

Monte Cassino January May 1944

[#Monte Cassino Battle](#) [#WW2 Italian Campaign](#) [#Gustav Line](#) [#Allied Siege of Cassino](#) [#1944 Italy Front](#)

Explore the harrowing series of four major battles that took place at Monte Cassino, Italy, between January and May 1944. This critical phase of the WW2 Italian Campaign saw Allied forces attempt to break through the formidable German Gustav Line, leading to immense casualties and the controversial destruction of the historic Monte Cassino Abbey. Understand the strategic importance and brutal realities of this pivotal Allied siege of Cassino on the 1944 Italy front.

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Monte Cassino January-May 1944

A day-to-day account of the monumental four-month battle Vivid first-hand accounts of soldiers on both sides Tactical and strategic analysis of the engagements Beautifully illustrated with high-quality photographs and plans from the author's personal collection In 1944, two Allied armies were ready to launch an assault against German forces in central Italy so they could march to Rome. There were three routes available to get there. The fastest one passed through the Liri valley. The entrance to the valley, however, was blocked by the rugged Monte Cassino massif with its hilltop medieval monastery and the town below, which controlled the battlefield. In front of them ran the Gustav Line, the most formidably constructed defensive line the Western Allies would ever come up against. The second possible route would be to outflank the Gustav Line to reach the valley, but they would also have to capture the innumerable rough peaks and ridges along the massif on a treacherous terrain that favoured the defenders. The third and last option would be to breach the Gustav Line directly in front of the Cassino town. Nevertheless, they would have to engage in costly house-to-house fighting against stubborn German paratroopers lurking beneath the rubble. They decided to try all three routes. None of those was easy and all proved deadly...

Cassino

This epic WWII battle over a monstrous fortified hill in Italy became a hand-to-hand fight, pitting one infantryman against another--an unusual form of combat in modern warfare. Eye-witness accounts of this unique battle give you an in-depth look at this battle between German paratroopers and British, American, Canadian, French, Indian, and Polish units. Maps and brilliant color artworks bring the battle to life.

The Battles for Monte Cassino

The Battles for Monte Cassino encompassed one of the few truly international conflicts of the Second World War. A strategic town on the road to Rome, the fighting lasted four months and cost the lives

of more than 14,000 men from eight nations. Between January and May 1944, forces from Britain, Canada, France, India, New Zealand, Poland and the United States, fought a resolute German army in a series of battles in which the advantage swung back and forth, from one side to the other. From fire-fights in the mountains to tank attacks in the valley; from river crossings to street fighting, the four battles of Cassino encompass a series of individual operations unique in the history of the Second World War.

The Fall of Monte Cassino

The Battle for the Benedictine monastery on the hilltop of Monte Cassino between January and May 1944 was one of the most dramatic in the Battle for Italy. The author examines in detail this struggle to open up the road to Rome. Drawing upon archive photographs and first hand reminiscences, the author sets the scene for the conflict, examines the forces ranged against each other and describes each of the four major battles.

Battle for Monte Cassino

"The battle for Cassino was probably the most bitter struggle of the entire Italian campaign. The dominating peak of Montecassino crowned by its magnificent but doomed medieval monastery was the key to the entire Gustav Line, a formidable system of defences that stretched right across the Italian peninsula. This position completely dominated the Liri valley and Route 6, the strategically vital road to Rome. Between January and May 1944 the Allies struggled amid inhospitable terrain and dreadful weather to dislodge the German paratroops that tenaciously defended the vital mountaintop. Ken Ford's book details the dramatic events of the battle to break the Gustav Line."--Publisher's description.

