

INVASION OF ITALY

By Edward Gilling representing the Combined British Press

With the 8th Army,  
September 7.

The Eighth Army has again accelerated its advance and today our troops are fanning out. However they are still uncontacted with the main enemy rearguard which is still withdrawing rapidly in front of them.

There was again a slight brush yesterday with the enemy who endeavoured to hold up our advance with a few guns and mortars outside the town, but when our troops launched an attack the enemy at once withdrew rapidly and never attempted to remain and fight it out.

The enemy is still carrying out demolitions wherever possible but our sappers are doing excellent work repairing bridges or building diversions. The enemy has apparently had no time to do any mining at all in the coastal sector which helps in the speed of our advance.

The number of prisoners now exceeds three thousand, but they include only a few Germans.

Our forces occupied the town of Palmi which stands on a hill overlooking Gioia plain early yesterday morning without opposition. Pushing down the slopes on to the plain they fanned out yesterday afternoon. The Germans had blown the big bridge that spans the river on the southern side and it was here that the small German rearguard party tried to hold us up. They fired off shells and mortar bombs whilst our troops had succeeded in effecting a crossing of the river bed but then promptly withdrew.

This morning our troops continued their advance along a road which the Germans are believed to be holding in some strength. The Canadians advancing through hills are progressing satisfactorily but demolitions are also causing them to slow down somewhat. They also are without real contact.