

OPENING THE ASSAULT IN ITALY.

1083

Smoke envelopes the slopes of Monastery Hill at Cassino; after the long period of lull in Italy, men, guns and tanks have gone over to the offensive. In a wide scale attack by the Fifth Army and the Eighth Army, the first objectives were carried and the advance went on; these are the first newsreel pictures back from the Southern front in Europe; the first move was the surprise crossing of the Rapido River

Casualties were inevitable, against the strongly-held defence positions; but far greater casualties were inflicted on the Germans and in addition some thousands of new prisoners were taken; a big defeat was inflicted on Hitler's crack paratroop regiment

The assault continues. Part of the success of the Allied attack was due to the strangling of enemy communications; this is one of the thousands of air attacks on enemy railways and bridges if you never before believed in precision bombing, watch this bridge ~~at the left of the screen.~~

3.45 PM.
19/5/44 Sir V. Schuster