



Rome-Arno Battlestreamer



The Race to Rome

by Robert W. Jones Jr.

JUNE 1944 was a watershed month for the Allies in World War II. The 6 June 1944 D-Day landing in Normandy to spearhead the assault on Fortress Europe has received the lion's share of attention by military historians overshadowing the seizure of Rome, Italy, on 4 June 1944. The Allied offensive, Operation DIADEM, which covered the breakout from Anzio and a general attack along the southern Italian front in May 1944, ended an eight-month stalemate of bitter fighting in the Italian mountains, south of Rome. Suddenly, the German lines broke and the race for the Italian capital was on. In Lieutenant General Mark Clark's Fifth Army it seemed as if every unit commander from corps down to company level and platoon leaders wanted to be the first into Rome.¹

Leading part of the assault into Rome from the Anzio beachhead was the U.S.-Canadian First Special Service Force (FSSF). The Fifth Army effort included two corps consisting of six infantry and one armored division, all with the goal to capture the capital city.² However, the distinction of being the first unit into Rome goes to a special patrol composed of handpicked soldiers led by an officer from the First Special Service Force, Captain T. Mark Radcliffe (see sidebar on the following page).³

Given only four hours to clear Fort Benning, Georgia, T. Mark Radcliffe joined the FSSF as one of its first officers (a second lieutenant) at Fort William Henry Harrison, near Helena, Montana, on 18 July 1942.⁴ Outstanding performance in the Aleutian campaign and in Italy caused him to be selected to command 3rd Company, 3rd Regiment. After bitter fighting in Italy, which included daring mountain assaults on Monte La Difensa, Majo, and La Remetana, the casualty-ridden FSSF was thrown into the Anzio defense on 1 February 1944. Despite having a strength of only 1,300 combat troops (down from the original 2,300), the Force was to defend a thirteen-kilometer front, one-fourth of the Anzio perimeter. To put this in perspective, the 10,000 man 3rd Infantry Division had a seven-kilometer front).⁵ On 14 March 1944, while leading a five-man reconnaissance patrol in front of the

FSSF sector, Radcliffe was captured. Bound and gagged, the Germans took him to Littoria for interrogation. After being hit on the left side of his throat with a rubber club, Radcliffe escaped and made his way back to the Anzio perimeter. A patrol from his own company found him and brought him back through the lines. (See "Prisoner for a Day: A First Special Service Force Soldier's Short-lived POW Experience" in *Veritas* 1:2.) Wounded while evading, Radcliffe was initially taken to the regimental aid station. Field hospital doctors on the Anzio beach felt that the shrapnel wounds in his foot and left leg were



Lieutenant General Mark Clark, Fifth Army commanding general, was responsible for the Italian campaign fighting up the western side of Italy while the British-led Eighth Army fought up the eastern side. The FSSF was assigned to the Fifth Army while in Italy.

First Special Service Force

IN the spring of 1942 the British Chief of Combined Operations, Vice Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, introduced General George C. Marshall, the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, to "Project PLOUGH." Geoffrey Pike, an eccentric British scientist suggested the creation of a unique force specifically recruited and trained to parachute into occupied Norway to attack enemy installations and infrastructure critical to the war effort, namely hydroelectric plants and railways. Using a specially developed snow vehicle called "The Weasel" to traverse the snow, this force would execute attacks and the resulting chaos would tie up large numbers of German soldiers.

North Americans would man the special unit as a combined force of the United States and Canada. General George C. Marshall, the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, recruited Lieutenant Colonel Robert T. Frederick to command and organize the new unit. On 20 April 1942, the First Special Service Force was organized at Fort William Henry Harrison, Montana. The individually selected men, of whom approximately one third were Canadian, were organized into three, 600-man regiments (each with two battalions) with a service battalion. After fifteen months of intense winter combat, mountaineering, airborne, demolition, and close combat skills training, the 2,300 Canadian and American soldiers were ready for combat.

As the Force completed its training, the Allied Command had second thoughts about the Norway mission. When initially ordered to be disbanded to provide infantry replacements to other units, COL Frederick was able to convince the Army leadership to keep the well-trained FSSF intact. To capitalize on its winter combat skills, he suggested that the FSSF led the assault on the Aleutian Islands off the south-western coast of Alaska. The Force led this assault and secured Kiska Island on 15 August 1943. Following the Aleutians Campaign, the FSSF was transferred to the Fifth Army in the mountains of southern Italy.

As they fought their way up the Italian "boot" from November 1943 through June 1944, the soldiers of the FSSF endured sustained combat and pitched battles at such places as Monte la Difensa, Monte Majo, and Monte la Remetanea. The attack on Monte la Difensa helped break the German "Winter Line" and was popularized in the 1968 movie *The Devil's Brigade*. At Anzio, the FSSF became so feared that the Germans dubbed it "The Devil's Brigade." The FSSF led the breakout from the Anzio beachhead, thereby effecting the capture of Rome.

