

THE FALL OF ASMARA AND MASSAWA.

Following the capture of Keren, the Empire Army in Eritrea pushed on to Asmara the capital: the chief handicap was the road blocks left in their path by Italian engineers. Our engineers went ahead so fast that they nearly managed to prevent the dynamite squads from operating - but they did the next best thing: they captured them and set them to help clear up the mess. And all over this vast and desolate country, the Empire troops were closing in - mopping up: ferreting out cunningly concealed guns

~~Now~~ the columns are closing in on Asmara - ~~and~~ the hours of Italian domination are numbered. Hurry up - you'll miss the finish

Prisoners taken on the way were sent back behind the lines; ~~in the moments before the fall, the pleasant streets of Asmara were empty and silent,~~ ~~Italian Officers had gone out to meet the British Commander~~ <sup>came out</sup> ~~to~~ make arrangements to surrender

The Italian Generals are here seen with the ~~BRITISH~~ Bishop of Asmara, in discussion with <sup>the</sup> Brigadier General. ~~And~~ And so, after a five-day campaign, our camera accompanied the first car into the capital of Italy's oldest colony - to be greeted with salutes like a visiting foreign monarch in peace time.

*presently,*

*ha*

## THE FALL OF ASMARA AND MASSAWA. (2)

A Scottish Regiment was led in by a Piper: that made  
'em stare!

The pleasant streets of Asmara  
were empty + quiet; but a Scottish  
Regiment with a Piper changed  
all that.

## THE FALL OF ASMARA AND MASSAWA.

The ~~native~~ inhabitants seemed to be quite pleased at the change to British command; ~~in fact they even went to the length of putting up a notice of welcome~~ - "Here am very glad to see you in good health."

In the town of Adrugri not far from Asmara British prisoners had been tunnelling their way to freedom. They had dug 105 feet since January and only had another fifteen feet to go when the Empire Troops opened the door. <sup>And this was an Italian</sup> Back in <sup>Asmara</sup> Asmara ~~the motorised column had driven up to the governor's Palace.~~ <sup>Our victorious Commander-in-Chief, Gen. Platt</sup> The British Commander went in to establish his headquarters - and the capital was Mussolini's no longer.

After Asmara - Massawa, the important port on the Red Sea. Instructions for the attack were given with the aid of a map in the sand.

We sent a car with a white flag into the town to suggest immediate surrender; the car returned ~~with~~ with an envoy from the Italian command, blindfold. After instructions had been obtained from Italian headquarters the defenders of Massawa stated rather reluctantly that they proposed to fight on. So - the battle for Massawa commenced. ~~shells and air bombardment gradually overcame resistance;~~ the strongholds on the road began to show the sign of ~~surrender~~ surrender which is almost becoming the Italian national flag.

THE FALL OF ASMARA AND MASSAWA. (2)

This is the destruction wrought in the harbour; Italian shipping crippled; supplies destroyed; their defeat had only been a matter of time. Some attempts at sabotage had been made before our troops marched in; an ammunition lorry crashed; and this is Admiral ~~EMMEXX~~ Benetti; ~~XXX~~ in charge of the defence; ~~in the sea there were tanks which had been scuttled in the good old Axis tradition.~~

~~So ended the last serious Italian resistance in~~  
Britain, <sup>of her</sup> Italy ~~had~~ lost a few more <sup>the</sup> possessions in ~~this~~ war which she entered from motives of greed.