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**Series:** Speech File Backup Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1993

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**OA/ID Number:** 13670  
**Folder ID Number:** 13670-006

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**Folder Title:**  
Memorial Day Ceremony/American Cemetery/Nettuno, Italy 5/28/89 [OA 6265] [1]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

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Bob

"~~Patricia~~ Old Out" video  
world at war  
Cel. ~~Patricia Holland~~  
Maris

Brig Gen Bill Stofft

272 - 0291, 2

7:30 5/8

George Hale  
614-695-1478

Photocopy-Preservation

Stanley Antolak  
614-695-3658

(Littich)  
Mrs. Frank Slater  
widow of Donald Kaspervik  
217-283-2146  
74 years old

Dusk 1944  
May 23 - bombed Alaka I.  
May 29 - patrol 2.6 hours  
June 12 - struck Japan  
June 16 - " " Sursum

Major Units  
Infantry Div.

34  
85  
88

36th - T&E NallG. near Sulmona  
45 3rd The Most Combat in WWII (?)  
1st Special Services out into Rome  
2nd Armored Div.  
82nd Airborne  
14th Air Force  
34th Flight Group  
86th Bomb Group  
2nd Naval Task Force 80 + 81

Western

1st Lt.

Robert T. Waugh  
339th Inf. 85th Div.

21 sets of brothers  
12 women  
highest rank - Colonel  
109 stars of David  
619 Station - Americans

Anglo  
10/20 - May 31

US	22,219
Brit	22,092
France	7,421
Italians	328
3 Germans	- about 90,000

1/2 million tons of bombs during campaign

16 medals of honor awarded in  
Anglo-Nathan Campaign  
" Stangles - Anglo Codeword  
Churchill's idea

visited frequently  
by Station  
of all ages  
bring flowers

T. L. Embassy 328-5500



Bob

REMARKS: MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY  
AMERICAN CEMETERY  
NETTUNO, ITALY  
SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1989  
10:00 A.M.

WE GATHER TODAY TO MARK MEMORIAL DAY IN AMERICA, TO HONOR THE THOUSANDS OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN, BURIED HERE AND ELSEWHERE, WHO PUT THEMSELVES IN HARM'S WAY SO THAT OTHERS MIGHT LIVE IN FREEDOM.

- 2 -

AS WE GATHER, IT IS DAWN IN AMERICA. MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND. THE FIRST DAYS OF SUMMER. SOON SCREEN DOORS WILL SLAM, PARKS WILL SOUND WITH THE CRACK OF THE BAT, CHILDREN'S VOICES WILL RISE IN THE SUMMER BREEZE PUNGENT WITH THE SCENT OF BARBECUE SMOKE.

AND THE RITES OF SUMMER ARE MARKED BY AMERICAN TRADITIONS. AS MORNING COMES TO INDIANAPOLIS THE SMELLS OF COFFEE AND GASOLINE WILL MINGLE IN THE HEAT RISING OFF THE SUN-BAKED RACEWAY.

FURTHER WEST, THERE'LL BE ANOTHER RACE, AS THE BLAST OF A SHIP'S WHISTLE SENDS THE RIVERBOATS HUCK FINN AND TOM SAWYER STEAMING DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI OFF THE DOCKS OF ST. LOUIS.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND. BY THE TIME TODAY'S CEREMONY CONCLUDES THE FIRST RAYS OF SUNLIGHT WILL STREAK ACROSS THE POTOMAC, FLASHING FIRST ATOP THE MONUMENT TO THE FOUNDER OF OUR REPUBLIC, THEN REACHING DOWN TO TOUCH THE SILENT ROWS OF WHITE MARKERS ON THE GREEN VIRGINIA HILLSIDE THAT IS ARLINGTON CEMETERY.

SOON THE GATHERING LIGHT WILL REVEAL A LONE FIGURE -- A MAN IN UNIFORM -- STANDING GUARD AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIERS, A ROUND THE CLOCK VIGIL UNBROKEN IN MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS. ANOTHER MOMENT AND THE DAWN WILL FLOOD THE PARK THAT LAYS BENEATH THE GAZE OF LINCOLN, EMBRACING THE CANDLES THAT FLICKER EACH NIGHT ALONG THE WALLS OF THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL.

AND SOON THE PLAINTIVE SOUND OF TAPS WILL RISE IN THE WIND IN CITIES AND HAMLETS ALL ACROSS AMERICA, HEARD BY VETERANS OF FOUR WARS, AS THEY GATHER TO SALUTE THE FALLEN. IN TOWN AFTER TOWN THE RITUAL AT SUNRISE WILL BE THE SAME, AS FIRST THE FLAG IS RAISED, THEN SLOWLY LOWERED TO HALF-MAST.

THE THOUGHTS OF SOME WILL TURN EASTWARD TOWARD THE SUN -- ACROSS THE OCEAN AND ACROSS FOUR DECADES -- TO THIS GRASSY PLAIN ABOVE THE SHORES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN, WHERE 45 YEARS AGO THE U.S. THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION -- AMONG THE MOST DECORATED IN WORLD WAR II -- LED THE BLOODY ADVANCE TOWARD THE LIBERATION OF ROME.

ON THAT MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND -- 1944 -- I WAS NOT YET 20, FLYING TORPEDO BOMBERS OFF THE U.S.S. SAN JACINTO ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD AS SHE HEADED FROM WAKE ISLAND TOWARD SAIPAN. LIKE AMERICANS EVERYWHERE, THE MEN ABOARD OUR SHIP HAD EAGERLY FOLLOWED NEWS OF THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN.

DURING FOUR LONG MONTHS OF 1944, THE COMBATANTS OF WORLD WAR II WERE LOCKED NEAR NETTUNO IN A DEADLY EMBRACE.

BUT BEFORE THE WEEK WAS OUT, THE FACE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST CONFLICT WOULD BE CHANGED, AND THE FATE OF THE ENEMY SEALED. ON JUNE 4TH, AMERICAN TROOPS ENTERED ROME, THE STREETS LINED BY CHEERING ITALIANS. BY MIDNIGHT GENERAL MARK CLARK'S FIFTH ARMY STOOD ON THE BANKS OF THE TIBER, AND THE WORD WENT OUT TO A WAITING AMERICA: FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE LANDINGS AT SALERNO IN SEPTEMBER 1943, THE ENEMY WAS IN FULL RETREAT.

IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE END. AND TWO DAYS LATER A NEW FRONT OPENED WITH D-DAY, THE NORMANDY LANDING.

THE FIGHT TO LIBERATE ITALY WAS AS FIERCE AND HEROIC AS ANY SEEN IN THE WAR. THE DANGER TO EACH ADVERSARY WAS SUCH THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE WAR ITSELF SEEMED TO HANG AT THAT MOMENT ON THE VALOR AND THE VIGOR OF EACH MAN WHO STRUGGLED NEAR THE WATER'S EDGE.

ONE SUCH SOLDIER WAS SGT. SYLVESTER ANTOLAK, AN OHIO FARMBOY AND THE YOUNGEST SON OF POLISH IMMIGRANTS. ON A DRIZZLY MORNING FORTY-FIVE YEARS AGO THIS WEEK, HE LED STAFF SGT. AUDIE MURPHY AND OTHERS IN A BOLD CHARGE THROUGH THE RAIN AND THE RUIN NEAR CISTERNA -- ONE MAN AGAINST A MACHINEGUN NEST THAT BLOCKED THE ROAD TO ROME.

THREE TIMES HE WAS CUT DOWN BY FIRE. THREE TIMES HE GOT BACK UP, TUCKING HIS GUN UNDER HIS SHATTERED RIGHT ARM. BY THE TIME HE HAD DISABLED THE GUNNERS, TEN ENEMY SOLDIERS SURRENDERED TO THIS MAN WHOM THEIR BULLETS COULD NOT STOP.

SGT. ANTOLAK FELL NEAR CISTERNA THAT SAME DAY. HE RESTS HERE BENEATH THE CEDARS OF NETTUNO WITH NEARLY 8,000 SOLDIERS, HIS GRAVE ONE OF TWO MARKED WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR.

JOINED BY THE NAMES OF ANOTHER 3,000 MISSING ETCHED IN THE WHITE MARBLE OF THE CHAPEL, THEY COME FROM EVERY AMERICAN STATE, FROM TEXAS TO MAINE, ALASKA TO FLORIDA. AND THESE WHITE CROSSES AND STARS OF DAVID RING THE WORLD -- ACROSS THE BATTLEFIELDS OF EUROPE AND THE JUNGLES OF ASIA, THE DESERTS OF NORTH AFRICA, THE HILLSIDES OF OUR HOMELAND -- IN SILENT TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S BATTLES FOR FREEDOM IN THIS CENTURY.

IT WAS WITH THE MEMORY OF THE SACRIFICES OF THE AMERICAN, BRITISH AND FRENCH SOLDIERS WHO FELL DURING THE CAMPAIGN TO LIBERATE ITALY -- AND THE SACRIFICES OF MILLIONS OF OTHER EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS IN THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM -- FRESH IN MIND THAT NATO WAS CREATED AFTER THE WAR.

AS I REFLECT ON THIS SCENE, AND ANTICIPATE THE DYNAMIC AND FORWARD-LOOKING EUROPE OF THE 1990'S, I THINK OF GENERATIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC WHO HAVE GROWN UP IN PEACE AND PROSPERITY. WITH NO EXPERIENCE OF THE HORROR AND DESTRUCTION OF WAR, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO UNDERSTAND WHY WE NEED TO KEEP A STRONG MILITARY DETERRENT TO PREVENT WAR, AND TO PRESERVE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY. THE ANSWER IS HERE, AMONG THE QUIET OF THE GRAVES.

THE COST OF MAINTAINING FREEDOM IS BROUGHT HOME TO US ALL WHEN TRAGEDY STRIKES -- AS IT DID LAST MONTH ON THE USS IOWA. THE LOSS OF THOSE FINE SAILORS -- AND THE TEARS OF THEIR FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES -- REMIND US ALL OF THE RISK AND SACRIFICE IN HUMAN TERMS THAT SECURITY SOMETIMES DEMANDS.

LET ME ADD HOW IMPRESSIVE WERE THE MANY EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY I RECEIVED FROM LEADERS AROUND THE WORLD, AND PARTICULARLY BY THE ELOQUENT WORDS OF ITALY'S DISTINGUISHED PRESIDENT, FRANCESCO COSSIGA, AS HE SHARED THE SORROW OF OUR LOSS.

SGT. ANTOLAK ALSO UNDERSTOOD THE COST OF FREEDOM. TODAY IN HIS HOMETOWN OF ST. CLAIRSVILLE, OHIO -- POPULATION 6,000 -- THE TOWNSPEOPLE WILL GATHER BY THE LOCAL COURTHOUSE TO DEDICATE A WHITE GRANITE MEMORIAL TO THE COUNTY'S MEDAL OF HONOR WINNERS. GEORGE AND STANLEY ANTOLAK WILL BE THERE -- TO REMEMBER THEIR BROTHER -- THEIR HERO, AND OURS.

IT IS THE KIND OF SCENE THAT WILL BE REPEATED TODAY AND TOMORROW IN PARKS AND CHURCHYARDS ALL ACROSS AMERICA.

A BIT NORTH OF MARK TWAIN'S HANNIBAL -- JUST UP THE MISSISSIPPI FROM THAT STEAMBOAT RACE I MENTIONED -- LIES THE TOWN OF QUINCY, ILLINOIS. WHEN WORLD WAR II CAME, QUINCY OFFERED UP HER SONS IN SERVICE. THREE BROTHERS -- DONALD, PRESTON, AND WILLIAM KASPERVIK -- JOINED THE ARMY AIR CORPS.

THEIR STORY IS A COMMON ONE -- AND YET UNCOMMON IN THE WAY OF ALL THOSE WHO ANSWERED THE CALL TO SERVE.

THE FIRST BROTHER, DONALD, WAS KILLED WHEN TWO BOMBERS COLLIDED ON MANEUVERS IN NEW MEXICO, AND THEIR MOTHER GRIEVED. PRESTON, THE SECOND BROTHER, DIED JUST SOUTH OF HERE IN SICILY, SHORTLY AFTER PATTON'S SUCCESSFUL INVASION. AND THEIR MOTHER WAS OVERCOME ONCE AGAIN.

TEN DAYS LATER, THE THIRD BROTHER, WILLIAM WENT DOWN DURING A DANGEROUS BOMBING MISSION OVER THE MOUNTAINS OF CENTRAL ITALY. ON THE DAY OF HIS DEATH, HIS MOTHER RECEIVED A LETTER FROM HIM, URGING HER NOT TO WORRY. WHEN THE THIRD TELEGRAM CAME, HIS MOTHER COULD NOT BRING HERSELF TO ANSWER THE DOOR.

WILLIAM AND PRESTON KASPERVIK ARE BURIED HERE SIDE BY SIDE -- IN SOIL THEY HELPED TO FREE. BROTHERS IN LIFE, BROTHERS IN ARMS, BROTHERS IN ETERNITY.

THEIR MOTHER DIED 20 YEARS AGO. BUT BACK HOME IN QUINCY, THE EXTRAORDINARY SACRIFICE OF THIS ORDINARY AMERICAN FAMILY IS STILL REMEMBERED. AND TODAY, AS THEY DO EVERY YEAR, THE VFW AND THE AMERICAN LEGION WILL HONOR QUINCY'S FALLEN NATIVES WITH A HOMETOWN PARADE DOWN MAIN STREET, HIGH ABOVE THE BANKS OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

AS WE GATHER TODAY, IT IS DAWN IN AMERICA.  
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND. AND AS THE SUN RISES AND THE  
SUMMER BEGINS, THE IMAGES BOTH HERE AND AT HOME ARE OF  
COUNTRIES THAT ARE PROSPEROUS AND SECURE, COUNTRIES  
CONFIDENT OF THEIR PLACE IN THE WORLD AND AWARE OF THE  
RESPONSIBILITY THAT COMES WITH THAT PLACE.

SOON THAT LONE SOLDIER AT ARLINGTON WILL RESUME HIS  
PACES -- 21 STEPS IN EACH DIRECTION, THE CHANGING OF  
THE GUARD PRECISELY ON THE HALF HOUR. AT GETTYSBURG,  
THE SCHOOLCHILDREN WILL SCATTER FLOWERS ON OTHER  
UNKNOWN GRAVES, BLUE AND GRAY SIDE BY SIDE, AMERICANS.

ON MEMORIAL DAY, WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE BLESSINGS OF FREEDOM AND PEACE AND FOR THE GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS WHO HAVE WON THEM FOR US. WE ALSO PRAY FOR THE SAME STRENGTH AND MORAL RESOLVE DEMONSTRATED BY THESE VETERANS, AS WELL AS FOR THE TRUE AND LASTING PEACE FOUND IN A WORLD WHERE LIBERTY AND JUSTICE PREVAIL.

AND WITH THAT PRAYER, I ASK THAT YOU JOIN IN YOUR OWN SILENT PRAYERS AS WE PLACE A WREATH TO COMMEMORATE THE SACRIFICE OF THOSE BURIED HERE AT NETTUNO -- AND THE SACRIFICE OF ALL MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES FOR FREEDOM.

# # #

✓ = INDICATES AWARD POSTHUMOUSLY

PAGE	UNIT	PERSONNEL
487	30 INF. DIV.	ANTOLAK, SYLVESTER ✓
490	45 <sup>TH</sup> INF. DIV.	BARFOOT, VAN T
500	85 <sup>TH</sup> " "	BLOCH, ORVILLE
500	36 <sup>TH</sup> " "	BJORLUND, ARNOLD L.
506	30 INF DIV	BRITT, MAURICE L.
515	85 <sup>TH</sup> INF. DIV.	CARR, CHRIS (NAME CHANGED FROM CHRISTOS H. KARABERIS)
518	45 <sup>TH</sup> INF. DIV.	CHILDERS, ERNEST
519	3 <sup>D</sup>	CHRISTIAN, HERBERT F. ✓
528	" " "	CRAIG, ROBT. ✓
529	36 <sup>TH</sup> " "	CRAWFORD, Wm. J.
539 540	34 <sup>TH</sup> " "	DERVISHIAN, ERNEST H.
544	3 <sup>D</sup> " "	DUTKO, JOHN W. ✓
557	1 <sup>ST</sup> ARMORED DIV	FOWLER, THOMAS W.
560	34 <sup>TH</sup> INF. DIV.	GALT, WILLIAM WYLIE ✓
563	3 <sup>D</sup> INF DIV	GIBSON, ERIC G. ✓
570	34 <sup>TH</sup> " "	HALL, GEORGE J.
574 575	91 <sup>ST</sup> " "	HARMON, ROY W. ✓
579	3 <sup>D</sup> " "	HAWKS, LLOYD C. ✓
583 584	509 <sup>TH</sup> PARACHUTE INF. BATT.	HUFF, PAUL B.
587	3 <sup>D</sup> INF DIV.	JOHNSON, ELDEN H. ✓
589	91 <sup>ST</sup> " "	JOHNSON, OSCAR G.
590	45 <sup>TH</sup> " "	JOHNSON, WILLIAM J.
593	85 <sup>TH</sup> " "	KEATHLEY, GEORGE D. ✓
596	36 <sup>TH</sup> " "	KELLY, CHARLES E.
599	3 <sup>D</sup> " "	KESSLER, PATRICK L.
602	2 <sup>D</sup> ARMORED "	KISTERS, GERRY H.
603	3 <sup>D</sup> INF. "	KNAPPENBERGER, ALTON W.
604	AIR CORPS	KNIGHT, RAYMOND L. ✓
611	30 INF DIV	LINDSTROM, FLOYD K.
612	36 <sup>TH</sup> " "	LOGAN, JAMES M.
617	10 <sup>TH</sup> MOUNTAIN "	MAGRATH, JOHN D. ✓
622 623	36 <sup>TH</sup> INF. "	McCALL, THOMAS E.
637	3 <sup>D</sup> " "	MILLS, JAMES H.
640	45 <sup>TH</sup> " "	MONTGOMERY, JACK C.
643 644	100 <sup>TH</sup> INF. BATT / 442 <sup>D</sup> COMBAT TEAM	MUNEMORI, SADAO S. ✓
648	34 <sup>TH</sup> INF. DIV.	NEWMAN, BERYL R.
652 653	3 <sup>D</sup> " "	OLSON, ARLO L. ✓
653	" " "	OLSON, TRUMAN O. ✓
655	U.S.S. LST 375 (USN)	JOHN JOSEPH PARLE ✓

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>
665	34 <sup>TH</sup> INF. DIV.	POWERS, LEO J.
669	1 <sup>ST</sup> " "	REESE, JAMES W. ✓
671	34 <sup>TH</sup> " "	R. OGDAN, PAUL F. ✓
673 - 674	88 <sup>TH</sup> " "	ROEDER, ROBT. E. ✓
680	3 <sup>D</sup> " "	SCHAUER, HENRY
683	88 <sup>TH</sup> " "	SHEA, CHARLES W.
689	45 <sup>TH</sup> " "	SLATON, JAMES D.
690	34 <sup>TH</sup> " "	SMITH, FURMAN L. ✓
692	✓ 48 <sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER COMBAT BATT.	SPECKER, JOE C. ✓
693	X 3 <sup>D</sup> INF. DIV.	SQUIRES, JOHN C.
715	85 <sup>TH</sup> " "	WAUGH, ROBT. T.
715	3 <sup>D</sup> " "	WALBUR, DAVID C.
718	34 <sup>TH</sup> " "	WIGLE, THOMAS W. ✓

# s' Korean vets



H-W Photo/Bryan Butts

Illinois Veterans Home at which the Korean War Memorial was dedicated Tuesday.

air stockpiles of am-  
re the cease-fire took  
the time came, the  
l and the silence was  
ing," Mills said.  
ceremony, the Quincy  
High School Band per-  
the direction of Pam

egan with a flyover by  
e Illinois Air Guard's  
1 Fighter Group based  
e. A former Adams  
e's attorney, Tom  
he lead plane.

rans, in a separate  
o unveiled the Veter-  
ign Wars Memorial  
onor all war veterans.  
iron fountain is the re-  
similar 19th century  
ilt on the grounds. The  
tain was dismantled  
to the World War II  
efforts.

