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AG, CENSORSHIP REPORTS
MAY 1941 - JUNE 1945
(1 OF 2)

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Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

CWH/vm

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 133

25 June 1945
- 4 LUG 1945

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 9th June 1945.

TO : G-2 (Communications Censorship), AFHQ, APO 512, U.S. Army.

This report is based on 386,200 letters checked during the four weeks ended 9th June. This does not include any military mail from frontier areas.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favourable and unfavourable comments on various subjects over the period. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

Since our last four-weekly report there has been a major change in the location of stations. All of our previous stations, with the exception of Rome, Naples, and the comparatively new station at Bologna, have been given up, and so this report only covers the central areas of the country to a very limited extent.

On the other hand we have opened new stations in the recently liberated North. Thus this report covers Northern Italy through internal mail censorship, and southern Italy, Sicily and Sardinia through external mail censorship, and of course the big centres of Rome and Naples.

Owing to the various changes, we have not sent out weekly tallies, and the ratio table, in Appendix A, only shows the average figures for the four-weekly period and not for each week separately as has been done hitherto.

A comparison between the figures for the previous period under review is likely to be misleading in many instances,



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particularly on the subjects of food, clothing, housing, and relations with the Allies. Generally speaking the south is much more critical of living conditions than the central areas and the North, but is more favourably disposed towards the Allies. The North, on the other hand is less critical of living conditions than the central areas and more favourable towards the Allies, but not so good-willed as the South. Thus, in the body of this report, under the appropriate headings, separate figures are given for the North, South, and the Rome and Naples areas relating to the four subjects mentioned earlier in this paragraph.

None of the comments used in this report have been used in any previous report.

1. FOOD SITUATION

Civilian opinion on the food situation varied considerably in different parts of the country. In the southern regions, Sicily and Sardinia the position seems to have worsened during the period under review, and the unfavourable comments were in a majority of 81 to 1 as compared with 75.2 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Both Rome and Naples, on the other hand, were decidely less critical than formerly. In the capital the adverse comments were in a majority of 21.3 to 1 as against the huge majorities of 102.3 to 1 and 77.2 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. There was quite a fair proportion of letters commenting on the fall in the prices of food. Naples, which was adverse to the extent of 10.1 to 1, reflected this feeling to a lesser degree, the figures for the previous period being 33.8 to 1. Northern Italy was less unfavourable as a whole than any other part, the figures being 8.9 to 1, though in some centres the feeling was much more pessimistic, notably in Bolzano, Brescia, Como, Cuneo and Verona. Military mail swung back to a favourable opinion after the reversal of feeling during the previous period.

The majority of complaints are based on high prices. A wide variety of foodstuffs are available in many places, but the majority of people cannot buy them. However, there have been letters from Rome remarking on the drop in prices, but even so they are still too high for most people. From some centres there are complaints that rationed foods are not available. Bologna, Cuneo and Palermo are examples. The shortage of fats troubles

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many people. A fairly general complaint is that bread has to be bought in the black market, either because the ration is insufficient or not available. The following comments are examples of the above:

"We are lacking everything. We eat a soup of chestnuts and potatoes because we have no rice at all and very little flour. The price of vegetables is increasing every day. I wonder how long we can keep going under there conditions." (2/6/45 - Borgo S. Dalmazzo)

"The cost of living is quite unbearable since everything is being sold on the black market. Fish at the fish-market costs 200 lire a kilo, meat is more than 500 lire, fat over 1000 lire, and butter costs 500 lire." (19/5/45 - VENICE)

"All the promises about rations have not yet been kept. We are receiving 250 grammes of rice per month, 200 of bread per day and no pasta at all. We have to tighten our belts, and we wait for the promised food which never comes." (30/5/45 - GENOA)

"The black market operates in regions. The most important is nearby in a little street by the Post Office. There are hundreds of people selling foods of every kind. Croissants of 100 grammes are 10 lire each, pasta is 130 lire per kilo, beans 100 lire, rice 60, butter 800. It is quite an open black market. Vegetables and fruit are very expensive. Eggs cost 19 lire each, or 20 lire if they are very fresh. Wine is from 70 to 80 lire per litre." (28/5/45 - GENOA)

"A shortage of salt is starting. The price of coarse salt has increased from 140 to 200 lire, and fine salt from 100 to 130 lire. I think it depends on the temporary prohibition of salt manufacture." (5/6/45 - GENOA)

"Olive oil costs 600 lire per litre, sugar 800 per kilo. If the black market is not checked, those who have survived the war will certainly die of starvation." (18/5/45 - S. PIETRO IN CAMPO D' ELBA)

"The cost of living here is very high, and there is a shortage of rationed items since nothing is being distributed, either fats or meat or pasta." (2/6/45 - BOLOGNA)

"We hope the shortage of meat and fat will come to an end. Otherwise what will happen to us! Some food prices are as

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follows: peas 60 lire per kilo, eggs 27 lire each, artichokes 18 lire each, dried figs 200 lire per kilo, nuts 180 lire per kilo, the cheapest vegetables are 40 lire a kilo. Meat has completely disappeared." (14/5/45 - BOLOGNA)

"We are continually eating rice since pasta on the black market costs up to 150 lire per kilo. Olive oil costs 900 lire a litre, and cheese has disappeared. Bread is 100 lire per kilo, eggs 21 lire each, meat 500 lire per kilo, and we do not recieve any rationed food." (7/5/45 - PALERMO)

"With the ration cards we no longer get anything. The shops are full of kinds of things at enormous prices. Chickens cost 600 or 700 lire per kilo, lamb and rabbits 300 or 350 lire per kilo, ham 1300 lire. Eggs have dropped to 25 lire each. Vegetables are very expensive. Peas in the pod are 50 lire per kilo, and artichokes 12 lire each at least. I wonder how employees can keep going." (21/5/45 - LA SPEZIA)

"We are no longer receiving rationed food items. We have seen no sugar, pasta, butter, rice or cheese since September. We no longer receive the half litre of milk which we had before. We can't go on like this." (25/5/45 - CUNEO)

"All articles of food are very expensive here. We pay 400 lire per litre for olive oil and 300 lire per kilo for sugar, and so on." (25/5/45 - NAPLES)

"I'll just give you an idea of the present black market prices, for we can live no other way because the food we get with our ration card does not suffice. Bread is 90 lire a kilo, pasta 180, rice 600, sugar 1500, meat 800, potatoes 60, butter 1000, flour 120, beans 200, oil 450 per litre, and wine from 45 to 100." (24/5/45 - LECCO)

"Don't think that we have nothing to eat. You can find nearly everything, but at such high prices that you cannot afford to buy anything." (9/6/45 - ROME)

"A fall in the prices of all foodstuffs on the Rome market has been noticed recently. Let us hope that everything will soon return to normal, and thus we will get along better." (26/5/45 - ROME)

2. CLOTHING

More letters were written on the clothing situation than on any other subject, and, if one can judge by the figuers,

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the position is a cause of greator worry even than tha of food. Nevertheless, the feeling was less adverse than during the previous period. From Southern Italy, for example, the unfavourable comments were in a majority of 720 to 1 as compared with 947.7 to 1 during the preceding four weeks. The corresponding ratio for Naples was 15.7 to 1 as against 39.2 to 1 formerly, and for Rome 45.2 to 1 as against 360 to 1 during the previous period. In Northern Italy the adverse ratio was 13.3 to 1, but in several centres the adverse ratio was several times greater, notably in Brescia where there was only one favourable comment out of a total of 223, and in Como, Turin, Venice and Verona. There were not many military comments, but there was a slight favourable majority as compared with a 3.1 to 1 unfavourable majority during the previous four weeks.

As in the case of food, the clothing situation is criticised chiefly from the point of view of prices. The most notable point, however, is the very wide differences in prices in the various centres, and that even the lowest of these are considered to be exorbitantly high. Shoes, for example, are quoted at the comparatively low figures of 3000 to 5000 lire a pair in Genoa, and so on through various levels till we read that they cost 12000 lire a pair in Catanzaro. The highest price quoted for a man's suit was 35000 lire in Lecco, and the lowest was from 8000 to 10,000 in Turin. The prices of dress material are also a cause of bitter complaints, though in Rome we read that there has been a not inconsiderable drop in prices. But even so, the prevailing figures are beyond most people. The following are typical examples of some of the comments:

"Thousands of lire are not enough to meet the cost of living, and we have to give up any idea of buying clothes or shoes. Such things can only be afforded by those who deal in the black market. A suit costs 30,000 lire, and muslin, which used to cost 7 or 8 lire per metre in the past, now costs 1,500 lire, and so on." (15/6/45 - NAPLES)

"To half sole shoes we have to pay 500 lire. We have reached a point at which only God can help us." (4/6/45 - GENOA)

"Clothing prices are as follows: wool undershirts for men, with long sleeves, 650 lire and upwards; a suit length of black material about 10,000 lire; a dress length, without lining, from 1800 to 2500 lire; artificial silk underclothes for women from 275 to 350 lire; wool undershirts for women from 450 to

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850 lire; stockings from 200 to 500 lire; men's shirts with short sleeves from 600 to 1000 lire, and with long sleeves from 1200 to 1800 lire; socks from 85 to 300 lire. These prices are really too high." (5/6/45 - GENOA)

"The black market here is very expensive and we can hardly get along. The prices are really amazing. I'm making and mending my shoes myself, since a pair of sandals cost 5000 lire." (13/5/45 - BOLOGNA)

"At the moment the shops are rather empty, and of the few materials available, those of inferior quality cost 500 lire a metre." (4/6/45 - BOLOGNA)

"The few things we can find in the market are very expensive and of an inferior quality. A pair of shoes costs from 4000 to 5000 lire, and the national material 2000 lire per metre. We wonder how we will manage." (28/5/45 - BOLOGNA)

"We have fallen into an absolute misery and are completely without clothes. A pair of shoes costs about 8000 lire, and a spool of thread, which used to cost 10 centesimi, now now costs 350 lire." (6/6/45 - TERAMO)

"A pure wool suit costs 8000 or 10,000 lire, an artificial silk dress 3,000 lire, a pair of stockings 110 lire, and a pair of men's shoes 5000 lire." (7/6/45 - TURIN)

"Life is very expensive here. Shoes cost 12,000 lire a pair, and a suit runs to 25,000 lire." (20/5/45 - CATANZARO)

"We won't talk about clothing. It is sufficient to say that a pair of stockings costs 1,300 lire and a man's suit 35,000." (24/5/45 - LECCO)

"Stockings cost from 250 to 350 lire per pair. Printed silk is 350 lire a metre, and pure silk not less than 900 to 1000 lire." (3/6/45 - ROME)

"There has been a certain decrease in prices, but they are still too high for us. Printed fabrics now cost 300 lire per metre, and pure silk 1,300 lire, but you still need many thousands to be able to make a summer dress." (2/6/45 - ROME)

3. HOUSING

Civilian mail became more critical of the housing situation throughout the period under review, except in Rome



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where the unfavourable comments were in the large majority of 63,5 to 1 as compared with the even larger majority of 117.7 to 1 during the previous period. In Naples the adverse comments exceeded the favourable by 37.5 to 1 as against 33.2 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Southern Italy was particularly critical, and the ratio was 155.5 to 1 as compared with 71.4 to 1 during the preceeding four weeks. Northern Italy does not appear to be so badly affected as regards accomodation on the whole, the unfavourable comments only being in a majority of 6.3 to 1, but these figures are largely due to a high percentage of favourable comments from Bologna, and some centres are just as critical as Rome or Naples, notably Brescia, Turin and Verona. There were only a few military comments, and they were equally divided.

In addition to the usual references to high rents, the destruction of houses during the war, and swolen populations in various centres where refugees have flocked, there was a fair number of letters complaining of the high cost of repairs. Many premises remain uninhabitable because the cost of putting them in order is excessive. Requisitioning by the Allies is commented on, and from Naples there is a letter stating that although the writer's house was requisitioned, he had to go on paying the rent in order not to lose the lease. The following comments are some examples of the above:

"At Sorrento there is no accommodation at all. The place is crowded with refugees whose houses in Naples have been requisitioned." (18/5/45 - Naples)

"There is no sort of accommodation here, either in the town or in the province, and if you do find something one pays enormous sums, and the proprietors impose on you in every way. As soon as the decree was issued the owners doubled and even tripled the rents for shops and premises of every kind including private houses. Our house had been requisitioned for one year, but we had to pay the rent as usual in order not to lose the right of lease." (24/5/45 - NAPLES)

"There is not even a room here. Many premises have been requisitioned by the Allies in the neighbourhood of Posillipo and in the islands etc. Naturally there is nothing to be had unless you take a house by paying off the previous lease at a very high price, either 100,000 or 150,000 lire." (17/5/45 - NAPLES)

"In order to go back to Genoa we have to solve the housing question. Meanwhile we have to put up with compulsory confinement in this impossible residence." (15/5/45 - GENOA)

"For the time being our situation is quite hopeless. A kind of anarchy is spreading round here. In Leghorn more than 50% of the houses are uninhabitable. Materials are lacking

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to repair them, and there is a shortage of labour. A brick, which formerly cost 45 centesimi, now costs 9 lire." (19/5/45 - LEGHORN)

"Your house was damaged and is no longer inhabitable. The furniture has been destroyed. According to recent decrees your flat has been requisitioned by the comune. There is a shortage of housing everywhere, and there are hundreds of homeless families." (24/5/45 - BOLOGNA)

"We are still homeless. Too many people are in the same position. We are now living in a garret, a real garret in which one hits one's head on the low beams of the ceiling. We have no water, and it is terribly hot. There is no hope of any improvement in the situation because it will be more than a year before they can rebuild the houses." (16/5/45 - BOLOGNA)

"We can't even start to restore our house because many homeless people entered through the windows and took possession of the place." (21/5/45 - BOLOGNA)

"Our house in Casalecchio was badly damaged, so we moved to the Bellone Hemp factory, the so called Fabbricone, but having suffered bomb damage there also, we took shelter in the house of a peasant named Bini di Ceretolo, and then once again we suffered in an offensive." (19/5/45 - CASALECCHIO RENO)

"A few days ago I went home hoping to find something left. Everything was burning. Here, near Salmi, the stable and hay loft, where we took refuge, were burnt out. We lack everything except a little straw for beds." (12/5/45 - OLIVETO MONTEVECCHIO)

"The landlady of my house, in order not to lose any time, has raised the rent from 200 to 820 lire. Just imagine it!" (3/6/45 - BOLZANO)

"Prices of building materials and workers' wages are going higher day by day, and to such a degree that no landlord has the means for proceeding with the necessary repairs. The tenants make repairs at their own expense in order to have inhabitable premises, but with the understanding that, if the State should grant the owners an indemnity, the tenants are entitled to their share. Rents which are not controlled are based on a scale of 5,000 lire per room." (6/6/45 - ROME)



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4. INCOME

Civilian opinion on the question of wages, salaries and pensions remained much the same as it did during the previous period, there being no marked differences between the northern, central or southern regions. Unfavourable comments were in a majority of 20.6 to 1. Naples was less critical than formerly. There was little change in Rome or Southern Italy.

Practically all complaints are based on the fact that incomes are not sufficient to meet the cost of living. There are many letters saying that incomes are only large enough to provide adequate food for a portion of the month. Clothes, in such cases, cannot be bought. Although there have been various increases in wages, it has usually happened that these have been accompanied by a corresponding and often greater increase in the cost of living. Thus the gap between income and expenditure over widens. The less unfortunate people bridge the gap by selling off what surplus possessions they may have, and by drawing on their savings. When the latter are exhausted, there is nothing left but to tighten their belts. The following comments are some examples from many letters:

"The cost of living is very high here, and the black market is always growing. Wages, however, have been increased by so little that we will not be able to buy food for much longer." (5/6/45 - GENOA)

"Our wages are not satisfactory. But we hope there will be an improvement so that eventually a balance may be reached between income and expenses." (4/6/45 - GENOA)

"I'm in a very bad way. It is really necessary to earn more, since my wages last for ten days only." (8/6/45 - GENOA)

"During the 18 months of your imprisonment I received, little by little, 5,000 lire. I also received a subsidy of 19.5 lire per day. With such an income alone, Nellina and I would have starved indeed." (25/5/45 - IONIA)

"This morning I bought 100 grammes of butter at 60 lire, i.e., the daily wage my husband receives. If wages don't increase and the cost of living come down, we will not possibly be able to go on." (25/5/45 - IONIA)

"Everywhere prices are equally high, and one cannot live. My wages are 100 lire per day, which should be only an

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advance." (7/6/45 - MILAN)

"They cannot go on alone, since your father's pension is not even sufficient to buy the bread." (29/5/45 - NAPLES)

"Life is quite unbearable. Our pay only lasts until the 19th of the month, and from the 20th to the 27th we really do not know how to get along." (13/6/45 - LEGHORN)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Comments on the National Government were not numerous, and from some centres there were hardly any comments at all. The mail did not reveal any wide differences of opinion between the northern, central and southern areas of the country. During the previous period a less unfavourable opinion seemed to prevail, but during the period under review there was a swing back to a more unfavourable view, and adverse comments were in a majority of 2.1 to 1. Rome, where there was a small majority of favourable comments for the first time during the previous four weeks, changed completely during the four weeks under review, and produced a 3.3 to 1 majority of adverse comments. Naples, which was a little more than 2 to 1 against the government previously, produced a 4 to 1 majority of adverse comments during the period under review. Milan's opinion seemed to be much the same as Rome's. There were few military comments, and they were more adverse than previously.

Many of the comments are very involved, including in such fancies and accusations that it is difficult to assess any definite or constructive lines of criticism. However, two things emerge from this welter of words. Firstly, there seems to be a fairly widespread feeling that there are too many parties, and that each one is more intent on furthering its own interests rather than those of the country. Secondly, and following naturally on the above, it is felt that the Government, or any other similar badly made, can hardly be capable of facing and combatting the problems with which Italy is faced. The following are a few of the less involved comments:

"Things are not going very well in Italy. There is plenty of talk and polemics, but little or nothing is being done. The Italians are so taken up with political struggles that they give no head to the material and moral reconstruction

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of their country. And our neighbours are taking advantage of this. We are now awaiting the construction of the new government, which will be just like the others. The only thing to help us would be the occupation by the Allies for as long as possible." (20/5/45 - NAPLES)

"The public is not sufficiently educated, and is therefore unprepared to think for itself. It allows itself to be guided by ring-leaders who always preach about man's rights but never about his duty..... It is necessary for the workers to understand that liberty is a great thing, but they must also concede it to their opponents. Meanwhile more than a month has passed, and we still have a government incapable of governing." (31/5/45 - MILAN)

"During the Fascist regime the thing was usual, but now that Fascism is said to be dead, it seems to me that its ways are still very much alive, because everything is based on corruption. Thus the old French saying: "Plus ca change et plus c'est la meme chose." is always true.... Our self-appointed government tries to do its best, but unluckily the same ministers, who are very wise and tolerant in council, become the opposite when they act as leaders of their parties. Thus you may well imagine what happens." (27/5/45 - ROME)

## 6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

The great bulk of the comments on the provincial administrations came from Southern Italy, and in those regions civilian opinion became nearly twice as critical as it was during the previous four weeks. From Rome there were hardly any comments and those few were about equally divided. Naples, which was unfavourably disposed by 9 to 1 during the previous period, became more critical to the extent of 18.4 to 1 during the period under review. The northern cities produced only 129 comments between them all, of which 61 were favourable and 68 unfavourable.

The comments themselves were frequently vague, and often attributed faults or virtues to the provincial administration in matters which did not concern them. This failing, plus the general paucity of comments, except from Naples and the South generally, makes any assessment of opinion from censorship sources valueless.

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7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES

Civilian opinion of the Allies underwent some curious changes, during the period under review, in those parts of the country for which we have previous figures. Southern Italy, for example, where favourable comments were only in a majority of 6.6 to 1 during the previous period, produced a 25.9 to 1 majority of favourable comments during the period under review. Rome and Naples, on the other hand, became distinctly less favourable, each city producing the same ratio of 5.6 to 1 in favour as compared with 16.6 to 1 and 8.1 to 1 respectively during the preceding four weeks. Northern Italy was favourable by 20 to 1. Milan was outstanding. Out of a total of 606 comments only 9 were unfavourable. There were only a few military comments, 48 in all, of which only 2 were unfavourable.

Favourable comments, particularly from the North, are nearly all expressions of gratitude for having been liberated and for having been supplied with food. There are also remarks about the good behaviour of the troops, and some references to capable Allied administration. Unfavourable comments arise from disappointment at not having received all that had been expected. This does not only refer to material benefits. Some people feel that having the Allies in Italy only means a change of masters. Others resent the humiliations they have to suffer. The following comments are some examples:

A. Favourable

"We must frankly acknowledge that the Allies have been not only our liberators but also our saviors, and that after having liberated us they acted as Allies towards us. If they had not come to our aid we should all have starved after the liberation. As it is the food situation is not so bad, and it is gradually improving." (23/5/45 - GENOA)

"Since whitsuntide we have had the British here. They are very good. We have twenty two of them." (26/5/45 - VERONA)

"We have the Americans called here. They are so good that they often give us what we need." (2/6/45 - TURIN)

"Order has been completely restored. The American and British troops are wonderfully kind to us, and even the negroes are benevolent towards the children. The Allies are completely

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different from those arrogant criminals. Two naval officers dined with us, and I found them perfect gentlemen." (20/5/45-GENOA)

"The Allies were welcomed with joy. We have English here. They dance with our peasants in the streets, and our flags are waving near those of the Allies." (24/5/45 - VENICE)

"Everybody is quite satisfied with the Allies who have been enthusiastically welcomed by the population. The Fascists have now disappeared and belong to the past." (15/5/45 - VARESE)

"Here we are in the hands of the Americans who are civilised people, and not as they had been described to us formerly, except the negroes, but let us hope that the latter are only here in passing." (6/6/45 - VICENZA)

B. UNFAVOURABLE

"Now we have our liberators who are, so to speak, our masters since we shall have to do what they wish." (25/5/45 - BELLUNO)

"The Americans have occupied the Sanatorium at Garbagnate. It is a clear example that things in Italy have changed little in the past months. We have had only a change of guards by our masters." (30/5/45 - COMO)

"You Italians in America must fight to spare Italy the ill-treatment and humiliations that seem to be in store for her at the hands of the new masters who, however, wrap themselves with the finest banners of liberty and justice. What hypocrisy!" (19/5/45 - ROME)

"Every day more people are coming into our village, Americans, British etc. But for what reason do they come here? To eat our supplies and to bring about an increase in prices." (27/5/45 - S. MARGHERITA L.)

8. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS

Civilian mail revealed no great divergence of opinion on industrial prospects in the various areas of the country; in fact the small unfavourable majority of 1.1 to 1 among the com-

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marks during the previous period was reproduced during the period under review. It would seem, then, that the Roma takes much the same view as the central areas did. No centres more markedly pessimistic or optimistic, except possibly Brescia and Como which were almost unanimously unfavourable in their opinions, but on a small number of comments. Naples was 2 to 1 favourable as compared with 3.5 to 1 and 5.1 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. The South as a whole was less pessimistic than it was during the previous period.

Favourable comments speak of quick repairs to factories and resumption of work. Even when factories are not in working order, there is often evidence of confidence in an early reconstruction. There is also mention of delays in changing over from wartime to peace time production but this is not spoken of as causing any serious delay. Unfavourable comments are usually based on fears that destroyed plants and factories may not be rebuilt for a long time to come. But in other cases, where factories are standing, work is held up owing to a shortage of coal or to a lack of raw materials. The following are examples of various types of comments:

"We have begun our work of reconstruction, and we hope to be able to resume operations fairly soon." (6/6/45 - BOLOGNA)

"The Chiavenna plant has been destroyed, but that of Merano has been only slightly damaged. We hope to resume our work soon." (10/5/45 - BOLOGNA)

"At the San Giorgio works, after a short interruption and the epuration, we started the work again well enough, except for the difficulties of changing over from war to peace production, and other minor troubles that are not of great account." (20/5/45 - GE-PEGLI)

"It is a question of rebuilding a plant which has been reduced to a scrap heap, without having a plan of the original, because all the files have been destroyed. Much enthusiasm and goodwill will be needed to restore to operating condition all that can be utilized from the scrap piled up in all the departments." (23/5/45 - LA SPEZIA)

"In our section work has been at a standstill since 5th May owing to the lack of coal. The workers are being used in various

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jobs which are not profitable and which are very costly to us." (4/6/45 - SETTIMO TORINESE)

"Our factory has been completely destroyed in the air raids and cannot resume work." (1/6/45 - BOLOGNA)

"At present there is a shortage of materials in our steel foundry, and production is proceeding very slowly." (9/6/45 - CUNEO)

"In the paper mill of Burgo-Verzuolo work has not yet been resumed inspite of the promised Allied help." (9/6/45 - CUNEO)

"Majolica industries in Perugia province have come to a standstill owing to the complete absence of raw materials. The few factories still working are limiting their production to Allied Military Command orders which supplies them with the materials required for certain specified articles." (17/5/45 - PERUGIA)

"The town of Prato has suffered greatly from air raids, and 40% of its industries are completely destroyed." (30/5/45 - PRATO)

9. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS

There was no change in civilian opinion on agricultural prospects during the period under review. The new stations in Northern Italy, taken as a whole, reflected much the same degree of pessimism as did the stations in the central areas now closed. Thus the sum total of all comments from all parts of the country covered in this report were in a proportion of 3.1 to 1 unfavourable, which is the same as during the previous period. Cuneo was the most pessimistic of all centres with no favourable comments at all. Naples was more pessimistic than last time, and Rome even more so. Southern regions generally were a little more unfavourably disposed than during the previous four weeks.

The prevailing unhappy feeling is due chiefly to the general absence of rain for a long time. Crops will not sprout, or they barely grow at all, and the land in some places is so hard that cultivation is impossible. Round Venice it is said that the shortage of oxen made it impossible to plough. There

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is also the complaint that fields in that area were ruined by military vehicles and troops. Sound bases, in addition to drought conditions, as earlier fresh breezes ruined crops. Even Hard the crops are so poor that in some cases they have been fixed over to sheep pastures. From Sardinia there is the reported complaint that crops have been confiscated by agents of Freedomtown. The following notes the fine Italian talent to the various trials:

"Owing to the lack of rain there is no wheat in the Tavoliere delle Puglie and in many other zones. Often was sown the fields." (4/6/45 - ROME)

"Owing to the absence of rain we have no hope for our cereals this year. The 27th May being Holy Whitsuntide, we hope that God will crack us some water from heaven. Otherwise we will be doomed to starvation this year. There is still time for the corn and maize to be saved, but the cereals will remain without fodder." (25/5/45 - TRIESTE)

"It has not rained for the last four months, and the country is in a pitiful condition. There is not a blade or a potato to be found, and the wheat is completely burnt. We are remembers ever having reaped so few, and yet everybody is going to this year." (17/5/45 - PIEDMONT)

"This year the weather is against us, there is such a drought. It has not rained since February. The corn cannot be sown, and the potatoes will not sprout. We shall certainly starve if God does not help us." (21/5/45 - PESCARA, ABRUZZI)

"I am also going to tell you about the country which is in a good enough condition, but we are very worried because of the lack of rain, and the crops are starving." (22/5/45 - SIENA)

"A terrible invasion of grasshoppers has ravaged the country. Crops, hedges, even trees have been literally destroyed, and if plants do not arrive from outside, we are done for." (29/5/45 - BRESCIA)

"We are really worried for vegetables, corn, fodder etc. will all be mixed owing to the drought which has lasted since March. In the whole of Puglia we will not get 1/3 quintals of vegetables. Such a drought was never occurred before."

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The corn and the oats will not shoot, and in many places the sheep have been turned into the fields to eat what is there. And now it is too late to expect the rain to do any good to the fields, especially as far as vegetables are concerned, for they are completely burnt." (16/5/45 - BARI)

"Another misfortune has fallen upon us. Since the melting of the snow it has not rained, and that is bad for the cattle, and for the crops which will be very meagre." (31/5/45- BOLOGNA)

"This year the crop will be very poor because we could not plough the ground owing to the lack of oxen." (31/5/45 - VENICE)

"The meadows have been spoilt by tracks and hundreds of soldiers who passed over them. It is a difficult problem to feed the cattle." (23/5/45 - VENICE)

"People are worried since frost burnt the greater part of the grapes along the Reinale and a certain amount along the banks of the Reno. The wheat has not grown due to the drought, and the crop will certainly not be as abundant as last year's." (7/6/45 - CUNEO)

"The agricultural prospects for this year are very favourable, though we were afraid that nothing would grow owing to the drought. But I can tell you that the crop will be more abundant than that of last year." (28/5/45 - TRAPANI)

"We expect to have a good crop, though recently a hail storm caused some damage to the country." (28/5/45 - CAMPOBASSO)

10. EMPLOYMENT

The general tone of civilian mail was a little less despondent concerning employment than it was during the previous period, the unfavourable comments being in a majority of 5.9 to 1 as compared with 6.5 to 1 previously. Bologna was the only centre to produce a majority of favourable comments. Naples became more pessimistic during the period. There was little change in Rome where spirits have been very low for some time. Milan was less pessimistic than any of the big centres. Southern Italy as a whole was more despondent than the rest of the country, excepting Rome.

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difficulty in finding employment for, of course, often due to destroyed factories, and to a lesser extent to the paucity of raw materials.

Employers are not always allowed to dismiss hands when work is short, but in some cases surplus personnel are put off, thus increasing the ranks of the unemployed. Some relief to the situation comes from the Allies, who employ a fair number of Italians in various ways, but with the departure of the Allies from different regions, such outlet is apt to dry up. Some factories, however, hope to resume work in the near future, and this gives rise to optimism. Various quotations are translated in the following extracts from letters:

"The English are beginning to leave here, and a crisis is making itself felt. Unemployment has begun already and many activities have been suspended." (23/5/45 - MILAN)

"In our factory the clerks are working the whole week, and the workers only part time. We have nothing to do with the Americans give us to work. It seems that they are already interesting themselves in his respect." (29/5/45 - TURIN)

"It is necessary to pay full wages in our workers while only one third of our factory is actually working. We are not allowed to dismiss an unwanted surplus. We continue to run into debt in the hope that the situation will adjust itself, since a full resumption of work will take place as soon as we receive the necessary materials. Will we be able to keep going till then." (24/5/45 - MILAN)

"The future will be far from good, but recently no orders can be issued to reduce to which employees will be paid. Instead surplus personnel absorbing from the duty." (7/6/45 - TURIN)

"I have been 3 days for a job for eight days, but I cannot find anything. There are no jobs for absolutely because there is no material." (7/6/45 - TURIN)

"We can find work as a. Giovanni Bonicco. Old

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are I are now working for the Polish troops and are fairly well off." (5/6/45 - ECLOGM)

GORDON W. BENNETT,
Lt. Col. Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

2 Incls:
Incl #1 - Radio Table, Four Weeks Ending 5/6/45.
Incl #2 - Public Opinion Tally 5/5/45.

DISTRIBUTION:

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1 - Vice President, Administrative Section, AC
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6 - G-2 (CC), AFHQ (requested by letter from CCB/325/5/45)
1 - PW2, AFHQ
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1 - Director, Industry Sub-Commission

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SPECIAL REPORT NO. 133

APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS (13 May/9 J

| | FOOD SITUATION | | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICUL UFAL PROSPEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F |
| 9/6/45 CIV | 1 | 24.6 | 1 | 114.5 | 1 | 15.6 | 1 | 20.6 | 1 | 2.1 | 1 | 3.7 | 18.9 | 1 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 |
| MIL | 2.5 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 2.6 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS (13 May/9 June 45)

| ION | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 24.6 | 1 | 114.5 | 1 | 15.6 | 1 | 20.6 | 1 | 2.1 | 1 | 3.7 | 18.9 | 1 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 3.1 | 1 | 5.9 |
| 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 2.6 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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SPECIAL REPORT NO. 133

13 May - 9 June 6

CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP, PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 194

| PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED) | | | FOOD SITUATION | | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| Bologna | | 55,647 | 70 | 355 | 58 | 180 | 243 | 610 | 6 | 44 |
| Bolzano | | 4,024 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Brescia | | 17,500 | 2 | 65 | 1 | 222 | 1 | 47 | 0 | 9 |
| Como | | 24,144 | 6 | 112 | 0 | 30 | 1 | 26 | 0 | 5 |
| Cuneo | | 10,390 | 2 | 140 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| Genoa | | 69,878 | 158 | 908 | 11 | 306 | 17 | 509 | 6 | 124 |
| Leghorn | | 29,662 | 46 | 100 | 31 | 75 | 16 | 77 | 17 | 28 |
| Milan | | 78,083 | 176 | 1156 | 29 | 622 | 46 | 505 | 56 | 266 |
| Naples | (CIV) | 90,399 | 178 | 1727 | 76 | 1195 | 20 | 751 | 29 | 295 |
| | (MIL) | 79,269 | 114 | 66 | 42 | 48 | 37 | 46 | 16 | 20 |
| Rome | (CIV) | 67,156 | 71 | 1613 | 18 | 814 | 2 | 127 | 8 | 290 |
| | (MIL) | 65,182 | 80 | 14 | 27 | 4 | 17 | 6 | 23 | 35 |
| Turin | | 30,055 | 17 | 281 | 1 | 47 | 2 | 171 | 3 | 29 |
| Venice | | 27,046 | 9 | 130 | 2 | 52 | 4 | 72 | 4 | 17 |
| Verona | | 8,466 | 2 | 93 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 51 | 1 | 7 |
| External Mail | | 305,747 | 203 | 1545 | 33 | 2765 | 18 | 2799 | 72 | 3050 |
| TOTAL CIVILIAN: | | | 940 | 23098 | 256 | 27243 | 368 | 5760 | 202 | 4153 |
| TOTAL MILITARY: | | | 194 | 79 | 69 | 52 | 54 | 69 | 39 | 64 |
| T O T A L S | | | 1134 | 23177 | 307 | 27295 | 422 | 5829 | 241 | 4217 |

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This report is based on 30 letters per censor being checked daily on a 6-day weekly basis. A number of censors employed each week averaged 321, making a total of 535,200 letters examined for this four-week half.

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| | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| | 8 | 8 | 10 | 17 | 32 | 3 | | | | | 116 | 71 | 2 | 15 | 129 | 12 |
| | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 6 | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 0 | | | | | 1 | 21 | 4 | 9 | 0 | 7 |
| | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 30 | 3 | | | | | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 2 | | | | | 0 | 2 | 0 | 25 | 0 | 3 |
| | 20 | 16 | 12 | 35 | 400 | 14 | | | | | 85 | 56 | 52 | 36 | 56 | 16 |
| | 10 | 0 | 14 | 11 | 88 | 5 | | | | | 27 | 18 | 21 | 8 | 11 | 18 |
| | 552 | 317 | 10 | 2 | 567 | 9 | | | | | 237 | 184 | 28 | 66 | 92 | 31 |
| | 22 | 27 | 22 | 434 | 340 | 12 | | | | | 259 | 263 | 178 | 235 | 56 | 26 |
| | 7 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 0 | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 185 | 135 | 11 | 12 | 235 | 5 | | | | | 11 | 17 | 8 | 121 | 5 | 32 |
| | 4 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 2 | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 14 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 146 | 17 | | | | | 57 | 47 | 17 | 43 | 8 | 32 |
| | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 59 | 1 | | | | | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 |
| | 0 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 56 | 4 | | | | | 5 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| | 836 | 632 | 600 | 1580 | 6261 | 210 | | | | | 804 | 1211 | 838 | 3555 | 2633 | 2137 |
| | 507 | 1075 | 618 | 1863 | 7422 | 518 | | | | | 1585 | 3719 | 1470 | 4855 | 6611 | 5652 |
| | 11 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 5 | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 518 | 1104 | 618 | 1863 | 7468 | 523 | | | | | 1585 | 3719 | 1470 | 4855 | 6611 | 5652 |

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Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 534, U. S. Army

SPECIAL REPORT No. 131

3 June 1945

10 GIU. 1945

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 12th May 1945.

TO : G-2 (Communications Censorship), AFHQ, APO 512.

This report is based on 156,400 letters checked during the four weeks ended 12th May 1945. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

Attached is/a table (Appendix A) which shows the correlation between favourable and unfavourable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

Owing to the large amount of external mail now being handled, more particularly from Naples, this report now covers all of southern Italy, Sicily and Sardinia, as well as those central areas which have been surveyed in our four-weekly reports for approximately the last nine months. Thus the major part of Italy is reviewed here.

As regards living conditions, the southern regions are generally more unfavourable in their comments than are more northerly parts, and thus the average figures shown in the ratio table are affected accordingly. This must be remembered when comparing them with the figures of the previous period. However, the latter period also included a certain amount of external mail figures, so that a comparison is justified. In any event, in the case of large centres, like Rome and Naples, separate comparisons will be made in the body of the report to show the trends of opinion in those areas.

None of the comments used in this report have been used in any previous report.



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1. Food situation

Civilian mail continued to become more unfavourable, as it has been doing for some months past, and unfavourable comments were in a majority of 27.1 to 1 as compared with 13.3 to 1 and 21.5 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. There were no favourable comments at all from Arezzo and Foggia, and only one from Bologna out of a small total of 54 for the latter centre. The position in Rome seems to be worse than ever. Adverse comments, which were in a majority of 77.2 to 1 during the previous period, reached a majority of 101.7 during the four weeks under review. Military mail, on an increased number of comments, showed a 1.9 to 1 adverse opinion as compared with a 2.5 to 1 favourable opinion during the previous period.

High prices give rise to the majority of complaints. Many letters speak of abundance of various foodstuffs, but go on to say that such supplies are useless because they cannot be afforded. In other cases the rationed foods are so inadequate that people are forced to rely on the black market, and since they can only afford to buy very little, they go hungry. Fats and sugar seem to be items difficult to come by anywhere, though from Sicily there are letters saying that there is plenty of olive oil. The following comments illustrate various sides of the situation:

"Living here is extremely expensive. Just think! For these people we need 1000 lire daily to eat. Rock costs 800 lire per kg. At the same time money circulates in great quantities." (5/5/45 - Naples)

"The prices here are staggering. Sugar is sold clandestinely at 1200 lire per kg., olive oil at 970 lire per litre, bread at 120 per kg., paste products at 230 lire per kg., cheese at 650 lire per kg., bottled peppers at 450 lire per kg., red oranges at 82 lire per kg. Meat sells for 700-800 lire per kg., and butter at 950 lire per kg. Who can buy these things at such prices? How a clerk live on his small salary?" (6/5/45 - Naples)

"The prices of foodstuffs have increased enormously, more during this year than last year. A small suckling pig costs 10,000 lire. As you see, money has lost its value here. We have to buy bread on the black market because the government ration is not sufficient for one's needs." (28/4/45 - Catanzaro)

"You want to know the prices of foods in Italy?? Olive

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oil is 260 lire per litre, dried broad beans 70 lire per kg., lentils 85 lire per kg., minnor beans 100 lire per kg., fresh broad beans 40 lire per kg., eggs 25 lire each, meat 400 lire per kg., fish 300 lire per kg. Some items are hard to find." (23/4/45 - Bari)

"Return here as soon as possible and bring some provisions. The food prices here are prohibitive." (6/5/45 - Bologna)

"Apart from bread we lack all food items. They are even scarce on the black market." (5/5/45 - Bologna)

"I shall come to visit you in order to satisfy my hunger a little. Since October I have been living on unseasoned rice and dried chestnuts." (4/5/45 - Genoa)

"So many people here have not even had bread to eat since October, not to mention fats and sugar which no one has had since last July. But the black market has kept up its progress, and is keeping it up even now with an accelerated rhythm." (2/5/45 - Lucca)

"We live on a little white flour, a great deal of humor and a few pennies in our pockets. Prices here are enormous." (5/5/45 - Carretoli)

"Here nothing may be found, especially in the way of food. The Germans have taken away everything. It looks like a dead world. There is nothing here." (1/5/45 - Carrara)

"The prices of food items are increasing daily. We can no longer eat. Eggs are 19 and 20 lire each, artichokes 5 lire each, peas 28 lire per kg., and broad beans 14 lire per kg." (3/5/45 - Foggia)

"Living is very expensive here too. You can find everything, but at highly exaggerated prices. Cheese sells at 800 lire per kg., ham at 800 lire, lard at 500 lire, fresh peas at 40 lire, and wine at 40 lire per litre. The prices are climbing higher daily. Unless measures are taken to stop prices from rising, no one will be able to eat any longer except millionaires." (20/4/45 - Foggia)

"Here in Rome the food situation is very bad. Nothing is to be found except on the black market, and you need four or five hundred lire a day merely to be able to eat soup, bread and greens." (3/5/45 - Rome)

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"We often buy bread on the black market and pay 120 and even 140 lire per kg. Potatoes are 60 lire per kg., flour 120-140 lire per kg., olive oil 440 lire per litre. Some prices are terrifying. Not only does one spend a great deal, but one eats nothing as everything is so dear. Life in Rome is terrible. We spend about 500 lire per day without eating any substantial food." (8/5/45 - Rome)

2. CLOTHING

Civilian mail has been becoming more and more pessimistic for some time past, and comments, for the first time, were more numerous than those on food. During the period under review the unfavourable comments outnumbered the favourable by 131.7 to 1 as compared with 68.7 to 1 and 44.6 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. There were no favourable comments from Arezzo, Florence, Foggia or Perugia. Opinion in Rome deteriorated still further, there being only 3 favourable comments out of a total of 1083. Naples was much less critical than formerly, though during the previous period the figures included a certain amount of external mail. During the period under review there were only 15 favourable comments in the external mail out of a total of 14,230, and the great bulk of this represents southern Italy with a certain amount from Sicily and Sardinia.

The great majority of the complaints are directed against prices, which seem to have risen even further during the last month. Thus from both Rome and Naples there are letters quoting prices of shoes up to 12,000 lire a pair, a figure never before mentioned. Between 6 and 10 thousand seems to be the general range. The lowest price mentioned for a suit was 19,000 in Taranto, and the highest was 27,000 in Enna (Sicily). The following comments are typical of many:

"A pair of men's shoes costs 7000 lire. A suit costs over 25,000 lire. A shirt costs 1000 lire, and bed sheets 7000 lire each. A woolen blanket sells at 12,000 lire, and a woman's slip at over 800 lire." (2/5/45 - Naples)

"You can't imagine how staggering the prices of clothes are here. A pair of men's shoes costs 12,000 lire, and a pair of woman's stockings 1,800 lire." (12/5/45 - Naples)

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"Here are the prices of some items of clothing: For men--suit, 24,000 lire; material for a suit, 6,500 per metre; shoes 11,000 lire; shirts, 3,500 lire each; socks 400 lire a pair; and for women - stockings, 700 lire a pair; dress, 10,000 lire; light cotton material, 2,500 lire per metre; shoes 3,000 lire and above a pair." (25/4/45 - Naples)

"I lack everything, especially clothing. How can one buy clothes when behind the shop windows all you see is astronomical sky-high prices?" (23/4/45 - Naples)

"Besides the hunger the war has left us, we are left completely naked and bare-footed. Merely to have a suit made one needs 19,000 lire, and a pair of shoes costs 6,000 lire." (5/5/45 - Taranto)

"Here all of those who can purchase goods on the black market are able to get along. All the labourers are dressed in rags and go barefooted. The reason for this is that one needs over 20,000 lire to purchase a suit." (29/4/45 - Matera)

"The clothing problem is one of our greatest headaches here. A man's suit costs 37,000 lire; a pair of working trousers 2,200 lire; a working shirt 1,990 lire; and a pair of shoes 5000 lire." (28/4/45 - Enna, Sicily)

"As to clothing, we are not doing so well here. There is not sufficient clothing in Sicily, and the clothing available is sold at unbelievably high prices." (4/5/45 - Trapani, Sicily)

"I have no news to give you except that the cost of living is very high. Clothes and shoes are sold at staggering and absolutely prohibitive prices. It is the white collar workers who suffer most." (24/4/45 - Macerata)

"The clothing prices here are staggering. Veil material costs 2,900 lire per metre, and taffeta 2,500 lire. A little skein of wool, weighing 10 grammes, costs 250 lire, and ordinary wool costs 450 lire per hectogramme." (5/5/45 - Lucca)

"There is nothing second-hand for the moment. Guaranteed very strong shoes are from 10 to 12 thousand lire. Don't you think that we are doing well in Rome as regards prices! And this is not the end of it. They are increasing, and who knows when this will cease." (17/4/45 - Rome)

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"With regard to your food and clothing problem you are better off than we are. At least you have food, while we have neither one nor the other. Everything is lacking. I do nothing but mend, patch and renovate, and am longing to return to our home..... In order to live here, much money is needed." (12/5/45 - Rome)

3. HOUSING

The housing situation, which civilian letters have criticised in increasing numbers for some time past, was commented on even more unfavourably than usual during the period under review when adverse comments were in a majority of 38.6 to 1. This compares with 23.4 to 1 and 10.5 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. The situation appears to be worst in Arezzo. There were no favourable comments out of a total of 90. Florence, Foggia and Grosseto, with a smaller number of comments, were also totally adverse. Rome was more pessimistic than during the last period, there being only 3 favourable comments out of a total of 356, as compared with 8 out of 453 during the previous four weeks. Naples, on the other hand, was less gloomy than previously. Military opinion remained unchanged.

There are various types of complaint, but they fall into two classes. Firstly there is the general lack of accommodation due mainly to destruction through the war, but accentuated by refugees in certain areas, and by Allied requisitioning. Secondly there are bitter remarks about the exaggerated rents asked for any sort of apartment, even if it be merely a single room. One of the results of the above is that overcrowding is not uncommon, and thus there are complaints that too many people often have to share a room. The following comments are some examples of the general run of complaints:

"At Caserta as well as at Foggia one cannot find a hole in which to live. Rents have reached astronomical heights." (1/5/45 - Caserta)

"Here I am looking in vain for a house, and one is not to be found." (4/5/45 - Modena)

"The housing situation in Leghorn is very serious. There are more than 50,000 people of Leghorn who cannot return to live in their city. The houses destroyed amount to 50%. Those

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who live in the city manage to exist in numbers of 12 to 14 in each house available. Many people sleep on the ground for want of furniture or space. Even when the Allies go away, the number of lodgings they will leave will be far fewer than the requests for houses in which to live." (12/5/45 - Leghorn)

"Houses cannot be found round here. Our preoccupation is increasing because we have to give up our living quarters. We roam around looking for a house, but we cannot find anything." (12/5/45 - Capua)

"The best families manage to live wherever they can. Some sleep in air-raid shelters, and some in the shops where they work. They have to manage to get along somehow because the Allies have occupied most of the available houses, and the bombs have destroyed much. For the present there is no hope of finding a place to live anywhere." (11/5/45 - Naples)

"I have found a little room to live in but at a fabulous price. I could not remain at the hotel because they wanted from 200 to 300 lire a night." (7/5/45 - Naples)

"Here you cannot find a room anywhere. This does not deterrelise me because mine is not the only case. There are thousands of people without a roof over their heads." (7/5/45 - Naples)

"The housing question is the most difficult. Either one cannot find a house at all, or else the few furnished ones are let at impossible rents." (5/5/45 - Rome)

4. INCOME

Civilian letters became more critical during the period under review, and the unfavourable comments were in a majority of 21.4 to 1 as compared with 14.1 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Florence and Lucca were the most dissatisfied centres. Rome opinion again deteriorated. There was little change in Naples.

Complaints follow well worn lines. The basis of nearly all is that salaries are not high enough to meet the cost of living. Clerks and other minor office employees feel the pinch most. Pensioners are in a class by themselves. There pitiful pensions are grotesquely inadequate. Most people who have any savings still left augment their incomes by drawing upon them. Others sell off their possessions. Those who have neither savings nor surplus

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possessions tighten their belts and go about shabby. The following are some examples of the comments:

"You find everything here but at fabulous prices. The salaries are totally inadequate to meet the staggering costs." (4/5/45 - Lucca)

"It is becoming more and more difficult to exist on the wretched monthly income. We have already been scraping along for fifteen months on this meagre salary." (3/5/45 - Lucca)

"As an interpreter for the "Stars and Stripes" I earn 1500 lire a week. It would be a good weekly wage if there were no war and no black market with which to contend. My earnings are not sufficient to meet the expenses required for a decent existence." (19/4/45 - Rome)

"I too find myself rather unwell because the wages I receive are not enough to provide breakfast. Prices here continue to rise day by day. However, let us hope that this crisis will be overcome." (1/5/45 - Pistoia)

"I swear that with my modest salary I can no longer carry on. During the Nazi-fascist occupation we sold the little gold we possessed. Today I have no more to sell. With my salary I can hardly buy a pair of shoes. And as to eating?" (5/5/45/ - Rome)

The following is a letter, unsigned, by a group of old age pensioners to the director of the paper "Il Reporter":

"You ought to take some interest in the hard situation of the state pensioners for disability and old age, to whom much has been promised with no positive result as yet. Shall we die of hunger before we get anything?" (21/4/45 - Rome)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Civilian opinion seems to be slowly moving in favour of the National Government. During the period under review the unfavourable comments were only in a majority of 1.1 to 1 as compared with 2.5 to 1 and 3.4 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. Many centres commented hardly at all, but Bologna, Leghorn and Pisa all appear to have a majority in favour of the government. Rome, for the first time, also produced a majority

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of favourable comments. Arezzo and Naples were very much against the government, the latter area by 3 to 1 as compared with 5.5 to 1 during the previous period. The south generally, as reflected in the external mail, was adverse by 1.7 to 1.

