

Box # 488080
12853

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OFFICIAL US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS MOTION PICTURES

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LEANING TOWER OF PISA

Allied troops tear wider holes in the vaunted Nazi Gothic line across the Italian peninsula as they storm the historic town of Pisa. Tanks roll in as continued gains are netted in the hill country north of the Arno River. Inside Pisa GIs climb over ruins with machine guns and equipment, always on the alert for snipers. In true Italian fashion the people of the town turn out to give the liberationists a rousing welcome. One woman partisan tells how the Germans threw grenades into doors and windows of Italian homes before evacuating the city. The Yanks share food with the less fortunate and the happy people retaliate with bottles of wine. One little girl received her first piece of chewing gum which she immediately swallowed.

Later General Clark and Maj. Gen. Crittenberger cross the Arno River to inspect Pisa. Although the Germans had repeatedly announced that the Allies intended to shell and bomb the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa, the historic monument is unharmed.

Gen. Clark explained that the historic landmark had no military value as an observation tower and that the Allies at no time had ever planned to bomb it.

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