VFW members across Illinois last year raised the nearly \$9,300 needed to buy the fountain from Robinson Iron Co. of Alexander City, Ala. "Robinson Iron also made a substantial donation by charging about one-third of the regular cost of the fountain," said James Sibbing, director of the physical site at the Veterans Home. "Both of these types of memorials have to be paid for with private donations. State funds for the home have to be used for health care."

Bill Jackson, 1988 state VFW commander, called the fountain "a memorial for all veterans to be proud of."

The iron company cast the fountain from "authentic patterns they purchased from the J.L. Mott Co. of New York," a now-defunct firm which built the original fountain on the site, Sibbing said. The pattern was made in 1878, he added.

# Bush recalls 3 Quincy brothers killed in war

By Eric Johnson  
Herald-Whig Staff Writer

A widow's memories, faded newspaper clippings, a grave-stone.

There is little else to remind Quincyans of the Kaspervik brothers — three young soldiers whose deaths shattered a local family more than 45 years ago.

But on Monday, thousands of miles away in Italy, President Bush revived the emotional story of the Kasperviks and the war-time sacrifice of their mother, the late Edith Rosen.

Bush shared the story with the world during a Memorial Day ceremony in Nettuno, Italy. He stood before the graves of more than 7,800 American servicemen and women who died during the battles of 1943-44, when the Allies invaded Italy.

In a speech evoking American nostalgia, Bush used the Kaspervik story to symbolize a most poignant military tradition — a family's precious gift in defense of the nation.

The oldest brother, First Lt. Donald W. Kaspervik, was killed in New Mexico while flying a B-24 bomber during a training mission June 16, 1943. The middle brother, Cpl. Preston Lee Kaspervik, died of an illness in Sicily on Jan. 4, 1944. And the youngest, Second Lt. William T. "Bill" Kaspervik, was killed during a bombing mission in Italy on Jan. 14, 1944.

Donald's widow, Lillian Slater of 2706 Elm, is believed to be the sole surviving family member in Quincy. She married Frank Slater after Donald's death.

The three brothers were Mrs. Rosen's only children. Their deceased father, William Kaspervik, had been a World War I veteran. Mrs. Rosen's second

husband and the boys' stepfather was the late Lee Rosen.

Bush was emotionally strained, even struggling to finish sentences, while speaking about Mrs. Rosen and the grief she experienced after her third son died. Like two of the Kasperviks, the president was a pilot during World War II.

"When the third telegram came," announcing the death of her youngest boy "his mother could not bring herself to go to the door," Bush said.

The White House last week contacted The Herald-Whig for information about the Kasperviks and Bush tapped a February 1944 edition of The Herald-Whig for his speech. Mrs. Rosen had told the newspaper: "Ever since the death of Preston, I had a premonition that something was going to happen to Bill. All this week I've been sick with the feeling that I would hear bad news. When the messenger boy came today, I just stood there shaking. I couldn't go to the door, and my husband had to go for me."

The president said Preston and Bill are buried side-by-side in the Nettuno cemetery and added, "Brothers in life, brothers in arms, brothers in eternity."

Mrs. Slater, who heard about Bush's speech Monday from friends, thinks the two brothers were buried in Sicily, not Italy.

Mrs. Slater said she has forgotten much about the Kasperviks and Mrs. Rosen; the years have washed away the worst memories. Even the family's home at 1730 Spring has been demolished.

But Mrs. Slater was pleased to hear that the president remembered the Kaspervik boys, their mother and their contribution to the nation.

# Employment outlook good for

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Bob Simon

May 23, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *cw*

FROM: EDWARD E. McNALLY *EM*

SUBJECT: MEMORIAL DAY SPEECH AT THE AMERICAN CEMETERY,  
NETTUNO, ITALY

I. SUMMARY

Attached for your consideration and review are draft remarks for your Memorial Day address, to be given on Memorial Day Sunday at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial in Nettuno, Italy.

II. DISCUSSION

At 10:00 a.m. (Italy time) on Sunday, May 28, 1989, you are scheduled to travel to the American Cemetery in Nettuno, Italy, to lay a Memorial Day wreath -- commemorating all our veterans who have fallen in battle.

In part because the military campaign at nearby Anzio remains controversial, the suggested remarks are not particularly directed at the Italians, NATO, or even the armed services. Rather, the remarks were drafted as a Presidential Memorial Day message, directed at the heartland audience back home where families will be preparing to celebrate an American tradition.

Located just east of Anzio, about an hour's drive from Rome, the American Cemetery at Nettuno is one of fourteen sites in foreign countries that were selected after World War II as permanent American cemeteries. A grassy, tree-lined field of white crosses, the cemetery is somewhat reminiscent of Arlington National Cemetery. Nearly all of the almost 8,000 soldiers buried there are American, and nearly all fought in the 1943-44 liberation of Italy, from the invasion of Sicily to the fall of Rome. A small number also came from Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, Finland, Sweden and Spain.

(McNally/Simon)  
May 23, 1989  
5:00 p.m.  
Draft Four  
(B:NETTUNO)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY  
AMERICAN CEMETERY  
NETTUNO, ITALY  
SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1989  
10:00 A.M.

We gather today to mark Memorial Day in America, to honor the thousands of young men and women, buried here and elsewhere, who put themselves in harm's way so that others might live in freedom.

As we gather, it is dawn in America. Memorial Day Weekend. The first days of summer. Soon screen doors will slam, parks will sound with the crack of the bat, children's voices will rise in the summer breeze pungent with the scent of barbecue smoke.

And the rites of summer are marked by American traditions. As morning comes to Indianapolis the smells of coffee and gasoline will mingle in the heat rising off the sun-baked raceway. Further west, there'll be another race, as the blast of a ship's whistle sends the riverboats Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer steaming down the Mississippi off the docks of St. Louis.

Memorial Day Weekend. By the time today's ceremony concludes the first rays of sunlight will streak across the Potomac, flashing first atop the monument to the founder of our Republic, then reaching down to touch the silent rows of white markers on the green Virginia hillside that is Arlington

Cemetery. Soon the gathering light will reveal a lone figure -- a man in uniform -- standing guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers, a round the clock vigil unbroken in more than fifty years. Another moment and the dawn will flood the park that lays beneath the gaze of Lincoln, embracing the candles that flicker each night along the walls of the Vietnam Memorial.

And soon the plaintive sound of taps will rise in the wind in cities and hamlets all across America, heard by veterans of four wars, as they gather to salute the fallen. In town after town the ritual at sunrise will be the same, as first the flag is raised, then slowly lowered to half-mast.

The thoughts of some will turn eastward toward the sun -- across the ocean and across four decades -- to this grassy plain above the shores of the Mediterranean, where 45 years ago the U.S. Third Infantry Division -- among the most decorated in World War II -- led the bloody advance toward the liberation of Rome.

On that Memorial Day Weekend -- 1944 -- I was not yet 20, standing aboard the U.S.S. San Jacinto on the other side of the world as she cruised from Wake Island toward Saipan. Like Americans everywhere, the men aboard our ship had eagerly followed news of the Italian campaign.

During four long months of 1944, the combatants of World War II were locked near Nettuno in a deadly embrace. But before the week was out, the face of the world's greatest conflict would be changed, and the fate of the enemy sealed. On June 4th, American troops entered Rome, the streets lined by cheering Italians. By

midnight General Mark Clark's Fifth Army stood on the banks of the Tiber, and the word went out to a waiting America: For the first time since the landings at Salerno in September 1943, the enemy was in full retreat.

It was the beginning of the end. And two days later a new front opened with D-Day, the Normandy landing.

The fight to liberate Italy from the tyranny of fascism was as fierce and heroic as any seen in the war. The danger to each adversary was such that the outcome of the war itself seemed to hang at that moment on the valor and the vigor of each man who struggled near the water's edge.

One such soldier was Sgt. Sylvester Antolak, an Ohio farmboy and the youngest son of Polish immigrants. On a drizzly morning forty-five years ago this week, he led Staff Sgt. Audie Murphy and others in a bold charge through the rain and the ruin near Cisterna -- one man against a machinegun nest that blocked the road to Rome.

Three times he was cut down by fire. Three times he got back up, tucking his gun under his shattered right arm. By the time he had disabled the gunners, ten enemy soldiers surrendered to this man whom their bullets could not stop.

Sgt. Antolak fell near Cisterna that same day. He rests here beneath the cedars of Nettuno with nearly 8,000 soldiers, his grave one of two marked with the Congressional Medal of Honor. Joined by the names of another 3,000 missing etched in the white marble of the chapel, they come from every American

state, from Texas to Maine, Alaska to Florida. And these white crosses and Stars of David ring the world -- across the battlefields of Europe and the jungles of Asia, the deserts of north Africa, the hillsides of our homeland -- in silent tribute to America's battles for freedom in this century.

It was with the memory of the sacrifices of the American, British and French soldiers who fell during the campaign to liberate Italy -- and the sacrifices of millions of other Europeans and Americans in the cause of freedom -- fresh in mind that NATO was created after the war.

As I reflect on this scene, and anticipate the dynamic and forward-looking Europe of the 1990's, I think of generations of young people on both sides of the Atlantic who have grown up in peace and prosperity. With no experience of the horror and destruction of war, it may be difficult for them to understand why we need to keep a strong military deterrent to prevent war, and to preserve freedom and democracy. The answer is here, among the quiet of the graves.

The cost of maintaining freedom is brought home to us all when tragedy strikes -- as it did last month on the USS Iowa. The loss of those fine sailors -- and the tears of their families and loved ones -- reminded us all of the risk and sacrifice in human terms that security sometimes demands. Let me add how impressive were the many expressions of sympathy I received from leaders around the world, and particularly by the eloquent words

of Italy's distinguished President, Francesco Cossiga, as he shared the sorrow of our loss.

Sgt. Antolak also understood the cost of freedom. Today in his hometown of St. Clairesville, Ohio -- population 6,000 -- the townspeople will gather by the local courthouse to dedicate a white granite memorial to the county's Medal of Honor winners. George and Stanley Antolak will be there -- to remember their brother -- their hero, and ours.

It is the kind of scene that will be repeated today and tomorrow in parks and churchyards all across America.

A bit north of Mark Twain's Hannibal -- just up the Mississippi from that steamboat race I mentioned -- lies the town of Quincy, Illinois. When World War II came, Quincy offered up her sons in service. Three brothers -- Donald, Preston, and William Kaspervik -- joined the Army Air Corps. Their story is a common one -- and yet uncommon in the way of all those who answered the call to serve.

The first brother, Donald, was killed when two bombers collided on maneuvers in New Mexico, and their mother grieved. Preston, the second brother, died just south of here in Sicily, shortly after Patton's successful invasion. And their mother was overcome once again.

Ten days later, the third brother, William went down during a dangerous bombing mission over the mountains of central Italy. On the day of his death, his mother received a letter from him,

urging her not to worry. When the third telegram came, his mother could not bring herself to answer the door.

William and Preston Kaspervik are buried here side by side -- in soil they helped to free. Brothers in life, brothers in arms, brothers in eternity.

Their mother died 20 years ago. But back home in Quincy, the extraordinary sacrifice of this ordinary American family is still remembered. And today, as they do every year, the VFW and the American Legion will honor Quincy's fallen natives with a hometown parade down Main Street, high above the banks of the Mississippi.

As we gather today, it is dawn in America. Memorial Day Weekend. And as the sun rises and the summer begins, the images both here and at home are of countries that are prosperous and secure, countries confident of their place in the world and aware of the responsibility that comes with that place.

Soon that lone soldier at Arlington will resume his paces -- 21 steps in each direction, the changing of the guard precisely on the half hour. At Gettysburg, the schoolchildren will scatter flowers on other unknown graves, blue and gray side by side, Americans.

On Memorial Day, we give thanks for the blessings of freedom and peace and for the generations of Americans who have won them for us. We also pray for the same strength and moral resolve demonstrated by these veterans, as well as for the true and lasting peace found in a world where liberty and justice prevail.

And with that prayer, I ask that you join in your own silent prayers as we place a wreath to commemorate the sacrifice of those buried here at Nettuno -- and the sacrifice of all men and women who have given their lives for freedom.

# # #

(McNally/Simon)  
May 18, 1989  
4:00 p.m.  
Draft One  
(B:NETTUNO)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY  
AMERICAN CEMETARY  
NETTUNO, ITALY  
SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1989  
10:00 A.M.

Mr. Prime Minister, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:

We gather today to mark Memorial Day in America, to honor the thousands of young men and women, buried here and elsewhere, who put themselves in harm's way so that others might live in freedom.

*In just a few hours ~~not~~ will be breaking along the coast of*  
~~As we gather, it is dawn in~~ America. Memorial Day Weekend. The first days of summer. Soon screen doors will slam, parks will sound with the crack of the bat, children's voices will rise in the summer breeze *scented by wisps* ~~pungent with the scent~~ of barbeque smoke.

And the rites of summer are marked by American rituals.

Today in Indianapolis the smell of coffee and sweat and ~~kerosene~~ *gasoline* will mingle in the heat rising off the sun-baked raceway. Off *renew once* the docks of St. Louis, ~~the legacy of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer~~ *will ~~come~~ again* ~~will be remembered with the annual riverboat race.~~ *the mighty Mississippi* *their annual race down* *\* Hummed*

Memorial Day Weekend. By the time this ceremony concludes, the first rays of sunlight will streak across the Potomac River, flashing first atop the monument to the founder of our Republic, then reaching down to touch the *silent* ~~rows of silent~~ white markers on the green ~~Virginia~~ hillside that is Arlington Cemetery. Soon the gathering light will reveal *a* ~~the lone figure of~~ a man in uniform, —

St. Louis Convention Bureau  
314-421-1023

24 hour  
first vigil 7/2/37 (475-1375)

2

standing guard at the Tomb of the Unknown ~~Soldier~~, a 24 hour vigil  
~~unbroken~~ unbroken in tradition that ~~dates back~~ more than fifty years.

And soon the sound of taps will rise in the wind all across  
America, heard by veterans, young and old, as they gather in

~~cities and hamlets~~ to salute the fallen, to ~~slowly~~ raise the flag <sup>in cities & hamlets</sup> and then

<sup>lower it slowly</sup> to half-mast. Some will turn their thoughts here, to this

peaceful hilltop above the shores of the Mediterranean, where 45

years ago the U.S. Third Infantry Division -- <sup>among</sup> the most decorated

in the war -- led the bloody advance on Rome.

On that Memorial Day Weekend -- 1944 -- I was not yet 20,  
standing aboard the San Jacinto on the other side of the world as  
she cruised from Wake Island toward Saipan. Like most Americans,  
the men aboard my ship had eagerly followed news of the Italian  
campaign.

During four long months of that year, the combatants of World  
War II were locked near Nettuno in a deadly embrace. But before  
the week was out, the face of the world's greatest conflict would  
be changed, <sup>- the beginning of the end had come.</sup> and the fate of the enemy sealed. On June 4th,

American troops liberated Rome, the streets lined by cheering  
Italians. By midnight, General Mark Clark's Fifth Army stood on  
the banks of the Tiber, and the word went out to a waiting

America: For the first time since the landings at Salerno in  
September 1943, the enemy was in full retreat.

<sup>It was the beginning of the end.</sup> And two days later a new

front opened with D-Day, the invasion of France.

<sup>Had the allies  
not challenged Hitler in the Mediterranean, our forces  
may have never prevailed on the beaches of Normandy.</sup>

Wilson  
among  
272-0306

Aspicio  
by  
Martin  
Blumentson

p. 195

<sup>It the tragic cost of the</sup>

<sup>war in Italy had been steep, but the reward soon came.</sup>

The fighting in ~~the Italian campaign~~ was as fierce and heroic as any seen in the war. The danger to each adversary was of such magnitude that the outcome of the war itself seemed to ~~hang in that moment~~, on the courage, skill, and stamina of ~~those~~ <sup>each individual</sup> who struggled near the water's edge. <sup>Uncommon value was a common virtue.</sup> In this ~~cemetery~~ lies Sgt. Sylvester Antolak, <sup>was one such individual,</sup> An Ohio farmboy and the youngest son of Polish immigrants, 45 years ago this week he <sup>gave</sup> lost his life not far from where we stand. ~~and won the Congressional Medal of Honor.~~

Audie Murphy was among those who <sup>watched</sup> followed as Sgt. Antolak charged a machinegun nest near the Cisterna beachhead. Three times he was cut down by fire. Three times he got back up, tucking his gun under his shattered right arm. By the time he had disabled the gunners, ten enemy soldiers surrendered to this man whom their bullets could not stop. <sup>For his selfless sacrifice, Congress</sup> ~~awarded him the Medal of Honor.~~

Side by side under another set of crosses lie ~~two of the~~ <sup>both</sup> three Kaspervik brothers of Quincy, Illinois. <sup>Italy</sup> All three served in the Army Air Corps, <sup>both</sup> all three died in action, <sup>just</sup> these two killed ten days apart in 1944.

All told, nearly 8,000 soldiers rest beneath the cedars of Nettuno cemetery, joined by another 3,000 missing whose names are etched in the white ~~Carrara~~ marble of the chapel. They come from every American state, from Texas to Maine, Alaska to Florida. ~~Twelve are women, 109 are buried beneath Stars of David, 490 are unidentified -- known but to God.~~ <sup>and</sup> the white crosses you see before you ring the world -- across the

battlefields of Europe and ~~in~~ the mountains of Asia, the deserts of north Africa, <sup>and</sup> the jungles of Latin America -- silent testimony to America's battles for freedom in this century.

A It was with the memory of the sacrifices of the American, British and French soldiers who fell during the Italian campaign -- and millions of other Europeans and Americans -- fresh in mind that NATO was created after the war.

As I reflect on this scene, and anticipate the dynamic and forward-looking Europe of the 1990's, I think of generations of young people on both sides of the Atlantic who have grown up in peace and prosperity. With no experience of the horror and destruction of war, it may be difficult for them to understand why we need to keep a strong military deterrent to prevent war. The answer is here, among the silent graves.

The cost of maintaining that deterrent is brought home to us all when tragedy strikes -- as it did last month on the USS Iowa. The loss of those fine sailors -- and the tears of their families and loved ones -- reminded us all of the risk and sacrifice in human terms that security sometimes demands. Let me add how impressed I was by the many expressions of sympathy I received from leaders around the world, and particularly by the eloquent words of Italy's distinguished President, Francesco Cossiga, as he shared the sorrow of our loss.

As we gather, ~~it is~~ <sup>is breaking</sup> dawn in America. Memorial Day Weekend. And as the sun rises and the summer begins, the images at home are of a country that is prosperous and secure, a country

h ((Frähn-CHESS-co  
Ros-SEE-ga))

confident of its place in the world and aware of what that place will cost. (B)

Soon that lone soldier at Arlington will resume his paces -- 21 steps in each direction, the changing of the guard precisely <sup>on</sup> at the half hour. (At Gettysburg, the schoolchildren will scatter flowers on other unknown graves, blue and gray side by side, Americans.) (sted)

~~In the kind of scene that will be repeated in small towns all across our nation, (the American Legion) In St. Clairsville, Ohio -- population 6,000 -- will dedicate a white granite monument in front of the courthouse to Sgt. Antolak, the Medal of Honor winner buried here. Two surviving brothers will attend. One of them, George, served in the South Pacific and was awarded the Purple Heart.~~

~~And as they do every year, the Legion in Quincy, Illinois -- just up the Mississippi from Hannibal -- will sponsor a parade down Main Street to honor fallen natives like the ~~three~~ Kaspervik brothers.~~

On Memorial Day, we give thanks for the blessings of freedom and peace, and for the generations of Americans who have won them for us. We also pray for the same strength and moral resolve demonstrated by these veterans, as well as for the true and lasting peace found in a world where liberty and justice prevail.

De Mita speaks

And with that prayer, I will join Prime Minister De Mita in placing a wreath to commemorate the sacrifice of those buried here at Nettuno.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

5/28

Sunrise

Boston 5:15 EDT

NY 5:30

Washington 5:45

~~Coverman~~

President Speaks

4:20 EDT

Sgt. Sylvester Antolak

St. Clairsville, OHIO pop. 6000  
12 mi. from Ohio River

On 5/29/89, the American Legion  
will dedicate a white granite  
monument to the five Medal of  
Honor winners from Belmont County.

~~the~~  
3 were from Civil War: Gen. Henry Copehant  
+ 2 Captains  
2 from WW II: Antolak  
+ Sgt. Emile DeLeau

The monument will be in front of  
the County Court House.

NO parade  
a civil war reenactment group  
will be on hand.

Source: George Hale 614-695-1478  
American Legion Post 614-633-9043

he was youngest  
1<sup>st</sup> gen. Polish Amer. farm boy - 9 boys, 2 girls  
2 brothers will attend  
George - army - So. Pacific - purple  
heart

## Antolak Family

Sylvester's mother + father came from Poland in their early 20's

Had 9 boys + 2 girls

2 boys + 1 girl still living

2 boys live in St. Clairsville

George + Stanley

Sylvester was the youngest boy

He was a farmboy

George, his brother, was in the Army in the S. Pacific. Purple Heart

Stanley, his other living brother, is 76.

Both brothers will be present at the dedication of the monument to Medal of Honor winners on Men. Day. There is not ~~usually~~ any annual remembrance of Antolak.

Angie Trujillo

Navy Cargo ship named after him used in Korea

✓ *London* letter to mother  
✓ *five* son

ditch was too shallow to permit passage without being observed by the enemy, a strong diversion by fire might allow a force to proceed up the ditch while the enemy's attention was centered elsewhere.

So . . . Mills took it upon himself as a one-man task force to create the diversion. He climbed from the cover of the draw under heavy enemy fire and emptied his M-1 toward the enemy, shouting defiance all the while. Then he sought cover and reloaded. A small group, meanwhile, began working its way toward the house.

Said Pfc. Charles L. Hyson, Jr.: "I do not know how many times Private Mills repeated this process but he was still standing out there firing when we reached the closest point to the house and began our assault.

"The enemy had been completely taken in by Private Mills' plan and we caught the enemy with his 'pants down,' taking the position and forcing his surrender before he knew what was happening. We captured twenty-two enemy soldiers, three machine guns, and three heavy mortars without a single casualty. Private Mills was directly responsible for our success."

Private Mills later received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Supporting TDs played an important part in the attack. They moved to a point near the railroad southeast of the battalion and fired across the battalion front at strongpoints on the left front. At this time Company E was committed in an effort to outflank the enemy on the right, but flat terrain continued to work against the battalion and little progress was made.

Under cover of darkness, antitank guns were brought up, and just after first light they were brought to bear on enemy strongpoints, neutralizing most of them. The remainder of the enemy withdrew and the battalion advanced to a crossroad about a mile and a half northeast of Cisterna.

The battalion then received orders to move to a U-shaped patch of woods on flat ground two miles due east of Cisterna. The battalion displaced by company, Company C arriving first with no opposition. There reorganization was completed and the battalion marched to Cori, taking a route well to the right of the Cisterna-Cori road, and spent the night in an assembly area on the northern slopes of Monte Arrestino.

As dawn broke May 24, the 15th Infantry Battle Patrol was engaged in front of Task Force Paulick in a successful action against an enemy platoon. Company A reorganized preparatory to continuing the attack, with its objective a road junction 1000 yards north of the woods occupied the previous night. The Battle Patrol reported the location of an extensive minefield 300 yards short of the junction, and extending 300 yards on either side of it. A heavy concentration of artillery

and tank fire was laid on enemy positions, and under its protection the squad of engineers cleared three paths through the mines. The artillery fire continued while the infantry went through the left gap and the tanks through the center, reducing the outpost at the road junction and taking five prisoners.

Company A continued to a strongpoint 600 yards farther north, where twelve enemy and two machine guns were captured. One platoon remained at this position and supported by fire another platoon, which moved southeast to a point where Highway 7 contacts the railroad bed. The platoon encountered strong artillery and small-arms fire and was forced to move back south of the railroad embankment. At 1430 the remainder of the battalion joined Task Force Paulick in order to force a crossing of the railroad. Attached armor remained with the battalion. Company A casualties had been high, with one officer and eight enlisted men killed, three officers and fifty-four enlisted men wounded and two enlisted men missing.

The railroad embankment was the enemy's strongest line of defense. It was covered with enfilade fire by automatic weapons and SP guns, and was completely blanketed by prepared artillery and mortar concentrations. All the enemy's fire was brought to bear on Company B, the first to storm the tracks, and although fire was heavy the company got nearly 700 yards north of the tracks before it was stopped. There it drew fire from two enemy tanks, one of which was destroyed by our TDs.

Another heroic action was performed the same day by Sgt. Sylvester Antolak, in which he lost his life. Mission of Company B, 15th Infantry, was to cut the railroad near Cisterna and capture commanding terrain on the far side.

The 1st platoon crossed the railroad bed without encountering enemy fire and it appeared that the Germans had fled. As the lead scouts of the 2d platoon were about to follow, a hail of enemy machine gun, machine pistol and rifle fire burst on them from an enemy strongpoint about 200 yards to the right front. The German plan was evident: to bar the advance of the 2d platoon, then seal off and destroy the 1st platoon.

Antolak saw the impending danger and, ordering a base of fire set up, called on his men to follow him as he charged the German position, fully thirty yards ahead of his squad. As he moved forward in short rushes across the bare, coverless terrain he became a prime target for the enemy's concentrated fire.

After advancing a few dozen yards he was hit by automatic-weapons fire and knocked to the ground. Jumping to his feet he again charged, his shoulder gashed and bleeding. Again he was hit and knocked

to the ground, and again he picked himself up to resume the advance.

Said S/Sgt. Audie L. Murphy: "The 200-yard interval was narrowing; the Germans were firing their machine gun, their "spit" pistols, and rifles about as fast as they could squeeze the triggers. They must have sensed that Sergeant Antolak was sparking the charge and that he was the man they had to knock out."

With but fifty yards to go Sergeant Antolak was hit and thrown to the ground a third time, his right arm shattered by the burst of automatic fire. He wedged his submachine gun into his left armpit, staggered to his feet, and continued his grim charge. He advanced to within fifteen yards of the enemy strongpoint and killed both the gunner and assistant gunner with a long burst of fire. The remaining ten Germans surrendered to this man whom their bullets could not stop.

Another German strongpoint 100 yards to the right immediately opened fire. "We urged Sergeant Antolak to take cover in the machine-gun emplacement he had just captured," said Cpl. William H. Harrison, "while we arranged to get him medical aid. He looked too weak from his wounds and loss of blood to keep on going."

Antolak refused to consider this proposition. Again he led the attack against this new strongpoint, with the remainder of his men following at an interval of several yards. He made sixty yards before being hit by the concentrated firepower. By sheer will power he managed to stagger forward another ten yards before collapsing. The squad pushed forward, assaulted the German position and overran it, taking eight prisoners. When the men returned to Sergeant Antolak he was dead.

"His heroic action had enabled the squad to kill or capture twenty Germans, wipe out the last enemy pockets in the area and prevent the 1st platoon from being cut off," stated Pfc. Marion Ellis.

Sergeant Antolak was awarded posthumously the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Enemy were detected forming on Company F's right flank, apparently for a counterattack, so the Battle Patrol was committed. It met approximately a company of Germans in a small woods north of the tracks, and it was found necessary to commit Company A again. Company A received heavy fire while crossing the tracks and suffered further casualties, so Company C was sent across the tracks to the left of Company B. Company C provided the necessary manpower to overcome the enemy, and after two hours of moderate firing reached a U-shaped patch of woods two miles east of Cisterna, which 2d Battalion was to pass through later. Long-range fire harassed Company C in the woods during the night.

Meanwhile, Company A had eliminated the threatened counterattack, and joined the remainder of the battalion in the woods at 0400 May 23. Tanks had been unable to cross the tracks during the daylight May 24, so during the night the engineers bulldozed two crossings and the armor rejoined the battalion at dawn May 25.

At 0800 the battalion attacked toward Cori with the mission of occupying high ground immediately south of town and protecting the Division's right flank. Company C led the attack and encountered strong machine-gun fire from enemy who had withdrawn the previous day. The terrain was rolling at the beginning of the attack but became steeper as the troops moved northeast. One tank was lost in the morning from enemy artillery fire. Both the 3d Division and 15th Infantry Battle Patrols were operating with the battalion, to maintain contact with SSF on the right and provide flank security.

Company C's drive slowed down about half way to the objective, and Company A was passed through. Advance patrols of the battalion were on the objective by 1500, and the battalion had occupied the entire objective by 1900. This position was held during the night.

With the capture of Cisterna and Cori at approximately the same time—late afternoon of May 25—the breakthrough was complete. No organized resistance remained in the Division zone of advance. While the Division had suffered heavily—approximately 1400 killed and wounded in three day's fighting—the enemy had suffered far more heavily, losing nearly 1600 prisoners to the 3d Division alone, and probably an equal number in killed and wounded. The 362d Infantry Division, ordered to defend in place, had been annihilated by the combined attack of the 3d Division and 1st Armored Division, and the 715th Infantry Division had lost at least half its front-line effectives.

In considering the success of this attack, it is noteworthy that there was little straggling. Hospitals reported that wounded 3d Division personnel were anxious to rejoin their units in combat, a not commonly-encountered phenomenon. This not only bespeaks high morale, but explains why companies, although greatly reduced in strength, could continue to attack and move forward in the face of terrific fire. Troops advanced well-deployed, minimizing losses, but every man was imbued with the desire to close with the enemy, and it was unnecessary to drive or push the men forward. This also bespeaks leadership of highest caliber, which was demonstrated time and again by junior officers who suddenly found important commands thrust upon them, and who turned in performances which could not be excelled.

Thus ended the Second Battle of Cisterna.

WATSON, WILSON DOUGLAS

*Rank and organization:* Private, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, 3d Marine Division. *Place and date:* Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 26 and 27 February 1945. *Entered service at:* Arkansas. *Born:* 18 February 1921, Tusculum, Ala. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as automatic rifleman serving with the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, 3d Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 26 and 27 February 1945. With his squad abruptly halted by intense fire from enemy fortifications in the high rocky ridges and crags commanding the line of advance, Pvt. Watson boldly rushed 1 pillbox and fired into the embrasure with his weapon, keeping the enemy pinned down singlehandedly until he was in a position to hurl in a grenade, and then running to the rear of the emplacement to destroy the retreating Japanese and enable his platoon to take its objective. Again pinned down at the foot of a small hill, he dauntlessly scaled the jagged incline under fierce mortar and machinegun barrages and, with his assistant BAR man, charged the crest of the hill, firing from his hip. Fighting furiously against Japanese troops attacking with grenades and knee mortars from the reverse slope, he stood fearlessly erect in his exposed position to cover the hostile entrenchments and held the hill under savage fire for 15 minutes, killing 60 Japanese before his ammunition was exhausted and his platoon was able to join him. His courageous initiative and valiant fighting spirit against devastating odds were directly responsible for the continued advance of his platoon, and his inspiring leadership throughout this bitterly fought action reflects the highest credit upon Pvt. Watson and the U.S. Naval Service.

\*WAUGH, ROBERT T.

*Rank and organization:* First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 339th Infantry, 85th Infantry Division. *Place and date:* Near Tremensuoli, Italy, 11-14 May 1944. *Entered service at:* Augusta, Maine. *Birth:* Ashton, R.I. *G.O. No.:* 79, 4 October 1944. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy. In the course of an attack upon an enemy-held hill on 11 May, 1st Lt. Waugh personally reconnoitered a heavily mined area before entering it with his platoon. Directing his men to deliver fire on 6 bunkers guarding this hill, 1st Lt. Waugh advanced alone against them, reached the first bunker, threw phosphorus grenades into it and as the defenders emerged, killed them with a burst from his tommygun. He repeated this process on the 5 remaining bunkers, killing or capturing the occupants. On the morning of 14 May, 1st Lt. Waugh ordered his platoon to lay a base of fire on 2 enemy pillboxes located on a knoll which commanded the only trail up the hill. He then ran to the first pillbox, threw several grenades into it, drove the defenders into the open, and killed them. The second pillbox was next taken by this intrepid officer by similar methods. The fearless actions of 1st Lt. Waugh broke the Gustav Line at that point, neutralizing 6 bunkers and 2 pillboxes and he was personally responsible for the death of 30 of the enemy and the capture of 25 others. He was later killed in action in Itri, Italy, while leading his platoon in an attack.

Medals of Honor winners  
buried at Nettuno

showering him with his way to within 10 the gunner with a ades at him—from a lams dispatched him vortex of the enemy yards range with a porting infantrymen. oncentrated the full effort to knock him exterminate 5 more chinegun opened up lled the gunner with lly killed 9 Germans, a specialized force grenade launchers, opened the severed on.

U.S. Marine Corps edited to: Wisconsin. at the risk of his life ith the 4th Battalion, inst enemy Japanese 4. When the enemy st our positions and gerholm immediately e hostile attack and g an abandoned am- us trips under heavy id evacuated approx- tter disregard for his 3 hours. Despite in- en whom he believed ally wounded by a s mission. Pfc. Ager- id self-sacrificing ef- e highest credit upon gave his life for his

U.S. Army, 381st In- nawa, 13 April 1945. agle, Wis. G.O. No.: ious gallantry and in- en a powerfully con- is unit's flank, he or- hen, armed only with tying 1 magazine at he seized an enemy

mortar dud and threw it back among the charging Japs, killing several as it burst. Securing a box of mortar shells, he extracted the safety pins, banged the bases upon a rock to arm them and proceeded alternately to hurl shells and fire his piece among the fanatical foe, finally forcing them to withdraw. Despite the protests of his comrades, and bleeding profusely from a severe shrapnel wound, he made his way to his company commander to report the action. T/Sgt. Anderson's intrepid conduct in the face of overwhelming odds accounted for 25 enemy killed and several machineguns and knee mortars destroyed, thus singlehandedly removing a serious threat to the company's flank.

**\*ANDERSON, RICHARD BEATTY**

*Rank and organization:* Private First Class, U.S. Marine Corps. *Born:* 26 June 1921, Tacoma, Wash. *Accredited to:* Washington. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with the 4th Marine Division during action against enemy Japanese forces on Roi Island, Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands, 1 February 1944. Entering a shell crater occupied by 3 other marines, Pfc. Anderson was preparing to throw a grenade at an enemy position when it slipped from his hands and rolled toward the men at the bottom of the hole. With insufficient time to retrieve the armed weapon and throw it, Pfc. Anderson fearlessly chose to sacrifice himself and save his companions by hurling his body upon the grenade and taking the full impact of the explosion. His personal valor and exceptional spirit of loyalty in the face of almost certain death were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

**\*ANTOLAK, SYLVESTER**

*Rank and organization:* Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company B, 15th Infantry, 3d Infantry Division. *Place and date:* Near Cisterna di Littoria, Italy, 24 May 1944. *Entered service at:* St. Clairsville, Ohio. *Birth:* St. Clairsville, Ohio. *G.O. No.:* 89, 19 October 1945. *Citation:* Near Cisterna di Littoria, Italy, he charged 200 yards over flat, coverless terrain to destroy an enemy machinegun nest during the second day of the offensive which broke through the German cordon of steel around the Anzio beachhead. Fully 30 yards in advance of his squad, he ran into withering enemy machinegun, machine-pistol and rifle fire. Three times he was struck by bullets and knocked to the ground, but each time he struggled to his feet to continue his relentless advance. With one shoulder deeply gashed and his right arm shattered, he continued to rush directly into the enemy fire concentration with his submachinegun wedged under his uninjured arm until within 15 yards of the enemy strongpoint, where he opened fire at deadly close range, killing 2 Germans and forcing the remaining 10 to surrender. He reorganized his men and, refusing to seek medical attention so badly needed, chose to lead the way toward another strongpoint 100 yards distant. Utterly disregarding the hail of bullets concentrated upon him, he had stormed ahead nearly three-fourths of the space between strongpoints when he was instantly killed by hostile enemy fire. Inspired by his example, his squad went on to overwhelm the enemy troops. By his supreme sacrifice, superb fighting courage, and heroic devotion to the attack, Sgt.

