

INVASION OF ITALY

By Arnell representing the Combined British Press

This morning in the inky blackness that precedes the dawn without the slightest trace of a moon to help light its way the Eighth Army once again struck the next blow for the liberation of enslaved EUROPE. On this the fourth anniversary of the war this army has been given the honour to strike and strike heavily at the next stronghold of German occupied Europe. For days past the artillery of this army together with the Americans have been hammering the defences and guns of the enemy. At threefortyfive this morning the guns of this famous army barked out a reveille to the Nazis enslaved and controlled people of Italy. Meantime the fleet of invasion craft were silently making their way from the harbours and coves of Sicily towards the beaches of the mainland. Throughout the evening the enemy had been very restless as was shown by the number of flares that were to be seen on the other side of this three thousand yard strip of water that separates us from the mainland at this point. The inky dark was broken by the pink and orange flash of our guns and looking across the strip of water I could see the explosions of our shells and fires and explosions that they were starting. Then the enemy guns started to reply. The roar of our artillery and the reply from the enemy prevents one from speaking and almost burst the ear drums.

Suddenly the shore only three thousand yards away is a mass of flares and at the same time our machine gunners on this side open up. The first man of the army of liberation - the first man of the Eighth army - has set foot on the Italian mainland. The battle of liberty has on the fourth anniversary been taken one step nearer to the root of the trouble - Nazi Germany.

Now as dawn breaks we can hear all the sounds of battle artillery and small arm fire. Through glasses we can see our men still landing from their crafts and the explosions of our artillery and the counter fire of the enemy. Our lads over there are fighting as never before and at last have a foothold on the mainland of Italy. It is their determination that this foothold shall grow until the German has been driven completely out of the country. Today the men of the Eighth army both British and Canadians are in Italy - in to stay and in to open up the way to final victory and a free world.

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