

deal of destruction. Very many buildings possessed of beauty or historic interest have been damaged, not a few have perished altogether. Yet, if one takes only the "protected" monuments, that is the best, the loss has been surprisingly light. Normandy, as was to be expected in view of the bitter and prolonged fighting that followed the allied landings, suffered much. Detailed reports have been received dealing with a hundred and fifty-five monuments on the official list; of these, twenty-four are described as destroyed, gutted by fire or seriously damaged, and the number of those that have suffered some harm but can be made good is considerably greater. In Brittany, only four "listed" monuments have been seriously damaged. The total for France is relatively very small. In Belgium, until recently at least, not one of the major monuments had perished altogether.

In Athens the weeks of recent fighting have done virtually no harm to the monuments of classical Greece. There are two superficial scars on the Parthenon and a few scratches on the Theseum. The treasures of the Museum are intact. In Italy there are large areas that have suffered no loss at all. Where German resistance has been obstinate, war has

brought destruction to only too many treasures of art, destruction often deliberately wrought by the Germans, who mined the church towers and the major buildings so as to block roads and deny to us possible points of vantage. There has been much damage; but a lot of this has been made good.

Some of the greatest art centres have escaped altogether, as Rome itself, Siena, Assisi, Perugia, Orvieto, Aquila, Spoleto and others. In Florence, Pisa, Rimini, and Ravenna, cities which have suffered, the outstanding buildings are either intact or but slightly damaged and not beyond repair. The cathedral at Benevento and the church at Santa Chiara at Naples are the most important buildings that have been written off as a total loss, but even so in the ruins of Santa Chiara some of the best sculptures survive. That so little has been altogether lost is due primarily not to the efforts of the small band of officers charged with the task of protecting works of art, but to the army as a whole. That army has not behaved as a mob of "brutal and licentious soldiery"; from commander-in-chief to private, it has respected those things of beauty. By so doing it has won the good will of the peoples whose treasured belongings they are, and the gratitude of the world.

EYE-WITNESS STORY COMPETITIONS

RESULTS HAVE been announced of the two Eye-witness Story Competitions, organized by the Army Education Welfare Service in conjunction with the New Zealand National Broadcasting Service, for servicemen and servicewomen in New Zealand and overseas. Here are the judges' awards:—

Competition No. 1

(First £15, second £10)

1. "Smoke-laying at Cassino," by 17858 Tpr. D. G. Buchanan, 2 N.Z.E.F., C.M.F.

2. "The Blitz on Ismailia," by 28076, C./Sister E. M. Somers-Cocks, N.Z.A.N.S.

Commended: "The Breakthrough," by B. M. Robson, 2 N.Z.E.F.; "The Treasuries," by L./Cpl. S. H. Knowles, N.Z.E.F.I.P.; "St. Georges' Day, April 23, 1941," by Sister Ailsa C. Fleming, N.Z.A.N.S.

Competition No. 2

(First £15, second £10)

1. "One He Didn't Get," by 83028 Pte. H. Brennan, 2 N.Z.E.F.

2. "The Breakthrough at Minquar Quaim," by 63722 Gnr. A. E. Burns, 2 N.Z.E.F.

Commended: "Spartan Interlude," by W.O. II Vernon Parkinson, Trentham, "Action in Kolombangara Gulf," by D. F. Ackerley, H.M.S. "Philomel."