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AN ADVANCE OF 32 MILES IN 32 HOURS

From Edward Gillings representing the Combined British Press

Bagnara.

The Eighth Army are now in contact with the Germans but the advance up the toe on to the foot of Italy continues at a great pace. The Germans are now carrying out Sicilian tactics wherever possible by blowing up bridges and making road demolitions. But our infantry are going great guns despite the heat and they are advancing by marching and leaving their vehicles to follow after the sappers have repaired bridges or made diversions.

Along the coastal road our troops have advanced at a good speed but the troops pushing through inland have made really good progress. The enemy had self-propelled 88s and a number of mortars in a hill overlooking a gully through which our troops were advancing. The enemy opened fire but our troops dug in and returned the fire. Immediately darkness set in our forces sent patrols up into the hills towards German positions but on reaching them they found that the enemy had pulled out. Our column moved forward with all possible speed but they were unable to contact the enemy again.

Our advance up the coastal road has been assisted by the capture of this little seaside town by special service troops which landed here in the early hours of this morning. Germans were holding this town but the special service troops after a short fierce fight drove out the enemy after killing a number and taking about forty prisoners.

Our main force advancing along the coastal road entered the town shortly after midday today and linked up with the landing party. When they entered the town our infantry had advanced thirty-two miles from the point of landing in exactly the same number of hours which is particularly good going especially in view of the fact that most of the advance has been made on foot.