

ARMY PREPARES FOR THE BIG DAY.  
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British infantry men, like all sections of the army, are spending the long months of waiting by developing new tactics and modernising old ones. With covering fire by rifles and Bren guns Northern Command troops practised river crossing, supposedly under enemy fire.

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New-type collapsible boats were rapidly handled. It was by such methods that the Germans crossed the Somme, the Meuse and the Dutch waterways, wherever bridges had been blown up. The British army looks forward to the day when it will drive the Nazis back into Germany - and if all the bridges in Europe are smashed then it won't stop us.

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An advance party safely across, the engineers threw a single-girder bridge over the stream, for the main body to cross on foot.

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Next they built a floating bridge - light enough to be transported anywhere, heavy enough to bear tanks. This war is machine war. Very ingeniously the engineers have made it possible for tanks and Bren-carriers to fight in the country interlaced with canals and rivers.

Also at a Northern Command station 12-inch howitzers on rails give practice to gunners who are training for coast-defence and siege work. We are prepared for invasion attempts, if the Germans are silly enough, and before long we shall be ready to attack. These howitzers can be used for either operation. They fire a shell weighing a third of a ton.

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