

From DASIL GINGELL, Representing the Combined British Press

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Austin, TexasWith the 5th Army,  
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The battle moves fast over the Naples plains as British armour and infantry seek to bring the Boche to bay.

By last night modern Pompeii had been cleared but between here and old Pompeii there was no-man's land with the enemy in some strength in the ancient ruins under the shadow of the volcano. Into this area with its relics of the past, there came yesterday a cavalcade of modern wartime implements unequalled in history and in charge of them a well-trained army eager and efficient.

As the troops settled in the villages on the way they were greeted with all that warmth of which I wrote yesterday. There was kissing, applause and always fruit and flowers. Along the road children stood on the tops of burnt out lorries to beat in time on the loose steel coverings while they shouted their welcome.

Freedoms of the towns were formally handed over to the troops by the poses and bunches of flowers presented with due ceremony to the commanding officers by civic officials. Not all the exuberance of the French in North Africa could equal these scenes which came so spontaneously and so obviously from the heart.

There is now a general retreat by the Germans northward and throughout yesterday our observation posts and reconnaissance units reported that more of his supply dumps were being fired, while in the line of his retreat there were louder explosions, obviously betokening some large scale demolitions.

While there are several places where bold rearguard actions, such actions hinder our forward progress temporarily, our troops have shown that they are able to tackle such actions and be more than a match for them.

Between Sarno and Nocero there are still some Germans but as we now have troops in both these areas, to use a Middle East phrase, they would appear to be in the bag.

Men of a South Country regiment were chiefly responsible for the repulse of the Scafati counter attack by German tanks and infantry on Wednesday night. I met some of them when they, like me, were sheltering in the doorway cut off from the main body of troops. There was only a handful of them, but epitomising the general attitude of the British soldier here, they displayed great initiative for which they were commended at the conclusion of their most satisfactory show.

German resistance has now divided itself into a number of groups in this sector outside Naples, rather than a continuous line.

The enemy is still making use of such advantages as are to be gained from geographical features. These, however, are not so pronounced now and our tanks and armour <sup>can</sup> swan out over the plains to attack on the flanks while the batteries of heavy guns, which I watched moving up today are most aweinspiring.

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