Antolak was directly responsible for eliminating 20 Germans, capturing an enemy machinegun, and clearing the path for his company to advance.

#### ANTRIM, RICHARD NOTT

*Rank and organization:* Commander, U.S. Navy. *Place and date:* Makassar, Celebes, Netherlands East Indies, April 1942. *Entered service at:* Indiana. *Born:* 17 December 1907, Peru, Ind. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while interned as a prisoner of war of the enemy Japanese in the city of Makassar, Celebes, Netherlands East Indies, in April 1942. Acting instantly on behalf of a naval officer who was subjected to a vicious clubbing by a frenzied Japanese guard venting his insane wrath upon the helpless prisoner, Comdr. (then Lt.) Antrim boldly intervened, attempting to quiet the guard and finally persuading him to discuss the charges against the officer. With the entire Japanese force assembled and making extraordinary preparations for the threatened beating, and with the tension heightened by 2,700 Allied prisoners rapidly closing in, Comdr. Antrim courageously appealed to the fanatic enemy, risking his own life in a desperate effort to mitigate the punishment. When the other had been beaten unconscious by 15 blows of a hawser and was repeatedly kicked by 3 soldiers to a point beyond which he could not survive, Comdr. Antrim gallantly stepped forward and indicated to the perplexed guards that he would take the remainder of the punishment, throwing the Japanese completely off balance in their amazement and eliciting a roar of acclaim from the suddenly inspired Allied prisoners. By his fearless leadership and valiant concern for the welfare of another, he not only saved the life of a fellow officer and stunned the Japanese into sparing his own life but also brought about a new respect for American officers and men and a great improvement in camp living conditions. His heroic conduct throughout reflects the highest credit upon Comdr. Antrim and the U.S. Naval Service.

#### ATKINS, THOMAS E.

*Rank and organization:* Private First Class, U.S. Army, Company A, 127th Infantry, 32d Infantry Division. *Place and date:* Villa Verde Trail, Luzon, Philippine Islands, 10 March 1945. *Entered service at:* Campobello, S.C. *Birth:* Campobello, S.C. *G.O. No.:* 95, 30 October 1945. *Citation:* He fought gallantly on the Villa Verde Trail, Luzon, Philippine Islands. With 2 companions he occupied a position on a ridge outside the perimeter defense established by the 1st Platoon on a high hill. At about 3 a.m., 2 companies of Japanese attacked with rifle and machinegun fire, grenades, TNT charges, and land mines, severely wounding Pfc. Atkins and killing his 2 companions. Despite the intense hostile fire and pain from his deep wound, he held his ground and returned heavy fire. After the attack was repulsed, he remained in his precarious position to repel any subsequent assaults instead of returning to the American lines for medical treatment. An enemy machinegun, set up within 20 yards of his foxhole, vainly attempted to drive him off or silence his gun. The Japanese repeatedly made fierce attacks, but for 4 hours Pfc. Atkins determinedly remained in his fox-

MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL

Previous editions usable

TO: Bob

YOU WERE CALLED BY-  YOU WERE VISITED BY-

Jim Roberson  
OF (Organization)

SS. Admin

PLEASE PHONE  FTS  AUTOVON

625-2759

WILL CALL AGAIN  IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL  WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Re. Preston L. 9-28-22  
Kasperwick

329-12-5013 SS Edith  
father - William

RECEIVED BY	DATE	TIME
	<u>5/24</u>	<u>5:05</u>

63-110 NSN 7540-00-634-4018  
★ U.S. GPO: 1986-181-246/40015

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-81)  
Prescribed by GSA  
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

Source: Joe Conover  
Quincy Herald-Whig  
217-223-5100  
Ext. 371

~~William T K~~

① Donald W. Kaspernik  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Air Corps died 6-16-43  
in New Mexico  
when 2 bombers collided

② Preston Lee Kaspernik  
cpl. Air Corps died 1/4/44 in Sicily  
of hepatitis

③ William T. Kaspernik  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Air Corps ~~declared MIA~~  
Fighter pilot

mission near Minturno  
on 1/4/44 low level attack  
forming path

enlisted in 1935  
born 1918

mother notified 2/12/44  
in telegram that he was MIA.  
He died 1/14/44 - she had  
received her last letter from  
him on that day.

---

Edith Rosen - mother - died 1967  
father - last known address - mental home

Name disappeared from town directory in 1952

---

Quincy Memorial Day pope 55,000  
flags put on graves by Am. Legion  
parade down Main Street, ends at  
the Soldier's + Sailor's Home cemetery

8/19/44  
1/5/44

ditch was too shallow to permit passage without being observed by the enemy, a strong diversion by fire might allow a force to proceed up the ditch while the enemy's attention was centered elsewhere.

So . . . Mills took it upon himself as a one-man task force to create the diversion. He climbed from the cover of the draw under heavy enemy fire and emptied his M-1 toward the enemy, shouting defiance all the while. Then he sought cover and reloaded. A small group, meanwhile, began working its way toward the house.

Said Pfc. Charles L. Hyson, Jr.: "I do not know how many times Private Mills repeated this process but he was still standing out there firing when we reached the closest point to the house and began our assault.

"The enemy had been completely taken in by Private Mills' plan and we caught the enemy with his 'pants down,' taking the position and forcing his surrender before he knew what was happening. We captured twenty-two enemy soldiers, three machine guns, and three heavy mortars without a single casualty. Private Mills was directly responsible for our success."

Private Mills later received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Supporting TDs played an important part in the attack. They moved to a point near the railroad southeast of the battalion and fired across the battalion front at strongpoints on the left front. At this time Company E was committed in an effort to outflank the enemy on the right, but flat terrain continued to work against the battalion and little progress was made.

Under cover of darkness, antitank guns were brought up, and just after first light they were brought to bear on enemy strongpoints, neutralizing most of them. The remainder of the enemy withdrew and the battalion advanced to a crossroad about a mile and a half northeast of Cisterna.

The battalion then received orders to move to a U-shaped patch of woods on flat ground two miles due east of Cisterna. The battalion displaced by company, Company C arriving first with no opposition. There reorganization was completed and the battalion marched to Cori, taking a route well to the right of the Cisterna-Cori road, and spent the night in an assembly area on the northern slopes of Monte Arrestino.

As dawn broke May 24, the 15th Infantry Battle Patrol was engaged in front of Task Force Paulick in a successful action against an enemy platoon. Company A reorganized preparatory to continuing the attack, with its objective a road junction 1000 yards north of the woods occupied the previous night. The Battle Patrol reported the location of an extensive minefield 300 yards short of the junction, and extending 300 yards on either side of it. A heavy concentration of artillery

and tank fire was laid on enemy positions, and under its protection the squad of engineers cleared three paths through the mines. The artillery fire continued while the infantry went through the left gap and the tanks through the center, reducing the outpost at the road junction and taking five prisoners.

Company A continued to a strongpoint 600 yards farther north, where twelve enemy and two machine guns were captured. One platoon remained at this position and supported by fire another platoon, which moved southeast to a point where Highway 7 contacts the railroad bed. The platoon encountered strong artillery and small-arms fire and was forced to move back south of the railroad embankment. At 1430 the remainder of the battalion joined Task Force Paulick in order to force a crossing of the railroad. Attached armor remained with the battalion. Company A casualties had been high, with one officer and eight enlisted men killed, three officers and fifty-four enlisted men wounded and two enlisted men missing.

The railroad embankment was the enemy's strongest line of defense. It was covered with enfilade fire by automatic weapons and SP guns, and was completely blanketed by prepared artillery and mortar concentrations. All the enemy's fire was brought to bear on Company B, the first to storm the tracks, and although fire was heavy the company got nearly 700 yards north of the tracks before it was stopped. There it drew fire from two enemy tanks, one of which was destroyed by our TDs.

Another heroic action was performed the same day by Sgt. Sylvester Antolak, in which he lost his life. Mission of Company B, 15th Infantry, was to cut the railroad near Cisterna and capture commanding terrain on the far side.

The 1st platoon crossed the railroad bed without encountering enemy fire and it appeared that the Germans had fled. As the lead scouts of the 2d platoon were about to follow, a hail of enemy machine gun, machine pistol and rifle fire burst on them from an enemy strongpoint about 200 yards to the right front. The German plan was evident: to bar the advance of the 2d platoon, then seal off and destroy the 1st platoon.

Antolak saw the impending danger and, ordering a base of fire set up, called on his men to follow him as he charged the German position, fully thirty yards ahead of his squad. As he moved forward in short rushes across the bare, coverless terrain he became a prime target for the enemy's concentrated fire.

After advancing a few dozen yards he was hit by automatic-weapons fire and knocked to the ground. Jumping to his feet he again charged, his shoulder gashed and bleeding. Again he was hit and knocked

to the ground, and again he picked himself up to resume the advance.

Said S/Sgt. Audie L. Murphy: "The 200-yard interval was narrowing; the Germans were firing their machine gun, their "spit" pistols, and rifles about as fast as they could squeeze the triggers. They must have sensed that Sergeant Antolak was sparking the charge and that he was the man they had to knock out."

With but fifty yards to go Sergeant Antolak was hit and thrown to the ground a third time, his right arm shattered by the burst of automatic fire. He wedged his submachine gun into his left armpit, staggered to his feet, and continued his grim charge. He advanced to within fifteen yards of the enemy strongpoint and killed both the gunner and assistant gunner with a long burst of fire. The remaining ten Germans surrendered to this man whom their bullets could not stop.

Another German strongpoint 100 yards to the right immediately opened fire. "We urged Sergeant Antolak to take cover in the machine-gun emplacement he had just captured," said Cpl. William H. Harrison, "while we arranged to get him medical aid. He looked too weak from his wounds and loss of blood to keep on going."

Antolak refused to consider this proposition. Again he led the attack against this new strongpoint, with the remainder of his men following at an interval of several yards. He made sixty yards before being hit by the concentrated firepower. By sheer will power he managed to stagger forward another ten yards before collapsing. The squad pushed forward, assaulted the German position and overran it, taking eight prisoners. When the men returned to Sergeant Antolak he was dead.

"His heroic action had enabled the squad to kill or capture twenty Germans, wipe out the last enemy pockets in the area and prevent the 1st platoon from being cut off," stated Pfc. Marion Ellis.

Sergeant Antolak was awarded posthumously the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Enemy were detected forming on Company F's right flank, apparently for a counterattack, so the Battle Patrol was committed. It met approximately a company of Germans in a small woods north of the tracks, and it was found necessary to commit Company A again. Company A received heavy fire while crossing the tracks and suffered further casualties, so Company C was sent across the tracks to the left of Company B. Company C provided the necessary manpower to overcome the enemy, and after two hours of moderate firing reached a U-shaped patch of woods two miles east of Cisterna, which 2d Battalion was to pass through later. Long-range fire harassed Company C in the woods during the night.

Meanwhile, Company A had eliminated the threatened counterattack, and joined the remainder of the battalion in the woods at 0400 May 23. Tanks had been unable to cross the tracks during the daylight May 24, so during the night the engineers bulldozed two crossings and the armor rejoined the battalion at dawn May 25.

At 0800 the battalion attacked toward Cori with the mission of occupying high ground immediately south of town and protecting the Division's right flank. Company C led the attack and encountered strong machine-gun fire from enemy who had withdrawn the previous day. The terrain was rolling at the beginning of the attack but became steeper as the troops moved northeast. One tank was lost in the morning from enemy artillery fire. Both the 3d Division and 15th Infantry Battle Patrols were operating with the battalion, to maintain contact with SSF on the right and provide flank security.

Company C's drive slowed down about half way to the objective, and Company A was passed through. Advance patrols of the battalion were on the objective by 1500, and the battalion had occupied the entire objective by 1900. This position was held during the night.

With the capture of Cisterna and Cori at approximately the same time—late afternoon of May 25—the breakthrough was complete. No organized resistance remained in the Division zone of advance. While the Division had suffered heavily—approximately 1400 killed and wounded in three day's fighting—the enemy had suffered far more heavily, losing nearly 1600 prisoners to the 3d Division alone, and probably an equal number in killed and wounded. The 362d Infantry Division, ordered to defend in place, had been annihilated by the combined attack of the 3d Division and 1st Armored Division, and the 715th Infantry Division had lost at least half its front-line effectives.

In considering the success of this attack, it is noteworthy that there was little straggling. Hospitals reported that wounded 3d Division personnel were anxious to rejoin their units in combat, a not commonly-encountered phenomenon. This not only bespeaks high morale, but explains why companies, although greatly reduced in strength, could continue to attack and move forward in the face of terrific fire. Troops advanced well-deployed, minimizing losses, but every man was imbued with the desire to close with the enemy, and it was unnecessary to drive or push the men forward. This also bespeaks leadership of highest caliber, which was demonstrated time and again by junior officers who suddenly found important commands thrust upon them, and who turned in performances which could not be excelled.

Thus ended the Second Battle of Cisterna.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

MAY 19 1989

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM FOR JONI STEVENS  
WHITE HOUSE MILITARY OFFICE

SUBJECT: Kaspervick brothers info for Memorial Day Presidential  
Address

**PLEASE PASS TO JONI STEVENS IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT**

**KASPERVIK, WILLIAM T., 1ST LIEUTENANT:**

(Note: Rank of 1st Lt awarded posthumously)

Date of Birth: 11 Aug 1918                      Date of Death: 14 Jan 1944

Circumstances of death: Killed in action conducting aerial attack  
in A-36A. Please see attachment one for complete details of  
mission.

Place of Burial: Sicily-Rome American Military Cemetery (near  
Nettuno and Anzio, 38 miles south of Rome), Plot F, Row 6, grave  
13.

Unit: 527 Fighter Bomber Squadron, 56 Fighter Bomber Group, 12th  
Air Force, US Army Air Force

**KASPERVIK, PRESTON L., CORPORAL:**

Date of Birth: 28 Sep 1921                      Date of Death: 4 Jan 1944

Circumstances: Died of Acute Hepatitis, 59th Evacuation Hospital  
in Palermo, Sicily. Please see attachment two for associated  
information.

Place of Burial: Same as above, grave 12. Note: Originally  
buried in Palermo, Sicily; however, was later moved to Sicily-Rome  
American Military Cemetery.

Unit: 18 Airway Communications Region, Army Airways Communica-  
tions System, US Army. Unit was home based in Algeria, however,  
had units spread all over the Mediterranean.

**KASPERVIK, DON, 1ST LIEUTENANT:** I know you didn't ask for this one, but incredibly, we learned of a third brother through a newspaper article from the Quincy Public Library, Illinois.

Date of Birth: Unknown

Date of Death: 15 Jun 1941


Circumstances: Killed in a disastrous collision of bomber planes in New Mexico. Please see attachment three for newspaper article where this information was derived.

Place of Burial: Unknown

Unit: Unknown

Note: I just learned of this brother at 10:43 am today. We did not have sufficient time to research for additional information.

It was my pleasure to assist in providing this information for you. It came from literally a multitude of sources--I'm sending a personal thanks from my boss, Colonel Nameth, to all of those who provided the information. I hope this will be helpful. If I can be of further assistance, please call.

  
JEFFREY A. SPENSLER, Major, USAF  
White House Liaison Officer  
Office of Legislative Liaison

Joni,

Please note correct spelling of "KASPERVIK".  
Sorry so disjointed -- thought you'd prefer  
it timely vs. neatly presented.



HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON  
MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

**RESTRICTED**

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**RESTRICTED**

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

- 1. ORGANIZATION: Location Italy; Command or Air Force 12th A.F.; Group 86th Tr Bmbr; Squadron 527th Tr Bmbr Detachment \*\*\*\*\*
- 2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Pomigliano D'Arco; Course San Lorenzo and return

- 3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: Intended Destination Bomb houses along road from Minturno to Giarenza Type of Mission Bombing  
CAVU

- 4. GIVE: (a) Date 14 Jan 44; Time 1203; and Location M-852162 of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. San Lorenzo

- (b) Specify whether (X) Last Sighted; ( ) Last Contacted by Radio; ( ) Forced Down ( ) Seen to Crash; or ( ) Information not Available.
- 5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one) ( ) Enemy Aircraft; ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; (X) Other Circumstances as Follows Reasons Unknown

- 6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series A-36A; AAF Serial Number 42-84096

- 7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series V-1710-87; AAF Serial Number (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (d) 42-175650

- 8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number) Browning .50 Cal  
(a) 475578; (b) 474945; (c) 450468; (d) \_\_\_\_\_  
(e) 453114; (f) 453055; (g) 450210; (h) \_\_\_\_\_

- 9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X or (b) Non-Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_

- 10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 1; Passengers 0; Total 1

(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form).

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number
1. Pilot	<u>Kaspervik, William T.</u>	<u>2nd Lieut.</u>	<u>0-799192</u>
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

- 11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Contacted			Saw Forced Landing
		Serial Number	By Radio	Last Sighted	
1. <u>Walch, Eugene C.</u>	<u>2nd Lieut.</u>	<u>0-671815</u>		<u>X</u>	
2.					
3.					

- 12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used \_\_\_\_\_; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash \_\_\_\_\_; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

- 13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

- 14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

- 15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE \_\_\_\_\_

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**RESTRICTED**

DATE OF REPORT 14 January 1944  
George W. Kastner  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)  
GEORGE W. KASTNER, Captain, Air Corps,  
Operations Officer

HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP AAF  
APO 520 U. S. Army

360.33

17 January 1944

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew & Battle Casualty Report.

TO : Commanding General, XII Air Support Command, APO 374, U. S. Army.

1. Forwarded herewith Missing Air Crew Report on the following named officers:

Captain ROBERT M. DUNGAN 0663703, AC.  
2nd Lt WILLIAM T. KASPERVIK 0799192, AC.

2. Also forwarded herewith are duplicate copies of battle casualty report on above officers. Two copies were sent direct to XII Air Force.

For the Group Commander:

**Photocopy-Preservation**

*Clarence J. Rutten*  
CLARENCE J. RUTTEN  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Asst. Adjutant

3 Incls: 2 Missing Air Crew Reports (Quad)  
1 Battle Casualty Report (Dup)

201 - Dungan, Robert M., (0)  
Kaspervik, William T., (0)

1st Ind.

