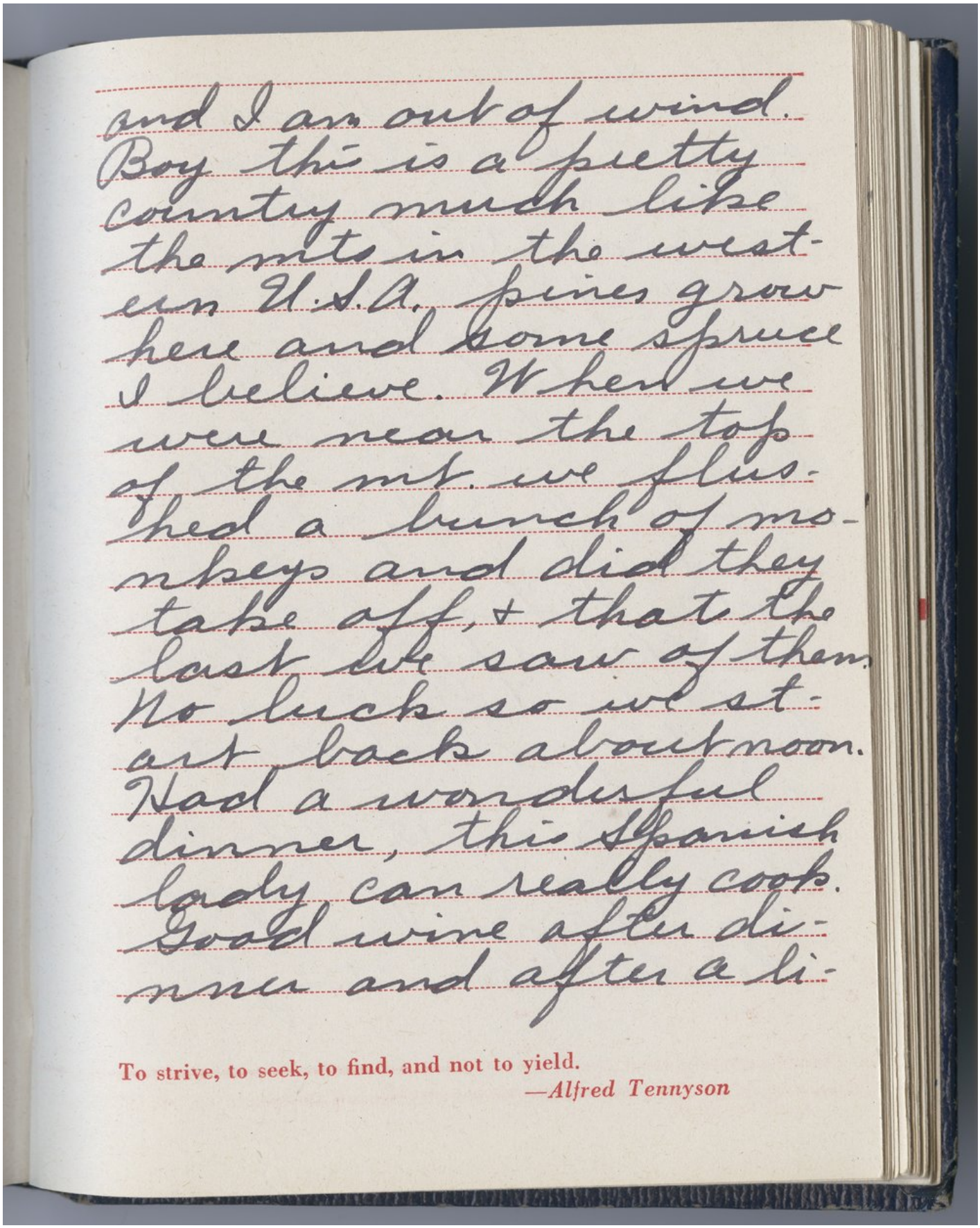
Action is the proper fruit of knowledge.—*Thomas Fuller*

nation, Bouria at
aprox. 8 pm. We were
to stay at a Spa-
nish villa there &
travel to & from the
hunting grounds in
our car. We were tired
so off to bed in a
mild soft bed with
sheets even.

