

## ALLIES TAKE FLORENCE

There was a race between the South Africans and New Zealanders for the honour of being first into Florence. Though the <sup>S</sup>Africans won by a short head the regiments of the smaller Dominion were not far behind. Maori troops took part in the assault.

For some time the view of Florence from the south side of the river Arno spurred the allies on. One fifth of the historic city is south of the river and close range rifle fire was exchanged between attack and defence.

The famous Ponte Vecchio was the only bridge the Germans did not demolish, but in the fighting it did not go ~~un~~ undamaged. Otherwise the ravages of war are confined to the modern parts of the town. Snipers, left behind when the main body of the enemy withdrew, troubled the allies for several days. ~~As they were pushed further north and~~ ~~our troops moved in,~~ <sup>us</sup> the people of Florence gave ~~them~~ a fervent welcome. Partisans, with whom secret communication was established while the Germans ~~were still in the city~~ still held the city, now fought the snipers.

(crowds) Liberation is in the air throughout Europe. The Italians, like the French to whom Freedom has been restored, count the hours till not one German remains on their soil.