

## CASSINO BOMBER (first pictures)

No indication meets the eye at this distance that Cassino, overlooked by the snow capped mountains and the now battered monastery, has been the most terrible battlefield on the Italian front. Artillery has pounded the little town for weeks; it has been bombed into rubble. The plan of the assault was gone over, with land and air leaders, by a U.S. Air Corps commander, General Cannon.

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Bostons and Mitchells took off to bombard the enemy's communications. No less than three thousand sorties were flown on this operation.

(GAV sea) Other squadrons of the Tactical Airforce concentrated on the outskirts of Cassino, sometimes diving low enough to use their ~~cannon and machine~~ guns.

Then came the obliterating bombardment of the town itself. The ruined monastery can be seen below. Cassino is a small target; yet the bombers dropped two-thousand, five hundred tons of H.E. Never in land fighting has such a tremendous bombing preceded attack by ground forces.

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Next, ~~Flying Fortresses~~ came over, at intervals of fifteen minutes.

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Cassino was ashes and rubble at the end of that devastating assault. Yet, as military experts point out, the Nazis were still able to resist. Coming out of the deep dugouts they stubbornly defended the northern end of the town. The operation proved to all but bombing fanatics, that no army can be defeated by bombing alone. German gunners kept up their fire, and the rubble made by the bombs obstructed our infantry

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The lessons of Cassino will be of outstanding value ~~of the Second Front.~~ on the Second Front. We have enormous advantage in the air and can rest assured it will be put to best possible use.