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WARSHIPS AID TROOPS

By BASIL GINGELL, representing the Combined British Press

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Although the attractive prospect of moving on to Rome provides a fascinating lure, the main effort at the present stage is directed to the consolidation of the existing bridgehead and building up forces and supplies to take full advantage of our landing behind the enemy lines.

Naval gunfire has again been giving powerful support to the ground troops and warships have directed tons of high explosives into the enemy held territory.

A group of planes acting as aerial observation posts have done wonderful work since the landing especially when the Germans put in their counter thrust. With the absence of high ground to afford long-range observation these "Pipsqueak" planes, as the army calls them affectionately, are proving invaluable.

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