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THE TWO FORTS SURRENDERED

By Ross Munro representing Combined Press

With the Canadians,
Italy,
September 4.

It looked like Nemesis - for the Canadians assaulting the beach would have to be in range of "Fort Hill" just behind the city. On top of this high hill there were two concrete forts built in 1890 but re-modelled for modern war. There were strong gun positions and subterranean vaults for ammunition and the gun crews. You would think the defenders could have held out for days, but the troops walked into them to be greeted by two Italian sergeants, happy to be taken prisoner. The rest of the garrison, the majority of whom were Italian, were hiding in the rocks and caves around the forts, and they collected on receiving a short order. The only trouble we had to go to to capture the fort was to walk up a twisting road for two miles from Reggio to the hilltop.

Among the guns in the fort were four fourteen-inch howitzers which could have blown the landing beach to pieces by merely lobbing shells downhill. They did not look as if they had been fired, though one gun was loaded.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION