

16/4/44 - No. 17

ITALIAN BRIDGEHEAD (ADD RAID)

(From Basil Gingell, Representing the Combined British Press)

With the Fifth Army in Italy

Lieutenant T.C. Gordon who was with one of the leading platoons on the raid telling me of the operation said that the leading platoons went down the road like hell passing houses where they knew the Germans were established, leaving the following forces to winkle out the occupants. "As we neared a house that we were going to attack we saw a German lorry draw up and some soldiers get out," he said. "We opened up on them with mortars. Five minutes later another vehicle came down the road. We did not open fire this time for it was an ambulance which had driven up to take the wounded away."

Some of the light tanks pushed far ahead without encountering any opposition until they reached one of the many irrigation ditches that criss-cross the Pontine Marshes. They opened fire across what was an obstacle to further advance and watched the Germans legging it for all they were worth in a northerly direction.

Rounding up the prisoners presented little difficulty and among those captured were seventeen Italians.

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