

BRITISH IMPROVE POSITIONS

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With the Fifth Army in Italy,

Allied Beachhead Forces,

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British forces operating in the wadi country of the Molletta valley improved their positions carrying them through a deep ravine, with steep sides that fall away sheer in some places to a depth of a hundred feet.

The enemy forces have dug cave positions and defended them with cunningly hidden machine-gun posts.

The movement which was begun before dawn was covered by a heavy artillery concentration. Throughout the morning the shelling was maintained and fighter-bombers gave air support.

The recent fine weather has improved the tracks but in the wadis there is still a good deal of mud and travelling is difficult.

Some of the hideouts in this country have been dug with such thoroughness that they equal the mountain caves around Mount Camino on the other front.