June 17 - Up at 4:30
piled in our car &
after about 22 miles
of curving mt. roads
we reached the hun-
ting area. We par-
ked our car and st-
arted out on foot &
boy and soft
a little climb

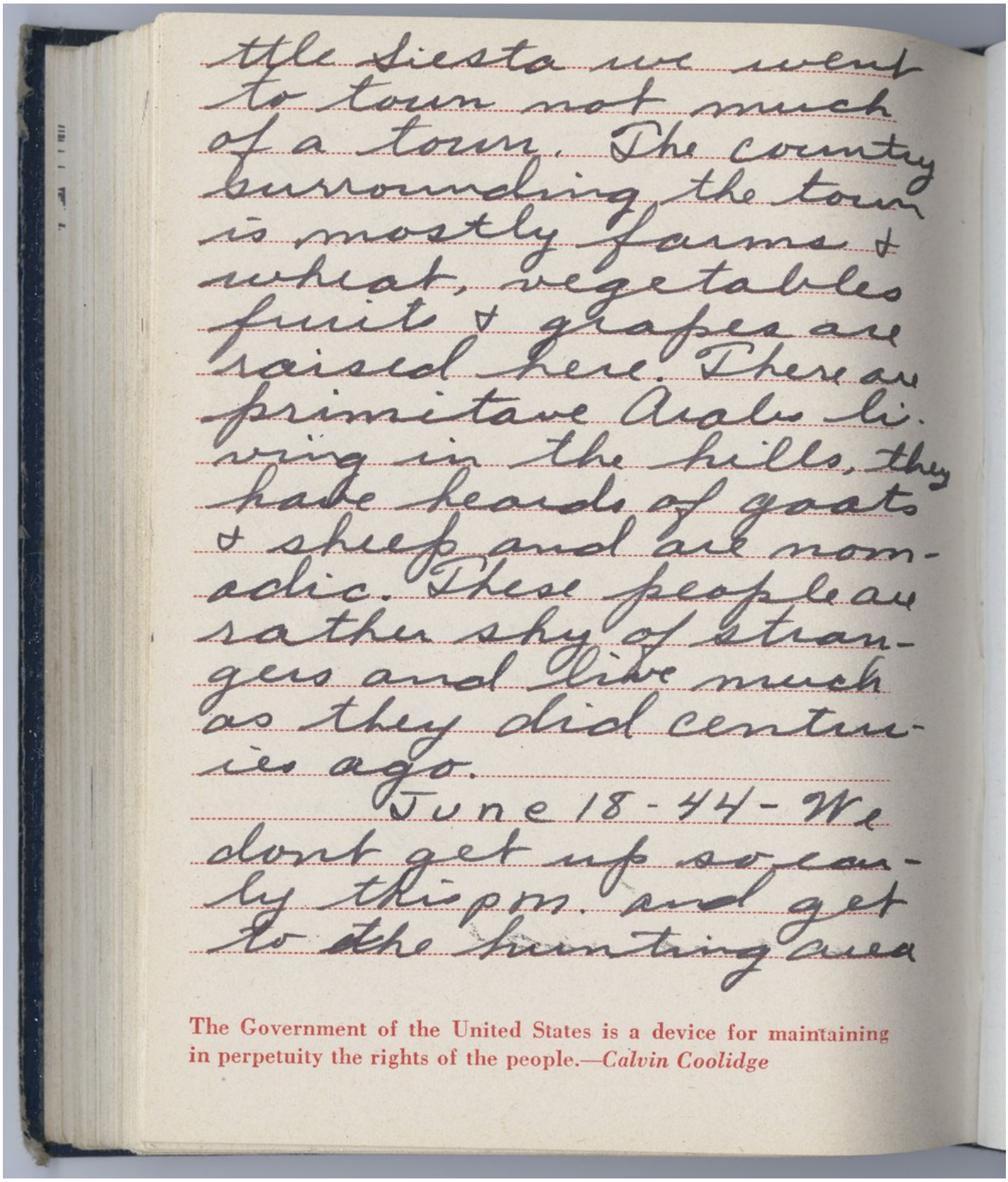


One brave deed makes no hero.
—*Whittier*



and I am out of wind. Boy this is a pretty country much like the mts in the western U.S.A. pines grow here and some spruce I believe. When we were near the top of the mt. we flushed a bunch of monkeys and did they take off, + that the last we saw of them. No luck so we started back about noon. Had a wonderful dinner, this Spanish lady can really cook. Good wine after dinner and after a li-

To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.
—*Alfred Tennyson*



ttle siesta we went to town not much of a town. The country surrounding the town is mostly farms & wheat, vegetables fruit & grapes are raised here. There are primitave Arabs living in the hills, they habe heards of goats & sheep and are nomadic. These people are rather shy of strangers and live much as they did centuries ago.

