

BARDIA BOMBARDMENT.

434

More stupendous pictures from the Gaumont British News cameramen in the Middle East War Zone.... tanks that were used in the capture of Sidi Barrani undergoing adjustments before moving on towards Bardia. These are some of the men who have been in the vanguard of our victories in the Western Desert. Sidi Barrani is safe in the hands of the Empire's Army of the Nile... forward detachments now move up ~~towards~~ to Sollum. When ~~this~~ film went through the camera our front line was still in Egypt --- to-day ^{shall} we move into Libya! Our tanks and lorries pass many a grim scene -- the dead that are another monument to Mussolini's greed --- to the Dictator's lust for power that is reaping such a harvest of despair. We pass many a desert fort that bears the scars of a battering by British artillery; and we see ahead the escarpment and harbour of Sollum; still in Egypt, and now regained for Egypt. Inland from Sollum our ~~armies~~ armies sweep into recaptured Fort Capuzzo. We have recrossed the violated frontier --- ~~and~~ now we stand in Mussolini's Libya. ^{As} As far as the eye can see there is evidence of the all-conquering advance of the Empire's Army of the Middle East. The captured remnants of the Italian army ^{are} a mixture of Italians and Libyans. The huge numbers of prisoners indicate that they have no heart for Mussolini's war. They would fight to the death for freedom; ~~but the call which asked them~~ but the call which asked them to invade their neighbours in Egypt never rang true.

Trainloads of warriors for whom the war is ended, return to Egypt under guard; the land they were ~~ordered~~ ordered to conquer receives them in captivity, before transshipment to some prison-camp within the bounds of our Empire. Sidi Barrani, Sollum, Capuzzo have fallen --- now come aboard a warship of the Mediterranean Fleet --- set sail for Bardia ----- This is how the Navy played its part in the capture of that desert stronghold: while Army Artillery and R.A.F. poured shells and bombs into the fortress, the Navy hurled ~~its~~ its attack from the sea. Ships of all kinds took part --- from squat little ^{gunboats} ~~ships~~ upwards.....Their guns of all calibres were trained upon the garrison town to open the most tremendous onslaught. Destroyers dashed in to silence shore batteries at point blank range.

The bombardment never ceases; day-long it shatters the heavens and all through the dark eastern night the blinding flash and deafening roar split the black universe.

The next day dawns with the bombardment still a raging fury; it ends only with the fall of Bardia.