

YANKS SURVIVE THREE DAY VISIT INSIDE CASSINO

BY WILLIAM STRAND.

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

WITH THE 5TH ARMY IN ITALY, Feb. 6.—A group of 5th army fighting men returned to their forward outpost, today, tired, unshaven, and hungry after a "visit" inside Cassino lasting three days and three nights.

The men told weird tales of shadowy, mechanical monsters playing hide and seek on the streets by moonlight, while infantry men fought around them, German snipers exchanged shots with the Americans, and artillery shells fell all around.

The men in two Sherman tanks barged into the heart of the German stronghold late Thursday to support an infantry advance against German guns, tanks, pillboxes, and fortifications, from which poured a deadly criss-cross of machine gun fire.

Shell Bounces Off Side.

Except for a few hours when the crew of one behemoth climbed out and temporarily took shelter in a nearby building after an artillery shell bounced off the tough steel hide, the fire men in each tank remained locked in their cramped quarters beneath the turret.

They probably saw more of the town than any other Americans engaged in the long attacks. But they saw everything thru periscopes and with difficulty because snipers frequently knocked the heads off the periscopes as quickly as they were raised.

"I had to put six heads to our periscope while there," said Corp. Earle Shipman of Eau Claire, Wis. "Once, it was gone before I could take one look, and had to be repaired again. Those Jerries mean business."

While the tanks were roaming the street, sniper and machine gun bullets clattered against their sides. The toughness of the tank skin was easy to judge today on examining the bullet marks.

'TIGERS' PARK IN PARLOR

BY HOMER BIGART.

[New York Herald Tribune correspondent, representing the combined U. S. press.]
[Distributed by the Associated Press.]

WITH THE 5TH ARMY ON THE ANZIO BRIDGEHEAD, Feb. 5 [delayed]. — Some pretty good tank country has been uncovered north of Padiglione just above Anzio. It is even better country for tank destroyers.

During the German counteroffensive against the allied bridgehead,

American tank destroyers operating in support of British infantry knocked out for certain four Tiger [Mark VI.] tanks.

The plain is dotted with concrete farmhouses and the Tigers have a trick of bursting thru the rear wall, parking in the parlor, and shooting thru the front window.

When this happens the tank destroyers bring down the house with armor-piercing shells. They have to be very quick about it, because the Tiger carries an 88 millimeter cannon and the T-D's are thin-skinned.

Yesterday morning, Sgt. Leo E. Dobson of Wisconsin saw a Tiger crawling from a house. The first shell fired by Corp. Tom Perry of Attalla, Ala., was a little high. The second caught the Tiger broadside.

Dobson's crew had had a bad night and the sight of the blazing Tiger helped their morale.

Caught three miles inside the enemy lines soon after the enemy's counter-attack began, they parked in the middle of a field and kept its approaches sprayed with machine gun fire.

A Fortunate Result.

From midnight to dawn the 50 caliber machine gun mounted above the open hatch was busy. Lt. John S. Warvie, Trenton, N. J., relieved Dobson occasionally while other crew members slept. T-D people are impervious to noise and altho the din was like that of a boiler factory, Pvt. Leo V. Larsen of Madison, Wis., and others dozed during the dull periods.

Dawn found Dobson's men low on ammunition, having spent more than 1,000 rounds during the night. There were plenty of shells, however, so Gunner Perry smeared three enemy machine gun nests on the far end of the field. One nest lay just behind a slight rise and could not be reached by direct fire, so Perry tried a fused high explosive shell. The trick was to fire into the ground 30 yards ahead of the German position and pray that the shell would bounce forward and explode in the air above the nest.

It turned out better than he hoped. The shell struck a telephone pole just behind the German dugout. The gun was silenced.

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quite like B.*