June 18-44- We dont get up so early this pm. and get to the hunting area

The Government of the United States is a device for maintaining in perpetuity the rights of the people.—*Calvin Coolidge*

around 8 pm. and after a long hike down into a canyon and back again without sighting any game we are tired and ready to go home & eat. We had several Arabs with us to beat the bush & they promised to be on hand again tomorrow our last day. After a good dinner I'll take a nap while the others go out to a nearby farm. This Spanish couple have a little girl about 7 and she is real cute &

In front, the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
But westward, look, the land is bright.
—*Arthur Hugh Clough*

shy. There is an Arab boy working for them, a good kid & Im going to remember him with some cigarets when I get back to camp. After a good supper we retire to sleep soundly.

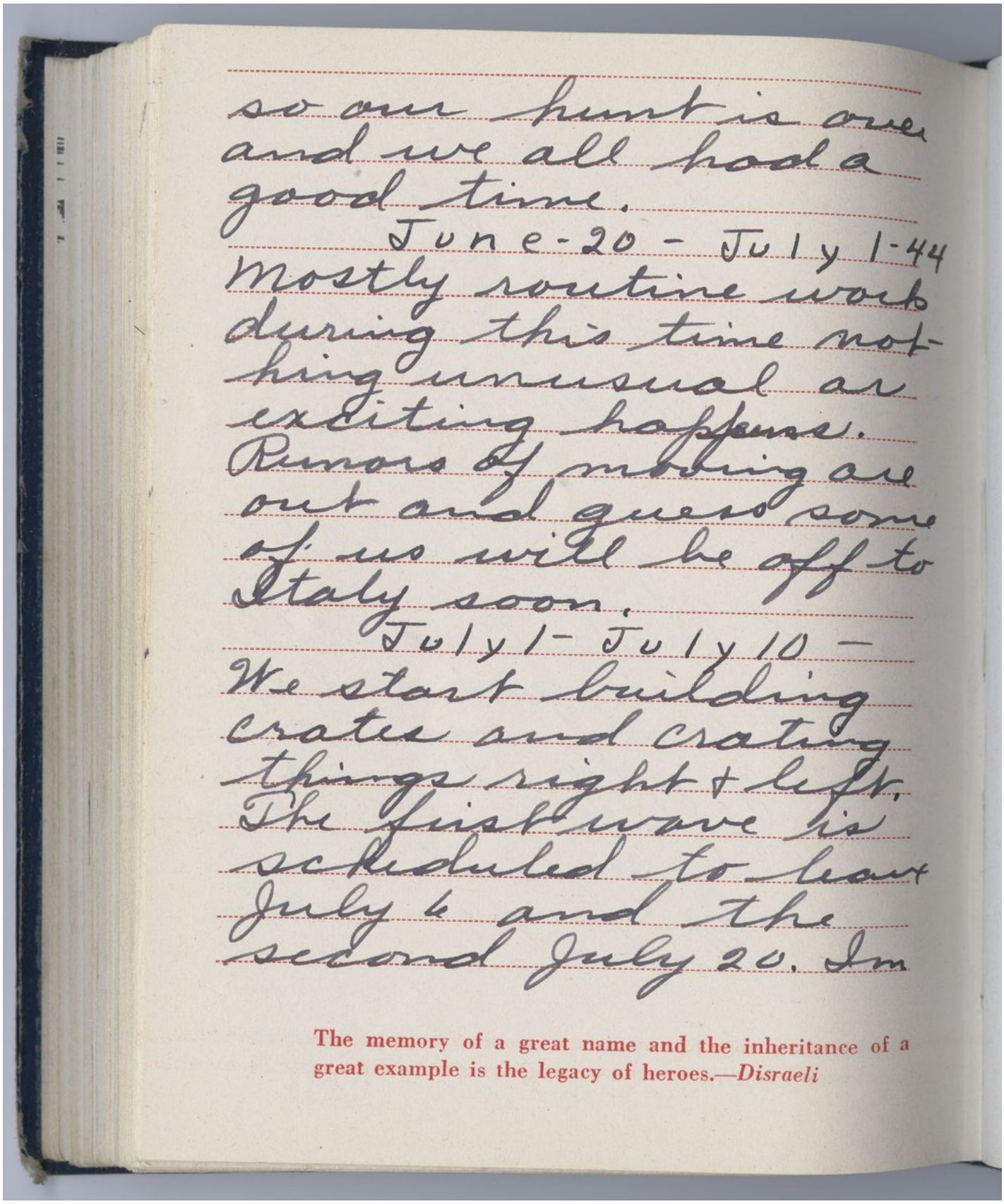
June 19-44. Our last day to hunt and we are a little tired and not so enthusiastic. After about an hour of hunting one of the Arabs shot a small boar and that all we see. Glad we

