

**FALL OF CATANIA.**

Catania on August 5th, less than a month after the first Allied landings in Sicily. The city fell into our hands as a result of bold tactics which left the enemy with but two alternatives, departure or death. He preferred to get out. Thus our advance troops met little opposition as they entered the town.

The retreating enemy had mined most of the roads leading to Catania, but the Royal engineers carried out the exceedingly dangerous sweeping-operations for which they are famous, and the roads were soon safety lanes once more.

Our troops were not yet certain whether any Germans remained in the town, so they proceeded with caution until they were assured by the Italian population that they have "dama da bunk". Much evidence of the heavy bombing by the R.A.F. met our men as they passed through the streets heading North.

The sudden freedom from the yolk of dictatorship went to the heads of some of the Sicilians who indulged in an orgy of looting. They engaged in free fights for possession of the few trifling articles left by the fleeing Germans. The local police were helpless, but British troops soon restored order.

Out of Catania's normal population of 250,000 only one fifth remained when our boys entered the town. G-oh! make way for the fella with the umbrella! Hope it keeps fine for him!

Crowds were very anxious to prove their friendliness, and many a Tommy had to submit to being kissed on both cheeks!

Our reception in Catania seems to prove that the Italians want us in their land, for that way lies peace - and they know it!