



AMERICANS OPEN NEW PUSH TO END CASSINO DEADLOCK

All-Out Assault Upon Nazi Fortress Under Way; Bridgehead Situation Tense

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Feb. 13.—Feroocious crag-to-crag fighting raged today on heights overlooking Cassino on the main Italian front as American troops opened a full-strength assault to destroy that Nazi hornet's nest which is holding up their push to relieve beleaguered Allied forces in the Anzio bridgehead 50 miles away.

(Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's main Fifth Army is slugging violently at the Cassino defenses, declared the German-controlled Vichy radio, "with 30,000 men, 400 tanks and powerful artillery.")

American riflemen, charging up the steep cliffs of Monte Cassino west of the town through a hell of German artillery, mortar and machine-gun fire, at one time reached a point only 75 yards from the ancient Benedictine monastery which crowns the crest of that key height, dispatches from the front disclosed.

Inside Cassino itself the sweat-stained doughboys fought into several more fortified buildings, but after a week of fierce house-to-house combat, the Nazis still held about three-fourth of the stronghold and their line of supply was unbroken.

The long-delayed breakthrough at Cassino can come none too soon to serve Allied strategy. From the shell-pocked beachhead below Rome, Daniel De Luca of the Associated Press wrote that "no one in the beachhead is under illusions as to the grimness of the struggle now unfolding. Anywhere in the area you are liable to be shelled, bombed or strafed."

"It is a very small beachhead. German power still seems to be mounting."

A broadcast by the Nazi high command claimed gains of "several kilometers" through a British-defended sector of the beachhead and claimed that 700 Allied prisoners were taken.

Seeking to relieve some enemy pressure against the landing forces, American planes heavily bombed and strafed German positions around the Apennine Way to the town of Cisterna, 14 miles northeast of Anzio, which the Nazis are said to have converted into a powerful fortress. Not a German plane appeared over the beachhead yesterday, the enemy apparently not having refueled the loss of 19 fighter-bombers over the area the previous day.

The renewed Allied assault on Cassino's defenses began before dawn yesterday, following a day which both sides passed to catch their breath after six days of almost unbroken fighting.

As the American foot soldiers worked their way up the heights toward the monastery, which the Germans have been using as an artillery observation post, Allied artillery laid down a terrific barrage against enemy positions from the east side of the Rapido river and wave after wave of Allied bombers pounded German heavy gun positions in the mountain pass north of Cassino.

Collapse of Cave Takes Lives of Two Local Boys

Greenville, Feb. 8.—Bruce Ervin Skinner, 14, and William T. (Bully) Ward, 15, were killed when a cave on the south side of Tar river in which they and Bobby Saleed were playing, collapsed Monday about 9 o'clock burying them under tons of dirt and small boulders.

They were presumably dead when their bodies were removed by firemen, police, ambulance attendants and others. First aid was applied and they were taken to Pitt General hospital, where artificial respiration was applied for more than an hour. They were crushed and suffocated.

Bobby Saleed, their playmate, was outside when the cave-in occurred. He gave the alarm and firemen and police responded. It required some time to remove the debris covering the boys' bodies.

Bruce Skinner was a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Skinner, formerly of Farmville. Bill Ward was a son of Mrs. Mary Louise Turnage Ward, of Greenville.

The cave, on the river bank, opposite the Marine airfield, was a favorite spot for boys. The entrance was small but there were indications that the interior had been enlarged.

Coroner Griffin H. Rouse desired an inquest unnecessary.

Funeral services for Bruce Ervin Skinner, were held from the home, 308 West Fourth street, Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Dr. John D. Simons, pastor of Memorial Baptist church, officiated, assisted by Rev. E. C. Chambliss of the Farmville Baptist church. Members of Boy Scout Troop No. 36 were honorary pallbearers. The High School choir sang. Burial was in the Farmville cemetery.

Surviving are his parents, a brother, Rufus G. Skinner of the U. S. Merchant Marine; two sisters, Mrs. Aubrey Taylor and Miss Geraldine Skinner of the home, and a maternal grandfather, Paul Allen of Farmville.

The tragic death of the two boys, popular at school and elsewhere, cast a wave of sorrow over the community. A toffing phase of the rescue work was the large number of persons who volunteered their services in first aid for the stricken lads.