G-FTE-sjs

Hq., XII ASC, APO 374, 20 Jan 1944

To: Commanding General, Twelfth Air Force, APO 650

1. Attention invited to basic communication and Missing Air Crew Reports, in triplicate, for casualties mentioned in par. 1, basic,

2. Copy of Battle Casualty Form 6 for each casualty has been received at this headquarters.

For the Commanding General:

*Francis T. Egan*  
FRANCIS T. EGAN  
2nd Lt., Air Corps,  
Actg Asst Adj Gen

2 Incls:

- 1 - Missing Air Crew Report - Capt Dungan (trip)
- 2 - Missing Air Crew Report - Lt Kaspervik (trip)
- 1 Incl. - Battle Casualty Report (dup) w/d

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3191 (17 Jan 1944)

PAGE NO. 2. WAR DIARY 527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ., 89TH FIGHTER BOMBER GP.  
MONTH OF JANUARY 1944.

PREPARED BY: DONALD L. WHITNEY,  
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,  
527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ.

- | DAY | EVENTS  |
|-----|---|
| 10  | STANDDOWN TO GET PLANES REPAIRED AND "SHIP SHAPE." LOT OF ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT. OPERA IN TOWN, AND "THIS IS THE ARMY" AT MARIGLIANO. LTS. FOWLER AND EGELHOFF TRANSFERRED TO PERSONNEL CENTER NO. 1 FOR RETURN TO U.S. LTS. EGELHOFF AND FOWLER JOINED ORGANIZATION JUNE 25, 1943 AT TAFAROU, NORTH AFRICA, EXCELLENT COMBAT PILOTS WE'LL MISS THEM.   |
| 11  | A MISSION OVER SORA TODAY - BEAUTIFUL FLAK. HIT 4 OUT OF OUR FORMATION OF 12 BUT THEY ALL RETURNED. LT. LYLE HOOD WAS HIT IN THE HEAD BY FLAK AGAIN. STANDDOWN IN THE AFTERNOON TO REPAIR PLANES. LOVELY SPRING AFTERNOON. VESUVIO BLOWING STEAM RINGS INTO A CLEAR BLUE SKY FOR A CHANGE.  |
| 12  | SURPRISE! A MISSION TODAY WITHOUT ANY FLAK. VOLLEY BALL COURT ERECTED IN OPERATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE AREA, WITH EVERYONE USING THE COURT FOR AN EXCUSE AS P.T. CAPT. VERSEPUT, GROUP PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER POSTED A NOTICE ON SQUADRON BULLETIN BOARD GIVING US PERMISSION TO WRITE "WITH THE INVADERS IN ITALY" IN OUR LETTERS. LETTER FROM FIELD SERVICE MGR. N.A. AVIATION INC. POSTED ON BULLETIN BOARD (SEE ATTACHED) PRAISING CREWS AND PILOTS OF A-38-- EVERYONE PLEASED.   |
| 13  | 2 MISSIONS TODAY. 1 ON FORMIA, STARTING FIRES IN DOCK AREA. IN THE AFTERNOON AN 11 SHIP MISSION ON RR YARDS AT COLLEFERRO. LT. JENSEN FINISHED HIS 80TH TODAY. LT. JENSEN JOINED ORGANIZATION JUNE 25, 1943 AT TAFAROU, NORTH AFRICA. VOLLEY BALL COURT GETTING A LOT OF USE FROM BOTH THE OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN. LTS. GUBSER AND THOMPSON TRANSFERRED TO PERSONNEL CENTER NO. 1 FOR RETURN TO U.S.   |
| 14  | CAPT. DUNGAN LED FIRST MISSION, A NEW TYPE "FEELER" JOB, LOW LEVEL BOMBING TO BE FOLLOWED BY RECONNAISSANCE, TO FIND STRENGTH OF ENEMY DEFENSE ON A STRIP OF ROAD ADJACENT TO MARIGLIANO. LT. WILLIAM T. KASPERVIK FAILED TO RETURN FROM THIS MISSION, WAS LAST SEEN WITH PLANE AFLAME STILL FIRING ON THE TARGET. LT. KASPERVIK JOINED ORGANIZATION NOV. 22, 1943 HERE AT POMIGLIANO D'ARCO. WE'RE HOPING HE BALED OUT, THOUGH CHANCES ARE SLIM. ON THE 2ND MISSION TODAY, A 6 PLANE MISSION ON GUN POSITIONS, CAPT. DUNGAN FAILED TO RETURN. HIS PLANE WAS SEEN TO EXPLODE IN MID AIR AND THERE'S LITTLE HOPE OF HIS ESCAPING WITH HIS LIFE. "BIG DOG", FRIEND AND FAVORITE OF ENLISTED MEN AND OFFICERS, SQUADRON AND GROUP, JOINED ORGANIZATION AT KEY FIELD SEPT. 11, 1942. REPORT FROM ARMY THAT BOTH MISSIONS WERE EXTRAORDINARILY HELPFUL DID LITTLE TO SALVE THE DAYS LOSSES. MAJOR KIRSCH, CAPT. TILLESON, AND LT. LEWIS RETURNED FROM REST CAMP TONIGHT. |
| 15  | NO MISSIONS. STANDDOWN IN THE MORNING. ADDITIONAL GUARDS PUT ON PLANES LAST NIGHT. COMMENDATION (TELEPHONE) ON YESTERDAYS MISSIONS.   |
| 16  | CONFIRMATION WAS RECEIVED ON CAPT. DUNGAN'S DEATH TODAY THROUGH INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS. HE WAS BURIED BY ITALIAN CIVILIANS. ONE MISSION - ARMED RECCE. WITH BOMBS DROPPING ON SAN GIUSEPPE.  |

Photocopy-Preservation

33

S2 S. FB SA

Comigliano, Italy

January

William H. Slackwell,

Capt., AC, S-2

14 One 8 ship mission was flown today, led by Maj. Bland. The purpose of the mission was to strafe along the highway just north of the Carigliano River in the VINTURNO area. It was a particularly hazardous mission, recognized as such by the Army unit requesting it. Previous to our mission, 8 ships from the 527th were to bomb along the same road. The British Division in the area had lookouts to spot enemy positions disclosed by these missions. All eight of our pilots returned safely, but the 527th was not as fortunate, losing one man. Commendations for the leaders and pilots involved were later received from the Commanding General of the British Division, and from 12th Air Support Command.

1st Lt. John E. Dwyer, formerly of Group Headquarters, was today assigned to the 525th as Assistant Intelligence Officer.

15 The first mission today was led by Lt. Kasun, and consisted of 10 ships, with the town of S. ELIA as the target. Several good hits were secured in the S part of the town and fires and considerable smoke from previous bombings were seen in the NE end. Artillery fire was observed falling in the town. All aircraft strafed while diving, and when the last flight left the target, the entire NE part of the town was covered with smoke.

The second mission was an armed reconnaissance to cover the road between S. ELIA and CASINO, and was led by Lt. Dolny. Only 3 or 4 scattered vehicles were seen, and the town of ATINA was bombed, with several good hits secured in the N and S parts of the town.

Capt. Robert N. Howell departed the squadron today. Having completed his tour of 80 sorties, he will now be sent back to the States for reassignment.

16 Only one mission was flown today, an armed reconnaissance, led by Maj. Gunnison. Only 7 - 10 trucks were found moving, and they were bombed and strafed. There were no hits, but 2 near misses on the road. Probable damage was done to 4 - 5 trucks by strafing. 1st Lt. James L. "Greasy" Griswold completed his combat tour on this mission, which was his 50th.

The squadron was saddened today by the death of Sgt. William M. Thornton and serious injury to S/Sgt. James L. Steward, the results of an accident involving a jeep in which the above two men were riding and an unidentified British truck.

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A0822

1460

527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON AAF  
 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP AAF  
 Office of the Operations Officer

15 January 1944  
 APO 520, US Army

\* S T A T E M E N T \*

Our mission was a low level attack on houses on a road running east and west. We were flying a line abreast formation and each pilot was to cover about 1000 yards of road.

We approached the target with a speed of approximately 315 MPH. Our altitude was 50 ft. I was slightly higher than my wingman. As we were approaching the target and not more than 500 yards off of it. I saw 2nd Lieut., WILLIAM T. KASPERVIK lower his nose and fire a short burst into the target. As he fired I saw his plane burst into flames. As I was over my target I had to look away and dropped my bombs on the target and made a 180 degree turn. Looking back I saw a black smoke trail that I could not identify. It was approximately 1202 that his plane started flaming. I rejoined the formation and returned to the base.

*Eugene C. Welch*

EUGENE C. WELCH,  
 2nd Lieut., Air Corps,  
 Pilot.

Photocopy-Preservation



527 Ftr Bomb Gp  
 Suspending Command and  
 4th ( )

HEADQUARTERS  
 XII AIR SUPPORT COMMAND  
 APO #374

18 January 1944.

MEMO TO: Commanding Officer, 86th Fighter Group.

1. Forwarded herewith is a personal note received by the undersigned from General Templer of the 56th Division. The message refers to two (2) missions executed by your group on January 14th in which you attacked enemy positions near the mouth of the GARIGLIANO RIVER in the area east of MINTURIO.
2. I happened to meet General Templer at a conference on January 15th. He was especially enthusiastic about your show, and in addition to saying everything included in his letter, stated that the pilots had pressed home their attacks in a much more determined manner than he had hoped for.
3. I feel that the attitude expressed in the attached letter is typical of the feeling of front line Army units with respect to air participation in the present campaign. The enthusiastic execution of close support missions has produced an amazing interest and appreciation. In many cases, the interest engendered by your close support work has brought about a fuller realization of the extent to which your efforts well beyond the bombline have influenced the battle.

/s/ Thomas C. Darcy  
 /t/ THOMAS C. DARCY,  
 Colonel, Air Corps,  
 Chief of Staff.

1 Incl:

Incl 1 - Personal note from Gen. Templer of 56th Div.

▲ TRUE COPY

*Percy C. Fauskin*  
 PERCY C. FAUSKIN  
 Captain, Air Corps,  
 Adj. 86th Ftr Bomb Gp.

Photocopy-Preservation

527 For Bomb Sq  
Supporting Command  
Jan 44 (6)

FROM - Maj-Gen G W R TEMPLER, DSO, OBE  
Headquarters,  
56 (London) Division.  
C M F

14 January 1944

Dear Darcy

I am extremely grateful for the missions which your aircraft carried out for me today. I am afraid however, that I had expected the Bosche to give his positions away more than he actually did and I was a bit disappointed that we did not glean more fresh information. However, this was the fault of the Boscho and not yours. It did, however, confirm several previous reports of enemy positions.

I am so sorry that one of your pilots was shot down.

I should be grateful if you would pass this on to the pilots who carried out this operation.

Yours Sincerely,

Signed: G. W. R. Templer

Colonel T C DARCY, CBE,  
AASC

Copy to: Lt-Col. The Hon J R HARE, MBE  
7 AASC.

Photocopy-Preservation

A TRUE COPY

*Percy C. Hauskil*

PERCY C. HAUSKIL  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Adjutant, 86th F. B. Op.

527 Ftr Bomb Sq  
Supporting Document  
Jan 44 (7)

Headquarters,  
12th Air Support Command,  
APO 374, N.Y., N.Y.  
18 January 1944

Major General G.W.R. Tompler, DSO, OBE  
G. O. C., 56th Division.

Dear General:-

Thank you very much for your letter of January 14th  
reference our fighter-bomber attacks on your front. Your  
message has been passed to the 86th Fighter Group which handled  
that particular show.

Please be assured that we are most anxious to do every-  
thing possible to be of assistance to the front line units.  
We are also happy to receive your comments on our efforts and  
fully appreciate your personal interest in this regard.

Best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

THOMAS C. DARCY  
Colonel, Air Corps,  
Chief of Staff.

TRUE COPY

*Percy C. Fauski*

PERCY C. FAUSKI,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Adjutant, 86th Ftr. Bomb. Gp.

Photocopy-Preservation

4 August 1950

*JF*  
 1 Lt ~~William T. Kaspervik, O. 799 192~~  
 Plot F, Row 6, Grave 13  
 Headstone: Cross  
 Nettuno (Anzio) U. S. Military Cemetery

Mrs. Edith J. Rosen  
 1730 Spring Street  
 Quincy, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Rosen:

May I refer to our letter dated 18 March 1949 concerning the remains of your son, the late First Lieutenant William T. Kaspervik.

I am greatly disturbed to find that in the upper right hand corner of our letter, your son's rank was listed as Second Lieutenant instead of First Lieutenant.

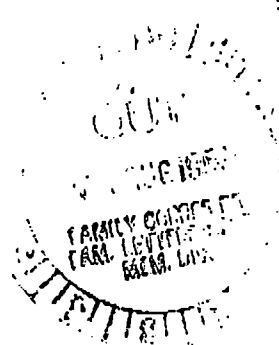
It is of the utmost concern that correspondence to the families of our honored dead be absolutely accurate and it is sincerely regretted that this error was made.

Sincerely yours,

J. F. VOGL  
 Captain, OMC  
 Memorial Division

bk

*[Handwritten signature]*



*[Handwritten initials]*  
 BJA  
 LHA  
 JTV

Photocopy-Preservation

Corrected Report  
 Original forwarded on  
 2 June 1944

WAR DEPARTMENT  
 THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

DATE 8 November 1949

REPORT OF DEATH

FULL NAME <b>Raspervik, William T.</b>		ARMY SERIAL NUMBER <b>0 799 192<sup>7</sup></b>	GRADE <b>1st Lt</b>
HOME ADDRESS <b>Quincy, Illinois ***</b>		ARM OF SERVICE <b>Air Corps</b>	DATE OF BIRTH <b>21 August 1918</b>
PLACE OF DEATH <b>Italy</b>	CAUSE OF DEATH <b>Killed in Action</b>		DATE OF DEATH <b>14 January 1944</b>
STATION OF DECEASED <b>North African Area</b>		DATE OF ENTRY ON CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE <b>25 March 1943</b>	LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY PURPOSES YEARS MONTHS DAYS <b>Over 0 years</b>

EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE (Name, relationship, and address)  
**Mrs. Edith Rosen (mother), 1730 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois \*\*\***

BENEFICIARY (Name, relationship, and address)  
**Edith Rosen (mother), Same as above**  
**Leo J. Rosen (Stepfather), Same as above**

INVESTIGATION MADE		IN LINE OF DUTY		OWN MISCONDUCT		WAS DECEASED ON DUTY STATUS		AUTHORIZED ABSENCE		IN FLYING PAY STATUS		OTHER PAY STATUS (Specify below)	
YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO

ADDITIONAL DATA AND/OR STATEMENT  
 BATTLE  NON-BATTLE

- \* Enlisted in the Regular Army 19 September 1935, and rendered service from that date to 24 March 1943, under Service number 6 858 711.
- \*\* Corrected to show promotion posthumously to the rank of First Lieutenant, Army of the United States, effective 13 January 1944, under the provisions of Public Law 680, 77th Congress, per Department of the Army letter dated 22 August 1945.
- \*\*\* Corrected to show address as Quincy, Illinois; previously shown as Quincy, Massachusetts.

The individual named in this Report of Death is shown by the records of the Department of the Army to have been in a missing in action status on and subsequent to 14 January 1944, and until such absence was terminated 24 May 1944 by the receipt in the Department of the Army of evidence of death transmitted by the Commanding General, North African Area.

CORRECTED REPORT

Photocopy-Preservation

HAT  
 FILE  
 RECORDS ANNOTATED  
 DATE **DEC 6 1949**  
 NAME **R & R BR.**

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

C K H... ..

ADJUTANT GENERAL

53-FI-527-H1  
 1 Jan 44

527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON  
 OUTLINE HISTORY JANUARY 1944

BY [REDACTED]  
 527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON  
 1 JANUARY 1944  
 IN [REDACTED]

527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON AAF  
 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP AAF  
 APO 650, U.S. ARMY

AG 314.7

1 FEBRUARY 1944

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL RECORDS.

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, XII AIR SUPPORT COMMAND, APO 374.

1. OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 1944, TO 31 JANUARY 1944:

A. ORIGINAL UNIT:

(1) DESIGNATION: 527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON,  
 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP.

B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION: NONE.

C. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED.

(1) MONTH OF JANUARY 1944.

(A) AT BEGINNING: 1 JANUARY 1944-48 OFFICERS  
 ASSIGNED, 214 ENLISTED MEN ASSIGNED.

(B) NET INCREASE: 1 ENLISTED MAN.

(C) NET DECREASE: 10 OFFICERS.

(D) AT END: 31 JANUARY 1944, 38 OFFICERS ASSIGNED,  
 215 ENLISTED MEN ASSIGNED.

D. STATIONS:

(1) POMIGLIANO D'ARCO AIRPORT, ITALY, 1 JANUARY 1944  
 31 JANUARY 1944.

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E. OPERATIONS:

(1) ITALIAN CAMPAIGN.

(2) SQUADRON CONTINUED MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF GROUND  
 TROOPS DURING JANUARY.

(3) COMPLETED 42 MISSIONS AND 273 SORTIES FOR PERIOD;  
 29 DIVE BOMBING MISSIONS ON DIRECT SUPPORT TARGETS  
 AND COMMUNICATIONS, 12 ARMED RECONNAISSANCE ON  
 ROADS AND RAILROADS, AND 1 RHUBARB

- F. COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT MISSIONS.
- (1) CAPT. ROBERT M. DUNGAN LED SQUADRON ON MISSION #724, 9 JANUARY 1944.
  - (2) CAPT. ROBERT M. DUNGAN LED MISSION #737, 14 JANUARY 1944.
  - (3) 1ST LT. SNIDER LED SQUADRON ON MISSION #771, 21 JANUARY 1944.
  - (4) 1ST LT. ROBERT W. THOMAS LED SQUADRON ON MISSION #795, 27 JANUARY 1944.

- G. LOSSES IN ACTION:
- (1) ITALIAN CAMPAIGN:
    - (A) KILLED - ROBERT M. DUNGAN, O-663703, CAPT., AIR CORPS, 14 JANUARY 1944. AIRPLANE EXPLODED MID AIR - 3000 FEET NEAR SAN ANGELO IN TE ODICE, ITALY.
    - (B) MISSING IN ACTION - WILLIAM T. KASPERIK, O-799192 2ND LT., AIR CORPS, 14 JANUARY 1944. FAILED TO RETURN FROM LOW LEVEL BOMBING MISSION NEAR MINTURNO, ITALY.
    - (C) WOUNDED - NORMAN C. GRAVES, O-801328, 2ND LT., AIR CORPS, 31 JANUARY 1944. WOUNDED BY FLAK ON ARMED RECONNAISSANCE NEAR ANZIO BEACHHEAD.

- H. MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION:
- (1) NO AWARDS MADE.