Cassino 1944

Published as a companion volume to Camouflage and Markings of Allied Armor in the battle for Cassino (#12 in the Series), this is an authoritative guide to the armor deployed by the Germans over the course of the fighting for this strategic objective. This book includes a number of rare and unpublished photos with detailed captions. It includes: SdKfz 251s, Marder IIs and IIIs, Semoventi M42s, PzKpfw IVs, Sturmgeschütze IIIs and IVs, Nashorns, Panthers, Pantherturms and captured Shermans. Contains: 48 pages, 65 b&w photos and 19 full color plates of artwork.

Camouflage and Markings of German Armor in the Battle for Cassino

Early in 1944 the Allied advance was halted by the German defence of the Gustav Line. Even with the deployment of Eighth Army reinforcements from the Adriatic, every effort to capture Monte Cassino failed. Fifth Army's VI Corps amphibious landing at Anzio in January, while initially successful stalled in the face of formidable German counter-attacks and the beach-head was effectively besieged. The stalemate at Anzio and along the Gustav Line was finally broken in mid May by the Allied Spring offensive. After bitter fighting and the total destruction of the famous Benedictine Abbey, the Germans began their withdrawal towards Rome. Days later the reinforced VI Corps broke out of the Anzio bridgehead and linked up with Fifth Army units on 25 May. But by evading the Allied attempt to trap them south of Rome and despite Rome being occupied by the Allies in early June the bulk of the German 14th Army lived to fight another day. The Italian campaign had another nine costly months to run. This superbly researched account traces the course of the bitterly fought battles between January and June 1944 in words and images.

On to Rome

The struggle to capture Monte Cassino, the impregnable heights barring the Allied advance on Rome in 1944, was the longest land battle fought in Western Europe in World War II and among the most costly. In four separate assaults over the course of the grim six-month epic, over 105,000 men from the Allied armies and at least 80,000 Germans became casualties and, between the attacks, the armies of both sides endured conditions of appalling privation. In John Ellis' classic account of the battle, few of the Allied commanders, except for the Free French General Juin, emerge with credit. But the author has nothing but admiration and compassion for the courage and endurance of the common soldiers whose experiences he vividly recreates in the pages of this narrative.

Cassino

The six-month battle for Monte Cassino was Britain's bitterest and bloodiest encounter with the German army on any front in World War Two. At the beginning of 1944 Italy was the western Allies' only active front against Nazi-controlled Europe, and their only route to the capital was through the Liri valley. Towering over the entrance to the valley was the medieval monastery of Monte Cassino, a seemingly impenetrable fortress high up in the 'bleak and sinister' mountains. This was where the German commander, Kesselring, made his stand. MONTE CASSINO tells the extraordinary story of ordinary soldiers tested to the limits under conditions reminiscent of the bloodbaths of World War One. In a battle that became increasingly political, symbolic and personal as it progressed, more and more men were asked to throw themselves at the virtually impregnable German defences. It is a story of incompetence, hubris and politics redeemed at dreadful cost by the heroism of the soldiers.

Report by the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean, to the Combined Chiefs of Staff on the Italian Campaign, 8 January 1944 to 10 May 1944

The five-month Monte Cassino campaign in central Italy is one of the best-known European land battles of World War Two, alongside D-Day and Stalingrad. It has a particular resonance now, because Cassino, with its multitude of participating armies - most notably the American 5th Army under the controversial General Mark Clark - was perhaps the campaign of the Second World War that most closely anticipates the coalition operations of today, with its ever-shifting cast of players stuck in inhospitable, mountainous terrain, pursuing an objective set by unknowing politicians in distant capitals, where victory is difficult to define.