It is difficult to find any reason for the more favourable figures by any study of the comments. It is therefore possible that many critics are tired of writing. There is, however, something positive in the unfavourable comments, and in brief it is that the government is not considered capable of handling the stupendous post war problems facing the country. There is also some criticism of the lack of cooperation among the parties who are accused of considering only their own particular interests. The following are a few examples:

"We are hoping that we shall see a new government being formed, which, unlike the present one, may be capable of adopting vigorous measures so as to be in a position to begin the reconstruction in every field." (10/5/45 - Naples)

"You are right concerning what Nazzini said about Italy's being made but that the Italians had yet to be made. In fact the rulers of Italy are always the same no matter what political parties happen to be in power. They are like the fish: the big ones swallow the little ones." (4/5/45 - Catanzaro)

"We are extremely worried as to the fate of our government. The war with its sad consequences has brought a political, economic and social upheaval so great that we do not see where it will finish. You have no conception of what is happening in Italy. The government is unable to cope with the terrible problems that have to be solved. The Lord only knows what will happen unless America soon comes to our aid." (12/5/45 - Bari)

"...All these parties are fighting one another, leading Italy to ruin, and filling those who love their country with disgust." (3/5/45 - Rome)

"It is a government that does not know what it wants, and in which the communists are trying to sow anarchy in order to throw us into the jaws of bolshevism." (16/4/45 - Rome)

## 8. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Civilian mail was less hostile towards the provincial governments than it was during the previous period, though still more adverse than at any time prior to that. Unfavourable comments were in a majority of 6.2 to 1 as compared with 8.9 to 1 and 4.4 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. Arezzo was outstandingly critical. There was little change in Naples which

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was more unfavourable than the average. Rome hardly commented at all. Military mail was equally divided. There is little in the comments themselves. They merely blame the local administration for anything and everything, or, less often, lay any credit to their doorstep.

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES

Civilian mail was more favourable towards the Allies than it was during the previous period when good feeling reached one of its lowest points, favourable comments only being in a majority of 4.5 to 1. During the period under review the figures were 7.2 to 1. Bologna, Lucca and Pisa were the most favourably disposed. Naples opinion improved twofold as compared with the previous two weeks, but the most outstanding change was in Rome which is usually the most critical of centres. Favourable comments in the capital were in a majority of 16.0 to 1 as compared with 4.5 to 1 during the previous four weeks.

Favourable comments are usually based on gratitude for benefits received, or on relief at being freed. Unfavourable comments arise from a feeling of disappointment over the non-fulfillment of hopes or understood promises. There is also an undercurrent of annoyance at the treatment the Italians receive and the fact that all the best of everything seems to be reserved for the Allies. There is a lack of faith in promises for the future, and a certain resentment at the Allies' attitude towards Italian women. The following are a few examples of both favourable and unfavourable comments:

A. Favourable

"We are accomplishing a great deal with the help of the Allies. When the Germans were here we could not sleep at night because of looting, robberies, killings, etc. The Allies have respected private property. He who has only a bicycle left can travel safely, for it will not be taken from him. The Allies are certainly civilized, and can teach us a great deal." (1/5/45 - Viareggio)

"It seems a dream! We must be thankful to the Patriots and the Allies who have done wonders preventing the war from starting here." (5/5/45 - Legnano)

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"I really miss those brave South African boys. Their behavour was correct, and they were kind hearted." (30/4/45 - Lucca)

"The Allied troops have just come here. With them has come the greatly desired liberation. The joy with which we are possessed at this moment is something indescribable." (2/5/45 - Bologna)

"At last the day of liberation has arrived. You can't imagine the enthusiasm here at Genoa. The population is exultant. We have welcomed the Americans with the greatest joy." (30/4/45 - Genoa)

"Curses upon our ex-leaders, especially Mussolini who caused so many of our Allies to die. The latter saved us and gave us food, and so many other things which we never had before. May God protect the good Allies always." (24/4/45 - Rome)

B. Unfavourable

"Florence is becoming populated with Allied troops. This is not without great displeasure to the civilian population." (26/4/45 - Florence)

"The Americans are always getting drunk. They fall in love easily with Italian women. This is another evil added to all the other ones here." (20/4/45 - Molito di Napoli)

"We are not acquainted with any of our Allies. After all, we can get along very well without them." (2/5/45 - Naples)

"As to clothes and shoes, we asked the Allies and the American Red Cross. They replied to us with saccharine words, but have given us nothing and will never give us anything. Their words are empty. From the first day they landed here they have comforted us with kindly words, stating that shortly they would give us everything, and that everything would arrive for us. Up to date we have been given nothing." (30/4/45 - Messina)

"We would now be in peace if it were not for these Americans wasting everything. There is nothing left us, not even a grain of wheat, and I do not know what we will eat in the coming year." (21/4/45 - Pistoia)

"As for the Americans, don't worry, because they wont enchant us. We need Italians and not foreigners. It would be fine to see the Americans on a post-card, as you say, and you are quite right." (23/4/45 - Rome)

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8 AND 9. PRESENT AND FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION

Although Italian public opinion on the present and future military situation had no practical expression after the cessation of war with Germany, hostilities were still in progress during the major part of the period under review, and it is interesting to note that, right up till the end, there was still a fair proportion of pessimists, particularly in the army. As regards the future military situation, there seems to have been some fear that fresh conflicts would break out, and that the war against Germany was not the whole European story.

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS

Civilian mail, which had revealed a rising note of optimism for some time, swung somewhat in the opposite direction during the period under review. However, many centres hardly commented at all, and it is more profitable to consider individual areas rather than the figures as a whole. Arezzo and Lucca, with 29 comments between them, only produced one favourable comment each. The external mail, representing Italy south of Naples and Sicily and Sardinia, produced adverse comments in a majority of 2.7 to 1. Rome was a little less possimistic than previously. Pisa increased in optimism, and Naples accelerated its rising tone of confidence, the favourable comments being in a majority of 3.5 to 1 as compared with 2.1 to 1 during the previous period.

Many favourable comments are based on the belief that the industries of the North will be in full swing shortly, and there are expressions of thankfulness that so many factories escaped destruction in that area. On the other hand there are complaints from various parts of the country that the lack of raw materials makes it impossible to resume industrial activity. And of course there are also many cases mentioned of destruction of plants and buildings. The following are some examples of various sides of the picture:

"Nearly all of us are now working for the reconstruction. One works in earnest and takes on all sorts of jobs. It is planned to repair and equip the assembling and turning departments with the help of other stocks from stores in Southern and Central Italy." (6/5/45 - Rimini)

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"The news which has filled us with joy is that the Germans have not been able to put into practice in the North the plan of destruction which they carried out down here. The industries and the hydro-electric plants are safe. Life will resume its normal work rhythm. The factories will soon have their machinery in operation." (2/5/45 - Naples)

"We are ready, and well equipped to begin our work." (11/5/45 - Bologna)

"Believe me, conditions after the war will be very trying here. Not even one factory remains standing. There will be numberless unemployed. If you could only see Pisa and Leghorn. They are heaps of ruins." (30/4/45 - Leghorn)

"We have serious difficulties in beginning our work due to the lack of raw materials." (24/4/45 - Villa Rovereto, Veneto)

"We are all well, but our factory is at a standstill." (8/5/45 - Bologna)

## II. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS

Civilian opinion deteriorated still further during the period under review, and unfavourable comments were in a majority of 3.1 to 1 as compared with 1.1 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Arezzo became noticeably more pessimistic with only 10 favourable comments out of a total of 213, as against 51 out of a total of 74 during the preceding [illegible] Foggia also took a more gloomy view. Naples was fairly evenly divided, but Rome opinion was decidely more pessimistic. External mail reflected a very unfavourable opinion in the South. The only places to produce a majority of favourable comments were Leghorn and Pisa.

The bulk of the unfavourable comments complain of the drought which would appear to have been general in the southern regions. There are two general complaints in this connection: little sowing and planting has been possible; and crops already in the ground are making no progress. In some places the soil is so hard that it has not been possible to till the ground. Crops are withering away. Round Catanzaro it is said that there has not even been enough grass for animal fodder. Although there are somewhat similar letters from areas north of Naples, there are also many others which speak of adequate rainfalls and of good prospects. The following are examples of many letters:

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"No one has planted any corn, beans or potatoes because the soil is all dried up. Next year we will surely starve. The beans are all dried up. It has not rained for three months. The winter has been dry, with lots of cold weather but little rain and no snow." (2/5/45 - Castelbasso, Teramo)

"The peasants have little food supplies left, this being the end of the season... Due to the absolute lack of rain, a very poor harvest is expected. In fact, the beans which were sown a long time ago are not growing because the soil is acid and the sun burning." (28/4/45 - Formia)

"I have again bought some beans to sow, but the crop is very poor. We cannot till the fields because the soil is too dry. We have not had any rain since February. It rained a little at the beginning of February, and then it stopped for good. The fields are burned by the sun." (20/4/45 - Corica della Campania, Naples)

"It has not rained here for the past few months. Such a drought will bring a very poor harvest this season, especially as regards wheat, oats and beans. These crops are almost lost. There is not even enough grass grown for animal fodder." (19/4/45 - Catanzaro)

"You must know that the great drought here is a formidable obstacle to the yield of our fields. We cannot work in the fields, and neither corn nor beans can be sown." (16/4/45 - Casanova di Carinola, Naples)

"This year the drought has been so great the soil has become as hard as marble. We have not yet been able to sow either corn or beans. It has not rained for over three months. We shall have no crops this year, no wheat no broad beans, no corn and no vegetables, since we have not been able to sow anything up to date." (18/4/45 - Grazzanise, Naples)

"We are unhappy because this year the harvest in the Tavoliere delle Puglie (the great Puglie agricultural plains) will be very meagre. This is chiefly due to the fact that it has not rained at all this year, and the sown fields have suffered a great deal, especially in certain spots where they have been completely burned out." (20/4/45 - Foggia)

"No rain! We clearly see the disaster towards which we are heading unless the Lord helps us." (25/4/45 - Cerignola, Foggia)

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"Due to lack of rain, the crops, including the olive crops, have been almost completely ruined. There has been a fairly good fruit crop, but that is all." (25/4/45 - Gargallico, Foggia)

"We have never lacked anything. The Lord has saved all our harvest for us. Even this year the farms have been very fertile and abundant, and that is a sure sign that we shall have bread this year also." (8/5/45 - Parnolo S. Vito, Bologna)

## 12. EMPLOYMENT

Civilian mail became increasingly despondent each week during the period under review, and of the total comments for the four weeks the unfavourable were in a majority of 6.5 to 1 as compared with 3.9 to 1 during the previous period. Several centres produced no favourable comments at all, notably Arezzo and Lucca. Naples was a little more pessimistic than last time on a reduced number of comments, and Rome was similarly more desponder t. External mail, covering the southern regions, Sicily and Sardinia, was more pessimistic than the average for the country as a whole.

The comments themselves do not tell us much, and most of them merely state that unemployment is rife and, that the writers have been out of work for a long time and that it is very difficult to find a job. The following are some examples:

"I am worrying a great deal due to the fact that it is not possible to find a job. It is a miracle that I manage to get along. What shall I do? I shall get used to doing the humblest odd jobs, including that of a maid servant." (5/5/45 - Lucca)

"I have now been out of work for eighteen months." (27/4/45 - Lucca)

"I am well in health, but it is work that keeps me worried. I have tried very hard, but I have not found any work." (23/4/45 - Cagliari)

"As soon as the war ends I want to flee from Italy. Unemployment is beginning to be seen, a forecast of what will take place here in the near future." (27/4/45 - Turanto)

"I must tell you that the situation in Italy is very serious. Unemployment has increased by 100%." (2/5/45 - Naples)

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"Work here is very scarce. I have been unemployed for the past few weeks." (8/5/45 - Naples)

"The unemployment prevailing in Siracusa is staggering. The squares are swarming with unemployed labourers." (28/4/45- Siracusa)

"Five months have passed since I was last employed, because the factory where I worked was almost completely destroyed." (1/5/45 - Pistoia)

GORDON W. HOLLAN,
Lt. Col. Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

2 Incls:
Incl #1 - Ratio Table, Four Weeks Ending 12/5/1945.
Incl #2 - Public Opinion Tally 12/5/1945.

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REPORT NO. 131

APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS (15/4-12/5

| | FOOD SITUATION | | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WEEK ENDING | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F |
| 21/4/45 CIV | 1 | 26.7 | 1 | 142.5 | 1 | 92.3 | 1 | 15.2 | 1 | 7.4 | 1 | 10 | 9.0 | 1 | 17.6 | 1 | 12.1 | 1 | 1 |
| MIL | 1 | 4.4 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 5.6 | 0 | .72 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1.3 | 3.6 | 1 | 7.6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28/4/45 CIV | 1 | 23.9 | 1 | 99.5 | 1 | 46.3 | 1 | 23.5 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 6 | 10.9 | 1 | 15.1 | 1 | 24.8 | 1 | 1 |
| MIL | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | 3.5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 3.4 | 13 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 6.5 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| 5/5/45 CIV | 1 | 21.7 | 1 | 138.4 | 1 | 36.8 | 1 | 19.4 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 5.5 | 2.4 | 1 | 48.5 | 1 | 33 | 1 | 1 |
| MIL | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3.1 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 2.2 | 0 | 3 | 46 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| 12/5/45 CIV | 1 | 43.6 | 1 | 178.6 | 1 | 41.7 | 1 | 32.8 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 4.6 | 35 | 1 | 52.2 | 1 | 14.4 | 1 | 1 |
| MIL | 1 | 3.8 | 1 | 2.8 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| AVERAGE FOR CONT. PERIOD 15/4-12/5 CIV | 1 | 27.1 | 1 | 131.7 | 1 | 39.6 | 1 | 21.4 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 6.2 | 7.2 | 1 | 27.8 | 1 | 18.4 | 1 | 1 |
| MIL | 1 | 1.9 | 1 | 3.1 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 32.3 | 1 | 1.6 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 5.5 | 1 | 36 | 1 | 0 |

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APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS (15/4-12/5 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

| | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | |
| | 1 | 142.5 | 1 | 92.3 | 1 | 15.2 | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 10 | 9.9 | 1 | 17.6 | 1 | 12.1 | 1 | 1 | 1.1 | | | 1 | 1 |
| | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 5.6 | 0 | 72 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1.3 | 3.6 | 1 | 7.6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 1 | 99.5 | 1 | 46.3 | 1 | 23.5 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 6 | 10.9 | 1 | 15.1 | 1 | 24.8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 6 |
| | 1 | 3.5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 3.4 | 13 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 6.5 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 1 | 134.4 | 1 | 36.8 | 1 | 19.4 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 5.5 | 2.4 | 1 | 48.5 | 1 | 33 | 1 | 1 | 1.2 | | | 1 | 7 |
| | 1 | 3.1 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 2.2 | 0 | 3 | 46 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 1 | 178.6 | 1 | 41.7 | 1 | 32.6 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 4.6 | 35 | 1 | 52.2 | 1 | 15.4 | 1 | 1 | 1.1 | | | 1 | 7 |
| | 1 | 2.8 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 1 | 131.7 | 1 | 38.6 | 1 | 21.4 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 6.2 | 7.2 | 1 | 27.8 | 1 | 18.4 | 1 | 1 | 1.1 | | | 1 | 6 |
| | 1 | 7.1 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 32.5 | 1 | 1.6 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 5.5 | 1 | 36 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP. PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 15 April-12 May 1945

| PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED) | | | FOOD SITUATION | | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| Ancona | | 18063 | 8 | 17 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Arezzo | | 10569 | 0 | 106 | 0 | 124 | 0 | 90 | 2 | 17 |
| Bologna | | 18014 | 1 | 53 | 5 | 16 | 6 | 33 | 1 | 11 |
| Florence | | 120805 | 39 | 80 | 0 | 59 | 0 | 17 | 2 | 91 |
| Foggia | CIV) | 26556 | 6 | 50 | 0 | 33 | 0 | 13 | 3 | 7 |
| | MIL) | 6836 | 4 | 9 | 15 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Grosseto | | 9534 | 6 | 31 | 3 | 30 | 0 | 30 | 1 | 10 |
| Leghorn | | 55608 | 44 | 117 | 14 | 62 | 7 | 77 | 24 | 24 |
| Lucca | | 10776 | 9 | 202 | 2 | 139 | 3 | 91 | 1 | 76 |
| Macerata | | 35767 | 4 | 14 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Naples | CIV) | 89759 | 69 | 3332 | 40 | 1667 | 23 | 764 | 26 | 379 |
| | MIL) | 33063 | 200 | 436 | 65 | 333 | 58 | 139 | 0 | 50 |
| Perugia | | 6358 | 0 | 58 | 0 | 32 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 15 |
| Pesaro | | 29356 | 7 | 12 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Pisa | | 22481 | 289 | 1640 | 44 | 130 | 46 | 231 | 0 | 16 |
| Pistoia | | 16665 | 0 | 83 | 4 | 31 | 1 | 15 | 10 | 6 |
| Rome | CIV) | 58059 | 27 | 2232 | 3 | 1030 | 3 | 353 | 10 | 460 |
| | MIL) | 58696 | 42 | 32 | 50 | 5 | 12 | 14 | 3 | 6 |
| Siena | CIV) | 19517 | 11 | 41 | 2 | 14 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 3 |
| | MIL) | 1271 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| [illegible] | | 81734 | 139 | 10467 | 15 | 1486 | 26 | 1050 | 67 | 2022 |
| [illegible] | | 662856 | 566 | 13105 | 33 | 17515 | 125 | 3504 | 147 | 3144 |
| [illegible] | | 160362 | 263 | 474 | 10 | 542 | 73 | 161 | 8 | 97 |
| [illegible] | | 815010 | 1420 | 18679 | 465 | 27600 | 1065 | 8765 | 150 | 6241 |

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This report is based upon 3 letters per censor being checked daily on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed e h week averaged 382 making a total of 458,400 letters examined for this four-week tally.

CONFIDENTIAL

| NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 2 |
| 5 | 17 | 1 | 53 | 22 | 12 | 11 | 6 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 10 | 203 | 0 | 444 |
| 15 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 45 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 47 | 4 | 16 |
| 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 11 |
| 33 | 13 | 20 | 16 | 41 | 12 | 37 | 7 | 57 | 9 | 22 | 15 | 30 | 9 | 19 | 15 |
| 0 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 100 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 41 |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| 39 | 94 | 71 | 642 | 365 | 40 | 640 | 82 | 221 | 25 | 267 | 77 | 271 | 303 | 69 | 220 |
| 42 | 67 | 41 | 39 | 88 | 15 | 320 | 69 | 36 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 5 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| 54 | 35 | 23 | 8 | 201 | 5 | 268 | 4 | 243 | 6 | 92 | 35 | 17 | 11 | 21 | 81 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 53 | 20 | 42 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 12 | 8 | 26 | 5 | 20 |
| 168 | 107 | 2 | 8 | 420 | 25 | 415 | 5 | 137 | 4 | 22 | 55 | 40 | 191 | 9 | 100 |
| 5 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 2 | 42 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 18 | 0 | 5 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 168 | 284 | 154 | 256 | 2225 | 332 | 1950 | 36 | 1558 | 54 | 160 | 440 | 491 | 1895 | 159 | 1100 |
| 495 | 561 | 261 | 1316 | 3560 | 493 | 3591 | 158 | 2226 | 104 | 624 | 674 | 884 | 2741 | 273 | 1769 |
| 47 | 77 | 41 | 39 | 114 | 19 | 390 | 71 | 36 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 545 | 639 | 302 | 1855 | 3864 | 512 | 3781 | 229 | 2262 | 105 | 624 | 674 | 884 | 2741 | 273 | 1768 |

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CONFIDENTIAL

Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

GWM/VH

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 123

4 May 1945

12 MAG 1945

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 14th April 1945.

TO : G-2 (Communications Censorship), AFHQ, APO 512.

This report is based on 386,000 letters checked during the four weeks ended 14th April 1945. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favourable and unfavourable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

None of the comments used in this report have been used in any previous report.

1. FOOD SITUATION

Civilian mail, which has been becoming increasingly unfavourable for some months over the food situation, deteriorated still further during the period under review, and unfavourable comments were in a majority of 25.5 to 1. This compares with 21.6 to 1 and 14.8 to 1 for the two previous periods respectively. Perugia, Rome and Naples were particularly gloomy. There were no favourable comments from the first named; Naples again produced a majority of over 50 to 1 adverse comments; while Rome opinion deteriorated very sharply, and the adverse comments were in a majority of 77 to 1. Military mail became a little less favourable.

Specific items are often mentioned, such as the lack of salt, fats, meat etc., and some writers go further and say that



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It is not possible to procure the foods listed on the ration cards. It happens the Americans are accused of cornering everything and thus leaving only bread and greens for the local population. Other towns probably have more things available, but the prices are so high that very few people can afford to buy. Generally speaking the nature of food seems to be the chief complaint. The following contains two some examples of various types of complaint:

"As to our rationed food, they have given us nothing during March, and we don't expect anything in April. If you come, bring half a kilogram of suit and some lard." (6/4/45 - Ancona)

"Here life is harder than at Florence. To give you an idea I shall tell you that potatoes cost 80 lire per kg., lard 86 lire, wine 100 lire for two litres, cheese 400 lire per kg., fish 200 lire, lettuce 4 lire a head, and onions 80 lire per kg." (6/4/45 - Leghorn)

"Life in this city is becoming gradually more difficult. The Americans are cornering whatever they find and pay any price asked. We are forced to live on greens and 200 grams of bread daily. The rest of the food items written on the ration card are not distributed except in very small quantities and at long intervals." (13/4/45 - Leghorn)

"Except for bread we lack almost everything. The prices are sky high. We get some powdered soup with the ration card, and 100 grams of sugar. No meat." (17/3/45 - Pescia)

"Here there is famine. Women, children, and even monks come to our house continuously asking for some food." (15/3/45 - Pescia)

"Believe me, the food situation here is a serious matter indeed. One has to buy everything on the black market if one wishes to eat. Otherwise one finds nothing." (4/4/45 - Siena)

"As to food, I must tell you that for months we have been living on vegetable soup, vegetables, greens, and an occasional egg, because our finances do not permit us to submit to black market prices. The only meat we get every 15 days or so, and wine is only available on the black market." (5/4/45 - Macerata)

"Here life is still extremely expensive. 1 kg. of meat costs 800 lire, and fish 600 lire. We cannot get along on our salary." (2/4/45 - Carrara)

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"You ask me how we are living? Believe me, everything is obtainable but at such prohibitive prices. Ham costs 1000 lire a kilo. I will not continue, as by doing so you may not be permitted by the censor to receive this letter." (12/3/45 - Rome)

"Till now mouth has been tolerable, but I fear that before long we shall feel the lack of animal fats and of fresh meat. These have become inaccessible to our purses. Just imagine, horse flesh has reached 700 lire, and so you can conceive what other prices are." (20/3/45 - Rome)

"My poor husband is killing himself with work in order to earn a few pence, but he only receives 150 lire a day, and we spend 300 without eating properly, since we have to buy everything on the black market." (29/3/45 - Rome)

"Oh! My God! When will this hunger cease? You should see the state the Romans are in. Mortality here, especially among children, is enormous. Babies from 1 month to 2 years are all going to Paradise. Poor little creatures - but it is only natural for they have nothing to eat. The poor families have nothing to give them. Besides this there is a lack of coffins, and for a small baby the charge is 2000 lire. How can a family spend such a sum for only a coffin? And where do you think they put them? In the waste ground." (26/3/45 - Rome)

2. CLOTHING

The clothing situation appears to be going from bad to worse, according to civilian mail. For some time past the comments have been becoming more critical, and during the preceding period the adverse majority reached the then record total of 44.5 to 1. During the period under review there was a further sharp downward movement, and the unfavourable comments reached a majority of 78.3 to 1 in the final week, the average for the four weeks being 62.7 to 1. Several centres produced no favourable comments, notably Perugia. From Arezzo there were only 5 favourable comments out of a total of 273, and from Rome the same number out of a total of 698. In Naples the position would seem to be even worse. Among a record total of comments (3854) the adverse ratio was 152.4 to 1. There was 157.2 to 1. There was only half the usual number of military comments, and they were as slightly adverse as they were slightly favourable during the previous period.

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In the great majority of cases the complaints were based on prices. It is not uncommon to read letters stating that the shops are full, but that the goods are quite out of reach of the writers' purses. Only a minority of letters complain of any real shortage of clothing in the shops. Some of the prices quoted show a marked advance on those allegedly obtaining a month or two ago. For example, from both Rome and Naples there are letters saying that a man's suit costs up to 20,000 lire. The following comments illustrate the general feeling in a variety of centres:

"A suit of clothes for a man costs 20,000 lire as a minimum without counting the manufacture. Shoes sell at 6000 and 7000 lire according to the quality." (29/5/45 - Naples)

"In Venice life is expensive, extremely expensive. The prices of clothing materials make you dizzy. I have visited various shops. They have more than enough goods, but at prohibitive prices. Just imagine that for a length of cotton material to cut a man's suit, the price is about 10,000 lire. Add 3000 more for the lining, and you get a complete unwearable cotton suit without counting the cost of making it up." (23/5/45 - Naples)

"As to clothing material, I had better not talk about it. The lining alone of a man's suit costs 800 lire a metre." (23/5/45 - Naples)

"During this period of sky-rocketing prices, the prices of clothing and footwear are the most scandalously high of all prices. It is a real disaster, especially for those who live on a salary. Unless the war ends, and trade becomes normal again, we will all be wearing wooden clogs and patched up clothes." (7/6/45 - Naples)

"Here living is very expensive. We no longer have materials for clothes. If any thing is available, it costs 2500 lire per metre, and is of very poor quality." (26/5/45 - Perugia)

"As to material for wool clothes you can't find it here. There is some material at 1500 lire per metre, but I would not advise anyone to get it. Wool costs 3000 lire per kg., and the price is rising. The rare goods of wool are sold at impossible prices." (5/6/45 - Siena)

"I wanted to go to Rome in order to buy at least enough clothing for the summer and winter, because here materials are

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articles of clothing are not to be seen anywhere. I have been reduced, like the fish in the sea, to my skin only." (7/4/45 - Macerata)

"Everybody wears British clothes, ladies, peasant women, labourers etc. You wont find a person who does not wear British stuff, especially overcoats. The shops are full of clothing articles, but one cannot buy them, firstly because we don't have the money, and secondly because no one ever buys them." (7/4/45 - Macerata)

"You mention the price of clothing in Sicily. Here clothing is not to be found, even if you wanted to pay high prices for it." (7/4/45 - Pesaro)

"The situation here, instead of improving, becomes worse every day. If things continue like this, who knows how we shall end. The biggest problem now is how to clothe oneself considering the prevailing prices. Just think, 80,000 lire are required for the making of a very indifferent suit. Therefore tell me how we can spend such a large sum when the money one earns is not enough to buy sufficient food?" (16/3/45 - Rome)

3. HOUSING

Civilian mail became more pessimistic over the housing situation during the period under review, and the unfavourable comments were in a majority of 23.4 to 1 as compared with 19.5 to 1 during the previous four weeks. These figures, however, do not tell the full story, for more than half the total favourable comments came from Pisa, as they did during the previous period. Leaving the latter centre out of account in both cases, the ratio for the period under review was 46.6 to 1 as compared with 40.1 to 1 for the preceading four weeks. There were no favourable comments from Florence, Perugia, Pesaro or Siena, and only one each from some other centres, notably Grosseto. Naples was noticably more gloomy, and the unfavourable comments were in a majority of 75.2 to 1 as compared with 51.1 to 1 during the last period. Military mail was a little more unfavourable than during the previous period.

There were many, and sometimes bitter, complaints about high rents; and there was a certain amount of grumbling about requisitioning by the Allies. The shortage of houses also came in for mention, and in Pesaro it is alleged that the authorities quartered families in pigsties till the Allies interfered. In

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Rome there seem to be various money making conditions imposed by landlords or outgoing tenants. Huge deposits are asked of incoming tenants in addition to the rent. In other cases the new tenants are asked to take over the furniture at very high prices. Thus acquiring a home is often financially impossible. The following comments are some illustrations:

"As soon as the Liberators arrived in this town, they requisitioned all the lodgings, and then they emptied them of all contents, including the glass in the windows. As a result there is a great shortage of dwellings!" (5/4/45 - Ancona)

"The Housing Commission of Pesaro, in order to remedy the shortage of lodgings, has even found pigsties into which to put families. Fortunately the Allies have interfered, and they prohibit the refugees from entering the cities." (10/4/45 - Pesaro)

"I am now at Merano because it has not been possible to find a house in Naples at any price." (11/6/45 - Naples)

"As to houses, it is very difficult to find a lodging place. If an empty house is found, they ask you astronomical sums for it in rentals." (26/3/45 - Naples)

"The most serious problem here is housing. You can't find a hole in which to live, even if you were willing to pay its weight in gold." (4/4/45 - Siena)

"You can't find a house to rent in Siena, and the hotels have all been requisitioned." (3/4/45 - Siena)

"The question of lodgings is a very worrying problem. To find a house is an extremely difficult thing, if not an impossibility." (29/3/45 - Florence)

"So far my attempts to find an apartment have proved unsuccessful, since the out-going tenants make absurd requests which are out of one's reach. I had several chances of getting a house, but they asked deposits of several thousand lire. For example, I was asked for a deposit of 12,000 lire for a two roomed apartment with kitchen, plus the rent." (21/6/45 - Rome)

"I am desperately looking for a house to accommodate my family and furniture... Everything proves hopeless. It is a difficult problem to solve because there is a racket. Either

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they demand a deposit starting with a minimum of 150,000 lire, or they want the furniture to be taken over, and this involves an expense ranging from 200 - 500,000 lire! A crazy thing! (21/3/45 - Rome)

"I am desperately searching for a furnished room, and the search is anything but easy. Just imagine, I was asked 4,500 lire for a room with two beds." (20/3/45 - Rome)

b. INCOME

There was little change in civilian opinion on the question of income, the adverse reply being 1.4 to 1 as compared with 1.5 to 1 during the previous period. The position seems to be worse in Florence than anywhere else, there being only 1 favourable comment out of a total of 142. Home opinion was less unfavourable than previously, nevertheless it was twice as adverse as the average.

The real source of all complaints is that wages and salaries bear no relation to the cost of living. Living experience cannot be cut. There are many references to rises in wages, but they are accompanied by the observation that the cost of living had taken a greater step upwards. This one class only results in costs dragging further ahead. Many people, who had savings, have now used them up in trying to balance their budgets. Others have sold their possessions, or are at it selling what they have left, and they have nothing but fear for the future. Those who are already reduced to living on their salaries alone can buy no cloth s because they do not have sufficient even to buy enough food. The following are typical comments:

"At present life is becoming gradually harder. The price of everything is rising higher and higher. What little money we can saved up must be used now because our salaries are not sufficient to meet expenses." (7/4/45 - Brescia)

"Although salaries have increased, they are never sufficient to meet daily expenses." (7/4/45 - Viareggio, Leghorn)

"Life here is more expensive than where you are. Nothing can be found at a reasonable price. We cannot go on existing on our salaries." (8/4/45 - Ancona)

"Things are not at all well, because the prices of goods are entirely too high in comparison with the wages of a labourer or a clerk." (11/4/45 - Modena)

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"Let us hope that things will soon take a turn for the better, and that salaries will become proportionate to living expenses. At present our income is not sufficient to buy water and a dried fig." (26/3/45 - Florence)

"Living is very dear, and with the salary alone it is absolutely impossible to live. All the employees have a secondary occupation. All this is ridiculous, but unfortunately it is so." (20/3/45 - Rome)

"They increase your wages by a quarter of a lire, and the day afterwards the price of everything you can find is doubled. We are always in the same position. You earn 200 lire, and you need 500 in order to eat like a human being." (20/3/45 - Rome)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Civilian opinion was less hostile towards the National Government during the period under review, the adverse comments being in a majority of 2.5 to 1 as compared with 5.4 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Many centres hardly commented at all, but of those which produced over 100 comments, Bari was equally divided, which was an improvement, Naples was adverse by 3.8 to 1, being more unfavourable than previously, and Rome had an unfavourable majority of 2.8 to 1 as compared with 3.9 to 1 during the preceding four weeks. There were few military comments.

As far as can be gathered from the mail, the majority against the Government feel that it shows little evidence of having the country's interests at heart. It is said that the interests of the various parties come first. The writers complain that Fascists are still in responsible positions, and that there is not much hope for Italy while self interests take first place. The following comments are some examples:

"I would like to know how the free citizen can possibly trust a government which seems to take absolutely no interest in the public welfare. All of us in liberated Italy are fed up with fine promises and controversies which are damaging the cause of Italy." (22/3/45 - Naples)

"They are blowing the bugle to the four winds with their purging, purging, purging. What really happens is that the old clique is still in power and is acting worse than before. Who knows when the real hour of liberation will ever strike.

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"It is possible to think that with such a system of thought and action Italy will ever be able to rise to her feet? I doubt it very much." (28/3/45 - Naples)

"It is deplorable that our government does nothing to suppress the intrigues and egotism of individuals and political parties." (31/3/45 - Naples)

"Life continues at its normal pace as though no misfortune had befallen us, nor any damage done to us. Our statesmen keep on thinking of themselves. That applies to Bonomi, Togliatti, De Gasperi and company." (31/4/45 - Pesaro)

3. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Civilian mail was more hostile towards provincial administration than it was during the previous period, and the adverse ratio of comments was 6.9 to 1 as compared with 4.4 to 1 during the preceeding four weeks. Many centres produced but few comments. Of those that commented freely, Arezzo was the most hostile with only 3 favourable comments out of a total of 94. Naples was 10.8 to 1 against, which is slightly more critical than last time. Rome, on the other hand, was less critical than previously. There were hardly any military comments.

Criticism centres mainly on the feeling that provincial administrations do not worry themselves over the welfare of the people. They are accused of making many promises to correct various abuses, but without actually doing anything. The two following comments are examples:

"The cost of living is gradually rising, and that is what worries us most. Our salary is inadequate, and we are withering day by day. Our city and provincial authorities do not give a damn about us as long as they have plenty to eat and drink themselves." (26/3/45 - Naples)

"Conditions are still the same, and are gradually becoming worse here. All the provincial authorities do is to promise drastic action against the black market and the general delinquency which has flooded our city in an alarming way." (20/3/45 - Naples)

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7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES

Civilian letters revealed a less favourable attitude towards the Allies than during the previous period, and in fact the popularity of the Allies slumped to the record low point reached two months back. Pisa was preponderantly favourable, and Florence much more so than the average. Naples opinion deteriorated sharply, but Rome was slightly more favourable. Foggia was the only centre which produced a majority of unfavourable comments. Military mail did not contain many comments, but the proportion of favourable comments was higher, particularly in Ancona and Rome.

Favourable comments spring mainly from gratitude. Being liberated counts more with some people than anything else, and they are also thankful for clothes and food that has been given them. Others are happy because they find they get on well with the Allies. Unfavourable comments are frequently the product of weariness with the duration of the Allies stay in Italy. There are sarcastic references to the liberators who, the writers feel, are more like the occupying troops of conquerors, and with this there is some bad feeling on account of the various types of coloured troops in the country. Other complaints are that the Allies have not lived up to their promises. Some people are resentful at the destruction of industrial plants, for they feel that the Allies, as well as the Germans, are ruining Italy, not only industrially but morally. The following are examples of various shades of opinion:

(a) Favourable

"To tell the truth the Allies are very kind and well mannered. You can always manage to get along well with them." (1/4/45 - Pesaro)

"I repeat that here we are all faring well, and run no danger whatever. Let us thank the Allies who have come to liberate us after so much suffering." (1/4/45 - Pesaro)

"Ancona is still swarming with Allied troops, but their correct behaviour has not caused the least unpleasant incident up to date." (21/3/45 - Ancona)

"As to the Allies, we have nothing but nice things to say about them. They have been extremely kind and charitable. May God bless and protect them". (6/4/45 - Perugia)

"If it had not been for the Allies, and kindred pious souls, we would all be going naked." (28/3/45 - Macerata)

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"... You will however find some comfort in the thought that the English are sensible and good hearted men who grant their prisoners a pretty fair treatment." (26/3/45 - Rome)

"The Americans are very generous, and I am certain they will not make you lack anything. I have known the English well, and I lived with them fraternally for nearly 8 months, and they treated me like an old friend." (29/3/45 - Florence)

"Really the Polish are those who can better understand us. They are all very kind to me, and even if not so lavish as the others; the little they give you does not represent their surplus but is a gift from their hearts that they give with some sacrifice. This has completely conquered me and made me a very sincere friend of theirs. It has raised my spirits very high." (18/5/45 - Rome)

(b) Unfavourable

"These Allies are as follows: They promise a great deal and give nothing." (28/3/45 - Pesaro)

"A lady was telling me the other day that the Germans ruined us materially, and the Allies morally." (31/3/45 - Florence)

"Universal joy and relief pervade all souls due to the imminent cessation of hostilities. Let us hope that each will get what he justly deserves, and that the liberators will liberate our houses from their "beloved" presence." (3/4/45 - Macerata)

"Merely to think that the harbour and industrial sections have been destroyed by the Allies! It is painful to see how people stupidly, sceptically adapt themselves so easily to courting and amusing those who are here to recall to us our woeful condition." (27/3/45 - Naples)

"I am happy to hear of your intense dislike for the multi-coloured crowd which have liberated us. We agree on this score. I can no longer behold our city so dominated!" (29/3/45 - Naples)

"We hope the whole of Italy will soon be liberated, and that we shall get rid of all these unwelcome guests we are compelled to bear. Believe me, no one is our friend." (10/4/45 - Rome)

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"The question of cobelligerency is a consequence of the famous "neither the quick or the dead" principle. Those gentlemen rightly say: if we allow Italy to become an Allied Nation, who will pay for it when the war is over? They started with their lendings, and who knows when they are going to stop, indeed. Let us be honest, we are also fed up with the Allies and their ACC. It would be better if they said: we will not give you anything. But they provoke us with their three hectograms, their sugar that has to come from America, and their coffee from Brazil."

8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION

Civilian mail was more optimistic about the present military situation than it was during the previous four weeks, but no very marked increase in optimism was evident. Military mail was likewise a little more enthusiastic. Comments during the early part of the period were apt to be despondent over the fact that northern Italy was still in German hands, and some writers deplored the Allies' of not wishing to make too much of an effort. This and other more optimistic opinions are typified in the following comments:

"For a long time I have dreamed about a strong Allied offensive to liberate Italy, but this hope has vanished. I don't understand why they do not move. They are cowards, live like lords, and are afraid to die." (25/3/45 - Naples)

"The war is in its final phase. Hitler's Germany is about to crumble, and with it will crumble the entire German race. You cannot imagine what great joy I feel in learning all the news about the valiant Russian and Anglo-American troops. This last offensive will be decisive in the defeat of Germany and of the Fascists." (26/3/45 - Perugia)

"According to the latest bulletins, things are going along very well. The Allied armies are moving at full speed. Therefore the war will be over before long." (6/4/45 - Naples)

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION

There was little change in civilian opinion regarding the future military situation, and there were hardly any military comments at all. There seem to be two main trends of feeling: One of faith in an early end to the war and a return to normal life; and another of fear in the future. Even if the war ends soon, some people feel that there will be no real peace, and that civil disturbances will break out. The following comments are some examples of different opinions:

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"Here we feel that the war will end at any moment now- let us hope it will be so. It won't be long before the Allies will win a complete victory. For the German army has already been defeated. Then things will become normal again soon, and peace will re-enter the hearts of men." (3/4/45 - Naples)

"As to peace, we shall not even have it when the war has come to an end. An energetic intervention on the part of the Allies is needed for the purpose of bringing order everywhere. Otherwise we shall have civil war." (4/5/45 - Florence)

"We hope that the war will come to an end this month. But what will happen then? To begin with the Germans will use as their last resource. Then we expect a revolution, because the labourer cannot go on existing with prices so high that they are out of his reach." (5/4/45 - Grosseto)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

Civilian mail, which became less unfavourable during the preceding period, rallied sufficiently during the period under review to produce a majority of favourable comments. This was largely due to Naples, from which centre more than half of the comments came. A more optimistic feeling has been prevailing there for some time. Pisa has also more than 2 to 1 favourably disposed. There were no military comments.

Favourable comments speak of the reopening of factories and the rebuilding of others, and at Pesaro it is stated that the fishing industry is getting on its feet again. From Naples there are letters speaking of resumption of manufacturing steel and glass products. Unfavourable comments refer to destroyed factories, closed mines, and the lack of raw materials. The following comments are examples of the above:

"As to the industries, some of them have been put back into shape, and those that have not been restored can very well be restored soon." (4/1/45 - Taranto, Incerto)

A somewhat contradictory letter from the same centre says: "The Ansaldo mill has been completely destroyed, without any possibility of rebuilding it. The Gandolfi mill at Monfalcone has likewise been destroyed. The Villa Perosa mill, also destroyed, is being rebuilt as a pasta factory. When shall we begin to work again? I have little hope, since we lack everything." (3/4/45 - Macerata)

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"Here life is gradually becoming more and more normal. The fishermen are beginning to return to fishing the precious food. But in everyone the desire for more normal times is ever great, and the latest events seem to augur well for the fulfillment of our desires." (5/4/45 - Pesaro)

"Here many factories are opening, since the other cities have been greatly devastated, while we are well on our feet. This will become a highly industrialised city judging by the beginning and by what the people say." (4/4/45 - Siena)

"It is now almost a year since the mine was last working. The miners work about four or eight days each month. There are quite a few of them who have not been able to work at all since they were laid off." (5/4/45 - Cabernardi, Ancona)

The following are some examples of the Naples mail from which most of the comments came:

"We have begun once more to manufacture our principal products, perphosphor phials, bromunin pills, etc." (27/3/45 - Naples)

"The Naples Naval Steel Mills (F.O.N.N.) is now capable of doing work in cast-iron, bronze, aluminium, etc., besides mechanical constructions of all kinds." (28/3/45 - Naples)

"We have organized in Naples a glass producing company, financed by some millions of lire. We have already ordered machinery, molds etc., and have chosen the locality for the factory." (29/3/45 - Naples)

"We are loaded with orders taken a long time ago. Our great difficulties lie in the shortage of raw materials and labour." (30/3/45 - Naples)

11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS

Civilian mail lost some of its optimism concerning agricultural prospects during the period under review, and there was a slight majority of unfavourable comments for the first time. This was in spite of the fact that there was an unusually large number of favourable comments from Pisa. The latter centre, in fact, produced no adverse comments at all. Apart from Pisa, no centre revealed any very marked opinion except Pesaro, which was definitely pessimistic.

There are complaints about the lack of fertilizers, and the fact that crops have been destroyed by pest, fire or by acts

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of war. From some centres, such as Grosseto, Naples, Macerata, Perugia and Pesaro, there are letters decrying the lack of rain. Wheat and other grains are therefore backward or worse. On the other hand it would appear that fruit crops are good, and there are also letters about the good condition of vineyards. The following comments illustrate the two sides of the picture:

"A terrible drought is threatening all our crops and forage. The price of hay has gone up to 1500 lire a quintal, higher than the price of wheat. And it is not raining yet!" (7/4/45 - Macerata)

"Here it has not rained at all, and the forage problem gives us reason to worry." (5/4/45 - Pergola, Pesaro)

"As to the farmland, it is in poor shape because there has been scarcely any rain, and the little we've had has not been sufficient. Nothing is growing. The weather is beautiful, but the farmland is suffering. Even pasture land is in bad shape, and the time to think of forage has already arrived." (2/4/45 - Gioiella, Perugia)

"We have had no rain for two months now. The wheat is growing so low that it cannot be perceived. Unless it rains, the harvest will be very poor." (28/3/45 - Pugliano Terme, Naples)

"Here the weather is not prohibitive to the farmland. In fact, it has not rained since the beginning of February, and ploughed fields are feeling the need of water." (5/4/45 - Grosseto)

"The farms are in poor shape this year. It will be a wretched harvest because there are no fertilizers. But we hope to raise enough wheat to exist." (19/3/45 - Mandolfo, Pesaro)

"The crops this year have been practically nil, having been destroyed in various ways, such as by looting, fires, bad weather and destructive insects." (18/3/45 - Pesaro)

"As you know, the threshing took place too late. The wheat was spoiled by the rust, in the wheat heaps. Of the ears, only the husks were left. The yield was less than 50%. We did not even get any seed grain out of it because hardly 10% of it could possibly grow. The grape harvest has been nilsht due to the lack of sulphur and copper sulphate." (20/3/45 - Fano, Pesaro)

"Fortunately countrymen are turning a deaf ear to

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politicians' sermons, and are silently working. However, crops will be inferior to last year's owing to the lack of fertilizers." (27/3/45 - Teramo)

The following strike a more optimistic note:

"The farmland is magnificent this year, and the fruit trees promise a great crop." (22/3/45 - Naples)

"The farmland has improved, especially in tree planting. The vineyards and apple orchards will yield most satisfactory crops." (22/3/45 - Galluccio, Naples)

"We are all well, and the country this year is going along splendidly." (31/3/45 - Siena)

12. EMPLOYMENT

There was scarcely any change in civilian opinion regarding the position of employment. Although the average figures show that unfavourable comments were in a majority of 3.9 to 1, many centres were decidedly more pessimistic that that. Foggia, Grosseto and Perugia produced no favourable comments. Arezzo was about 12 to 1 unfavourable, and Rome 16 to 1. Naples, on the other hand, was less pessimistic than the average.

The comments, for the most part, do not speak of much beyond the bare fact that it is difficult to find work. Some writers state that it is necessary to have influence to be employed at all. And there are a number of letters referring to firms laying off employees rather than taking on new ones. The following are some examples of the above:

"I received my letter of dismissal, not because I did not do my work well, but as a result of the provision made to lay off all women from offices. The commune has been the first to adopt this measure." (5/4/45 - Siena)

"For the present work cannot be found, unless one works with the Americans. My father works for them, because the Metallurgica has not yet begun to work again, although it is in the possession of the Americans." (27/3/45 - Leghorn)

"As to employment, it is something very difficult to find. One has to know people, and one needs excellent references in order to get a job." (26/3/45 - Naples)

"I am still working in the harbour, although the work

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is diminishing daily. More than 5000 people have been laid off, and unemployment is increasing." (27/3/45 - Naples)

"I am again out of a job. It is certainly a trial. I have tried several other places, but there is nothing doing. Yesterday I stood in a queue for three hours in front of the ex arms factory (Breda) in via Guido Reni in order to be taken on as a mechanic. But no one will look at you. For almost a month I have been standing in queues in front of factories." (18/3/45 - Rome)

"I am so worried, dear friend, about my future, and the job I do not seem to find. I have made various applications but with negative results, for offices are not employing but dismissing employees." (27/3/45 - Rome)

GORDON W. ROKEAH,
Lt. Col. Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

2 Encls.
Encl #1 - Public Opinion Tally 14/4/1945.
Encl #2 - Radio Table, Four Weeks Ending 14/4/1945.

DISTRIBUTION:

1 - Deputy Chief Commissioner.
1 - Vice President, Administrative Section, AC.
1 - Vice President, Economic Section, AC.
1 - Vice President, Political Section, AC.
1 - Director, Air Sub-Commission, AC.
1 - Director, Army Sub-Commission, AC.
1 - Director, Communications Sub-Commission, AC.
1 - Director, Navy Sub-Commission, AC.
1 - Director, Public Relations Branch, AC.
1 - Director, War Materials Disposal Sub-Commission, AC.
5 - G.S.I.(c) - 15th Army Group.
4 - G-2 (CC), AFHQ, (requested by letter from SCB/25/5/44.
1 - PWB, AFHQ.
1 - G-5, AFHQ.
1 - MAAF Int (Cen), AFHQ.
1 - A-2, AFHQ.
1 - JICA, AFHQ.
1 - Dir. Int. ASF, Washington.
1 - MIS, London.
1 - PWB, 15th Army Group, PTO Unit #14, APO 512, US Army.
1 - FICAS, CCG.
1 - OSS (Prov) - R and A Branch, Eq. Det. 2677 Regt.

