

FLORENCE

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July, 22nd.

8th Army pushing down Pisa Vally from Arezzo extending hold on area overlooking hair-pin bend in Arno. Poles push on from Ancona.

July, 22.

Troops of 5th and 8th Armies battling on slowly to Florence. 5th ~~rounds~~ round the lower reaches of the Arno.

July, 27th.

New Zealanders take over from the French in the S.W. and push on up Highway 2. Indian troops fight N.E. of Arezzo. 5th Army sieze embankment parallel with river

28th

Polish Corp break down enemy resistance opponents of the New Zealanders are 4th German parashoot division.

July, 31st.

Germans resist strongly, but prisoners say instructions have been given to refrain from looting ^{already} when evacuating ~~the~~.

August, 1st.

Stiff fighting for Florence continues, 8th Army fights on the last heights S. of the city. Indians figure in attack.

August, 2nd.

Five enemy divisions ⁱⁿ form in a wide defensive arc S. of the city, whose approaches and guarded by the three best German Divs. 4th Parashootists. 29th & 3rd. Panzar Grenadiers, new type of trip wire used against N.Z.s., suspended grenades with trip wires which catch airtials of wireless trucks.

August 3rd.

Strong german stand S. of city. N.Z.s described in enemy despatch as "elite troops."

Aug. 5th.

S. Africans reach out-skirts of Florence. Patrols found 5 or 6 bridges over Arno within Florence destroyed. Wantonly.

Aug. 7th.

British troops hold 5th of the city S. of Arno, and British troops watch German movements across river. Germans hang blankets as screens **IN STREETS.**

To avoid damage to town British use only small arms fire. Germans reply with 88's and mortars. Between Casino and Florence 50,000 prisoners captured by Allies.

Aug. 10th.

~~Italy~~ Italian partisans help British to clear out snipers in S. part of the town. Typhus and cholera reported in German half of city.

11th Aug.

Churchill talks ^{Six hill climbing display} ~~with~~ ~~hills~~ to enable British to capture vital hill south of city. 150 men and women fascists arrested in ~~possession~~ possession of grenades and small arms.

Aug. 12.

Germans start evacuation from the North bank of the Arno, blow up bridges on river Mugnone, marking the northern boundry of the city, and then leave.

Our forces have been in contact with the partisans by specially laid secret telephone across the Arno ever since they arrived on the S. Bank. The battle for N. Florence has been organised by their aid from within.

Aug. 15.

Food brought across the Arno ~~in~~ in large quantities. Ponti Vecchio cleared of mines so that laden hand-carts can be pulled across it. Cholera reports exaggerated - nearly bad dysentary and paratyphoid.

Florence works of art where scattered months before attack in cellars of country villas round about the town.

Botticellis Primavera discovered by British war correspondents ^{in a villa} under fire.