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.—*Matthew VII: 12*

got one at least. We go in & eat a good dinner then go out to a French farmer to get some wine & while there did a little pigeon hunting. All too soon it's time to start home and so after a good meal and plenty of wine we start back. And the way we get a little high on wine & sing all the way in. Got home about 11 pm and are ready for bed and

He who would save liberty must put his trust in democracy.—*Norman Thomas*





so our hunt is over and we all had a good time.

June-20 - July 1-44
Mostly routine work during this time nothing unusual or exciting happens. Rumors of moving are out and guess some of us will be off to Italy soon.

July 1 - July 10 -
We start building crates and crating things right & left. The first wave is scheduled to leave July 6 and the second July 20. Im

The memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example is the legacy of heroes.—*Disraeli*

on the second one so far. The outfit has been split up into companies - Co's A, B, and C and Hqs. Co. Im listed in Hqs. Co. and am to go someplace north of Rome. Co A is to stay here awhile longer at least. Something goes haywire the first wave has ent left yet at this writing. Im kind of glad to move have been here 10 mo. and am getting restless (an old habit of mine) Hate to leave some of my buddies though.

I believe in Democracy because it releases the energies of every human being.—*Woodrow Wilson*

July 21/44 - Alerted to ship to Italy.
July 22 - Still busy crating. Take physical
July 27 - We drive our vehicles down to docks Guard duty 8 to 12.
July 30 - All vehicles loaded on boat.
July 31 - We embark on the English ship Stanhill at 12 M.
Aug 1 - Pull away from docks at noon. Anch. or out a ways until 5 P.M. when we pull anchor and are on our way. We joined a convoy and had a fair and time speeding up.