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A FSSF patrol breaks contact after a successful ambush at Anzio 14 April 1944.

beyond their expertise and shipped him to the 36th Combat Hospital near Naples. Radcliffe had been recuperating for almost a month after a successful operation to his foot, when he heard that recovered wounded soldiers were being sent to the replacement depot for reassignment. Most did not return to their original units.⁶

For those soldiers assigned to elite units like the FSSF and the Ranger battalions, being reassigned to another unit was considered a "slap in the face" rejection. The veteran would lose the camaraderie and friendship developed in training, hardened in the Aleutians, and proven during the Southern Italy campaign. Rather than run the risk of being reassigned elsewhere, Captain Radcliffe sneaked away from the hospital to rejoin his unit. This proved to be his second escape and evasion in less than a month, albeit this time from the Americans. However, once in the city of Naples, getting to Anzio posed a problem: he had no access to official transportation. By chance, Radcliffe ran into a friend from Salt Lake City, Utah, in Naples. This friend was a Piper Cub liaison/spotter plane (probably an L-4 aircraft) pilot that flew into the Anzio beachhead as part of a courier service.⁷ Every flight was dangerous because German artillery fire bracketed the beachhead. Small planes could only land and take off at dawn and dusk. Radcliffe convinced his friend to take him along, but fearful of a courts martial for carrying an unauthorized passenger, they effected a plan. Once the plane landed and turned to taxi to the parking area, Radcliffe was to roll out of the plane in the dust cloud thrown up by the engine. He then simply walked to the road and hitched a ride to the 3rd Regiment headquarters. Shortly after being greeted by Colonel Edwin Walker, Radcliffe was summoned to the First Special Service Force headquarters.⁸

Brigadier General Robert Frederick rewarded Radcliffe by assigning him a special mission. "Welcome back!" he said, "I'm sorry, but I can't send you back to your company, there is too much at stake. We are going to be pushing off at this place in about two days. I figured that I would put you on a special mission. Report to General Keyes, the II