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Report
No. 123

APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS
(24 March - 14 April 1945)

| | FOOD SITUATION | | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDU RE PROS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WEEK ENDING | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F |
| 24/3/45 CIV | 1 | 20.3 | 1 | 63.1 | 1 | 15.6 | 1 | 16.4 | 1 | 3.2 | 1 | 13 | 4.3 | 1 | 1.4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| MIL | 1.6 | 1 | 1 | 1.6 | 1 | 4.8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31/3/45 CIV | 1 | 22.6 | 1 | 57.5 | 1 | 23.2 | 1 | 9.3 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 9.6 | 5.1 | 1 | 4.1 | 1 | 3.9 | 1 | 1.7 |
| MIL | 4 | 1 | 2.7 | 1 | 2 | 1.4 | 0 | 0 | 2.3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 2.1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7/4/45 CIV | 1 | 18.8 | 1 | 45.5 | 1 | 32.3 | 1 | 15.9 | 1 | 2.1 | 1 | 6.8 | 5.6 | 1 | 7.1 | 1 | 13.4 | 1 | 3.3 |
| MIL | 1.3 | 1 | 1 | 2.7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 7 | 1.9 | 1 | 1 | 2.5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 14/4/45 CIV | 1 | 24.2 | 1 | 70.3 | 1 | 30.1 | 1 | 16.3 | 1 | 3.7 | 1 | 7.8 | 4.6 | 1 | 9.4 | 1 | 21.9 | 1 | 2.4 |
| MIL | 3.1 | 1 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 2.4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 8 | 20 | 1 | 4.2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING 14/4/45 CIV | 1 | 23.3 | 1 | 62.7 | 1 | 23.4 | 1 | 14.1 | 1 | 2.5 | 1 | 8.9 | 4.8 | 1 | 4.9 | 1 | 7.8 | 1 | 1.5 |
| MIL | 2.3 | 1 | 1 | 1.4 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 2.3 | 1 | 7 | 5.3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 |

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APPENDIX A

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RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS
(24 March - 14 April 1945)

| CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 1 | 63.1 | 1 | 15.6 | 1 | 16.4 | 1 | 3.2 | 1 | 13 | 4.3 | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1 | 1 | 3.5 |
| 1 | 1.6 | 1 | 4.8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 57.5 | 1 | 23.2 | 1 | 9.3 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 9.6 | 5.1 | 1 | 4.1 | 1 | 3.9 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | 1 | 4.6 |
| 1.7 | 1 | 2 | 1.4 | 0 | 0 | 2.3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 2.1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 45.5 | 1 | 32.3 | 1 | 15.9 | 1 | 2.1 | 1 | 6.8 | 5.6 | 1 | 7.1 | 1 | 13.4 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 4.7 |
| 1 | 2.7 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 7 | 1.9 | 1 | 1 | 2.5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 78.3 | 1 | 30.1 | 1 | 16.3 | 1 | 3.7 | 1 | 7.8 | 4.6 | 1 | 9.4 | 1 | 21.9 | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 4 | |
| 1.1 | 1 | 2.4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 20 | 1 | 4.2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 62.7 | 1 | 23.4 | 1 | 14.1 | 1 | 2.5 | 1 | 8.9 | 4.8 | 1 | 4.9 | 1 | 7.8 | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 3.9 | |
| 1.4 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 2.3 | 1 | 7 | 5.3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

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| PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED) | | | FOOD SITUATION | | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| Ancona | CIV | 82,290 | 34 | 62 | 1 | 53 | 7 | 45 | 7 | 26 |
| | CIL | 3,309 | 5 | 36 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| Arezzo | | 20,345 | 30 | 455 | 8 | 269 | 2 | 757 | 3 | 9 |
| Florence | | 81,264 | 60 | 110 | 1 | 27 | 0 | 25 | 1 | 142 |
| Foggia | CIV | 25,878 | 8 | 37 | 2 | 55 | 1 | 32 | 6 | 30 |
| | CIL | 9,052 | 25 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Grosseto | | 21,872 | 11 | 202 | 2 | 78 | 1 | 80 | 1 | 55 |
| Leghorn | | 56,260 | 55 | 141 | 10 | 73 | 5 | 75 | 11 | 85 |
| Macerata | | 7,256 | 0 | 18 | 1 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Naples | CIV | 158,114 | 91 | 355 | 12 | 200 | 10 | 166 | 55 | 849 |
| | CIL | 55,254 | 157 | 60 | 11 | 40 | 59 | 68 | 1 | 7 |
| Perugia | | 84,364 | 0 | 186 | 0 | 103 | 0 | 26 | 3 | 53 |
| Pesaro | CIV | 11,514 | 19 | 66 | 0 | 58 | 0 | 32 | 3 | 15 |
| | CIL | 650 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pisa | | 32,538 | 143 | 2715 | 27 | 147 | 11 | 337 | 23 | 19 |
| Rome | CIV | 203,060 | 84 | 1350 | 5 | 233 | 11 | 282 | 52 | 324 |
| | CIL | 65,240 | 32 | 30 | 10 | 3 | 10 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Siena | CIV | 20,324 | 30 | 115 | 0 | 54 | 0 | 25 | 0 | 12 |
| | CIL | 1,761 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Terni | | 6,140 | 5 | 52 | 0 | 15 | 2 | 15 | 0 | 12 |
| TOTAL CENSORED: | | 829,160 | 1,053 | 5,615 | 25 | 1,553 | 201 | 2,451 | 181 | 1,575 |
| TOTAL POPULATION | | 2,284,081 | 833 | 1,321 | 53 | 419 | 93 | 691 | 3 | 13 |
| I G I A L S : | | 805,623 | 779 | 1,165 | 124 | 530 | 144 | 2,352 | 181 | 1,562 |

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This report is based upon 60 letters and cables received daily on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of persons employed each week averaged 580, making a total of 3,480 letters examined for this [illegible] period.

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| NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 0 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 23 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 14 | 2 | 12 | 8 | 12 |
| 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | 7 | 3 | 01 | 34 | 3 | 14 | 18 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 21 | 43 | 6 | 73 |
| 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 03 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 12 |
| 11 | 13 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 23 | 4 | 16 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 12 | 28 | 0 | 53 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 2 | 21 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 30 | 0 | 41 |
| 13 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 20 | 6 | 24 | 14 | 32 | 4 | 23 | 20 | 13 | 32 | 27 | 33 |
| 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 |
| 212 | 222 | 137 | 128 | 220 | 140 | 241 | 68 | 128 | 87 | 253 | 148 | 261 | 220 | 164 | 473 |
| 3 | 19 | 3 | 7 | 21 | 7 | 20 | 18 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 17 | 3 | 12 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 33 | 0 | 25 |
| 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 2 | 24 | 0 | 6 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 26 | 23 | 21 | 32 | 25 | 23 | 18 | 23 | 14 | 07 | 23 | 22 | 220 | 0 | 39 | 23 |
| 62 | 160 | 24 | 42 | 104 | 10 | 24 | 20 | 12 | 6 | 22 | 30 | 27 | 64 | 12 | 306 |
| 3 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 32 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 20 | 3 | 20 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 22 | 27 | 3 | 24 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 184 | 886 | 137 | 178 | 208 | 260 | 307 | 255 | 287 | 116 | 234 | 208 | 208 | 435 | 284 | 1320 |
| 3 | 20 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 201 | 810 | 138 | 1488 | 1424 | 284 | 1147 | 248 | 232 | 119 | 424 | 285 | 1381 | 4321 | 284 | 3120 |

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12 APR 1945

Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL AFFAIRS GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

Special Report No. 132 7 April 1945

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Comparative Report on Italian Civilians and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 17th March 1945.

TO : G-2 (Communications Censorship), AFHQ, APO 512.

This report is based on 306,000 letters censored during the four weeks ending 17th March 1945. This does not include any military mail from the Italian Army.

Attached is a table (Appendix) which shows the relation between favourable and unfavourable comments on every subject each week. It will show the broad number of comments in percentage to the total censored letters and the corresponding number of comments on the opposite points.

None of the comments used in this report have been used in any previous report.

I. MORALE SITUATION

Civilian letters indicate that the less favourable comments and attitudes have increased during the previous four weeks, and that increase will further be a marked degree during the four weeks ending 17th March. The average ratio being 51.5 to 1 as compared with 14.5 to 1 and 20.1 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. Rome, Foggia, Naples and Naples appear to be the most disturbed areas. There was a huge increase in comment from Naples, and the proportion between favourable and unfavourable comments was 51.5 to 1 as compared with 20.7 to 1 during the last period. The position in Rome eased a little, but the adverse comments were still very numerous, and were in a majority of 20 to 1. This compares with 25 to 1 and 28 to 1 for the two previous periods respectively. Ancona, Milan, Palermo and Bari took a far less gloomy view than the average, but in none of these centres were the unfavourable comments in a majority of more than a little over 3 to 1.

Many writers complain that they can not get along on



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mentioned goods, and trade in any event the latter are not always available. There are often bitter remarks about the aspects of well and fats, and the fact that milk is not available for young children. People living in, or close to, country districts remark on the unfairness of money because the peasants want other goods in exchange for food. The black market give rise to bitter resentment. The great majority of people can not afford to buy food from this source, and since it is the principle, and often practically the sole source of supply they face very badly indeed. In the whole the question of price is of greater worry than that of supply. Many of the favourable comments speak only of the availability of food stuffs. Prices do not enter into it. The following comments are representative:

"Here we have, life is very expensive. One lives better at home. Here one has to spend as if mad to support the black market so as, because there is hardly to be found foodstuffs." (11/3/45 - Rome)

"We have had to give up the most valuable for [illegible] milk, sugar, flour, rubber soles etc. We live on bread, vegetable soup and what one normally obtains. Thanks for my life." (12/3/45 - Naples)

"We are struggling on black bread, potatoes, olive oil, onions have reached high prices. Sometimes we can get a little oil from the peasants, but for that one has to [illegible] We have been without meat for a year, and also sugar, rice and wine. The bread ration [illegible] is very hard on the black market at 25 lire each. [illegible]" (8/3/45 - Florence)

"Life is much more expensive here than it is in Sicily. Double [illegible] 300 lire a kg., eggs 25 lire each, chestnuts 100 lire a kg., [illegible] a kg. and pork meat 350 lire per kg." (10/3/45 - Bologna)

"We were only [illegible] a great amount of goods (overcoats, suits of clothes, woolen goods, shoes etc.) I had to give [illegible] to exchange for land or eggs! Eggs reached a price of 2½ lire each. Shoes are [illegible] because the peasants, a class of [illegible] enriched by the war, do not want money but more and more goods." (13/3/45 - Brescia)

"The question of foodstuffs is also being keenly felt here at Rome. They have been the only ration now for 5½ years old babies. I have my children with no [illegible] egg. Fortunately a few eggs can be found on the black market at 25 lire each. With rice, pasta and dried figs I manage to feed the children.

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Recently I bought 200 grams of honey for 110 Lire." (1/3/45 - Grosseto)

"As to the very high cost of living, it is useless to speak. It is the same everywhere: hunger and wretchedness, wretchedness and hunger." (17/3/45 - Roselle Terme, Grosseto)

"Here life is extremely difficult. Food that is found only on the black market. The peasants will not part with anything in the way of olive oil, flour, etc., unless you give them other goods in exchange. Things are terrible, worse for us labourers." (14/3/45 - Siena)

"At Siena now there is a scarcity of everything, and there is no milk. While flour cannot be found, even in the black market, they give us no permit (coupons), and that is why we always eat polenta here." (12/3/45 - Siena)

"Here life is more expensive than in Rome. A kilo costs 150 Lire per kg., and 500 and 600 Lire a kilo." (13/3/45 - Naples)

"Once upon a time, whenever you wished to call somebody or something up to contempt, you would say that he was not worth a dried fig. This expression should now be altered in a contrary way to indicate speaking of great value. It is here is becoming rare and dear already." (18/3/45 - Naples)

"See if you can send us some food for we are unable to live here on your father's salary. I have bought a coat at 350 Lire per kg, a suit that is liable to be burned from in consequence of the new price of bread which has been reduced to 1kg per day. Land costs 750 Lire per kg. Please to give how we are living." (5/3/45 - Siena)

"We have a going from day to day hoping things will improve, but instead they get worse. We get absolutely nothing with the ration card, and for Sunday's dinner to live on the black market. Just yet we were lucky off, but now we are the worse." (20/2/45 - Lucca)

9. CONCLUSION.

Civilian will become increasingly unfavourable during the period under review. The adverse comments reached the augmenting of due to 1. There was not a single favourable comment from Arezzo, Ancona, Pisa, Foggia, Rosarno and Georgia,

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and only one each from Grosseto and Terni. The [illegible] on [illegible] Naples would seem to be [illegible]. Out of a record [illegible] of 1680 comments, only 9 were favourable. This shows a [illegible] deterioration as compared with the previous [illegible]. [illegible] opinion also became more pessimistic with a ratio of [illegible] 1 against. Military mail was less favourable than previously.

Most complaints are based on the prohibitive cost of clothing. Some writers are also very poor [illegible] that even if they could afford [illegible] [illegible]. The [illegible] shortage still exists, though [illegible] to be appearing in some quantity, but [illegible] is that they are out of the reach of most people. And [illegible] there are letters which make the same complaint [illegible] have nothing to wear. Their clothes have been worn out, and [illegible] through scarcity or high prices they have been unable to replace them. The following comments are [illegible] of the above:

"We are now [illegible] very badly [illegible] as to clothing. We are naked and barefooted. We [illegible] what to do." ([illegible] - [illegible])

"As to clothing, the prices [illegible] cotton material costs [illegible] lire a metre. A pair of [illegible] stockings costs [illegible] lire." ([illegible] - [illegible])

"I am beginning to feel the want of clothing [illegible] I have not been able to purchase anything for [illegible] not even a handkerchief... I lack shirts, shoes, [illegible] of clothes. I have [illegible] all my old clothes [illegible]" ([illegible] - [illegible])

"The price of shoes for men is from [illegible] thousand lire according to the quality of the materials and the workmanship." ([illegible] - Naples)

"In regard to clothing and shoes we are still going from bad to worse. We are without clothing and shoes. They cannot be found. Shoes are [illegible] to repair, and are very expensive. You can't get a pair for less than [illegible] lire. As for clothing materials, the shops have sold [illegible]. Nothing can be bought." (4/3/45 - Perugia)

"My children are all wearing wooden clogs like the [illegible]. They have no clothes except rags. They [illegible] worse than [illegible]." ([illegible] - Ancona)

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"You could [illegible] to go and [illegible] in this city, and buy [illegible] the price are." (3/8/43 - Le Sage)

"The clothing available is very poor and very expensive. The prices are entirely too high, and the people do not buy." (3/8/43 - Stevens)

"It is natural to buy new things. I have a pair of shoes, but I never have as much as [illegible] a pair of shoes costs [illegible]. You have no idea how [illegible] more expensive life has become to [illegible]. Everything [illegible] every day prices become higher and higher." (3/8/43 - Rose)

2. Housing.

Civilians [illegible] very [illegible] situation. Although [illegible] were only [illegible] previous, no [illegible] this was due [illegible] rise. Despite [illegible] the end of the [illegible] commence at all [illegible] be said [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of 475, a higher [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] work.

[illegible] are many complaints about the [illegible] and rooms. Overcrowding also [illegible] many people often have [illegible] other buildings are in bad [illegible] be cleaned as [illegible] pay a high deposit on a flat in addition to the [illegible] also the complaint that the Allies pay high [illegible] occupied. The following [illegible]

"It is extremely difficult to find a furnished room. They ask at least 1,500 lire a month if you do find one. In [illegible]" (3/8/43 - Rossetti)

"We found the entire [illegible]

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small storehouse." (10/.../45 - Crockett)

"Believe me, we can't go along like this any longer. There are ten of us living in one room. If I could only explain my heart I could obtain live there." (2/2/45 - Bennett)

"I am praying to the war here for a bed sheet. There are more than seventy families without homes." (1/5/45 - Crockett)

"They have given me a house but in a deplorable condition. It is really a ghost, a rain could but what can I do? Terni has suffered a great deal, and houses cannot be found here." (12/3/45 - Terni)

"Over 75% of the residences of Terni were bombarded. The number of people who have returned here is the same number as those who were evacuated. There are at least (10/.../45 - Terni)

"We have been in Leghorn since October without having had the good luck to find a house." (11/2/45 - Anthony)

"With the immense reconstruction necessary here among, and the requisitionings of rooms by the police, there is no available one room in which to live." (11/2/45 - Ancona)

"The only way to finding a house in Rome today is to pay from 200,000 to 300,000 lire and buy a completely unfurnished apartment." (2e/2/45 - Rome)

"Furnished apartments of two rooms cost about 6,000 lire a month, with a deposit of 30,000 lire and 10,000 as a tip. Only to what Minot's agents had to pay." (2/3/45 - Rome

"My lady friends, who so far gave her their rooms to the Allies, do not yet wish to let them have to see the strangers passing through which to sleep they have to work hard to find even a tiny room at 200 lire a month, apart from the rise in rent which is to be imposed legally." (10/2/45 - Rome)

4. INDEX

Advance publications of wages and salaries upon civilian factors slightly increased during the period under review, and unfavourable comments were in a majority of 14:1 as compared with 15:2 to 1 during the previous four weeks. There were no

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favourable comments at all from Perugia, and only 5 from Florence out of a total of 136. Naples took a more gloomy view than previously, but Rome was less pessimistic than during the previous period though still far more so than the average, the unfavourable comments being in a majority of 36.5 to 1. There were hardly any military comments.

Every complaint rests on the inescapable fact that the cost of living has far outstripped income. It is only the few, including those whose activities are doubtful, who can balance their budgets. The pensioners are the worst off. The white collar workers are also in a very bad way. The following comments are some examples:

"Neither clerks nor teachers could ever make both ends meet without using up all their savings in addition to their meagre salaries." (17/3/45 - Ancona)

"With the high cost of food, the salary we earn is not enough for us to eat." (20/3/45 - Florence)

"It is extremely hard to exist for us wretched wage-earners. There are people who think only of enriching themselves without bothering about the honest clerk and labourer who can hardly have a decent meal with what he earns." (18/2/45 - Naples)

"Life here is very expensive. Even if one earns a great deal, the money earned is not sufficient to get along." (25/1/45 - Grosseto)

"The economic improvement proposed by the government for wage-earners and pensioned people does not substantially change our situation. Even if the government, with the best possible intention, were to double our salaries and pensions, the fact is that the cost of living has doubled and redoubled ten times over, especially in regard to items of vital necessity." (9/3/45 - Ancona)

"The times become ever worse. The more we work the less we eat. Food is very dear. We workers cannot get along because of our small pay." (8/3/45 - Rome)

"I get the subsidy of 13.60 for myself and 5.10 for each child, so I get 23 lire a day. I pay 15 lire for bread and 7.50 for milk every day. I am left with half a lire to eat. I don't know where to turn. During the night, when I stay awake, I weep. I never longed for death as I am doing now." (6/3/45 - Rome)

"The only class which is well off is that of the racketeers, the class which gives itself up to the black market. In order to do that one must be a born swindler. He who is honest and an employee is condemned to starvation. And we shall die of hunger. It is no good having 50% wage increases. We ought ot have an increase of 100%." (22/2/45 - Rome)

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"Salaries are increased by ten, while the cost of labour increased by a hundred. Therefore as prosperity is restored." (7/5/45 - Rome)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

There was a marked reluctance in the number of comments on the National Government during the period under review. Civilian mail, which had become increasingly hostile for some time, was less unfavourable. Adverse comments, which were in a majority of 6 to 1 during the previous four weeks decreased to a 2.4 to 1 majority, though this figure is still higher than any previous ratio except for the immediately preceding period. Many centres hardly commented at all, two of those which did, Truro and the most unfavourably disposed. There were few military comments, and they were nearly equally divided.

Although the number of comments fell off, the criticisms gained in intensity. It is said that the Government is nothing but speeches and promises, and that the only members, even of which thinks that no other party in any event, only strive to further their own interests. They are pictured as presenting an ignoble and selfish spectacle, not only to Italy but to the Allies. Nothing is accomplished, nor do the writers expect anything to be done. The following comments reflect the general tone of most letters:

"In our Government all are busily engaged, all are making speeches and giving lectures, all preach but they themselves are the defenders and protectors of the people. But no one accomplishes anything to ease the sorrowful condition of this martyred Italy of ours." (3/5/45 - Perugia)

"Fascism did much evil, but greater evil is being done today. I now understand, in these troubled times, how wretched man and politics are. All I have to do is to study our present Government. Under the most beautiful words and phrases you can see all the greed and malice of the powers who know how to exploit the terrible situation." (5/5/45 - Nesina)

"So many past values are being recreated that this is a worse government than the one which came to power after the first world war." (14/5/45 - Perugia)

"The behaviour of many of those who compose our so called Government is indeed disconcerting. Instead of giving evidence of dignity and firmness of purpose before the Allies, in the midst of this whirlpool of disunion, they carry on in an



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agreeable and hellish way." (E/3/40 - Ancona)

"While we are in need of a strong government, we look for it in vain. Instead of building a strong government on a firm basis - an absolute necessity in the end of the Allies - we are divided into parties and sub-parties, and are formulating programmes of all kinds." (E/6/40 - Ancona)

"Speeches until one, orders of the day, speeches and speeches from dawn until night not even they themselves believe when they let loose in their speeches... The people are correct. The players have changed, but the music is the same." (20/6/43 - Florence)

"Don't wonder about the more or less senseless replies of the Lisbon. This is quite normal going to the office with new letters and which will last until who knows when." (1/3/45 - Rome)

"Rome is always a great circus, and a disturbing and revolting sea of corruption and immorality. Here one truly sees how men think only of themselves. The Government and its two members of it, are both scandal, but it absolutely nothing to find a remedy." (20/3/43 - Rome)

6. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

Civilian mail has a more critical of provincial administration during the four weeks under review, and unfavourable comments outnumbered those favourable by 4 to 1 as compared with 3 to 1 during the previous period. Areas became even more hostile towards the administration than it was before, and produced no favourable comments out of a total of 105. Neither compared more freely than last time with a marked increase in the proportion of adverse comments. Rome also became more critical. Bari, on the other hand, was more than 3 to 1 in favour. Military mail had nothing to say on this subject. The comments are not usually very enlightening, but the following are some examples:

"We have urgent need here of a good administration, because at present this country is in great need of so many urgent things, when as, for example, a common physician. The present commissary, Guido Nozzari, is a baron by birth, and he used to belong to the Black Italian Nation." (23/3/43 - Montemonaco, Ascoli)

"Montugiorgio is a town in a province ruled by parasites

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who take advantage of the work be FSZA theirs own bellion."
(28/2/45 - Ancona)

"In Rome the authorities in charge of the distribution of rationed items in the capital case a serious interest in aiding the population, while the authorities in Naples do not give a damn, or, busy with other things, they don't worry about us." (21/2/45 - Naples)

7. Relations with Allies.

Once again, only by half of the total comments coming from Pisa which are nearly 20 to 1 in favour of the Allies, the ratio for the country appears to have improved. This leaving Pisa out of account, the favourable comments for the rest of the country are only in a majority of five to 1. However this is a slight improvement on the second low ratio of the previous period which was the culmination of some months of decreasing favour. There were no unfavourable comments at all from Ancona-Pisa-Florence and Macerata. Perugia was the only centre where unfavourable comments were in a majority. Naples was less friendly than usual. Opinion in Rome improved slightly, but is still less favourable than the average.

Favourable comments are usually brief, and express gratitude for what the Allies have done. Unfavourable comments sometimes reveal violent animosity. Generally speaking the criticisms spring from a sense of disappointment. Many writers supposed that their worries would cease with the coming of the Allies, who were expected to scatter plenty literally from their cornucopia. The war for Italy was finished. The weathering from this dream has left them bitter. In addition there are the usual complaints about requisitioning, behaviour with women and so on. The following are examples of both favourable and unfavourable comments:

A. Favourable

"Half of Pesaro is occupied by Allied troops. It is right that this is so, because they are the ones who drove Fascism away." (10/3/45 - Pesaro)

"I must tell you that in our Liberio house an officer of the Allied troops has been up until a few days ago. They were respectful and kind, and they did not do any damage whatsoever." (10/3/45 - Pesaro)

"Anno now works in an office. He says he gets along very well with the Americans. He earns a great deal, and he naturally

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weeks." (30/5/45 - Leghorn)

"Ancona does not look like the old town it was. There is a great deal of movement both military and civilian. Here there are soldiers of all races, all nice people, kind and very polite. It is a real pleasure to talk to them. They are all unarmed, unlike those assassins who were armed to the teeth. Now we live peacefully without any worries." (11/5/45 - Ancona)

"The Canadians went away, but they were all good people unlike the Indians. It is too bad that they stayed here only a few days." (14/5/45 - Fossoli-Piceno)

"The Allies are striving very hard to make living conditions less harsh for us, but it is not possible for them to succeed fully, because there is a shortage of the means of transport". (15/5/45 - Florence)

B. F. Unfavourable

"My father, together with numerous other Italians, was right about the Allies. One must honestly admit that our "liberators" have freed us from absolutely nothing." (11/5/45 - Ancona)

"Do you recall Brennus, the one who put the sword on the scales in order to weigh the gold which the Romans owed him? The present conquerors are even worse than Brennus." (9/5/45 - Assisi di Carra S. Quirico)

"Things are getting a turn for the worse. We were much better off before. If those Germans were assassins, these Allies are even more so." (9/5/45 - Crocetto)

"The Allied Command has installed two Brazilian officers in my house. They have reduced it to a pigsty. You can't imagine my feelings towards the Allies." (16/2/45 - Naples)

"As to the British, they are doing all for themselves and nothing for us. This is a good medicine for the Italian people. We have been defeated by everybody; first by the Fascists, then by the Germans, and now the Lord only knows who it is who rules us." (12/5/45 - Ancona)

"I have known majors, captains, colonels, and other officers of the American army, and I have not gained a good



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impression of any of them. They are ignorant of the elementary rules of good education. They are too rowdy and seem to be unable to do without drunkenness, even the most serious among them." (25/2/45 - Pisa)

"I believe that to overcome our "liberators" we don't need much. You agree with me on this score, don't you? I would take great pleasure in hitting them on the head with a stick. It would make me feel better. As to the negroes, they make me laugh..... It would not take much to beat them.... I am fed up with seeing those ugly mugs.... All we can hope for is to wait for our victory." (13/3/45 - Grosseto)

8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION.

Civilian mail reveals a more optimistic feeling concerning the present military situation. This is particularly true of Pisa which underwent a complete change of feeling. Naples was more enthusiastic than formerly, but Rome moved in the opposite direction. Military mail reflected a less happy view. The comments are not very informative. The following are examples:

"If you pin your hopes upon the Allies, Bologna will be taken much later than we think, because the Allies are too fond of having a good time." (17/3/45 - Siena)

"There also a little confusion arises in regard to the war. This morning a rumour ran round to the effect that the war had come to an end. They always deceive us. The Lord only knows when that day will come when we shall die of sheer joy." (16/3/45 - Naples)

"In this war which is so strange and so different from all others, what expectations can one have? Every now and then the end of the conflict seems imminent, but after a short time one's illusions fade. The enemy strengthens resistance, and even counter-attacks here and there, so that the war for the Nth time presents itself as long and arduous." (24/2/45 - Rome)

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION.

Civilian letters became more optimistic during the period under review, and favourable comments were in a majority of 7.6 to 1 as compared with 2.7 to 1 during the previous four weeks. The bulk of the comments came from Naples and Pisa, and both centres were much more optimistic than previously, particularly Pisa which was very pessimistic during the preceding period.

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Rome also reflected the general rising of spirits. There were hardly any military comments. The following comments are some examples of reviving hope:

"Everything seems to indicate that this most cursed war may end very soon. We shall soon be able to drink to the victory of the Allies and to liberty." (23/2/45 - Naples)

"Here we all have great hopes that Germany may ask for an armistice. We expect the end of the war in a few weeks." (22/2/45 - Ischia)

"Nothing new in Naples except that we wait daily for the announcement that Germany has given up.... Even I, who do not pay much attention to the usual empty chatter, feel that the crumbling of Russia is very near, since Germany has reached the end of her tether now." (20/2/45 - Naples)

"I have great hopes that the war will come to an end very soon." (10/3/45 - Grosseto)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS

Civilian mail, which had become more pessimistic during the previous four weeks, was not so unfavourably disposed during the period under review. Arezzo, Grosseto and Penaro commented more unfavourably that most, and Rome was more pessimistic than previously. Naples, on 100% increase in the number of comments, changed from a majority of adverse remarks to a majority of favourable comments. Military mail was practically silent on the subject.

Unfavourable comments speak chiefly of destruction of plants and factories due to the war, and to a shortage of raw materials. Favourable comments tell of new constructions and restorations. The following are some examples of both sides of the picture:

"I am sorry that I am unable to satisfy our friend Schaner in supplying my products. It is impossible now to resume work due to lack of power as the result of demolitions made by the Germans to the generating plants in this zone." (16/3/45- Ancona)

"Things here in Tuscany and elsewhere are very different from what you imagine. In fact, all the industries have been

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destroyed by air bombardments and by the German rabble." (11/5/45 - [illegible])

"The factories in the city have been destroyed or deprived of all equipment and machinery by the Germans." (13/5/45 - [illegible])

"There is no prospect of restoring the [illegible] industry to its former position. Its functioning depends upon [illegible] circumstances." (13/5/45 - Jesi)

"At present we can not sell you any agricultural machinery because our factory has not resumed work due to lack of electric power and to the fact that the machinery ruined by the Germans has not been replaced." (15/5/45 - Jesi)

"Our principal factory of [illegible] mechanical [illegible] and [illegible], including the offices, was destroyed during the heavy aerial bombardment of 2nd May 1944. No one takes an interest in helping us to rebuild [illegible]." (20/5/45 - Florence)

The following extracts reflect a more hopeful attitude:

"The Germans burned all our warehouses. We have repaired some of the equipment by our [illegible], and we all long to be able to resume our work as soon as possible." (19/5/45 - [illegible])

"By dint of great sacrifices we have reconstructed two machines, and are waiting to see the rebirth of our industrial and commercial life, if not as it was before the war, at least partially so." (20/5/45 - Ancona)

"Life in this city is taking great steps towards industrial recovery with a great deal of understanding and zeal, so much so that we are forgetting the great ruins." (7/5/45 - Terni)

"The mill was entirely destroyed as a result of warfare, but it was completely rebuilt by the owners in record time. Although it has still to be completed, it is already in good enough shape to function regularly." (11/5/45 - Ancona)

VI. <u>AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS</u>.

"There was little change in public opinion on agricultural prospects during the period under review, comments being about equally divided. The ratio table for the previous four weeks showed a 3.7 to 1 majority of unfavorable comments, but this 439

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due to an unusual number of letters from Bari, and the country as a whole reflected a similar outlook to that obtaining during the four weeks reviewed here.

Ancona and Leghorn took a very optimistic view. Pesaro, on the other hand, was equally gloomy. Military mail was practically silent on the subject. The comments are becoming fewer in number, which is to be expected at this time of the year. The favourable comments speak of promising future prospects and of good crops that were planted some time back. Unfavourable comments speak of the scarcity of chemicals and seeds and agricultural aids generally. The following are a few examples of various points of view:

"As to the country, we are ploughing, and the wheat appears to be quite promising, but up to date we have not even had a bag of fertilizers." (13/3/45 - [illegible])

"The weather here has made a good beginning. We have done a great deal of pruning, but we are not through yet. The season seems to augur well." (12/3/45 - [illegible])

"The wheat is getting along well. We fertilized it with ammonium nitrate." (14/3/45 - Naples)

"In the Sorrento Peninsula there has been a great olive harvest this year." (7/3/45 - Naples)

"I must know whether the sulphur and vitriol (copper sulfate) are available. We need it very badly, and it is difficult to find. Unless we have the vitriol the season will turn out poorly." (20/3/45 - S. Maria Capua Vetere)

"The peasants lack seeds and all agricultural aids. The ministers are conscious of the difficulties I and my fellow husbandmen, but no one comes to their help. All they get is words. Italy is soaked with empty words. It is disgusting." (10/3/45 - Naples)

"As to the country, the season is good, but it is a little too cool for the wheat. The sowing was poor, and there is a saying that he who sows badly, reaps in a worse way... A little wheat has grown, but it is very weak, and there are no means to help it along." (23/3/45 - Siena)

13. EMPLOYMENT.

Civilian mail was less unfavourable towards the employment situation during the period under review, and the unfavourable comments were in a majority of 3.8 to 1 as compared

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with 6,3 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Nevertheless, some centres were more gloomy than ever, notably Arezzo and Perugia. Naples was also slightly more unsatisfactory. Rome was practically no change to note. Military mail has nothing to say on the matter.

Apart from the many complaints that there is no work to be found, and that months are spent in the vain search for jobs, there are letters about temporary work that is little more than a brief spell between periods of unemployment. Other letters speak of loans that are now coming to an end. Graduates and professional men are finding it hard to obtain any kind of position. The following are some typical comments:

A graduate writes: "I am here in the midst of great hardships. Just imagine what it means to administer a commune of 12,000 people in such troubled times, with more than 700 people unemployed. I am extremely anxious to get away from here and to abandon this post." (15/2/45 - Cavriana, Brescia)

"We came here with the hope of finding work, but all we do is go round uselessly." (8/3/45 - Frosinone)

"The mines are still closed, we don't even imagine that they will ever open." (9/3/45 - Monte Amiata, Grosseto)

"We have arrived in Naples and have begun to work, but the work is temporary. We scarcely manage to earn enough to eat. Work is very scarce. The work on the ships that were here before has finished. At the present time we are waiting for more ships to come otherwise we shall be idle, working a day now and then merely to exist." (27/2/45 - Naples)

"I have tried very hard to find a job here, but it has not been possible. Life is quite disorganised here." (15/2/45 - Florence)

"Work is not available here anywhere at any time." (12/3/45 - Florence)

"For the present the sea folk are employed in our shipbuilding yards building fishing craft. But this will not last long, and we shall be unemployed again." (3/3/45 - Pesaro)

"There is appalling unemployment here. Many thousands of young people are jobless, particularly graduates. Those who came to Rome from Southern Italy bitterly regret it." (8/3/45 - Rome)

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"France is making a desperate search for a job. Here in Rome unemployment is increasing, as was natural and anticipated among clerks." (6/3/45 - Rome)

"My search for work here has resulted in nothing. I have appealed to all my acquaintances, and only today I heard from the last one that he has found nothing.... My brother-in-law in the Ministry of Public Works has done what he could for me.... Applications for work have been made by the thousand, and still lie reposing on the shelves at the Ministry." (22/2/45 - Rome)

The following extract remarks on a peculiar situation: "But now I will speak to you a little about our C. Vecchia. Life has taken on its normal character. There is work, but it is all unskilled labour. There are more people without work than employed, because those who have stolen, and who have been engaged in black market activities, will work no longer; and there are many of these." (5/3/45 - Civitavecchia)

Gordon W. Hall
Gordon W. Hall,
Lt. Col., Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

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Report No.[illegible]

# CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP. PUBLIC OPINION REPORT

20 Feb. - 17 March 194 5

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| NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

APPENDIX A

Report No. 112

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

(17 March 1945)

| WEEK ENDING | | FOOD SITUATION F | FOOD SITUATION U | CLOTHING F | CLOTHING U | HOUSING F | HOUSING U | INCOME F | INCOME U | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT F | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT U | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT F | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT U | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES F | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES U | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION F | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION U | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION F | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION U | [illegible] F | [illegible] U |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24/2/45 | CIV | 1 | 20.1 | 1 | 39.5 | 1 | 25 | 1 | 12.1 | 1 | 2.6 | 1 | 3.8 | 14.1 | 1 | 3.6 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 2 | |
| | MIL | 1.5 | 1 | 1 | 1.4 | 1 | 1.2 | 0 | 0 | 2.4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2.9 | 1 | 1.4 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 2 | |
| 3/3/45 | CIV | 1 | 22 | 1 | 96.5 | 1 | 28.2 | 1 | 29.9 | 1 | 3.7 | 1 | 3.2 | 4.1 | 1 | 3.3 | 1 | 4.9 | 1 | 1 | |
| | MIL | 2.7 | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 0 | 2.7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2.8 | 1 | 3.8 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | |
| 10/3/45 | CIV | 1 | 23.1 | 1 | 32.9 | 1 | 24.3 | 1 | 14.3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3.4 | 4.6 | 1 | 3.8 | 1 | 4.6 | 1 | 1 | |
| | MIL | 3.4 | 1 | 1.6 | 1 | 1 | 2.1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 4.2 | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | |
| 17/3/45 | CIV | 1 | 21.3 | 1 | 21.2 | 1 | 19.6 | 1 | 30.2 | 1 | 2.8 | 1 | 9.2 | 5.9 | 1 | 3.6 | 1 | 6.9 | 1 | 1 | |
| | MIL | 2.9 | 1 | 2.7 | 1 | 2.7 | 1 | 1 | 2.2 | 1 | 2.3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 32 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING 17/3/45 | CIV | 1 | 21.3 | 1 | 44.6 | 1 | 19.5 | 1 | 24.5 | 1 | 3.4 | 1 | 4.4 | 7.3 | 1 | 3.5 | 1 | 7.4 | 1 | 1 | |
| | MIL | 2 | 1 | 1.4 | 1 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | 1.3 | 0 | 0 | 3.2 | 1 | 2.6 | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 1 | |

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APPENDIX A

CONFIDENTIAL

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS
(17 March 1945)

| CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 1 | 32.5 | 1 | 35 | 1 | 32.2 | 2 | 2.6 | 1 | 3.0 | 14.1 | 1 | 3.6 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 3.3 | 0 | 4.1 |
| 1 | 1.4 | 1 | 1.2 | 0 | 0 | 1.4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2.3 | 1 | 1.4 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 36.5 | 1 | 23.2 | 1 | 29.9 | 1 | 3.7 | 1 | 3.2 | 4.1 | 1 | 3.3 | 1 | 4.9 | 1 | 1 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 3.5 |
| 2.4 | 1 | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 0 | 2.7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2.8 | 1 | 3.8 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 32.9 | 1 | 24.3 | 1 | 14.3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3.4 | 4.6 | 1 | 3.3 | 1 | 4.6 | 1 | 1 | 2.3 | 1.5 | 1 | 1 | 3.5 |
| 1.6 | 1 | 1 | 2.1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 4.2 | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 54.1 | 1 | 19.6 | 1 | 30.2 | 1 | 3.8 | 1 | 9.1 | 5.9 | 1 | 3.6 | 1 | 6.9 | 1 | 1 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 2.7 | 1 | 2.7 | 1 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 1.3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 02 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 44.6 | 1 | 19.5 | 1 | 14.5 | 1 | 3.4 | 1 | 4.4 | 7.3 | 1 | 3.5 | 1 | 7.4 | 1 | 1 | 1.6 | 1.1 | 1 | 1 | 3.0 |
| 1.4 | 1 | 1 | 1.3 | 0 | 1.2 | 1 | 1.1 | 0 | 0 | 3.2 | 1 | 2.6 | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

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| To | Init | Date |
|---|---|---|
| VP CA Sec | | |
| Public Safety | | |
| Public Health | | |
| Legal | | |
| Local Govt | | |
| Patriots | | |
| Disper | | |
| Education | | |
| MFA & A | | |
| Ca Sec | | |

PLEASE PASS QUICKLY

18 MAR 1945

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Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

8 March 1945

18 MAR 1945

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 102

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks ending 17th February 1945.

TO : G-2 (Communications Censorship), AFHQ, APO 512, U. S. Army.

This report is based on 585,200 letters checked during the four weeks ended 17th February 1945. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favourable and unfavourable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

None of the comments used in this report have been used in any previous report.

1. FOOD SITUATION.

During the previous four weeks the food situation deteriorated as compared with the preceeding period, and this deterioration was maintained and increased during the period under review. The unfavourable comments outnumbered the favourable by 14.6 to 1 as compared with 13.1 to 1 during the last period. Florence, Perugia and Rome seem to be the most dependent centres. Opinion in the Capital became markedly more adverse, and the unfavourable comments were in a majority of over 63 to 1 as compared with 38 to 1 during the previous four weeks. On the other hand, Ancona, Ascoli-Piceno and Macerata appear to be comparatively well off, the unfavourable comments only being in majorities of between 2 and 4 to 1.

High prices are behind most of the complaints, and coupled with this is the charge that ration cards are often useless, thus forcing people to rely on the black market for food. The following comments are some examples of the in-

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[illegible] a pound in some areas and the [illegible] cost in others.

"Our living conditions are always the same, or, rather, are [illegible] made worse by the black market which we have to rely upon to avoid [illegible] of starvation. This is the truth, whatever [illegible] likes to or not. [illegible] affected especially through the native crops, has therefore we are compelled to resort to the 'free market.'" (3/2/45 - Rome)

"During the last eight [illegible] of living has doubled. I am counting the [illegible] of some necessities as to live now on [illegible] of now [illegible] they are. Cheese 400 lire per kilo, [illegible] of rice, dried vegetables 400 lire, [illegible] 300 lire, rice 600 lire, and [illegible] of live [illegible]." (3/2/45 - Naples)

"The cost of living is very high, especially for those [illegible] you are [illegible]. An egg costs 8 lire, a litre of oil 600 lire, meat 400 lire a kilo. Of course this is all [illegible] market stuff. Many people borrow [illegible] money from such a situation." (3/2/45 - Pisa)

"Food distribution was greatly improved. Lately we have been given such [illegible] cent, and were fully - 250 grams per person." (13/2/45 - Ancona)

"We live quite well in Naples. The price of [illegible] can [illegible] to 12 lire extra. Milk costs 2 lire per litre. [illegible] have been allowed a winter [illegible] for the winter months. A [illegible] meal is obtainable from the [illegible] for 5 lire. [illegible] of [illegible] we have no reason to complain." (31/1/45 - Caserta)

2. CLOTHING.

Although the ratio table shows that the unfavourable comments among civilian letters were only in a majority of 11 to 1, this is entirely due to a very large amount of comments from one of which over [illegible] were favourable). The [illegible] for the rest of the country show that the position has [illegible], worsened, and the adverse comments are in a majority of 20/1 to 1 as against 11/1 during the previous four weeks. There were no favourable comments at all from Verona, Florence, Rome, Ancona, Foggia and Bari. The [illegible] position deteriorated still further. Clothing was already [illegible] improved outlook, but favourable comments remain in a [illegible] of five to 1 as against [illegible] an adverse majority of [illegible] to 1.

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during the previous period.

Nearly all letters complain about prices rather than a shortage of clothing, though shortages are mentioned at times, particularly in respect of shoes. Prices seem to vary considerably in different parts of the country, though all are high. Shoes, for example, are priced at anything from 2000 lire in Ascoli-Piceno to 7000 lire in Terni. The following are examples of complaints:

"In order to give you an idea of the cost of living I will just tell you that men's shirts cost 2000 lire and a suit 10,000 lire! What do you think of it? If it goes on like this we will have to go about undressed." (9/2/45 - Florence)

"I am without shoes, and aunt cannot find any either, new or old. I have been wearing her shoes, but now they are worn out. There is a lot of snow, and my feet are always wet. Let us hope that the summer season will be here soon so that I'll be able to walk bare-footed." (8/2/45 - Ancona)

"In order to buy just one pair of shoes one has to spend 7,000 lire. For a suit one requires 15,000 lire, and for a shirt 2,000. To complete one's attire at least 50,000 lire would have to be spent. That is why it is impossible to live honestly. One has to become an outlaw." (23/1/45 - Terni)

"Here shoes cost about 2,000 lire, a pair of men's drawers 600, and a set of ladies' underwear 4,000. Stockings cost 800 lire a pair, and gloves 550." (6/2/45 - Ascoli-Piceno)

"Our bed-sheets, pillow cases and linen in general are wearing out. A new pair of sheets would now cost not less than 20,000 lire. The price of men's leather shoes is 5,000 lire, and ladies' petticoats at least 700." (29/1/45 - Florence)

3. HOUSING.

Among civilian letters there was a more pessimistic note on the housing situation. Unfavourable comments were in a majority of 31 to 1 as compared with 24.4 to 1 during the previous period. Arezzo and Grosseto appear to be the worst off for accommodation, neither centre producing any favourable comments. Florence, Macerata and Perugia were equally void, with a smaller number of comments. Naples was less pessimistic than during the previous period, but Rome opinion deteriorated, and the adverse comments were in a majority of 53 to 1. There

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were not many military comments, but on a much reduced number the figures were less unfavourable.

Letters from Ancona, Arezzo and Pisa invariably refer to bombing and the destruction of houses. Generally speaking the other causes of complaint are to be found in requisitioning, refugees and high rents. The following are some examples:

"The housing problem at Ancona is becoming more and more serious. God knows where we shall have to go. It is possible that nobody has any care for all the unlucky ones who were left homeless on account of the bombings." (2/2/45 - Ancona)

"I cannot give you my address because I have not yet been able to settle down. For the time being I am the guest of a family. It is so difficult to find a house in good condition. Arezzo has been bombed very heavily." (10/2/45 - Arezzo)

"Living conditions here are as hard as anywhere else. The housing problem especially is becoming a very serious matter. I had to make the best of a school-room as a dwelling place. I was not able to find anything else." (7/2/45 - Macerata)

"Owing to the innumerable air-raids suffered by this town, and to the fighting that went on for two months around here, the number of houses left in good condition is very small, especially when compared with the number of people who want to live in them. Moreover, many houses have been requisitioned by the armed Forces." (6/2/45 - Pisa)

4. INCOME.

Civilian mail revealed a slightly less pessimistic view of wages and salaries, and the unfavourable comments, which were in a majority of 16.5 to 1 during the previous period, fell to a majority of 13.2 to 1. Leghorn, with only a few comments, had actually a small majority of favourable comments. Florence, Perugia and Rome were the most dissatisfied. Perugia produced no favourable comments out of a total of 72, while Rome became even more pessimistic than it was during the previous period, and produced only 6 favourable comments out of a total of 1,116. Military mail had nothing to say on this subject.

Complaints are along the usual lines, which can be summed up by saying that incomes lag far behind the cost of living. Clerical workers and pensioners feel the pinch most.

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There is some reference to wage and pension increases, but usually in a sarcastic vein because of their inadequacy in alleviating the position. The following comments are examples of many:

"Living is twenty times as expensive than it was three years ago, and we still get miserable wages. Where will all this lead to? Our family needs at least 400 lire a day in or order to live a very modest life, but it is not always possible to afford that. The wage increase has been so inadequate that it would have made us laugh had we felt like it." (27/1/45 - Florence)

"We work from 9 a.m. to 8.30 p.m., and we only get 200 lire a day. As you can easily understand it is impossible to live on such an income, considering the cost of living in Naples. No less than 500-600 lire a day would be required to struggle on." (30/1/45 - Naples)

"I heartily thank you for the communication referring to the increase in pension rates granted by the Government to our praiseworthy class, now reduced to such pitiful conditions. But the increase is so inadequate in comparison with the high cost of living that our class remains doomed to starvation." (27/1/45 - Lanciano)

"We do nothing but work, and yet we lead a life of suffering and hardships. The cost of living is steadily increasing, and my wages are hardly sufficient to light a fire in the kitchen." (1/2/45 - Ascoli-Piceno)

"My monthly wages, including the recent increase, amount to 8,000 lire, while I need at least 12,000. What a situation." (20/1/45 - Macerata)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

Feeling against the National Government, which has been becoming slightly and steadily more adverse for some time, took a more rapid turn for the worse during the period under review when the unfavourable comments in the civilian mail reached a majority of 5 to 1 as compared with 3 to 1 during the previous four weeks. There were only a few military comments. Leghorn was unique in producing a majority of favourable comments. Many centres did not comment to any great extent. Rome became a little more unfavourable. Pisa commented freely, and was nearly 9 to 1 unfavourable.

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Criticism for the most part is general rather than particular. The government is considered good and incapable. In the latter respect some writers blame both their government and the Allies as being unable to obtain understanding. The following comments are some examples:

"Let us hope for the best; but our government is so weak that, despite all its good intentions, it is more unlikely to succeed in rivalling any exploit of the Italian population." (26/1/45 - Corriere)

"In town streets and roads, from bad to worse. Everything is in the hands of buffoons and good-for-nothing; a wealthy or the poor people. Political parties now number 20 or 30, and the distress of the population has reached the limit." (20/1/45 - Roma)

"If responsible people gave up political struggles and devoted themselves to sound administration of the country, many things would turn out better. The confusion caused by all the newspapers, combined with all the talking done by politicians, will not help the work of reconstruction." (31/1/45 - Popolo)

"The situation in Greece, which the Allied and Italian governments have to face just as they have to face starvation, prostitution, poverty. They seem willing to be conciliatory, but patience is nearly gone. At the first place the have [illegible] is one mutual misunderstanding." (5/2/45 - Risorgimento)

"[illegible] of Bonomi is a problem, but it will not permanently, for under whatever

"Almost all the orators expressed their disapproval of the Government which, although well aware of the difficul- ties of the moment, causes them the fear of starvation as a result of which only [illegible] to buy a newspaper every day." (12/2/45 - Roma)

6. Individual Publications.

Civilian letters contained a reduced percentage of unfavourable comments during the period under review, one almost entirely on the figure from Bari. Leaving the latter matter out of account, the criticism much the same as it was in the previous four weeks. Military mail was silent on this subject. Criticism was particularly hostile towards the

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provincial administration with only 4 favourable comments out of a total of 143. Florence was also markedly critical.

Apart from general complaints about the administrations, there are a number of charges that men in administrative positions are little short of criminals or atleast very bad characters. The following are illustrative comments.

"Here is another piece of news I want to give you. Our "beloved" veterinary surgeon has been appointed Town Mayor. You would not believe how wicked this man is. He made many people unhappy at Sorrino." (7/2/45 - Arezzo)

"In our town we are ruled by people absolutely unfit to be in leading positions. The foremen of the various political parties want to be in command, being unmindful of the consequences of their narrow-minded actions." (11/2/45 - Grosseto)

"As a result of complaints against Mayor Collepiccolo, the Prefect provided for his substitution. The man who was nominated was warned by Collepiccolo that he would be killed if he accepted the post of Mayor. In the meantime I inform you that this sort of communist criminal has formed a band of wild youths, belonging to the neighbouring villages. Each night they throw hand-grenades in the neighbourhood of Canalicchio [illegible]. This is only in order to alarm the inhabitants so that they would not leave their homes and thus prevent the band from stealing chickens, pigs etc. I also inform you that he collected a huge supply of corn, the major part of which he has hidden. He threatens the village peasants that he will take their land [illegible], the poor fellows bring him oil, lard and flour. It is sufficient to say that in the village he is called the second Mussolini. To other simple minded fellows he promises land if they will be on his side. It is said that since he left his shoemaker's bench he has put aside 300,000 lire." ([illegible]/2/45 - Roma, c/a No. 5408)

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

Civilian public opinion continued to become less favourable towards the Allies during the period under review, though an unusually large number of comments from Pisa resulted in the ratio for the country appearing to be more favourable. However, leaving Pisa out of account, the favourable comments, which had a record low majority of 1.7 to 1 for the previous period, were only in a majority of 1.[illegible] to 1 during the period under review. Naples remained much more favourably disposed than most of the country, but Rome opinion deteriorated still

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favours, and favourable remarks were only in a majority of 2.3 to 1. People provided a striking contrast with no unfavourable comments among a total of 24.

