

DESPATCH FROM E. GINGELL, REPRESENTING THE COMBINED BRITISH PRESSWith the Fifth Army  
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Although the position has changed very little on the Salerno bridgehead in the last two days, and indications still point plainly to the German withdrawal in the southern sector, pivoting back on the strongly held hill positions in the northern sector, the enemy put in a delaying counter blow in the central sector yesterday, and regained a tobacco factory which they previously had strongly fortified. Allied troops are now in force, and the enemy's strength ahead is not so strong as it was.

In the northern part of the bridgehead around the town of Salerno, strengthened Allied forces face the same type of warfare as they had faced for some days, and nights now - infiltration in the afternoon with tanks and infantry, and probing by enemy infantry units by night.

The battle areas yesterday were chiefly around Whitecross Hill, the Snout and Pimple Hill. The Pimple has been the scene of the chief effort in the last 24 hours. This feature, which rises in <sup>the</sup> fairly steep slope on one side, falls away into a sheer drop on the other. On the cliff like side the Germans have dug themselves in. They are holding these positions, which give them a commanding view of the area around, and from other heights in the vicinity they can range around by night.

The enemy made an effort during yesterday to recover some of the tanks which were hit during the previous day's probe, and which lay out in <sup>the</sup> no mans land across the valley. Fire from Allied positions, however, discouraged the enemy, and this morning the tanks still lay burnt out wrecks by the roadside. There was a certain amount of mortar fire by the Germans during yesterday, but shelling of the coast road was less. Two British warships in the Gulf of Salerno sent down a heavy barrage on the positions where the Germans have been operating their heavy guns. Directed by an observation post in the hills they also sent over a barrage on to an enemy encampment. Today this shooting from the sea was resumed.

The shooting by naval units in this campaign has been one of its most impressive features. From the first day it has been "laid on" during the daylight hours. It is directed by an officer who sits in a high dominating position with a commanding view of the countryside.

The particular officer responsible made the initial landing in the same craft as I did <sup>and</sup> during the first day, from the scramble up from the beach - he with his wireless set strapped to his back - to sunset, I watched him at work at close quarters, directing the fire from destroyers on to the enemy. Now he is inland with that wireless set sending its signals to ships that shell from heavier guns, and wrecking havoc where the enemy lies installed.

On the promontory that juts out to make the northern sweep of the Gulf of Salerno we are still firmly established in the Lattari mountains, and have a splendid view over the Naples road as it sweeps across from Nocera to Vistri. At the Vietri Gorge the situation this morning remains unaltered.

Tailpiece: As an example of how the British soldier is overcoming the language difficulty I noticed on the gate of one army unit "entranto absoluto prohibite" which may be bad Italian, but had the desired effect.

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