

Will Northern Command

40/103

SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND.

Exercises on a large scale are taking place somewhere in England.

Heavy artillery is moved up by rail, to pound imaginary enemy positions.

Projectiles from heavy calibre guns such as these can smash reinforced concrete fortifications into powder. Situated several miles in the rear

of the main frontal attack, they will send their shells crashing into the enemy lines.

The heavy barrels swing slowly round into position and the guns are trained on their distant target. Range and elevation are mathematically calculated, as the gun crews ram home the armour piercing and high explosive charges. Now, the barrage opens up.

Away in the distance those shells are finding their mark.

Meanwhile, in the advance positions, the Infantry is rushed forward to take up a line on a river bank, and put up a screen of rifle fire as cover to advancing engineers.

That river has to be crossed and bridged for a general advance, and here is how its done. Assault boats are brought forward and into them go the men who are to cross and dig themselves in, until the rest of the attacking force can be got over. The only passport wanted for this passage is a rifle and a few hand grenades.

Looks like a bloodless victory to me. But there's plenty of mud about to make up for the absence of an enemy. Now take a look ~~xxx~~ at the Royal Engineers going to work. Pontoons are the first item in the programme

OF BRIDGE BUILDING - In the words of the R.E.'s Regimental song:

"You make fast, I make fast, make fast the dingy, make fast
the dingy Pontoon. " (Some of the other words are not quite as

clean as that.)

Technically speaking, I believe a bridge is "thrown" across.

But I'd like to see someone trying to chuck this one about.

Well, I doubt if the G.O. can find anything wrong with that,

so up come the Bren guns Carriers, and the wolf line is ready to

forward. With guns blazing, the mechanised infantry are rushed

forward and, in the words of a communique: "A general advance was made

all along the line".

~~Explosive charges.~~

It's training such as this which prepares us for the not so distant

day when we may be doing quite a big spot of invading.

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