

SPRINGBOKS IN ABYSSINIA.

The rapid sweep into Eritrea by British troops, brings General Sir Archibald Wavell (the man who gives headaches to the Axis partners) to the scene of operations. Britain's great soldier comes to the headquarters of the South Africans, who were amongst the first to enter Addis Ababa. He's met by General Brink and General Cunningham, Commander in Chief of the East African Forces, and brother of Admiral Cunningham, the Navy Wop Beater. In this tropical scrubland, Fascism is meeting its Waterloo.

The magnitude of our overwhelming successes in East Africa is sometimes not fully appreciated. We have a tendency to magnify misfortune and regard success with complacency. I wonder how many of us grasp the staggering area of country we and our allies have captured! Add together the advances made into Abyssinia, Eritrea, Italian Somaliland, Libya and Albania, and you have approximately twice the combined area of the whole of Germany and Italy combined. That'll give you something to think about.

These are the type of men who are taking the rough with the smooth and getting on with the job with a spirit that admits no time for armchair speculation. The front line soldier is one of the most cheerful and optimistic fellows you can meet. Look at these chaps having a roadside clean-up with a mug-full of water for a shower bath. And the reason for the spit and polish is all because they're taking over a captured fortress. Just a lot of dust and mud brick walls to look at, but from the military point of view, a fine achievement.

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