2. INCLOSED ARE WAR DIARY, 527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON, FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 1944, TO 31 JANUARY 1944, AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1944.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

*Donald L. Whitney*  
DONALD L. WHITNEY,  
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,  
527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ.

1 INCL:  
WAR DIARY AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ATTACHED.

Photocopy-Preservation

(4) RESULTS OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MISSIONS:

(A) MISSION #724, 9 JANUARY 1944:

1. ENEMY COUNTER ATTACKING ON SLOPES OF MT. CEDRO, ITALY.
2. OUR TROOPS HARD PRESSED, ASKED FOR MISSION ON PIN POINTED GUN POSITIONS AND ENEMY TROOPS.
3. PILOTS SAW HITS IN PIN POINT AREA, FIFTH ARMY PHONED CONGRATULATIONS ON HITTING TARGET, HELPING QUELL COUNTER ATTACK.

(B) MISSION #737, 14 JANUARY 1944:

1. LOW LEVEL BOMBING MISSION ON STRIP OF ROAD ADJACENT TO GARIGLIANO RIVER, EAST OF MINTURNO, ITALY. RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT FOLLOWED BOMBING TO CHECK ON ENEMY STRONG POINTS ON ROAD, ARMY OBSERVERS WATCHED FROM LOOKOUTS ACROSS GARIGLIANO.
2. PURPOSE OF MISSION - GAIN INTELLIGENCE FOR ARMY ON ENEMY STRONG POINTS.
3. RESULTS - PILOTS OBSERVED HITS ON ENTIRE AREA. MAJOR GENERAL G.W.R. TEMPLER, D.S.O., O.B.E., SENT A MESSAGE OF COMMENDATION (SEE ATTACHED TO DIARY) ON MISSION TO PILOTS PARTICIPATING.

(C) MISSION #771, 21 JANUARY 1944:

1. DIVE BOMBING MISSION ON 11TH FLIEGER KORPS HEADQUARTERS AT FRASCATI, ITALY. REQUIRED CAREFUL NAVIGATION TO AVOID AIR SPACE RESERVATION AROUND LAKE ALBANO AND FIND CORRECT VILLA.
2. PILOTS POSITIVELY IDENTIFY VILLA FROM PHOTO AND SCORED 4 DIRECT HITS ON THE BUILDINGS, AND 8 HITS IN YARDS, CAUSING LARGE EXPLOSIONS AND FIRES. PILOTS WENT ON TO STRAFE AND DAMAGE AN ESTIMATED 35 MOTOR TRANSPORTS, 2 BARGES AND A BIVOUAC AREA.

(D) MISSION #795, 27 JANUARY 1944:

1. NEW TYPE RECONNAISSANCE MISSION ON ROAD NETWORKS CASSINO VALLEY. COORDINATED WITH 2 SHIPS OF 111TH TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON WHO WENT AHEAD AND BELOW FLIGHT AND CALLED TARGETS IN THE CLEAR.
2. RESULTS WERE EXCELLENT, OBSERVERS DREW NO FIRE, PICKED TARGET, AND THEN THE BOMBERS CAME DOWN AND BOMBED, THEN WENT UP AGAIN OUT OF REACH OF SMALL ARMS FIRE COMING DOWN TO STRAFE ON BALANCE OF TARGETS INDICATED, CAUSED ROAD BLOCK VALMONTE AREA, AND DESTROYED 3 MOTOR TRANSPORTS AND DAMAGED SEVERAL MORE.

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18th Army Airways Communications Region

15 October 42 - 15 May 44

CONTENTS

- Part I: War Diary
- Part II: Regional Communications Control
- Part III: Stations and Detachments
- Part IV: Problems

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FOREWORD

The AACS differs from many other supporting forces of the Army Air in that it serves not only companion units and personnel, but great stretches of territory also. Thus, its history includes geography as well as chronology; for the efforts of man in and against many environments lend a peculiarly fascinating quality to the Airways Communications System, and distinguish its history from any other.

In other words, the 18th Army Airways Communications Region (together with its attendant 18th Airways Communications Squadron) had at least five lives. It was in one respect a series of events. It was furthermore an authority over a stretch of the earth's surface. It was, from another point of view, a smattering of little dots on the map, of separate and lonely stations in far-off lands. It was also an agglomeration of men brought together more or less briefly by forces beyond their control. Finally, it was a series of actions and reactions, trials and errors, of motives, efforts, and results.

Thus, this minimum history of the 18th includes a chronicle of dates, a survey of the authority that controlled the Northwest African territory, a roll-call of the units scattered over that territory, a notice of the personnel which manned them, and a notion of the problems they encountered.



1443

Q.M.O. Form 1 - GRS

SOS NATOUSSA  
June 1, 1933

PRESTON KASPERVIK  
6958436 T41-43 A  
EDITH ROSEN  
1730 SPRING ST.  
QUINCY ILL. P

REPORT OF BURIAL  
AR 30-1815 & TM 10-630

208

FEB 1 1944

January 5, 1944  
Date Report Filled Out

**KASPERVIK** **PRESTON** **L.** **6958436** **W.**  
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Initial) (Serial No.) (Race)  
**Cpl.** **18th Airway Comm. System** **Air Corps** **USA**  
(Rank) (Organization) (Branch) (Country)  
**59th Evac. Hosp.** **Palermo, Sicily** **January 4, 1944** **Jaundice, acute** **Catholic**  
(Place of Death) (Date of Death) (Cause of Death) (Religion: P, C, H, etc.)

MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

Identification Tags found on body : Yes (2); No ( )  
If no identification tags, other means used to identify body (identification card, letters, etc.):

Tags Present

Complete fingerprint chart of both hands on reverse side if body cannot be identified.  
Complete tooth-chart on reverse side and list anatomical characteristics and other data if fingerprints cannot be taken.  
If unidentified, give circumstances : **Identified**  
List of Personal Effects found on Body and disposition of Same : **None**

**Edith Rosen** **1730 Spring St., Quincy, Illinois**  
(Name of Emergency Addressee) (Address of Emergency Addressee)

**Nelson C. Bell, Capt. MC, 59th Evac. Hosp.**  
(Signature (or Name) of Person furnishing above data when other than the Officer reporting burial.)

**0900 hours January 5, 1944** **US Military Cemetery #4, Palermo, Sicily**  
(Time and Date of Burial) (Location, Name, & No. of Cemetery)

IF BURIAL OTHER THAN IN ESTABLISHED CEMETERY FURNISH SKETCH AND MAP REFERENCE REVERSE SIDE THIS FORM  
**A** **10** **248** **Wooden Cross** **Catholic Service**  
(Plot No.) (Row No.) (Grave No.) (King Grave Markers) (Type of Religious Ceremony)

Identification Tag buried with body (1); Identification Tag attached to marker (1).  
If Identification Tags not present, what other identification data were buried with the body and in what kind of container? **Tags Present**

Bodies buried on either side (See paragraph 4 on reverse side this form)

Right side : **Streeter, J.P., MM, SS Mayo** **249**  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN) (Grave No.)

Left side : **Hischke, Frank D.P., Pvt.** **247**  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN) (Grave No.)

**/S/ Sgt. Roy Young, 46th QM GR Co.**  
(Signature of Officer Reporting Burial)

**CHARLES S. TROIA, 1st Lt., QMC**  
(Verified by unit G.R.S. Officer)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT BURIAL REPORT : Make out QMC Form 1 - GRS in quadruplicate for U.S. dead, one additional copy for allied and enemy dead. Sign all copies. Submit report to nearest member of Graves Registration Service. Graves Registration Service will forward the original and two copies through at least one higher administrative headquarters (to be checked against Casualty Reports and allied papers and all copies verified by the Graves Registration Officer of that headquarters) to Base Section Graves Registration Service Officer. OVER FOR BURIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Photocopy-Preservation

2 JUN 1944 FILE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~RESTRICTED~~

Incl 1

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

10 January 1949

*W*

*J*

Cpl. ~~Francis E. Kaspervik~~, ASN 6 958 436  
 Plot 7, Row 6, Grave 12  
 Headstone: Cross  
 Nettuno (Anzio) U. S. Military Cemetery

B

Mrs. Edith J. Rosen  
 1730 Spring Street  
 Quincy, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Rosen:

This is to inform you that the remains of your loved one have been permanently interred, as recorded above, side by side with comrades who also gave their lives for their country. Customary military funeral services were conducted over the grave at the time of burial.

After the Department of the Army has completed all final interments, the cemetery will be transferred, as authorized by the Congress, to the care and supervision of the American Battle Monuments Commission. The Commission also will have the responsibility for permanent construction and beautification of the cemetery, including erection of the permanent headstone. The headstone will be inscribed with the name exactly as recorded above, the rank or rating where appropriate, organization, State, and date of death. Any inquiries relative to the type of headstone or the spelling of the name to be inscribed thereon, should be addressed to the American Battle Monuments Commission, the central address of which is Room 713, 1712 "G" Street, N. W., Washington 25, D. C. Your letter should include the full name, rank, serial number, grave location, and name of the cemetery.

While interment activities are in progress, the cemetery will not be open to visitors. However, upon completion thereof, due notice will be carried by the press.

You may be reassured that this final interment was conducted with fitting dignity and solemnity and that the grave-site will be carefully and conscientiously maintained in perpetuity by the United States Government.

Sincerely yours,

Photocopy-Preservation

THOMAS B. LANKIN  
 Major General  
 The Quartermaster General

the

**HISTORICAL DATA**

**Eighteenth Airway Communications Region**

**Army Airway Communications System**

**Regional Communications Control Office**

**Photocopy-Preservation**

**18th Communications Squadron**

**DECLASSIFIED  
EO 13526**

**Algiers, Algeria**

**A.P.O. 828**

**New York, N.Y.**

*V.I.*

**25 October 62 - 18 May 64**

**Completed 20 February 65**

**SECRET**



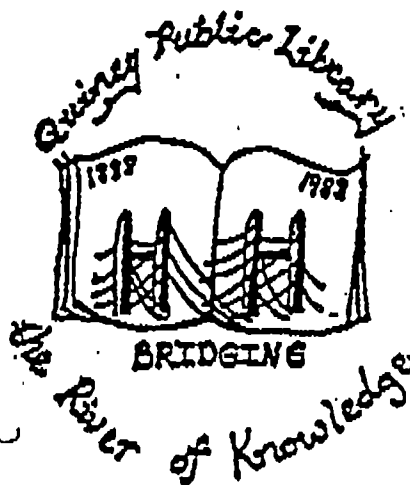
**FROM:**

**APPROVED BY:**

*James C. [Signature]*

**JAMES C.**

**CLERK**



Date: 5-19-89

Time: 10:05 am

ATTENTION: Major Sponsler

NAME: Secretary of Air Force, Legislative Liaison Branch

LOCATION: The Pentagon Room 5D817 Washington, DC

FAX PHONE: (202) 695-1998

IMMEDIATE ACTION?  YES  NO

# FACSIMILE MESSAGE

From: QUINCY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
 Location: 526 Jersey St., Quincy, IL. 62301  
 FAX Phone: (217) 222-3052  
 Contact Phone: (217) 222-0226

TOTAL PAGES BEING SENT: 1 plus cover page  
(including cover page)

MESSAGE:

Quincy Herald-Whig Sunday, January, 23, 1944

Photocopy-Preservation

(If you do not receive all pages of transmission, please call as soon as possible.)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM FOR JONI STEVENS  
WHITE HOUSE MILITARY OFFICE

SUBJECT: Supplemental Info to Newspaper  
Article

It should be known that the father, William Kaspervik, was committed to a mental institution in 1920. The mother had divorced William sometime before that and had remarried to Mr. Leo Rosen. It is believed the father was still alive when his sons were killed, but no further information is available.

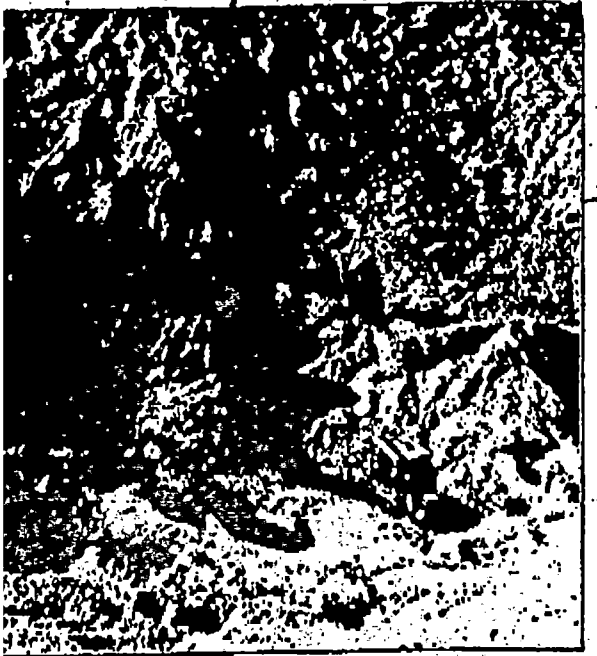
This article amazingly revealed the fact there was a third son, 1Lt Don Kaspervick (see the article), who was killed on June 15, 1941. This is the only reference to Don we have. We ran out of time to conduct research into the details of the crash that killed Don-- hopefully, the limited info in the article is helpful.

Another interesting note: Mrs. Rosen was unaware her third son, William, had been killed on January 14, 1944 (newspaper article is January 23, 1944). This is because William was listed as an MIA initially.

  
JEFFREY A. SRONSLER, Major, USAF  
White House Liaison Officer  
Office of Legislative Liaison

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 1944

# Asian Campaign Creates Types That Look Like "Real Thing"



is a scene at Longtop hill in the mountainous region of the North African campaign took place. In- by JIM BROWN, a veteran of the Tunisian campaign, with true-to-life Sherman tank, a 185-mt. howitzer, a "peep" and a lorry that Brown straggling after his discharge from the service.



after a shell burst knocked him out of armed service, Tyvhaber says he turns from military subjects to Easter rabbits and other contributions of skill that produced the military boys shown in the of the filmy articles offered shoppers last Christmas-1st Brown business.

## SALES OF BONDS, CITY AND COUNTY, TOTAL \$341,604

that the "little men" apparently is aware of the necessity of "back- ing the attack" by buying war bonds in shown in the first report of the fourth war loan drive in Quincy and Adams county as received Saturday

## HONOR ROLL DRIVE HAS BEEN RESUMED BY KIWANS CLUB

The campaign to secure funds to build a war service "honor roll" for Quincy and Adams county, to be lo- cated in Washington park, has been resumed by the Quincy Kiwanis club, sponsor of the project. Active

# C. A. GERDES HEADS CAMPAIGN OF RED CROSS

### Quota for Adams County In March Campaign Fixed at \$54,000.

### Photocopy-Prese vation

Clarence A. Gerdes will be chair- man of the 1944 campaign for funds for the American Red Cross in Ad- ams county.

Roderick P. Miller will be chair- man of the initial gifts committee to solicit the larger gifts for the fund.

The quota for Adams county is \$54,000.

The campaign will be held nation- ally during the month of March.

### Bigger Quota This Year.

These are the facts in regard to the Red Cross drive for Adams county this year. Last year the quota was \$30,000 and Adams county raised \$44,000.

According to the plans of the fed- eral government there are to be but two solicitations for funds each year. One is to be for the United War Fund in November and the other is to be for the Red Cross in March.

### Two Capable Leaders.

The committee of the Adams county chapter chose Mr. Gerdes as the head of the campaign because they knew that he understood the method campaign organization, has had experience in various cam- paigns, is enthusiastic, and is seri- ously interested in the work of the Red Cross.

Mr. Miller has had charge of the initial gifts in other campaigns and does his work thoroughly and well.

### To Have Other Chairmen.

The other chairmen will be ap- pointed soon and the work of or- ganizing for the campaign will be under way. Exceptionally well qual- ified speakers of national repute will help with some of the inspirational work for Adams county.

The announcement of the plans for the Red Cross campaign thus far made were made Saturday by Kar- old Lewis, chairman of the Adams county chapter, and Captain E. L. Wingerter, veteran Red Cross cam- paign worker of this county, both of whom will assist energetically in the campaign.

# Major M'Clary, From 'the Hump,' Visits His Mother

Major Robert R. McClary has been visiting his mother, Mrs. Lorette M. McClary, and the family of his sister, Mrs. Nats Mack, at the Mack home, 3020 Hampshire street, for several days. He left by air- plane Saturday afternoon for Des Moines, Ia., where his wife and two children are making their home for the duration. A friend in the air corps at Des Moines came to Quincy to, take Major McClary home.

Major McClary has had a varied and wide experience in civil and military aeronautics. He attended Drake university at Des Moines. He learned his rudiments in the art of flying at the airfield in Des Moines. As soon as possible he obtained employment as a copilot with the American airlines and later became a pilot, traveling most between New York and Washing- ton. In 1942, he was commissioned as a captain. For some time he was in Florida and then ferried a plane over the Atlantic. He then came back to the states for a while and again ferried another plane across.

For 10 months, Major McClary has been in India and made many

# LT. JACK GEORGE MISSING IN ACTION IN 15 AIR RAIDS

### Has Won Air Medal and Two—Oak—Leaf Clusters.



LT. JACK GEORGE.

Lt. Jack George, husband of Mrs. Virginia Cooley George, 2232 Hamp- shire street, reported missing in ac- tion since JANUARY 7 during a mis- sion over Germany, is the veteran of at least 15 bombing raids over the rich and a wearer of the air medal with probably two clusters oak leaves.

Mrs. George last heard from her husband in a letter dated January 6, the day before the raid in which he was reported missing. He stated that he had won his first oak leaf cluster and was well on his way to winning another. He also was in line for promotion to first lieutenant when reported missing in action.

Lt. George enlisted in the air corps in October, 1941, and received his preliminary training at Santa Ana, Cal. He received his wings as a navigator and his commission as a second lieutenant at Maxwell air base, Maxwell, N. C. on January 23, 1943. Lt. George will be 24 years old Monday.

Lt. George is the son of Russell George, of Macomb. He first came to Quincy to attend Oem City Busi- ness college and later was employed at the Hotel Newcomb and Illinois National bank before enlisting in the air corps. He has been over- seas since last September, and the crew of his ship had been designat- ed as the leader crew in his squad- ron.

According to press dispatches of January 7, more than 750 United States planes participated in a raid on the I. O. Farben Chemical works at Ludwigshafen and Mannheim and 18 planes were lost in the ac- tion as compared to 41 German planes shot down. One of the American planes was reported to have landed in Switzerland.

# MAYOR ISSUES MILE-O'-DIMES PROCLAMATION

Calling upon all Quincians to support the annual "Mile-O'-Dimes" campaign this year to raise funds for the war against infantile paral- ysis Mayor Edward J. Schneidman Saturday issued a proclamation urging generous contributions to a most worthy cause.

