

Mt. Cairo has a new bonnet
of snow. As soon as darkness
permitted we shifted the
platoon to a better covered
area to our left. The place
the tank C.O. picked was
not, in my mind, satisfactory.
In addition to the cover
& concealment, there are
dry rooms in heavy stone
buildings where the men can
sleep if they wish. I have sent
up four new radios as a
convenient way of changing
frequencies. Slept in a building
with 2 officers. They arranged
the bed-rolls so that I am
between them & the door.

10 Feb., 1944.

Our troops still hold only
the north edge of Cassino.
The Germans have set

up a brilliant defense, as is usual in the places they decide to hold. Cassino is being badly mauled by arty. The old castle with its tremendous walls is gradually crumbling. The monastery on Montecassino has been reported to be held with 80 off. & men armed with 30 mg., by Italians. A German 1st Lt., interrogated 24/1/44 by French states that they - the Wehrmacht - are short of transport, gasoline, munitions, there is a man-power shortage, and equipment is difficult to get replaced. Still, they continue to put up a good, determined delaying fight. The offensive required greater strength naturally. We have it.

) It is really COLD!

The Cassino battle is still raging. Shells fall constantly for hours at a time. I think they have a ~~Rebel~~ - wefer up behind the monastery. Our arty has shelled that area a bit

) today. Our automatic weapons have been very active all morning, which is a bad sign.

) Must check our guard tonight. Am sleeping with my pistol & a hand grenade these nights.

) Received (3) letters (from Carol, two) from photo shops, & 1 from the Bank of America concerning the letter I wrote them

The Germans in contact with our troop realize, I feel (certain, that we have endless munitions. Our artillery is beyond their dreams. Our air is supreme, and our transport is the finest in the world. So far they have contacted only a very few divisions. When we launch our next invasion it should shake them badly. On the other hand, we could mismanage & bog down. The Anzio beach-head has slowed down. A 150⁺ tank ^(counter attack) C/A drove our VI Corps back to the 31 N. grid line on the Anzio-Albano road. I hope the reason we are being neglected in divisional strength is to put them into the real

invasion. With twice or
(, 3 times the number of
divisions we have we could
nearly roll. I know we have
the divisions. I hope they
(, roll them across the
channel. Checked radios
today. They are off frequency.
Damn! Dreamed last night
(that Martin was mad at
me for not picking him up
at 9:10 A.M. (?) Shaved off
(6 days beard. Found
"Oakly" Martin in the tiny
town on our left. He was
equally surprised. "Oakly" & I
(talked of Benning. Remember-
Capt. Bolar, Major Bruner,
Lt. Moy of Basic 34? Rain.
11 Feb, 1944.
(Rained hard all night.
It is lucky we shifted

down by the houses. (Burton's crew got wet
at that. I was surprised
that our beat-up old
building turned the (weather. Haywood & Scott
& crews are living in a
beautiful spot. The
constant rain will (bag armor down for
some days. "B" had a
brush with a German
patrol last night. It
was evidently a combat
patrol armed with auto-
matic weapons. Tank (CP moved up 200 yds
to dry building. I
went with them. This
puts us 400 yds from (MLR. Armor is in

() well grouped area, but we are on a limb in event of a night raid. We

really put out the anty (, today; a lot going to the Abba. Piatz late getting up at night due to

English on road. Nekon (fixed radios. Germans launched CIA this evening. We must hold movement

(down. hit the pup in our new house ate more than a man. He

really bulged. Italian looked like he would liked to have eaten what we gave the pup. Frewed some copcoz & turned (in by the fire. Cold out. Received (3) more

letters (from Carol, 3) from home, & 1 from Home (Simmons!)

