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CC GROUP, SPECIAL REPORTS
MAR., APR. 1945

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Tel Ext 341

LWS/el

Ref/A33/20/20

13 April 1945

SUBJECT: Special Reports

TO: Civil Censorship Group

1. Reference your Special Report No. 112, dated 7 April 45, subject "Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 17th March 1945", addressed to 1-2 (Communications Censorship) AFHQ.

2. A copy of the above report to the Deputy Chief Commissioner has been received in this office.

3. Please note there is now no such appointment at this Headquarters, and accordingly it will be appreciated if copies of all future reports will be addressed to this office.

Major L. W. STEARNS

Colonel,
Acting Executive Commissioner

SEEN: Maj. Stub.
Maj. Talbot.

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Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 384, U. S. Army

GWS/vm

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 112

7 April 1945

APR 12 1945

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

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

This report is based on 399,000 letters received during
the four weeks ended 17th March 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 letters indicate that the food situation
deteriorated still further during the period under review. Un-
favourable comments had shown an increase during the previous
four weeks, and they increased still further to a marked degree
during the four weeks ending 17th March, the adverse ratio being
21.3 to 1 as compared with 14.4 to 1 and 13.1 to 1 during the
two previous periods respectively. Anzio, Foggia, Perugia and
Naples appear to be the most distressed centres. There was a
huge increase in comments from Naples, and the proportion between
unfavourable and favourable comments was 51.5 to 1 as compared
with 19.7 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 50 to 1. This compares with 33 to 1
and 38 to 1 for the two previous periods respectively. Ascoli
Piceno, Leghorn and Siena took a far less gloomy view than the
average, and in none of these centres were the unfavourable com-
ments in a majority of more than a little over 3 to 1.

Many writers complain that they can not get along on

- 1 -
CONFIDENTIAL

See 70

785017

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rationed goods, and that in any event the latter are not always available. There are often bitter remarks about the absence of salt and fats, and the fact that milk is not available for young children. People living in, or close to, country districts remark on the ease with which money is obtained because the peasants want other goods in exchange for food. The black market gives rise to the usual discontent. 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 fare very badly indeed. On the whole the question of prices is of greater worry than that of supply. Most of the favorable comments speak only of the availability of food stuffs. Prices do not enter into it. The following comments are representative:

"Here at least life is very complicated. One lives not only at home. One has to depend on the black market to eat, because there is little to be had for even rationed goods." (11/3/45 - Paris)

"We have had to give up the most valuable food items such as meat, eggs, cheese, milk, butter, wheat, salted meat etc. We live on bread, vegetable soup and greens that are scarcely palatable. That's the way it is." (12/3/45 - Algeria)

"We are struggling to exist here. In this place also, prices have reached a limit. Beans, for example, are 400 lire a litre for olive oil from the province, and for fish 200 lire a kg. We have been without meat for a year, and also without fish and wine. The little wine served from the town (a) is very poor and the black market at 200 lire a litre." (3/3/45 - Morocco)

"Life is much more complicated here than it is in Sicily. Rabbit meat costs 200 lire a kg., eggs 150 lire each, chestnut flour 100 lire a kg., sugar 100 lire a kg. and pork meat 200 lire per kg." (10/3/45 - Algeria)

"If you only know what a great amount of goods (overcoats, suits of clothes, woolen goods, shoes etc.) I had to give the peasants in exchange for food or eggs! Eggs reached a price of 50 lire each, but this was because the peasants, a class of buyers neglected by the war, had lost their money but were and were goods." (13/3/45 - Algeria)

"The results of foodstuffs is also being keenly felt here at Marrakech. They have taken the milk ration away from 3½ year old babies. I help my children with an occasional egg. Fortunately a few eggs can be found on the black market at 50 lire each. With eggs, apples and dried figs I manage to feed the children." 747

785017

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"Recently I bought 200 grams of honey for 110 lire." (10/3/45 - 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 - Ronelle Terme, Grosseto)