Fire Chief George Gardner and Assistant Chief Jasper L. Jones, Police-men Aycuse and Mabley, Frank Parks and Norman Wilkerson, ambulance attendants and others were praised for their heroic work.

Wilkerson enticed the crumbling cave with a rope attached to his body and dug away the dirt while those outside removed it from the mouth of the cave. The boys' bodies were warm when removed but they showed no sign of life.

Report Loss Of Two Subs

The Cisco And S-44 Believed To Be Lost In The Pacific

Washington, Feb. 8.—Loss of two American submarines, the Cisco and the S-44, was announced today by the navy.

How Jungle Fighters Live, Work and Fight

From the steaming jungles and hills of Bougainville Island in the northern Solomon come reports by unlettered men and officers of the 37th (Buckeye) Division, telling how a United States Army jungle fighter lives, what he thinks about and hopes for, and how, fortified by humor, he continues day in and day out in the fight to conquer a treacherous foe.

What with Japanese snipers and bombers, the discomforts of jungle life, and the need for constant work, his days and nights are fully occupied. Yet there are plenty of humorous incidents. For example, some of the troops were changing their positions, and foxholes were deepened and covered with logs and sandbags. One soldier made a particularly good job of his foxhole. He then announced that "even a bomb couldn't get into it." Unfortunately, neither could he. He had forgotten to leave a place for an entrance.

Soldiers Sleep in Hammocks

Sleeping arrangements are comparatively simple. A soldier looks around for two trees sturdy enough to support his weight, and slings his jungle hammock between them. About 7 p. m., if he has no particular duties, he crawls into his hammock and begins to wonder how the wife and youngsters are getting along—if he has them—or his sweetheart, or the girl next door at home, or to dream about that last furlough he had.

Likely as not, it begins to rain and his wanderings turn to his foxhole and how much water there's going to be in it. About this time, there is an ear-shattering wall from the warning siren. So the soldier opens the zipper of his mosquito netting, hunts for his shoes, and runs and slides into the foxhole, which by now is about half full of water.

About this time "Washing Machine Charley" drones over on one of his frequent nocturnal visits. "Charley" is a Japanese two-engine bomber named from the fact that its motors seem to run more slowly than the American variety.

After the raid, the soldier, wet from the water in his foxhole, crawls back into his hammock. Conversation commonly consists of such picturesque expressions as: "I wonder where they dropped," and "Did we have any night fighters up?"

Ordinarily, the early bombing is only the first of a series. The same process must be gone through several times during the darkness.

The formalities of military life disappear in jungle fighting. Buck privates call commanding officers by their nicknames. It wouldn't be safe to say "Sir" or "Colonel" where the enemy could hear it. The Japanese have proved themselves uncannily adept at picking off commissioned and non-commissioned officers. No officer wears insignia, since it would make him a fine target for a sniper's rifle.

General Obeys Private. One day a private was having a tough time driving his truck through a swamp. Along came another jeep in which a brigadier general without insignia was riding. Get the hell off this road and let me get by," yelled the private. "I've got front line supplies." Without a murmur or change of expression, the general motioned his driver to pull the vehicle off the road so the supplies could go through.

When the troops leave combat areas, this informality ceases. They revert to the traditional and time honored courtesies and customs of the Army.

Living on Bougainville is tough, but there are moments. On rainy Thanksgiving Day, 25 days after the soldiers landed, their regular rations were supplemented with the kind of dinner they'd had at home, complete with roast young turkey and cranberry sauce. "Brother," said one of the soldiers, "when you get a meal like that on Bougainville, you're really accomplishing a miracle."

"And so," writes Staff Sergeant James G. Smith, "life goes on in the jungle. It's a dreary one at best, full of inconveniences, scars, and tension. But somehow you know that everything is all right when you hear healthy American voices singing in the short tropical twilight. They sing the old barber shop favorites. . . . In had harmony, perhaps, but the spirit is there. And with that spirit, there's no doubt of the outcome."

Lt. Clay Burnette Reported Missing

Greenville, Feb. 7.—Lt. Clay Burnette, 24, U. S. Army Air Force, son of Mrs. Herbert Burnette, 907 Evans street, this city, is missing in action according to a telegram received by his mother late Saturday. According to the report, Lt. Burnette, a pilot of the Eighth Army Air Group, has been missing since a raid over Germany January 24. Prior to receiving the War Department telegram Mrs. Burnette had received a letter Saturday from her son dated January 23, one day before the raid from which he failed to return.

