

FIRST EMPIRE TROOPS ENTER ~~KEREN~~.

These are the surroundings of Keren; part of the natural defences of that key-town in Eritrea at which the Italians put up their most stubborn resistance.

Italian engineers impeded the Empire advance with continual road blocks - ~~artificial landslides~~; and the dynamite explosions echoed the crash of gunfire. ~~Italian engineers are famous for making roads; they made this one in a mess.~~

But the advance went on; our engineers cleared the way for the infantry, and at last the skilful angling of the attackers landed this prize fish.

We ran a propaganda service out there - hundreds of deserters left the Italian lines to take up the fight against their former masters. And so at length the first advance troops filter<sup>ed</sup> into the strong point that gave us virtually the command of all Eritrea. *the communique announced the capture of Keren*

In the town itself there was evidence of bombardment. The Governor's house was damaged; but ~~somehow~~ they missed old misery.

Once again in Keren we took prisoners and captured war materials; but many of the Italian troops escaped along the road to Dessie. They were harassed on their flight and Dessie has since been captured by the armoured units that swept on to ~~shatter~~ a few more Italian hopes.