

The town of Cassino is the anchor point of the GUSTAV LINE which the Germans boasted could not be broken during the winter. As in World War I the enemy has shown a fondness for having highly fortified lines. The Gustav line was built to last through this winter. He built thick concrete sleeping quarters for the men holding the line and tunnelled into the mountain sides, he installed thick steel pill-boxes, but the excellent strategy of the 5th Army commanders enabled them to break through them after a temporary set-back. The capture of this town should mark the commencement of the closing chapters of the fall of Rome. Cassino is dominated by the world famous Abbey of Monte Cassino, founded by Saint Benedict in 529 A.D. and the Abbey is supposed to contain priceless historical relics but it is feared that the Germans may have removed these to a "place of safety." (A subsequent story which I will send in will cover this angle.)

During my visits to the many units engaged in this particular battle, I was struck by the various every day scenes, such as Italian women washing soldiers clothing in a stream in an area which was under constant shell fire, men repairing telephone cables, quick, oblivious to the fact that "just around the corner" men were battling for their lives. I visited U.S. soldiers of a famous Infantry Regiment living in fox holes within a few hundred yards of Cassino, then under terrific shell fire, I also climbed the mountains on the North side of Cassino and together with men of a Heavy Machinegun Company looked down right into the heart of the town, I was lucky to be on hand when a mortar detachment knocked out a German machinegun nest and it was possible to film the firing of the mortar and see the shells arriving on the target a few hundred yards distant. The Barracks on the north side of the town were utterly destroyed by shell fire and dive bombing, and large quantities of German equipment were lost. I filmed a large consignment of German tank spares, now lost to the enemy for good. The barracks covered a very large area and not one building escaped. The Germans made nearly every house in the town into a machinegun nest and the town will have to be taken house by house mostly at night by troops who crept up under cover of darkness and tossed in hand grenades through the windows.

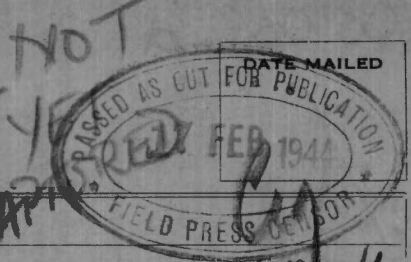
Although it was known that the Germans were using the Abbey as an observation post strict orders were issued by General Mark Clark that the Abbey was to be spared from shelling and bombing, this makes the task of capturing the town more arduous, but his action in sparing a world famous place is extremely meritorious. I again made the climb with the Infantry over the mountain to the North of the town with a view to entering the town that way, however, we were met by heavy machinegun fire from a position well hidden behind the 13th Century Castle situated in the centre of the town, we replied with well directed machine gun and mortar fire, which I WAS ABLE to film.

Later in the afternoon, a tank attack was made on Cassino and I walked in behind the tanks and secured shots of the town being systematically demolished, this was unfortunately necessary because the enemy had made every house into a block house.

I am despatching the story this consignment of film although the story is as yet uncomplete as the whole of the town is not yet in our hands. I will ship completion of story with all possible speed, when secured.

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CAMERAMAN'S CAPTION SHEET  
 OLYMPIC KINEMATOGRAPH LABORATORIES, LTD.  
 BRITISH PARAMOUNT NEWS DEPT.  
 SCHOOL ROAD, LONDON, N.W. 10



NUMBER  
 /

CAMERAMAN E. J. H. WRIGHT. SOUNDMAN \_\_\_\_\_  
 STORY COVERED: CAPTURE OF CASSINO 1 LENGTH EXPOSED 850 ft.  
 PLACE OF EVENT: ITALY HOW SHIPPED: VIA ALGIERS  
 STOCK USED: DUPONT. 2. EMULSION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ COVERED BY  
 BRITISH PARAMOUNT NEWS

VERY IMPORTANT! - WRITE PLAINLY - SPELL NAMES CORRECTLY - USE TYPEWRITER IF POSSIBLE

SCENE NUMBER	COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF SCENES	BOX 11765	FOOTAGE IND.	CAMERA SPEED	LIGHT COND	LENS USED
1.	The town of Cassino is the anchor point of the GUSTAV LINE which the Germans boasted could not be broken during the winter. As in World War I the enemy has shown a fondness for <sup>hauling</sup> highly fortified lines.					
2.	The Gustav line was built to last through the winter. He built thick concrete sleeping quarters for the men holding the line and tunnelled					
3.	into the mountain sides, he installed thick steel pill-boxes, but the excellent strategy of the 5th Army commander enabled them to break through					
4.	them after a temporary setback. The capture of this town should mark the commencement of the closing chapters of the fall of Rome. Cassino is					
5.	dominated by the world famous Abbey of Monte Cassino, founded by Saint Benedict in 529 AD. and the Abbey is supposed to contain priceless					
6.	historical relics but it feared that the Germans may have removed these to a "place of safety."					
7.	(A subsequent story which I will send if it will cover this angle). The battle for Cassino has been a long and hard one and both sides suffered heavy losses, but the unlimited reserves held by the U.S. Army, turned the scales at last.					
8.						

WHICH OTHER SOUND NEWS REELS COVERED STORY

.. .. SILENT .. ..

INSTRUCTIONS: GIVE FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF EACH SCENE AND ALL HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL FACTS POSSIBLE. SHIP ALL FILM PARCEL POST, SPECIAL DELIVERY TO ABOVE ADDRESS. SEND THE PINK ORIGINAL OF THIS FORM WITH NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS BY SPECIAL DELIVERY MAIL. PLACE DUPLICATE IN CAN CONTAINING NEGATIVE.



NUMBER

## CAMERAMAN'S CAPTION SHEET

DATE MAILED

OLYMPIC KINEMATOGRAPH LABORATORIES, LTD.  
BRITISH PARAMOUNT NEWS DEPT.  
SCHOOL ROAD, LONDON, N.W. 10



CAMERAMAN E. J. H. WRIGHT. SOUNDMAN \_\_\_\_\_  
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 PLACE OF EVENT: ITALY HOW SHIPPED VIA ALGIERS.  
 STOCK USED DUPONT 2 EMULSION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ COVERED BY  
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1.	During my visits to the many units engaged in this particular battle, I was struck by the various everyday scenes, such as Italian women washing soldiers' clothing in a stream in an area which was under constant shell fire, men repairing telephone cables, quite oblivious to the fact that just round the corner men were battling for their lives. I visited					
2.	US soldiers of a famous Infantry Regiment. <del>The 133rd</del> living in fox holes within a few hundred yards of Cassino, then under					
3.	turpific shell fire. I also climbed the mountains on the North side of Cassino and together with the men of a Heavy Machine Gun					
4.	Company <del>looked</del> down right into the heart of the town, I was lucky to be on hand when					
5.	a mortar detachment knocked out a German machine gun nest and it was possible to film the firing of the <del>most</del> mortar					
6.	and see the shells arriving on the target a few hundred yards distant. I then saw American Intelligence officers searching German dead					
7.	for their particulars, before decently burying them. The Barracks on the north side of the					
8.						

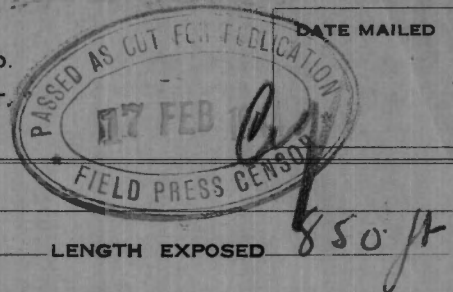
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1.	town were utterly destroyed by shell fire & dive bombing, and large quantities of German equipment were lost. I filmed a large					
2.	conignment of German tank spares, now lost to the enemy for good. The barracks covered a very large area and not one building escaped. The Germans made nearly every					
3.	house in the town into a machine gun nest and the town <del>had</del> to be taken house by house					
4.	mostly at night by specially trained troops who crept up under cover of darkness & tossed in hand grenades through the windows.					
5.	although it was known that the Germans were using the abbey as an observation post. strict orders were issued by Gen Mark Clark that the abbey was to be spared from shelling					
6.	& bombing, this made the task of capturing the town more arduous, but his action in sparing a world famous place is extremely					
7.	meritorious. In the final stages of the fight for the town Japan made the climb with the Infantry over the mountain to the North of the town with a					
8.	view to entering the town that way, however we were met by heavy machine gun fire from a					

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1.	position well hidden behind the 13 <sup>th</sup> Century castle situated in the centre of the town, we replied with well directed machine gun & mortar fire, which I was able to film, [we were shelled] the Castle as it was obvious that the Germans had an O.P. there, the Abbey at this time was shelled and it is believed that the Germans having got out of the abbey shelled it deliberately at the same time the Americans were shelling the town to try & pin the blame on the U.S. Army. Later in the afternoon, a tank attack was made on Cassons and I walked in behind the tanks and secured shots of the town being systematically demolished, this was unfortunately necessary because the enemy had made every house into a block house.				
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.	I am despatching this consignment of film although the story is as yet incomplete as the whole of the town is not yet in our hands I will ship completion of story with all possible speed, when secured.				
7.	Please send <u>5000 feet</u> <u>Lyons</u> rolls. also <u>pad of dope sheets</u>				
8.	This consignment contains all scenes to match the story I have written.				

