

1.

Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>

This morning the def-  
 3<sup>rd</sup> tank unit's got together  
 I decided to wipe out the  
 Germans on highway six  
 crossing River Rapids (50)  
 I could blow a path  
 for the tanks. We prepared  
 everything I was on our  
 way down to the assembly  
 area - which was an  
 Italian grave yard - when  
 my Liaison officer with  
 the infantry reported that  
 the tank commander wouldn't  
 consent to sending his

2.

tanks out in the open  
 like that. - I wondered  
 what he thought the  
 infantry 3<sup>rd</sup> Engineers  
 were going to kill behind.  
 We then moved back. -  
 A little later Col. L. told  
 me my job was now  
 to also clear the streets  
 of Cassino of all ~~rebuild~~ so  
 traffic could pass. - Of  
 course this is to be done  
 as soon as possible after  
 the infantry has captured  
 the town. To this I  
 assigned Lt Haller & his

3.

platoon. - They then moved  
 out I found a new  
~~business~~ area up close  
 to Mt. Trochis. In fact  
 the right tip. - Here I  
 also moved my Promo-  
 tion squad & all my  
 own C.P. - At about 16  
 they told me the deal was  
 on again so we again  
 loaded I moved to the  
 assembly area. - This  
 time we were going to  
 be minus the tanks. -  
 At the assembly area  
 I contacted the infantry

4.

officer who was going to  
 set up my bridge head  
 I wipe out the machine  
 gun nests. - Soon they  
 moved out & we followed  
 for quiet a ways. - Then  
 we stopped I waited  
 for the results of the  
 battle. - About an hour  
 later a runner reported  
 that they had a seven  
 man patrol across the  
 river & the nests had  
 been silenced. - We were  
 only a hundred yards  
 from the river then as

5.

it was only seconds before <sup>we</sup> were working. - Before the charge was blown we evacuated the wounded & carried away as many of the dead as we could but still couldn't get them all because Jerry was really zeroed in with his mortar fire. - The infantry then moved back & I Sgt Jolly & myself waited for a few minutes so they were out of danger & I then attempted to

6.

blow it. - It took five fuse lights before it finally went off. - The reason was that the lighters had gotten wet while crossing the creek to work on the other side. - Water in places was clear up to your arm pits if you didn't know exactly where to go. - This we didn't know at first but soon we found out the best route to take. - After the explosion I went back to check

7.

I see the kind of a job we had done & it really looked good from this side. Jerry <sup>sure</sup> really got excited ~~for~~ for he was throwing everything but his gun at us and it was time we got back out of there. - They followed us clear up to the Italian cemetery with mortar & artillery fire but no one was hit. - For the Engineers it was a very successful mission. For the infantry it wasn't so hot.

8.

Right away I notified the tank unit & I told them the way was open. - Here I discovered Col Goodpasture had been injured again & was in a hospital. I then reported to Major McCarthy instead. - S-2 & S-3 was back near Mignano so here I dried my clothes & I then went to bed. -

Today Major General Keyes presented to me a Silver Star for Gallantry in action. - Pretty nice too. -