Favourable comments spoke of the joy of being freed from the Germans and the Fascists, and of the help the Allies have given the Italian people in various centres. Unfavourable comments follow the usual lines, and there is nothing new except a more intolerant attitude generally. The following comments illustrate the common feeling:

"Fascists are no longer here to bother us. After the coming of our liberators, things have changed, and life is looking up again. We are happy now." (5/2/45 - Grosseto)

"Luckily the Allies have been very quick in rebuilding the iron bridges and in re-establishing water and electric light services. During the first days they had to support us in every way. If we did not die of starvation, we owe it to them." (3/2/45 - Florence)

"I have read the article you wrote for the "Giornale Liberale". Unless you are a perfect idiot you should know that, whatever sacrifice Italy may make, she is and always will be the Allies' slave." (26/1/45 - Rome)

"Britishers are still here, and there is no indication of their being about to leave, much to the disappointment of the population who, I could almost say, hates them."
(6/2/45 - Ancona)

"Siena greeted the Allies with unforgettable rejoicing, but very soon people began to be disappointed, and a feeling of mistrust towards our liberators is now spreading." (25/1/45 - Siena)

"You ought to see the way our dear friends, the so anxiously awaited Allies, treat us. I felt very friendly towards them at first, but they treat us like their servants, and this takes an impact of my friendly disposition."
(31/1/45 - Aquila)

"Business is not bad, but it could be much better without all the restrictions imposed by the Allied Command. In Tuscany we cannot even go from one town to the other."
(1/2/45 - Florence)

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8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION.

The ratio table shows that unfavourable comments among civilian letters were in a majority of 8.4 to 1, but this is entirely due to a mass of comments from Pisa which took a very gloomy view, the adverse comments from this centre outnumbering the favourable by over 40 to 1. Disregarding Pisa, the figures for the rest of the country show a more optimistic feeling than was prevalent during the previous period. Military comments share in this optimism. The comments themselves do not tell us much.

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION.

Feelings about the future military situation in civilian letters which had been gradually becoming less optimistic for some time, started to move in the opposite direction during the period under review. Favourable comments were in a majority of 2.7 to 1 as compared with a minority of 1.1 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Pisa was the only centre which produced a majority of unfavourable comments. Military mail only supplied 8 comments, all of them favourable

This improvement in outlook seems to be due largely to the Russian victories. The following comments are examples:

"I think that everything will soon be over. The Russians are nearing Berlin, and at Bologna the Allies will not have to fight at all, for the Germans will be forced to retreat. This would be a great piece of luck." (6/2/45 - Terni)

"The war news is excellent. The astounding Russian advance makes us hope that this cruel war will soon come to an end." (7/2/45 - Arezzo)

"I am perfectly sure that Germany will soon be defeated by the glorious Russian Army against which Fascist propaganda always tried to stir up feelings of hate. The Allies are also progressing on the Western front, and the final defeat of Nazi-Fascism is rapidly approaching." (6/2/45 - Naples)

The following comment is illustrative of a certain trend of feeling among many:

"I take a great interest in listening to war news on the radio, but I can't tell you how worried I get when I hear

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of Russian victories." (5/2/45 - Ancona)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

Civilian letters reflected a more unfavourable view than was the case during the previous period. This was accentuated by a large number of comments from Pisa where opinion is more pessimistic than the average. Arezzo and Grosseto have an even more gloomy outlook. Military mail had nothing to say on this subject.

Most comments refer to destroyed factories and to machinery that has been taken away by the Germans. The following are some examples:

"The war which swept through the Fibernia valley caused enormous damage to our plants which are now absolutely inactive. In July last, our factories "Alfa" and "Beta" (Translator's note: The writer is Buitoni Co., one of the largest macaroni producers in Italy) were plundered and set on fire by the Germans. They were entirely destroyed. We have no idea when our activities will be resumed." (24/1/45 - Arezzo)

"Our arms factory is a complete wreck. All the best machinery was taken away by the Germans or plundered by the Republicans." (28/1/45 - Terni)

11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

With the exception of Pisa, which takes a fairly optimistic view of agricultural prospects, the country as a whole was about equally divided during the period under review, though the ratio table shows a 3.7 to 1 majority in favourable comments. This figure was due to the mass of comments from Pisa. Foggia and Grosseto were the only centres to take a decidedly pessimistic view. Military mail was silent on the subject.

Favourable comments speak of good crops. Unfavourable comments refer to scanty crops in certain areas, but more particularly to poor future prospects owing to the difficulties of sowing, and to the weak growth of newly sprouted wheat, etc. The following comments give various sides of the picture:

"The olive crop has been really excellent. We had to employ many labourers for the harvesting." (5/2/45 - Ancona)

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"I inform you that we have had a plentiful crop of all kinds of products." (29/1/45 - Ascoli-Piceno)

"The crop has been scanty and of very poor quality. We are having a season worse than any previous one." (31/1/45 - Ancona)

"During the sowing season the weather was terribly rainy. We had storms and floods which caused much damage." (27/1/45 - Arezzo)

"This year we had a lot of trouble with the harvesting of the olives on account of the weather being so cold. The crop was more scanty than we thought it would be. Agricultural prospects for the next season are not at all promising. The newly sprouted wheat is so small that it can hardly be seen, whereas it should be fairly tall by now. On the pastures there is no grass, and sheep cannot feed." (?/2/45 - Grosseto)

"Things look rather bad in the fields. Few people are able to proceed with the sowing, and even tilled fields show very little sprouting." (3/2/45 - Grosseto)

12. EMPLOYMENT.

Civilian mail was a trifle less unfavourable concerning employment during the period under review. Nevertheless, the following centres were very pessimistic on the subject: Arezzo, Florence, Grosseto, Perugia and Siena. On the other hand Naples revealed a brighter outlook, the adverse comments being in a majority of less than 2 to 1 as compared with over 11 to 1 during the previous four weeks. There was hardly any change in Rome. Leghorn was the only centre to produce a majority of favourable comments.

There is not much in the comments. Most of them reiterate the endless grind of looking for work. Some speak of reductions of staff owing to the lack of raw materials, and others mention the destruction of certain factories. The following comments are typical:

"Since I returned to Florence I have been doing nothing but going around looking for a job. Nothing comes of it. I am terribly depressed." (30/1/45 - Florence)

The writer of the following is the owner of Spinedi Factories, Florence: "The little work we had slackened down so much, owing to shortage of raw material, that we were compelled to dismiss all our personnel." (9/2/45 - Florence)

"I am out of work now, for my job with the Prefecture has come to an end. Nor do I see any possibility of finding another one. Do you think I would have a chance to work at all? 41/

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another one. Do you think I would have a chance to work at all? I would take up anything." (22/1/45 - Aquila)

"I am out of work. I have been looking for a job on land or sea, but all industrial plants are at a standstill on account of the destructions caused by the war." (8/2/45 - Terni)

"I called on countless offices in order to find a job. Nothing doing. The only way out for me is to go down to the wharf and be a longshoreman to the Americans. Do you think it is fair that I should put up with such a humiliation after all I have done since the armistice?" (7/2/45 - Leghorn)

GORDON W. McKLAM,
Lt. Col. Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

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APPENDIX

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVOURABLE AND UNFAVOURABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS
(21 January to 17 February 1945)

| | FOOD SITUATION | | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | IM... PROS... |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WEEK ENDING | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F |
| 1/45 CIV | 1 | 25 | 1 | 49.4 | 1 | 37.7 | 1 | 36.3 | 1 | 2.9 | 1 | 4.4 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2.3 | 1.3 | 1 | 1 |
| MIL | 2.2 | 1 | 1 | 2.7 | 1 | 6.2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2.8 | 1 | 2.6 | 1 | | 0 | 0 |
| 2/45 CIV | 1 | 16.3 | 1 | 29.8 | 1 | 52.9 | 1 | 22.7 | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 2.7 | 4.5 | 1 | 1 | 14.1 | 1 | 2.7 | 1 |
| MIL | 1.4 | 1 | 5.3 | 1 | 1 | 2.6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3.4 | 1 | 1.9 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2/45 CIV | 1 | 17.1 | 1 | 7.2 | 1 | 21.8 | 1 | 10.7 | 1 | 9.1 | 0 | 2.4 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 15.9 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| MIL | 1.9 | 1 | 1.6 | 1 | 1 | 2.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 6 | 1.8 | 1 | 7.8 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 2/45 CIV | 1 | 13.1 | 1 | 42.9 | 1 | 20.1 | 1 | 10.8 | 1 | 2.9 | 1 | 5.3 | 4 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 3.7 | 1 | 1 |
| MIL | 4.6 | 1 | 50 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6.5 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 3.5 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2/45 CIV | 1 | 14.6 | 1 | 31 | 1 | 33 | 1 | 13.2 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 6.8 | 1 | 2 | 8.4 | 2.7 | 1 | 1 |
| MIL | 2.2 | 1 | 2.6 | 1 | 1 | 2.2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5.4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3.4 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 |

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APPENDIX

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVOURABLE AND UNFAVOURABLE COMMENTS ON DIFFERENT POINTS
(21 January to 17 February 1945)

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| CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 1 | 49.4 | 1 | 37.7 | 1 | 36.3 | 1 | 2.9 | 1 | 4.4 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2.3 | 1.3 | 1 | 1 | 2.9 | 1 | 2.9 | 1 | 17 |
| 3 | 2.7 | 1 | 6.2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2.8 | 1 | 2.6 | 1 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 29.8 | 1 | 52.9 | 1 | 22.7 | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 2.7 | 4.5 | 1 | 1 | 14.1 | 1 | 2.7 | 1 | 6.4 | 20 | 1 | 1 | 9.1 |
| 5.3 | 1 | 1 | 2.6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3.4 | 1 | 1.9 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 7.2 | 1 | 21.8 | 1 | 10.7 | 1 | 9.1 | 0 | 2.4 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 15.9 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1 | 1 | 3.7 |
| 1.6 | 1 | 1 | 2.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1.8 | 1 | 7.8 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 2 |
| 1 | 42.9 | 1 | 20.1 | 1 | 10.8 | 1 | 2.9 | 1 | 5.3 | 4 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 3.7 | 1 | 1 | 2.3 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 7.6 |
| 50 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6.5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3.5 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 11 | 1 | 31 | 1 | 13.2 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 6.8 | 1 | 1 | 8.4 | 2.7 | 1 | 1 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 1 | 1 | 5.9 |
| 2.6 | 1 | 1 | 2.2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5.4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3.4 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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Report No. 102

# CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP, PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 21 Jan - 17 Feb 1945

| PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED) | | | FOOD SITUATION | | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| Ancona | (CIV | 15,790 | 43 | 151 | 0 | 27 | 7 | 60 | 13 | 47 |
| | (M.I. | 2,106 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Arezzo | | 17,756 | 23 | 410 | 1 | 223 | 0 | 169 | 0 | 0 |
| Ascoli-Piceno | | 7,745 | 43 | 68 | 1 | 36 | 1 | 13 | 2 | 9 |
| Florence | | 25,069 | 3 | 104 | 0 | 33 | 0 | 16 | 2 | 108 |
| Foggia | (CIV | 15,200 | 4 | 67 | 0 | 86 | 1 | 31 | 4 | 10 |
| | (M.I. | 9,212 | 21 | 9 | 12 | 2 | 9 | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| Grosseto | | 23,437 | 16 | 224 | 1 | 137 | 0 | 87 | 5 | 14 |
| Leghorn | | 41,709 | 55 | 156 | 16 | 79 | 6 | 37 | 22 | 16 |
| Macerata | | 7,012 | 33 | 71 | 0 | 52 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 10 |
| Naples | (CIV | 103,554 | 61 | 1792 | 18 | 725 | 30 | 478 | 14 | 134 |
| | (M.G. | 34,079 | 202 | 73 | 96 | 37 | 52 | 130 | 0 | 5 |
| Perugia | | 21,627 | 5 | 177 | 0 | 136 | 0 | 49 | 0 | 72 |
| Pisa | | 22,444 | 266 | 4312 | 464 | 3831 | 119 | 3875 | 23 | 78 |
| Rome | (CIV | 213,563 | 69 | 4400 | 8 | 768 | 12 | 635 | 6 | 1110 |
| | (M.I. | 44,183 | 44 | 41 | 14 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Siena | | 46,865 | 128 | 468 | 31 | 238 | 9 | 214 | 22 | 134 |
| Terni | | 18,410 | 12 | 294 | 0 | 49 | 1 | 44 | 0 | 6 |
| TOTAL CIVILIAN: | | 681,924 | 968 | 12379 | 804 | 6193 | 196 | 5764 | 156 | 1800 |
| TOTAL MILITARY: | | 90,091 | 274 | 124 | 328 | 45 | 59 | 152 | 0 | 0 |
| T O T A L S | | 772,075 | 1142 | 13002 | 836 | 6344 | 255 | 5916 | 156 | 1800 |

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This report is based upon 50 letters per screen unit checked daily on a 6-day weekly cycle. The number of censors employed each week averaged 321, making a total of 385,200 letters examined for this four-week tally.

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| NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 1 | 16 | 0 | 7 | 50 | 11 | 54 | 7 | 27 | 2 | 15 | 23 | 6 | 13 | 8 | 20 |
| 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 4 | 145 | 23 | 8 | 10 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 61 | 25 | 36 | 6 | 87 |
| 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | 1 | 31 | 22 | 18 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 20 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 31 |
| 3 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 28 | 7 | 39 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 17 | 4 | 19 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 20 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 2 | 22 | 6 | 5 | 50 | 3 | 11 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 37 | 7 | 33 | 0 | 23 |
| 31 | 19 | 16 | 26 | 26 | 32 | 22 | 15 | 26 | 12 | 14 | 25 | 20 | 15 | 33 | 24 |
| 0 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 14 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| 27 | 60 | 13 | 44 | 466 | 43 | 214 | 63 | 152 | 35 | 52 | 76 | 46 | 50 | 132 | 220 |
| 1 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 15 | 156 | 51 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 63 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 15 | 5 | 1 | 25 |
| 128 | 1158 | 73 | 116 | 1313 | 46 | 104 | 6240 | 7 | 126 | 191 | 562 | 1358 | 134 | 116 | 1492 |
| 46 | 203 | 25 | 68 | 108 | 37 | 96 | 50 | 44 | 13 | 26 | 63 | 52 | 40 | 24 | 140 |
| 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 11 | 61 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | 32 | 0 | 3 | 74 | 30 | 30 | 28 | 13 | 10 | 47 | 132 | 124 | 66 | 13 | 150 |
| 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| 548 | 1499 | 147 | 449 | 2296 | 586 | 529 | 4461 | 277 | 204 | 383 | 1334 | 1672 | 446 | 442 | 2504 |
| 5 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 55 | 27 | 186 | 54 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 253 | 1526 | 147 | 449 | 2551 | 562 | 715 | 4535 | 285 | 204 | 383 | 1334 | 1672 | 440 | 442 | 2507 |

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AC CENSORSHIP REPORTS
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4/44-2DA

Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

26TH 1945

CCG/VIII

10 A FEB 1945

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 8A

17 February 1945

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 20 January 1945.

TO : G-2 (Communications Censorship), AFHQ, APO 512, U. S. Army.

This report is based on 378,000 letters checked during the four weeks ended 20th January 1945. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favourable and unfavourable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

None of the comments used in this report have been used in any previous report.

1. POST SITUATION.

After a slight slackening off in the proportion of unfavourable comments noticed during the previous four weeks, civilian mail became more unfavourable during the period under review, and adverse comments were in a majority of 10.1 to 1 as compared with 10.8 to 1 during the preceding period. The situation in Terni seems to be particularly bad, there being no favourable comments at all as against 115 unfavourable; and Florence out of a total of 107 comments, only produced two that were favourable. Rome and Naples took a much gloomier view than they did during the previous period, and the adverse comments were in a majority of roughly 36 and 85 to 1 respectively. Military mail was also more unfavourable than during the preceding four weeks, though Naples, which is always favourably disposed, became even more optimistic to the extent of about 7 to 1.

Many letters speak of the 200 grams of flour or bread per day as being a totally inadequate ration, particularly since it is so difficult for many people to get other food stuffs. The absence of oil or other fats is also a constantly recurring complaint. Above all looms the oppressive cloud of high prices.

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Again and again the writers refer to this evil in one way or another. Even among letters admitting that there is a comparative abundance of food items available in various centres - Rome, for example - there is the bitter, qualifying criticism that the prices place these items out of reach. Favourable remarks nearly all come from people who can afford to patronise the black market. The following are a selection of comments illustrating the above complaints:

"As regards food we are in a really bad way. All we get is 200 grams of flour, no pasta, no rice, no fats. Meat is never seen because the Germans took away all the cattle. There are no pigs, no hens, no rabbits. Milk, sugar and salt have also vanished. The black market is spreading, and the price of salt, for one thing, is 500 lire per kilo." (29/12/44 - Bibbiena)

"We are enduring real starvation. We eat what we can find but it is without any seasibubg because we are given neither oil nor fats. Some things can now be bought in the black market, but prices are fabulous, and I can't cope with them." (7/1/45 - Arezzo)

"Living conditions here are becoming more and more difficult. Food prices have gone sky high, to say nothing of goods in the black market. Honest people like us can only struggle on by tightening their belts." (17/1/45 - Florence)

"Every day I look forward to the evening with great eagerness so that I may be able to sleep until 9 a.m. the following morning, by this way lessening both hunger and cold." (18/1/45 - Florence)

"It is a long time now since I tasted anything but chaff. Nothing else is available." (29/12/44)

"They give each person one kilogram of paste products a month and 200 grams of bread daily, nothing else, just paste products and water. A kilogram of lentils costs 180 lire. Formerly we were well off, but now, believe me, existing means headaches." (19/1/45 - Grosseto)

"The food situation is always the same, that is, nothing or almost nothing to eat may be found, not even greens. The little food that occasionally comes to the market has fantastic prices." (18/1/45 - Sancasciano, Pisa)

"Here in Rome life goes on amidst discomforts and the well known privations. I might almost say that the situation has become worse, especially as regards food, with a tremendous

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else in the price of the few foul stuffs found on the market, which are only within the reach of swindlers and inveterate black market dealers." (8/1/45 - Rome)

"When you have to go out early in the morning, your teeth chattering from cold and hunger, without a cup of hot milk and a piece of bread, and you have to stay till three o'clock without eating -- when children go to school without picnic lunch and are home at two to school fellows eating ham sandwiches, which make an innocent child envious" (22/1/45 - Rome)

2. CLOTHING.

Unfavourable comments among civilian call increased considerably during the four weeks under review, and outnumbered favourable remarks by 80% to 1 as compared with 27% to 1 during the previous period. Lwell, Perth, Glasgow and Dundee produced no favourable comments at all, and there was only one from Bristol and a total of 20 for that city. The position in Leeds seems to have deteriorated considerably, there being only 6 favourable remarks from a total of 758. Some also revealed a marked and pessimistic feeling. Except from Leeds, there were hardly any ordinary cotton, and hosiery, usually favourable, was about equally divided during the period under review.

There are a little mention of any shortage of clothing, shoes etc., though most had been the case previously. Nearly all the comments were based on the prices of the various articles or the materials themselves. The following are typical examples:

"We have to get a suit or a terrible problem nowadays, not to mention shoes and hats. Fifty months ago I bought a shirt for 700 lire. Recently a similar shirt, which I had to buy, having put out of underwear, cost me 3000 lire. Materials as mine which should be bought for less than 300-000 lire per year." (28/12/44 - Ex-Public Servant, Milan)

"A pair of trousers, made of material that will come to pieces in a very short time, cost me 8000 lire. The price of a man's suit is 30,000 lire, and that of a pair of shoes 3000." (23/12/44 - Executive)

"There is no joking about the clothing situation here. Shoes cost 2000 or 3000 lire a pair; the price of ladies stockings ranges up to 2000 lire, and a spool of thread of about 100 yards costs 100 lire." (30/12/44 - Retail)

"Those who have clothing material to sell also have the audacity to ask 3000 lire a yard for it." (4/1/45 - Stylist, Ancona)

"We lack clothing, which can only be obtained at fabulous prices. Just think that a decent suit of the pre-



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material costs 25,000 lire. How can we office workers afford such expenses? In order to buy three pairs of shoes for my children I had to pay 6,000 lire." (5/1/45 - Ferno. Ascoli-Piceno)

"We are greatly in need of children's clothes and socks, of which we are entirely without. The prices of clothing materials are really out of all proportion. If anyone wants to buy a suit he must spend 10,000 lire at least." (14/1/45 - Caserta)

"Our fellow countrymen are all devoting themselves to black market activities. One yard of dress material will not cost less than 1000 lire, and a pair of men's shoes 4000 to 5000 lire. It is terrible to think of how one is to clothe oneself." (12/1/45 - Appignano, Macerata)

3. HOUSING SITUATION.

Civilian opinion on the housing situation took a turn for the worse during the four weeks under review, unfavourable comments being in a majority of 24.4 to 1 as compared with 20 to 1 during the previous period. There were no favourable comments from Arezzo. This also applies to several other places which produced very few comments. But it is in Naples that the situation seems to be worst, there being only 9 favourable comments out of a total of 685. Military mail was also more unfavourable, but since nearly all the comments came from Naples, the figures cannot be taken as indicating any general opinion.

Complaints are based on a variety of causes, though most of them really rest on the actual shortage of houses. Destruction due to the war is naturally the fundamental cause of complaint. Along with this there are letters that speak of too many families crowded into one house, or even one room. Soaring rents are also mentioned, and there is the inevitable grouse against requisitioning by the Allies. The following comments are typical:

"Life is very slow in reawakening, and this keeps us worried. There are still 1,500 families who cannot come back to town, for they have no homes. About another thousand live sharing their lodgings with other people." (2/1/45 - Pisa)

"Mama and I have come back to town, but just when we thought we were safely home after so many vicissitudes, the English came and occupied half of our house." (6/1/45 - Arezzo)

"Leghorn is in a terrible state. Half of it is razed to the ground, and there is no light, water or gas. All the

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houses left standing have been requisitioned by the Allies. The only things left to us are collapsing walls and the rubble." (24/12/44 - Livorno)

"Our house was bombed, and most of our belongings were stolen. Now there are four of us living piled up in one furnished room. Such a housing situation makes our conditions even worse." (15/1/45 - Arezzo)

"It is impossible to live in boarding houses; besides, they have nearly all been requisitioned. Houses to rent are not to be found anywhere, and those that are going to be rebuilt will certainly be let at enormous rents." (3/1/45 - Florence)

4. INCOME.

Civilian opinion on the subject of wages, salaries and pensions became a little more unfavourable during the four weeks under review, and unfavourable comments were in a majority of 16.3 to 1 as compared with 14.1 to 1 during the preceding period. In many cases the number of comments was small, and no fair deduction can be made from the figures. In the case of Rome, however, there is no doubt that public opinion views this matter with growing concern, and adverse comments were in a majority of 52 to 1. There were no military comments from any centre.

Clerks, office workers generally and pensioners are the worst hit. Letter after letter complains that salaries are not nearly adequate to meet the cost of living. Many people have already used up their savings, and have now joined the ranks of those who are slowly selling anything saleable they can spare. Those who have neither savings nor anything left to sell write in resignation, and speak of tightening their belts, of losing weight, and of becoming run down. Some, in defiance, speak of intending to increase their incomes by dishonest means. The following are samples of the comments:

"We go along blindly, that is, without being able to depend on our salaries. One day we spend 200 lire and another 500 lire, but the salary is only 100 lire a day. It is useless to make any comments. As long as there is something to sell, one sells it; then we shall do as others do. There are people who steal, shout, deal in the black market or prostitute themselves, and people who starve because they are not capable of doing any of these things. But nobody can get along on their salary alone." (3/1/45 - Rome)

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"Hunger is so pressing that, to satisfy once more, a salary at least six times as high as the one we earn would be required. Nobody takes any notice of the situation of office workers. I have already "eaten up" my share of inheritance as well as all the money I had been saving over many years. I also sold my radio, but the profit has already disappeared." (12/1/45 - Secolo)

"Wages have been increased, but this is not sufficient to cope with the black market. On the other hand, one cannot do without the latter, for most are left with ration cards is just enough to die from starvation." (29/12/45 - Tempo)

"Every day the situation grows worse on account of the prices. One's monthly wages are already enough to last for a couple of weeks." (27/12/45 - Secolo)

E. GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

From most centres there were very few comments on the National Government in the civilian mail, but the general reaction a more unfavourable attitude than during the previous period. Rome and Naples were the only two centres that produced comments in any numbers. There was not much change in Naples, but Rome became a little more unfavourable. Milanese comments were so few that the press summaries are of little value.

The result is not very helpful in giving any specific reasons for the adverse feelings of the majority towards the Government. A general condemnation rather than particular grievances are brought against it, though there is more complaint that fascists are still active, that there are too many political parties, and that there is no united driving force. The following comments give an idea of the general run of interest:

"We had better not make any comments on the sad political and social condition of our poor country. Just when it is necessary to create every effort to reconstruction, they do nothing but make the situation worse. All that we have gone through has brought no lesson to those who happen to rule the country." (27/12/45 - Meccia-Fiamma)

"The new plutocrats created by the fascist regime, and shielded by our stupid government which calls itself democratic, want to strangle starving people." (15/1/46 - Avanti)

"I wish there were not so many parties in Italy. I would like to see just two of them, united and strong enough to avoid further mishap to our country, especially revolutionary insurrections resulting in a new dictatorship for the people."

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The present situation of Italy would break the heart of anyone who stopped to consider it. Only hard work and harmony can lead, in due time, to the rebuilding of all that has been carelessly and wickedly destroyed." (9/1/45 - Florence)

"The Government ought to do away with so much politics and do something sensible. All the parties should disappear and come back later on." (27/12/44 - Florence)

"We will recall it when the was is over, in the way of a fire-side chat — but will we enjoy such memoires? I don't think so, because the situation will grow still worse. The parties will spoil everybody and everything." (28/12/44 - Macerata)

"Ministries are in the hands of old men. The survivers of the first twenty years of this century. Stubborn, hard-headed and temporizing, they are not able to do anything, and they do not want others to do anything." (25/12/44 - Rome)

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

Civilian mail was not so adverse towards the provincial administration as it was during the previous four weeks, but this is due entirely to a big reduction in the number of unfavourable comments from Rome. Seven centres produced no favourable comments at all, notably Arezzo which returned 23 unfavourable ones. Military mail was not concerned with this subject.

The comments themselves are of little help in explaining the reasons behind the unfavourable attitude towards the provincial administrations. The latter are often blamed for conditions for which they are not responsible, and are sometimes praised in like manner. Little can be said beyond the fact that the provincial administrations are not generally popular.

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

The popularity of the Allies, which has been waning for some months, deteriorated still further during the period under review, and civilian comments were only 4.7 to 1 in favour as compared with 5.3 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Acquila, Florence, and Macerata seem to be the most favourably disposed with only 3 unfavourable comments between them out of a total of 78. Naples was more favourable than the average, and was even a little more so than during the previous four weeks. Rome opinion, on the other hand, again became less favourable. Mili-401

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very opinion remained much the same, and was some times twice as favourable as civilian opinion.

Favourable comments are based on gratitude and relief; unfavourable chiefly on disappointment. But adverse opinion is also growing because of Allied behaviour with Italian women, and because of requisitioning. The following comments give some idea of the tone of many:

(A) Favourable.

"The Allies have been working miracles, and they have shown themselves to be real gentlemen, generous and kind-hearted. But what could they do after the Germans and their Fascist mates had robbed the town of everything." (16/1/45 - Florence)

"Here in Florence the Allies are preparing gifts which will be given to 500 needy children." (5/1/45 - Florence)

"We seem to live a new life with the English and the Americans who behave very well." (20/1/45 - Florence)

An Italian lieutenant states: "The Americans under whom we are working are very kind towards us, and they help us all they possibly can." (22/12/44 - Foggia)

(B) Unfavourable.

"This war is taking all our strength away. Here the Allies keep on requisitioning the hotel, and nobody pays. The Canadians were lodged here during one month. They left the other day and did not pay either." (2/1/45 - Aquila)

"One thing is certain, wherever the Allies go there is terrible corruption among women; Ireland it does not exist where they are absent." (30/12/44 - Rome)

"Here in Rome there are so many Americans and nearly all the girls go out with them. I don't know why they are not ashamed at the figure they are cutting. I am so angry that, if I were a man, I would take all those who go with the Americans, and also those who go with those ugly negroes, and brand them with a red hot iron." (15/1/45 - Rome)

3. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION.

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Civilian opinion, which had gradually become less optimistic until, during the previous four weeks, it became

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mutually unsatisfactory, revealed a slight swing towards optimism again during the period under review, and comments were almost equally divided, both, Axis and Ally were certainly less pessimistic. Military said, though still optimistic, was less so than during the previous period but the bulk of the comments came from Berlin, and the figures can hardly be taken as representative of the country as a whole. Rome, for example, only produced 3 unfavourable comments out of a total of 22.

There is nothing much in the comments themselves except a sort of resignation to the apparently static state of the Italian front. The position may be summed up in the following brief extract from a letter:

"It seems to be that the Germans are deeply rooted in northern Italy." (26/12/44 - Vienna)

2. BOTH - MILITARY SITUATION.

Optimism in the future military situation declined further during the period under review, and in fact the unfavourable comments were in a majority. However, most critics hardly commented at all, and only Berlin, Rome and Vienna produced sufficient remarks to provide some indication of the trend. Vienna was about equally divided, Berlin was over 2/3 to 1 optimistic and Rome was about 2/3 to 1 pessimistic. Military comments were negligible.

Favourable comments are based on the belief that the Allies must win eventually, and that their victory will be Italy's victory too. Unfavourable comments either lose disappointment that Italy must go on suffering war. The following are some examples.

"The Allied armies have had some stormy weather as they have had to withstand violent German counter attacks on every front. They have now regained the initiative and are again advancing slowly, but they are suffering. Due to fear, therefore, I do not allow yourself to be influenced by any defeatist point of the Socialist fifth column." (10/1/45 - Rome)

"Everything will go all right. We are hopefully waiting for the Allies to give us German the final blow on all the fighting fronts, and then we will bring order to the world, for the Allies' victory will be our victory too." (5/1/45 - Berlin)

"Have you heard how the Italian war stands? Unfortunately it can be presumed that the war will not end

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In the new year; thus our fate is still not decided, poor us! There is no longer any peace or safety." (4/1/45 - Volterra)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

Civilian mail took a slightly less gloomy view of the industrial situation as compared with the previous four weeks. Leghorn was the only centre that produced a majority of favourable comments. Naples remained about twice as pessimistic as the average, and Rome opinion deteriorated during the period. There were no military comments of any kind.

War damage to factories is the predominant theme in unfavourable comments. The following are examples:

"We are sorry to have it working for some years to come." (12/1/45 - Arezzo)

"As you may already know, almost everyone of us is out of work. The Tuttoni factory was destroyed, so you can imagine so that a condition S. Sepolcro has been reduced." (10/1/45 - Sansepolcro)

"Personally, I was uninjured, but my factory at Certaldo was entirely destroyed, which caused a loss valued at more than ten million. Anyhow, we have already started rebuilding it." (4/1/45 - Florence)

The two following comments from Florence provide a contrast:

"Too many goods are still blocked, from textiles to dyeing products, from woollen-wear to drugs. Such a system is very like the old Fascist theories, and the leaders do not seem to realize that the fundamental laws of free commerce are stronger than controlled economy. The situation thus remains very serious, and in the long run the difficulties which producers and sellers have to face lead to nothing but steadily increasing prices." (27/12/44 - Florence)

"The Allied Government has adopted a resolution as to the release of textiles, so it'll soon begin to do something. Let us hope that this release will be the first step towards free commerce." (15/1/45 - Florence)

11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

Civilian opinion showed little change throughout the 402

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period under review, being very slightly less favourable as compared with the previous four weeks, the ratio being 1.3 to 1 as against 1.4 to 1 in favour during the preceding period. Naples was the only area which was pronouncedly pessimistic. Rome, which was more than 2 to 1 unfavourable last period, swung the other way and was 1.6 to 1 in favour. Military mail was almost devoid of comments.

Favourable comments speak of good yields, particularly of olives, and of the high prices brought by livestock. Unfavourable comments refer to flooding and hail, and of vines suffering for the lack of chemical manures. The following are some examples:

"Thanks to the Lord we have already gathered the olives, and they have been plentiful." (17/4/45 - Arezzo)

"Just tell me that they have harvested plenty of olives and have also produced a great deal of wine. For they have also sown the grains, so they will be quite well off." (24/13/45 - S. Croce, Rome)

"Don't worry because we have enough to satisfy one needs. It turned out quite well with pigs and cattle. Also, 500 quintals of beetroots rotted. The highest profit was yielded by pigs which were sold at 40,000 lire, and two heifers were sold at 100,000. Wine, beans, potatoes and sweet corn were rather scarce, but high profit was shown by all the rest." (5/1/45 - Arezzo)

"Vintaging has been very poor this year. Grapes suffered from lack of copper and sulphur, and damage was also caused by hail." (28/12/44 - Grosseto)

"Soon after the fields had been sown they flooded them, so everything went rotten." (27/12/44 - Poleno delle Chiane)

"Agricultural work is rather slack here on account of bridges and river banks being destroyed. Much wheat was left unsown, and this is also due to floods that turned the valley into a real sea." (1/1/45 - Porta S. Savino, Arezzo)

12. EMPLOYMENT.

Civilian mail became more gloomy about employment during the four weeks under review, and unfavourable comments outnumbered the favourable by 2.2 to 1 as compared with 4.6 to 1 during the previous period. The only centre which produced a majority of favourable comments was Leghorn. Naples became considerably more pessimistic; and Rome, where the adverse comments

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were in a majority of 13 to 1 during the previous period, increased this majority to 24.9 to 1. Military mail was silent on the subject.

The writers mentioned cuts in the staffs of offices, and offices being closed down. They tell of mines and factories that are closed indefinitely, and of the daily and weekly hunt for jobs, a search which, in many cases, they look upon as hopeless. Many people have been out of work for very long periods. The following comments are some examples:

"I feel so downhearted for many reasons, but principally because of my state of unemployment. Since my office was closed down I have not been able to find any work." (31/1/45 - Florence)

"From morning to night I rush about in all directions in order to find a job which may set my mind at rest about our future, but there have been no results up to now. After tomorrow I'll join a group of labourers who work in a store house for the Allies; but it is only a temporary jet." (3/1/45 - Arezzo)

"Notwithstanding the numerous acquaintances of Marisa and her family, I have not been able to get a job. They make me many promises, but only for the distant future. (28/12/44 - Arezzo)

"I cannot give you a job now because I had to put off more than 50% of my employees who, for the time being, are only getting half their normal wages. All temporary workers have been dismissed." (28/12/44 - Florence)

"We have tried to find work, but in vain, because unemployment here is general. The mines are closed and so are the factories." (12/1/45 - Wanda Kwitkina)

Gordon W. McKean
GORDON W. McKEAN,
Lt. Col. Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

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Report No. 94 ( CONFIDENTIAL )

# CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP, PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 24 Dec 44 - 29 Jan 1945

| PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED) | | FOOD SITUATION | | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| [illegible] | 7,000 | 18 | 61 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 15 | 2 | 10 |
| Aquila | 27,715 | 305 | 1023 | 24 | 365 | 20 | 169 | 20 | 51 |
| Avezzo | 13,462 | 27 | 256 | 1 | 35 | 0 | 44 | 0 | 10 |
| Boccalupo-Ledato | 6,562 | 12 | 70 | 0 | 28 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| Firenze | 82,456 | 2 | 185 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Foggia (CITY | 12,644 | 0 | 33 | 5 | 17 | 1 | 18 | 3 | 6 |
| (PROV. | 5,[illegible] | 21 | 28 | 1 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Frosinone | 20,080 | 25 | 250 | 4 | 153 | 2 | 63 | 0 | 16 |
| Leghorn | 52,840 | 30 | 154 | 12 | 43 | 1 | 56 | 1 | 11 |
| Macerata | 6,205 | 34 | 63 | 0 | 34 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| Naples (CITY | 143,350 | 54 | 1974 | 6 | 748 | 4 | 475 | 4 | 122 |
| (PROV. | 22,088 | 720 | 132 | 252 | 554 | 175 | 295 | 0 | 0 |
| Perugia | 38,018 | 17 | 35 | 4 | 96 | 4 | 33 | 5 | 55 |
| Rome (CITY | 181,286 | 97 | 5400 | 13 | 587 | 23 | 195 | 16 | 830 |
| (PROV. | 36,790 | 50 | 71 | 5 | 13 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Siena | 36,110 | 90 | 252 | 11 | 221 | 7 | 125 | 10 | 117 |
| Teramo | 17,145 | 0 | 115 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| TOTAL CIVILIAN | 871,940 | 863 | 9243 | 68 | 4063 | 68 | 1668 | 78 | 1223 |
| MILITARY | 73,016 | 731 | 161 | 249 | 157 | 180 | 643 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 944,956 | 1480 | 9404 | 317 | 4220 | 248 | 2311 | 78 | 1223 |

This report is based upon 21 letters per censor being censored daily on a 5-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed each week averaged 276, making a total of 372,700 letters examined for each week.

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| NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 2 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 38 | 43 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 58 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 55 | 42 | 73 | 77 | 220 |
| 1 | 6 | 0 | 28 | 30 | 15 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 17 | 10 | 22 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 0 | 4 | 0 | 23 | 26 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 22 | 34 |
| 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 22 | 33 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 27 |
| 2 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 25 | 2 | 23 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| 4 | 7 | 0 | 30 | 15 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 13 | 24 | 12 | 1 | 17 |
| 6 | 23 | 2 | 2 | 22 | 3 | 27 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 16 | 19 | 13 | 57 | 13 |
| 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 48 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 34 | 132 | 4 | 28 | 157 | 74 | 67 | 72 | 36 | 12 | 32 | 325 | 36 | 82 | 58 | 278 |
| 2 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 2 | 315 | 124 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 18 | 5 | 3 | 39 |
| 58 | 167 | 12 | 21 | 284 | 83 | 62 | 38 | 8 | 32 | 41 | 78 | 60 | 37 | 15 | 303 |
| 3 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | 20 | 3 | 6 | 62 | 25 | 25 | 33 | 16 | 19 | 28 | 42 | 207 | 68 | 16 | 120 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 21 |
| 115 | 548 | 33 | 147 | 1120 | 231 | 163 | 182 | 87 | 73 | 160 | 250 | 380 | 503 | 183 | 1356 |
| 7 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 129 | 16 | 325 | 264 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 122 | 542 | 32 | 149 | 1253 | 260 | 442 | 328 | 87 | 74 | 163 | 360 | 400 | 208 | 169 | 1365 |

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Report No 24

APPENDIX A

RADIO TABLE SHOWING FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE CONDITIONS ON PERTINENT POINTS
( 24 December 1944/29 January 1945 )

| BASIC BEGINS | | FOOD SITUATION F | FOOD SITUATION U | CLOTHING F | CLOTHING U | HOUSING F | HOUSING U | FUEL F | FUEL U | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT F | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT U | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT F | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT U | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES F | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES U | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION F | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION U | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION F | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION U |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29/12/44 | CIV | 1 | 14.7 | 1 | 43.3 | 1 | 26.7 | 1 | 27.0 | 1 | 3.4 | 1 | 11.7 | 4.5 | 1 | 1 | 1.4 | 2 | 11 |
| | MIL | 9.3 | 1 | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | 2.2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2.7 | 0 | 0 | 5.3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 5/1/45 | CIV | 1 | 12.4 | 1 | 20.8 | 1 | 14.9 | 1 | 12.2 | 1 | 2.5 | 1 | 1.6 | 5 | 1 | 2.1 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 |
| | MIL | 7.1 | 1 | 1 | 3.2 | 1 | 4.5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 12/1/45 | CIV | 1 | 12.2 | 1 | 41.7 | 1 | 16.8 | 1 | 12.6 | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 3.7 | 4.9 | 1 | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | 2.7 |
| | MIL | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 10.3 | 1 | 7.5 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 20/1/45 | CIV | 1 | 17.5 | 1 | 22 | 1 | 99.9 | 1 | 20.2 | 1 | 6.1 | 1 | 5.7 | 7.7 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 2.3 | 1 |
| | MIL | 3.2 | 1 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 97 | 1 | 4.3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| AVERAGE FOR TOTAL ENDING 20/1/45 | CIV | 1 | 13.1 | 1 | 30.1 | 1 | 24.4 | 1 | 16.5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 1 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 1.2 |
| | MIL | 4.8 | 1 | 1 | 1.6 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2.0 | 0 | 1 | 10.1 | 1 | 2.9 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

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APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE SHOWING FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE OPINIONS ON PERTINENT POINTS
( 20 December 1944-20 January 1945 )

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| | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | RATIONS | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | ECONOMIC PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 7 | 1 | 43.1 | 1 | 26.7 | 1 | 37.6 | 1 | 3.4 | 1 | 11.7 | 4.3 | 1 | 3 | 1.4 | 2 | 12 | 1 | 2.7 | 1.7 | 3 | 1 | 4.5 |
| | 3 | 1.2 | 3 | 2.2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2.7 | 0 | 0 | 3.1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | 1 | 20.8 | 1 | 14.9 | 1 | 12.2 | 1 | 2.5 | 1 | 1.0 | 5 | 1 | 2.1 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 2 | 2.9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4.5 |
| | 1 | 3.2 | 1 | 4.5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 3 | 1.1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 1 | 67.7 | 1 | 16.8 | 1 | 12.6 | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 3.7 | 4.9 | 2 | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | 2.7 | 1 | 2.4 | 1.6 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 22.0 | 1 | 7.5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | |
| 5 | 1 | 22 | 1 | 69.9 | 1 | 20.2 | 1 | 6.1 | 1 | 5.7 | 7.7 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 2.3 | 1 | 1 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 2.3 |
| | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 57 | 1 | 4.3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.2 | 4 | |
| | 1 | 30.1 | 1 | 24.4 | 1 | 16.5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 1 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 2.2 | 1.3 | 1 | 1 | 6.2 |
| | 1 | 1.6 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2.5 | 0 | 0 | 30.0 | 1 | 2.3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.1 | 3 | |

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16 CENSOR 1945

4/14-1/CA

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9 JAN 1945

Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

GWM/lbm

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 87

13 January 1945

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 23rd December 1944.

TO : G-2 (Communications Censorship), AFHQ, APO 512.

This report is based on 502,600 letters checked during the four weeks ended 23rd December 1944. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favourable and unfavourable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

None of the comments used in this report have been used in any previous report.

1. FOOD SITUATION

The proportion of unfavourable comments among civilian letters was a little lower during the period under review as compared with the previous four weeks, though opinion generally remains very adverse. Florence, Rieti and Terni take a particularly gloomy view of the situation with not a single favourable comment. Military mail was a little more unfavourable than during the previous period.

The chief cause of complaint is that of rising prices. Many people are unable to afford the foodstuffs that are available. As regards the commodities themselves, there is probably more anxiety over the absence of fats than of anything else. From some centres there is also the complaint that the peasants refuse to accept money for their products, and that clothing and other articles have to be bartered in exchange for food. Many letters express fear at the prospect of facing the winter without proper nourishment. The following comments give various views of the situation:



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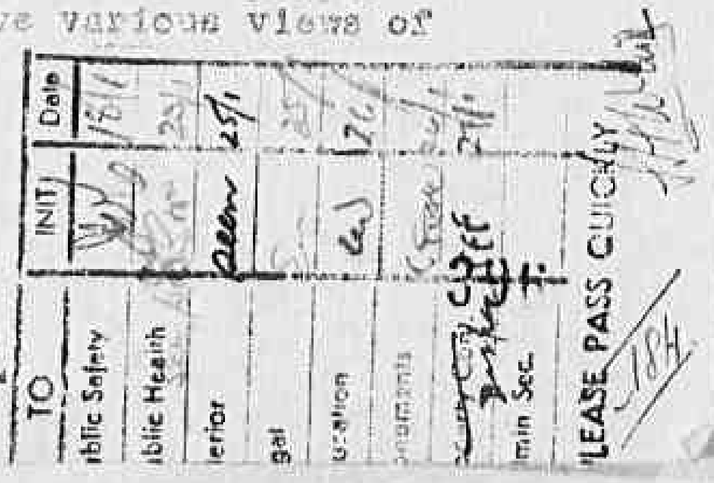

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"We prepare our food without oil or fats of any kind, and this has been going on for several months. The last flask (about two litres) of oil we managed to buy cost us 1,000 lire. We are being driven to despair." (12/12/44 - Terni)

"Black marketing has reached unbelievable heights. It is almost impossible to find meat anywhere, and when, by a lucky chance, a little is to be found, it costs 300 lire a kilo. The price of a tin of dried tomato conserve is 250 lire, and the same amount must be paid for a kilo of salt. We live solely on greens." (2/12/44 - Magliano Sabino, Rieti)

"We are going through a terrible ordeal. With the black market spreading wider and wider every day, the food situation has become a real problem. Wheat costs 7,000 lire a quintal, oil 500 lire a litre, beans 100 lire a kilo, and eggs 25-30 lire each." (25/12/44 - Avezzano)

"Winter has come, more squalid and colder than ever. We lack everything because prices have gone sky-high. Only millionaires can feed themselves. If you saw us you would not recognize us. She looks very ill, and so does Fulvia. Nella is in the worst condition of all. We can hardly manage one soup meal a day, with no oil seasoning. We feel so downhearted and discouraged. How can we go on like this? Will we be able to stand all this much longer, especially in this cold weather?" (5/12/44 - Aquila)

"There have been no particular changes in the living conditions in Rome since you left, except that shops are full of foodstuffs at inaccessible prices, and no more queues are to be seen. What is distributed through the ration card is hardly sufficient, especially as regards fats." (21/12/44 - Rome)

"In Florence everything is lacking, and prices are much higher than in Rome. Just imagine, one kilo of salt costs 400 lire, sugar 700 lire, one egg 50 lire, meat 500 lire pork 800 lire. Oranges are sold at 150 lire a kilo, and this is the price fixed by the authorities." (23/12/44 - Florence)

"Conditions have changed since last year when everything could be found easily and foodstuffs were very cheap. The present shortage causes prices to rise sky-high. Peasants will not sell anything, but will only exchange their products for other articles. In order to

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obtain 4 eggs I had to give two old pairs of pants of mine."
(16/12/44 - Macerata)

As a contrast to the above comments there are a certain number, such as the following, which reflect satisfaction under particular conditions:

"We are going on rather well now as they have distributed a good deal of tinned food, which is an excellent substitute for fresh food. And it is very cheap too."
(6/12/44 - Chieti)

2. CLOTHING

The clothing situation did not produce nearly such a high proportion of adverse comments among civilian letters as it did during the previous four weeks when the proportion between unfavourable and favourable comments was 35.8 to 1. That was an unusually high figure. During the period under review the ratio was 22.7 to 1, which is a more normal figure. The centres of Chieti, Foggia, Rieti and Terni produced no favourable comments at all out of a total of 102 comments between them. Siena was more unfavourably inclined than during the previous four weeks. Military mail reflected a more adverse attitude, but this was chiefly due to the Naples figures which were 4 to 1 against as compared with 2.4 to 1 in favour during the previous period.

Some centres complain chiefly of the high cost of clothing. Others bewail the fact that there is little to be bought anyway. Shoes and boots remain one of the major problems. Many people are so short of clothing that it is common to find letters begging relatives or friends for cast off clothing. The following comments are examples of various types of complaint:-

"My children are bare-footed, and they go about almost undressed. Winter is coming, and I cannot find a yard of material to make anything for them." (5/12/44 - Loreto Aprutino, Pescara)

"Not only myself but the four of us in the family are very badly off both as regards shoes and clothes. See if you can spare some old pieces of clothing of yours, no matter in what condition they are. Snow has already fallen here, and we are dying of cold." (2/12/44 - Rocca di Mezzo, Aquila)

"Dress materials have completely disappeared. If something can be found - which is almost impossible - the prices are frightfully high. Lining of the poorist quality would not cost less then 1000 lire per metre." (2/12/44 - Terni) 39

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"When something can be bought here it can only be purchased at black market prices. In fact they ask 16,000 lire for a suit and 20,000 for an overcoat. Shoes are priced at 7,000 lire." (11/12/44 - Ascoli Piceno)

"I would like to know whether clothing or shoes can be found where you are. In this place there is absolutely nothing left." (5/12/44 - Teramo)

"We have been reduced to misery. We have no shoes and no clothing of any kind. Nobody can fully realize it with seeing it with his own eyes. Men and women go about clad in rags of all kinds and colours." (5/12/44 - Guardiagrele, Chieti)

3. HOUSING

Civilian comments on housing, though extremely unfavourable, with a ratio of 20 to 1 against, appear to show a remarkably less unfavourable attitude as compared with the previous four weeks when the ratio was 46.1 to 1 against. The apparent change is largely due to a much reduced number of comments from Naples. Leaving Naples out of the picture for both periods, the change for the better is slight. The position in Naples remains acute, nor does it seem to be much better in Rome.