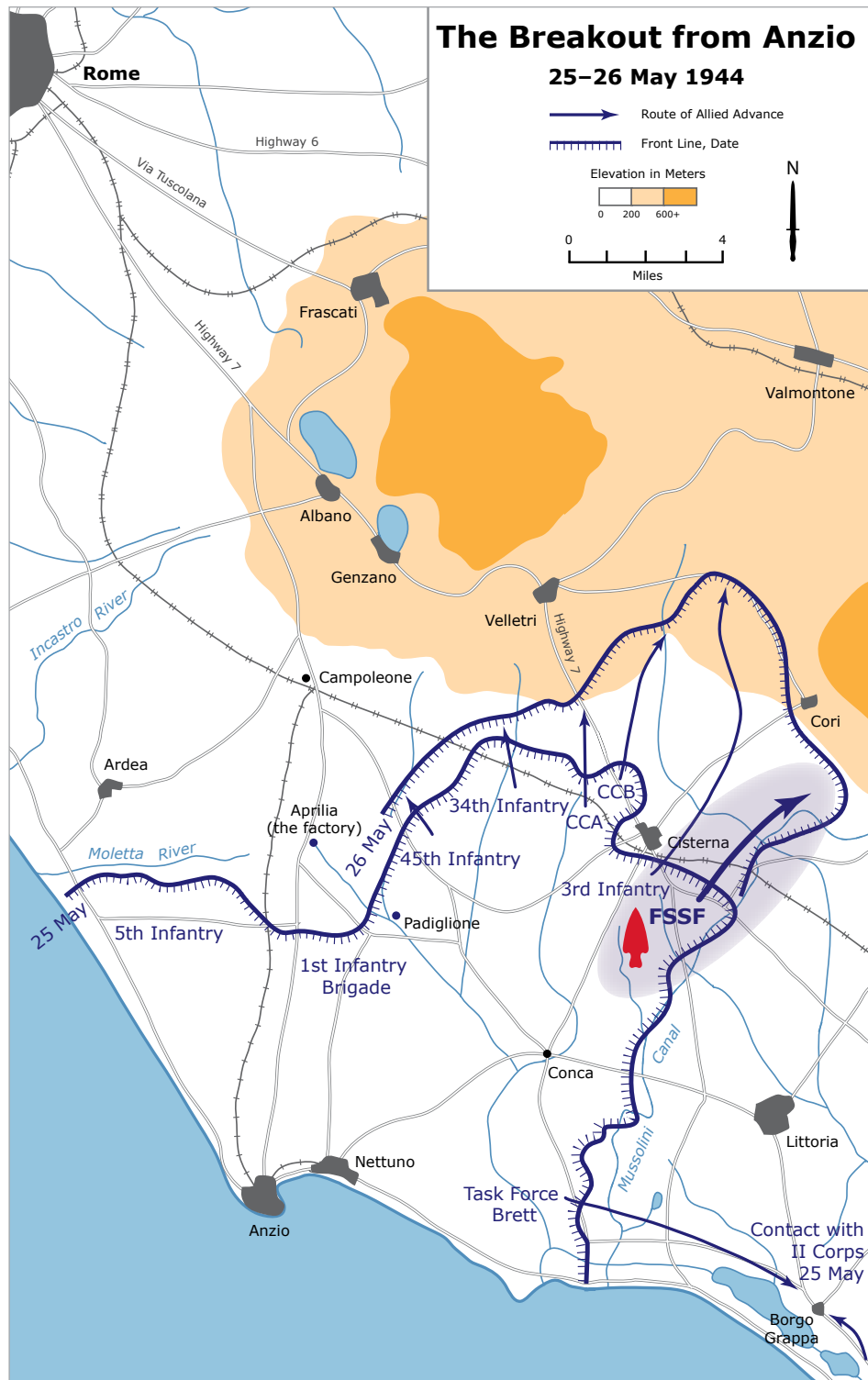
Corps commander, at his headquarters.”⁹

The II Corps special mission was to lead an advance patrol into Rome. The force consisted of sixty handpicked men from II Corps units, including three from the FSSF. They were to “. . . in any way possible get into Rome ahead of other Allied forces, send back the enemy situation within the City, and at the same time post II Corps route signs along prominent streets and in public squares.”¹⁰ Mounted in eighteen jeeps and two M-8 armored cars, the advance force would rush ahead into Rome for the liberation. The ad hoc assault force needed little training because all were combat veterans; each had been handpicked for his outstanding performances in combat and his personal courage.¹¹ The three FSSF soldiers selected for the assault force were Sergeant Thomas W. Philips (Seguin, Texas, assigned to 1st Regiment), Staff Sergeant K.R.S. Micklejohn (Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, assigned to 2nd Regiment), and Sergeant J.E. Brannon (Princeton, New Jersey, from 3rd Regiment). To document this success at being first into Rome the force had “. . . one movie camera man, two still camera men, and a news reporter, attached for media coverage.”¹²

Operation BUFFALO, the initial breakout from the Anzio beachhead, was preceded by a tremendous artillery barrage and naval gunfire at 0545 on 23 May.¹³ In the breakout, the FSSF mission was to screen the right flank of VI Corps as it moved north toward Valmontone and Highway 7. To accomplish the screening mission, the FSSF had several heavy units: the 645th Tank Destroyer Battalion (-) and two companies of M-4 Sherman tanks from the 191st Tank Battalion were attached.¹⁴ The 463rd Parachute Field Artillery Battalion’s 75mm howitzers provided direct-fire support.¹⁵ As the FSSF moved northward, the Japanese-American 100th Battalion screened its far right flank.¹⁶ Ten days after the breakout, the FSSF was



II Corps shoulder patch



The First Special Service Force arrived at Anzio on 1 February 1944. On 23 May 1944, the units in Anzio began to break out and head to Rome.

To make up for combat losses the FSSF was assigned about 400 Rangers following the dissolution of the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Ranger Battalions after the Cisterna debacle. The Ranger replacements brought the FSSF up to about 2,000 soldiers (bringing the unit to about 86 percent strength). Equally important, the Ranger Cannon Company (four M-3 half-tracks mounting 75mm cannon) was transferred to the FSSF headquarters bringing much needed firepower.¹⁷



100th Infantry Battalion



Tank Destroyers



191st Tank Battalion



463rd Parachute Artillery Battalion

Units attached to the FSSF for the assault on Rome.

transferred from VI Corps to II Corps for the final push to Rome. When the reinforced FSSF began its final attack toward Rome, CPT Radcliffe was preparing his force for its mission.

Even though he had a force of experienced veteran soldiers, CPT Radcliffe took time to plan and rehearse actions since none of the soldiers had worked together. His primary concern was immediate reaction to German ambushes and roadblocks. In case of enemy contact he wanted to make sure that the force reacted as a whole, not sixty individual soldiers. Their main strategy was to eliminate or bypass the enemy as quickly as possible and continue to race for Rome. If the enemy were too strong they would call for armor and bypass the obstacle letting the heavier armed units take care of the problem.¹⁸

The advance patrol departed II Corps headquarters at 1400 on 3 June 1944. Tucked into CPT Radcliffe's pocket was a pass issued by Major General Geoffrey Keyes giving his element top priority on all roads in the II Corps sector. As he prepared to leave the headquarters area, CPT Radcliffe was handed some signs that read "Follow the Blue to Speedy Two!" The signs had two purposes: first, to guide II Corps units to Rome; second, perhaps more importantly, they were designed to needle the VI Corps commander, Major General Lucian Truscott, whose forces were also racing toward the Italian capital.¹⁹

Part of Radcliffe's mission was to link up with an armored column, Task Force Howze, under the command of Colonel Hamilton Howze, who was to spearhead the II Corps drive to Rome.²⁰ The combined arms task force composed of M-4 Sherman tanks, tank destroyers, and armored infantry would protect the lightly armed advance patrol enabling Radcliffe to dash into Rome.²¹ When Radcliffe's group reached Frascati, he was told by the 2nd Battalion, 338th Infantry (85th Infantry Division), that an armored task force had already passed by an hour earlier. "So much for a coordinated effort," thought Radcliffe. In the rush to catch up with Task Force Howze his group passed an unidentified armored column, seemingly stalled on the side of the road. As they went by, CPT Radcliffe noticed a perplexed look on the lead tank commander's face.²²

Giving it little thought, Radcliffe concentrated on his mission and future actions. Only a few miles down the road, they ran into a German roadblock. The veteran

fighters easily eliminated the roadblock. Temporarily halted by the roadblock, the armor task force caught up with Radcliffe. The first words of the captain in the lead tank were, "What in the hell are you doing here? Are you crazy or lost?"²³ It was then that Radcliffe realized that his lightly armed patrol had inadvertently become the point of Task Force Ellis (91st Reconnaissance Squadron), a rival of Task Force Howze. Task Force Ellis was advancing up Via Tuscolana, parallel and to the left to the of Task Force



Soldiers of II Corps put up a sign on the side of the Coliseum in Rome. This sign was similar to the smaller signs that Radcliffe's patrol put up on the way to Rome.

Howze's advance on Highway 6. All along the Fifth Army front similar task forces were leading their divisions in the quest to be the first unit into Rome.²⁴

Undaunted, Radcliffe's group continued to press toward its objective—Rome. By nightfall, the group was within sight of the city, but some German tanks near a series of radio towers blocked its way. After a short, but



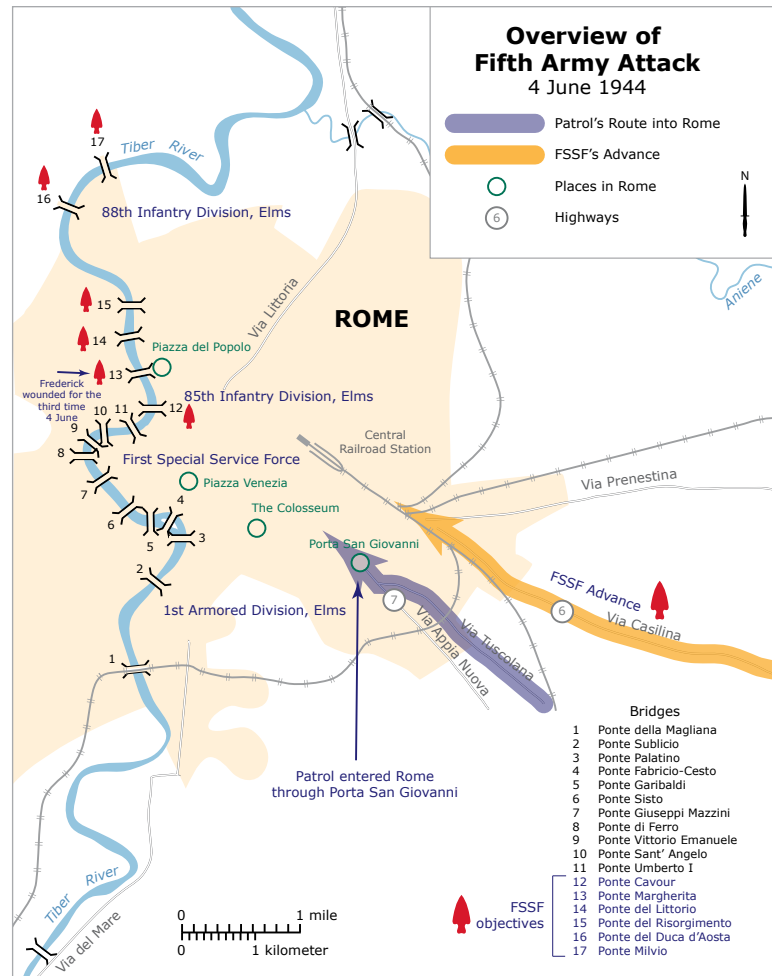
Task Force Ellis (91st Reconnaissance Squadron), a competitor to Task Force Howze, drives into the outskirts of Rome on 4 June 1944. In the center of the photo is an M-4 Sherman tank hit by a German 88mm self-propelled gun. Standard practice would have the tanks, tank destroyers, and armored cars support by fire while infantry flanked the position. In the assault on Rome, as soon as the enemy was destroyed or withdrew, the task force would resume its drive toward the Italian capital.



