

First Blood

Photographs



A British sentry looks out on the 'Torch' convoy as it heads towards the North African coast

American troops 'storm' ashore unopposed at Surcouf whilst bemused British soldiers look on





The ships that brought the 'Amis' lie offshore as landing craft ferry equipment to strengthen the North African beachhead

Closely guarded French prisoners (not all Frenchmen and women greeted the Allies as liberators) marching into detention





Looking somewhat tense, these paratroopers are being transported to Tunisia from Algiers

'Smiling Albert', Field Marshal Kesselring, in conference with the 'Desert Fox', Field Marshal Erwin Rommel. It was Kesselring who demanded Rommel and von Arnim should attack the newly arrived Americans





Soldiers of the 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment on patrol near Medjez-el-Bab on December 5th, 1942

Action stations on the front line in Tunisia. Coldstream Guards defending a slit trench are overlooked by the Germans in the hills in the background





Allied troops hold a position some 25 miles from Tunis



As dusk falls, men of the 1st Guards Brigade move against the *grenadiere* of the 10th Panzer Division who are holding Longstop Hill

A British soldier armed with a Bren gun covers the road as an American light tank returns from the battle around Medjez-el-Bab and Longstop Hill





Struggling through torrential rain and mud, members of the 1st Guards Brigade of Anderson's First Army move up from Medjez-el-Bab to positions around Longstop Hill





An American Grant tank moves up to engage the enemy in an unequal struggle

A newly produced Pkz Mk IV special, commonly called a Tiger. Its massive 88mm gun threw the Shermans and Honeyys of the 1st US Armored Division into disarray when they attacked them at the Faid Pass on St Valentine's Day 1943





A Crusader tank moves up to the front in Tunisia. Its six-pounder gun was little better than a pea-shooter against the German Mk IV and Tiger tanks. The 17/21 Lancers found this out to their cost

A Panzer Mk IV with its 75mm armament. This tank gave the 10th and 21st Panzer Divisions a great advantage at the Battle of the Kasserine Pass





General Alexander briefs newsmen about the activities of the First Army

Royal West Kents lay down fire from a 3-inch mortar early in January 1943





An American 37mm anti-tank gun and crew in Tunisia, February 20th, 1943. The shellbursts in the background come from German artillery dug in at the Kasserine Pass

A Valentine tank captured by the Germans and turned on its former owners





Junker JU 87 dive bombers. These bombers caused havoc among inexperienced troops and tankmen



The *Nebelwerfer* mortar, or 'moaning minnie'



The retreating Germans mined the main Thala to Kasserine road very heavily. Members of 8th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers probe the road

Italian and German soldiers are marched under guard into a P.O.W. cage. Rommel's Afrika Korps were forced to surrender, having been left to their fate by Hitler





A British Bofors gun passes a knocked out Pkz II on its way up to the Kasserine Pass a few days after the Germans had withdrawn

Grenadier Guards supported by Bren carriers carry out a reconnaissance patrol in the mountains around Kasserine





Accompanied by a British officer, General von Arnim walks across to a waiting aircraft that will take him to England. Von Arnim, Rommel's rival, surrendered personally to General Alexander