

INVASION RELEASES WOUNDED PRISONERS

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A German unit camped across the road from the hospital, but the captain said that two nights before the landing, a despatch rider rushed up to the colonel, jabbered some German, and within an hour the Nazis had gone back into the mountains.

On the night of the landing prisoners were awakened by the barrage starting up at 3.30, and they felt then the invasion forces were on the way. Shells rained down near them, but the hospital was not hit. They said the artillery concentration was colossal and hammered the whole area flat. Then, as the shelling lessened at dawn, they stood on the hospital roof watching their salvation landing craft sail in on the beaches.

Tech. Sgt. Mich and Staff Sgt. Kentucky, two members of the Fortress crew shot down in the area, said: "Were we glad to see you fellows? We were wondering why you were sitting over there so long, for we know there was nothing much here. We even planned an escape to go to Sicily to tell you, but could not figure out how to get a boat."

As soon as the invasion fleet was seen the hospital guards threw weapons in a corner and gave prisoner patients the freedom of the place for the first time.

When the last Germans left Sicily, leaving the Italians there, it was with bad feeling, they said, and the situation boiled over when a German shot an Italian who protested at an attempt to commandeer his car. An Italian machine-gun nearby opened up, and one German was killed and seven wounded. Further fighting took place before the Germans established order again. The German wounded were brought to this hospital and told the orderlies of the incident, who passed the information on to the prisoners.