Dimes contributed on Saturday when the "Mile-O'-Dimes" cam- paign will be held in downtown Quincy as well as larger contribu- tions to the local committee of

# Mrs. Edith Rosen Has Lost 2 of 3 Sons in Service

### Corporal Preston Kaspervik, Radio Operator, Died in Sicily of Illness.

Mrs. Edith Rosen, of 1730 Spring street, gave three sons to her country and she has lost two in the last seven months. One son was killed last June. The news that another son, Cpl. Preston Kaspervik, had died in Sicily, on January 4, reached Mrs. Rosen Sat- urday. Her third and only other son, Lt. William (Bill) Kaspervik, is lying in Italy now, and Mrs. Rosen never hears the door bell ring without some ap- prehension as to whether that the sad news that she has twice received.



may come to her the third time. And yet, this Quincy woman bears her loss bravely.

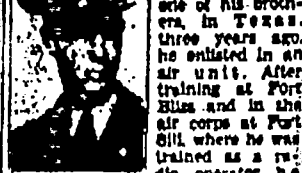
"It is hard indeed to lose the boys," she said Saturday, "but there is many another American mother whose sons died for their country."

First Lt. Don Kaspervik was killed in a disastrous collision of bomber planes in New Mexico, June 15, 1943, Saturday. Mrs. Rosen received a telegram from the war department notifying her that her son, Cpl. Preston Lee Kaspervik, had died in Sicily on January 4 of hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver. His mother did not know that he was ill.

Lt. William (Bill) Kaspervik is now a flier in Italy, fighting in the pitch on Rome.

The three fighting Kaspervik brothers, who were reared in Quincy, were sons of William Kaspervik, a World war veteran, and Edith Clow Kaspervik. The boys may have been inspired toward a soldier's career by the stories that their father told of his war days.

Don and Bill Kas- pervik became fliers and when Preston visited one of his broth- ers, in Texas, three years ago, he enlisted in an air unit. After training at Fort Bliss and in the air corps at Fort Gill, where he was trained as a ra- dio operator he was sent to Scott field, where he became an instructor. He was sent overseas last Aug- ust.



Lt. Kaspervik was sent to Scott field, where he became an instructor. He was sent overseas last Aug- ust.

The last time that Preston saw his mother was when he came to Quincy last June to attend the funeral of his brother, Lt. Don Kas- pervik.

They call Lt. Bill Kaspervik the "war baby" for he was born soon after the World war ended.

Cpl. Preston Lee Kaspervik leaves his mother and his step-father, Leo Rosen; one brother, Lt. William Kaspervik, and a grandmother, Mrs. Emma Kaspervik, of East St. Louis.

# 2ND RENEWAL OF 'E' AWARD TO BARGE BUILDERS

The Quincy Barge Builders, Inc., again has been honored by the navy department for meritorious services on the production front by being awarded a second renewal of the army-navy "E" production award, according to a letter received by E. S. Whitney, world manager, from

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1989

1. 1LT William T. Kaspervick  
#0-799192  
Home: Quincy, Ill.  
527th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group  
KIA 1/14/44  
Distinguished Flying Cross  
Buried in Italy at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery
2. Cpl. Preston L. Kaspervick  
#06958436  
Home: Quincy, Ill.  
18th AACS Squadron (Airways & Communication Service)  
KIA 1/4/44

QUINCY HERALD-WHIG

SUNDAY, FEB. 13, 1944

## Woman Who Has Lost Two Sons In Service Is Notified 3rd Son Missing in Action

Mrs. Edith J. Rosen Fears Lt. William T. Kaspervik Has Also Met Death.

### Brother Heroes

Mrs. Edith J. Rosen of 1730 Spring street, who has lost two sons in the service, was notified Saturday by the war department that her third and last son, Second Lt. William T. Kaspervik, fighter plane pilot, has been missing in action in Italy since January 14.

She fears that he, like his brothers, has met death in the service of his country.

Mrs. Rosen's eldest son, First Lt. Donald W. Kaspervik, was killed in the crash of two large army bombers in New Mexico, June 16, 1943.

Her second son, Cpl. Preston Kaspervik, died in Sicily, January 4 last, of an illness.

And now her youngest son is listed among the missing.

A fragile little woman, Mrs. Rosen walked into the editorial rooms of The Herald-Whig Saturday afternoon to tell of the sad news she had received. One trembling hand carried the telegram. The other nervously fingered the lapel of her coat where two gold stars and a silver star shone from a service pin.

#### Messages of Sorrow.

Bravely she held back the tears as she unfolded the little slip of yellow paper that had multiplied her grief when it was delivered at her door a few hours earlier. Twice before such yellow slips in their yellow envelopes had been placed in her trembling fingers, and each time the shock and sorrow were more than she thought she could bear.

This telegram, had much the same wording as the others. It read:

"The secretary of war desires me to express his deep regret that your son, Second Lt. William T. Kaspervik has been reported missing in action since January 14 in Italy. If further details or other information are received, you will be promptly notified."

"Ever since the death of Preston (Cpl. Preston Lee Kaspervik) I've had a premonition that something was going to happen to Bill," Mrs. Rosen said. "All this week I've been sick with the feeling that I would



At left, Second Lt. William T. Kaspervik, fighter plane pilot, reported missing in action in Italy since January 14. At right, Cpl. Preston Lee Kaspervik, who died in Sicily, January 4, last, of an illness.



First Lt. Donald W. Kaspervik was killed in the crash of two army bombers in New Mexico, June 16, 1943.

hear bad news. When the messenger boy came today, I just stood there shaking. I couldn't go to the door, and my husband had to go for me. I knew what it was before I ever opened the telegram."

Mrs. Rosen recalled that Lt. William T. Kaspervik was only 17 when he enlisted in the cavalry at Fort Des Moines in September, 1935. "He had been in service more than eight years," she said. "He served one term of enlistment at Fort Des Moines, and was a staff sergeant when he was transferred to Fort Jay, New York. After the outbreak of the war, he was transferred to the air corps. He got his wings March 25, 1943 at Craig Field, Ala. After a short furlough at home, he was assigned to the Caribbean area and remained there until September, 1943. He had another furlough at home and was then sent to North Africa and later to Italy."

Strangely enough Mrs. Rosen received her son's last letter on January 14—the day he was reported missing in action. The letter begged her not to worry. He assured her that the "Jerries are poor shots."

#### Too Optimistic.

"I knew he was too optimistic, though," Mrs. Rosen said. "I just felt that something was going to happen."

Lt. William Kaspervik was born three months before the first world war ended. His father, William Kaspervik, was serving in the army in France and did not see "Billy" until the boy was six months old.

First Lt. Donald W. Kaspervik had been in the army nearly nine years when he met death in the bomber crash in New Mexico in June of 1943, and was slated for captaincy. His widow, Mrs. Lillian Kaspervik, and small daughter, Donna Sue, are living at 2134 1/2 State street.

Cpl. Preston Lee Kaspervik, radio operator and instructor, had been in service three years and overseas since August, 1943, when his death occurred of hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver, in Sicily, on January 4, 1944.

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Winston Churchill

The World at War: Closing the Ring

©1951

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Conversations and Conferences

*A Talk with Stalin About Germany — Poland and Her Frontiers — Roosevelt's Plan for the "Four Policemen" — I Present the Stalingrad Sword of Honour by the King's Command — Our Second Plenary Session — Stalin Asks Who Will Command "Overlord" — I State the British View About "Overlord" and Italy — Argument About the Date of Crossing the Channel — The Importance of Not Wrecking the Italian Campaign — Stalin's Direct Question to Me — Discussion at Dinner — I Declare Against Mass Executions of Germans.*

THE FORMAL CONFERENCES were interspersed with what may be thought to be even more important talks between Roosevelt, Stalin, and myself at luncheons and dinners. Here there were very few things that could not be said and received in good-humour. On Sunday night the 28th, President Roosevelt was our host for dinner. We were a party of ten or eleven, including the interpreters, and conversation soon became general and serious.

After dinner on this first evening, when we were strolling about the room, I led Stalin to a sofa and suggested that we talk for a little on what was to happen after the war was won. He assented with good-humour, and we sat down. Eden joined us. "Let us," said the Marshal, "first consider the worst that might happen." He thought that Germany had every possibility of recovering from this war, and might start on a new one within a comparatively short time. He feared the revival of German nationalism. After Versailles peace had seemed

assured, but Germany had recovered very quickly. We must therefore establish a strong body to prevent Germany starting a new war. He was convinced that she would recover. When I asked "How soon?" he replied, "Within fifteen to twenty years." I said that the world must be made safe for at least fifty years. If it was only for fifteen to twenty years, then we should have betrayed our soldiers.

Stalin thought we should consider restraints on Germany's manufacturing capacity. The Germans were an able people, very industrious and resourceful, and they would recover quickly. I replied that there would have to be certain measures of control. I would forbid them all aviation, civil and military, and I would forbid the General Staff system. "Would you," asked Stalin, "also forbid the existence of watchmakers' and furniture factories for making parts of shells? The Germans produced toy rifles which were used for teaching hundreds of thousands of men how to shoot."

"Nothing," I said, "is final. The world rolls on. We have now learnt something. Our duty is to make the world safe for at least fifty years by German disarmament, by preventing rearmament, by supervision of German factories, by forbidding all aviation, and by territorial changes of a far-reaching character. It all comes back to the question whether Great Britain, the United States, and the U.S.S.R. can keep a close friendship and supervise Germany in their mutual interest. We ought not to be afraid to give orders as soon as we see any danger."

"There was control after the last war," said Stalin, "but it failed."

"We were inexperienced then," I replied. "The last war was not to the same extent a national war, and Russia was not a party at the Peace Conference. It will be different this time." I had a feeling that Prussia should be isolated and reduced; that Bavaria, Austria, and Hungary might form a broad, peaceful, unaggressive confederation. I thought Prussia should be dealt with more sternly than the other parts of the Reich, which might thus be influenced against throwing in their lot

with her. It must be remembered that the world is in a state of nervous moods.

"All very good, but insufficient," said Stalin. "Russia, I continued, would not be able to stand against the United States their navy and the United States their navy. If all three Powers would have their own arm, they would be strongly armed, and must not be allowed to fail. "We are the trustees of the world. If we fail, there will be perhaps a hundred years of chaos. If we are strong, we can carry out our duty. It will go on, "than merely keeping the peace. We should guide the future of the world by any system on other nations. We have the right of all nations to develop their own armaments. We remain friends in order to ensure peace."

Stalin asked again what was to be done.

I replied that I was not agreed with him only against the leaders and not against the masses. He said that there were many who fought under orders. We must not forget those who came from the labouring classes. He probably meant "Communism." When Hitler, they replied that they had shot such prisoners.

\* \*

I suggested that we should have a conference agreed and invited me to be present. I was not on account of Poland. I was not in the U.S. Nothing was more important than the Russian western frontier. But I was not in the U.S. I wanted heart-to-heart talks. When Marshal Stalin talked about it, the matter could be settled by some agreement, and the necessary for the defence of the world.

machine guns sited to fire a few inches above the ground. Wire had been laid, avenues of approach had been mined. Several hundred yards behind the forward line were reserve companies protected by dugouts along the ditches. Behind them were weapons pits and gun emplacements.

To break out of the beachhead, the Americans would have to attack uphill across the network of ditches and canals that wrinkled the face of the Anzio plain. At Cisterna the ground was fairly open and level, suitable for tanks. But beyond, in a 3-mile corridor leading to the upper end of the Liri valley at Valmontone, scattered patches of trees, vineyards, and wide, steep ravines cut by streams would slow an advance.

While the Allied forces in the beachhead prepared on May 22 for their attack, while American troops fought for Terracina and the French captured Pico, Kesselring made his strategic decision. Unable to put off the distasteful task any longer, he began a systematic withdrawal of the Tenth Army out of the Liri valley. German service units began to stream up Highway 6 and out of the valley through Valmontone.

At the beachhead at eight-thirty that evening, the British 1st Division launched a feint attack on the west side of the Albano road. At two-fifteen on the morning of May 23, the 5th British Division made an artillery demonstration along the lower Moletta River.

Daybreak came shortly after five-thirty on the morning of May 23, and with it came a light drizzle. In the Liri valley the British Eighth Army launched a three-corps assault against the Hitler line, already outflanked in the Fifth Army zone and lightly held by rearguards protecting the Tenth Army withdrawal. Around the beachhead perimeter more than 500 guns opened fire while sixty light bombers struck Cisterna to start Truscott's VI Corps attack.

The Eighth Army made little progress in the Liri. The beachhead attack achieved only slightly better results.

Truscott's assault gained surprise and should have ripped through the German defenses. For some half-awake and par-

tially clothed German troops still in their dugouts were captured. German counterbattery fire was slow in starting. And German observers found the haze that lasted through the day frustrating. Though the Germans recovered quickly, they could never quite overcome their initial disorganization. Counterattacks launched during the day were nothing more than local in character.

Yet the VI Corps failed to make a striking advance. On the left of the main effort the 45th Division took limited objectives designed to hold the shoulder of the major penetration. In the principal attack toward Cisterna, barely 2 miles ahead, the 1st Armored Division on the north, the 3rd Division in the middle, and the First Special Service Force on the south passed through the 34th Division and had a difficult time fighting against the most tenacious resistance.

By the end of the day the Americans had reached the line of the Cisterna-Rome railroad, they had captured almost 1,500 prisoners. But they had lost about a hundred tanks and tank destroyers. The 3rd Division alone had sustained the staggering total of 950 casualties. And the troops were denied Cisterna.

Despite German success in holding both in the Liri valley and at the beachhead, events elsewhere foreshadowed an adjustment of Kesselring's defenses. Battling for Terracina against the II Corps, the units on the left flank of the Fourteenth Army had to fall back onto the flank of the Tenth Army. With both armies holding poor defensive positions in unsuitable terrain, Kesselring had no alternative but to move into the Caesar line. Before he could do so, he needed Hitler's O.K.

On May 24, as the II Corps took Terracina, a scant 30 miles from Cisterna across the indefensible Pontine Marshes, as the British continued their pressure against the Hitler line, as the French added their weight in the Lepini Mountains just below the Alban Hills, and as the VI Corps resumed its offensive toward Cisterna, Kesselring received permission from Hitler to pull his forces into the Caesar line.

On that day, though Cisterna still remained just out of

"well pleased with the entire situation and was most complimentary in his reference to the Fifth Army" and to Clark. Far from objecting to the shift of the main attack, Alexander said, "I am for any line which the army commander believes will offer a chance to continue his present success." Yet he could not forgo asking Gruenther, "I am sure the army commander will continue to push toward Valmontone, won't he?"

"I assured him," Gruenther later reported to Clark, "that you had the situation thoroughly in mind and that he could depend on you to execute a vigorous plan with all the push in the world."

Alexander had accepted the explanation with his usual good grace. Gruenther was convinced that when Alexander departed he "left with no mental reservations as to the wisdom" of Clark's decision.

What else could he do? The new attack was an accomplished fact. And Alexander's acquiescence was strongly conditioned, if not determined, not only by Clark's success in the spring offensive, but by his previous relationship with the American army commander. He had no ground for questioning Clark's judgment on the best course of action in Clark's own zone of responsibility.

As events developed, Clark's decision neither unlocked the door to Rome nor cut the German withdrawal at Valmontone. At the Caesar line the Germans halted repeated, bloody, and fruitless efforts of the VI Corps to open Highway 7. Through Valmontone for more than a week the Tenth Army retired slowly, exposed and threatened but never trapped.

Ironically, had the VI Corps made its main effort toward Valmontone, Clark would have undoubtedly reached Rome more quickly by wheeling northwest there and swinging into Rome on Highway 6. He would certainly have put far greater pressure on the Tenth Army.

When Truscott finally broke through Kesselring's last defenses south of Rome, he did so by a surprise night infiltra-

tion along the eastern side of the Alban Hills between the two prongs of the attack. When this breach was widened, Clark turned his forces toward Rome and away from the withdrawing Tenth Army. With the British Eighth Army failing to keep heavy pressure against the Tenth Army, the Germans escaped.

On June 2 the Germans began to withdraw through Rome, leaving rearguards to impede the Americans. With the II Corps by then on Highway 6 at Valmontone and the VI Corps on Highway 7 at Albano, the divisions formed flying columns of tanks, tank destroyers, engineers, and infantry—usually a battalion or less of infantry and a company of tanks—to move into the city to secure the bridges. Behind them columns of infantry advanced on foot and by motor into the suburbs.

On June 4, while the Germans departed from Rome on the north and west along deserted streets, Americans entered Rome on roads from the south and east that were lined by cheering Italians. By midnight the Fifth Army stood at the Tiber. Every bridge was under guard. North and south of Rome, the Germans had destroyed the bridges, but in Rome itself all the crossings were intact.

The Allies had gained Rome, but they had not destroyed Kesselring's forces. Nor could they prevent Kesselring from making a masterful withdrawal 150 miles up the Italian boot. The Allies would follow in close pursuit for almost two months. Then, at the end of July, with Kesselring's forces behind the Arno River in northern Italy, the Allies would have to pause in order to consolidate their forces and make preparations for another battle.

But the future was not uppermost in Clark's mind on June 4, when the unsmiling but jubilant Fifth Army commander entered Rome. After all the frustration and pain during the nine months between Salerno and Rome, the great prize

# From Salerno to the Alps

*A History of the Fifth Army*

1943-1945



*Edited By*

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHESTER G. STARR

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## CHAPTER XII

# LOOKING BACK

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### 1. THE MEN

THE amazing thing about the Italian campaign is the fact that it was fought and won by men who had little idea of why they were fighting. This statement is true at least of the average American soldier of Fifth Army, though even here exceptions did occur. The Nisei of the 100th Battalion and the 442d Regimental Combat Team knew that they were battling to redeem their friends and relatives at home from unjust prejudice, and so these men laid down their lives before the German machine guns in almost prodigal abandon. On the other hand the Negroes of the 92d Division, insufficiently motivated to battle, did not perform as well as might be hoped. Between these extremes was the great bulk of the Fifth Army troops, fighting carefully and well, rapidly becoming veterans, but not at all clear as to the background of the campaign or indeed of the war.

The most persistent and thoughtful attempts by the military agencies of education and information to indoctrinate the soldiers—by posters, pamphlets, movies, and all the other agencies of propaganda—were only of limited success in this regard. Of more avail, as far as the front-line troops were concerned, was the physical presence of a dangerous enemy beyond the hill or on the other side of the valley. The infantry did not like the Krauts with their burp guns, Screaming Meemies, 88s, and infernal mines; but even here the enmity was as often coupled with a grudging admiration for German tenacity and the well designed enemy equipment as with a besetting, emotional hatred. Both on the front and still more in the rear our troops hated the enemy perhaps most because he was the reason for their being away from home in the Army, in a foreign land under unpleasant conditions.