Monte Cassino

Anzio Beachhead, fourteenth in the series of studies of particular combat operations, is the story of how VI Corps of the American Fifth Army seized and held a strategic position far to the rear of the main fighting front, in the Italian campaign of 1944. Since VI Corps included British as well as American units, and the high command in Italy was in British rather than in American hands, the battle to maintain the Anzio beachhead was an Allied rather than an exclusively American operation. Essentially, this narrative of Anzio is confined to the first six weeks of bitter struggle to hold the beachhead against German attacks designed to drive the Allied forces from their foothold, a period which ended on 3 March. Thereafter, until the Allied offensive of May, the Anzio beachhead was a static and relatively quiet front. Then the beachhead forces spearheaded the drive that led to the capture of Rome. Only a sketch of this final and decisive phase of the Anzio operation is included in this narrative. This study is based upon a first narrative by Capt. John Bowditch, III, prepared in the field from military records and from notes and interviews recorded during and after the operation by Captain Bowditch and by 1st Lt. Robert W. Komer. The document details the Anzio landing (22-29 January), the Allied offensive (January 30-February 1), enemy attacks (3-12 February), the major German offensive (16-20 February), VI Corps holds the beachhead (20 February-3 March), and the breakthrough. Other products in the American Forces in Action Series are listed below: Guam: Operations of the 77th Division, July 21-Aug. 10, 1944 is available here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-029-00204-3> Salerno: American Operations From the Beaches to the Volturno, 9 September - 6 October 1943 is available here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-029-00196-9> The Capture of Makin, November 20-24, 1942-Print Hardcover/Cloth-bound format can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-029-00206-0> Fifth Army at the Winter Line (15 November 1943 - 15 January 1944) --Print Paperback format can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-029-00198-5> St. Lo -Print Paperback format is available here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-029-00127-6> To Bizerte With the II Corps (23 April - 13 May 1943) -Print Hardcover/Clothbound format can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-029-00207-8> Papuan Campaign: The Buna-Sananada Operation (16 November 1942-23 January 1943) can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/node/697/edit> Utah Beach to Cherbourg (6 June-27 June 1944) can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-029-00129-2> Merrill's Marauders (February - May 1944) -Print Paperback format can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-029-00203-5>

Report by the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean, to the Combined Chiefs of Staff on the Italian Campaign

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Monte Cassino

Investigates causes of the large casualty rate from the WWII battle at Rapido River, Italy.

Anzio Beachhead

Published to coincide with the 70th Anniversary of the battle for Cassino, this is an authoritative guide to the armor deployed by the Allies over the course of the fighting for this strategic objective. Covering American, British, Indian, Canadian, French, New Zealand and Polish armor, this book includes a number of rare and unpublished photos with detailed captions. It includes: M3A1 Scout Cars, Universal Carriers, Indian Wheeled Carriers, M8 HMCs, M10s, Stuarts, Shermans, Churchills, Grant ARVs, M31 TRVs and Valentine Bridgelayers. Contains: 56 pages, 78 b&w photos and 20 full color plates of artwork.

Cassino to the Alps

Landing of U.S. VI Corps at Anzio in an attempt to bypass German defenses blocking the approach to Rome, January6May 1944.

The Rapido River Crossing

In the second volume of his epic trilogy about the liberation of Europe in World War II, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Atkinson tells the harrowing story of the campaigns in Sicily and Italy.

The Mediterranean and Middle East: The destruction of the Axis forces in Africa

Landing of U.S. VI Corps at Anzio in an attempt to bypass German defenses blocking the approach to Rome, January6May 1944.

Camouflage and Markings of Allied Armor in the Battle for Cassino, January-May 1944

Jonathan Fennell captures for the first time the true wartime experience of the ordinary soldiers from across the empire who made up the British and Commonwealth armies. He analyses why the great battles were won and lost and how the men that fought went on to change the world.

Anzio Beachhead, 22 January - 25 May 1944

Anzio, a small town a mere hour's drive from Rome, became a battleground on which both Allies and Germans paid a bloody price. Planned by Churchill as a swift amphibious flanking maneuver, the 1943 battle of Anzio has been viewed by some as one of the most ill-conceived tactical operations of the Allied war effort, and by others as one of the war's singular lost opportunities. Blumenson examines the actions of the men involved, including Churchill, Eisenhower, Clark, and Montgomery, and takes into account records from Allied and German sources.

