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BEACHHEAD

From Henry Buckley, Representing the Combined British Press

With the Fifth Army in Italy

Allied Beachhead Forces,

Thursday 4.p.m.

There is no relaxation in this Beachhead Easter. Communiques may report "only patrol activity on Fifth Army Anzio Beachhead", but both sides pound away day and night with artillery barrages. Mortars make the air hideous with their sinister "crumps".

The men in the wadis on our left flank lie in holes in the ground, from which they usually cannot stir during day-light hours, and which are sometimes within two hundred yards of the enemy. I spoke today with troops who had been shelled five hours uninterruptedly. In some places even Battalion Headquarters are so shell-swept during daylight hours that no one can move about the ground.

Easter entertainment for British troops out of the front line that is relative relaxation in this confined space is provided by an Ensa party, several mobile cinemas and a bagpipers' band. The ENSA party, which has just arrived, gives a show entitled "Where's the Chorus?" Where, indeed, ask the troops, looking at a hundred per cent male show.

Frankly, it amazes me the way our infantry keep up their spirits under the trying circumstances. \* As I am recently come from Britain, they all want to know when the Second Front is coming. They naturally hope it will relieve the enemy pressure here. Nevertheless, they are perhaps less exigent on this point than the people at home. They know what landings on enemy shores mean in terms of human lives.

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