Armored cars of Task Force Howze move past a burning American M3 Stuart light tank that was just knocked out in the push to Rome on 4 June 1944. Several competing task forces wanted to be the first into the Italian capital.

fierce fight, the Germans withdrew under cover of darkness. This enabled Radcliffe to quarter his patrol for the night in a movie studio complex off Via Tuscolana in the Appio Latino section of Rome. The soldiers discovered afterwards that they had camped in the "Hollywood of Italy," the Cinecittà movie studio, built in the late 1930s. While Radcliffe's force rested, lead elements of Task Force Howze continued to attack.²⁵ By dawn, the tanks and tank destroyers of Task Force Howze had opened a route into Rome.²⁶

Thus, just before dawn, as Radcliffe's patrol raced along Via Tuscolana toward Rome, the First Special Service Force was spearheading the primary II Corps assault along Highway 6 (Via Casilina) supported by elements of Task Force Howze. One of the key missions of the Force was to prevent the Germans from blowing six of the northern bridges across the Tiber River. Without the bridges Rome would be divided and more defensible. At 0100 on 4 June, Major General Keyes told Brigadier General Frederick, "Secure the bridges over the Tiber River above Sixty-eight Northing (a map reference indicating the six Tiber River bridges north of the Vatican City) within the City of Rome."²⁷ General Frederick drove Colonel Alfred C. Marshall's 1st Regiment down Via Casilina



Map of bridges in Rome and route Radcliffe's patrol took into Rome. The bridges numbered 12–17 were the FSSF's objectives.



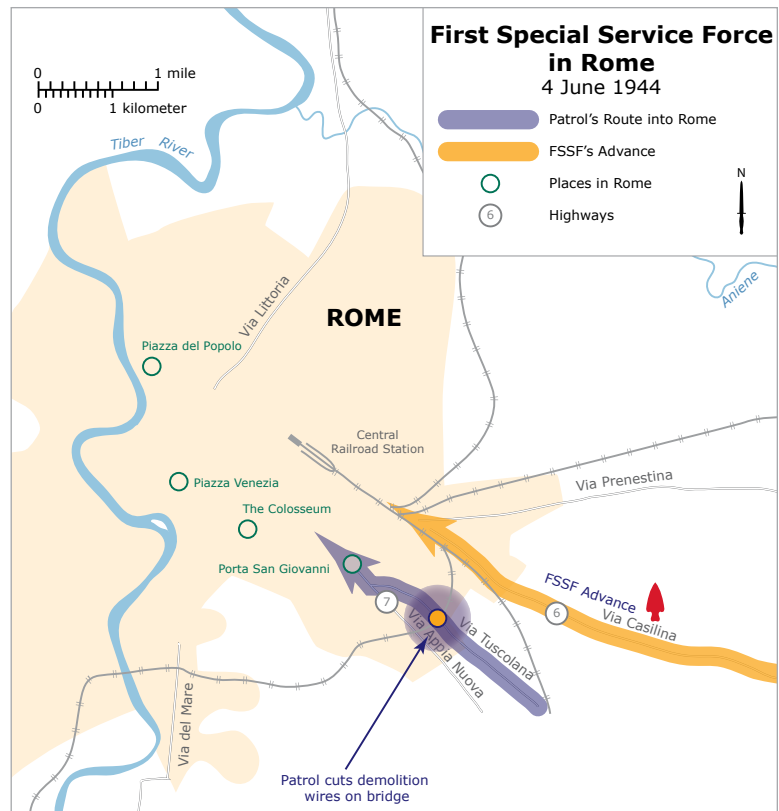
From right to left: Brigadier General Robert Frederick, First Special Service Force; Lieutenant General Mark Clark, Fifth Army commander; Brigadier General Donald Brann, Fifth Army G-3; and Major General Geoffrey Keyes, II Corps commanding general (the others are unidentified), study a map on the outskirts of Rome early on the morning of 4 June 1944.

toward Rome and the six bridges.

As Frederick and Marshall forged ahead to capture the Tiber River bridges, Radcliffe's assault group, operating independently, was searching for the best and fastest way into the city. Just outside the city limits it came across a railway overpass prepared for demolition. The group's rapid advance had apparently caught the enemy by surprise. The scouts quickly cut the demolition charge wires and slipped into Rome at 0600 4 June 1944 using the Porta San Giovanni (the San Giovanni gate) on Via Tuscolana, part of the ancient Roman city wall. As they did so, the cameramen documented the event on film. They were the first Americans (and Canadian) to enter Rome.²⁸ In the midst of filming the historic moment, a group of German defenders surprised them, stopping the photo shoot.²⁹

