

PIN-UP PUT THERE BY PARATROOPS

MANY OF CASSINO'S TREASURES SAFE

A MURALLED figure of Christ, shown with hands thrown up in horror at the sight of warring peoples also depicted in the scene, is safe in Monte Cassino Abbey.

The mural covers nearly one whole wall of a chapel in the Abbey—one of two chapels deep in the Abbey's foundations which are still whole and undamaged after the battle.

Kesselring's paratroops had lived in the chapels. There are pictures of German "pin up" girls on the walls piles of blankets, uniforms, and supplies massed about, says a B.U.P war correspondent.

Union Jack There

A Polish second-lieutenant led the first contingent of Allied troops into the shattered abbey. They found the roof gone, the cornices shattered. But a good part of the massive, yard-thick walls are still standing.

Almost the first act of the Poles was to run up their national flag. To-day the Union Jack is flying alongside over the ruins of the abbey.

The Poles have sent for American flags, French flags, the flags of Canada, New Zealand, and India. Together they will fly over the abbey, looming over conquered Cassino.

To-day they are burying the dead in and around Cassino. The Poles are heaping piles of wild flowers on the graves.

Victory Pigeon

Mostly they are poppies—blood-red poppies.

The final battle for Abbey Hill, the most savage of the offensive, lasted for 27 hours.

Wounded Poles and Germans raised themselves painfully to shoot in a grim duel to the death. Not a single able-bodied prisoner was taken by either side.

A single pigeon bore the tidings of triumph back to Polish Divisional H.Q. It carried a single thin sheet of rice paper bearing a single large letter V.