12 February, 1944.

Slept on Italian springs by a fire last night. If the puppy (hadn't wiggled so much I would have had a perfect night's sleep. Just to our left the .30 cal. mgs chattered often & in numbers, perhaps 8 at a time. Artillery fire was intense from dawn until noon. "B" Co., on our left rear, had two minor & 1 bad casualty. Culp was one of the former. (It's strange how one gets to consider lost fingers, broken bones, and very bad flesh wounds as minor injuries.) "C" Co. had two killed & 2 injured. The 7

other two platoons facing
() the Rapido R. received
thorough shelling, as did,
we, but there were no injuries
to the company. Weather
() sunny for a change, but
hazy. The peats around
have snow well down them.
There is even some on Monte
() Cassino. The rains have
been terrific. I hope those
beautiful German fox-holes
are brimming with water!
() Jess came up to see us.
We listened to the "Buddy Set"
which Lou sent up last
() night. The German propaganda
says, "95 American dead can be
seen from one spot in Cassino".
I don't doubt that. This war
() been a fight Jerry has
not been content to hold,

but has launched several (heavy C.A's. There are plenty of German dead also. Their Nebelwerfer has been very active. Our artillery, incl. (8" & 240mm, has pounded them & armor ⁷⁵⁶ has been involved. Quite a scrap. All tank officers, Rambo, youngster Young, & others; Druling from 6th Δ Groupment, & I were sitting around reforming our army when the call came in (2200) for Rambo to report to Bn. C.P. Oh Oh! But they detached me & returned to the rear to join Gen. Allen's CCB. I stayed in the house, after checking with Lew. The (48 Eng. has two guards

() on some bridge materials here (could.) I'll let them do the worrying about security, though I was quite a bit () further out from our "strong point" than is sound after the tanks left at 2400.

13 Feb.

() Sunny day, but hazy. Still ice on rain puddles at noon. Lou came up. I am going back to his area at dusk. He gave me the general eye-wash. Bevington's outfit (VI Corps) lost 6 M-10's, got 24 tanks. VI Corps is being heavily counter-attacked. (150 ^{M4} tanks a few days ago.) All PBS officers 28 & under are to be put in replacement depots. Good! () (Carol sent O.D.'s address. He has same APO as mine, but

is a service officer (Signal Corps) ⁶²
Our order to be in Arzew by
3-1-44 has been changed to
"when further ordered". I
had hoped to see further
country. However, another
H* does not have much
appeal. (lots of negative appeal!)
Gave Oakley what slope I
have. The Italian (Detroit: 1913
to 1920) brought his wife &
daughter up today. I told
him it was unwise, but
they seem not to understand
artillery, (punctuated by a
round!) Set my watch at
1400 today. Will check. Have
~~come up for~~ warmed
engines at 1815 (dark) Hit
road #6 at 1830 & returned
to company. Made it before

total darkness set in. Checked in
() I slept in a dug-out. Good.
Furness & Britz are back.

14 Feb.

Rollled out of my hole at
() 0800. An ammunition dump
about ~~2000~~¹⁰⁰⁰ yds. rearward was
going up with much noise
& fragmentation. Today
() we generally worked
over vehicles & cleaned up
equipment. Sporus is to drive
for me now. Cpl. Black, T/4
() Furness, S/Sgt. Haywood & I,
make up the car. It is 2030.
We are planning another
() armored drive. All the sergeants
are here. Shot the bull after
they left, generally condemning
our military organization
() above. Went back before
the moon rose, & crawled

into my hole. Our artillery shook the ground so much (I thought the hole would cave in.

15 February, 1944.

Up at 0900. While eating breakfast a wave of Flying Forts came over & bombed Cassino or vicinity. Too bad we are not up where we were so we could see the hits. Trocchio is in the way. We can see the smoke roll up, though. The string of bombs was broken into about 6 waves. Roughly I estimate ¹⁵⁴~~180~~ heavy bombs between 0930 & 1000. This is what Haywood & I have been wanting! Lots of Mediums followed over. "Fritz" is probably

Aug
talking to himself about
() this. Lou talked about
ratings. I requested that
Edzark & Gilbert be made
Gunners (C.M.). Haywood & I
() took a "peep" to Cervo
& back to San Vittore. I
took some color pictures,
scenes & ruins. The dome
() & a large chunk of
the thick walls has been
knocked off the Abbe. I
know that the inside
() must be a mess. Germans
were in the Abbe in spite
of their claims to the
() contrary. Took 10 color
pictures f: 8. at 1/50th sec.
Spent an evening of fierce
controversy (as usual) on any
() & all subjects.

(A)

16 Feb.

Up at 0900. "5 in 1" ration (still. Put the photo-map together. Haywood & I studied same. New Zealanders moved in all around us; (put 24 field pieces in our area. They are quite careless of movement. It may be that the (Germans have shifted their guns, but we doubt it. The bitter fighting has shown that (they intend to hold here. This area will get another pounding (some day. We found another area & we are going to move there. Since we have no (mission until the armored

push, it is foolish for
() us to sit in an
active spot like this.