The patrol was hit by intense machine gun and rifle fire, forcing it to withdraw to the railway overpass. The soldiers had just gotten into a defensive position when some tanks and tank destroyers from Task Force Howze joined in the fight. The firefight lasted from 0600 to 1100. During a short lull in the firing, CPT Radcliffe rallied his element to make another attempt into the city³⁰

The patrol passed through the Porta San Giovanni for a second time. Five hundred meters into the city, some friendly Italian civilians stopped the patrol to warn them of German tanks ahead. Radcliffe's scouts confirmed one Tiger tank, but as the main force turned to pull back, a second Tiger tank suddenly blocked its withdrawal. The soldiers were trapped, caught like a baseball runner between home plate and third base in a squeeze play! With no anti-tank weapons capable of knocking out a Tiger tank, their only defense was to use the tight urban terrain to mask the tank fire. They did have a twelve-foot high wall to their rear and an embankment to the front which limited tank movement. The soldiers scattered to hide in the buildings. Whenever the vehicles attempted



Route Radcliffe's patrol took into Rome with railway overpass area highlighted. The patrol cut demolition charge wires before entering Rome.

to move, the two Tiger tanks fired their 88mm cannon and machine guns at the lightly armed vehicles.³¹

To make matters worse, two platoons of German infantry arrived to root out Radcliffe's patrol. They were easily driven off by concentrated machine gun and small arms fire. The tanks, however, were not so easily diverted. One of the M-8 armored cars positioned itself at a corner in a desperate attempt to hit one of the tanks with its 37mm cannon. In Radcliffe's words, "This would have been . . . like a bee against an elephant."³² Then for some unknown reason, two tank crewmen lifted their hatches and climbed out (perhaps for a reconnaissance) and the patrol cut them down. The remaining tank crewmen retaliated with random cannon and machine gun fire. But the embankment and wall provided sufficient cover; the shells flew ineffectively over their heads. Radcliffe's radio calls for tank support only produced two more M-8 armored cars.³³

The patrol spent most of 4 June trying to break contact. Some Italian partisans even joined in the fight. As luck would have it, the partisans saved the day. When Radcliffe saw another tank joining the fray, he alerted his men to abandon their vehicles and then evade the enemy through the labyrinth of houses and walled yards of the city. But that tank stopped short of the patrol next to a three-story house. Just as the German tank commander opened his hatch to get a better view, a third floor window opened above him and a hand slowly emerged clutching a hand grenade. Unseen by the German tank commander below, an Italian partisan leaned out of the window and dropped the grenade right into the tank's open hatch. A muffled explosion followed shortly and smoke rose from



Radcliffe's group temporarily leaves Rome on 4 June 1944 after meeting heavy German resistance. The group exits through the Porta San Giovanni on Via Tuscolana.

the tank hatch. Seizing the opportunity, the jeeps and armored cars broke out of the trap. During the patrol's hasty withdrawal, the remaining tank scored a direct hit on one jeep killing the soldiers and three Italian partisans who had joined in the fight.³⁴ CPT Radcliffe radioed the location of the German elements to Task Force Howze and returned to the movie studio to rest and refit after the daylong firefight. They needed a few hours of sleep before trying to enter the city again.

In the meantime, the FSSF was speeding toward the Rome bridges on the Tiber River. The 2nd and 3rd Regiments, advancing up Highway 6 (Via Casilina), reached the Roman suburb of Tor Sapienza by 0530 on 4 June.³⁵ Twenty-five minutes after Radcliffe's patrol first entered the city, a FSSF scouting patrol entered the Pietralata railroad yard aboard the tanks of Task Force Howze.³⁶ During the day of fighting on 4 June, Brigadier General



Radcliffe's patrol is greeted by cheering Romans. Radcliffe is the soldier in the passenger's seat of the jeep (the soldier in the center of the photograph with the rifle and the Italian hugging him).



The first American tank (An M-4 Sherman tank from Task Force Howze) to enter Rome burns after a German ambush near the Pietralata rail yards on 4 June 1944.

Frederick, leading from the front in his inimitable style, was wounded three times. His third wound came as the Force seized the Margherita Bridge.³⁷ By 2300 that night, all six of the bridges assigned to the FSSF were secured. Radcliffe's ad hoc unit got credit for being the first Allied soldiers to enter Rome from the south while the FSSF and Task Force Howze seized the northern part of the city.³⁸

Rapidly the situation in the city changed as the Germans and Italian Fascists fled northward. After the initial hard day's fighting into the Italian capital, the FSSF soldiers were then greeted by crowds of Romans cheering them as liberators. A FSSF soldier, seeing the ancient Colosseum for the first time commented, "The Germans sure blew the hell out of that place!"³⁹

After capturing Rome, the battle for Italy was over for the FSSF, but not for the Allies. They would fight another ten months to drive the Germans from the northern mountains.⁴⁰ On 7 June 1944 the FSSF was relieved of



Jubilant Romans flashing the "V" for "Victory" sign. The photo shows the M-8 "Greyhound" armored car. Radcliffe had two assigned to his patrol.

