

OUR ARMIES IN ITALY.

Across the Straits of Messina an intense barrage of artillery, fired from Sicily, covered the attack. This gigantic step forward to the threshold of Europe was carried out with little interference from the air --- few Axis 'planes attempted to bomb the beaches --- only a few hours elapsed in the invasion of Italy before General Montgomery left to join his troops on the mainland. He travelled in a naval motor-launch, towing the Duck in which he afterwards toured the bridgehead. Standing in the bows, as Sicily slipped astern, the general examined the mainland through his field glasses as he finally drew near.

Plans had to be made as the campaign developed rapidly; by the roadside they spread out a map in order to make further dispositions. As our powerful land-battleships ploughed their way through Reggio to the attack, they were watched by Italians with mingled astonishment and admiration.

The airport nearby was seized --- the first in Italy to be captured --- one of the party who made the Commando raid at the end of August, was discovered in an Italian hospital by a forward patrol. As in Sicily, Allied troops were greeted with tremendous enthusiasm by the civilians --- for they realized that at last their hour of deliverance from the hated oppressors was at hand.

And now the White Ensign flutters proudly in the brisk Mediterranean breeze over the town, while wrecked ships bear silent testimony to the busy place that was once Reggio harbour.

12/10 P.M.  
14/1/432  
G. V. Schmitz

*now* , Our newsreel camera records some of the most  
spectacular war scenes ever filmed --- just released ---  
recalling that in spite of **air** supremacy over Sicily some  
losses were inevitable in the gigantic task of finishing off  
the broken Axis.