

## Canadians Battle Third Day in Row In Ortona Streets

Algiers, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Canadian tanks and infantry fought bitterly in the streets of Ortona for the third straight day with German forces who were turning the tiny Adriatic port into a miniature Stalingrad, an Allied headquarters announcement said to-day.

### Raged Several Days

On the 5th Army front to the west, American troops captured snow-covered 3,000-foot Mount Cavallo, 3½ miles northwest of Venafro and near Viticuso, and French forces advanced in a mountain pass where a struggle had raged for several days.

Other American infantry attacking in the rain seized a hill near Monna Casale.

The heaviest fighting surged back and forth in Ortona.

The German 10th Army threw new parachute troops, fighting as infantry, into the battle in a desperate effort to retain its hold on this anchor to the present line across Italy. Ortona guards the main road leading north to Pescara, and its capture would cut the German main supply line to troops inland as well as along the coast.

Canadian tanks and infantry advanced from house to house, and everywhere were met by fierce opposition.

Inland, troops of the 8th Army continued to push north of the Ortona-Orsogna road towards the next lateral highway six miles away, coming up against the fortified village of Ariella, eight miles inland from Ortona. Here another house-to-house battle appeared in prospect.

Swarming up the slopes of Mount Cavallo in a drenching rain, Americans now overlooked the village of Viticuso, eight miles east and a little north of Cassino, and placed it under shell and mortar fire. The Germans tried to recapture the mountain, but failed.

The systematic clean-up of pillboxes around San Vittore, a heavily fortified village six miles southeast of Cassino, continued, but there was no indication that a full-scale attack had yet been launched on this strong position guarding the road to Rome.

149  
WAR  
EUROPEAN  
1939  
ITALY  
INVASION  
CANADA  
ARMY  
ORTONA