Lt. Burnette was the second son of Mrs. Burnette who has been reported missing in the European theater. Technical Sergeant Herbert Hemby Burnette, radio-gunner on a flying fortress, having been reported missing last March. A third son, Staff Sergeant Job Pennell Burnette, was with the first Marines who landed on Guadalcanal and is still on active duty in the South Pacific.

Lt. Burnette entered the service in January, 1941, as a member of the North Carolina National Guard. In March, 1942, he transferred to the army air corps and received his training at Phoenix, Arizona; Santa Ana, Calif., and Pecos, Texas. He received his wings and commission in April, 1943, and went overseas in 1943.

William E. Drake, of Hertford, was his brother's best man. Uppers were T. S. Ryan and George Beckman, Jr.

Mrs. Smith, the bride's mother, wore a suit of navy blue wool and a matching hat. Her corsage was of red roses.

The bride, a charming member of Farmville's younger social circle, was graduated from Farmville high school and Peace College, Raleigh, and held a position with A. C. Monk Tobacco Company here, prior to her marriage.

Mrs. Drake attended the Carthage schools. He is connected with the tobacco business on the Farmville, Tennessee and Kentucky markets.

Following the wedding, the young couple left for a trip to unannounced points. They will be at home in Carthage, Tenn.

Out-of-town relatives and friends attending the wedding were: Miss Mamie Ruth Smith, of Wilmington; Durward Smith, of Enfield; Miss Betty Patrick, of Kings Mountain; Miss Jane Guthrie, of Pearisburg, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Drake, of Hertford.

The following Farmville college students were at home and attended the wedding: Miss Alice Harper Parker and friend, Miss Rosalind Rawlings, of Franklin, Va., students at Greensboro Woman's College; Miss Anne Jones, Peace College, Raleigh; Miss Mary Ann Townsend, E. C. T. C., Greenville, and Bill Pollard, A. S. V-12, Chapel Hill.

Following the rehearsal, Friday evening, Mrs. J. M. Hobgood and Mrs. W. Leslie Smith entertained the bridal party at a cake cutting, held at the home of Mrs. Hobgood.

Pink and white carnations predominated in the living room decorations and bayberry was effectively used throughout the home.

Miss Yvonne L. Smith Bride of Allen R. Drake

Vows Are Spoken In Afternoon Ceremony

Miss Yvonne Lee Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Robert Smith, of Farmville, became the bride of Allen R. Drake, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernice Williams Drake, of Carthage, Tenn., Saturday, in a late afternoon ceremony, characterized by dignity and simplicity, and solemnized at the Presbyterian Church. The pastor, Rev. Edwin S. Coates, officiated in the double ring ceremony.

The Church was decorated with pink and white carnations and soap dragons in tall baskets tied with pink tulle, and floor standards of cathedral candles, arranged against a background of ferns.

Prior to the ceremony, a program of nuptial music was rendered by Mrs. J. M. Hobgood, pianist, and Miss Nellie Butler, soloist. Among the piano selections were "Amarosa" by Nevin, "Romance" and "Traumerl" by Schumann, "Poem" by Flioh, and "Duo" by Henselt. Miss Butler sang "The Sweetest Story Ever Told" and "I Love You Truly." Traditional wedding marches were used and "Salut d'Amour" by Elbe was played during the ceremony.

Mrs. Hobgood wore a black dress with gold trim and her corsage was of red roses. Miss Butler wore a dress of purple crepe and a corsage of white roses.

The bride entered the Church with her father, by whom she was given in marriage. She wore a dress of heavenly blue crepe with a ruffle yoke and layed buttons extending to the hem line. Her hat was a small navy felt in off-the-face mode with veil and light blue ribbon and sequin trim. Her accessories were navy and her shoulder corsage was of Briarcliff roses.

Miss Betty Patrick, of Kings Mountain, a classmate of the bride at Peace College, Raleigh, was maid-of-honor. Her crepe dress was a pastel pink shade, with which she wore a small hat of flowers. Her shoulder corsage was of white roses.

William E. Drake, of Hertford, was his brother's best man. Uppers were T. S. Ryan and George Beckman, Jr.

Mrs. Smith, the bride's mother, wore a suit of navy blue wool and a matching hat. Her corsage was of red roses.