In some places the situation is obvious enough. Destruction of property due to the war has produced a housing shortage. General complaints hinge on excessive rents. Though there is some mention of refugees having occupied all available space in certain districts, and there is an increase in the number of letters complaining of landlords who prefer to let furnished rooms and flats to the Allies because of the higher rents they can get from the latter. The following comments illustrate various types of complaint:

"Our place has been destroyed by the Germans, and we are now dwelling among the rubble. About 20 houses are left standing in all, and people live jumbled up in the stables with the cattle." (13/12/44 Castel di Sangro)

"There are plenty of furnished rooms but everybody prefers renting them to the Americans because the profit is much higher. Just imagine, they can earn from 300 to 450 lire a night by letting a room with two or three beds." (4/12/44 - Rome)

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"Here at Terni the rents are appallingly high. After having searched for three months I found a flat which costs me 1000 lire a month. How can I cope with this when my wages only amount to 2,500 lire a month?" (3/12/44 - Terni)

"Neither flats nor single rooms are available here. This place never had many housing facilities to offer to strangers. There have always been few houses to let, and now the refugees have occupied them all. As regards rents, they are as high as you can possibly imagine." (6/12/44 - Marifredonia, Foggia)

"For the time being I am living in a room near Nicky's at the club. It is a kind of storeroom where all kinds of odds and ends are kept. But very soon I'll have to leave because the Americans will take the place over. My friends are helping me search for another room, but it is a hopeless job because many houses have been destroyed, and those left standing are being let to the Americans who pay monthly rents amounting to 2 or 3 thousand lire." (8/12/44 - Foggia)

"It is no use coming to Potenza for the time being. It is impossible to settle down in any lodging. All those who come back find their houses down, and they have to sleep in the doorways." (9/12/44 - Potenza)

"It is easier today to find a thousand lire note in the street than a room. Those who possess any little hole rent it to the Americans." (3/12/44 - Rome)

"As Foggia the situation is becoming more and more critical.....Only 500 houses are inhabitable; and according to what I read in the papers there are still 40,000 people homeless." (14/12/44 - Foggia)

4. INCOME

There was a smaller proportion of unfavourable comments on income among civilian letters, the ratio being 14.1 to 1 against, as compared with 20.1 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Rome and Siena appear to be the most pessimistic centres. Some areas hardly commented at all. There were no military comments whatever.

As usual the chief complaint is that wages and salaries fall far below the cost of living, and this particulary applies to office workers. Many people supplement their meagre salaries from their savings if the latter

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have not been exhausted, or from the sale of their effects. Old age pensioners are in an even worse position. The following comments are typical of many:

"Just imagine that we have to spend 6-700 lire a day. And I earn 1,300 lire a month in the office where I work. If I had to live on my salary alone I would die of starvation." (11/18/44 - Rome)

"In spite of my husband's wages having been increased, they are still insufficient to provide us with food through the whole month. In order to keep going we are gradually spending the money we had saved up carefully during a life-time of hard work." (6/12/44 - Ortona)

"We old age pensioners have not yet received any increase in our allowances, not even the 70% scale which a rebellion was adopted a long while ago. I know many pensioned people of this town, and I also know their present living conditions. They are beggars." (10/19/44 - Castelli Teleno)

"Everything you are planning to do will be good but there might be like words. I have 600 lire every two weeks and rather good as it is. At the end of the month we have not a cent left." (11/22/44 - Benevento)

"Everyday the situation is becoming worse, and goodness knows where it will lead us. The difference between wages and the cost of living is growing out of all proportion. Only profiteers can be considered well-off people, while the petty fool who sticks to his job, and tries to live on his wages, dies of hunger or else struggles on in a most miserable way." (12/12/44 - Pescasseroli)

3. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

The steady decline in popularity of the National Government, noticed for some time past in civilian letters, was arrested during the period under review, and the proportion of unfavourable comments was slightly less than during the previous four weeks. However, except from Rome and Naples, there were few comments, and none pertained to more than a small, but vocal, minority of the people.

"Everybody you are pleasing to hear is sorry to hear that there might be like words. I have 600 lire every two weeks and rather good as it is. At the end of the month we have not a cent left." (11/22/44 - Benevento)

"Everyday the situation is becoming worse, and goodness knows where it will lead us. The difference between wages and the cost of living is growing out of all proportion. Only profiteers can be considered well-off people, while the petty fool who sticks to his job, and tries to live on his wages, dies of hunger or else struggles on in a most miserable way." (12/12/44 - Pescasseroli)

3. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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A usual the comments on the government do not give any definite picture of the feelings of the people towards it

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except that they are mostly unfavorable. But there are hints that the underlying cause of the dissatisfaction is due to a feeling that the present contraction is unequal to the problems encountered. It, due to there being too many positions in the unit bulk and not enough seniors. The following comments gave some idea of what the men in the street is thinking.

"The way Trailfare are operating is driving me round bloomers. They retail chemicals on a round of condemnation but no politician who do not subscribe such from their predecessors. Such a government will do anything but drive the country from bad to worse." (27/12/84 - Ascrift Stowne).

"The Leader's campaign is singularly ineffective. Where would the Nuclear Situation be after we are." (28/12/84 - Jones).

"Although as a country, this nation cannot continue with such a high level of unemployment, the only way [illegible] is by [illegible] the economy by [illegible] to stop it ending [illegible] the Government ought to be [illegible] Labour Party conference by [illegible]." (16/12/84 - Lucas Vale)

"It seems to me that there is a great confusion as to exactly at the political extent of all the issues. That, of course, is everybody's responsibility but there have now too many problems, and, quite all, there is too much looking." (28/12/84 - Lucas Vale)

## 6. Conclusions

The overall stability towards the governing parties, noticed for some time past, continues for as the period under review and the proportion between undecided and dissatisfied remains the reached $B_{11}$ so as to compare with $V_{12}$ to a during the previous four weeks. Military rule has now remained that this subject. In most cases there were very few comments; only Rome and Naples protesting any quantity. In the latter city there was only one in favour and 27 a total of 80.

Complaints are chiefly directed against the type of man in office, and against what the workers village to be their complete lack of interest in the needs of the community. There are also charges that anti-social behaviour was nearly

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gangs working in their own interests. The following comments give some idea of what letter writers are thinking:

"The Prefect and his old clique have succeeded in keeping Cisterna attached to the Littoria Provincial Administration. We dislike this very much because, unless we are under the control of the Rome Province, we shall be subjected to the usual ill-treatment. The present town mayor of Cisterna - who was appointed by the Prefect - is a mechanic, and such a narrow-minded man that there is no wonder why we go from bad to worse. The air-raid shelters are still full of dead bodies; the fields are still mined; and it will not be possible to proceed with the sowing this year. The clothes sent by the Red Cross have disappeared. The Carabinieri are powerless because they are overwhelmed by criminals." (3/12/44 - Cisterna)

"We are on the way to starvation. The old town mayor has been dismissed, and Rivera has been appointed in his place. The latter, together with Sciattiglio and Giovannino, have set up a big three gang, and the town is being sold off." (5/12/44 - S. Ambrozio sul Garigliano)

In a letter addressed to the Prefect of Rieti, the sender writes: "It is time you took the matter in hand and looked into what is going on in the provincial administration of this place as well as in Collevecchio. The old town mayor, who has now been dismissed, held the position for ten years running, and the people believed in him because he was upright and took bold action in the interest of the town. Now the place has been turned into a lunatic asylum. You should see to it that more reliable men be assigned to the leading jobs at the Town Hall; men capable of a sound administrative policy for this town, which, at present, is nothing but a plaything in the hands of children." (12/12/44 - Magliano Sabino, Rieti)

## 7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES

Civilian comments on the Allies for some months past have become less favourable, though there was a movement in the opposite direction during October. During November, however, the deterioration in popularity continued, and the proportion between favourable and unfavourable comments was only 11.1 to 1. During the period under review this proportion went as low as 5.5 to 1. Aquila was the most favourably disposed, there being only 3 adverse comments out of a total of 120. Rome opinion deteriorated further, the ratio between favourable and

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unfavourable comments being only 4.6 to 1. Military comments, on the other hand, increased in favour over the period, and from Foggia there were no adverse comments at all from a total of 82.

Favourable comments continue to be based on gratitude in one form or another. Unfavourable comments spring from the belief that the Allies are responsible for all the present ills of the country - high prices, lack of food, prostitution, and so on. The following are typical examples of many letters:

(A) FAVOURABLE

Since the day the Allies came we have been quite well. There does not seem to be a war any longer." (11/12/44 - Vera Montare)

"In these times of misery, hunger and destructions, nearly all of us are ready to forget that the Allies are still at war and are shedding their blood for us, while up till now the Italian war effort has been a mere trifle." (4/12/44 - Rome)

"Our liberators have made us quite happy. Now we feel safe." (10/12/44 - Ascoli Piceno)

"Thank God we are quite well under the Allies. We were so eager to be rid of those cursed Germans." (5/12/44 - Giulianova, Teramo)

(B) UNFAVOURABLE

"After waiting for years and years for the end of the Fascist Regime and for the help supposed to come from Allied hands, I am greatly disappointed, because the Allies do not pay the least attention to distressed people who beg for relief." (6/12/44 - Chieti)

"You are quite right in feeling resentful towards the English and American people who forget - purposely forget - how the Italians have always wanted to fight for democracy and have always opposed Fascist tyranny. The best answer to that misleading and deceitful tendency is to prove, as clearly as we can, that the Italian people have been the first enemies of Fascism." (2/12/44 - Rome)

"Much to our disappointment we are not well under the Allies. Poor people have nothing but bran with which to feed themselves. Nothing like it has ever been seen round here before." (6/12/44 - Frosinone)

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"I have been told that you are having a good time with an American Red Cross nurse. It is simply an exchange. In Rome there are no more women. They have been requisitioned by the Allied Forces. The poor Italians go thirsty, and so I beg of you to revenge yourself." (23/12/44 - Rome)

Answering an article published in "Italia Nuova", written by Cyril James of the "Union Jack", an Italian major writes:

"Allow me to remark that the Allies are to be held partly responsible for this state of things, just as they are responsible for the incredible spreading of delinquency, thefts, highway robbery and pillaging which make the capital of Italy a dangerous place in which to live....During the German occupation Tincone's shop was broken into one night and was looted. Three days later some of the guilty people were caught and shot by the German authorities. The looting of shops ceased immediately.... At the present time from 15 to 25 shops are looted every night, and the number of thefts is increasing owing to the impunity enjoyed by the robbers. The Allies are displaying such a lack of organization that one almost wishes for the hard times of German rule to be back again." (22/12/44 - Rome)

8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION

Civilian opinion has been becoming less optimistic for some time, and during the period under review the unfavourable comments were in the majority for the first time, the proportion being 1.7 to 1. During the previous four weeks the figures were 1.1 to 1 in favour, which was the lowest favourable figure recorded since tallies have been kept. Thus the present swing over to a preponderance of unfavourable comments is not so surprising. The reason is obvious enough. Military comments were a little more optimistic than they were last month. There is nothing in the comments themselves beyond resignation at what appears to be a stationary front line in Italy.

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9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION

Optimism in the future military situation has also declined sharply and continuously for some time. During the last three prece ding periods the favourable comments outnumbered the unfavouralbe by 75.3 to 1, 16.6 to 1, and 5 to 1 respectively. During the four weeks under review the ratio was only 1.7 to 1 in favour. However, the number of comments also declined considerably, so that it is difficult to estimate how accurately these figures represent public opinion. There were very few military comments, and what there were nearly all came from Rome, and were nearly equally divided. Nevertheless, it is quite clear that optimism has shrunk further.

This is almost solely due to disappointment over the prospect of further months of war, but even some of these pessimists still feel that the fighting will cease this year, so that one may safely conclude that the figures quoted are little more than a reminder of the volatile Italian nature. Gloom and elation are never far apart. The following are examples of the present tone of letters:

"It is a proper mess. Up to last October there were hopes of the war's coming to an end, but now we are sure that it will not be over before September 1945 - if we are lucky. Next summer northern Italy might be liberated, but there again I doubt it." (19/12/44 - Grosseto)

"If it were only the end! I am afraid this war will last another year, perhaps longer. If there is to be an end, I don't think this will be before December 1945. Next Easter will find us still at war. Germany is a hard nut to crack." (?/12/44 - Rome)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS

Civilian letters, which reflected a slightly brighter view last period when favourable comments were in a majority of 1.3 to 1, were more pessimistic during the four weeks under review, and produced a majority of adverse comments in the ratio of 2.4 to 1. This was largely due to a change of front from Naples. Many centres hardly commented at all, and military mail was completely blank.

Unfavourable comments usually refer to luck of electric power, destroyed factories, and shortage of raw materials. Favourable comments speak of repair work, and of hopes of a resumption of activities.

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The following are some examples:

"The factory where I used to work has been closed down, and so have all the other factories in the Ternana district. This is due to the shortage of electric power, and there are no hopes of an early resumption of work." (15/12/44 - Grosseto)

"Industrial activities are paralysed on account of damage suffered." (6/12/44 - Pescara)

"Industry and commerce are inactive owing to the destructions caused to plants." (16/12/44 - Florence)

An official of the "Ufficio Provvedimento Sovrano", an important Siculan centre in Rome, writes:

"We are aware of the present needs of the population so far as drugs are concerned. No matter how hard we try, we shall never succeed in raising our output to a level that will satisfy the essential requirements of wholesalers and chemists. We suffered damage in the two bombings of our plants, and there is the well known shortage of raw materials ... (15/12/44 - Rome)

"The damage suffered by the factory through bombing, looting and German robberies amounts to a million and a half lire. But now we have resumed work, and little by little we will make up for all the damage suffered." (16/12/44 - Macerata)

"Our mine was merely flooded, so, if the engineers of the A.C. decide that it be drained, and obtain for us 20 kw. electric power, in a short time we will be able to carry out the dealing of the mine and restore it to working order." (16/12/44 - Siena)

II. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

Civilian mail was a little less optimistic over agricultural prospects than during the preceding period, though Naples and Rieti were the only centres that produced a majority of unfavourable comments. Aquila and Grosseto were the most optimistic by roughly 2 to 1 and 5 to 1 respectively. Military mail had nothing to say.

Favourable comments all speak of satisfactory or of exceptionally good crops. Unfavourable comments refer to the lack of oxen for plowing or to regional drawbacks due to the war or the weather. The following are some examples:



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"This year's crop has been plentiful as regards apples, sweet corn, potatoes, beans and other products." (6/12/44 - Sulmona)

"You ask me what the harvest was like. Well, it was very satisfactory indeed. We had a wheat crop of 130 quintals which is more than we have ever harvested. Other produce was also plentiful, so we have no reason to grumble." (2/12/44 - Servigliano)

"We have harvested 80 quintals of wheat, 24 quintals of sweet corn, and 40 quintals of grapes, which is very good." (2/12/44 - Recanati, Macerata)

"We are very satisfied with this year's crop. All manner of products have given a considerable yield." (3/12/44 - Ascoli Piceno)

"This year we were not able to proceed with the sowing due to the continuous shelling that went on for some months. Potatoes, wheat and sweet corn are extremely scarce, and their price is very high. Those who grew these things did so at the risk of their lives." (6/12/44 - Rapino, Chieti)

"This year we have not been able to till the ground in the proper way, and this is because there were no oxen available for agricultural work." (4/12/44 - Settefrati)

12. EMPLOYMENT

There was a slight less gloomy view prevailing in civilian letters during the period, the ratio between unfavourable and favourable comments being 4.6 to 1 as compared with 5.9 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Rome was by far the most pessimistic centre with an adverse ratio of 13 to 1. Military mail was almost silent on the subject.

Favourable comments usually come from those who have just got jobs, and say little beyond expressing relief. Unfavourable comments speak of long periods of unemployment, the futility of looking for work, staffs still being reduced, and concerns that show no signs of resuming activities. The following are some examples:

"Here the employees, instead of giving work to poor people who are dying of starvation, keep on dismissing employees. The number of unemployed increases day by day, and, what is still worse, hunger increases too." (13/12/44 - Rome)



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"This morning I took a typing test in an office. The result was quite good, but I don't know whether I'll be lucky enough to get the job. Just imagine, there are 27 vacancies in that office, and the applicants amount to 700." (4/12/44 - Ascoli Piceno)

"Guiseppe is out of work. He has not been working for the last four months. The Americans and British have banned his work, namely, taking photographs. They only granted permission to 12 photographers and not to the others. Eight photographers were arrested because they carried on with their work, and now they are inactive. Guiseppe is amongst them. As long as the Allies stay here Guiseppe will not be able to work, so goodness knows what is in store for us." (23/12/44 - Florence)

"An order has been issued to dismiss 75% of the Provincial Labours Office's personnel. The situation is tragic." (23/12/44 - Rome)

"The three of us are out of work, so I leave it to you to imagine what sort of condition we are in now. Everybody is unemployed here." (3/12/44 - Aquila)

"All of us are unemployed and are depending on Pina's salary. Owing to the urgent need she is sacrificing herself, even giving lessons at home by night." (13/12/44 Rome)

Gordon W. McKean

GORDON W. McKEAN,
Lt. Col., Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

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| NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 5 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 127 | 8 | 24 | 4 | 22 | 25 | 37 | 55 | 69 | 42 | 28 | 156 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 10 |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 19 | 10 | 0 | 23 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 62 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 126 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 37 | 32 | 7 | 27 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 49 | 197 | 1 | 54 | 396 | 54 | 72 | 132 | 55 | 17 | 55 | 136 | 66 | 91 | 48 | 269 |
| 15 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 238 | 25 | 16 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 10 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 98 | 172 | 14 | 104 | 282 | 81 | 26 | 30 | 7 | 8 | 29 | 45 | 89 | 64 | 30 | 230 |
| 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 30 | 2 | 2 | 25 | 58 | 137 | 80 | 38 | 61 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 147 | 391 | 22 | 195 | 862 | 165 | 125 | 269 | 70 | 40 | 110 | 323 | 435 | 294 | 203 | 934 |
| 21 | 37 | 1 | 1 | 170 | 17 | 303 | 87 | 17 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 168 | 428 | 23 | 196 | 1039 | 180 | 428 | 296 | 87 | 55 | 119 | 286 | 414 | 294 | 203 | 934 |

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REPORT NO. 87

# CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP, PUBLIC OPINION REPORT [illegible] 1944

| PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED) | | FOOD SITUATION | | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| Agdija | 12,641 | 242 | 1023 | 226 | 846 | 229 | 1023 | 49 | 214 |
| Agdija Plains (Oil) | 30,238 | 9 | 75 | 3 | 20 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| [illegible] | 3,203 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Agdija City | 28,623 | 27 | 93 | 0 | 78 | 0 | 23 | 5 | 30 |
| Ibis | 7,784 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Pinnacle | 58,812 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Purple Mine | 21,088 | 0 | 138 | 0 | 28 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 1 |
| Ibis | 7,890 | 14 | 82 | 12 | 26 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 |
| Tarnation | 28,287 | 30 | 254 | 6 | 56 | 4 | 46 | 0 | 22 |
| Waterloo | 8,387 | 13 | 25 | 1 | 26 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| Waterloo City | 17,649 | 133 | 1137 | 23 | 783 | 15 | 598 | 2 | 102 |
| Weil | 22,238 | 188 | 95 | 102 | 82 | 207 | 164 | 0 | 0 |
| Wells | 6,472 | 0 | 33 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 2 |
| Wren City | 236,208 | 239 | 1770 | 12 | 308 | 15 | 282 | 17 | 738 |
| Yell | 87,108 | 29 | 28 | 8 | 14 | 18 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| State | 65,680 | 193 | 633 | 17 | 90 | 29 | 150 | 2 | 27 |
| Ward | 16,556 | 0 | 128 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Civilian | 900,747 | 2348 | 5812 | 437 | 2573 | 56 | 1764 | 75 | 1018 |
| Total Military | 72,281 | 529 | 1356 | 295 | 291 | 221 | 455 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTALS: | 972,968 | 2877 | 7168 | 732 | 2864 | 277 | 2219 | 75 | 1018 |

Note: Totals do not equal those of Location Report on a daily weekly basis. The number of letters examined each week averaged 972,968, having a total of 305,600 letters examined for this fourteenth Edition.

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APPENDIX A

REPORT NO. 87

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

| WEEK ENDING | | FOOD SITUATION F | FOOD SITUATION U | CLOTHING F | CLOTHING U | HOUSING F | HOUSING U | INCOME F | INCOME U | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT F | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT U | PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION F | PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION U | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES F | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES U | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION F | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION U | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION F | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION U | INDUSTRIAL PROD F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2/12/44 | CIV | 1 | 14.4 | 1 | 17.2 | 1 | 14.6 | 1 | 12.1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 6.4 | 1 | 1 | 1.7 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| | MIL | 4.8 | 1 | 4.6 | 1 | 1 | 1.2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 11.3 | 1 | 1.6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9/12/44 | CIV | 1 | 9.5 | 1 | 22.8 | 1 | 47 | 1 | 11.9 | 1 | 4.8 | 1 | 4.1 | 4.8 | 1 | 1 | 1.6 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | MIL | 1.2 | 1 | 4.7 | 1 | 1 | 1.8 | 0 | 0 | 1.3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9.5 | 1 | 73 | 0 | 1.1 | 1 | 0 |
| 16/12/44 | CIV | 1 | 9.2 | 1 | 38 | 1 | 12.7 | 1 | 13.3 | 1 | 1.9 | 1 | 10.4 | 4.2 | 1 | 1 | 1.8 | 1 | 2.3 | 1 |
| | MIL | 2.2 | 1 | 2.1 | 1 | 1 | 2.8 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 0 | 9.1 | 1 | 4.9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 23/12/44 | CIV | 1 | 11.2 | 1 | 20.4 | 1 | 26.7 | 1 | 20.4 | 1 | 1.8 | 1 | 14.7 | 6.1 | 1 | 1 | 1.6 | 2.4 | 1 | 1 |
| | MIL | 5.1 | 1 | 2.3 | 1 | 1 | 2.6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 11.3 | 1 | 3.3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING 23/12/44 | CIV | 1 | 10.8 | 1 | 22.7 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 14.1 | 1 | 2.7 | 1 | 8.9 | 5.3 | 1 | 1 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1 | 1 |
| | | 2.8 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2.1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.8 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 3.5 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 0 |

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APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

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| CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL ADMINI-STRATION | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 1 | 17.2 | 1 | 14.6 | 1 | 12.1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 6.4 | 1 | 1 | 1.7 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1.7 | 1 | 1 | 4.7 |
| 4.6 | 1 | 1 | 1.2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 11.3 | 1 | 1.6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 22.8 | 1 | 47 | 1 | 11.9 | 1 | 4.8 | 1 | 4.1 | 4.8 | 1 | 1 | 1.6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1.8 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 4.9 |
| 4.7 | 1 | 1 | 1.8 | 0 | 0 | 1.3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9.5 | 1 | 73 | 0 | 1.1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 38 | 1 | 12.7 | 1 | 13.3 | 1 | 1.9 | 1 | 10.4 | 4.2 | 1 | 1 | 1.8 | 1 | 2.3 | 1 | 3.6 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 5.8 |
| 2.1 | 1 | 1 | 2.8 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 0 | 9.1 | 1 | 4.9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 20.4 | 1 | 26.7 | 1 | 20.4 | 1 | 1.8 | 1 | 14.7 | 6.1 | 1 | 1 | 1.6 | 2.4 | 1 | 1 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 1 | 1 | 3.8 |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | 2.6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 11.3 | 1 | 3.3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 22.7 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 14.1 | 1 | 2.7 | 1 | 8.9 | 5.3 | 1 | 1 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1 | 1 | 2.4 | 1.4 | 1 | 1 | 4.6 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 2.1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.8 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 3.5 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

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24 DEC. 1944

Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

AJF/10m

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 30

21 December 1944

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 25th November 1944.

TO : G-2 (Communications General), AFHQ, APO 512.

This report is based on 316,500 letters checked during the four weeks ended 25th November 1944. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favourable and unfavourable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

Since our last four-weekly report we have given up our Taranto station. This report therefore does not cover any area south of the districts round Naples and Foggia.

None of the comments used in this report have been used in any previous report.

1. FOOD SITUATION

Civilian opinion was slightly less unfavourable as compared with the previous period. Nevertheless, in centres such as Florence, Rieti and Terni, the situation appears to be worse than ever. Not one of these places produced a single favourable comment.

Military mail, apart from Rome and Naples, produced very few comments. The figure of 2.5 to 1 in favour, as shown in Appendix A, is deceptive if compared with the ratio for the previous period because the Taranto figures are not included this time, and they were always unfavourable.

The chief causes of complaint remain much the same. High prices make it impossible for a large number of people to buy the food available. Then there is the perpetual trouble of the non-availability of rationed foodstuffs. Thus between the two ills, some centres have very little than can be figured by the bulk of their inhabitants.



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In areas that produce food there is a more optimistic outlook, although even in these cases the unfavourable comments are well in the majority. The following comments illustrate various viewpoints:

"Maxie and I lead a very miserable life. Everything can be obtained in Rome but we cannot buy anything because of the prices. An egg costs 34 lire, and fish 300 lire a kilo. We have no fats, and our daily meal only consists of some soup, a few apples and chestnuts. Sometimes we eat greens, but nearly always raw." (23/11/44 - Rome)

"Here in Florence everybody is starving because nothing can be found to eat". (25/11/44 - Florence)

"Foodstuffs are expensive and hard to get. The worst of it is that we have no fats at all. They never give us one ration of oil or butter". (23/11/44 - Terni)

"Poor people come here from Rome and they trade their most treasured belongings for oil, wheat etc. Life is a real burden to everybody". (Rieti - 7/11/44)

"Rationed foodstuffs are never distributed, (I say 'never', in the liberal meaning of the word) with the exception of 200 grams of wheat (not flour) a day. We never see any meat or sugar". (9/11/44 - Abetone)

"I have nothing to complain about, although everything is rather expensive. We have plenty of bread, and we make "spaghetti" at home. It is a pity that eggs are not to be found. Vegetables are obtainable, so we have nothing to worry about this coming winter". (21/11/44 - Macerata)

"Apart from the prices we are certainly better off than last winter, both on account of the increased rations, and of rationed foodstuffs that are distributed every now and then". (3/12/44 - Rome)

B. CLOTHING

Although still extremely unfavourable, public opinion during the period under review swung back to a more normal attitude, that is, the unfavourable comments outnumbered those favourable by 55.8 to 1, whereas the previous four weeks produced the peak figure of 64.1 to 1. Military mail, other than that from Naples, produced very few comments, but the sum total showed a mildly unfavourable attitude.

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In spite of the improved civilian figures - and they seem to be due chiefly to a reduced number of comments - it is significant that Chieti, Foggia, Florence, Rieti and Terni produced not a single favourable comment between them, while the figures for Rome and Naples were 526 and 1502 unfavourable to 8 and 14 favourable respectively. The following comments speak for themselves:

"Cousins buy a bad cough because she has to walk bare-footed and she is cold. None of us have shoes. We cannot afford to pay the prices they ask for them, which range from 2000 lire upwards. Sometimes they are ashamed of asking such prices to poor labourers like us, so they pretend not to have any shoes to sell". (10/11/44 - Chieti)

"My wife and I cannot go out because we have no shoes. We have a baby four months old and we are at a loss how to dress him because it cannot find any material with which to make clothes". (23/11/44 - Capocelano, Aquila)

"At Montepporo I was asked 30 lires of gold for a suit. The price of a pair of shoes was 6000 lire. In order to get my shoes repaired I had to give two hens, 15 eggs and half a litre of oil". (8/11/44 - Macerata)

"Luciano goes to school but is without proper clothing. Shoes are very costly. So is growing! Just imagine he failed also 20 in shoes. Material to make clothing runs to 1500 lire a metre, a cost which we are not able to meet". (22/11/44 - Chieti)

"Dear Father, try to send me a parcel as soon as possible because we are without shoes and clothing. We are really pitiful objects.". (16/11/44 - Ortodoli)

"Winter is coming and it is very cold. We have nothing to cover either our beds or our bodies, so if you are able to send me some second-hand clothes that you no longer use, do so." (17/11/44 - Aquila)

"As to children's shoes, here one can find those like little boots, but at very high prices. A little while ago I saw a pair of them in red kid for seven or eight hundred lire, which are mad prices". (23/11/44 - Ascoli)

5. HOUSING

Civilian opinion on housing, which had become more

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unfavourable during the previous period, continued to deteriorate during the period under review, the proportion between unfavourable and favourable comments rising from 29.3 to 1 during October to 43.1 to 1 during November. The feeling in Naples was outstandingly gloomy, there being 1582 adverse comments and not a single one in favour. Several other centres, which produced only a small number of comments, were also unanimously unfavourable.

Complaints were almost exclusively confined to two aspects of the situation: a shortage of houses owing to destruction, and high prices and rents. The latter complaint was often aggravated by the growing practice of those landlords who demand premiums in some form or another before they will consider letting an apartment.

Military mail produced practically no comments on housing except from Naples, so that the figures do not mean very much.

The comments below are representative of nearly all civilian letters on the subject:

"We live in a shack of which we have repaired two walls and to which we have made other repairs so that we can live in it, because there are no houses available here". (8/11/44 - Middlegold, Chieti)

"Nowadays we eat and live like animals all piled up in one room, dirty and without all those things and amenities which we had formerly, and this is because everything is destroyed and because houses available fit to live in are extremely few in number". (7/11/44 - Iona dei Poligni, Bizungi)

"As far as Pescara is concerned, lodgings are very hard to find because 50% of the residential houses have been destroyed either by bombing or by German mines. Rents are very high. A solicitor who was compelled for professional reasons to take a house in Pescara is paying 5,000 lire a month". (8/11/44 - Pescara)

"The housing situation here is becoming more and more serious. Many troops are coming in now, and places are being requisitioned which makes things even worse". (10/11/44 - Rieti)

"Up to now I have not been able to find a flat. One has been promised to me, and I might rent it in a few weeks time if I pay a premium of 5000 lire". (11/11/44 - Rome)

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"We are doing our utmost to find a lodging, but the Allies have requisitioned everything. At the beginning of the winter many families had to leave their homes and dwell in hovels to make room for them". (10/11/44 - Termoli)

"Owing to the lack of lodgings we are compelled to live in a single room and a kitchen. There is no toilet. A lavatory is located on the roof, and we have to pay 450 lire a month for this set-up". (7/11/44 - Rieti)

4. INCOME

Civilian comments on the subject of wages and salaries took a decided turn for the worse during the period under review. Unfavourable comments outnumbered those favourable by 20.1 to 1, which compares with 9.6 to 1 during the previous four weeks. The bulk of the comments came from Rome, and the figures were 780 unfavourable to 8 favourable. Naples produced 167 comments, none of which were favourable.

Military mail only produced 5 comments all told, so that the figures in Appendix A have little meaning.

The majority of complaints rest on the fact that salaries have not kept pace with the ever increasing costs of living, and it is abundantly clear that the office workers are more hardly hit than any other section of the community. There are numerous letters which enlarge on this gap between income and expenditure - for many live beyond their incomes - and gradually these people are selling off everything they can possibly do without. Some now have nothing left to sell, for they have even disposed of much of their clothing. The following comments tell their own stories:

"In order to avoid dying of starvation we are selling everything, because our salary is not sufficient. A lot of money is needed in order to eat and to cure one's ailments, owing to the fact that one buys everything on the black market and rationed foodstuffs are not sufficient in quantity. I have sold many articles of clothing, and now only a few things remain". (10/11/44 - Rome)

"On account of the wages they get, office workers are all their wits' end trying to avoid starvation. I am one of them, so now am I to save the 10,000 lire I need to pay off my debts". (8/11/44 - Rieti)

"Living is very expensive here and we struggle on to keep afloat with the scanty wages we earn and which are not sufficient in spite of the recent increase". (16/11/44 - Chieti)

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Life becomes more and more difficult every day, especially for the wretched white collar workers who have no other source of income but their meagre wages which are only good for driving them to despair and starvation". (11/11/44 - Rome)

The following comment offers a strange contrast in that the writer, a man, who does not say what his work is, discloses that he can earn in a day what many people are lucky enough to earn in a month.

"I am quite happy here for I am making money. Today, for instance, I have earned 2,500 lire, and this is the average of what I earn every day". (11/11/44 - Aquila)

b. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Civilian mail reveals a more unfavourable opinion towards the National Government than it did during the previous four weeks, which in turn had been more critical than the preceding period. However, many centres produced very few comments on this subject, and only in the case of Rome and of Naples were the numbers sufficiently high to conclude that their populations were decidedly unfavourable. There were hardly any military comments. The latter writers are not always very clear in their outpourings, but the following comments give some idea of the various causes of their irritation:

"The confusion is even greater in the central Italian Government. The disorder that reigns in the various ministries is such that one cannot understand anything. There is a shortage of government employees. Those working are tired, annoyed and cast down by their economical treatment". (24/11/44- Rome)

"While we were under the Allied Government they gave us sugar, salt and other commodities. Those things were rationed but we got them. Now, under the Italian Government, we get less than nothing". (9/11/44 - Aquila)

"We have returned to the times of highway robbery and forest brigandage. Our government is weak, and the good citizens are seriously worried about their very lives. We need a government with an iron fist to direct and properly equip a national police force which is needed to restore order and safeguard citizens of good will". (14/11/44- Chieti)

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"We are always waiting for our Government to take an interest in the situation of office workers and to take steps to enable them to manage at least one soup meal every day". (24/11/44 - Aquila)

"I cannot understand how the Government has not yet been able to cause prices to go down or else to bring wages and old age pensions on a level with the cost of living". (8/11/44 - Ascoli Piceno)

6. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

A more critical attitude towards the provincial administrations was noticeable throughout the period under survey. The proportion of unfavourable comments increased considerably, and the ratio which was 3.4 to 1 against the Provincial Government during the previous four weeks rose to 7.2 to 1 during the period considered here. Rome was particularly critical. Military mail was almost silent on the subject.

Complaints are chiefly directed against the members of the councils on the ground that such members are not fitted for their positions, or against the alleged non-distribution of foodstuffs. The following comments are representative of the general feeling:

"Everybody is complaining about the present members of the County Council, and many people would like to see Ex-Mayor back as Town Mayor". (10/11/44 - Perugia)

"The Town Mayor has not taken any interest in what is going on in this filthy place. For three months he has not done anything about the distribution of foodstuffs to the population". (7/11/44 - Lanciano, Chieti)

"Politicians have turned this place into a real Bourbio asylum. Can you guess who is the Town Mayor now? Alcide, Doctor Bernabei's son. It is a really comical situation". (20/11/44 - Colonella, Teramo)

"The population is greatly worked up on account of the mismanaging of the Town Mayor. Whenever supplies of any kind reach this place they disappear in the twinkling of an eye. Instead of being distributed to the population". (13/11/44 - Catanzaro, Aquila)

"Everything is messed up here. The Town Hall does not look anything like an office but has become a real brothel. Where is the law?" (16/11/44 - Leonessa, Rieti)



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7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES

For some months civilian comments on the Allies gradually became less favourable, and then they took a turn for the better during October when the proportion between favourable and unfavourable comments rose to 17.5 to 1. During the period under review, however, this improvement was not maintained, and the figure went back to 11.1 to 1. Opinion in some detachments. The same happened in Naples except that that centre still remained highly favourable. Military comments also took a turn for the worse, and the proportion between favourable and unfavourable comments dropped from 7.5 to 1 during the previous four weeks to 4.5 to 1 during the period under review.

Favourable comments follow the usual lines - relaxation, gratitude, and pleased surprise that the Allies were not as Germans propaganda had painted them. Unfavourable comments refer to inflation, requisitioning, and behaviour towards women. The following comments are typical of many:

"Thanks to the Allies we once again enjoy the most intense for tranquillity". (5/11/44 - Florence)

"Owing to the German propaganda we were somewhat suspicious of the Allies during the first days of the occupation. But we soon realized how false the propaganda was. The Allies came in like gentlemen and were very respectful towards us". (5/11/44 - Grosseto)

"When the day of our liberation came, and our Americans and English brothers arrived, they kept us in such a gentlemanly way". (22/11/44 - Ascoli)

"A remarkable monetary inflation has been the result of the Allied occupation. Anything that could be bought formerly for 10 lire now costs 100 or 150 lire when it can be found". (20/11/44 - Chieti)

"It is now being rumoured that Allied troops will soon begin to spend the winter, and that our houses will be requisitioned once more. If this proves to be true everything will be spoiled and destroyed again". (15/11/44 - Teramo)

8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION

The former optimism has practically vanished. During October there was a noticeable drop, and the proportion between favourable and unfavourable comments was 12.3 to 1 as

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compared with 18.2 to 1 during the preceeding period. During the period under review, however the figures went right down to 1.1 to 1. Military mail was also about equally divided on the subject. The reason for this is obvious enough, and the two following comments illustrate the feelings of disappointment:

"My hope for a quick return to Milan has vanished. Unfortunately I must get used to the idea that the Italian front will remain unchanged until next spring. Who knows when my return to Milan will take place". (5/11/44 - Rome)

"Three months ago, watching the Americans move over the Apennines, I foresaw a quick liberation of my dear ones. This will take place in the remote future, now and we live on empty promises". (11/11/44 - S. Pitto)

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION

The marked increase in optimism concerning the future military situation noticeable during the previous four weeks, when the proportion between favourable and unfavourable comments dropped to 16.6 to 1 as compared with 75.5 to 1 for the preceding period, was further decreased during the period under review, and the relative figures were only 5 to 1. Military mail was almost devoid of comments, there being only three all told, and they were unfavourable. Comments are not very illuminating. The following, for example, could be either favourable or unfavourable according to the way in which it is read:

"The war will probably come to an end in September October of next year. What a sad winter for everybody, and above all for the poor people". (18/11/44 - Rome)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

Civilian mail was more optimistic concerning industrial prospects than it has been for a long time, and comments were actually 1.2 to 1 in favour. During the previous eight weeks they were 2.5 to 1 against. Siena was the only centre which produced a substantial majority of unfavourable comments. However, many centres hardly commented at all, so that one can not read too much from the total figures. Military mail was practically mute on the subject.

Letters speak of renewed hopes of activity in some places, but in others there is only talk of factories and workshops being at a standstill, such as the following:

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"You ask me if they have begun any works. Nothing to this effect has been seen yet. Everything is at a standstill. Factories and machine shops are closed, and the population is unemployed". (6/11/44 - Cepegatti, Pescara)

"What worries me is that the re-establishing of industrial and commercial activities does not seem to be a coming event. I'll have to find some other way of making a living". (23/11/44 - Aquila)

11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS

Civilian mail produced a slight increase in the proportion of favourable comments during the period under review, the figures being 1.2 to 1 in favour as compared with 1.6 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Siena, Rome, Foglee and Aquila were the only centres to produce any sizable number of comments, and the last named was about twice as optimistic as the others. Favourable comments invariably speak of crops as having yielded more than before. Unfavourable comments are due to a variety of set-backs.

"This year the olive crop has been plentiful. It is rumoured that the price will go down to 40 lire per litre". (25/11/44 - Grosseto)

"The fields have yielded more than they ever did before, as far as potatoes, beans, corn etc.are concerned. The olive crop was not so good, so we will not be very well off for fats". (5/11/44 - Castel di Sangro)

"I can assure you that the olive crop is quite satisfactory, and everywhere it is the same". (16/11/44 - Ascoli Piceno)

"The harvest would have been quite appreciable if Indian troops had not destroyed part of the crop". (7/11/44 - Rieti)

"It will be very hard this year to proceed with the sowing". (14/11/44 - Chieti)

"The result of the vintaging has been very poor around here. We only harvested 80 quintals. The yield for mother's vineyards, which used to average about 300 quintals, only amounted to 8 quintals". (16/11/44 - Ascoli Piceno)

12. EMPLOYMENT.

Civilian mail took a less gloomy view of the employment

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situation during the period under review, and unfavourable comments only outnumbered those favourable by 5.9 to 1 as compared with 10.2 to 1 during the preceding four weeks. Rome, however, became more pessimistic. Military mail had practically nothing to say on the subject. Comments generally speak of the apparent impossibility of finding a job, or of jobs so poorly paid that there is little difference between them and unemployment. The following are examples:

"The life we are now living is too hard for words, and the thought of the future drives me crazy. We have been looking for a job for a long time, but whenever we apply for one we are told that they have surplus personnel". (19/11/44 - Rieti)

"At Pescara it is very hard to get a job. I have put in many applications, but up till now have received no answer whatever". (24/11/44 - Fontecorle)

"After 10 months of unemployment I found a job at the end of August that does not satisfy my economical or moral needs. But there is no alternative at present". (18/11/44 - Rome)

"Here everything happens the wrong way round. Those who ought to be punished carry on with their jobs, while plain and honest clerks like us are kept out of work". (21/11/44 - Chieti)

"I have been at Terni the last few months, and I am still looking for a job, but it does not seem possible to find one". (14/11/44 - Terni)

A. J. PERRONE,
Commander, USNR.
Acting Civil Censorship Officer.

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| NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 8 | 9 | 4 | 34 | 883 | 231 | 31 | 2 | 20 | 8 | 24 | 32 | 100 | 56 | 62 | 132 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 2 | 0 | 36 | 17 | 20 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 21 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 32 | 31 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 7 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 85 | 203 | 10 | 72 | 3063 | 45 | 227 | 225 | 93 | 15 | 203 | 326 | 53 | 95 | 24 | 111 |
| 6 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 66 | 0 | 17 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 37 | 128 | 7 | 24 | 206 | 46 | 27 | 37 | 23 | 8 | 53 | 25 | 38 | 50 | 37 | 446 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 50 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 35 | 114 | 50 | 20 | 80 |
| 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 226 | 545 | 26 | 332 | 4693 | 263 | 372 | 358 | 140 | 69 | 378 | 203 | 407 | 239 | 249 | 1058 |
| 29 | 38 | 0 | 3 | 113 | 28 | 292 | 158 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| 282 | 564 | 28 | 234 | 4870 | 283 | 284 | 278 | 140 | 32 | 278 | 222 | 409 | 211 | 320 | 1060 |

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| PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED) | | FOOD SITUATION | | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| Aquila | 42,350 | 230 | 2357 | 24 | 1305 | 37 | 547 | 43 | 325 |
| Ascoli Piceno (Civ. | 5,903 | 9 | 143 | 2 | 23 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| (Mil. | 825 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chieti (Civ. | 28,838 | 13 | 140 | 0 | 52 | 1 | 287 | 22 | 43 |
| (Mil. | 6,747 | 2 | 24 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Florence | 76,247 | 0 | 70 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Foggia (Civ. | 8,312 | 5 | 58 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 |
| (Mil. | 7,013 | 2 | 10 | 7 | 26 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 3 |
| Grosseto | 13,328 | 21 | 84 | 5 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Naples (Civ. | 214,034 | 70 | 8327 | 14 | 1602 | 0 | 1583 | 0 | 187 |
| (Mil. | 20,134 | 208 | 43 | 240 | 108 | 62 | 285 | 0 | 0 |
| Rieti | 7,921 | 0 | 121 | 0 | 17 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 6 |
| Rome (Civ. | 261,038 | 255 | 4146 | 8 | 536 | 7 | 453 | 8 | 760 |
| (Mil. | 23,503 | 83 | 20 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Siena | 59,592 | 197 | 820 | 55 | 255 | 31 | 283 | 2 | 29 |
| Terni | 17,420 | 0 | 89 | 0 | 19 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Civilians | 765,858 | 788 | 13077 | 108 | 3863 | 59 | 2723 | 58 | 1165 |
| Total Military | 62,272 | 284 | 107 | 255 | 142 | 65 | 274 | 2 | 3 |
| TOTALS: | 828,130 | 1082 | 13184 | 363 | 4000 | 124 | 2998 | 60 | 1168 |

This report is based upon 50 letters per censor being checked daily on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed each week averaged 264, making a total of 316,800 letters examined for this four-week tally.

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APPENDIX A

RETIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE(F) AND UNFAVORABLE(U) COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS



| | FOOD SITUATION | | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | LABOR | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT | | RELATIONSHIP WITH ALLIED | | INTERNAL MILITARY SITUATION | | PUBLIC MILITARY OPERATIONS | | ENEMY REAL PROSPECTS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WEEK ENDING | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | |
| 1/23/44 CIV | 1 | 14.0 | 1 | 29.2 | 1 | 28 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 2.5 | 1 | 3.2 | 9.3 | 1 | 1 | 1.5 | 5.3 | 1 | 1 | 1. |
| MIL | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | 1.9 | 1 | 6.4 | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | 6.5 | 7.3 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 1.4 | 1 | 1 | 1. |
| 13/1/44CIV | 1 | 11.6 | 1 | 37.8 | 1 | 25.6 | 1 | 3.7 | 1 | 2.8 | 1 | 2.5 | 21.3 | 1 | 2.3 | 1 | 4.3 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 |
| MIL | 1 | 1.6 | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 6.3 | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2.3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1 | 1 | 2. |
| 15/1/44CIV | 1 | 14.6 | 1 | 33.2 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 30.3 | 1 | 6.5 | 1 | 6.3 | 12.5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3.3 | 1 | 1.5 | 1 |
| MIL | 1.6 | 1 | 1.9 | 1 | 1 | 10.7 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5.7 | 1 | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 25/1/44CIV | 1 | 10.1 | 1 | 30.5 | 1 | 23.6 | 1 | 19.3 | 1 | 2.7 | 1 | 7.4 | 6.1 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 3.5 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| MIL | 1.9 | 1 | 2.1 | 1 | 1 | 6.2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| AVERAGE FOR WEEKS ENDING 25/1/44CIV | 1 | 12.6 | 1 | 35.8 | 1 | 16.1 | 1 | 20.1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7.2 | 11.1 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 |
| MIL | 1.6 | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | 1 | 4.2 | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | 1.1 | 0 | 1 | 4.4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

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APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE (F) UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

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| HOUSING | | ECONOMY | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U | F U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 20.2 | 1 28 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 2.5 | 1 | 3.0 | 9.3 | 1 | 1 | 1.5 | 5.3 | 1 | 1 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| 3.9 | 1 6.4 | 1 | 1.6 | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | 4.5 | 7.3 | 1 | 2.1 | 1 | 3.4 | 1 | 1 | 4.2 | 1.7 | 1 | 1 | 2.7 |
| 37.3 | 1 35.6 | 1 | 9.7 | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 2.5 | 22.3 | 1 | 2.3 | 1 | 4.3 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 2.6 | 1 | 1 | 4.6 |
| 2.9 | 1 6.3 | 1 | 4.2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2.3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1.6 | 1.1 | 1 | 1 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 1 | 1 | 2.6 |
| 19.3 | 1 20 | 1 | 30.3 | 1 | 6.3 | 1 | 4.3 | 12.5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 9.3 | 1 | 2.5 | 3 | 4.7 | 1 | 1 | 5.3 |
| 1 | 1 30.7 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5.1 | 1 | 1 | 2.9 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20.5 | 6 25.4 | 1 | 19.3 | 1 | 2.7 | 1 | 7.4 | 6.1 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 3.5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 1 | 4.4 |
| 1 | 1 1.2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 25.8 | 2 45.1 | 1 | 20.1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7.2 | 12.1 | 1 | 7.1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | 1.9 | 1 | 1 | 5.9 |
| 2 | 2 4.2 | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | 1.1 | 0 | 3 | 2.4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 5 |

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22 NOV 1944

Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

Rsvy/ltm

19 November 1944.

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 72

H/14.1/CA

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 28th October 1944.

TO : G-2 (Communications Censorship), AFHQ, APO 512, US Army.

This report is based on 325,200 letters checked during the four weeks ended 28th October 1944. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favourable and unfavourable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

None of the comments used in this report have been used in any previous report.

1. FOOD SITUATION.

The flood of letters dealing with the food situation continues to rise, and no other topic occupies the minds of the people to such an extent. There was also a worsening of civilian opinion during the period under review, the ratio of unfavourable to favourable comments being 13.4 to 1 as against 10.4 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Military opinion was also more unfavourable due chiefly to Bari and Taranto. The latter centre, which had been favourably disposed, swung the other way.

Florence, Naples and Terni appear to feel the situation most keenly. The last named produced no favourable comments at all as against 53 unfavourable, while Naples with a record total of 1900 comments only produced two in favour. The position in Rome also deteriorated, and the ratio of comments which was 9.4 to 1 against during the previous period rose to 17.5 to 1 against during the four weeks under review.

The high prices of foodstuffs constitute the chief cause of complaint. Even in places where a variety of commodities are available, the people still suffer because they cannot afford to buy them. There are even instances in which money is no use at all because vendors will only accept other goods in exchange for food. Lack of transport is a matter of considerable comment because it is felt that many centres suffer a shortage through the impossibility of moving supplies from one area to another. There are

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number of criticisms on the paucity of rationed foods, and some grumbling at the expense of the Allies for not having waved a magic wand. The following comments illustrate varying shades of the main types of complaints:

"So far we have had nothing at Collefero, no sugar, no butter, no oil. They only give us a little bread, and in order to live we spend 100 lire a day on greens and fruit". (7/10/44 - Collefero)

"Here they only give us 200 grs. of bread daily, and once in a blue moon a half kg. of potatoes per head. This is all the rationing there is here, whereas in Rome they give practically everything. We have not had any oil with the ration card since February, and as for sugar I don't know when we had it last. Only after the arrival of the Allies did we receive about 50 grs. per head." (9/10/44 - Tivoli)

"Here the food situation becomes more critical each day, as there is nothing to eat in the true sense of the word. If one does succeed in finding something they don't want money but goods in exchange; and as we have nothing to exchange, since we don't dabble in the black market, we must adapt ourselves and get on as best we can". (9/10/44 - Viale, Saverio)

"Here also everything is sold at astronomical prices, which make one dizzy. We lack everything and find nothing. A very sad winter is approaching". (11/10/44 - Florence)

"Things are very bad here. There are no means of transport, and even the efforts of the Allies lead to nothing. We only get 200 grs. of bread a day, and no pasta, no oil, no meat. It is real famine". (19/10/44 - Florence)

"We had to sell everything we had or else we would have died of starvation. Now all the money has gone, dried up by the black market prices. Oil costs 1000 lire a flasco (two litres) flour 13,000 lire a quintal, bacon 700 lire a kilo, eggs 25 lire each. Our food rations only consist of bread and potatoes". (23/10/44 - Aquila)

"In Rome all foodstuffs are to be found but only by millionaires and by the beggars of yesterday who daily earn thousands of lire on the black market or by polishing the shoes of the Americans. I eat what the Vatican popular kitchens give us, and spend the double of what I earn, that is 7,000 lire a month, and I have lost 8 kgs. in weight". (5/10/44 - Rome)

"The appetite is large but the food is lacking. We tell the truth the stuff is to be had, but what prices! The black market saves the situation, and things go badly for others because materials remain the same". (12/10/44 - Perugia)

"Living in Rome is very dear. Those who do not live in Rome cannot realise this. It is necessary to experience it. I cannot go on any more.

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I have made a thousand sacrifices, I have sold things that were very dear to me, precious souvenirs, and yet with my heart bursting with grief I have had to sell and sell in order to buy things to eat that have gone sky-high". (17/12/44 - Rome)

There is a touch of unconscious humour in the following extract, but it tells a story nevertheless: "Mother weighs only 100 pounds. You wouldn't know her if you saw her. Well, something has done what no doctor here or in the States has been able to do, so if you want to lose weight naturally, just come to Italy now". (20/10/44 - Aquila)

Finally there is a word of praise for the popular kitchens in these "Life is still very dear. However we have a resource that is of great help to us, that of the popular kitchens, recently established, where we can obtain soup which is usually made of vegetables and pasta. There are also people of my station, and so I no longer feel humiliated and ill pleased, also because the expense is only 3 lire a day". (4/10/44 - Rome)

2. CLOTHING.

The number of letters on the clothing situation was almost double that of the previous period, and the fact that clothing is becoming an increasing source of worry to the civil population was further emphasised by the marked increase in the proportion of unfavourable comments. Popular opinion was quite bad enough during the previous period when the ratio of unfavourable to favourable comments was 32.2 to 1, but during the four weeks under review the ratio rose to 64.1 to 1.

The position at both Bari and Naples would appear to be almost hopeless, for they produced 1375 and 1677 unfavourable comments respectively with not a single favourable comment between them. Aquila also took a very gloomy view of the position, only 17 of its 1237 comments being favourable. There was no big change in military opinion, but a slightly more unfavourable view prevailed. As usual Bari was overwhelmingly critical and Naples was very much in favour.

In most cases the complaints are based on high prices, though there is frequent reference to the absence of clothes in some places. Shoes seem to be a particular problem. They are either unobtainable or out of reach of the bulk of the people. The following comments are typical:

"We cannot find a yard of material with which to make a dress, and no thread of any kind. But what worries me most, especially on account of the nearing winter, is the problem of shoes. It is heartrending for me to see my children bare-footed, and not be able to buy any shoes for them". (18/10/44 - Aquila)

"Not even a handkerchief is to be found here. In order to make some clothing for the child that is to be born I had to cut up a sheet from my bed". (16/10/44 - Aquila)

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"New made shoes are being displayed in the shop windows, but children's shoes of the poorest quality cost 1,400 lire a pair. The price of men's shoes is 4,000 lire. Is it possible to buy at such prices?" (28/10/44 - Chieti)

"Clothing prices are hyperbolical: gloves 500 lire per pair, stockings 700 lire, umbrellas 450 each, suit of clothes 6,500 lire, and overcoats 1,900 lire..." (29/10/44 - Florence)

"If you could only see the condition in which we are now! We have nothing left of what we had once. Now we cannot even go out for we have nothing to wear. I don't know how we will pull through the coming winter." (23/10/44 - Orvieto)

"I had to pay 5,000 lire for a cotton material for a dress, and now I must have it made up, and the final cost will be at least 6,500 lire. Is it possible to carry on like this? One spends lots of money only to find oneself empty handed". (5/10/44 - Castellaneta)

"As regards clothing the only thing I can tell you is that we can't buy any. We are bare-footed and you cannot buy any shoes". (25/10/44 - Chieti)

"I had to dye a red sheet in order to have a skirt made for myself and a pair of trousers for Tonino. Dresses and shoes are on sale but I cannot buy them on account of the prices". (21/10/44 - Cappelle sul Tavo)

"We are left without shirts, shoes and stockings. To put it in a few words, we are ashamed of going out of doors, so shabby do we look". (14/10/44 - Mottola)

3. HOUSING

There was a very large increase in the number of letters dealing with housing during the period under review. A more unfavourable view of the situation was also apparent. The proportion of adverse comments among civilian letters rose by 25%, and thus the ratio between unfavourable and favourable comments for the four weeks was 39.9 to 1, as against 31.1 to 1 during the previous period.

As in the case of clothing, Bari and Naples are in by far the worst position, the two centres producing 1143 and 2023 adverse comments respectively with not a single favourable comment in either case.

Military opinion was also more unfavourable, and whereas the proportion between unfavourable and favourable comments was only 1.7 to 1 during the previous period, it rose to 4.7 to 1 during the four weeks under review. Naples, as usual, was the only centre in which favourable comments were in the majority.

A shortage of houses, due to the devastation in some centres, is

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the main problem in such areas. But general complaints revolve round high rents, requisitioning by the Allies, and the various devices of landlords to obtain more than even the fancy rents are netting them. The prices charged at boarding houses are also a matter of complaint. In the following comments these various difficulties are illustrated:

"I am looking for a flat, but the owners make enormous demands. Imagine, an apartment of three rooms and accessories, commands the trifling sum of 95,000 lire plus a premium for the furniture". (8/10/44 - Rome)

"One has great trouble in finding a house. Even here it is most difficult. Anyone who is about to vacate a house today asks a premium of 10,000 lire, otherwise he won't move. Just imagine it". (19/10/44 - Rome)

"I am busy looking for a flat, but it is a hopeless job because at least a third of the town has been razed to the ground. Owing to this it is impossible to find a place to live". (23/10/44 - Popoli, Chieti)

"I had to evacuate with all my family, and I don't know when it will be possible for us to find a place to live in back in town. There are about 100,000 inhabitants, and the houses fit to live in are not even sufficient for 15,000 people". (23/10/44 - Terni)

"It is very painful for me to think of dwelling in this rat hole throughout another winter. It can hardly be called a house. Just imagine, there is no water, no water-closet, not the least comfort, and the rent is 300 lire per month". (25/10/44 - Terni)

"Believe me it is a real disaster. Most of the houses have been requisitioned, and the others are rented at enormous prices. Even if I succeeded in finding a room, it would surely cost me about 1,200 lire. You had better not think of coming to Taranto just now". (21/10/44 - Taranto)

"I am upset because I cannot find a room to rent. Yesterday I went through all the old and new quarters of Bari. I mean rooms and room only, and do you know how much they had the nerve to ask me for? 400 lire a day. I really felt like smacking his face. That makes the situation even worse in that many American and English officers go about looking for lodgings, and the landlords are more willing to let rooms to them rather than to Italians because they make more money out of them". (1/10/44 - Bari)

"We are going to rent a single room, sharing the kitchen with the landlady. You say that Nice cannot find a house to rent. Of course not. All the best buildings, that were left standing, have been occupied by the Americans, and the people who have to live in Foggia have to put up with dreadful housing conditions". (23/10/44 - Foggia)

4. INCOME

A slightly less unfavourable view of wages and salaries prevailed during the period under review as compared with the previous four weeks.

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This applies both to civilian and military mail. Nevertheless opinion was roughly 10 to 1 against in both cases. Bari and Naples, in this matter also, appear to suffer the most. No centre produced a large proportion of favourable comments except Taranto which had a ratio of only 1.5 to 1 against.

The root of most complaints is that the cost of living has far outstripped income, and that there is little hope of improvement because costs keep on mounting. Thus all those who receive fixed wages and salaries are the greatest sufferers. On the other hand, many engaged in dubious activities are much better off than they have ever been before. The following are some typical comments:

"My wages are not sufficient to get along. Prices have been rushing upwards more and more. In November 1943 we were able to live on 8,000 lire a month. Little by little the amount of money needed has increased up to 10, 12, 15 and 17,000 lire. Now we need about 20,000 lire a month to exist. All my savings in deposits and bonds have dwindled away, and I have fallen into debt. Last July I had to sell my house at Salerno and to use the money obtained for daily expenses. The increasing prices are staggering, and one cannot foresee what the final outcome will be". (17/10/44 - Naples)

"Here everybody seems to have forgotten all about the war, especially those from the peasant classes who have now become millionaires. Only office workers live from hand to mouth because the wages they earn are wholly inadequate to their needs". (20/10/44 - Reggio Calabria)

"Around here things are very bad for office workers. Their daily wages are not even enough to buy a kilo of spaghetti, meat or beans". (19/10/44 - Aquila)

"Life is impossible here. My family, only consisting of Father, mother and myself, needs 15,000 lire a month to carry on a very modest life without any luxury whatever. How can we earn so much money? The highest wages range from 4,000 to 5,000 lire per month. We are now using up all the little savings we had, but very soon there won't be anything left". (21/10/44 - Bari)

"Who would believe that to support one's family one needs 1000 lire a day? How is it possible to have such an income? No wonder dishonesty and corruption are spreading. It is the only possible way of making a living". (11/10/44 - Bari)

An example of the earnings of an outside worker, given in the following context, is in striking contrast to the wages of an office employee:

"Father is busy with his truck. He came home yesterday and has already left again. He made a really good contract and gets 2,000 lire each trip within the range of 100 kms., and 4,000 lire if he travels beyond that limit, plus 10 or even 20 lire extra per kilometre". (23/10/44 - Aquila)

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5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

The slight but steady decrease of good opinion concerning the National Government noticed during the two previous periods continued during the period under review, and the proportion of comments reached 1.5 to 1 against among civilian letters. An unusually large number of favourable comments from Bari, which was the only centre to produce a majority of such comments, prevented the figures from being more adverse. Opinion in Rome was over 30% more unfavourable than previously.

Military opinion, which was 2.9 to 1 in favour during the previous period, deteriorated during the four weeks under review, and comments were equally divided. However, apart from Bari which was well in favour, and Taranto which was equally opposed to the government, there were few comments from most centres.

Favourable comments are based chiefly on hope. Unfavourable remarks spring from lack of confidence in the government's ability to handle the big problems facing the nation. There is also a feeling that fascism is still lurking in the background, either actively behind the scenes or as an infection that is slowing the spiritual recovery of the nation. Comments are apt to be involved and confused, but the following give some idea of current opinions:

"Up to date things have not changed. On the contrary they are becoming worse. No one of those who are at the head of our unfortunate nation at present is capable of giving to our Fatherland a little dignity and life worthy of real men. All we see is wretchedness which is continually increasing". (28/10/44 - Terni)

"The crisis noticeable in the present government, and in Italian life generally, is due to the fact that the Italians have been ruined and corrupted by Fascism. It is a moral crisis. For the rest, one can find a remedy for everything, but it will be extremely difficult to recover from the bankruptcy of the spirit. It will be two generations at least before Italians may hope to recover". (27/10/44 - Roccasibalda)

"We are now coming under the administration of the Italian Government again. We hope we will be better off". (16/10/44 - Chieti)

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Civilian opinion of provincial administration worsened considerably during the period under review, and the proportion of unfavourable to favourable comments reached 3/4 to 1 as against 1.9 to 1 during the previous four weeks. This movement of opinion was most noticable in Rome and Taranto. Military letters produced few comments on provincial affairs.

Sometimes the provincial administrations are blamed for matters outside their control and the criticisms should really have been directed against

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the National Government. For the rest, there are the usual complaints that Fascists are in power, that there is lack of control, and that officials are overbearing. The comments on the whole are not very illuminating, but the following give some idea of the type of criticisms:

"Here there is a terrible confusion. Fascists are still holding their posts in the offices, and the result is an awful mess". (14/10/44 - Pescara)

"General market prices clearly show that sellers are not controlled in any way. They do not fear any counter action because they know quite well that nobody looks after the interest of the population". (21/10/44 - Pescara)

"There are plenty of speculators about, and the result is a continuous rise in the prices of foodstuffs. The leaders don't seem to take any notice, and the poorest classes of people get the worst of it. Our county old age pension ought to be increased, but the Prefect ignores it. He does not care to please old people who cannot be of any danger to him". (24/10/44 - Bucchianico)

"We have been having a very uneasy time because of our house. We had to apply to the Allied authorities because the Italian ones still persist in their old obstructing methods, even with people who have always complied with their duties". (17/10/44 - Chieti)

"The men holding leading posts in administrations are just the same sort as were to be found in the old clique. It would not be otherwise. How why should we put up with all sorts of sacrifices when these people seem to be piling up the same scores as before, simply to suit their own convenience and totally unmindful of the lower classes of employees? A good purge among them would be just the right thing to do. We must do away with these old fashioned brains". (5/10/44 - Naples)

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES

Civilian feeling towards the Allies took a further turn for the better during October, and the relation between favourable and unfavourable comments rose to 17.5 to 1 compared with 14.4 to 1 during the previous period and 8.9 to 1 during the period before that. Bari was particularly well disposed with only 3 unfavourable comments out of a total of 782. In spite of the general improvement, the feeling in Rome became less favourable during the period, and Chieti actually produced a majority of unfavourable comments, being the only centre to do so.

As opposed to the increasing good opinion of civilians, military mail has revealed a steadily decreasing favourable attitude, and during the four weeks under review favourable comments only outnumbered the unfavourable by 7.6 to 1 as compared with 9.3 to 1 during the previous period and 12.7 to 1 during the period before that. Bari remained very much in favour, as did Naples to a lesser extent. Rome was the only station that produced a majority of unfavourable comments.

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Favourable comments usually take the form of thankful expressions for reconstructions undertaken by the Allies, and for the general help given by them. There is also relief at being freed from the Germans. Criticisms often spring from disappointment that this freedom did not bring immediate material benefits. There is also some resentment over the retention of Italian prisoners, and a certain amount of ill feeling due to the Allies' conduct towards Italian women. The following comments are samples of various opinions:

(a) FAVOURABLE

"The Allies have done prodigious and incredible things. Not for a single day did we lack the 200 grs. ration of white bread. In these days they have also distributed supplementary rations to the workmen. Water is distributed by Palestine Unit volunteers. Since last night electric light has returned to various quarters of the city". (9/10/44 - Florence)

"I am quite sure our dear liberators will try their utmost, with God's help, to make our beloved country enjoy blissful days after so many hardships. They are always going around with smiling faces showing kindness to everyone." (10/10/44 - Rome)

"May God protect the dear Allies. Their final victory will fill everybody with joy". (13/10/44 - Aquila)

"The Allies are helping a great deal in repairing the serious damages caused by the Germans, and in restoring the city to normal living conditions. We must be grateful to them. Without their help we would be in a very sad state indeed". (25/10/44 - Florence)

(b) UNFAVOURABLE

"Tell your brother that the 'gentlemen' of the local Allied Command do not think of anything else but of having a fine time with women, wine and dances. They eat as they please, are drunk day and night, and they don't care a fig about the suffering people all around them". (19/10/44 - Ortona)

"What have the liberators brought us. Misery, famine, prostitution, shame". (7/10/44 - Fiorano)

"I had been eagerly awaiting the moment of our liberation. Now it has come - what a delusion! When I think of all the dangers you encountered, risking your life every moment. Now as a reward they are still keeping you a prisoner of war". (27/10/44 - Popoli, Pescara)

3. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION

Optimism waned throughout the period under review, and the proportion of favourable to unfavourable comments in civilian mail which was 18.2 to 1 during the previous four weeks dropped to 12.1 to 1. Bari and Naples were almost unanimously optimistic, but most other centres were luke warm at best. Military mail was also subdued, and favourable comments dropped

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considerably throughout the period. The cause is not far to seek. The present comparative standstill in Italy has had its consequences. The two following comments sum up the situation:

"The Allied troops are still within a few kilometres of Bologna. They are not succeeding in capturing it. I can tell Bologna is a hard nut to crack. Those damned Germans have no intention of yielding". (28/10/44 - Rome.)

"I am rather afraid that the Allies won't be able to move a step forward during the whole of next winter". (21/10/44 - Aquila)

6. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION

Civilian optimism in the future military situation slumped badly during the four weeks under review, and the proportion of favourable to unfavourable comments was only 16.6 to 1 as compared with 75.3 to 1 during the previous period. However, Bari and Naples did not share in this loss of optimism, there being only three unfavourable comments from the former and none from the latter.

Military optimism also weakened, the proportional figures dropping from 16.7 to 1 during the last period to 4.9 to 1 during the four weeks under review, with Bari and Naples again remaining very hopeful.

Comments do not tell us much other than that some people expect an early end of the war and that others do not. The following comment is typical of most:

"We hope that this mess will soon come to an end for all of us concerned. The Germans are already caught in an iron-bound cage. Presently they will suffer the ignominy of total defeat, and then the world may hope for peace at last". (26/10/44 - Montorsolo, Aquila)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS

Civilian mail showed no change in the outlook on industrial prospects, and the ratio of comments remained at 2.3 to 1 against. Bari took the most gloomy view of the situation. Rome took a happier view than that prevailing last month, and opinion was equally divided. Naples was the most optimistic, and was the only centre to produce a majority of favourable comments.

The only military comments came from Bari and Taranto, and reveal a slight slump in opinion during the period.

Unfavourable comments rest on two main factors: lack of raw materials in the case of factories that are intact, and the absence of machinery in those factories that have been pillaged by the Germans. In other cases, of course, the buildings and machinery have been totally destroyed, as against

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this there are letters describing rebuilding activities and expressing the hope that production will begin in the near future. The following comments illustrate the various aspects of the matter:

"The steel-works, all the machinery of which was removed by the Germans, are about to close down for good. The Dora Montero and the Pagano plants are working on a reduced scale, but most of the employees have been dismissed". (21/10/44 - Terni)

"Lorenzo has been with us at the 'Cellulose', but he cannot start working because the factory is about to close down for good owing to lack of machinery". (21/10/44 - Chieti)

"The work done by Standatill because of the destruction carried out by the Germans. They destroyed and set fire to the Arrigoni, Ferlito, Ascania and S.A.C.A. factories. All the electric furnaces were blown up. The Richard Ginori plants were razed to the ground with diabolic skill". (15/10/44 - Radio Fiorentino)

"Our factory was blown up by the Germans, but we are now rebuilding it. By the end of December it will be ready for work again". (24/10/44 - Sulmona)

"We cannot make you any offer for the time being because we are still working at the rebuilding of our factory. We reckon that by the end of the current year we will be able to resume our production in full". (20/10/44 - Aquila)

"I must inform you that it is impossible for me to turn out that type of product owing to complete lack of foreign raw materials". (23/10/44 - Aquila)

II. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS

There was an increase of about 40% in the letters dealing with agriculture as compared with the previous four weeks, and this was accompanied by a drop in civilian optimism. The ratio was only 1.6 to 1 in favour as against 2.5 to 1 during the preceding period. Bari was the most optimistic centre, and favourable comments were in a majority of over 20 to 1. Naples, which had been optimistic in September by over 2 to 1, swung the other way during October, and unfavourable comments were in a majority of 2.7 to 1.

Military mail, on the other hand, was a little more favourably disposed than during the previous period, Bari being particularly optimistic with only one unfavourable comment out of a total of 99.

There is little in the comments themselves beyond the listing of good crops, and the complaint that grapes had been spoilt in some areas by hail. There is also some mention of the shortage of cattle. The following are typical comments:

"This year's harvest has been really plentiful. Potatoes, beans and corn have been gathered in great abundance. We shall not have to fear starvation



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next winter". (26/10/44 - Castel di Sangro, Aquila)

"Here in the 'Maraico' we have had a very good harvest, lots of potatoes, beans and fruits of all kinds". (26/10/44 - Ortona)

"This year's harvest has been so plentiful that even the oldest people of the village cannot remember having witnessed anything like it before". (17/10/44 - Serate, Aquila)

"We have got well ahead. The wheat harvest was fairly good, about 90 quintals, but much was lost because we threshed on the 1st September. We had 12 quintals of Indian corn. Everything went well except that the grapes were few and not good because we had hail three times and much dimonce". (14/10/44 - Rosara)

"We had a very poor harvest. Our vineyard was almost completely destroyed by hail, so the output was only a quarter of last year's". (14/10/44 - Montepulmo)

"We are still short of cattle owing to high prices, and to the fact that the Agricultural Superintendent of Frosinone and Rieti is asleep. Some local profiteers purchase cattle from our province pretending they are for us, and then resell them to the Neapolitans. And we look on". (16/10/44 - Castellini)

12. Employment

Correspondence on the employment situation increased by over 50% during October as compared with September, and the proportion of unfavourable comments were fairly sharply among civilian letters. The ratio for the period was 10.2 to 1 against, whereas the figures for the previous period were 6.7 to 1. The position in Naples appeared to be particularly bad, for there were only 3 favourable comments out of a total of 1,027. Bari also took a gloomy view.

Military mail was a little less pessimistic than during the previous period, but the figures are based solely on Bari and Taranto, for there were no comments on employment from the other military centres.

For the most part the comments merely give the views that the writers or their relatives are out of work. Others describe the difficulty of finding employment, and some give reasons such as the stoppage of industries and the closing down of other firms. There are a few complaints about doing very heavy work with not enough to eat. The following comments tell their own stories:

"I have been out of work for a year, and you know what a family I have to support. Also our Boys are also out of work". (5/10/44 - Chieti)

"Most young people now are living at the expense of their parents. It is a shame, but it cannot be avoided". (26/10/44 - Perugia)

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"I am in Chieti looking for a job, but women are working in all the offices in Chieti while ex-service men, even those who have degrees, are kept unemployed. Let us hope that measures will be taken". (13/10/44 - Chieti)

"I am sorry that you cannot find a job. Only people backed by strong recommendations can find work nowadays". (13/10/44 - Chieti)

"I am still out of work. The firm I used to work for has promised to engage me again as soon as they resume business, but it will be a long time before that happens. You see what a bright outlook we have. We have been reduced to beggary (10/10/44 - Resina)

"As to an eventual job with one of the local firms, I tell you straight away that it is no use thinking of it. Here firms have not yet resumed their activity, and the demand for work is very intense. The unemployment is terrible". (9/10/44 - Aquila)

"I had to come to Turanto in order to find a job. I am leading a dog's life now, for I am a night labourer at the port where I work 10 hours a day. It is a very hard job but I couldn't find anything else. That gets me down to that, in spite of it all, I can only manage one meal a day, and I have to pay 500 lire a month for a room which I share with other people". (12/10/44 - Taranto)

"I will do my best to find some job for you in Rome, but I am afraid it is going to be difficult, for here also people are desperate for work and do not find it in any quarter". (21/10/44 - Rome)

"Here at Lanciano all the industries have been stopped completely, and it has been impossible to find any temporary work". (10/10/44 - Lanciano).

H. N. ALLAN
Major, IT
Acting Civil Censorship Officer.

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# CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP, PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 194

| PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED) | | FOOD SITUATION | | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| Agulia | 42,325 | 316 | 2974 | 32 | 3220 | 15 | 474 | 41 | 370 |
| Bari (Giv. | 364,836 | 2 | 1293 | 0 | 1325 | 0 | 1143 | 2 | 235 |
| (Mil. | 53,583 | 16 | 439 | 5 | 459 | 7 | 200 | 1 | 39 |
| Chieti | 25,298 | 32 | 395 | 0 | 69 | 0 | 98 | 4 | 83 |
| Florence | 395,055 | 6 | 181 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Foggia (Giv. | 7,430 | 15 | 89 | 2 | 25 | 2 | 30 | 3 | 16 |
| (Mil. | 5,645 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Naples (Giv. | 151,937 | 42 | 2548 | 0 | 3677 | 0 | 2023 | 24 | 370 |
| (Mil. | 33,030 | 260 | 15 | 252 | 10 | 138 | 65 | 0 | 0 |
| Rieti | 30,105 | 5 | 390 | 1 | 23 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 0 |
| Rome (Giv. | 230,265 | 285 | 4587 | 14 | 707 | 15 | 921 | 62 | 603 |
| (Mil. | 35,530 | 62 | 25 | 7 | 24 | 15 | 15 | 2 | 10 |
| Siena | 41,256 | 111 | 324 | 8 | 91 | 19 | 150 | 5 | 38 |
| Taranto (Giv. | 35,637 | 87 | 334 | 44 | 246 | 45 | 266 | 50 | 77 |
| (Mil. | 133,201 | 507 | 715 | 113 | 761 | 69 | 453 | 24 | 75 |
| Terni | 6,679 | 0 | 53 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Civilians | 815,082 | 936 | 12068 | 48 | 5453 | 107 | 4470 | 331 | 1737 |
| Total Military | 243,239 | 966 | 1776 | 34 | 2220 | 287 | [illegible] | 17 | 194 |
| Totals | 1,058,619 | 1902 | 3844 | 82 | 7673 | 394 | 5302 | 348 | 1932 |

This report is based upon 50 letters per [illegible] daily or 6-day weekly basis. The number of censors actually engaged for this four-week period totaled 325 [illegible] 325

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| NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 2 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 220 | 20 | 38 | 3 | 37 | 4 | 38 | 58 | 149 | 342 | 57 | 294 |
| 25 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 578 | 0 | 342 | 12 | 267 | 8 | 26 | 246 | 195 | 9 | 5 | 245 |
| 130 | 39 | 6 | 7 | 319 | 31 | 223 | 17 | 185 | 16 | 42 | 94 | 92 | 1 | 32 | 105 |
| 6 | 10 | 0 | 35 | 35 | 26 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 28 | 6 | 22 | 20 | 53 |
| 0 | 8 | 3 | 32 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 0 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 36 | 42 | 0 | 2 | 1639 | 58 | 296 | 0 | 127 | 0 | 91 | 40 | 26 | 7 | 9 | 1024 |
| 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 132 | 13 | 231 | 119 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 82 | 152 | 24 | 37 | 686 | 69 | 56 | 29 | 34 | 33 | 45 | 49 | 193 | 32 | 43 | 425 |
| 5 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 39 | 25 | 34 | 21 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 46 | 24 | 3 | 17 |
| 58 | 195 | 47 | 103 | 85 | 31 | 23 | 35 | 32 | 20 | 66 | 129 | 153 | 330 | 197 | 53 |
| 74 | 133 | 16 | 93 | 593 | 86 | 290 | 237 | 149 | 58 | 61 | 138 | 366 | 273 | 137 | 1464 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 250 | 421 | 68 | 393 | 2139 | 379 | 692 | 57 | 432 | 25 | 269 | 539 | 703 | 453 | 266 | 2305 |
| 194 | 336 | 28 | 84 | 1035 | 454 | 378 | 370 | 243 | 93 | 73 | 235 | 460 | 179 | 339 | 1269 |
| 431 | 669 | 92 | 277 | 1457 | 339 | 570 | 127 | 330 | 100 | 296 | 754 | 1163 | 639 | 325 | 2352 |

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RADIO TELEVISION NEWSREEL AND DOCUMENTARY COMMENTS ON PERSONAL MOTIVES

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| | FOOD SITUATION | | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | URGENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDEX SCORE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F |
| 7/29/44 CIV | 1 | 13.3 | 1 | 54.1 | 1 | 68.9 | 1 | 8.9 | 1 | 2.3 | 1 | 3.5 | 29.8 | 1 | 33.7 | 1 | 45.7 | 1 | 1 |
| MIL | 1 | 2.2 | 1 | 2.6 | 1 | 2.2 | 1 | .33 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 2 | 5.3 | 1 | 2.7 | 1 | 5.4 | 1 | 1 |
| 12/29/44 CIV | 1 | 12.4 | 1 | 40.5 | 1 | 29.4 | 1 | 8.9 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 9.6 | 14.3 | 1 | 19.3 | 1 | 24.4 | 1 | 1 |
| MIL | 1 | 2.5 | 1 | 5.7 | 1 | 12.3 | 1 | .17 | 1 | .7 | 1 | .23 | 8.9 | 1 | 3.5 | 1 | 6.2 | 1 | 1 |
| 21/10/44 CIV | 1 | 15.9 | 1 | 104.3 | 1 | 95.2 | 1 | 10.2 | 1 | 1.4 | 1 | 2.5 | 6.4 | 1 | 19.3 | 1 | 8.6 | 1 | 1 |
| MIL | 1 | 2.9 | 1 | 2.8 | 1 | 6.4 | 1 | 19.5 | 1.4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 24.4 | 1 | 4.8 | 1 | 6.7 | 1 | 1 |
| 28/10/44 CIV | 1 | 12.2 | 1 | 43.8 | 1 | 52.7 | 1 | 8.1 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 4.5 | 13.2 | 1 | 18.5 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 1 |
| MIL | 1 | 1.4 | 1 | 3.2 | 1 | 2.7 | 1 | 3.9 | 1.3 | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | 6.5 | 1 | 2.2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| AVERAGES FOR BOTTOM ENDING 28/10/44 | 1 | 13.4 | 1 | 54.2 | 1 | 32.9 | 1 | 9.6 | 1 | 1.6 | 1 | 8.4 | 12.5 | 1 | 13.1 | 1 | 16.6 | 1 | 1 |
| ALL | 1 | 2.8 | 1 | 3.5 | 1 | 4.7 | 1 | 10.4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1.8 | 7.6 | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 4.9 | 1 | 1 |

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APPENDIX A

RADIO TABLE DESIGN RATIONALE AND TECHNICAL CONTENT OF INSTRUMENT FILMS

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| CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 2 | 56.3 | 2 | 43.9 | 1 | 8.9 | 1 | 7.1 | 1 | 3.5 | 29.3 | 2 | 31.7 | 1 | 45.7 | 1 | 1 | 5.6 | 2.2 | 1 | 1 | 10.9 |
| 1 | 2.6 | 1 | 2.2 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 1 | 5.3 | 1 | 2.7 | 1 | 3.4 | 1 | 1 | 3.4 | 2.4 | 1 | 1 | 2.2 |
| 1 | 40.6 | 1 | 29.5 | 1 | 8.9 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 3.6 | 13.1 | 1 | 13.1 | 1 | 24.6 | 1 | 1 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1 | 1 | 8.3 |
| 1 | 5.7 | 1 | 10.3 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 21 | 8.9 | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | 6.2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1.4 | 1 | 1 | 3.4 |
| 2 | 44.8 | 1 | 35.2 | 1 | 10.2 | 1 | 1.4 | 1 | 2.5 | 24 | 1 | 13.8 | 1 | 8.6 | 1 | 1 | 3.5 | 1.4 | 1 | 1 | 11.2 |
| 1 | 2.8 | 1 | 6.4 | 1 | 19.5 | 1.4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 14.4 | 1 | 4.8 | 1 | 6.7 | 1 | 1 | 1.8 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1.7 |
| 2 | 43.8 | 1 | 52.7 | 2 | 8.2 | 1 | 3.3 | 3 | 4.5 | 12.8 | 1 | 30.5 | 2 | 20 | 1 | 1 | 3.6 | 1.7 | 1 | 1 | 10.9 |
| 1 | 3.2 | 1 | 2.7 | 1 | 9.9 | 1.3 | 1 | 1.6 | 1 | 6.5 | 1 | 2.2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1 | 1 | 1.2 |
| 2 | 54.2 | 2 | 39.9 | 1 | 9.6 | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | 2.4 | 17.5 | 1 | 12.3 | 1 | 16.6 | 1 | 1 | 2.2 | 2.6 | 1 | 1 | 10.2 |
| 1 | 3.5 | 1 | 4.7 | 1 | 10.4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1.8 | 7.6 | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 4.9 | 1 | 1 | 1.2 | 2.6 | 1 | 1 | 2.1 |

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Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

GWM/mds

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 62 — 21 October 1944

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 30 September 44.

TO : G-2 (Communications Censorship), AFHQ, APO 512.

This report is based on 300,300 letters checked during the four weeks ended 30 September 1944. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favorable and unfavorable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

1. FOOD SITUATION.

Food remains by far the most widely discussed subject in correspondence, and civilian opinion throughout the country is still very critical of the situation. There has, however, been a slight decrease in hostile comments during the four weeks under review, the ratio of unfavorable to favorable comments being 10.4 to 1 as compared with 13.5 to 1 during the previous period. Military opinion showed no change, the ratio of 1.5 to 1 against remaining the same.

Conditions in Bari and Naples seem to be particularly bad. In both centers the unfavorable comments outnumbered those favorable by well over 50 to 1. Rome opinion improved during the period.

Complaints are usually under one of three headings, prices, lack of foodstuffs, and lack of transport. Some letters complain of maldistribution of rationed foods, and there are a certain number which blame the Allies for denying the use of transport to those who could bring food into the various centers. But the most bitter complaints are those against prices.

The following extracts from letters are illustrative of various shades of criticism:-



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"Almost anything can be found here, but the prices are appalling! We must be content with looking at the foodstuffs without being able to buy any. One kilo of bread costs 250 lire, and one kilo of meat 550." (23/9/44 - Taranto)

"Notwithstanding the plentiful crop of potatoes, the population are not given any, and only those who can afford it can buy them on the black market. And this applies not only to potatoes but to foodstuffs generally, the prices of which are continually rising." (15/9/44 - Naples)

"It is not easy living here. Prices have gone up a hundred times, and not less than 200 lire are spent on greens alone. If we should occasionally fancy a little meat or fish, the expenditure rises to 600 - 800 lire." (10/8/44 - Bari)

"As soon as the news of the increase in our wages became known, those rascals of black market dealers increased the price of the foodstuffs they sell. When you left Bari the price of oil was 70 lire per litre. Well, now it is hard to find at 150. During the last two months prices have doubled, so we don't get any benefit from the increase in our wages." (22/8/44 - Bari)

"The greatest difficulty here is due to the fact that this is a poor region which produces little because it is mountainous and sterile. Nothing arrives from the outside, and the prices reach fantastic heights - fats from 600 - 800 lire per kilo, olive oil from 600 - 800 lire per litre, wheat from 5,000 - 12,000 per quintal, and beans are over 100 lire per kilo." (25/9/44 - S. Demetrio, Aquila)

"Here we foresee a terrible and hungry winter. During the month of September only half a litre of wine and 100 grms of olive oil were distributed to us. Enough said." (30/9/44 - Aquila)

"Every now and then Col. Poletti remembers that the Romans have a belly, and authorises the distribution of some grams of dried soup or those tinned vegetables that, so it seems, in America are called meat garnished with vegetables." (17/9/44 - Rome)

"We are carrying on from hand to mouth, and are compelled to face sky high prices which reduce my efforts and Lelle's to a struggle to keep from starving." (11/9/44 - Rome)

"You must not believe all the false rumors which are being spread for evil purposes. No doubt we have many difficulties with which to deal, but the situation is not as serious as they want you to believe. We have to put up with making some sacrifices, but we don't lack what is strictly necessary." (26/9/44 - Rome)

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A soldier writes: "We are well off here. Food is plentiful. You should see how fat I have become now. I have never felt so well before." (23/9/44 - Taranto)

2. CLOTHING.

Although the proportion of adverse comments fell off somewhat during the period under review, public opinion remains overwhelmingly unfavorable. Apart from food, the most discussed subject is clothing, and the adverse ratio for the period was 38.2 to 1 out of about 4,000 comments. Military comments were 3.1 to 1 against.

Bari and Naples feel the clothing situation most acutely. The former center produced 648 adverse comments and not a single one in favor. Naples was almost as emphatic with 619 unfavorable comments to three favorable. The feeling in Rome eased a little during the period, but the ratio of comments is still high at 45 to 1 against. Foggia and Siracusa, with a small number of comments, produced none in favor. The following extracts from letters tell their own stories:-

"The material for a suit of clothes costs 5,000 lire, and on top of that there is the lining and the tailoring." (30/9/44 - Aquila)

"I would like to come to see you, but how can I do so? I cannot go out because I have no shoes. I went to Taranto wearing my cousin's shoes. I work day and night, but I cannot succeed in buying a pair of shoes because I am helping my family." (15/9/44 - Crispiano)

"Giovanna's son, Peppino, has bought a suit of clothes without lining and without having been made up, and paid 5,000 lire for it. Here the prices of things are increasing daily." (15/9/44 - Taranto)

"Here as well as in other cities it is extremely difficult to buy clothing material. A common, ordinary suit of clothes costs 16,000 lire. We cannot afford to buy one." (16/9/44 - Taranto)

"We have suffered a great deal, and now poverty in everything stares us in the face. We are naked and barefooted. Prices of goods are highly exaggerated. We have nothing to wear; nor have we any longer the machines to manufacture clothes." (29/9/44 - Fossa, Aquila)

"In Rieti the Allies are distributing parcels of clothes to the poor, which makes a noticable improvement in the serious problem of clothing. Let us hope that they may also provide clothes that may be bought by the rest of the population." (17/9/44 - Rieti)

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3. HOUSING.

Housing is almost as frequent a topic as clothing, and it also produces a very heavy preponderance of adverse comments. During the four weeks under review there was a slight deterioration in opinion, the proportion of comments being 31.1 to 1 against, as compared with 29 to 1 during the previous period.

The position in Bari and Naples appears to be extremely acute, the two centers producing 694 and 724 unfavorable comments respectively with not a single one in favor in either case. It is interesting to note, on the other hand, that the Naples military mail was favorable to the extent of 8.9 to 1.

The following comments give various sides of the picture:

"It is a good thing you did not come over here because it is very difficult to find any lodgings. Even if you were lucky enough to find a room to share with somebody else, the minimum price you would have to pay would be 500 lire a month." (23/9/44 - Taranto)

"It is impossible to rent a house in Rieti, so I am forced to live in an hotel, and have to put up with great expenses." (16/9/44 - Rieti)

"The rent of a room here is from 1500 to 2000 lire a month." (15/9/44 - Taranto)

"My dear, I am looking for a house in every quarter of Rome, but I cannot find any as the few that remained have been occupied by the evacuees." (30/9/44 - Rome)

"The housing situation in Ortona is very serious because 70% of the houses are uninhabitable. In many cases two or even three families live huddled up together in one single flat." (28/9/44 - Ortona)

4. INCOME.

Wages and salaries, and their inadequacy in the face of the enormous rise in the cost of living, have become an increasing source of irritation. The ratio of adverse comments increased during the four weeks under review, and the figures were 11.7 to 1 against as compared with 8.3 to 1 during the preceeding period. Military mail was so erratic that the figures tell us little except that there were no comments of any kind from either Naples or Rome.

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Bari and Palermo were outstandingly pessimistic with 80% and 16% unfavorable comments respectively, and with not a single favorable comment between them. Taranto was the only place where there was a majority of favorable comments. The extracts illustrate a variety of difficulties:-

"In a municipality called to various workmen, but on hearing that the pay was only 60 lires a day, they only worked for one day." (29/8/44 - Aprilia)

"I am afraid because it was impossible to go to the office. The work was too heavy, and the salary was not sufficient to pay the travelling expenses to Taranto." (16/9/44 - Lateran, Rome)

"The woeful plight of the office-working class is well known. Our monthly wages we earn are not enough to keep us going, and give us no possibility of looking after our wretched health." (29/8/44 - Taranto)

"As I have already told you, our wages have not been increased up till now. So here we are, starving and expecting what. Such treatment is shameful and inhuman." (29/8/44 - Bari)

"Within the last few months the cost of living has risen to astronomical heights. Having sold everything superfluous, that is to say gold and other treasured objects, we must now begin to sell our furniture. One works solely to buy meat, candles, bread and tomatoes. For this type of life, and without ever buying anything else, one needs no less than 25 - 30 thousand lire a month. I only earn a third of that sum." (29/8/44 - Rome)

"It is not a question of increasing salaries because the cost of living so would be a higher cost of living. But may the war end and life regain, even partly, its normality. Salaries have been doubled, but the cost of living has increased from 10 to 15 times as much as it was in pre-war days." (16/9/44 - Rome)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

There has been a steady though slight decline in the popularity of the National Government noticeable in the correspondence during the past two months. During the period before the 20th, the comments were 1.6 to 1 in favor. The following four weeks the comments for and against were equal. During the period under review the unfavorable comments were in a majority of 1.3 to 1. Military comments are a little more favorable than during the previous four weeks.

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Naples and Siracuse were distinctly in favor of the government. Taranto was more than 2 to 1 against it. Rome, which was slightly in favor during the previous period by 1.66 to 1, changed over to an adverse opinion of 1.4 to 1. Comments on political matters are apt to be of an acid or confused nature. The following are some examples:

"Our government has not the means of facing and solving the present situation. Yesterday's cowards and traitors, the same who led the country to ruin, have now become reactionaries in the shape of a criminal monarchy. They speculate on the carelessness of the situation on behalf of the monarchy, which is their accomplice, and of the Italian militarism which has failed. They feign to forget that they are the very men responsible for this situation..." (5/9/44 - Rome)

"Here in Rome everybody is fed up with the government and with those cursed six parties of which the C.L.N. (National Liberation Committee) is composed. In particular the Socialists and Communists are behaving worse and worse, and everybody is getting tired of them. One of their latest exploits has been the outraging of the national flag...." (15/9/44 - Rome)

"Here there is an incredible confusion as the result of the "purging", which seems a mockery because the high political officials, and, above all, the military authorities, being responsible for the disaster, remain undisturbed. It is all a disgusting shame." (18/9/44 - Rome)

"Let us hope that they will fix things soon. We have a very good government, excluding, naturally, the Lieutenant General of the Realm." (20/9/44 - Rome)

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

There has been little change in opinion concerning provincial administration during the period. Apart from the Rome and Taranto areas there were hardly any comments at all, and those two centers, particularly Rome, were less unfavorably disposed than during the preceding period. Military comments, except from Bari and Rome were almost entirely absent, and of the 16 received from Bari, 15 were unfavorable, while Rome's total of 14 were all unfavorable. Generally speaking the comments tell us nothing.

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

After deteriorating steadily for some time, opinion became more favorable towards the Allies during the period under review. The proportion of 8.9 to 1 in favor recorded during the previous period increased to 14.4 to 1.

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On the other hand military comments decreased in favor from 12.7 to 1 last period to 9.5 to 1 during the four weeks here reviewed. The improvement in civil opinion was largely due to the Rome figures, the ratio in favor increasing by nearly 100% during the period. Taranto, on the other hand, was responsible for the falling off in favorable military opinion.

Comments generally tell a story of unbounded relief and gratitude on the part of those more recently liberated, and reveal a tendency to become more critical as time goes on. But in all areas the favorable comments are largely the product of gratitude for benefits received, or of relief at the comparatively benevolent attitude of the Allies. There is also the hope that the Allies will aid Italy after the war, both materially and politically.

Unfavorable comments frequently spring from disappointment at the Allies not having done as much as had been expected of them. Some writers even go as far as admitting that the Allies have done much, and then finish by saying that they have not kept their promises and have fallen short of what was expected. Other adverse remarks are concerned with the behavior of men and officers in the cities, particularly towards women. Correspondents here and there point out that the Germans were more correct in their behavior in this respect. Another cause of complaint is that the freedom they expected has not come to them. The hotels in Rome come in for criticism because of what goes on in them, and there is some grumbling over prices being raised because of the amount of money the Allied troops can spend. The following comments illustrate various trends of thought:-

(A) Favorable.

"Thanks to the victorious Allied Army we are extremely well off here. We enjoy absolute liberty after eight months of unheard of sufferings. Victuals are not lacking." (28/9/44 - Chieti)

A girl writes: "We have travelled with the Poles and the English. They are really good and respectful people." (28/9/44 - Aquila)

"Today I would gladly stay with the Allies, even without food, chiefly because of tranquillity, but also because they are civilized people and act in a kindly way towards everybody." (28/9/44 - Aquila)

"It is certainly true that, now the Allies have arrived, we have begun to breathe again because of their kind treatment and because we have regained our liberty." (30/9/44 - Sulmona)

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"I have travelled over hundreds of kilometers, and in every town and city I have seen how hard the German yoke has been. In contrast you now see serene faces lacking that mask of terror which the German hordes left upon the countenances of our people during their stay here." (23/9/44 - Naples)

"At last we breathe an atmosphere of freedom, and we owe it to the gallant armies of the two most civilized countries of the world - England and America. Their soldiers are always so friendly with us, and people get along with them in a brotherly spirit." (11/9/44 - Rome)

"In the last few days the Allies have distributed double food rations. It is really marvelous what they are doing. To think that they have loaded their shoulders with such a burden as supporting 43 million people." (11/9/44 - Rome)

"Thank God we are being helped by the Allies, and they do it in such a gentlemanly manner. Let us hope they will not abandon us amidst all these widespread ruins." (16/9/44 - Taranto)

(B) Unfavorable.

"What do you think of the newly roomed "freedom"? Are you really enjoying anything like it? Here the population is disappointed, for they had pinned great hopes on the Allies, and they now feel they have been deceived. For instance, the Germans did not have many cars, and yet they never refused to allow us to travel on their trucks whenever we asked them. With the Allies there is nothing doing. They simply won't dream of giving us a lift." (10/9/44 - Termmo)

"Thank and bless God for being away from Rome in such a period of hardship. We still lack many indispensable things, and the Allies, who had promised so much, are just leading us to a slow and happy death." (14/9/44 - Rome)

"When the Allies came my house was plundered once more. At Ceccano French and Moroccan troops raised hell. In my house they smashed up all the furniture, broke the looking-glasses and the window panes. They slashed everything with their sabres." (11/9/44 - Ceccano)

"I was afraid of the Germans. Now I have greater fear of the Moroccans. They are very ugly. Their very appearance inspires fear. You were right when you described them to me as resembling wild beasts." (4/9/44 - Rieti)

"All the hotels and best buildings here in Rome have been requisitioned by the Allies, above all by the Americans who have turned them into clubs and.... where they ask Roman women who are proving to be of an incredible corruptness.

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They requisition cars too, so be careful. So far we are being treated as a beaten country. Although the Allies are doing a lot they have not kept their promises....an American soldier gets 6,000 lire a month, an Italian workman 55 lire a day which is insufficient for one person's food. From this you'll get an idea of what life is like here." (19/9/44 - Rome)

"Life during the nine months of German occupation was relatively quiet, more than they would have made you believe. Anyway, living was cheap, whereas today we live only on the black market, and the Allies' behavior is such that it makes us regret those who have gone. One cannot go about in Rome without hearing oneself addressed with a more or less undesirable compliment by one of them. Besides they do not know how to distinguish between the good and the bad. In short, I never wanted them, and not less than at first." (16/9/44)

5. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION.

Optimism declined during the period. Civilian comments during the previous four weeks were 25.4 to 1 in favor, whereas the figures for the month under review were 18.2 to 1. Military comments showed an even greater decline in optimism, the relative figures being 10.5 to 1 and 4.5 to 1. In only one case, however, were unfavorable comments in the majority, and that was amongst the Rome military mail which produced 37 unfavorable to 18 favorable. The following are a few typical opinions:-

"Our country must remain under the control of the Germans for a short time yet, because the Allies are tightening their grip round Germany still more from all sides, springing offenses from which the Germans cannot escape." (7/9/44 - Taranto)

"The enemy is given no respite, and the Allies are advancing in an admirable way. Their forces and equipment are powerful, and their organization is astonishing. It is sufficient to notice that they have means of assault and transportation everywhere." (30/9/44 - Naples)

"Sometime ago I was hoping that our dear ones in German occupied Italy would soon be free. But things have taken on a very slow rhythm. And meanwhile there will be total destruction there." (20/9/44 - Taranto)

"I was hoping that after the taking of Pisa the Allies would just race to La Spezia and thus liberate Coreglia also. But they are just marking time, and the Lord only knows when they will set free our dear ones." (11/9/44 - Taranto)

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9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION.

Civilian opinion on the future military situation, unlike the loss of optimism on the present situation, surged upwards during the period under review, and the comments were 75.3 to 1 in favor as compared with 23.6 to 1 during the previous four weeks. The figures for military opinion are deceptive. Neither Rome nor Naples produced any comments at all and whereas the previous period produced no adverse comments from any source, the period under review mustered 23 as against 38 favorable. Therefore the ratio figures for the two periods appear to show a tremendous set back in optimism, and this in fact is not the case. The following are typical extracts:-

"Our country will soon be out of German hands. For the Allies are tightening their grip on Germany every day." (16/9/44 - Taranto)

"The Allies have liberated France and Belgium. Now they are freeing Holland and are fighting on German territory. Rumania and Bulgaria have declared war on Germany, and their armed forces, together with Russian and Yugoslav armies, are liberating their countries from the German oppression. The Russians are doing well in East Prussia too. As you can easily understand, Germany may collapse at any moment." (16/9/44 - Taranto)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

Civilian opinion on industrial prospects became steadily more unfavorable each week throughout the period, though the extent of the movement was slight. The total effect was that the ratio of unfavorable to favorable comments increased from 1.4 to 1 during the previous period to 2.3 to 1 during the four weeks under review. Military opinion showed no change, and, as during the previous period, neither Rome nor Naples produced any military comment.

Bari and Syracuse were the most pessimistic of the centers. Chieti and Naples, on the other hand, produced a majority of favorable comments. The two following comments from Rieti given the picture of the prospects of a town whose industries the Germans evidently set out to destroy.:-

"Work is lacking because all the plants have been damaged by the Germans, who also took all the machinery away. Our factories are doomed to a standstill for a long time to come. In fact I don't see how they can be set to work again." (15/9/44 - Rieti)

"The war at Rieti did not cause damage to the buildings. But the industries, which absorbed so much labor before the war, are all inactive today due to the damage caused by the Germans, and there is little hope of their going back to their former activity." (6/9/44 - Rieti)

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II. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

There has been little change in civilian outlook on agricultural prospects during the period, though the optimism of Military Mail has decreased by half as compared with the previous four weeks.