Report by the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean, to the Combined Chiefs of Staff on the Italian Campaign, 8 Jan. 1944/10 May 1944-10 May/12 Dec. 1944

The monastery of Monte Cassino, founded by St. Benedict in the sixth century, was the cradle of Western monasticism. It became one of the vital centers of culture and learning in Europe. At the height of its influence, in the eleventh and early twelfth centuries, two of its abbots (including Desiderius) and one of its monks became popes, and it controlled a vast network of dependencies--churches, monasteries, villages, and farms--especially in central and southern Italy. Herbert Bloch's study, the product of forty years of research, takes as its starting point the twelfth-century bronze doors of the basilica of the abbey, the most significant relic of the medieval structure. The panels of these doors are inscribed with a list of more than 180 of the abbey's possessions. Mr. Bloch has supplemented this roster with lists found in papal and imperial privileges and other documents. The heart of the book is a detailed investigation of the nearly 700 dependencies of Monte Cassino from the sixth to the

twelfth century and beyond. No comparable study of this or any other great medieval institution has ever before been undertaken. Ironically, it was the bombing of 1944, which destroyed the monastery, that led to an unexpected revelation: the discovery, on the reverse side of some panels of the doors, of magnificent engraved figures of patriarchs and apostles. These proved to be remnants of the church portal ordered from Constantinople by Desiderius in the eleventh century, which marked the beginning of the grandiose reconstruction of the abbey and its church, the latter to become a model for many other churches. In order to solve the riddle of the doors of Monte Cassino, Bloch has investigated other bronze doors of Byzantine origin in Italy and the doors of the great Italian master Oderisius of Benevento, as well as those of S. Clemente a Casauria and of the cathedral of Benevento. Also included is a study of the political and cultural impact of Byzantium on Monte Cassino and a chapter on Constantinus Africanus, Saracen turned monk, one of the most interesting figures in the history of medieval medicine. The text is sumptuously illustrated with 193 plates; most of the more than 300 illustrations have never before been published. This three-volume work, with its nine detailed indexes, offers a wealth of information for scholars in many different fields.

The Day of Battle

James Holland's ground-breaking account expertly documents the German advance to the stalemate of the Gothic line and a segment of Italian history that has been largely neglected. The war in Italy was the most destructive campaign in the west as the Allies and Germans fought a long, bitter and highly attritional conflict up the mountainous leg of Italy during the last twelve months of the Second World War. While the Allies and Germans were slogging it out through the mountains, the Italians were fighting their own battles, one where Partisans and Fascists were pitted against each other in a bloody civil war. Around them, civilians tried to live through the carnage, terror and anarchy while, in the wake of the Allied advance, beleaguered and impoverished Italians were forced to pick their way through the ruins of their homes and country and often forced into making terrible and heart-rending decisions in order to survive.

Anzio Beachhead, 22 January - 25 May 1944

Offers an authoritative account of the lesser-known yet devastatingly brutal battle waged by the Italian campaign during World War II.

Fighting the People's War

"Fatal Decision is a powerful, dramatic, moving, and ultimately definitive narrative of one of the most desperate campaigns of World War II. In the winter of 1943-44, Anzio, a small Mediterranean resort and port some thirty-five miles south of Rome, played a crucial role in the fortunes of World War II as the target of an amphibious Allied landing. The Allies planned to bypass the strong German defenses along the Gustav Line and at Monte Cassino sixty miles to the southeast, which were holding up the American and British armies and preventing the liberation of Rome. By taking advantage of Allied command of the sea and air to effect complete surprise, infantry and armored forces landing at Anzio on January 22 were expected to secure the beachhead and then push inland to cut off the two main highways and railroads supplying the German forces to the south, either trapping and annihilating the German armies or forcing them to withdraw to the north, thus opening the way to Rome. But the reality of one of the most desperate campaigns of World War II was bad management, external meddling, poorly relayed orders, and uncertain leadership. The Anzio beachhead became a death trap, with Allied troops forced to fight for their lives for four dreadful months. The eventual victory in May 1944 was muted, bitter, and overshadowed by the Allied landings in Normandy on June 6. Mixing flawless research, drama, and combat with a brilliant narrative voice, Fatal Decision is one of the best histories ever written of a World War II military campaign."--Publisher's description.

