

7/7

INDEX ON ROPE SHEET OF BRITISH PARAMOUNT NEWS LTD RECEIVED 25.1.41.

.....E.P. Genock  
Story Covered.....Battle of Bardia  
Place of Event.....Western Desert - Libya - Bardia  
Stock Used.....Background X Plus X Super XX  
Length Exposed.....2100 feet

This is one of the worst trips I've had anywhere - having a run of bad luck all the time, from being stranded in open with equipment for a day and night, during a sandstorm, to having a broken axle on the Bardia road, the afternoon before the show (the Australian Engineering section were grand - working all night and building us a complete new rear axle, as they had no spare part to fit, to get us on the road for the morning) and then being heavily shelled near a battery position, so that it was impossible to move forward to where I'd wanted to get. I shall be highly amazed if a lot of the material isn't scratched and out of focus, as sand was right under the lens slatings. It was impossible to do anything about the sand question.

The idea of the material generally is a follow up of the previous Western Desert activity climaxed by the fall of Bardia. Immediately after the Sidi Barrani show, there was a grand clean up of all captured material - dumps being formed in various parts of the desert. Meanwhile transport and communications were being put straight, while lorries of supplies and troops pushed forward along the road to Sollum, which was being shelled by Bardia Bill, a battery of guns inside the Bardia perimeter.

Through Capuzzo supplies move forward to the Bardia area where arrangements are being made for the assault. The Batteries go into action, tanks with small groups of following infantry move forward into the Bardia area, and prisoners seem to give themselves up very willingly. From all points they seem to come, even bringing their dogs. Only on the S.E. perimeter do the Italian artillery hold on hard, until dislodged by tanks. The tanks are still on the secret list so I'm giving a scene of infantry with older type tank. Troops in Bardia were small - there were about 4 or 5 times as many prisoners as attacking force - so all war correspondents' stories of masses of men charging over the countryside can be imagined more than filmed. I wish I could have got more, but through the bad luck about our transport, was put on the wrong sector at the start of operations - again this is no alibi, but just to give you an idea of difficulties.

- Rolls 1 & 2 Blown-up Sollum road being repaired, while telephone communications put in order. Meanwhile lorries cross the desert.
- Roll 3 Sidi Barrani, and group of captured Italian motor-guns being repaired. Guns of old vintage (1915) but still in use in Italian army.
- Roll 4 Various heaps & general view dump of captured material.
- Roll 5 Lorries on road, through Libyan frontier line, and past Fort Capuzzo.
- Roll 6 Scenes at Fort Capuzzo, and full supply of good water in use for British Army.
- Roll 7 Gv advanced H.Q. camp (now moved - so O.K security) Radio Van personnel, Lysander taking off from temporary desert parking place near Bardia for reconnaissance, and convoy lorries coming up Halfara Pass on to embarkment.
- Roll 8 Gv Sollum, intermittently shelled - waited two days for the usual bombing, but only got one or two weak scenes of shell burst. Bofors guns and silhouette (attempt night) protecting Pass and Sollum.
- Roll 9 Gv's artillery firing (it seems only in Hollywood, do they wear tin helmets - anyway against the "Ities")

Roll 10 Gen. view scenes, bursts around battlefield, with flat desert impossible to get an angle for a picture.

Roll 11 Gv transport in desert road, framed under barrel Bofors gun. Gv and Sv prisoners marching (like Rome parade!) across desert. Sv Colonel given ride on carrier.

Roll 12 Angles and Cu on prisoners - these were first prisoners captured on the morning of the first day of 'battle' - and quite cheerful!

Rolls 13, 14, 15 Shots of masses of prisoners in Cage, behind wire - begging cigarettes. Sv group of Colonels in separate cage - shy, couldn't get at them.

Roll 16 Night effect, prisoners at forced entrance to wire. Stuff going through wire, where tanks first entered.

Roll 17 Burnt out Australian Anti-tank gun on poster - driver and gunner were killed, but not before they put out of action in matter of minutes, the six Italian tanks that were caught in a waddy or dried up river bed. Behind heavy bombing goes on.

Roll 18 Gv Bardia over valley. Landscape of lorries left lying around. Australian troops having cup of tea on field. More prisoners coming up from Bardia, while Australians on captured motorcycle pass by. Sv and cu prisoners with dog.

Roll 19 Gv entering Bardia (village!!). Gv and Sv small houses. Cu sign 'via Benito Mussolini'. Gv H.Q. Fascists - Australian in checking papers. Cu newspaper headline "Talk by Musso".

Rolls 20, 21 More views Bardia. Gv harbour(?) or Cove.

Also covered by Movietone, Australian and War Office Film Unit.

B119/A2

Story Covered.....Bardia falls  
Place of Event.....Libya

This is separate parcel (for weight reasons of shipment sent partly different route, but assured arrive absolutely together) of Bardia material. When Massy-Collier and I got into a hot spot, I was using 17" lens and had to leave camera, so he and I shared his Eymo with the only roll of film he had, and bursts are therefore sent here developed.

Rolls 1 Newman Plus X  
and 2

Shots, gen. view, Sv and long lens on Sollum, when waiting for shelling. Gv, Sv and Cu of Artillery battery in action, on Bardia bombardment.

Roll 3 Newman Super XX

Shots shelling during bombardment. Long lens shots inside perimeter on Bardia town.

Roll 4 Short section developed negative. Cu shell bursts.

Roll 5 Super XX shots

Inside Bardia. Tanks and infantry moving forward. The tanks used on the west sector, were on secret list, these are tanks of older design.

Roll 6 Background X Tanks and Infantry.

Roll 7 Roll of interior airforce one room in Greece - was making a story of raid there, but events upset it - so sending this in case one or two scenes might be useful.

D-52780

**CAMERAMAN'S REPORT:**

---

**BRITISH SHIPS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN FLEET PLAY THEIR PART  
IN ASSAULT ON BARDIA.**

---

At dawn, on the 3rd January, 1941, the British Army and Air Force in the Western Desert launch a terrific attack on the Italian stronghold of Bardia where 20,000 Italian troops are surrounded. At dawn also there appears off the coast of Libya a squadron composed of both heavy and light units of the British Navy. They steam in 'line ahead' past Bardia subjecting the Italian positions to a terrific bombardment of heavy shells. One-ton shells are seen bursting on the shore as battleships open fire and in a short time Bardia is hidden in a huge cloud of dust. Italian shore batteries make a feeble attempt to reply, but their shells burst far short of the British ships. Notable by its absence, also, is the Italian Air Force. In this picture both battleships and destroyers are seen in action, with the Libyan coast in the background.

---

**BRITISH MOVIE TONNEWS, Ltd.**