Asti was particularly optimistic, comments being 15 to 1 in favor. Rieti and Siracusa also took a happy view. Indeed there were no centers in which unfavorable comments were in a majority. The following extracts from letters give the results of various crops:-

"The season here has been excellent. We have plenty of wheat, beans, potatoes, flour, corn etc." (4/9/44 - Rieti)

"The wheat harvest has been very good. The grapes, although having suffered from disease, will be sufficient for us. They are a little late in maturing." (15/9/44 - Rieti)

"As to the harvest the outlook is very good. The vineyards look better than last year. The wheat harvest has been abundant for us. The beans are plentiful. In short it is sufficient to say that, rather than a shortage of products of all kinds, we shall have more than we need." (23/9/44 - Fratola Poligna, Aquila)

"We have had an abundant harvest of corn, and also other products." (27/9/44 - Torninparte, Aquila)

"Thank God the Germans did not take away any cattle with them, so we have quite a good number of oxen and calves." (30/9/44 - Tuzo, Aquila)

"Most of the laborers have resumed their activity, and the peasants are restoring the war-damaged country. The inhabitants are rapidly returning home both to Leghorn and Pisa." (14/9/44 - Leghorn)

"Regarding the land we have had a good wheat crop, about 13 quintals, and 10 of corn, although for the latter, owing to the war, we have not been able to hoe the ground. We have also finished vintaging a short time before normal because the grapes have suffered owing to the lack of copper sulphate, and we could not buy it at 500 lire the kilo." (28/9/44 - Frosinone)

"The almonds have been harvested, mit with very poor results. Now we have started vintaging. The quantity and quality of the grapes are not exceptionally good, but just a fair average. Let us hope that the prices won't go down for we have to pay very high wages to the laborers." (23/9/44 - Taranto)

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12. EMPLOYMENT.

Civilian mail took a slightly more gloomy view of employment during the period, the proportion of unfavourable to favourable comments being 2.7 to 1 as against 3.8 to 1 during the previous four weeks. On the other hand Military mail became more optimistic.

Naples and Rome took a particularly pessimistic view. Comments from the former city were in the proportion of 21.5 to 1 against, while the capital's figures were 12.2 to 1. In both cases these figures represent a marked worsening of opinion since the previous period. Sicanese also registered extreme pessimism, its total of 33 comments being all unfavourable. Taranto, as in the previous period, was the only center in which favorable comments were in the majority.

Closed factories and the reduction of office staffs have contributed to unemployment. Professional men are also finding that there is nothing for them to do. The following comments give variations of a similar story:-

"Here everyone is unemployed because the factory is closed, and I want to beg you, if possible, to help my sons, Peppino of 18 years and Gigetto of 17 years, to get work in Naples." (10/9/44 - Rieti)

"At Rieti there is much unemployment. All my brother accountants are out of work. It is a true misfortune." (14/9/44 - Rieti)

"What can a woman do with a law degree? Not even men with such degree can find work, and there are thousands of temporary employees with degrees who have been dismissed and cannot find anything to do." (13/9/44 - Rome)

"Unemployment is raging in Rome, and many office workers are selling personal belongings and even furniture to avoid starvation." (18/9/44 - Rome)

"In the line of unemployment the situation in Rome is hopeless. The closing down for good of innumerable offices has caused 200,000 people to be out of work. How can anyone hope to find a job in such a chaos?" (11/9/44 - Rome)

"Thousands of unemployed workmen have no other way of making a living than by going in for black market activities." (16/9/44 - Terni)

"Life is blooming again here. There is plenty of work, especially in my line; and when work is obtainable, one has nothing to worry about." (20/9/44 - Taranto)

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GORDON W. McKEAN,
Lt.Col., Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

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CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP, PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 3/9 - 30/9 1944

| PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED) | | FOOD SITUATION | | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| Aquila | 38,180 | 106 | 850 | 18 | 445 | 24 | 190 | 7 | 67 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 72 | 2 |
| Bari (Civ. | 116,100 | 17 | 927 | 0 | 649 | 0 | 694 | 0 | 209 | 23 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 367 | 6 |
| (Mil. | 67,356 | 13 | 458 | 6 | 240 | 12 | 181 | 3 | 85 | 102 | 8 | 3 | 15 | 299 | 20 |
| Chieti | 32,685 | 43 | 146 | 11 | 67 | 8 | 71 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 7 |
| Foggia | 25,607 | 0 | 57 | 0 | 30 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| Naples (Civ. | 184,118 | 31 | 1745 | 3 | 619 | 0 | 724 | 5 | 274 | 38 | 15 | 2 | 0 | 339 | 26 |
| (Mil. | 12,410 | 254 | 11 | 130 | 8 | 133 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 132 | 3 |
| Palermo | 156,469 | 3 | 100 | 5 | 130 | 2 | 53 | 0 | 145 | 0 | 35 | 1 | 0 | 66 | 0 |
| Rieti | 11,399 | 20 | 235 | 3 | 25 | 2 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 36 | 7 |
| Rome (Civ. | 303,363 | 673 | 6324 | 20 | 808 | 22 | 459 | 45 | 836 | 199 | 283 | 36 | 97 | 2081 | 83 |
| (Mil. | 26,812 | 38 | 44 | 8 | 29 | 3 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 6 | 0 | 14 | 19 | 13 |
| Siracusa | 14,674 | 6 | 177 | 0 | 53 | 0 | 36 | 16 | 27 | 48 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 0 |
| Taranto (Civ. | 35,216 | 156 | 200 | 20 | 154 | 23 | 143 | 53 | 30 | 57 | 122 | 41 | 54 | 99 | 12 |
| (A.M. | 115,919 | 636 | 484 | 65 | 368 | 19 | 73 | 4 | 11 | 27 | 24 | 1 | 2 | 453 | 69 |
| Total Civilians | 917,811 | 1060 | 10929 | 80 | 3060 | 77 | 2397 | 128 | 1493 | 368 | 474 | 84 | 357 | 2129 | 147 |
| Total Military. | 222,497 | 941 | 997 | 209 | 645 | 167 | 290 | 7 | 96 | 148 | 51 | 4 | 31 | 693 | 95 |
| Totals. | 1,140,308 | 2001 | 11926 | 289 | 3705 | 244 | 2678 | 135 | 1595 | 494 | 525 | 88 | 388 | 3012 | 242 |

This report is based upon 50 letters per censor being checked daily on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed each week averaged 250, making a total of 300,300 letters examined for this four-week tally.

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ORT 2/9 - 2/9 194 4

| CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 18 | 445 | 24 | 190 | 7 | 47 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 72 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 10 | 32 | 52 | 20 | 12 | 69 |
| 0 | 649 | 0 | 694 | 0 | 209 | 23 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 367 | 4 | 336 | 0 | 503 | 0 | 10 | 302 | 294 | 9 | 13 | 75 |
| 6 | 240 | 12 | 131 | 3 | 8 | 102 | 8 | 3 | 15 | 299 | 10 | 350 | 25 | 329 | 15 | 35 | 52 | 28 | 25 | 12 | 44 |
| 11 | 67 | 8 | 71 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 34 | 6 | 38 | 6 | 10 | 34 |
| 0 | 30 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 13 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 619 | 0 | 724 | 6 | 234 | 39 | 15 | 2 | 0 | 339 | 26 | 327 | 2 | 330 | 0 | 42 | 31 | 93 | 60 | 30 | 329 |
| 130 | 8 | 133 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 112 | 3 | 394 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | 130 | 2 | 53 | 0 | 145 | 0 | 25 | 1 | 0 | 66 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 25 | 2 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 36 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 17 |
| 20 | 838 | 22 | 459 | 45 | 834 | 199 | 283 | 36 | 97 | 1081 | 83 | 106 | 13 | 92 | 7 | 61 | 111 | 94 | 50 | 56 | 605 |
| 8 | 29 | 3 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 6 | 0 | 14 | 19 | 13 | 28 | 97 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 53 | 0 | 36 | 18 | 47 | 48 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 0 | 94 | 8 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 69 | 11 | 0 | 68 |
| 20 | 154 | 23 | 143 | 53 | 36 | 57 | 122 | 41 | 54 | 93 | 12 | 60 | 27 | 2 | 2 | 45 | 57 | 159 | 105 | 36 | 76 |
| 65 | 368 | 19 | 79 | 4 | 11 | 27 | 24 | 1 | 2 | 453 | 69 | 276 | 106 | 55 | 8 | 26 | 84 | 293 | 98 | 11 | 26 |
| 80 | 3060 | 77 | 2337 | 128 | 1433 | 368 | 474 | 84 | 157 | 2129 | 147 | 802 | 44 | 753 | 10 | 190 | 432 | 697 | 254 | 282 | 1348 |
| 209 | 645 | 167 | 290 | 7 | 96 | 148 | 51 | 4 | 31 | 893 | 95 | 846 | 188 | 384 | 23 | 41 | 96 | 261 | 124 | 22 | 70 |
| 269 | 3705 | 244 | 2678 | 135 | 1595 | 494 | 525 | 88 | 288 | 3012 | 242 | 1648 | 232 | 1137 | 33 | 231 | 618 | 890 | 378 | 222 | 1418 |

being checked daily as a 6-day week averaged 250, making a tally.

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REPORT NO. 52

DATE [illegible]

[illegible] RATINGS FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE TRENDS AT PERTINENT POINTS

CONFIDENTIAL

| | | MILITARY SITUATION | | ECONOMIC | | MORALE | | [illegible] | | [illegible] | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | [illegible] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| [illegible] ENDING | | F | | F | | F | | F | | F | | F | | F | | F | | | |
| 9/9/44 | CIV | 1 | 0.8 | 1 | 14.9 | 1 | 20.9 | 1 | 12.3 | 1 | | 1 | | 13.3 | 1 | 39.7 | 1 | 43.2 | 1 |
| | MIL | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | | 1 | 1.7 | 0 | 6 | 1 | | 0 | 0 | 20.5 | 1 | 9.2 | 1 | 275 | 0 |
| 26/8/44 | CIV | 1 | | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 13.4 | 1 | 17.9 | 1 | 97 | 1 |
| | MIL | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 10.8 | 1 | 3.5 | 1 | 45 | 1 |
| 19/8/44 | CIV | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 15.3 | 1 | 11.9 | 1 | | 0 |
| | MIL | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 11.2 | 0 | 16 | | | 1 | | 6.6 | 1 | 3.3 | 1 | 6.2 | 1 |
| 12/8/44 | CIV | 1 | 12.0 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 4 | 7.7 | 1 | 5.3 | 1 |
| | MIL | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 7.7 | 1 | 5.3 | 1 | | 1 |
| 5/8/44 | CIV | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 14.4 | 1 | 10.2 | 1 | | 1 |
| | MIL | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 9.3 | 1 | 4.5 | 1 | | 1 |

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ANNEX A

[illegible] Points between Favorable and Unfavorable Conditions on Pertinent Points

CTIAL

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| ELECTIONS | RUSSIAN | ECONOMIC | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | INDUSTRIAL PLANT | AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION | LABOR UNREST |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F U | F U | F U | F U | F U | F U | F U | F U | F U | F U | F U |
| 1 14.9 | 1 20.9 | 1 12.3 | 1 7.4 | 1 5.0 | 13.3 1 | 39.7 1 | 43.2 1 | 1 3.2 | 3.6 1 | 1 5.1 |
| 1 1.3 | 1 1.7 | 0 6.1 | 1 1.1 | 0 0 | 28.5 1 | 9.2 1 | 175 2 | 1 2.3 | 1 1 | 1 14 |
| 1 26.3 | 1 29.7 | 1 12.2 | 1 1.4 | 1 1.3 | 13.4 1 | 17.9 1 | 97.5 1 | 1 2.7 | 2.6 1 | 0 9.3 |
| 1 1.2 | 1 1.3 | 1 2 | 1 1.1 | 1 .7 | 10.8 1 | 3.5 1 | 45 1 | 1 3.1 | 1.4 1 | 2 1 |
| 1 14.9 | 1 20.6 | 1 32 | 1 1.4 | 1 1.3 | 25.3 1 | 11.9 1 | 140 0 | 1 1.6 | 2.3 1 | 1 .56 |
| 1 1.0 | 1 11.2 | 0 15 | 2 1.2 | 1 .8 | 6.6 1 | 3.1 1 | 6.2 1 | 1 2.6 | 2.1 1 | 1 1.7 |
| 1 10.3 | 1 28.3 | 1 11.2 | 1 .4 | 1.7 1 | 1 4 | 7.7 1 | 5.3 1 | 2.3 1 | 1 1 | 1 .6 |
| 1 2 | 1 2.6 | 1 2.2 | 1.7 1 | 1 .6 | 7.7 1 | 5.1 1 | 9.3 1 | 1 1.9 | 1.6 1 | 1 1.6 |
| 1 33.2 | 1 31.2 | 1 11.7 | 1 1 | 1 1.3 | 14.4 1 | 10.2 1 | 75.3 1 | 1 2.2 | 2.1 1 | 1 1.7 |
| 2 .1 | 1 1.1 | 1 1.7 | .3 1 | 1 7.7 | 3.3 1 | 4.5 1 | 20.7 1 | 1 .3 | 2.1 1 | 1 .56 |

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Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

GWE/mdf

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 55 29 September 1944

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 2nd September 1944.

TO : G-2 (Communications Censorship), AFHQ, APO 512.

This report is based on 327,600 letters checked during the four weeks ended 2nd September 1944. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favorable and unfavorable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

1. FOOD SITUATION.

Food continues to be the most widely discussed subject. During the four weeks under review the position appears to have deteriorated, for the ratio of unfavorable comments among civilian letters has risen from 4.6 to 1 in the previous period to 13.3 to 1 during the current four weeks. Military mail, on the other hand, reveals increased satisfaction, and adverse comments are only 30% more than those in favor. As usual Naples was heavily in favor and Bari was markedly unfavorable.

From the civilian point of view Bari was extremely pessimistic, the ratio of the comments being more than 100 to 1 against. The position in Rome has deteriorated badly. During the previous period the comments were 5.6 to 1 against, but the ratio has risen to 14.9 to 1 during the period under review. In the great majority of cases the complaints hinge on the prices of food stuffs. The following comments are typical:-

"Every day the situation is getting worse. Prices have doubled. A quintal of wheat costs 15,000 lire. How can people afford this? We do our best to carry on, but an income of 10,000 lire a month would hardly be enough to keep us going". (6/8/44 - Frosinone)

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We are starving. We have no milk, no sugar, no oil, no fats. We live on greens and tomatoes, but they are awfully expensive too, the price ranging from 20 to 25 lire a kilo. Potatoes cost 45 lire a kilo, and fresh fruits are even more expensive. This morning sweet-peppers were being sold at 35 lire a kilo". (2/9/44 - Rome)

"Not having succeeded in transferring us to northern Italy, the Nazi-Fascist rascals thought of making us starve by giving us only 100 grams of lousy bread made of lupin seeds and sawdust. Everything else we had to buy on the black market at incredible prices: bread 160 lire a kilo, flour 240 lire, cheese 500 lire, potatoes 25 lire, sugar 400 lire, and oil 2400 lire a two-litre flask". (29/8/44 - Rome)

"Soon after the Allied occupation prices went sky-high. Sugar costs 150 to 200 lire a kilo, meat 220 lire, eggs 15 or 20 lire each, a chicken 300 lire each. We haven't seen salt or matches for months". (11/8/44 - Campobasso)

"When I arrive I will tell you all about what we have been through and what we are still suffering. It is sufficient to say that we only eat one piece of bread every 24 hours. But my real worry is on account of the girls who go fasting to school in the morning, and when they return they do not have what they would like". (1/9/44 - Rome)

"....So many people have had to sell everything, and one of my friends who lives in Via Emanuele Filiberto has had to sell everything, furniture, clothes, and last week her father had his gold teeth taken out and sold them too". (8/8/44 - Rome)

From Taranto, where the position is more favorable, there are letters with passages such as the following:-

"It is not so bad now because they give us 440 grams of bread, and we also get tinned meat of all kinds". (27/8/44 - Taranto)

"Our living conditions are much better now, for we are given flour, pastry, dried vegetables etc.. Thank God plenty of food is obtainable". (30/8/44 - Taranto)

2. CLOTHING.

Civilian mail is extremely pessimistic about clothing. Since the previous period the adverse comments have increased from 12.1 to 1 to 47.8 to 1. The chief cause of complaint is that of prices, though the absence of shoes is also the subject of many letters. There were no favorable comments at all from Bari and Foggia. In Rome, where unfavorable comments outnumbered those favorable by 12 to 1 during the previous four weeks, the ration for the period under review had risen to 55 to 1. Military mail showed an opposite movement of opinion, and the adverse figure of 5.6 to 1 compares with 9.1 to 1 during the previous period. Nearly all comments, such as the following, refer to prices:

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"It is impossible to buy anything. A tailor in Bari asked Albert 55,000 lire for a suit. Albert's brother, who got married last week, paid 18,000 lire for a suit made of such bad material that he wanted to denounce the merchant who sold it to him". (31/8/44 - Bari)

"People must keep indoors because they have no shoes and no dresses. The minimum price of cotton dress-material is 700 lire a yard. I am trying to carry on with that old frock you gave me". (26/8/44 - Taranto)

"The question of clothing is a real problem, and it cannot be ignored, for shoes at least must be repaired frequently or renewed. They are sold at enormous prices". (19/8/44 - Crispiano)

"I bought a ready made working suit made of very poor material for 800 lire, but I can only wear it a few hours a day for if I soiled it, and had to wash it, it would come to pieces". (29/8/44 - Taranto)

"The clothes once sold by Serepont at 3,000 lire are now sold at 12,000 to 15,000 lire, and sometimes at 18,000". (17/8/44 - Manziano)

3. HOUSING.

Housing also is becoming a more acute problem according to civilian mail, and there has been a large increase in the proportion of unfavorable comments during the period under review, the ratio being 33 to 1 against as compared with 19.1 to 1 during the preceding period. Every center without exception is most pessimistic; and in Bari there was not a single favorable comment. The chief causes of complaint are requisitioning by the Allies and the high rents. Another evil has grown up in the case of apartments with controlled rents, for landlords have tried to get over this by refusing to let unless the prospective tenant buys the furniture, and of course an exorbitant price is placed on the latter. The following comments give various aspects of the problem:-

"However far your imagination may go, you will never succeed in realising what a tragedy life is here in every way. Try to find a room in a boarding house! It would mean an expenditure of at least 10-12,000 lire a month for two people. I am now earning 2,000 lire a month, but having board and lodging I feel quite well off. Linda has been hunting for a room for the last six months, and she is still hunting for one". (29/8/44 - Rome)

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licenses are to be found but at very high prices. If one finds some place with a modest rent it is because it is controlled, and the landlord wants one to buy the furniture in it, and usually prices that always go from 100,000 lire upwards". (13/8/44 - Rome)

"The scarcity of lodgings here is also a cause of hardship, more than hunger. This is not due to a lack of lodgings, but to the fact that the American soldiers have invaded all the furnished rooms". (25/8/44 - Rome)

"I am looking for a house in Bari as I would like to settle down with my family there. But, believe me, it's impossible. Just think that the rent of a tiny three roomed flat is 2,500 lire a month". (11/8/44 - Bari)

"House re-conditioning crept on us like a barrage. All families had their houses occupied in some way, either by Americans, English or others. And requisitioning still goes on". (25/8/44 - Bari)

4. MORALE.

Civilian morale shows a less unfavorable opinion towards wages and salaries than during the previous period, but military morale is more pessimistic than ever, and the ratio of comments was 9:1 to 1 against. The comments from Taranto are interesting in that it is the only center in which civilian comments had a favorable majority. There were no military comments at all. The worst conditions appear to be in Bari, Foggia and Palermo. The chief trouble is that prices keep going up while wages and salaries remain much the same. The following are a selection from the comments:

"Are the wages you earn sufficient to keep you going? Not as it is absolutely impossible. We have had to borrow 15,000 lire from the Insurance Company as an advance on the 80,000 which come to maturity in the current year". (23/8/44 - Grottaglie)

"I tell you that notwithstanding Alexander's monthly wages amounting to more than 8,000 lire, my own wages of 2,000 lire, plus an extra allowance of 4,000 lire, we have not got a cent left over. Life is very bad for everybody. If we were to buy a pair of shoes for each of us, it would cost us 6,000 lire". (29/8/44 - Taranto)

"Life is awfully expensive here and we are at a loss how to carry on. Every month office workers have to sell some personal belongings in order to add something to the scanty wages they earn". (22/8/44 - Siracusa)

"We are struggling on. Our meagre wages are always kept down to the same level, while prices are rising daily. We have to make enormous sacrifices in order to manage a one course meal a day". (11/8/44 - Bari)

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...the State gives me a pension of 45 lire a day and the freedom of choice between throwing myself into the fiber or slowly dying of starvation". (SC/8/44 - Rome)

"Life has become a regular torment. In order not to die of hunger I see that about 3,000 lire are spent monthly, whereas the salary is about 1,000 lire. It is all very discouraging and depressing, but we must be optimists and not lose our faith in the future". (SC/8/44 - Rome)

"Angelo earns 2,000 lire a month, but what is the good of this when one needs at least 3,000 lire to get along on a modest scale. You can have no idea of the cost of life in Rome. Everything can be found, but only in the black market; and at what prices!" (S/8/44 - Rome)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Both civilian and military mail view the National Government as having dropped in favor. Civilian comment in more equally divided during the period, whereas the previous four weeks produced a ratio of 1.6 to 1 in favor. Military comments were generally more unfavorable than otherwise except from Naval where the proportion was about 10 to 1 in favor. Here the ratio in Appendix A is somewhat misleading, for the favorable figure is due entirely to Naval.

Among civilian letters we find that Naval, Naples and Sicilian were well in favor, while Rome slightly in favor. Bari and Palermo were decided by adverse. The comments themselves do not bell the very much, except that the unfavorable ones are due either to fact, to the continued presence of Fascists in government posts, or to a feeling that the administration is incompetent and muddled. The following extracts are examples:-

"They are a lot of hypocrites and liars. Instead of working for the welfare and the reconstruction of the country, they do nothing but talk and make fools of themselves. Under the Fascist regime thieves ruled us, but now there are even more rogues about". (SB/8/44 - Civitavec)

"I would like to tell you more, but I am afraid of writing because in Italy no one is allowed to express his opinion freely. And this happened not only under the dictatorial Fascist regime, but it still goes on under the present 'free government'". (S/8/44 - Letters)

"When you come back you will find that many things have changed. They have gone away with Fascism only to let Bolshevism in. Italy will soon be a Bolshevistic country". (SC/8/44 - Sard)

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"All those who had been ringleaders of fascism have remained in the ministry. The innocent are punished. It is shameful and cowardly the way they go on. Let us hope that one day the wheel will turn for them also. I wish, my dear, that the war would finish quickly so that I could escape from this city full of infamous people and traitors". (30/8/44 - Rome)

"There are silly decrees that ruin everything. The further we go on and the more difficult they make everything for us, the more bitter existence becomes for us in every respect. I would be happy if some scandal arose because the people can not go on any longer, so that these chiefs would have to think of adjusting matters a little instead of indulging in so much vain gossip. They talk only about parties and the purge, (and how many there are wrong, them who ought to be purged) why the devil is he there. However they all continue to laugh at our troubles while many are dying miserably. Now do not say that I am making up a tragedy out of I have exaggerated. There is an unbearable atmosphere here, and I fear that at some time or another a last straw will break the Camel's back". (30/8/44 - Rome)

"Now installed at the War Ministry are all those who came from Salerno where they enjoyed all the compensation, while the dangers and the terrible lack were our lot. However, to those of us of a certain age nothing is surprising. There remains only the bitterness of seeing Italy in the hands of people who do not know how to command". (31/8/44 - Rome)

4. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

Opinion concerning provincial administration took a decided turn for the worse during the four weeks under review. During the previous period the comments were 5 to 1 in favor which was an improvement; but confidence has slumped, and the figures for the period under review are 7.2 to 1 against.

Palermo was the most decided in its views, there being no favorable comments at all from that center as against 317 unfavorables. Rome was also heavily unfavorable. Bari was the only center with a majority of favorable comments. There were very few military comments, but they were nearly all unfavorable.

"The High Commissioner was right. Let us hope that the newly appointed one won't be such an idiot as his predecessor was". (7/8/44 - Catania)

"Since the Italian Provincial Administration has been established here, things don't run smoothly any longer. The Italians are incapable of ruling, and they can't get the farmers to bring the wheat to the dumps". (7/8/44 - Palermo)



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The following favorable comment seems to show that strictness is not a cause for objection when benefits are likely to result:-

"In Europe the authorities have never been so strict before. At the mill no one is allowed to grind any grain except the quantity legally permitted. This is done in order to avoid cornering, and it is the only system that may lead to an increase in food rations for everybody". (7/6/44 - Interna)

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

Both civilian and military mail acknowledged the comment from of opinion noticed during the previous period. However, both Palermo and Syracuse produced not a single unfavorable opinion, and Bari only one as against ten in favor. Rome and Taranto were the least favorably disposed centers, both as regards civilian and military mail. Favorable comments are actuated by relief at being freed from Fascism and the Germans, by a feeling that justice will be done, and by gratitude for benefits received. Unfavorable comments are often due to bitterness over Italy's unhappy lot, a feeling which includes a tendency to place the blame on the Allies for not looking after Italy better in the past. There is also resentment at what is considered to be contemptuous treatment at the hands of the Allies, and also the inevitable criticism over behaviour towards Italian women. The following comments illustrate some of the various favorable and unfavorable viewpoints:-

"At last we are enjoying the freedom brought to us by the magnificent Allied troops, troops of the most civilized peoples in the world, that is the English and the Americans. We owe this freedom to the brave and generous Anglo-American forces who live as and who fraternize with the people". (2/7/44 - Rome)

"After so many years true justice is triumphing in Italy. This is the work of our liberators who will now release you too. A few days ago I went to the Palace of Justice and was present at 7 various cases. I was struck by so many things - less bureaucracy. The judge is an Allied officer, as is also the Public Prosecutor. Then there are some Italian interpreters, very young men and girls of a wholesome mind, not contaminated by fascism. So the accused finds himself faced not so much by a judge as by a father with understanding and keen justice". (5/6/44 - Rome)

"The Allies ought to do away with the contemptuous attitude they show towards the Italians on every occasion. It is not by insulting us that they can relieve our sufferings. We are starving and we need food, that's true, but we want to be enabled to work for our living, and not to be left to live on alms thrown at us like crumbs from the rich man's table to the starving beggar". (2/7/44 - Rome)

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"Let us hope that peace be finally reached, and that the so called Allies will not give Italy such unfair treatment as they did at Versailles". (18/8/44 - Brindisi)

"I hear that you have sold the calf as you feared the French troops might seize it. I am rather worried on account of these things. Don't ever go about alone, and don't carry money on you, because it might be taken from you. Be careful, as these people are very treacherous, especially the Moroccans". (17/8/44 - Taranto)

"Casati is all out with lots of well meant purposes and designs, but his action is hampered by the difficulty of making the Allies understand our wants. It is difficult to get along with people who have an entirely different way of thinking and feeling than we have". (13/8/44 - Rome)

8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION.

Civilian mail took a more favorable view of the present military situation during the period under review, the proportion of favorable to unfavorable comments being 25.4 to 1 as compared with 15.7 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Military mail showed little change, except that Rome produced more unfavorable comments than favorable, being the only center to do so. Unfavorable comments are usually due to weariness.

"The end of the war is at last looming up, and the final defeat of the Germans is nearing. All the world is longing for freedom and peace". (18/8/44 - Francavilla Fontana)

"It is not necessary to comment on present developments of the war as you can easily follow them. One thing is certain, the war will end soon with the victory of the Allies". (23/8/44 - Taranto)

"The war seemed to be nearing its end, but it is still going on endlessly. As if ruins, destructions and sorrows were not enough. Let us still hope for the best, though we have even got tired of hoping". (2/9/44 - Taranto)

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION.

Civilian mail showed less optimism than it did during the preceding four weeks, the ratio in favor dropping from 40 to 1 to 23.6 to 1. With the exception of Bari military mail produced no comments at all, and Bari's figures were 353 favorable to nil unfavorable.

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"The future development looks very promising. The continuous Nazi defeats, and the dark and troublesome internal situation in Germany may mean only one thing, a rapid and more speedy victorious solution to this enormous conflict". (14/8/44 - Bari)

"The future looks very good from the military standpoint. The conditions in Germany are gradually becoming more disastrous, caught in a steel trap from all sides, bombed daily, with its industries destroyed or reduced to uselessness. We all believe that the day of complete and absolute victory for the United Nations is near at hand. Justice and liberty are soon to win over oppression and barbarity. Victory is appearing luminous and real on the horizon of oppressed and weary Europe". (21/8/44 - Bari)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

Civilian mail views the industrial prospects of the country less hopefully than it did during the previous period when the ratio of comments was 1.3 to 1 in favor. The figure for the period under review is 1.4 to 1 against. Bari and Siracuse were the most pessimistic. Naples appeared to be very optimistic on the few comments made, and Palermo and Tarento also showed favorable figures. Rome was considerably less pessimistic than during the preceeding period. The following comments give various aspects of the problem as seen by the writers:-

"For the moment it is impossible to make use of one's own initiative in Rome, considering that even large firms, ours included, strain themselves to start new work, partly because of the purposefully indifferent attitude of the Allies, partly because of the Anti-Fascist struggle which involves everyone in suspicion, and partly because of shortage of building material and transport". (2/9/44 - Rome)

"The future? I don't know. We can indulge in a lot of wishful thinking but we cannot predict the future. We are desperate and downhearted. Industries have been destroyed, the factories and works completely denuded of machinery which the Germans carried away, and the power station is flattened. (We have 16 hours of current every 4 days, and it will go on like this for months and months.) Perhaps within a fortnight we will have three hours of gas a day. There is still no sign of an economic recovery, and the difficulties of getting even a little work are truly tremendous". (1/9/44 - Rome)

"As regards marketing activities I am of the opinion that the situation will grow worse and worse because of the shortage of transport. Even if the use of sailing boats and of motor vessels were allowed, the situation would not improve much". (15/8/44 - Taranto)

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11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

Hopes in the agricultural position have shrunk somewhat during the period. Whereas the comments were 4.4 to 1 in favor during the preceeding four weeks, the figure has shrunk to 2.7 to 1. Military mail, on the other hand, was more hopeful. Naples and Palermo areas showed the greatest optimism, and Bari was also very hopeful, particularly in the military mail. No center produced a majority of unfavorable comments.

"This year wheat is really beautiful, and the crop will yield twice as much as last year. Maize is also abundant, and so are beans". (5/8/44 - Mortello Avellino)

"Here we have everything, though the prices are very high. There is plenty of oil, and as regards the wheat crop, what could be produced at Ginosa should be enough for the whole of Italy. If one bushel of grain is sown here, 25 or 30 bushels are sure to be reaped". (19/8/44 - Ginosa)

A writer describing the country round Rome, and stressing the abundance of the products cultivated there, goes on:-

"Vineyards are loaded with grapes, and pears and peaches are also good". (15/8/44 - Rome)

"At Campo degli Uccelli we are threshing the grain, but the harvest has been very poor. There is no crop of beans or of lentils either". (8/8/44 - Campobasso)

12. EMPLOYMENT.

Compared with the previous period, the letters during the four weeks under review took a slightly less gloomy view of the problem of employment; and yet it was dark enough, only one person in six seeming to be at all satisfied. Palermo was particularly pessimistic, and produced not a single favorable comment. Rome opinion deteriorated, and the adverse figure rose from approximately 6 to 1 in the last period to 8.5 to 1 in the present period. Taranto was the only center where favorable comments were in the majority, the ratio being 1.5 to 1 in favor. The following comments tell various stories:-

"There is no hope of resuming our posts, and we won't be given our back wages either. That's the reward we get for having refused to follow Mussolini's government to Northern Italy. For me things are just as bad as they were before. Opportunists seize every chance to get on, and silly idealists are left behind". (10/8/44 - Naples)

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"The class of office clerks and employees is the one that suffers most. They are actually dying of starvation, and nobody worries about their condition". (31/8/44 - Bari)

"From a financial point of view the war has greatly affected real estate owners and people earning fixed wages, whereas countrymen and speculators of all kinds have benefitted from it. Laborers make plenty of money. To these people war-time is the ideal business time. We must wait and see. Something is bound to happen". (26/8/44 - Taranto)

"Unemployment is ripe, and it is difficult to arrest its growth. Even professional men have been out of work since June 1943. Clerks find it impossible to meet the costs of living". (15/8/44 - Rome)

"We absolutely cannot carry on in this way anymore. I do nothing else but go round Rome from morning till night, and all this mortifies and demoralizes me because I would like to settle into any sort of work, but it is impossible because there is a state of unemployment that has never been known before". (12/8/44 - Rome)

"I am doing everything I can to find some work, but in this respect things are rather at a standstill. I don't believe I have ever been so disheartened. Here it is not a matter of saving in order to go on. I'm doing all that I can. We lack everything. Sometimes I do not have the strength to go on". (31/8/44 - Rome)

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| | FOOD SITUATION | CLOTHING | HOUSING | FUEL | NAT'L GOV'T | PROVINCIAL GOV'T | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | INDIC... |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2 12 | 1 [illegible] | [illegible] | 13.2 | 1 1.1 | 1 1.2 | [illegible] 1 | 15.1 1 | 9.4 1 | 1 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 [illegible] | 1 [illegible] | 1 [illegible] 6 | [illegible] | 2.3 1 | 0 0 | 5 1 | 4.5 1 | 77 4 | 1 |
| | 1 15.[illegible] | 2 [illegible] | 1 [illegible] 3 | [illegible] | 1.3 1 | 1 5 | [illegible] 1 | [illegible] 1 | 75 1 | 1 |
| | 1 1.[illegible] | 1 [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 0 0 | [illegible] 1 | [illegible] 1 | 62 0 | 1 |
| | 1 24.[illegible] | 1 [illegible] | 1 [illegible] 3 | [illegible] | 1 1.3 | 2 20.6 | [illegible] 2 | [illegible] 1 | 30.5 2 | 1 |
| | 1.5 1 | 1 [illegible] | 1 28 | [illegible] | 1.4 1 | 1 3 | 2.3 1 | 14.9 2 | 3[illegible] 0 | 1 |
| | 1 12 | 1 2[illegible] | 1 [illegible] 1 | [illegible] | 1.2 1 | 1 3[illegible] | 10.7 2 | [illegible] 1 | 169 0 | 1 |
| | 1 1.3 | 1 [illegible] | [illegible] 37 | [illegible] | 3.7 1 | 0 25 | [illegible] 1 | 29.3 1 | 64 0 | 1.1 |
| | 1 1.3 | 1 47.[illegible] | 29 | [illegible] | 1 1 | 1 [illegible] | 6.9 2 | 25.4 2 | 23.6 3 | 1 |
| | 1 1.3 | 1 [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 2.5 1 | 1 16 | 12.7 1 | 10.5 1 | 353 0 | 1 |

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RATIO AND NET VALUE FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

| EXISTING | | | | NAT'L GOV'T | | PROVINCIAL GOV'T | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 30.5 | 3 | 8.1 | 1 | 13.3 | 4 | 1.4 | 3 | 1.2 | 1 | 8.3 | 1 | 15.1 | 3 | 9.4 | 3 | 1 | 3.3 | 4.3 | 1 |
| 27.6 | 3 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 78 | 2.3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 4.5 | 3 | 77 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 15.5 | 1 |
| 12.8 | 2 | 21 | 3 | 1 | 6.2 | 1.3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2.1 | 1 | 30 | 3 | 75 | 1 | 1 | 1.2 | 2.5 | 1 |
| 27.4 | 3 | 32 | | 1 | 49 | 9.4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 13.7 | 3 | 29.9 | 3 | 62 | 0 | 1 | 3.2 | 4.3 | 1 |
| 35.3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 12.6 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 20.9 | 13.4 | 1 | 43.6 | 3 | 30.5 | 1 | 1 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 28 | 4 | 3.4 | 1 | 3/5 | 1 | 23.3 | 1 | 34.9 | 3 | 108 | 0 | 1 | 2.3 | 1.7 | 1 | 1 | 3.3 |
| 24.7 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7.3 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 3.2 | 10.7 | 1 | 28 | 1 | 159 | 0 | 1 | 2.8 | 2.2 | 1 |
| 3.4 | 1 | 37 | | 33.3 | | 3.8 | 1 | 0 | 25 | | 1 | 29.3 | 1 | 66 | 0 | 1.1 | 1 | 9.4 | 1 |
| 17.2 | 1 | 29 | | 2.3 | | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1.4 | 8.7 | 1 | 25.4 | 1 | 23.6 | 1 | 1 | 1.4 | 2.8 | 1 |
| 2.6 | 1 | | | 15.1 | | 2.5 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 1.7 | 1 | 2.3 | 1 | 353 | 0 | 1 | 2.3 | 5.2 | 1 |

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# CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP, PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 12 August - 2 Sept 1944

Report No. 55

(1881)

| PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED) | FOOD SITUATION | | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| Bari (Civ. 105,270 | 8 | 943 | 0 | 530 | 0 | 430 | 5 | 201 | [illegible] | 277 | 20 | 7 | 402 | [illegible] |
| (Mil. 83,499 | 29 | 697 | 2 | 460 | 1 | 314 | 2 | 192 | 10[illegible] | 31 | 2 | [illegible] | 508 | 23 |
| Foggia 4446 | 9 | 80 | 0 | 70 | 1 | 32 | 0 | 46 | [illegible] | 5 | 0 | 6 | 24 | 1 |
| Naples (Civ. 179,004 | 85 | 1095 | 8 | 411 | 2 | 375 | 6 | 92 | [illegible] | 23 | 3 | [illegible] | 346 | 15 |
| (Mil. 12,651 | 349 | 38 | 160 | 16 | 59 | 15 | 0 | 0 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 11 | 144 | 2 |
| Palermo 156,404 | 21 | 562 | 4 | 197 | 3 | 103 | 5 | 857 | [illegible] | 72 | [illegible] | [illegible] | 103 | 0 |
| Rome (Civ. 225,256 | 680 | 0138 | 20 | 2099 | 21 | 510 | 69 | 930 | [illegible] | 203 | 20 | 139 | 3674 | 257 |
| (Mil. 29639 | 22 | 62 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 10 | 0 | 0 | [illegible] | 13 | 0 | [illegible] | 54 | 9 |
| Siracusa 6,883 | 32 | 276 | 8 | 114 | 2 | 96 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 2 | 0 | [illegible] | 111 | 0 |
| Taranto (Civ. 32,701 | 113 | 213 | 31 | 109 | 14 | 89 | 21 | 56 | [illegible] | 101 | 11 | 52 | 50 | 24 |
| (Mil. 97,047 | 384 | 286 | 13 | 191 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | [illegible] | 5 | 0 | [illegible] | [illegible] | 17 |
| Total Civilian: 729,294 | 933 | 3327 | 91 | 2507 | 43 | 1635 | 211 | 2059 | [illegible] | 403 | 93 | 432 | 2778 | 300 |
| Total Military: 228,344 | 784 | 1000 | 183 | 674 | 63 | 339 | 2 | 191 | 190 | 52 | 0 | 27 | 502 | 59 |
| TOTAL: 958,838 | 1717 | 4300 | 234 | 3181 | 106 | 1974 | 213 | 2250 | [illegible] | 455 | 93 | 459 | 3280 | 378 |

This report is based upon 50 letters per censor being checked daily on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed each week averaged 273, making a total of 327,600 examined for this four-week tally.

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RT 12 August - 2 Sept 1944

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| CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | INCOME | | NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION | | FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION | | INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS | | AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS | | EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 0 | 530 | 0 | 430 | 5 | 204 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 7 | [illegible] | 3 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 13 | 24 | 97 | [illegible] | 32 | 69 | 185 |
| 2 | 560 | 1 | 334 | 2 | 191 | [illegible] | 11 | 2 | [illegible] | 508 | 23 | 6[illegible] | [illegible] | 38 | 0 | 15 | 27 | [illegible] | 22 | 24 | 70 |
| 0 | 70 | 1 | 32 | 0 | 42 | [illegible] | 2 | 0 | 6 | 23 | 1 | 3 | 0 | [illegible] | 0 | 0 | 8 | [illegible] | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| 3 | 411 | 2 | 375 | 8 | 51 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 3 | 230 | 15 | [illegible] | [illegible] | 42 | 0 | 36 | 6 | [illegible] | 13 | 53 | 182 |
| 160 | 16 | 59 | 15 | 0 | 0 | [illegible] | 3 | 0 | 33 | 144 | 3 | 5[illegible] | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | 197 | 3 | 103 | 9 | 857 | [illegible] | 70 | 0 | [illegible] | 142 | 0 | 75 | 0 | 13[illegible] | 8 | 3[illegible] | 23 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 272 |
| 20 | 2999 | 21 | 510 | 6[illegible] | 220 | [illegible] | [illegible] | 28 | [illegible] | 26[illegible] | 257 | 160 | 5 | 7[illegible] | 11 | 82 | [illegible] | [illegible] | 68 | 121 | 2622 |
| 3 | 7 | 3 | 10 | 0 | 0 | [illegible] | 12 | 0 | 4 | [illegible] | 9 | 23 | 56 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 114 | 2 | 95 | [illegible] | 19 | [illegible] | 2 | 0 | 5 | [illegible] | 5 | 176 | 0 | 72 | 0 | 5 | 54 | 63 | 47 | 25 | 45 |
| 11 | 309 | 14 | 89 | 61 | 98 | [illegible] | 63 | 32 | 82 | 80 | 34 | 18 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 43 | 35 | [illegible] | 24 | 79 | 82 |
| 13 | 191 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [illegible] | 5 | 0 | 0 | [illegible] | 47 | 163 | 32 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 33 | [illegible] | 38 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 | 2507 | 43 | 1635 | 211 | 2059 | [illegible] | 403 | 75 | 332 | 2778 | 389 | 806 | 32 | 703 | 30 | 249 | 349 | 639 | 237 | 204 | 1753 |
| 183 | 674 | 63 | 339 | 2 | 191 | 120 | 52 | 2 | 37 | 902 | 69 | 1166 | 116 | 353 | 0 | 26 | 60 | 318 | 60 | 14 | 70 |
| 234 | 3181 | 106 | 1974 | 213 | 2250 | [illegible] | 455 | 77 | 369 | 3680 | 378 | 1972 | 148 | 1380 | 30 | 275 | 407 | 957 | 297 | 308 | 1804 |

[illegible] be[illegible] attacked daily
[illegible] employment week
[illegible] for this four-week tally.

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Hdq/ml

Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

SWE/mdc

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 45 5 September 1944

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 5th August 44.

TO : G-5 (Communications Censorship), AFHQ, APO 512

This report is based on 300,400 letters checked during the four weeks ended 5th August 1944. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favorable and unfavorable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

1. FOOD SITUATION.

There is a fractional increase in the proportion of unfavorable comments as compared with the previous period. It is interesting to note that during the latter period each of the first three weeks showed a more favorable outlook than the previous one. There was then a slight slump. Possibly the effect of an increase in rations was wearing off. The period under review reveals an opposite movement of opinion. Civilian mail, in the first week, was unfavorable by 2.3 to 1. Each week thereafter the proportion of unfavorable comments increased, and closed at 7.8 to 1. Military mail was variable, but was generally less unfavorable than civilian.

Bari, Palermo and Siracuse are centers where the food situation seems to be particularly bad. Benevento was the only district where civilian comments were chiefly in favor. Military mail reveals violent contrasts. At Bari, for example, unfavorable comments were nearly twenty times more than the favorable, while at Naples, where the Italian troops participate in Allied rations, the comments were about 15 to 1 in favor. In Rome civilian comments are about 20% less unfavorable than the average for the country as a whole, while military comments are slightly in favor.

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The chief complaint in most centers is that of high prices. Even where food is comparatively abundant it is out of the reach of most people, and since the ration cards only entitle the holders to a limited variety of commodities, and often to small amounts of the same, there is much genuine hardship. The following comments are typical of many:

"Here living is very expensive. Bread sells at 90 and 100 lire per kg., fish for 150 and 200 lire, and the same applies to other food items." (27/7/44 - Triggiani, Bari)

"Everything may be found here, but at very high prices. One kg. of cheese costs 400 lire, dry cottage cheese 250 lire, beef 180 lire, and lamb 130 lire. As to fruit we have never seen such prices before." (27/7/44 - Canosa di Puglia, Bari)

"To satisfy your curiosity I shall quote some prices, but don't let them frighten you! An egg costs from 50 to 70 lire, fruit 70 lire per kg., lemons 40 lire per kg., a litre of olive oil 2,000 lire, and salt 150 lire per kg. I am not quoting the rest in order not to bewilder you any further." (18/7/44 - Rome)

"There is much hunger in Rome. We are deprived of everything, even of salt. This precious and basic food item is sold at 350 lire per kg. on the Black Market. Olive oil sells at 2,000 and more lire per flasco (less than 2 litres); bread at 120 per kg. Meat can no longer be found. Paste products, rice, beans, etc., can always be found, but they cost 800 lire per kg. (13/7/44 - Rome)

As a contrast to the above, the following letters particularly those from Avellino and Benevento, speak of the improved conditions in those centers:

"The city has had a magnificent re-birth, and the things that are sold are in such great quantities that the place looks like the old, pre-war Avellino. In the midst of so much abundance I think with sorrow about you and the little ones existing in Rome among privations; I mean that in Rome you do not yet see cottage cheese, butter, cheese and similar dairy products, and milk, bread, potatoes and fruit in the very great quantities that we have here. Our rations are quite abundant... The market is overflowing with vegetables and the prices are very reasonable." (25/7/44 - Avellino)

"As to food we are doing fairly well here. The distribution by the commune office functions very well, and this month we shall also be given canned meat. On Sunday our butchers' shops will begin to operate, and beef will be available to the people." (Benevento - 13/7/44)

"You wish to know how we are getting along here. Well, not so badly. Our rations were increased! Now we get 300 grams of bread daily. On 1st August we shall get 400 grams of bread and 100 grams of paste products. Potatoes are abundant at 11 lire per kg." (Apice - 13/7/44)

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"Here at Martina life is back to its normal rhythm. Nothing has been lacking to us for some time now. The Black Market is disappearing daily so that all that may be eaten comes from our ration cards. Our rations are satisfactory, and monthly per head we get 400 grams of meat with vegetables, 400 grams of sausage, 250 grams of sugar, 250 grams of vegetables, 400 grams of beans and dried pies, 100 grams of soap, and besides we get 200 grams of bread daily, and 550 grams of flour weekly while we are waiting for finished paste products." (22/7/44 - Martina, Taranto)

2. CLOTHING.

Both civil and military mail have been less unfavorable during the period under review, though the situation is still very unsatisfactory, and adverse comments are in a very large majority. Bari and Naples are the worst centers from the civilian point of view, and the ratios of unfavorable to favorable comments were 346.5 to 1 and 60.8 to 1 respectively. All other centers were preponderently unfavorable, with the exception of Naples, military mail was also very unfavorable throughout.

Clothing prices are so prohibitive that they are clearly beyond the means of the vast majority of people. The following extracts give some idea of the situation as seen by the ordinary civilian:

"A suit of clothes for men costs no less than 20,000 lire. Material for an overcoat has been sold for as much as 24,000 lire. Spools of sewing thread cost 300, 400, 500 and 600 lire. We cannot go on like this. Only those who engage in trade (i.e. Black Market) live well. Many people go from here to Naples with vehicles, taking olive oil, macaroni and flour and return here bringing skins, clothing materials and drugs which they sell at exorbitant prices." (27/7/44 - Bari)

"An every day or work-shirt cannot be bought for less than 800 lire. A pair of trousers costs 1000 lire. One needs no less than 5000 or 6000 lire to have a pair made. A fairly good pair of shoes may be had for 2000 or 3000 lire, so just imagine the position we are in as regards clothing. The only way to obtain an article of clothing is by exchanging goods, that is trade with some flour, olive oil, lard, or other food items." (28/7/44 - Piane di Falerone, Bari)

"For a suit of clothes and a pair of shoes for little Gustavo I have spent 30,000 lire. Merely for one pair of snake-skin shoes I have paid 5000 lire." (28/7/44 - Avellino)

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"Clothing and shoes cannot be found. And if something is found on the Black Market, the price is prohibitive." (29/7/44 - Campobasso)

"What is the use if the stores are brimful of clothing materials if one is even unable to buy a single handkerchief." (29/7/44 Ragusa)

3. HOUSING.

Civilian mail was more pessimistic during the period under review than it was during the previous period. Bari seems to be a particularly bad center. Even the military mail produced 583 unfavorable comments to 7 favorable, while the remaining military centers only mustered 35 comments all told in the proportion of 1.3 to 1 in favor. The following extracts are examples of the lack of housing or the prohibitive rents when accomodation is available.-

"These last few days I have been running around like a mad person right and left trying to find a hole in which to live, but it has been impossible. There are no houses to be had anywhere." (21/7/44 - Rome)

"We have naked so many people about a house. There are some four and six roomed houses out at rents ranging from 30,000 to 50,000 lire per annum. Merely thinking about such horrifying prices makes one's blood run cold." (20/7/44 - Palermo)

"We are trying hard to get an appartment. We have begged from proprietors known to us. For the present it is impossible to find anything." (5/8/44 - Taranto)

"The housing problem is a very hard one to solve. There are few houses available, and those few have windows without any glass. What bewilders one is the high prices asked for rent. They range from 800 to 1200 a month. One would have to earn 6000 lire a month in order to be able to support a small family with such a rent." (21/7/44 - Avellino)

4. INCOME.

Unfavorable comments increased throughout the month, and the average figures for the period were 75% higher on the adverse side than for the previous four weeks. Military mail produced a freak average figure, but, even discounting this, the trend of opinion was definitely downward. Bari, Naples and Palermo were the most pessimistic centers. Taranto was the only area in which favorable comments were in the majority.