The War Against Germany and Italy

A harrowing and incisive "high-quality battle history" from one of the world's finest military historians (Booklist). The Allied attack of Normandy beach and its resultant bloodbath have been immortalized in film and literature, but the US campaign on the beaches of Western Italy reigns as perhaps the deadliest battle of World War II's western theater. In January 1944, about six months before D-Day, an Allied force of thirty-six thousand soldiers launched one of the first attacks on continental Europe at Anzio, a small coastal city thirty miles south of Rome. The assault was conceived as the first step toward an eventual siege of the Italian capital. But the advance stalled and Anzio beach became a death trap.

After five months of brutal fighting and monumental casualties on both sides, the Allies finally cracked the German line and marched into Rome on June 5, the day before D-Day. Richly detailed and fueled by extensive archival research of newspapers, letters, and diaries—as well as scores of original interviews with surviving soldiers on both sides of the trenches—Anzio is a “relentlessly fascinating story with plenty of asides about individuals’ experiences” (Publishers Weekly). “Masterly . . . A heartbreaking, beautifully told story of wasted sacrifice.” —The Washington Post

Fifth Army at the Winter Line (15 November 1943-15 January 1944)

This historical account of humanity's 5000 year history of recorded conflict looks at ancient wars, modern conflict, and everything in-between.

Anzio

I know every single one of these grenadiers. The oldest is barely eighteen. These boys have not yet learned how to live, but by God they know how to die! These were the words of the division's commanding officer, SS Oberführer Kurt Meyer for his own men men admired even by their very opponents. Established in 1943, the 12th SS Panzer Division was designed to become an elite unit, consisting of 17 year-old youths, a generation of future soldiers, tough as leather and hard as Krupp steel, commanded by a nucleus of hardened SS officers and NCOs. This is a detailed history of the division from its formation, all through the Normandy campaign where it received its baptism of fire. Although employed in the field for the first time, those young Waffen SS soldiers fought with a tenacity and ferocity unexcelled by any other unit Allied or German deployed in the invasion front, defending doggedly every single yard of ground from Caen to Falaise a distance of just 25 miles, for which the Canadian and British forces fought hard to capture, paying a high price in human lives.

Monte Cassino in the Middle Ages

Articles profiling important military leaders are arranged in A to Z format.

Italy's Sorrow

Between the sixth and twentieth centuries, the Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino (est. 529) experienced a cycle of atrocities which forever transformed its identity. This book examines how such a tumultuous history has been constructed, remembered, and represented from the Middle Ages to the present day. It uses this singular and pivotal case to analyse the historical process of remembering and its impact on modern representations of the past. Exactly how Monte Cassino is remembered is distinctive and diagnostic. The abbey is recognizable today as a beacon of western civilization, culture, and learning precisely because of its 'destruction tradition' over fourteen centuries. This book asks how the abbey's fragmented past has been ideologically, politically, and culturally constituted and preserved; how its experience with destruction and suffering - and recovery and rebirth - has become incorporated into a modern narrative of progress and triumph.

Air Force Combat Units of World War II

"Into Thin Air" meets "Band of Brothers": How an exceptional group of climbers and skiers formed America's first alpine division and helped spearhead the final victories of World War II.

Monte Cassino

The German Soldier in World War II is a graphic portrait of the life of the private soldier in the army of the Third Reich, containing first-hand accounts from German Army veterans who served in the war. This book is for anyone interested in the history of World War II and the Third Reich.

Fatal Decision

Anzio