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MEN FROM S. ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND IRELAND

From Lloyd Williams representing the Combined British Press

Reggio,  
Calabria.

Shattered, dirty-looking houses, deserted empty shells of shops, heaps of bomb and shell rubble, a few black-frocked women carrying water in earthen jars from <sup>street</sup> taps - this is Reggio, Calabria today. First town in Italy and first town on the Continent to be occupied by the Allies is a sorry sight. While enemy fighter-bombers swooped in on four sneak raids against British landing craft off the beaches, Italian civilians at Reggio lined up in bread queues and groups of Italian soldiers trudged dejectedly through the town to prisoner-of-war camps. Meanwhile Eighth Army infantrymen - men from the south of England, Scotland and Ireland - in blazing sun and swirling clouds of white dust, foot-slogged their way up the commanding features of the great mountain mass which rises sheer from the beach in the area of Reggio, and within three hours of the initial landing, all strategic heights were occupied. By sunset of the first day, a bridgehead, covering about sixteen miles of coastline and about seven deep, had been established without opposition. As the first day of invasion ends everything is calm in the Reggio area and the north. The peacefulness of the Straits of Messina is disturbed only by the sound of lorries groaning in low gear as they climb the twisting roads to the interior and the chugging of small supply-boats which still ply on a regular bus service across the Straits. In dusty lemon groves early evening fires are twinkling as men brew tea.

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