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WITH THE 5th ARMY

FROM S.L. SOLON REPRESENTING THE COMBINED PRESS

Naples, Sunday night

We were in Naples this morning when an explosion rocked the centre of the city. A great column of smoke and dust was rising from the artillery barracks. We pushed to the scene.

A time bomb had blown ^{up} in the wing of the barracks which had formerly been used by the Germans.

Rescue operations were immediately organised, for dozens of men were trapped under the ruins. By the afternoon twentyfive dead and about thirty wounded were removed and rescue squads are still working. General Clark visited the scene and I understand that buildings in the vicinity believed to be dangerous were ordered to be evacuated.

The artillery barracks had been inspected so that apparently before leaving the Germans had tunnelled under the structure and placed several tons of explosives where they could remain undiscovered. The danger period was about ten days to run because it is difficult to set time bombs for a longer period.

This represents the last and worst of several such explosions that have occurred in Naples since the Allied occupation. Local Italians give assistance but the Germans worked secretly in planting bombs and they are difficult to locate.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION