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WESTERN FRONT

The British and Canadian attack in the west goes on, through the flood and the mines, the machine guns and the concrete, towards the Rhine. British troops, under First Canadian Army Command, (their Bren carriers loaded on Buffaloes) add new waterborne units to an infantry already schooled to fight in the air as well as on land. German-made floods and devastation add to the difficulties of the advance.

British gunners, hammering away at enemy resistance-points in the heavily wooded Reichswald country between Cleve and Goch, fire with target-practice precision.

The long, straggling lines of prisoners are fast becoming the most familiar scene of this stage of the war. Three thousand Germans were the total catch in this operation. The small number of British guards underlines the extent of the enemy's beating. Inside Cleve (once a bastion of the Siegfried Line) the last stage of mopping-up goes on.

Enemy rearguards are squeezed from their few remaining holes while the main armoured strength moves relentlessly past them, on into Germany. There is almost a hush of expectancy about these pictures, curtain-raisers to the final drive by Field Marshal Montgomery's 21st Army Group to give the German army its knock out blow in Western Europe.

To cover the advance into Gennap, (little town to the south west of Cleve) smoke bombs were used. Field Marshal Montgomery described the job these toughened veterans are going forward to do, in the personal message he has just issued to them. "So we embark on the final round," he says, "in close co-operation with our American allies on our right, and with complete confidence in the successful onslaught being delivered by our Russian allies on the other side of the ring."

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