WHICH OTHER SOUND NEWS REELS COVERED STORY \_\_\_\_\_ collect material on guns shot by Wyand of Movietone.  
 .. .. SILENT .. ..

INSTRUCTIONS: GIVE FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF EACH SCENE AND ALL HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL FACTS POSSIBLE. SHIP ALL FILM PARCEL POST, SPECIAL DELIVERY TO ABOVE ADDRESS. SEND THE PINK ORIGINAL OF THIS FORM WITH NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS BY SPECIAL DELIVERY MAIL. PLACE DUPLICATE IN CAN CONTAINING NEGATIVE.

b. P20PEO

Box 11765

To ~~Mr.~~ Lieut S. Kremer  
A.F.H.Q.  
At Algiers.

British  
Paramount  
News

Date February 15th 1944.

From Mr. Jim Wright

At A.P.O. 512. U.S. Army.



Subject Shipment of film.

## DOPE SHEET.

Bombing of Monte Cassino.  
Shipped via Algiers,

Footage 360 feet.

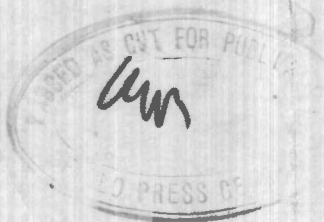
As explained in previous story every effort has been made to avoid shelling or bombing this famous Abbey but the Germans continued to use it as an observation Post etc, so it was decided to give due notice to these Italians who were sheltering within the precincts to quit before commencing shelling and bombing operations. Leaflets were showered over them giving them more than adequate warning, these leaflets are fired by artillery and the shells are fused to burst over the locality. I shot some scenes of the loading of the shells with the leaflets, Wyand of Movietone has shot the close ups of the leaflets, and Barrow has covered the firing of the shells containing the leaflets. The actual bombing raids were carried out by Fortresses (B.17) B.25 and B. 26 aircraft but I was not given the opportunity to fly on the actual missions. So I had to content myself with ground shots which were mostly taken within 600 yards of Cassino Town itself. The papers contain all the relevant dope on the story. My son has I think covered the actual air shots of the raids so please check up with Air Ministry for material taken from aircraft.

I did try to go on this raid as well but I was unsuccessful in making the necessary arrangements.

Please send 5000 feet Eyemo Rolls and Pads of Dope Sheets.

A telephoto lens would be appreciated so that I do not have to go so near to my subject and risk my neck every time I cover war material.

~~Approx 1500 tons of Bombs were dropped and over 200 aircraft took part in the bombing raids.~~



WYAND'S MATERIAL.

THE bombing of Benedictine Monastery, CASSINO.

Movietone.

The Monastery warned by leaflets that it is liable to attack unless the enemy leaves.

Bombing by B.17's shots of planes very high artillery follows up with attack.

(N.B.: -Bursts burst in air are leaflets being thrown in).

Bombing by B.25's.

Shots of Monastery.

Bombing by B.26's. Direct hits are seen.

Monastery after bombing is over.

I believe this to be first authentic sound tracks of air raid.

Box  
11768



Story: Attack on Cassino.  
Location: Cassino, Italy.  
Length: 700 feet.  
Date: February, 1944.

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P. Wyand.  
Box - 11766

yes .  
423/D,2. Shots of St. Benedictine Monestary situated on Montcassino overlooking the town of Cassino. This famous building built on site of Roman Temple was founded in 520. Here the Benedictine monks kept learning alive during the dark ages by copying ancient Greek and Roman manuscripts. They were also the first to manufacture Benedictine Liqueur, later this art went to France (it is rumoured that there is none up there now!) At present it was used to house all the Italian Art and Museum pieces, placed there at the outbreak of War. If the Germans, who now use it as a Barracks and OP., have not removed them to another place of safety!! It is out of bounds to all Allied Artillery. Shells landing on Monestary. Shelling town of Cassino. By Allies and enemy.

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A.F.U. MATERIAL.

Alexander visits Anzio.

Date visit 14th Feb.

Addresses War Correspondents.

Gen. returns to Anzio port and boards submarine tracer.

Shots of ~~some~~ Generals talking to U.S.A. officers.

Alexander embarks ~~across~~ an L.C.I. General aboard submarine tracer.

Box  
11769

b. P. 000 P. 50

BARROW'S MATERIAL: Universal.

Bombing of Monte Cassino.

3", 4", & 6" and 13" shots of bombing.

B.17's bomb targets.

Vapour Trails.

Bombing by Mitchells fire type.

B.26's flying in formation and bombing. (The most accurate).

Propaganda leaflets.

Leaflets examined by the side of a 105mm. Howitzer.

Preparation of shell containing leaflets.

Leaflets were fired over Cassino Monastery from 13 hours 14th Feb.

First bombers over target at 19.30 hours 15th Feb.

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Box - 11770.