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ITALIAN BRIDGEHEAD: from Vaughan Thomas  
representing the Combined British Press & Radio

5th Army Beachhead Forces

March 20, noon

Fighting in the gullies around the headwaters of the Molleto continued yesterday. British troops are now firmly established on ground we won the night before. There has been no spectacular forward move. The advance can be measured in yards but in this difficult "wadi country" yards can be important and even a minor ridge a few feet higher than the surrounding country can give you observation into the tangled undergrowth in the gullies below.

The Germans have been unwilling to see us become more aggressive on this part of our line. Much of this fighting has been hand to hand, especially when one of our units met a German unit counter-attacking at the same time. The two parties clashed among stunted woods on the edge of the gully and the enemy suffered casualties. We also had our losses but we are now in the ascendant in an area where the enemy had been continually aggressive since his last big push against the beachhead fizzled out over a fortnight ago.

The action was still of local significance only but was a new proof of the strength of the beachhead.

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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION