

### Battle For Ortona

With a brilliant victory behind them, the First Division of the Canadian Army is now winning the heights of the sea-coast town of Ortona. The Moro river has been crossed and the summits around the Italian town are falling to Canadian hands. Fresh honours were won by the "Red patch devils," as the enemy names our heroes, when they forced the passage of the Moro, leading the 8th Army to the further bank, where a new and still dangerous task awaited them.

The Germans are masters of trick and treachery. It is a commonplace with them to feign defeat and then, when a generous foe advances, to shoot him down. In this way a Canadian platoon was wiped out. Every pass through the mountains is mined and, worse, by mines which are non-metallic and cannot be detected. Every vantage point conceals a machine-gun nest or a sniper. Cautiously and courageously the Canadians have to make their way through defiles and scale the steeps, dealing with each hidden enemy in turn. But more and more of the mountain tops are coming into their

hands. They look down upon Ortona and debouch upon the road to Guardagrele, where, on more level surface, enemy tanks strive in vain to drive them from the bitterly won positions. The opposition the First Division faces is said to be the sternest yet encountered.

The determination of the Germans testifies to the importance given by the enemy to the holding of the Italian line. The advantages are with the Hitlerites, but the Allies continue their steady pressure, slow defeat to the enemy as slow paralysis creeps over the cities of the Reich. The thing of evil is dying by inches, and in its destruction Canadians have a noble part, in the air over Europe, and among the mountains and rivers of Italy.

The success of the 8th Army's present thrust depends upon the capture of Ortona, and the Canadians will not fail. Dominion regiments are adding lustre to names already bright with triumphs won in the face of death. Well may General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, commander of the British 8th Army, say, "There is no need to ask how the Canadians are fighting, because they always fight well." Hamiltonians will be proud that soldiers from their city are taking part in the present glorious engagements.

153-004-025

149  
WAR  
EUROPEAN  
1939  
ITALY  
INVASION  
CANADA  
ARMY  
ORTONA