"Here life is extremely difficult. Food items are 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 becoming worse for us laborers." (15/3/45 - Siena)

"At Siena now there is a scarcity of everything, and there is no salt. White flour cannot be found, not even on the black market. They give us no pasta products, and that is why we always eat polenta here." (13/3/45 - Siena)

"Here life is more expensive than in Rome. Bread costs 150 lire per kg., meat 500 and 600 lire, and flour 170 lire." (13/3/45 - Naples)

"Once upon a time, whenever you wished to hold somebody or somebody up to contempt, you would say that he was not worth a dried fig. This expression should now be used in a contrary way to indicate something of great value. Life here is becoming more and more difficult." (18/2/45 - Naples)

"Suppose if you can send us some food for we are unable to live here on your father's salary. I have bought flour at 130 lire per kg. a price that is liable to be increased soon in consequence of the new price of bread which has been raised to 16 lire per kg. Bread costs 750 lire per kg. First imagine how we are living." (5/3/45 - Rome)

"We keep going from day to day hoping things will improve, but instead they get worse. We get absolutely nothing with the ration card, and are therefore obliged to live on the black market. Last year we were badly off, but now things are far worse." (20/2/45 - Rome)

2. OPINIONS.

Civilian mail became increasingly unfavourable during the period under review, and adverse comments reached this huge majority of 44.6 to 1. There was not a single favourable comment from Arazzo, Ascoli Piceno, Foggia, Macerata and Perugia,

748

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

785017

CONFIDENTIAL

and only one each from Grosseto and Torral. The position in Naples would seem to be desperate. Out of a recent total of 1884 comments, only 9 were favourable. This is one of the most deteriorated as compared with the previous four years. Some opinion also became more pessimistic with a ratio of 100 to 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 in quality of cloth even if they could afford them, it would scarcely be worn. While the most shortages still exist, though some seem to be appearing in some quarters, but it such as to put us that they are out of the power of most people. And such there are instances which have the least complaint that the writer have nothing to wear. Their clothes have been worn out, and a few through scarcity or high prices they have been unable to replace them. The following sentences are some examples of the above:

"We are not living very badly, especially in regard to clothing. We are rich and well-off. We don't know what to do." (11/3/45 - Grosseto)

"As to clothing, the prices are very high. A pair of cotton trousers costs 100 lire a pair. A pair of shoes costs 1000 lire." (11/3/45 - Torral)

"I am beginning to feel the pinch of clothing because I have not been able to purchase anything for some time, not even a handkerchief. I lack shirts, shoes, socks and all the rest of it. I have all my old clothes torn and worn and replaced." (11/3/45 - Torral)

"The price of shoes for men is from five to seven thousand lire according to the quality of the material and the workmanship." (11/3/45 - Naples)

"In regard to clothing and shoes we are still going down from bad to worse. We are without clothing and shoes. They cannot be found. Shoes are beginning to appear, but are very expensive. You can't get a pair for less than 4000 lire. As for clothing materials, the shops have selling prices. Nothing can be bought." (11/3/45 - Perugia)

"My children are all wearing women's clothes like the girls. They have no clothes except rag. They dress worse than old time peasants." (11/3/45 - Ancona)

745

CONFIDENTIAL

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

785017

CONFIDENTIAL

"You can't imagine how difficult it is to find clothes in this city, and how high the prices are." (8/2/48 - Florence)

"The clothing available is very poor and very expensive. The prices are entirely too high, and the people cannot buy." (8/2/48 - Florence)

"It is impossible to buy new things. I found a pair of shoes, but I never have so much as 100 lire to get either and a pair of shoes costs 6,000 lire. You have no idea how much more expensive living has become in Rome. It is unbelievable. Every day prices become more exorbitant." (8/2/48 - Roma)

3. HOUSING.

Civilian mail was very responsive over the housing situation. Although the ratio shows that unfavorable comments were only in a majority of 19.6 to 1 during the period under review, as compared with 31 to 1 during the previous period, this was due to a high proportion of favorable comments from Rome. Leaving the latter center out of account, the figure for the rest of the country was 40.1 to 1. There were no favorable comments at all from Ancona, Florence, Foggia, Pescara, Pescara and Perugia. Naples took a very gloomy view, and a worse comments were in a majority of 51 to 1. Opinion in Rome was worsened, there being only 4 favorable comments out of a total of 473, a higher adverse ratio than ever before. Military mail was a little less unfavourable than during the previous four weeks.