Let us do what honor demands.—*Racine*

~~Aug~~ 2 - At about 1:30 A.M. the Jerries paid us a visit, did no damage but gave us all a scare. We could see the coast of N.A. all day.
~~Aug~~ - 3 - Sighted the Island of Pantatelera.
Aug - 4 Got a dim view of Malta. Pulled into the Port of Agusta in Cicily where we laid over 24 hrs.
Aug - 5 - Pulled out of Agusta at 7 a.m. and into the Streits of Massena between Cicaly & Italy.
Aug 6 - Travel along the coast of Italy. We see the volcano

Be strong, and quit yourselves like men.—*I Sam. IV: 9*

which is still active & was quite a sight at night with its red glow in the top. Passed the Isle of Capri, pulled into the Harbor of Naples Aug 7- We move to another port and docks in the evening, stayed up all night driving the vehicles away from dock as they are unloaded.
Aug 8- Just hanging around waiting for rest of Vehicls to be unloaded. At about 9 we leave the docks for Caserta. &

It is not an army that we must train for war; it is a nation.—*Woodrow Wilson*

arrive around 11 and we are dead tired too. Didnt see much of Naples or Caserta so it was nite when we passed through them.

Aug 9- Well we are at our new home & my first impression is in the negative, no place to go & nothing to do in spare time here. We are in a big old Palace & it reminds one of a penatentary, its very old and has rooms & more rooms stairways & archways

Democracy is on trial in the world, on a more colossal scale than ever before.—*C. F. Dole*

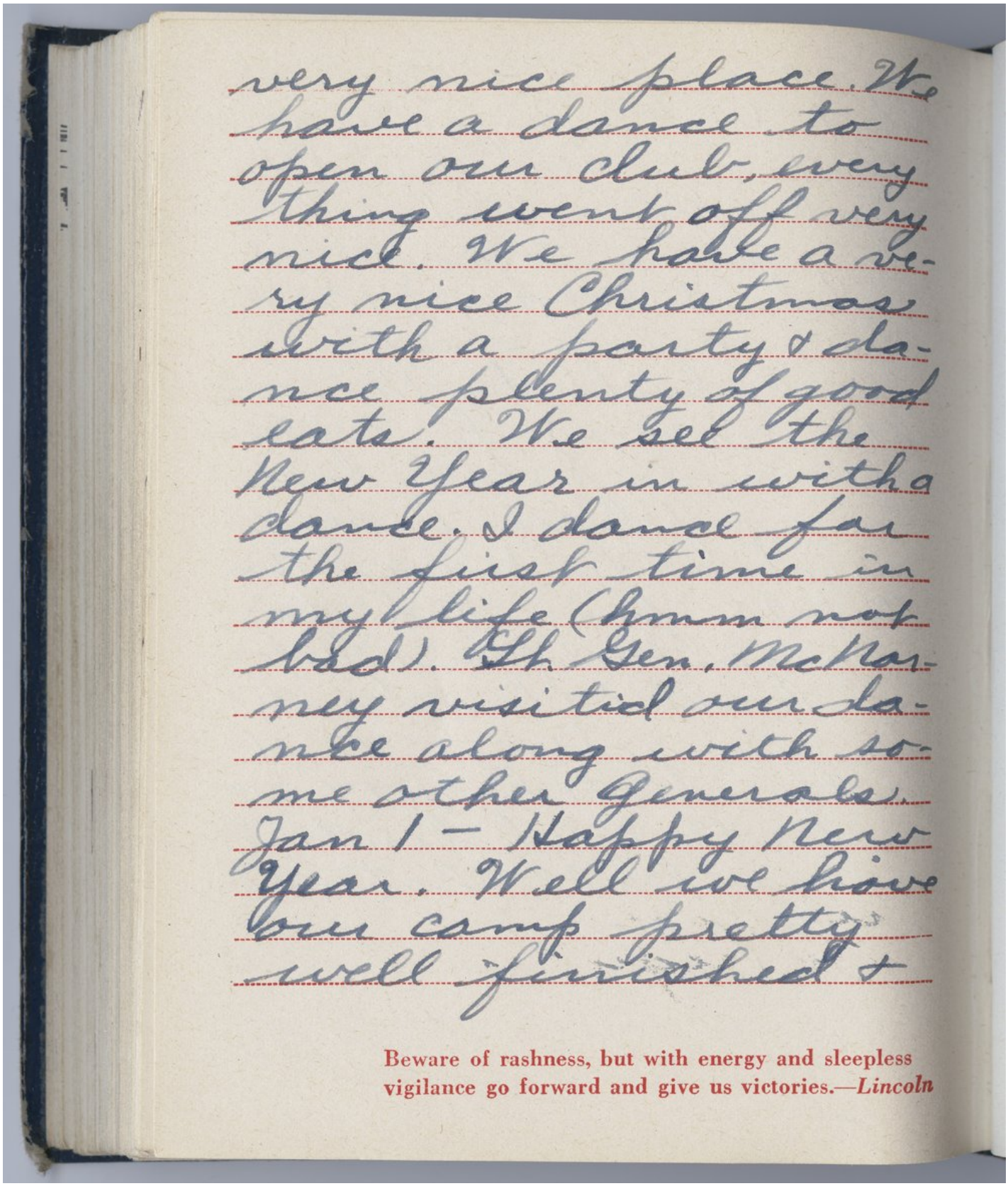
galore. We dont care much for Italy.
AUG 10 to 28 - Getting settled slowly - everything seems all mixed up. Im put to work in carpenter shop with 6 civilian carpenters cant speak their languag & they cant speak mine so "C'est La Guerre" Thurs - 24 I have my first pass & with 4 others go see the ruins of Pompei & it was quite interesting also saw quite a bit of the bombed section of Naples. Bought some pictures and souvenirs.

