

ROAD TO VICTORY

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Title: Escape From Yesterday.
Track: Fight.
Lines: Stagg.
Voice: Do.

The road to victory flows with oil. To Haifa and its great storage tanks the threat is removed by our success in Syria. First pictures of the British advance from Palestine come from the Paramount camera of E.P. Genock - the most travelled correspondent, with the pen or film, of the present war. Troops from Anzac and Mother Country sped to the border, once the long-delayed decision to invade Syria was forced upon us. It was a modern army, rolling to war on wheel and tank-track - an illustration, incidentally, of the paramount importance of oil in the conflict, Germany versus the Free World.

(LV CAMP) At a frontier post on the Palestine side, the army halted to refuel, load ammunition, fully prepare for the approaching zero-hour. Officers directing the various units held the final conference, and took every possible precaution that the attack should get away absolutely according to plan. They synchronized watches, the men looked to their guns, and when the clock-hands crept round to the appointed minute, the mechanised army let in the clutch and steered for the frontier.

Nacura, French customs-post on the Syrian side, was soon ours. There was little attempt to defend it, so the advance guard found the buildings intact. An important phone and telegraph junction, the exchange was the first objective. While one man stood guard, an engineer quickly cut the communications.

By the coastal road General Dentz had withdrawn towards Beirut, mining the highway as he retreated. The job was well done. Finding the debris too much for spades, the engineers decided they too would use dynamite.

Quick work restored the road and the pursuit went on. Faint hopes that the French might surrender without fighting were disappointed. By this time our forces could see the enemy rearguard. Orders at once came ~~to attack~~. Past the attempted road-block the British spearhead moved into position.

(CU ANTI-TANK GUN) An unexpected reply came from the sea; shells from Vichy destroyers.

Paramount cameraman E.P. Genock was in the forward observation post, getting pictures under fire, while officers phoned the range and
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Syrian Story continued.

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positions of the enemy back to batteries of 25-pounders, waiting to open fire.

The good shooting was clearly seen at the observation post, as more shells screamed overhead.

Again we advanced. This time the French had destroyed an oil dump before they abandoned it.

Prisoners began to come in. Most of them declared that while they obeyed unquestioningly Vichy's orders to fight, they had no real heart in campaigning against their former allies. A French marine said the same thing.

By now the war in Syria is almost a thing of the past. Russian resistance discourages Germany from any side-shows. In Syria we have restored peace to the Arab tribes that Hitler sought to embroil in the war. We carry on till we have restored peace to the whole world.