Apart from destruction of houses due to the war, there are many complaints about the enormous rents for houses, flats and rooms. Overcrowding also gives rise to bitter remarks. Many people often have to crowd into one room in some cases. Other buildings are in such bad repair that they can scarcely be classed as habitable. In Rome it seems to be a practice to pay a large deposit on a flat in addition to the rent. There is also the complaint that the Allies pay high rents and thus squeeze out the local population from quarters they might have occupied. The following comments are some examples:

"It is extremely difficult to find a furnished room. They ask at least 1,500 lire a month if you do find one. In our house four people sleep in each room." (12/1/48 - Ancona)

743

"We found the entire apartment demolished. For lack of living quarters we have had to adapt ourselves to living in a

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

785017

CONFIDENTIAL

small residences." (10/1/45 - Ancon)

"Believe me, we can't go along like this any longer. There are ten of us living in one room. If I could only visit my house I could go and live there." (8/3/45 - Ancon)

"The passing of time has been very long. There are more than seventy families without houses." (11/1/45 - Ancon)

"They have given us a house but it is a horrible one. It is really a parrot, a real nest. What can I do? Kemi has suffered a great deal, and has been found here." (12/3/45 - Ancon)

"Over 75% of the residences of Ancon have been destroyed. The number of people who have returned here is the same number as those who were evacuated. There can be no life." (10/1/45 - Ancon)

"We have been a long time since we have been having had the good luck to find a house." (12/3/45 - Ancon)

"With the increased destruction wrought upon Ancon, and the participation of houses by the British, there is not available one room in which to live." (11/3/45 - Ancon)

"The only way of finding a house in this town is to pay from \$50,000 to \$100,000 lire and buy a completely furnished apartment." (24/2/45 - Ancon)

"Furnished apartments of two rooms cost about 4,000 lire a month, with a deposit of 30,000 lire and 10,000 as a tip. This is what Kemi's son-in-law had to pay." (12/3/45 - Ancon)

"My lady friends, who so far have had their rooms to the Allies, do not yet wish to let them to our people. It is impossible passing through this town they have to work hard to find even a tiny room at 100 lire a night, apart from the risk to rent which is to be secured legally." (12/3/45 - Ancon)

4. INCOME

Adverse criticism of wages and salaries among civilian letters slightly increased during the period under review, and unfavorable comments were in a majority on 11.2 to 1 compared with 13.2 to 1 during the previous four weeks. There were no

743

CONFIDENTIAL

favourable comment 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 36.2 to 1. There were hardly any military comments.

Every complaint rests on the inescapable fact that the cost of living has far outstripped incomes. 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." (25/2/45 - Naples)

"Life here is very expensive. Even if one earns a good deal, the money earned is not sufficient to get along." (23/1/45 - 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 13.30 for myself and 5.10 for each child, so I get 23 lire a day. I pay 20 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 keep. 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 30% wage increases. We ought to have an increase of 100%." (22/2/45 - Rome)

CONFIDENTIAL

"Salaries are increased by ten, while the cost of living increased by a hundred. Therefore no proportion is possible." (11/3/45 - Rome)

5. NATIONAL COMMENT.

There was a marked reduction 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 3 during the previous four weeks decreased to a 3 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, but of those which did, Rome was 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 many parties, each of which thinks that no other party is any good, only strive to further their own interests. They are pictured as presenting an ignominious and selfish spectacle, not only to Italy but to the Allies. Nothing is accomplished, nor do the critics expect anything to be done. The following comments reflect the general tone of most letters:

"In our Government all are fussing around, all are making speeches and giving lectures, all proclaim that 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 men 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 power who know how to exploit the terrible situation." (8/3/45 - Anzio)

"So many past things are being recreated that this is a worse government than the one which came to power after the first world war." (14/3/45 - Perugia)

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

CONFIDENTIAL

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ignoble and selfish way." (8/3/45 - Moscow)

"While we are in need of a strong government, we look for it in vain. Instead of building a strong government on a sure basis - an absolute necessity in front of the Nazis - we are divided into parties and sub-parties, and are formulating programmes of all kinds." (8/3/45 - Moscow)

"Soviet actions, orders of the day, speeches and speeches (from Lenin) until right now they themselves realize how much has slipped away from them in their speeches... The people are correct. The players have changed, but the music is the same." (10/2/45 - Moscow)

"Don't wonder about the more or less senseless results of the military. This is quite normal owing to the chaos which now reigns and which will last until who knows when." (11/2/45 - Moscow)

"There is always a great mass, and a disgusting and disgusting sea of corruption and immorality. Here one must pass the day with only of themselves. The Government and all the members of it, are quite corrupt, but it is absolutely nothing to find a remedy." (12/2/45 - Moscow)

6. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

Civilian and business were critical of provincial administration during the four weeks under review, and newspaper comments outnumbered those favourable by 4.4 to 1 as compared with 3 to 1 during the previous period. (There became even more hostile towards the administration than it was before, and produced no favourable comments out of a total of 187. Earlier comments were freely then last time with a marked increase in the proportion of adverse comments. There also became more critical. First, on the other hand, was more than 3 to 1 in favour. Military still had nothing to say on this subject. The comments are not usually very enlightening, but the following are some examples:

"We have report used here of a good administration, because at present this corner is in great need of so many urgent things, such as, for example, a country physician. The present administrator, Carlo Mazzini, is a man by trade, and he used to belong to the 110th Fascist Legion." (25/3/45 - Montemonte, Az-743, 1945)

"Montemonte is a town in a province ruled by peasants

CONFIDENTIAL

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who take advantage of the weak to fill their own bellies." (28/2/45 - Ascoli)

"In Rome the authorities in charge of the distribution of rationed items in the capital take 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, owing to half of the total comments coming from Pisa which was nearly 20 to 1 in favour of the Allies, the ratio for the country appears to have improved. But leaving Pisa out of account, the favourable comments for the rest of the country are only in a majority of 4.4 to 1. However this is a slight improvement on the record low ratio of the previous period which was the culmination of some months of decreasing favour. There were no unfavourable comments at all from Ascoli-Piceno, Florence and Macerata. Poggia 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 riches liberally from their cornucopia. The war for Italy was finished. The awakening 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 little house an office of the Allied troops was set up until a few days ago. They were respectful and kind, and they did not do any damage whatsoever." (10/3/45 - Pesaro) **733**

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

CONFIDENTIAL

well." (10/3/45 - 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 used to the teeth. Now we live peacefully without any worries." (11/3/45 - 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." (14/3/45 - Ancona-Fineno)

"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." (15/3/45 - Ancona)

B. B. Unfavorable

"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." (11/3/45 - Ancona)

"Do you recall Desnam, the one who put the sword on the scabbard in order to catch the gold which the Germans owed him? The present conquerors are even worse than Desnam." (12/3/45 - Sesto di Torre S. Quirico)

"Things are taking a turn for the worse. We were much better off before. If those Germans were assassins, these Allies are even worse so." (13/3/45 - Grosseto)

"The Allied Command has installed two Brazilian majors in my house. They have reduced it to a slum. You can't imagine my feelings towards the Allies." (15/2/45 - Rapallo)

"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." (12/3/45 - Ancona)

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

738

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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." (26/2/45 - 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 nugs.... All we can hope for is to wait for our victory." (12/3/45 - 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 optimistic 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 put 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)

"Here 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 live of sheer joy." (18/3/45 - 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 5th time presents itself as long and arduous." (24/3/45 - Rome)

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION.

Civilian letters became more optimistic during the period under review, and favourable comments were in a majority of 7.4 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.

737

CONFIDENTIAL

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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." (25/2/45 - 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 crumb of Nazism 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." (20/3/45 - 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. Ancona, Grosseto and Pesaro commented more unfavourably than 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 Schinner 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." (15/3/45 - Ancona)

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

CONFIDENTIAL

destroyed by air bombardments and by the German rabble." (11/3/45 - Arezzo)

"The factories in the city have been destroyed or deprived of all equipment and machinery by the Nazis." (12/3/45 - Pesaro)

"There is no prospect of restoring the match factory to its former position. Its functioning depends upon future circumstances." (14/3/45 - Jesi)

"At present we can not sell you any agricultural machines 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." (15/3/45 - Jesi)

"Our principal factory of railroad mechanical constructions and locks, including the offices, was destroyed during the heavy aerial bombardment of 2nd May 1944. No one takes an interest in helping us to rebuild, a task requiring several millions." (20/2/45 - Florence)

The following extracts reflect a more hopeful attitude:

"The Germans burned all our warehouses. We have repaired some of the equipment of our firm, and we all hope to be able to resume our work as soon as possible." (16/3/45 - Chiaravalle)

"By dint of great sacrifices we have constructed 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." (10/3/45 - 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." (7/3/45 - 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." (11/3/45 - Ancona)

11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

735

"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 favourable comments, but this was

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

Ascoli 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 gathered 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 earth appears to be quite promising, but up to date we have not even had a kg. of fertilizers." (11/3/45 - Ancona)

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

"The wheat is getting along well. We fertilised 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." (20/2/45 - S. Maria Capua Vetere)

"The peasants lack seeds and all agricultural aids. The ministers are conscious of the difficulties I add by the husbandmen, but no one comes to their help. All they get is words. Italy is soaked with empty words. It is disgusting." (18/2/45 - 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 begins badly, ends in a worse way... A little wheat has grown, but it is very weak, and there are no means to help it along." (13/3/45 - Siena)

734

12. 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

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

785017

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with 5.2 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Nevertheless, some centers were more cloudy than ever, notably Ancona and Perugia. Naples was also slightly more pessimistic. There was practically no change in Rome. Military mail had 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 longer jobs 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 prefect writes: "I am here in the midst of great hardship. Just imagine what it means to administer a commune of 18,000 people in such troubled times, with more than 700 people unemployed. I am extremely anxious to get away from here and to abandon this hell." (13/3/45 - Gavignano, Grosseto)

"We come home with the hope of finding work, but all we do is to roam around uselessly." (8/3/45 - Grosseto)

"The mines are still closed. We don't even imagine that they will ever open." (5/3/45 - Massa Marittima, Grosseto)

"I 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 new 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 miserable here." (19/2/45 - Florence)

"Work is not available here anywhere at any time." (13/3/45 - Florence)

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

"There is appalling unemployment in Rome. Many thousands of young people are jobless, particularly graduates. Those who came to Rome from Southern Italy bitterly regret it." (5/3/45 - Rome)

733

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785017

CONFIDENTIAL

"France is making a desperate search for a job. Here in Rome unemployment is increasing, as the natural and anticipated among clerks." (15/3/45 - 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 said what he could for me.... Applications for work have been made by the thousands, and still lie reposing on the shelves of the Ministry." (22/3/45 - Rome)

The following extract remarks on a peculiar situation: "But now I will speak to you a little about our St. Vespali. 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." (15/3/45 - Cavitaroschill)

Gordon W. McMillan
GORDON W. McMILLAN,
Lt. Col. Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

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

785017

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731

0173

785017

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

APPENDIX A

Report No. 112

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

		WCOB 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
24/3	CIV	1	20.1	1	32.5	1	35	1	12.1	1	2.6	1	3.0	14.1	1	3.6	1	12	1	1
	MIL	1.5	1	1	1.4	1	1.2	0	0	2.4	1	0	0	2.3	1	1.4	1	5	1	0
3/3/45	CIV	1	21	1	46.5	1	22.4	1	27.9	1	3.7	1	3.2	8.1	1	3.2	1	4.9	1	1
	MIL	2.7	1	2.4	1	1	1.7	0	0	2.7	1	0	0	2.6	1	3.6	1	1	2	0
10/3/45	CIV	1	23.1	1	31.9	1	24.3	1	24.0	1	4	1	1.4	4.6	1	2.8	1	4.5	1	1
	MIL	3.4	1	1.6	1	1	2.1	0	1	0	2.3	0	0	4.2	1	2.4	1	4	0	1
17/3/45	CIV	1	21.3	1	44.1	1	19.6	1	19.2	1	3.8	1	9.1	5.9	1	3.6	1	6.9	1	1
	MIL	3.9	1	2.7	1	2.7	1	1	1.3	1	1.3	0	0	7	1	5.2	1	1	0	0
AVERAGE FOR MONTHS ENDING																				
27/3/45	CIV	1	21.3	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
	MIL	2	1	1.4	1	1	1.3	1	1.2	1	1.1	0	0	3.2	1	2.6	1	2.4	1	1

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

785017

APPENDIX A

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 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	
U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
79.5	1	15	1	12.1	1	2.6	1	3.6	14.1	1	3.6	1	12	1	1	1.7	1	1.2	1	2.1
1.4	1	3.2	0	0	2.4	1	0	0	2.9	1	1.4	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
96.5	1	22.2	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	3.8
1	1	1.9	0	0	2.7	1	0	0	2.8	1	3.8	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
31.9	1	24.3	1	14.3	1	4	1	2.4	4.6	1	3.8	1	4.6	1	1	2.3	1.5	1	1	3.5
1	1	2.1	0	1	0	2.3	0	0	4.2	1	2.4	1	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
44.1	1	19.6	1	10.2	1	3.8	1	9.1	5.9	1	3.6	1	6.9	1	1	1.1	1.2	1	1	5
1	2.7	1	1	1.1	1	1.3	0	0	7	1	1.2	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
4.6	1	19.5	1	14.5	1	3.4	1	4.4	7.3	1	3.5	1	7.4	1	1	1.6	2.1	1	1	3.8
1	1	1.3	1	1.2	1	1.1	0	0	3.2	1	2.6	1	2.4	1	1	0	2	1	0	1

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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	
	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F
1	1	33.5	1	15	1	32.1	1	2.6	1	3.8	14.1	1	3.6	1	12	1	1	1.7	1	1.2	1	3.0
2	1	1.6	1	1.2	0	0	1.4	1	0	0	2.3	1	1.4	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	1	98.5	1	22.2	1	29.9	1	3.7	1	3.2	5.1	1	3.3	1	4.9	1	1	1.3	1.2	1	1	3.6
4	1	2.4	1	1.9	0	0	2.7	1	0	0	2.8	1	3.6	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
5	1	31.9	1	24.9	1	14.3	1	4	1	2.4	4.6	1	3.8	1	4.6	1	1	2.3	1.5	1	1	3.5
6	1	1.6	1	2.1	0	1	0	2.3	0	0	4.2	1	2.4	1	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
7	1	44.1	1	19.5	1	10.2	1	2.8	1	9.3	5.9	1	3.6	1	6.9	1	1	1.1	1.2	1	1	5
8	1	2.7	1	2.7	1	1.2	1	1.9	0	0	7	1	1.2	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
9	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	3.8
10	1	1.4	1	1.3	1	1.2	1	1.1	0	0	3.2	1	2.6	1	2.4	1	1	0	2	1	0	1