Only be thou strong and very courageous.—*Joshua I: 7*

Aug 28 - Dec. 31 - Worked awhile in Carpenter shop then am transferred to Post Office. Took a 4 day pass to Rome, stayed at 5th Army Rest Center in a former school built by Mussoleni a very fine place. Transferred back to carpenter boss to erect a tent area. On Oct 28 promoted to Seargent. After a lot of work & headaches we get our tent city elected with 20 winterized tent, a mess hall, latrine, & day room, which is a

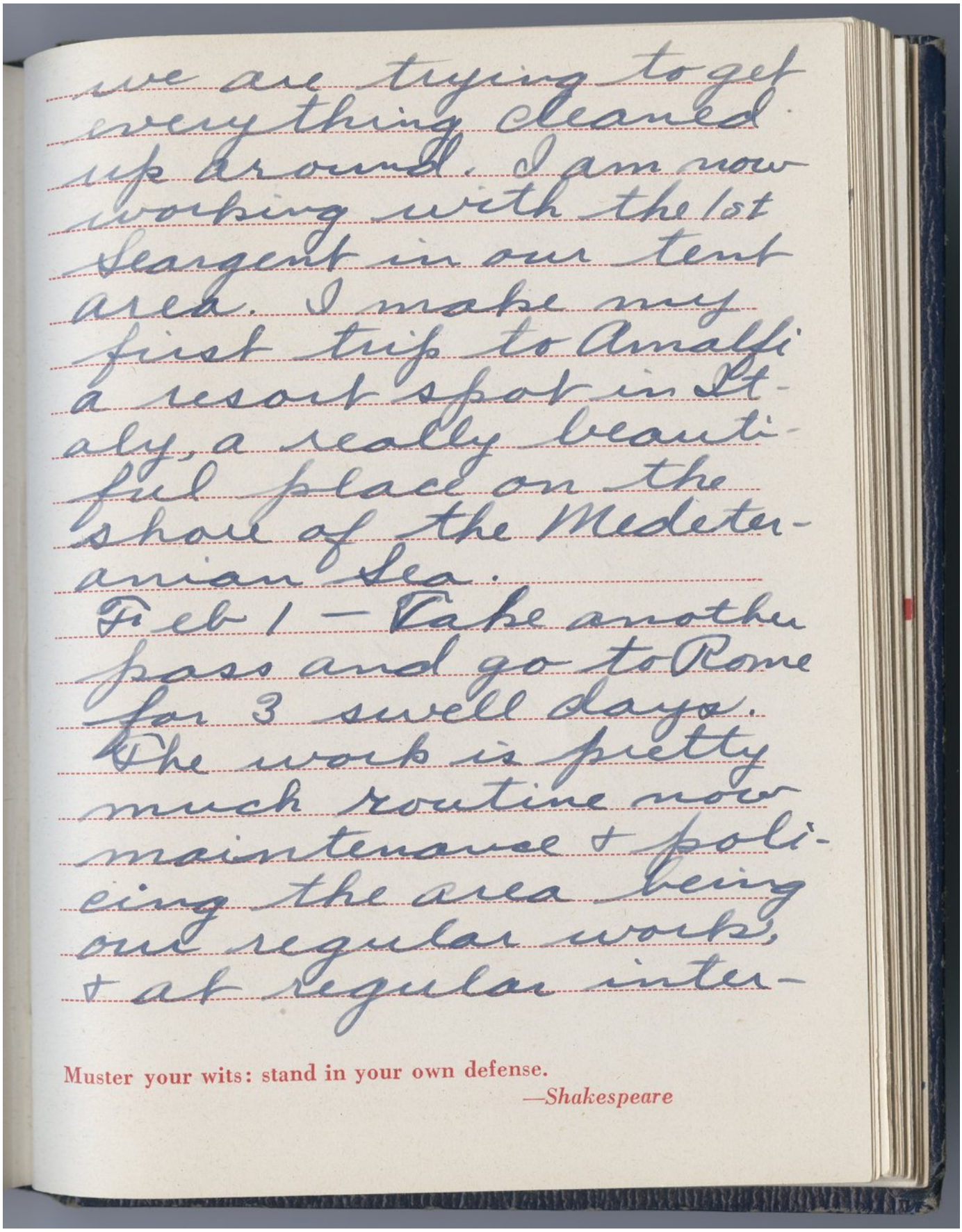
Thunder on! Stride on! Democracy.
Strike with vengeful stroke!
—*Walt Whitman*





