

THE ITALIAN FRONT --- AREZZO CAPTURED IN THE ALLIES' NORTHWARD
ADVANCE.

Some of the men who have built up the great name of the Eighth Army from the beginning --- New Zealanders rest by the side of the road in preparation for another step forward. As usual, they look terrifically fit and cheerful; if you didn't know very much better, you might mistake the whole thing for an exercise miles away from the front. But then, on an exercise, nobody looks cheerful.

Now the order to move forward has come through; tanks and infantry begin the final drive towards Arezzo; it was the former German strongpoint midway between Leghorn and Ancona.

And so one more Italian town is ~~taken~~ ^{entered, on} the southern route to Berlin; the fighting in Italy has fallen into the background since the front was opened in Normandy --- but the Fifth and Eighth armies are more than pulling their weight; advancing all the time.

Now, in the ancient town of Siena, General Alexander, Commander-in-Chief in Italy, with the American General Mark Clark and the French General Juin, celebrating France's Bastille Day in the famous old square. As you can see, it was a big ceremonial affair, complete with French Colonial Empire troops ~~and~~ and bands ~~and~~ mascots. The people of Siena helped in the celebration; it isn't their festival, but it's nice to have something to celebrate.

You will remember how in peace time, Siena used to celebrate the anniversary with x flag-throwers in mediaeval costume and a horse-race round the square. It was a most exciting affair; but you can't please everyone.

12.40. PM.

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Sir. V. Schmitz.