

1034  
FLOODS IN THE PATH OF THE ARMY.

Weather conditions in Italy have been repeatedly brought into the news as one reason for the slow advance; now with the Eighth Army crossing of the Sangro, we have learned that our soldiers have triumphed over natural obstacles and are going ahead to give the Germans a colossal crack; but these are the first pictures of another flooded river --- the Volturno; with American engineers of the Fifth Army fighting to maintain the bridge crossing. The old bridge at Capriati had been swept away; engineers in the biting wind and rain are struggling to lash ropes on the Venafro Bridge and tie it to <sup>the</sup> trees on the shore; but against them is the flooded current swirling downward in a mad and watery carousal.

The crossing of the river must be maintained. ~~X~~ If this bridge goes another will ultimately take its place; but for the time being it looks as if the army engineers have lost the day; the bridge is cracking up.

Now elsewhere in the Mediterranean theatre are rehearsal scenes for a new attack; Allied troops of many nationalities took part in these big scale manoeuvres preparing for the real thing on a day to come. We hear that units of the Eighth Army have been training in secret for their latest attack; this is the hopeful sign that points to ultimate victory; the training of the fighting forces of the United Nations to concert pitch; a campaign won --- and more training for a new campaign.

450 P.M.  
30/11/43 Sir V. Schuster