very nice place. We have a dance to open our club, every thing went off very nice. We have a very nice Christmas with a party & dance plenty of good eats. We set the New Year in with a dance. I dance for the first time in my life (hmm not bad). Lt Gen. McNarney visited our dance along with some other Generals. Jan 1 — Happy New Year. Well we have our camp pretty well finished +

Beware of rashness, but with energy and sleepless vigilance go forward and give us victories.—*Lincoln*



we are trying to get everything cleaned up around. I am now working with the 1st Seargent in our tent area. I make my first trip to Amalfi a resort spot in Italy, a really beautiful place on the shore of the Mediterranian Sea.

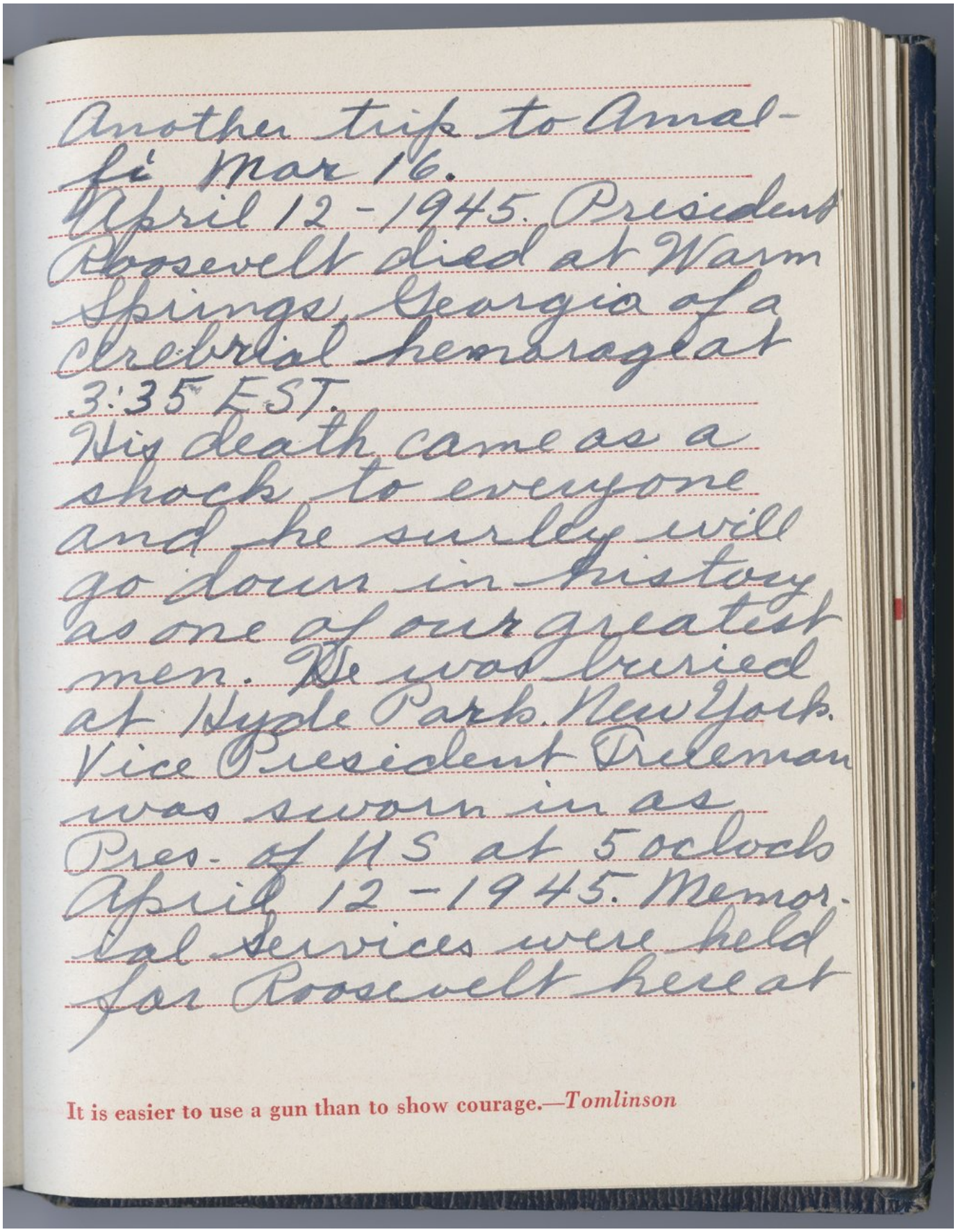
Feb 1 — Take another pass and go to Rome for 3 swell days. The work is pretty much routine now maintenance + policing the area being our regular work, + at regular inter-

Muster your wits: stand in your own defense.
—*Shakespeare*

vals making trips to Amalfi for wood + to Maddaloni for coal. We have 2 dances both very good, had a date with an Italian girl for one of them, she is 22 but I had to ask her mother before she could go (can you imagine that ha) Mal-1 - Make a couple of trips to Amalfi. Was a witness at a Court Marshal trial was kind of shabby too.



Pray devoutly, but hammer stoutly.
—*John Ray*



Another trip to Amalfi Mar 16.
April 12 - 1945. President Roosevelt died at Warm Springs, Georgia of a cerebral hemorrage at 3:35 EST.
His death came as a shock to everyone and he surely will go down in history as one of our greatest men. He was buried at Hyde Park, New York.
Vice President Truleman was sworn in as Pres. of U S at 5 oclock April 12 - 1945. Memorial services were held for Roosevelt here at

It is easier to use a gun than to show courage.—*Tomlinson*

Caserta Italy by all
Units on Sun. April
15 at 11 AM.

April 15 - 30
Mussolini and some
of his henchmen were
executed by Italian
Partisans in Milan.

May 1 - 1945. The
nazi leader Adolph Hi-
tler died supposedly
in Berlin, cause not
accertained.

May 3 at 8:AM
the war in Italy
ceased, the Germans
unconditionally sur-
endered to Gen. Alex
ander Supreme Allied
Commander of the

A courage mightier than the sun—
You rose and fought and, fighting, won!—*Angela Morgan*