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In most cases the high cost of living have had the effect of rendering salaries inadequate. In the cases of some government employees the situation has been aggravated by reason of the fact that salaries have been reduced. Clerks and government employees generally seem to feel the pinch most, indeed they often receive much below the wages paid to laborers. The following extracts give various points of view:-

"Having returned under the Italian Government, we government employees have lost the extra money formerly paid by the government to those employees who were at their work during the bombardments. Therefore we now have at least 1000 lire deducted from our monthly salaries. Imagine the possibility of trying to live with only 2000 lire a month to support eight people! We are forced to eat potatoes daily, and we need more than 150 lire daily to eat." (21/7/44 - Avellino)

"He has got a job with the Action Party -- 5,000 lire a month. He has written thus that will last him until the 20th of the month. Woe to us! What a terrible state we are in. It is enough to drive one mad. May the Lord help us." (16/7/44 - Avellino)

"The income we receive compared with the cost of living is extremely low, and in order to exist I would have to rely on other resources... In fact laborers nowadays receive 100, 200 and 300 lire daily, while a clerk cannot but look like a beggar and a starved dog with his 40, 50 and 60 lire a day." (20/7/44 - Moltola)

"Living everywhere is expensive. Our salary lasts ten days; and then we must do our best to get along on those few pence saved during 25 years of service, money earned and accumulated by the sweat of our brow and which is now taken away from us by parasites who never work and who sell bread so dearly." (11/8/44 - Siracusa)

"Here life is horrible beyond expression. Food items, besides being very scarce, are extremely expensive... Imagine what our existence is like with our most wretched salary which is not sufficient for one week." (14/8/44 - Lentini)

The following favorable comment gives some idea of what is considered to be an adequate though sparse income:-

"I have now been discharged from the army for two months. I am working as a barber. I earn about 6000 lire a month. It is not a great deal, but such as it is I manage to keep going." (18/7/44 - Taranto)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. 317

Civilian opinion on the National Government shows no change from that obtaining during the previous period, the comments being 1.6 to 1 in favor.

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Military opinion, however, has swung from being slightly unfavorable during the previous period to a three to one majority in favor.

Bari and Siracuse civilian letters were very heavily in favor of the government by approximately 10 to 1 and 26 to 1 respectively. Rome and Taranto were the only centers where adverse comments were in the majority.

Favorable comments are often but brief expressions of hope. The unfavorable remarks range from extremely muddled and involved theorising to accusations that Fascism is still a force and that the government is incapable of governing. There is no clear picture in political matters, but the following adverse comments illustrate the types of fog through which the writers are peering:-

"Italian political life as one sees it here (Rome), where everything is being forged, is in a chaotic condition, and God only knows whether something vital will come out of it or whether we shall be led to destruction. There are idle talkings, grudges, revenges, ambitions, but nothing on which something concrete can be built. Twenty years of Fascist miseducation have deprived us of the men fit to lead and save our country in such a tragic hour as this, so we had to apply to people over seventy." (1/8/44 - Rome)

"The government is absolutely incapable, has no way out of the difficulties and does not worry about them. The Allies do not give the matter a thought and may have good reasons for not doing so." (Rome - 25/7/44)

"There exists only a nominal government who can do nothing without the approval of the Allies who, for the moment, must think of winning the war." (25/7/44 - Rome)

"Our future lies in the hands of God and of the ministers of the democratic regime consented to by the Allies, which regime will cause us to go bare-footed and naked next winter." (24/7/44 - Salerno)

"You complain about having troubles, who does not? War troubles are not the only ones; besides they may be justified. But troubles due to men, especially those who call themselves the champions and pillars of liberty, are those we cannot stomach. I am referring to those Italians who reside in Rome and practice there the misgovernment of Italy. I am realizing that deprecated Fascism is rising again due to their efforts. Equity and justice no longer exist." (1/8/44 - Campobasso)

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

There was a paucity of comments on Provincial Administration during the period under review, and as more than half of them came from Rome alone, the figures in the ratio table (Appendix A attached) are apt to be misleading.



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Rome comments were 4.6 to 1 in favor. Bari produced 57 civil comments only 4 of which were unfavorable; while Taranto's 94 comments were approximately 2 to 1 against. Apart from the above three centers there were hardly any comments at all. In general the comments are brief and to the point, such as the following:-

"Our living conditions show a decided improvement due to our civil administration. We get water frequently enough, and also electricity and telephone service." (12/7/44 - Taranto)

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

Civilian opinion has dropped steadily throughout the period. During the first week the favorable comments outnumbered the unfavorable by 55.4 to 1, but by the last week the proportion had gone down to 9.5 to 1. The average for the whole period was 18.6 to 1 as compared with 34.2 to 1 during the preceeding four weeks. Military mail produced no unfavorable comments except from Bari, and there were only 23 as against 2186 in favor from the same center.

As usual the favorable comments are chiefly expressions of gratitude, though there are a fair proportion reflecting genuine good feeling that does not rest on material benefits received. Unfavorable comments generally fall into one of three groups: requisitioning of houses and appartments; conduct towards women; and resentment because Italy was prevented from realising her ambitions. The following extracts illustrate various standpoints:-

"Now it looks as though the dawn were rising; and the Allies, realising our necessities, are doing all that is possible to help us. It is a good thing that they are so good, and surely they will always help us." (23/7/44 - Naples)

"We must always be grateful to Badoglio for the armistice, otherwise we would all have died of starvation. It was only the Americans and the British, who are great and civilized people, who have saved us by giving us food and by helping us in all ways possible." (9/7/44 - Benevento)

"The Allies have conducted themselves towards us like true friends, and they have never let us suffer from hunger... The Allies have even thought of keeping our morale high by inviting us to receptions.." (22/7/44 - Taranto)

"If it had not been for the noble gesture of the Allied Command at Campobasso, we would still have remained suffering. They have brought us back to work and to life, and have acted towards us like intelligent and practical people." (5/8/44 - Campobasso)



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"You will know that all our houses have been occupied by the Americans, and also our quarter. We were very sorry about it because they pushed us out of our homes and used our things as though they were their own." (29/7/44 - Cagliari)

"The Allies are not complimentary with our women and young girls and, alas, very sad things have happened everywhere... You know that I have always hated Fascists and Germans. On the other hand I believed in the goodness and straight forwardness of the Allies, and many times I have had discussions and endured bitterness for having strenuously defended this idea, this conviction of mine. Now I speak no more, discuss no more, and am compelled to swallow the tears that blind me. My anguish is so great. Poor Italian people, tortured, humiliated, despised..." (27/7/44 - Rome)

"We feel even smaller and more wretched compared with them and faced with all their might. But there is one thing they will never bend, and that is our pride. They will never succeed in reaching our civilization. Compared with us they are primitive, and our race is superior to theirs." (12/7/44 - Rome)

8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION.

Optimism has increased each week throughout the period as reflected in civilian letters, whereas military mail revealed a less optimistic note during the last two weeks. This is probably due to the fact that morale in the Italian army is going down owing to lack of activity, but this was the subject of a special report recently and no more need be said here. As regards comments generally, they are difficult to separate from comments on the future military situation. Extracts from letters dealing with the latter appear under the next sub-heading.

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION.

The proportion of favorable comments dropped during the period, but the average for the four weeks still remains high at 40 to 1 in favor among civilian mail and 35.2 to 1 among military letters. The four weeks under review had closed before the invasion of Southern France took place. The following extracts are among many that express complete confidence in the ultimate outcome of the war:

"Even the Germans are aware of the fact that Germany has lost the war and that things are going worse from day to day and hour to hour. The wizardry of Hitler no longer has any effect, and his treatening speeches only make people laugh, even those who believed in him blindly.

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The war will soon end, and this makes me very happy; but there is one thing that does not satisfy me, and that is the fact that Germany will capitulate before one yard of her territory is invaded by the Allies." (30/7/44 - Rome)

"The Anglo-Americans will win. I knew this from the very beginning of the war, and I have always maintained it, even during the Fascist drunken spree. They will win, and that will be a great act of goodness since they alone can guarantee that true liberty which the world needs so much." (1/8/44 - Palermo)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

Both civilian and military mail took a less rosy view of industrial prospects, but while the former produced a slight majority of favorable comments, the latter revealed an adverse majority of 2 to 1. Palermo was particularly optimistic, while Siracusa was just the opposite. Rome comments were about equally divided. Various reasons are given for viewing the industrial outlook gloomily, including lack of transport, demolitions and air-raids. The following are a few typical comments:-

"I read what you told me about your intentions of working... But undeceive yourself about the possibilities of acting as an agent for industrial factories because none of these exist here. What has not been destroyed by air-raids or by war has been scientifically destroyed by the Germans who have dismantled and taken away everything." (30/7/44 - Rome)

"You ask me to be more explicit concerning the prospects of our Group. It is very difficult to express oneself on such a subject because today, and perhaps to-morrow even more so, stands on a quicksand. Will those plants, entirely or partially intact up till the present, be able to work? Even if they could, and supposing they were freed, will they be allowed to function? You surely know the fate of those plants in this zone that still remain in running order. The best thing to hope for in my opinion is that peace arrives before liberation, but, even if that were the case, what possibilities will be left to our industries. The future is very, very gloomy and it as well to keep these prospects in mind." (31/7/44 - Rome)

"As to commercial trends, I understand the situation quite well. Industries are in a bad way chiefly because of transport difficulties. Even if we succeed in obtaining permission for the use of merchant ships, commerce will never make a good come-back?" (31/7/44 - Taranto)

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11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

Both civilian and military mail show an increased confidence in agricultural prospects. Compared with the preceeding period, civilian comments are two and a half times more favorable while military comments show a 20% increase in the same direction. Palermo was particularly optimistic, there being no unfavorable comments. In no centers were unfavorable comments in the majority. The complaints in nearly every case were based on lack of rain; and favorable comments in many cases mentioned the abundance of rain. The following extracts are illustrative of this:-

"It rains here frequently. This year there will be an abundant corn harvest. We have already threshed the wheat. The quantity is slightly greater than last year." (4/8/44 - Benevento)

"You must know that the harvest in general has been very good this year, especially the wheat harvest. The maize is also in good condition because it has rained four times this summer at regular intervals. Every 15 or 20 days it has rained without ever disturbing the crops. The same happy prospects are foreseen as regards grapes, potatoes and beans." (13/7/44 - Atripalda)

"The wheat harvest is excellent, and the same may be said about potatoes, vegetables and maize, but they are all controlled products. The potatoes will be abundant in September." (29/7/44 - Campobasso)

"A magnificent harvest is in view this year. The farms look promising, and let us hope that with God's help hunger may cease a little." (29/7/44 - Gildone)

"The harvest this year is much inferior to that of last year owing to lack of rain. It seems that the rain has forgotten Castellaneta since it is always raining in the surrounding areas. The Castellaneta zone is becoming totally dry." (22/7/44 - Castellaneta)

"Michele did the threshing yesterday, a total of 54 quintals of wheat and 25 tumili of oats. Corn would be good if it were not for the lack of rain. It has not rained since 24th June. The grapes and olives are promising." (31/7/44 - Tora)

"The bean harvest looks very poor. The plants are all dried and there are no beans in prospect. The wheat harvest has been completed already." (24/7/44 - Avellino)

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12. EMPLOYMENT

Civilian mail revealed a more depressed outlook during the period than that prevalent during the preceeding four weeks Military mail, on the other hand, was more cheerful, yet even so the comments were about seven to one against. Palermo was outstandingly gloomy, producing 566 adverse comments and not a single one in favor. Taranto was the only center in which favorable comments were in the majority, the proportion being about 3.5 to 1 in favor. The following extracts give a variety of reasons for and against:-

"Here there is a great deal of unemployment. The Americans are all leaving, and we are starved." (1/8/44 - Palermo)

"I must find some occupation or I shall join the army. My situation is very bad. Since I have been here I have never had any work." (2/8/44 - Campobasso)

"Plenty of people are unemployed at present. Only laborers succeed in finding something to do, and then only for a short time. As one can not go on like this one tries to do something through the Black Market." (20/7/44 - Rome)

"There is a crisis here in our civil life, a crisis among workmen, which was expected as a natural result of the last events. But as soon as electric power and gas are restored we trust things will change." (3/8/44 - Rome)

"The women work to mend clothes for soldiers. Everybody gets money, and unemployment is diminishing thanks to the Englishmen." (27/7/44 - Siracusa)

"Each and everyone of us tries to fare better than the next fellow. At present I am doing very well and earn about 3000 lire a month, but I am working very hard." (16/7/44 - Taranto)

Gordon W McKean

GORDON W. McKEAN,
Major, Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

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REPORT No. 43

CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP. PUBLIC OPINION REPORT

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| Province (Volume Censored) | Food Situation | | Clothing | | Housing | | Income | | Political Government | | Provincial Administration | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| Avellino 32182 | 64 | 81 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 |
| Bari (Civ. 131,735 | 29 | 1295 | 2 | 683 | 6 | 424 | 13 | 287 | 116 | 14 | 53 | 4 |
| (Mil 102,949 | 63 | 1134 | 2 | 380 | 7 | 363 | 2 | 142 | 120 | 16 | 7 | 2 |
| Benevento (Civ.20969 | 44 | 10 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| (Mil.165 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Campobasso 12969 | 50 | 95 | 2 | 35 | 0 | 11 | 2 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Naples (Civ.181,183 | 143 | 1009 | 6 | 365 | 12 | 297 | 3 | 76 | 77 | 24 | 0 | 5 |
| (Mil. 18,679 | 360 | 11 | 24 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Palermo 120,368 | 43 | 527 | 22 | 295 | 26 | 325 | 5 | 764 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rome (Civ.286,713 | 1633 | 5811 | 50 | 643 | 23 | 349 | 29 | 217 | 77 | 103 | 171 | 37 |
| (Mil. 28,294 | 116 | 92 | 4 | 18 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 10 |
| Siracusa 22005 | 27 | 476 | 11 | 227 | 13 | 160 | 13 | 100 | 72 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| SPS (Cutrofiano 4268 | 33 | 80 | 11 | 133 | 7 | 30 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Taranto (Civ.47006 | 162 | 269 | 26 | 195 | 25 | 145 | 61 | 43 | 202 | 153 | 39 | 61 |
| (Mil. 90527 | 266 | 189 | 22 | 224 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 76 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Civ. 950998 | 2298 | 9804 | 137 | 1548 | 102 | 1912 | 119 | 1529 | 490 | 321 | 254 | 125 |
| Total Mil. 247594 | 609 | 1428 | 66 | 628 | 27 | 403 | 2 | 142 | 185 | 39 | 9 | 12 |
| Totals: 1,198,592 | 2817 | 10232 | 203 | 2575 | 129 | 2315 | 121 | 1671 | 675 | 360 | 263 | 137 |

This report is based upon 50 letters per censor being checked daily on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed each week averaged 299.5, making a total of 359,400 letters examined for this four-week period.

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8 July - 5 August 1944

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| Relations with the Allies | | Pres. Mil. Situation | | Future Mil. Situation | | Industrial Prospects | | Agricultural Prospects | | Employment | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 48 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 53 | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| 756 | 28 | 453 | 9 | 310 | 2 | 29 | 57 | 185 | 27 | 53 | 89 |
| 2186 | 23 | 508 | 31 | 458 | 13 | 23 | 57 | 158 | 10 | 26 | 144 |
| 46 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 61 | 18 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 64 | 18 | 6 | 6 |
| 275 | 8 | 142 | 5 | 66 | 0 | 51 | 34 | 97 | 17 | 7 | 91 |
| 68 | 0 | 125 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 350 | 0 | 329 | 0 | 138 | 0 | 124 | 0 | 197 | 0 | 0 | 568 |
| 2825 | 171 | 67 | 19 | 51 | 7 | 71 | 74 | 83 | 443 | 72 | 422 |
| 14 | 0 | 60 | 20 | 60 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 294 | 0 | 187 | 0 | 41 | 0 | 5 | 57 | 245 | 53 | 23 | 108 |
| 49 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 19 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 70 | 31 | 64 | 37 | 8 | 7 | 62 | 51 | 180 | 69 | 117 | 46 |
| 156 | 33 | 65 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 7 | 128 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| 4734 | 297 | 1277 | 65 | 631 | 17 | 355 | 278 | 1130 | 242 | 280 | 1336 |
| 2429 | 23 | 761 | 51 | 518 | 33 | 32 | 64 | 286 | 98 | 26 | 144 |
| 7163 | 320 | 2038 | 136 | 1149 | 50 | 267 | 342 | 1416 | 340 | 306 | 1480 |

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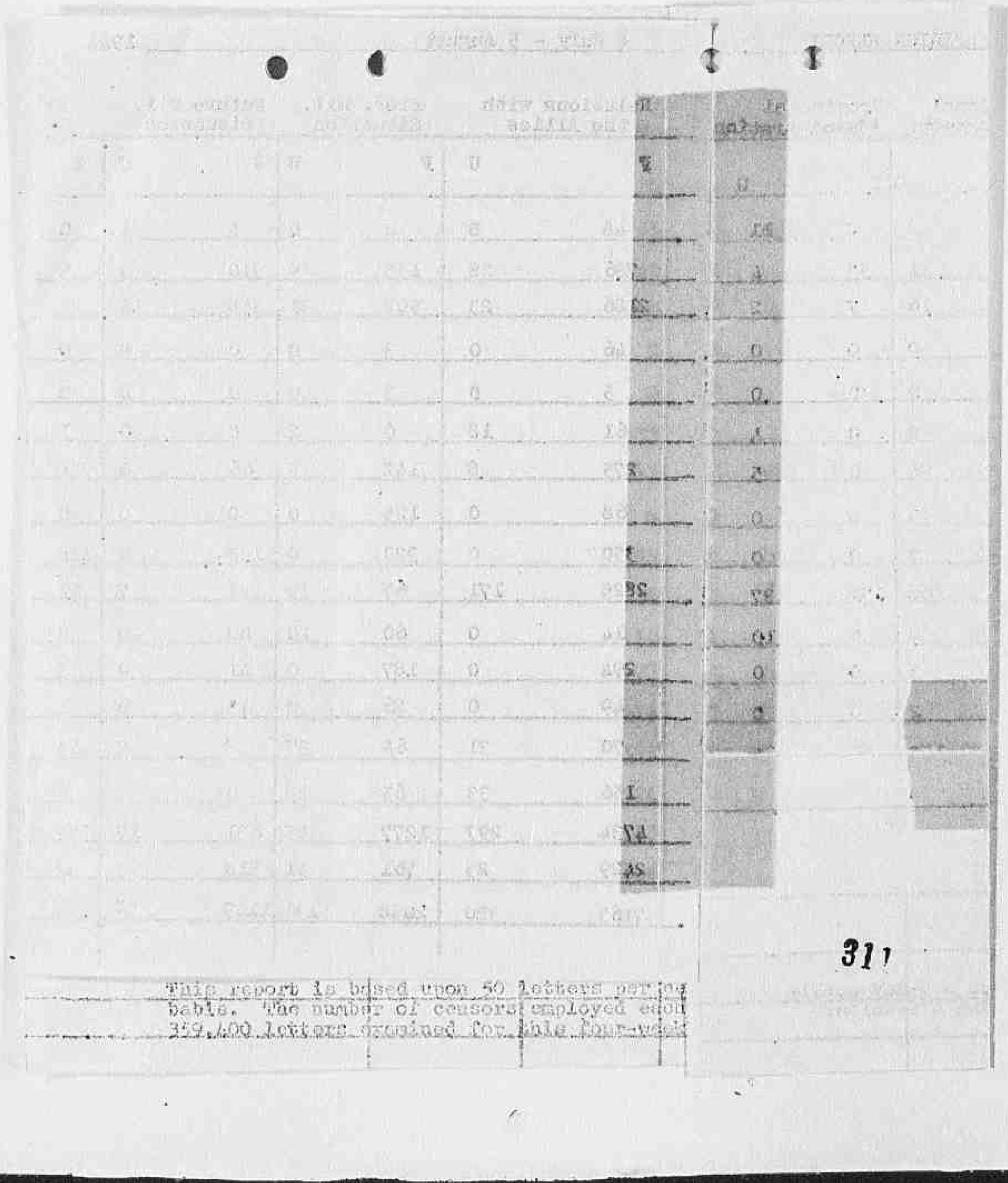

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This report is based upon 50 letters per ma
bable. The number of censors employed each
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RADIO TAPE SURVEY BY CASIR AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON FUTURE POLNS

| Week Ending | | Food Situation | | Clothing | | Housing | | Income | | Nat'l Gov't | | Provincial Government | | Relations with Allies | | Present Military Situation | | Future Military Situation | | Intel Prog |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F |
| 15/7 | Civ | 1 | 2.8 | 1 | 23 | 1 | 13.6 | 1 | 5.5 | 2 | 1 | 4.9 | 1 | 13.4 | 1 | 21.8 | 1 | 27.6 | 1 | 2.6 |
| | Mil | 1 | 2.8 | 1 | 30.2 | 1 | 30 | 0 | 44 | 4.4 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 18.3 | 1 | 16 | 1 | 139 | 0 | 1 |
| 22/7 | Civ | 1 | 3.4 | 1 | 20.7 | 1 | 36 | 1 | 22.5 | 1.5 | 1 | 3 | 1.6 | 11.3 | 1 | 14.6 | 1 | 185 | 1 | 1 |
| | Mil | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 5.2 | 1 | 9 | 2.6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 105.4 | 1 | 24.3 | 1 | 132 | 0 | 1 |
| 29/7 | Civ | 1 | 6 | 1 | 21.6 | 1 | 20.8 | 1 | 17.8 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 17.6 | 1 | 16.7 | 1 | 99 | 1 | 1.1 |
| | Mil | 1 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 16.3 | 0 | 19 | 3.2 | 1 | 1 | 4.5 | 7.4 | 1 | 8.5 | 1 | 20.6 | 1 | 0 |
| 5/8 | Civ | 1 | 7.6 | 1 | 29.9 | 1 | 33.5 | 1 | 34.4 | 1.8 | 1 | 1.4 | 1 | 9.6 | 1 | 10.8 | 1 | 39.5 | 1 | 1.3 |
| | Mil | 1 | 3.2 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 48.7 | 1 | 38.5 | 2.6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 44.7 | 1 | 7.3 | 1 | 8.8 | 1 | 1 |
| Average for month | Civ | 1 | 4.5 | 1 | 19.3 | 1 | 19.1 | 1 | 12.6 | 1.6 | 1 | 2.1 | 1 | 18.6 | 1 | 15.7 | 1 | 4.0 | 1 | 1.3 |
| Ending 5/8/43 | Mil | 1 | 2.5 | 1 | 9.1 | 1 | 17.7 | 1 | 24.5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1.3 | 43.5 | 1 | 11.9 | 1 | 55.2 | 1 | 1 |

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INDEX TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE OUTCOMES ON DIFFERENT POINTS

| Nothing | | Housing | | Income | | Natl Govt | | Provincial Government | | Relations with Allies | | Present Military Situation | | Future Military Situation | | Industrial Prospects | | Agricultural Prospects | | Highways | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U |
| 13 | 1 | 13.6 | 1 | 5.5 | 2 | 1 | 6.9 | 1 | 13.4 | 1 | 11.8 | 1 | 7.6 | 1 | 2.6 | 1 | 7.4 | 1 | 1 | 3.8 |
| 30.2 | 1 | 20 | 0 | 44 | 4.4 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 18.3 | 1 | 16 | 1 | 139 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 1 | 7.5 |
| 36.7 | 1 | 36 | 1 | 32.5 | 1.5 | 1 | 3 | 1.6 | 10.0 | 1 | 14.6 | 1 | 185 | 1 | 1 | 2.7 | 4.5 | 1 | 1 | 4.6 |
| 6 | 1 | 5.2 | 1 | 9 | 2.6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 105.4 | 1 | 54.3 | 1 | 132 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2.6 |
| 21.6 | 1 | 20.8 | 1 | 17.8 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 17.6 | 1 | 16.7 | 1 | 99 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 4.7 | 1 | 1 | 6.5 |
| 11 | 1 | 16.3 | 0 | 19 | 3.2 | 1 | 1 | 4.5 | 7.4 | 1 | 8.5 | 1 | 20.8 | 1 | 0 | 14 | 2.4 | 1 | 1 | 2.4 |
| 29.9 | 1 | 33.5 | 1 | 14.4 | 1.8 | 1 | 1.4 | 1 | 9.6 | 1 | 20.8 | 1 | 19.5 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 15.1 |
| 7 | 1 | 48.7 | 1 | 38.5 | 2.6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 24.7 | 1 | 7.3 | 1 | 8.8 | 1 | 1 | 1.6 | 6.1 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| 19.1 | 1 | 19.1 | 1 | 12.6 | 1.6 | 1 | 2.1 | 1 | 38.6 | 1 | 15.7 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 4.4 | 1 | 1 | 6.8 |
| 9.1 | 1 | 17.7 | 1 | 74.5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1.3 | 18.5 | 1 | 3.9 | 1 | 35.2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3.1 | 1 | 1 | 7.5 |

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Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 18 8 July 1944

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report of Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 10 June 1944.

TO : Communications Censorship Branch,
AFHQ, APO 512, U. S. Army.

This report is based on 427,200 letters checked during the four weeks ended 10 June 1944. Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favorable and unfavorable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

1. FOOD SITUATION:

This remains by far the most predominant subject of correspondence. The situation appears to be a little better than it was during the previous period; and during the last of the four weeks under review the unfavorable comments showed a sharp drop in civilian mail. On the other hand military comments became more unfavorable over the last two weeks, though on the whole they were not so unfavorable as the civilian.

The situation is particularly bad in certain areas. From Trapani and Agrigento, for example, the months produced 1971 and 212 unfavorable comments respectively with not a single one in favor in either case. Other bad areas are: Cosenza, Matera, Messina, Palermo, Potenza and Naples, though in the case of Naples the military comments were more than four to one in favor. One of the chief complaints generally is that bread is unattainable or very scarce. The following are typical comments:-

"We get 150 grams of bread per person daily and sometimes we go three and four days without bread." (Cosenza - 18/5/44)

"We are worried because here we cannot find anything to eat, not even bread. As you know, they ask for terrifying prices, and we have so little money." (Cosenza - 31/5/44)



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"Food is scarce, especially bread. At night we go to bed hungry, in spite of the fact that every month we spend over 4000 lire. Living is becoming more costly day by day." (Cavanzaro - 22/5/44)

"If you only realised what a terrible thing it is to suffer hunger." (Naples - 6/6/44)

"The 14 lire I receive as daily pension are not enough even to buy onions. I need at least 50 lire daily for the minimum necessities." (Catanzaro - 25/5/44)

"We have reached the limit. Every day I weep because I can't bear to see my dear children suffering from hunger." (Cosenza - 2/6/44)

"I have become very, very thin. Today in the market there is nothing. Even vegetables, pumpkins and fresh beans cost 30 lire per kilogram. We have one loaf of bread a day. We are not dying of hunger but we are very weak." (Sassari - 9/6/44)

In many cases the complaints about food are due to the fact that the people have insufficient money with which to buy it and not to the fact that food is unavailable. From the same station as the above letter we have this:-

"We can say that here we are in a little earthly paradise. Nothing is lacking. Of course everything is very dear, but it's possible to get anything." (Sassari - 31/5/44)

The following favorable comments give two different viewpoints:-

"As to the food problem here we cannot complain. Meat costs 100 lire per kilogram, fish is available every day and costs 40 lire per kilogram, yesterday anchovies were selling at 10 lire per kilogram, eggs at 9 lire each, and cheese at 100 lire per kilogram. Then there is an abundance of cottage cheese, fruit and vegetables." (Catanzaro - 23/5/44)

"Here they have given us wheat instead of bread, and we have ground it and baked bread. May the Anglo-Americans be blessed who have made it possible for us to have our daily bread." (Cosenza - 4/6/44)

Military mail again shows that soldiers messing with Italian units complain of bad food and little of it, while those with Allied units are satisfied.

"We are working with the British, but as to food we are badly off because we depend upon Italian units. Unless we are attached to the British for food rations we shall never be satisfied with the food." (APO 186 - 30/5/44)

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"I have been here for the last few days on duty and ... [illegible] ... am very well off ... one would desire ...

... I can ...
... not ex...
... us is ...

... months ...
... country, ...
... has to ...

... so with ...
... reuse in ...
... they are ...
... rather ...
... numbered ...
... following were ...
... to ... in ...
... steal; ...
... work to ... I ...
... as compared ...
... civilians and ...
... following ...

"You must bring me a pair of shoes because there ... to be found here." (Codenia - 21/5/44)

"To make a skirt one needs 1200 lire, and one needs 5000 lire for a suit." (Trento - 3/6/44)

"Let me know if you can find something to wear, for here we are all naked." (Matarazzo - 25/5/44)

"A skirt costs 2000 lire, and is made of very poor stuff." (Matarazzo - 2/6/44)

"Women's shoes here cost from 1500 to 1000 lire ... to not mention materials for clothing. The prices have jumped from 10 and 15 lire per metre." (Pizzo - 21/5/44)

"I am ashamed to go outside on account of my lack of clothes." (Trento - 3/6/44)

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"Here we are bare and bare-footed. There is nothing, and we are desperate." (Nuoro - 6/6/44)

As in the case of food, many of the complaints are due to high prices rather then to an actual shortage of commodities. The following favorable comments give more hopeful flews:-

"I have walked around the city, and one can find everything. Cloth and materials are found in the show cases as well as in the shops. But the prices are very high." (Castrovillari - 4/6/44)

"As to clothing, I may sincerely tell you that a considerable improvement is noticeable. The prices are no longer chaotic and sky-high, beyond everybody's reach.... Thus clothing is an easier problem and no longer a woeful question mark. Let us hope that footwear will have lowered prices. It is about time." (Caltanissetta - 6/6/44)

Two different military points of view are given in the following extracts:-

"I have roamed around the entire day up and down the military command offices trying to find some summer cloth for a suit of clothes, but I have not succeeded in finding it. I am still wearing the British winter uniform." (Taranto - 3/6/44)

"We are all wearing wooden shoes, and our clothes are all in tatters." (Reggio Calabria - 30/5/44)

3. HOUSING:

Opinion on the housing situation was even more unfavorable during the period under review than during the previous four weeks. In the second week there was a big drop in the civilian unfavorable comments, but they rose steadily thereafter. Military comments showed a violent drop in the proportion of unfavorable comments in the third week, but this did not reflect the general opinion in that, of the total favorable comments numbering 106, no less than 100 came from Reggio Calabria alone. The average for the month was also affected by this, and though the figures appear to show an improvement over the previous month, actually, for the country as a whole, the situation worsened.

Military comments were not specific, but the following civilian comments give various points of view:

"I weep every day because I have not yet found a house, and I am forced to sleep at Amleto's. You well know that he has no space for his children to sleep, and I am being tossed about from one place to another." (Taranto - 26/5/44)

"Let us hope to find a little room here soon, otherwise there will be trouble." (Cosenza - 4/6/44)

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"The problem which cannot be solved in any way whatever, and which keeps us under a continuous nervous tension, is the lodging problem. This holds true especially for us who have had our houses destroyed by bombardments. We live in filth with odd pieces of furniture found here and there, and also among strange people who do not know what "hygiene means". (Agrigento - 30/5/44)

"It is impossible to find a lodging, in fact most of the employees who came back to Cagliari are sleeping in their offices." (Nuoro - 8/6/44)

"After our having suffered so much, the local administration does not realize the need for reconstructing quickly the damaged buildings. We are very badly off here in regard to lodging. One cannot even find a pig-sty in which to sleep." (Gela, Sicily - 7/6/44)

As a contrast to the above we have:-

"As to lodging, we are much better off now due to the interest shown by both the Prefect and the Engineer Corps." (Caltanissetta - 7/6/44)

4. INCOME:

The proportion of adverse comments has dropped slightly during the period under review as compared with the previous four weeks, both as regards civilian and military mail. The average figures for military mail, as shown in Appendix A, are misleading because the total of 146 favorable comments include no less than 115 from Reggio Calabria alone. Excepting this station the average for the country is 12.3 to 1 against.

The following comments give variations of a similar theme:-

"It is impossible to go on living in such dire economic conditions, receiving a salary which, compared with the present high cost of living, is absolutely ridiculous." (Naples - 10/6/44)

"Here living has become very expensive. One's salary is just enough for the first few days. For the rest of the month we have to tighten our belts." (Cosenza - 10/6/44)

"Here we suffer about everything because we must buy everything, and the money I earn monthly does not last ten days." (Taranto - 10/6/44)

"The 70% increase in our wages has been useless since the prices fixed by the authorities have increased by 400%." (Sassari - 21/5/44)

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"Since the declaration of war my financial condition has become gradually worse....Certain expenses are absolutely indispensable. I must think of my family....it is impossible to exist. I should steal, but I prefer to die first." (Cosenza - 29/5/44)

The harvest has been a help in Sardinia. The two following extracts are illustrations.

"Country-men have a great deal to do on account of the pea harvest. They are working and are satisfied. We have already derived 40,000 lire from peas and 20,000 from onions and 'vignaredda'. There is nothing to complain of." (Sassari - 15/5/44)

"We twelve women are working in the pea harvest. We are earning very well." (Sassari - 15/5/44)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT:

Since the last period, when unfavorable comments were slightly in the majority, opinion has moved more in favor of the national government, but still remains fairly evenly divided from the point of view of total figures. However, when reckoned in localities, opinion is two to one in favor of the government. Sicily is a particular case, and is almost unanimously against the government. In all cases the mail examined related to the Badoglio administration. The period under review does not embrace the new government.

The mail does not give any clear picture of what the writers really think of the government, but two rather virulent comments from Salerno, where communism is much to the fore, may give some idea of the views of the left.

"We have the impression that we are administered by a paralytical government, bankrupt from it's very beginning; and the lack of faith in it on the part of the population increases daily .....In fact the poor employee is being tossed about between the tuberculous white market and the flourishing and unapproachable black market. No one provides a solution to the essential problem of the working classes." (Salerno - 8/6/44)

"To understand the state of indignation and revolt against the actual institutional form of the state, one must approach the masses starved by the black market...." (Salerno - 30/5/44)

Yet we get the following in a letter concerning Salerno.

"We have received good news from Salerno about the new directives of the Badoglio government. It seems that the ministers are elaborating something good and positive." (Caltanissetta - 22/5/44)

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6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION:

There is little change in opinion since the previous period, on average figures, though the last two weeks produced a greater proportion of unfavorable comments in civilian mail. They rose from 2.3 and 1.2 against in the first two weeks to 4 and 9.9 against in the last two weeks. Military comments are of little value, but the following civilian comments give some idea of the reasons for complaint:-

"These wretches at the city hall are true rascals because they promise us a great deal and never keep their promises." (Catanzaro - 23/5/44)

"The fact is that we lack everything, and the administration cares little about the needs of the population." (Cosenza - 4/5/44)

"The situation has become serious during these last few months under the rule of that dog and usurper, Prefect Mancini. Fortunately they have changed him now." (Cosenza - 26/5/44)

"We are sailing on in the dark...Among this famous administration there are not any people but those who think of their own personal gain, and who abandon the population to its fate." (Caltanissetta - 23/5/44)

"We have become very lean...we are spending about 300 lire a day as we are buying everything in the black market. The authorities make no provision for they can get everything free." (Sassari - 8/6/44)

"This is the time of the year that all diseases spread, and it is deplorable that the local authorities do nothing about cleanliness. Dirty clothes are washed in the streets, garbage accumulates, and the municipal guard does nothing about putting an end to such a condition." (Apollosa - 30/5/44)

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES:

The average for the period under review shows a reduction in the proportion of favorable civilian comments. In the previous period they were 11.3 to 1 in favor, while during the last four weeks they have receeded to 8.5 to 1. Opinion fluctuated. In the first week it was 11.6 to 1 in favor, dropping to 4.6 to 1 in the second week, and rising to 15.7 to 1 in the third week. It then fell away to 12.7 in the last week. The average military figures remained the same as in the previous period, being 1.4 to 1 in favor. During the last week, however, there was a very sharp rise to 48.6 to 1 in favor. Messina was the only place where adverse comments exceeded favorable comments. This was among civil mail. Salerno provides an interesting contrast, for the civilian mail produced no unfavorable comments at all during the period. Whilst the military mail in the third week of the period, produced 30 adverse comments out of a total of 65 for the whole country.

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Many of the favorable comments are born of gratitude, which is inevitable, but others seem to be genuine expressions of goodwill and natural inclination towards the Allies.

"We love the Allies with a sincere and deep love because they deserve it. I answer your question by stating that our relations with the Allies are and will always be good, and we hope that this damned war will end soon in order that there may be a rebirth for all concerned. The Allies have been our great saviours, those who have opened for us the golden gates of Liberty." (Caltanissetta - 24/5/44)

"My dear Henry, you were right. The British are winning and will win, because they are the creators of true justice." (Cosenza - 24/5/44)

"I have been very happy upon learning that you are working with the Americans who treat you very well, because I have learned that the Americans are kindhearted people from my experience with them." (Catanzaro - 23/5/44)

"I am well off here, and the Americans treat me very well indeed." (Catanzaro - 21/5/44)

"I am doing well, working for the British with whom I earn 65 lire daily besides food and lodging. The food is very good. I work eight hours daily, that is from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. the rest of the time is at my disposal." (Brindisi - 6/6/44)

"Our dear Allies are victoriously advancing. May the Lord protect them." (Nuoro - 30/5/44)

Military comments are brief, and speak chiefly of material benefits. The following are typical:-

"We are with the Allies, and they treat us very well." (Cosenza - 25/5/44)

"I work in an American Supply Office. We have all comforts here, and I can assure you that I am well off." (Cosenza - 25/5/44)

Adverse comments are usually due to some form of readily understandable resentment. The following are illustrations of two such cases:-

"What do you think of the Allied advance? I may be a fool, but I would prefer to stay another year in arms so that the war may not pass pitilessly over all of Italy. They were at Cassino. It would have been better if they had remained at Cassino." (Taranto - 2/6/44)

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"If your husband had been at home the Americans wouldn't have had the honor of being served by my wife. Look out, and think of your dear one who is far away. When these people are drunk they don't reason any more. Here also there are incidents happening every day." (Cassani - 7/6/44)

3. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION:

There has been a natural upward surge in favorable comment on the present military situation during the period under review. Nevertheless there has been an element of caution among civilians and the ratio has only risen from 1.2 to 1 against to 5.7 to 1 in favor, whereas military comments have advanced from 6.1 to 1 in favor to 26 to 1 in favor over the previous period. However, during the fourth week of the period, i.e. that ending on 10th June, there was a very marked wave of optimism, and civilian comments rose to 40.6 to 1 in favor, while military comments reached the figure of 107.1 to 1. Only two centres produced a majority of unfavorable comments over the period - Catania and Reggio Calabria. In both cases the unfavorable out numbered the favorable by slightly two to one.

Comments are difficult to classify, for the present and the future situation are usually combined in somewhat extravagant language. The following are typical:-

"But soon the great and immortal Rome is to be liberated by the valiant Allied forces who are already at its gates. They will give no moment of respite to the German enemy until he is definitely thrown from the sacred soil of our dear and martyred Italy. The moment of liberation draws near with gigantic strides." (Cosenza - 4/6/44)

"I am thoroughly convinced that the war will end soon due to the imminent colossal landings of the Allies. Therefore there will be full, absolute and incontrovertible victory for the entire world." (Cosenza - 2/6/44)

"The powerful war machine of the United Nations is now directed towards its goal. It will not take long to reach it. No enemy force will ever stop it. Laurels of glory are being gathered on all fronts. This is substantiated by the recent landing in France.... I was frightened upon hearing the number of methods employed. We may now be sure that the war is drawing near to it's twilight." (Merzi - 9/6/44)

"This week is bringing us a great joy. As soon as I knew the news concerning the deliverance of Rome and the landing in France I drank to the Allies' victory and I got drunk. I had never been drunk before in all my life." (Cassani - 9/6/44)

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From military mail there are the following:

"The Allied victories with their rythm seem to accellerate the moment when our country will be free. Here we are all following the unfolding of the operations with great expectations. We often complain because it is not given to us to be up there to taste the joy of victories as we used to do when the Messina Division knew neither respite nor defeats." (Taranto - 29/5/44)

"I am happy that the military operations in North Italy are going along so well, and I believe that it won't be long now before we obtain complete victory and peace." (Catania - 5/6/44)

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION:

Civilian comments became increasingly favourable as the period progressed. The ratio in the first week was 11.4 to 1 in favor. This increased steadily over the next two weeks, and finally, in the fourth week, it rose to 202.1 to 1. Military comments, though showing a slump in the second week when the ratio fell to 28.2 to 1 in favor, became almost unanimously in favor in the final week when the ratio was 529 to 1. Comments were brief, and often tended to become over optimistic. The two following are examples:-

"The war is about to finish. The enemy will soon leave our beloved country. Our gallant soldiers and the brave Allies have saved us once more." (Nuoro - 30/5/44)

"The war is going very well. I think that Italy will be delivered in a month." (Nuoro - 6/6/44)

As against the above we have the following example of caution:-

"In spite of the defeats which the Germans are suffering on all fronts, I am convinced that this monstrous tragedy is not drawing to its end. Hitler's Germany, with cold boldness and cynical indifference, is now as ready as she was on the first day of the war to hurl into the greatest torture and sufferings new millions of human lives in the vain search for a way of salvation from her catastrophe." (Salerno - 2/6/44)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS:

A slightly more hopeful view has prevailed during the period under review. Whereas unfavourable comments were about 10% in excess of those favourable throughout the previous four weeks, the position was reversed but with a 20% excess of favorable comments. Cagliari, Catania, Messina and Syracuse still take a more pessimistic view. On the other hand Leone, Naples and Palermo are definitely optimistic. Most other centres are fairly equally divided with a tendency towards the optimistic. Comments are not very helpful in assessing the situation. The following are examples:-

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"At Modica a textile industry has arisen [illegible] old looms are again functioning, and woolen, linen and cotton stuffs are being woven. The products are a little heavy, but they are preferable to a fig leaf." (Ragusa - 17/5/44)

"As to my business, I have renewed my activity in some ways. But the work is proceeding slowly owing to lack of transport." (Cosenza - 26/5/44)

"I wish to inform you that saddle makers have been without leather for a long period of time. They state that they will not be able to make any repairs on leather articles for the forthcoming agricultural work." (Brindisi - 1/6/44)

II. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS:

Opinion becomes increasingly optimistic over the period in both civil and military avil. Although there was a slump in favorable comments during the first week, hopes rose sufficiently in later weeks to give a ratio of favorable to unfavorable comments in excess of that for the previous period. Both Cosenza and Cagliari areas were particularly optimistic. Brindisi civil opinion, on the other hand, was rather pronouncedly unfavorable. Comments from Cosenza are contradictory. Many speak of good harvests, while others complain that lack of rain or fertilizers has ruined their prospects. Other centers also complain of lack of rain.

"You want to know how the crop is coming along this year. It is very good. The wheat is magnificent. Let us hope that nothing will happen as it did last year with hail and bad storms." (Cosenza - 31/5/44)

"I wish to tell you that we have already tested the new potatoes. The harvest is abundant, and this year we shall have more than we did last year. There's an abundance of zucchies and lima beans." (Catania - 5/6/44)

"This year seeded fields are going very well. We have already mown barley and oats. In a few days we'll begin to mow wheat." (Sassari - 7/6/44)

"The harvest of hay was plentiful. Kitchen gardens promise very well. Barley and wheat will certainly yield very much." (Nuoro - 9/6/44)

"Up to the present time the harvest seems to be good. Even the vineyards and the olives are promising. As a result there is no lack of work here." (Cosenza - 1/6/44)

"Here we are without rain. The wheat is now lost without remedy, and the same perhaps applies to the potatoes and the rest of the products." (Cosenza - 6/6/44)

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"Nothing can be found to fertilize the soil ... A sack of sulphate costs 19.00 lire and it is not possible to buy it. Thus the fields either away fallow." (Salerno - 27/2/44)

"Even this year a poor harvest is forseen due to the absence of rain. During the past winter we had lots of snow, while now that we need only a few hours of rain we don't even get a drop of water." (Avellino - 2/3/44)

"The crop this year is worse than last year's because it has not rained for a long time, and the products we have planted are all disappearing through lack of water." (Castellammare - 20/3/44)

12. EMPLOYMENT:

Both civilian and military mail reveal a more gloomy view on the subject of employment, and the ratio of unfavorable to favorable comments has about doubled over that prevailing during the preceding period. Civilian mail showed a slightly less pessimistic trend during the last two weeks of the period, but military opinion moved sharply in the opposite direction. This was accentuated by the Palermo figures which were generally pessimistic. Bari and Taranto were the only centers where favorable comments outnumbered unfavorable, being civilian comments in both cases. As a contrast, Agrigento and Trapani, with 35 and 25 unfavorable comments respectively, produced not a single favorable one between them. The comments themselves are not very illuminating, and are merely individual complaints:

"While still waiting for rehabilitation and work, I hope God allowes me to obtain a job tomorrow because there is a hope of it. I have been sleeping on the ground since the 25th." (Taranto - 30/3/44)

"I have a very great fear of remaining unemployed during the whole of this period, and I shall then also die of hunger." (Trapani - 2/3/44)

"I am sorry you are unemployed. Why do you not look for employment with the Allies who are giving a strong inducion to the coal mines? I think that, if one is willing to work, one may easily find work." (Bassani - 15/3/44)

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"Let us hope that Mario may get a job. He is very bored with his conditions as he can't earn and is eating with his family." (Nuoro - 8/6/44)

GORDON W. NORTHAM,
Major, Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

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APPENDIX A

| | FOOD CONSUMPTION | | CLOTHING | | HOUSING | | FUEL | | NATL GOV'T | | PROVINCIAL GOV'T | | RELATIONS WITH ALLIES | | PUBLIC UTILITY SITU | | PUBLIC UTILITY SITUATION | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | F | U | |
| [illegible] | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| [illegible] | | 10 | 1 | 23.2 | 1 | 18.6 | 1 | 6.2 | 1.4 | 1 | 1 | 2.3 | 11.6 | 1 | 2.1 | 1 | 11.4 | 1 | 1 |
| [illegible] | 1 | 2.5 | 1 | 10.7 | 1 | 48 | 1 | 10.5 | 1.5 | 1 | 1 | 6.3 | 7.6 | 1 | 6.5 | 1 | 66.7 | 1 | 3 |
| [illegible] | 1 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 6.3 | 1 | 1.8 | 1 | 1.2 | 4.3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 12.5 | 1 | 1 |
| [illegible] | 1 | 6.3 | 1 | 11.4 | 1 | 26.6 | 1 | 8.3 | 2.4 | 1 | 1 | 1.4 | 18.3 | 1 | 17.5 | 1 | 76.2 | 1 | 1 |
| [illegible] | 1 | 8.9 | 1 | 22.5 | 1 | 19.5 | 1 | 6.2 | 1.8 | 1 | 1 | 6.6 | 13.7 | 1 | 7.4 | 1 | 28.7 | 1 | 1 |
| [illegible] | 1 | 3.4 | 1 | 16.5 | 1 | 2.9 | 1 | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 5 | 24.9 | 1 | 69.1 | 1 | 1 |
| [illegible] | 1 | 3.1 | 1 | 13.4 | 1 | 24.3 | 1 | 4.5 | 1.3 | 1 | 1 | 9.9 | 12.7 | 1 | 40.6 | 1 | 202.1 | 1 | 1 |
| [illegible] | 1 | 3.4 | 1 | 41.2 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 13.7 | 1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1 | 48.6 | 1 | 107.1 | 1 | 329.1 | 1 | 1 |
| [illegible] | 1 | 6 | 1 | 12.8 | 1 | 13.8 | 1 | 5.9 | 1.1 | 1 | 1 | 2.9 | 6.5 | 1 | 5.7 | 1 | 42.9 | 1 | 1 |
| [illegible] | 1 | 2.5 | 1 | 15.7 | 1 | 6.4 | 1 | 2.6 | 1.5 | 1 | 1 | 1.7 | 13.4 | 1 | 25 | 1 | 34.7 | 1 | 1 |

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APPENDIX A

| ...TING | HOUSING | INCOME | ...'L GOV'T | PROVIN-CIAL GOV'T | RELATIONSHIP WITH ALLIES | PRESTIGE [illegible] SITUATION | TIME STUDY [illegible] SITUATION | INDUST-RIAL PROST... | ...-DUCTS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U | F U | F U | F U | F U | F U | F U | F U | F U | F U | F U |
| 23.2 | 1 18.6 | 1 6.2 | 1.4 1 | 1 2.3 | 1.6 1 | 2.1 1 | 11.4 1 | 1.1 1 | 2.4 1 | 1 4.1 |
| 10.7 | 1 48 | 1 10.5 | 1.5 1 | 1 4.3 | 1.5 1 | 6.5 1 | 64.7 1 | 3.3 1 | 2.6 1 | 1 3.4 |
| 7 | 1 10 | 1 6.3 | 1 3.8 | 1 1.2 | 1.3 1 | 4 1 | 12.5 1 | 1.1 1 | 3 1 | 1 5.5 |
| 11.4 | 1 26.6 | 1 8.3 | 2.4 1 | 1 1.4 | 18.3 1 | 17.6 1 | 20.2 1 | 1.7 | 3.7 1 | 1 2 |
| 22.5 | 1 19.5 | 1 6.2 | 1.6 1 | 1 6.6 | 15.7 1 | 7.4 1 | 89.7 1 | 1.3 1 | 3.9 1 | 1 5.6 |
| 16.5 | 1 2.9 | 1 1 | 1.2 1 | 1 4 | 12 5 | 24.9 1 | 69.1 1 | 1 1.5 | 1.6 1 | 1 12.6 |
| **13.4** | **1 24.3** | **1 4.5** | **1.3 1** | **1 9.9** | **12.7 1** | **40.6 1** | **202.1 1** | **1.6 1** | **6.5 1** | **1 3.4** |
| 41.2 | 1 9 | 1 13.7 | 1.2 | 1.3 1 | 48.6 1 | 107.1 1 | 629 1 | 1.9 1 | 3.4 1 | 1 27.9 |
| 12.8 | 1 13.8 | 1 5.9 | 1.1 1 | 1 2.9 | 8.5 1 | 5.7 1 | 42.9 | 1 1.2 | 1 1 | 1 4.3 |
| 15.7 | 1 6.4 | 1 2.6 | 1.5 1 | 1 1.7 | 13.4 1 | 26 1 | 34.7 | 1 1.8 | 1 2.5 | 1 9.1 |

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