

Canadians Drive North After Ortona Captured

Algiers, Dec. 29 (AP).—The roar of battle lifted from the ruined streets of Ortona today as Canadian 1st Division troops, who took the town in a savage eight-day battle, pushed on up the Adriatic coast of Italy toward the port of Pescara in the face of snow, sleet, piercing wind and stubborn Nazi resistance.

Ortona resembled a tomb. Every street was piled high with debris and the dead still lay in the streets and doorways. Civilians who remained in the town through the fighting were too dazed to realize the Germans had gone.

While the Canadians drove on toward Pescara, Indian troops of the 8th Army wiped out pockets of re-

sistance in Villa Grande, about three miles inland from Ortona. Further inland, other 8th Army units are within eight miles of Chieti.

A despatch from Douglas Amaron, Canadian Press war correspondent who entered the destroyed town with the Canadians, Tuesday morning, said:

"The dead, lying in the streets and doorways, have not yet been removed by the burial parties. The roar of battle has lifted from the ruins and for a few hours this afternoon not even a shell landed in the streets.

"The capture of Ortona has ended what has become known as the Battle of Moro Valley. It was the bitterest, bloodiest, most prolonged fight the Canadian soldiers have had since they entered Sicily more than five months ago."

On the extreme opposite end of the Italian fighting line, British troops of Lt.-Gen. Mark Clark's 5th Army fought fiercely to repel a full-scale German attack on the Town of Puntafiume at the mouth of the Garigliano River. The Nazis struck suddenly yesterday in clear, cold weather, evidently attempting to forestall an Allied assault in that area as the rain-flooded Garigliano began to subside. No decisive result is in sight.

Other vigorous fighting on the 5th Army front occurred in the mountains, where French Moroccan infantry seized several peaks of Catenella Degli Mainardi.

The Germans still held the Village of San Vittore, six miles from Cassino, in full strength, and American patrols saw every indication that the enemy intended to defend the village as desperately as he did Ortona. Clark's troops stabbed at San Vittore's bristling outskirts.

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