Equally interesting is the fact that among those soldiers who thought about the campaign the official justifications for the war in Italy carried little weight. Many of the officers and men felt that the Italian campaign was a horrible mistake or that at most we should have seized Naples and the Foggia airfields, then gone no farther. Sometimes this attitude was a mere expression of dis-

content, but it cannot be dismissed as being no more; for often it was well and cogently argued. The loss of interest at home in the Italian campaign after the invasion of France could not but reinforce this attitude, and the bitter check in the mountains north of the Gothic Line heightened it even more.

One factor which always entered into the soldier's thinking was his contempt for Italy and things Italian. Hatred this feeling could hardly be called, for the Americans were not deeply concerned by Italy's part as an enemy in the war. The ignominious surrender in September 1943 was taken as typical of Italian courage and endurance, and the high rate of desertion in the Fascist divisions we met in the winter of 1944-45 appeared another indication of instability and lack of powerful convictions in the Italian people. During the first fall and winter, while Fifth Army was still close to the Campanian Plain, the contempt was at its height and not without some justification, for the teeming populace of the region about the squalid city of Naples appeared content to beg and to steal, leaving unrepaired the broken bridges, demolished buildings, and ruined railroads. The creaking oxcarts on the roads, the stone villages with their narrow streets and ancient odors, the backward ways of rural life, the lack of mechanical progress everywhere—all these grated on men raised in the United States. The *Bambini* yelling for "*Caramelli*" and the easy daughters of the south both mitigated and reinforced the dislike; nor could the evident hunger and poverty bring more than temporary compassion.

As our troops drove north in the summer of 1944 into the more alert and progressive areas of central Italy, the distaste for Italian ways and culture lessened somewhat. The next spring a brief contact with the cities of the Po Valley, where railroads and streetcars were still running at our entry, gave at least some soldiers a better impression of Italy. Nevertheless, the men of Fifth Army who desired insistently to marry the girls of Italy were few, and those who learned more than a few simple phrases of the language were rare. Justified or not in their bases of judgment, the troops did not like Italy. In many cases the contrast with their homeland stiffened their pride in being Americans and in the American way.

The Americans of Fifth Army had contact with other nationalities as well in the form of the fighting contingents of British (including Dominions), French, and Brazilian origin. Officially

the attitude toward these Allies was friendly, and there were indeed no severe clashes between troops of different origin; but a truthful account cannot hide the fact that divergences in methods of fighting and thinking brought occasional difficulties. Fifth Army probably had the least trouble with its Brazilians, trained and equipped on the American model, for the Brazilian contingent was not large and was not employed in an important part of the line; the main difficulties experienced here were the inadequate training received by Brazilian units before arrival in Italy and the always lax supply discipline of the individual Brazilian soldiers.

With respect to supply and administration the French likewise caused little trouble, for they were equipped and organized on the American system. Americans had a wholehearted respect for the battle qualities of the French soldier and for the absorption in fighting of the FEC; no other nationality had as little overhead in supply and command channels. French soldiers might be a little careless with equipment—a French 2½-ton truck on the road was a dangerous object indeed—and the *goumiers* once in a while engaged in inexcusable mass raping of Italian women; otherwise the main problem in relations with the French came in a national difference in tactics. The French tended to drive swiftly forward to their key objectives, by-passing and leaving in their rear considerable pockets of the enemy. American troops for the most part were methodical and were sometimes surprised by these pockets on their flanks. In the battle of Cassino, when the 142d Infantry moved up to reinforce the 3d Algerian Division, our troops ran into considerable opposition in the upper Rapido Valley, an area which the French had already traversed.

American tactics were perhaps more similar to those of the British than to those of the French. Even on the front lines, however, the two English-speaking peoples did not always get along well; in the rear and on higher levels of command the differences in ways of action sometimes brought irritation akin to anger. This is not the place to engage in a lengthy study of the national characteristics of Americans *versus* British; in the military field the problem of cooperation and coordination often seemed to revolve about one of three differences: (1) that the British were more deliberate, but not necessarily more thorough; (2) that the British had a great deal more battle experience in this war than the Americans; and (3) that the Americans had in many respects

much better and certainly more abundant equipment and supplies.

On the front the British were more thorough in planning their attacks than the Americans and tended to launch their assaults under very heavy artillery preparations. The speed with which Eighth Army and other British units followed up their success or breakthrough was often more deliberate than desired by the Fifth Army command, but the difficulty seemed to lie mainly in the less efficient British transport and the inability of the engineers to open up roads and put in bridges—though it must not be forgotten that the invaluable Bailey bridge was a British invention. Behind the lines the British supply and administrative installations and echelons could never be fully integrated into the American set-up, and the two systems existed side by side with some duplications and overlappings. At headquarters commanding both British and American troops British increments were dovetailed into the American staff system, completely in the G-2 and G-3 sections, less fully in G-1 and G-4. In intelligence work and in several other specialties the experience of our allies was drawn on heavily for experts and plans throughout part or all of the Italian campaign.

There is no point in disguising the fact that the association of British and Americans in Fifth Army brought rancor and unjustified suspicions sometimes as well as mutual understanding and appreciation. Both on the staff and command levels of Fifth Army one could find the impression that British commanders tended to spare the lives of their men unduly. The seeming arrogance of British officers and men—Limeys—in rest areas was probably counterbalanced by the ostentation and lavish spending of the better-paid Americans; neither added to an international understanding. Yet, to keep the picture clear after mentioning these difficulties, one must reiterate the fact that Fifth Army functioned successfully as an international army and that internal troubles never seriously hindered the execution of its mission to defeat the enemy.

Both Americans and British discovered that the long Italian campaign required considerable attention to the problem of keeping up the morale of the soldiers. On the American side Fifth Army was the first field army to establish large-scale rest areas, first at Caserta, then at Rome, later at Florence, and in the summer of 1945 at several points in the Po Valley and on the Italian Riviera. Unlike World War I, when individual soldiers were given passes

to the big cities of France, in this war units received quotas and dispatched their due number of men to a rest center in a body. The general philosophy governing operations of the rest centers was expressed by General Truscott as being an attempt to help the soldier forget the Army for a while; accordingly every effort was made to provide pleasant quarters, manifold conveniences, and numerous diversions. Morale depended also on food and mail from home, and equal attention was paid to both, to obtain the favorite foods of the American soldier and to deliver his mail as speedily as possible. With refrigerator trucks, sock-washing installations, and even divisional gin distilleries, Fifth Army resembled a huge, portable business both in fighting and in relaxation.

The American soldier came from a mechanized, industrial, but nevertheless individualistic democracy—a point which could never be forgotten in dealing with him and his needs. Considerable efforts had to be made to procure the personal supplies he demanded, such as post-exchange items and above all cigarettes; and a safety vent for the free expression of his complaints and ideas was provided in the form of the Mediterranean edition of *Stars and Stripes*. The letter columns and editorials of this newspaper and also of the magazine *Yank*, together with the masterful Mauldin cartoons which appeared regularly in *Stars and Stripes*, furnished a barometer of the soldiers' opinion which could not be overlooked, though they might irritate some commanders and officers.<sup>1</sup> The Army command, however, was deeply concerned with its duties of leading soldiers of a democracy and fostered the circulation of the army periodicals as well as the education of its men by a multitude of other methods.

Despite all irritations and dislikes the Fifth Army soldier was not openly or sullenly discontented with his life. At all times soldiers in war have grumbled in greater or lesser degree, yet always the average man adjusts himself as well as he can to his surroundings and tries hard to enjoy life. So too in Italy. That enjoyment was somewhat hectic and unnatural, even pathetic, but it represented an attempt to rise above the mud, the mountains, the dull routine, and the sharp periods of fear. During the first winter in Italy units were somewhat slow to seek comfort in their daily living; but by the second year our troops learned much about the little ways in which life could be made more pleasant.

## 2. THE FIGHTING

The extent to which the tactics and strategy of the Italian campaign will influence future military thinking cannot be assessed as yet. During the war itself the experience of Fifth Army was of considerable value; for almost a year our troops in Italy formed the field laboratory of the American army in Europe, and much may be found in official reports of our activities and our use of the new weapons and equipment. Within Fifth Army itself endless debates raged over the relative efficiency of German and American weapons, the use of air power, and a host of other subjects connected with the military revolutions of World War II.

In many ways the Fifth Army experience was unique during the war, for ours was above all a mountain campaign. Except for relatively brief interludes the men of Fifth Army fought in the mountains and rugged hills of the Italian Peninsula, where one peak looks down on another in a seemingly endless chain. In the fall of 1943 Fifth Army was the most mechanized force ever to go to war, yet its soldiers fought more as individuals than in any war of recent times. Instead of trench warfare or mass tank attacks, the battles of the Italian campaign consisted of individuals crawling up hillsides, warily evading the mines, ducking the German mortar shells, closing with the enemy to drive him from his bunkers. The infantry were aided by all the modern developments of the machine—by tanks, artillery, aircraft, trucks, and jeeps—but the battle was still won by the individual soldier. On his morale, training, and endurance depended the success of the local action and of the campaign.

The tactics were thus above all small-unit tactics. A drive might start on the Army level, but time after time it would dissolve in the cut-up mountains into isolated actions by companies, platoons, and even squads, separated from each other by ravines and ridges and focussed on an individual German bunker or machine-gun position. Aid from the rear in such warfare could consist only of encouragement and the forwarding of supplies by mules and carriers, with occasional assistance from a suddenly swooping airplane or an artillery concentration directed by the artillery forward observer. The location of our scattered units could seldom be given precisely; forward troops had always to be prepared for all-around defense. When mud and rain were added to the pattern of mountain warfare, each advance became incredibly difficult.

The troops of Fifth Army learned a great deal about mountain warfare during their twenty months of combat. As late as the summer of 1944 one battalion commander might comment that his division staff still tried to push troops across open ground commanded by the hills on either side, but eventually the lesson was well learned that low ground was a trap until the mountains had been taken. From the supply point of view fighting in the mountains was difficult, but the advantages of blind spots in the enemy fields of fire and the possibilities of infiltration more than counterbalanced this problem; to procure the necessary supplies Fifth Army relied ever more heavily on mules and the engineer improvement of mountain trails. A main highway was a blessing which could supply an entire corps, but even a poor mountain road could maintain an amazing number of troops. The jeep and the 2½-ton truck, together with the engineer bulldozer, stood behind many of our most brilliant achievements in mountain fighting.

Although the "supporting" weapons were decidedly that, they were invaluable even in mountain warfare, and their efficiency steadily improved. Problems of ammunition supply across the hills normally prevented the use of the full allotment of mortars and heavy machine guns in an attack, but those which could be supplied were of inestimable value in screening an advance, beating back a sudden counterattack, or reaching a nasty reverse-slope position of the enemy. Behind these weapons were the infantry cannon company howitzers, the tanks and tank destroyers, and the chemical mortars—the latter a new and very highly esteemed weapon. Tanks and tank destroyers were pushed well forward in the mountains, not to beat off enemy armor so much as to furnish direct, low-trajectory fire on enemy pillboxes and emplacements; except at Salerno and Anzio tank-*versus*-tank engagement on any scale was rare.

Then, farther back in narrow mountain valleys were the artillery pieces, the 105s, the 155s, the Long Toms, the 8-inchers, the great 240mm howitzers. The utmost refinement in observation and fire was necessary in the rocky, mountainous terrain; but once the infantry had felt out the enemy positions artillery ammunition expenditure was restricted only by its availability as our guns searched out the enemy's bunkers, felt for his supply routes, and worked up and down his reverse slopes. With the new developments of this war, both in methods of fire and in such

mechanical improvements as the proximity fuze, our artillery fire grew ever more deadly and hated by the enemy.

The most startling improvements in the support of the infantry came in the development of air-ground support. During the first fall and winter the air attacks on the Winter and Gustav lines and on bridges in the Liri Valley had often failed in accuracy and efficiency, but throughout 1944 the ability of our fighter-bombers and other craft to hit their targets improved amazingly with more experience and better directional aids. As far as Fifth Army was concerned, the introduction and refinement of the Rover Joe technique marked the acme of air-ground support directly in front of our lines. Radar methods of pinpoint bombing even through overcast also extended the effective radius of our air support far behind the enemy front. Since our air power often represented the margin of superiority on the Allied side in Italy, its effective use was of great importance in promoting a breakthrough and most of all in keeping the enemy disorganized during a retreat.

Turning from tactics to strategy, one must admit that the grand strategy of the Italian campaign is open to question on many counts. The overriding issue is the desirability of such a campaign in the first place, and then the problem of whether we should have continued our offensive after the fall of Naples, again after the fall of Rome, and again after being stopped in the Northern Apennines. Dependent upon the answer to this question is one's judgment on the forces used, which were certainly too weak for a sustained offensive and were yet too powerful for a simple defense. In particular the withdrawal of troops from Fifth Army for the attack in south France must appear either as an unwarrantable weakening of the Italian armies before the crucial battle in the Apennines or as a desirable shifting of strength from a lesser to a more important front. It may be doubted if Americans and British can ever reach a common verdict on these points, so intimately connected with the political issues of the war in the Balkans; the sad thing is the feeling one has of compromise in the Italian campaign—of a decision to mount it but not to give it the necessary forces for clear, quick success. If this be true, an unnecessarily bitter struggle and death came to many of our soldiers who fought in the Italian mountains.

Other issues also have arisen or may arise in the future. The

decision on the Gulf of Salerno as an initial invasion point, the bloody crossing of the Rapido, the absorption of our troops in Verdun-like attacks on Cassino, the timing of the landing at Anzio, our loss of contact with a defeated enemy north of Rome, the almost frenzied effort to break through to the Po Plain in October 1944—all these and more too may be debated at length. This volume pretends to do no more than point out the actual circumstances attending each in the hope that accurate evidence on the operations may help in sober judgment on the plans. The only two major operations of Fifth Army which went almost exactly as planned—the breakthrough to Rome in May 1944 and the drive to the Po Valley in April 1945—probably will not be subject to such criticism; these two attacks, indeed, are as masterly as any in the European war.

The geographical limitations can never be forgotten in discussing the strategy of the Italian campaign; the front was always relatively narrow, and open flanks did not exist. Every effort had to start with a frontal attack, and exploitation of a breakthrough was almost always impeded by the mountains. A qualification on this observation may appear to be demanded by the fact that the Allies controlled the sea and so theoretically could strike behind the enemy's flanks at any point.<sup>2</sup> At the end of the war Marshal Kesselring criticized our command for not engaging in such amphibious operations and confessed that he was always concerned for his flanks. In view of the characteristics of the Italian Peninsula—long, narrow, and mountainous—such criticism of our plodding strategy may appear justified. If Kesselring, however, could have inspected the stock of landing craft available to the Italian campaign, his fears would have been allayed; only at Anzio did Fifth Army have an adequate supply of naval craft for a major amphibious landing, or the troops with which to launch it. In fact, then, our control of the sea was useful in assuring supply and in making feints to play on the enemy's fears and so induce him to keep strong coastal guards; on occasion the navy could also assist by naval gunfire on targets just beyond our lines.

In passing, it may be noted that the enemy's commitment in Italy was almost wholly determined by ours and that his strategy is equally open to question. The Germans were willing to fight in Italy and to bleed our forces as much as possible by their slow retreat up the long reach of the Peninsula, but only at Salerno and

at Anzio did they switch to the offensive. Both times they failed; and one feels that the strategic and tactical ability of the enemy was sometimes overestimated by our soldiers. If the enemy seemed to conduct masterly retreats, it must be remembered that he had the powerful weapons of demolition, mines, and mountains to slow our pursuit and to allow him time in which to regroup his shattered forces. Several times the German generals seem to have been more concerned with holding ground than maintaining a sound position, and so delayed their retreats too long.

The individual German soldiers deserved praise for their defensive skill, but often they had only to sit in their well-nigh impregnable position and await our attack. Not that all the German defenses were well planned; prisoners passed harsh judgments on the Dora Line near Esperia, and one bitter officer wished that the Todt organization had had to defend the Gothic Line which it had built. When taken prisoner, the Germans did not loom up as members of a master race but as poor folk akin to our own soldiers, caught in the same web of circumstance. In warfare there is no such thing as fairness on either side, so the Germans on the Italian front cannot be censured for their tricks; yet the scattered instances of the misuse of the Red Cross and the white flag were certainly in direct contravention of emphatic orders from the enemy command. In many ways the most impressive part of the German defense in Italy, and the one most worth studying, was the enemy's ability to keep on fighting and supplying his troops despite our complete air superiority.

If victory is the final justification of a line of strategy, then the Fifth Army campaign in Italy is eminently justified. The obstacles of terrain, weather, and enemy opposition were severe, and the course of the battle which has been sketched in the chapters of this book was a grueling, heartbreaking effort; but at the end the Allied forces in Italy stood on the Alps, and all Germans in Italy were our prisoners. Nor can it be denied that the Italian struggle was veritably a cancer in the enemy's side; from D-day at Salerno to 2 May 1945 Fifth Army had captured 212,112 prisoners. How many Germans had died or had been wounded cannot yet be estimated.

Another set of figures, however, must never be forgotten by anyone writing on the Italian campaign: our victory cost the 27 divisions and 7 corps at one time or another in Fifth Army a total of 188,746 casualties.<sup>3</sup> Now and for long in the future,

fields and roads, villages and cities of Italy will bear the marks of the fiercest war ever fought in that Peninsula, and the names of many of those villages will have a familiar, fateful ring in America. Salerno, San Pietro, Cassino, Anzio, Santa Maria, Livergnano—these places now are woven into the history of American valor and endurance.

#### NOTES TO CHAPTER XII

<sup>1</sup>Like all other parts of the American Army, Fifth Army had its debates over the class system separating officers from men; as elsewhere there were real and imagined grievances, but the subject cannot be pursued further in these pages.

<sup>2</sup>In view of the three-dimensional character of modern war, it must be noted that the Allies could also have struck by air at the enemy's rear; but the mountainous terrain and the lack of airborne troops limited such operations to the Avellino drop in September 1943.

<sup>3</sup>Broken down by nationalities, the figures are:

	<i>Killed in Action</i>	<i>Wounded in Action</i>	<i>Missing in Action</i>	<i>Total</i>
American	19,475	80,530	9,637	109,642
British	6,605	29,977	10,870	47,452
French	5,241	20,847	1,583	27,671
Brazilian	275	1,901	235	2,411
Italian	290	770	510	1,570
	<hr/> 31,886	<hr/> 134,025	<hr/> 22,835	<hr/> 188,746