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ANNIVERSARY OF EL ALAMEIN

On the 23rd of October 1942, a great Army stood ready for battle, in the western desert of Egypt. It was the British Eighth Army and it was composed of fighting men from every part of the Empire: a truly Imperial Army. Pathe Gazette pays tribute to that Army. We are proud that so much of the first reporting of the desert battles came from Pathe's War cameraman Terry Ashwood, seen herewith the Field Marshal at his desert headquarters. MONTGOMERY Before the battle began I issued a message to the Eighth Army in which I said:- "The battle which is now about to begin will be one of the decisive battles of history. It will be the turning point of the war." and it was so. COMMENTATOR Three years later, Ashwood meets Field Marshal Montgomery again. At Pathe Studios, our film record of the war in the desert recalled events and men who made the Alamein offensive the turning point of the whole war.

MONTGOMERY

"I well remember the opening battle; the Eighth Army went into the attack in the bright moonlight."

"It was my great honour to command that Army; in the sky above us was the Royal Air Force; and on our sea flank was the Royal Navy. The task was to destroy Rommel and his Army. The enemy fought desperately; but the soldiers of the British Empire take a lot of stepping and eventually the enemy cracked."

"That great British Empire fighting machine - sailors, soldiers and airmen - won a decisive victory."

"The battle was won on the twelfth day and Rommel and his army were in full retreat."

"Many gallant deeds were done and many brave men gave their lives that we might win the battle; and because of that we now enjoy peace today. Let us never forget what the Fighting men of the Empire achieved at Alamein in October 1942."