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## INVASION OF SICILY... PREPARATIONS.

Sailing day for Sicily. Canadians, well trained and in the pink of condition, embark for the spring-board base in North Africa as invasion day draws near. A substantial convoy escorted over 2,000 miles from Britain to the Mediterranean without loss of man or ship. The troopships also carried Medical Personnel and Nurses. They first heard of their destination when several days out in the Atlantic,

Overture to the great amphibious operation by United Kingdom, Canadian and American Forces. The famous invasion team of North African veterans and the Dieppe Raiders, supplemented by other seasoned fighters.

In Africa, the airborne troops were undergoing last minute practice in the task which lay before them. It was the British and American Glider and carrier-borne troops which formed the spearhead of attack. Sweeping in from the Mediterranean, they preceded the Coastal Invasion by several hours.

North African Ports were packed with assault craft of all kinds. The Allied invasion Armada was assembling. This had all been planned by the men at the Allied helm months ahead. During that time would-be clever folk were demanding the opening of a second front as if the idea were overlooked. Well, it here it was coming out of the tactical blueprint while the wise guys screamed their advice.

In quiet corners in Tunisia, they held their Services on the eve of the coming operation. Men about the face the unknown drawing strength and comfort from prayer.

Meanwhile, Allied air attacks were reaching a new intensity. Malta was sending out strong formations. The changes were being rung with a vengeance - Sicily tried hard to smash Malta; but here was the gallant little Island knocking great lumps out of Sicily and the Axis Air Forces.

Wave top skimming their way to Sicily. A big newsreel story will be fully told when all operational pictures come to hand. But here's the invigorating sight of our invasion craft leaving harbour as the hour to strike draws near. It was they which helped to ferry the thousands of men across the Mediterranean to the hundred mile front along the seaboard of Sicily.

From these impressive beginnings the Invasion of Europe had begun. And it so happened that the first country where we planted ourselves was an enemy country; The creeping Axis partner - Italy.