Italian Campaign Timeline

1 October 1943	The Allies become stalled by the German defensive Carl Gustav Line (sometimes called the "Hitler Line"). The Allied campaign slowed down and the winter settled in effectively stopping Allied offensive operations.
22 January 1944	Operation SHINGLE, the landing at Anzio, was meant to be an end run around German defenses. Instead, the VI Corps was stuck in a defensive perimeter for the next four months.
30 January 1944	Ranger attack on Cisterna. The Rangers lost almost the entire 1st and 3rd Ranger Battalions in the battle with 767 taken prisoner by the Germans.
1 February 1944	The First Special Service Force landed at Anzio taking over thirteen kilometers of the eastern perimeter. At this point, over 100,000 allied troops were in the Anzio beachhead.
23 May 1944	Operation BUFFALO, the breakout from the Anzio beachhead, began with a massive artillery and naval gunfire barrage.
25–27 May 1944	The FSSF took Monte Arrestina (25th), Cori (26th), and Rocca Massina (27th).
2 June 1944	FSSF transferred from VI Corps to II Corps control for the final assault on Rome.
3 June 1944	Radcliffe's patrol left II Corps headquarters for Rome.
4 June 1944	Radcliffe's patrol entered Rome at 0600 through the gate at Via Tuscolana. The FSSF moved to secure six bridges over the Tiber River. Frederick was wounded three times during the day.
5 June 1944	Rome was seized by the various elements of the II and VI Corps.
7 June 1944	The FSSF moved to Lake Albano to rest and refit.



Lieutenant General Mark Clark in Rome.

front line duty and sent to Lake Albano, south of Rome, near the Pope's summer residence. There, they enjoyed three weeks of rest and recuperation.⁴¹ When CPT Radcliffe returned to the FSSF after his special assignment, he was promoted to Major and made the executive officer of 1st Battalion, 3rd Regiment; the rewards for a determined effort.⁴²

Much of the Italian campaign was focused on the capture of the capital and assumed that with its fall, the war in the peninsula would end. This was not the case. The campaign was far from over. Tough fighting continued all the way up the Italian boot until the Germans surrendered on 2 May 1945.⁴³ The frenzied quest to capture Rome was repeated by the Eighth U.S. Army units when they charged past the 38th parallel to capture the North Korean capital, P'yongyang, in October 1950. Fifty-nine years later in Iraq, in the effort to topple the regime of Sadaam Hussein, the 3rd Infantry Division and the 1st Marine Division raced to capture Baghdad, bypassing large areas of resistance in March–April 2003 during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. In all three cases the capture of an enemy capital did not end a campaign or war, merely protracted it. Still, it was an important part of the offensive strategy. Winning "bragging rights" drove the efforts. ♣

This article would not have been possible without the support of Colonel (Retired) T. Mark Radcliffe.

While resting and recuperating at Lake Albano, the Forcemen received unwelcome news: Brigadier General Frederick was leaving to command the 1st Airborne Task Force. Colonel Edwin Walker, 3rd Regiment commander, would be his successor. Ironically, the next campaign for the FSSF, southern France, would open with Operation DRAGOON, led by their former commander.



A Fifth Army reconnaissance patrol outside of Saint Peter's Cathedral.

Robert W. Jones Jr. is a historian assigned to the USASOC History Office and is a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. A graduate of the University of Washington, he earned his M.A. from Duke University and his M.S. from Troy State University. Current research interests include Special Forces in Vietnam 1960–1966, military government and civil affairs, special operations in World War II, Operation JUST CAUSE, and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Endnotes

- 1 Ernest F. Fisher Jr., *United States Army in World War II. The Mediterranean Theater of Operations. Cassino to the Alps*, (Washington DC: Center for Military History, 1977), 104-106.
- 2 The II and VI Corps controlled the 1st Armored and 3rd, 34th, 36th, 45th, 85th, and 88th Infantry Divisions, plus supporting units. Ernest F. Fisher Jr., *United States Army in World War II. The Mediterranean Theater of Operations. Cassino to the Alps* (Washington DC: Center for Military History, 1977), 192–94.
- 3 Colonel (Retired) T. Mark Radcliffe, First Special Service Force, interview by Lieutenant Colonel Robert W. Jones Jr., digital recording, 28 April 2004, Fort Bragg, NC, USASOC History Office Files, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 4 Radcliffe interview.
- 5 Robert H. Adleman and Colonel George Walton, *The Devil's Brigade*, (Philadelphia, PA: Chilton Books, 1966), 168; Robert D. Burhans, *The First Special Service Force*, (Dalton, GA: Lee Printing, 1947), 166.
- 6 Radcliffe interview.
- 7 The plane was probably a Piper Grasshopper L-4 aircraft. Several companies manufactured this type of plane during the war. James R. Stegall, *Grasshopper Pilot. Salerno to the Yalu* (Austin, TX: Ravnhaus Press, 2002), 57.
- 8 Radcliffe interview.
- 9 Radcliffe interview.
- 10 First Special Service Force, "Patrol to Rome," n.d., USASOC History Office Files, Fort Bragg, NC, 1.
- 11 First Special Service Force, "Patrol to Rome," 1; Radcliffe interview.
- 12 First Special Service Force, "Patrol to Rome," 1.
- 13 Department of the Army, *Anzio Beachhead, 22 January–25 May 1944*, (Washington DC: Center for Military History, 1990), 119.
- 14 Burhans, *The First Special Service Force*, 212.
- 15 Burhans, *The First Special Service Force*, 166.
- 16 Burhans, *The First Special Service Force*, 212.
- 17 Burhans, *The First Special Service Force*, 212.
- 18 Radcliffe interview.