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KRIVOI ROG NEXT BIG GOAL OF RUSSIAN UKRAINE DRIVE

Red Army Men Within Eight Miles of Great Iron Ore Center; Other Units Tighten Noose About Trapped Germans to North; Nazi Efforts to Break Into Death Circle Repelled

London, Feb. 10.—Russian forces stabbing toward the iron ore center of Krivoi Rog in the Southern Ukraine have reached to within eight miles of that heavily fortified mining city in a 14-mile advance, Moscow announced today, while other Soviet units to the north have killed 1,000 more Germans in the lightened vise squeezing 10 trapped Nazi divisions.

Moving up from Apostolovo, captured Monday, the Russians took the town of Radushkovo, 14 miles northwest of Apostolovo, in a new thrust to the back door of Krivoi Rog. Forty towns and hamlets were displaced in this drive.

In the Shpol'ska-Zvenigorodka area, where the Germans are surrounded, the Russians captured the district center of Gorodischa, 18 miles north of Shpol'ska, in a battle which cost the Germans hundreds of men. Twenty-six big guns and other war material were captured in this area. In another sector, the Russians crossed a water barrier, took several populated places and a number of prisoners.

German attempts to break into the encircling ring with attacks from outside were defeated with a loss of 42 tanks, six troop carriers and 50 trucks, said the Moscow midnight communiqué, recorded by the Soviet monitor from a broadcast.

A total of 3,800 Germans fell during the fighting along the entire front in the last 24 hours as more than 57 communities were captured, Moscow said.

In the most northerly action, where the Russians were driving for the rail station of Luga on the Leningrad-Warshaw railway, there was bitter fighting as Soviet forces overcame the heavily defended district center of Oreshek, 18 miles northwest of Luga.

By resolute blows from various directions Soviet troops smashed enemy resistance and captured Oreshek," the late bulletin said.

Also captured in this area was Bolshoye-Zamochyie, 13 miles northeast of Luga.

The Russians moving from Novgorod were nearing Batsinkaya, on the Leningrad-Vitebsk railway. In the far south around the captured manganese mine town of Nikolov, eight towns, including Sheremilki, eight miles northwest, were captured and 800 Germans killed. In the Nikolov area considerable equipment was taken and two companies of Germans made prisoner as the Russians pursued beaten Nazi forces through the mud flats and swamps.

The Germans for several months have been able to keep the Russians at least five miles from their last railway supply Krivoi Rog, a line running to the northwest through the junction of Dolnovoika, but with the new breakthroughs of the past week in the Nikolov area and with the general deterioration of the German southern position, that thin thread of supply seemed doomed.

Pitt County Doubles Polio Fund Donations. Greenville, Feb. 7.—The people of Pitt County more than doubled their donations to the "March of Dimes" for the benefit of infantile paralysis sufferers with more than \$2,500 compared with \$1,250 last year. John H. Ross and Don W. Crayley, co-chairman of the committee announced today.

City and county schools collected more than \$1,000 of the total. Women of the county, under Edna Kirby, assistant home demonstration agent, raised \$200.00. The Negroes contributed generously and the President's Ball at East Carolina Teachers College raised \$200. The remainder of the \$2,500 was collected from dances, Tag Day, theater, Girl Scouts and other sources.



He was a great man, and in his greatness he was good. No one was too humble, too simple to win his affection and help. He knew the value of and practiced—tolerance; and his birthday may well serve as a reminder that all men are free and equal.

He once ran a ferryboat across the Ohio River . . . he kept a general store in Illinois . . . he practiced law . . . served one term as Representative and eventually became one of the greatest Presidents of these United States . . . Abraham Lincoln was his name.

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More than 1,000,000 Boy Scouts, Cubs and their adult volunteer leaders will observe Boy Scout Week, February 8 to 14, marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of Scouting in the United States. More than 11,000,000 American boys and girls have joined the BSA. Scout is a national organization of boys and girls.

Advertisement for Scouting featuring the text 'We Salute Today's Boy Scout . . . The Man of Tomorrow SCOUTING The American Way' and an illustration of a boy in a scout uniform.



George Allen injured. S/Sgt. George M. Allen was injured in a mission over Bremen, Germany, on December 19th. Recent communications from him state that he is still in the hospital but is recuperating nicely.

Maud Miller, on a summer's day, grew tired of raking the hay. She hung her rake on the rack and went away to become a WAAC.

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