

950

VICTORY IN LIBYA --- ENTRY INTO TRIPOLI --- THE EIGHTH ARMY SMASHES THE  
LAST STRONGHOLD OF ITALY'S EMPIRE.

This was the last stage of the Battle of Egypt which had become the Battle of Libya: this was the day when the Eighth Army was at Wadi Zem Zem, pressing on to Homs and Tarhuna; names less familiar than Tobruk and Benghazi and Derna --- because we had never before trodden this ground so close to Tripoli; this was the day when General Montgomery told his men --- "The Eighth Army is going to Tripoli. Nothing can stop us now." ~~and we shall have the good that comes.~~

Here there is some German Air Force opposition, but it was beaten; a Bofors unit shot down a Junkers 87

Near Ben Ulid an Ack-ack crew sustained casualties --- a timely reminder that our army did not achieve the victory without cost. ~~Now they take some prisoners. And~~  
But now they're on the last lap --- moving up from Tarhuna to Tripoli: victory --- complete victory over the last remains of Italy's Empire is in sight. You have seen in ~~newsreels~~ newsreels of the past three months the many battles that smashed the Axis armies in Libya; this is the reward of those desperate, hard-fought actions; this is the crown of success. Last October, we stood before the Gates of Alexandria with Rommel threatening all Egypt; this day, the 23rd of January 1943, they begin the march into Tripoli --- Huzzars armoured units, and many famous regiments of the line --- from Scots men to Cockneys; Seaforths, Gordons, Buffs, ~~XXXXX~~ Queens, Middlesex --- watch this milestone in world history--- and give grateful thanks to the men of the Eighth Army. X

And this is how the formal surrender was made at the gates of the city to General Montgomery -- by the Italian Vice-Governor, Lord Mayor and Prefect of Police

And then our victorious General entered after his troops

*from the Highland 950*

*Division* --- And Tripoli heard the skirl of the pipes ~~from the Highland~~  
~~Division~~ --- Tripoli was safely in our hands --- Mussolini's Empire had  
 crashed ~~but~~

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister had arrived in Cairo from  
 Casablanca; with him were ~~Lord~~ Lampson, ~~our Ambassador to Egypt~~ ---  
 and Mr. Casey, Minister of State --- and Generals Alexander, General  
 Brooke, General Wilson from Syria ~~and~~ Admiral Harwood

*430* From Cairo Mr. Churchill flew to Turkey. His plane took him to  
 Adana where a special railway coach was waiting in a siding. The Prime  
 Minister was greeted by President ~~Ironi~~ *Ironi*. To-date, no news has been  
 released as to the nature of the Premier's conversations with the  
 leading statesmen of this important neutral in Europe; and speculation  
 could cover too wide a field to be ~~sig~~ either profitable or accurate.  
 But it's interesting to note the extreme cordiality of ~~the~~ *the* atmosphere; it  
 doesn't seem as though Hitler ~~ix~~ would find any comfort in them if he  
 could see these pictures.

After Turkey, Mr. Churchill went to Cyprus, where he stayed at  
 Government House for the night. In a speech to the leading members of  
 the little island community, the Premier recalled his first visit 36  
 years previously as Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, when he  
 began his work for the abolition of the tribute due from Cyppus. Mr.  
 Churchill was warmly cheered, as might have been expected.

And so to Tripoli; and the newsreel camera flies above this  
 famous place that has so long been a target for our Middle East bombers,  
 and now is ours to defend: and to act as a base for future attacks on  
 the enemy in southern Europe.

X Mr. Churchill arrived by plane at Castel Benito airport --- with a warm greeting for General Montgomery. *And here the Premier gave*  
~~hearty congratulations to the senior officers of our victorious desert army.~~ *And here the Premier gave*  
~~hearty congratulations to the senior officers of our victorious desert army.~~ *Officers of our victorious desert*

After the first greetings the Premier and Service Chiefs drove to General Montgomery's Headquarters, and then at Combined Advanced Headquarters the Premier addressed a gathering of 2,000 Army and Air

Force Officers. ~~He told them that the Allied occupation of Libya had altered the whole course of the war. And those men who had had so much to do with that alteration gave three terrific cheers --- and one extra for General Montgomery.~~ *Then for the great review; the next day:*

~~The next day~~ the Premier drove past units of the Eighth Army drawn up in the broad streets of Tripoli

And then the march past; led by Highland pipers; they marched past the Premier and General Alexander and General Montgomery: the men who thrashed the Afrika Korps and chased the Axis out of Libya

Yes --- a truly great occasion; the impressive end to the first great victory of British arms against the once unbeatable Nazis.

Well done, the Eighth Army!