

Mr Richard Aubrey Evans 132 (Welsh) Field Regiment of the Royal Artillery 78th Division 1st/8th Army: My Experiences of Monte Cassino Monastery where around 55 thousand troops were killed

I was an ammunition driver, transporting mules, infantry and twenty five pound shells to the front line. It was a very dangerous job; there were times when I could actually see the Germans. My truck was always loaded with twenty five boxes of shells, four to a box; we had to be ready for action at all times.

Nearly every night, I would transport the ammunition, then mules and infantry to the guns at nine o'clock, and sometimes twice a night. We had to travel at night time, because by day time the Germans could see us and shoot at us, although they did also shoot when it was dark, it was harder for them to see us.

Sometimes we couldn't get back to our parking place before daylight. The return road we had to travel back on was called 'The Mad Mile', we had to move fast or get shot.

The supply road was called 'Route Six' and was a railway line, the lines were taken up, and a good road was made. The supply road was used every night by a number of other units, taking food, water and other supplies, many drivers were injured and sometimes killed.

One night a German shell was dropped in front of me, causing a large hole in the road. More shells were being dropped, so I drove into a quarry at the side of the road. I was stopped by an American soldier, who shouted at me, "who goes there?" I said, "friend". He asked what I was carrying in my truck, and I told him ammunition. He told me I had to wait until the Guard Command came. The Guard