

44-48001

ENTRY INTO ROME.

The Allied entry into Rome was made as the wheels of the mighty invasion machine were already turning. We must not let our thoughts drift away from the great victories of our armies in Italy, or let their wonderful achievements go unsung...the two offensives are far too closely related for that; the timing of their blows so obviously synchronised.

Fifth Army men drive through the city, past the Coliseum... place of ancient Roman holidays of quite a different nature.

Through the streets of Rome drives General Mark Clark. The Capitol is intact and wears no scars of battle; The illustrious city has been wrested undamaged from the enemy. The population gives itself up to excitement as the shackles of German domination fall away. The freeing of Rome has crowned a long succession of victories in Africa and Europe by General Sir Harold Alexander. But Rome is not without its incidents. Revolt against tyranny is expressed in several ways. In the Piazza Venezia anti-fascists hurl a bomb into a large insurance building in which several Fascists are in hiding. The temper of the crowd boils over and there's a rush to lay hands on them. Italian Carabinieri working under allied instructions are sent in to stop bloodshed. But nearby, Italian patriots are smashing down the door of another building. They want to get at a bunch of quislings who have been working with the Germans at this radio studio converted into a Nazi headquarters. This time they're lucky - they chuck the quislings out into the street, seeking them good and plenty.

Here's another side of Italian demonstration. Huge crowds make their way to St. Peter's to hear the Pope giving thanks for the sparing of the City from destruction. His speech from the balcony is recorded by an R.S.A.F. Film unit.

Here applause from the Romans as Italian soldiers parade the flag through the streets. They like to share in the victory.

While Rome goes gay, the 5th and 8th Armies are rolling up the Germans in retreat. The Allies are out to convert Kesselrings defeat into final catastrophe.

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D Day plus one - and widening and deepening foothold on that deadly shore. Strenuous efforts are made to penetrate inland before the full weight of resistance can be brought to bear.

Small Normandy villages begin to fall into Allied hands - - the race against time is being won - we still reap the reward of surprise. Every mile gained is making our position more secure. The Battle for Consolidation starts before Rommel's Panzer divisions can launch their counter attack. We fight on friendly soil, he has enemies all around him.

There are friendly people all along the way. Willing helpers (well instructed in how to meet our invasion), point out enemy entrenchments. Armed with that information the Tommies, the GI Joes and Johnny Canucks press on with "now let's get at 'em".

Over the crest comes a little group of Bosche prisoners. Their days as overlords are finished.

Pathe Gazette cameraman Jock Gemmell turns his camera on a Rhine Raft laden with German prisoners being shipped away from the Coast. One end of the Cross Channel Service bringing hundreds of beaten Bosche to Britain.

The prisoners transfer to an L.C.T. making the homeward journey. Reports tell of Russian, French and Polish nationals forced into labour units of the German Army being among the prisoners taken.

And the Colonel goes too; He's a privileged voyager... they clear a passage for him.

The Germans establish a beach-head on England - - by kind permission of the Royal Navy.

More than ten thousand captives in the first week caused quite a jam at our ports. The men who used to sing "We march against England" find that the song has gone a little sour.