Soon after Rome was taken, the First Special Service Force left Italy to fight in southern France, the "Champagne Campaign," and was disbanded later in December 1944. The Canadians returned to their army, some of the soldiers returning to their former units while a sizeable number of soldiers joined the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion. About 350 of the American soldiers went to the U.S. airborne units needing experienced replacements after the fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. The remaining Americans became the nucleus of the 474th Infantry Regiment (Separate), together with the 99th Infantry Battalion (made up of Norwegian-Americans) seeing service in Germany and Norway in 1945.

When the 1st Special Forces Regiment was constituted in June 1960, the First Special Service Force was made an official part of the regiment's lineage.

- 19 Dan Kurzman, *The Race for Rome*, (New York: Pinnacle Books, 1975), 473; Joseph A. Springer, *The Black Devil Brigade: The True Story of the First Special Service Force*, (Pacifica, CA: Pacifica Military History, 2001), 225; Robert H. Adleman and Colonel George Walton, *Rome Fell Today*, (Boston, MA: Little, Brown and Company Books, 1968), 250–51.
- 20 Springer, *The Black Devil Brigade*, 224.
- 21 Task Force Howze was a combined arms task force consisting of M-4 Sherman tanks of the 3rd Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment; tank destroyers of the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion; infantry from the 1st Battalion, 6th Armored Infantry and the 1st Battalion, 7th Infantry, from the 3rd Infantry Division; the 91st Armored Field Artillery; and about eight armored cars from the 81st Reconnaissance Squadron [General Hamilton Howze, U.S. Army War College Senior Officers Briefing Program, 14 October 1972].
- 22 Radcliffe interview; First Special Service Force, "Patrol to Rome," 2.
- 23 Radcliffe interview; First Special Service Force, "Patrol to Rome," 2; Adleman and Walton, *Rome Fell Today*, 251.
- 24 First Special Service Force, "Patrol to Rome," 1; Radcliffe interview.
- 25 Adleman and Walton, *Rome Fell Today*, 251.
- 26 Springer, *The Black Devil Brigade*, 225.
- 27 Adleman and Walton, *Rome Fell Today*, 211; Burhans, *The First Special Service Force*, 240.
- 28 Burhans, *The First Special Service Force*, 242; Springer, *The Black Devil Brigade*, 225; Adleman and Walton, *Rome Fell Today*, 252.
- 29 Radcliffe interview; First Special Service Force, "Patrol to Rome," 2.
- 30 First Special Service Force, "Patrol to Rome," 2.
- 31 Radcliffe interview; First Special Service Force, "Patrol to Rome," 3; Springer, *The Black Devil Brigade*, 225.
- 32 First Special Service Force, "Patrol to Rome," 2.
- 33 Radcliffe interview; First Special Service Force, "Patrol to Rome," 3.
- 34 First Special Service Force, "Patrol to Rome," 3; Springer, *The Black Devil Brigade*, 225.
- 35 Burhans, *The First Special Service Force*, 240.
- 36 Kurzman, *The Race for Rome*, 478; Burhans, *The First Special Service Force*, 240.
- 37 Adleman and Walton, *Rome Fell Today*, 217–18.
- 38 Radcliffe interview; Joseph A. Springer, *The Black Devil Brigade*, 226; Kurzman, *The Race for Rome*, 478.
- 39 Robert Katz, *The Battle for Rome: The Germans, the Allies, the Partisans, and the Pope, September 1943–June 1944*, (New York: Simon and Schuster), 316.
- 40 German forces in Italy surrendered on 2 May 1945; the German unconditional surrender occurred on 7 May 1945. Fisher, *United States Army in World War II*, 524.
- 41 Springer, *The Black Devil Brigade*, 228.
- 42 Radcliffe interview; Springer, *The Black Devil Brigade*, 226.
- 43 Fisher, *United States Army in World War II*, 524.