There are 4 vehicles where
there should be one or
() most. Worked on the
pistol butts a bit. Spent
some time talking to NZ
officers. Their viewpoints
() are much like ours. They
look on the English in much
the same manner we do.

() News good. Tonight is
another CP night. (Namely
a night of fierce arguments,
derogatory & snide remarks,
() and discussion of the
stupidity of our high
command.) We are
all convinced that an
() invasion August 1943
would have ended the

war by now. Reading
"Storm Over the Land" made
us no happier. The prospect
of an early victory looks
very gloomy to us from
this front. Tonight we
leave this unnamed village
and leave room with the
German Christmas tree
drawings. The moon will
rise around 0100. We
move then. News: 2,400
tons bombs dropped in
half an hour. This is as
heavy as any. There have
been many of this
approx. size, on Germany.
I mention this here
because I feel it will
be dwarfed in the next
war. A comparison
may be interesting.

() I, for one, am going
to start digging a
fox-hole for the
next war as soon
() as I return home!
Lou says, "Some day before I
die I am going to visit
Cole & Cusick to see which
() is in the worst financial
condition". Lou & Jess are
hounding me about the
() enlarger. Started back to
new area at 0130. Ammo
trailers on 2nd Ft. 14-10's ceased
trouble on some of the corners.
() Pulled into the area about
0445. Slept until 0830 -

17 February, 1944.

Jess awakened Haywood & I at 0830.
() We were so deep in our bed-rolls
that when we opened our eyes

(B)

we thought it was still dark.
Shifted the vehicles a bit & (did a lot of maintenance work on the M-10's. From 1330 to 1430 (now) the German arty has been shelling the air (OP (cub) field just behind us. He is really in luck. So far a small sta ammo dump, ~~a~~ gasoline dump & two cubs (have burned. The rest of the cubs (5 or 6) must be full of fragmentation. The force behind them is so congested with vehicles that some must be damaged. The burning of the 1st cub was one of these things. The cub had just started in when one of the first rounds landed right where the cub stopped. Smoke &

dust made vision uncertain,
() but I'm afraid the pilot
never got out. Staff
still coming in. Sgts. & I put
in a pyramidal tent in a
() depression beside a cave. It
looked pretty difficult for a
while, but here we sit,
well within med. arty range,
() sleeping in a tent with
stove, electric lights, and
radio. Not bad. Ate from
the kitchen this evening.
() Now went to a 5th Army
demonstration of new material.
The equipment included
() improved mines and
anti-personnel devices
similar to those the
Germans have been using.
() a plastic mine. (The
German "shoe-box" mine

recently used (Trocchio) is
not "picked-up" by detectors.
A new development is
a 195 lb. 37mm gun & mount,
for infantry use. Labeled
my diary & sealed it (
up to give to Rothschild.
Turned in early.

(

(

(

D (

Chu Fung Ne U. of Canton (

mg. firing on inf. Capt., "The
S-2 reported that our
hours ago, go ahead". (

Very heavy artillery shelling
our area. One man says,
"I wasn't a damn bit
scared until I saw the
size of those holes." As
one man started to pile
into an M-10, the driver
said, "Hey, wipe the mud off
your feet!"

Infantry tales

- () Dad came through wood of house. Doughboy inside looks, gulps, says "Shall we throw it out now, or let it cool off?!" Threw it out later and it went off.

One dough took section () out of another line, & promptly got shot.

- Lt. Hunt 135 Inf. Reg
() Pantone told, "Watch out for Counter Attack". # Hunt - "I've got 8 men carefully spread over 1000 yds. let 'em come. They'll think we've an outpost!"

((Paul E. Turner) Norris) Montague
(Colonel, Freddy Wilcox (Jerry) Ray Nielsen)

(Red - enemy
Yellow - friendly

(D - orange
E - white
F - red

I, II, III, indicate pt.



() 6 Unit # 135-1

Iodine swabs

10 per unit

() 6 Unit # 103 D

Adhesive absorbent
compresses

16 per unit



()

(band-aids)

25 packets sulfanilamide
powder

()

1 Unit # 102

2" bandage compresses

4 per unit

()

()